

Food -- Mrs. Adolph Krieger, Mrs. Wilbur Freer and Mrs. Charles Sword.

Relay races (both days) -- Art Anderson, Charles Schollmeyer, Fred Fritz, and Orville Bergan.

Pioneer Room -- Mrs. Harold Howard, Mrs. Milton Guenther & Mrs. Gust Mittelstedt.

Entertainment -- Mr. & Mrs. Gilman Knutson, Mrs. Wilfred Goth & Mrs. Harry Larson.

Master of Ceremonies -- Rev. Wade Davick with Adolph Krieger and Omar Whitaker in charge of loud speaker arrangements!

The general anniversary committee consisted of four members: Gary Levi, who was Chairman, Mrs. Norman Knudsvig, Mrs. Earl Morrell and Bernie Benz.

DAVIS AND REEMS FAMILIES

This is a brief history of the Davis and Reems families as they came to North Dakota to carve new lives and homes in a new land. It will necessarily deal primarily with the Ralph Davis family because it is written by their daughter.

In 1906 Ralph Davis, then 21 years old, came from Blandinsville, Illinois to North Dakota. His family had felt the call of the pioneer and sent Ralph ahead to scout out the territory.

Ralph and Harvey Bice came to the old Cregg Ranch, which was located a couple of miles northwest of the Killdeer location. There they wintered while building up homesteads.

In March, 1907 Ralph's family, the Tom Davis' arrived. He had homesteaded the land now owned by the Frank Dolezal family and which he later relinquished to his sister Ethel and husband, Earl Bice.

He now helped his family build a home on Section 32, 146-95, which is located five miles northwest of Killdeer. This sod house had a large shed entry used for coal and storage, three bedrooms, a kitchen-dining room and large living room. I believe it was the largest and coziest sod home in all of North Dakota.

From this house the family grew up and left for homes of their own. Still it remained "down home" to all of them.

Uncle Tom, as he was affectionately called, raised about 1½ acres of flowers, mostly asters and gladioli, but all kinds. His gladioli came from all countries of Europe and Australia. As Nace Doherty said of it, "This flower garden is beautiful beyond our power to describe, and is famed throughout the county and territory."

Somehow, "Grandma" was always "Mrs. Davis" to others, even my mother. She was a kind and good person who for years furnished many families in Killdeer with her delicious butter. And always, every Thanksgiving all of us who could possibly come, sat down to the most aromatic and delightful feast we've ever had. Grandma's cooking was something, and the thought of the smell of the herbs and spices in her home can still excite pleasant memories.

Tom was a civic minded fellow. He was instrumental in organizing Dunn County; he served with the original group that organized and established Mt. View School District. For many years he was president and was one of the organizers of the Killdeer Farmers Elevator. And, he realized a dream when State Hail Insurance became a reality. He had fostered the idea and gained widespread support through active sponsorship of the law that established this department. He was active in getting the County Fair in Killdeer started.

How we did enjoy those Fairs. We brought our finest garden produce, rode the pony to town and Marion sold rides on her. Ten cents up main street and down -- and he rode the galloping horses of the carousel.

We must not forget the melons. The Davis' raised lots of melons and Uncle Tom was in his glory holding forth at his melon parties -- all the boys he could scrape up in Killdeer and the farms around -- always cutting another melon better than the last.

Tom was one of three pioneers who helped set up the present Oakdale Cemetery, a final resting place for very

many of the old pioneers who wrote the history of Dunn County.

Emma Rachel Melvin Davis left us August 21st, (which was Tom's birthday) 1940 -- and on December 24, 1952, Thomas Marion Davis went to his reward at the age of 93. Their final resting place is in the Oakdale Cemetery close to the home they created and loved in Dunn County.

Mable Reems came from Dayton, Minnesota with her family, to the land her father homesteaded in May of 1907. Joseph Reems decided to come to North Dakota in an effort to help his ailing wife, Mary, in the hope that a change of climate would benefit her. They brought a family of eight children. Two married sons, Alfred and W. S. (Sam) Reems who came to homestead in 1906 and camped at the foot of the north mountain at the Wilcox Camp, now owned by Fred and Jester Beck; five daughters and the youngest son, LeRoy -- and the beloved Uncle of all, John Reems, Joe's brother.

The move did not help the mother and she passed away and was buried on the homestead in 1908. Years later, her body was moved to the Windy Cemetery.

Uncle Joe built a tall frame house on the windy prairie. It was quite a change from the large white house in the land of lakes and forests.

Joseph A. Reems enjoyed politics. He was a Shrine member of the Masonic Lodge and every year he went "Back East" to look after his farm interests at Dayton, Minnesota.

Grandpa Reems told us grand-kids the most wonderful stories of possums and squirrels and goats who lived and talked like people. He left us in 1932. Even in that year, by his own request, he was not embalmed. It was cold weather and he was laid out in an unheated room until the time of the funeral, three days later.

In 1908, dances were the thing. They lasted until sun-up when everyone drank coffee and went home and went to work. Oh me! Those were the days! Can't you hear that fiddle singing and "Bow to your partners right and left, all join hands and circle to the left."

A party given at the Johnny Stein shack brought together the young people from near and far and after this social event Ralph's pinto began finding its way to the Reems menage.

In spite of Tige, a little black and white shepherd dog that chased his tail and nipped the heels of all would-be suitors, Ralph regularly arrived every Wednesday and Saturday night. His persistence was rewarded and they were married on January 27, 1909. It was a beautiful day when they drove to Dickinson and were married in the home of Druggist and Mrs. A. L. Palmroy. On the way home the weather was a bit cooler and they stopped at the bachelor home of Uncle Johnny Northrop to get warm. Uncle Johnny assured Mable that he had washed his hands before making the cookies he offered them and which she found to be very good. This place was just south of "old No. 7" highway and then on the stage road to Oakdale from Manning.

Ralph was foreman of the Long O. or Stedman Ranch, and he and Mable spent their first year there, employed by the Dakota Land and Cattle Company -- Jefferies, Frye and Richards.

Mable's sister, Etta Reems, stayed with them and taught the Brooks School. That year little Laura Cregger was thrown from her pony and dragged to death, on her way to school. Her's was the first grave in the new cemetery.

In 1910, after the birth and death of little Gladys Irene, Ralph and Mable moved to the SE¼ of Section 18, 144-95. They got it on a patent paying \$2.25 an acre for it. It had been homesteaded and relinquished, I presume, by Sigrend Engvold, who had built the log cabin out of cedar logs after the pattern of those that last so long in Norway. It still stands.

Just before the Davis' came, it had been a sheep ranch, run by Christ Lee and a man named Overly.

There were wild dogs and coyotes in "them thar hills." The sheepmen put out strychnine and it was years before the last of the infected bones were gone and they could keep a dog. Because of bobcats, skunks and other rodents,

it was a longer time before they could raise chickens either.

In 1911, Emma Verne was born to them. I arrived shortly ahead of Mrs. John (Maude) Rice, a registered nurse who delivered babies in her little black bag and who Ralph had hurried to get.

Marion Reems arrived in 1912 with Grandma Davis to welcome him. In 1914, Alwilda Mary, "our Betty" was greeted by Mrs. Rice and welcomed whole heartedly by her sister Verne and grudgingly by her brother Marion, who had had his heart set on a brother.

The log cabin had two rooms and a lean-to was added. It was a crowded little house, with someone usually staying, besides a year round farm and ranch hand.

At first Ralph and Tom were in partnership. When Marion grew up and Tom sold out to Ralph, he joined his Dad in running the ranch.

In the early days, the cattle were kept until two or three years old and shipped to market in the fall. There was lots of riding and the kids learned to ride almost as soon as they could walk.

Mable was a self-sufficient lady. Ralph would be gone two or three weeks on the reservation during horse and cattle round-up. Then he would be gone another two weeks taking the cattle to Clay Robinson Stock Yards in Chicago and later to the same company in St. Paul. She could chop wood, cook for threshers and keep her family in school all by herself.

One day Ralph was farming about four miles from home. A man from the calf camp, (Wilcox's) had been stuck in a creek and borrowed a wagon to get his groceries home. He brought back the wagon, accompanied by a demented man and a horse-back rider, George Kuhnlein, a young man, but a few weeks over from Germany. He drove off and George rode away, leaving Mable alone with the mad man. Surely God protects courageous women, as she stood before her children trying to convince the man that there was no work for him. George returned to take him away. We all walked to our good neighbors on the west, Mike Brandvik's. Mother was carrying a big old gun, with the wrong bullet. The man was eventually apprehended and returned to the Jamestown Hospital.

In 1935 "our Betty" died of pneumonia. The vacant chair always remained. Mable never did get over this loss.

Ralph, as his father before him, was interested in civic affairs. He served as assessor and was commissioner of the First Commissioner District of Dunn County and was Secretary of the Farmers Elevator for many years.

He was interested in good beef cattle and he and his son had one of the choice herds.

Mable and Ralph celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the ranch where they had lived to see the country grow up, providing them with a comfortable home, many friends and a devoted family.

Mable Bertha Reems Davis passed away in 1960. Ralph Cleveland died in 1965.

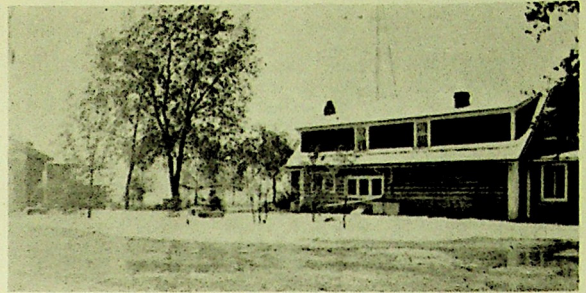
The home place was sold to George and Polly Tabor in 1966. Marion kept a section south of it and lives there with his wife, Doris. Harold and I live on the J. M Howard farm northeast of Dunn Center.

by Verne Davis Howard

THE DEHLINGER FAMILY

The Dehlinger family background was mostly railroad people. John Dehlinger, granddad's father, lived in Dickinson, North Dakota. They had two boys Hubert (granddad) and Aubrey (Link). Hube married Alma Sperber in Woodlake, Minnesota in the fall of 1907. They moved to Oakdale, North Dakota and ran the grocery store and postoffice, "Dehlinger and Larsen". Later Granddad sold out to Larsen. They were brothers-in-law. While at Oakdale, Donald was born. I don't know whether Frank was born there or at the home near the river. He didn't live, he died as an infant.

When Hube sold the store at Oakdale, he moved to the ranch north of Dunn Center. There he built everything



Hube Dehlinger home and ranch in the Badlands.

we had. Link died in Washington state.

I remember hearing about the first North Dakota brand book. There were ten brands registered in it and the bar X was one —X. That was Granddads brand. The Conolly two bar was also one of the first ten.

Most of the Dehlinger people that I know of are buried in the Dickinson cemetery. Grandma Dehlinger came from a well-to-do family in Minnesota. She had two other sisters and one brother. Grandma's mother lived with her and granddad until her death. She was 91 years old and died September 10, 1945. She and Grandpa Sperber, Wm. F. Sperber came to Dunn County in 1895, but returned to Woodlake, Minnesota. Then, in 1925, they returned to Dunn County to reside there permanently.

My dad, Don Dehlinger and Ella Krieger were married February 4, 1940 at Granddad Krieger's home.

I know that Granddad Dehlinger figured if you couldn't get everything you needed from Sears and Roebuck, Montgomery Wards or grow it you didn't need it. He made things for Gale and I that no other kid in the country had.

By Ethel Knudson
Sand Springs, Montana

DEMING FAMILY OF HOMESTEADERS

Josephine Deming was born in Belmont County, Ohio, Dec. 5, 1872 to Mr. & Mrs. O. F. Deming. She taught school in Ohio and Iowa until 1906. That year she and two sisters took homesteads just south of where the village of Emerson later stood. Later her parents and a brother, Rollin, homesteaded south of Manning and two more sisters homesteaded west of Fayette.

In 1907 she married W. G. Mineah and they lived at his homestead at Rock Springs -- then a regular post office of Dunn Co. Two children were born to them, Anita and Thomas. Their home was a center of church activity both in their rural home and after they moved into Dickinson in 1941. Their daughter Anita (Mrs. Frank Regeth) also was a devout member of the Church of the Nazarene. Mrs. Mineah, was for several years the oldest resident of the Emerson community both in age and in length of residency. She died while residing at St. Lukes Home at the age of 96.

DVORAK'S FIVE GENERATIONS IN DUNN COUNTY

In November of the year 1908, Frank Dvorak and his two sons, John and Wenzle and their families came to the United States seeking a new and free government, because the government in Russia was in a revolution.

Frank homesteaded in the spring of 1909 on Section 6, 141-94 for two years. He then retired and lived with his son, Wenzle, until his death in 1912. His wife preceded him in death, in Russia.

John F. Dvorak, oldest son of Frank Dvorak, came to the United States in 1908 with his wife and family, brother Wenzle and his family, and also his father, Frank. John homesteaded on section 22, 142-95 in the spring of 1909.

John had seven children in Russia with his first wife, then she died and he remarried and came to the United States with her and they had eight more children. Only five boys and 7 girls lived, four died while infants. The living children's names are, Pete Dvorak and his twin,