



Century Farm Applications

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MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): Janine (Urban) JordanMain Contact Phone Number: 507 317 6317
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 6113 Kerry Ct Madison Lake Mn 56063
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Janine (Urban) and James JordanName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Urban Family FarmInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 49765 124th St. Amboy Mn 56010
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 11 Farm Township: Pleasant Mound Farm County: Blue EarthNumber of acres in the farm now: 80Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1907Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): NW 1/4 - SE 1/4
and NE 1/4 - SW 1/4 in Section 11 Township 105 range 29

PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Wilhelm F Urban</u>	<u>20 years</u>	
Next Owner <u>Carl H Urban</u>	<u>53 years</u>	<u>Son</u>
Next Owner <u>Clarence E Urban</u>	<u>8 years</u>	<u>grand son</u>
Next Owner <u>Janine (Urban) Jordan</u>	<u>29 years</u>	<u>great grand daughter</u>
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
() Original Deed () County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Janine Jordan

(signature of present owner)

3-30-17

(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Julius A. Schwarz & Ida Schwarz

How many acres were in the original parcel? 160 A.

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$23.75 / acre

Where was the first family owner born? Wilhelm F. Urban Wisconsin DOB 4/10/1860

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? yes.

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? yes.

When was the present home built? 1900?

What were the farm's major crops or products? livestock - Corn - Soybeans

Additional comments in the 4th generation. great grand daughter

Currently owns

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400





Deadline: April 3, 2017

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR
CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): Theodore KAMINSKIMain Contact Phone Number: 712 - 868 - 3626
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 706 2ND AVE ARMSTRONG IA 50514
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Theodore KAMINSKIName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: KAMINSKI FARM'S
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 638 220TH AVE FAIRMONT MN 56031
SECT 03 (street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: SECT 03 Farm Township: SILVER LAKE Farm County: MARTINNumber of acres in the farm now: 80 + 160 = 240Year of original purchase by a member of your family: JUNE 26 1914Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): SECT 03 TWP-101 RANGE-030
160 AC SW 1/4 160 AC, SECT-10 TWP 101 RANGE-030 80 AC
W 1/2 NW 1/4 80 AC.

PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>FRANK + EVA KAMINSKI</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>GRAND PA</u>
Next Owner <u>KASHMIR + NEHLIE KAMINSKI</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>DAD</u>
Next Owner <u>THEODORE + FRANCES KAMINSKI</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>SON</u>
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☒ Abstract of Title () Land Patent ☒ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☒ Original Deed () County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Theodore Kaminski
(signature of present owner)11-22-16
(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Uncle & DAD

How many acres were in the original parcel? 80 + 160 = 240

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? 26,400.00

Where was the first family owner born? Peria, IL

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? Yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? No

When was the present home built? 1867

What were the farm's major crops or products? CORN, SOY BEANS

Additional comments _____

The Farm Now will be
willed to my SON CHAD KAMINSK
& DAUGHTER LISA DEITERING

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Barton and Dorothy KittelsonMain Contact Phone Number: 1-507-433-2453
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 90469 St Hwy 251 Austin, Minn 55912
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Gary BraatenName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Kittelson Farm
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 90469 State Hwy 251 Austin Mn 55912
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 1 Farm Township: Moscow Farm County: FreebornNumber of acres in the farm now: 160Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1862Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when?Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Warranty Deed 1862
Northwest Quarter of Section 1 Township 103 North
Range 19 West**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Ole Kittelson Baglie</u>	<u>1862 - July 16</u>	
Next Owner <u>Charles Kittelson</u>	<u>~1904 - May, 28th</u>	<u>Son</u>
Next Owner <u>E.F. (Edward) Kittelson</u>	<u>~1910 - (\$1700.00)</u>	<u>Grandson</u>
Next Owner <u>Burton Kittelson</u>	<u>1954 - 2012</u> <u>58 yrs</u>	<u>Great Grandson</u>
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title ☐ Land Patent ☒ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☒ Original Deed ☐ County Land Record ☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Burton and Dorothy Kittelson
 (signature of present owner) occupants
 tel: 1-507-433-2453

March 20, 2017
 (date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? July 16th 1862 from Ole Nelson \$132.00
(with a Promissary note)

How many acres were in the original parcel? 80

What was the cost of the land ~~per acre~~ at time of original purchase? \$1200 total

Where was the first family owner born? Norway, immigrated to Wisconsin in 1854

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? All except the
corncribs
" " " , a log house. The upstairs was saved and is a Machine shed
When was the present home built? 1900 BARN BUILT IN 1862.

What were the farm's major crops or products? HAY, OATS & CORN. Only corn & soybeans
now

Additional comments In 1862 Charles Kittelson and one of his brothers
went near Mankato to Homestead Land. The Indian "uprising"
started so they came back and never went back to claim their
land. Bunt sold the horses in 1950 - The milk cows in 1954
Kittelson
and then raised pigs and cattle. He retired in 1984 at age
62 and now is 94

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400





This farm has been
in the family 150 years

July 1862 - Dec. 2012. We

have a 1914 picture of

E. F. (Fred) Kittelson's farm

auction. He then moved into

Austin with his blind mother.

and rented out the farm.

In 1917 he got married. With

the Depression in 1930 he
with his wife and 2 sons moved

back to the farm. And remained

here until 1950 when he moved

back to Austin and then sold

his farm to Burt, his youngest son.

in 1954. Sincerely,

A note from: Mrs. Dorothy E. Kittelson and

P.S. We have 5 daughters.

Burton Kittelson



over



This land was railroad land and on March 3, 1855 the United States granted Bounty Land to soldiers. The Kittelson 160 acre Farm was given to Isaac Kirkendall, Private, of Captain Jackson's Co. Ohio Militia, War of 1812.

In Testimony Whereof, James Buchanan, President of the United States of America,

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty. Sept. 1st

And signed again by the President and Sec'y. and recorder. Vol 363 Page 483

A note from: Mrs. Dorothy E. Kittelson



Notes

Cole Younger of the Jesse James Gang stopped here to try to buy some horses on his way to Northfield. Charles Kittson said he knew who he was by his picture hanging in the Post Office. But Charles didn't have a horse to sell. Cole wanted ~~it~~ to pick it up on his ~~to~~ way back from Northfield.

(Of course they never made it.)
anyway)

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Dareld Klemm, Kelly KlemmMain Contact Phone Number: 320-808-6153 320-760-3924
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 6440 County Road 7 Wheaton MN 56296
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Dareld Klemm, Verney KlemmName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Klemm FarmsInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 5342 550th St. Browns Valley MN 56219
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 01 Farm Township: Folsom Farm County: TraverseNumber of acres in the farm now: 1004.64Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1913Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? —Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Sect-01 TWP-125 Rang-49 SW 1/4, Sect-01 TWP-125 Rang-49 SE 1/4 NW 1/4 + Lot 4, Sect-01 TWP-125 Rang-49 SE 1/4 NW 1/4 + Lot 4 NW of Hwy 27 + 640 Ac in NW 1/4 SW 1/4 No of Hwy 27, Sect-12 TWP-125 Rang-49 NW 1/4**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Gustave Klemm</u>	<u>29</u>	
Next Owner <u>Herman Klemm</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>Son</u>
Next Owner <u>Ervin Klemm</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>Son</u>
Next Owner <u>Dareld Klemm</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Son</u>
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title ☐ Land Patent ☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☒ Original Deed ☒ County Land Record ☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dareld Klemm
 (signature of present owner)

3/1/17
 (date)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Ed Larkin, David + Mary Roach
How many acres were in the original parcel? 393.75, 253.40 → \$18 (\$1,400)
What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$9.40 (\$3,000 total)
Where was the first family owner born? Germany
Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? Fishing, Trapping,
If so, please list Milk Cows, Chickens, eggs, Pigs, Ducks, Goats

Was this a homestead? yes
Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? yes - House
When was the present home built? 1917

What were the farm's major crops or products? Oats, Wheat, Corn

Additional comments More Klemm Siblings of Herman and Ervin were involved in farming ownership over the years but eventually the original land purchased by Gustave was bought out by Herman and then Ervin from their Siblings back in the day.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



Deadline: April 3, 2017

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): hh Katie Klosterbuer

Main Contact Phone Number: 507-227-8188

(area code)

(phone number)

Main Contact Address: 419 160th Ave Ellsworth MN 56129

(street)

(city)

(state)

(zip)

Present Owner of the Farm: Merle Klosterbuer, Lois Mulder, Steve Klosterbuer

Name(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Klosterbuer Δ to The Klosterbuer Family
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.

Farm Address: 419 160th Ave Ellsworth MN 56129

(street)

(city)

(state)

(zip)

Farm Section: 18 Farm Township: 101 Farm County: Rock

Number of acres in the farm now: 160

Year of original purchase by a member of your family: January 3rd, 1916

Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when?

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.):

SE 1/4 of Section 18 in township 101 Range 44 West

PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner Harry Kloosterbuer		
Next Owner Harry & Feka Klosterbuer	38	Same person, now married
Next Owner Martin Klosterbuer	29	son
Next Owner Merle Klosterbuer, Lois Mulder, Steve Klosterbuer	34 (current)	sons & daughter
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

(x) Abstract of Title

() Land Patent

() Court File in Registration Proceedings

() Original Deed

() County Land Record

() Other

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Steve Klosterbuer Merle Klosterbuer Lois Mulder
(signature of present owner)

April 2nd, 2017

(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Slyvester Johnson

How many acres were in the original parcel? 320

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$99

Where was the first family owner born? Germany

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? Yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? No

When was the present home built? 2014

What were the farm's major crops or products? Dairy, Corn, Soybeans, Oats, Alfafa

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



Deadline: April 3, 2017

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Mark A. KluenderMain Contact Phone Number: 507-327-0051

(area code) (phone number)

Main Contact Address: 128 Pfau Street Mankato MN 56001

(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Present Owner of the Farm: Mark and Barb KluenderName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Kluender Family FarmInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.

Farm Address: 24045 15th Street Minnesota Lake MN 56068

(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Farm Section: ⁸ Farm Township: Vivian 105 Farm County: WasecaNumber of acres in the farm now: 60Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1916Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? no If so, when? n/a

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): _____

60 AC SW1/4 of SW1/4 & W1/2

PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner Otto and Helena Kluender	40	
Next Owner Victor and Jane Kluender	50	son and daughter in law of Otto
Next Owner Mark and Barb Kluender	10	grandson of Otto
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☐ Abstract of Title ☐ Land Patent ☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☐ Original Deed ☒ County Land Record ☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Mark A. Kluender03/31/2017

(signature of present owner)

(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? _____

How many acres were in the original parcel? ⁶⁰ _____

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? _____

Where was the first family owner born? ^{Zimerhausen, Reginwalde} _____

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? _____

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? ^{Yes} _____

When was the present home built? _____

What were the farm's major crops or products? ^{Dairy, Chickens, Hogs, Corn, Soybeans, Alfalfa} _____

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



Deadline: April 1, 2013

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2013

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): Aaron Knoll and Betty Knoll
 Main Contact Phone Number: 218-7455557 (area code) 218 201-0822 (phone number) 218 686 9053 (cell phone)

Main Contact Address: 25388 250th St NW (street) Warren Mn (city) 56762 (state) (zip)

Present Owner of the Farm: Betty Knoll / Aaron Knoll owns and lives on Homestead

Name(s) to appear on certificate: Knoll Farm # 124 acres Site

Farm Address: 25634 250th St N.W. (street) Warren Mn (city) 56762 (state) (zip)

Farm Section: 17 Farm Township: Comstock Farm County: Marshall Co.

Number of acres in the farm now: 460

Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 04-18-1901

Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): South east Quarter of South West quarter of section 17 in Township one hundred fifty five (155) north of range forty six (46) west of fifth Principle meridian

PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Owner <u>Wilhelm and Johanna Knoll</u>	<u>94 years</u>	
Next Owner <u>Frank Carl and Louise Knoll</u>	<u>46 years</u>	<u>Son and daughter in law</u>
Next Owner <u>Arnald and Lucy Knoll</u>	<u>27 years</u>	<u>grand son and wife</u>
Next Owner <u>Frank and Betty Knoll</u>	<u>25 years</u>	<u>great grand son and wife</u>
<u>Michael and Dawn Knoll Building site</u>	<u>7 years</u>	<u>great great grand son + wife</u>
Next Owner <u>Betty Knoll</u>	<u>8 years</u>	<u>great grand daughter in law</u>
<u>Aaron Knoll building site</u>	<u>9 years</u>	<u>great great great grandson</u>

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- () Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
☒ Original Deed ☒ County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Aaron Knoll

(signature of present owner)

(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? The St Paul Minneapolis and Manitoba ^{Railway} ~~Railway~~ ^{Comp.}

How many acres were in the original parcel? 40

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? Total cost on deed 280.⁰⁰

Where was the first family owner born? Both Wilhelm and Johanna were born in ^{Pommer} Germany

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? Day labor on farm in Germany.

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? yes he and wife Johanna moved here with their children ^{in 1892}

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? yes

When was the present home built? the house in 1916 and barn in 1940's

What were the farm's major crops or products? Small grains, wheat, corn, barley & cattle [→] ~~Pigs~~ ^{chickens}

Additional comments the house is still lived in by Aaron Knoll, his wife and daughters. It has been updated several times by Arnold Knoll, Mike Knoll and Aaron Knoll. Wilhelm died in 1910 and Johanna at the age of 97. Wilhelm and Johanna had 9 children, Frank & Louise? children Arnold and Lucy 3 children, Franklin and Betty 6 children. Two of the 6th generation grandsons Aaron and Austin ^{Knoll} farm the land.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Still have cattle and raise small grains.

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



(40 acres)
there are 2 pieces of property.
the first homesteaded in 1901-April
the original homestead. purchased
by Wilhelm Knoll

The second acres 80 purchased by
Frank Carl Knoll in 1910-January
they adjoin each other.

if you have questions
please call.

Betty Knoll

tele # 218 745 5557

Cell - 218 201 0822

(Aaron)

or Aaron Knoll

tele # 218 686 9053

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2013

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): Betty KnollMain Contact Phone Number: 218-745-5557 ^{cell phone} 218-201-0822
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 25388 250th St NW Warren MN 56762
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Betty KnollName(s) to appear on certificate: Knoll FarmFarm Address: 25634 250th St NW Warren MN 56762
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 17 Farm Township: Comstock Farm County: MarshallNumber of acres in the farm now: 460Year of original purchase by a member of your family: January 29 1913Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? —Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): The west half of South West
quarter of (1/2) of (1/2) of Section Seventeen (17) in Township
one hundred fifty (155) south of range 46 (forty six (46) west of principle
meridian in Minnesota containing 80 acres more or less according
PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP in survey there of

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Owner <u>Frank Carl Knoll</u>	<u>43 yrs</u>	
Next Owner <u>Arnold and Lucy Knoll</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>Son and daughter in law</u>
Next Owner <u>Frank & Betty Knoll</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Grand son and daughter in law</u>
Next Owner <u>Betty Knoll</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Grand daughter in law</u>
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

() Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
☒ Original Deed ☒ County Land Record () Other

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Betty Knoll
 (signature of present owner)

(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? unable to find out on Deed ^(unable to read)

How many acres were in the original parcel? 80

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? unknown

Where was the first family owner born? Pommer Germany

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? He was a stonecutter for monuments

If so, please list in Milwaukee before coming to Minnesota

Was this a homestead? I don't think so - it was adjoining the homestead of his father Wilhelm Krall

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? See other sheet

When was the present home built? (1916 on Homestead So east quarter of SE quarter Sect 17)

What were the farm's major crops or products? Small grains, corn, cattle, pigs & chickens

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



Frank Knoll - (Son of Wilhelm Knoll) date Jan 29th 1913
purchased the land as follows

the west half of the south west quarter of ($\frac{1}{2}$ of $\frac{1}{2}$) of
Section Seventeen (17) in Township one hundred fifty five
(155) South of Range forty six (46) West of the fifth
Principal Meridian in Minnesota and containing Eighty
acres. more or less according in the Survey thereof

This is the quarter adjoining Wilhelm's land.

Is now owned by Betty Knoll wife of Franklin A Knoll
who died Aug 24 2008

I was unable to read the name of who Frank
Knoll purchased the land from and
was passed to family members as did
Wilhelms and Johanns land. upon the death
of each owner.

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): JOHN & CAROL KOEPCKE

Main Contact Phone Number: 218 495-3147
(area code) (phone number) ERNARD,

Main Contact Address: 28232 COUNTY HIGHWAY 24 MN 56534
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Present Owner of the Farm: JOHN & CAROL KOEPCKE

Name(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: CLAYTON HILLS FARM
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here. ERNARD,

Farm Address: 28232 COUNTY HIGHWAY 24 MN 56534
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Farm Section: 30 Farm Township: STARLAKE Farm County: OTTER TAIL

Number of acres in the farm now: 163.8

Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1917

Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): LOTS 3 AND 4 IN
SECTION 30 TOWNSHIP 135, RANGE 41, WEST OF THE 5TH
PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner Minnie & CLAYTON M. WILCOX	1917 1947	
Next Owner LESTER & CAROLEE WILCOX	1947 1996	SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
Next Owner JOHN & CAROL KOEPCKE	1996 PRESENT	DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
Next Owner		Granddaughter &
Next Owner		Grandson-in-law

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
☒ Original Deed # 127 () County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(signature of present owner)

(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? WILLARD & MARY BURNAP

How many acres were in the original parcel? ~~160~~ 320

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? NOT KNOWN

Where was the first family owner born? DODGE COUNTY, MN

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? CREAMERY IN MORA, MN
WITH BOILER OPERATORS LICENSE

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? NO

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? NO

When was the present home built? 1926

What were the farm's major crops or products? HAY, CORN, WHEAT, SOYBEANS, MILK,

Additional comments EGGS, CHICKENS, PIGS, TURKEYS in early years

Dairy, Beef cattle in 1950's on

MAN. OF THE FINANCIAL RECORDS SINCE THE 1970'S

In 1989, Dad & Mom had an auction. They added a garage,
resided the house and put in all new windows.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

(over)

Mail application to:
**Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099**

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



Son Rick who had his own construction company had done much of the repairs & updating over the year

All children retired

Charles b. 1941 - NDSU grad in Electrical Engineering
masters in same while employed by Bell Labs
Lives with wife Barbara in Shoemakersville, PA.

Carol b. 1943 St Luke's School of Nursing grad - Surgery &
home care in Minneapolis area - m. Jim Doyle who
died in 1994. Twin sons - 4 grandchildren
m. John Koepcke - Had his own Heating & A/C Co in Cities
I became instant grandmother of 9. He has 1 son
& 2 daughters

Lowell b. 1945 F.E. Junior College & Moorhead State
taught in New York Mills, wife Doris 2 sons, 4 grand-
children, served in Airforce. owns 75 acres of
Dad's land. Lives on Pickeral Lake, Richville, MN

Ardyce b. 1946 Jamestown, ND grad in Phy Ed. m. Dennis
Purdy son & daughter, 5 grandchildren
Lives near Columbus, Ohio

Richard b. 1947 d. 2015 Fergus Falls Junior College
wife Peggy son & daughter, 4 grandchildren
served in Army owned Wilcox Construction.
Peggy d. 2016

Ellen b. 1953 grad. Jamestown, ND in Nursing worked
in Fargo & Fergus Falls, Intensive Care
husband ~~DE~~ Curt Lodin Live on Star Lake near
Dent, MN

Lester died in 1996, Carol ee moved to apartment in
Fergus Falls that same year. She passed away in
2002 on her 97th birthday.



CLAYTON HILLS – THE FIRST 100 YEARS

My name is Carol Wilcox Doyle Koepcke. My husband John and I are the present owners of Clayton Hills Farm. Only three couples have owned this farm in the past 100 years – my grandparents Clayton and Minnie Wilcox, my parents Lester and Carolee Wilcox, and now we have owned this for the past 20 years. John is 83 years old and I am 73.

The great information our family has about the earliest years is best told by my Aunt Belva in a book she published in 1996. We are so fortunate to have her account of growing up here and the genealogy included in her book called BELVA'S WORLD. I believe that her descriptions are the best there could be. Aunt Belva was a school teacher and is gone now, but I have permission from her sons, Dennis and Raleigh Miller, to use what I need for this account. I have included her introduction to show how her book came about. It was so timely, because my father Lester passed away in June of 1996, but he did get to see and enjoy her book. Note that in her writing, she always called her father "Pa" and her mother "Ma". She writes of growing up with her brother Lester and sister Edith. At 12 years old, she left home to stay with an aunt and uncle in Kerkhoven, MN to attend high school. She returned to live at home for one year after high school because at sixteen she was too young to begin Teacher's Training. That was the year the new big barn was built.

My growing up years here were from 3 ½ when we traded places with my grandparents to 18 when I went to St. Luke's School of Nursing in Fargo. By then, there were 6 children (5 of us were teenagers at once). Dad expanded the farm and rented more, put in a milking parlor with pipeline system. Our country school years included the same 1 ½ mile walk to the same school that our father and two aunts attended. We all went 8 grades except our youngest sister Ellie. The school closed after her 6th year. We all graduated from Pelican Rapids High School and went to various colleges. Dad eventually quit milking and raised just beef.

In 1994, my husband Jim Doyle passed away after living with cancer for over 5 years. He was 53. After a year, I met John Koepcke in my Grief Support Group who had also lost his wife Bev to cancer. I was so glad that Dad had a chance to meet and get to know John. He also understood that we would be buying the farm, even though he didn't live to see that or our marriage. We moved to the farm the following June in 1998. For 15 years we raised horses. We updated the house and took down buildings that could not justify repairing. It has been a great place for us to retire, especially for my "city-slicker" husband who grew up in Minneapolis and just loves it up here. Between us we have 5 children and spouses, 15 grandchildren and 1 greatgrandchild.

BELVA'S WORLD

By BELVA WILCOX MILLER

Introduction

For many years I had thought I would like to put into written words memories of my childhood and growing up years. One day in February of 1995 my husband Jim and I were visiting Lester and Carolee, my brother and his wife, and we began to reminisce. I decided to go back the following week when we would have more time to really get into our memories.

The day I came back from Lesters I fell and was not able to walk or do things normally for several weeks so I finally had TIME to start writing. Using my electric typewriter, I started putting down my thoughts. My "progressive" sons encouraged me to use the computer instead of the typewriter, but I was sure I never could do that! I wasted a week and then I decided I had better try it because I was getting nowhere with the typewriter. Finally I began to make progress.

My original intent was to write only of the years before I was married. Denny said I should "spice up" my book and write about when I met Jim. I told him he should do that—he had heard it often enough! One thing led to another and I eventually decided to write about my whole life.

It has been enjoyable to recall my experiences from the twenties and thirties, especially the depression years. Sometimes I "lived in the past" and it was with a start that I would come back to the present. My family co-operated very well—even when I forgot to put four teaspoons of baking powder in the corn bread. They just pretended it was corn meal brownies!

Without the support and help of Jim and my sons, Denny and Raleigh, I never could have completed the writing of this book. Denny was always helpful with the computer and made many helpful suggestions. Raleigh did extra chores for Denny so Denny would have time for me, and Jim did extra housework to give me more time. I thank them first of all.

I especially want to thank my brother, Lester, who helped me remember many things and told me things I had never known before. He was always at home while I left at age twelve to attend high school; after that I went to teacher's training and taught school. Even after his marriage Lester was close by and knew what was going on at home. He has a mind like a computer so even at the age of eighty-four remembered well things that happened so long ago.

I also thank my nieces, Carol Doyle and Myrna Martinson, for helping me select and arrange some of the pictures.

It is not my intention to hurt anyone's feelings in any way, so if you are "in the book" it is because you were an important part of my life and I wanted to include you. Others may remember some things differently than I do; I think that is all right and only natural as we each look at life with a different perspective.

Thank you for your interest in my life's experience. I have certainly enjoyed the journey.

I. FAMILY

PA

My father's grandfather lived in the East. We think he was from Vermont and moved to New York. He had three children: my grandfather, Charles Mallory Wilcox(1831-1892), another son, and a daughter, whose names I do not know.

It is said that none of the three children could get along with their father and they all left home and moved West. (When father's grandfather died, his \$18,000 estate went to strangers. That was a large amount of money in those years.) Grandfather's brother headed for California and was never heard from again. Grandfather's sister married an Eastman, settled in Dodge County, Minnesota, and had several daughters who never married. These daughters became school teachers and once one of them was Pa's teacher. Pa said that one day she hit him on the side of the head and he asked her why she had done that because "he had not done anything." She said that was why she hit him!

Pa's mother's maiden name was Judith McKlenic. She had come from Canada and I suppose that is where we get our Scotch-Irish ancestry.

Pa's parents, Charles and Judith Wilcox, settled in Dodge County, Minnesota, *where they had ten children. One child died in infancy and another died when he was five years old. Pa, named Clayton Myron Wilcox, was the youngest, born on July 28, 1880. Pa was known by his first initials, "C.M."

His mother died before he was four years old. Her obituary¹ read:

Sudden Death.

Mrs. C. M. Wilcox living three miles north of this town was taken suddenly ill Saturday evening and before Dr. Ranson who was immediately summoned could reach the home was unconscious and soon died. Mrs. W. was in town a few hours before her death and in apparently good health. She leaves a husband and six [actually 8] children two of whom are married. During a residence of about twenty years in Dodge County she had gained many friends who sympathize with the afflicted family in their great loss. The cause of death was cerebral hemorrhage. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. A. H. Tibbetts on Monday and the remains were buried in Riverside Cemetery.

After his mother's death, Pa was raised by his older sisters. Pa was twelve when his father died.

His Father's obituary read:

C. M. Wilcox

¹ Richard and Sara Wilcox found the reports of the deaths of my grandparents, their great, great grandparents, and provided them to me.

The subject of this sketch was born in northern New York, in 1831, and in 1857 removed to this County, where his home has been since that time, in the towns of Ashland and Wasioja. For many years he has been almost helpless from the effects of Muscular Rheumatism, which on the 28th day of Oct. 1891, resulted in his death. During his active life we knew him well as a man of honor and integrity. All who knew him respected him and while to him death was a happy release, his family and friends mourn their loss. He leaves three sons and five daughters, all of whom reside in this county except the oldest daughter, Maria, whose home is in California. The funeral services were held at the Brick Church Oct. 29th, Rev. C. J. Swain officiating.

Dodge Center Index

After his father's death, Pa went to live with his oldest sister, Hattie (Harriet) and her husband, Elmer Vorce on a nearby farm. Their four children were more like his siblings than his biological ones.

Pa stayed with and worked for the Vorses until he was eighteen, then he asked whether they would sign a note for him for \$250 so he could start farming on his own. They refused to do this so he left. He worked at a creamery in Mora for a while and had a boiler operator's license. He turned down a chance to go to California. He also worked for other farmers including a Mr. Mann and Mr. Way.

Pa is not known to have ever had a fight. Once a neighbor annoyed him by bumping him from behind as they were walking. After giving a warning, Pa simply tossed the fellow into the brush beside the path. It didn't last long enough to be a "fight." He was very strong and hard work kept him in shape.

Before Pa was married he had ruptured appendix and was very sick. With no antibiotics it is a wonder he survived. He was left with a condition they called "milk leg" which today, I think, we would call phlebitis. In his last twenty-five years of life he had lots of pain in his leg which must have been a result of that infection, but he surely did his share of walking before that and did not complain.

Sometimes I have wondered how my father learned to be such good Pa to us. I always respected him. He was strict but fair. He worked very hard to provide us with the necessities of life. He was tall, slim, and dignified looking. He had curly hair which turned gray at an early age. He kept his beautiful hair until his death at eighty-seven years. When he "dressed up" for a local event he would wear striped bib overalls, perhaps a red flannel shirt, and a necktie for a finishing touch!

With a twinkle in his eye and a ready joke to tell he was my kind of Pa. He had a beautiful voice and would rock me and sing songs like:

"Who threw the overalls in Mistress Murphy's Chowder?"

Nobody answered and he hollered all the louder.

"Tis an Irish trick 'tis true and

I'll lick the Nick who threw

The overalls in Mistress Murphy's chowder."

The song went on to tell how someone had washed the overalls the day before and the overalls had been left in the tub when Mrs. Murphy made her chowder! Ugh! He also sang "Red Wing," "After the Ball was Over," and "Does the Spearmint Lose Its Flavor on the Bedpost Overnight?" I loved it and loved my gentle Pa.

He taught us to eat slowly and to take small bites. He would cut my pancakes into VERY small pieces. One time I thought I would speed things up a bit and took two pieces at a time. He saw me, though, and I put one back. He asked, "Were you going to try it?"

When Pa shaved he always used a straight edged razor which he sharpened on a razor strap hanging inside the kitchen door. Some parents used this strap in disciplining their children, but I don't remember Pa going to that length on any of us. Pa only spanked me once and I surely had it coming. I am not going to record here what I did! I had so much respect for him that he only had to look at me and I would try to please him. One time when I was about twelve I wanted to go along with Lester and Edith when they went to a neighbor's place to listen to records on the phonograph with other young people. Ma thought I was too young (being six and four years younger than they) and said I could not go. But when Pa came in I started to cry and told him I wanted to go. When he found out that Ma had already told me that I couldn't go he said, "You quit your crying right now or I will give you something to cry about." I quit crying!

He was a much respected man among the business people around, always considered honest and upright. I know he had a great influence on me as I was growing up and I never wanted to bring disgrace on the Wilcox name. The work ethic was strong with him. Lester remembers his telling that he had a chance to be a rural mail carrier when he was young and turned it down because he thought that was a lazy man's job.

MA

My mother's parents, Martin and Magdalena (Mueller) Schleeter, came from Holstein, Germany in 1873 when their oldest child, Anna, was one year old. (Holstein was annexed to Prussia in 1866 during the rule of Bismarck. Ma said her parents left Europe because her father did not want to have sons serve in Bismarck's army.) On March 25, 1884 Ma was born in Dodge County, Minnesota, where her parents had settled in a German community. Ma, always called Minnie but named Margaret Wilhelmina Schleeter, was the youngest of seven children. When Ma was twelve her mother (who was then fifty-three) became blind. As her eyesight had worsened they had taken her to doctors in Dakota to see whether she could be helped, but there was nothing that could be done. After losing her eyesight, she just sat. Lizzie, the oldest girl home but then only fourteen, took over the management of the household with, of course, the help of my mother Minnie, who became a sort of "gopher". Lizzie was very structured in her work, always washing on Mondays, etc.

When Ma was fifteen years old the Schleeters built a large new house with a big open porch on two sides. That floor had to be scrubbed every Saturday and the wooden kitchen floor had to be scrubbed on hands and knees every day. Ma remembered that her knees would creak when she bent them and she determined

that when she had her own house she was not going to be scrubbing it all the time. When she was eighteen, Ma left home and worked out for others. She worked in town where the man of the house had to have salt or oatmeal baths every day so the tub took a lot of care. Ma hoped she would never have a tub of her own. (And she never did.)

She was a much more casual housekeeper than her sisters. However, her grandchildren remember her kitchen floor. She washed and waxed the inlaid linoleum, then put down lots of rugs to keep the floor clean, and then put newspapers on top to keep the rugs clean!

Shortly after Ma left home, her father died. His Dodge County obituary stated:

Schleeter, Martin (deceased), farmer, section 20, Wasioja township, was a native of Germany and was born Oct. 3, 1842. He was raised on a farm and educated in the common schools of Germany. He came to this county in 1873 and resided in Dodge county until his death, which occurred May 24th, 1905. In 1871 our subject was united in marriage to Magdalena, daughter of Henry and Magdalena (Horns) Mueller, of Germany, and to this union several children were born, all of whom survive, as follows: Anna M., Clara, Charley II., John M., Willie C., Lizzie C. And Minnie M. Mr. Schletter was a member of the German Lutheran Church and the A. O. U. W. In politics was independent. The late home of our subject, an excellent 320-acre farm, is one of the best in the county, and attests to the thrift, industry and good management of Mr. Schleeter. He lived in the enjoyment of the highest confidence and esteem of his fellows.

Dodge Center Atlas

Ma's mother, Magdalena (Mueller) Schleeter, was born in Germany in 1843 and died in 1922 at 79 years of age. She was a widow for the last 17 years of her life. I remember going along with my mother on the train when I was about four to visit her mother who was then ill. (Ma said once that train whistles made her sad because her train trips were to see dying relatives.) I don't remember how long we stayed, but part of the time we stayed with Aunt Anna, Mabel, and Clarence Barwald on their farm in Dodge County.

Ma was full of fun and laughter and tricks. One time when we had a party in the new house, some of us noticed that she was missing. When we looked for her we found she had gone upstairs with some of the young people and they were measuring on the wall how high they could kick. She was probably one of the winners!

It was the custom to give evening lunches to visitors, but sometimes it was hard to think of something to have as we had no freezers to store goodies in. One night Burgraffs were there and there was not enough bread or anything like that in the house so she apologized and told them that she just didn't have anything to prepare for lunch. One of the Burgraff boys suggested making potato pancakes. Ma had never made them but they knew how so after midnight they went to the cellar for

potatoes, peeled, grated, and fried them for lunch. I suppose that was one of the times when we went to bed **very** late. Our young friends always had a good time with Minnie and even when she was very old and in the Rest Home she would often have visitors that were our age instead of older folks.

THEIR EARLY MARRIED LIFE

As Lester relates the story, when Pa was ready to get married he asked a friend about available women. He asked, "Are there any Schleeter girls left?" His friend responded, "There is only one but she is the best of the lot." Pa really had a lot of nerve to enter that German colony and pick out one of the most eligible girls. Ma's friends called him "Yankee" and "Curly Head" (and who knows what else), but that did not discourage them and they were married in 1909 while Pa was working for a farmer named Willis Mann.

He continued working there for a year. Then in 1910 they moved to Carlton, Minnesota, about 20 miles south of Duluth, where he worked on the dray hauling merchandise from the depot to businesses in town and earned \$50.00 a month. (It was said that the liquor store would appreciate Pa because he didn't steal any of the freight.) I remember Ma saying that when the wind came from Lake Superior it was very cold, even in July. Lester was born there in 1911. In 1912 they bought 40 acres of land about 1½ miles from Carlton and built a new, small house where Edith was born that same year.

The next move was to Jewett Lake Road, four miles north of Fergus Falls, where they bought 80 acres. Pa rented a rail car and hauled the livestock, machinery, and personal possessions from Carlton to Fergus Falls in it. He was allowed to ride in the car to care for the livestock. Some "friend" took advantage of him and rode along. When a railroad "Bull" asked Pa if he was alone in the car, Pa (who would not tell a lie) simply told him to check for himself. The man boarded the car, and as he attempted to pass Jack he was treated to the sight of two mule hooves in a blur past his face. He made a hurried exit. He apparently decided that Pa was alone enough for him!

That farm proved to be sandy and unproductive so after about two years they purchased another eighty acres in Friberg Township just north of Smith's Bridge. That is where I was born. Late in the fall of 1917 they moved to the farm in Star Lake Township. After five moves in eight years they finally put down roots and lived there for almost thirty years.

MY BIRTH

I was born as Belva Wilcox on December 30, 1916 in my parents' home in Friberg Township, Ottertail County, Minnesota.

I was delivered by my father's sister, Hattie Wilcox Vorce, who was somewhat of a midwife. She had come to stay with us and help at that time. In winter the mail carrier used a team and sled so needed a place to rest his horses and to have a meal himself so my folks provided him with that. I was born about noon while the

mail carrier was having dinner in the kitchen. When Lester heard me cry he asked, "Was that a kitty?"

Several names were suggested for me and it was my parents' friend Mrs. Elliot who said, "Why don't you call her Belva?" I have always liked my first name but there are not many of us; I have met only four others in my lifetime.

I was the youngest cousin on my dad's side and next to the youngest on my mother's side. Pa, Ma, and I were all youngest children.

BROTHER LESTER

During my young years my brother Lester (whom I called "Tedda" for some reason), had a great influence on me. Although he was almost six years older than I, he was always patient with me and put up with me no matter what. It was a long walk to our school, especially when the snow was deep. Sometimes Pa would hitch the horses to the sled and we would snuggle in big blankets and he would take us. But usually we walked and if I found things to look at along the way and tarried, Lester would wait for me. I remember sometimes he would carry me across ditches when we took a short cut home. Edith always wanted me to hurry and keep up with the others, so if I lingered, fooling around with the others, and got behind, it would be Lester who would come back for me and help me along. I was only eight years old when Lester no longer attended country school.

Lester was always deeply religious and eager to please God. He had very strong moral convictions and could not easily be changed from his beliefs. I never heard Lester use a swear word or even slang as so many of us did. We were at a party one night and one of the paper games was to see how many slang words one could write in a certain length of time. Lester was through first and his only entry was "horse collar."

The folks moved to the Star Lake place the year Lester should have started school so he waited until he was seven in March before he started. Pa and Ma had taught him all the numbers to one hundred, the alphabet, and he could add, subtract, and even multiply. When the big day came he set out all alone for the schoolhouse over a mile and a half away. He thought he should be going north but Pa had said to follow the road east until he got there so he kept on. It did seem a long way to him, but Pa was right and he got there fine. With only eight months of school at that time he only went a few weeks before it closed for the summer. In the fall he went into second grade, then took a grade each year until in the 7th grade when he was allowed to take the eighth grade examinations and passed all but arithmetic. After going to country school for seven weeks the following fall, it was decided Lester could go to high school in Fergus Falls by taking an extra course in arithmetic. He boarded with friends of the folks, Mr. and Mrs. Courtney, and paid \$10 a month for room and board. The next fall he went for only seven weeks and decided to quit and stay home. Lester became a farmer. When he was seventy-four years old he took classes and obtained his GED. He was always good at spelling and even now in his eighties he joins in spelling bees they have for seniors.

Perhaps because he was the oldest and a boy our father expected a lot of work from him. He started following the walking plow at a very early age and when he was fifteen years old he plowed fifty acres when they rented Anderson's farm.² There was always a lot of fencing to do and he remembers stringing that barbed wire through the brush and weeds. There were always chores and when there was nothing else to do there would be wood to cut. When he was five years old Pa bought him a little axe and taught him how to use it. When he was about twenty he cut wood and hauled it to Dent to sell. He was supposed to have the proceeds to get a new suit but he could see the folks really needed that money to pay some bills. Instead of a suit, he bought a new sweater and wore it with a good pair of wool pants Uncle Willie had given him.

Lester had some interesting adventures when he was young. When he was about nine years old he went "hunting" with his bow and arrow. He found a wolf caught in a fence and proceeded to shoot it. I guess if the wolf could have struggled and gotten loose he might have bitten Lester. One time he knew that the folks wanted the big elm trimmed so that they could see to the road better. He waited until everyone was gone one day, then proceeded to climb up there and saw it off by himself. He found that birch trees were pliable so he would climb up high, then start them swinging and bend way over. The day I graduated from the eighth grade he knew there was an airplane in Fergus and rides were given for \$ 5.00 so he and a friend, Ervin Hagen each paid \$2.50 and had a ride without anyone knowing what he was up to.

No one thought anything of being crowded in those days or of lacking privacy. One time Lester stayed overnight at a neighbor's place. He, his friend, and the friend's brother slept three in a double bed and the parents shared the same bedroom. I even went along with Lester when he dated. He had to use the family car and I was too young to go with others. He never said anything but I am sure I must have been a pain.

He did not receive wages for his labor at home but the folks bought an insurance policy for him when he was fifteen years old (and he still has it). When the 160 acre farm known as the Hart place just south of us was available for sale for \$2,100, Lester was able to borrow against his insurance policy to make the \$300 down payment. That farm site is the place he and his wife Carolee lived for the first eight years of their married life, and is where Pa and Ma later retired.

SISTER EDITH

My sister Edith, whom I called "Diddle," was four years older than me and was always thoughtful and good to me. She seemed mature at an early age and she would share everything with me. I can't remember that she ever played with me except perhaps some table games. She would rather do "fancy work" or make quilts. She was a born homemaker. She was always working or doing something with her hands.

² Raleigh figures that would be about 300 miles, not counting up and down hills.

The only well on the place at that time was east of the house in the cow pasture. It had wooden curbing with plank over the top. There was an eight foot pit and the pipe had a drain hole so the water would run back down into the pit between pumpings and not freeze in winter. In summer they could put on a clamp so it would hold water.

This water was all right for the livestock and for washing clothes, I guess, but it would not do for drinking or cooking. So for the first year and a half they had to haul that water from our neighbors, the Andersons. Of course, they usually got quantities at a time, but Lester can remember walking the half mile to Andersons and getting two syrup pails full of fresh water before mealtime.

It was also Lester's job to pump water for the livestock. To a young boy it seemed like an everlasting job: they drank it as fast as he could pump it. Later they bought a Sandwich engine, but it was never any good. At the time the house burned in 1925 they ordered an engine from Sears (Economy model) and that always started and saved a lot of work.

The summer of 1919 they got serious about digging a suitable well. First they marked off an area four feet by four feet and using pick ax, grub hoe, and shovel they dug out the dirt as deep as they could throw it out. Then, using a windlass and two buckets, they would fill one bucket with dirt and wind it up. The man in the pit would fill the second one while the one on top would empty the bucket, then send down the empty bucket and wind up a full one. They found suitable water at 30 feet. Of course they had to "shore it up" with wood as they went along so it would not cave in on them.

Dan Barley had a drilling outfit so he came in later and drilled down 107 feet farther to get real good water although it was "hard" and rusty. It had a two-inch pipe with leathers in which had to be renewed every year or the water would leak back and one could not get a full stream.

THE OLD HOUSE

The house¹⁰ was a two-story log building that had one room downstairs and two small bedrooms upstairs. Built onto the north was a frame lean-to that the former owners had used as a kitchen. Pa built an addition on the south which became the new kitchen and the folks used the north room for their bedroom. The house had a cellar under part of it that was entered either by a trap door in the floor or in summer we would go outside and open up one of the two big cellar doors. As soon as I was big enough to handle that big door I could go down there to get things. I found that if I carried a shiny pail and the sun was shining I could get a reflection that helped me to find things; otherwise I would have to wait until my eyes became accustomed to the dimness.

The new kitchen was never finished off so the two by fours were visible. There was tar paper on the outside of the studs under the siding. A range that came way down to the floor was the center of activity. There was a big table that would make out very long when we had company or threshers.

¹⁰ The 1912 platbook does not show a building site on that parcel, nor do the prior books. It is probable that the house was built between 1912 and 1917, when the folks moved there.

For everyday we used oilcloth on our dining table which was easily cleaned and cared for. We found that if we taped adhesive tape on the underside at the corners they would not crack as easily and stay nice looking longer. There were some very pretty patterns. For company Ma had a beautiful white linen tablecloth with napkins and a nice set of dishes and real silverware so she could set a pretty table.

The floor was wood and had to be scrubbed clean (no linoleum). We had a cabinet with a flour bin in the top which let down for filling. It had a sifter so we could sift all the flour as it came out. The cabinet base had a metal top with a door on one side of the lower part and three drawers on the right side. We must have had other cupboards for dishes but I don't remember them.

We carried water from the well outside to fill the reservoir that was on the side of the range so we always had warm water on hand. We used small wood for cooking but at night in winter put in a big stick so it would hold as long as possible. Even so, the water would freeze in the water pail over night when it was very cold. In the front room was a big Round Oak heater with a lot of chrome trim on it. In the morning Pa would start a fire in it and when we got up we would dress beside it. One time I got too close and burned my little behind so I had marks on it for a while! In the front room we had a leather lounge that was raised on one end and had fancy claw feet. It was not a bit comfortable for lying down and took up space that could have been used for sitting if it had been straight. There was always a rocking chair or two. That room had a carpet on the floor.

The house was cold so to make it easier to heat Pa and Lester would put heavy paper against the foundation and then bank the outside with horse manure. In addition to its insulating value it would in itself put out a little heat and was drier than cow manure. I always hated that, but some of my friends had that done to their homes, too.

My folks were fresh air fiends and always had to have windows open. One winter there was a broken window upstairs and they put heavy cloth over it. You know that air was very **fresh**! Even after we had the new house my mother would leave the kitchen door open while she did afternoon chicken chores to "air out the house." Lester remembers that after Ma was in bed in winter Pa would open the door for a while to be sure there was fresh air in there!

We took flatirons, heated them, wrapped them in cloth and took them to bed with us to put at our feet. Our covers were so heavy we could hardly move under them.

THE OLD BARN AND GRANARY

The original barn was made up of two log buildings with a roofed-over place between. One building was for horses. It was a one-story building with a shallow pitched roof. The roof was shingled with birch bark with some dirt on it to hold down the bark. Sod grew over that. The other part was for cattle. It was higher and had a hay loft. The alleyway between was wide enough to park a load of hay that would be unloaded by hand into the loft.

There were abandoned buildings on the Morrison place, across the road to the north. (We called it the Morrison place even though we owned it at the time.) Pa decided to bring the house over and use it for a granary. He put poles under it for

rollers and dragged it over with the stump puller. That was a formidable job when you consider that the cable was only about eighty feet long. For each eighty foot distance that it moved he had to make a new anchor to fasten the puller. Once it was in place north of the present barn, he built lean-tos on three sides and used them for a barn.

THE SILO

In 1921 we built a silo. When Pa bargained with the Fergus Silo Company for it, he wanted it to be delivered in the fall since it was taken from Fergus to Erhard by train, then had to be hauled to our place by wagon or sled. Instead they delivered it to Erhard in the spring when the roads were bad. Many trips had to be made to haul the heavy staves by team and wagon. (That silo would have weighed about 30 tons. On good roads horses would haul about one ton on a wagon.) Flinks and Dales helped, too. It was a big silo for its time, being fourteen feet in diameter by thirty feet high. Pa had the silo erected where he would put the new barn.¹¹

THE FIRE

It seems much of my early life was divided into "Before the Fire" and "After the Fire." The early twenties were "good years" and the folks had finally been able to purchase a few new things—the cream separator in the kitchen, the Singer sewing machine, a bed mattress, and Pa even had a new overcoat. Pa was finally "finishing off" the kitchen walls so they would be smooth instead of showing the bare two by fours.

On December 1, 1925 Edith and I went to school as usual. Pa and Ma and Lester went to Henry Koelln's place after morning chores to help erect a windmill. There was very little snow so they could still use the car, but the radiator had to be drained and refilled each time they used it so it would not freeze. When they went out after dinner they saw black smoke in the west so Pa quickly climbed the windmill to see better; sure enough, the smoke was where our place would be. They took warm water and filled the radiator and hurried toward home. By Field's place they met neighbor Anderson who was coming to tell them their house was on fire. Mr. Anderson pulled his car to the side of the road and got in with Pa and Lester, but when they got to the house everything was in flames. Pa thought if he could just get in the bedroom window he could rescue a little suitcase that contained his important papers, but neighbors held him back saying it would not be safe. They had to stand there helplessly and watch it burn to the ground. They told of a large "pop" when the lamp exploded and lesser pops when the 365 jars of canned goods in the cellar got hot. Nothing at all was saved except a few potatoes from the cellar, after things cooled down. We were left with only the clothes we were wearing.

¹¹ The silo lasted only about twenty-six years. The gravel used in the concrete had not been washed properly so there was clay left in, and the silo did not hold up like it should have. Finally it was not safe to use as one could stick a fork through the side. The winter of 1945-46 when Jim and I were there they took the rings off and removed the staves as they took out the silage. Lester put up a new one to take its place.

Edith and I were to walk over to Koellns after school and then ride home with the folks. Ma met us in the driveway, her face white as a sheet. She told us about the fire and we all cried, although the full extent of our loss did not come to us until later.

Until we had a place to live, Ma, Edith, and I stayed at Koellns. This was handy for us girls to go to school, but Ma had to walk a mile and a half early in the morning to the home place to help with chores. That winter she suffered from chilblains and must have been exhausted many times, but she didn't let on. Pa and Lester stayed with Andersons, only about half a mile away from our farm, and so were more handy for chores and the work of building the new building.

Neighbors came in and helped and within ten days had put up an eighteen by forty foot building which would later be suitable for use as a henhouse when we got our new house. The only privacy was from the cretonne curtains that hung on a heavy wire in one corner where the folks had their bed. That corner was also where we bathed and dressed.

Relatives in southern Minnesota were notified of our loss and soon huge boxes started coming with quilts, blankets, pillows, and some clothing. Kind neighbors gave us what they could spare. From Burgraffs we got a big fancy solid oak buffet that, if all the parts were there, would be a valuable antique today. The lower part had two doors on the bottom, a wide drawer and two smaller ones, one of which was lined for silverware. The top was ornate, with a mirror, places for lamps, and lots of fancy carvings.

The folks bought only a kitchen range, a box heating stove, and two army-cot type metal couches with fold down sides for beds. Enamel ranges were just coming in and Ma thought the green ones were so pretty but a lady she knew talked her out of it, saying the enamel would crack and she would be sorry. She got the plain black one with chrome trim instead, and I know she was later sorry she hadn't gotten the more modern model. The new stove stood on legs instead of going way to the floor as the old one had. The box stove used for heating burned wood about three feet long. It had no ash pan so we had to remove the ashes by shoveling under the wood when the fire was low, creating considerable dust in the house.

Lester used one of the couches for his bed and Edith and I shared the other. Someone gave the folks a bed but we had no mattresses for their bed or our cots so Ma made "ticks" that she filled with straw. They had a buttoned opening in the middle so we could put our hands in and stir the straw around when it had settled down and gotten lumpy. In the fall when straw was fresh we emptied the old straw, washed the ticks, and filled them with bright new straw. Later we used corn husks which seemed to be more substantial and didn't make so much dust. We used these ticks for mattresses for years. I do remember wishing we could have mattresses like other people because one could never make up a decent looking bed with those ticks because of the lumps.

Friends also gave us a drop leaf table, old chairs that were still sturdy, and even a rocker, I think. If only there would have been garage sales at that time it would have been much easier to replace the items we needed, but back then everyone kept their old things until they were worn out.

THE NEW HOUSE

The folks had to build a new house without much time to plan. They got a book of plans from the lumberyard and found a plan they thought would, with some changes, be suitable. The men got busy in the woods and got out logs and hauled them to Chapman's farm. Charlie Burns had a steam powered sawmill there which turned the logs into lumber. On the same day as the fire a man named Ben Rude stopped in and said he was a carpenter and when we were ready to build a new house he would like the job. Well, he was not much of a carpenter, there were no blue prints, only a picture and the scale drawing of the rooms, and the home-sawed lumber was not very "true"¹² but with some help from the Nodsle and Fladmark boys Ben Rude built the house and we moved into it before cold weather in the fall of 1926.

It was still unfinished when we moved in, some rooms having uncovered wall studs and the whole downstairs with untaped sheetrock walls and without ceilings, the joists and cross braces still showing. (I never liked the open beam ceilings that became popular in the 70s or so and I think I know why!) Because of the lack of money during the depression years it was left that way (except for the kitchen) until 1938 when ceilings were put in and Iva Swanson came over and helped us put on wallpaper. Soon after that we had the lovely birch floors in the front room and dining room sanded and sealed. Oh, happy day!

The new house was 32 by 26 feet with a screened porch eight feet wide the full length of the north side. It was painted white with green shingles and I thought it very pretty. Asphalt shingles were just coming in then and although they were attractive, they did not last long. (In ten years the roof was leaking and the shingles had to be replaced, this time with cedar.)

Upstairs we had ~~two~~ large bedrooms and one smaller room we used for a storeroom. There was a dormer with three windows toward the north. The bedrooms had floor registers that we could open to allow some heat to go up from downstairs. There was a full basement with a large cistern in one corner that held 150 barrels of rainwater, filled by eave troughs carrying all the water from the roof to a downspout to the cistern. When it rained very hard we turned off the flow and to my knowledge the cistern never ran over. The hand pump beside the kitchen sink let us get all the soft water from the cistern that we wanted. We had soft water in the reservoir and used it for washing clothes and everything except drinking and cooking.

The square kitchen was on the southwest corner with the outside door on the west. Between the kitchen and bedroom was a hall with doors to upstairs and basement on one side and storage on the other. The dining room was 11-1/2 by 19 feet with a double door leading to the front room and an outside door leading to the large porch.

We planned to eat in the dining room all the time but after while we ate breakfast in the kitchen and other meals in the dining room. (Eventually when there were fewer of us we always ate in the kitchen.) We had a long table with leaves in which

¹² Native hardwood has to be used while still uncured to be soft enough to nail into. This causes the studding, etc, to warp and twist as it starts to dry after being nailed to the house.

could seat quite a few people and had an oil cloth on it for everyday. We had not heard of place mats then, and tablecloths were hard to iron.

We almost lived in that big screened porch during the hot, dry years of the mid-thirties. By that time we had beds upstairs so we moved our couch onto the porch where it made a nice place to sit, and if we needed to we could open it to make a bed. Pa and Ma moved their bed out there, Edith and I slept there, we sat out there, entertained our company there, patched sacks, shelled peas, and everything we could to avoid the heat of the house. The kitchen was warm from cooking on the wood range so we even took our drop-leaf table, put dishes and food on it, and carried it to the porch where we put up the leaves and ate there, reversing the procedure when we had finished. In order to keep the hot west sun from shining in and to keep the wind out as well as give us some privacy, my mother brought five-leaf vines from the woods and planted them outside the porch. They quickly grew, climbed up the screen, and made a very nice shade and windbreak. A cow bell and the birds singing were fun sounds to be heard on summer mornings when we slept in the open porch.

LIGHTING

No one in the area had electricity at that time so we thought nothing of having to use kerosene and gas lights. On the wall near the kitchen range we had a kerosene reflector lamp fastened to the wall with a bracket. It had an adjustable reflector behind it so the light could be concentrated on the things we were cooking.

We had a gas lamp that gave a bright white light and could be hung up and easily carried from room to room. It had two mantles of fine mesh that came in a little package. After being installed on the lamp the mantles hung there limp until touched with a lighted match when they would burn and shorten and fill out. Then they would give the bright white light when heated. Those mantles had to be handled with care because they were very fragile and disintegrated if touched or jarred. The bowl of the lamp was filled with gasoline and to make it burn we had to pump air into it. My mother was afraid of that lamp and would have nothing to do with it.

Later, Aladdin lamps became available and they gave a nice white light, too. They were kerosene-burning and did not have to be pumped up, but they also had to be handled carefully because they had large mantles. Aladdin lamps had a serious drawback. When it was warm or crowded in a room, Aladdin lamps smoked. One time at Aunt Kate's we left one burning in the dining room while we went to the kitchen to eat supper. It was warm in the dining room, and when we went back it was so filled with sooty black smoke that we could hardly see where the lamp was!

We made a bad mistake when we built the chimney halfway down the side of the south roof instead of in the middle of the house as most people did. That made the pipes handy to the kitchen range, but when the furnace was installed the cistern was in the way for putting it in the chimney area so we were always stuck with having long furnace pipes which burned through periodically and had to be replaced. This design also created a very poor draft. For the first twelve years we heated the house with a box stove that required long stove pipes to reach from the stove in the dining

room to the chimney in the kitchen. The pipe went through a hole in the wall over the door.

In the kitchen we started out with the cupboards just opposite the basement and stair door, but that was not very handy. I bought Ma a base cabinet with metal top and later she was able to purchase a nice cabinet from Bahls for the north wall. Of course there was the sink with slop pail underneath, the range and wood box, and the drop leaf table. At some point the folks bought a Home Comfort Range from a salesman going through the country. Finally Ma had her enamel range! She took wax paper and polished the top of it, always taking great pride in that stove. However, it had a deep fire box and she wished afterward that they would have purchased a Jungers stove which was a little smaller and had a shallow firebox so one could make a quicker fire. (Since we had no thermometer on our ovens those days the skilled cook would put her hand in the oven so she could tell if the heat was just right for baking.)

It might have been in 1936 that we had paint on hand for the kitchen. I thought I could not stand it anymore until those walls were painted! Pa said he would paint on a rainy day, but that was a very dry summer! Finally, I suppose he got tired of my mentioning it to him, and he said I should paint it myself if I wanted it painted. I, of course, had no experience painting, but with a little encouragement from Ma I went at it. The first coat went on all right, but when I tried to cover enamel with enamel it would "run." I didn't know anything about preparation of the walls or "roughing up" between coats then. I painted and cried, painted and cried. In the end it turned out quite well and after that I was not afraid to tackle painting, but I did know better than to put enamel over enamel without proper preparation!

FURNITURE

For a while we did not have enough furniture to fill that house, but gradually we added some pieces. The piano graced the front room, as did the fancy Victrola. Years later, while I was teaching, I bought a studio couch with detachable pillows in the back. We could make it into a bed when we needed more sleeping room. I also bought a kneehole desk, so popular at that time (in my living room now), and a matching bookcase that I also still use. We had a large sturdy dining room table that we could expand to seat twelve. For a while we used the buffet base the Burgraffs gave us when the house burned, but later I bought the folks a walnut desk with a drop front and several drawers (which Raleigh uses in his room now). We kept one of the army-cot couches in the dining room, also, and with the heater and a rocker it was about filled.

We made our own dressing tables out of two orange crates. Apple boxes and orange crates were available for the asking in the grocery stores because all the fruit came in wooden boxes in those days. An orange crate was twenty-six inches high when set on end. The top, bottom, and a "shelf" half way up were solid wood one inch thick and the sides were made of quarter-inch wood. We placed two boxes on end with a space between so we had a knee hole, got someone to saw a board just the right size to cover that, then covered with a gathered-on fabric with the opening in front, hung a mirror over it, placed a stool in front of it and it became an attractive

piece of furniture at which we could sit to fix our hair, etc. The prettiest one we had was when we used half of an old truck windshield for a top under which we had peach satin cloth to match the sides. The board was cut to exactly fit the glass which was very thick and sturdy.

ELECTRICITY

In 1938 the Rural Electric Association came in. We were some of the first who had electricity available because Pa went out and got signers which helped put the line from Erhard to Dent. It opened a whole new way of life for the rural people.

In the spring after electricity came to the farm I bought an eight foot refrigerator and we really thought we had it handy. But when winter came the folks disconnected it and used it to store papers. They thought they could keep food cool a cheaper way in winter! However, the next year they decided to splurge and use it all winter. We also bought an electric washing machine. We had a two-burner oil stove by that time so we would use that for preparing suppers in the summer time and not have to heat up the kitchen with the range.

THE LAWN

No one in our area thought of having a lawn mower, but the Swanson place, which we passed whenever we went to Dent, kept a mowed lawn. I thought that was wonderful and wished we could do it, too. We kept the sheep around the buildings at night sometimes and they kept the grass and weeds down pretty well. It wasn't until I was teaching that I bought a fancy fence to enclose a small lawn just north of the house. The sheep could not get in there so we could have flowers and I eventually bought a push lawn to mow that—a thirty minute job or so.

A friend gave me a pretty birdhouse and Pa built a tower for it. Years later my friend Gen Green helped me put down stepping stones. We took old Sam and the stone boat, went to the numerous rock piles and picked out large, flat rocks, and dug them down level with the ground to make a stone walk. It turned out to be a bigger project than we thought and Ma was left to finish it while Gen and I went on a trip! That walk was very pretty at first, but as often happens, in time the grass grew over the stones and in a few years one could not see even a trace of them.

TELEPHONE

When we lived in Friberg we had a telephone. When we moved to Star Lake Township there was none. Pa inquired about getting on the Erhard line, but with thirty parties already on the line they were not too anxious to add another. Can you imagine thirty families on one party line! The Dent line ended two or three miles to the east of us. The telephone company said that if we wanted a telephone they would furnish the wire and brackets if we would furnish the tamarack for the poles and do the labor of installing. So the people at our end got together, cut the poles, dug them down, and put on the wire. That is how we got our telephone.

At first the fee was \$10 a year but during the depression it went down to \$6.00 a year. It was a good thing we did not get on the Erhard line—not enough people wanted to pay for upkeep so those lines went to pot. One time two ambitious fellows decided to do something about it and said they would fix up the line for a fee. When

they came to one place to collect the fee (or cut the line) the owner said, "You just try cutting our line!" They gave up! The line ended up on trees and fence posts until there was nothing left. Park Region from Underwood finally took them over.

When low interest loans became available to update rural telephone systems Floyd Hoff from Underwood was working the area for customers. At the same time Royal Arvig from Perham had bought out the Dent line and was working out from Dent for customers. Lester took a lead in pulling for Hoff from Underwood, little realizing that two generations later his grandson, Richard Wilcox, would be united in marriage with Arvig's granddaughter, Sara Theodorson.

As far back as I can remember we had a telephone. It was made of varnished oak, was about twenty inches long, and hung on the wall. Inside there were batteries which had to be renewed at times. When people had to ask us to repeat ourselves, we knew we needed to get new ones.

The crank on the side had to be turned to "ring up" someone. Many people shared the line and each had his own ring, (ours was one short and one long) but all the rings came in on every phone so everyone on the line would know whose call it was. That, of course, meant no privacy and we accepted that so did not say anything on the phone that we would not want everyone to hear. It was a favorite pastime for some of the women to listen in on phone conversations—"rubbering," we called it. I am sure some of them were very lonesome and somehow felt they were socializing when they listened. There were times when we wished we could have private conversations, though. With so many on one line and so many women wanting to visit with each other the line was often busy when we wanted to use it. This was especially annoying for men who came in to call about "important matters" and had to wait. However, all one had to do was to politely ask for the line and usually the ladies would give it up. (Of course, theirs would then be the privilege to listen in to see what was so important.) One of our neighbors knew what went on all the time and when asked she admitted that she "rubbered" saying, "You don't think I pay all that money just to talk, do you?" And I guess that was what many thought about it.¹³

If we wanted to call someone on another line we had to go through Central. There would be a telephone operator in some central office who would take the call and plug in to the line being called. Often those connections were very poor and we had to ask Central to repeat what was said. We were on the Dent line and we had free exchange with all the other Dent lines and if we asked Central she would also call the Maine operator and we could talk to people there. We never thought of making a long distance call. If we received one we knew someone was sick or had died. Five long rings was a "general ring" and was for everyone. That might mean a

¹³ We got dial phones in the Osakis area in 1953. The Osakis newspaper had a lengthy article about how to use them. In part, it said:

Take, for example, number 4171. After hearing the dial tone, place the finger in the dial opening where "4" is seen. Turn the dial around until the finger strikes the stop. Release the dial and let it return to its normal position without forcing or retarding its movement. The other figures should be dialed in a similar manner.

To dial someone on the same party line we were instructed to dial "7," then the last digit of our number, then the last digit of the number that we were calling, and then *hang up*. When it quit ringing we picked it up and hoped someone was there! We did not get private lines until the early 1970s.

fire someplace or other emergency. Instead of calling 911 if we had an emergency we would call five longs and someone would be sure to come and help!

Mrs. Lange and Mrs. Field enjoyed speaking German over the telephone. They wanted my mother to do the same and would sometimes start speaking German to her, but she would answer them in English. Now it is considered an accomplishment to be able to speak a second language, but Ma was not proud of her German ancestry. Perhaps it was because during World War I there were hard feeling against the Germans because Germany was our enemy and Ma wanted nothing to do with that. Also, her parents left Holstein because it had been conquered by Prussia. She probably felt that she owed "Germany" no loyalty. She had grown up speaking German, but one would have never known it: she spoke English with no accent at all.

THE NEW BARN

In the fall of 1933 the folks built a big, beautiful barn. (It was the year I was home between high school and teacher's training.) We hired Mr. Carlson for the main carpenter and had many others helping. We had lots of men around to cook for that fall. I remember they were shingling at Halloween time.

Probably they would have built the barn before the house if the house had not burned. Ma always said that a barn would build a house but a house would not build a barn. It was thirty-four by sixty-six feet, had hollow clay tile on the lower part and frame above, with a hip roof and big haymow. As its north end went into a hillside one could step into the haymow from the north which was handy. The east side had eighteen steel stanchions which held the milk cows while the west side had horse stalls and calf pens. At some point some of the calf pens were taken out and a milk room put in there so that one could separate the milk right there and have it handy for feeding the calves, too. However, the cream still had to be hauled up the hill to the pump house to be cooled.

When we got electricity Pa put a little electric hammer mill under the haymow floor. He would dump oats into a little bin above it and the ground feed would run down into a box in front of the cows.

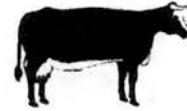
To clean the barn the men used the stone boat. A stone boat is a heavy, strong, flat wooden base that slides on the ground. It is used in the field to carry heavy rocks, but is also handy for hauling other things. Old Sam, one of our horses, was hitched to one end of the stone boat and pulled the boat into the barn alleyway. Sam was unhitched and turned around so that he could be hitched to the other end of the boat and be ready to pull it along a little at a time as they pitched the manure onto it. Then it was pulled outside and the manure would be pitched off onto a pile. The dream was to have a litter carrier which would run by pulleys, be let down for filling, then raised and pulled out and dumped. Lester was able to install the litter carrier after he moved there.

FARM WORK

There was always a lot of work to be done on the farm, both field work and chores. So much of the work had to be done by hand that it was physically draining

and time-consuming. Horse machinery was quite simple and did not break down easily. If they did break a single tree or double tree they would make new ones of oak, a tedious, time-consuming task. Lester said one of the worst things was holding the lantern so Pa could see to bring the bedding in. Also, where to hang the lantern as one moved about the barn? Electricity was really more useful in the barn than in the house, I suppose.

MILKING



Milk cows played a very important part in the economy of our area. When a son or daughter of a farmer married another farmer, a common wedding gift was a young cow so they would have milk right away. Our family at home usually had Holsteins. They ate more than a smaller cow, but they also gave more milk. Guernseys and Jerseys did give richer milk and some of our neighbors kept them. Sometimes we would have a Guernsey, too. Milk cows had to be kept in barns in wintertime which meant a lot of chores including feeding, milking, and hauling out manure. The cattle themselves helped to keep the building reasonably warm since their bodies gave off a lot of heat.¹⁴

Pa got up at 5:00 in the morning and went to the barn to start milking. Ma and Lester soon followed. I remember their milking 18 cows by hand. Edith learned to milk but I was not interested and Pa did not insist. Some of my friends did a lot of barn chores, but Pa did not want his daughters to do them.

At first milk strainers were just cloths that were fastened to the sides of the cans with clothes pins. We hated to wash them out night and morning. Later metal strainers were available with a disposable pad which was more sanitary and so much less work. Progress!

Old Sam was hitched to the stone boat and hauled the milk to the top of the hill to the milk house which was also the pump house. That building got to be one of the busiest places on the farm. We had a gasoline engine in it and a shaft with pulleys that would turn the various appliances we wanted powered. One was the separator, one pumped water, one ran the washing machine, and one turned the grindstone. My mother was afraid to start the engine so that was my job when the men weren't around. I would put my left thumb on the choke and at the same time quickly turn the crank. That would draw gasoline into the engine and perhaps it would start with the next turn. It might also quickly turn in the other direction so you had to be fast moving or you could break an arm. It was a welcome sound when it started.

For years turning the separator was a chore for one person who also had to pour the milk into the tank as it got empty and put away the cans as they filled. There was a bell attached to the separator which rang until the proper speed was reached. So it became important to keep the speed up or it would not separate the cream from the milk correctly. The test of the cream could be set by turning a little lever. I think

¹⁴ They also gave off a strong odor which clung to the farmer's clothing and hair. I guess that odor is not noticeable so much when one is accustomed to it, but Jim's mother always thought it was strong when she used to come to visit us. In Iowa their barns were not very "tight" so there was more fresh air. To top it off most farmers kept their barn clothes hanging behind the kitchen door so they were near the eating and cooking area! When Jim and I remodeled our house one thing he wanted was an outside basement entry so he could go down there to hang his clothes and keep his foot wear.

a good test for cream was a little over 30. If it was too rich too much would stick to the sides of containers and be wasted. The cream was the part we sold or used in the house. The skim milk was fed to the calves, pigs, and chickens. Unless we saved whole milk we would sometimes use skim to mix with the cream for our cereal so it would not be too rich. It was quite blue and no one would think of drinking skim milk at that time. The cream can was placed in a wooden tank in the corner of the milk room and all the water used for watering livestock went through it so it was cooled fairly fast. Sometimes we would put jars of milk or cream or even jello in that cooler. Since we had no ice box it was the coolest place on the farm.

Our early separators were DeLaval. There were many disks hung in a bowl which turned around very fast. This would cause the milk to separate from the cream. When I was home it was my job to wash this machine. The disks all had to be kept in order or there would be trouble. One could not use soap or the dish cloth would get all slimy, so we had to run cold water through it immediately after using it, then warm water to wash it and very hot water to rinse it, then air dry. After we had the new house they carried the milk down to the basement and kept the separator down there one winter but must have decided that was too much work so kept it in the kitchen in winter after that. One year we got a different separator and it was a Mellotte. It was red on the outside and had a large tank on top with white enamel lining. The disks did not have to be kept in order on that one so it was much easier to wash.

One of the most disagreeable things for a farmer to hear is "The cows are out." It might be in the corn or grain and there might be dew or rain on the foliage but one had to hurry out and chase them back. Having a good dog really helped, as did careful attention to fencing. Because we had the building site fenced sheep tight and because we put the cows from the barn to the pasture east of the house, we had to have a big gate across the driveway to open and shut several times a day.

One time one of our heifers got out and "visited" a neighbor's place. When Pa went to get it the neighbor said it had done some damage which Pa would have to pay for before he took the heifer home. Pa turned and started walking away. The neighbor asked him if he wasn't going to take his heifer and Pa said, "No, you can have her. The next time one of yours comes over to my place I will keep her and we will be even." The neighbor then insisted that Pa take the heifer with him—likely because that neighbor's cows often got out. I think Pa would have made a good diplomat!¹⁵

When the winter-born calves were turned out of their pens for the first time in the spring they really went wild. They would kick and run about and it was really fun to watch them. One time Ma had hold of one and must have wrapped the rope—which was around its neck—around herself somehow as she could not let go and that calf really took her for a ride. I remember the work horses rolling in the pasture when their harnesses were taken off and they were turned loose. I suppose the straps

¹⁵ To this day I hate to see cows out. I suppose the worst experience with them was once when our black Angus got out one dark night. Someone had seen them on the road and stopped to let us know. We tried to get them in, but gave up until the next morning!

rubbing against their hides along with sweat and dust must have been irritating to them. We all like our freedom, don't we?

SELLING CREAM

We alternated with three neighbors in hauling cream and eggs to Dent, thirteen miles away, where the sweet cream was made into butter to sell and the eggs were sold. In winter, cream had to be taken in twice a week so our turn came every two weeks. It was a big day for Pa (and for Lester, when he reached his teens) to drive thirteen miles with the team, pick up the other's cream and eggs, take care of the business in town, and drive back home. After unloading the cream at the creamery he went to a restaurant where they served all one could eat for 50 cents. In winter he put the horses in the Dent livery stable to rest and eat. The livery furnished the hay and the farmer brought the grain.

The neighbors each had a list of groceries, too. The hauler would take the egg cases and lists to Mr. Bessler, the kind grocer, and he would fill the orders and place each in the proper egg case. That was called doing our "trading," and usually the eggs would pay for the groceries we bought. If the eggs were not enough payment for the groceries ordered, the groceries were charged until the end of the month when the milk checks came. Then Pa would settle up and Mr. Bessler would put in a sack of candy for us kids. We always looked forward to that.

In summer the cream had to be taken in three times a week. That got to be quite a chore during a busy time so one of the young men in the neighborhood purchased an old truck and went around picking up cream. At first we always had to have it out by the road so Old Sam hauled it out on the stone boat. In warm weather we watched for the hauler when he came back because he would leave butter on top of the cans and it would not take long to melt.

It was after WW II that a market was available for whole milk. That seemed wonderful not to have to use the separator anymore (or wash it!). At first we owned our own milk cans so they had to be marked and returned to us. Later the creamery owned the cans so it did not matter which ones we got in return. This made it much easier for the haulers and workers at the creamery. They had a way of washing and steaming the cans so they were clean when we got them back. It wasn't until the late fifties that bulk tanks replaced cans. Now old milk cans are antiques and are used for decorative purposes and old separators are set in the yard to hold flowers—which is what we did with ours.

ANIMALS

HORSES

Horses were known to run away and cause serious accidents. I don't think ours did, but one time when Ma was raking hay she drove over a nest of hornets and the horses took off. She was able to keep them under control but it was scary for a while. My mother was a good horsewoman and liked to drive. Our buggy was a one-seater and was pulled by two horses. Ma liked to drive that and she never did

drive a car. She tried once, but when she wanted it to stop she said "Whoa, back," and it didn't stop.¹⁶

We bought our horses Sam and Polly from Flinks. Old Sam did very well as a single and we used him for lots of chores. Another horse I remember was Queen. She kicked so one had to be careful around her. One time when Ray Hanke was over Pa told him to watch out around Queen. Ray just laughed, but he learned his lesson when she let him have it. He was not seriously hurt, but did not go near her after that!

We raised a few colts for replacement horses. One on pasture got sick and died and was found that the outside of his belly was completely covered with engorged wood ticks. Another was also bad off but they discovered the problem in time to save it. Wood ticks were terrible in our woodsy area and if not found in time they would grow to be big round gray soft things filled with blood they had sucked out of their victims.

Pa bought a small team of roan horses which was supposed to be Lester's team. He raised a few colts from them.

MULES

We had a pair of mules, Jack and Jenny. Ma liked to drive them on the buggy. Jack was tricky and at times when they were waiting for someone would lift his leg over the buggy tongue. We did not have to do anything about that because as soon as he started walking again he put it back where it belonged. Later we sold Jenny but kept Jack and he was handy for fine work like cultivating the garden. We had a little one-row cultivator Jack pulled. One person walked behind to manage it between the rows of vegetables, and another either had to lead or ride Jack to steer. I chose to ride. He was a hard one to get started and needed some kicks on his sides to make him go. I guess he was "stubborn as a mule!"

DOGS

We always had a dog to bark when someone came to the farm and we called that dog the watch dog. None of them were truly ugly, but if a caller came and no one was home the caller did not linger! None of our dogs were of a special breed, but were just plain "dogs," usually medium to large and long haired.

Pa was always good at training dogs and at that time it was very important to have a good cattle dog. I specifically remember Carlo, a black and white long-hair, and a smaller brownish dog named Zip. We had acres and acres of pasture but when it came time to get the cows I took Carlo and later Zip and went out to listen for the bell worn around the neck of the lead cow. As the lead cow swung her head around at the flies the bell rang. We could hear that bell from a distance and go to where they were grazing. When Carlo and I got near them all I had to do was say, "Round 'em up!" and he would go for them. They knew they had better head for the

¹⁶ Jim always told me my mother said something wrong because when she wanted the horses to stop she would say, "Whoa, back." He said the Miller horses knew what "Whoa" meant and also what "Back" meant and knew they were not the same. But the Wilcox horses did not know any better so it worked out all right!

up the sheep.

One time Carlo must have followed Pa and the team when they went to school to get us. After we were back home Pa missed him he started calling around to see if anyone had seen him. One of the school kids said that the children who lived the other way from the schoolhouse had coaxed him home with them. We drove over to approach them about it but the children and their father denied that Carlo was there. Just then we heard Carlo bark inside a little building where they had locked him. This was one of the few times I saw my father very angry, "mad" as we always said because we seldom, if ever, used the word "angry."

Some neighbors had dogs that ran around at night and were in the habit of killing sheep. LaValleys had such a dog. Pa had a gun above the kitchen door where he could reach it easily if one of those dogs came around. One April 1st morning, as Pa was carrying a tall can of milk to the milk house, Ma called out to him, "LaValleys' dog is down by the sheep!" He put the can of milk down and started for the house on the run. Then Ma, who always liked a little fun, called out "April Fool!" She was always fooling someone on April Fool's Day and we kids enjoyed going along with it. But my more serious father was so disgusted he hardly spoke to her all that day. Whenever she was in disfavor with him he clammed up and would not speak. (Before I married Jim I made sure I would not be disciplined that way!)

Another dog, Brownie, was trained to pull a sled and I had a lot of fun with him. I would get on the sled at the house and tell him to go to the barn, then when he had pulled me to the barn I turned the sled around and told him to go to the house. That made for some good free sledding!

SHEEP

Pa also raised sheep. It was important that they be brought to the barn or a fenced in corral near the house at night. Otherwise sheep are helpless creatures, easily killed by marauding dogs or other predators.

Early in the spring the sheep were sheared. We tried to keep them away from burdocks and other stick-tight weeds so their wool would be more valuable. After they were sheared they passed through a tank of water which contained a disinfectant called sheep dip. The disinfectant got rid of parasites such as ticks and fleas which might otherwise bother them. Afterwards their little lambs did not understand what had happened to their mothers because their individual scents were affected by the dip, so when the sheep were let go it was a very noisy time as the mothers tried to find their own lambs.

While they were very young all the lambs had to have their tails cut short to keep them clean and to avoid infection. I felt sorry for them, not only for the pain they had to endure but also because I liked to see their tails wag while they enjoyed getting their dinners from their mothers.

Almost every year there would be a ewe who would not own its lamb, or if there were twins, might only own one. That meant the other one would be so neglected it was at risk of starving. However, that did not happen at our place. Pa would bring the rejected lamb to me and I bottle-fed it with warm milk, making a pet of it. I had

one in particular named Ole that would follow me wherever I went (like Mary's little lamb). It was the summer when I was nine and the folks were building the new house. When they excavated for the basement I would run down in that "hole" and Ole would run after me and round and round we would go. Of course, it was understood that when it came time to sell the lambs Ole and the others stopped being my pets and belonged to my dad (or should I say the family?).

POULTRY

We always raised laying hens and a few roosters for eating. In summer when they reached about 2½ pounds they were about right for the skillet and what a treat they were! I was squeamish when a chicken had to be killed for eating. We had a chopping block by the wood pile with two nails close together on the top. After catching the chicken, the "killer" put the head on one side of those nails and the body on the other, stretching the neck out between the nails. Then with a quick flip of the axe the head came off. The body was sometimes thrown on the grass and it often would flop around for a long time before becoming still. We had an expression back then about someone who was real quick in his motions but didn't accomplish much: We said he "jumped around like a chicken with its head cut off!"

In the early days no one expected hens to lay much in winter, but my mother got to be quite an expert. Sometimes we had a little wood burning stove in the henhouse¹⁷ and Ma would take warm water to the hens. After we had electricity, lights would be left on for them and that increased productivity even more. Ma liked to spend time in the henhouse "talking to the hens." She always said that when Edith or I went to do chicken chores we just put the feed and water in and left as soon as we could. It was important to spend time with them, she thought. Who knows? If plants can respond to the human voice, why can't chickens?

Before the house burned we had a small incubator with a kerosene lamp on the side which kept the eggs warm. The eggs needed to be turned every day so an "X" was put on one side of each egg so one could be sure they were turned, all "X"s up one day and down the next. It was important that the eggs not get too hot or the little chick inside would die, but if they were too cool they would not hatch. It was an exciting time when the three week incubation period was up and we began to hear little peeps coming from the incubator. We watched the little beaks breaking the shells; each shell popped open and out came a wet little chick. It soon dried off and became a delightful little ball of fluff—yellow when we raised White Leghorns or White Orpingtons and darker shades when we had Rhode Island Reds or Brown Leghorns. Leghorns were the best layers, but were smaller for eating. Dual purpose hens were the Rhode Island Reds and Buff Orpington. We also raised Brown Leghorns.

In the fall, the folks "culled" the laying hens. If the place where the eggs came out was three fingers wide it meant the hen was laying. If it was less than three fingers, it was not laying and the hen would be either sold or butchered.

¹⁷ Although we had planned to use the main floor of the temporary house (built after the fire) for a henhouse, we changed plans and dug under its south side and put in lots of windows for light. That became the henhouse. The upper part was the granary and we sometimes kept our car on the east end.

Sometimes we kept a hen around for years. One Ancona rooster, gray-blue with white speckles, might have set a record for longevity. I am not sure how old it was but it was around for many years. It was so tame it would get in the way of what the men were trying to do. Once when they were shingling the barn or a shed, the rooster insisted on standing right where they wanted to nail.

We also had a Brown Leghorn rooster that loved to pick a fight with our big turkey gobbler. He was like some little people who like to aggravate bigger ones. He would bother the gobbler until the turkey could not take it anymore. It only took a swipe of his big wings to make the rooster give up, but it wasn't long until the rooster was at him again.

In the early years we turned the hens out in summer to fend for themselves part of the time. We threw the kitchen waste (potato peelings and vegetable wastes) out by a tree and the hens ate it all. We collected egg shells in a pail in the back of the warming oven. When they got dry we crushed them and fed them back to the laying hens; it strengthen their own egg shells. We also bought oyster shells for that purpose. We put artificial eggs in the nests to make them lay more eggs!

The hens liked to "take a bath" in wood ashes so we emptied ashes in the henhouse and let them fluff their feathers until they felt clean all over. Some hens had motherly instincts—broody hens—and wanted to sit on their nest. Often such hens would find a place in the haymow or straw stack where they would "steal" their nests and lay ten or twelve eggs. If left uninterrupted, these hens would appear days later with their little broods following them. It was so much fun to watch them, the mother hen clucking to her little ones in hen language which they each seemed to understand. One sound she would sometimes make was a sharp warning sound and the little ones would run to her and as she lifted her wings they would hide under them for protection. The hen scratched the dirt and called to the chicks when she found a morsel for them to eat. (If something happened to the hen or the eggs they would soon rot; if one was broken, the odor was unbearable.)

But broody hens in the henhouse were discouraged. The eggs had to be gathered often so they were not kept too warm very long. A broody hen would nip at our hands when we tried to reach under her for eggs. I always hated that. A broken egg in the nest would make all the other eggs dirty.

After our house and incubator burned in 1925, we bought day-old chicks from the hatchery. The chicks came in boxes with breathing holes in the sides. They were supposed to be mainly pullets, but there would always be a few roosters. Ma always wanted at least one rooster around for crowing. We had to laugh at the young roosters in summer when they first discovered they could crow. They reminded me of a young lad whose voice was changing!

For some time Ma also tried her hand at raising turkeys. There was a fenced in place for them and an individual house for each hen. Even more than chickens, the turkey hens liked to get away and hide their nests. I was supposed to watch them and find out where the nests were but they were often too clever for me. I don't know yet how a turkey could watch me well enough that the minute I looked the other way she would disappear!

We had the big bronze ones and they blended in with the woods. The eggs were spotted and twice as big as chicken eggs. Ma mashed cracked chicken eggs with ground grain as feed for the baby turkeys. We also kept some milk behind the range so it would "clabber" or thicken, and they liked that.

Turkey gobblers were beautiful when they strutted with their tails out like a fan. However, some turned ugly and chased little girls. One cornered me in the granary one day and I stayed there for a long time. Eventually I got the dog's attention and he showed that gobbler his proper place!

We had to watch out for hawks that would circle around and swoop down on a hapless little one and carry it off. The adult turkeys would make a fuss and we would rush out and make a noise to frighten the hawk away. In the fall we let the turkeys roam for bugs and grasshoppers and seeds. It was a problem to find them and bring them home each night so that an animal would not get them. Sometimes I wished we could put bells on turkeys! At that time, people only ate turkey for holidays. Our flock was sent to market just before Thanksgiving or Christmas.

For a while we also raised geese. I remember a gander, with his neck outstretched, chasing me. In the fall we had lots of goose feathers for pillows.

PLOWING

For years Pa only had a walking plow pulled by horses. Pa walked back and forth in the furrow, hour after hour holding the plow in the ground. The lines that controlled the horses were tied together and placed around his waist. When the plow hit a rock it would bounce out and have to be reset. When Lester was old enough he walked behind the plow, too.

When they first heard about sulky plows on which a man could sit while he plowed, they thought that might be all right for level land but would not work in hills and rocks. We finally got one, though, in the thirties. The first sulky plow had three wheels and it tipped easily in the hills. Later they bought one with two wheels and that worked better. It had a sixteen inch plow and was pulled by three horses. That plow made life much easier.

Pa also walked behind the drag (ugh, the dust), back and forth, back and forth. Sometimes we had a hired man to help us in busy times. They were willing to work all day for \$1 plus board. In winter, many men were glad to work for their room and board and perhaps tobacco money. Alex Flink was almost always available and Cliff Hagen (later Edith's husband) worked for us for a couple of years, too.

HAYING

I did not help with barn chores but I did drive horses quite a bit to help out. I drove the hay wagon while two men would pick up cocks of hay on either side. Because our farm was hilly it was sometimes quite a challenge. Sometimes Pa put blocks under the wheels to hold the wagon back. (Years later, when I first met Jim, I went to drive horses for him while he loaded wheat. He was very surprised that I could handle the horses so well.)

I liked it best when we put up wild hay on Section 19, where the meadows were all level. That was a section across the road about half a mile north of our place. In fact it joined the Morrison place. A land company owned it, but we made a deal for the hay which grew on the many meadows there. The hay became a real lifesaver in the drought years.

The whole family would go to the meadow for the day, taking along our lunch for noon, our drinking water in containers wrapped in wet gunny sacks and placed in the shade, and cans of water for the horses. Pa mowed while Ma raked. Then I drove while Pa and Lester picked up the dry haycocks. I usually rested in the shade while Pa and Lester stacked the hay; sometimes I walked along the ditches looking for wild raspberries to eat. When a stack was done the men scraped its sides nice and even with their forks so the rain would run off. To keep the wind from blowing the hay around they cut young trees, trimmed them, and hung one on each side of the stack with twine. Other times they just used lengths of wood about twelve to fifteen inches long tied on the twine and hanging on each side.

In the winter, the men took the horses and hayrack and hauled hay home. Hauling that hay home was sometimes a challenge: the sleds were narrow, with the runners only thirty-seven inches apart, and they tipped easily with a full load of hay. Lester remembers tipping his load several times. Then it all had to be pitched on again after the sled was "righted".

At one time they had a device for making a huge stack without having to pitch it off the wagon. Poles came together with a cross brace, a cable at the top and a carrier to lift and move the hay. It was the same principle that we used later inside the haymow. Lester remembers getting eighty loads of hay in one stack using that device.

After we built the new barn we had room for alfalfa hay in the haymow. While loading the wagons in the field we put ropes (called "slings") down on the hayrack on which the hay was pitched. After a certain amount of hay was on the slings, another sling was put on the hay and more hay pitched on top, repeated until we had a big load. When we reached the barn, someone would stand on the load and pull down a fitting that hung on the big thick hay rope from the carrier and track at the peak of the barn. Then he would fasten the metal hooks on the ends of the slings to matching hooks on the fitting. A horse pulled the hay up to the peak of the barn where it became attached to the wheeled carrier and the carrier instantly unlatched from the end of the track and rode along it the length of the haymow. The man in the mow would then hold a rope and when he wanted the hay to fall, he gave it a pull and the

hay dropped. Then the person on the outside with the horse went back, pulling the carrier back out to the peak for another load. It was my job to drive the horse on the rope. Old Sam and I got along quite well with this. The man in the haymow had to "mow" hay, or position each load above where it should be dropped. This was very hard and hot work, especially after working at haying for a couple of days; the hay itself generated heat as it cured. But having hay in the mow was handy in wintertime because it could be pitched through a hole at the edge of the mow and dropped down in front of the cows, eliminating the step of bringing it to the barn from another location, and it was kept dry in the mow so there was a minimum of spoilage.

CORN HARVEST

Tall fodder corn was raised for the silo. Pa and three neighbors went together to purchase a silo filler. It was a stationary machine that was placed close to the silo. It had knives in it which moved very fast when powered by an engine. In the fall before frost the farmer would cut corn with a corn binder which tied the stalks into bundles. On silo filling day these bundles were picked up from the field and placed on a wagon. This was very hard, heavy work. The bundles were hauled to the silo where they were pitched into the silage cutter one at a time. The cutter chopped the corn into small pieces and blew it up the silo through a long pipe. One man would work in the silo walking back and forth to help it to level and settle down. In the winter some of it would freeze and have to be picked loose as it was thrown down the silo chute to be fed to the cattle.

If corn was left in the field after the silo was filled it was shocked after being cut with the same binder. Then in winter they brought the shocks up close to the barn and, using a tool called a "husking peg," they husked the corn to separate it from the stalks. The young cattle would eat the stalks. If we fed corn to chickens it had to be shelled first. We had a little corn sheller. One would put an ear in it small end first and push down with one hand while turning the crank with the other.

Milk cows were fed silage, oats, and hay (usually alfalfa) and the horses and young cattle ate wild hay along with some grain. Usually the horses were fed grain only when they were working. Otherwise they got by on wild hay alone.

SMALL GRAIN THRESHING

Though we always had small grain (oats, wheat, or rye) one season was particularly memorable. In 1925 or 26 the folks rented thirty acres of land from the Hunters in Maine Township, nearly four miles away from our farm, and planted it to small grain. To take the machinery out there with the horses and to take along food for both people and horses for the day was a lot of work.

The harvest began with the grain binder cutting the standing crop and rolling it into tight bundles. The bundles were then set up on their butt ends in little stacks called shocks; this position protected them from the rain. Then the shocks were pitched onto hay racks and hauled to the stack. Lester stacked as Pa pitched them to him. Later the bundles were pitched from the stack into the separator (sometimes called a threshing machine). Once the bundles were in the stack they were safe and could wait quite a while before being threshed. That was the way it had to be done when there were not many threshing machines. This process was called "stack

threshing." Another supposed advantage was that the grain went through a "sweat" in the stack before they threshed it, reducing the possibility that it would mold or spoil in the bin.

Others were beginning to "shock thresh," avoiding the stacking job. They loaded the bundles from the shocks onto a wagon and hauled them directly to the separator, but that process required a larger crew to haul loads from the field quickly enough to keep the separator busy. It seemed to work all right, so eventually we did it, too.

The separator was run by an engine. From Lester's recollections, it seems we threshed one year with steam, then a Mogul, (built by International Harvester Co.), a Case with a crossways engine, and finally a Hart Parr.

To make extra room for young cattle or sheep it was common to have a straw shed. It consisted of a framework of poles upon which straw was blown during threshing. It made a very warm place all winter and when spring came was no longer needed.

All the grain was sacked in the early years. We ladies had a big job every summer patching the heavy, dusty grain sacks which the mice had chewed on during the winter. We turned them, shook them, and sewed on heavy patches (usually cut from overalls) over the holes. This was a disagreeable job—especially in hot weather—but it was a part of farm living and we accepted it.

It was always a lot of work for the women to get food ready for all those men. There might be two men for breakfast who were owners of the big threshing machine as they had to get there early to get up steam before the work could begin. (That was no longer necessary when they stopped using steam and used gasoline engines instead.) Then there would be forenoon lunch for all hands, a big noon meal, an afternoon lunch, and supper. The first day would not be too bad as we could have some things ready the day before, but with no refrigeration it was very hard the second day, especially for some women like my mother who had to help with the chores and had chickens to care for as well. Quite often women exchanged help—but if they brought their children along it meant that many more to feed. One time Ma felt she really needed some help so she called Lydia Jenne and asked her. Lydia came along with her husband Fred and prepared to help. Ma asked Lydia to make pumpkin pies while she went to do chicken chores. She laid out the ingredients necessary for the pies and left Lydia in the kitchen alone. Lydia's pies turned out very well. After eating his pie Fred remarked several times about what a good pie that was and what a good cook Ma was, etc., etc. Even on the way home Fred kept on talking about that wonderful pie and what a good cook Minnie Wilcox was. Finally she couldn't take it any longer and Lydia said, "I made that pie, Buster!"¹⁸

WOOD CUTTING

In winter Pa and Lester cut firewood. Our farm had a lot of woods so what we lacked in good open fields we made up for in winter selling fuel. It would bring \$2 or

¹⁸ Edith and I had never heard this story until about twelve years ago when we went to Perham to visit Lydia in the nursing home there. She was blind and very deaf, but when she found out we were the Wilcox girls she started laughing and reminiscing and we had a great time. This story was one she shared that day.

\$3 a cord delivered. In the early years, the main market was the local creameries which used steam for power and steaming out all the cream cans. When Lester was a teenager he bought a model "T" Ford truck. Then they were able to haul wood to Fergus Falls to sell for home heating. We were also able to sell peeled basswood for pulp. Wood was also traded for the hollow clay tile used for the lower part of our new barn.

Firewood had to be sold in four foot lengths which meant hand cutting. The wood that we ourselves used for fuel was trimmed and piled without cutting to four foot lengths. Periodically the neighbors got together and sawed the piles to stove lengths with a power saw. The engine that worked best was a seven horse power single cylinder model Galloway. It was mounted on skids along with the saw. If there was snow on the ground, the outfit was loaded on a horse-drawn sled. Otherwise it was placed on a wagon to move it from farm to farm.

Pa was always eager to get more land cleared so sometimes in winter he allowed others to cut wood off our land. At least one year while I was going to high school Gene Dale and his friend, Bennie Dahl hauled a brooder house in and batched in it there in the woods, cutting wood to sell. The wood was free, so long as they cut it clean and piled the brush. After the brush was burned and the stumps rotted for a couple of years and were grubbed out, we would have a few more acres of field.¹⁹

ROAD BUILDING

For years the Andersons used our driveway and barnyard to get from the township road to their house. Their house was built close to the section line where someone apparently thought the road would come from the east. However, plat books that pre-date their building site show a road along our west property line (the township line between Star Lake and Maplewood townships) which would give them access to the road from the north. Apparently an easement was dedicated but the road was not built.

This use of our yard as a road was a problem for them and for us. There were gates to open and even a water pipe to move each time. In the early twenties Pa was on the township board and had that north access road built. Lester recalls being paid 50 cents a day running the grubbing machine while Pa cut the tree roots, all to make way for the road. The dirt work was done with horse drawn slip scrapers.

Sometimes long stretches of road were built across very low ground. Big logs were placed side by side first and then dirt was hauled on top. We called them "corduroy roads" as they always did have a sort of ripple to them. Sometimes there would not be room for two cars to meet on these roads so before starting to cross, one would look to see whether there was a car starting from the other side. If so, you waited until it crossed. Sometimes there would be a wide place in the middle of

¹⁹ Pa had a grubbing machine, also called a stump puller, which was quite a labor saving device. It was a winch which was anchored to a strong stump, with a cable fastened to the stump. Two horses walked around and turned the spool and pulled out the stump. The anchor stump was then blown out with dynamite.

the stretch where they could meet, or wait for the other car to pass onto the narrower stretch.

HOME WORK

The folks were usually through with chores in winter by 8:00 and Pa liked to read until 9:00. Then it was always bedtime unless we had company or went visiting. He always took off an hour at noon (the horses had to rest, too). He made it plain that he wanted dinner to be ready when he came in as he wanted to rest **after** dinner. That made it hard for my mother because she helped outside so much.

She could really move fast and it was important to her to get a lot of work done, but not as important to have the housework all done. During very busy times when she worked outside she managed by washing dishes from the last meal while cooking the next. Washing dishes was a job no one liked. We had warm water in the stove's reservoir and would heat water to boiling in a teakettle for rinsing. We had two dish pans, one for washing and the other for rinsing. Usually we put the dishpans on the table but sometimes to keep the water warm we put the pans on the top of the range. We used bar soap, usually P and G (which was also a laundry soap). One had to rub and rub to get suds. The dishes were carefully arranged in the rinse pan and boiling water poured over them. Kettles were often black on the bottom from being "set in" (placed directly into the cookstove fire to cook faster) and were hard to clean. A new kind of kettle called "enamelware" became popular. Ma thought that was so sanitary and it was—until it chipped and peeled. Then a leak might form, but someone thought of that, too, and one could buy a little plug to put in the hole. But was it so sanitary after that?

In addition to helping with the dishes, I also kept the lamps filled with oil and their chimneys clean. And I liked to scrub things. One time when I was going to scrub chairs there was a five gallon can with some cream in it on the chair I wanted to scrub so I lifted it off. I was surprised at how heavy it was but made it all right. Ma scolded me a little for doing that as she said I might have spilled the cream. I guess that would have been some mess! (Since I remember that happened in the old house I was less than nine years old and small for my age.)

I always did like to clean house. When I was teaching and came home weekends, I cleaned Ma's cupboards, desk, etc. She told me it took her all week to find things after I'd gone. Then a week or so later I would be back putting things "in place" and she would have to search again!

WASHDAY

Before we had a machine to help, wash day (often Monday, but not always) was a big day. Well water had to be carried in and put in a copper wash boiler which covered the whole firebox area of the wood range in the kitchen. After the dirty clothes were sorted, the "whites" were placed in the cold water, soap was added, and it was brought to a boil and boiled a while. We used homemade soap made of beef tallow and other fat plus Lewis Lye. It was dark in color but it made the clothes very white. We shaved off some and placed it in a gallon pail, added water and heated it until the soap dissolved. Lo—liquid soap! Using a sawed-off broom

handle, we removed the hot clothes from the boiler into a wash tub where cooler water was added to make it the right temperature for our hands. A wash board was placed in the tub and it was ready for business.

We fastened a wringer to the tub and forced the clothes through that as we turned the crank. Then the clothes were put into a tub containing clear rinse water with bluing added. The liquid bluing also made the clothes snowy white. They were rung out the second time, then hung on wire lines which were hung between trees. A long pole with a "fork" at the end was placed about in the middle after the lines were loaded to raise them to keep the clothes away from dogs, etc., and give them a better chance to dry. The darker clothes followed the white ones in the same soapy water until the washing was completed. Not wanting that nice soapy water to go to waste, we used it to scrub the back porch or the toilet or whatever else needed cleaning at the time. In warm weather the washing was done in the shade of a tree where it was cooler and also closer to the lines and easier to get rid of the water.

Our hand-made quilts of heavy wool pieces, flannel backing and cotton batting could not be washed because the cotton batting would bunch up. To keep them clean as long as we could we stitched cloth "protectors" on to the part of the quilt that came next to our faces. When a quilt did need washing we took it apart, washed the top and backing, then put back the batting, and retied the quilt. A lot of work!

Later, after we had the cistern, we had nice soft water for washing, but when we washed in the pump house everything (clothing and soft water) had to be carried out there. The pump house was heated in winter. Our first washing machine had to be in the pump house because it was powered by the same gas engine that pumped our water, turned the grind stone and ran the cream separator.

After REA came in we had an electric washer, but still had to have the wash bench and tub for rinsing. Sometimes in winter we hung clothes on a folding rack and placed it out on the porch where the clothes would freeze dry (almost). We brought them in to finish drying over night. On the kitchen wall we had a little gadget with a rope line wound up inside. We could turn a little crank and pull out the clothesline across the room to a hook. We often would do that at night and hang clothes there to dry before we went to bed and they would be ready to take down in the morning.

IRONING DAY

Everything that needed ironing was dampened and rolled and placed in the basket. On ironing day, one of us would stand and iron and iron. First we had the three flatirons of different sizes, heated on the wood range. The trick was to have the iron hot enough to smooth the clothes but not so hot that it burned them. The temperature was always changing on those irons as they cooled off. We would test them to see whether they were hot enough by spitting on them. If it sizzled, the iron was just right. (I suppose one could also put a drop of water on to test it, but the saliva was very handy and did no harm!) For a while we had a gas iron with a little

tank on the end that had to be pumped up and lit like the gas lamp (only no mantles). Sometimes its flame shot out and it was nerve-wracking to use. Ma did not trust it.²⁰

The first Christmas after electricity came to the farm I got my mother an electric iron. Mrs. Kanne told her to be sure not to take time to fold clothes, but to keep right on ironing while the iron was hot! She also advised Ma to keep the old flatirons on the back of the stove because if one just wanted to press a little there was no need heating up an iron. This seemed so wonderful; before that when we ironed (and at that time the cotton clothes all had to be ironed and would wrinkle easily) we had to keep the range fired up, and would have to change irons as the one we were using cooled off. Just think, with electric irons the heat would always be the same! My niece Carol remembers that Ma thought a steam iron would be nice to have, but when she got one she just used it dry because she was afraid it would damage it to put water in it!

We had no drip-dry or stay-press fabrics in those days so it was not long after one put on a garment before it looked wrinkled. I thought it was wonderful when the no-wrinkle fabrics came in and it is hard for me to understand why some prefer to go back to the wrinkles. In the mid-thirties it was the fashion for young men to wear white cotton pants for semi-dress. They really looked sharp, but they wrinkled right away and were easily soiled.²¹

SHOPPING

If we needed groceries between cream deliveries, we often went to Burns Store in Maine Township about four miles away. We took a list of things we needed and would tell Mrs. Burns one item at a time. She got the item from the shelf, then wrote it on the slip, and then got the next item, etc. Mrs. Burns liked to visit with her customers between items so it took a long time to shop there. Finally, she added up the figures on the slip and we paid her. Often the items might be in bulk and had to be weighed and put in a separate sack. String around the sack kept the food from spilling.

Besides buying food at those little stores we would buy kerosene for our lamps and later for our two-burner kerosene stove. We had a five gallon can and also a one gallon can. Whenever the screw-on lids would get lost (which happened mysteriously often), we stuck a raw potato on the spout to hold tight and keep the kerosene from spilling.

Vogels had a store in Star Lake Township and there was another in Friberg. I think they all did a fair business: people did not want to drive very far. I remember when the Piggley Wiggley Store came into Fergus Falls. We heard about it long before we ever shopped there. It was said that there were shopping carts that the customers could push around picking up what they wanted from the shelves. People wondered whether that would work. Would people steal things when they had a

²⁰ Much later when we moved to our farm by Osakis and before we had electricity, we had a gas iron. When the flames shot out our little son Jimmy would call it the "goofy iron." But it did seem to be an improvement over the flatirons we heated on the range.

²¹ (Jim was wearing whites when I first met him. My cousin Mabel Rohwer told me that she did not mind washing those pants while Jim boarded with them, but they were hard to iron. So the week I stayed at Mabel's I ironed Jim's pants the days after our dates.

chance to pick them up themselves? Eventually we got there to shop. At first the Piggley Wiggley store clerks still had to write the items on slips and add them without benefit of machine. Then they installed a cash register.

I remember the J. C. Penney's store had a unique way of handling money. The sales person never made the change. She made out a slip and put it into a little basket-like container along with the money, then pulled a cord sending the basket buzzing up a cable to the office. The office was like a cage hanging from the ceiling and had several of these cables fastened to it. There a cashier would take care of it, sending the slip and change down again.²²

FOOD

DAIRY PRODUCTS



Before the house burned we churned our own butter. The rich cream would be slightly soured, then poured into a wooden barrel churn. We took turns turning the handle on the side of the barrel until the cream made a different sound as the butter started forming on the paddles inside. Ma would peek in and let us know if we needed to turn some more and when to quit. Then she would take out the mass of butter and place it in a wooden bowl, take a wooden paddle, and work it and work it to get out all the "water". Fresh water was added to rinse it and that was also worked out. Finally it was ready, salted a little, and stored. The buttermilk which was left was such a treat! After the fire we always bought our butter from the creamery. It was called "sweet cream butter" and was always the same. Some did not like it as well, but it was a relief not to have the job of churning anymore.

Ma made cottage cheese. We kept sour milk going and it was not difficult to heat it to a certain temperature so the whey would separate from the curd. The whey was drained off and the curd was salted and we liked that. When we butchered pork we always made head cheese. The skin was removed from the head and all the good, meaty parts cut up, cooked and ground. Then it was seasoned and firmly packed in a loaf pan. When it cooled it sort of jellied and could be cut like meat loaf. It was pretty fat but I think we put some vinegar on to cut the fat. Anyway, in those days no one was much concerned about eating fat, nor had we heard of cholesterol. For the most part it was all worked off by the physical work done at that time.

We also had an ice cream freezer and in winter made delicious ice cream. We could never make ice cream in summer, but sometimes we went to Henry Koellns and they made it. They had an ice house and put up ice in winter. I never saw them do that but they used a lot of sawdust to pack the ice in and it kept a long time in summer. They even chipped some to put in their drinking water or lemonade and we thought that was a real treat. I guess today using ice from a lake for human consumption would be frowned on, but we didn't know much about pollution then.

²² Even after we moved to the Osakis area after the War, Penney's in Alexandria still had that method for a while.

When we went to town it was a great treat to buy an ice cream cone. Sometimes during the thirties we could get three dips of ice cream in our cone for a nickel.

FLOUR

I remember going along with Pa once when he took wheat to Phelps Mill to have it ground into flour. That was an all-day job: we drove about twelve miles with horses and had to wait in line for our turn. But for the most part we bought our flour in 100 pound cloth sacks. Yes, flour came in cloth sacks and they made dandy towels and other things, but after seeing the cat in the grocery store lying on top of the pile of flour sacks I was rather glad when they started using paper!

Ma always made delicious bread. In early years I remember she used yeast foam or yeast cake and the bread was "set" the night before. Yeast, a small amount of water, sugar, salt, and some flour were stirred together and left to stand all night. In the morning more flour was added and worked down. I don't remember just when Ma started using a liquid "starter" but I think it was after the house burned. This "starter" was stored in a glass jar in a cool place. When we wanted to bake bread Ma took out a cup or two of the liquid to which potato water and the usual ingredients were added. In the starter jar she would put as much potato water as the liquid she had removed, added some sugar, and it was ready to be stored for the next time. For some reason we called the starter "spook." This method of making bread was used in our family for many years; even Edith and Carolee used it after they were married. I remember that when we had company for dinner it was customary to ask, "Does anyone want potato water for tomorrow?" When Ma finally quit using that Pa thought the bread made from yeast was not as good.²³

GARDEN PRODUCE

We always had a hotbed at home to start our own plants to set out in the garden. It was a wooden frame about six feet long and as wide as the length of a window. It was built up higher on the north so that it sloped toward the south and glass windows were placed over it. Early in the spring Pa put horse manure in the bottom, then soil on top. The manure was prepared by taking a little to the side and forking it over every day for a few days. (Otherwise it would get so hot it would burn the plants.) The manure would "heat" and with the sun shining through the glass it became very warm in there. Tomato and cabbage seeds were always planted and sometimes we put in some lettuce and radishes just for early eating. The seeds soon sprouted and grew. On warm, sunny days we removed the windows, letting in the air, but they were always replaced at night. When danger of frost was past, we always had big, healthy plants to set out in the garden.²⁴

We always had a big garden. We thought the garden plot had to be rotated to do better so sometimes it would be some distance from the house. I remember going along with Ma and Edith, taking a little drinking water, our tools, and an alarm

²³ . I have thought sometimes I would like to try that method as we bake bread several times each week, but all the recipes I have found are different, using flour in the starter.

²⁴ . When we started farming we had a hotbed the first years so we could raise our own plants. I also tried raising tomato and cabbage plants in the house, but they got spindly so I started buying them at the green house already started.

clock with us when we went to work in the garden south of the house, east of the two hills. The "small stuff" was near the house so we could run out and gather something fresh for meals. It was a wonderful treat to be able to gather lettuce, peas, beans, radishes and later sweet corn, cabbage, and tomatoes.

We always raised lots and lots of potatoes as they were not only our stand-by food but also dog food. No one we knew thought of buying dog food in those days; dogs were fed table scraps. Our dogs became old and seemed to thrive on that, too. There were always potato bugs then. Some of my friends had to pick them off but my Pa was too modern for that. Pa sprayed potatoes with a mixture of Paris Green (outlawed now) and water. We also dusted cabbage for worms, but I can't remember any other destructive insects in the garden nor any blight as we commonly have now.

During the dry years we watered the garden by hauling a small tank of water on the stone boat pulled by Old Sam. We parked the tank by the garden and dipped pails into it and carried it to the thirsty plants. That was usually enough to get them through the drought.

PREPARATION / PRESERVATION

We raised yellow string beans then, not green. That meant that when we prepared them for cooking or canning we pulled off the "string" along one edge before cutting or breaking them into pieces. We also had a large patch of Navy beans which came in handy for baking or soup as they would keep without canning. I thought Ma made the best baked beans ever!

One year we picked, shelled, and canned sixty-five quarts of peas. To can peas or corn we had to keep the jars boiling in a water bath for three hours. That meant we had to keep a wash boiler full of water boiling on top of the wood range all that time regardless of the temperature outside. In the summer of 1936 it sometimes reached 110 degrees in the shade. Did we have air conditioning? We did not even have electricity for fans and no refrigeration or ice cubes for cold drinks. Canning was hard, hot work.

Before the early cabbages burst we picked them and cut the heads into quarters. We rubbed the quarters across a special kraut cutter to shred them, then layered the shredded cabbage with salt and placed it in a large stone jar. It was stomped and stomped with a wooden paddle until the juice came to the top. A plate was placed on top of the jar and a washed field stone on top of the plate to weight it down. The cabbage would "work" and make its own juice. After a while the cabbage was "ripe," (now sour kraut) and ready to eat or can for summer use. We thought it was very good with pork added. (Our neighbor Mrs. Lewis used to add macaroni to hers for company.)

We canned beef after butchering. We also canned meatballs made of a seasoned mixture of ground beef and pork. In winter it was cold enough that we could freeze cuts of meat outside, packed in ice in a barrel or box. Sometimes the frozen meat was placed in the oat bin to keep it from thawing.

We had a smoke house and Pa was good at smoking hams and bacon. Before smoking, the meat was placed in water salty enough to hold up an egg. After a time

in that they were hung up in the smoke house and a low fire was made of maple wood. This meat was very salty and had to be "freshened" by soaking in water before frying.

FRUIT

We did not grow much fruit. There were wild grapes up north and in the fall we would go there with a long ladder and someone climbed the tree the grapevines were clinging to and picked them. We found they made wonderful jelly. We had wild plums and made sauce and butter from them. They were very sour. One morning after being at a party all night the folks did the morning chores before having breakfast. Ma was very tired by that time and she thought perhaps just bread and plum sauce would be enough breakfast. Pa quickly dispelled such a notion: it had been hours since he had eaten and he wanted the "works"—fried potatoes, eggs, meat, etc.

We picked chokecherries and canned juice for making jelly later. One time, just for fun, Ma made a pie using chokecherries. The pie looked delicious but, of course, was full of seeds! (That would have been a good trick for April Fool's Day!) There were June berries which grew on trees like chokecherries and they were very good and had no seeds. On the little "sand field" across the road there were "black caps" which grew on very low plants and were large and juicy. Along the ditches up north there were wild raspberries and we picked a lot of them. I remember that one hot day Ma, Edith and I went to pick raspberries. There were so many we just could not quit and kept picking and picking. As we piled them in our pails they would get kind of soft and mushy at the bottom and we knew they would be hard to "pick over" when we got home. (We had to be sure there were no worms and that the leaves and stems were all picked off.) As we crossed the road with our full pails a big car stopped and the driver offered to pay us \$6.00 for them all. We were elated and I remember saying, "We made as much in one day as Pa made all year." (As chairman of the school board he was paid \$6.00 for the year and had just been paid, so that was fresh in my mind!)

A big treat in the spring was that first rhubarb. We always had a long row and ate rhubarb all summer. Sometimes we even canned it for sauce and used it to stretch other fruit, such as berries, in jams and sauce. In late summer we could buy and can peaches, blue plums, pears, and apples. And sometimes in the fall Pa would buy a five gallon can (sixty pounds) of honey from Mr. Skov, the honey man. Pa really enjoyed that. Otherwise he used syrup which we bought by the gallon, alternating between white and dark.

MEALS

We always had hearty breakfasts when I was growing up. After all some of us were up by 5:00 which meant a couple of hours of work before coming in to eat breakfast. Often we had pancakes. They were made ahead of time and stacked

one on top of the other and kept warm in the warming oven.²⁵ There might be ham or bacon, often eggs, and always cooked cereal-either oatmeal or Cream of Wheat. Sometimes we even cooked ground whole wheat. If we didn't have pancakes we fried potatoes to go with the eggs and meat.

After we had electricity I bought a toaster, but Pa thought toast was better made over the wood range with the old fashioned toaster. It was made of heavy wire and hinged in the middle so the bread was inserted between the wires and could be flipped over to brown both sides. So they usually made a fire in the wood range in the morning no matter how hot it was.

For Easter breakfast we could have all the eggs we wanted. They were always hard cooked (in those days we said hard boiled). In wintertime hens did not lay well in those early years, so it was a real treat.

I remember eating my very first "hot dish." We were at Burgraffs for supper and they had something "new." They had cooked macaroni and drained it, added canned tomatoes and seasoning, then put in small meatballs and baked it all together. Delicious! Ladies, how did we ever get along without hot dishes or casseroles?

We never heard of "mixes" in those days. The first time I knew about Bisquick was during W.W. II when Mrs. Howk and her daughter-in-law in Ottumwa made baking powder biscuits for breakfast and used it. I thought that was cheating! Also during the war when sugar was rationed we found we could buy pudding mixes without ration stamps so we bought some and only had to mix milk and eggs with the mix and cook it. At home we never bought dry cereal for breakfast until the later years when Ma put out Corn Flakes for Sunday morning to save time.

Usually our family did not go fishing, but one spring Lester and Pa went to the "ditch" where they speared fifty-three suckers which were dried and smoked. They were delicious and made a welcome change from our regular pork, beef, and chicken. It must have been during World War II. that we became acquainted with a new product called Spam. We thought it was a great treat and how handy to have on hand! But we found out returning service men did not care for it. I guess it was standard fare for those in combat.

One thing we always looked forward to before Christmas was the arrival in the mail of a box of homemade candy from Pa's sister, my Aunt Kate. She made delicious divinity, fudge, penuche, chocolate covered fondant, filled dates, etc. Ma's specialty in candy making was "patient" candy. As she used no candy thermometer it was quite a trick to make it come out right and we girls never learned to perfect it. She would melt some sugar in a heavy skillet, stirring all the time, add more sugar and hot milk, stir and stir, add peanuts and beat until just right. Oh, that was so good. Makes me want to try it now.

After we moved to the new house we bought a coffee grinder. It was more "modern" than the old wooden ones. It was a quart jar tipped upside down with a grinding contraption underneath. When we turned a crank the delicious smelling

²⁵ After I was married I found out that pancakes should be eaten right off the griddle and not allowed to be stacked and become "soggy" so I have always "baked" them as they were eaten. I wonder why we say we "bake" pancakes when we really fry them?

coffee would fall into a glass which we emptied by pulling a spring loaded deal at the bottom of the grinder. That way the coffee was always fresh and I am sure it was cheaper that way. Kuhns ground barley which they used for their breakfast drink. I suppose it was more like Postum. We also had hot cocoa part of the time and always for us kids.

In summer for a treat we bought nectar in various flavors such as orange, raspberry, lemon, or cherry from one of the traveling companies going through the country. This was a concentrated liquid to which we added sugar and water. We never kept pop at home but bought it only on very special occasions such as the Fourth of July. My favorite was Orange Crush with grape a close second. I think it was in 1934 that I tasted my first Coca Cola.

Ma made a dessert which was different from anything I have ever tasted anywhere else. It was a German pudding made with cubed bread, milk, raisins, eggs, and spice, kind of a bread pudding, I suppose. She placed the large mass in the middle of clean dish towel, drew the ends together, tied it tightly, put flour next to the tie, then tied it again to seal it. Then it was placed in a kettle of boiling water and cooked. When taken out it was placed on a very large platter, sliced, and served with warm raisin sauce. When we had that we didn't have to have much of anything else. Although it was a German dish, Ma's Yankee husband loved it and since he could not say the German name for it (which sounded like Groten Kleeten), we always called it a "big fat Dutchman."

The last thing to do before a meal was to get a pail of fresh well water. Our well was deep and the water was cold (and very hard). Often the first man in would get the water while the other would wash before the meal. A long-handled dipper was placed in the water pail and everyone drank from it. Since the water was very hard with a lot of iron in it the dipper and pail both soon became rusty. We could scour them every day and still they would be rusty. Out at the pump, too, we had a dipper or tin cup for common use. That must have been very unsanitary but no one thought anything about it.

After washing in the wash basin we emptied the waste water into the slop pail. We dried ourselves with a roller towel which hung from the back of the door. It was continuous so one could always find a clean, dry place. It was replaced by unfastening a device something like a big wooden safety pin.

OUR WAY OF LIFE

EARLY NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

When the folks first moved to Ottertail County they had three special families for their friends. They bought the first place from Courtneys and they visited with them quite a bit through the years. Mrs. Courtney was a Seventh Day Adventist and her husband was a Methodist. He had to work on her Sabbath, but she would go with him to his church on Sundays. That was where Lester stayed when he went to high school. Mr. Courtney would call Lester 'Jeff' so Lester would call him "Mutt," two comic characters popular at that time.

The folks bought the next farm from Theorn Elliot and we visited some with them. They had a little boy named Jimmy I thought was nice. Once he gave me a little knife, fork, and spoon which I always used. I called them my Jimmy fork, Jimmy knife, and Jimmy spoon. Mrs. Elliot was an atheist.

The other early friends were the Corrells. He was our mail carrier and stopped to eat and to rest his horses at our place in winter. She was a very strict Baptist. So the folks had quite an assortment of religions or lack of religion in their first circle of friends. They used to attend circuses a lot. By the time the folks moved to Star Lake Township they were far from town and I remember going to only one circus and we only attended the parade. I was intrigued with the huge elephants as they walked along the street.

Flinks moved into our area from Elbow Lake. Evidently they had been big farmers because they had twelve head of horses and four-horse machinery. They had come to Minnesota from Sweden where Mr. Flink had been an honest-to-goodness sailor. At one point in their lives a neighbor lady was killed by Indians and Flinks took her little girl, Lulu Carlson, whose father was unable to care for her. I don't believe he ever came back to see her after he went away. The folks thought a lot of her and always kept in touch with her.

Mr. Flink and his bachelor son, Alex, liked to hunt and fish and party. The men would go places, especially Alex, who worked for various neighbors and thus ate well, but somehow there never seemed to be much grocery money for the home. They always did have coffee which was brewed very strong and a pot was always ready on the back of the wood range. Whenever anyone wanted coffee it was ready (black and bitter) and to make more they would just add more coffee and water to the grounds already in the pot. It was generously doused with sugar and perhaps milk if they had it. I remember Alex used a large amount of sugar in his coffee. If they could have sugar lumps, the Norwegians considered it a luxury. They moistened the lump in their coffee, then with a loud sucking sound slurped the coffee through the sugar. Pa thought that was crude and would never think of doing that, but it was their custom and they did not think anything of it. Quite a few people at that time would pour a little coffee into their saucers to cool it before slurping it!

Mrs. Flink raised sheep, sheared them, carded and spun the wool, and knit. She was a dear old lady and I always enjoyed going to visit her. She was hard of hearing so I had to yell at her and at the last she was quite blind. Sometimes I took Mrs. Flink a gallon of skim milk and she appreciated it very much. At times she gave me some very pretty dishes which were her treasures. I still have a couple of them.

Flinks lived in several places in the neighborhood, and at the last they lived in a house just south of our place, in fact on the farm Lester had bought. Mrs. Flink became sick there and finally died. They called Ma to "lay her out," which consisted mostly of washing her and putting on clean clothes. Neighbors came in for a little service. I can't remember any pastor as they did not go to church. I always thought she deserved better than what she got.

Our closest neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Anderson who lived to the southwest across the field. We could see their place from our house and somehow it was a comfort to know someone was that close. They were Norwegian people with

old country customs. I thought their house was wonderful, all finished off with pretty woodwork and pretty furniture in it.²⁶ I liked to go with my mother when she visited Mrs. Anderson. One day when I was about four years old I walked across the field with Ma to visit her. She was a hospitable lady and would always have something good for lunch, usually sugar cookies. That day instead of serving Ma the usual strong coffee she got up some grape wine she had made and served it to us in water glasses. I thought it tasted good so when my glass was empty she filled it again. My mother tried to object, saying she thought that might be too much for such a little girl, but Mrs. Anderson said "Osh Ka shay so, it won't hurt her." I drank all of that and then we went home. By the time we got to our house I was feeling very happy and said to Ma, "Let's dance polka." We did that and then I said "I'm dizzy." Everything was going round and round so Ma led me to her bed downstairs and I lay there a long time and was very sick. For a long time after that I could not stand the smell of grape juice or even jelly. (Mrs. Anderson made the wine. She would also use rhubarb or dandelions.)

No wine or alcoholic beverages were ever allowed in our house. Pa never liked it that Mrs. Anderson served wine when the men were there sawing wood. He thought that was a dangerous enough job anyway. I don't remember any of our men getting hurt sawing wood, but it was a dangerous job and one needed to exercise caution.

In our district there were two brothers, Henry and Albert who never got along with each other. Pa came home disgusted one day. He said that Henry and Albert had met on the road and Henry called Albert "Old Shep." This caused a fight. Pa said he held the horses while the two brothers fought each other. Albert got a clinch on Henry and would not let go. Henry told Pa to "break the clinch" which Pa did. Later Albert saw Henry go by his place and lay in wait for him when he came back. He said "This time you won't have Wilcox to help you!" and they really tore into each other. Neighbors saw them and suggested stopping them but their wives would not let them. That time Albert was really whipped! They were first cousins of my mother—adults with families!

We wondered why they had settled so close to one another if they hated each other so much. I guess that when they first moved into the area they shared a house (with their wives) while they had their houses built. Something terrible must have happened at that time. Their land joined but they had two line fences three feet apart. There still are two fences with room for a lane between, although the farms were sold to others long ago.

We visited with many of the other neighbors, the Koellns, Swansons, Curtises, Lewises, Burgraffs, Knutsons, Nendicks, Dales, Jennes, Kramers, and several others.

CHILDHOOD FRIENDS

EVELYN SWANSON

²⁶ Their house, too, was later destroyed by fire.

Evelyn Swanson was just about a year older than me. We started school together, and we were best friends in those early years. She was an only child and I was the youngest in my family, so we both hoped there might be new babies in our families, but it never happened. We often stayed over night with each other. She lived about three miles away so we did not walk to each other's place, but might go home from school and stay over or go after a party. Our mothers were quite lenient about that and we always had a lot of fun. What one didn't think of the other one did.

One time I will never forget. Evelyn had stayed overnight with me and in the morning we dressed for school, putting on our woolen stockings. Before we left for school we thought it would be fun to slide down the straw stack a few times. It had snowed in the night and that straw stack was a tempting sight. (Of course, we took some of the straw along with us each time we went down and I don't think Pa liked it, but he never said anything.) After we got warmed up at school we started to itch. If you have ever had barley stickers in wool stockings, you know the agony we went through. But Howard LaValley was our teacher at that time and we knew we dared not scratch, so we had to endure it!

One night when the folks were in the barn doing chores I got Evelyn to sample NR's (Nature's Remedy which was a laxative). She had not heard of them but I should have known better. We each took a couple of them and the next day we kept the path hot between the school house and the outdoor toilets! Somehow Evelyn did not appreciate the humor of it and it didn't turn out as funny as I thought it would be.

Evelyn lived near Mud Lake so in winter when the ice was safe we would play on the ice. She had ice skates, not the nice shoe skates of today but they had to be fastened to one's shoes by using a key to tighten them. I tried it a time or two but either my ankles were not strong enough or I was just plain clumsy as my ankles would turn so I gave it up. I was satisfied to just run and slide on the ice.

In summer we sometimes took barrels out on a level place on the yard, got on top, and tried to see how fast we could get them rolling before we fell off. We also tried stilts, but I was no good at that. We played house a lot with our dolls. Sometimes we dressed our kittens, put them in the doll buggy, and wheeled them around to see how long they would put up with that before jumping out and running away with their dresses and bonnets on.

Burdock looked a lot like rhubarb and Evelyn and I used to take an old sausage grinder and grind the stalks. The juice would be bright green and we pretended it was wine. But, of course, we did know better than to taste it!

Evelyn's mother was a dressmaker. She could look at a picture of a garment in a catalog, make a pattern by taking measurements, and sew lovely dresses. Evelyn had some beautiful dresses, but I can't remember being envious of her. Since she was only child and her mother was a seamstress I took it for granted that she would be well dressed.

Swansons had a small four room house but there always seemed to be lots of people around. For a while they boarded the teacher. During that time Evelyn had to sleep on a couch in the front room. For a couple of winters her mother's brother, Ervin, and cousin, Ray Hanke, came up from the Brownton area and stayed there

while they cut cordwood to sell. Both of the young fellows had a crush on the teacher, Louise Schnoor, but Ervin "won" and he married her that summer. They started keeping house in a little old house that no one lived in very long, but always seemed to be available for those who got married in a hurry. For a while Mr. Swanson's single sister stayed with them. One morning she surprised them all by giving birth to beautiful baby girl. Then Evelyn and I had our baby to play with!

ELEANOR CURTIS

When the Curtis family moved about a mile south of us, Eleanor and I played together a lot. She was the kind of friend that when it was time for me to go home, she always walked half way with me.

We played nip or catch by the hour. To play nip we had to have a long stick and a short one. We made a narrow hole in the ground perhaps six or eight inches long, set the short stick on end in the hole, hit it with the long stick, and when it flipped, hit it again. We paced off how far it went and kept score that way. Next was double nip, when we had to hit it twice instead of just once.

We always had a swing at our place. It had a good strong rope and hung from a tall elm or oak tree near the house. A notched board about eight by twelve inches was the seat. Some of my friends used old car tires hanging down from a single rope, but I never had one of those. I would swing a long time, sometimes just sitting there or sometimes standing and "pumping." It was the most fun when there were two of us. Then one could push the other way high or two together could pump and really go high. When we finally relaxed and let it stop by itself we called it "Letting the old cat die".

ELLA LANGE

For a couple of years, Ella Lange was my special friend. We had playhouses and played by the hour. We had an ongoing thing with our dolls, pretending we were sisters-in-law with the last name Johnson. Everyone in the area took the Fergus Falls Daily Journal. People from the different townships wrote local news to have published. If someone other than the regular writer had something of interest to publish, it could be written up and submitted signed "By Another." One time Ella and I thought it would be fun to write about local happenings and include something about our dolls. It was the time I had my doll Josephine who had been left out in the weather and had a cracked face, so we submitted the news that "Little Josephine Johnson was ill of the small pox." We listened to what was said at a party soon after. The women were all wondering where those Johnsons lived. They thought they knew everyone in the area so someone new must have moved in, but which place could it be? And could this disease spread to others? We never told anyone for years who put that news item in!

TOYS & GAMES

Our toys were quite simple but they were the kind we could use over and over again; they were strongly made and we took very good care of them. I can't remember when I did not wish for a doll to play with. One year I thought I would get one, but it turned out to be a Teddy Bear. I liked him and played with him a lot, but he could not take the place of a doll which would be my "baby." I would almost wear out the part of the catalog where they showed dolls. They were always in the winter catalogs as I suppose they were sold around Christmas time.

When I was six Edith and Lester went with Pa to Dodge County to visit Uncle George, Pa's brother who had cancer. When they came back they had a big 32 inch doll for me from my twin cousins who had outgrown their love of playing with dolls.

She had a china head and a hard stuffed cloth body. I prized her as she was the biggest doll in the neighborhood and could "walk." All I had to do was to hold her arms and guide her like one would a small child. When I heard our house had burned the first thing I thought of was my big doll and I cried for her. Marcella Jenne generously gave me one of her small dolls, but she had been left out in the weather and her chin had cracked and pealed. After that she was always my sickly child and I gave her special care. Her name was Josephine and I played with her until I was "too big" to play with dolls, when I was 10 years old.

My friends and I made a playhouse wherever we could. In summer we sometimes would take the remnants of heater wood and cord it up to make partitions and in those rooms we put anything we could find to make tables and chairs. Our mothers gave us cracked or broken dishes and sometimes we used the lids of Baking Powder cans for little plates. I longed for a set of dishes and Santa did bring me a small set of metal ones one year. They had pretty flowers painted on them and I could set quite a fancy table with them!

When I was eight I asked Santa to bring me a doll buggy for Christmas. After our house burned on December 1, I did not know whether he would find me or not. After we moved into the new building the folks kept meat frozen in the little shack they had pulled up to use for their tools and warming themselves while they worked. It was kept locked and Edith had been given strict orders not to let me go out there for anything. But one day while they were gone she forgot and sent me out for some meat. When I opened the door, there stood a beautiful doll buggy. I could not understand what was going on. I rushed into the house and asked Edith about it. She told me not to tell the folks or I would never get any presents from them again! That was enough to keep me quiet but it was an awakening to the deceit of Santa Claus. I had always seen him at our school programs so I knew there was one, but I had never seen him come to our house. My painted flowered dishes were put in the bedroom window and I could hear the sound of bells. The folks were out "doing chores" when my buggy was delivered; there was a knock at the door, the door opened, and the buggy came rolling in. How naive we were!

I believed in the Easter bunny, too, until I was ten. The folks must have thought it was time I knew better as that year when I made my nest and hid it and only Ma knew where it was, there was only an orange in it instead of the usual colored eggs. I thought it was strange that the bunny would lay an orange instead of an egg, so finally figured it out!

We did have skis and since there were plenty of hills around we had a lot of fun skiing. Before we had "boughten" skis we had homemade skis made of barrel staves. One just had to add straps in the appropriate place and they were ready to go. Not very fast, of course, but ready to go! For a long time our sleds were homemade and sort of clumsy. I remember being envious of the Koelln kids who had fast and easy-to-steer "boughten" sleds. When we visited them they let us use theirs and we daringly went down one hill which had a barbed wire fence at the bottom. The trick was to duck just before you got to the fence so it didn't take your head off. What a thrill! Luckily no one was hurt.

Koellns also had a little "boughten" wagon for their kids to play with. It had pretty painted side boards and they could carry loads with it. I always wanted one and I remember asking my dad one time what a five gallon can of cream was worth. He said about \$8.00. I hinted that for that we could buy a wagon like the Koelln kids had. It seemed Pa needed that \$8.00 for something else!

Lester had a pile driver that he played with by the hour. He put marbles in the top, they fell down onto a thing that had pulleys and counterweights so that marble would go down and another would come up. He also played a lot with a toy monkey which would climb a string. These toys were all lost in the fire but of course, because he was fifteen years old then, he no longer played with them. I don't remember Edith having special toys or playing with dolls. She liked to cook and sew, and learned to embroider and make quilts.

After our house burned the folks needed to use two old trunks that they had in storage so they emptied out things they had had there for years and let me and my friends look through the stuff and decide what we wanted to play with. There were white dresses with lace trim that we cut up to make doll clothes and we played house with some of the dresses and hats.

CHURCH

I am sure my parents always believed in God and in our Savior Jesus Christ, but with all the chores to do in winter and the kind of roads we had we didn't go to church often during my early life. Sometimes in summer we would go to the Maplewood Presbyterian Church which was 2½ miles away. Rev. Bell was a Scottish preacher and was very hard to understand. One time my mother went to sleep and started to snore and when my dad nudged her she jerked awake and said, "I wasn't sleeping."

I remember I was baptized there. I was probably four or five years old. The folks had already had Lester and Edith baptized but not me. It was the custom to give a child a middle name at the time of baptism and I heard them talking about it and wondering what they should have for my middle name. They decided it would be Magdalena after my Grandma Schleeter. (I never liked that name, and have always used the middle name Magdalen instead.)

Every summer for a while two Baptist ladies or on one occasion two Baptist men would hold Bible School at the schoolhouse for two weeks. This was a big deal for us. We learned many, many Bible verses. Edith won a Bible for learning the most, over 100 verses. At the end of the two weeks there was a big program for the parents and anyone else interested and we demonstrated what we had learned. At the conclusion there was an ice cream social to raise money for the Bible School workers, who boarded from one to another of the homes represented, going to their own homes only on the weekend.

Lester read the Bible when he was very young and thought he should start at the beginning. When he found that God forbade eating pork, he would not eat pork anymore, either. That went on for a long time. I don't know when he found out that was for the Jews, but at least he was very conscientious.

In 1931 our family started attending Maine Presbyterian Church regularly.²⁷ Besides meeting our spiritual needs, we treasured the fine new friends we met there. I found Carolee for my roommate and Lester found her for his wife!

The old church building was very cold. Because of the cold and the poor winter roads, there were no services between Christmas and Easter. I remember huddling around the old stove in the back of the room.

When we first started attending there the pastor was a young unmarried man named Leonard Whittles. He was there three years and married one of our local girls, Eloise Trites. The congregation thought he should stay on, but Rev. Whittles pointed out that they would never think of Eloise as a pastor's wife and it would be better for them to move to a new area. That new area turned out to be New Mexico and I never did see him again.

In 1934 Colvin Butler from Fergus Falls became our pastor. He and Mrs. Butler drove out every Sunday morning and after the service would have dinner at the home of someone in the congregation. I remember having them at our house many times. He was stately, handsome, educated, and had a nice twinkle in his eye. It seemed to us that his wife did not fit in with his way of life and perhaps that was why he was content to pastor a small rural church. (He had previously pastored a large church in Omaha.) He received \$20 a week and that free Sunday dinner. They would also come back some Friday nights for special times.

Rev. Butler started what we called "Family Night." One evening a week the older ones would visit and we younger ones would play games. In summer we played circle games outside and in winter Rev. and Mrs. Butler knew all kinds of games for us to play indoors. We really appreciated what they did for the young people. At that time there were between twenty and thirty young people in church, fairly evenly matched for boys and girls, and there was quite a lot of dating going on and some marriages. Eventually Rev. Butler became a State Senator, which fit in well with his duties at our church because the legislature was in session two months in winter and that is when we didn't have church anyway.²⁸ If there was to be a wedding or a funeral we got a pastor from the Federated Church in Fergus to officiate for us.

Mrs. Mary Putnam was our Sunday School teacher and we loved her. We called her Mary Ty as her husband's name was Tyler and there was another Mary Putnam. But we usually called people Mr. and Mrs. instead of by their first names as is so common now. It was a sign of respect even among quite close friends and neighbors. The first reed organ was one Mrs. Putnam loaned to the church and Mae Keefe played. It was later replaced by a piano Helen Putnam played. And later, after the death of his wife, Rev. Butler gave the church a Steinway Grand Piano and \$1,000 toward the purchase of an electronic organ in her memory.

Tyler Putnam was the adult teacher for years and years. It was Mrs. Putnam's father, Rev. Pettit, who started the church and the Putnams were always a very

²⁷ William O. Douglas, Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, was born in the parsonage of that church while his father served the church as its pastor from 1894-1902. He was appointed by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 and served until 1975.

²⁸ Rev. Butler officiated when Jim and I married in 1943; Jim likes to tell that we were married by a State Senator!

important part of it. Other old timers there were Charlie and Percy Ditzler (Lester later married their daughter Carolee), Burt and Maude Halstead, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson who operated the Maine store near the church, Mr. and Mrs. Chapin, Mr. and Mrs. George Chapman, the Guy Phelps family, and later the Kannes and Kuhns. Everyone in the area for miles around attended that church if they were not Catholic. There was a Catholic Church half a mile from our church and I remember we always had good relations with them. On Decoration Day (now Memorial Day) the children from both churches would get together and march to the two cemeteries where they placed flags or flowers on the graves of veterans.

It was Mae Keefe who got the "choir" started. Yes, we did practice singing on Saturday nights, but mostly we went there for the good times we had together afterwards. Oscar Kuhn was Sunday School Superintendent for many years and his daughter Doris became my close friend. I spent many Sundays at their place. Since no one lived in the parsonage after Rev. Whittles left we used it for Sunday School rooms and had our young people's parties there. I remember that when Jim came to see me the first time we had our Halloween party there and he attended. He was impressed at what a "clean" bunch of young people we were and still could have so much fun.

After we started going to Maine Church we became acquainted with people who attended there and made some great new friends with whom we started visiting and exchanging meals. But the first time this happened was a time I shall never forget. Mr. and Mrs. Kanne had asked if it would be all right if they came over Sunday and my mother consented. We had been threshing at our place and it got late on Saturday night before chores were done and we had had extra men for supper, too. We did not go to church Sunday morning. Instead, Ma and I were busy cleaning for company we considered "upper class" and more "fancy" than our usual company. About 11:30 while Ma was mopping the kitchen floor a car drove in and here it was Mr. and Mrs. Kanne and their son and daughter. We had not understood that they were coming for dinner!²⁹ I don't remember what we had for dinner that day but I do know that Mrs. Kanne became one of Ma's dearest friends. She seemed to know more than anyone else the newest methods of doing things. She was the first to show the new method of canning using the two piece lid and ring (which we still use today) a wonderful improvement over the Mason metal lid with porcelain lining and a rubber ring. We learned much from Mrs. Kanne.

Later their son DeWitt and his wife, Thea, also became our special friends and we were invited to their home many times.

ENTERTAINMENT

Towns were too far away to go for entertainment but for a couple of years Dent had free movies on Wednesday nights to encourage shoppers. We would take our

²⁹ We really paid them back for surprising us, although we did not mean to, when Jim came to see me during Christmas vacation and stayed a while. We were invited to the Kannes for the evening. We took it for granted that it would be for supper as they had had us there for supper many times before. We told Jim not to eat too much for dinner because there would be such an elaborate supper at Kannes. When we arrived there was no table set, no odor of food cooking, and we soon realized that she had not meant for us to be there for supper. I think she caught on to the misunderstanding as she put out a large and early lunch!

egg case along and shop for groceries. Then when it got dark we sat on backless benches and enjoyed the free movies. If there were ladies with large hats they might be asked to remove them so the people behind them could see better. The movies were, of course, black and white and also silent so there was print to read. It always annoyed me when some slow reader would read aloud. I suppose there were some who could not read or else not read that fast so depended on someone to help them. One certain reader would come to a part which said "County, State and Federal" and she would say "Free-dral" instead of Federal.

A favorite sport of the young men in winter was to chase a rabbit with a car. It seemed we had a lot of rabbits and as we were driving along one might come out on the road. Then the driver would pick up speed and perhaps turn a little to the right or left just to get that rabbit going straight down the road. The object was not to run over him, but to see how fast he could go. Our neighborhood was composed of young or barely middle-aged couples with their young children. No one had much money to spend for entertainment but they made their own fun. In the winter there were house parties at the various homes. At first they just played cards, which at that time was Smear. There would be four at a table, two pair of partners playing against each other. Winners would go on to the next table and get new partners and keep on so that the best players were always playing good players. At the end of the evening there was a prize for the man and the woman who were declared winners. There was also a "booby prize" for the one who had the lowest score.

One night while we were still living in the old house the folks were getting ready for a card party and Pa asked Ma what she would think of asking Frank Field to bring along his fiddle and Paul Boeck to bring his drum and have a little music while we ate lunch. (For lunch, women would either bring a cake or sandwiches and the hostess would cook coffee in a big pot and "settle it" with an egg or two beaten up and added when the coffee was pulled off the heat.) The visitors really liked the music and some of the young men said to my mother, "Can't we take up the rug and dance?" It seemed like a fun thing to do so they danced until morning. After that at the parties they played cards until midnight, had lunch, then danced until the wee small hours. Often the folks did the morning milking before they went to bed. It was all quite innocent with no drinking or carousing around. It was years later that some strangers would hear of a party and "crash" it and cause some trouble. The last party we had at our house was when I turned sixteen and was home for Christmas from high school. Some strangers came in and I guess they had been drinking because they tore the phone off the wall and swung from the cross braces of our "ceiling." Pa said that would be our last party, and it was.

When I was four and Edith was eight we thought it would be fun to practice the polka evenings while the folks and Lester were out doing chores. When we thought we were doing it quite well we showed the folks. My dad thought that was pretty cute so at the next dance he had the musicians play a polka and had us dance. Everyone clapped and clapped and after that they always had a special polka for the Wilcox girls. We younger ones would play out before the party was over and would fall asleep on the bed with the coats piled on it. One night they must have forgotten to call for our number and I went to sleep. Well, would you believe it? They got me

up to dance and when I woke up I had fallen down and everyone was laughing at me so I guess I was dancing in my sleep! After that they put us on earlier.

The winter that Ervin Hagen and Ray Hanke stayed at the Swansons they showed us how they could dance polka. The two of them could really step it off fancy and it was fun to watch them, so then they always had a special number, too.

In the twenties a new dance called the Charleston became popular. Not too many tried it in our area, but some did and they kicked pretty high. Some of the women said nice girls would not dance that dance. (I never did!)

We also visited with quite a few of the neighbors in the evenings, or even afternoons in winter. We took the team and sleigh in winter and there was always room for the team in the neighbor's barn. If we had parties there would always be room for at least two teams by turning out their own horses which were not warmed up from running. Some used horse blankets to keep their horses warm after the drive. Drivers would pick up others along the way and we would crowd together in the sleigh and sing. It was fun to get out and run behind the sled. Sometime our fathers teased us by making the horses run while we were out and we had to run farther than we bargained for, but it was great fun anyway.

In the summer we often went to barn dances. Charlie Swanson built a new barn and planned to use it for dances until time to put hay in it. It was such a hit that he never did put hay in it but had dances every summer for years. Tickets were a quarter for men and the ladies got in free. Around midnight there would be a lunch available, a dime for a hamburger and a nickel for a bottle of pop. So by the time a guy paid for all that for himself and his date, it would cost him about fifty cents for the evening besides gas for transportation. They probably were making a dollar a day if they were lucky enough to have work. We girls didn't think anything about that. We just thought our company was worth it! During the lunch break the floor would be swept and perhaps re-waxed. Someone would walk slowly over the floor back and forth while shaving off pieces of paraffin from a cake of wax. This would make the floor a little more slippery and easier to dance on. Sometimes kids chewed some of that wax in lieu of gum.

There were also two pavilions where we could go in summer when we were older. Spruce Lodge was about four miles from us near Star Lake and Silver Spray was down by the Ottertail River in the other direction. After I had finished one year of high school Edith informed me that now I could go along with her and Lester to the dances. I was only thirteen and there were very strict rules, but they never bothered me because all I wanted to do was go and dance. Lester was to be sure he knew where I was at all times, I was not to go outside unless accompanied by one of the older women, I was never to let anyone else take me home, and I was not to dance too close!

During the days of prohibition there was often a car parked outside and everyone knew there would be drinks available there, but I was never tempted to go for one. After all, Pa didn't drink and Lester didn't drink so wouldn't it be ridiculous if I did? The same way with smoking. Nice girls did not smoke, anyway, in those days.

We considered that we had a real great time if asked to dance **every** dance. It was all right to dance with strangers if we did not get too cozy. One night I danced with Elwin, a fellow I had gone to school with. I had been gone so much to high school and had grown so tall that he did not recognize me. I soon had that figured out so thought I would have a little fun. We had good conversation and when he asked my name I told him "Sally Brown." When the dance was over Elwin asked one of his friends whether he knew Sally Brown. No, he did not. "Well," Elwin said, "it's the girl right over there" and he described me. The friend said, "That is Belva Wilcox" and Elwin knew he had been fooled. Neither of us ever forgot that and when we see each other even now he will call me Sally Brown!

One time Lester, his date, and I went to a dance at Silver Spray. I don't remember the closing time, but I know there was one and the folks knew when it was. The dance wasn't fun, and we decided we might have a better time at a barn dance way off in Maplewood or Friberg, so we went there. It was VERY late when we came home and we had to go past our place to take Lester's date home. We were surprised to see a man with a lantern walking in the ditch near our place and remarked about that. As we came home, the "man" was just walking into our yard. It was Pa! They knew we should have been home sooner and were worried so he set out looking for us. All he said was, "They go one way and come home another."

MUSIC

I don't know where the folks got the "graphophone" with the morning glory horn and cylinder records, but we enjoyed that until it was lost in the fire. A while after we built our new house they bought a fancy Victrola with a cabinet. It was a nice piece of furniture and had storage space for the records which were flat. Quite a few records came with it and we played them over and over. Pa's favorite was "The Little Green Valley" and he often picked that one out to play. One day he set it on a chair and then sat on the chair; that was the end of "The Little Green Valley." The machine had a crank on the side and as it ran down the record would play slower and slower and thus would drag out the music. Then we ran to wind it up again and it would return to the right speed.

The spring I was twelve the folks bought a piano, a beautiful large Stark which everyone said was the best kind. I took ten lessons that summer, but in order to be able to do that someone had to take me in the Model T to a place between Dent and Perham, probably about fifteen miles away. Ma never drove the car, so one of the men always had to take me. Then the driver had to wait for an hour while I took the lesson. Thinking about that now, it was quite a sacrifice my parents made. I practiced at home, playing hymns and picking out chords. When Langes came over Adolph would play. He could play by ear most anything that he had heard a couple of times and really make that piano jump.

One time after a party we had in the building we used for a home after our house burned I found a nice Horner mouth organ. We never found the owner, so we assumed it must have been one of those who "crashed" the party. I cleaned it carefully and had a lot of fun playing it. We also took a comb, placed a paper over it, put it to our mouths and hummed. Try it once!

The first ones in the neighborhood to get a radio were the Zorns. We went over there to listen one night. One had to use a head set to hear. There was so much static one could hardly hear anything. I had the flu the next day and for a long time I thought I was sick because I had listened to that radio! Eventually Lester was able to trade some wood for a radio. It was battery powered and would run down so we were quite selective in the programs we listened to. It had many knobs on it and it seemed one had to adjust them all to make a station come in plainly. But we were usually able to get WDAY Fargo, WLS Chicago and WNAX Yankton.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

When Leap Year came around it was special because that was the time when it would be accepted that the girls could ask the fellows for a dance or to eat lunch with them at parties. Otherwise it was not considered ladylike to ask a boy to dance or for a date. (Of course, it was all right to make ourselves very available!)

July Fourth was always a great day and we looked forward to it for weeks. In the daytime was a picnic and sometimes a patriotic program. In the evening we would go to a dance. In those days firecrackers were legal and could be purchased almost anyplace. The trouble was things got out of hand and some people would start shooting them off days ahead, sometimes throwing them into a crowd. One time someone put one in our mailbox. It did not damage anything but it surely opened the box in a hurry! I remember sometimes Lester got up early on the morning of the 4th and shot a gun to wake us all up! We usually had chicken along with little new potatoes and peas and carrots cooked together and creamed. There would be leaf lettuce (creamed) and radishes and onions. Often there was lemon pie for dessert. I remember it as standard fare for the 4th unless we went for a picnic.

I had heard of young people going out Halloweening, but we never did that. The year we built the barn Emma Hanson, the teacher in our district, was having a play at the school for the adults. Lester and I were in it, as were Erbin Koelln and Florence Rogers. We went to the school to practice on Halloween evening and afterwards Florence thought it would be great fun to go to the place where she was working and put harnesses on the cows. (Florence worked for Palmer Backstroms for \$1.50 a week taking care of children, doing house work, and also helping with milking.) So Lester and I, accompanied by Emma, Erbin, and Florence, went over to Backstroms, and on our way we stopped to soap a few windows. When we got to a bachelor's place we stopped and were in the process of stringing out some barbed wire in front of the barn door when a shot rang out. Did we scurry! Emma and I went down the driveway, but Erbin and Florence went the shortest way – over a fence. Erbin got the wind knocked out of him when he fell and we thought he was dead and Florence lost the heel on her shoe. We made it to the car which had been parked along the road, but no Lester. We were increasingly worried about him, even wondering whether perhaps he had been shot (I am sure the shot went into the air just to scare us. And it did!) Finally Lester came from the other direction. He had made a big circle in his escape, tearing his good pants in the wire as he hurried to get away. Florence still wanted to harness the cows so Lester and Erbin helped her but Emma and I stayed in the car. The barn was across the road from the house and Palmer

never did hear us. That was enough Halloween adventure for me to last a lifetime so I never tried it again.

I can't remember that we ever really celebrated our birthdays when we were kids. The only thing special about that day was that anyone could give us a birthday "spanking" which consisted of as many spats on our bottoms as we were years old plus one to "grow on" and one to "be good on."

When I was ten or eleven years old I was invited to a birthday party. This was a rare treat in those days, but I had a conflict because on that same day the folks were going to hear a famous woman legislator, Hannah Kempfer I chose to go hear her talk instead of going to the party! Wasn't I a funny little kid? I had heard the folks talking about her so much. Hannah had entered an entirely new field for women; when she was first elected to the state legislature in 1922 it was only three years after women were even allowed to vote. She had been a teacher in Friberg Township and was described as "strong and terribly compassionate." She served for eighteen years.

I remember attending only one party for a child while I was a girl. We children in the neighborhood were invited to a party for twin girls and we were having a great time. Their brother was trying to catch a horse to ride when the horse happened to step on a goose and break the goose's leg. The boy's father became enraged and took the boy to the barn and beat him with a horse bridle. The rest of us disappeared for home. Was that fair? Now it would be called child abuse and it was then, too, of course, only it was allowed.

The folks gave me a rifle for Christmas of 1940, when I was teaching. My first game was a squirrel; later I shot a woodchuck and Ma even let me shoot a guinea that I despised because it always made a lot of noise when I came home late at night. It did taste good! During the early forties there were "Gun Shoots" in the area where for a fee one could shoot at a target. Gen and I went with Cliff's brother, Mike Hagen, to one of those and it was great fun. I did not do badly at all and still have my target!

CLOTHING

My earliest recollections of dresses I wore were of matching dress and bloomers with elastic in the legs. Really, they were very practical because as the child outgrew the dress it did not matter as the little bloomers covered anyway.

When I was three or four years old I had a pretty pink dress with several ruffles on the skirt. This, too, was practical; it was made so it could be lengthened under the ruffles and I wore it several years for dress-up occasions. Ma dyed it bright red when the pink faded and I wore it some more. Thankfully, I loved that dress!

In winter we all wore one-piece long underwear with drop seats. In order to get the legs of our underwear into our long stockings we had to tuck them over at the bottom (that is, the underwear legs). That always made an unsightly bunch. If we wore high top shoes it did not show. (I remember that before I started high school, Edith told me I would not have to wear long underwear anymore. What a relief that was!)

Over the long underwear came cotton cloth garter waists which Ma made for us, from which hung our garters which in turn held up our long stockings (usually of cotton lisle but sometimes of wool). Over the underwear we wore colorful cotton sateen bloomers which had elastic at the knees. At one time it was considered "style" to have wide elastic with several rows of stitching and those always showed. Anyway, as Pa said, if we fell down on the playground we were always covered! Then there was the homemade cotton petticoat under the dress.

When it was real cold we wore a sweater under a heavy woolen coat and sometimes heavy leggings which buttoned on the sides and had straps which went under shoes to keep them in place. Then there were four-buckle overshoes. The cap was a knit stocking cap with a big tassel on top and then a heavy woolen scarf tied around the head, over the lower part of the face, and tied in back. Two pairs of mittens completed the apparel, the inner ones of knit wool and the outer ones of some heavy cloth that were more moisture repellent. Then we were ready to face some mighty cold weather.

When the weather warmed in the spring our mother would cut off the legs of our long underwear above the knees. We felt as free as a calf on pasture for the first time! When it REALLY warmed up we could go barefooted. At first our feet would be pretty tender, but after a while they were so tough we could run fast on most any kind of surface. I remember when Joyce, Edith's daughter, wanted to shed her shoes and socks she would say she wanted to go "toe bare."³⁰

In the twenties men had detachable collars which they could fasten to their shirts so they could wear the same shirt several times by renewing the collar. Women wore aprons over their dresses to help keep them clean. High overshoes helped keep the farmer's overall legs from getting so dirty. Everyone tried to be careful as washing clothes was a big, hard job in those days.

Everyday dresses and those worn just to the neighbors or to town were of calico or print material. Silk was available, as was a material called georgette which was fine and a little crinkly. Another fine material was chiffon, which was very dainty. Organdy was pretty but it wrinkled easily and was difficult to iron.

People called the twenties the "Roaring Twenties." Young women with some rather radical ideas were called "flappers." Occasionally we rolled our hose down to our ankles and we felt very daring. Belts were low and wide and skirts were above the knees. If something was pretty special we would say it was the "cat's meow."

In the late twenties skirts were worn quite short. Ma kept up with the style although she was never the first to start. She had pretty legs and shorter skirts were very becoming to her and made her look younger. Young girls wore them quite short, even above the knees, but older women did not go as far as that. Then rayon stockings came in style and were much more becoming to the legs than cotton lisle. Then came real silk. They were very pretty, but very fragile and expensive. They developed runs easily. Runs had to be stitched as one could not afford to discard them, even if not perfect. Silk stockings were worn only for special occasions. Then in the early thirties it became the fashion to wear the hem lines uneven.

³⁰ Our own Jimmy and Denny loved to go barefoot in summer, but Raleigh never did.

We did not have a large assortment of dresses, but most girls had at least one very pretty one. I remember a beautiful silk dress my classmate Melanie Field had and her mother dyed white shoes to match the color of her dress.

In 1930 Edith was expecting Cliff to come for the Fourth of July from Brownnton where he was working for his father. Ma bought yards of yellow satin faced crepe, a very beautiful silk material. One side was crepe and the other shiny satin. Usually either side could be used so part of the dress was of satin and part of crepe. Iva Swanson sewed a beautiful dress for Edith. That expensive dress was worn in the daytime and when we went to the dance in the evening. Edith had another dress of coral silk with puffed sleeves. Since I did not have a boy friend (I was only thirteen then), Edith made me a dress out of orange cotton. Cliff did not come and Edith was pretty "let down," but I was happy in my orange dress and danced nearly every dance!

For those who could afford it, it was fashionable to wear a fur piece around the neck. It might even have a small fox head at the end. Very dressy! In the late thirties it was quite fashionable to wear fur coats. When I attended the Perham Lutheran Church the year I boarded with Schultzes, several of the Perham ladies wore fur coats and I thought they were very classy. First Gen and I bought cheap ones, but later I went to Fargo and bought a good one.³¹

HAIR

Ma always thought it important that we used soft water to wash our hair. Before the fire, when we lived in the old house, we had a rain barrel to catch soft water and in winter we melted snow. Often we didn't use shampoo but would beat up an egg and use that. It made a suds and was very cleansing.

Edith had beautiful dark curly hair. For a long time she wore it long, but it was a lot of work to care for it and the other girls were cutting theirs so she had hers cut, too. When I was very young my hair was light in color and very straight. I wore it with bangs and cut short as many did. When I was about ten years old it was the fad for girls to have "boyish haircuts." Actually they were cut short just like the boys wore theirs and I wanted one of those very badly. Finally the folks let me go to the barber in Dent when they were there on other business. But the barber merely gave me a very short plain cut and put some stuff on it to stiffen it, then combed it back so it appeared to be a boyish cut. He said that was the latest. I never knew whether he thought I was asking for this extreme style on my own and my folks would not approve or if one of the folks preceded me in there and told him what to do. Anyway, my "boyish haircut" was soon just a plain girl's short cut!

By the time I was in high school I was able to press a wave into my hair that stayed for a while. We also used curling irons. We would heat the iron (which had a wooden handle on it) by placing it in the top of a lamp chimney. There was also a marcel iron which was also heated: it made sharp crisp waves and we used that sometimes. Then we heard that if we boiled flaxseed and applied that goo to freshly washed hair we could shape our hair into waves. That really worked, but it left a

³¹ I wore that coat to Chariton when I went to see Jim and made quite an impression! After I was married and moved to Osakis it did not seem the thing to wear so it still hangs upstairs.

white residue! I remember that even some of the boys would use that method and have big flat waves in their hair. Later, when we could afford it, we bought wave set in a bottle and that did not leave the white residue.

In the twenties it became the fashion for older women to cut their hair short. We called it "bobbing" their hair. Before that they wore it long and done up in a pug. (That surely was not the most becoming way to frame a face.) It was a very daring thing for a married woman to bob her hair. I remember one red-haired lady cut her hair short, then Mrs. Burns at the store did. Ma thought about it for a long time and finally had hers done. The red-haired lady accused Ma of "copying" her!

It was style to wear "spit curls." A little wad of hair would be twisted above the forehead to make a little curl. During the late thirties we learned to make pin curls and they were in fashion for a long time. We used bobby pins to hold the wad of hair in place after it was twisted. Then when it dried and was combed out it made a little curl. In 1940-41 Gen and I wore our hair in a page-boy style for a while. That meant the ends were curled under in the back instead of up as had been the custom.

The first time I ever heard of a permanent was when I was in the seventh or eighth grade and our teacher acquired one. We all thought it made her look pretty and of course, we thought it would last forever. After all, they called it permanent! I got my first permanent the first year I taught and have worn it curly ever since.

Edith learned to cut hair at an early age and would cut for Pa and Lester and later Cliff. She cut mine, too, and perhaps Ma's in the thirties. We had a handworked hair clipper to trim the neck and my, how that would pull when Edith was in a hurry—and it seemed Edith was always in a hurry! Pa liked to have his neck shaved but the young men preferred a gradual taper in the back. Then it was style for ladies to have their hair "shingled," with a taper in the back. Women usually parted it on the right side (a left part was for men) and held it back on the left side with a barrette which might be quite decorative.

During the forties it was the fad to wear a "snood." It was made of material like fish net, hung down to the shoulders, and had a bow in front on top. They were available in various colors and were practical in that they kept the hair in place. Many also wore a wrap-around turban sometimes matching the color of one's dress. It was a long, narrow piece of cloth which you started in the middle of the back of the head, brought it around and crossed it in the front, then fastened it in the back again.

HEALTH

We seldom went to a doctor; they were too far away and we could not afford it unless it was an emergency.

When I was about seven or eight years old vaccinations for small pox became available. Doctors came to the schoolhouse to administer the shots. This was a new thing and was quite controversial. Would the shot make one contract small pox? Some refused to go, but not the Wilcox family.. We all went to the schoolhouse in the sled and on the way Ma sang "Ho, Ho, Ho, Who wouldn't go; Ho, Ho, Ho, Who wouldn't go; Ho, Ho, Ho, Who wouldn't go; Up to the schoolhouse, To get vaccinated." After we got home Pa went right out to work on the silo roof and he got a reaction. He was feverish and very sick; his arm swelled up so much they had

to cut his shirt sleeves and he was in bed for awhile. He thought having small pox might not have been much worse, but none of the rest of us had a problem. (And Pa never did finish that silo roof.)

There were polio epidemics at that time but only one case in our neighborhood. Marvin Koelln came down with it and was crippled afterwards. He was limited in what he could do but it was found he could pump water by hand and his father saw to it that he pumped all the water for the stock and household use. It seemed that every time we drove past their place we would see Marvin standing out there pumping water.

One winter Edith had mastoid and had to make several trips to the doctor. We were very worried about her. She recovered completely, though. For poison ivy it was best to mix a little vinegar with soda and apply. Plain soda paste was good for a bee sting or insect bite.

Whatever happened to boils? When we were kids it seemed that everyone had a boil now and then. I still have a scar from one I had on my right wrist; another that was on the back of my neck was very painful. The boil would start as red, painful lump which would become more enlarged and painful, develop a white head and eventually burst. Then the pain and pressure would diminish and gradually get better. Sometimes we would put a poultice on it to draw it to a head quicker. Sometimes the poultice would be of laundry soap scraped fine and mixed with sugar and a little water. Sometimes bread and milk with sugar. Heat would also help. The last one I had was when I went to teacher's training. It was on my seat and I had to sit on a pillow with the sore spot hanging over space to get the pressure off.

Sometimes one would have a carbuncle. It was a group of boils under the skin so there would be a group of cores. On rare occasions the core might be an inch long and as big around as a little finger. A boil only had one core, but it had to come out before the boil would heal. Some people had one after another and no one knew why. (Jim said his father had so many he became thin and weak. Finally the druggist gave him a huge dose of sulfa drug and he never had another boil.)

After a long winter people became lethargic, perhaps because we lacked sunshine or vitamins; we did not have fresh fruit or vegetables like we should have. In March when we felt this way we mixed sulfur and molasses together and took that as a spring tonic. It seemed to do the trick.

One old standby medicine was Pinex cough syrup. We bought it in concentrated form and mixed it with heated sugar-water and then cooled it. If anyone had a cough, this seemed to put it to rest right way. I seldom had a coughing problem (I never have), but found that Pinex was pretty good so sometimes I would hack away so I could have a spoonful, too. Wonder what was in it! Another good remedy for colds was onions cut up with sugar added and heated. A little of that juice helped a lot, we thought. It also made a good poultice to put on a sore chest all wrapped up in warm flannel. We also used mustard plasters if the chest really hurt. It was tricky to get the plaster just right or it burned the skin. Later, one could buy Musterole in a little jar and that seemed safer and easier. We also bought Vicks Vapo Rub, which could be applied either to the chest or put up the nose to aid breathing.

Ringworm, a round, red, scaly sore which would itch and scale, was also not uncommon. As it healed there would be a patch of healthy skin in the middle which gave it the name ringworm although there were no worms involved. It was contagious and we had to be careful. Some kids in school had head lice, but we never did. Those kids had to use a fine comb to get them out and they washed their hair in kerosene.

Many of the children in our area had no toothbrush and never went to the dentist unless their teeth ached badly. Pa pulled our baby teeth out with a pliers if we could not get them out by wiggling them ourselves. Some would put a string around the tooth and tie the string to a door. When the door was shut suddenly the tooth would be yanked out. At times we would all get sample kits from the Colgate Company with a small tube of toothpaste and a toothbrush and directions on how to use them. Some of the kids ate their toothpaste on the way home and who knows what they did with the brush?

My mother had dentures very young and I never knew her any other way. They fit her well and most people never knew she wore them. I never saw her without them. They just seemed to be a part of her. My father had teeth like iron, we always said. He never had to wear dentures although he lived to be 87. His teeth were short and small and never showed much when he laughed.

I went to the doctor three times that I remember, once when I had a nail in my knee, once when we thought I had diphtheria, and also when I was eleven and needed my tonsils out. I had a very sore throat one day and fainted in school as I stood at the blackboard. The teacher sent someone to Koellns to call my folks and they were afraid I might have diphtheria which was going around at that time. The doctor at Pelican Rapids said my tonsils were very enlarged and that I should build myself up and plan to have them out in the summer.

I was very underweight at that time and Ma was always concerned about me. I had a lot of pep and was seldom sick, but the doctor said I should take cod liver oil, drink lots of milk, and get a lot of rest. Taking cod liver oil was the trial of my life at that time. I could taste it all day! We had no way of keeping milk cold and I did not like it. To this day I do not like to drink milk and it may be because of that. Sometimes to get me to drink it Ma would put in an egg, a little vanilla, and some nutmeg; it was very good that way.

She also took the "Rest" advice seriously and made me take a nap each day after dinner. I would go upstairs and take something to read along. If I heard her coming up the stairs to check on me I put it under the covers and pretended to be sleeping. I'm not sure I ever fooled her, but she would go back downstairs and I continued my reading. After all, I was resting, wasn't I? I also had to go to bed early which was hard on me. Downstairs they seemed to be having a great time; sometimes I would get up and look down through the register to see what was going on.

Our big room upstairs was unfinished and was so large that we had strung a wire across and put up a curtain to separate part of the room. It made our room cozier and we could store things on the east side behind the curtain. We had the head of our bed right in front of the curtain. At that time, for some reason, I was

afraid of ghosts. One time I heard a ghost pull the curtain on the wire, just a little at a time, but again and again. I lay there in terror thinking he would grab me, but he never did. Afterwards I had found out they had made popcorn downstairs and what I thought was the curtain moving along the wire was them stirring the popcorn. I was also afraid of the dark at that time and wanted the light turned low. They humored me on that one. Now with electric lights we don't have those dark, dark corners.

I had the tonsils removed at Wadena, thirty-five miles away from home. I was supposed to be able to go home the same day so Pa waited for me, but the bleeding was not under control enough that they thought it safe for me to go so far. Ma stayed overnight with me and Pa went home which meant another long trip back for him the next day. The doctor suggested that I eat a little ice cream, but I insisted that I wanted tomato soup. My mother bought a can and heated it, but that was a mistake as the acid really burned my throat and hot on it was not good either. Wasn't I a stubborn little kid? Ice cream was always a big treat; I wonder now why I didn't want it then?

The fall I attended Teacher's Training Ma became very sick. She had always been a strong, healthy person and we did not know what to do. Pa wanted to take her to the doctor at Dent, but of course that would cost money so she thought she would get better and put it off. Her head ached terribly and she ran a fever. When she became delirious Pa decided it was time and had the doctor come out. He was baffled, too, not being able to diagnose her problem. Samples were sent to the University and it came back that she had Tularemia. We had never heard of such a thing and neither had anyone we knew. Sample medicines were sent from the University, which must have helped. Ma, who never liked cats, recalled that she had seen one in the barn getting into something it shouldn't have. She had picked it up by the nape of its neck and tossed it and the cat had turned and scratched her. The scratch hadn't bothered her so she thought nothing more of it. At that time there was an epidemic in the area which infected many animals and caused them to die, especially rabbits. Jim said that in Iowa a father and son had died in one day after dressing out infected rabbits they had shot. In Ma's case they decided that the cat must have killed an infected rabbit and the germs were on its claws. Ma narrowly escaped death and was never quite so strong again.

The Dent doctor also said Ma's fat helped as fat absorbs infection. For some reason at that time Ma thought it was nice to be overweight. To her that looked healthy. She never got fat again after that incident but if it saved her life for another forty-five years it was worth it! For a long time even after she felt better she got lumps under her arms. They filled with pus and she went to the doctor to have them lanced. She once stood at the mirror and lanced a lump with Pa's razor to save a trip in. What a lady!

One time when we were riding on the hay rack on a narrow road through the woods a small branch of a tree sprang back and hit her beside the head and broke her ear drum. It was very painful, but she went on putting in her full day of work just the same.

Ma always told us kids to "straighten up". It worked quite well on Lester and Edith, but I was away from home during the years I grew very fast, my friends all

seemed to be shorter than I was, and I developed a bad posture, I am afraid. Ma never lost hers and it was a wonder to see her walking around the Rest Home so straight. Even after her leg was amputated she sat on her bed and held herself as straight as could be.

FEARS & SUPERSTITIONS

I was always very afraid of summer storms. As soon as clouds came up I would worry, and it was especially bad when it stormed at night. I am sure I acquired this fear from my parents because they always got excited when it stormed. At night they would get up and dress, light the lamps, and we would sit there together, ready to go if the house went, I guess. I would start shaking and could not stop. Ma would hold me and that helped. They remembered the cyclone or tornado that hit Fergus Falls and practically demolished the city in 1919 and thought it was a good idea to be prepared. In the old house we went to the cellar when it looked bad. One day when Alex Flink was at our place we saw a tornado funnel in the distance, stretching down, down, then rising up real dark and full of debris, then down again. We found out later that it went into a lake and that was the end of it. While we were still in the old house I was left alone while Edith helped with evening chores. I was often afraid that someone would come in and "get me" so I sat under the table feeling quite secure with a covering over me (the table). When I heard Ma coming I hurried out so no one would know of my fear. One time Ma caught me under there and asked me why. When I told her, she pointed out that if a stranger came to the door I would be the first thing he would see since the table was opposite the door!

My folks always kept their doors locked at night and when they went away, even to a far field. Pa said if someone came he wanted some warning, and in that day there were tramps to keep out, too.³²

I had some childhood fears like thinking that the wolves that howled at night might get me on my walk to school or perhaps Field's bull that ran with the cattle near the road would jump the fence and attack me. I had heard that Gypsies might travel through the country and take little girls along with them. And there were always ghosts or something out there in the dark that might reach out and get me. I don't know where some of those fears came from. I know the folks never tried to make us afraid, but without electric lights the corners really did get dark and ominous. Those fears were temporary and did not make an impact on my life. I think the twenties were a very good time to grow up as the "last war" had been fought and no one was afraid to walk the streets at night, it was not dangerous to walk our country roads, etc. I feel sorry for little kids today who have so many **real** things to fear.

We used to have some sayings (some people would call them superstitions). We didn't set any store by them at all, but I guess we needed something to spice up

³² After I was married Jim said they had never locked their doors at home and he thought it was a nuisance so we never locked. One time my folks came to see us on a Sunday and got here before we came home from church. We didn't think anything of it when we found them sitting in our house when we got home. Pa asked if we didn't want to know how they managed to get in and said he came through a certain window. Jim asked why he didn't just walk in the door and Pa couldn't believe we would be so trusting (or careless) that we did not lock our doors!

our lives so we said these things. If a black cat crossed the road in front of you, beware, you would have bad luck. If you walked under a ladder you would have bad luck, also, but if you happened to break a mirror you would have bad luck for seven years! If you dropped your dishrag, company was coming. It was a man if you dropped a knife, a dropped fork meant a lady was coming, and a spoon was a child and they would come from the direction the handle pointed toward. We were careful not to step on cracks in the sidewalk because that was a bad omen. Ma thought it would dry up a cow if you squirted its milk on the ground. A neighbor, Mrs. Paul Boeck, could "tell fortunes" either by cards or tea leaves or even coffee grounds. Or she might read your palm. We laughed about her predictions and thought they were great fun.

CARS



The folks bought their first car in 1916. At that time the license cost \$5.00 for three years and no driver's license was required. There was no gas tax, and of course the roads showed it, too. It was a Case car and really quite advanced for its day. It had four cylinders, eight spark plugs, 40 HP, right hand steering, and springs in the seats. However, its 37 by 4½ inch high-pressure tires were poor tires for the weight of the car and also for the roads in the country, which were always rutty. The ruts had rocks on the sides and the tires would wear on their sides and break or blow out. In winter the car had to be jacked up, the demountable rims with tires taken off, and stored in the cellar until spring. A couple of years later, while our family was visiting with the Elliots, Mr. Elliot said he wished he had a heavier car. Pa said if that was the case he would trade with him. The Elliots had a 1915 Model T which was a light, plain, simple car, but very practical for the roads we had. The men went for a ride, the decision was made,³³ and that was our car until 1927 when we bought a 1926 Model T Ford touring car. These cars both had side curtains with ising glass stitched in. Usually in summer we took the side curtains off and sometimes even took the top down. Then we had a convertible, didn't we?

The 1915 Model T had magneto lights which meant that the faster you drove, the brighter the lights got. If one had to drive slowly (when we really need to see) there would be only a very faint light. The 1915 had no door on the driver's side so the driver either had to climb over the side of the car or enter through the passenger side. The gas tank was under the passenger seat and held about ten gallons. On a trip on good roads it got about 25 mpg. When we bought gas in those days we pulled up to the station (which might also be the grocery store) and the proprietor would turn a crank which would pump ten gallons of gas into the glass tank on the top of the pump. There were measurements on the side so we could see just how much gas we were getting..³⁴

³³ This trade did not quite break up the Elliot marriage but it strained it!

³⁴ Jim can remember that before they had that kind of tank they would turn a crank so many times for a gallon. One really had no way of knowing how much one received so the new pump type with the glass top (and measurements) was a big improvement.

The 1926 had balloon tires so the ride was much better. When we first got it I thought it was so fancy that I took my book out there and read sitting in the car! The price of that car was \$260 and the dealer gave us \$40 allowance for the old one. That left \$220 to be paid for in payments each month.

It had a battery and a self starter and at some time a foot feed (throttle) was installed. Before the self starter one had to crank the car to start it. It worked best if there was a person sitting behind the steering wheel who could adjust the levers while another cranked it. It needed a little "spark" to start it, then when it started to sputter one would turn down the spark and turn up the gas. Quite a few arms were broken in those days when the crank jerked back just as it started.

Some of our friends had heavy cars which were considered more progressive, but our "Ts" got us around pretty well considering the roads we had in those days. Swansons had an Overland and also an Elcar. Koellns bought a brand new Dodge. Some people called the Model T's "Tin Lizzies." I guess they were considered a poor man's car, but many had them and found them practical.

Sometimes when we started to climb a hill with our "T" it did not have quite enough power. Perhaps the low band was worn. No matter, we all climbed out, Pa would turn the car around, and then back up the hill. The reverse band never got as much wear on it as the low, you see.

In the mid thirties a friend bought a roadster with a rumble seat. That meant it only had only one seat that could be covered to protect one from the weather; in the back there was a little seat for two people but it was not covered. I rode in it and was not impressed. I never did like to go tearing along with the wind blowing my hair!

When going to Fergus, it was not at all uncommon to either have a flat tire or pass another car which had one. We did not carry a spare, but there was a little kit with patches and everything needed for repair right there on the road. It did not take an experienced person long to patch a tire, but it was not very pleasant if it happened when it was raining.

We bought a Model A Ford in 1934. It was a dandy car for getting places. Just think, it had glass windows that could be rolled up and down! But something happened to it not too long after we had it. I think it left the road on the way to Fergus and the frame was sprung. In 1935 the folks bought a 1934 V-8 Ford. This was quite an improvement in our transportation. One serious drawback was that the front doors were hinged in the center allowing them to swing toward the back. We had to be exceedingly careful not to open that door when traveling or we could be pulled out. The idea was to make it stronger, but that idea did not last long.³⁵

³⁵ We had that car until during W.W.II, when Aunt Lizzie decided she didn't want the hassle of gas rationing, tire rationing, etc., and she sold her almost new 1942 Chevrolet to the folks. That was really a nice car and the folks were very fortunate to have it through the war years because no new cars were made for over three years and good used cars were in great demand. It was in the mid-1950s before they got a different Chevrolet. Pa got his last car, a 1957 Chevrolet with powerglide, because of his bad leg.

THE DEPRESSION

The depression and the drought coincided and coming so soon after our house burned it really hit us hard. We received something like \$300 from insurance. Pa borrowed some money from the bank to buy the things we had to have and to pay for materials for the new house and the carpenters. But the money ran out before the house was done so everything came to a standstill as far as the house was concerned. During the years following, it was all we could do to keep current bills paid and we bought only the things we just had to have. The price of land fell to the point that Pa let the land north of the road go back to Morrison. Pa owed \$15 per acre on it yet while its value dropped to \$10.

Some men went to work on Workers' Progress Administration ("The WPA"), a depression-era project of President Roosevelt whereby the government paid men a low wage to work on certain projects, creating jobs to help the severe unemployment crisis of the time. I think Barnard School was built that way and many roads were improved. We all worked all we could and went without all we could and we got by. I know we were never hungry but just did not have cash to spend. Neighbors helped one another or traded work so no cash was exchanged. One farmer could not own all the machinery he needed, and usually some of it could be shared.

If it was hard for grown men to find work for cash, it was almost impossible for children to earn even a penny. But the Curtis girls were resourceful. They found that the township was paying a bounty on gophers so they went trapping. They earned enough money to buy their mother a washing machine. What a wonderful gift of love that was as their mother had six daughters to wash for besides her husband and herself and the household things. We were all impressed by that. In reminiscing with Ella lately she told me she and Leone Curtis went out by Sabin in the Red River Valley one fall to pick up potatoes. For their labor they received 3 cents per bushel and were able to come home with \$14.00 each. That was good money for those days, but what backbreaking work!

Because we lived in the woods we did not have the dust storms that some did during the drought years, but I remember dust sifting into the houses and if the wind was blowing it was not a good idea to hang clothes on the line. I rode to Starbuck one Sunday with a friend and was surprised to see dust banked up against fences and in ditches. Another thing that helped us then was our woods pasture and the wild hay available on section #19. Some farmers did not have enough feed and had to sell their cows to the government for \$20 each.

Another disagreeable thing during the drought years was the army worms. They were green and squishy and seemed to be everywhere for a while (outside). One time Edith sat on a chair outside with her new dress on and squished one against her back. It was hard to get that green stain out. But I can only remember them being a problem a summer or two.

Clothes were handed down from one to another, shirt collars were turned over and re-used when the first side wore out, good woolen garments could be turned inside out so the colors were bright again and re-made into a garment for a smaller person. In spite of all that people "dressed up" more then than now. There was not a boy in our high school who wore overalls or denim jeans. I don't know that they

made denim "belt pants" then, just bib overalls which they considered a work garment fit only for everyday. Some of my classmates wore dress pants, usually wool or corduroy. Percale sold for as little as 10 cents a yard so for 30 cents plus thread and buttons one could have a new dress. Styles did not change during the depression years. If a dress became faded you bought dye to brighten or change the color and continued to wear it.

Smokers rolled their own cigarettes, having "hard rolls" only on special occasions. There were even little devices that rolled cigarettes. Tobacco was cheap and was not taxed back then. No one in our family smoked but many of my friends did. If they bought hard rolls it was usually the Lucky Strike brand. Smoking (for men) was not frowned on then as now as we did not know the damage it could do.

Going to a restaurant was almost unheard of in those days. When we went to Fergus in the summer we took along buttered bread and bought a ring of bologna, went to a park, and had a little picnic. Sometimes there was even enough money for fruit. We almost did not need a can opener in our home because it was a rare occasion that we could afford to buy any canned food from the store. Salmon was one of the cheaper meats in those days. When we boarded Emma Hanson Ma would sometimes buy a can of salmon to have on hand. She could make delicious salmon patties.

Perhaps once a year we would get together with others and have a wiener roast. It was great fun sitting around the brush pile fire roasting (usually burning) wieners. Sometimes there were also marshmallows to roast. We found that we could also roast marshmallows by holding them on a fork over the top of the lamp chimney. One time Emma bought some canned shrimp which was unfamiliar to us. I thought they looked like huge grub worms. It was Emma who made the first graham cracker pie I ever ate. She made it very rich using all cream and adding butter. It was so rich it made me sick, but it really tasted good going down!

Catalogs were placed in the outhouses where they had a twofold purpose. One could enjoy looking at the pictures while waiting for nature to work. Twice a year we would get the large Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogs. No one wanted to use the shiny sheets, though. It was a luxury in the fall when we bought fruit which was individually wrapped in soft paper. Those sheets were carefully smoothed out and piled up in a box to be used in the outhouse. They ^{were} much superior to the catalogs, but there was no picture or price on it tempting one to order from the catalog! We did send for quite a few things as prices were reasonable, postage was cheap, and it was a long way to town.

During the depression several families who had lost their good farms out on the Flats (the land west of Fergus Falls in the Red River Valley) bought 40 acre parcels of land in Section 19 where we had made our wild hay. There was no crop land on it, no buildings, just trees and soil. They put up little log houses to live in and the men would work where they could to make a little cash. One family did not even have a floor in their cabin, just hard packed dirt. The lady drove to our place with her team and buggy to get water get cans of water as they had no well, either. I

guess her husband thought he could make a little cash by storing some stolen tires and such things, but got caught and had to spend time at St. Cloud Prison. He probably took the rap for someone else. He was not a bad person, was a hard worker and dependable.

I thought anyone who had to serve time was a criminal and would be ashamed so I was surprised that when he got home he was boasting about how well it had turned out. He had needed a hernia surgery but could not afford it. While he was in prison he was able to have the operation and they sent his family money enough that his wife could buy flooring for the house.

One family who moved into Section 19 there became our good friends. They were Norwegians. Their older children were near our age and we used to get together some and they always came over for my birthday. Their name was Anderson; their young people were Adelaide, Earl, Mildred, and Alice.

EDITH & CLIFF

Cliff Hagen, a brother of Iva Swanson (Evelyn's mother) came from Brownton the winter of 1928-29 to stay at Swansons and cut wood. He was handsome and outgoing as were all the Hagens, a good dancer, and all the girls were interested in him. The fellows in the neighborhood did not welcome him; they said those Hagens were coming up and getting the good girls away!

Before he started going with any of the girls Edith sent him a Valentine with a picture of a pear on it and the words, "Let's pair off. Be Mine." She did not sign her name and he didn't find out who sent it to him until they were engaged! One night when Cliff came to see Edith, Evelyn was staying with me. We hung tin cans on the back of his car so that we could hear when he left. But we did not wait for that. Evelyn got up first to look out the window and then she called for me to come quickly. She said, "He's kissing her. Now I know they are going to get married!"

Yes, they fell in love and became engaged, but getting married was a big problem in those days as he had no steady job or a place to live. So they just kept on "going together" for almost three years. Part of that time Cliff was "back home" in the Brownton area where he had a deal with his dad that if he would work on the farm he would get help starting his own farm. But times were hard and his dad needed all the money to pay his own bills.

Cliff made it up to see Edith at Christmas time and Pa hired him to cut wood and work for us. Cliff was full of fun and thought of things to do. In the summer he, with the help of some others, organized a baseball team and challenged any other team to take them on. There was a big field in Maine township they used and for two summers we spent most of our Sunday afternoons watching them play ball. How we would root for our team! We almost always won, too. The others said it was because of all the fanfare but I think it was because they were excellent players. Cliff was a good player and always a ball fan, later watching the games on TV and getting all excited and vocal about it.

Cliff was a good worker and things went well, but still there was not enough money for them to get married. In the spring of 1932 Aunt Lizzie's husband died in

Montana leaving her with a 1600 acre ranch. She needed help and her brother Uncle Will suggested Cliff. Edith and Cliff would be able to save money while out there since their board and room were included. With their future thus secure, Edith and Cliff were married in June of 1932 and left for Montana.³⁶

On March 10, 1933 they had twin daughters. They were fifty miles from a doctor and had not gone for regular check-ups during the winter. No one suspected that when Edith bloated she had a problem with albumen until she went into convulsions. The Snake River Road was treacherous in March, but they loaded Edith into Aunt Lizzie's roadster and headed for Miles City Hospital. Luckily she did not have a second convulsion until they arrived at the hospital. The twin girls were delivered, Joyce weighing in at 3½ pounds and June at 2¾ pounds. They had no incubators back then so they just kept them warm and fed them. They almost lost Edith, though. She was in the hospital for six weeks, much of that time with pads on her eyes. They thought she might lose her eyesight. The hospital kept the babies for another two weeks after Edith went home. Two and a half months later June caught pneumonia and was rushed back to the hospital where she died. She was not forgotten though; Joyce named her first daughter June.)

Cliff and Edith stayed in Montana for only four years. They wanted to return to Minnesota so when the drought and Mormon crickets caused hardship they all decided to call it quits. A friend and I went with Pa to bring them home after the sale. When they came back to Minnesota they rented the Hunter place 3½ miles from us. Cliff and Lester bought a new "B" John Deere tractor together and shared it and Cliff borrowed some of Pa's machinery. Cliff was a very good farmer and a hard worker. Edith was a good homemaker and managed money well so they did well eventually. While they lived there Norma was born. Then they moved to another rented place, the Lawrenson place, and then in 1943 they bought their own 160 acre farm which was quite well improved with a big square house and good barn. Myrna joined their family in 1947.

About three years after Edith and Cliff returned to Minnesota they started having Mother's Day dinner at their place. At first it was just my parents, Lester and Carolee, and me. After Jim and I married and moved to our Minnesota farm it was a day we always looked forward to, too. For a while more children were added each year, it seemed! Our children remember with fondness each year when we would get together and they could play with their cousins.

Things went well until Cliff started having health problems, trouble with his balance, and blurring of vision. After doctoring around locally he went to Rochester where in 1949 he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. As he became increasingly disabled Edith did chores for a while, then they sold the cattle and rented out the land. In the mid 1960s they sold the farm and moved to Underwood and Edith took a job at Broen Rest Home in Fergus Falls. Cliff always dreaded the time when he might be completely helpless as so many become with that disease, but he was always able to take care of himself. He made a point of standing up without his cane to give away his daughters at their weddings. When he died in 1973 it was from a heart attack. He did not let Multiple Sclerosis beat him.

³⁶ Even with the delay, Edith was only 19 years old. Cliff was 26

LESTER & CAROLEE

We first knew Carolee Ditzler when we started going to Maine Church in 1931. She was a part of the group that met on Saturday nights for "choir practice" and we knew her as a friendly, cheerful person who worked at Lundeen's in Fergus Falls and lived there. I welcomed a chance to be her roommate when I started Teacher's Training in 1934 and found her to be a congenial person, delightful to be around. Lester began to notice her about that same time and started dating her. When Alex Flink heard about that he told people Lester was going with that "high-tuned Ditzler girl." She certainly was not a person to put on airs, but the Ditzlers were progressive. They were early to install running water and electricity³⁷ in their home, and Carolee had an education. She had gone to California where she lived with an aunt, attended high school, and graduated from Redlands College. When she came back to Minnesota she earned a degree at the University.³⁸ Romance blossomed and they became engaged.

They had quite a novel way of announcing their engagement to their Maine friends. One night at a party each guest was given a candle stuck in a marshmallow candle holder and a piece of paper on which was written in invisible ink, "Lester and Carolee are engaged." Instructions were given to hold the paper to the flame of the candle (not too close) and the letters became visible! Their wedding was also unusual. With only their families and a few very close friends knowing their plans, they were married at the Maine Presbyterian Church on a Sunday after the regular church service. Rev. Butler had everyone stand for the last song while Lester and Carolee, Elton Kuhn and I slipped out and had our flowers pinned on. Then he read their marriage license and Carolee's sister, Edythe Duit, played the Wedding March as we walked up the short aisle. The knot was tied and has stayed that way to this writing, fifty-seven years later.

I wrote a poem for them when they celebrated their 25th anniversary, and read it again for their 50th anniversary:

AN UNUSUAL WEDDING

Sunday morning dawned fair and clear,
June 5th the day, 1938 the year.
People were preparing to go to church
But some had a headache, some stayed to work.

In the Ditzler household there was much astir
Seventeen people would be there for dinner.
Carolee was excited, her cheeks were pink

³⁷ It utilized a Delco system which used a gasoline engine, generator, and batteries.

³⁸ Carolee can trace her ancestry on her mother's side back to John Alden and Priscilla. Her grandfather Mathis had been in the Civil War. He wanted to be a missionary but his health would not permit that. He was a Lutheran minister in Illinois from 1894-1901, then moved to Nebraska where he took small churches because of his health.

Wondering what Maine Congregation would think.

Don't think Lester wasn't excited, too,
Everything he wore had to be new.
His suit was dark as becometh a groom
But his face shone with love, no sign of gloom.

Over at Kuhns only Elton was aware
That today was the be the union of pair
For Elton had kept his secret well--
Hadn't he promised Lester that he wouldn't tell?

"Mama, press my suit extra nice," he said
But never a word about a couple to be wed.
For Lester and Carolee had an unusual surprise
Wouldn't the Maine congregation open their eyes?

Church started as usual, the bell was rung,
Prayer was offered and songs were sung.
Rev. Butler preached with his usual zest,
Oldsters were quiet, children did their best.

Almost twelve--the sermon wasn't long,
The congregation stood for the final song.
No one seemed to notice when from a seat by the wall
Elton and Lester quickly slipped into the hall.

When they were outside Carolee and Belva joined them.
The song was going well, no one had missed them.
Then how those four hurried, there was much to do
Corsages must be pinned on, boutonnieres, too.

Soon the song was over; benediction now?
The congregation pauses, prepares their heads to bow.
But Rev. Butler pauses, a twinkle in his eyes
This is the big moment, the time of the surprise!

Rev. Butler began to read the license loud and clear
The congregation gasped, then was silent so to hear.
Edythe Duit quickly at the piano took her place
The groom and groomsman entered
With slow and even pace.

Tum, tum te tum Tum tum te tum

Then came the bride and bridesmaid with their flowers and lace
They, too, came down the aisle with slow and even pace.
When Lester was questioned he firmly said, "I do."
When Carolee was questioned she, trembling, said "Me, too"

Soon the pledges were made, too late to back out now.
'Till death do us part, so solemn a vow.
"With this ring I thee wed. You are Mr. and Mrs."
Lester took her in his arms; they exchange kisses.

With love in their eyes and faces aglow
They faced the congregation preparing to go.
Then there was chatter, laughter and jest
As people shook their hands and wished them God's best.

Now didn't absent ones wish they had gone to church
And not had a headache or stayed home to work?
As Rev. Butler said, "You just never know
What will happen at church. It's best to go!

They went to the Black Hills on their honeymoon and returned to Star Lake where they set up housekeeping and farming on their little farm just south of the folks. Their barn burned in November of 1945³⁹ and rather than build a new one on that farm they and the folks who were ready to retire traded places. My folks kept forty acres where the buildings were and raised sheep. Lester added the remaining 120 acres to the land the folks had and raised beef cattle besides dairying. They made the exchange in October of 1946

During the depression years in the early thirties hardly anyone could afford to get married. If a couple could not "wait" they were married by the Justice of the Peace or their pastor in their home. Sometimes they had to live with the groom's parents for a while. There would always be a shower for the bride. I remember they received many pitchers that held about a pint or more and had a cover with a beater attached. That was handy for whipping cream.⁴⁰ There would always be a shivaree for the bride and groom on their wedding night. Friends and relatives went to the place where they were staying, usually after they had gone to bed, and make a lot of noise. People shouted, banged together cans and covers, and sometimes fired shot guns. The newlyweds were supposed to get up, dress, and let us in. If they were smart they would have cigars for the men and candy bars for the ladies.

My second cousin Lela Koelln and Roy Erickson were married at the Douglas County Fair in 1935. For that they were given many gifts, a bridal gown and flowers, the Nelson Band played the wedding march, Osterberg's cafe put on a nice dinner for the wedding party and a car was furnished for their honeymoon. That got them off to a good start and they spent almost 50 years together before Roy died.

SCHOOL AS A STUDENT



GRADE SCHOOL - DISTRICT 137

Before I went to school I learned to count to one hundred and could do easy adding and subtracting. I knew all the letters of the alphabet and I was very anxious to start going to school regularly. When I was four years old they let me visit four times so I thought perhaps when I was five I could visit five times. However, Pa asked Howard La Valley, the teacher at that time, if I could start school since I would be six in December. Howard was in favor of that so I started with Erbin Koelln and Evelyn Swanson. (My mother and Henry Koelln were first cousins and we visited with them a lot so Erbin and I knew each other very well before we started school. Erbin once told me he did not know which of us he would marry when we grew up. But one day he announced that he would have to marry Evelyn since he and I were related and marriage would not be allowed!)

We were called the Primer Class until Christmas, when we became first graders. I think our reading book was from Winston Publications and the first story was "The Little Red Hen." The first word I learned to read was "The," the second was "Little," etc. Soon we were reading complete sentences and there was no stopping me then.

Howard was my teacher the next year, too, and I always liked him. Not so with all the kids. He was VERY strict and some of the bigger boys were taken to the hall where there would be the sound of hand on rear and some screaming. That made us

⁴⁰ Jim Doyle died in September, 1994.

⁴¹ By the time Jim and I were married the fad gift was casseroles. We received nine of them in all!

all very quiet for a long time. (We had wall clocks with pendulums; the mark of a good teacher was that one could hear the clock tick—and he could accomplish that even with attendance in the forties or more. We had to fold our waste paper, not crush it, and sit and move quietly. Four times a day we cleared our desks, then on command we would turn, stand, and pass.

Howard only disciplined me once and, of course, that was not my fault! I happened to pick up paper from the floor at the same time that Lela across the aisle picked up some. I suppose he thought we were whispering so we had to stay in at recess. But I never held that against him because I appreciated his good order.

There was a vent on the outside of the building to allow outside air to be carried into the room where it was heated before being circulated. This was an excellent place for us to sit and listen to what was going on inside. For instance, if someone had to stay in at recess or after school to be reprimanded, we liked to listen in at the vent to hear what was said—and sometimes done!

Howard was our neighbor boy and lived very close to the schoolhouse. His father also was a rural schoolteacher who had the reputation for being very strict so he was given the hardest schools in the county. It was customary in those days for the older boys and sometimes girls in the district to go to school for a while in winter. They might be up to twenty years old. I think they came to socialize with each other and to see what fun they could have. This did become a problem with some of the younger teachers, who might be smaller and about the same age, but for some reason those big guys did not hang around when Howard taught!

An important time in the school year was the arrival of the county superintendent who came to "inspect" things. Miss Antoinette Henderson, a stern single lady who drove around with her team, would slip quietly into the room and it seemed all at once she was there watching what was going on. We thought of it as spying. Otter Tail County was large, with about 285 schools, so she had an assistant. They took turns visiting, one in the spring and the other in the fall. Miss Henderson's brother became her assistant. We were all scared into quietness when Miss Henderson was there and I am sure the teachers breathed a sigh of relief when the visit was over.

My third grade teacher was a young woman from Fergus Falls, Louise Schnoor. She was pretty, with wavy hair and brown eyes, and she wore pretty dresses. I remember one soft brown wool dress with many, many buttons down the front. She was nice, but she had a hard time with discipline. After only one year she decided to get married. Next came a young man from Dent named Clarence Gludt. I don't remember much about him, only that Edith was in the eighth grade that year and the big girls liked to tease Mr. Gludt. We usually sang mornings and the pupils could choose songs. The girls always asked for "When You and I Were Young, Maggie" because they knew he hated that song. Afterwards, when I was teaching, I wondered why he didn't tell them they could choose any song but that one since they had sung it so many times. That is what I would have done. But he didn't seem to know what to do about it. Anyway he was there for only one year. It so happened that the folks had him over for supper and to visit the night before our house burned. We entertained him by playing records on the "graphophone" that had the big morning glory horn and cylinder records.

Our classes in rural school were reading, language, spelling, history, geography, civics, physiology, and penmanship. Sometimes to make longer class times a couple of grades were combined. For instance, grades three and four could be together in physiology (hygiene), as could grades five and six. But most of the time that was impractical so classes might be alternated. We might have hygiene three times a week, then civics two times a week during the same time period.

We used penny pencils and our writing tablets cost a nickel. We tried to make our supplies last a long time, so sometimes we did our "scratch work" on our slates, kept at our desks. Pupils were called forward for "recitation" and would sit on the fronts of desks. Some schools had regular recitation benches but we were too crowded for that. Sometimes older pupils would help the younger ones with their work.

There were skids of long boards on which several desks were fastened. On the walls were large pictures of Washington and Lincoln. There was a large globe of the world which was on a pulley and could be pulled down to eye level, then pushed up high and out of the way. We had a big map case in the front of the room above the black boards which held maps of every country (although I don't think we had a map of Europe made after World War I.) There was an American flag and we repeated the flag salute every morning. At that time we did not say "under God" as a part of the pledge. That was added later. There was an old pump organ, but it was seldom used. Some of the kids might chord or try it out at recess time.

The Palmer method of Penmanship was used and pride was taken in the ability to write well. We used pen and ink. The ink bottle was inserted in a hole in the desk top or else sat on the desk. Either way it was very messy. The boys liked to dip the long braids of the girls in the ink bottles. (I was in high school before I had a fountain pen. How fancy can one get? And so handy. It had a clip so it could be carried in a pocket or fastened on a notebook!)

When I was in fifth grade Howard was hired again. My father was on the school board for as long as I can remember, as were Henry Koelln and Iva Swanson. They must have decided it was time for a good disciplinarian again. It was a good thing: that year we had fifty-three pupils in the eight grades.

During that year I completed the work for both fifth and sixth grades. After two weeks in the fifth grade Howard said he was going to promote me to the sixth. I could handle it all except for arithmetic and would have to have special help with fractions. I don't know how he found the time to sit with me and help me a few minutes each day so I could get fractions and decimals both that year, but he did. Perhaps some of the others resented that he did and I don't blame them. (As I look back, it might have been better for me to have stayed in the fifth grade and graduated from eighth grade a year later than I did. At twelve, I was very young and immature to leave home and go so far away to high school, coming home only at Christmas during the entire school year. When I graduated at 16 I was too young to get into Teacher's Training anyway so I stayed home a year at that time.)

My seventh grade teacher was Louise Anderson, a big Swede from up north. She was an outdoor person and liked to hunt and walk around with the young men in

the neighborhood. She always wore smocks over her dresses--a blue one one week and a brown one the next.⁴²

My eighth grade teacher was Eugenia Hawley. I am sure she was a nice lady, but she could not handle our big, tough school. That was probably the year my dad made Gene Dale quit school. Gene's goal seemed to be to make life miserable for the teacher. He wasn't mean, but his mischievousness was just too time-consuming for a teacher considering how many pupils there were.

Usually on Friday afternoons we had some handwork to do. I remember the big kids soaking reed and weaving it into baskets. They also used raffia, a thin soft fiber also used for weaving but which didn't have to be soaked to soften it.

It was at some time in those last years of country school that some of us girls found we could have a code and write notes no one else could read. (I know it would not have been when Howard was our teacher!) We learned the number substitutes for the letters of the alphabet and wrote sentences using numbers with dashes between. 9 12-15-22-5 25-15-21 would translate to "I love you." I still remember all the numbers for the letters. Wasn't that a great learning experience?

The school room was heated with wood. There was a large wood burning stove in the back corner of the room with a jacket around it so the heat was directed up and circulated around the room. Some of us girls liked to take our sandwiches and toast them on the lower part of that stove and then sit on the floor behind it to eat our lunches. This went on until the teacher decided we were leaving too many crumbs. We also warmed our wet mittens on the edge of the jacket. At the annual school meeting there would be bids and some lively competition as to who would furnish wood for the school the next year. This was one way to get some cash. Cords of wood were piled west of the building and one day there would be a wood sawing bee. But I don't think the men got paid for that; it was volunteer work. There were also bids for cleaning the school. Women would underbid each other until they were almost donating their time. I remember Ma got the bid for at least one year and we girls helped. Each month we had to haul hot water in cream cans and scrub the desks, other furniture, and floor. Ma bought a striking clock with some of her money from scrubbing. She had always wanted one and we were proud of it.

A few weeks before Christmas each of us was given a few Christmas Seals which we were expected to sell. The one who sold the most would get a prize. Christmas Seals were even sold that way when I was teaching. (Now they just mail them out to every household and expect people to send in the money. That takes all the excitement out of it, doesn't it?)

⁴² In 1983, when we were planning a reunion of the school, we wanted to contact as many of the former teachers as we could. No one could "find" Miss Anderson. I didn't even remember the city she had come from and thought that by that time she had probably changed her name. One evening as I was preparing supper Raleigh came in and turned on the TV. They were featuring people who had done a lot of volunteer work for the Rest Home in Bemidji and happened to mention Louise Anderson. Her picture was of a tall lady with light brown hair and they said she had once been a teacher. I wrote to her in care of the Bemidji Rest Home and sure enough, it was our Miss Anderson! We made arrangements for her to attend our reunion but when she was chosen Volunteer of the Year she had to cancel because she had to be in a parade at the State Fair that weekend. She invited Jim and me to visit her and stay overnight, which we did that fall and had a great time reminiscing.

Each year before Christmas we put on a big program and all the neighborhood would come. The teacher and larger pupils hung the curtains across the stage area. The school board got planks from the lumberyard for a stage and also for seats for the women and preschool children. Men stood in the back of the room. We had songs, plays, and recitations. Sometimes there were acrostics and we would march in formation, making some quite intricate designs. It took a lot of practice to put on these programs, but we enjoyed them. For light we used gas lamps or lanterns that people brought from their homes. Gene Dale was supposed to pick up a chair and carry it out over his head at the end of one of the plays. Of course when we practiced we didn't have lamps hanging there, but the night of the program he picked up the chair and knocked down one of the gas lamps. We were all pretty scared as it fell to the floor of the stage but luckily it did not cause an explosion.

In the wintertime we often played Fox and Goose at noon and at recess. We made a very large circle in the snow, then cut across it like a pie into perhaps eight pieces. One would be the Fox and chase the others, who were Geese. When the Fox had caught a Goose, that Goose became the Fox. We had to keep on the tracks or we would be "out."

Of course there were snowball fights among the boys and snow forts with prolonged battles, King of the Hill, and other games in the snow. We girls tried to make snow angels by lying down in the snow and moving our arms back and forth to make our imprint look like angel wings. Hide and Seek was an old stand-by, as was Ante-I-Over. For that we divided into sides, with the teams standing on opposite sides of the building. A player from one team threw a ball over the building while saying "Ante-I-Over the schoolhouse." Children on the other side would try to catch the ball and if one did, he would run around and try to tag someone on the thrower's team with the ball. If he tagged someone, that person would have to be on his side and he would have the ball to throw over next. Usually the smaller, slower kids would be caught first so the last ones caught would be the bigger, faster runners. This went on until all were caught.

When the weather was too bad to play outside we played inside which was a problem due to so many kids and a lack of space. One game that worked inside was to have two kids sit in one seat, with one starting out being "it." The "it" chased another who, before he was about to be caught, had to sit beside one of the kids pushing out the one on the other side. That person then would run, being chased by "it". It got to be pretty rowdy and the stricter teachers would not allow it. Those teachers favored games that could be played quietly, such as riddles and puzzles.

A game that could be played either indoors or outdoors was "Captain, May I?" One person was the "captain" and he would tell another player what kind of movement to make, such as a chicken step or a dog step or a horse step. The child had to say, "Captain, may I?" before he could move forward. If he didn't, he had to go back to the starting point. It was very easy to step out without remembering to ask permission from the "captain."

Valentine's Day was always a big deal at school. We made valentines for our friends and wrote our own verses on them. Seldom would we have enough money to buy them, and even then only for the teacher and very special friends.

It was a most exciting thing when Charles Lindbergh made his solo flight across the Atlantic. We read all we could about him. Once in a great while a plane would fly over. One time our teacher even allowed us all to run outside to see the plane fly over the schoolhouse. After that planes began to appear at Fergus and other cities to give rides and even perform stunts.

We usually had two dresses for grade school. We wore them alternately by the week. Some girls had only one dress, which they washed on Saturdays. Some wore aprons over their dresses at school to keep them clean longer. We also wore leggings over our other stockings to keep our legs warmer, but girls at that time never thought of wearing overalls. My dad offered to pay me if I would wear bib overalls in winter, but to me that would have been humiliating and he did not insist.

In those days we had no electricity or running water in the schools. We had a water fountain from which we would drink. It was a large stone jar set on a metal stand with a heavy cover on top. When it was filled with water we could drink by pressing a lever so the water would shoot up (like modern fountains).⁴³ A pail underneath caught the water which overflowed. The heavy stone material kept the water quite cool. Water was carried in by the big boys. Each day they also carried in the wood from the big woodshed on the back of the school where the wood was kept dry. Some of us younger ones were allowed the "privilege" of dusting the erasers for the teacher.

Toward the back of the school ground, with much space between, were the two outhouses. I remember ours had three seats for the bigger girls and two seats down lower with smaller holes for the little girls. It was very efficient in that five could use it at one time! There was a high wooden "fence" on the front and on one side to give us privacy from the outside when the doors were opened.

Off the school grounds there was a nice hill and if they could the kids brought their sleds or skis, or anything else that they could slide on. My folks had told me not to play on the hill because I was too little and some of the boys were man-grown. They were afraid I would get hurt. Well, one day it was too great a temptation for me and I thought the folks would never know, so I went out and took turns with Ella sliding on an old double desk board. When the bell rang everyone but Ella and I ran to the schoolhouse; we thought we would have one last slide. I will never know how it happened but on my way down I got a nail in my knee. Ella came to see what was the matter and I asked her to pull it out so no one would know. Of course, she could not pull it so she ran to tell Miss Schnoor. Then she and one of the big boys made a "seat" for me with their arms and carried me to Flinks, the closest place. They did not have a telephone so someone ran over to Koellns to call the folks. When they came Pa pulled that big nail out with his pliers, but then they thought I should see a doctor or I might get blood poisoning. They took me to Pelican Rapids about fifteen miles away and the doctor treated it and I never had any trouble with it. They never scolded me, but it was punishment enough to know I had caused all that trouble and expense. It is best to obey one's parents.

One family lived three miles from the schoolhouse and the father made the children work very hard. Some money could be made selling posts so some of the

⁴³ Our school at Oak Hill had a cooler that ran water into paper cups.

children had to cut the posts the right length and others peeled them. They had to do chores before and after school and work with the posts on Saturdays and Sundays, so they missed many days of school. No one from that family ever got beyond the third or fourth grade. Even though they were fifteen years old they were called to class with eight or nine year olds because they were working at that grade level. At the time we thought they were not intelligent but now we know they didn't have a chance. There was also a young widow in the neighborhood. She had an eighty acre farm and four little boys. I don't know how she managed, but she made a living for them. They were always neat and clean, and well fed. There was no welfare system then. They grew up working very hard and became fine citizens.

In my last year I studied hard for the State Board Examinations. The test was sent to the teacher in a sealed envelope, to be opened and administered to the 8th grade only and with no one else in attendance. Sometimes the teachers let their brighter pupils take the 8th grade exams when they were in 7th grade. If they passed they could either go on to high school or stay home. My friend, Eleanor Curtis, passed the exams when she was eleven years old and never went to school again. What a pity that was!

I was surprised when I passed. My dad had always told me I would be a teacher so I had no other thought in mind, but getting the necessary high school education in those days was difficult. We were very far from town and there was no bus service. Hardly any of our group got to go on to high school. When I graduated from grade school there were six in our class: Art Lewis, Lela Koelln, Ella Lange, Leone Curtis, Melanie Field and me. Much was made of eighth grade graduation in those days, probably because for many children it was the only graduation they would have. We went to Fergus Falls where they had a program honoring us. As we had a large county with many pupils graduating every year there was a very large attendance including the families of the graduates. Edith made me a new dress of pink silk. It had a row of pleats about six or eight inches from the bottom, was sleeveless, and it had a strip of cloth at the neckline with a buckle in the front, going over the shoulders to be fastened together in the back. Very stylish. I guess we saw the picture in a catalog. I grew so fast at that time that I never did get to wear it much.

In 1983 we had a reunion of all the kids and teachers we could find who had attended District 137. Former students came from as far away as Portland, Seattle, California, and Washington, DC. I was M.C. for that and wrote a poem.⁴⁴

Country School Days

For some a time to reminisce
Is unadulterated bliss
While for the young and not so sage
It's a nasty sign of creeping age.

But reunions are a special time

⁴⁴ The first two and the last verse was "borrowed" from something I had read but I don't know who the writer was.

So I'll reflect in some feeble rhyme
On days gone by and what we did
When others were old and we were kids.

Remember Old District 137
How huge it seemed way back then
But when later I returned to it
I wondered how we all could fit
As we spoke our pieces, even did some plays
Way back in those good old days.

We walked to school and nearly froze
We hung our mittens in soggy rows
To dry around the stove I remember well
Who could ever forget that pungent smell?

We brought our lunch in syrup pails
Swinging them along by their wire bails.
Bread and jelly, not often meat
Lining them up in rows so neat.

For a while we toasted our daily bread
Behind the big stove until the teacher said
We'd better quite messing around
Because too many crumbs were found.

Remember the little house out back
How it did some privacy lack?
And how sometimes we stood in line
And how cold it was in the wintertime?

A few times the boys climbed tamarack trees
And came back with sticky sap on their knees
When they heard the bell they came on the run
With their mouths full of tamarack gum

The last Christmas program we had back then
Could have ended in disaster when
Gene picked up the chair and held it high
And the gas lantern crashed down as he walked by.

Pitching snowballs in the chimney was fun
The boys put nineteen in before they were done
But the fire ceased to burn with all that snow
And the room turned cold before time to go.

Just off the school ground was a good place to play
And there the big kids went day after day.
I was warned by my mother I was too small to go
But temptation was too great and so

One day after the big kids answered the bell
Ella Lange promised she wouldn't tell
So off we two went on the back of a double seat
Belly whopping down the hill—Oh, how neat!

Until I screamed with pain and saw a big nail
Had entered my knee and I turned pale.
Ella couldn't pull it and the folks found out
That I had disobeyed them without a doubt.

In that one room school we learned well
How to read and write and even spell
For we heard the lessons of every class
From the first grade on to the very last.

The largest enrollment which comes to mind
Was fifty-three plus a teacher kind.
And all eight grades were there at that time
No wonder they insisted that we must mind!

"Don't crush waste paper, fold it instead,"
Was the strict command that Howard said.
"Turn, stand, and pass" four times a day
Was the proper method he then would say.

These are some of the things I remember well
You, of course, have other stories to tell.
So when this program is over seek out another
And share your memories with each other.

HIGH SCHOOL

I had always known I would be a school teacher because Pa said so! Lester and Edith had not been able to go to high school, but Pa was determined that I should be able to go. As soon as we knew I had passed the eighth grade examinations Pa wrote to his sister, Kate, at Kerkhoven. I don't know what was said but they made arrangements to meet at Barrett, between our place and Kerkhoven, and have a picnic. Our whole family, plus Cliff Hagen who was going with Edith at that time, went. Aunt Kate and Uncle Fred and their niece, Avis, came driving in from the other direction. I remember they brought a camera along and took pictures which was

Description continues of HS years in Kerkhoven.

Things were very quiet during the War, with so many men in service and others working in defense. Gen's brother Tom and his wife Ferne and her sister Margaret and her husband Jerry were coming over to Bay City to see us and have a picnic in the park. We wanted to direct them to Mrs. Girard's place but the street sign was missing and had not been replaced. Gen and I bought a little board, made a neat street sign (Joseph St.) and nailed it to the post on the corner. What a service we did for the whole town!

We worked at Dow Metal for ten weeks, then returned to Minnesota to teach our schools. I only taught for one month before Jim and I were married; Gen was married to Wendell (Barney) Borden in December. She traveled some to be with him and even taught at a school in Georgia while he was stationed there. When he was sent overseas to Germany she came back to Minnesota and taught at a school near her home. After the War was over they moved to his place near Brainerd where she still lives although Barney passed away suddenly in 1973.

In the forties and early fifties we always got together once a year and it seemed that almost every time there was another baby. With nine young children between us, we thought it would be easier to have picnic-type dinners and we often had wiener roasts. The kids had a ball, but it seemed Barney did not appreciate eating outdoors. He said that if he and Jim did not furnish stoves for us we would complain, but there we were eating around a fire outdoors! Their children often said that when Gen knew I was coming she would say about some special food, "Let's save it for Belva." They still remember that.

Gen and I are still very close friends and get together when we can. Her six children are like nieces and nephews to me and they treat me like their aunt, too. Whenever we go there as many of her children come to see us as possible. Once a year we meet in Little Falls at the park, have Reuben sandwiches at the Pine Ridge Hotel, walk around the beautiful park by the Mississippi River, sometimes shop, and talk, talk, talk.

Songs popular during the war years were; "I Left My Heart at the Stagedoor Canteen, White Christmas, Elmer's Tune, White Cliffs of Dover, I'll Be Seeing You, Mairzy Doats, There's a Star Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere, When the Lights Go on Again All Over the World," and "God Bless America."

Glenn Miller was an important band leader and Kate Smith was a favorite singer. On Saturday nights the ten most popular songs were sung on a program called "The Hit Parade" And we all loved the Shirley Temple movies.

AFTER THE WAR

PA AND MA IN RETIREMENT

The folks loved to garden and had a big one each year until the year before Pa died. They always had a lot to give away and took pleasure in that. Pa also liked to cut wood and even in his old age would split a lot and pile it neatly. Pa also raised sheep until near his death and he drove tractor for Lester whenever Lester needed help.

They did their housework together, Pa doing the heavier work like shaking rugs and helping with washing clothes. Ma did most of the cooking, but Pa helped with breakfast, setting the table, etc. Together they braided baler twine into rugs which were long lasting and rather pretty when they used the green twine. Pa's bad leg bothered him more and more, the veins in the ankle area looking black and swollen. Ma's heart was playing out and she tired very easily.

One day in the fall of 1967 Pa noticed that he was very short of breath so he drove in to see the doctor who said that he had fluid on his lungs and later developed pneumonia. While he was in the hospital being treated for that we went to see him and he was his old self, telling jokes and laughing. But a couple of days later he had a stroke and did not respond much after that. He lingered for three more weeks before he passed away on October 7 at age 87. This was my first close experience with death in the family.

Ma could not live by herself in the country so she found a small house in Underwood where she would be close to Edith. She was able to keep house for herself for about a year and a half before she had a bad spell with her heart, was hospitalized for a while, then became a resident of Broen Home where she lived for another eleven years. She never liked the food they had on Fridays but used to say, "Don't tell anyone, though. I don't want anyone to think I don't like it here." One day when I was going up in the elevator one of the aides asked me whom I was going to see. When I told her she said, "Oh, she's such a sweetheart." So I was glad that she made the best of things and did not complain about her lot in those last years. She was always very particular about how she dressed when she went out in public. For instance, whenever she got a new dress she put a snap on the waist seam in the middle of the back with a matching snap under the belt. That kept the belt exactly on the seam! When she was 93 she had to have her leg amputated above the knee because of poor circulation. This was a difficult adjustment for her, but she was proud of what she could do as she could get into the wheel chair by herself and get herself around that way. She had a stroke and died in the hospital three days later, April 24th, 1980, at age 96. So, you see, both of my parents lived long, useful lives. We always enjoyed going to visit them and having them here. I am thankful to have had them all those years.

EDITH & HELMER

After Cliff's death, Edith continued to work at Broen Home until she retired in 1982 at the age of 70. In 1985 she met Helmer Breeton, who swept her off her feet in a whirlwind courtship and they were married that fall. Together they added on to her little home in Underwood and improved it. They went places and had a wonderful time together for four years. Then she suffered a massive stroke from which she never fully recovered. She was at the hospital as a patient, then as an out-patient, but Helmer was determined that he would take care of her and that she would get better. He did take good care of her at home for over a year but she did not recover. She could not speak except to say "Yes" or "No," could not walk without assistance, and had no use of her right hand. Eventually he had to give it up and she entered the Otter Tail Nursing Home in 1991. In 1993 she had another stroke,

which left her mute. We are sure she knew everything that went on and what was said, but she could not express herself. What a prison that was for my lovely sister! Between Helmer and her three daughters they kept her looking beautiful and dressed well. In September of 1994 she had one more stroke and lingered for 2½ weeks before passing away on September 26. How we loved her and miss her!

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

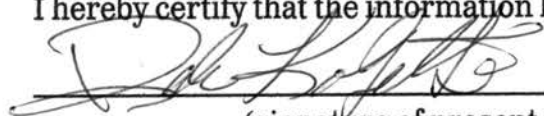
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Dale KolsethMain Contact Phone Number: 218 (area code) 681-1720 (phone number)Main Contact Address: 20193 120th St SE (street) Plummer (city) MN (state) 56748 (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Dale and Carol KolsethName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Kolseth Family FarmInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 20193 120th St SE (street) Plummer (city) MN (state) 56748 (zip)Farm Section: 16 Farm Township: Wyandotte Farm County: PenningtonNumber of acres in the farm now: 1833Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1914Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Sect 16 Twp-152
Range-042 W 1/2 NW 1/4**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>John and Katherine Kolseth Albin</u>	<u>Jan 19, 1914</u> <u>to Apr 29, 1938</u>	
Next Owner <u>Carl Kolseth</u>	<u>Apr 29, 1938</u> <u>to Dec 31, 1965</u>	<u>Grandson of Katherine Kolseth Albin</u>
Next Owner <u>Elmer and Linda Kolseth</u>	<u>Dec 31, 1965</u> <u>to Dec 21, 1990</u>	<u>Brother of Carl Kolseth</u>
Next Owner <u>Dale and Carol Kolseth</u>	<u>Dec 21, 1990</u> <u>to present</u>	<u>Son of Elmer Kolseth</u>
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☐ Abstract of Title ☐ Land Patent ☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☐ Original Deed ☒ County Land Record ☒ Other assignment of school land certificate ^{no 7393} _{no 7395}

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.


 (signature of present owner)

3-29-17
 (date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? John Lundstrom

How many acres were in the original parcel? 80

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$5.50

Where was the first family owner born? Norway in 1853 Immigration year 1881

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? no

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? no

When was the present home built? 1965

What were the farm's major crops or products? dairy cows, oats, wheat

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2016

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): Steven and Pamela Korhonen

Main Contact Phone Number: Steven - 218-259-6194 Pamela - 218-259-4729
(area code) (phone number)

Main Contact Address: 16475 Sago 2 Swan River MN 55784
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Present Owner of the Farm: Steven and Pamela Korhonen

Name(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Korhonen Farm

Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.

Farm Address: 16475 Sago 2 Swan River MN 55784
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Farm Section: 36 Farm Township: Sago Farm County: Itasca

Number of acres in the farm now: 506.24 acres

Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1917

Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Lot 12,
Section 36, Township 53, Range 23

Auditor Cert. # 49752 - Itasca County - Deed Record - 48 Pg. 622

PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Toivo Korhonen</u>	<u>1917-1948</u>	
Next Owner <u>William Toivo Korhonen</u>	<u>1948-2001</u>	<u>son</u>
Next Owner <u>Steven Alan Korhonen & Pamela, wife</u>	<u>2001-present</u>	<u>grandson</u>
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- () Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
(☒) Original Deed () County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

x [Signature]
(signature of present owner)

9-7-16
(date)

x Pamela Korhonen

9-7-16
(date)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? A.M. Palin and Blanche E., his wife

How many acres were in the original parcel? 31 acres

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$5.50

Where was the first family owner born? Sotkama Finland

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? yes

If so, please list Logging

Was this a homestead? no

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? yes

When was the present home built? July 2001

What were the farm's major crops or products? milk cows, potatoes, oats & hay

Additional comments

In June 2016 (on Father's Day) as Steve, Pam & Lexi Korhonen celebrated the day at dinner at the Swan River Restaurant, a tornado hit the farm operation at their homestead. The farming (cattle) storage buildings and sheds for cattle were damaged extensively. However, the original homestead survived as did the garage. Rebuilding has already begun.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): Cecilia KortanMain Contact Phone Number: 1-320-352-4694
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 19452 C.R. 2 Sauk Centre MN 56378
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Cecilia KortanName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: KortanInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 19452 Co 2 Sauk Centre MN 56378
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 04 Farm Township: Kandota Farm County: ToddNumber of acres in the farm now: 86.88Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1902Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Sec 4-04 TWP 127
Rang-34 SW4 NE4+SE4 NW4 80 Acres
14-0003100 KANDOTA

PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Lydia M. Kortan</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>Mother</u>
Next Owner <u>John Kortan Lydia Fe</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>Husband and wife</u>
Next Owner <u>Olivia Kortan</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Mother</u>
Next Owner <u>John P. Kortan</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>Great Grand son</u>
Next Owner <u>Gerald J. Kortan</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>Great Great Grand son</u>

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☒ Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
☐ Original Deed () County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Cecilia Kortan
 (signature of present owner)

3-27-2017
 (date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Mary A. Swartz John Swartz

How many acres were in the original parcel? 80 acres

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? 2200.00

Where was the first family owner born? At home Sauk Centre Mn.

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? Yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? No

When was the present home built? _____

What were the farm's major crops or products? Corn, oats, hay

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): Dave & Carol Kronbeck
Dave & Carol Kronbeck
 5949 220th St. N.
 Hawley, MN 56549-9430
Main Contact Phone Number: 218 - 483 - 3298
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 5949 - 220th Street North, Hawley, Mn 56549
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Dave & Carol KronbeckName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Dave & Carol Kronbeck

Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.

Farm Address: 5949 - 220th Street North, Hawley, Mn 56549
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 15 Farm Township: Cromwell Farm County: ClayNumber of acres in the farm now: 200 acresYear of original purchase by a member of your family: \$2,700.00 1917 (purch)Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Beg 1238.17' N of SE
Corner, N 665.86', W 713.73' & 689.74' & E 673.7' to beg.
Section 15 Township 140 Range 45**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>John & Annie Burnside</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>Cousin</u>
Next Owner <u>Swenie & Mary Kronbeck</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>my husband's Grandpa</u>
Next Owner <u>Raymond & Inez Kronbeck</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>my husband's Father</u>
Next Owner <u>Dave & Carol Kronbeck</u>	<u>Bought 1993</u>	<u>Grandson & son</u>
Next Owner	<u>23 years</u>	

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☐ Abstract of Title☐ Land Patent☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings☒ Original Deed☒ County Land Record☒ Other Clay Co. Court house

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dave & Carol Kronbeck
(signature of present owner)3-15-2017
(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? We purchased from Raymond & Irene Kronbeck

How many acres were in the original parcel? 160 acres

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? the deed said Ole Olson sold to John Burnside for \$750.00 (in 1901) Not per acre

Where was the first family owner born? Hawley, Mn

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? no

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? yes

When was the present home built? 1917

What were the farm's major crops or products? Oats, barley, wheat, corn, hay.

Additional comments _____

There was nothing on the land when the house was built in 1917. They later built a barn and silo. Raised crops mostly to feed the cattle. Had dairy cows and later raised steers. Later raised pigs and put up other out buildings, Quonset and machine shed.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



Deadline: April 3, 2017

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Mark KuehnMain Contact Phone Number: (507) 359-5291
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 17967 225th ST New Ulm MN 56073
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Mark Kuehn and Alan KuehnName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Kuehn FarmInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 17967 225th ST New Ulm MN 56073
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 35 Farm Township: Milford Farm County: BrownNumber of acres in the farm now: 168.17Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1898Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? —Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): —SW 1/4, Sec. 35, Twp. 110, Range 31 Brown County, MN**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Gustav and Barbara Kuehn</u>	<u>1898-1919</u>	
Next Owner <u>Mike and Agnes Kuehn</u>	<u>1919-1956</u>	<u>Son of Gustav and Barbara</u>
Next Owner <u>Ralph and Carol Kuehn</u>	<u>1956-1997</u>	<u>grandson of Gustav and Barbara</u>
Next Owner <u>Mark Kuehn and Alan Kuehn</u>	<u>1997-</u>	<u>Son of Mike and Agnes</u>
Next Owner		<u>great Grandsons of Gustav and Barbara</u>
		<u>Sons of Ralph and Carol</u>

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☒ Abstract of Title☐ Land Patent☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings☐ Original Deed☐ County Land Record☐ Other —

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Mark Kuehn
(signature of present owner)3-21-2017
(date)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Julius and Mathilda Neumann

How many acres were in the original parcel? 160

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$28.75

Where was the first family owner born? Germany

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No

If so, please list —

Was this a homestead? No

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? Yes

When was the present home built? The original part was there in 1898. Gustav built 4 bedrooms on when he bought it. Mike built the kitchen and porch on in 1925. Ralph put the indoor toilet in 1960.

What were the farm's major crops or products? Corn, Soybeans, Alfalfa, Dairy, Pigs, Steers, chickens

Additional comments The Kuehn family in Brown County began in 1882 with the arrival from Germany of Gustav Kuehn and several cousins. Gustav went to work for his uncle in Cottonwood Township. He married Barbara Kalerous on June 1, 1886 in Sleepy Eye. Their 10 children are Joseph, Annie, Michael, John, Mary, Gustav, Wenzel, Emma, Albert and Bertha. In 1898 Gustav and Barbara bought a 160 acre farm in Milford Township. They retired in 1920 and moved to New Ulm. After Gustav retired, his son, Mike took over the farm.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

(Continued on Next Page) **Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099**

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



Mike married Agnes Janni on February 16, 1926. Their 3 children are Florence, Ralph and Raymond. Agnes died of cancer in 1950. Mike retired in 1954 and moved to New Ulm. He died in 1988 at the age of 97. Ralph, Mike and Agnes son, took over the family farm in 1954. He married Carol Rotering on November 24 1954. Carol is the daughter of Waldamer and Annie, who also farmed in Brown County. Ralph and Carol had 9 children, Steven, Diane, Debra, Thomas, Mark, Alan, James, Patti and Shari. They retired to New Ulm in 1990. Mark and Alan, sons of Ralph and Carol, are ~~the~~ the 4th generation to run the farm.

The Dairy barn was built in 1905 by Gustav and Barbata Kuehn. The barn had dairy cows in till April of 2013. The dairy Cattle were always Brown Swiss.

Gustav first worked for his uncle in Cottonwood township, he then farmed on a couple different rented farms near New Ulm before buying this 160 acre farm. Two of Gustav's children Mike age 8 and Annie age 10 herded the cattle down the road 4 miles to the new farm.

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): David E. Kyar - Celesta I. KyarMain Contact Phone Number: 218 924-4830
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 10949 470th St Hewitt MN 56453
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: DAVID E & Celesta I KyarName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: DAVID E & Celesta I Kyar
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 10949 470th St Hewitt MN 56453
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 30 Farm Township: Stow Farm County: ToddNumber of acres in the farm now: 240Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1917Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): E 1/2 NE 1/4 Sec 30
T 133N R-35-W
Todd City MN**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>John A. & Lillie Frank</u>	<u>1917-</u>	
Next Owner <u>Leonard C. Frank</u>	<u>1946-</u> <u>1979</u>	<u>SON</u>
Next Owner <u>Rollyn J. Frank</u>	<u>1979-</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>SON</u>
Next Owner <u>DAVID E. Kyar</u>	<u>1983-</u> <u>2011</u>	<u>GRANDSON</u>
Next Owner <u>DAVID E & Celesta I. Kyar</u>	<u>2011-</u> <u>present</u>	<u>Grandson & Grand Daughter-in-Law</u>

Please do not send originals or copies of records.

Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☒ Abstract of Title☐ Land Patent☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings☐ Original Deed☐ County Land Record☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

David E. Kyar Celesta I. Kyar
(signature of present owner)27 March 2017
(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? L. H. & Bertha Tolliffe

How many acres were in the original parcel? 80

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$42.50

Where was the first family owner born? Think Iowa

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? NO

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? NO

Is the original home (any portion of it) or any other original buildings still standing? Yes

When was the present home built? Remodel & Build on 1959 (was built on to once before - DATE NOT KNOWN) Prior to 1992

What were the farm's major crops or products? Hay, corn, oats, wheat, potatoes
LATE YEARS: CORN & BEANS

Additional comments _____

Grandmother Told me only 15 Acres open in 1917
I SAW A Aerial Photo from 1939 it Had All Been
Cleared by Then

There were about 8 families moved here from Mower
County, Mn. This is only one still in family

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Kimberly LagaardMain Contact Phone Number: 612-245-9109
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 13636 72nd Ave NW Laporte MN 56461
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Samuel and Madeline GossName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Goss Family FarmInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 13636-72nd Ave NW Laporte MN 56461
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 7 Farm Township: Wilkinson Farm County: CassNumber of acres in the farm now: 440Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1911Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Property 10# 49-007-330
Wilkinson Twp Section 7 Twp 144.0 Rg 31 gov. lot 4**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Judson + Charollette Goss</u>	<u>1911</u>	
Next Owner <u>Warren Goss* (Rheinholde Goss)</u>	<u>1915-1959</u>	<u>Son</u>
Next Owner <u>Samuel + (Madeline Goss)</u>	<u>1959-Current</u>	<u>Son</u>
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☐ Abstract of Title☐ Land Patent☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings☒ Original Deed☐ County Land Record☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Samuel J Goss
(signature of present owner)3-26-2017
(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? US Government

How many acres were in the original parcel? 160

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? unknown

Where was the first family owner born? Anoka MN / Princeton MN

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? Logging - yes -

If so, please list Goss & Sons Logging

Was this a homestead? yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? yes - house

When was the present home built? 1919, 1960, 2002

What were the farm's major crops or products? potatoes, hay, grains, corn, dairy,

Additional comments beef, Sheep, Rabbits, Chickens -

4 generations of 4-H members -

5 generations living and working on farm

Current owners (Sam + Madeline) have made their entire living off this farm. Neither worked outside of farm - And never had a mortgage.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



Marilyn Linda Kimberly Heidi



Sam Madeline and Girls



Madeline & Sam Goss Wedding day 1961

built 1919
original farmhouse



Margie + Robert Goss
Picking potatoes



March 10 1919
Cyp + Daisy

Margie and Robert Goss



Original farm layout 1950's



View of farm from up in Barn



Rheinholde Rau Goss
on wedding Day
1919

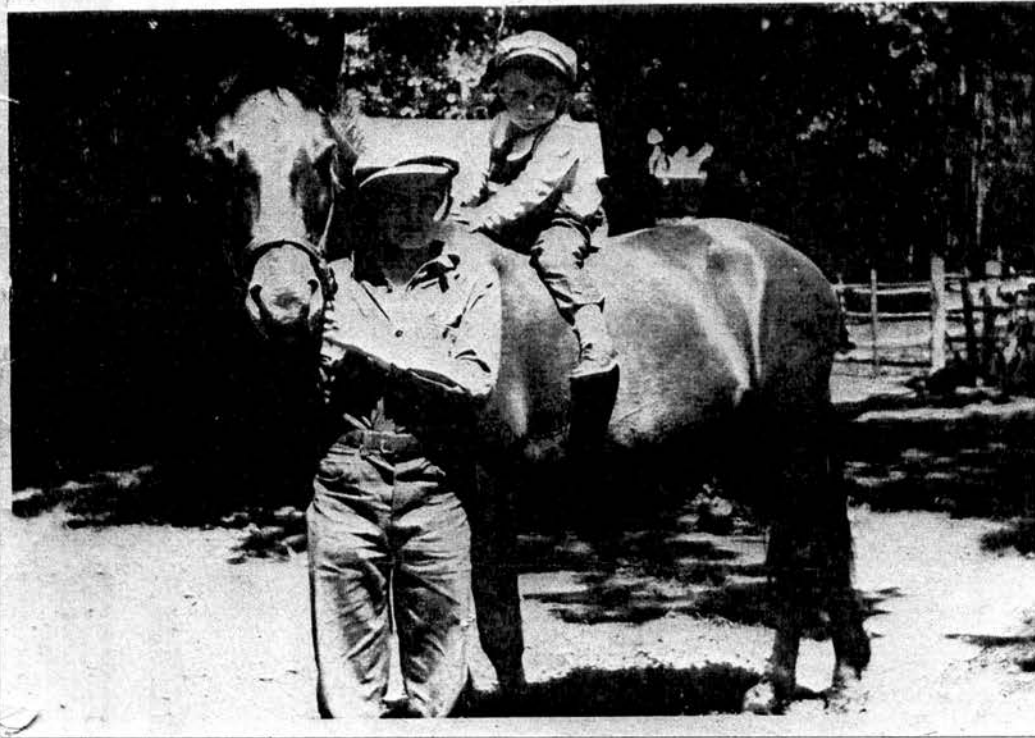


Warren "Mike" Goss

Threshing Crew 1955?



Judson and John Goss



Robert + Sam Goss



Sam Goss



Saw Mill
Sucker Bay

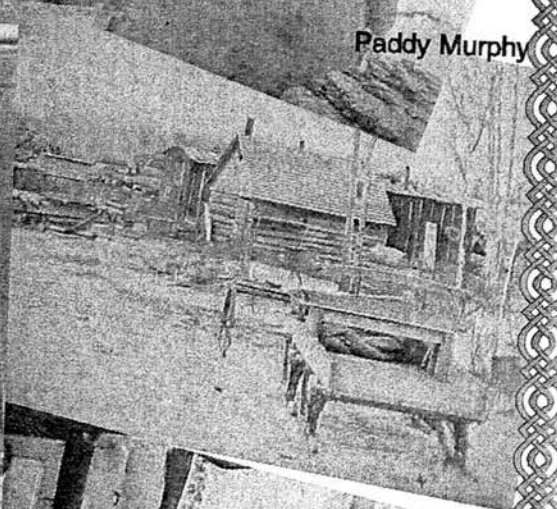


Paddy Murphy



Manny (center) & surveyors
with sleigh & team of ponies

Great Northern Railroad
Manny Goss & Crew

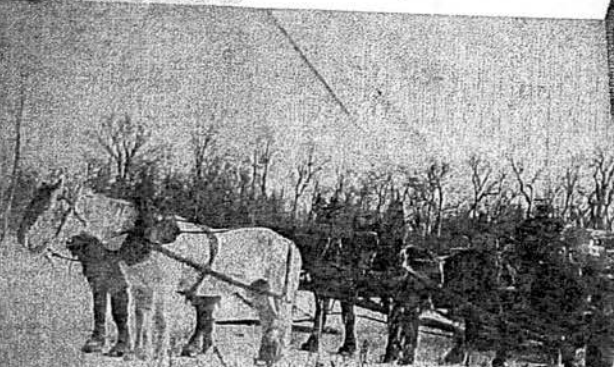


Goss Logging Camp

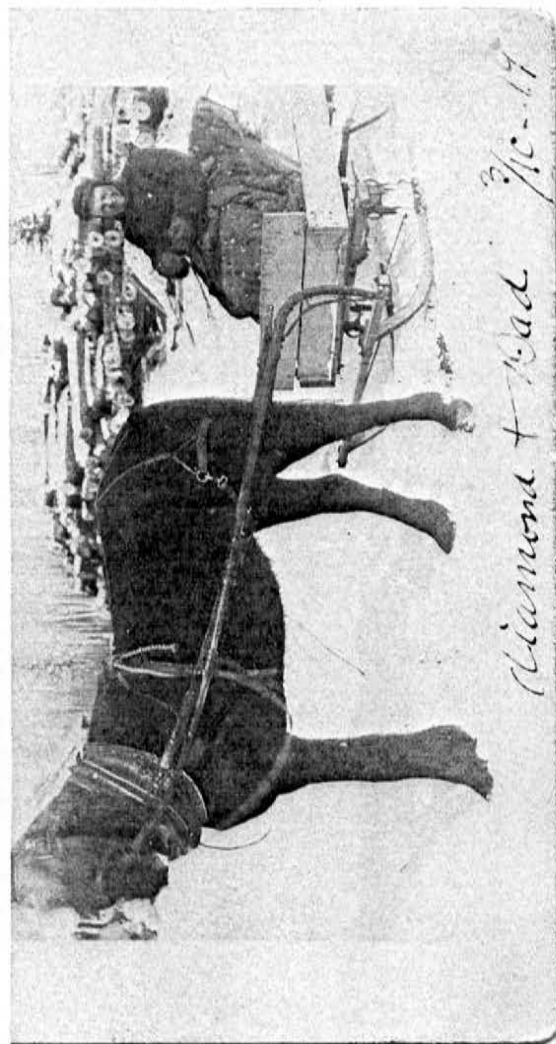
Manny Goss



Lottie, Mike & Manny



Judson (Manny)
Goss



Diamond + Dad 3/10-17

Charolette, Warren and Ward Goss



Warren Goss



Guernsey cows approx 1988?

Sheep on Silage Pile mid 1990's





Beef Cattle Spring Calving Season
2012

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Donald LarsonMain Contact Phone Number: 763-498-4067

(area code)

(phone number)

Main Contact Address: 10820 Sanctuary Dr. NE Blaine

MN

55449

(street)

(city)

(state)

(zip)

Present Owner of the Farm: The Larson Family PartnershipName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Larson FarmInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 30982 Co. Rd 8

Norcross

MN

56274

(street)

(city)

(state)

(zip)

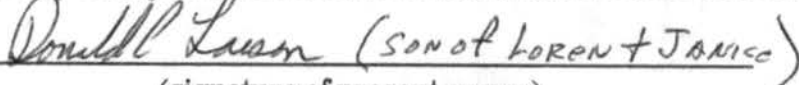
Farm Section: 22 Farm Township: 128 Farm County: GrantNumber of acres in the farm now: 160 (homeplace)Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 116 years purchased 1901Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? no If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): The southwest one quarter of section twenty-two in township one hundred twenty-eight north range forty-four west containing one hundred sixty acres of land more or less according to the government survey thereof**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner Simon Larson and Knud Larson	1901	
Next Owner Simon Larson	1905	Dividing the 160 acres with each receiving 80.
Next Owner Inga Mary Larson	1943	Wife of Simon. Simon died in 1943.
Next Owner Loren and Janice Larson	1965	Son of Inga & Simon Larson. Inga died 1965
Next Owner Larson Family Partnership	2004	Loren died 2004 Formed prtnrship w/ Janice & kids

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☐ Abstract of Title☐ Land Patent☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings☒ Original Deed☐ County Land Record☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



(signature of present owner)

March 18, 2017

(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Gust R. Carlson

How many acres were in the original parcel? 160 acres

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? total cost \$2,900.00

Where was the first family owner born? Simon Larson was born in Norway.

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? no

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? no

When was the present home built? 1951

What were the farm's major crops or products? small grains and swine

Additional comments see attachment

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



The Larson Farm

Simon Larson moved onto the Larson Farm over 116 year ago. Simon came with his parents, Lars Knudson and Ingeborg Moen, from Norway in 1875 at the age of two. Simon was born in 1873. He settled with his parents first in Zumbrota, MN. He lived there until he was six years old. In 1879, they homesteaded in Gorton Township. Simon purchased the farm with his brother, Knud, on September 7, 1901. This piece of land (160 acres of southwest one quarter (1/4) of section 22 of Gorton township N44) was purchased for \$2,900. Later, in 1905, the farm was divided into two 80s. Simon and wife, Inga, farmed and raised seven children on the farm: Stella, Alfred, Leonard, Eunice, Dorothy, Loren, and Vione.

Loren Larson and his wife, Janice, continued to reside on the family farm. Loren and Janice made a career out of raising swine and small grains. The couple raised three children: Blaine, Donald, and Lorrie. Loren was extremely handy. He built many of the buildings that are currently still standing today, including the house. Loren and Janice's house was built in 1951 and added onto in the 1980s. Blaine farmed alongside with Loren until the early 2000s. For quite some time, Blaine lived in his grandparent's house on the farm. This house was torn down in 2003. After Loren's retirement and Blaine's change in career, the family rented out the tillable acres for a good ten years.

In 2014, Loren's grandson, Gavin Larson, followed in his grandfather's and uncle's footsteps. Today, Gavin rents about 600 tillable acres from his family and farms out of the original farm place. Together with his wife, Sarah, they grow corn and soybeans.

WARRANTY DEED V, GRANT COUNTY, MINN.

7383.—McGill-Warner Co., Blank Book Manufacturers, St. Paul, Minn.

571

Instrument
No.

18661

Gust R. Carlson
TO
Arnold Larson and
Simon Larson

Filed for record the 9th day of September
A. D. 1901, at 3 o'clock P. M.
By H. J. Ballum Register of Deeds.
Deputy.

This Indenture, Made this 7th day of September

in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and one between
Gust R. Carlson of the County of Grant and State of Minnesota
party of the first part, and Arnold Larson and Simon Larson, a single man,
of the County of Grant and State of Minnesota, and
parties of the second part, WITNESSETH, that the said party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of
Twenty-nine thousand (\$2900) Dollars, to him
in hand paid by the said parties of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do & hereby Grant, Bargain,
Sell and Convey unto the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, FOREVER, all that tract
or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Grant and State of Minnesota, described as follows, to-wit:

The South West one quarter (1/4) of Section Twenty-two (22) in Township
One Hundred and Twenty-eight (128) North of Range Forty-four (44)
West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, containing One Hundred and
Sixty acres of Land more or less, according to the Government
Survey thereof.

To Have and to Hold the Same, Together with all the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in
anywise appertaining, to the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, FOREVER, And the said
party of the first part, for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, do & covenant with the said parties of the
second part, their heirs and assigns, that he is well seized in fee of the lands and premises aforesaid,
and has good right to sell and convey the same in manner and form aforesaid; and that the same are free from all incumbrances;
Except a mortgage for \$1000.00 given to Connecticut General Life Insurance Company
and one for \$500.00 to Andrew Lund

and the above bargained and granted lands and premises, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said parties of the
second part, their heirs and assigns, against all persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof,
the said party of the first part will warrant and defend.

In Testimony Whereof, The said party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and
year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

B. Torgersrud
Ole Selleseth

Gust R. Carlson *SEAL*
SEAL
SEAL
SEAL

State of Minnesota,
County of Grant

I, _____ within and for said County,
do hereby certify, that, on this 7th day of September
A. D. 1901, personally came before me, a Justice of the Peace, within and for said
County, personally appeared Gust R. Carlson
to me well-known to be the same person - described in and who executed the foregoing instru-
ment, and _____ acknowledged that he executed the same freely and voluntarily, for
the uses and purposes therein expressed, as his free act and deed.

B. Torgersrud
Justice of the Peace

(Cont.)

State of Minnesota)ss
County of Grant)

On this 27th day of March 1967, before me, I.L. Swanson a Notary Public within and for said County and State personally appeared Sylvan Willis Prothero and Carol Prothero, his wife; Vione Olson and Oscar Olson, her husband to me known to be the persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same as their free act and deed.

(Notarial Seal
Grant Co., Minn.)

I.L. Swanson I.L. Swanson
Notary Public, Grant County, Minn.
My Commission Expires Oct. 4, 1967

State of Minnesota)
County of Grant)

On this 27th day of March 1967 before me, I.L. Swanson a Notary Public within and for said County and State personally appeared Alfred Larson and Irene Larson, his wife; Eunice Martinson and Albert Martinson, her husband to me known to be the persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same as their free act and deed.

(Notarial Seal
Grant Co., Minn.)

I.L. Swanson I.L. Swanson
Notary Public, Grant County, Minn.
My Commission Expires Oct. 4, 1967

State of Minnesota)ss
County of Grant)

On this 27th day of March 1967, before me, I.L. Swanson a Notary Public within and for said County and State personally appeared Loren Larson and Janice Larson, his wife; David M. Prothero, a single man; Leonard Larson, a single man to me known to be the persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same as their free act and deed.

(Notarial Seal
Grant Co., Minn.)

I.L. Swanson I.L. Swanson
Notary Public, Grant County, Minn.
My Commission Expires Oct 4, 1967

Instrument No. 93972, filed for record on the 27 day of July, 1967 at 9:50 o'clock A.M. LeRoy E. Larson, Register of Deeds, Grant Co., Minnesota. Taxes for the year 1967 on the lands described within, paid this 27th day of July, 1967 Norald Brekke County Treasurer by Alice Olson, Deputy. Taxes paid and Transfer : entered this 27th day of July, 1967 Arnold V. Johnson, County Auditor by _____ Deputy

WARRANTY DEED

THIS INDENTURE, Made this -23rd- day of -March- 1967 between --ALFRED LARSON and IRENE LARSON, his wife; EUNICE MARTINSON and ALBERT MARTINSON, her husband; VIONE OLSON, formerly Vione Larson, and OSCAR OLSON, her husband; LEONARD LARSON, a single man; LOREN LARSON and JANICE LARSON, his wife; DAVID M. PROTHERO a single man; DENNIS D. PROTHERO and MARY PROTHERO, his wife; and SYLVAN WILLIS PROTHERO, and CAROL PROTHERO, his wife,

parties of the first part, and ---LOREN LOWELL LARSON---

of the County of---Grant---and State of---Minnesota---party of the second part,

WITNESSETH, That the said parties of the first part, in consideration of the sum of ---Twenty-thousand and no/100---(\$20,000.00)-----DOLLARS, to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell, and Convey unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, Forever, all the tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of --Grant-- and State of Minnesota, described as follows, to-wit:

The Southwest Quarter (SW $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Twenty-two (22), Township One Hundred Twenty-eight (128), Range Forty-four (44).

THE STATE DEED TAX hereon is the sum of \$22.00

\$22.00 State Deed Tax Stamps affixed & cancelled.
\$22.00 I R Stamps affixed & cancelled.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD THE SAME, Together with all the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, to the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, FOREVER, And the said parties of the first part, for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant with the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns that they are well seized in fee of the lands and premises aforesaid, and have good right to sell and convey the same in manner and form aforesaid, and that the same are free from all incumbrances.

-----and the above bargained and granted lands and premises in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against all persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof subject to incumbrances, if any, hereinbefore mentioned, the said parties of the first part will WARRANT AND DEFEND.

(next page)

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, The said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED IN PRESENCE OF

I. L. Swanson
Lena Greeley
Richard G. Wallace
Fred C. Lamm

I. L. Swanson
Lena Greeley

1.	SYLVAN WILLIS PROTHERO	(SEAL)
2.	CAROL PROTHERO	(SEAL)
3.	MARY PROTHERO	(SEAL)
4.	DENNIS D. PROTHERO	(SEAL)
5.	DAVID M. PROTHERO	(SEAL)
6.	VIONE OLSON	(SEAL)
7.	OSCAR OLSON	(SEAL)
8.	ALFRED LARSON	(SEAL)
9.	IRENE LARSON	(SEAL)
10.	EUNICE MARTINSON	(SEAL)
11.	ALBERT MARTINSON	(SEAL)
12.	LOREN LARSON	(SEAL)
	JANICE LARSON	
	LEONARD LARSON	

STATE OF Minnesota)
County of Anoka)ss On this 27th day of --March---1967, before me, Richard G. Wallace, a Notary Public within and for said County and State personally appeared ---Dennis D. Prothero and Mary Prothero, his wife--to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same as _____ free act and deed.

Notarial Seal
Anoka County, Minn.

DENNIS D. PROTHERO
MARY PROTHERO

RICHARD G. WALLACE Notary Public, Anoka County,
Minn. My Commission Expires Jan. 30, 1974

STATE OF Minnesota)
County of Anoka)ss On this 27th day of March, 1967, before me, Richard G. Wallace, a Notary Public within and for said County and State personally appeared --Dennis D. Prothero and Mary Prothero, his wife--to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same as their free act and deed.

Notarial Seal
Anoka County, Minn.

RICHARD G. WALLACE Richard G. Wallace
Notary Public, Anoka County, Minn.
My Commission Expires Jan. 30, 1974

STATE OF Minnesota)
County of Grant)ss On this 27th day of March, 1967, before me, I. L. Swanson, a Notary Public within and for said County and State personally appeared Sylvan Willis Prothero and Carol Prothero, his wife; Vione Olson and Oscar Olson, her husband to me known to be the persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same as their free act and deed.

Notarial Seal
Grant County, Minn.

I. L. SWANSON I. L. Swanson
Notary Public, Grant County, Minn.
My Commission Expires Oct. 4, 1967

STATE OF Minnesota)
County of Grant)ss On this 27th day of March, 1967, before me, I. L. Swanson, a Notary Public within and for said County and State personally appeared Alfred Larson and Irene Larson, his wife; Eunice Martinson and Albert Martinson, her husband to me known to be the persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same as their free act and deed.

Notarial Seal
Grant County, Minn.

I. L. SWANSON I. L. Swanson
Notary Public, Grant County, Minn.
My Commission Expires Oct. 4, 1967

STATE OF Minnesota)
County of Grant)ss On this 27th day of March, 1967, before me, I. L. Swanson, a Notary Public within and for said County and State personally appeared Loren Larson and Janice Larson, his wife; David M. Prothero, a single man; Leonard Larson, a single man to me known to be the persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same as their free act and deed.

Notarial Seal
Grant County, Minn.

I. L. SWANSON I. L. Swanson
Notary Public, Grant County, Minn.
My Commission Expires Oct. 4, 1967

Co. Exp. Feb. 1903

Sealed Yes.

Kind of Inst. Satisfaction
Date Feb. 10, 1900
Filed Feb. 18, 1903
At 1 o'clock P. M.
Consideration \$ 125.00

No. 18.

John G. Lund

This satisfies mortgage recorded in Book 8 of Mortgages, 205.

RECORDED
Book Z Page 187
Sealed Yes No. of Witnesses 2

TO

ACKNOWLEDGED
Date Feb. 10, 1903
Who John G. Lund
Before G. L. Jeffrey
Notary Public
Where Yellow Medicine Co.
Minnesota.
Sealed Yes.

Erick O. Hillestad and

Bertha Hillestad, his wife.

Kind of Inst. Warranty Deed
Date Mar. 21, 1905
Filed Mar. 29, 1905
At 1 o'clock P. M.
Consideration \$ 450.00

No. 19.

Knud Larson, a widower,

The N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 22, 128, Rge. 44.

RECORDED
Book Z Page 581
Sealed Yes No. of Witnesses 2

TO

ACKNOWLEDGED
Date Mar. 21, 1905
Who Knud Larson
Before B. Torgersrud
Village Recorder,
Where Norcross, Minn.
Sealed Yes.

Simon Larson

Kind of Inst. Mortgage
Date Sept. 21, 1931
Filed Sept. 22, 1931
At 2:30 o'clock P. M.
Consideration \$ 1000.00

No. 20.

Simon Larson and Inga Larson, his wife

The N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec 22, Township 128, Range

Due 5 years from date he with interest at the rate 6% per annum payable semi ly.

RECORDED
Book 19 Page 440
Sealed Yes No. of Witnesses 2

TO

ACKNOWLEDGED
Date Sept. 22, 1931
Who Simon Larson
Inga Larson
Before Alfred Lund
Notary Public
Where Grant Co., Minn.
Co. exp. May 28, 1934.
Sealed Yes.

The Towle Mortgage Company.

ACKNOWLEDGED

Date Feb. 13, 1901
 Who Erick O. Hillestad
 Bertha Hillestad
 Before Wm. Ringdahl
 Notary Public
 Where Grant County,
 Minnesota.
 Sealed Yes.

TO
 Gust R. Carlson

Rge. 44, containing 160 or
 more or less. Subject to
 mtge. for 1,000.00 to the
 Connecticut General Life
 Insurance Co. and one for
 to Andrew Lund.

\$3.00 Internal Revenue
 Cancelled.

Kind of Inst. Warranty Deed.
 Date Sept. 7, 1901
 Filed Sept. 9, 1901
 At 3 o'clock P. M.
 Consideration \$ 2900.00

No. 15.

Gust R. Carlson

RECORDED
 Book V Page 571
 Sealed Yes No. of Witnesses 2

ACKNOWLEDGED
 Date Sept. 7, 1901
 Who Gust R. Carlson

Before B. Torgersrud
 Justice of the
 Where Peace

Sealed No.

The SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 22, Twp. 1
 44, containing 160 acres
 or less. Subject to a mt
 \$1,000.00 to Connecticut
 al Life Insurance Co. and
 for \$500.00 to Andrew Lu

Kind of Inst. Satisfaction.
 Date Feb. 20, 1902
 Filed Mar. 27, 1902
 At 3 o'clock P. M.
 Consideration \$ 500.00

No. 16.

Andrew Lund

RECORDED
 Book U Page 319
 Sealed Yes No. of Witnesses 2

ACKNOWLEDGED
 Date Feb. 20, 1902
 Who Andrew Lund

Before B. Torgersrud
 Justice of the
 Where Peace

Sealed No.

TO

This satisfies mortgage r
 ed in Book S of Mortgages
 309.

Erick O. Hillestad and

Bertha O. Hillestad, his wife.

Kind of Inst. Satisfaction.
 Date Oct. 24, 1902
 Filed Dec. 9, 1902
 At 4 o'clock P. M.
 Consideration \$ 1000.00

No. 17.

Connecticut General Life
 Insurance Company

RECORDED
 Book U Page 483
 Sealed Yes No. of Witnesses 2

ACKNOWLEDGED
 Date Oct. 24, 1902

Who James A. Turnbull, Sec. Erick O. Hillestad

(Corporate Seal)

TO

This satisfies mortgage r
 in Book N of Mortgages, p

RECEIVED

Deadline: April 3, 2015 2017

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2015

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): Lynnae M. (Johnson) Larson / Drew Larson

Main Contact Phone Number: 480 220-4299
(area code) (phone number)

Main Contact Address: 18425 Co. Hwy 17 SW Crookston MN 56716
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Present Owner of the Farm: Lynnae M. (Johnson) Larson & Drew A. Larson

Name(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Johnson Family Farm
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.

Farm Address: Mentor MN 56736
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Farm Section: 31 Farm Township: 149 Baker Farm County: Polk

Number of acres in the farm now: 80.09

Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1902

Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Acres: 80.09
Section 31 Township 149 Range 042 N2 SW4

PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Torkel Johnson</u>	<u>45</u>	
Next Owner <u>(wife) Rakel Johnson</u>		
Next Owner <u>Harry C. Johnson</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>son</u>
Next Owner <u>wife (Palma C. Johnson)</u>		
Next Owner <u>Lynnae M. (Johnson) Larson</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>grand-daughter & grand</u>
Next Owner <u>& Drew A. Larson</u>		<u>son-in-law</u>
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- () Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
(X) Original Deed (X) County Land Record (X) Other Quit Claim Deed

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Lynnae M. (Johnson) Larson
(signature of present owner)

8-16-16
(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Clais C. Nass & Helene Nass, his wife & Henry R. Nass

How many acres were in the original parcel? 80.09

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$10 per acre ?

Where was the first family owner born? near Bryne, Norway

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? yes

If so, please list Carpentry

Was this a homestead? ~~no~~ yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? Grainery

When was the present home built? _____

What were the farm's major crops or products? Dairy & small grains

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Frederic and Marlyes LatzkeMain Contact Phone Number: 507-665-3021 ~~507-665-3021~~
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 31568 411 Avenue Le Sueur Minnesota 56058
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Frederic and Marlyes LatzkeName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Frederic and Marlyes Latzke
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 31568 411 Avenue Le Sueur Minnesota 56058
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 20 Farm Township: Kelso Farm County: SibleyNumber of acres in the farm now: 160Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1917Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): SE 1/4 and the S 1/2 of SW 1/4 of Section 20 in Township 112 North, of Range 27 West of the fifth Principal Meridian, in Sibley County, Minnesota.**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>F. A. Latzke</u>	<u>30 years</u>	
Next Owner <u>William H. and Violet C. Latzke</u>	<u>30 years</u>	
Next Owner <u>Frederic W. and Marlyes K. Latzke</u>	<u>40 years</u>	<u>Great Grandfather</u>
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
 () Original Deed () County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Frederic W. Latzke Marlyes K. Latzke March 31-2017
 (signature of present owner) (date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Father

How many acres were in the original parcel? 160

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? _____

Where was the first family owner born? Germany

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? No

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? Yes

When was the present home built? _____

What were the farm's major crops or products? Corn - Soy beans

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

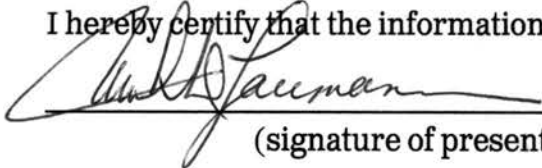
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Mark LaumannMain Contact Phone Number: 952-442-5572
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 7155 County Road 155 Waconia MN 55387
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Mark & Lisa LaumannName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Lisa & Mark LaumannInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 7155 County Road 155 Waconia MN 55387
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 06 & 07 Farm Township: 116 Farm County: CarverNumber of acres in the farm now: 70.8Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1917Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): 20 AC as surveyed in govt lot 1 (CRV#1 3810) & 25.4 AC being all that pt of govt lot 3 & the SE1/4 of SW1/4 6-116-24 & all that pt of govt lot 1 & NE1/4 7-116-24 lying WLY & NWLY of centerline of Co Rd 30 & ELY & NELY of watersedge of lake (continued in comment section)**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner Franz Raether	6	
Next Owner Frank Raether	57	Son
Next Owner Kenneth Raether	16	Grandson
Next Owner Lisa & Mark Laumann	21	Great Grand Daughter
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title ☐ Land Patent ☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☐ Original Deed ☐ County Land Record ☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



(signature of present owner)

March 27, 2017

(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Carl & Lizzie Ziemer

How many acres were in the original parcel? 132

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$173

Where was the first family owner born? Watertown, Minnesota

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? Yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? Yes

When was the present home built? unknown

What were the farm's major crops or products? Corn, Wheat, Hay, Dairy

Additional comments (legal description of land continued from page 1)WAC Waconia & there terminating. Tract A:

that pt of govt lot 3 & the SE1/3 of SW1/4 6-116-24 & all that pt of govt lot 1 & the NE1/4 of NW1/4 7-116-24 lying

WLY & NWLY of centerline of Co Rd 30 & ELY & NELY of watersedge of Lake Waconia & NELY & NWLY of a line

desc as: comm at SE Co Th N60*W along SLY Line 732.91', TH N68*W along SLY Line 259.39', TH S82*W along SLY

line 330.25', TH N34*W along SWLY line of said parcel 230.57', TH N70*W along SLY line 268.68', to E line of a parcel

desc in Doc #107710, TH S along E line 96.9', TH S18

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Janice LenhartMain Contact Phone Number: 218 -745-4012
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 25929 350th Ave NW Warren MN 56762
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Clifford G. Lenhart Trust/ Janice Lenhart Life EstateName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: The Lenhart FarmInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 25929 350th Av NW Warren MN 56762
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 15 Farm Township: Warrenton Farm County: MarshallNumber of acres in the farm now: 160Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1917Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? _____

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): _____

NE1/2 Section 15, Township 155 North Range 48 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Marshall County MN**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner Frederick Oehlerking	1917-1924	
Next Owner Rudolphina Oehlerking	1925-1947	Wife
Next Owner Frederick, Ernest, & Ella Oehlerking	1947-1960	Children
Next Owner George & Ella Lenhart	1960-1963	Daughter & Son-in-law
Next Owner Clifford G. & Janice Lenhart	1963-Present	Grandson & Spouse

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

(x) Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
() Original Deed () County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Janice Lenhart

(signature of present owner)

March 8th 2017

(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Pioneer Land & Loan Company

How many acres were in the original parcel? 320 Acres

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$25.00 per acre

Where was the first family owner born? Elk Grove, Illinois

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? No

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? No

When was the present home built? 1977

What were the farm's major crops or products? Wheat, Oats, Flax, Potatoes, Poultry

Additional comments The Oehlerking family came from Illinois. They planted many fruit trees,; Crabapple, Plums,

Chokecherries, Berries and Grapes. They raised many geese, chickens, pigs and cattle. A large barn was built and an

addition to the house was built. Clifford & I moved to the farm in December of 1961. Over the years all of the old build-

ings have been removed. In 1976 we built a new house and used some boards from the barn in the family room. Cliff

passed away in 1997. I am still living on the farm. There are only 2 grand-daughters and 10 great-grand children of

Frederick & Rudolphina still living. No one is interested in farming.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
**Minnesota State
Century Farm
1265 Snelling Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108**

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatef



*The oldest
grand-daughter
just passed
away -*

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): ORVAL AND DELORES LOEWEMain Contact Phone Number: 507- 665-3764
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 25464-340TH ST. LE CENTER MN 56057
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: ORVAL & DELORES LOEWEName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: ORVAL AND DELORES LOEWE
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 25464 340TH STREET LE CENTER MN 56057
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 36 Farm Township: 112 (TYRONNE) Farm County: LESUEURNumber of acres in the farm now: 120Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1911Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.):
W 1/2 OF SE 1/4 OF SECTION 36 - TOWNSHIP 112 - RANGE 25 WEST
& SE 1/4 OF SE 1/4 " " " " " " " "**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>ADOLPH & ANNA (LOEWE) PREUHS</u>	<u>51</u>	
Next Owner <u>ORVAL AND DELORES LOEWE</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>GRAND NEPHEW OF ANNA LOEWE</u>
Next Owner		<u>PREUHS</u>
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☒ Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
 () Original Deed () County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Orval Loewe Delores Loewe 3-26-17
 (signature of present owner) (date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? ADOLPH AND ANNA (LOEWE) PREUHS

How many acres were in the original parcel? 80

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? 2

Where was the first family owner born? LESUEUR COUNTY

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? NO

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? NO

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? YES (HOUSE)

When was the present home built? 1906 OR 07

What were the farm's major crops or products? ADOLPH'S: OATS, HAY, MILK, PORK

Additional comments THEY BOUGHT THE FARM FROM ADOLPH'S PARENTS
SEVERAL YEARS AFTER THEY MARRIED. WE BOUGHT IT FROM THEM
WHEN WE MARRIED IN 1962.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): David LorenzenMain Contact Phone Number: 507 669-6704
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 1479 211th St. Hardwick Minn. 56134
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: David LorenzenName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Lorenzen FarmInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 1479 211th St. Hardwick Mn. 56134
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: # 24 Farm Township: Denver Farm County: Rock CountyNumber of acres in the farm now: 160/acYear of original purchase by a member of your family: 1901Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? —

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.):

SE 1/4 of section 24 T.104 N. R. 45 W.Denver Township Rock County, Minn.**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Henry Oehlerts (7/18/1901)</u>	<u>47/ yrs</u>	<u>Present owner's Great Grandfather</u>
Next Owner <u>Leona Oehlerts Schmidt (John)</u>	<u>7/ yrs</u>	<u>Daughter</u>
Next Owner Inherited (2/9/1948) <u>Betty Ann Schmidt Lorenzen (Elva)</u>	<u>60/ yrs</u>	<u>Granddaughter</u>
Next Owner Bought 2/28/1955 <u>David Lorenzen (Dianne Oserfat)</u>	<u>2/ yrs</u>	<u>Great Grandson</u>
Next Owner Inherited - 2015	<u>116/ yrs</u>	

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☒ Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
☒ Original Deed ☒ County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

David Lorenzen
(signature of present owner)3/22/17

(date)

(over)

Deadline: April 3, 2017

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): JoAnn (Shake) LundMain Contact Phone Number: 218 397 2504

(area code)

(phone number)

Main Contact Address: 7830 80th Str SW Staples MN 56479

(street)

(city)

(state)

(zip)

Present Owner of the Farm: John and JoAnn LundName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Jack and JoAnn (Shake) LundInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 7830 80th Str SW Staples MN 56479

(street)

(city)

(state)

(zip)

Farm Section: 11 Farm Township: 135 Farm County: CassNumber of acres in the farm now: 320Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1916Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? _____

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): _____

SW 1/4 OF SECT 11 135-32**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner Joseph G. AND EMMA SHAKE	49	
Next Owner GORDON G AND BERNICE M SHAKE	23	SON
Next Owner JOHN A AND JOANN M LUND	29	DAUGHTER
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☒ Abstract of Title☐ Land Patent☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings☐ Original Deed☐ County Land Record☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Jo Ann M. Lund
(signature of present owner)

3-30-2017

(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Anna Manchester & D.H. Husband

How many acres were in the original parcel? 80

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? ~ \$15.00

Where was the first family owner born? Unsure, either Lyons County MN or New York, NY

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? Yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? Yes, the house

When was the present home built? Moved in shortly after Christmas 1917

What were the farm's major crops or products? Milk cows

Additional comments According to 1920 census, (4 years after purchasing land) Joe, 39 yrs old was listed as head of
with 4 children, Blanche E. 8, Woodrow W. 7, Gordon G. 5. Ward L 2 . Emma L was 29 years old. Both were listed
as able to read and write.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



1700

Census

Name	Gender	Age	Marital Status	Race	Can Read	Can Write	Relationship to Head of Household	Own or Rent	Birth Year (Estimated)	Birthplace
John A Clark	Male	61	Single	White	Yes	Yes	Head	Own	1859	Wisconsin
* Joe G Shake	Male	39	Married	White	Yes	Yes	Head	Own	1881	Minnesota
Emma L Shake	Female	29	Married	White	Yes	Yes	Wife		1891	Minnesota
Blanch E Shake	Female	8	Single	White			Daughter		1912	Minnesota
Woodrow W Shake	Male	7	Single	White			Son		1913	Minnesota
Gordon G Shake	Male	5	Single	White			Son		1915	Minnesota
Ward L Shake	Male	2	Single	White			Son		1918	Minnesota
Peter E Opheim	Male	40	Widowed	White	Yes	Yes	Head	Own	1880	Norway
Mable G Opheim	Female	19	Single	White			Daughter		1901	Minnesota
Elmer W Opheim	Male	18	Single	White			Son		1902	Minnesota
Ernest J Opheim	Male	14	Single	White			Son		1906	Minnesota
Martha Opheim	Female	81	Widowed	White	Yes	Yes	Mother		1839	Norway
Albert F Wagener	Male	54	Widowed	White	Yes	Yes	Head	Own	1866	Minnesota
Arthur J Wagener	Male	30	Single	White	Yes	Yes	Son		1890	Minnesota
Elde Wagener	Male	25	Married	White	Yes	Yes	Son		1895	Minnesota
Nora Wagener	Female	20	Married	White	Yes	Yes	Daughter-in-law		1900	Minnesota
Arthur R Wagener	Male	1	Single	White	Yes		Grandson		1919	Minnesota
Rasmus Olsen	Male	52	Married	White	Yes	Yes	Head	Rent	1868	Denmark
Anna K Olsen	Female	46	Married	White	Yes	Yes	Wife		1874	Denmark
Viggo T Olsen	Male	20	Single	White			Son		1900	Minnesota
Ane M Olsen	Female	13	Single	White			Daughter		1907	Minnesota
Alice C Olsen	Female	12	Single	White			Daughter		1908	Minnesota
Dagmar L Olsen	Female	10	Single	White			Daughter		1910	Minnesota
Gertrude M Olsen	Female	5	Single	White			Daughter		1915	Minnesota
Casper C Kelly	Male	69	Married	White	Yes	Yes	Head	Own	1851	Wisconsin
Jennie L Kelly	Female	63	Married	White	Yes	Yes	Wife		1857	Wisconsin
Hans Beagread	Male	33	Married	White	Yes	Yes	Head	Rent	1887	Norway
Martin A	Male	42	Married	White	Yes	Yes	Head	Own	1878	Denmark

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Einar O. LundinMain Contact Phone Number: 320 693-8375
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 610 55 CSAH 28 Litchfield MN 55355
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Einar O. & Delores R. LundinName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Einar O. and Delores R. Lundin
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 610 55 CSAH 28 Litchfield MN 55355
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 2 Farm Township: Greenleaf Farm County: Meeker
3-10Number of acres in the farm now: 368Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1917Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Lot A of Subd Lot 2 in SW 1/4Sec 2 Twp 118 R. 31 containing 13 acres; E 1/2 SW 1/4 & SW 1/4 of SE & Subd Lots 3 & 5 Sec 3
Twp 118 R 31 containing 243.90 acres; E 1/2 NE 1/4 Sec 10 Twp 118 R 31 & 1 ac**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Ole O. Ahlstedt</u>	<u>1917</u>	<u>Grandfather</u>
Next Owner <u>Myrtle A & Albin Lundin</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>Mother & father</u>
Next Owner <u>Einar O. & Delores R. Lundin</u>	<u>1963-Present</u>	
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title ☐ Land Patent ☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☐ Original Deed ☐ County Land Record ☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Einar O. Lundin
 (signature of present owner)

2/07/2017
 (date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Louise Ward, Samuel Ward, Minnie Belle Ward

How many acres were in the original parcel? 355

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? _____

Where was the first family owner born? Sweden

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? _____

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? _____

When was the present home built? _____

What were the farm's major crops or products? Dairy, hogs, Chickens, Corn, Oats,

Additional comments Alfalfa

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): James B. LynnerMain Contact Phone Number: 320-226-0605 (cell)
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 2679 430th St. Clarkfield MN. 56223
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner^s of the Farm: James B. Lynner, Paul & Natalie Lynner, Steven & Brenda LynnerName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Lynner Farms
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 4132 Hwy 67 Clarkfield MN. 56223
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 5 Farm Township: Friendship Farm County: Kellogg Medicine Co.Number of acres in the farm now: 178Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1916Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? -Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): part of the S.W. 1/4 of the NW 1/4, part of the S.W. 1/4 and part of the S.W. 1/4 of the S.E. 1/4 of Sec. 5, Twp. 115 N., Range 41 W. Kel. Med. Co., MN.**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Jens H. Lynner</u>	<u>23</u>	
Next Owner <u>H. C. Lynner</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>son.</u>
Next Owner <u>James T. Lynner</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>son grandson</u>
Next Owner <u>James B. Lynner, Paul & Natalie Lynner</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>(Great) Grand sons & spouses</u>
Next Owner <u>Steven & Brenda Lynner</u>		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
() Original Deed () County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

James B. Lynner, Paul C. Lynner, Steven A. Lynner 3/22/17
(signature of present owner) Brenda Lynner (date)
Natalie Lynner (over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? C.S. Orwell & (wife) Carrie Orwell

How many acres were in the original parcel? 118.00

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? 50⁰⁰/a

Where was the first family owner born? Gran Hadeland, Norway (near village of Lunner)

Did ~~he~~ she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? yes

If so, please list Harness making / wooden stens furniture & wood coffins
evolved into furniture business / funeral home J.H. Lynner Co. since 1891

Was this a homestead? no

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? yes

When was the present home built? 1917

What were the farm's major crops or products? wheat, oats, hay - later corn & soybeans.

Additional comments - proud to be a Century Farm!

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Loren D. MagnisonMain Contact Phone Number: 651 674-8434
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 37887 Lincoln Trl North Branch Mn 55056
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Loren D magnisonName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Magnison FarmInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 37887 Lincoln Trl. North Branch mn 55056
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 27 Farm Township: 035 Farm County: ChisagoNumber of acres in the farm now: 119.80Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1916Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): _____

Acres 119.80 Section 27 Township 035 Range 021 N $\frac{1}{2}$ of
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ & SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ **PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>GUSTAF ALBERT MAGNISON</u>	<u>48 yrs</u>	
Next Owner <u>Loren DARYL MAGNISON</u>	<u>1 yr.</u>	<u>SON</u>
Next Owner <u>Loren D. & JANE L. MAGNISON</u>	<u>52 yrs</u>	<u>son & daughter in law</u>
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title ☐ Land Patent ☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☐ Original Deed ☐ County Land Record ☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Loren D. Magnison & Jane L. Magnison
 (signature of present owner)

March 15, 2017
 (date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? NANCY J. & William C Young

How many acres were in the original parcel? 120

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? app. \$58 @ acre (\$7000)

Where was the first family owner born? North Branch, on his family farm 2 miles away

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No, but GUSTAF was

If so, please list ^{an} Custom Grain Thresher also

Was this a homestead? yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? yes ^{Original Built} 1885

When was the present home built? our home was built in 1967

What were the farm's major crops or products? livestock & grain later years

Additional comments We purchased this farm to help them retire and they lived in the original home until their passing. We have not yet taken down the house & many original outbuildings are still standing. Entire farm is still being grain farmed.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): EUGENE MALECHAMain Contact Phone Number: 507-641-2781
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 34459 LASER AVENUE REDWOOD FALLS MN. 56283
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: EUGENE, RANDY, MALECHAName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: MALECHA RIVER VALLEY FARM
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 21 Farm Township: BEAVER FALLS Farm County: RENVILLENumber of acres in the farm now: 98.36Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1917Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 and lots 32 and 34 in U.S. Lot 97 35 in NW 1/4 of SE 1/4, all in Sec 20, and US Lot 1 in Sec 21, all in Twp 113 range 35**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner John F & Bridget Malecha	22	
Next Owner William & Rose Malecha	70	Wife and Son
Next Owner Eugene & Randy Malecha	8	Grandsons
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☒ Abstract of Title ☐ Land Patent ☒ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☐ Original Deed ☒ County Land Record ☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Eugene Malecha
 (signature of present owner)
2/10/2017

(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? JOHN J. O'BRIAN

How many acres were in the original parcel? 143.22

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? 4000.00

Where was the first family owner born? BOHEMIA 1874 and VESELI Mn.. 1876

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? _____

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? Yes the house

When was the present home built? _____

What were the farm's major crops or products? Corn, Soybeans and Small Grains

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



NUMBER

14765

*Abstract
of Title*

TO

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and Lots 32, 33 and 34
in U.S. Lot 9 and Lot 35 in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of
SE $\frac{1}{4}$, all in Sec 20; and U.S. Lot 1
in Sec 21; all in Twp 113, Rge 35

Maleck

*Complete Abstracts of Title
To All Lands and City Lots
in this County*

Compiled by
Renville County Abstract Co.

Licensed Abstracter
127 South Ninth St.
P.O. Box 86
Olivia, Minnesota 56277

No. 13

Brigita Malecha (signed by her X mark),
a widow

to

William Malecha

Warranty Deed

Dated February 3, 1940

Filed December 23, 1946 at 10:30 a.m.

Consid. \$1.00 and OVC

Recorded in Book 106 of Deeds page 411

2 witnesses

Ackn. February 3, 1940 by said grantor before George A. Barnes, NP Redwood
Co. Minn. Com exp 3-16-40 LS

Int. Rev. \$.55 att and canc

Conveys: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and Lot #35 in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and Lots #32, 33 and 34 of U.S.
Lot #9, all in Sec 20, Twp 113, Rge 35, according to plat of said Sec 20 in Book B of Plats
page 33.

Also U. S. Lot #1 in Sec 21, Twp 113, Rge 35, all containing 143.22 acres of land.
Except mortgages of record and taxes which are liened against said premises all of
which 2nd party assumes and agrees to pay.

No. 14

The Federal Land Bank of Saint Paul,
by P. M. Johnson, Vice President and
F. O. McGuire, Assistant Secretary

to

Notice of Claim

Dated December 11, 1958

Filed December 11, 1958 at 1:30 p.m.

Recorded in Book 12 of Deeds, page 143

Copy Book 1 witnesses

All Concerned

Ackn. December 11, 1958 by said grantors before Violette Oleson, NP Ramsey
Co. Minn. Com exp 1-7-62 LS

Claim against: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Lot 35 in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Lots 32, 33 and 34 in Govern-
ment Lot 9 of Sec 20; also Government Lot 1 of Sec 21, all in Twp 113, Rge 35 containing
143.22 acre, more or less according to the plat in Book B on page 33

The instrument on which such claim is founded is a mortgage on the above described
real estate for \$4700.00 executed by Brigita Malecha and John F. Malecha, her husband, as
mortgagors, to The Federal Land Bank of Saint Paul, as mortgagee, dated December 18, 1919, and
recorded in Book 36 of Mtges. page 143 on December 29, 1919.

That the undersigned is still the owner and holder of said mortgage and the debt
secured thereby; and that said mortgage is a mature, valid and subsisting first lien on said
described property and the undersigned claims all rights secured thereunder, including, but
not limited to, all installments of principal and interest not yet due.

Renville Co. Minn. LS

Appoints Herman Nemitz as guardian of the estate of Martha Nemitz, Insane Ward.

No. 12

William Malecha and Rosella Malecha,
his wife "borrower"

to

The Federal Land Bank of Saint Paul
by W. L. Day, Vice President
And The Redwood National Farm Loan
Association of Redwood Falls, by Hans
T. Hagen, Secretary-Treasurer

Reamortization Agreement

Dated August 1, 1939

Filed June 13, 1940 at 9:10 a.m.

Recorded in Book 85 of Mtges. page 546

Corp Seal 6 witnesses

Ackn. April 8, 1940 by said grantors before

Gean E. O'Leary, NP Redwood Co. Minn.

Com exp 7-18-45 LS

Ackn. May 25, 1940 by Hans T. Hagen before Gean E. O'Leary, NP Redwood Co. Minn.

Com exp 7-18-45 LS

Ackn. May 31, 1940 by W. L. Day before Cecelia Ackerman, NP Ramsey Co. Minn.

Com exp 5-13-47 LS

Reamortization of Mortgage recorded in Book 36 of Mtges. page 143

Due: installment of \$139.36 on February 1, 1940 and equal semi-annual installments
of \$152.75 on every Feb. 1 and August 1 with a final installment of \$152.31 on August 1, 1972.

Abstract of Title to NE¹ of SE¹ of Lot 32 33 & 34 in W. 8. Lot 9 - Sec. 20 } Dup 113. Page 35.
 Lot 35 in NW¹ of SE¹ of Sec. 20 and Lot 11 - Sec. 21 }

GRANTOR	WIFE	GRANTEE	CHARACTER OF INSTRUMENT	DATE OF INSTRUMENT			WHEN FILED FOR RECORD			HOUR	
				Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year	A. M.	P. M.
J. O' Brien & Faye F	wife	Brigita Malecha	Warr. Deed.	Dec	29	1917	Nov	21	1917		2
Brigita Malecha & John F	husb.	John J. O' Brien	Mortgage	Dec	29	1917	Nov	21	1917		2 ¹⁵
Brigita Malecha & John F	husb.	John J. O' Brien	Mortgage	Dec	29	1917	Nov	21	1917		2 ¹⁵
Brigita Malecha & John F	husb.	Federal Land Bank St Paul	Mortgage	Dec	18	1919	Dec	29	1919		1 ³⁰
J. O' Brien		W. H. Niemeyer	Assignment	Dec	14	1917	Feb	6	1920		1 ⁴⁰
J. O' Brien		W. H. Niemeyer	Assignment	Dec	14	1917	Feb	6	1920		1 ⁴⁵
W. H. Niemeyer		Brigita Malecha & husb.	Satisfaction	Feb	3	1920	Feb	6	1920		1 ⁵⁰
W. H. Niemeyer		Brigita Malecha & husb.	Satisfaction	Feb	3	1920	Feb	6	1920		1 ⁵⁵

OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS
 STATE OF MINNESOTA, COUNTY OF RENVILLE

WE CERTIFY, That the foregoing Abstract of Title to the land therein described is full, perfect and correct, as the same appears upon the original records, which have been carefully reviewed and compared to date, and that there is no incumbrance, mechanic's lien, attachment, notice of Lis Pendens or instrument of any kind on file or of record in the office of the Register of Deeds, in any manner affecting the above land, or any part thereof except as shown by the said Abstract.

In witness my hand and seal, this _____ day of _____, 19____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Register of Deeds.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That the foregoing Abstract of Title to the land therein described is full, perfect and correct, as the same appears upon the original records, which have been carefully reviewed and compared to date, and that there is no incumbrance, mechanic's lien, attachment, notice of Lis Pendens or instrument of any kind on file or of record in the office of the Register of Deeds, in any manner affecting the above land, or any part thereof except as shown by the said Abstract.

WITNESS my hand and seal, this _____ day of _____, 19____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Parcel #3: U.S. Lot 1 of Section 21, Township 113 North, Range 35 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian;

WHEREAS, said owners, namely, Randall L. Malecha, JoAnne Keeney, formerly known as Josephine A. Kennedy, Elaine Malecha, formerly known as Elaine Schweinfurter, Sharon Petersen, Kathleen Robinson, John W. Malecha, aka John Malecha, and Eugene Malecha, have agreed upon a partition of said lands so that Randall L. Malecha and Eugene Malecha will own parcels as tenants in common and JoAnne Keeney, Elaine Malecha, Sharon Petersen, Kathleen Robinson and John W. Malecha, will own parcels as tenants in common.

NOW, THEREFORE, for the purpose of making partition of all the real property described above and located in Renville County, State of Minnesota, and in consideration thereof, the parties hereto do mutually covenant, grant, convey and assign as follows:

1. Quit claim to Randall L. Malecha and Eugene Malecha, by JoAnne Keeney, formerly known as Josephine A. Kennedy, and Daryl Keeney, her husband; Elaine Malecha, formerly known as Elaine Schweinfurter, a single person; Sharon Petersen and William Petersen, her husband; Kathleen Robinson and Ronald Robinson, her husband; and John W. Malecha, aka John Malecha, and Darlene Malecha, his wife:

In consideration of the premises and the payment of the sum of Seventy-four thousand one hundred forty-two and 85/100 (\$74,142.85) dollars, JoAnne Keeney, formerly known as Josephine A. Kennedy, and Daryl Keeney, her husband; Elaine Malecha, formerly known as Elaine Schweinfurter, a single person; Sharon Petersen and William Petersen, her husband; Kathleen Robinson and Ronald Robinson, her husband; and John W. Malecha, aka John Malecha, and Darlene Malecha, his wife; do hereby remise, release and forever quit claim and convey unto Randall L. Malecha and Eugene Malecha, all the parcels of land lying and being in the County of Renville, State of Minnesota, described as follows, to have and to hold the same, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging unto Randall L. Malecha and Eugene Malecha, their heirs and assigns, forever in severalty:

Parcel #1: The Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section 20, Township 113 North, Range 35 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian;

Parcel #2: Lots 32, 33 and 34 in U.S. Lot Nine (9) and Lot 35 in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section 20, Township 113 North, Range 35 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian;

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Bob MasselinkMain Contact Phone Number: 507 442-6811
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 77 Valley Road Edgerton MN 56128
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Bob & Esther MasselinkName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Masselink Farm

Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.

Farm Address: 77 Valley Road Edgerton MN 56128
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 18 Farm Township: Moulton Farm County: MurrayNumber of acres in the farm now: 160Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1916Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Sect 18
Twp - 105 Range 43 NE 1/4**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Henry Masselink</u>	<u>50</u>	
Next Owner <u>Daisy Masselink</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>wife</u>
Next Owner <u>George & Rena Masselink</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>son</u>
Next Owner <u>Bob & Esther Masselink</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>son</u>
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records.
more of the following records.☒ Abstract of Title☐ Land Patent☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings☐ Original Deed☐ County Land Record☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Bob Masselink
(signature of present owner)3-16-17
(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? John P Bleeg and Agnes Pleeg^{wife}

How many acres were in the original parcel? 160 - railroad right of way

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$65.

Where was the first family owner born? Fremont, Michigan

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? Yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? Yes.

When was the present home built? 1917

What were the farm's major crops or products? Corn, oats, beef cattle, hogs

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): Bob MasselinkMain Contact Phone Number: 507 442-6811
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 77 Valley Road Edgerton MN 56128
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Bob & Esther MasselinkName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: The Masselink Farm Family
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 77 Valley Road Edgerton MN 56128
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 18 Farm Township: Moulton Farm County: MurrayNumber of acres in the farm now: 160Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1916Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Sec 18
Twp - 105 Range 43 NE 1/4**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Henry Masselink</u>	<u>50</u>	
Next Owner <u>Daisy Masselink</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>wife</u>
Next Owner <u>George & Rena Masselink</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>son</u>
Next Owner <u>Bob & Esther Masselink</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>son</u>
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☒ Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
 () Original Deed () County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Bob Masselink
 (signature of present owner)

3-16-17
 (date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? John P Bleeg and Agnes Pleeg^{wife}

How many acres were in the original parcel? 160 - railroad right of way

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$65.

Where was the first family owner born? Fremont, Michigan

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? Yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? Yes

When was the present home built? 1917

What were the farm's major crops or products? Corn, oats, beef cattle, hogs

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Kevin K. MathewsMain Contact Phone Number: (320) 864-3036
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 6278 - Hwy 212 - Glencoe MN 55336
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Anna Mathews - Rodney & Kevin MathewsName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Mathews FarmInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 6392 - 110th St Glencoe MN 55336
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 7 Farm Township: Helen Farm County: McLeodNumber of acres in the farm now: 400Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1914Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): South East Quarter of Section 7 - Township - 115 - Range 27**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Reinhold Mathews</u>	<u>46 years</u>	
Next Owner <u>Earl Mathews</u>	<u>21 years</u>	<u>Son</u>
Next Owner <u>Anna Mathews & Rodney & Kevin Mathews</u>	<u>34 years</u>	<u>daughter in-law & Grandsons</u>
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title ☐ Land Patent ☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☐ Original Deed ☐ County Land Record ☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Kevin Mathews
 (signature of present owner)

3/26/17
 (date)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Adolph Pinski

How many acres were in the original parcel? 160

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? 58 acre

Where was the first family owner born? Lester Prairie

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No -

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? No -

When was the present home built? _____

What were the farm's major crops or products? Dairy - Corn - ~~Beans~~ - Hogs

Additional comments 1965 tornado went thru the farm - destroying everything but the house

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017


PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Rich MattsonMain Contact Phone Number: (218) 849-8064
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 12307 Co. Hwy 14 Lake Park Mn. 56554
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Mattson Brothers Inc. (Robert, Richard, & Roger)Name(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Mattson Brothers Inc.Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 12307 Co Hwy 14 Lake Park Mn. 56554
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 5 Farm Township: Cuba Farm County: BeckerNumber of acres in the farm now: 5,800Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1917Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? no If so, when? XLegal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Lots 344 and South half of NW 1/4 of Section 5 Township 140 Range 43**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Mathias & Lena Mattson</u>	<u>1917-1959</u>	
Next Owner <u>Martin & Vernon Mattson</u>	<u>1959-1976</u>	<u>Sons of Mathias & Lena</u>
Next Owner <u>Mattson Bros. Inc. (Robert, Richard, Roger)</u>	<u>1976-present</u>	<u>Sons of Vernon & Doris</u>
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title ☐ Land Patent ☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☐ Original Deed ☐ County Land Record ☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.


(signature of present owner)

3-15-2017
(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? W. J. Norby

How many acres were in the original parcel? 133

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$65⁰⁰ per acre, including Building Site

Where was the first family owner born? Norway

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? Yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? Not sure, Possibly Barn & garage

When was the present home built? 2 homes - 1948 & 1969

What were the farm's major crops or products? Grains & Livestock

Additional comments Farm was Purchased by our Grandparents in 1917, Our Grandpa Mathias passed away in 1939. Our father Vernon ~~and~~ and uncle Martin farmed in partnership and eventually passed the farm down to us, Robert, Richard & Roger. Martin passed away in 1995 and Vernon in 2005. Currently all three of us, as well as Robert's son Justin, & Richard's son Corey, all farm together, using the original homestead as our main headquarters to raise wheat, Soybeans, Sugar beets & Corn.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Virginia H. McCarthyMain Contact Phone Number: 507-234-5434
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: PO Box 11, 502 W. North St. Janesville MN 56048
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Virginia H + Jerry T. McCarthyName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Henry Fell FarmInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 38151 90th Street Janesville MN 56048
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 33 Farm Township: 108 Farm County: WasecaNumber of acres in the farm now: 156.96 acresYear of original purchase by a member of your family: 1899Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): Sect-33 Twp-108 Range-023
76.96 AC S 1/2 of SE 1/4 EX 3.04 + Sect-33 Twp-108 Range-023 80 AC
S 1/2 of SW 1/4**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Henry C. Fell</u>	<u>1899 - 1949</u>	
Next Owner <u>Walter H + Ruby B Fell</u>	<u>1949 - 1993</u>	<u>son</u>
Next Owner <u>Virginia H + Jerry T. McCarthy</u>	<u>1993 - Present</u>	<u>granddaughter</u>
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
 () Original Deed () County Land Record () Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Virginia McCarthy
 (signature of present owner)

2/7/17
 (date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Henry Werdin

How many acres were in the original parcel? 160

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? _____

Where was the first family owner born? Iosco Township, Waseca Co MN

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? _____

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? No

When was the present home built? 1938

What were the farm's major crops or products? Corn, soybeans, hay

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): MARIE MEIER

Main Contact Phone Number: 218 (area code) 652-3686 (phone number)

Main Contact Address: 25993 County 2 - Nevis - MN 56467
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Present Owner of the Farm: Marie Schwartz Meier and Marvin D. Meier

Name(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: ~~FAIRBANKS CENTURY FARM~~

Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.

Farm Address: VESTA (street) MN (city) 56292 (state) (zip)

Farm Section: 8 Farm Township: 112 Range 38 Farm County: Redwood

Number of acres in the farm now: 153.78

Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1913

Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? —

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): SE 1/4 except tract 6.22 acres

PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Christ Schwartz</u>	<u>1913-1953</u> <u>40 yrs</u>	
Next Owner <u>Maria Schwartz</u>	<u>1953-1954</u> <u>1 year</u>	<u>Spouse to Christ</u>
Next Owner <u>Claus H.F. Schwartz + Helma Schwartz</u>	<u>1954-2001</u> <u>47 yrs</u>	<u>Son to Maria + Christ</u>
Next Owner <u>Helma A.L. Schwartz</u>	<u>2001-2005</u> <u>4 years</u>	<u>Daughter-in-law spouse to Son</u>
Next Owner <u>Marie Schwartz Meier + Marvin D. Meier</u>	<u>2005-2017</u> <u>12 years</u>	<u>Grand daughter to Christ + Maria</u>

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- () Abstract of Title () Land Patent () Court File in Registration Proceedings
(X) Original Deed () County Land Record () Other —

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Marie Schwartz Meier

(signature of present owner)

02.14.2017

(date)

(over)

40
1
47
4
12
104
years
of
ownership

The name to appear on
the Certificate
should read as
follows: ↓

THE SCHWARTZ-MEIER CENTURY FARM
1913-2013

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Lena Gertjejan ssen, Single

How many acres were in the original parcel? 160 acres

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$70.⁰⁰/acre

Where was the first family owner born? Burg auf Fehmarn, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? While a young man in Germany

If so, please list he worked with his father and Brothers in their boot and harness shop in ^{Burg auf Fehmarn} Germany.

Was this a homestead? Yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? Garage

When was the present home built? —

What were the farm's major crops or products? Purebred Hereford cattle, CORN, Wheat, Flax, Oats, Soybeans

Additional comments My grandpa ^{the original owner} Christ SCHWARTZ immigrated to America at the age of 16 along with his brother Emil Schwartz and the couple who were their sponsors to Iowa.

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



RECEIVED
11/28/16

Deadline: April 3, 2017

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): RALPH MESSER

Main Contact Phone Number: 507 866-4452
(area code) (phone number)

Main Contact Address: 2943 170th ST. GRANADA MN. 56039
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Present Owner of the Farm: RALPH MESSER

Name(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: MESSER FARM
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.

Farm Address: 2943 170th ST. GRANADA MN. 56039
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Farm Section: 14 Farm Township: CENTERCREEK Farm County: MARTIN

Number of acres in the farm now: 78

Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1917

Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): SECT-14-TWP-103
RANGE-029 78.0 AC E 1/2 NW 1/4 (EX 2 AC) 78 AC

PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>ROY E. MESSER</u>	<u>53</u>	
Next Owner <u>MARIE C. MESSER</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>widow</u>
Next Owner <u>RALPH MESSER</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>SON</u>
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title
 ☐ Land Patent
 ☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☐ Original Deed
 ☐ County Land Record
 ☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Ralph Messer
(signature of present owner)

22 NOV. 2016
(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? George R. Thompson

How many acres were in the original parcel? 78

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$124.10

Where was the first family owner born? ILLINOIS

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? yes

If so, please list drove school bus, in winter it was a sleigh there were openings in fences went across country

Was this a homestead? yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? yes

When was the present home built? 1879

What were the farm's major crops or products? CORN SOYBEANS

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Main Contact Name(s): Dallas MillerMain Contact Phone Number: 651 258-4341
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 34510 Co. 25 Blvd Cannon Falls MN 55009
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: John MillerName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Oak Lawn Farm
Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 34510 Co. 25 Blvd Cannon Falls MN 55009
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 2 Farm Township: Leon Farm County: GoodhueNumber of acres in the farm now: 160Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1891Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): The Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4)
of Section Two (2), in Township One Hundred Eleven (111) North, of Range 17 West**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Albert + Ida Miller</u>	<u>53</u>	
Next Owner <u>Jennings + Esther Miller</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>Son</u>
Next Owner <u>John + Elaine Miller</u>	<u>37 - present</u>	<u>Grandson</u>
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

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- ☒ Abstract of Title
 ☐ Land Patent
 ☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☐ Original Deed
 ☐ County Land Record
 ☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

John Miller
 (signature of present owner)

3-22-17
 (date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Augustus Capehart

How many acres were in the original parcel? 160

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? _____

Where was the first family owner born? _____

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? _____

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? Yes

When was the present home built? 1898

What were the farm's major crops or products? Grain & Cattle

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Norman W. MillerMain Contact Phone Number: 507 766-5333
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 14377 Cty. Rd 20 Hanska MN 56041
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Norman W. MillerName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Miller FarmsInformation on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here.Farm Address: 14377 Cty. Rd 20 Hanska MN 56041
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 17 Farm Township: Linden Farm County: BrownNumber of acres in the farm now: 320Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1914Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? NO If so, when? _____Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): NW 1/4 and the N 1/2 of NE 1/4
and the NE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 17, Township 108, Range 30, Brown County, MN
and NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 Section 17, Township 108, Range 30, Brown County, MN**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Heike + Trientge Johnson</u>	<u>1914 - 1941</u>	<u>Norman's grandparents</u>
Next Owner <u>Willie H. + Marie J. Miller</u>	<u>1941 - 1981</u>	<u>Norman's parents</u>
Next Owner <u>Norman W. + Helen M. Miller</u>	<u>1981 - present</u>	
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

- ☒ Abstract of Title ☐ Land Patent ☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings
☒ Original Deed ☐ County Land Record ☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Norman W. Miller
 (signature of present owner)

3-27-17
 (date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Marie J. Miller

How many acres were in the original parcel? 280

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? _____

Where was the first family owner born? Germany - Northern

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? _____

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? barn, chicken house, wood shed/Grainery

When was the present home built? 1949-50

What were the farm's major crops or products? corn, small grain, soy beans, hay & livestock.

Additional comments _____

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CENTURY FARM APPLICATION - 2017

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLYMain Contact Name(s): Dan MinskeMain Contact Phone Number: 509 - 330 - 4048
(area code) (phone number)Main Contact Address: 9362 Dodd Rd Waterville MN 56052
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Present Owner of the Farm: Dennis & Daniel MinskeName(s), or Family Name, or Farm Name: Jindra - Minske ^{Minske Acres}Information on certificate will appear exactly as you have printed here. KilkennyFarm Address: 8537 230th St. W. Morristown MN 55052
(street) (city) (state) (zip)Farm Section: 11 Farm Township: Morristown Farm County: RiceNumber of acres in the farm now: 182 1/2Year of original purchase by a member of your family: 1916Has the farm previously been registered as a Century Farm? No If so, when? _____

Legal Description of Land (from deed, abstract, tax statement, etc.): _____

SE4 NW4 & E2 SW4 & SW4 SW4Section 11 Township 109 Range 022 Tax Statement**PROOF OF 100 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP**

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner <u>Frank & Minnie Jindra</u>	<u>29</u>	
Next Owner <u>Walter & Dorothy Minske</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>Dorothy</u> Daughter of <u>Frank & Minnie</u>
Next Owner <u>Dennis & Daniel Minske</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Grandson</u> of <u>Frank & Minnie</u>
Next Owner		
Next Owner		

Please do not send originals or copies of records. Continuous family ownership is taken from one or more of the following records.

☒ Abstract of Title☐ Land Patent☐ Court File in Registration Proceedings☐ Original Deed☐ County Land Record☐ Other _____

I hereby certify that the information listed above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dan Minske

(signature of present owner)

2-8-17

(date)

(over)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any information you can add to this form will be most valuable to future historians. The questions below are only a guide. Feel free to add other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it.

From whom was the farm purchased? Richard & Adalberto Battke

How many acres were in the original parcel? 98

What was the cost of the land per acre at time of original purchase? \$ 80.00

Where was the first family owner born? Montgomery MN.

Did he/she engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? No

If so, please list _____

Was this a homestead? Yes

Is the original home, any portion of it, or any other original buildings still standing? Yes

When was the present home built? 2001

What were the farm's major crops or products? Corn - Hay - Grain

Additional comments Soybeans

Was also a Dairy Farm
up until the late 1970's

Feel free to attach any additional files if you have run out of space above.

Mail application to:
Minnesota State Fair
Century Farms
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108-3099

Questions? Email: centuryfarms@mnstatefair.org or Call: (651) 288-4400

