



Prairie Patchwork



Cleo Cantlon

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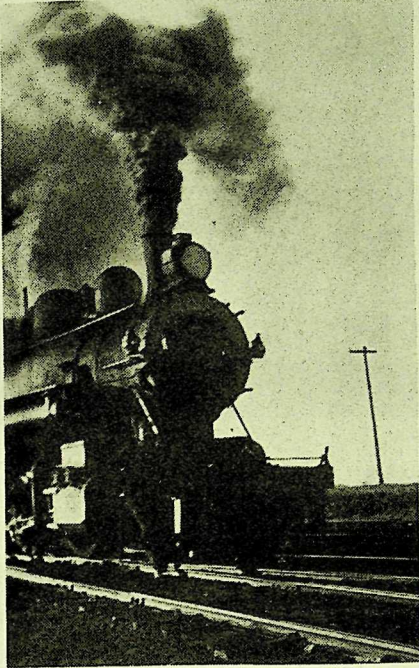
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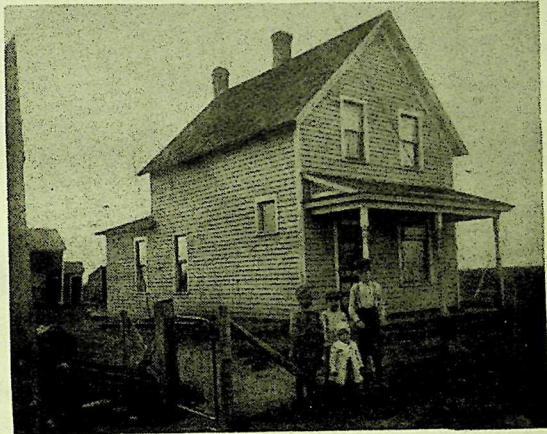
August 15, 1977

Prairie Patchwork

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**A Collection of Anecdotes
From Drake, North Dakota**



**Gathered in recognition of Drake's
75th Jubilee
July 1 - 4, 1977**

**McHenry County
Journal-Register
Velva, North Dakota**

Edited by Cleo Cantlon

**North Dakota State Library
Bismarck, N. D. 58505**



Foreword

Recent history is like a sack of rags; it has no order and seems to have little use until some quilt-maker takes it in hand. However, once the odd lots have been arranged in a pattern, many of the individual pieces are perceived to be interesting and the finished product may be beautiful as well as useful.

Our history patchwork shares another characteristic with a good family quilt; something from everyone goes into it - a piece of Dad's red plaid shirt; grandma's flannel nightgown, and sister's confirmation dress. We wanted something from everyone and we have tried to contact as many families as we could reach, asking them to share family histories, anecdotes and pictures, concentrating particularly on the very early residents of Drake and the area.

Many thank yous are in order, most importantly to the committee from the Drake Senior Citizens - Andrew Jans, Gerald Krueger and Ed Merbach - who sought out histories and pictures and are overseeing the sale of this book. We were assisted by Roy Hegge and Verdie Shink in identifying pictures and locating strayed former residents.

To Walter Olstad for lending his mother's precious scrapbook, to Frances Kloehn of Balfour for her many written contributions, to Orville Aanrud of Balfour for the use of his 1910 McHenry County Atlas, to Jubilee chairman Lyle Bakken who got us started, and to Mr. and Mrs. Math Paulus for numerous answers to a newcomer's questions: my thanks.

On the formal research side, I am indebted to The Minot Daily News for use of photographs and to the staff of the State Historical Library at Bismarck. A complex project such as this could not be successfully completed without the technical and editorial skills of such people as Joe Linnertz and his staff at the McHenry County Journal-Register at Velva, especially Mary Anderson, Debbie Haga and Betty Kelner, and the staff of the McLean County Independent at Garrison.

This collection, begun a year ago, is an accumulation from varied sources, bound or microfilmed volumes of old Drake, Balfour, Anamoose, Velva, Towner and Minot papers; atlases; diaries and scrapbooks; interviews with older residents and some younger ones who share my enthusiasm for earlier times; and, of course, the family and organization histories.

In order to keep family and group stories confined to a number of pages we could afford, we limited family pictures to two and kept a tight rein on organizations. We made as few changes as possible in the stories.

Owners of photographs are identified in parentheses at the end of the description under the pictures. Printed at the end of each family or organization history is the name of the person who wrote or submitted the item - to be congratulated or challenged!

Cleo Cantlon



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"Things bygone are the only things that last;
 The present is mere grass, quick-mown away;
 The past is stone and stands forever fast."

Eugene Lee-Hamilton

Pictured on page one are the Christ Merbach photo of the Merbach family in 1913; a fine old Soo locomotive picture owned by Gust Janavaras; and Drake's Main Street looking north, lent by Wally Schrader. The photograph split on pages two and three is Walter Olstad's, the Farm Club gathered at Peter Johnson's to picnic about 1910.

Family Histories

The Ervin Adam family

Ervin Adam was born March 14, 1906, at Skogmo in McLean County, a son of John and Carolina Adam. He attended grade school in Rosenfeld Township, graduated from Drake High School, and attended college in Valley City. He taught one year in New Germantown Township, Sheridan County, and has farmed all his life south of Drake.

In 1932 he married Myrtle Helstedt of Bergen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lars M. Helstedt. For three years the young Adams lived with his parents before moving, in 1935, to their own home where their son Don now lives.

They have four children: Mrs. Ron (Geraldine) Larson, Minot; Don; Mrs. Carol (Faye) Christiansen, Enderlin; and Mrs. William (Grace) Wald, Valley City. There are seven grandchildren: Melinda Adam; Patricia, Lynnette, Doreen and Lance Christiansen; and David and Daniel Wald.

In 1949 Ervin and Myrtle purchased the John Bruner house on Main Street moving in that fall when school started.

The Adams are members of the Drake Baptist Church which Ervin has served as trustee for 18 years and has served as assistant and teacher of the adult Sunday School class.

He has served on election boards, on the Rosenfeld Township school Board, as precinct committeeman and for 12 years as secretary for the Republican Central Committee for Sheridan and Kidder Counties. He was president of the Drake Farmers Elevator board when the elevator was organized and built.

Myrtle Adam, who taught school for five years, presently is clerk of the Drake Baptist Church; Sunday School teacher; Baptist Mission Circle treasurer; Drake Library Guild secretary-treasurer; and Drake Senior Citizens treasurer.

— Mrs. Ervin Adam

The John J. Adam family

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Adam came to the U.S. with three sons in 1902 from Atmagea, Romania. Both John and his wife Carolina were born there in 1877 and they were married there in 1896.

Their sons were Jacob, born Dec. 18, 1895, who died April 18, 1965; Gustav, born Jan. 7, 1899, who died July 19, 1937; and Robert who was a year old on April 18, 1902, the day they boarded the oceansteamer "Moltke." They arrived at Fessenden on May 3, 1902, and stayed with John's sister, Mrs. Lena Edinger.



Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Adam and granddaughter, Melinda. (Ervin Adam)

Two weeks later they came to McLean County and homesteaded at Skogmo where they lived until the fall of 1908 when they moved eight miles south of Drake in Rosenfeld Township, Sheridan County, to a farm purchased from Fred Schlag.

Three children were born at Skogmo: Claudina, born Jan. 25, 1905, and died April 18, 1905; Ervin, born March 14, 1906; and Mrs. Herman (Alvina) Myreen, born Feb. 29, 1908, and died April 22, 1953.

Children born in Rosenfeld Township were Mrs. Joseph (Amanda) Moore, born Dec. 9, 1911; Herbert, born March 16, 1916, and died May 7, 1973; and Edwin, born June 6, 1917, and died April 15, 1918.

John and Carolina farmed in Rosenfeld Township until July 16, 1945, when he retired and moved into Drake. Just 11 days later he died at his home; his wife followed Oct. 16, 1953.

Mr. Adam was the first homesteader in the area to build a house from lumber. He and his brother-in-law, Fred Kolschefske, went to Balfour to get the lumber with a four-horse team. South of Balfour they had to cross the Wintering River with the load of lumber with Fred riding one of the horses on the lead team and John riding the lumber to keep it balanced, an experience he recounted many times to his children!

John was one of the pioneers who petitioned the U.S. government, along with John Skogmo, for a post office at Skogmo with a Star Route out of Drake.

Adams were charter members of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church. He was active in school affairs, serving as director or clerk many years. He served three terms in the North Dakota House of Representatives from Sheridan County in 1935, 1937 and 1939 sessions and two terms as state Senator in 1941 and 1943.

Some of John Adam's early projects were selling eye glasses; selling kerosene mantle lamps; and being one of the first road bosses. In 1917 he started selling Milbank Fire Insurance which he continued until his death.

On July 9, 1915, he bought his first car from B.B. Bennett of Drake at a cost of \$350; it was an Overland Model 83 1915.

A progressive farmer, John bought an Illinois Coal Burning Steamer on Aug. 2, 1916. The 32-inch, 20-horsepower thresher cost \$3500 and it burned the first hour of threshing in 1917!

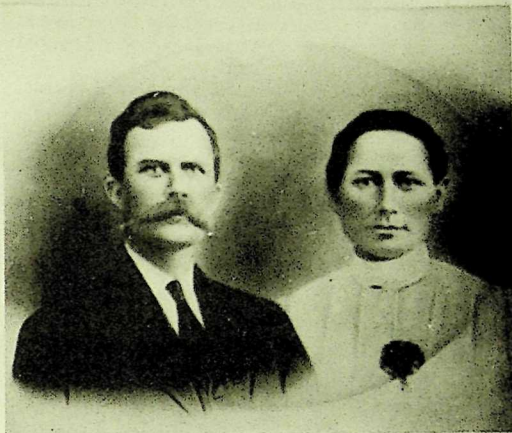
In 1911 and 1912 he had a beautiful gray stallion named Frank licensed to stand for public service.

On Dec. 15, 1919, he was appointed Census Enumerator for the 1920 census. In 1918 John purchased a 25-horsepower Twin City Gas Tractor with 7-foot wheels; in 1927 he bought his first International 15-30 tractor; and in 1928 he bought a "D" John Deere tractor and a 28-inch John Deere separator.

Around 1921 he was hail adjuster for the state of North Dakota.

Surviving children are Robert of Merced, Calif.; Ervin of Drake; and Mrs. Joe Moore of Courtney.

— Ervin Adam



John and Carolina Adam-1917. (Ervin Adam)

Anamoose May 1, 1920, they lived on a farm north of Balfour until the spring of 1940 when they moved to Drake.

Melvin and Mildred, the oldest of all their 11 children, graduated from Balfour High School while the others—Arnold, Robert, Laura, Norman, Dennis, Thomas, Betty, Russell and Joseph Jr.— graduated from Drake High School.

The implement business formed in the fall of 1939 became known as the Alme Implement Company, a name carried on today. It was operated by the Alme brothers, with their father Joe until his death in November 1963.

When the firm was established, they were dealers for J.I. Case Company, Minneapolis Moline, and the Oliver Corporation, as well as selling and servicing Dodge and Plymouth cars and Dodge trucks. In addition they were dealers for some home appliances and many other retail merchandise items.

Since the death of Joseph Alme, his sons Robert and Norman have operated the business.

Mr. Alme was nearing the end of his second term in the North Dakota legislature at the time of his death. In earlier years, he had also been involved in school and township affairs and served on the Drake City Council.

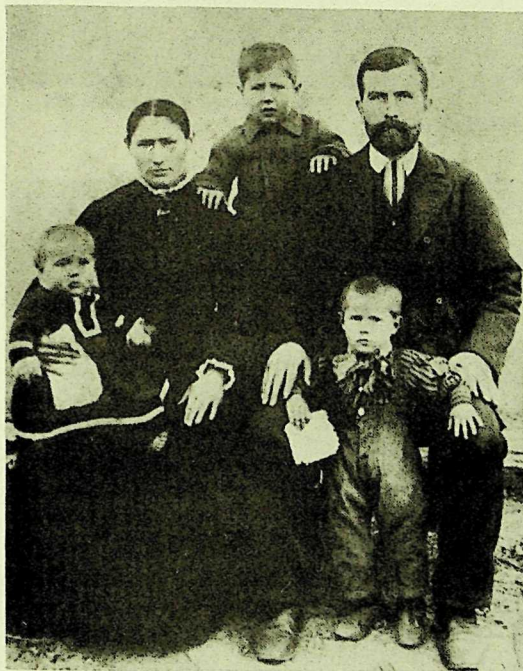
The implement business he founded began in a small building on the east side of Main Street, between the bakery and the old Bossert Implement company. The Silver Bar now occupies that approximate location. In 1940 the firm moved to its present location and a brick building was erected about 1945.

In 1968 the firm was destroyed by fire but was rebuilt on lots across the street about two years later. In the meanwhile, business was conducted from the Kjos building a block south.

Almes noted the Moline and Oliver lines they have handled since 1939 have now combined. The Chevrolet dealership was added to the Alme line after Bencer Kjos left the business.

Melvin Alme, who married Laura Field, is the Drake postmaster. Mildred Alme Canevello lives in Chicago with her family. Arnold, who is married to Madge Follman, lives at Riverdale. He works with the Army Corps of Engineers and farms at Butte and Balfour.

Robert, who lives in Drake and is married to Roberta Hegge, and Norman, who lives on a Balfour farm and is married to Alice Mergel, operate the family business. Dennis of St. Paul, Minn., employed by the Univac Corporation, is married to Colleen Bienek.



Mr. and Mrs. John J. Adam with Gustav, Jacob and Robert in Romania, 1902. (Ervin Adam)

The Joseph Alme family

Joseph T. Alme, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Alme, was born Sept. 26, 1898, at Chaffee and his wife, Betsey was born March 12, 1900, at Balfour. After their marriage at

Tom and his wife, the former Pat Reider, own the family farm near Balfour. Betty and Bob Wiper live in Chicago, and Russell, married to Judy Schuh, worked with a Minneapolis computer firm.

Laura and her husband Lyle Welsh lived in Duchesne, Utah, until her death in December 1974. Joseph Jr., director of bands in the Minot Public School system, is married to Joyce Warner.

There are 39 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Betsey Alme died in 1972. All the Almes were members of St. Margaret's Catholic Church during their years in Drake.

— Melvin Alme, Norman Alme

The Adolf B. Anderson family

Adolph B. Anderson was born in Norway. He came to this country in 1898 and homesteaded in Round Lake Township in 1901, where he lived the rest of his life.

He married Lillie Corban from Cadiz, Ohio, in 1906.

There were seven children, Arthur, Olaf, John, Emil, Melvin, Lillian and Francis. Olaf, Emil and Lillian attended Drake High School.

Arthur remained on the home farm. He died in 1965 and the farm was sold to Kenneth Seehafer who owns and operates it.

Olaf moved to Kalispell, Mont. He died in 1971. John died in infancy. Emil lives in Moorhead, Minn., where he moved in 1945. Melvin moved to Brampton, N.D., after returning from serving overseas during World War II. He now lives in Alexandria, Minn.

Lillian worked in a war plant at Rochester, Minn., and later moved to Detroit, Mich. Francis was killed in the Philippines during World War II.

— Emil Anderson

The Jack Anton family

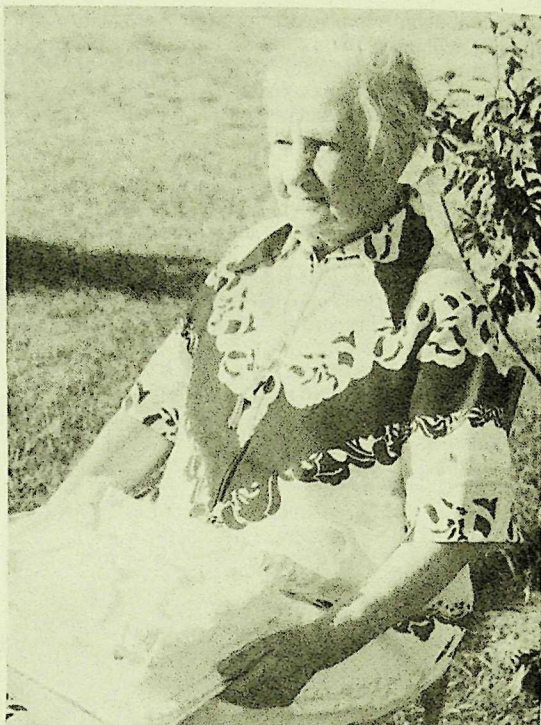
Catherine (Katie) Loesch of Vermillion, Minn., and John (Jack) Anton, also a Minnesota native, were the first couple to be married in the Catholic church in Drake. Elizabeth Ficker and Anton Ficker attended them at the wedding in 1909.

Antons homesteaded south of Drake. Later they managed the West Hotel in Drake for several years beginning in 1921, and later they operated the hotel in Townner. Mr. Anton died in April 1925.

They were the parents of 10 children: Helen who died at the age of 20; John; Minnie Quammen, Froid, Mont.; Margaret Davis, Velva; Marie Sandhofner, Butte; Annie Armstrong, Los Angeles, Calif.; Gertrude Fadness, New York; Catherine Selberg, Paradise, Calif; Billy of Drake; and Donald who died several years ago.

There are 26 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Anton still lives in Drake. She is 90 years old.

— Mrs. Katie Anton



Kate Anton, age 90.



The parents of Kate Anton.

The Fredrich Arndt family

Fredrick Arndt Jr., was born January 27, 1876, in Rumania and grew up in the district of Dubuidja. In 1898, with many other friends and relatives, he came to this country.

He was married to Rosa Kerner at Hazen on March 4, 1902. In 1905 they homesteaded in Sheridan County southwest of Drake. Mr. Arndt had the distinction of being the only one in this area who owned his homestead of land until he died. Many others either sold out or lost their homesteads in the 1930's.

In the late 1930's and the early 1940's when fur prices were high, Mr. Arndt had wolf hounds which he used for hunting fox, coyote and other furs.

In 1949 he helped two young people from Germany come to the United States through church missions. In 1956 he got a passport to visit his relatives in West and East Germany.

He lived on his homestead until 1960 when he moved to Drake. He passed away February 16, 1956, at the age of 89.

He had three brothers, Jacob, Ferdinand and Carl, and three sisters, Mrs. Carl (Rosa) Wiersch, Mrs. John (Metalana) Sauter, and Annie Grieb of Germany, all now deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Arndt had three daughters, Emma, Ella and Annie who died during childhood years, and three sons, Gus, who died in infancy, and two sons, August of Balfour and Albert in Drake.

Fredrick's wife, Rosa, was born at Delmont, South Dakota, on June 11, 1882. When she was a young girl, her family moved to Hazen where they homesteaded north of the city.

She had two sisters, Mrs. Mollie Hershkorn, who is deceased, and Mrs. Lydia Kurt, Hazen, and four brothers, Gus, Edward and John, all deceased, and William at Lodi, California. Mrs. Arndt died January 9, 1956, at the family home.

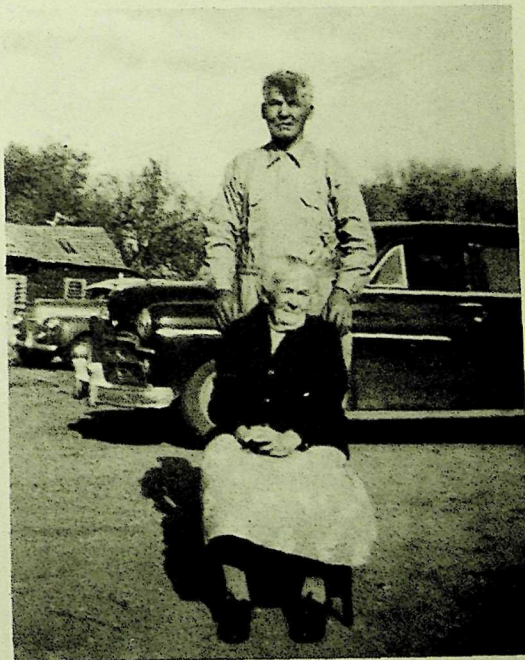
Albert Arndt



Fredrick and Rosa Arndt, 1902.



The Jack Antons 1909.



9 Fredrick and Rosa Arndt.

The John Bakken family

John Bakken was born in Norway in 1873. At the age of 16 he came to America and in 1896 he became a U.S. citizen. In 1899 he took up a homestead near Guthrie, as well as working on the railroad.

John returned to Norway to visit relatives in 1903 and married Thea Carlson in 1904. They returned to his homestead six miles north of Drake in Streg Township. In their later years they moved to Drake.

Mrs. Bakken was born in 1883. She and her husband were baptized and married in the same church in Norway.

They had 11 children, Casper of Minot; Theodore of Drake, now deceased; Arthur of California, now deceased; Lawrence of Minot; Thelma of Guthrie, now deceased; Thomas in California; Olga of Guthrie, now deceased; Mrs. Henry (Bertha) Schnase, Minot; Mrs. Mylon (Alyce) Hanson in Texas; Mrs. Al (Dorothy) Heidemeyer in California; and James in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Bakken were members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Balfour. The children attended Guthrie special school district and Drake High School.

Mr. Bakken died in 1940 and his wife the following year.
— Casper Bakken



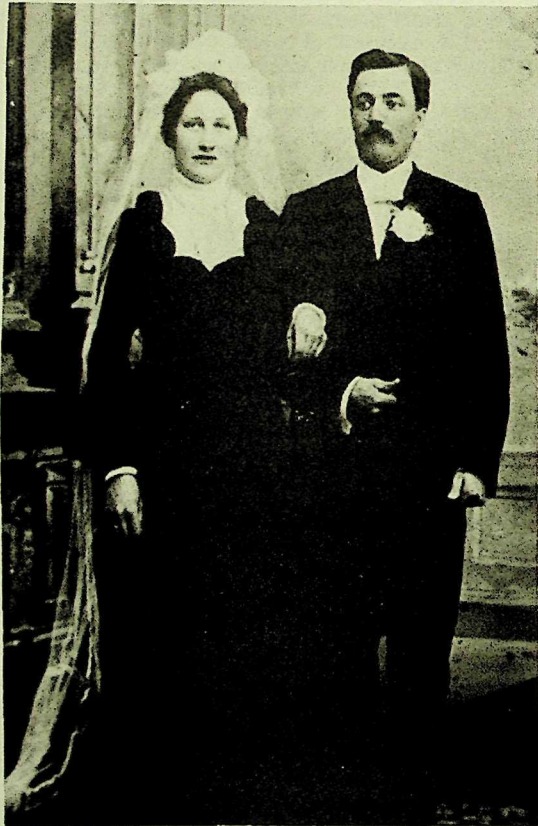
John Bakken. (Bertha Schnase)

The Knute A. Bakken family

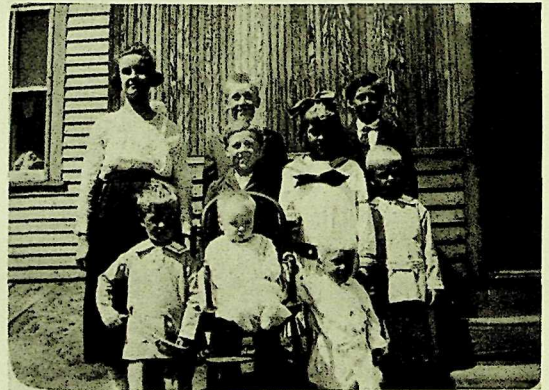
Knute A. Bakken was born Sept. 15, 1873, in Hemsedal, Norway. He came to the United States, to Northwood, Iowa, in 1893, and four years later moved to Walcott, N.D., and then to Kindred.

He married Lena Brenholen, who was born at Elizabeth, Minn., on May 17, 1882. They homesteaded four miles north of Karlsruhe in 1901, where their first seven children were born.

In 1916 they moved into Drake where they lived 7 years. Mr. Bakken worked at the State Mill which was located in Drake during the summer and on the railroad section crew during the winter. In 1920 he suffered a



Mr. and Mrs. John Bakken. (Bertha Schnase)



The Knute Bakken children about 1920. (Alfred Bakken)



Knute Bakken family, 1936: Front, Evelyn, Knute, Olga, Mrs. Bakken, Nora. Middle: Alfred, Alma, Amanda, Alex. Back: Gilman, Clarence, Oliver and Harris. (Mrs. Norman Slinde)

The growing family later rented a farm 1½ miles southwest of Drake where they lived four years. Later they moved to farms at Kongsberg and south of Velva. In 1937, following the death of his wife, Mr. Bakken moved into Velva to live with a son. He died July 17, 1960.

The children recalled some of the early days in Drake; one daughter remembered trading four dozen eggs for two books when the school board decided parents should provide pupils' books.

The children are Alma, born April 28, 1905, now Mrs. Sam Lehr of Minot; Alexander, who was born June 28, 1905, and died in France in World War II; Alfred Bakken of Velva, who was born Sept. 5, 1908, and married Lillian Skramstad; Clarence Oliver, born Mar. 12, 1910 and died

Sept. 8, 1911; Amanda of Velva, who was born Sept. 21, 1911, and married Norman Slinde; Clarence Carlton, who was born April 21, 1913, and died in 1968 in Auburn, Wash.; Harris, born May 24, 1915, married to Amy Stenberg, and died May 12, 1965; Oliver, who was born Aug. 28, 1917, and lived at Coty, Wyo., with his wife Geneva; Gilman of Milton, N.D., born Mar. 29, 1919, and married to Isabelle Lemmage; Nora of Springfield, Ore., born Oct. 9, 1920, and married to Carroll Holte; Evelyn of Fargo, born Nov. 13, 1922, and married to Theodore Koskela; Olga of Minot, born Feb. 16, 1925; and Adeline who was born Aug. 27, 1928, and died Nov. 21, 1928.

— Alfred Bakken, Mrs. Norman Slinde

The Thomas C. Bakken family

Thomas C. Bakken was born in 1867 and his wife, Johanna, 1872, both in Norway. They were married there.

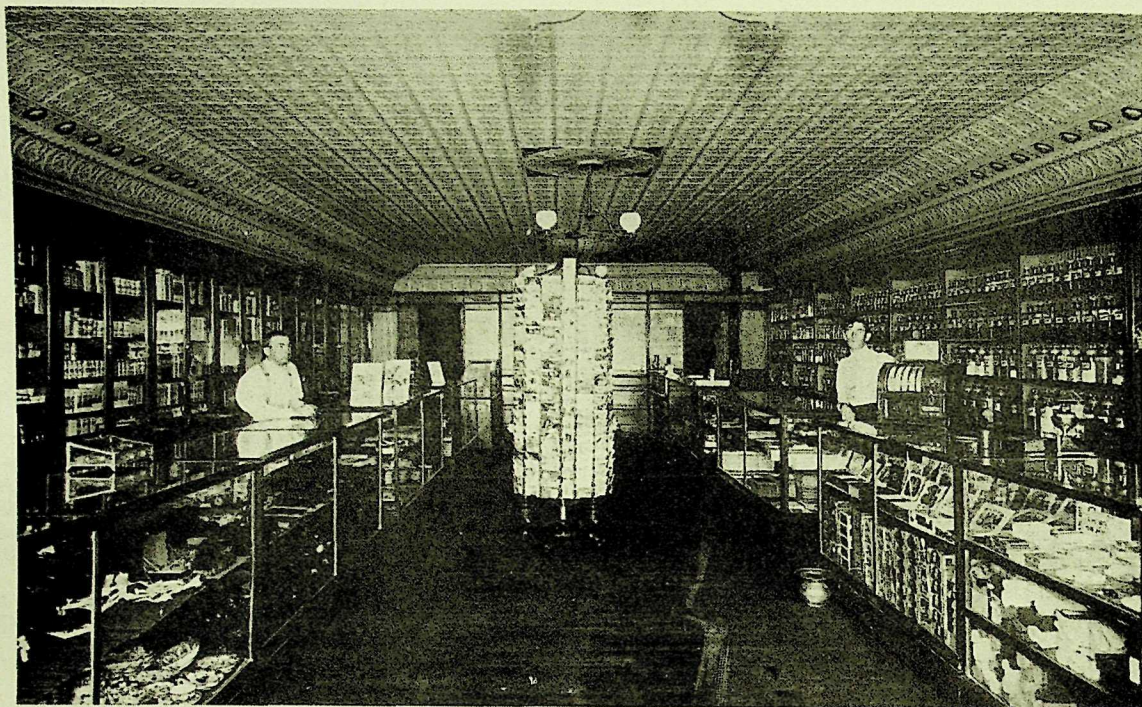
In 1899 they came to the United States, homesteading northeast of Drake, in Stregre Township.

They had two children, Signa Warp of Tacoma, Wash., and Carl of California, both now deceased.

Mr. Bakken died in 1909. Mrs. Bakken stayed on the farm until 1936 when she moved into Drake. She died in 1954.



Thomas and Johanna with Carl and Signa Bakken. (Bertha Schnase)



Drake Drugstore on the west side of Main Street, 1908, with B. B. Bennett and Rily Bennett. (Dean Bennett)

The B.B. Bennett family

B.B. Bennett Sr., born in 1881, in Dundee, N.Y., came to Drake about 1907.

He and Maude Ginther, who were married in 1904, had two sons, Russell and B.B. Bennett Jr. B.B. Sr. married Jenny Hersey, a teacher in Drake, in 1913. She died Aug. 24, 1973.

B.B. Bennett Sr. was a druggist and operated a hardware store. He was involved in a bank and loan company as well as the original Drake Motors. He was still licensed as a druggist at the time of his death in 1942. He was a member of the Congregational church.

His son Russell was married to Helen Olson in 1932 and B.B. Bennett Jr. married Alice Peerboom in 1930. Both sons are deceased now.

— Dean Bennett

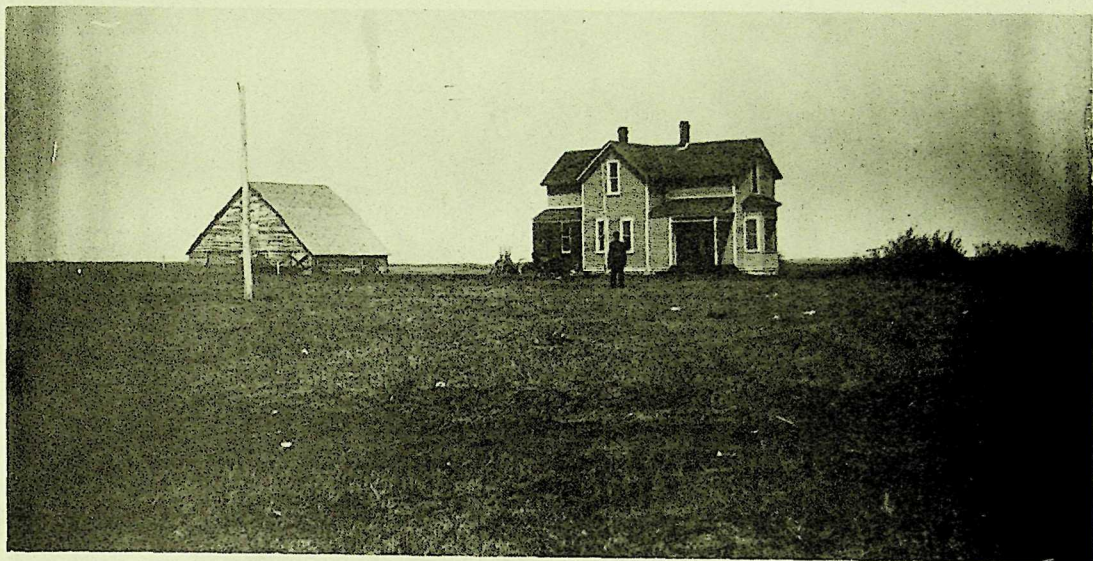


H.R.W. Bentley. (Harold Harris)

The H.R.W. Bentley family

H.R.W. Bentley, who was postmaster for the Drake area before Drake, Anamoose, Balfour or Harvey were towns, was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 22, 1854. He worked in a hoop and barrel plant there for a time before coming to North Dakota in 1885 where he spent the rest of his life.

When Mr. Bentley arrived at his ranch site, now the Harold Harris farm just south of Highway 52 east of Lake Bentley, he was one of the earliest settlers. His place became a community center.



The H.R.W. Bentley homestead, 1909. (Harold Harris)

At that time the lake was called Brush Lake. Later, because there were two Brush Lakes in the state, it was decided to change the name to honor Bentleys.

The first post office which served the area was set up on April 24, 1900, with Mr. Bentley as the first postmaster, and mail was first hauled from Towner.

Also hauled by team and wagon were groceries and lumber, including that for the house Mr. Bentley built which still stands on the ranch. That replaced the one-room sod house on the edge of the lake. Later mail was hauled from Harvey and then from Anamoose. He was appointed Drake postmaster in 1902.

Mr. Bentley married Anna Schnable in about 1904.

He served as Sheriff in horse and buggy days and also was a game warden at one time after towns were built. Although he had interest and investments in several businesses in surrounding towns, his main interest was in ranching and Angus cattle. Well into his 80s, Mr. Bentley was a familiar sight at the South Saint Paul markets where he hauled his cattle. Descendants of his original herd may be found in the cattle now in the Harris herd.

Mr. Bentley had a stationary baler set up. All through several winters he and others hauled hay in to bale it and ship it out.

Mr. Bentley died in 1942 at the age of 88 and Mrs. Bentley in 1947.

— Harold Harris



Ernest Schwartz, who ranched north of Anamoose, and H.R.W. Bentley. (Harold Harris)

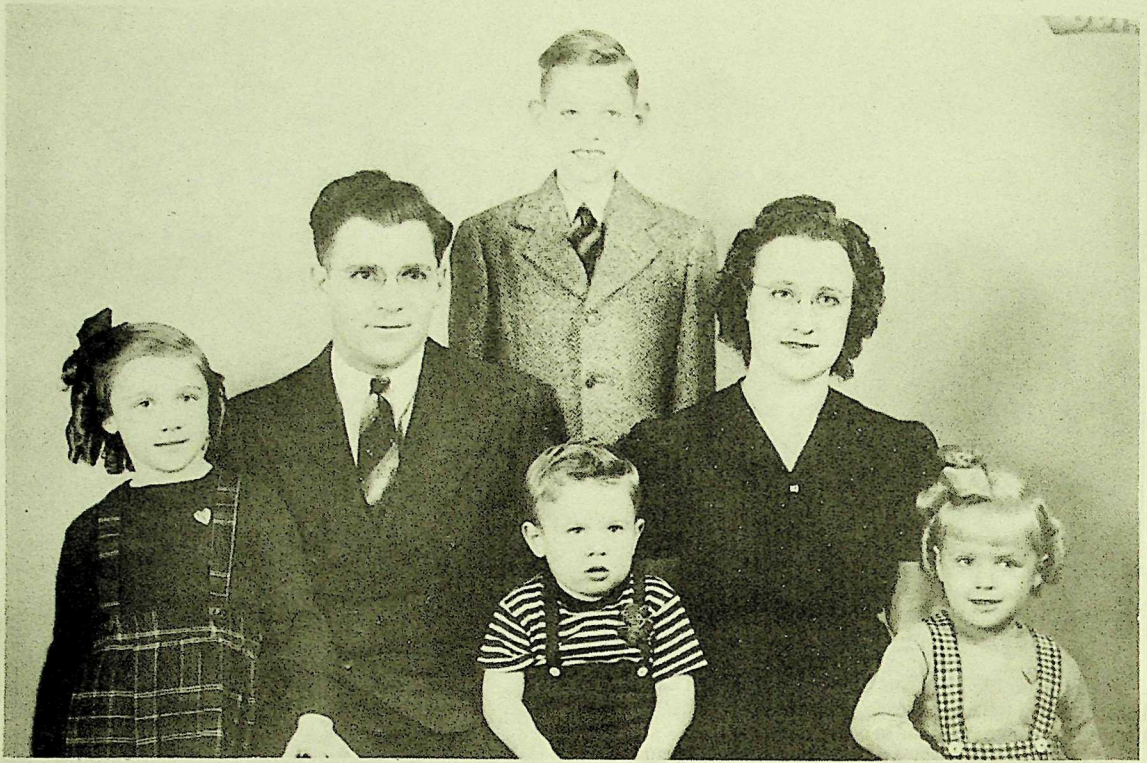
The Gust Berndt family

Gust Berndt was born at Newton, Wis., Jan. 1, 1881. He came by train as far as Anamoose in 1898.

On Nov. 5, 1905, he was married at Fessenden to Frederika Senechal, who was born Nov. 5, 1887, at Long Prairie, Minn.

Their children were Mrs. Ewald (Agnes) Riedel, Barnesville, Minn.; Ethel, deceased; Rueben, Anamoose;

Mrs. George (Grace) Elliott, Thompson Falls, Mont.; Mrs. Jim (Elva) Johnson, Sidney, Mont.; Amy, who is deceased; Albert of Billings, Mont.; Mrs. M. (Gladys) Martin, Fairview, Mont.; Walter of Billings; Gordon of



The Sam Bettcher family. (Harold Harris)

Fairview, Mont.; Leslie, Sidney, Mont.; Marcia, who is deceased; and Russell of Sidney, Mont.

Mr. Berndt homesteaded seven miles north and four miles east of Drake near Round Lake in 1903. He lived there until he retired in 1955 and sold the farm to William Nissen.

The family belonged to Immanuel Lutheran Church until 1930 when they joined St. John's at Funston. Mr. Berndt, who was a school board and township clerk for 45 years, died April 11, 1959. Mrs. Berndt died Nov. 15, 1943.

— Rueben Berndt

About 1908 the Bernhardtts moved to another farm just west of Brush Lake and in 1919 to Cottonwood Lake Township. Later they moved into Balfour where they died in a home fire in April 1943.

Their son, Newton, born Aug. 11, 1905, was married Oct. 10, 1928, to Gladys Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Olaf (Ole) Olson of Balfour. She was born July 3, 1905. They farmed near Balfour for a number of years. In 1943 Newton began working for the Great Northern Railroad and in July 1944 the family moved to Minot.

Newton and Gladys have three children: Alden of Seattle, Wash.; Don in California and Ellen Truitt in Louisiana.

— Newton Bernhard

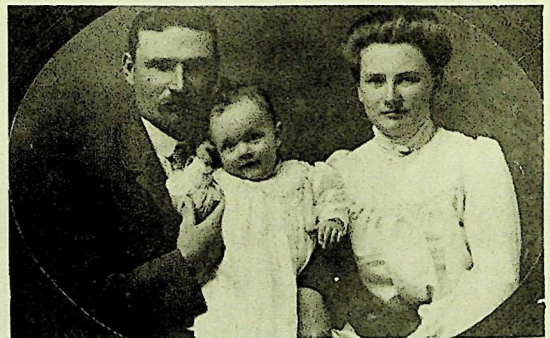
The Edward Bernhardt family

Edward Bernhardt was born Nov. 30, 1870, in London, Ontario, where his father had an interest in a flax mill. The Bernhardt family later moved to LeMars, Iowa, for a time when the mill moved.

In 1899 Edward, his brother George and sister Louise came to this area with a group of LeMars residents and took up homesteads two miles west of Drake.

About 1902 Edward was married to Martha Knuth at her parents' home near Balfour.

Edward was one of the first mailmen in the area, carrying mail from Anamoose to the Brush Lake postoffice, the first one to serve area residents. He made the trip three times a week, using mules for a time.



Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bernhardt and son. (Harold Harris)



Gottlieb Beutler home with Mrs. Harry Harris, Mrs. Harry Melzer, Gottlieb, Mrs. Wilbert Melzer, Ida Beutler and Arthur Gerber. (Gary Bettcher)

The Samuel Bettcher family

Samuel Bettcher, the son of Andreas and Anna Elizabeth (Almer) Bottcher, was born April 8, 1857, in the German colony of Paris, Bessarabia, South Russia.

When he was 19, Samuel left Russia and settled at Atmagea, Romania. On Nov. 26, 1876, at Cataloi, Romania, he married Maria Elizabeth Sperr, daughter of Johann Speer, who was born March 2, 1857, at Cataloi, a German community.

Their 10 children, born at Atmagea were John, born Oct. 10, 1877; Martin, Oct. 15, 1880; Andrew, Nov. 22, 1882; Anna, Feb. 20, 1885; Susanna, Jan. 7, 1888; Helena, May 9, 1890; Maria, Nov. 19, 1892; Sophia, June 12, 1897; and Minnie and Elizabeth who died as infants.

The Bettcher family immigrated to the United States, sailing May 27, 1898, from Hamburg to New York City on the S.S. Furst Bismarck. From New York they took a train to Anamoose, then went by wagon to their homestead at Rosenfeld. Johann Sperr, Maria's father, traveled with them.

Samuel and his son John each had a homestead a mile northeast of Rosenfeld. On June 7, 1902, John married Emilia Alexander. She died Dec. 30, 1906, during childbirth and is buried at the Rosenfeld Cemetery, located on what was then John's homestead. John married Maria Alexander, a sister of Emilia.

Martin homesteaded three miles south of Rosenfeld in January 1902 and he married Magdalena Ehrman March 31, 1904.

Andrew and his good friend Samuel Ehrman each homesteaded about 15 miles southwest of Rosenfeld in December 1903. Andrew married Anna Ehrman Dec. 18, 1905, and he died May 18, 1909, of a ruptured appendix, leaving two children. He is buried in the Anamoose Cemetery.

Anna Bettcher married Rev. Samuel Blumhagen, a Baptist minister, on Nov. 14, 1901. She died Dec. 17, 1910, of a tooth infection, leaving four children.

Susanna Bettcher married Christian Hauff Jan. 28, 1906, and Helena Bettcher married Friedrich Schultes who worked in the butcher shop in Kief.

Samuel and Maria Bettcher, with several of their children, were founders and charter members of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church.

In 1910, Samuel and Maria; her father; and their children, John and Maria and family, Susanna and

Christian and family, Martin and Magdalena and family, Helena and Fred Schultes, and Maria and Sophia, both yet unmarried, moved north of Mapel Creek, Sask. Samuel died Nov. 1, 1923, at Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Andrew's son, Samuel Andrew Bettcher, married Esther Beutler, daughter of Gottlieb Beutler, Dec. 22, 1931, and they lived in the Guthrie area during the thirties before moving to Minnesota.

— Gary D. Bettcher

The Gottlieb Beutler family

Gottlieb Beutler, born to Micholas and Rosina (Andres) Beutler in Steffisburg, Switzerland, on June 9, 1849, came to America in 1851 with his parents. They sailed from France to New York City in September 1851 on the S.S. Le Havre, then by canal boat to Dover, Ohio, where they settled near Sugarcreek, Ohio.

In 1867 shortly after the Civil War they moved to California, Mo. Gottlieb was married to Anna Mutti in 1872. She was born Feb. 5, 1846, in Gisenstein, Switzerland.

Their children are Louis Charles, born June 9, 1873; Ida, Mrs. Ernst Gerber, born Oct. 4, 1874; Henry John, Aug. 8, 1876; William Edward, born 1878; Samuel Alvin, Oct. 8, 1880; Fredrich Norman, March 11, 1882; and Emma, born Aug. 12, 1887 who died as an infant. Gottlieb's wife Anna became ill and died Sept. 7, 1888.

On Dec. 5, 1889, at California, Mo., Gottlieb married Ida Francis Gerlach, who was born in Marschwitz, Saxony, Germany on Nov. 15, 1866. Their children born in Missouri were Amelia Annie, Mrs. Gust Strege, born Nov. 23, 1890; Gertrude Louise, Mrs. Harry Harris, born Sept. 26, 1894, and two sons, Arthur and Albert, who died as infants.

The land in Missouri was hard to come by and very expensive. To give his sons an opportunity to homestead, Gottlieb moved to North Dakota in 1900. He sold his farm and his interest in a cheese factory, loaded his livestock and implements in boxcars, and moved by train to North Dakota.

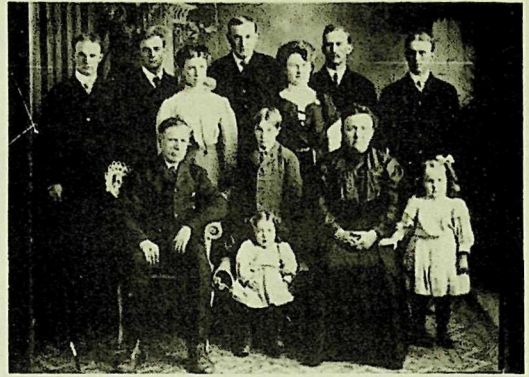
Those who moved were Gottlieb and his wife, Ida; his sons and daughters, Henry, William, Samuel, Fredrich, Amelia and Gertrude; his married son Louis with his wife, the former Elizabeth Roth, and their children, Rose, Mrs. Clarence Olson, and Harry. Gottlieb and Ida also took an infant grandson, Arthur Gerber whose mother, Ida Beutler Gerber, died shortly after his birth.

They arrived at Anamoose and traveled by wagon to their claims. Gottlieb's claim was in Section 4 of Strege Township and Louis, Henry, William, Samuel and Fred homesteaded in the same vicinity.

They immediately built their claim shack and later their sod house where two more daughters were born to Gottlieb and Ida: Minnie, Mrs. Wilbert Melzer, born April 6, 1904, and Elsie Margaret, Mrs. Harry Melzer, born Oct. 25, 1905.

About 1906 or 1907 their new frame house was finished, complete with etched and stained-glass windows and hand-carved cupboards. On May 5, 1910, an unexpected event occurred: twins were born to Gottlieb and Ida. They were Esther Florence Beutler, Mrs. Sam Bettcher, and Lester Lawrence Beutler.

Gottlieb was active in church activities. When the family first moved to North Dakota, he was a member and trustee at the Anamoose Baptist Church. When the



The Gottlieb Beutler family. (Mrs. McCarty)

Guthrie Baptist Church was founded, he was a charter member and served as a deacon and trustee.

Gottlieb died May 12, 1917. His wife, Ida, remained on the farm until 1937 when she moved to Minnesota to be closer to her children; she died Oct. 10, 1959, at Alexandria, Minn.

Henry and William Beutler were proprietors of a Drake hardware store for a number of years and Sam and Fred Beutler owned and operated a blacksmith shop and implement business there.

— Gary Bettcher

The John Jacob Nicholas Beutler family

Nicholas Beutler came to Ohio from Switzerland in 1851. He lived near Sugarcreek, Ohio, until 1867 when he moved to Moniteau County, Missouri, where he died Dec. 10, 1890.

John Jacob Nicholas Beutler, ninth of Nicholas' 10 children, was born July 10, 1859, in Ohio and died May 12, 1927, in Guthrie. He was a farmer in the Drake-Guthrie area and about 1914 he owned the hardware store in Drake.

John was married to Mary M. Keil on April 21, 1881, in California, Missouri. They had three daughters, Bertha Cornelia, born July 7, 1884, in Sedalia, Mo.; Rosetta Mary, born July 3, 1886, in California, Mo.; and Mary E., born Aug. 14 and died Sept. 27, 1891 in California, Mo. Mary M. Keil Beutler, who was born March 17, 1859, died in childbirth when their third daughter was born.

John was married to Margaret Schilb on April 27, 1892. She was born Sept. 12, 1862, in Cooper County, Missouri, and died June 28, 1948, in Moorhead, Minn. They had two sons, John J.M., born July 7, 1894, in California, Mo., and David Sylvester, born Sept. 16, 1896, in California, Mo.

John's oldest daughter, Bertha, married Henry John Beutler Nov. 29, 1904, in Glendive, Mont. He was born Aug. 8, 1876, in California, Mo., and died Oct. 27, 1951, in Minot. They had one daughter, Rachel Marie, who married Pete Lommen. Bertha died in Drake June 16, 1942.

John's second daughter, Rosetta, married Henry's brother, William Edward Beutler, who was born in

California, Mo., in 1878 and died in Drake October 1940. They had two children: Ralph who was born Nov. 1, 1904, in Drake; married Gladys Peterson Oct. 24, 1928, in Moorhead; and died Dec. 7, 1969, in Flint, Mich.; and a daughter, Lillian, who was born March 23, 1907, in Drake. She married Weston C. Bye Nov. 10, 1905, in Montana and they live in Michigan.

John and Margaret's son, also John was married to Vivia Belzer in 1918. He died Sept. 16, 1974. His family lives in the Moorhead area.

John and Margaret's younger son, David, married Hazel Fay Haman July 17, 1919, in Guthrie where she was a school teacher. They had three children, including the youngest, Donald S. Beutler, who lives in the Pontiac, Mich., area. David died June 25, 1942, at Drayton Plains, Mich.

— Donald S. Beutler



John and Vivian Beutler. (Harold Harris)

Louis C. Beutler family

Louis Charles Beutler, who was born March 23, 1873, at California, Missouri, married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Roth there March 23, 1898. She had come from Berne, Switzerland, to California, Missouri.

Mr. Beutler filed on a homestead in present-day Stregre Township on April 26, 1900, after coming to Fessenden by train and the rest of the way by buggy.

In 1901, the family returned, Louis, his wife and their older children, Harry and Rose. Stock also was brought in an immigrant car, this time to Anamoose.

Louis' father, Gottlieb Beutler, his brothers Henry, William, Samuel and Frederick and his sister Mrs. Ernest

(Ida) Gerber and their families also came to the area in 1901.

The Louis Beutler family first lived in a sod house on the homestead, where Louis' son Eddie now lives and farms with his son, Charles E. Beutler.

Beutlers were charter members of the Guthrie Baptist Church and he served on the Guthrie School Board.

Their children included Harry; Mrs. Clarence (Rose) Olson; and Emil, who are all deceased; Mrs. George (Tillie) Sawyer, Olympia, Wash.; Mrs. Edward (Emma) Haldi and Eddie of Drake; and Mrs. George (Lucille) Lyngstad, who is deceased.

Eddie served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theatre from 1941-1945. He and his wife, the former Sophie M. Nielsen whom he married Oct. 4, 1950, have three children, Mrs. Robert (Elaine) Sharkey; Charles who is married to Debra Bartholomay; and Elizabeth.

Louis Beutler died June 8, 1942, and his wife Dec. 15, 1944.

— Eddie E. Beutler



The A.W. Bibelheimer family. (Harold Harris)

The A.W. Bibelheimer family

Rev. A.W. Bibelheimer, his wife and their son Henry, who was born in 1935, came to the Drake area in 1936. John, now an Air Force major, lives in New Jersey.

A daughter, Dorothy, was born in Drake in 1936 and son John was born in 1946 in Harvey. The children received most of their elementary and high school education in

Drake. Dorothy, Mrs. J.M. McGrath, and John live in California now.

Bibelheimers moved into Drake and were active with the Drake Baptist Church from 1945 to 1951 and from 1969 to 1976, when they retired and moved to California.

They actively participated in the Baptist congregation at Guthrie. Rev. Bibelheimer also was involved with the Commercial Club, as county Red Cross chairman, city auditor, and took part in the program to welcome Dr. B.Z. Hordinsky to Drake.

— Rev. A.W. Bibelheimer

The Archie Billings family

In September 1898 Archie Billings and his brother, Arthur left southern Minnesota to look for homesteads. At Fessenden they got a team and set out southwest about 28 miles to look at land in the vicinity of where Bowden now is.

Then they went to Anamoose, which included a stock yards, section house and a sign saying "Anamoose."

Arriving in the middle of the night the men got into a boxcar and tried to keep warm. In the morning they could see the section house and William McNamara, Soo Line foreman, his family and Alben Anderson who worked with McNamara.

They were told there was a settlement three miles south of Anamoose with an Ernest Waydeman who located new arrivals. He took them out to look northwest of Anamoose but they were not satisfied until they came to Townships 151 in Ranges 76 and 75, where they filed. Archie Billings was the earliest in what was to be Spring Grove township except Mr. Bentley at Brush Lake and Mr. Schnabel.

It took all day with the team to get to Towner to file. Then it was back to Minnesota to gather belongings. They returned in March 1899. Archie got 50 acres of flax in that year. It went about 14 bushels an acre.

The crop was hauled to Anamoose where elevators had been built. Since there was no bank yet, they paid off at the elevator, in gold coins that year. While the price was only 85 cents to a dollar a bushel, Archie was able to send about \$500 back to Minnesota to pay what he owed there.

Archie and his wife, a former neighbor from Minnesota, were married Dec. 18, 1900, by Rev. Fred Knuth on his homestead two miles northwest of Brush Lake. They lived on his homestead for many years. Mr. Billings was active in organizing the Spring Grove Township, the Drake Special School District and the Drake Cooperative Shipping Association.

He later lived in Rogers, Ark.

— Drake Register, July 17, 1952

The Benjamin Blumhagen family

Benjamin Blumhagen, a son of Christian Blumhagen and Sarah Bohnet, was born April 16, 1903, in Spring Grove Township. He attended Brush Lake district schools. He farmed with his father; they owned a threshing machine and threshed for many neighbors.



Mr. and Mrs. Archie Billings. (Walter Olstad)

Benjamin, who was interested in sports, hunting and trapping, was also very mechanical. He liked to build and repair things. His father turned the farm over to Benjamin in 1932 and moved to Anamoose in October 1936. Christian died in 1953 and Sarah in 1942.

Benjamin married Marie Ehrman Oct. 17, 1937, in Drake. They farmed six miles southwest of Drake. He served on the school board, township board, and as a church council member for Trinity Lutheran Church of Drake. They had three children, Jerome Benjamin, Arlo Albert and Dwayne Jacob.

Jerome, born May 24, 1940, in Drake, attended Brush Lake schools, was active in Spring Grove 4-H, and graduated from Drake High School. He married Sharon Doll of Mandan. They and their children, Andrea, Sindy and Tracy, farm near Harvey.

Arlo, born Oct. 19, 1942, attended Brush Lake schools, was active in 4-H, and graduated from Drake High School. He served six years in the Army National Guard. On Sept. 15, 1967, he married Shirley Ann Oster. They farm the Benjamin Blumhagen place six miles southwest of Drake and have two children, Troy and Joey.

Benjamin was active in farming until 1965 when he suffered a stroke and turned some of his farming interests over to his sons. He died Dec. 24, 1969 and is buried in Drake. Mrs. Blumhagen moved into Drake in November 1972.

She is a member of the Drake Library Guild, Tip-Top Homemakers Club, and Trinity Lutheran Church and ALCW. She decorates cakes as a hobby.

— Marie Blumhagen

The Ferdinand Blumhagen family

The Blumhagen forefathers left Germany and moved to Russia when Catherine the Second was Empress of Russia. She was giving free land to encourage settlement and commerce.

Later they left Russia because of military conscription and religious persecution and moved to Turkey which became part of Rumania after the Russian-Turkish War of 1877-78.

During this war the Blumhagen families had most of their possessions stolen. That, plus high taxation and



Ferdinand Blumhagen family. (Herbert Blumhagen)

military service, again made them decide to move— this time to America in 1897 when a land agent told them about the free homesteads and other freedoms of the new land.

They crossed the Atlantic on the ocean liner, The Bismarck, and when they saw the Statue of Liberty on May 10, 1898, she was only 13 years old!

They arrived at Harvey the first of June, purchased horses and cows, wagons and tools. Then they set out west looking for homesteads. They settled five miles south and a mile west of Drake. They built houses with the material at hand— sod— dug wells and broke and cleared the land of rocks so they could farm.

About 1900 the Albrecht Brothers started a general store which later became Anamoose; the towns of Drake and Kief followed a little later. Rural schools were started about this time as well and when the Rosenfeld Baptist Church was started in 1903, Ferdinand Blumhagen and his sons Christ, Julius, Samuel and Daniel with their families were charter members.

Ferdinand Blumhagen was born in 1837 in South Russia and married to Anna Maier in 1863. They had 12 children: Christian (Christ); Daniel; Mrs. Andreas (Anna) Feigner; Julius; Samuel; Gustav; Conrad; Nathaniel; Emil; Gottlieb; Mrs. William (Sophie) Wagner; and Mrs. William (Marie) Seibold.

Christ, Daniel, Anna, Julius, Samuel, Gustav, Conrad, Nathaniel and Emil first settled in the South Drake area though some later moved to Washington and Oregon.

Gottlieb immigrated directly to South America; Sophie settled at Germantown and Marie at Cathay. Those who farmed all their lives near Drake were Christ, Julius and Gustav.

Christ was born Feb. 19, 1866, in Romania and married Sarah Bohnet May 9, 1889. Christ died in July 1953 and his wife in August 1942.

Their children were Mrs. Ernest (Sophie) Stabbert, now deceased; David; Samuel; Mrs. Harry (Justine) Janke; Benjamin; Mrs. Clarence (Marie) Soderberg and Mrs. Ray (Ella) Murphy.

Stabberts had a son Garhart and two daughters, Esther and Erna. David Blumhagen, who was born Nov. 19, 1893, in Romania, married Rose Hirsch and farmed in the area all his life. They had five children, Herbert, Robert, Freda, Florence and Verna. He died Aug. 18, 1966.

Samuel, born Aug. 5, 1895, married Velda Clark and they have a daughter, Elaine. He is a retired Baptist minister at Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Mrs. Janke, born Feb. 26, 1899, lives at Glenview, Ill., and has two sons, Harrison and Sherman.

Benjamin, born April 16, 1903, married Marie Ehrman and farmed all his life in the area. They had three sons, Jerome, Arlo and Duane. He died Dec. 24, 1969.

Mrs. Soderberg, born Jan. 16, 1907, has two daughters, Sarah and Margret.

Mrs. Murphy, born Jan. 17, 1910, taught in the area. Now living at Columbia Falls, Mont., she has two sons, Paul and Patrick, and a daughter, Margaret.

Those still farming in the area include Fred Blumhagen on the homestead of his father, Gustav; Arlo Blumhagen farming F. J. Blumhagen's land; Duane Blumhagen on his Grandfather Christ's homestead; and Herbert farming his great-grandfather's homestead.

— Fred Blumhagen

The Gust Blumhagen family

Gust Blumhagen came with his parents from Ciucurova, Romania, in the spring of 1898. After traveling by steamship Bismarck, they landed at New York. The food, they reported, was lousy and they all became sick.

However, Gust survived the food to homestead a quarter of land six miles south of Drake. Later he bought more land in the same section.

In 1903 at Anamoose he married Louise Muske, who also was born in Ciucurova, in 1883. She came to the U.S. with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Feigner.

Their children who survive are Ray (Reinholt) of Muscatine, Iowa; Mrs. George (Hulda) Eshenko, Velva; Gideon of Milton-Freewater, Ore.; Mrs. Christ (Martha) Erman, Galt, Calif.; Fred (Frederick) of Drake; John of Big Timber, Mont.; and Ruth of Mountlake Terrace, Wash.

Gust moved into Drake in 1943. His wife died in 1950. Later he moved to the Lutheran Home in Minot a few years before his death in 1963.

His son Fred began farming those same quarters when he was 16 and has remained on the land, making improvements. Buildings have been added and old ones replaced.

The last "box-car granary" was destroyed in 1976 and only one of the original buildings is still on the farm, its use as a dwelling of early homestead years now changed to a granary.

Although horse-drawn mowers and dump rakes were used through the 50s, they have been replaced by cabtractors, self-propelled swathers and stack frames. Milk stools and pairs have been replaced with pipelines and milk coolers but cows still wait in the stalls to be milked.

In 1951 Fred married Ella Helseth, an elementary teacher. Their children are Donna, teaching at Stanley; Randy who drowned in 1972; Myron, completing an auto-mechanics course at Wahpeton; and Tamara attending Drake High School.

Fred, who serves on the township board, also served on the rural township school board many years and has been active in church council.

— Fred Blumhagen

The Julius Blumhagen family

Julius and Marie Blumhagen and their two sons came to the Drake area in the spring of 1902. They joined Julius' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Blumhagen, and his brothers and sisters who had come in 1898.

Julius and his family, who were married Nov. 1, 1896, in Romania, came to Anamoose by train after sailing from Romania. The younger of their two sons died soon after their arrival.

The young couple homesteaded in Spring Grove Township and were charter members of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church when it organized Feb. 1, 1903.

Later they moved to Rosenfeld Township of Sheridan County. In 1942 they retired to Anamoose where they lived

until their deaths, Mrs. Blumhagen on Jan. 22, 1951, and Julius on Oct. 3, 1959.

Julius was born Jan. 18, 1875, in Romania and his wife, the former Maria Buchholtz, in Bessarabia, Russia, on March 25, 1878.

Their children are Ferdinand of Truth or Consequences, N.M.; Mrs. Emanuel V. (Anne) Seibold, New Rockford; Mrs. Henry (Martha) Krause, Turtle Lake; Emanuel, Watonga, Okla.; Mrs. Carl L. (Lydia) Peterson, San Jose, Calif.; and twin daughters, Mrs. Frank M. (Emma) Engel of Velva and Mrs. Ira W. (Laura) Smith, Nehalem, Ore. Emma died in 1971 in Oregon. All children except Ferdinand are Drake High School graduates.

— Martha Krause

The Bernhard Bromley family

Bernhard Bromley was born 1½ miles north of Drake and lived there his entire life.

His wife Katherine was born at Orrin. In 1947 she moved to Drake. Following their marriage Bernhard and Katherine moved to the farm in 1950.

Their only son, Roland (Ronnie) Bromley, still lives on the farm.

— Ronnie Bromley



Anton and Mary Bruner, wedding 1911. (Mrs. Frank Rudnick)



The Anton Bruner family, 1944. (Mrs. Frank Rudnick)

The Anton Bruner family

Anton Bruner, son of Michael and Alouisa Bruner, was born in Austria on May 17, 1882. In 1884 the family came to the United States, first settling in Emmons County, Dakota Territory.

About 1902 the family came to McHenry County, with Anton trailing behind the cattle. In 1902 Anton homesteaded 80 acres of land in Schiller Township nine miles northeast of Drake. Later he acquired more land in Round Lake and Strege Townships.

On Nov. 21, 1911, he married Mary Steiner in Eden, S.D. They had 11 children, including one son who died as an infant. Son Otto died Jan. 14, 1972, at the age of 56; Thereisa died Oct. 22, 1976, at the age of 64.

Children living are Mrs. Frank (Isabelle) Rudnick, Anamoose; Mrs. Richard (Irene) Knebel, New Effington, S.D.; Mrs. John (Loretta) Lemer, Balfour; Mrs. Henry (Florence) Lemer, Drake; Mrs. Stanis (Hilda) Buckmeier, Rugby; Mrs. Bennie (Reta) Lemer, Harvey; Hilary of Drake; Mrs. Edwin (Joann) Schneider, New Prague, Minn.

Anton and Mary worked hard to care for their family. In the '30s the black clouds which darkened the skies were not rain but vast clouds of soil blowing from the land. Russian thistles were cut for hay and grasshoppers were so thick that at times they clouded the sun.

But Anton and his wife raised wheat, rye, oats, corn and barley; horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and chickens. Butchering was done on the farm; lard was home rendered; soap made from old lard-tallow and lye.

Smoked sausage, liver sausage and head cheese were made so no meat went to waste; intestines for casings had to be washed many times, scraped and salted.

In the fall the cellar was filled with potatoes, carrots, sauerkraut, pickled watermelon, cucumbers in 20- and 30-gallon crocks; eggs preserved in isinglass. Rhubarb and citron were the main fruit sauce with chokecherries made into syrup and jelly and occasionally, a box of apples bought.

There was a garden plot, even in dry years which they watered from their well by putting a wooden barrel on a stone boat, filling it at the well and hauling it to the garden for evening watering.

The house was heated with lignite coal and corn cobs were used to start the fire when they were available. Water for drinking, cooking and washing had to be carried until they dug a well in the cellar under the kitchen. That well did not have enough water for what was needed some days.

Sugar and salt were bought for a year in the fall and flour was obtained by taking wheat to the mill to be ground. Cracked wheat and screenings were brought back to feed chickens and sheep.

During later years, the harvest was completed by steam threshing and large crews when crops were good. Grain was hauled by horses and wagons to elevators in Funston, Norfolk, Guthrie, Drake or Anamoose. Much planning was required to feed the threshing crew with women baking many cookies, pies and bread every day.

Sometimes horses, cattle or sheep became bloated from too much grain and it was too expensive to call a veterinarian. Home remedies included red liniment and water or castor oil and asafetida, put in a bottle and forced down the throat of the animal, which usually lived through it!



Michael and Alouisa Bruner's family: Lena and Barbara in front; Lizzie and Katie, second row; Mary, Anna and Anton, third row; and John, Mike, Peter and Alouisa, back row. (Mrs. Frank Rudnick)

Anton and his family attended St. Francis Xavier church in Anamoose, making the trip by team and wagon or sled in early years. In 1919 he acquired his first Model T Ford.

In 1959 Anton and Mary retired and moved into Drake and a son, Hilary, and his family are on the home farm.

- Mrs. Frank Rudnick

The Michael Bruner family

Michael and Alouisa Bruner arrived in Dakota Territory in 1884 with their older children, John, Anton, Peter, Michael and Alouisa.

They settled first in Emmons County where Anna, Elizabeth, Katherine, Barbara, Mary and Magdalena were born and the older children attended school. Barbara died of smallpox while the family lived there.

Their first crop, 20 acres of flax, ran eight bushels. Their diary noted they were breaking more land every day possible.

In 1886 they got 68 bushels of wheat from 40 acres and 10 bushels of oats from four acres. There was a terrible storm May 29 with "hail that almost knocked our heads off— mother was in bed 14 days from injuries." The storm followed by high temperatures and dry weather.

Things improved: 174 bushels of wheat from 12 acres, 225 bushels of oats from 20 acres and 200 bushels of flax from 31 acres in 1887 and in 1888 the flax ran 10 bushels to the acre and wheat over 13 bushels. Wheat sold from 70 cents to a dollar a bushel and flax was \$1.14 to \$1.40.

By 1880 nearly 160 acres was planted but wheat ran only 4 bushels and oats eight. Wheat, selling at 70 cents, ran only five bushels an acre in 1890 and flax, at \$1.30 only four. In 1891 the crop was very good— 3000 bushels of wheat from 180 acres, but a prairie fire burned about half the crop.

In 1896 they had rain all summer with oats that ran over 20, wheat at more than 15 bushels and flax over 11 bushels to the acre— but flax was worth 60 cents and wheat 50 cents a bushel.

Their first crop in McHenry County, some on acres already broken up, was 780 bushels of wheat, 300 bushels of barley and 105 bushels of flax.

The family came to McHenry County in 1900 and built a sod house and a barn with sod walls.

Alouisa, the mother, died in 1910 at the age of 54 and Michael died in 1924 at the age of 81.

Their children were John, who married Elizabeth Gachne; Michael who married Barbara Kuntz; Peter who married Elizabeth Eisenzimmer; Anton who married Mary Steiner; Mrs. Karl (Alouisa) Kreis; Mrs. John (Anna) Ewert; Mrs. John (Elizabeth) Rutten; Mrs. Joe (Katherine) Klandi; Mrs. William (Mary) Albers; and Mrs. Martin (Magdalena) Ewert. Anton of Drake, Elizabeth of Harvey; Katherine of Sidney, Mont., and Mary of Bengough, Sask., survive.

— Mrs. Frank Rudnick

The Otto Buelow, Robert Thom, William Pieske families

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Buelow and their children, Albert, 5, Emma, 2, and William, 3 months old, came to the area from Long Prairie, Minn. in 1900. From Towner they hauled lumber and household goods to Drake with horses.

(Because a number of other families were relatives who shared experiences and have no survivors in the area, Bill Buelow included historical information on them in this account of early times.)

The group who came at that time stayed in tents until they had better shelter ready. The group— Otto Buelow, Robert Thom and William Pieske— left Long Prairie in May 1900. They rode with their goods on immigrant cars to Towner so they could stay on the Great Northern rather than go to Minot on GN and back to Anamoose.

(Emil Sitz also came at the same time from near Casselton; he drove a wagon leading two horses and a cow and he arrived a few days after the other group.)

The Buelow group brought their goods cross country from Towner. Herman Pieske, William's 19- or 20 year-old son, rode with the men and stock on the train.

Their families arrived about a week or 10 days later, by train, in Anamoose. That group included Mrs. Buelow and her three children; Mrs. Pieske and her daughters Maria and Adella; and the Thom family, who stayed only a few years before selling out to Robert's brother Herman.

The Sitz family who came by train from Casselton included Mrs. Emil Sitz; her mother-in-law, a widow; and two sons, Theodore and Paul. Sitzes children, Emma, Emil Jr., Selma, Hildegard and Eva were born here.

Mrs. Wilhelmine Jandt, the mother of Mrs. Pieske, Mrs. Buelow and Mrs. Sitz, also came with the group.

The group got houses built that summer so they had shelter. They put up sod barns for that year, with frame barns built later; Buelows and probably Pieskes in 1905 and Sitzes in 1904. The Buelow barn was long and partly built into a hill.

Otto Buelow recalled a snowstorm in mid-March 1902 which lasted three days. Some people were unable to feed their stock for two days, but Buelow watered his animals the first two days and had some hay inside. By the third day he had to go through the roof to feed stock but he was unable to water them.

Two other farms with houses, each about two miles from the Buelow place, were established when they arrived: William Jones and Art Mavis.

In 1901 the group was finishing the harvest with Otto Buelow's flax, the last job to be done, using a horse-driven



Mr. and Mrs. Otto Buelow, golden wedding, 1941. (Bill Buelow)



Mr. and Mrs. Otto Buelow.

machine. In the middle of the night Pieskes, who were staying overnight, awoke to a bright light— the threshing machine was on fire. It burned almost completely and some flax went with it.

About 1905 near-by bachelors, including Charlie Briggs, asked Mrs. Buelow to cook for their threshing crews and ate at Buelows' home. However, the 20-man crew to work at Briggs' spread came a day early, arriving the same day as threshing was going on at Buelows, with another big crew!

Mrs. Buelow and the crew bosses agreed one bunch would eat at 11:30 and the other at 12:30. However, then nature interfered: it rained and the crews were laid up nearly a week!

Otto Buelow recalled he had butchered a large cow; by the time the week was gone and the crews were gone, so was the cow. Of course, Mrs. Buelow was paid for the meals but at that it was quite a bill!

Buelows were charter members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, organized in 1906 by Rev. Vahl 10 miles north of Drake. Among other charter members were J.E. Senechal, William Hass, William Pieske, William

Abeling, Emil Sitz, Albert Ost, Gustav Beyer, John Senechal, August Fortmann, Theodore P. Sitz and Herman Thom.

William Buelow recalled the first telephone line going north of Drake in 1906. Among the first subscribers were Ost, Frank Harland, Senechal, Abeling, Buelow, Mewis, Tom Bakken, Hans Moore, Martin Olson, Ole B. Olson and Carlson brothers. John Jacobson had the telephone office in what is now Bethke Hardware building.

He also recalled the first school in the Lake George district was built in 1904 with R.G. Wyle and Miss McGage as early teachers. The first terms were for a few months in the spring or fall until 1908 when an eight month term was held. There were about 18 pupils in the beginning, he recalled.

Buelow recalled the small store which was Guthrie's first business place. The Great Northern track there was laid on a Sunday, attracting a large crowd.

The Buelow homestead was sold in 1967. Albert died in 1964, Emma in 1950, and Henry, born March 8, 1902, died in 1961. William lives in Drake.

— William Buelow

The Fred Burgemeister family

Fred Burgemeister, who was born Dec. 7, 1879, in Romania, came to the United States in 1901 and homesteaded south of Kief.

In 1903 he married Annie Martin, who died in 1911. They had five children, all of whom have died.

Mr. Burgemeister moved to Kief in 1911 and was employed in a grocery store there. He married Justine Martin. They had nine children, eight of whom are living—Mrs. Charles (Ann) Giard, Sun City, Ariz.; Harold, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Albert, Richland, Wash.; Mrs. Johnnie (Bertha) Springer, Drake; Mrs. Don (Alvina) Lunsford, Columbia Falls, Mont.; Mrs. Galen (Alice) Jacobson, Drake; Mrs. Edmund (Margaret) Jans, Stewartville, Minn.; and Leroy of Phoenix, Ariz.

In 1923 the family moved to Drake where Mr. Burgemeister worked at the Ed Rhode store until 1932 when he went into the grocery and chicken hatchery business. He sold the store to his son, William, but remained in the chicken hatchery business for himself until he retired. He died May 1, 1951, at Drake.

— Mrs. Galen Jacobson

The Fred H. Denien family

Fred Denien came to Drake in 1910 and his wife came in 1913.

They had a country store in Guthrie from 1910 to 1949, selling everything from a nail to a cream separator and Maytag washing machine.

Beginning in the late 1920s they also sold cars including Dodges, Fords and Buicks. They were in a partnership until 1912 when they sold out that business. From about

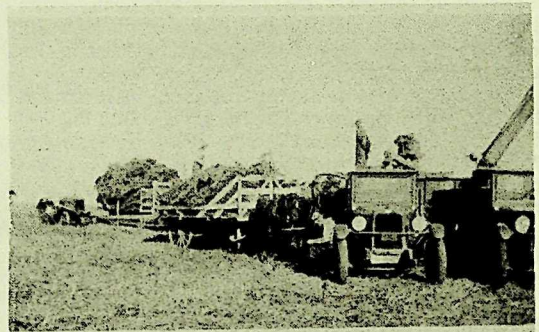
1919 to 1949 they ran the post office. They were members of the Lutheran church north of town.

In 1949 they moved to New Rockford where Mrs. Denien still lives. Fred died at the age of 81.

— Mrs. F.H. Denien



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Denien, 1920.



Ferdinand Dieterle's threshing rig, 1935. (Dave Dieterle)

The Ferdinand Dieterle family

Ferdinand Dieterle was born Oct. 13, 1879, at Ktostitz, South Russia. Margaret Ruff was born Dec. 6, 1879, in Friendinstal, Bessarabia, South Russia. They were married Nov. 11, 1901, and on Dec. 15 that year they sailed for America.

They arrived at Harvey Jan. 20, 1902. For several months they made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Henne near Harvey and in the spring of 1902 they homesteaded 17 miles southwest of Drake.

They soon got busy building their first home, which was a hole in the ground, the roof covered with branches. Before winter set in they built another house of sod.

In their earlier years they joined the Rosenfeld Baptist Church. Mr. Dieterle was Sunday School superintendent for many years, and was active in church and community affairs. Mrs. Dieterle was active in ladies mission work.

The Dieterles farmed until the fall of 1941 when they retired and moved to McClusky. Mr. Dieterle died in the spring of 1943 and his wife in the fall of 1966.

They had seven children; one son died in infancy. The children are Rueben of Sunnyside, Wash.; Arthur of Lodi, Calif.; Mrs. John (Anna) Suckert, McClusky; Mrs. Harold (Hilda) Matz, Bismarck; David of Drake; and Henry of Kief on the home place.

— David Dieterle

The C.A. Drake family

C.A. (Charlie) Drake, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Drake, was born in 1899 in Buffalo Lake, Minn. When he was a year old the family came, by horse and buggy, to the area which is now Drake.

Charlie served in World War I in Europe. After being discharged, he operated Ford dealerships in Bergen and Drake. In 1928 he married Elissa Johnson.

They had two children, Chuck, now living in Denver, Colo., where he is in school textbook sales, and Audrey, who lives in Fort Collins, Colo. Chuck and his wife have two children; Audrey and her husband, Charley Arney, Colorado State University football coach, have three children.

Charlie Drake, who spent his life in the Ford-Mercury automobile business, also loved the outdoors with fishing and hunting his favorite hobbies.

Drakes were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church which later merged with the German Lutheran church to form Trinity Lutheran. He was a 50-year member of the Drake American Legion Post; a member of the Republican party, the Drake Commercial Club and served on the Drake City Council.

Mrs. Drake died Dec. 3, 1961. Charlie died March 7, 1976.

— Audrey Arney and family, Chuck Drake and family

The Herman Drake family

Herman Drake, founder of Drake, was born March 8, 1860, in Maville, Wis. In 1865 he emigrated with his parents in a covered wagon to Buffalo Lake, Minn. He lived and farmed at Buffalo Lake and Hutchinson for 34 years. He also operated a drug store.

He was married to Theresa Hoehne March 26, 1883, at Buffalo Lake. They were the parents of nine children, Mrs. Alvina Werdin, Ellendale; Frank of Bonners Ferry, Ida.; Mrs. Elsa Cabler, Oakland, Calif.; Mrs. Rose Refling, Drake; William of Bowden; Owen of Winnipeg, Manitoba; Charles and Daris of Drake; and Mrs. Fern Kittelson, Enderlin.

In 1899 he came to North Dakota and homesteaded a piece of land that later became the townsite of Drake. His family arrived the following year.

Although homestead locations were plentiful when he located, Mr. Drake had in mind the possibility of a townsite on his land, so he chose land crossed by the railroad. In 1902 he was discouraged that his plans would work out and he was ready to move west when he received word the town would be located there.

He engaged in farming and, for many years, was in the real estate business with his brother, Emil.

In 1933 he and his wife celebrated their 50th anniversary and when Drake celebrated its Pioneer Day, June 14, 1946, he was able to take part in the ceremonies.

He also took part in politics and served on township, school and city boards. He was a member of the Evangelical Church of Rochester, Minn. His wife was a member of the Evangelical Church, the Missionary Society and a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mr. Drake died June 23, 1947, and his wife on April 28, 1955.

— Mrs. Rose Refling

The Jacob Ehrman family

Jacob Ehrman, the oldest son of Christina Knell and Jacob Ehrman, was born March 31, 1885, at Hoffnustal, South Russia. On Feb. 13, 1907, he married Maria Ehrman who was born Aug. 16, 1883, to Tobeius Ehrman and Regina Bender.

Jacob and Maria farmed near Hoffnustal. Their son, Jake, was born Jan. 6, 1908, and William was born July 29, 1909. Many people were leaving for America, land and jobs were hard to come by, and so, on March 7, 1911, they sold their belongings and, accompanied by Frederika Lauchennier, they set sail.

Little William, an active two-year-old who enjoyed looking out the porthole at the ocean, enjoyed the trip much more than his seasick father!

They arrived at Eureka, S.D., on April 10, 1911. Mrs. Ehrman had friends and relatives there and Mr. Ehrman worked at odd jobs. However, it was a very dry year and in three days— July 3, 4 and 5th— everything turned brown! Then no work was available so Mr. Ehrman wrote to a cousin, John Hoffer in Aylmer, N.D., who replied there would be a farm labor job available on the Ernest Schwartz ranch north of Anamoose.



Charlie Drake with grandchildren, 1972, Deneen, Kellie, Kory, Dodd and Lisa.

Frederika had found a job and a fiance, so she stayed at Eureka but the Ehrmans set out for Anamoose by train.

Mrs. Ehrman and the boys stayed with Hoffers while her husband helped with haying, harvest and threshing. They endured homesickness and only wanted to earn enough money to go home to Russia.

Their daughter Marie was born Sept. 13, 1911. In October they were able to rent the Lowmee Bettner farm. They had a home again, even if the table was a fruit crate and chairs were apple boxes! Neighbors gave them chickens. They bought a team and cows. They learned to speak English.

Though the winter was lonely and cold, it helped when all the neighbors gathered at the Fred Dockter home for services.

Rev. Walter Fredrich would come from Anamoose by team and sled once every two weeks to conduct services.

When spring came, green and beautiful with wild flowers bursting into bloom, Mrs. Ehrman sang while she cleaned house and planted a garden. Her husband was happy putting in his first crop in the new land and the boys had fun catching gophers and helping with chores such as gathering eggs or carrying water in half-gallon syrup pails.

The crop turned out fairly good and neighbors exchanged help with threshing. With as many as 40 men to feed three meals plus lunch at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., the women also helped each other! The men shoveled grain by hand into the grainery and hauled bundles for the threshing machine, which ran from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. with an hour off for dinner.

Ehrmans added a daughter, Regina, Aug. 17, 1913, and a son, Gustav Nov. 6, 1915. They also gained more livestock and chickens. When their landlord decided to return to farming in 1916, they were able to rent another farm 3½ miles south of Anamoose from Albert Albrecht who, with his brothers, owned a general store in Anamoose.

Just a week before they moved, the Albrecht barn burned, so Mrs. Ehrman also had to cook for and board carpenters for three weeks. Their daughter, Rosie, was born Dec. 9, 1917. Crops were poor and money scarce that year, but Mr. Ehrman made sleds for the children.

They enjoyed coasting down a long hill north of the farm. There also was a lake in the pasture south of the farm where their father took the children with sleds and a piece of sheet metal. On a windy day, two would get on the sled, one to guide it and one to hold the sheet metal "sail" to ride for half a mile.

Son Albert was born March 18, 1921, and Mr. Ehrman began thinking of expanding his farming operation. He finally was able to buy the Anderson farm seven miles southwest of Drake in 1925. The place was run down but they were happy to have a farm of their own. They moved on Oct. 1, 1925. Their first crop in 1926 was poor, two to four bushels an acre. In 1927 it was better but threshing was expensive, so Mr. Ehrman bought a header.

Grain was cut, taking very little straw, and stacked. Six horses were needed on the header and two header boxes on wagons took a team each, but with the help of children, harvest was completed. In 1928 prices started to drop 60 to 80 cents a bushel for a bumper crop; 1929 was not good and by 1930 drier weather and grasshoppers coming in added to problems. Though 1932 brought a fair crop, prices were down to 25 cents a bushel for wheat, with rye, oats and barley 3 to 5 cents. Cattle sold at 3 to 8 cents a pound, hogs 3 to 5 cents and eggs at 3 cents a dozen.

A barn was needed badly and Mr. Ehrman was able to buy the old state flour mill in Drake which had been standing idle several years. With the help of the boys, Ole Otterholm, Oscar Christianson and some neighbors, it



Herman and Teresa Drake, golden wedding 1933.

was torn down, lumber hauled home and a big dairy and horse barn built.

William married Otille Dockter at McClusky on Oct. 27, 1932, and they moved to the Wigen farm southwest of Drake. The year 1933 brought a fair crop, increasing prices and the first grandchild—Elaine Doris, born Aug. 7, 1933.

Nothing but Russian Thistles grew in 1934; they were cut and stacked for cattle feed while horses got by on old straw and a bit of prairie hay. Thirty-four brought rain but too little sunshine, good hay and corn, but tall grain with nothing in the heads because of black rust. Jake married Frieda Weirsch on Nov. 27, 1935, and they moved to the Peter farm south of Anamoose.

William and Otille produced a second daughter, Dorthy Jane, Sept 26, 1935. That winter was cold with temperatures more than 20 below zero for three weeks, once as low as 48 below! The next year crops were better and prices began to improve, though grasshoppers were bad.

The family was saddened when the first grandson, Floren, born to Jake and Frieda, was stillborn on Sept. 30, 1937. A graveside service was held at the Drake Cemetery.

Marie married Benjamin Blumhagen in Drake on Oct. 17, 1937, and they moved to the Christ Blumhagen farm six miles southwest of Drake. Farming improved in 1938 and 1939 so Mr. Ehrman bought his first tractor, a second-hand Model D. John Deere. On Dec. 31, 1939, Regina married Leo Krueger; they farmed south of Kief.

Our country declared war and Albert left for the Navy Sept. 22, 1942, where he spent three years. Mr. Ehrman bought his first threshing machine in 1942, since the boys were all farming.

Mrs. Ehrman passed away April 22, 1945, with the funeral April 28 at Drake.

Albert came home from the Navy Dec. 8, 1946, just three days before Rosie married Adam Dockter at Drake. They



Ehrmans in Romania, 1902: Back, Madgalena, Samuel, Anna, Marie, Caroline, Karl Berndt, Friedrich, Gottlieb. Front, Sophia, Anna Marie, Samuel Berndt, Elizabeth, Samuel Sr., Johann Berndt, Katherine.

farmed northeast of McClusky. Mr. Ehrman married Katherine Dockter April 28, 1946. On July 3 that year Albert married Frieda Dockter, and they lived on the farm.

Mr. Ehrman bought a house in Drake and moved to town in September. He is still living in Drake and at age 92, he plants a garden and tends his yard.

Other grandchildren were added: Jerome on May 24, 1940, and Arlo on Oct. 19, 1942, to Blumhagens; Corlie on March 17, 1941, and Lilia Lou born Sept. 26, 1942, to Jake and Frieda; Ardella, July 28, 1941, and William, Dec. 7, 1944, to William and Ottilie; Albert, July 3, 1944, and Carol, Jan. 24, 1946, to Leo and Regina; Rosemarie, July 11, 1947, and Evangeline, June 2, 1952, to Rosie and Adam; and Roger, March 8, 1948, Romona May 30, 1951, and Janice Dec. 2, 1952, to Albert and Frieda.

Albert Ehrman

The Samuel Ehrman Sr. family

Samuel Ehrman, born Feb. 18, 1840, in a German colony in southern Russia, married Katherine Seibold, daughter of Johannes and Caroline (Mick) Seibold. They had three children, Maria, who died as an infant, Gottlieb, and Tobias, born Oct. 3, 1873. Katherine died about 1875.

Samuel then married Anna Maria Bopple (Pepple) at the Baptist church in Cataloi, Romania. They had eight

children, all born in Cataloi: Friedrich, born May 10, 1876; Maria, Mrs. Karl Berndt, later Mrs. Paul Zieglerman, March 31, 1881; Samuel, Nov. 28, 1882; Magdalena, Mrs. Marvin Bettcher, Nov. 22, 1885; Anna, Mrs. Andrew Bettcher and later Mrs. Philip Schmidt, Aug. 14, 1887; Katherine, Mrs. John Pepple, later Mrs. Simon Jans, Jan. 11, 1888; Sophie, Mrs. Andrew Pfeifle, Jan. 28, 1891; and Elizabeth, Mrs. Christoph Martin, Feb. 12, 1894.

Anna Maria Ehrman's brothers, George, Thomas, John, Gottlieb and Michael Pepple, immigrated to America in May 1885, settling near Carrington and later moving to the Fessenden area. The Ehrman family also was interested in moving to North Dakota.

Samuel sent his son Gottlieb first. A few years later Tobias Ehrman and his wife, Magdalena Rust whom he married Nov. 25, 1894, in Cataloi, also immigrated and settled near Fessenden.

Finally in March 1902, they came—Samuel, and his wife, Anna Maria; their unmarried children, Samuel, Magdalena, Anna, Katherine, Sophie and Elizabeth; and their married children, Friedrich and his wife Caroline Pfeifer, married in 1901, and Maria and her husband Karl Berndt with their sons Samuel and Johann.

They traveled by riverboat and train from Romania to Hamburg, Germany; by on the S.S. Patricia to New York City; by train to Anamoose; and finally by wagon to their homesteads three miles south of Rosenfeld.

Samuel and Friedrich Ehrman and Karl Berndt, who each had a homestead, began breaking sod with oxen to build their houses.

Samuel was very active in church life. He began holding



John Eichhorn's business, 1927. (Gordon McQuay)

church services in his home and was a founder and charter member of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church.

He died April 7, 1907. Anna Maria died Jan. 8, 1934, while living with her daughter in Marshall, Minn. They are buried in the Rosenfeld Cemetery.

— Gary Bettcher

The William Ehrman family

William Ehrman married Ottilla Dockter Oct. 27, 1932. They farmed five miles southwest of Drake for three years, when they moved to the McClusky area where they farmed northwest of McClusky until the spring of 1943.

Then they bought the old Nord farm seven miles southwest of Drake. They built it into a beautiful grain and livestock farm.

Mr. Ehrman was active in community work, serving as director of Farmers Union, on the school and township boards, and as a 4-H leader. They were active in St. Paul's and Trinity Lutheran Churches.

They had four children, Elaine, Dorothy, Ardella and William. Elaine, born Aug. 7, 1933, married Lenard Kost Oct. 27, 1952, at Drake. They operated a meat market in Harvey until 1967 when they moved to Longview, Wash., where he manages a store's meat department and she is head of housekeeping for the Montosella Hotel. They have three children, Brad, Bruce and Lorrie.

Dorothy, born Sept. 26, 1935, married Leo Kessler Oct. 11, 1954. They managed the Harvey Vets Club until 1966 when they moved to Longview where they managed the Elks Club and Montosella Hotel. Their children are Perry, John, Leo and Robert.

Ardella, born July 28, 1941, married Blayne Myhre on May 6, 1962. They moved to Longview where they own and operate the White Drug. Their children are Lynette, Thomas and Heide.

William Jr., born Dec. 7, 1944, married Myra Kemelie Dec. 28, 1973. They and their daughter Milessa, live in Bismarck where he works for the highway department.

William Sr. was forced to quit farming in 1968 due to ill health. They moved to Longview where they managed the Blackstone apartments until March 1974.

He died April 9, 1974, and was buried in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery at Drake. His wife lives in Longview, works part time and returns to Drake each year to look after farming interests.

— Marie Blumhagen

The John, Fred and Frank Eichhorn families

John, Fred and Frank Eichhorn were sons of Henry Eichhorn who came to the Drake area in 1906. Henry was born in 1869 and died in 1933.

John Eichhorn was born July 30, 1895, in Brussell, Ill. In 1906 the family came to North Dakota, where he farmed from 1915 to 1924. On Dec. 8, 1924, he was married to Bessie Lehse in St. Paul, Minn. For two years they operated a store in Lincoln Valley. On May 15, 1926, he began his business as a machinery dealer, which he continued all his life. In 1970 he sold the business to his son-in-law, Gordon McQuay.

John and Bessie Eichhorn had two daughters, Mrs. Keith (Lucille) Cowell of Golden, Colo., and Mrs. Gordon (Elaine) McQuay of Drake.

John, who died in 1975, was Spring Grove Township board clerk, served 40 years on the Drake Fire Department and 25 years on the City Council, and was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge and Trinity Lutheran Church.

Fred A. Eichhorn married Josephine Lehse on Nov. 25, 1924, at Bismarck. They farmed in the Drake area and raised Angus cattle until October 1963 when they retired and moved into Drake. They have one daughter, Mrs. Loren (Isabelle) Cole of Balfour.

Fred served on the Spring Grove Township board and the Drake School Board and was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Frank P. Eichhorn was married to Bertha Maesner Nov. 12, 1924, at McClusky. They farmed in that area until 1942 when they moved to Washington, where they have lived since. They are the parents of one son who has died and three daughters.

The three couples were honored for their golden wedding anniversaries on Sept. 22, 1974, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Drake.



Engels: Frank, Bertha, Gust, and Emma. (Gust Engel)

The John Engel family

John Engel was born in Romania Jan. 26, 1873 and his wife, the former Karolina Suckert, was born in Kapalae, Romania, Sept. 14, 1878.

In 1902 they came to America and in 1903 homesteaded in Granville Township, then McLean and now Sheridan County. The homestead, two miles west of Skogmo, is now the Bill Meyer farm.

In 1910 they purchased a farm and moved seven miles south and two miles west of Drake, near the Rosenfeld Baptist Church of which they were members. In 1935 they retired from farming and moved to Kief where they lived until 1940 when they moved to Anamoose. In 1948 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Engel died in June 1951 and her husband, who had lived briefly at a Bismarck home for the aged, died Sept. 5, 1953.

Their children are Mrs. Reed (Bertha) Trauter, Okanogan Falls, British Columbia; Frank, now deceased, who was married to Emma Blumhagen and farmed south of Velva; Mrs. Earl (Emma) Kratz, El Reno, Okla.; and Gust, who married Magdalena Heydt and lives on a farm south of Velva.

— Gust Engel



Johann and Karoline Engel, golden wedding 1948. (Gust Engel)

The Ole Ettestad family

Ole Ettestad, born July 19, 1876, in Telemarken, Norway, came to the United States, to Belgrade, Minn., when he was 11.

In 1900 he came to Balfour as section foreman for the Soo Line Railroad. The section house was located on the west side of the Wintering River along the railroad right of way, halfway between Drake and Balfour. In April 1901, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Marsh moved into the section house in which Christ Johnson previously lived. (Mrs. Marsh was the mother of Mrs. Ettestad.)

In the summer of 1902 the side track was laid in Drake by Ettestad and his crew.

On Dec. 3, 1902, Ettestad married Martha Bartels, who came here from Stephens, Minn. in 1901. In 1904 they homesteaded northwest of Balfour where they lived until 1946 when they moved to Molalla, Oregon.

He was a member of the state legislature for 22 years, from 1916 to 1938, one term as a representative and 20 years in the Senate. In 1940 he was a Republican candidate for lieutenant governor but a stroke which seriously impaired his health forced him to withdraw from the race.

He died in 1949 at the old homestead near Balfour which then was operated by his son Everett. Mrs. Ettestad lives in a nursing home in Colton, Ore.

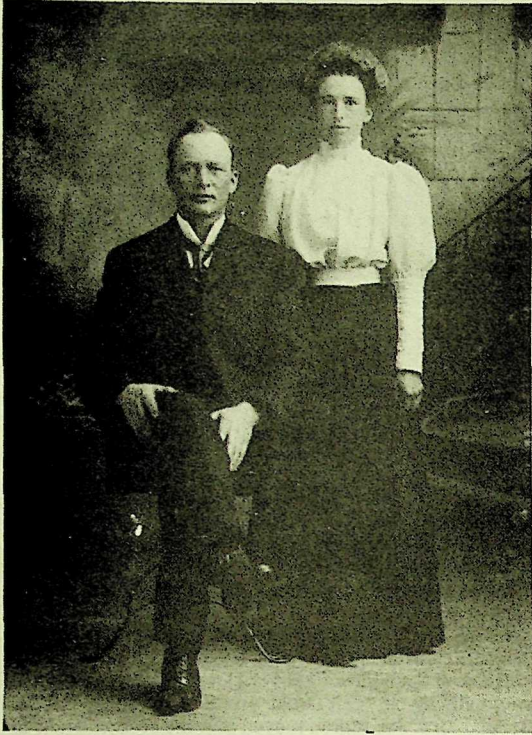
Sen. and Mrs. Ettestad had six children: Floyd of Drake; Mrs. Earl (Adeline) Buri of Balfour, Everett and Elmo of Molalla, and two sons who died in infancy. Gene Buri, a grandson of Sen. and Mrs. Ettestad, now resides on the homestead.

— Floyd E. Ettestad

The Martin Fandrich family

Martin Fandrich was born Oct. 7, 1870, in Romania. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. In 1894 he married Suzanna Krause of Bucharest, Romania, who was born Oct. 16, 1871. They had three sons born in Romania, Fredrick, Christian and Reinhart.

They were subjects of Russia. During their early years in Romania, like many of their relatives and friends, the young family faced many hardships. In 1903 they fled



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Ettestad, 1904. (Floyd Ettestad)



Reinhart J. Fandrich. (Donna Halstengard)

their native country and sailed for America. Brothers and sisters of the Fandrichs also came.

Their son Reinhart, then only three, was ill with chicken pox. Fearing they would not be allowed passage on the boat, they smuggled him aboard. They arrived in North Dakota in 1903 and homesteaded south of Drake in Sheridan County where they built their home, farmed and had six children.

Elizabeth was born soon after their arrival in America. Samuel, Julianna, the twins Emma and Sofia, and Blondina were born on the homestead. The Fandrichs became naturalized citizens Dec. 16, 1908. They joined the Rosenfeld Baptist Church.

Suzanna became ill with tuberculosis and died Feb. 7, 1921, at the age of 49. Her husband Martin died in May 1938 at the age of 67.

Their son Fredrick, born Sept. 10, 1895, in Romania, served in World War I. After his discharge he worked in Canadian lumber camps. He died of pneumonia Sept. 6, 1924.

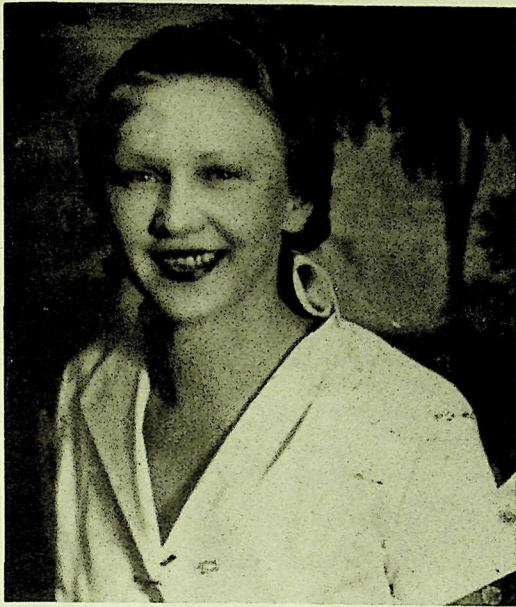
Christian Fandrich, born April 2, 1898, in Romania, married Sarah Krueger. They farmed in the Kief area. They have seven living children: Ernest and Walter of Seattle; Mrs. Pius (Ines) Gange of Minot; Mrs. Harry (Sue) Lakaduk, Elk River, Minn.; Richard and Arnold of Devils Lake; and Mrs. Mylo (Violet) Samuelson of Adams. Christian died March 20, 1963, and Sarah preceded him in death.

Reinhart Fandrich, born Nov. 30, 1900, in Romania, worked in the Skogmo store for a time. He also farmed many years on the homestead. During World War II he served as an ambulance driver and later he worked for Farmers Union Oil Co. in Drake. Reinhart, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, died Nov. 6, 1969.



Martin and Suzanna Fandrich. (Connie Hoffman)

Elizabeth, born Nov. 19, 1903, took on the responsibility of a large family because her mother died in 1921 when Elizabeth was just 18. Elizabeth also contracted tuberculosis and died Feb. 27, 1928. Samuel, born Feb. 3, 1906, also died of tuberculosis Aug. 23, 1924.



Julianna Fandrich. (Donna Halstengard)

Julianna, born April 20, 1908, worked in Drake and Turtle Lake as a waitress before her marriage to Fred Volbrecht of Turtle Lake June 27, 1935. They farmed in the Turtle Lake area. They had one daughter, Donna Jean, Mrs. Ole Halstengard Jr. of Bergen. Julianna, a member of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church, died Aug. 15, 1937, of pneumonia after several months' illness.

Emma and Sofia, twins born May 31, 1911, died in infancy. Blondina, born Dec. 8, 1913, worked at home many years before her marriage to Edward Bokovoy of Kief. They lived in the Kief area. They have three children, Sherry Lee Belofi of Akron, Ohio, Mrs. Vincent (Constance) Hoffman of Drake, and LaMont of International Falls, Minn. Blondina, a member of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church, died Jan. 5, 1965.

— Constance Hoffman, Donna Jean Halstengard

The John Ficker family

John Ficker came to Drake by train from Minnesota in 1901 with his mother-in-law, Mrs. Anton Stoeffel; her sons, Mike, Pete and Jack Anton, and her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Tom McLaughlin.

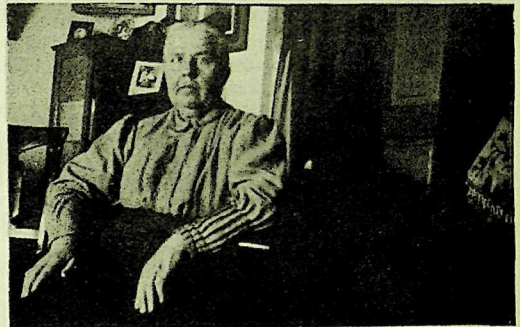
In the spring of 1902 he sent for his wife, the former Anna Anton, whom he had married in Vermillion, Minn., in 1892. John Ficker was born in Minnesota in 1868 and his wife in 1872 in Chicago.

When Mrs. Ficker and their five children arrived there was no depot at Drake, just a siding, so the family got off the train at Anamoose. Grandma Stoeffel was running a boarding house called the Farmers Home.

John had taken a homestead in Spring Grove Township in 1902, where he was to farm until his retirement about 1936. The first home was a sod house, built in 1902, where Wilbur, Joseph, Mary and Agnes were born.



Mr. and Mrs. John Ficker.



Helen Stoeffel early 1900.

For a time the family lived in a home on adjoining land but in 1910 they returned to the original homestead.

The Ficker children were Anton and Michael now deceased; Elizabeth Ficker Love; Peter and Conrad, both deceased; Wilbur; Joseph; Mary Sendelbach; Agnes Hasbrook; Clara Degen; and Margaret Domplier.

Elizabeth recalled the first school at the C.E. Nord's 16-by-20 foot sod house. After one term there, school was held at the home of the Iversons, who built a lean-to on his two-room claim shack. The next year a one-room school was built.

She remembered that the mail service was at H.R.W. Bentley's house at Brush Lake, about 12 miles from home. Early-day Drake businesses she recalled included Metcalf's Store; Schrader's Hardware; Saueressig's department and grocery firm; Merriman's furniture store; Merbach's and Sleight's meat markets; and Charles Kohler's real estate business.

Dr. Coffin, who was called to see Grandmother Stoeffel about 1904 or 1905, was a vivid memory. The first postmaster Elizabeth remembered was Mr. Leslie and P.A. Beath made the first rural route postal delivery to their area about 1909.

John Ficker, who served on the school and township boards and as assessor for many years, died in August 1950 and his wife died in December 1938.

— Elizabeth Love

The Edmund William Fors family

Edmund William (Bill) Fors, the oldest son of William Brodine and Elna Pearson, was born March 18, 1895, in Landskrona, Sweden. (The name Brodine was changed to Fors when William Fors was naturalized.)

Bill Fors came to the U.S. about 1907 with his mother, his brother Ossian Fors and sister, now Inga Cooper of St. Paul, Minn. William Fors, who had come over earlier, met them at Carrington. Later they moved to a homestead near Esmond where Bill grew up.

Cora Amanda Olson, the oldest daughter of Mary and Ole J. Olson, was born July 3, 1892, near Erdahl, Minn. The family moved to a homestead near Esmond in 1900. Cora taught in rural schools near Esmond.

Bill and Cora were married Nov. 6, 1920, and spent their early married years on the Fors homestead. Bill did carpenter work with his father and Cora worked in a cafe in Esmond. She remained on the farm while Bill served in the Army. When he returned in 1922 they moved to Drake where he began work on the Soo Line. He worked for the Soo Line until his retirement in 1961.

In Drake Bill served as school board clerk, city auditor, city alderman, and was a charter member and for many years adjutant of the Drake post of the American Legion. Cora was a charter member of the Legion Auxiliary and served many years as the secretary-treasurer. She was active in the Sunday School and other groups of the Trinity Lutheran Church.

The Fors family included five children: Kenneth of Carmichael, Calif., born May 23, 1925; Vivian of Petaluma, Calif., born May 16, 1928; Clinton of Two Harbors, Minn., April 26, 1930; Milo who was born July 2, 1932 and died April 9, 1938; and Elton of Aberdeen, S.D., born Jan. 29, 1934.

Cora and Bill live at the Americana Nursing Center in Aberdeen, S.D.

— Cora and Bill Fors

The Ossian William Fors family

Ossian William Fors was born in Landskrona, Sweden, Oct. 14, 1896. His father, William, came to America in 1901 and worked as a carpenter at Carrington. In 1904 Ossian, his mother Elna, two brothers and a sister came to Carrington. Ossian soon learned to speak English at a one-room school.

In 1913 banker Harold Thorson asked Ossian to come to Drake and do chores for his board and room while he went to high school. He lived above the bank. One of his chores was to care for a dozen horses. All water was hand-pumped. At this time his father was foreman of the building crew for the IOOF hall in Drake.

Ossian went to high school in Drake in 1914, then returned to the farm his father purchased near Esmond. Then he and Gus Pelke went by horseback to Washburn, Sanger, Fort Clark and Killdeer. They ended up in Center



Bill and Cora Fors, November 1970.



Four generations: William, O.W., George, and Dan Fors.

where he made connections with a telephone operator named Hila Munson.

Hila, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Munson, was born in Center Aug. 19, 1899. After their marriage they lived on the farm with William Fors until they moved to Drake in 1917. Their children are George of Mandan, born Feb. 22, 1917; and Glen of Portland, Ore., born May 2, 1923. A son, Marvin, was born Dec. 3, 1919, and died Jan. 3, 1921.

The Fors family was active in the community. O.W. served from 1926 to 1932 on the school board; he has served on the Trinity Lutheran Church board; was alderman from 1932 to 1934 and 1938 to 1945; and served as mayor from 1945 to 1962 and from 1970 to 1974.

He worked as a building contractor in Drake and across the state. He started with carpenter work at St. Olaf college farms, Harold Thorson estates, E.P. Moorhead ranch and Church of America. Drake buildings he erected include the Empress Cafe in 1926; Post Office in 1944; the 90-foot-square clear-span school gym in 1951; the clinic in 1952; Trinity Lutheran Church in 1954; and City Hall in 1961-62.

In 1929 they bought the theater building from St. Olaf College and Hila managed it until 1964 when fire destroyed the building. O.W. had remodeled it to include six apartments.

During World War II, Hila was honored for her outstanding performance in the Shangri-La drive. She organized a special auction in which on July 31, 1943, \$5,000 worth of bonds and stamps were sold. She also played all the War Activities Committee film and put on a drive to sell bonds to buy a Jeep. She earned the "C" award for participating by the Variety Club of the Northwest.



O. W. Fors family, October 1954.

Other involvement included membership in the Trinity Lutheran Church, Odd Fellows, Masonic Lodge, Army Mothers, PTA and Businessmen's Club.

O.W. and Hila bought the Empress Hotel and Cafe in 1959. They sold the cafe in 1969 and operate the hotel, where they live. O.W. still has a small crew who do repairs and remodeling.

—O.W. Fors

The C.F. Frankhauser family

C.F. Frankhauser was born Feb. 19, 1877, near Odessa, Minn., and spent his boyhood in Big Stone City, S.D. When he was 11 his family moved to Eureka, S.D., where he worked in his father's meat market from 1894 until 1897. Later he ran the meat market at Mound City, S.D., for his father and then attended the Aberdeen Business College.

In the spring of 1897, after a hard winter, he walked from Aberdeen to Eureka because railroad bridges were washed out. He later attended college at Yankton, S.D., and ran the market while his father spent the winter in California.

On July 28, 1898, he filed on a homestead at Anamoose. In 1901 he went into partnership with Gottlieb Mauch. Later Will Frankhauser bought out Mauch's share and the firm, known as Frankhauser Brothers, was in business until 1912.

Martha (Mattie) Meyer was born July 28, 1880, at South Bend, Ind., where her father was minister of the Broadway church. Later they moved to a homestead 10 miles south of Woonsocket, S.D., and in 1892 they moved to a homestead near Aberdeen. Mattie attended schools there, began corresponding with C.F. Frankhauser who was in college in Yankton, and studied the millinery trade.

They were married Aug. 28, 1901 at Aberdeen and rushed back to Anamoose because a man there was taking up claims on which no one was living!

Following a gala wedding breakfast they took the 8 a.m. train for Lidgerwood where they visited Fred's relatives. Then on to Hankinson where, at 2:30 in the morning, they caught the Soo Line to Anamoose.

They had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. E. Schlecter and went to look over their homestead cabin, just a few blocks away.

At dusk, Mattie recalled, "we sneaked to the Schlecter home, where we watched the chivaree crowd through an upstairs window. They fired off guns, let out the pigs and put Fred's buggy on top of the roof! They stuffed hay down the chimney, too, but I didn't know they had done that until I started the cook stove and the house filled with smoke!"

Their store burned down along with a whole block, and the family moved out to a farm 7 miles south and 2 miles east of Drake.

Their children were a baby girl who died at birth Dec. 3, 1902; Violet Matilda, born June 25, 1904; Arthur Fletch, June 2, 1906; Lucille Marguerite, Aug. 12, 1907; Roy Edward, Sept. 29, 1908; Donovan Ivan, May 24, 1910; Ethel May, Feb. 9, 1912; Frederick Meyer, May 19, 1913; Joseph Eugene, April 18, 1921; and Anna Jeannette, April 26, 1923.

Violet married Edward Stotz. Following his death she married John Morgan Sept. 1, 1968. Arthur, a minister, and his wife Anita live in Iowa. Lucille married Sam Weatherhead.

Roy, who married Algona Eberhart July 11, 1935, died March 19, 1960. Donovan married Vera Peterson and Ethel May, married to Rev. Herbert Ortman, lives in Minnesota. Frederick married Margaret Reinholdt June 27, 1941; Joseph married Alice Oster Sept. 8, 1945; and Anna married Alvin Palm March 1, 1941.

C.F. Frankhauser died April 11, 1955, at the family farm. His son Arthur conducted the funeral service. Mrs. Frankhauser died Oct. 24, 1964, at Shakopee, Minn.

— Mrs. Herb Ortman

The Lemuel E. Goodlaxson family

Lemuel E. Goodlaxson, who was born in 1869, at Oak Center, Wis., filed on his homestead in Spring Grove Township in the fall of 1899. He built a small two-room shanty to live in and a small sod barn just large enough for two cows and a team of horses.

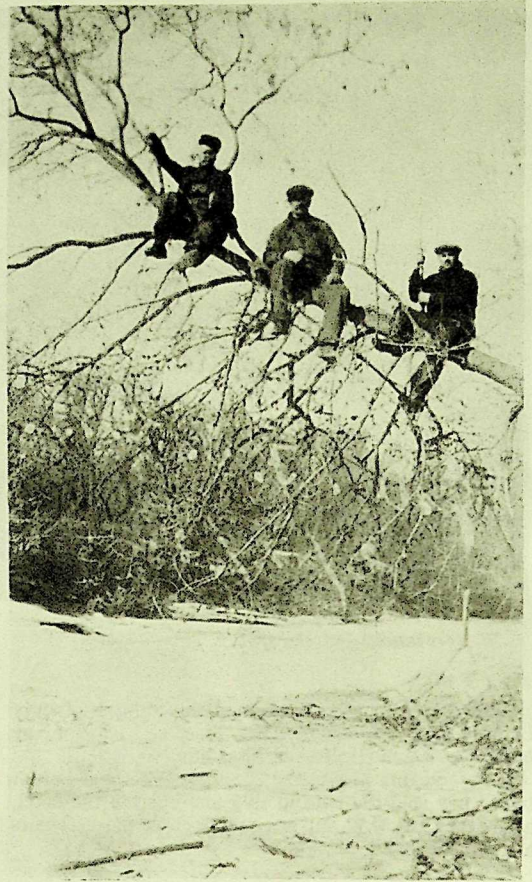
In the spring of 1900 he returned from Detroit Lakes, Minn., with his wife Ella and their daughter Maud. They came by train to Anamoose and he shipped the animals and what farm equipment he had.

Mr. Goodlaxson, who served on township and school boards in the early 1900's, was a county commissioner for 8 years and served two terms in the state Legislature during Langer Days. He was a charter member of the Broadview Grange.

For many years he shipped cattle by Soo Line for the Drake Co-op Shipping Association. He retired in 1941 and in 1943 he died in Seattle at the home of his daughter. Mrs. Goodlaxson, who was born in 1879, at Jackson, Mich., died in 1929 at Drake.

They had two daughters, Mrs. Henry (Maud) Ortery and Mrs. Gordon (Agnes) Anderson of Harvey.

— Mrs. Gordon Anderson



Fishing at Eaton Dam: Gust Blumhagen, Jacob Arndt, and Fred Gust. (Mrs. William Isaak)

The Gustav Grade family

Gustav Grade was born Dec. 15, 1893, in Artzes, Russia. He came to Harvey from Russia in 1893 to live with his sister Caroline, Mrs. Samuel Frank of rural Drake.

He was a laboring man for the community and in Fessenden and Cathay. He attended a school for a short time to learn how to read and write English. Gustav served in the U.S. Army in World War I.

Gustav was married at Skogmo on March 27, 1921, to Hulda Baier, daughter of Fredrick and Pauline Baier.

They had seven children: Leonard who married Dorothy Towberman and farms at Skogmo; Mrs. Stan (Marion) Johnson, Port Angeles, Wash.; William, a retired Navy man, married to Mary Vance and living in Newark, Calif.; Raymond on the home place, married to Annie Clark; Mrs. Guy (Caroline) Connell, Dickinson; Mrs. Delmar (Laura) Hanenberg, Drake; and Mrs. Adam (Shirley) Baumgartner, Hague.

Mr. Grade died July 1, 1969, and Mrs. Grade makes her home in Drake.

— Laura Hanenberg

Baptist Church of Drake, of which Mrs. Gust was a charter member.

Fredrick was born April 26, 1883, and Dora Nov. 6, 1888, both in Romania.

Fredrick homesteaded in 1898 nine miles south and two miles west of Drake.

The barn there burned in the fall of 1914 and the house in the spring of 1915 so they moved to a farm four and a half miles south and two miles west of Drake.

Their children are Mrs. Arnold (Alma) Olson of Minot, and Herbert, Arthur and Ewald, all in California.

Fredrick died May 23, 1963 and his wife Feb. 2, 1946.

— Mrs. William Isaak

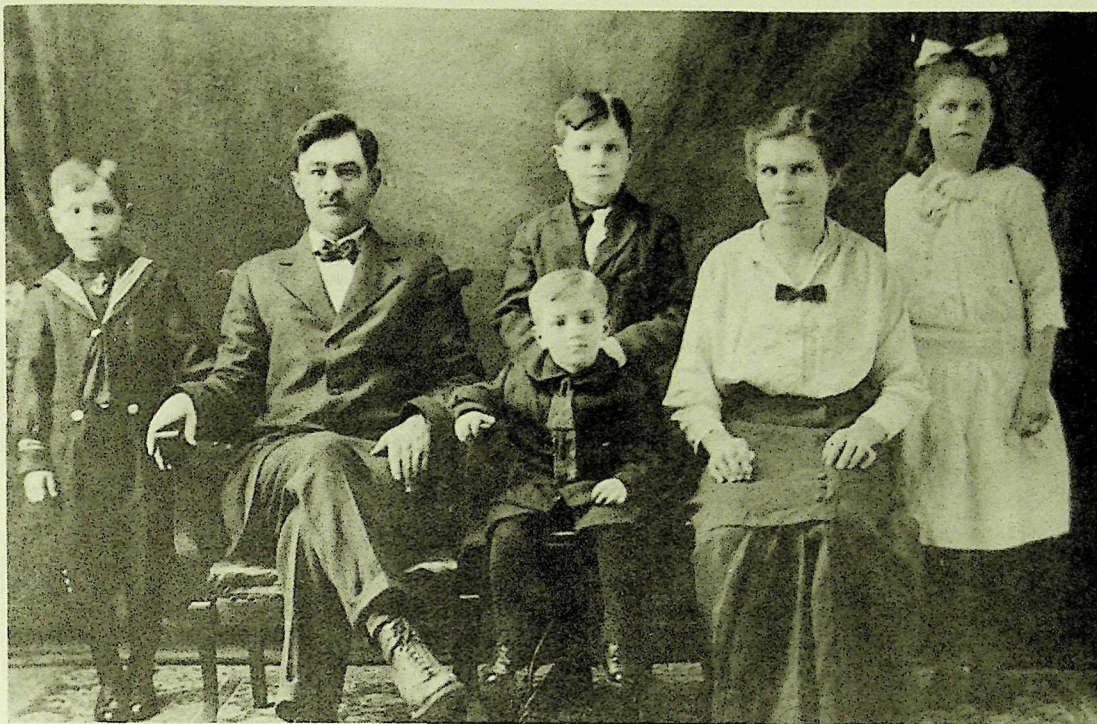
The Fredrick Gust family

Fredrick Gust came about 1898 from Romania to this area and Dora Rauser came here from Romania a little later. They were married Nov. 22, 1906, at the Rosenfeld

The John Haldi family

John and Anna Haldi and their older children came to Drake in 1900, traveling as far as the railhead at Fessenden by immigrant car.

Mr. Haldi, who died March 18, 1950, at Bismarck, was born Aug. 5, 1865, at Saaneu, Switzerland. His wife, who



The Gust family, 1918: Seated, Fred, Ewald and Mrs. Fred Gust. Standing, Arthur, Herbert and Alma. (Mrs. William Isaak)

was born May 9, 1861, in Langnau, Switzerland, died March 10, 1954, in Minot.

They were married in 1886 at Prairie Home, Missouri.

The Haldis homesteaded two and a half miles west of Guthrie where they farmed until their retirement in 1940.

They were charter members of the rural Baptist Church in Strege township, which later was moved to Guthrie and then to Drake. John also served on township and school boards and, during World War I, was Liberty Loan chairman.

Their children are Mrs. L.O. (Selma) Nelson, John Jr., William, and Albert, all now deceased; Anne Haldi of Portland, Ore., and Ed of Drake.

—Edward H. Haldi

The John Hanenberg family

John Hanenberg was born at St. Hubert, Holland, Nov. 17, 1866 and came to the United States in 1880.

On April 11, 1893, he was married to Minnie Veheyen. They lived at Milbank, S.D., for eight years. In 1901 they came to North Dakota and homesteaded on a farm four miles north of Drake. They lived there until 1936 when they retired and moved into Drake.

Mrs. Hanenberg was born at Wychen, Holland, on Feb. 5, 1875, and later came to Milbank, S.D.

They belonged to St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Drake.



Mr. and Mrs. John Hanenberg, 1936.



John Hanenberg farm, 1908. Anton and Clara in the buggy, Josephine and Willie on the porch, Mrs. Hanenberg holding Sadeth, and Mr. Hanenberg.

Mr. Hanenberg died in 1949 and Mrs. Hanenberg in 1964. They had 10 children; Mrs. Walter (Nellie) Rauw, Anamoose; Mrs. William (Josephine) Roufs in Kansas; Mrs. Herman (Clara) Brietsprecher in Washington; Anton in Drake; Mrs. Ansel (Stella) Anderson in Illinois; Mrs. Casper (Sadeth) Bakken, Minot; Roman of Drake; Ramen and Esther, both now deceased; and Mrs. Leo (Ethel) Rose, Anamoose.

— Anton Hanenberg

The Harry F. Harris family

Harry F. Harris was born Feb. 8, 1897, on the H.R.W. Bentley ranch west of Drake. The family moved to Spokane when he was a young boy. When he was nine he returned to live with Bentleys who reared him.

His first year of school was a small country school where Mrs. Carl Olstad was his teacher. Later he attended Drake school.

As a teenager he worked for Pete Johnson. When he was 19 he married Gertrude L. Beutler.

They lived on the ranch for a few years and a son, Harold Henry Harris was born there July 30, 1919. In 1927 they moved to the Oscar Johnson place south of Drake and later at the John Haldi farm at Guthrie.

In the early '30s they bought a quarter of land, purchased a house from Christ Olson and moved it on the land. He also bought the Guthrie Baptist Church barn and moved that out. Later the house burned and Mr. Harris was forced to turn the farm back to the mortgage holder.

The family rented the B.B. Bennett farm. After the barn and all the buildings but the house were lost in a fire in



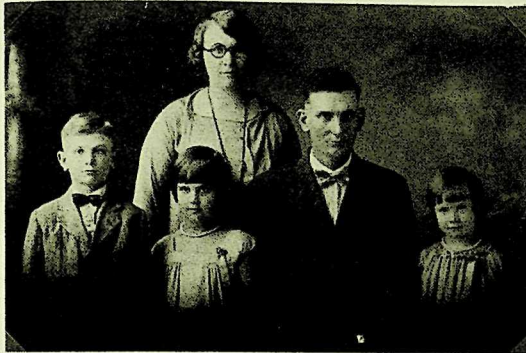
Anton Hanenberg, 1916.

1937, the family moved a mile south to the Gottlieb Beutler place, which they bought. In 1945, after the death of Mr. Bentley, Mr. and Mrs. Harris moved back to the Bentley ranch and Harold farmed the place at Guthrie.

Mrs. Bentley died in 1947 leaving the farm to Harry and Harold. Mrs. Harris died in 1948 and Harry in 1962. They also have two daughters, Mrs. Oscar (Dorothy) Miller and Mrs. Leo (Harriett) Kaul.

Harold and his wife Mary, who were married March 20, 1950, are parents of a son Robert, who died at the age of 19, and a daughter, Shirley, who attends Drake school. Harris' cattle are descendants of the Angus cattle H.R.W. Bentley raised.

—Harold Harris



The Harold Harris family. (Harold Harris)

The Emanuel Hauff family

In 1902 Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Hauff and two children, Gottlieb and Rose, came to America from Romania. They first homesteaded in Highland Township where they lived until 1907 when they bought a farm in Rosenfeld Township seven miles south of Drake.

They were the parents of 12 children who attended rural Rosenfeld Township schools. Six children are living: Mrs. Rosie Schroeder, Gackle; Mrs. Ben (Elma) Ebel, Sacramento, Calif.; Mrs. Charles (Marie) Gallaty, Lincoln, Calif.; Mrs. Emil (Emma) Fandrich, Kief; Ben of Billings, Mont., who is a Drake High School graduate; and Herbert on the family farm. Children who died included two daughters in infancy, Lydia, Emil, David and Gottlieb.

In 1941 Mr. and Mrs. Hauff retired from farming and moved to McClusky. Four years later they moved to Lodi, Calif. Mr. Hauff died in 1952 and his wife in 1969.

—Mrs. Emil Fandrich

The A.M. Haykel family

A.M. Haykel, who was born Oct. 25, 1883, in Syria, homesteaded in Sheridan County, 12 miles south of

McClusky in 1903. In 1910 he married Emma J. Koelloen, who was born Sept. 17, 1882, in Norway.

From 1920 until 1924 Mr. Haykel was deputy sheriff for Sheridan County. He also was employed in the county auditor's office. He had attended Aakers Business College in Fargo in 1905 and 1906, before returning to prove up his homestead in 1906.

In 1925 he moved to Drake where he worked in the A. Ally Department Store, now the Janavaras Farmerette. His wife Emma, and five children moved up in 1926.

Mr. Haykel was city auditor in Drake for 11 years, served one term as city alderman; and was Drake School Board clerk. He was a member of the Drake Baptist Church, the Broken Column Masonic Lodge # 115, and a representative of the state of North Dakota for the Jerusalem Consistory of the Masonic Lodge.

Mrs. Haykel died Dec. 24, 1933, and A.M. Haykel June 10, 1968.

Their children are James M. Haykel, now deceased; Edward A. of Orrin; Ernest H. of Drake; Abe L. of Bismarck; and Norman A. of Forest Park, Ill.

—Ernest H. Haykel

The Ingvold P. Hegge family

Ingvold P. Hegge came to Drake in 1910 looking for a business prospect. He purchased a restaurant from Kate Olson, and returned to Lindsy, Wis., where he sold the farm and general store he owned.

In 1911, with his wife, Bertha, daughters, Irene and Pearl, and son, Roy, he returned to Drake in an immigrant car. The car carried a horse and cow, surrey and family belongings. The trip took 10 days, and they arrived in Drake Nov. 23, 1911, in the worst blizzard they had ever seen.

Ingvold, who was born in Oslo, Norway, in 1858, died in 1917. That same year his daughter Irene, born in Wisconsin in 1895, died. Mrs. Hegge, born in Germany in 1873, died in 1960, and Pearl, born in Wisconsin in 1897, died in 1962.

Roy, born in Wisconsin in 1902, was in the second class to graduate in the new brick school building. The class of 1919 included Vivian Peterson, Fred Nehrenberg, Elmer Koehler and Roy. Roy was graduated from North Dakota State University in pharmacy in 1923.

On June 18, 1925, he married Ruth V. Jones. Roy was employed in Fargo and Moorhead for two years. Then he bought the Blakley Drugstore in Drake, now the Senior Citizens Hall. He owned and operated the Drake Pharmacy for 28 years and has been occupied with relief pharmacy work since.

Roy, a Drake Volunteer Fire department member 25 years, holds a life membership. He was a member of the Drake City Council and mayor pro tem; a member of the Drake School board several terms; a member of the Drake IOOF Lodge and Rebekah Lodge for 47 years; and holds a life membership in the North Dakota Pharmaceutical Association. When Trinity Lutheran Church merged with the Congregational church, they joined that church.

Hegges, who celebrated their 50th anniversary in June 1975, have a daughter, Mrs. Robert C. (Roberta) Alme of Drake; six grandchildren; and one great grandson.

—Roy H. Hegge



Drugstore, 1927, with Roy Hegge and Helen Olson Bennett.



John and Frances Heintz, 1926.



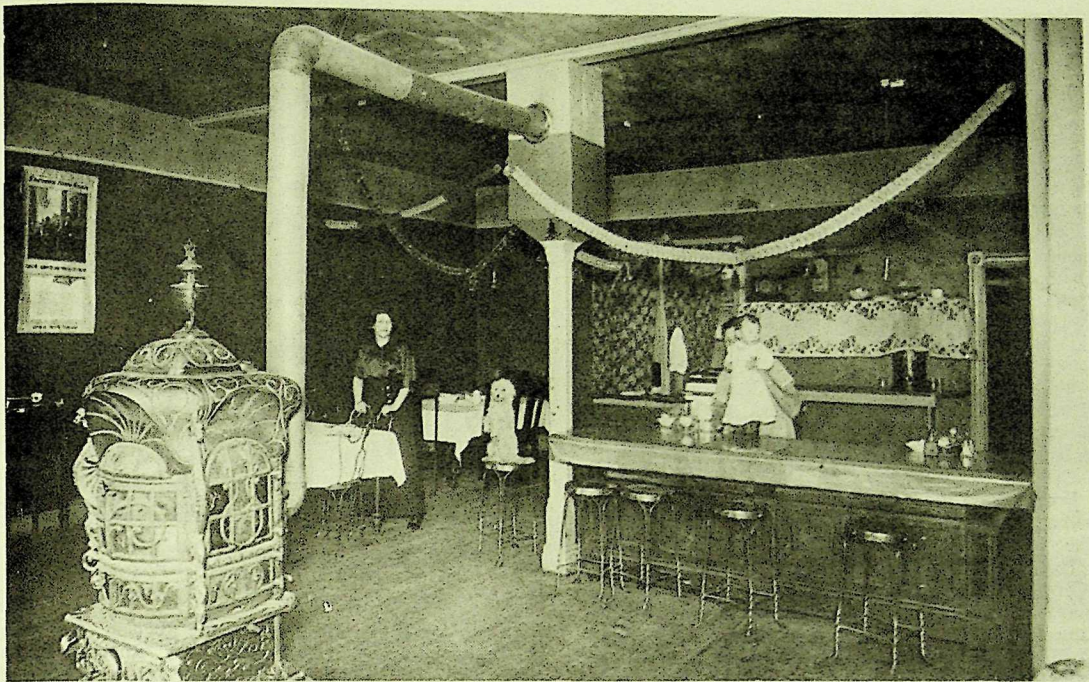
The John Heintz family.

The Anton Heintz family

Anton and Elizabeth Heintz and four of their children came to the area in 1906, having left Russia in 1905. With them was a cousin, Anna Marie Singer.

Anton, who was born in 1876, died in 1943. His wife, Elizabeth, was born in 1867, and died in 1950.

Anton and Elizabeth homesteaded. The farm was sold in 1965.



The first cafe in Drake with Irene Hegge, left, and Mrs. Kate Olson holding Vaughn Olson. (Ed Merbach)



Elizabeth and Anton Heintz. (John Heintz)

The children who came with them were Regina, who was born in 1895; Ludwig, born in 1897; George, born in 1901; and John, born in 1903.

Regina, who married Peter Wolf; died in 1965. Ludwig married Christina Keller. He died in 1972. George married Lena Volk and John married Frances Rieder.

The family all attended the Catholic church. John was a trustee of the Blumenfeld church for 14 years, and served on the Long Lake school board for 16 years. George also served as school clerk.

The children of John and Frances are Mrs. Reuben (Betty) Regstad of Velva; Joe Heintz and his wife Cathy and Alfred Heintz and his wife Marlys, all of Minot; Mrs. David (Mary) Roerick, Selz; and Mrs. Dennis (Kathleen) Marlowe, Clayton, Ind.

— Mr. and Mrs. John Heintz

The John Heth family

John Heth and his family came to Drake in 1919 and lived there until 1933 when he moved to Minot. In Drake he worked for the Soo Line railroad as a flag man.

Mrs. Heth died in 1917 shortly before Christmas. Mr. Heth died in 1935 and is buried south of Drake.

Their children are Emma of Devils Lake; Gust of Denver, Colo.; Emil and Walter in Minot; Josephine in Kalispell, Mont.; Alfred at Northgate; and Otto in Hawthorne, Calif. Mary died in 1957 and Arthur died in 1975 at Long Beach, Calif.

—Emil Heath

The Jacob Heydt family

Jacob and Dorothea Krein Heydt were both born in Newdrof, Russia, Jacob on Nov. 3, 1872, and she on May 15, 1874. They were married in Russia on Jan. 23, 1896.

In April 1898 they left Gluckthol and arrived May 6 in America, sailing on the ship Rodedam. They landed at Halifax, Nova Scotia; went on to New York and then to Regina, Saskatchewan. Part of their trip was overland and partly by boat through the Great Lakes.

Dorothea and Jacob came to North Dakota to a town called Germantown, now known as Fessenden.

When they decided to homestead they went south of Martin where they built sod buildings. Later they traded farms with John Schlag south of Drake where they moved in 1907 to a location nine miles south and a mile west of Drake.

Dorothea knew a lot about medicine and used many home remedies to cure colds, ringworm, warts and the like.

Their children are Jacob of Spokane, Wash.; Mrs. Alex (Christine) Miller, Anaconda, Mont.; Mrs. Phillip (Katie) Mayer, Jamestown; Martin who is deceased; Mrs. Conrad (Caroline) Ficker, Spokane; Mrs. Peter (Lydia) Miiller, Drake; Mrs. William (Martha) Miller, Jamestown; Mrs. Gust (Magdalena) Engel, Velva; Fred and John of Drake; and Gottlieb who is deceased.

Dorothea died Nov. 1, 1948, and her son Gottlieb died in a plane crash two hours after her death. Jacob died Jan. 15, 1952, at Anamoose.

— Lydia Miiller, John Heydt



The Heydt family. (Lydia Miiller)

Emil of Fargo; Ottilia who died; Rudolph of Drake; Benjamin of Longville, Minn.; Mrs. Rubeen (Ruth) Schlenker, Sturgis, S.D.; Mrs. Lester (Violet) Raymo of Ray; Mrs. Bob (Erna) Baker of Lodi; and LeRoy of Almagordo, N.M.

— Mr. and Mrs. John Hinsz

The Karl Hinsz family

Karl Hinsz was born July 7, 1840, in Russia. In 1885 he came to the United States and settled at Eureka, S.D. His first wife died there in 1890.

In 1892 he remarried Katherine Koszell and they lived near Ashley. Later they bought a farm south of Drake, where Rudolph Hinsz now lives. (One of Karl's sons, Christ Hinsz, homesteaded south of Drake in 1900.)

Karl Hinsz died Aug. 8, 1917, and was buried in the Lutheran cemetery south of Drake.

Christ Hinsz was born in Brean, Bessarabia, Russia, on Dec. 16, 1878. He came to the United States in 1885 with his parents. In 1898 he married Lydia Uhlich at Eureka. They homesteaded 12 miles south and 3-4th mile west of Drake.

Christ spent the first winter there by digging a hole in the ground and turning the wagon box over it. Later they built a sod house. In 1910 Lydia died. She and some of the children are buried in a family cemetery on the farm.

On Oct. 24, 1910, Christ married Ottilia Pahl. She came to Anamoose in 1909 from Beresina, South Russia, where she was born Dec. 16, 1890. They left the farm in 1944 and moved to Drake. In 1946 they moved to Lodi, Calif., where Christ died June 8, 1962. Mrs. Hinsz still lives there.

The Christian Hinsz family included Alfred who died at birth; David of McLaughlin, S.D.; Arthur of Martin; Edna, who is deceased; Mrs. Albert (Lydia) Knoll, Lodi; George and Christ who have died; Albert and Leo of Lodi;



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hoffer. (Mrs. Dave Dieterle)

The Mike Hoffer family

Mike Hoffer was born Nov. 17, 1883, in Nierdorf, South Russia. He came to America at the age of 16. In his first few years he worked for a well driller in South Dakota. His boss couldn't pay Mike any wages so he gave him a few

head of cattle for his salary. Mr. Hoffer then went to North Dakota and homesteaded 12 miles south of Kief.

Katherine Frey was born July 31, 1890, in Nierdorf, South Russia. She came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Frey, to America when she was four. They settled in the Harvey area.

Katherine Frey and Mike Hoffer were married Feb. 9, 1907, in Harvey, and he brought his bride to the homestead near Kief.

They joined the St. John's Lutheran Church. The church met every Sunday in a small country school house. Mr. Hoffer was active in community affairs.

They had an ice cellar on their farm and they filled it with ice blocks cut in winter to keep food cool during the hot summer months. Many people from the community and the McClusky area would come for ice on the fourth of July to make home-made ice cream.

The Hoffers sold their farm in 1947 and moved to Lodi, Calif., where they retired. They joined the Lutheran church there and Mrs. Hoffer was active in Ladies Mission Circle until her death at the age of 66. Mr. Hoffer died in 1972 at the age of 89.

Fourteen children were born to them; two sons died in infancy and three sons died in their adult years. Those still living are Edward and George of Minot; Mrs. Bill (Katherine) Yoda, Phoenix, Ariz.; Fred of Minot; Mrs. David (Bertha) Dieterle, Drake; Mike and Martin of Minot; Mrs. Robert (Polly) Polidor of Glendale, Calif.; and Mrs. Claude (Violet) Williams, Dayton, Nev.

— Mrs. David Dieterle

The Bohdan Z. Hordinsky family

Dr. Bohdan Z. Hordinsky, who received his medical diploma in Poland in 1935, practiced there, in Berlin and Vienna, before World War II swept him away.

He arrived in New York on Christmas Day, 1947, a displaced person. Then he spent a two-year residency at St. James Hospital in Newark, N. J., obtained his license in New York in October 1949, and spent a year at St. Andrew's Hospital in Bottineau.

In January 1951 he opened his first office in Drake, south of the bank. In 1952 ground was broken for the clinic, a 38 by 60-foot building erected by O.W. Fors, which was completed in March 1953. In May 1953 Dr. and Irene Hordinsky became U.S. citizens. He was born Feb. 19, 1911 in Kolomea and Irene Jan. 12, 1914 in Lviv, then both in Austria.

When Dr. Hordinsky was honored by his community in August 1971, Dr. Richard C. Lillehei, professor of surgery at the University of Minnesota medical center told the large crowd something which was no surprise to them: "Drake is very fortunate to have the services of such a distinguished man."

Also on the program to honor Drake's doctor was Dr. A. Zukowsky of Steele. German and Ukrainian music and toasts were given by Mrs. Gerald Donelenko, Butte, Rev. Karl Hobelsberger, Velva, and Mrs. Wesley Filler, Drake.

Among other honored guests were a sister and brothers of the doctor: Daria Karanovich, a concert pianist; Walter, a biochemist; and George, an artist.

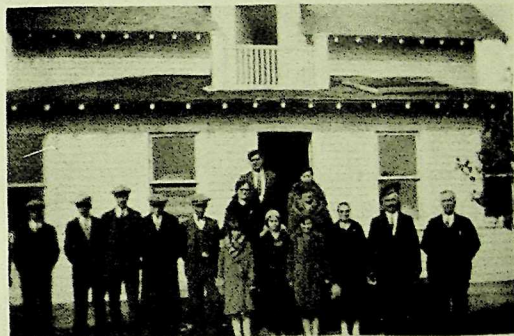
The appreciation day, with Norman Alme and George Schafer as co-chairmen, included a beef barbecue at noon an evening banquet and dance as well as the program with



B.Z. and Irene Hordinsky.

Lyle Bakken as master of ceremonies. Al Smith was committee secretary and Ernest Haykel headed button sales to provide a gift for Hordinsky.

Hordinskys, who were married June 16, 1938, in Lviv, have three children: Walter who works at the clinic with his father; Dr. Jerry Hordinsky of Houston, Tex., chief of space medicine for NASA; now being sent to Germany for two years to advise their space medicine program; and Dr. Maria Hordinsky, now beginning her residency in skin diseases in Minneapolis.

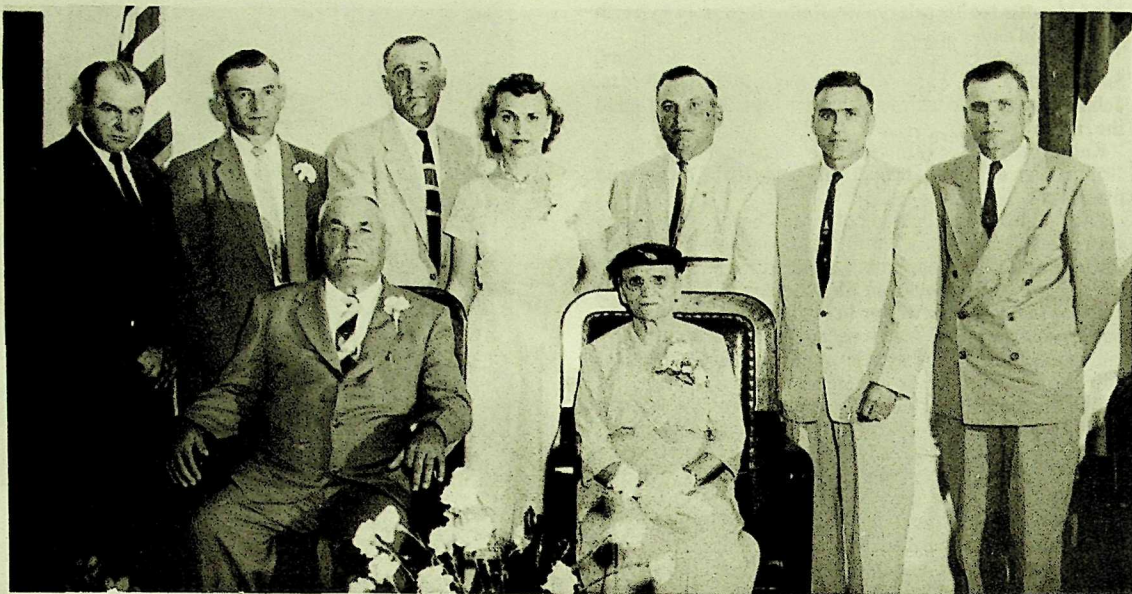


John Isaak and family, John Adams and Herbie, George Kellers and Laura.

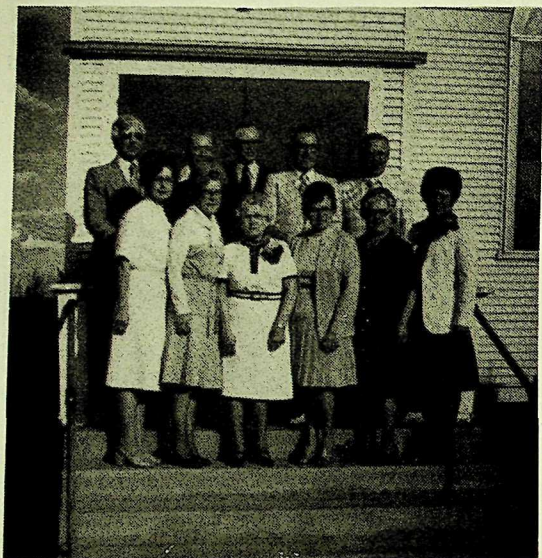
The John Isaak family

John Isaak was born Jan. 14, 1888, and Sophia Issler on May 24, 1886, in Romania. They were married by Sophia's father, Martin Issler, on July 1, 1907.

The same year they emigrated to America with Sophia's sisters and their husbands, Anna and Jacob



The Isaak family, 1957. (Albert Isaak)



Grandma Katie Rauschenberger on her 80th birthday, March 27, 1977, with her daughters.

Adam and Christine and John Rauser. Rausers had two sons, Nathaniel and Gustave. Sophia's sisters died in their younger years.

John Isaak was orphaned when he was a baby; an aunt cared for him until he was 15.

John and Sophia settled south of Drake, living in a sod house the first year. John worked for friends to buy food at first, but later they were able to buy their own farm.

Their children were Mrs. Harold (Annie) Seibold; Emil; David; Martin; Albert; Amanda who died at birth;

the twins, Lydia who died at birth and Benjamin; William; Mrs. Warren (Violet) Bergman; and John Jr., who died at three months of age.

The Isaaks were members of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church. John served on school boards over the years.

They bought their first farm in 1923, eight miles south and a mile west of Drake in Rosenfeld Township, presently the William Isaak farm.

Their children remember visiting with John's cousins, Sam Keller and his brothers of Benedict; Christ Jesz of Butte and John Schelske of Turtle Lake.

Butchering for area families was a yearly community project, with neighbors helping each other until everyone's winter's meat supply was assured. It was work, but it was also fun and laughter with everyone working in harmony. People were poor and in need, but their needs were met. One of the hard times the John Isaak family suffered was the loss of their home, with furniture and clothes, to a disastrous fire. Good friends were there to help the following year, when, with only \$1,500 in insurance and Gottlieb Rauschenberger as chief carpenter, the house was rebuilt.

John and Sophia retired and moved to Drake in 1947. Later they moved to Anamoose and then to the Bismarck Baptist Home. John died Jan. 19, 1972, and Sophia died April 16, 1966.

—Mrs. Warren Bergman

The G.O. Iverson family

G.O. Iverson, who was born in Fertile, Minn., and his wife, a native of Stavanger, Norway, were married Feb. 15, 1892, in Audubon, Minn.

They had a homestead south of Drake for many years.

About 1920 they moved into Drake and operated a small shoe shop. The building has since been sold and torn down.

The family belonged to the Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Iverson died Sept. 22, 1934, and her husband died in 1949.

Their children were George, born Nov. 28, 1892; Leo, Feb. 12, 1893; Edna, May 13, 1895; Orris, July 13, 1898; Edward, Oct. 3, 1900; Leone, May 20, 1906; Gladys, Mar. 29, 1907; Oline, June 27, 1909; Gertrude, June 30, 1911; Milton, April 8, 1914; and Gilbert, Aug. 24, 1916.

— Gladys Rossebo

The Rueben B. Jacobson family

Rueben B. Jacobson was born in Spring Valley, Minn., in 1897.

When he was 10 the family moved to Drake and he was married there to Pearl E. Hegge in 1920.

They had two children, Duwayne Rueben, who died in infancy, and Galen Hegge.

Rueben with his father, John, started the Drake Telephone Exchange and worked with it until it was taken over by the Bell Telephone Company. He held a Master Electrician's Degree and served as a rural mail carrier from 1920 until 1941.

He also worked hard for the Drake Recreational Park until his death in July 1941.

— Galen Jacobson

The Gust Janavaras family

Gust Janavaras, who was born Jan. 19, 1897, in Corinth, Greece went through the fourth grade in public school there. However, the tales he read about Indians in America fascinated him more than his family farm and grocery business, so the 15-year-old lad set sail.

Alone and unable to speak English yet, he arrived in New York May 30, 1912. He moved to Rock Island, Ill. and then to Davenport, Iowa, where he had a good job—cleaning hats and shining shoes for 50 cents a day.

Next came Kenmare, N.D., and then to Minot where he got a section job on the Great Northern railroad, 15 cents an hour for 10 hour days, six days a week. In 1915 the pay was cut to 14 cents an hour and the young immigrant took another job shoveling coal at night for extra pay.

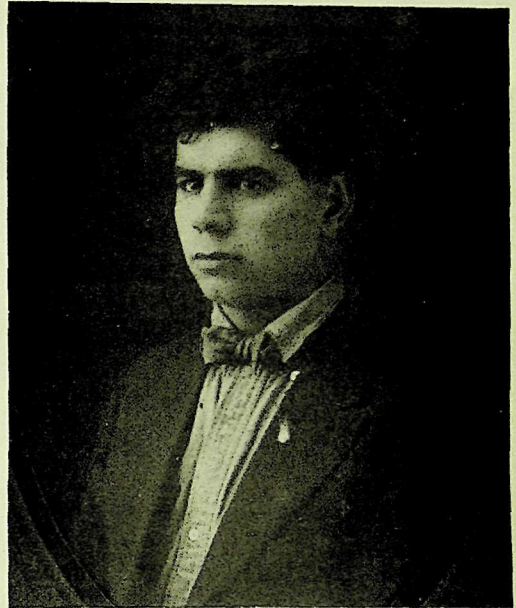
He got laid off in Minot, so he lived in Des Moines, Iowa, with a cousin for a time. On Aug. 7, 1915, he arrived in Drake to work for the Soo Line repairing cars.

By 1920 he was able to purchase the C.H. Burch store in partnership with A. Ally. They sold groceries, dry goods and general merchandise. In 1923 they opened a store in Balfour and in 1925 the partnership was dissolved, with Ally taking the Balfour branch and Janavaras the Drake business.

Gust's great memory, which undoubtedly helped him learn to read and write English within three years of his immigration, also helped on the railroad. He once walked past 65 numbered railroad cars and then wrote down correctly all the numbers!



A railroad crew including Gust Janavaras at the right.



Gust Janavaras 1915.

That memory also aids in his study of classic literature. He can quote Plato and Aristotle by the paragraph. A favorite passage from Aristotle reads: "Justice is perfect virtue because it is the practice of perfect virtue; and perfect in a special degree, because its possessor can practice his virtue towards others and not merely for himself; and there are many who can practice virtue in their own private affairs but cannot do so in their relations with another."

Gust also recalled those who had worked for him in his businesses in Drake: Elsie Matthews, Gert Roth, Helene Paulus, Martha Kroll, Olivia Sendelbach, Emma Heydt, Emmaline Munson, Laura Henenberg, Eileen Filler, Maggie Volk, Mrs. Thorpe, Dorothy Bachmeier, Jacob and Don Adam, Francis Amory, Edwin Wheeler, Ted Uhlich, Bob Schmidgal, Ralph and Allen Schiele, Chuck Halbert, Duane Caron, William Grady, Darwin Hanson, Ralph Dockter, Marlin Carpenter, Louis Johnson, Ray Beutler, Leland Krueger, Mrs. Fred Eichhorn, Fred Nehrenberg, Wilbert Kandt, Mrs. Albert Mehl, Mrs. Woodrow Hamers, Becky Dieterle, Edna Schmidgal, Milton Iverson and Mrs. Alfred Lind.

His memory also brought back some of the statistics of the store. He recalled sugar at 36 cents a pound on Jan. 1, 1920— it dropped to 15 cents within three months. All through 1920 and 1921, the "first depression," Janavaras worked at the store from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on the Soo Line from 4 p.m. to midnight. He struggled until 1928 to "get his head above water," and then came the depression of 1930.

Gust even ended up with elevator stock and grain hauled there as payment. He learned it could also be poor security: rye, barley and oats dropped to 6 cents a bushel and No. 1, 60 pound wheat was 26 cents. Janavaras noted of every 100 businesses begun in 1920, 92 per cent went bankrupt.

But he was able to hang on. The south half of the present-day Farmers Store was his first store. In 1951 a grand-nephew, Pete Roumel who now works for Sears Roebuck in Minneapolis, came to live with Gust until 1960. In 1952, 70 feet were added west to the Farmers Store.

Gust's nephew, Bill Janavaras, who came to Drake in 1961, now teaches at the University of Minnesota-Mankato after earning a bachelor's degree at Minot State College, masters at University of North Dakota, and doctorate at University of Illinois-DeKalb.

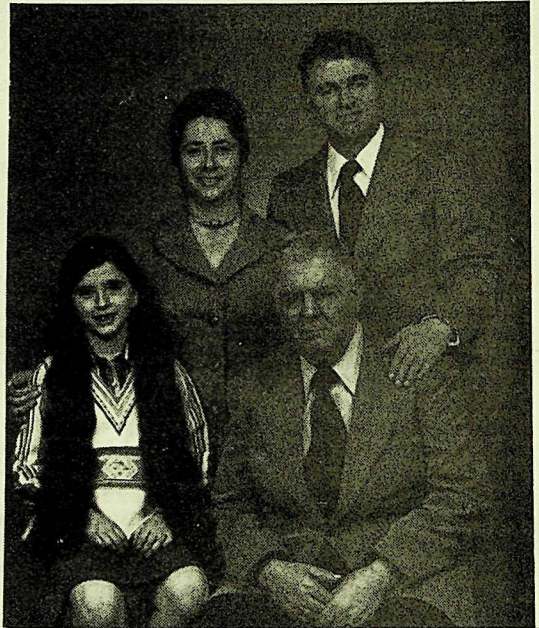
On May 2, 1960, nephew Mark Janavaras came from Greece. Mark's sister, Georgia, who came from Greece in 1965, graduated from the University of South Dakota, and took her doctor's degree in French in Paris where she married a French-Algerian. She teaches at the University of Algiers and he heads construction for the government.

Two years ago Mark's niece, Evangelia Boudoula, came here. She studies Spanish, English and French at Mankato.

—Gust Janavaras



Janavarases at Christmas.



The Mark Janavaras family.

The Mark Janavaras family

Mark Janavaras, born Feb. 2, 1932, in Corinth, was graduated from high school there and studied political science and law for two years at the University of Athens.

Then he worked 9½ years for the Greek version of the FBI, traveling western Europe. He lived on the beautiful island of Corfu several years, was involved with Boy Scouts as a scoutmaster for 8 years and in athletics.

A fellow tourist in Venice told him North Dakota was beautiful, so he sent a postcard to uncle Gust in Drake. When he got home, a letter of invitation was there. He had a hard time making up his mind to come and to stay because he had a job as secretary to the Greek head of police.

However, a pretty Greek immigrant, now his wife Katina, helped make up his mind. They met at church on Easter and later at his aunt's home in Minneapolis. They were married Dec. 1, 1963, at the CP Hotel in Minot.

Katina had studied professional sewing after her father died and her mother was left with eight children. In Minneapolis she was working in a fashion shop, after coming to the U.S. in February, 1959.

In 1963 Gust and Mark bought the building which houses the Farmerette, which Katina manages. Gust had been

renting it since 1958. In 1966 the corporation bought the Red Owl store from Carl Notbohm. Since then Mark and Katina have purchased Gust's interest.

Their daughter Loukia was born Aug. 10, 1969. Mark's parents came in June of that year for a five-year-long visit. Katina returned to Greece for a visit in 1971 and in 1976 the whole family returned for a month-long visit.

—Mark Janavaras

The John Jans family

John Jans, the son of William and Lydia Schlag Jans, was born Aug. 16, 1897, in Romania.

John was one of 12 children, including two brothers, David, who is deceased, and Ferdinand of Drake, and nine sisters, Justine Schaffner, Katherine Uhlich, Matilda Kelly, Christine Kulkey and Pauline Jans, who are all deceased; Carrie Mavis of Minot, Martha Neely, Cloquet, Minn., Bertha Stelzner, St. Paul, Minn., and Edna Heth of Northgate.

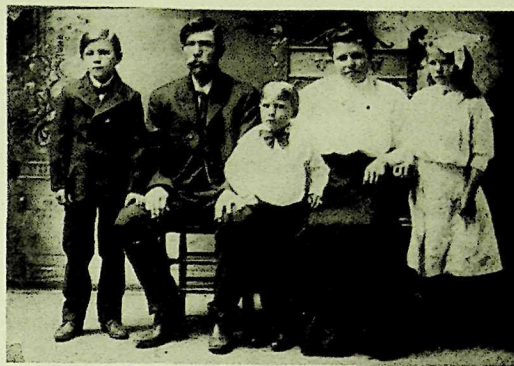
John married Mary Mehl at McClusky on Oct. 14, 1920. She also was born in Romania, on Feb. 7, 1899, to Fredrick and Susanna Roth Mehl. They also had another daughter, Katherine Alexander, and two sons, John and William, who are all deceased.

Mary and John Jans had three children. Esther was graduated from Drake High School in 1942, married Harold Jesz who died Jan. 20, 1969, and lives in Turtle Lake. Her children are Clark, Warren, Marlo, Arden and Rebecca.

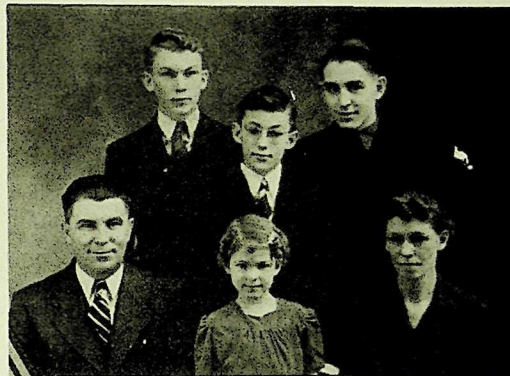
Elmer W. Jans of Reading, Pa., is married to Joan Forte and has two daughters, Lynn and Andrea. LuVern Marie Jans, a 1952 graduate of Drake High School, married Otto Stuber. The family, including son Wade and daughter Sharla Rae, live in Havre, Mont.

John Jans was a farm laborer and did carpenter work. He died Sept. 6, 1954. Mrs. Jans died Aug. 1, 1943.

— Esther Jesz



The Simon Jans family. (Andrew Jans)



The Andrew Jans family.

The Simon Jans family

Andrew Jans, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Jans, was born Nov. 2, 1901, in Agalack, Romania. The family came to the Drake community in 1903 and settled on a homestead 10 miles south of Drake in Rosenfeld Township.

Andrew, his sister Marie and brother Fred grew up on the farm and attended Rosenfeld School No. 1 where they finished the eighth grade. Andrew attended Anamoose High School one year and worked on the farm.

On Nov. 9, 1921, he married Emilie Kolschefska. They had one daughter and four sons, two of whom died.

In 1923 Andrew moved his family to Milwaukee where he worked in shops and factories. In 1928 they moved back to the Zahnow farm northeast of Drake. After their house burned in 1932 they lived on brother Fred's farm.

The family moved into Drake in 1937. In 1941 Andrew began employment with Standard Oil Company, where he worked until 1944 when he purchased the Helgerud Oil Co. plant in Drake and operated his own business. He was a franchised distributor with Mobil Oil Company and for the Deep Rock Oil Co.

This was during World War II when gasoline was rationed, Jans recalled, but with two distributorships, the firm got enough gasoline, some diesel fuel, and furnace oil to supply customers' demands.

He had leased the Kemper Service Station but in 1951 a more modern station was built on Main Street in Drake. In 1956 Mr. Jans sold the business to John Ziegler and in 1959

built another station and motel on Highway 52 on the south side of Drake. In 1970 he built a drive-in restaurant, which he sold to the Howard Golly family.

Andrew served on the school board for 15 years and was chairman of the McHenry County School Officers Association. He served 16 years on the City Council and was mayor for 6 years. A member of the Drake Commercial Club since 1942, he was chairman for Drake's 50th anniversary in 1952. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 108 and of the Drake Sportsman's Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Jans are members of the Drake Baptist Church and observed their 50th wedding anniversary in 1971.

Their three sons served in the armed services, Edmund and Verland in the Navy and Melvin in the Army Air Corps. (Verland was killed in Virginia in 1948.) Edmund, married to Margaret Burgemeister, is in the banking business in Stewartville, Minn. Melvin, chairman of Tenoco's real estate development department, lives in Bakersfield, Calif., with his wife, the former Eilene Halbert.

Their daughter, Aileen, a Minot State College graduate, teaches and has charge of elementary music in the Townner schools. She and her husband, Wes Filler, ranch near Drake. There are 12 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

— Andrew Jans

The Ole Johnson family

The Ole Johnson family came to the Drake area in 1916 from Gibbon, Minnesota, area where they also had been homesteaders.

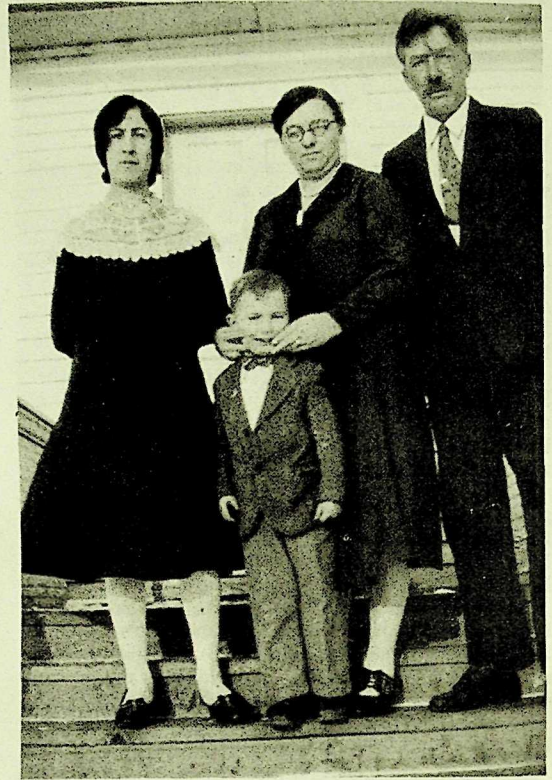
They lived on a farm ½ mile south of Drake where the Dale McCarty farm is now located.

Ole Johnson was born in Norway and came to the U.S. and Minnesota with his parents. Emma Lagerstedt was born in Sweden and in 1868 when she was six the family came to Minnesota. They were married there and had nine children.

A son, Henry, enlisted in the service in 1918 during World War I and died in action. Mrs. Johnson, a Gold Star mother, was very active in the American Legion Auxiliary. She lived to be 96.

Among surviving children are Eleanor Davison in Denver, Colo., and Esther Strong in Long Beach, Calif.

— Esther Strong



The Kandt family: Emelia, Wilbert, Amalia, and Andreas, 1932.

In 1905 they were married and began farming in Strassburg Township, where they were to live until 1945 when they moved into Drake. Their farm remains in the family.

They were members of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church until 1945 when they transferred membership to the Drake Baptist Church.

Their children are Emelia, who was born April 5, 1909, and died July 2, 1934, and Wilbert Arlin Kandt of Drake, born Jan. 21, 1927.

— Wilbert A. Kandt

The Jacob Kandt family

Jacob and Minnie Kandt sailed to New York when they came to the U.S. from Romania with relatives and friends in 1902.

They came by train to Anamoose where they stayed for a time before filing on a homestead 12 miles south and 4 miles west of Drake in Granville Township. Living quarters were built and 10 children were born. Mrs. Kandt, the former Minnie Ingbert, who married Jacob Kandt in 1888, died April 23, 1921.

Their children were Gottlieb, born March 4, 1890, who married Lena Hintz; Mrs. Henry (Marie) Hess, born July 7, 1892; Mrs. Christ (Sophia) Pepple, born March 8, 1896; Mrs. Theodore (Susie) Winkler, March 1, 1898, all born in

The August Kaibel Sr. family

August Kaibel Sr., who was born Dec. 25, 1874, in Baden, Germany, came to Illinois with his mother and two brothers in 1882 when he was 12.

Mrs. Kaibel, the former Minnie Herter, was born in Illinois Oct. 17, 1878. They were married Oct. 21, 1897, and in 1902 they came to North Dakota from Brussels, Ill.

Mr. Kaibel came first by train, bringing household goods, horses and cattle. Mrs. Kaibel followed by train with three small children, Freddie, Carrie and Gussie.

At first they lived with Mrs. Kaibel's relatives near Kief in a two-room house. Later that year they moved to a homestead in Round Lake Township, north of Drake. Mr. Kaibel helped organize the township and served as a director on the school board for several years and as assessor.

In the spring of 1905 they moved to a farm 10 miles south of Drake where they lived until 1947 when they retired and moved into Anamoose. Later they lived at the Lutheran home in Minot until their deaths.

Their eight children were Freddie, born in 1898, who died in 1918; Mrs. George (Carrie) Wagner, Jamestown, born in 1900; August Jr. of Goodrich, born in 1902, died in 1974; Mrs. Miller (Minnie) Kapfer of Jamestown, born in 1904; Mrs. Walter (Freda) Kapfer, Harvey, born in 1909; Mrs. Archie (Norma) Erdman, Goodrich; Norman of Drake, born in 1912; and Cora Kaibel, Rugby, born in 1913.

The Andreas Kandt family

Andreas Kandt was born in Admacha, Romania, on Nov. 30, 1882. His wife Amalia Kandt was born in Odessa, South Russia, on Dec. 7, 1885. They came to the United States.

Romania; Jacob, who was born March 17, 1903, and married Emeline Wosnak; Martin, who was born April 30, 1905, who married Lila Clark; Mrs. Melvin (Annie) Ugelstad, born Aug. 28, 1907; Mrs. Ruben (Magdalena) Kolschefski, born April 21, 1910; Mrs. W.O. (Amelia) Wolford, born March 15, 1914; and Bennie, who was born April 30, 1915, and married Iva Stewart.

In March 1922 Jacob Kandt was married to Sophia Pepple. They farmed until 1937 when they moved to McClusky. He died May 19, 1946, and was buried in the Rosenfeld Cemetery. Mrs. Kandt moved to Bismarck where she died Nov. 10, 1955.

Sophia Pepple lives in Cathay; Jacob in Florida; Martin in Fessenden; Annie and Amelia in Tacoma, Wash.; Magdalena on the farm 7 miles southwest of Kief; and Bennie in Salt Lake City, Utah. Gottlieb, Marie and Susie are deceased.

The Kandts were members of the Rosenfeld and McClusky Baptist churches.

— Mrs. Ruben Kolschefski



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kaufman. (Marvin Lundeen)

They homesteaded five miles north of Drake where they lived and farmed until 1955 when they moved to Minot, selling the farm to Richard Bruner.

They were members of the Catholic Church and Frank was active in township affairs, the Non Partisan League and in the Grange organization. Their grove and yard were the scene of many picnics.

Frank, born May 23, 1873, in Stevens County, Minnesota, died March 30, 1969. His wife, the former Kathryn Vandenberg, born Sept. 21, 1879, at Danvers, Minn., lives at the Lutheran home in Minot. They were married at Webster, S.D., on Dec. 15, 1896.

Their daughter Mabel R. Kaufman, born Dec. 9, 1897, at Appleton, Minn., is Mrs. Oscar Benson of Minot.

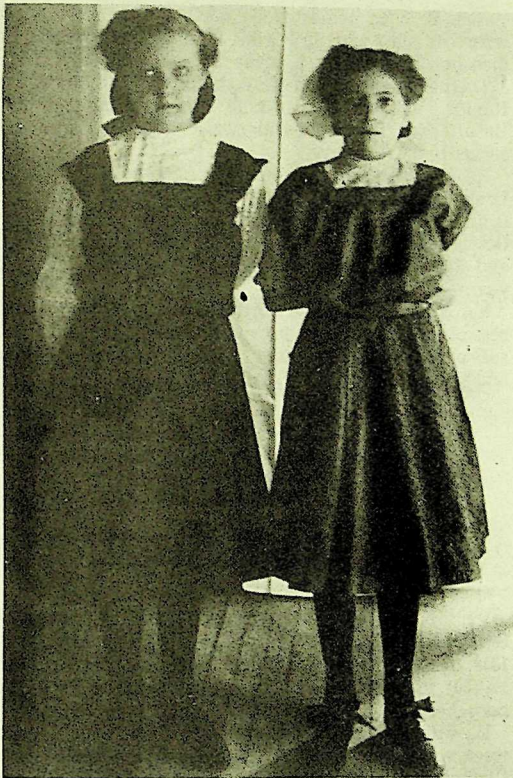
— Mrs. Marvin Lundeen, Minot

The Charles W. Kemper family

Charles W. Kemper was born Dec. 8, 1863, at Crown Point, Ind. A short time later his family moved to Cook County, Illinois. On June 12, 1895, he married Jennie S. Munson of Deerfield, Mich., and the next year they moved to Center Point, Iowa, where they farmed.

Charles came to Anamoose to look for a homestead in November 1899. He stayed with Rev. and Mrs. Fred Knuth while looking over the country. He filed on a homestead and returned to Iowa.

In March, 1900, Charles returned with his stock and some machinery in an immigrant car. On April 6 his wife Jennie and adopted son Raymond arrived— Charley



Mabel Kaufman and Josephine Hanenberg. (Marvin Lundeen)

The Frank Kaufman family

Frank and Kate Kaufman, with their daughter Mabel, came from Minnesota to this area in 1903 by covered wagon.

leading the way with a wagonload of goods and Jennie and Raymond following in a buggy.

They traveled the nine miles from Anamoose to their homestead, two miles west of where Drake stands, over unbroken prairie with no sign of habitation until they came to the Schnabel home, about a mile south of what is now Drake.

A little farther west was the frame of their new home, unfinished, so they lived in a 14 by 20 foot stable for three days until a roof could be put on the house. The stable served as bedroom, dining room and kitchen for three humans and also housed the four horses.

Charley helped the first settlers build the Evangelical Church five miles northwest of his homestead. The church was later sold and moved to Funston. He was one of the seven charter members of the Congregational Church of Drake.

Charley also helped organize school districts, organize townships, lay out roads and start improvements on them. He was a supervisor of Spring Grove Township for many years and was a charter member of the Broadview Grange.

Their son, Raymond, who is deceased, leaves two sons, Robert and Gene of Grand Forks. Mr. and Mrs. Kemper also made a home for several foster children.

— Mrs. Orville Kemper Sr.

The John P. Kemper family

John P. Kemper, a brother of Charles Kemper, was born Jan. 21, 1870, at Crown Point, Indiana. Later the family moved to Cook County, Ill. He married Martha Hemphil at Center Point, Iowa.

He left Center Point on Feb. 26, 1909, by immigrant car, arriving at Drake March 3, 1909. His homestead was four miles south of Drake.

His wife left Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 8, 1909, accompanied by the children, Rosina Ellen, 9, Florence Mae, 4, and Orville Edward, 2. They arrived in Drake on March 10.

In her diary, Martha noted, "Oh, my, such snowbanks; I never will forget how cold and lost I felt!"

John Kemper was active in Spring Grove school and township boards and in the early Evangelical Church of Drake. He was also active in organizing Broadview Grange, of which he was a charter member and served as master for many years.

Their daughter Rosina and son Orville are deceased. Florence, Mrs. Finney, lives in Dixon, Ill., and her daughter Eileen lives at LaGrange, Ill. Rosina's son, Edward, lives in Velva and Orville's children are Orville Jr. of Drake, Jerrold of Wahpeton and Marilyn of Minot.

— Mrs. Orville Kemper Sr.

The William E. Kemper family

William E. and Carrie A. Kemper, who were married at Center Point, Iowa, in 1899, came to the Drake area in 1908 in an emigrant car.

They purchased a farm three miles south and a mile west of Drake where they farmed until they retired in the 1940s.

Their children, born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, were Clayton W. Kemper, born Dec. 31, 1905, and Delmar F. Kemper, born Jan. 14, 1907.

William E. Kemper held school, church and township offices. Mrs. Kemper, who was born in 1876 in Arthur, Ill., died in 1964. Her husband, who was born in 1874, died in 1959.

They were lifetime church members. Mr. Kemper held church, school and township offices.

— Clayton W. Kemper

The N. B. Kjos family

Nels B. Kjos homesteaded north of Balfour in 1900, where he lived until 1940 when he moved into Velva. He died Jan. 23, 1949. Mrs. Kjos died in November 1949.

Their son Bencer, who was born June 26, 1904, in Pelican Rapids, Minn., grew up at Balfour where he came in 1905. He attended Interstate Business College in Fargo and served in the Air Corps.

He worked as a salesman for Bechtle Motor Co. in Drake for a time and in 1937 purchased the dealership from O.W. Bechtle. He operated it the rest of his life. In October 1959 Mr. Kjos also purchased the Morris Hotel and Cafe from Lloyd McQuay who had operated it 12 years.

Mr. Kjos served in the North Dakota Senate in the 1963 session and as a state representative in 1955 and 1957 sessions. He was a member of the Elks, Masons, Shrine and American Legion. He died in March 1967.

The William Knuth Sr. family

William Knuth Sr. was born June 13, 1858, at Klein Luko, Germany, and his wife, Amelia Nehls, was born Dec. 13, 1858, at Falkenburg, Germany. They were married April 14, 1884, in Berlin, Germany, and their first son, Paul, was born there.

He was several months old when they made the six-week voyage to the United States in 1885. They came to Vinton, Iowa, where William's oldest brother lived; he had sent money for their trip and they lived at Vinton while they earned enough to repay him.

In 1886 they moved to LeMars, Iowa, where they farmed and their next eight children were born.

In 1899 William's brother, Rev. Fred J. Knuth, was sent by the Des Moines Conference of the United Evangelical

In 1899 William's brother, Rev. Fred J. Knuth, was sent by the Des Moines Conference of the United Evangelical Church to Anamoose as a missionary pastor. He helped people find homesteads.

William and Amelia and their family came in 1901 to settle on a homestead 10 miles northwest of Drake. There were four families in this group who came by immigrant car to Balfour.

Their first humble home was in the granary which was built onto the barn to save the expense of one wall. The space was shared with William's uncle and his wife who came with William's family.

In 1902 William and Amelia built their house and their 10th child was born. For a time three families lived in the house— William's family; his sister and her husband and daughter; and an uncle and aunt of William who lived with him until they died.

There were school programs and the young people got together in neighborhood homes for parties. In horse-and-buggy days, people didn't go far from home, and often young people walked to parties. There were no telephones or mail deliveries.

During the summer months they shared much hard work. When fall's work was over, father put in a supply of flour to last the winter. Apples, in a barrel, were put in the cellar.

Winter evenings were spent with the children playing games. It was cozy sitting in the large kitchen with the Majestic range giving its warmth.

William had sheep so the family made its own wool, and Amelia spent evenings spinning. The wool was washed and she dyed it, too, for mittens, socks, scarves, and whatever was needed.

William's uncle did much of the family knitting and also for many neighbors. Amelia's spinning wheel is now in the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. Clifford Kummer of Williston.

Church services and prayer meetings were held in homes and schools. Later the Knuths helped build the United Evangelical Church where its country cemetery is still located, along Highway 14. Horse-drawn buggies or wagons were church transportation and the family enjoyed many programs and services. William finally bought both a top-buggy and a two-seated one, needed to get the large family to church!

Knuths' children were Paul, Elizabeth and Louis, all deceased; William Jr., Drake; Fred, deceased; Mrs. Lillie Kriedeman, Williston; Rev. Herman C. Knuth, Glasgow, Mont.; Charley living in Minot with his daughter Videll; George, Drake; and Mrs. Elsie Kofstad, Drake.

Mrs. Knuth died in September 1939 and William Knuth Sr. in February 1947. Their homestead is now owned by Marvin Senechal.

— George Knuth

The John Kofstad family

John Kofstad, his mother, brother and sister came to North Dakota from Barnesville, Minn., in March 1905. They came to Towner in an immigrant car, bringing their cattle and machinery to a farm owned by the father of attorney Victor Stiehm. They rented that farm for several years.

In 1911, they discontinued farming and in 1913 moved into Guthrie. John worked for the Great Northern Railroad for some time.

In 1920 he became the International Harvester implement dealer and also sold gas and oil and car accessories. In later years, after the two grocery stores closed, he handled the most needed groceries as a convenience for his customers. That included candy for the kids!

John retired in 1953 and he and his wife, the former Elsie Knuth, continued to live in their home in Guthrie until June 1963 when they moved their home to Drake. John passed away March 10, 1967. His wife continues to live in Drake.

— Mrs. John Kofstad

The Fredrick Kolschefski family

Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Kolschefski, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Adam, came to the United States from Romania in 1902. They sailed to New York and came by train to Anamoose. They lived there for a time before filing on a homestead 11 miles south and two miles west of Drake in Rosenfeld Township.

Fredrick Kolschefski had seven children: Mrs. Andrew (Emilie) Jans, born Nov. 21, 1901, in Romania; and those born in North Dakota, Otto, born Oct. 15, 1904; Ruben, Jan. 30, 1906; Alvina, born Dec. 28, 1908; and William born Nov. 3, 1914. Alvina died Feb. 11, 1965, and William Dec. 8, 1974. Two other children died in infancy.

The children grew up on the homestead and attended the Rosenfeld Township School No. 3. Farming was the main occupation and hard times were experienced. In early years, fellowship came primarily from visiting neighbors and church attendance. Threshing was almost a festival with as many as 20 men to feed and ho

The Kolschefskis were members of the Church of God.

Emilie, who lives in Drake, was married Nov. 9, 1921, to Andrew Jans. Otto was married Oct. 13, 1935; he and his wife and son live in Minot.

Ruben and his wife purchased their own farm 10 miles south and 12 miles west of Drake after their marriage Nov. 28, 1929. They have a son Vernon. Ruben has been active in the local church and township boards. William was married Dec. 27, 1945.

The Fredrick Kolschefskis retired from the farm and, with daughter Alvina, moved into Drake. Mrs. Kolschefski had a stroke in 1946 and died on Jan. 1, 1957. Her husband followed Oct. 6, 1960.

Ruben lives on a farm in McLean County southeast of Butte.

— Mrs. Andrew Jans



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Krueger 50th anniversary. (Gerald Krueger)

The Charles Kriedeman family

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kriedeman, who originally came from Germany to Iowa, later settled in the Drake area.

Their children were Anna, Paul, Art, William, Fritz and Ed.

Anna married Paul Knuth and they farmed in Lake George Township. Their children were Henry; Mrs. Rueben (Verna) Roth; Wesley; and Delores. Anna and Paul are deceased.

Paul married Lillie Knuth and they farmed in Strege and Lake George Townships. Paul is deceased and his wife resides in Bethel Lutheran Home in Williston. Their children are Tyler of Seattle, Wash.; Lloyd of Seattle; and Delos of Minot.

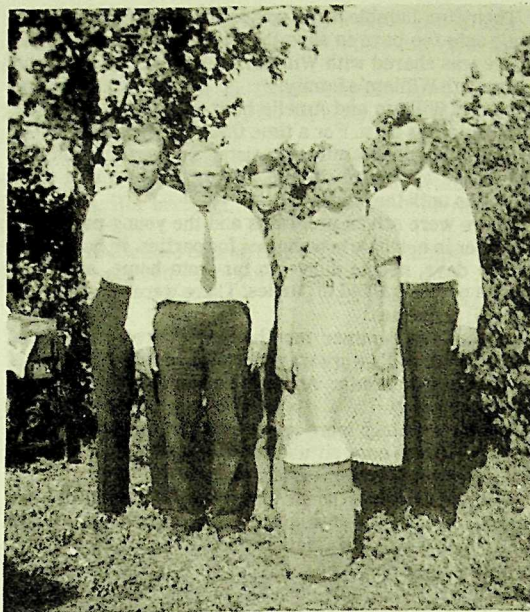
Art, who is deceased, married Margaret Schiele. He worked on the Great Northern section crew at Guthrie. Their children are Fred, Marion, Darlene and Shirley.

William Kriedeman married Lydia Buse. They farmed near Balfour until retiring and moving to Minot. Their daughters are Mrs. Elmer (Ardella) Westergard and Mrs. John (Lavern) Adam, both of Minot.

Fritz, who is deceased, married Barbara Bachmeir. Their children are Carl, Clarence and Eva.

Ed Kriedeman, who married Margaret Volk, farmed in Lake George Township and later worked as a mechanic. Their children are Roy, Ryan, Rex and Ricky.

— Tyler Kriedeman



Andrew Krueger's birthday on the farm, 1937, Gerald, Andrew, Leland, Mrs. Krueger and Roland.

A son, Gerald, was born Jan. 13, 1908, and Roland was born March 9, 1910. A daughter, Elizabeth, born March 28, 1912, lived only six weeks.

In 1916 the family moved to a farm northwest of Drake. After many years of hard work and with the help of their sons, more land was added. Andrew was active in church and township work.

On Feb. 3, 1927, another son, Leland, was born. He was graduated from high school and attended business college in Fargo.

In 1950 Andrew and Mary rented out their farm and bought a home in Drake. She died Sept. 18, 1969, after a long illness. After Mary's death, Andrew continued to live in their home and spent his time gardening. His other hobby was fishing; he said he "could let all his troubles flow down the river."

After his many operations, he convalesced at the home of his son Roland. While he stayed there he reminisced about past experiences. He credited his success to hard work and saving money but he believed in honesty in dealing with others.

At the time of his death, Jan. 17, 1973, he left three sons, eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister, Katie; and three brothers, Gottlieb, Matt and Mike. They are still living.

— Gerald Krueger

The Fred Kriedeman family

Fred and Martha Kriedeman, who also resided in Lake George Township were killed in an automobile-train collision at Rangeley in the early 1920s. Mr. Kriedeman was a brother of Charles Kriedeman.

Their children were Carrie, Anna, William, Margaret, Louis and Carl.

— Tyler Kriedeman

The Andrew Krueger family

Andrew's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Krueger, lived in Ortaka, Romania, and after many years decided to move to the United States.

On July 4, 1900, after two weeks of a stormy ocean voyage, they landed in New York, then traveled to Fessenden where they stayed with Jacob's sister. Later they homesteaded south of Kief in the Krueger Lake area. They had nine sons, John, Jake, Carl, Fred, Christ, Andrew, Matt, Mike, Gottlieb, and two daughters, Susanne and Katie.

Andrew, who was born Aug. 17, 1885 and was 16 when they came to the U.S., worked many years for his uncle Mike Pepple and also in the Valley City area. On April 7, 1907, he married Mary Kolsch. They lived in the Krueger Lake area.

The Gerald Krueger family

Gerald Krueger was born in 1908 east of Krueger Lake, 10 miles southeast of Kief. The lake was named after his grandfather.

In 1916 his parents moved to a farm four miles northwest of Drake where Gerald attended school in Strege Township. He married Yvonne Varner of Balfour in June 1934. They lived on a farm two miles west of Drake for 10 years. They were the parents of a son who died in September 1937.

Later they bought a farm 1½ miles east of Balfour where they farmed for 23 years. In the fall of 1966 Kruegers built a home in Drake.

Gerald served as supervisor of Spring Grove Township until 1945 and from 1946 to 1958 in Balfour Township; served as deacon, trustee and now as financial secretary for Trinity Lutheran Church; helped organize the Drake Farmers Grain Elevator and was a director for 18 years; and served 22 years on the Drake Farmers Union Oil Co. board. He has been active in the Rural Fire Prevention Board for nine years; the Livestock Shipping Association for 12 years; the Drake Housing Board for nine years and served a three-year term on the FHA board. He was elected McHenry County Commissioner for three terms and served on the Pioneer History Book committee.

Yvonne has been active in church work, the Harvey Hospital Auxiliary; the Library Guild and many other clubs and organizations. They expressed their enjoyment of living in the Drake community and appreciation for good neighbors and friends.

— Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Krueger

The Jacob G. Krueger family

Jacob G. Krueger, son of Jacob and Christine Schmidt Krueger, was born Oct. 9, 1877, in a village, Atmegea, in Romania. In 1898 he sailed to America where he worked as a farm laborer for an uncle, Mike Pepple, at Fessenden, to pay for his fare.

Two years later he came to Anamoose and set up machinery for John Pepple, a farm implement dealer.

In 1900 he filed a claim on a quarter three miles south of Kief. During the summer he worked on his farm and during the winter he worked for John Pepple and also for Jake Roll who owned and operated a livery stable there.

In 1900 Matilda Stach, who was born at Catauli, Romania, on June 28, 1885, came to America with her parents, John and Caroline Schelske Stach. The family settled north of Turtle Lake in an area called Tabor.

On June 12, 1903, Matilda Stach and Jacob Krueger were married at Fessenden.

They had 10 children. Their oldest son William was 14 when he was killed in a farm accident with a horse. Another son, Walter, 10, died of diphtheria and an infant son died when he was accidentally kicked by a horse.

Their surviving children include one daughter, Mrs. Vern (Emma) Olson, Yakima, Wash., and six sons, Jake J. and Arthur, both of Yakima; Robert, Lodi, Calif.; the twins, Irwin of Bellevue, Wash., and Bert in Pasco, Wash.; and Christ in Drake.

Jacob Krueger was a charter member of the Drake Shipping Association. He was the first clerk of the Strassburg School District where he was a board member for 37 years.

In 1944 the Kruegers moved to Yakima where Mrs. Krueger died in 1947. Mrs. Krueger was 92 when he died Aug. 31, 1970.

— Christ Krueger



Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Krueger wedding, 1903. (Christ Krueger)



Mr. and Mrs. Jacob G. Krueger. (Christ Krueger)

The Frank Lain family

Frank Lain was born Feb. 7, 1873, in Havelock, Ontario Canada. He went to Duluth, Minn., where he worked in lumber camps and later he spent one year working on Isle Royal in Minnesota.

Then he went to Park River where he worked on a farm. In 1902 he came to Towner by train and took a homestead 12 miles north of Drake.

His wife, the former Ruth Kitchen, was born June 26, 1890, in Park River. They were married June 26, 1906.

Their children were Howard, born in 1907 and now deceased; Lindsay of St. Helens, Ore., born in 1908; Mrs. Albert (Lillys) Cooke, Dayton, Ore., born in 1910; Louis, born in 1914 and now deceased; Mrs. Paul (Della) Stanley, San Bruno, Calif., born in 1918; and Mrs. Con (Doris) Van Eeckhout, Drake, born in 1919.

—Mrs. Con Van Eeckhout



Walter Leigh.

The Steven Leigh family

Steven Leigh came to Valley City from London, England, in 1896. He and his wife, a native of Guelph, Ontario, were married in May 1897 and their son Walter was born in Valley City in 1898.

In 1904 Steven came to the Drake area and his wife and son followed in 1905. A daughter May, now May Foster of Seattle, Wash., was born May 1, 1909, in Drake.

Steven Leigh took a homestead 1½ miles north and a mile east of Drake and farmed for a time. He also cooked, painted and, in his spare time, did carpenter work. For a time he also ran a bakery in Drake.

Steven and Walter both played in the Drake Band from 1910 to 1918.

In 1928 they moved to Minot. Mrs. Leigh died in 1943 at the age of 65 and her husband died at age 65 and her husband died at age 80 in 1945.

—Walter Leigh

Mr. and Mrs. George Lemer

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lemer and family came to New York in May 1900 from Odessa, Russia, on board the ship "Wilhelm der Rosee Grosse." The children who came were Mike, Henry, Magdalena, Mrs. George Meier of Canada, George and Louis Lemer, who all lived in the area.

The Lemer family came to North Dakota and homesteaded eight miles southeast of Towner. In 1907 they bought a farm 10 miles north of Drake.

George Lemer was born March 12, 1886, near Odessa. In June 1909 he married Kathrina Grad at St. John's Catholic Church of Blumenfeld, north of Drake.

Kathrina, who was born Jan. 5, 1891, near Odessa, and came to America in 1898, recalled a harrowing experience on the trip from New York to North Dakota. The train had a wreck with several cars derailing! Luckily the car she and her family were in stayed upright. Her family resided near Selz.

George and Kathrina were the parents of Mrs. Joe G. (Lena) Volk, Karlsruhe; Ludwig, who farmed 12 miles north of Drake and is now deceased; Frank in Drake; Mrs. Wendelin (Eva) Volk of Rugby; Mrs. Joe (Theresa) Keller, Velva; Peter on the family farm 10 miles north and ¾ mile east of Drake; and Mrs. Hilary (Rose) Bruner, Drake.

George homesteaded in Round Lake Township. In 1911 they moved to another farm in Round Lake Township where they lived until January 1964, when they retired and built a home in Drake.



Mrs. Steven Leigh. (Walter Leigh)



John Lemer family, July 1973. (John Lemer)

In 1920 he remarried, Mrs. Therisa Kramer, who also lost her husband in 1918. She had three sons, Aloys Kramer in California, John Kramer of Minot and Joe Kramer in Great Falls. Therisa and Louis Lemer had two children, Mrs. Constant (Josephine) Miller of Orrin and Ben Lemer of Harvey. Louie moved to Drake in 1948. He died in 1969.

Louie's son, John L. Lemer, married Loretta Bruner in 1941. They have eight children, Francis, Loren, Susan, Charlotte, Barbara, Blaine, Sandy and Julie.

John L. Lemer

The Henry Lemer family

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lemer and their children, Mike, Henry, Magdaline, George and Louie left Odessa, Russia, for Bremen, Germany, in 1899. They boarded the ship Wilhelm Der Grosse and sailed to New York, landing May 2, 1900.

From there they came by train to North Dakota. They homesteaded eight miles south of Towner. About 1903 they bought a farm from Mr. Ost in Lake George Township. (The farm was sold to Pete Lemer in 1966.) Henry Lemer died in 1919 and his wife in 1931.

Mike, the eldest son, was married to Magdalene Ehrsmen. He died, in 1902, leaving five small children, John Lemer of Drake, Mrs. John (Margaret) Klein, Mrs. Frank (Phyllis) Wald and Mrs. Kasmer (Magdalene) Wald, now all of Karlsruhe, and Mrs. Tom (Marcella) Volk of Devils Lake.

Magdaline married George Meyers and her family resides in Canada. In 1911, Louie married Frances Ehrsmen who died in 1918. They had five children: John L., Balfour; Henry, who died leaving his family in Anamoose; Mrs. Kathrine Kuntz of Devils Lake; Mrs. Ann Kuntz of Great Falls, Montana; and Mrs. Phyllis Cooley of Bridgeport, Washington.



Mr. and Mrs. George Lemer, golden wedding, 1959. (Peter Lemer)

They were members of St. John's Catholic Church of Blumenfeld until 1939 when they became members of St. Margaret-Mary in Drake. George was a Long Lake school board member for a number of years.

- Peter Lemer

The Henry Lemer family

Henry Lemer, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lemer of Odessa, Russia, was born Feb. 9, 1880.

In 1900 he sailed to the United States, crossed the country by train to North Dakota and then went to his homestead 10 miles north of Drake where he lived in a sod house.

In 1901 his parents and his brothers, Mike, George and Louis, and his sister, Magdaline, came to make their home in North Dakota, too.

Henry and Josephine Ziegler, who had met in Europe, were married at Fulda in the Blumenfeld Catholic Church in 1905. She was a native of Alsace, former province of France.

Their children are Mrs. Frank (Ann) Bossert of Drake, born in 1908 and died in 1970; John H. of Drake, born in 1910; Henry H. of Drake, born in 1912; Mathew of Wolford, born in 1913; Sebastian of Drake, born in 1915 and died in 1960; Mrs. Lawrence (Frances) Keller of Oberon, born in 1917; and Mrs. Pius (Tillie) Wentz, of Minot, born in 1919. Two children died in infancy.

Henry Lemer, the father, died March 6, 1926.

Henry and Josephine's son, Henry H. Lemer, owns his homestead and is farming on it. The name also is carried on; there now is Henry Lemer the fifth, in Minot.

Josephine Lemer, who was born in 1882, was remarried in 1941 to John Kraft of Great Falls, Mont. She died in 1955.

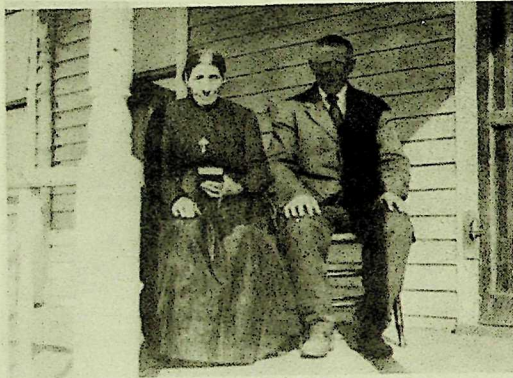
— Henry H. Lemer



Henry and Josephine Lemer. (Henry L. Lemer)



Sander Lerberg. (Theodore S. Kopseng)



Grandpa and Grandma Lemer about 1910. (John L. Lemer)

Sander Lerberg

Sander Lerberg, born about 1870 at Hal Hallingdal, Norway, came to the United States in 1898 and worked as a farmhand in Iowa and other places.

While working for Knute Kopseng near Harvey, he learned of homestead land near an Indian reservation and headed that way, stopping en route to spend the night with a homesteader, Martin Egeland, who was discouraged, nearly out of food and, worst of all, out of chewing tobacco. Sander bought the homestead rights for \$10 and a plug of tobacco.

He proved up the land in 1905, in Spring Grove Township, and in 1906 bought the homestead of Luella Hovland.

Sander, who never married, lived over 30 years in a house just 12 by 14 feet with a cellar underneath, overshadowed by numerous granaries.

His nephew, Theodore Sander Kopseng, recalled coming 30 miles by train with his brothers to visit his uncle one summer. They had a wonderful week, playing with neighbor boys, sleeping in the granary and eating a special treat, oranges. When their parents met them, however, they found their sons deplorably dirty and rushed them home lest the folks' friends see the mess.

Later Sander did some gambling on the grain market and spent a couple winters in Minneapolis. He made some money but concluded it was too risky.

He felt he could forecast weather with some accuracy and in 1934 he seeded no grain and urged his neighbors not to. There was no crop whatsoever and he used the seed he had saved to plant fields in 1935.

Sander's generosity to his niece and nephews included paying Ben the large wage of \$15 a day during threshing and giving Gudrun a \$700 piano.

Sander was a Non-Partisan Leaguer and donated to several churches.

He was killed in a tractor accident in 1935. His sister, Mrs. Kopseng, inherited the land and after her death, her sons, Ben and Theodore, inherited the land which they still own.

— Theodore S. Kopseng

The Frank Lettengarver family

Frank Lettengarver was born in Minnesota in 1873. An orphan, he lived with many families and, at the age of 14, was on his own.

In September 1894 he homesteaded at Hinckley, Minn.

The following year was the historic Hinckley forest fire which killed 450 people. Frank survived by driving his team out into a lake and standing in water overnight while the fire raged around. Birds and small animals landed on him and the backs of his horses.

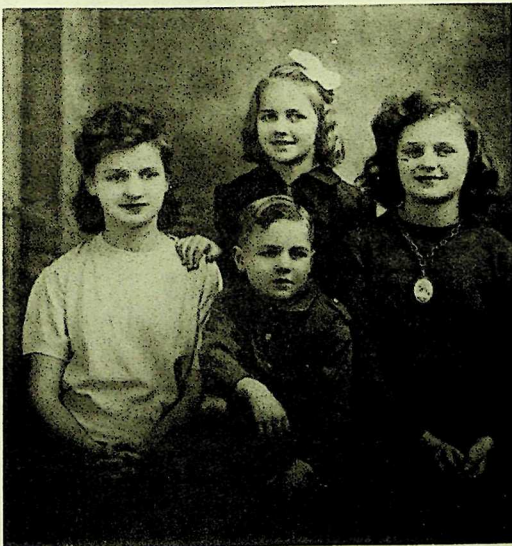
He survived the fire, but gave up homesteading and returned to St. Paul. He worked in an ice house on the lake there for a time.

In June 1900 he drove three weeks to North Dakota with a team and wagon and \$50.

He built a hayshed on his homestead in Stregre Township. That winter he stored hay in one side and he



Frank Lettengarver family. (Mrs. Herman Kloehn)



The Herman Kloehn children, 1940- Dona, Marcella, Arlene and Gene. (Herman Kloehn)

and the horses lived on the other side. It was a hard winter with lots of snow and wind and no trees for shelter.

The next year he dug a well and built a stone basement and lived in it. He was married Jan. 18, 1910, to Florence Sherlock, who was born Oct. 30, 1890, in Cass County, N.D. Her father, William Sherlock, had homesteaded in Spring Grove Township in 1904.

Mr. and Mrs. Lettengarver had a daughter, Frances, born Oct. 6, 1910 and a son, Floren William (Bill) Lettengarver, born Aug. 11, 1912. A rancher at Roy, Mont., he is now retired.

Frances was married May 23, 1934, to Herman Kloehn. They lived at Garrison Dam for many years, later at Carpio, and for 20 years at Boy River, Minn. They retired and they now live in Balfour.

They had four children, Mrs. Sid (Arlene) Saucedo, Minot; Mrs. Dick (Dona) Kelly, Hamburg, N.J.; and Mrs. Ralph (Marcella) Otto, Gillette, Wyo. There are nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A son, Gene died in 1943, at the age of 6.

— Mrs. Herman Kloehn

The Ole Lommen family

The parents of Ole Lommen came to Spring Grove, Minn., in 1848 from Valdres, Norway, in June 1900. Ole, who had studied to be a veterinarian, and his wife Bertha set out in turn, this time with an immigrant car bound for Balfour.

The car contained household goods, a lumber wagon and buggy, a breaking plow, a cow and eight horses.

He filed on land, now the August Keller farm southwest of Drake. They stayed with a neighbor, Peter Aanrud who lived just south of Ole's land in a small claim shack. Bertha cooked and baked on a small black cookstove out in the open.

Since the breaking of land was too late, no crops were raised the first year. But they built their house.

Many of the earlier settlers had houses made of sod, the sod cut into two- or three-foot lengths and laid into a wall like bricks. A few rafters and boards to hold up a sod roof and a small four-light window sash set into the solid wall completed it. The bare ground was the floor; walls were white-washed.

Later settlers built their claim shacks of lumber covered with tar paper, shingled roofs, wood floors and white plastered walls.

Some settlers earlier than Lommens were Ole Meyers, G.O. Iverson, A.C. Anderson, Henry Peterson and his mother, Ole Selvog, G. Falness, Bentleyys, Charley Kemper, Andrew Soderberg and Charley Johnson. Later new neighbors were Christ Nord, John Ficker, John and Will Kemper, Lulu Larson Ross, Ole Trulson and Jim Bailey.

In the late summer, settlers joined to plow a firebreak as prairie fires started easily on the dry prairie. Old-timers agree the winters were severe in the first Dakota years and they learned early not to let winter catch them unprepared; they stocked up early on sugar, flour and coal.

Soon a township was organized and named Spring Grove after Ole's hometown in Minnesota. Next a school, called the Nord school, was built and the Lutheran church and Sunday School was held there.

The neighbors were very friendly, had many dinner parties with each family inviting as many guests as the house would hold. The children who were too large to be held stood along the wall and ate- they were told they would grow better!

Teachers had several programs during the school term and basket and pie socials were held at school. Along with the good times, the pioneers experienced the drouth years, grasshoppers and the dirt storms of the '30s.

Lommens had three children, Lucille, Oberlin who is deceased, and Pete.

In 1929 Lucille married Verdie Shink. They lived in Coatesville, Pa., three years and in Montana several years before settling in Drake. They operated a dry-cleaning plant and Verdie was employed in the Drake Post office until retiring in 1967. They have two sons, Edward and Henry who is married to Sandra Springer. The family, including five sons, lives in Seattle.

Pete, a retired well driller, married Rachel Beutler in 1927. They have a daughter, Mrs. Joe (Dorothy) Madar of Big Trail, Mich., and three grandchildren.

Ole Lommen died Dec. 5, 1935, and his wife June 16, 1953.

Bertha's parents, Dora and John Ossowski, came to the U.S. from Poland in 1865 and lived in Hokah, Minn., until 1909 when they moved to Faith, S.D. In 1914 they moved to Drake. John Ossowski died in March 1943. His wife died in 1919.

- Mrs. Verdie Shink

The Henry N. London family

Henry N. London was born Aug. 28, 1877, in Marionette, Wis. When he was a young boy his family lived on a farm near Vulcan, Mich. He worked in the woods as a lumberjack for several years.

In 1900 he filed on a homestead in Schiller Township, about 11 miles northeast of Drake. In 1912 he married Henrietta Pietsch.

They had two sons and five daughters.

Henry's homestead was enlarged to a farm of 490 acres on which he raised purebred Red Poll cattle and Poland China hogs along with wheat and other grains.

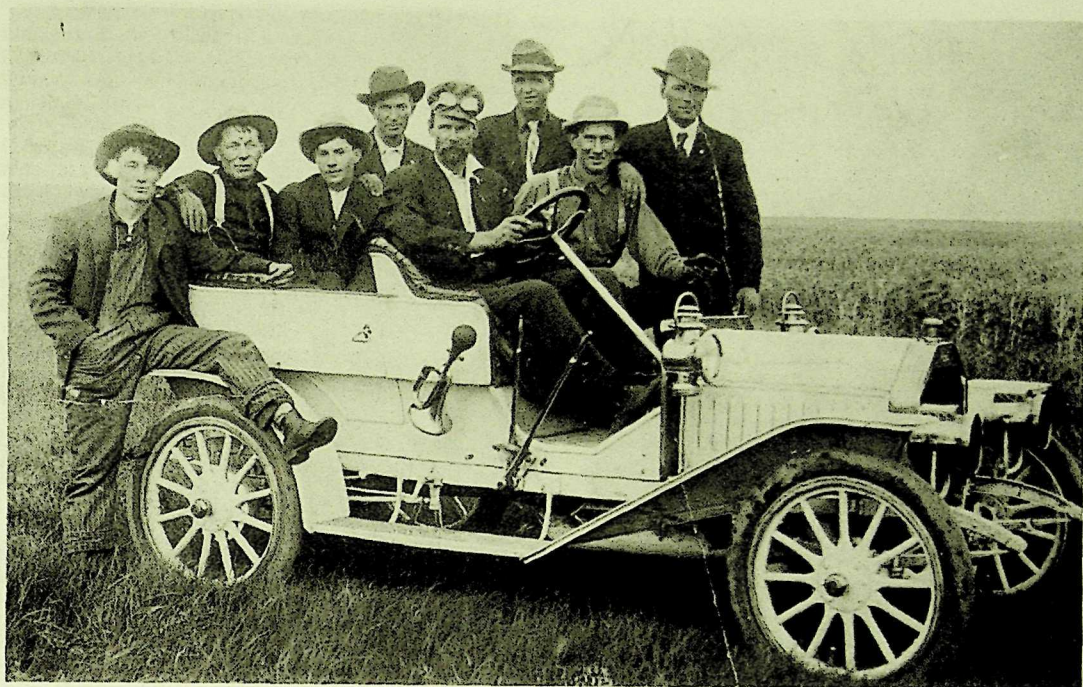
He served as township supervisor from 1923 until 1936. He was a member of the Drake Odd Fellows Lodge and the family belonged to the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Drake.

In 1936 the London family moved back to Vulcan where they succeeded in redeeming his family farm which had become debt-ridden. The farm in North Dakota was sold later to Henry Schnase, who still owns it.

- Mrs. Fred (Beatrice) Browning



Mr. and Mrs. Ben Magnuson.



In Ole B's car: Henry London, Henry Doorholt, Curtis Speers, Mr. Nyren, Ole B. Olson, Pete Olson, H. Pietsch and Christ Olson. (Gary Bettcher)

The Ben Magnuson family

In the spring of 1915, Ben and Verna Magnuson and their baby daughter, Ruth, moved to Drake. He purchased the existing lumberyard.

Their son Richard, now retired in Alameda, Calif., was born Aug. 16, 1916; daughter Gladys, now Mrs. Blanding of Harvey, was born Dec. 31, 1917; and Robert, now retired with summers in Ohio and winters in Florida, was born June 22, 1920.

The Magnusons were active in the Drake community. Mrs. Magnuson, an accomplished singer, sang at every departure of men from McHenry County to serve during World War I. She was Sunday School superintendent at the Congregational Church and with the advent of a Lutheran church in Drake, taught Sunday School and was pianist there.

Mr. Magnuson served two terms on the City Council and 12 years on the Drake school board.

Their eldest child, Ruth, died in April 1929. Mr. Magnuson sold out and retired in 1945 to spend his remaining summers in Minnesota and winters in Texas. Verna Magnuson died May 20, 1970, and her husband followed Nov. 20 that year.

— Gladys Magnuson Blanding

The Gottlieb Martin family

In 1899 Gottlieb Martin came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Martin, to the Drake-Kief area. Gottlieb was 11.

The Paul Schade family had settled in the same general area in 1891 and in 1910, Gottlieb Martin and Elizabeth Schade were married. They farmed in the area for 35 years. After Mrs. Martin's death, Gottlieb and two daughters moved to Lodi, Calif.

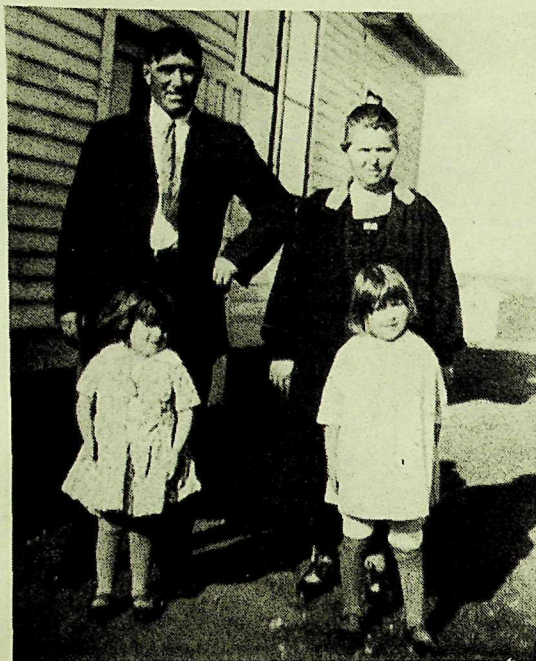
The Martin family were active members of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church. Their oldest daughter, Ella, graduated from Drake High School in 1931 and taught for three years in the rural Kief and Drake area.

Their son, Walter, still lives on the family farm and his three children are Drake High School graduates.

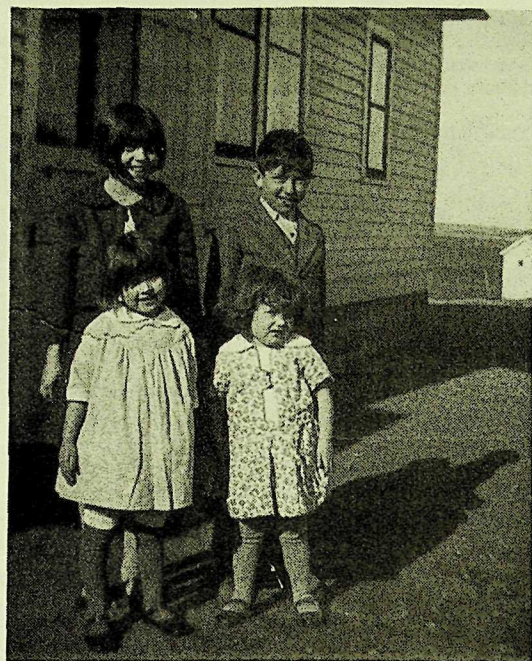
Gottlieb and Elizabeth also had six daughters, Mrs. Ella Doerr, Stockton, Calif.; Mrs. Richard (Hilda) Bender, Sacramento, Calif.; Mrs. Ardeila Fandrich and Mrs. Amanda Ebel of Lodi; Mrs. Rosella Forsch, Reno, Nev.; and Mrs. Irene Gerzeweske of Lodi.

The August Martwick family

William's brother August lived northwest of Drake on their farm, now operated by the youngest son, Francis. In



The Martins about 1931, back: Irene and Walter, front: Ardella and Rosella. (Walter Martin)



Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Martin and Ardella and Rosella Martin, about 1931. (Walter Martin)

1912 August married Annie Pankratz.

Their children are Maynard of McClusky who married Rosie Hartman; Harold of Minot who married Teresa Burgard; Delmer who farmed at Drake until his death in 1965; Mrs. Rudy (Leona) Hartman, Edgeley; Everett of Drake who married Charlotte Ross; Annie of Balfour; Eddie of Bismarck; Archie and Francis of Balfour; Mrs. Lyle (Dorothy) Tilten who died in 1962; and Mrs. Joe (Delores) Lerner of Drake.

August Martwick died in 1952. His wife Annie, who is 84, lives on the family farm with Annie and Francis.

The Fred Martwick family

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Martwick came to the United States in 1898. Fred, born in August 1856, died Nov. 10, 1931. His wife, the former Henrietta Ehent, was born Jan. 18, 1866, and died Oct. 27, 1934. They were married in 1899 at Buffalo Lake, Minn. They lived at Buffalo Lake, until 1900 when they homesteaded two miles west of Drake.

Fred, along with Gust Strege, built the grade for the first Soo Line side track at Drake. They used teams and two-horse road scrapers for the project.

They helped found the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod and were members. Mr. Martwick was on the church council a number of years. In later years they moved to Drake, their home until they died.

Their children were Fred, Charles, Clarence, William, Lena Martwick Peterson, Elsie Martwick Selvoy, Emilie and Martha Henry. All of them are deceased except Clarence in San Jose, Calif., and Mrs. Selvoy in Fargo.

— Mrs. William Isaak

The Peter and Fred Martwick families

Fred Martwick came to Drake in an immigrant car in 1899, two and a half years before Drake was established. He was 21 that year so he could homestead. He took land in Strege Township where Roland Krueger now lives. built his shack and burned brush and buffalo chips to keep warm.

He stayed until the fall of 1900 and then returned to Minnesota. That winter he contracted diphtheria and died. He left three sons, Fred Jr., Charlie and Willie, and a daughter, Elsie, who have all died now.

Fred's brother Peter, who also lost his wife and two of their nine children to diphtheria in the Minnesota epidemic, decided to come to North Dakota with two of his children, Ida and August.

He took over Fred's homestead and later married Amanda Johnson at Balfour. They had seven children. In 1910 he left again, this time for Canada, and later he moved back to Minnesota where he died in 1937.

William, one of Peter's sons, came to Drake in 1901. Since he was only 19 years old, he could only homestead on 80 acres. He built his shack and commuted to Balfour where he worked at odd jobs trying to earn \$300 for a team of horses. He had driven a team of horses to a neighbor's to visit. He stayed overnight during an electric storm and lightning struck and killed his team.

He had one more horse and needed to buy another so he could break ground to get ready for planting. He was so short of sleep because of working at several jobs that he insisted he slept while walking behind a breaking plow.

William came to North Dakota from Minnesota via immigrant wagon with Erwin and Rosa Kately. Rosa, who later married Carl Olstad, was the banker as the group traveled and worked at odd jobs, a trip that took nearly a month.

The next spring William rode a bicycle back to Comstock, Minn., where he worked for a year. Then he rode back to North Dakota again by bicycle. The trip took about 10 days each way.

In 1902 he traded homesteads with Grandpa Pete's second wife.

In 1907 he married Susan Krueger, who died just eight months later of tuberculosis. On March 9, 1909, William and Susanna Broneski were married at Washburn after a whirlwind courtship. There were nine children, Walter born in 1910; Alvin, 1911; Rueben, 1912; Herbert, 1914; Viola, 1916; Evan in 1917; Lily in 1920; Loren, 1922; and Evelyn in 1925.

Walter, Alvin, Rueben, Herbert and Viola were baptized in the German Lutheran Church at Drake. Walter and Alvin who were confirmed there drove horses into Drake for two weeks straight to take their lessons. In 1925 the family became members of the Balfour Church.

William Martwick died in 1959 and his wife in 1964. Their children are Walter of Balfour who was married to the late Margaret Wagnet; Alvin of Balfour, married to Regina Ewert; Rueben of Balfour, married to Lorna Nissen; Herbert of Balfour, married to Virginia Weninger; Mrs. Herbert (Viola) Gust of Stockton, Calif.; Evan of Minot, married to Lorraine Cole; Mrs. Harold (Lily) Dockter of Butte; and Mrs. Olaf (Evelyn) Evenrud, Salem, Ore. There are 21 grandchildren.

The McCarty family history

Hayward A. McCarty was born Sept. 30, 1877, at Stewart, Minn., to James Sheldon and Melissa (Overly) McCarty. He came to North Dakota in 1898 and took up a homestead five miles east of Balfour, the nearest town since Drake was not yet in existence.

He married Clare Connelly at Balfour on June 22, 1904. He was active in community affairs, serving as township supervisor for 20 years, on the local school board, and was County Commissioner at the time of his death, Dec. 26, 1940.

Clare Mary Connelly McCarty was born Feb. 12, 1882, to Malden T. and Martha L. (Green) Connelly at Westfield, Ill. She came to North Dakota with her sisters, Grace and Arlie Connelly, who were editors of "The Drake News" in 1907. She died June 3, 1942.

The McCartys lived on their homestead until their deaths.

Their children were Mrs. Lawrence (Louise) Marshall, Woodburn, Ore.; Mrs. Nevin (Geneva) Bowersox, Wolford; Dale McCarty of Drake; Mrs. Irvin (Grace) Immel, Larsen, Wis.; Evan McCarty of Drake; James McCarty of Bismarck; and Neil McCarty of Dinuba, Calif. Louise, Dale and Grace are still living.

— Dale McCarty

The Lloyd McQuay family

Andrew McQuay, father of Lloyd McQuay, came from Dublin, Ireland, to Harlam in Sargent County in 1885. Lloyd was born there March 30, 1891.

He was eight when his parents died and he lived with an uncle until 1911 when he came to Drake, where he operated a drayline in the early days and later was a Standard Oil bulk agent. He made his home with the William Sherlock and Lemuel Goodlaxson families for a time.

He enlisted in the Army in March 1918 during World War I and received a medical disability discharge in August 1918. He was a life member of the David D. Nehrenberg Post No. 32 of the American Legion. Mrs. McQuay is a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary and a 50-year member of the Rachel Rebekah Lodge No. 59 of Drake.

Lloyd married Eleanor Nord on June 15, 1921. They had three sons: Warren, Livingston, Mont.; Gordon of Drake; and Darrell of Bismarck.

In 1941, during World War II, the family moved to Kirkland, Wash., where Lloyd worked in the shipyards and Eleanor managed the Ferry Apartments in Seattle.

In 1946 they returned to Drake and bought the Morris Hotel which they operated until October 1959, when it was sold to Bencer Kjos. Then McQuays went to Yakima, Wash., where they managed the Sycamore Apartments, returning to Drake for the summers.

In 1965, they bought the Teddy Schmidtgal home and settled down in Drake where their son Gordon is an International Harvester dealer. Warren works for the Park County News and Darrell is a vice president of the Dakota Northwestern Bank.

Mr. and Mrs. McQuay observed their 50th anniversary in 1971.

— Mrs. Eleanor McQuay

The John Mehl family

Mr. and Mrs. John Mehl, who were married at Anamoose March 15, 1915, came to Drake in 1928.

John Mehl was born Aug. 26, 1891, and his wife, the former Carolina Stadinger was born Jan. 23, 1892.

They lived in Sheridan and McHenry Counties on rented farms and in 1928 sold out at an auction sale. Mr. Mehl then was employed at Drake Motors Co. for many years until he was disabled. They were members of the Lutheran Church.

Mr. Mehl died at Drake Oct. 24, 1967. Mrs. Mehl makes her home with their daughter, Mrs. Fred (Emma) Heydt, at Drake.

Their children are Emma; Simon Mehl, Drake; Mrs. Wendlen P. (Edna) Hager of Anaconda, Mont.; and Mrs. Arlen (Mary) Pedersen of Jamestown. A son Carl of Anamoose died Feb. 14, 1974.

— Emma Heydt

The Chris Merbach family

Chris Merbach was born April 30, 1907, on the farm he operated with his father and later bought.

In June 1932 Viola Kraft, a registered nurse, came to Drake to work for Dr. Rollie in the Drake Hospital.

She married Chris Merbach in 1933. They are the parents of three sons, Paul, Lawrence and Kenneth.

Paul, born in 1934, married Marilyn Bates in 1957 and they live at Longwood, Fla. Lawrence, born in 1938 and married in 1959 to Kathryn Gross, lives at Wahpeton. Kenneth, born in 1941 and married in 1968 to Delores Pahl, lives at New Leipzig.

Merbachs have been active and held offices in the church, school and township.

— Chris Merbach



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Merbach wedding. (Ed Merbach)

The Peter Merbach family

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Merbach came to Drake by train in 1905 with three of their sons.

They owned a home in the northwest part of the city and bought a farm two miles north of Drake.

About 1915 he operated a shoe repair shop and for a time ran a dray. From 1917 to 1922 Peter was section foreman for the railroad. From 1922 until 1935, Mr. Merbach operated a milk route in the city.



The Chris Merbachs with Paul, Lawrence and Ken, 1942.

The Merbachs helped organize a Lutheran church where Trinity Lutheran now stands.

They lived in Drake until the time of their deaths, Peter in 1946 and his wife, Minnie, in 1949.

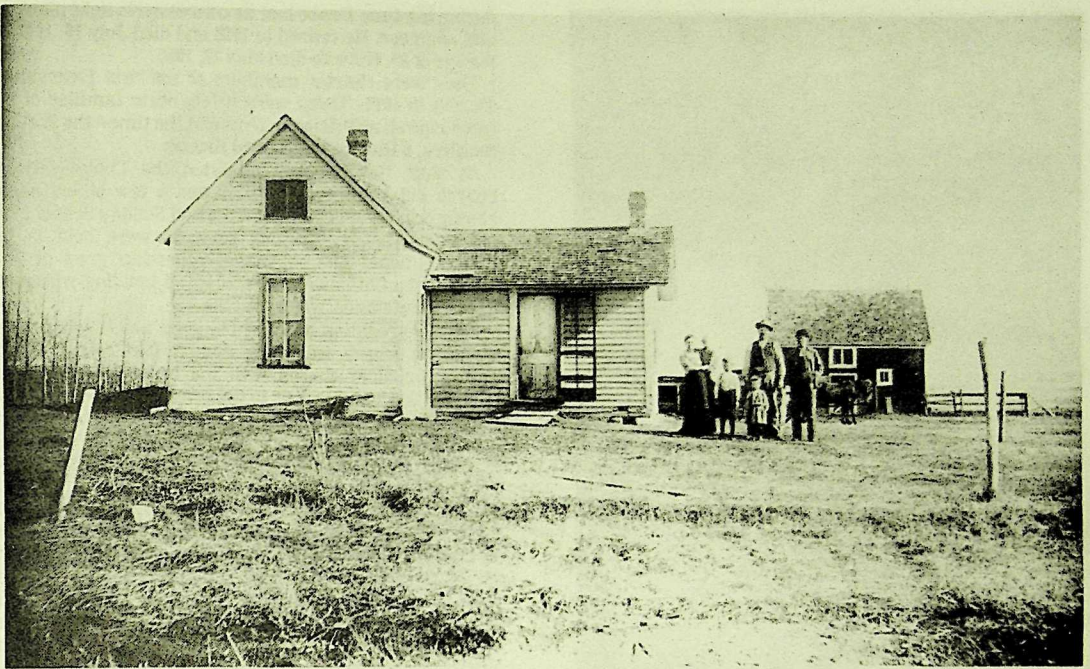
Their children are Carl Merbach of Towner, who married Bertha Jans; Chris of Drake, who married Viola Kraft; Mrs. Ralph (Elsie) Long of Bismarck; Mrs. Melvin (Sophie) Bugges, Knife River, Minn.; Art Merbach of Austin, Tex., who married Hazel Estes; and Mrs. Cliff (Ella) Craft, Two Harbours, Minn.

The William Merbach family

William Merbach was born May 11, 1878, in the wilderness two miles south of the present town of Kaukauna, Wis. Wilhelmina Roth was born Jan. 6, 1882, near Madison, Minn. They were married in the spring of 1900 at Madison.

They had eight children, four of whom died in infancy. Harry, born March 24, 1901, married Lulu Trulson in June 1926. She died Jan. 25, 1957. They lived at Grenora.

Edwin was born Nov. 13, 1903, on the homestead. Myrtle, born at Drake Aug. 9, 1909, married Francis Hublou of Anamoose. They lived in Bismarck. She died Sept. 4, 1967.



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Merbach and the hired man, about 1908, with Carl, Louise and Chris. (Chris Merbach)

William Jr., born at Drake July 26, 1910, married Gloria Duste of Salt Lake City. They lived there. She died Aug. 15, 1975.

In the spring of 1901 William (Bill) Merbach Sr. and George Schwaninger, the uncle of his wife, came from Madison, Minn., to Anamoose, bringing Bill's driving horse and a "democrate" (light wagon driven single), a cow and some chickens, a walking plow, a scythe and a few tools, some household furniture and some lumber.

They built a one-room shack, 14 by 16 feet, and a 12-by-12 barn. They used the horse and cow at a time to pull the plow to break five acres which was seeded to oats.

Minnie and son Harry came to the homestead after the buildings were completed.

They were among the earliest settlers and Minnie was the only woman in the area the first year. Their nearest towns were Balfour, about seven miles away, and Anamoose, 10 miles distant.

Money was a stranger so Minnie churned cream and sold butter at a premium 10 cents a pound and eggs at 6 cents a dozen.

She traded this for other groceries plus a box of shells which was used to bring home the meat, mostly jackrabbit and prairie chicken in the winter. Ducks and geese provided meat in the summer.

Roasted and ground barley and wheat substituted for coffee for the first year or two.

Harry and Ed were raised on oatmeal and skim milk. A 10-pound bag of oatmeal cost 30 cents, 100 pounds of flour and 100 pounds of sugar \$3 each.

In 1908 they moved into Drake where Bill worked for N.C. Billie, who owned meat markets at Dogden (now Butte), Balfour and Drake. That fall Bill was able to buy Drake Meat Market and also bought cattle for shipment east.

In 1910 the Great Northern and Soo Line were building railroads, the GN the Surrey cut-off and the Soo the Fordville branch. Bill was able to get meat contracts for both lines.

He went to Minnesota to buy a carload of heavy horses and shipped them to Ambrose, N.D., where he traded them for oxen. He brought in three carloads of five to 10-year-old oxen weighing 1,600 to 1,800 pounds. The contract called for quartered beef and half hogs to be delivered to the cook house for 7 to 10 cents a pound. These oxen produced quarters weighing 250 to 300 pounds each.

In 1916 the Merbachs moved to Bellingham, Minn., where Bill went into the meat business and livestock buying again. In January 1918, his business and three others were burned out so in March he bought a meat market in Canby, Minn. In 1920 he took Harry and Ed as partners.

In March 1924 they sold out and the family returned to Drake where he and Ed went into the meat business. Later they went into the Gambles store which they later sold. Ed was called into the Army in 1942 and in 1943 and 1944 worked on the Alcan Highway in Canada.

Later Bill, Harry and Ed went into business again, buying livestock anywhere they could find them. Bill worked northwest North Dakota, Harry western North Dakota and northern Montana. Ed worked the southern half of Montana and central North Dakota and their purchases went east as far as Lancaster, Pa., west to Seattle and San Diego, Calif., and to feeder-buyers in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Colorado and South Dakota.

Bill, who served as mayor and councilman as well as on town and township school and church boards, died Dec. 23, 1975. His wife died April 9, 1949.

—Harry Merbach



Mr. and Mrs. William Merbach, 1900. (Ed Merbach)

The Gustav J. Nehrenberg family

Gustav J. Nehrenberg was born May 11, 1852, near the village of Plauvno, Prussia, Germany. His family came to the United States in 1876.

They settled in Sauk County, Wisconsin, for two years, then moved to Carner County, Minnesota, where he lived 12 years. Then Gustav sold his property and moved to South Dakota in 1892. He owned and operated a general merchandise store in Twin Brooks, S.D.

He married Ottelie Hinkelman of Prussia, Germany, who bore him 12 children: William, Martha, Gustav, Charles, Paul, Mary, Edward, Lydia, Tillie, Rose, Ernest and Samuel. The only one still living is Ernest, now of Drake.

Mrs. Nehrenberg died Jan. 20, 1892.

Gustav was remarried to Mary Louise Bloedau, also born in Prussia, on May 5, 1892. Mary Louise was born Sept. 21, 1865, and came to the United States in 1886.

Gustav and Mary Louise had 10 children, Elsie, Emelia, Henry, David, Alfred, Lilly, Fred, Sarah, Theodore and Harold. David, Alfred and Lilly have died.

In 1900, Gustav sold his property in South Dakota and moved to North Dakota, homesteading in Balfour Township on the farm now owned by Arnold and Myron Knuth. In 1912 he moved to Drake and clerked in the Burch Mercantile Store.

He purchased the Drake Hotel in 1916 and operated it until 1920. He clerked in the Beutler Hardware Store and

during the time Drake had its own electric light plant, he was engineer. He retired in 1928 and died July 16, 1947, at the age of 95. His wife died May 12, 1953.

They were charter members of the first Evangelical Church in 1912. There were a few other families of the same church affiliation in Drake at the time— the William Beutlers, a Hanson family and Bietzes.

At first Nehrenbergs attended the Congregational church but within a year they and a few others began having Sunday morning services and Sunday School in an old school house. Evening services were held in the Congregational church. As membership grew it was learned the Catholic church, a small building where the present one stands, was available.

The congregation continued to grow and it was decided to build a church, which was done in 1914. After merging the Evangelical church with the United Brethren and Methodist denominations to the present United Methodist Church, the group ended up on the same spot where the first church was built.

Ernest Nehrenberg farmed 4½ miles northwest of Balfour for 27 years before moving to Drake in 1940. He drove bulk gas truck and was station attendant for 10 years at Farmers Union Oil Co. Then he drove bulk gas truck for Andrew Jans' Mobil oil business for 9 years. Ernest also worked in the Red Owl grocery store owned and operated by his son-in-law and daughter, Carl and Ardella Notbohm for three years. For three years he helped in harvest fields, hauling grain, after which he retired to keep up his garden and yard.

He was married to Anna Schimmel March 12, 1914. In 1974 they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They have a daughter, three grandsons and two great-grandsons.

—Mrs. Carl Notbohm

Mrs. Mary Nissen and family

Mary Lange was born March 20, 1869, in Germany. She came to the United States along in 1888, to Iowa where an uncle lived. He had sent her money for passage and she was to work for him until it was repaid.

A young Danish emigrant had come to the U.S. and to Iowa several years earlier; Nanning Nissen and Mary Lange were married in Iowa in 1888. They lived near Albert City, Iowa, until about 1903 when they moved to a farm near Fairmont, N.D.

Mary's mother had come to the United States and lived with her. After several years of ill health, Nanning Nissen died in 1909 leaving Mary with 10 children, aged two to 19 years.

Mary's brother-in-law Jergen Nissen, who lived northeast of Drake, told her of cheap land in the area. So she sold her farm and bought the Leonard Paulus homestead east of Drake where she moved her family in the fall of 1910.

Her children were Andrew of Drake; Richard on the home place; Emil, a pharmacist at Britt, Iowa; William who farmed at Van Hook; Otto who worked for the Soo Line Railroad; Martin who farmed northeast of Drake; Arthur and Ernest who farmed in Iowa; Olga who married a farmer and lived in Iowa; and Martha who died in 1920 when she was 12.

Mary's children are all deceased except Ernest in Iowa. Her farm is owned and operated by a grandson.



Mrs. Mary Nissen, 1941. (Mrs. Ben Inge)

The William F. Nissen family

William F. Nissen, was born at Storm Lake, Iowa, on March 31, 1888. He came with his parents to the Anamoose area in 1903. He was a charter member of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

William was married at Anamoose on June 28, 1908, to Jennie Teyler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nichalos Teyler. She was born Dec. 17, 1888, in Cook County, Ill., and also came to Anamoose with her parents in 1903.

William and Jennie farmed in Round Lake Township northeast of Drake. They observed their 50th wedding anniversary in 1958. Mrs. Nissen died Sept. 19, 1959, and Mr. Nissen moved to Oregon City, Ore. He died there in May 1961.

Their children were Friedrich of Drake, born June 29, 1909; Lorenz of Elmira, N.Y., Oct. 9, 1910; Gerhardt, Longview, Wash., Dec. 12, 1911; Mrs. Adolph (Cora) Podalak, Baraboo, Wis., Nov. 29, 1914; Edwin of Towner, April 27, 1916; Mrs. Martin (Esther) Podalak, Brookfield, Ill., Nov. 2, 1918; and Mrs. Reuben (Lorna) Martwick, Balfour, Dec. 2, 1924.

— Friedrich Nissen

The Christian Nord family

Christian Nord and his wife Ingliet came from Hurdalen, Norway, to Audubon, Minn., in 1900. In 1901

they traveled by wagon train to the Drake area where they homesteaded on a farm seven and a half miles southwest of the city.

They built a sod house and lived there until 1912 when they moved to a farm near Henry Peterson's for two years. Christian worked for Henry for some time. Then they bought the Selvog farm which they operated until 1943 when they bought the G.O. Iverson home in Drake.

While they were living in the sod house where Eleanor was born, the Nords were host to the first school! The next year school was held in the Iverson house and finally a school house was built.

Despite the disasters of those early years— blizzards, dust storms, crop failures, and grasshoppers— the Nords endured. They lost one child, Arnold in the flu epidemic of 1918.

Four of their daughters graduated from Drake High School and the family belonged to the Lutheran church. Pastor Fladager confirmed all their children.

The children were Eleanor McQuay; Irwin, who is deceased; Lillian Hedstrom, Wilton; Inger Nelson, Mount Pleasant, Mich.; Arnold; Thelma Reed, Pinole, Calif.; Solvig Tosseth, who is deceased; Dagmar O'Brien of Grand Forks; and Merle who is deceased.

Mr. Nord, who was born Jan. 18, 1879, died in 1945. Mrs. Nord, born Nov. 25, 1882, continued to live in her home in Drake for many years.

— Mrs. Eleanor McQuay

The Ole Olsen family

Ole Olsen, known to the pioneers as "Red Ole," came from Norway to Minnesota and then, in the early 1900s, to North Dakota. He filed on a tract of land in Strege Township northeast of Drake and in 1906 he received title to his homestead.

In December 1907, he married another Norwegian immigrant, Oline Bertine Haagensen. They lived in the conventional claim shack, which later developed into a six-room house which remains on the property today.

Their children who were born there are Melvin of Devils Lake; Mrs. Norma Iverson, Hamberg; Mrs. Steve (Vivian) Lorenz, Eugene, Ore.; Mrs. Eilert (Alma) Melby, who is deceased; Signe who died in infancy; Mrs. Eddie (Bertine) Fowler, Everett, Wash.; and twins, Mrs. Erling (Olga) Olson, Minneapolis, Minn., and Mrs. Oscar (Olydia) Ring, Landa.

Mr. Olsen served as school board clerk for 17 years and for many years as assessor of Strege Township. For many years his wife boarded and roomed the teachers who taught at the little country school nearby.

In the early 1940s the Olsen's retired and moved into Drake. Mr. Olsen died in 1958 and his wife in 1960.

— Mrs. Melvin H. Olson



The Nissen boys: Ernest, Bill, Art, Emil, Martin, Richard, Otto and Andrew.

The Martin B. Olson family

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Olson were married at Ada, Minn., Dec. 6, 1897.

In 1902 they homesteaded north of Drake and in 1909 Martin built the farm home which still stands. In 1943 they retired from farming and moved into Drake.

Martin Olson died Mar. 9, 1956, and his wife died Jan. 12, 1968.

The Olson children included Clara Paulus, Minneapolis; Helen Bennett, Minot; Thelma Romine, Minot; Milton, George, Marion and Harold who are deceased; Eugene of Minot; Russell of Harvey; Mrs. Lillian Richards, Waukegan, Ill.; Theda Coffee and Jeanne Siders, Minot.

Milton, who was born April 15, 1906, at Drake, died in a plane crash at Dunseith in August 1949. Milton, who married Geraldine Roe of Anamoose on June 15, 1933, was active in business and farming, was a district hail loss adjuster and served in the state House of Representatives. He had supervised road opening operations and made several mercy flights during the heavy snow of the winter before he died.

— Thelma Romine



Mr. and Mrs. Martin Olson, golden wedding.

Oline Johnson of Portland, N.D. She was born Nov. 4, 1875, at Portland.

With their baby son, Clarence, they traveled to Drake by horse-drawn covered wagon, with the two cows trailing behind. They homesteaded 12 miles northwest of Anamoose in the spring of 1899 in Strega Township. They built and lived in a sod house for several years before they built a frame house.

Sometime later, Ole's brothers, Martin and Christ, settled in the same area.

Until 1942, Ole Olson was actively engaged in farming. His son Harry now lives on the farm.

The Olsons were members of St. John's Evangelical Church of Guthrie after it formed. Earlier services were held in homes, then in the Guthrie school and later in the German Lutheran Church in Guthrie.

The Ole B. Olson family

Ole B. Olson was born at Zumbrota, Minn., July 18, 1876. On April 27, 1898, at Ellendale, N.D., he married



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Olsen. (Mrs. Melvin Olson)

In the beginning school was held in rural schools, later in the Baptist Church in Guthrie. After their schoolhouse was built, all eight elementary grades and two years of high school were taught there.

Mr. Olson served as township constable for several years and for 31 years was a director on the school board.

Mr. Olson, who died in January 1958, and his wife, who died in April, 1957, both lived to be 81 years old. They are buried in St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery six miles north and 2 miles east of Drake.

Their children are Clarence of Minot; Gladys Sholtz, now deceased; Florence Brekke, Minot; Mable Albrecht, Heimdal; Arthur, now deceased; Howard and Harry and Mrs. Waldemar (Vivian) Seehafer, all of Drake; and Esther Zeien, Fessenden.

—Howard Olson

The C.J. Olstad family

Carl J. Olstad came to Drake in 1901 and purchased a relinquishment on a homestead. On July 9, 1905, he married Rosa Kately, who came to Drake in 1900 and filed on a homestead a mile southwest of where Drake stands. They were married at her homestead.

Following their marriage they made their home at Drake and operated the Olstad dairy farm.

Mrs. Olstad was the first school teacher in the district, soon after her arrival, and she continued teaching until her marriage.

She was a charter member of the Broadview Grange and a member of the Alba Chapter or the Eastern Star Lodge.

Mr. Olstad was president of the Federal Farm Loan Association at Drake for more than 25 years. Since 1927 he was an active member of the Broken Column Lodge.

He was active in early development of the Farmers Union, a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church and, in earlier years, of the Parent-Teachers Association.

Olstads had two children, Walter of Drake who married Christine Steig in 1962, and Olive, who married Roy Sprague in 1936. They live in Albany, Ore.

—Walter Olstad

The A.J. Otterholm family

Andrew J. and Oline Otterholm, who were born in Norway, came to Drake about 1904 with their son Ole and his wife Laura.

Andrew and Oline took a homestead south of Drake where they farmed. A.J. died in 1919 and his wife in 1937.

Ole was involved in a general merchandise store, Otterholm and Sitz. Later he had a dray line in Drake and worked as a carpenter.

Ole, who was born in Minnesota, died in 1967. His wife, a Wisconsin native, died in 1919.

Their children are Irene Otterholm Swanman, now deceased; Dorothy Roe, San Francisco, Calif.; Bernice Peterson, now deceased; and Helen Ginsky, Los Angeles, Calif.

—Dorothy Roe

The Albert Pattis family

Albert Pattis was born in Germany in 1859, and his wife was born in 1874. Albert came to Minnesota and in 1898 filed on a homestead in Schiller Township, after coming by immigrant car on the Soo Line.

Later his wife and two children came, after a small building for living quarters and a sod barn had been built.

Albert Pattis farmed on his homestead until 1911 when the Soo Line and Great Northern Railroads crossed the farm and he sold the land to them. Then he put up new buildings on adjoining land and farmed until 1930 when his son William took over the farm.

There were many hardships in early years, such as traveling by horses and wagon to the sandhills for the winter's supply of wood. They lived on the open prairie with no trees for shelter for miles.

Mr. Pattis was one of the first organizers of Zion Lutheran Church of Norfolk in 1900.

Mr. Pattis died in 1955 and his wife in 1958.

Their children were Herman, born 1898, who died in 1976; William, born in 1903, who lives on the home place; and Mrs. Hubert (Marie) Spletto of Minot, who was born in 1912.

—William Pattis

The Peter Paulus family

Peter Paulus and his son, Leonard, came to Drake to stay in the spring of 1899, from Minnesota where they had moved about 1885 from the Rhine River area of Germany. Peter's wife died in Germany.

Leonard married his wife, a native Minnesotan, at St. Nicholas, Minn., and sons Math, in 1896, and Peter were born there. In the fall of 1898, Leonard came by train to Anamoose to homestead.

The next spring they returned, this time with an immigrant car loaded with horses, cows and even a crate of chickens. A snowstorm greeted them and they had no housing for the animals but they survived.

Leonard Paulus homesteaded a half mile east and a mile north of Drake, now the Richard Nissen farm, and his father took land just east of there, the Martin Nissen farm.

Leonard's daughter, now Margaret Helmer of St. Paul, Minn., was born that first fall. Other children included Jacob, and Leonard, now deceased; Aurelia Kirk, Bremerton, Wash.; Frank of Drake; George of Fargo; and Leo of Minot.

Leonard's family built the first shack on the south side of the road, guessing on location since they couldn't find the markers. When the cornerstones were located, they had to move the house.

Math remembered a neighbor beating on the door in the middle of the night, wrapped in a bedsheet. He had come to report a cyclone blew his house away!

Math also recalled that at first the family did its little buying at Anamoose stores though one special Sunday they hitched the horses up to drive to see the side tracks being laid where Drake now stands.

Peter Paulus died in 1905. Later Leonard had an idea to move out west: he did get as far as the 1909 Seattle World's Fair, but returned to buy land from Gus Mittlested and Curtis Speers. He died in December 1937 and his wife followed in March 1948.

Math was drafted during World War I, but weather interfered. Because of heavy snow, he had to take a round about journey through Towner and , while he waited there for a train, Armistice was signed!



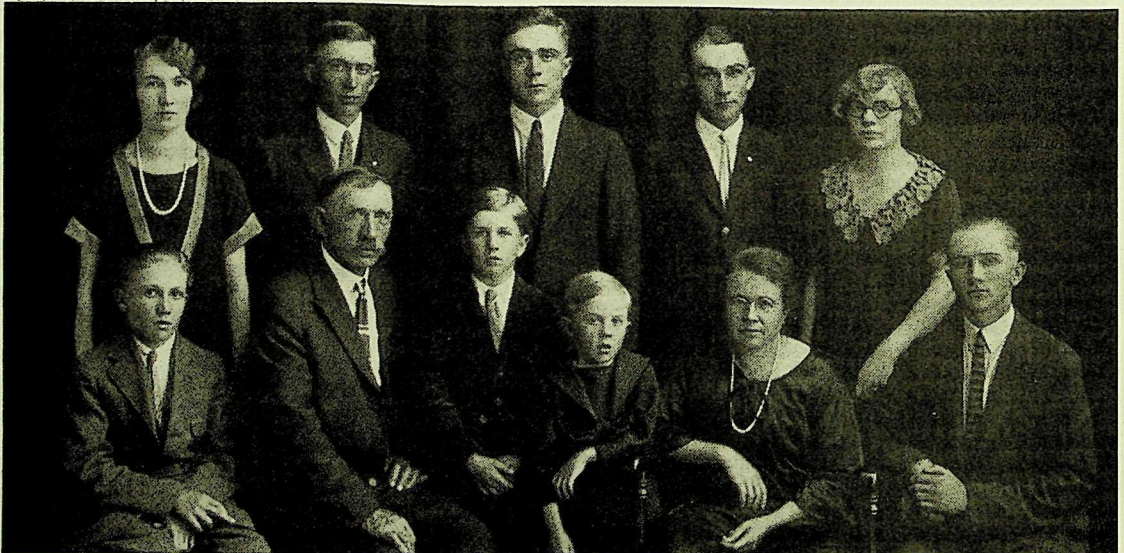
Peter Paulus with Pete and Math. (Math Paulus)

Math farmed in the area all his life. He was married to Helene Drontle in 1935. They lived five miles north of Drake, now the Frank E. Bruner place, until 1947 when school transportation to Funston became too much of a problem. Then they bought their present farm, 1½ miles east of Drake, now operated by their son Lawrence.

Mrs. Paulus was born at Cold Springs, Minn., May 16, 1899. After her father died, her mother remarried and the family came to a farm north of Drake about 1903.

Beginning with a helper's job in a cookcar when she was 14, Mrs. Paulus worked – at the Drake Post Office for two years, at the bakery, Sauressig Mercantile, and the Farmers Store. She also was a saleslady in mercantile stores in South Dakota and Sidney, Mont. Then her mother died and the depression hit; she came back to Drake and temporary jobs.

The Leonard Paulus family.



Education has been important to the Paulus family. Both Lawrence and their other son Leonard, now Farmers Home Administration supervisor at Devils Lake, are graduates of Drake High School and North Dakota State University at Fargo. Leonard has a master's degree from NDSU.

Math Paulus, now past 80, hauls grain, feeds cows and helps his wife care for her chickens. He was a director of the St. Margaret's Catholic Church from 1932 to 1944 and from 1960 to 1972.

Frank Paulus, who was senior class president and treasurer of the state Future Farmers of America in 1931 when he graduated from Drake High School, was a Spring Grove township supervisor 16 years, secretary-treasurer of the Drake Commercial Club 17 years; on the Drake school board as president, clerk and director for a total of 17 years; and president of the Drake Alumni Association for 12 years.

From 1939 until 1942 he ran a Standard service station in Drake and from 1942 until 1964 he farmed there. He operated an elevator in Drake from 1954 until 1958 and in Anamoose from 1958 until 1962. In 1964 he bought the Rest View Motel at Drake, which he and his wife continue to operate and since 1968 he has been a milk truck driver for the Drake Co-op Creamery.

Frank and his wife Regina, who were married in 1940, have nine children: Mrs. Robert (Patricia) Rickter, Minot; twins Roger of Drake and Renee, Mrs. Duane Kramer, Billings, Mont.; Richard of Fargo; Mrs. Michael (Mary Kay) Tasker, Atlanta, Ga.; Blaine, Jamestown; Frankie, Moorhead, Minn.; Mrs. Gerold (Irene) Berndt, Grand Forks; and James, Towner.

— Math Paulus, Frank Paulus



Mr. and Mrs. O.A. Refling, golden anniversary, 1964.

Refling's bank has shown considerable expansion—assets in 1909 when he took over were nearly \$125,000, compared to nearly \$3,000,000 when he sold his interest in the bank in 1960.

He was active in the management of some 30 banks and many farms in Minnesota and North Dakota. A great many banks in the area failed during the 1920's and 30's, but none of the banks with which Refling was associated with failed nor has any depositor ever lost a penny.

He also operated a large dairy farm near Drake. He was interested in many charitable organizations, particularly the Jamestown Crippled Children's School.

In 1960 he had a new fire-proof building constructed south of the bank, which is occupied by the bakery and has several office rooms. Mr. Refling had a private office there.

On Jan. 26, 1963, Mr. Refling, chairman of the board of directors, bought Mr. Mohr's interest in the bank at Fessenden. In 1965 while Mr. Refling was president of the First National Bank of Bottineau, a new building was erected. The bank of which Refling was president was organized at Kramer 50 years and has operated in Bottineau since 1931.

In May 1964 Mr. Refling was given a plaque by the N.D. Bankers Association at their Bismarck convention in recognition of 51 years of banking service to the community and state.

He also was honored by the McHenry County Agricultural Association as a Pioneer of Agriculture.

After 40 years as president of the First National Bank of Drake, Mr. Refling, then 75, sold his interest in 1960. He continued as president of the Bottineau bank and chairman of the board of the Fessenden bank.

Refling served as city treasurer for 51 years; was secretary-treasurer of the Drake Co-op Creamery for 37 years after its organization in 1929; was-treasurer of the Drake School District for 10 years; and served on the original board of the Drake Clinic.

He helped organize the Farmers Elevator and in 1952 was instrumental in the merger of the two Lutheran churches in Drake. He was a member of the Drake Commercial Club, Rebecca and Odd Fellows Lodge, and held various offices in Trinity Lutheran Church.

The Henry Rauser family

Henry Rauser and Dorothea Hess were married Oct. 6, 1887, in Romania where both of them were born.

In 1902 they came to the United States by ocean liner with four of their children, arriving in Anamoose in April. They homesteaded in Sheridan County near Skogmo and were members of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church.

Mr. Rauser died in June 1938 in Bismarck and his wife died there in January 1943.

Their children are Dora Gust, Martin, Jacobena Kerstein, Susan Schacher and Christine Kuhn, all of whom have died; Mary Rauser Gimble of Minot; Edna Martwick and Ruth Schiller, who have died; and Ernest E. Rauser of Minot.

— Ernest Rauser

The O.A. Refling family

O.A. Refling was born at Elbow Lake, Minn., on July 27, 1884. He attended grade school and high school there and Park Region Luther College at Fergus Falls, Minn.

He got his start in banking at Barrett, Minn., in 1908 and a year later moved to Drake where he entered the banking business with the late Harold Thorson. Beginning as bookkeeper, he became assistant cashier and, in 1920, president.

Refling married Rose Drake of Drake in December 1914. They have four children. Ruth, who was with the Bank of America for many years, lives in Los Angeles, Calif. Harold of Bottineau is president of the Bottineau and Fessenden banks. Owen, an aerospace engineer, lives in Redondo Beach, Calif. Evelyn is a media specialist at St. Cloud, Minn.

Mrs. Refling, a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary, is a past state commander of the North Dakota Army Mothers, past national stamp chairman and national historian. She has served as national banner bearer, flag bearer, sergeant-at-arms and now is national organizer and post commander.

The first organist in the Evangelical church where she taught Sunday School, she also was organist in the Congregational Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church and taught Sunday School. She was a member of the Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church and is an honorary life member of the U.S. Air Force Air Defense Team which honored her for service in the Ground Observance Corps. She is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and its Ladies Aid.

Mr. and Mrs. Refling celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in December 1964. Mr. Refling died Jan. 8, 1966, at the age of 81, and funeral services were held at Trinity Lutheran Church.

— Mrs. Rose Refling

The Jacob Rieder family

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Rieder and their three older children came to this area in 1899.

They rode the train as far as Anamoose and then set off for their homestead five miles northeast of Drake.

Their oldest son Tom, born March 30, 1893, recalled a prairie fire in 1903 which burned the sod barn.

The family was active in school, church and township activities.

The Rieder children were Tom; Maggie, born in June 1894; August born Aug. 28, 1895; Valentine, May 10, 1903; and Frank, born April 1, 1907.

— Thomas Rieder

The Martin Rieder family

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Rieder came from Odessa, Russia, to Canada in 1910, settling in Regina, Saskatchewan, for two years.

Then they and their children Frances and Louie came by train to this area where they lived with cousins about three years. Later they moved to a ranch of their own. Mrs. Rieder died in 1924 at the age of 49, and Martin died in 1946 at the age of 67.

Their three smallest children died in a tragic accident when a cave they had made collapsed and smothered them.



Martin Rieder and a young relative. (John Heintz)

Surviving children are Frances, born Dec. 11, 1905; Louie, born Sept. 29, 1909; and Henry, born March 28, 1921.

Frances and her husband John Heintz live in Velva where they moved in 1963 after farming 32 years in Round Lake Township. They lost a child in infancy; their other children are Mrs. Rueben (Betty) Regstad, Velva; Joe, married to Cathy Schaan, and Alfred, married to Marlys Syverson, all of Minot; Mrs. David (Mary) Roerick, Selz; and Mrs. Dennis (Kathleen) Marlowe, Clayton, Ind. Heintzes celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Oct. 18, 1976.

Louie and his wife, the former Mary Wolf, live in Towner.

Henry and his wife, the former Elizabeth Ziegler, have six sons and two daughters: Larry, Terry, Duane, Daniel, Richard, Patrick, Lori and Cathy. Henry has worked 25 years at Farmers Union in Drake.

— Mrs. John Heintz

The Edward Roder family

Edward Karl Roder came with his parents, Charles and Minnie Roder, and their family to Anamoose from LaMars, Iowa, in 1901. They homesteaded three miles southeast of Anamoose.

Minnie was born in Germany April 29, 1865, and came to Iowa with her parents when she was seven. She died July 21, 1946, and Charles died in October 1931.

His son Ed recalled the days when Charles unloaded coal for a living. At 10 cents a ton, money was often short! The family was too poor to buy overshoes so the children wrapped socks around their shoes. One of their chores was carrying water to the school, a half mile from the well.

Charles was a faithful janitor for the church, walking three miles every week to do his duties, even when the temperature was 40 below.

Edward and Marie Roder were married in 1924 and farmed seven miles southwest of Drake in Spring Grove Township. In 1957 they retired and moved into Drake. Since then Edward has worked on the elevator when it was built as well as working on the Green Thumb projects, working on farms and doing odd jobs.

They are members of Drake Baptist Church.

Their children are Mrs. Claude (Marcella) Vollhardt, Sumner, Wash.; Mrs. Ruben (Alice) Frueh, Martin; Delmer on the home place; and Mrs. Roger (Jean) Dietrich, Minot.

— Ed Roder

The Jacob Roth family

Jacob Roth and Alma Heuer were married Oct. 30, 1907. She was born Nov. 4, 1876 in Algona, Wis.

They farmed northeast of Drake. In 1946 they retired and moved into Drake. Mr. Roth died in 1949. Mrs. Roth moved to Minot in November 1960. She died in 1962.

They had four children, Edgar of Aurora, Colo., Gerald of Bismarck, formerly of Drake, a daughter, Hildegard who died in 1926 and a son Vernon who died in 1943.

The Henry Ruff family

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ruff Sr. were born in South Russia where they were married. Their daughter, Elizabeth, was born there in 1901.

They came to the United States and in 1902 homesteaded in Sheridan County 16 miles south of Drake. Their daughter Helen was born there in 1904 and son Henry Jr. in 1906.

Henry Ruff Sr. died in 1910 at Skogmo and his wife in Drake in 1939.

They were members of the Lutheran Church. Henry Jr. recalled he was confirmed at Funston in 1922 by Pastor Lainie and his sisters were confirmed in 1916 and 1920 in Drake Lutheran Church. They started school in a small school house before the present one was built.

Henry Jr. worked for the Great Northern and Burlington Northern Railroads for 43 years as conductor and brakeman. He has two living sons and three daughters, Mrs. David (Patricia) Pascuzzo, Cranbrook, British Columbia; Joyce Gross, Williston; Cheryl Sapp at Cochran, Ga.; James and Roger who live in Minot. A third son, David, was murdered in Minot in 1955.

Henry Ruffs now live in Cochran, Ga.

— Henry Ruff

The William Saueressig family

William and Jennie Saueressig came to Drake in 1908 and opened a general store, handling groceries, dry goods and clothing.

William was born June 5, 1879, and died April 9, 1951 in Salem, Ore., two years after his wife died.

William and Jennie, who were married at Linton, S.D., had one son who died in 1922 at the age of 11.

For a time William joined in partnership with two brothers, Fred and William Frankhauser. Later William bought out their interests in the venture.

In 1910 his brother, Alfred, joined him in partnership, which continued 10 years, after which Alfred bought William's share in the store.

He continued the business from 1923 until 1938 when the business was sold to Apam Brothers of Minot. Alfred has been retired and living in Bismarck since 1939.

William was mayor of Drake for a term in 1918.

Alfred Saueressig was elected alderman about 1922. He served on the Drake Fire Department and was secretary for about 25 years, from 1913 to 1938.

— Alfred Saueressig

The Henry A. Schrader family

Henry A. Schrader, who was born at Wausau, Wis., in 1877, came through McHenry County on a bicycle on his way to Velva before the town of Drake existed! That was in 1898.

The following year he returned to homestead 9 miles east of Drake while teaching school in the Anamoose-Drake area. Among his pupils were Myrtle Nelson, Harry Billings and Hermen Leder. Later he was cashier at the Farmers State Bank at Drake.

In 1905 he went to work for Genter, Geshey Implement company, which he bought out in 1906, selling hardware and retail coal. He also sold John Deere implements and had the Ford agency. He moved the firm to a new location, the present site of the Drake City Hall.

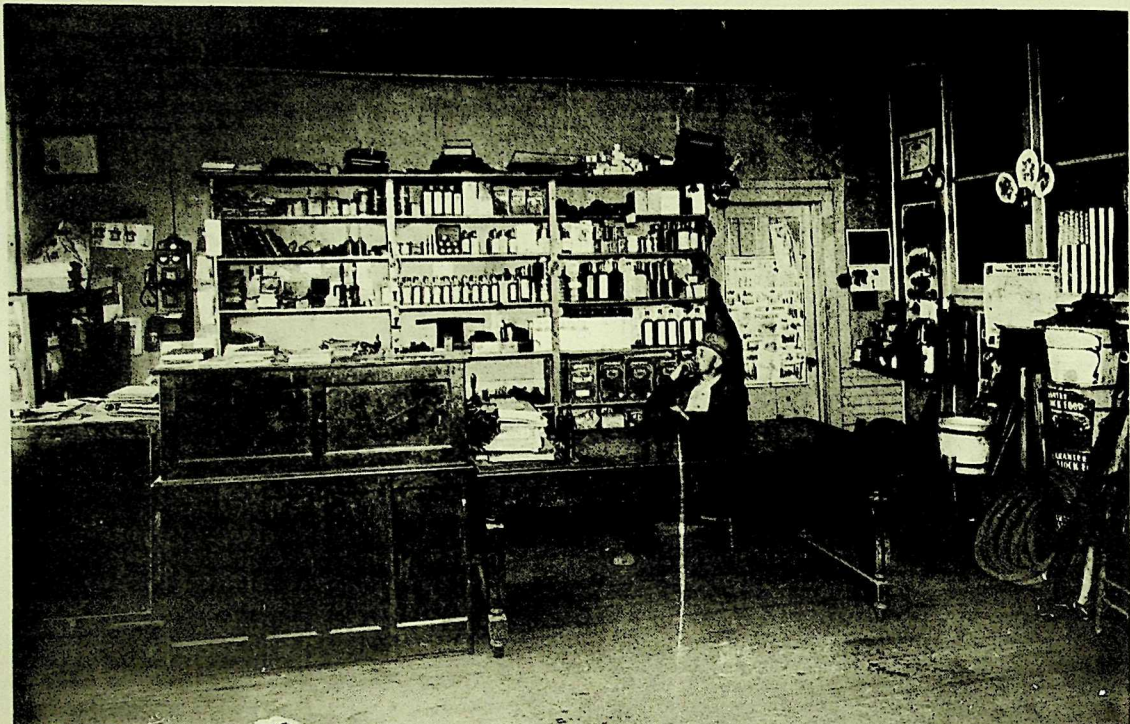
In later years he discontinued the auto and implement business, continuing to sell coal and hardware until ill health forced his retirement in 1950. He sold the business to O.W. Fors of Drake.

Mr. Schrader married another Wausau native, Alvina Schubring at Minot in January 1913, two years after she came to Drake.

Their children are Mrs. Howard (Evangelirte) Olson of Drake; Dorothy, now deceased; Wesley of Larimore; Dale, now deceased; and Wallace of Drake.

Mr. Schrader, who died in August 1952, was active on the City Council and school board and in the Modern Woodmen Lodge. His wife died in September 1969.

— Wallace Schrader



H. A. Schrader. (Wallace Schrader)

The Ferdinand Seehafer family

Ferdinand Seehafer, who was born in 1871 in Rib Falls, Wis., came to North Dakota in October of 1900 and homesteaded in Round Lake Township. His father, William, had homesteaded a mile east of there.

Marie Oberhamer came to the United States from Austria in 1901, working six months in Valley City before coming to homestead in Lake George Township, three miles northwest of there. They were married in Stregre Township at the pastor's home, in 1903.

They attended church at Funston and later joined St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Drake.

Ferdinand and Marie's children attended Round Lake Township schools and their sons, Waldemar and Henry, attended high school in Drake and Balfour. Bernhard and William's children attended Lake George and Round Lake schools and Drake High School.

Bernhard and William both married women who taught in the Round Lake school a half-mile south of the Seehafer farm.

Bernhard, who was born July 30, 1904, married Aurora Stolt July 11, 1928. They farmed nine miles north and a mile east of Drake. He died in August 1953. Bernhard and Aurora had two children, Kenneth of Drake and Mrs. Ardys Vorman of Minneapolis.

William, who was born in Round Lake Township July 11, 1907, married Viola Petterson June 10, 1931. They farmed

nine miles north and a mile east of Drake. He died in September 1957. William and Viola's children are Nolan, Arlo, Lyle, Mrs. Charles (Edith) Lindberg of Detroit Lakes, Minn., Mrs. L.D. (Lovile) Kirchner, Burlington, Kan., and Mrs. K.E. (Ellie) Pennell, Independence, Mo.

Reinhold, Henry and their mother live on the original Seehafer homestead. Waldimar, who lives in Drake, is married to the former Vivian Olson. Their children are Wayne in Alabama, Wanda Rosencrans of Drake, Myrna Lemer of Watertown, S.D., and Vickie Miller, Souix Falls, S.D.

— Nolan Seehafer

The George Seibold family

George Seibold, who was born in Romania Jan. 24, 1879, came with his parents to Canada in 1880. Because of poor crops there, the family moved to North Dakota and settled near Germantown, Wells County, in 1883.

In 1901 he homesteaded in Rosenfeld Township which was then in McLean County, now Sheridan County, nine miles south and a mile west of Drake.

On Nov. 26, 1903, he married Mabel Garlough at Fessenden. She was a daughter of Oregon Garlough, who migrated from Maquoketa, Iowa, where she was born Sept. 1, 1885. They homesteaded in Rosenfeld Township about 1900. Later they sold their land and moved to Drake



Mr. Schrader, owner, and Adolph Schmidal. (Wallace Schrader)

where Mr. Garlough became section foreman on the Soo Line.

When land along the Little Missouri River was opened for homesteading, Garlough moved to that area where his younger sons filed on ranch land south of Watford City, now part of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The Garlough family moved into Watford City where they lived until moving to Nampa, Idaho. Mrs. Garlough died in 1938 at Watford City and Mr. Garlough lived with his son Clare at Nampa until his death in 1942.

George and Mabel Seibold lived on their farm in Rosenfeld Township until 1919 when they moved to Freewater, Ore. In 1924 they returned to the farm and lived until 1937 when they moved to Stockton, Calif.

Seibolds were the parents of nine children: Harold and Mrs. Murlen (Lillian) Carpenter, both of Stockton; Mrs. Alma Albrecht, Sheyenne; Mrs. Harold (Della) Rauschenberger, Kief; Mrs. Emil (Amanda) Rauser, Lodi, Calif.; Mrs. Elda Mehlhoff, San Jose, Calif.; Mrs. William (Evelyn) Wardrip, Galt, Calif.; Mrs. Irene Schanzenbach, Stockton; and Mrs. Robert (LaVerne) Sohm, Walnut Creek, Calif. All of the children attended a rural Rosenfeld Township school and six of them are Drake High School graduates.

Their father was active in community affairs, president of the school board, township supervisor and active in getting such improvements as better roads, rural mail delivery and telephone service.

In Stockton he worked in the shipyards during World War II. Later he was a security guard at Del Monte Foods where he worked until retirement. Mr. Seibold died Jan. 4, 1952, and his wife died Oct. 5, 1960.

— Mrs. Harold Rauschenberger

The Leo Sendelbach family

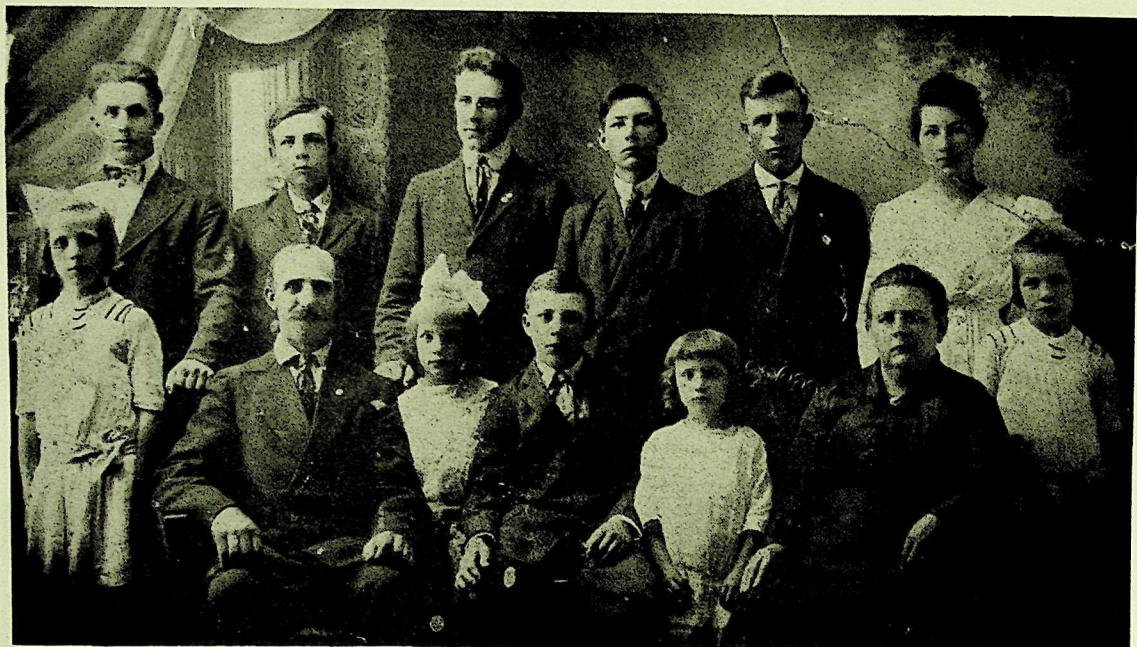
Leo Sendelbach was born at Chaska, Minn., April 1, 1874. When he was 10 and his brother Henry 5, their parents died and their sister Kathrine, Mrs. August Niebesle, helped rear them. There was a third brother, Jake.

In early 1900 Leo came to Anamoose where he had an aunt and uncle, the Matt Hamers Sr., and numerous cousins, including Hamers, Vandenburgs and Kaufmans. He took a homestead north of Anamoose, now the farm owned by Leo Roe.

In early 1903, he returned to Minnesota where he met Frances Guggenberger Drontle, a widow. They were married April 21, 1903, at Watkins, Minn.

They had two sons and three daughters, Olivia Mary Sendelbach, born May 25, 1904, now deceased; Mrs. Gerald (Stacia Frances) Adamson of New Rockford, born Nov. 14, 1906; George Raymond Sendelbach of Drake, born Feb. 18, 1909; Leonard Lawrence Sendelbach, born March 27, 1911, now deceased; and Mrs. Dominic (Aurelia Mary) Geisinger of New Rockford, born March 7, 1915.

When the new Mrs. Sendelbach came to North Dakota she found her new home a bachelor's quarters of varied uses. The north portion was partitioned off for quartering the horses used for farm work, and one corner of the living area was boarded up to store wheat.



George Sendelbach's family, 1918: Back, Michael, William, Peder, Conrad, Anton, Elizabeth. Front, Mary, father, John, Edward, Clara, Joseph, Margaret, mother, Anna. (Mrs. Math Paulus)



Mr. and Mrs. George Seibold, wedding 1903. (Della Rauschenberger)

The dried cow chips she picked up in the pasture provided a hot quick fire for making meals. Her daughter recalled a late snowstorm in the early years which left new snow level with the top of the old grain drill sitting out in the field.

In 1906 Sendelbach sold his homestead and bought the Redding place just north of Drake, now the John M. Lemer home. Three blocks of this property became the Sendelbach Addition to Drake, where the school garage, the Catholic church and rectory and the homes of Mrs. A. Schmidtgal, Mrs. John Bruner Sr. and Walter Stolt are located.



Mr. and Mrs. Leo Sendelbach. (Mrs. Math Paulus)



The Robert Senechal family: Back, Victor, Roland, Robert Jr., Marvin, Hubert, George. Seated, Ruth, Arthur, Evelyn, Raymond, 1965. (Raymond Senechal)

Leo Sendelbach contributed the property where the present Catholic church and rectory are located and he kept the fires burning to heat the church for parishioners as long as services were held in the original building. He died Nov. 11, 1946.

His wife, Frances Guggenberger, was born March 20, 1877, in Bavaria, Germany. As a child she came to the U.S. with her family. She married Joseph Drontle at Cold Spring, Minn., Sept. 1, 1896. He died June 2, 1901, leaving his widow and two daughters, Rosa, who died as a child, and Helena, Mrs. Math Paulus of Drake. Mrs. Sendelbach died Dec. 2, 1927.

—Mrs. Math Paulus

The J. F. Senechal family

The family of J. F. Senechal came from Hancock, Minn., in the spring of 1902. They located in Lake George Township, 10 miles north of Drake on a farm now owned and occupied by Dennis Lemer.

There were eight boys and four girls in the family. The oldest son, William, came two years earlier, homesteaded northeast of Drake and later operated a hardware store in Drake.

Other boys in the family farming in the area were Herman, north of Anamoose; John, a half-mile west of the J. F. Senechal farm; Dan, a mile west of the family farm; and Robert, two miles west of the family farm.



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sherlock, 1916.



The J. F. Senechal family, 1892: Standing, Emily, William, Charlotte, John. Seated, Walter, J. F. Senechal, Riika, Robert, Mrs. Senechal, Dan. Front, Herman and Etta on Mrs. Senechal's lap.

Robert came in the spring of 1902 with the rest of the family in an immigrant car to Minot, and then by passenger car train to Anamoose. All there was of Drake at that time was a railroad siding and a post with the name Drake painted on it.

Robert, who was too young to take a homestead at that time, bought a relinquishment of 80 acres in 1909 and in 1910 built a small two-room house on that land. He was married Oct. 15, 1909, to Adele Pieske and they lived in that house until 1914 when it was moved to the present farm location. In 1917 he built the house presently on the farm now owned by Roland and Raymond.

There were 10 children in the family: Arthur, Marvin, Raymond, all of Drake; Mrs. Stan (Ruth) Boyer of Minneapolis; Victor, Oakton, Va., (acting head of ASCS, Department of Agriculture, in Washington, D.C.); Robert of Drake; Hubert, Paso Robles, Calif., (with the Soil Conservation Service); Mrs. Robert (Evelyn) Rehder, DuMont, Colo.; Roland of Drake; and George of Norwich, (teaching vets ag at Minot.)

Mrs. Robert Senechal came to the area in 1900 with her parents, the William Pieskes. Her father took homestead on the farm now owned and occupied by Arthur Senechal. There were two other children in the family, Mrs. John (Marie) Senechal and Herman Pieske.

The John Senechal family lived in the area until 1944 when they moved to LaMoure.

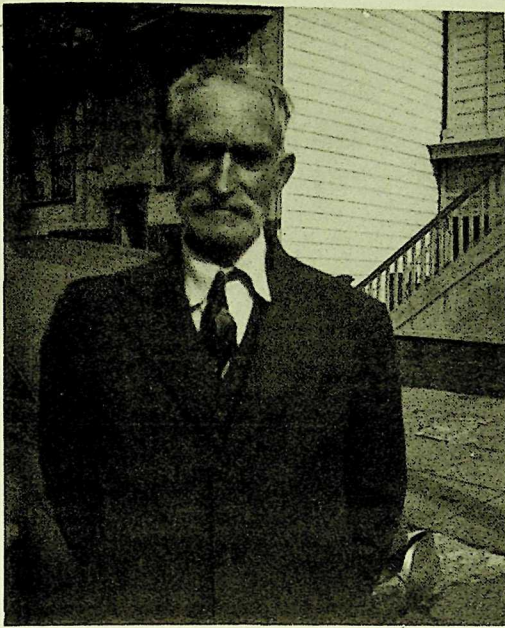
Other brothers of Robert who lived in the area were Elmer, on the home farm until 1938, and Herbert and Walter who at one time played with the Drake City Baseball team. Herbert of Spokane, Wash., is the sole survivor of the senior family.

The members of the Robert Senechal Sr. family feel the Drake community has been a pleasant and worthwhile place to live, and value the many friends made during a long association with Drake.

— Raymond Senechal

The William Sherlock family

William Albert Sherlock was born Feb. 22, 1865, at Dunkirk, N.Y. At an early age, he moved with his parents to Marquette, Wis., where he grew up.



William Sherlock.

In 1886 he came to North Dakota and started farming at Buffalo where he was married in 1887 to Mary Eliza Easton, who died Nov. 27, 1921. They had five children, four daughters who have died and a son, Edward.

In 1901 Sherlocks homesteaded on a farm just northeast of Drake where William lived until his death Jan. 18, 1948.

Edward Julius Sherlock, born Dec. 16, 1888, married Olga Ries Oct. 24, 1916, at Towner. They lived on the homestead for 45 years before moving into Drake in 1959. Ed and Olga celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 1976.

They had seven children: William and Charles, who have died; Alfred, born Sept. 4, 1920, who is postmaster at Anamoose; Mrs. Pius (Laurel) Usselman, born Dec. 27, 1922, and Mrs. Mike (Erma) Usselman, born Aug. 19, 1926, both at Balfour; Joyce Haykel, born Nov. 27, 1928, in the income tax business in Drake; and Mrs. Marvin (Clarice) Martin, born June 2, 1935, Drake.

The Sherlock homestead, still in the family, has housed six generations: Carl Sherlock, William's father who made his home there; William; his son, Edward; grandson, Alfred; great-grandson, Dale, who lives on the farm; and Dale's daughter, Misty May, age 2.

Ed Sherlock operated a threshing rig for farmers all around in addition to his farm work. He also worked in construction during the early days of Drake and for many years was constable in Spring Grove Township.

— Mrs. Ed Sherlock

The Henry Shink family

Verdie Shink, a son of Henry and Nettie Shink, was born in Lake Park, Minn. In 1908 the family moved to Drake where his father operated a livery stable.

The children were Ina, Verdie, Norma, Leona, Neil, Doris and Fay. Two daughters died in infancy.

Ina, the first graduate of Drake High School in 1917, died in Great Falls, Mont., Feb. 6, 1976. Norma and Leon, also are Drake High School graduates.

Verdie, who entered the Army in 1921 and was discharged in 1924, spent all his life in Drake except a few years in Pennsylvania and Montana.

The family moved to Dunn Center in 1923. Mr. Shink died in 1937 and his wife in 1939. Grandpa John Shink died in 1895 at Sackville, Wis. His wife, Kate Shink, later married Ole Olson. They moved to Drake in 1907 and operated a restaurant. She died in May 1939 and Ole Olson died in June 1942.

— Verdie Shink

The Emil J. Sitz family

Emil Sitz Sr., was born July 29, 1870, in Posen, Germany. In 1884 he came to Iowa and later to Cass County, N.D., where he farmed. In 1896 he was married to Maria Jantd. In 1899 they homesteaded north of Drake where they lived until 1945 when they retired and moved into Drake.

Mrs. Sitz was born Jan. 10, 1876, in Neu Staton, Germany. When she was 14 she and her mother came to the United States and settled in Minnesota. Later she moved to Cass County where she met Mr. Sitz.

Their children were Theodore who died in 1947, Paul and Emil who died in 1973, and four daughters, Mrs. Emma Krueger, Mrs. A.M. Teyler, Mrs. Henry Haas and Mrs. Hildegard McDiarmid. Two children also died in infancy.

Mrs. Sitz died in November 1957 and her husband in May 1955.

Emil J. Sitz Jr. was born Dec. 2, 1906, at Drake. He married Agnes Stolt Oct. 12, 1936. They farmed north of Drake until 1971 when they retired and moved into Drake.

Their children are two daughters, Mrs. Nolan (Sharon) Seehafer and Mrs. Don (Janice) Templeton, Hazelwood, Mo., and a son, Dale of Missoula, Mont.

The T.E. Sleight, Ernest Jones families

Thomas E. Sleight and his son-in-law Ernest C. Jones came to this area in 1901, traveling by train as far as Minot. The following spring their wives, Anna Kincaid Sleight and Helen Kincaid Jones, came by train to Drake.

T.E. Sleight was born in Victor, Iowa, in 1862. Anna was born in 1866 in Bohemia and came to the United States when she was three years old, a stormy three-month journey. Helen Kincaid, born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1882, married Ernest C. Jones, who was born in 1881 in Anamosa, Iowa.

The Joneses had two children, Ruth, now Mrs. Roy H. Hegge, born in Drake in 1904, and Norval, who was born in 1914 and died in 1924.



The Sleights and the Jones at home. (Roy Hegge)

The Sleight and Jones families homesteaded southwest of Lake Bentley, then called Brush Lake. Sleight built a large house and barn, now the R.C. Alme farm. Joneses farmed there and Sleights moved to Drake.

Mr. Sleight owned a meat market and a hardware store. That building burned; a new building was put up and the J.C. Penney Co. occupied it for many years. The Farmerette now stands there. Mr. Sleight also owned the light plant, creamery and a grocery store. A carpenter, he built at least five house house in the city.

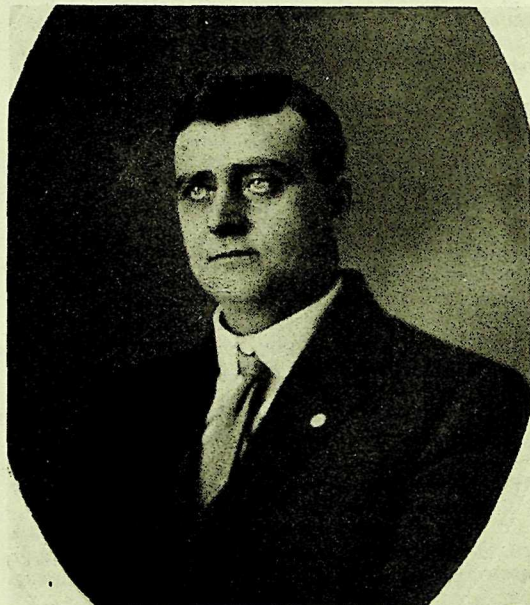
Mr. Sleight promoted building the present main part of the brick school building and the stone church, now the Masonic Hall.

He was a state representative for two sessions; president of the school board for many years; mayor of the city over 30 years.

He instituted the Drake IOOF Lodge and the Sleights and Joneses were charter members. Mrs. Hegge was president of the North Dakota Rebekah Assembly in 1948 and 1949; she is still an active member.

Mr. Sleight died in 1958 and his wife in 1946. Ernest Jones died in 1940 and his wife in 1962.

— Mrs. Roy H. Hegge



T.E. Sleight. (Ruth Hegge)

The Curtis Speers family

Curtis Speers was born May 12, 1876, near Glasgow, Kentucky. When he was a young man he left Kentucky to work as a lumberjack in the forests of Wisconsin.

In 1898 he came to Anamoose and he later homesteaded in Spring Grove Township, a mile and a half northeast of Drake.

In 1902, Mr. Speers built a hotel in Drake, known as the Golden West Hotel, now known as the Empress Hotel. The building was enlarged in 1906 and renamed the West Hotel. He sold the hotel later.

Mr. Speers and Mary Alexson were married in 1906. He had also homesteaded, on land nine miles northeast of Drake.

They had five children, Howard, who died in 1969; Mrs. Norman (Doris) Smith of Berwick; Mrs. Erick (Alice) Erickson of Drake; Roy who died in 1919; and Mrs. M.M. (Ethel) Howe of Woodburn, Ore.

Mr. Speers was a charter member of both the Broadview Grange and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was a trustee of the Norwegian Lutheran Church at Guthrie, whose pastor was Rev. A.M. Buslee of Balfour.

— Alice Erickson

The William F. Stiehm family

William F. Stiehm was born near Henderson, Minn. As a young man he worked at Fort Snelling, near St. Paul, where he met his wife, Anna, who was born near Berlin, Germany, and came to St. Paul with her family when she was five years old.

Following their marriage they lived at Henderson where Mr. Stiehm became a rural mail carrier.

Some people in Henderson owned a "flat house," train elevator in Drake and they wanted Stiehm to inspect the operation, in 1902. He liked the job and the country so well he stayed to operate the elevator.

He homesteaded 1½ miles northwest of Round Lake where the family lived until the land was proved up. Later they moved into Drake and lived in a building where the old Schrader Hardware Store was located.

Since there was no high school in Drake at that time, Adele stayed in Henderson for a time and later went to school at Anamoose. The rest of the children went to a school on the north shore of Round Lake until they moved into Drake.

After leaving the elevator business, Mr. Stiehm owned and operated a lumberyard and the West Hotel on the west side of Main Street. The lumberyard was sold to Ben Magnuson and was last operated by Harold Ostrom. The hotel was sold to Steve Panas who also owned the Morris Hotel at that time. The last owner was O.W. Fors.

Mr. Stiehm also owned and managed several houses and farms in the area. He died in 1927 and his wife in 1950.

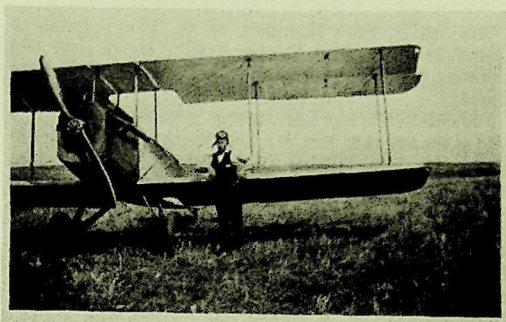
Their children were Adele, Denver, Colo.; Walter who died in 1930; Irma Goldy, Denver; Emilie Holt, Rock Springs, Wyo.; and Vic in St. Paul.

— Vic Stiehm

The Herman Stoeber Sr. family

Herman Stoeber Sr. was an adventurous young man who attended schools near Berlin, Germany, where he was born in 1862. In his teens, he left home to make his way in the world and, after several years employment in a mill, he was off to America where he had heard and read of great opportunities.

In 1881 at the age of 19, he left Germany and three weeks later he landed in New York. Then he took a train to



Howard Speers with his plane. (Harold Harris)

Minnesota where he lived with an uncle for a short time. He met and married Helen Kelbel in 1889. They farmed near Hector, Minn., for nine years. Then his wife died, leaving him with four children, Henry, 9, Bertha, 7, Ella, 5, and Emma, 3. In 1899 he remarried, Emma Braun had come with her parents and family from Germany to America in 1891. Stoebers continued farming for a short time. A daughter, Matha, was born to them in 1900.

That same year Herman traveled by train to Balfour where he filed on a homestead four miles east of the town. While he didn't find it the wild country his Minnesota neighbors thought, he returned with humorous tales of a land overrun by wild animals and savage Indians. He took buffalo horns, found on his homestead, to Minnesota with stories of having shot the animal.

Herman's oldest child Henry died shortly after the family came to North Dakota and Bertha, the oldest daughter, remained in Minnesota with her grandparents.

In 1905 after farming five years, he decided to try his luck at operating a general merchandise store in Balfour. However, a year later he moved his family back to the homestead.

While Herman was involved in farm work and churning butter to sell to people in town, he also held offices in township, school and church. He read and studied late at night to educate himself in English and our government. About 1915 he bought his first automobile, an Overland which would speed into Drake in 10 minutes. Herman employed two men year round.

In 1919, while Herman was filling the haymow, pulling the hay up with a hayfork and two horses, a singletree broke and the evener struck him in the abdomen, causing internal injuries. Two days later, Dec. 8, he died at the age of 58.

When he died, Herman had 10 children, was farming over a section and a half of land, owned over 150 head of grazing cattle and milk cows, 12 horses and a threshing machine. Not all those 19 years of farming had been good: lightning killed cattle and burned a 100-foot long machine shed; winds destroyed the first barn and silo; cattle were killed by trains on the Soo Line or mired in the Wintering River.

The years following Herman Sr.'s death were harder, with only one son, Herman Jr., not old enough to manage the farm. In 1920 Mrs. Stoeber bought the Aakers farm house near Balfour and had it moved to Drake where the family lived until 1936. Herman and Ethel have lived in this house since. A baby sister died of influenza in 1918 and a sister, Emma, drowned in 1920.

With drought, dust storms, grasshoppers and high labor prices, the land went to the Land Bank. Mrs. Stoeber worked away from home to support six children still at home. These six were graduated from Drake High School.

The family were members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Drake. Mrs. Stoeber lived in Drake until 1936 and then with her children until her death in 1956 at the age of 74.

The children of Herman Stoeber included: Henry, who died at the age of 9; Mrs. Rueben (Bertha) Burgstahler in Minnesota; Mrs. William (Ella) Zempel, now deceased who lived at Sheyenne; Mrs. Art (Emma) Schwartz, a school teacher, now deceased; Mrs. George (Matha) Pellett of Fessenden and Phoenix, Ariz., now deceased; Mrs. Otto (Eda) Herder of Belle Plaine, Minn., wife of Rev. Otto Herder, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church; Mrs. Pete (Erna) Bruner, of Drake, a teacher for 24 years; Herman Jr., a jeweler and farmer, married to Ethel Gunderson, a nurse employed at the Drake Hospital; Mrs. Harvey (Videll) Kringen of Leeds; Mrs. Curtis (Marion) Stansberry of Whitefish, Mont.; Mrs. Ed (Lavile) O'Haire of Kalispell, Mont.; and Verla, who was born in March 1918 and died in October 1919.

Bruners have a son Thomas, married to the former Lorita Schnase. They and their two children live in Harvey. Stoebers have one son, Craig of Great Falls, Mont.

— Mrs. Pete Bruner

The Johann Strege family

Johann Strege was born April 17, 1846, in Germany to Joahin and Loese Strege. He married Wilhelmina Zahnow, who was born Nov. 22, 1847, and when he was 29 they came to the United States.

They lived at Bellingham, Minn., until 1900 when they came to claim a homestead 3½ miles northwest of what is now Drake. Their possessions which were not brought by wagon and team were shipped to Anamoose, the nearest town.

Johann was responsible for organization of Strege Township which still carries his name.

Johann died April 25, 1912, and his wife Nov. 21, 1922. Their farm is now owned and occupied by the third generation in the family, Leslie and Carol Strege Gerber.

Johann and Wilhelmina had 12 children, all but the three older ones having homesteads or buying property in this area.

Henry, the eldest, married Louise Roth and lived in Minnesota. August married Bertha Jacobs and lived in Iowa and his twin, Augusta, Mrs. Wilhelm Roth, lived in Minnesota. Mrs. August (Bertha) Borchardt also in Minnesota.

Robert, married to Emma Genrich, and Herman, married to Stella Perry, lived in Drake. Mrs. Austin (Emilie) Lebel made her home in Indiana and Mrs. Josef (Emma) Riba in Anamoose. Gustave and his wife Amelia Beutler lived in Drake while Mrs. John (Anna) Peerboom lived in Anamoose.

Mrs. William (Caroline) Senechal made her home in Velva and Mrs. Victor (Louise) Kronberg, the only survivor of Johann Strege's children, lives in Voltaire.

Gustave Strege, the ninth son, was born Sept. 8, 1884, at Bellingham and came with his parents to the homestead that he inherited by caring for his aging parents. On July 22, 1909, he married Amelia Beutler, who was born Nov. 23, 1890. They farmed on the homestead until retiring in 1957 when they purchased the Raymond Kemper residence and moved to Drake.

His wife Amelia was born to Gottlieb and Ida (Gerlach) Beutler at California, Missouri. They came to Anamoose by rail in 1900 and settled on a homestead seven miles northwest of what is now Drake, living in a sod house while another home was built.

Gustave died July 21, 1961, and Amelia July 3, 1969.

Amelia had five half brothers and a half sister older than herself who lived in this area many years. They were Louis Beutler, married to Elizabeth Roth; Henry Beutler, married to Bertha Beutler; William Beutler, who married Rosetta Beutler; Sam Beutler, whose wife was Mary Locke; Fred Beutler, married to Ella Locke; and Mrs. Ernest (Ida) Gerber.

Amelia also had four sisters and a brother: Mrs. Harry (Gertrude) Harris of Drake and Mrs. Wilbert (Minnie) Melzer of Osakis, Minn., who are deceased; Mrs. Harry (Elsie) Melzer, Milona, Minn.; and the twins, Mrs. Sam (Esther) Betcher, Minneapolis, Minn., and Lester Beutler, Owatonna, Minn.

Gustave and Amelia Strege were the parents of 12 children, all graduates of Drake High School: Mrs. Raymond (Verna) Peterson, Steele; Earl of Minot, married to Emma Nordine; Mrs. Dale (Ruth) McCarty, Drake; Alan of Dallas, Tex., married to Clara Seefert; Ivan of Minneapolis, married Joyce Wiuff; Mrs. Harry (Erna) Holmquist, St. Paul, Minn.; Mrs. John (Hazel) Peterson of Stanley who died in August 1972; Donald of Newport, Minn., married to Vivian Seefert; Edwin of Stanley, married to Dorothy Beutler; Mrs. Don (Betty) Hornbacher, Anaconda, Mont.; Mrs. Leslie (Carol) Gerber, Drake; and Mrs. Virgil (Janice) Ellingson, Balfour.

Dale and Ruth McCarty have nine children, also all Drake High graduates: Ronald of Crosby; Myron of Flint, Mich.; Peggy Kruschwitz, St. Paul, Lynn, Fargo; Jay and Wayne of Drake; Roger, Kansas City, Kan.; Galen, Garden City, Kan.; and Joel of Drake.

— Ruth Strege McCarty

The A. M. Teyler family

Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Teyler moved to Drake from Marion, S.D., in September 1942. He bought the Drake Machine Shop, located in the Eichhorn Implement Co. building, from Vernon Roth.

Mr. Teyler, better known as A.M. to his customers, operated that shop until October 1944 when he built his own building, just north of the Eichhorn Implement.

While he operated this shop he invented an electric-driven sickle grinder, had it patented, and won second place at the Inventors Congress at Devils Lake in 1951. These grinders were sold in the Dakotas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Montana, Washington and Oregon and are still being made today.

While operating the machine shop, A.M. also built and sold wagon trailers, wagon boxes, hay movers and a snow plow for Herbie Adam who used two W-9 International tractors on the plow.

During his first years, A.M. sharpened 80 plow shares a day. In later years, welding and repair work were the order of the day.

After 35 years of work, ill health forced Mr. Teyler to sell his shop to Lester Dockter of Lincoln Valley in May 1976. Mr. and Mrs. Teyler still live in Drake.

They have two sons, Harvey, a meteorologist in charge of the weather station at Alamosa, Colo., and Harold, a Minot State College graduate now teaching at Karlsruhe.

— A.M. Teyler

The Emil Traiser family

Emil Traiser and his cousin William Parent came by train to Anamoose and on to Drake in 1900 and homesteaded northwest of Drake.

Emil was born July 27, 1872, in Somerset, Wis. Bertha Berg was born March 20, 1871, in Osceola, Wis., and they were married there in 1901.

They farmed until 1933 when Emil retired and moved to Drake. Later he sold the farm to his son Ira who farmed until 1970 when the farm was sold to Mike Krim Jr. Ira Traisers moved to Minot.

The Traisers, who served on Lake George township and school boards, were members of the Blumenfeld Church and later attended the Drake Catholic church.

Emil and Bertha had six children, Joseph who is deceased; Ira of Minot; Lauretta Machtell of Jamestown; Vera who is deceased; Vernon of Jamestown; and Kermit who is deceased.

— Ira Traiser

The Ole Trulson family

Ole Trulson was born Nov. 5, 1865, and his wife, Ingeborg Johnson Aug. 10, 1866, both in Norway. They

came to the United States and were married in Spring Grove, Minn., in 1888.

In 1902, traveling by horse and wagon from Fessenden, the came to Drake with their children Albert, Anna, Olga, Amanda and Henry. (Their older children, Olaf and Inga, came later.)

They homesteaded seven miles southwest of Drake in 1902. They were members of the Lutheran church. Ole died in Drake in 1922 and Ingeborg followed in 1942.

Their children were Olaf Trulson; Mrs. Albert (Inga) Ross; Albert; Mrs. Tyler (Anna) Anderson, Gladwin, Mich.; Mrs. Joseph (Olga) Koch, Sacramento, Calif.; Mrs. Henry (Amanda) Nehrenberg, Velva; Henry; Mrs. Harry (Esther) Merbach; and Mrs. Philip (Ida) Rucker, Sacramento, Calif.

— Olga Koch

The Mathias Tuchscherer family

Mathias and Marian Tuchscherer came to the Drake area from the German settlement of Mannheim in the Ukraine. They arrived at Anamoose in December of 1909. The first winter they stayed with relatives north of Drake. That first winter and next spring Math worked for a farmer by the name of Julius Kuntz.

After seeding he filed on a 160-acre homestead. He and his wife first built a frame shanty with two rooms; one for a team of horses and one cow, and the other for living quarters until they built a soddy.

Times were rough since they had four children: Lena 5, Frank 2½, Catherine 1½, and Emilia 6 weeks. That fall in 1910 Math rented two quarters of land by Guthrie from Fred and Sam Beutler. He bought two more horses and a plow and did some fall plowing, staying at the farm during the week as there were buildings on the place.



The Math Tuchscherer family: left to right, front, Alex, Angle, Lena, Math, Marian and Helen. Back, Frank, Rosie, Emelia and Kathrnn. (Frank Tuchscherer)



Rosebush School, 1912: Front row, left to right, Frank Tuchscherer, Helen Voller, Margret Schmitt, Lena Tuchscherer, Elizabeth Schmidt, Marian Schmitt, Barbara Schmitt, Mary Schmidt. Back row: Anton Voller, Anton Engelhardt, Paul Sanderson, Philip Ziegler, John Bachmeier, Joe P. Ziegler, Joe Schmitt, Mike Bachmeier and Pius Voller.

(Frank Tuchscherer)

One day Mother and us kids were out in the garden when two cars pulled up. There were, as I can recall, four men and four women with two dogs in the cars. They asked us something, but of course we couldn't understand what they said. But a couple of them could speak German so they asked if they could camp at our place so they'd be close to water. They also asked if they could have some potatoes, as we had a few rows. Of course they could have anything they wanted as Mother was scared half to death. They offered game and money, but Mother wouldn't accept anything so they gave us kids the money.

Mother was so afraid that after dark we went to the neighbors, John Zieglers, and the next morning their oldest son, Sebastian, took us back home but the hunters were gone.

Another time a cowboy rode into the yard. He had on a big hat, chaps and spurs. Again Mother had a scare, but he started talking German; he wanted a drink of water. It turned out he was the late John Bachmeier; he was working for the Erickson ranch north of our place.

So the time went on and in the fall of 1912 my sister Lena and I started school. I was only 5 but so Lena, who was 8, didn't have to go alone, I went, too. Our school was two miles west of our place and we walked many times but we walked more than two miles as we went around to avoid cattle, as the range was open in those days.

In the fall of 1914 I went to school alone one day. In the afternoon we saw some black clouds to the west, which turned out to be a prairie fire. The teacher took us all to the John Schmidt place about a quarter mile from the school. About a mile north of the school a house burned down. The woman and children saved themselves by sitting on a piece of plowed ground. After the fire had passed I went home with the Nick Voller children and stayed overnight. In the morning I went home across the burned prairie. It was quite an experience for a boy of 8.

Math and Marian had eight children in all. They are: Mrs. Russell Hoynes (Lena), Towner; Frank, Drake; Mrs. Christ Miller (Catherine), Minot; Mrs. Philip Schiele (Emilia), Devils Lake, all born in Russia, and after coming to the United States, Mrs. Ed Van Eeckhout (Rose), Audubon, Minn.; Mrs. Lawrence Heit (Helen), Devils Lake; and Mrs. Elgar Roles (Angeline), Kent, Wash.

I could write a book on all my experiences, but I suppose everyone could. In conclusion, Math passed away December 1950 at the age of 72. Marian passed away in June 1959 at the age of 80.

Frank W. Tuchscherer

The Adam Uhlich family

Adam Uhlich, a son of Adam and Margaretta Uhlich, was born Sept. 15, 1883, in Russia. When he was two the family moved to Budapest, Romania.

Margaretta's husband died in Romania and in 1900 she brought her three children, Adam, Eve and Reinhold, to the United States.

They came by horse and buggy to Eureka, S.D., where they had to work for a year to pay for the trip to the United States.

The following year they came to North Dakota, again by horse and buggy, to a homestead 10 miles south of Drake.

Adam Uhlich married Katherine Jans, daughter of William and Lydia Jans, on Feb. 17, 1906, at St. Peter's

Lutheran Church. She was born Jan. 2, 1889, in Bucharest, Romania.

They lived on the homestead that Adam and his family had acquired. He served on the Branville Township school board and on the St. Peter's Lutheran Church board for many years.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Uhlich are Mrs. Gottlieb (Eva) Grosz; John Uhlich, who is deceased; Arthur of Drake; Albert, who is deceased; Mrs. Henry (Mary (Marie) Michelson, Martin; Tillie, who is deceased; Daniel of Anamoose; Jacob of Powell, Wyo; David of Havre, Mont.; Mrs. Olan (Esther) Everson, Milwaukie, Ore.; and Mrs. Melvin (Helen) Rieniets, Drake.

In 1944 Mr. and Mrs. Uhlich moved to Drake. They were members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Mr. Uhlich died Feb. 26, 1969, and Mrs. Uhlich April 24, 1975.

— Mrs. Melvin Rieniets

The Arthur Uhlich family

Arthur Uhlich and Edna Henne were married March 5, 1936, at McClusky. They lived on a farm 11 miles south of Drake from 1936 until 1967 when they moved into Drake.

They had two children, James and Shirley.

James, who married Marion Miller, lives on the family arm. They have seven children, Linda, Wanda, Anthony, Renee, Richard, Karen and Paula.

Shirley married Elmer Neuharth. They and their children, Scott, Bradley and Travis, live in Drake.

— Mrs. Art Uhlich

The Charles Van Eeckhout family

Charles Van Eeckhout, born in Holland Oct. 14, 1878, came to the Drake area in 1900 and his wife, the former Nellie Rutten, came the following year with her parents. She also had been born in Holland, on Aug. 30, 1885.

Charles traveled by covered wagon from Big Stone, S.D., through Minnesota to Devils Lake, then to Towner and Anamoose.

Charles and Nellie were married at Anamoose on Oct. 14, 1903.

He homesteaded four miles north of Drake and they continued to live there and farm until retiring in 1953. Bennie continues to live on the homestead.

Their children were Edward, now deceased, born Aug. 3, 1904; Emil of Osakis, Minn., born Aug. 15, 1907; Con of Drake, born Jan. 9, 1911; Bennie of Drake, born April 15, 1913; Eli, born July 22, 1915 and now dead; Mrs. Wesley (Angeline) Bugge, Knife River, Minn., born Nov. 11, 1917; and Mrs. Anton (Frances) Grad of Harvey, born April 22, 1920.

— Con Van Eeckhout

The Theodore F. Volk family

Theodore Volk Sr. was born Sept. 15, 1888, in Odessa, Russia. Barbara Ebertz was born Aug. 20, 1888, at Odessa. They were married in 1908.

The following year they came to the United States, to North Dakota. They lived at Anamoose for a time, where Mr. Volk worked on the Soo Line Railroad Section crew. In 1917 they moved to Drake. Mr. Volk retired in 1953 as foreman of the Bismarck branch. He was succeeded by his son, Theodore Jr. The family believes a daughter, Magdaline, was the first baby baptized in the Drake Catholic Church and Josephine the first bride there.

Mr. Volk died Oct. 14, 1966, and Mrs. Volk died in 1967.

Their children were Anna, who died in 1943; Mrs. Anton (Josephine) Grinsteiner, who died in 1963; Mrs. Helen Frogge, Bremerton, Wash.; Theodore Jr. who died in a house fire in Drake in 1956; Mrs. Joe (Katherine) Grinsteiner, Wallace, Mich.; Mrs. Arnold (Regarda) Flowers, Portland, Ore.; Mrs. Richard (Magdaline) Burgess, Minneapolis; Lawrence of Minneapolis who died in 1975; Mrs. Ed (Margaret) Kriedeman, Drake; Mrs. Felix (Gloria) Ziegler of Anaconda, Mont., who died in 1975; Barbara Stull of Anchorage, Alaska; and Jacob of Drake.

— Anton Grinsteiner

The Fred Vollmer family

Fred Vollmer, who was born in Germany, came to the United States. In 1898 he came to this area and homesteaded five miles northeast of Drake.

Fred met Mary Kohlman, who was born April 11, 1884, at Appleton, Minn., and they were married March 5, 1903, in Minnesota.

They helped organize the Norfolk Lutheran Church in 1901 and Mr. Vollmer was a deacon for a number of years. He also was a Schiller Township supervisor for many years and threshed in the community, some years running three outfits and a cook car.

Their children are Elmer Vollmer, who is deceased; Marvin, Wilbert and Mamie, now Mrs. Mamie Bakken, all of Drake. Marvin now owns the home farm.

The Fred Walz family

Fred Walz and Katherine Kloss came with their parents from Germany to the United States in the late 1800s to McClusky. They were married there in 1903 and moved to Dawson, Mont.

In 1915 they moved to a farm five miles north of Drake where they reared their family.

Their children are Mrs. Gust (Mary) Kloehn, Boyriver, Minn.; John of Drake; Fred who is deceased; Mrs. Albert (Emma) Roder, Spokane, Wash.; Mrs. Howard (Lena) Olson of Drake who is deceased; Mrs. Harry (Elizabeth) Olson of Drake; Mrs. John (Ruth) Riedhead, Mesa, Ariz.; Mrs. Clarence (Hulda) Nelson, Drake; Mrs. Jerold (Katherine) Frazer, Minot; Herbert of Jamestown; Mrs. Vern (Esther) Semmen, Lemore, Calif.; Mrs. Don (Edna) Irish, Spokane, Wash.; Mrs. Robert (Margaret) Marvin, Drake; and Mrs. LeRoy (Irene) Bechtold, Harvey.

—Mrs. Robert Marvin

The Henry Weber family

Henry and Elsie Weber arrived in Drake in September 1922 by train along with their older children, Roselynn, Adrian and Eldor.

Henry, who was born Oct. 7, 1888, at Pipestone, Minn. was employed on the Soo Line in Drake as a carman from September 1922 until he retired.

Elsie Wolff was born Feb. 28, 1895, at Trapto, Germany. She came to the United States and they were married at Woodstock, Minn., June 1, 1915.

The family were members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, now Trinity Lutheran, in Drake and the children attended Drake elementary and high school.

In May 1952 they moved to Sidney, Mont., where Henry died March 25, 1952, and his wife Nov. 19, 1960.

Their children are Mrs. Ewald (Roselynn) Lueck, Billings, Mont.; Adrian, Fairbanks, Alaska; Eldor, Redmond, Wash.; Mrs. Otto (Elaine) Bruner, Drake; Mrs. Ernest (Dolores) Mueller, Lakeview, Ore.; Clarence (Bud) Weber, Fairbanks; and Mrs. Donald (Shirley) Renken, Hungry Horse, Mont.; and Mrs. Dick (Lucille) Aldworth, Issaquah, Wash.

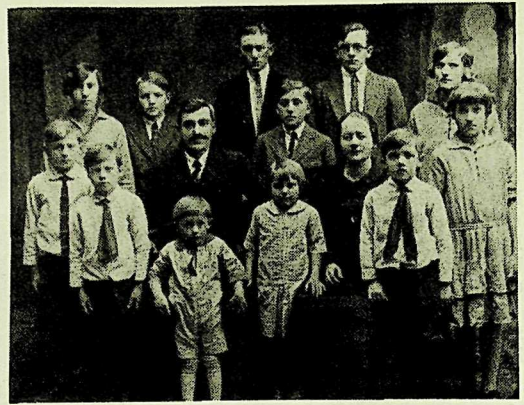
—Elaine Bruner

The John Weninger family

John Weninger, who was born Feb. 12, 1887, in Russia came to the United States to North Dakota in 1914 with a group which included his wife; their three older children; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Weninger; and a number of his sisters and brothers and their families: Joe and Mike Weninger, Anton and Helen Feist, Anton and Elizabeth Fettig, Mike and Katherine Pfeiffer and Magdalene and John Ludwig.

John and his wife, the former Anna Marie Shumacker who was born Sept. 16, 1889, in Odessa, settled first on the Lombard farm 5½ miles southeast of Balfour. Later they moved to a farm just east of Balfour and then to the Zahnow farm. Mrs. Weninger died Dec. 27, 1923.

Their children were Mrs. Mike (Katie) Grinsteiner, Stephenson, Mich.; Mrs. Charles (Eva) Hanson, now deceased; Anton of Drake; Mrs. Oscar (Helen) Skari, Drake; Joe in Saskatchewan; Pius Peter of Balfour; Mrs.



John Weninger and Johanna Grinsteiner Weninger's family, 1925.

Herbert (Virginia) Martwick, Balfour; and Mike of Everett, Wash.

On Dec. 29, 1925, John Weninger married Mrs. Johanna Grinsteiner. She was born July 20, 1890, in Germany and seven years later came to Richardton, N.D., with her parents. She was married there to Anton Grinsteiner who died Dec. 20, 1918.

She had four sons, Anton of Balfour; Mike and Joe of Stephenson, Mich.; and Adam, who died in 1943 while in service.

The family lived on Doctor Stone's farm south of Balfour and later bought the Lombard farm where Weningers had first lived. They farmed until 1945 when John and Johanna moved to Drake. A son, Joe Weninger, bought the farm, which is now owned by his foster son, Edwin Cantlon. John died in May 1950 and Johanna July 7, 1967.

Anton Weninger married Evelyn Ziegler. Joe Weninger married Kathryn Grinsteiner, who died in 1962. He married Romona Mergel Budeau in 1965. Pius Peter married Helen Schatz and Mike married Beth Marie Oliver.

Anton Grinsteiner married Josephine Volk, who died in 1963. He married Evangeline Weninger in 1964. Mike Grinsteiner married Katie Weninger and Adam Grinsteiner was married to Kathryn Rankin.

—Edwin Cantlon

The Frederick Wiersch family

Frederich Wiersch, son of Martin and Caroline Schmidt Wiersch, was born Dec. 1, 1874, in Ciucurova, Romania. He was married there in September 1895 to Lydia Maier, who was born Feb. 11, 1876, to Hannas and Wilhelmina Martin Maier.

Frederich and Lydia sailed to America in December 1899, and homesteaded in Sheridan County just a mile south of the McHenry County line. Their homestead was five miles south and four miles west of Drake.

They were charter members of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wiersch, 1930. (Christ Krueger)

Eleven children were born to the Wiersches. Rosie and John were born in Romania. John died soon after they arrived in America as did two other sons. Rosie married Emmanuel Kandt on Feb. 27, 1919, and she was killed July 22, 1920, during a tornado which destroyed her home.

Surviving children are Mrs. Ed (Marie) Roder, Drake; Mrs. E.W. (Amanda) Johnson, Puyallup, Wash.; Mrs. Jake (Frieda) Ehrman Jr., Anamoose; and Mrs. Christ (Violet) Krueger of Drake. Other children who are deceased are Ann Wiersch Duling of Waterville, Wash., who died in 1952; Herman, killed in a hunting tragedy in 1954; and Martha Wiersch Nieffer of Snohomish, Wash., in 1967.

Mr. Wiersch died on May 28, 1931, and his wife followed on Dec. 15, 1941.

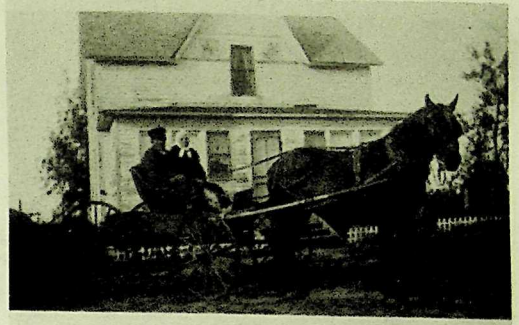
The Karl Wiersch family

The Karl Wiersch family, with five children, came by boat and train to Anamoose in 1899 from the Dobrudja district in southeastern Romania along the Black Sea. This district includes the villages of Catalui, Atmegea and Ciucurova.

Karl was born in Bessarabia on Nov. 20, 1864, and his wife, Rosa Arndt on Jan. 29, 1867. They were married in Romania in 1886.

The family homesteaded in Rosenfeld Township, Sheridan County, seven miles south and three miles west of where Drake stands. They farmed and lived there for many years and a granddaughter, Mrs. Frieda Wiersch Isaak and great-grandson still live there.

Karl and Rosa were charter members of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church, organized Feb. 1, 1903.



Mr. and Mrs. Karl Wiersch. (Christ Krueger)

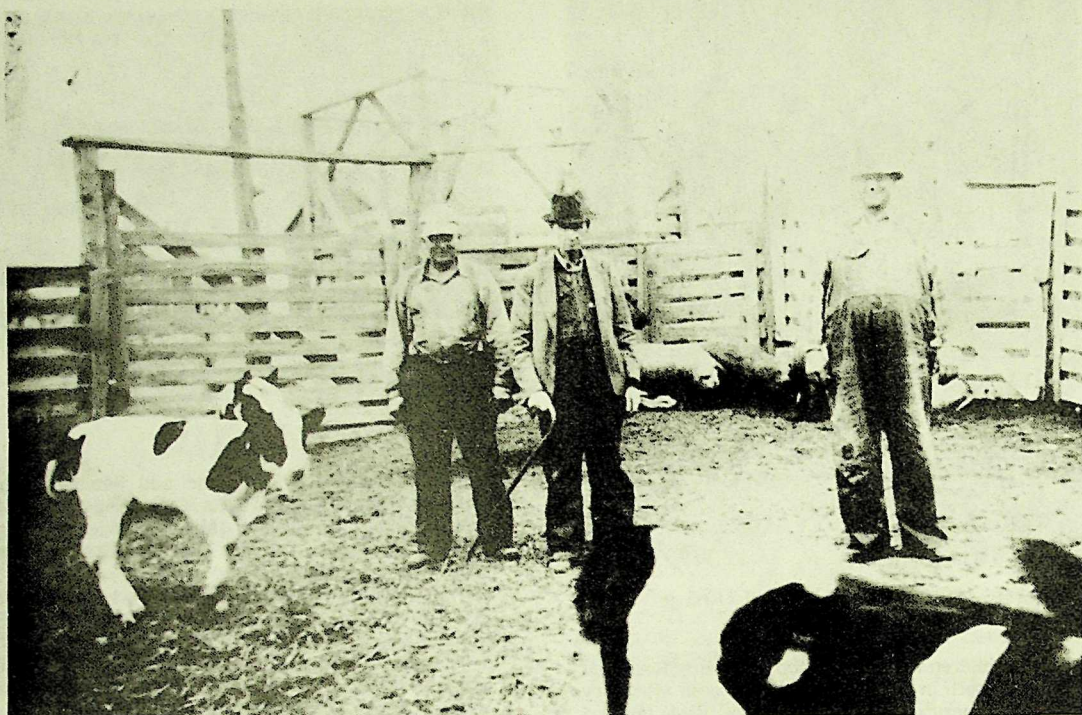
Their children are Ferdinand and Samuel, both deceased; Gustave and Mrs. John (Sophia) Adam, both of Lodi, Calif.; Mrs. William (Minnie) Roder, who is deceased; and Mrs. Samuel (Bertha) Erman, New Rockford.

Mr. Wiersch died March 3, 1959, and his wife died in 1945.

— Roland Wiersch, Mrs. Ed Roder



Mr. and Mrs. Sam Wiersch. (Mrs. Emil Isaak)



Drake Stockyards, 1940. Mr. Billings, Lem Goodlaxon and Albert Woitte.

The Sam Wiersch family

Sam Wiersch, born Nov. 30, 1890, came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Wiersch, from Dobrudja, Romania, to Anamoose in 1899.

They settled in Rosenfeld Township of Sheridan County six miles south and three miles west of Drake. Sam was married Jan. 18, 1915, to Louisa Sauter, who was born Nov. 24, 1896.

They had two children, Mrs. Emil (Frieda) Isaak of Drake and Roland, who, with his family, farms on the home place.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiersch were members of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church and, after they moved to Drake in 1958, were members of the Drake Baptist Church.

Mrs. Wiersch died Oct. 18, 1963, and her husband died Sept. 23, 1971. They are buried in the Rosenfeld Baptist Church cemetery.

— Mrs. Emil Isaak

He returned to Wisconsin where he and his wife, Minnie Hoffman, were married Aug. 12, 1914, at Rib Falls, Wis.

In the spring of 1915 they returned to Drake and began farming. The Wildes rented four different farms on shares, including O.A. Refling's farm for five years.

They also lived on the St. Olaf farm south of Drake for 16 years, sharing the crops of cattle, milk, cream, pigs and grain. Mr. Wilde served on the Spring Grove Township board.

In 1941 they bought a farm west of Balfour where they farmed until 1964 when they retired and moved into Drake. Their farm was sold to a neighbor, Thomas Alme.

Mr. Wilde was janitor at the old Lutheran church building for six years. He was born May 1, 1892, in Cook County, Illinois. She lives in Drake.

Their children are Agnes Wilde Thompson, now Mrs. Vernon Westergaard of Balfour, born Spet. 20, 1916; Mrs. Arnold (Velma) Thom, Greenacres, Wash., born May 29, 1918; Mrs. Carl (Florence) Thompson, born Feb. 19, 1920, and Mrs. Cecil (Lucille) Stevens, born Feb. 15, 1924, both of Balfour.

— Mrs. Richard Wilde

The Richard Wilde family

Richard Wilde came to Drake in 1913 to visit his uncle. He took a job on the Henry Beutler farm for eight months.

The Albert Woitte family

Albert Woitte, who was born April 6, 1891, at Milbank, S.D., came to the Drake area by train in 1915. He worked



The Richard Wilde family on their 60th anniversary, August, 1974.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wilde, 1914.

in the Balfour-Drake area before moving to Midale, Saskatchewan.

He was married to Metha Zahnow at Estevan, Sask., on Dec. 19, 1917. His wife was born at Holloway, Minn., on Dec. 16, 1885. She and her parents came by train to Balfour in 1901 and farmed there.

Albert and Metha had a son Kenneth born in 1918 while they were living in Saskatchewan.

In 1919 they moved to the Howard McCarthy farm 2½ miles from Drake. They lived there until 1925 when they moved to a farm northeast of Balfour.

Albert worked for and managed the Drake Co-op Shipping Association from 1925 till 1948.

Albert, who died Sept. 26, 1963, is buried in the Balfour Cemetery.

They had six children, Kenneth in Seattle, Wash.; Genevieve Christensen, Yelm, Wash.; Arlie Jean Wright, Gresham, Ore.; Lester in Balfour; Dale in Edmonds, Wash.; and Ramona Minor in Olpe, Kan.

— Kenneth E. Woitte



Grandma Bruner with John, Ben and Frank. (Theresa Bruner)

The Andrew Ziegler family

Andrew and Barbara Ziegler came to Drake in 1928, traveling with horses. Andrew was born in 1892, and his wife in 1895, both in Russia. They came to the United States and were married Oct. 20, 1913, at Selz.

They farmed at Wellsburg from 1913 to 1928 when they moved to the farm at Drake. In 1956 they moved into town. They were members of the Catholic church.

Their children are Joe, now deceased; Donald of Babbitt, Minn.; Andy Jr., Anaconda, Mont.; Betty Schmaltz, Livermore, Calif.; Felix of Velva; Rose Miller and Evelyn Weninger, both of Drake; Adam of Harvey; Peter and Virgil, both of Drake; Mike of Salem, Ore.; and Louis of Drake.

— Mrs. Barbara Ziegler

Drake Organizations

A Brief History of St. John's Catholic Church

Better known as the Blumenfeld Church

In 1903 a group of German immigrants from the Ukraine decided they needed a church so they contacted the Bishop of Fargo for permission to build; permission was granted and they went ahead with their plans.

They were served by various priests; finally they were declared a mission to Orrin.

Then in the fall of 1944 the Rt. Rev. Bishop Muench of Fargo said he wanted the church to be moved from the location it was at to a more centrally located spot since there was no one living north of the church. Of course, as it always happens, some people were against it, but it was moved in the spring of 1945 by Otto Hass to land donated by Frank Tuchscherer one mile south of Bald Butte.

Two years later a new house was built and in a few years the few people, by a lot of sacrifice, paid for it.

They were served by a number of priests, first Alex Jene, then Fr. Schmirler, Fr. Mantel, Fr. Proeller, then Fr. Sventinski, the last resident priest.

Then we were demoted to a mission again and were served from Fulda by Fr. Wanseck. Later we were put with Orrin again.

Then in July of 1968 our church was closed for good. We had Fr. John Graven to sell everything. The land was given back to Frank Tuchscherer who bought the church building. The Bishop said the building can be used for anything; after the furnishings were out if it is like any building.

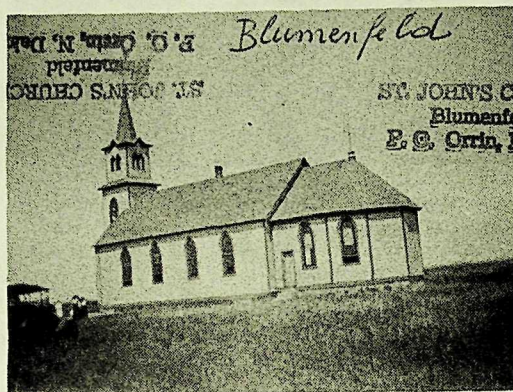
When Frank Tuchscherer sold his farm Verne Helseene the church went with it; it is being used to store hay bales.

— Frank Tuchscherer

Early history of the Broadview Grange

The Drake Farmers Club, just before it decided to reorganize as a Grange in January 1914, included Orville Kemper, Walter Olstad, Eldon Johnson, and Mssrs. and Mmes. J. P. Kemper, Peter Johnson, Charlie Kemper, C. J. Olstad and H. W. R. Bentley.

The Grange, then the oldest and largest farm organization in the U.S., had social, educational and



St. John's or Blumenfeld Church. (Mrs. Dave Dieterle)

financial objectives.

At a Feb. 4, 1914, meeting, F. P. Waters, a National Grange representative, met with the group and the local Grange was organized with a membership of 79.

First officers included J. P. Kemper, master; Frank Kaufman, overseer; Mrs. Jennie Kemper, secretary; Mrs. A. C. Anderson, lecturer; H. A. McCarty, steward; R. S. Kemper, assistant steward; Meybelle Kaufman, lady assistant steward; Rev. Whittaker, chaplain; A. C. Anderson, treasurer; E. E. Larson, gatekeeper; Kate Kaufman, Ceres; Edna Iverson, Pamona; and Lillie Larson, Flora.

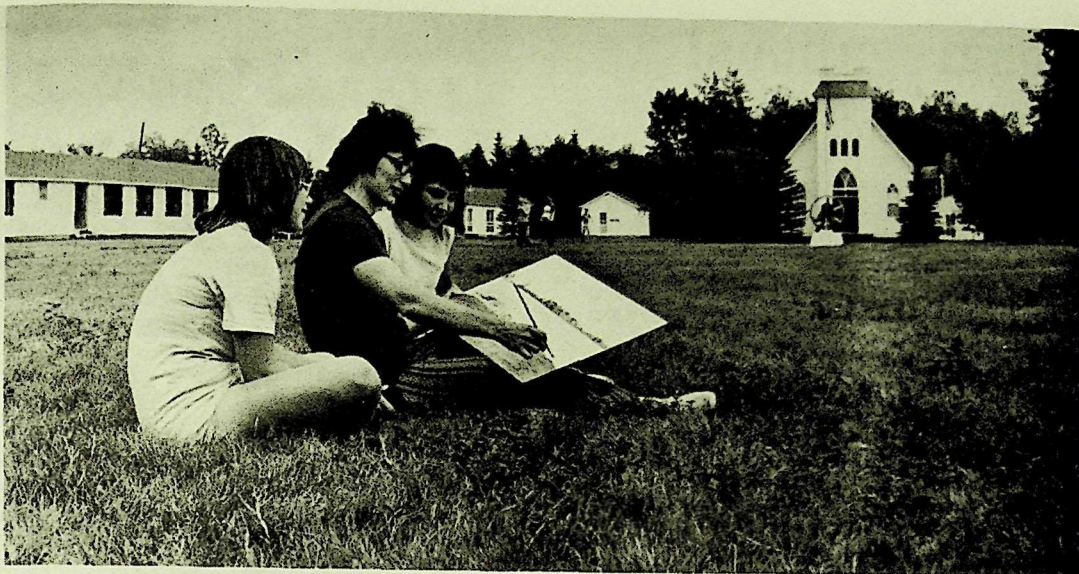
Meetings were held in the Drake City Hall and then in the building which had been used as a Catholic church. Later members met in their homes. Meetings included the regular order of business as well as music, songs, readings and lectures.

A purchasing committee appointed by the master had charge of purchase and sale of coal, posts, twine, flour, feed and fruit. Large quantities of coal were handled and from one to three carloads of twine sold up to 1950. During drouth and grasshopper infestation times, large quantities of feed and potatoes were shipped in.

During the depression, much aid was given to destitute families and more than \$4,000 was distributed to its members during the years.

The Grange, the first organized co-operative in the community, supported the Drake Shipping Association, the Farmers Elevator and the creamery which were organized later.

Broadview had the reputation of being the most successful Grange in the state and Mrs. C. J. Olstad served as secretary of the State Grange for many years. J. P. Kemper, a delegate to the State Grange convention in Mandan in June 1914, was instrumental in getting a state law passed exempting farm improvements from taxation. (When this story ran in the 1952 Drake Register, Albert Woitte was Master of the Grange and Earl Buri secretary.)



Camp Bentley in use during the 1970s. (The Minot Daily News)

Camp Bentley

By Mrs. Ervin Adam, Baptist Church clerk

Camp Bentley, the American Baptist Convention Bible Camp for North Dakota, is located on the north shore of Lake Bentley west of Drake.

In June 1945 the state Baptists began serious search for a central campsite. Rev. A. W. Bibelheimer, pastor of the Drake Baptist Church, suggesting the lake near Drake, was authorized to investigate.

After much consideration, Mrs. Anna Bentley, who held legal rights to the lake, gave 23.6 acres. Harold Harris, a nephew of Mrs. Bentley, deed an additional portion of land, 2.5 acres, when Highway 52 was re-routed.

Plans were begun for a youth camp in 1947 to be known as Camp Bentley.

Significantly, the first building moved to the camp was the chapel, a Lutheran church, Bethania, located northeast of Bergen which was for sale on a bid basis.

The camp committee submitted a successful bid and Otto Haas of Anamoose was engaged as mover. He brought this, the first building, to the campsite in March 1947.

The tower and steeple were 60 feet high so the steeple had to be cut and the 2,400-pound bell was lowered onto a truck bed and hauled to a spot selected by the landscape architect just west of the chapel.

A committee acquired other buildings from Camp Trenton, a CCC camp west of Williston. They selected and, in sections, moved a dining hall and kitchen, a utility room and a 110-foot long dormitory. Harold Harris and Lawrence Mathias were hired to bring the buildings.

On the evening of July 27, 1947, as camp opened, Mrs. Bentley addressed the young people. The essence of her message was that she designated this ground to be blessed of God, to be used by young people with the hope and prayer that the young people would always use and never misuse the grounds and the opportunity for personal betterment and for extending the Kingdom of God.

Many special gifts have been given to the camp throughout the years. More buildings and improvements have been added each year to make it the modern camp it is today.

On July 23, 1967, people from North Dakota and surrounding states gathered at Camp Bentley to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the beginning of this camp.

Chosen for special recognition were Dr. Roy Hodges, former executive secretary of North Dakota Baptist Convention, and Rev. Alfred Bibelheimer, chaplain of the Baptist Home at Bismarck, under whose guidance the campsite was secured.

Speaker for the occasion was Dr. Wesley Hustad, pastor of First Baptist Church, Marshallton, Iowa, and one of the very early North Dakota campers. A history of the beginnings of the camp was read by Irene Froehlich.

The anniversary affair climaxed a season when almost 500 persons used the facilities of the camp for a women's conference, a men's roundup, three youth camps, a family camp, and a camp for retarded children.

In 1972 Rev. and Mrs. Bibelheimer of the Drake-Kief parish were hosts for the 25th anniversary celebration. Cyrus Fossum of Fargo, president of the North Dakota Baptist Convention, was master of ceremonies and speakers included Dr. Ralph Cobb; Rev. Arwayne Dexter and Rev. Clifford Nuss, all of Sioux Falls, S.D., Rev. Robert Foster of Berthold, state camping committee chairman, and others. A potluck anniversary dinner followed.

It was voted at the Baptist State Convention board of managers meeting in March 1976 that a plaque should be presented to Rev. Bibelheimer in appreciation for his work at Camp Bentley and that the chapel be named "The Alfred Bibelheimer Chapel."

The personalized plaque was given in brief ceremony at the Drake Baptist Church May 8, 1976, with some 30 adults present. Those present included Rev. Don Schoemaker, the associate executive secretary, plus representatives from Drake, Bismarck, Lisbon, Ellendale, Stanley and Berthold. The engraved plaque has been placed in the entryway to the chapel at Camp Bentley.

Congregational Church History

Soon after Drake began in the summer of 1902, Rev. William Griffith of Anamoose and Rev. E. W. Shaw, field secretary of the Fargo College, visited this area with a view to starting a Sunday School and organizing a church.

Later Rev. Cunningham, who succeeded Rev. Griffith at Anamoose, served Drake, visited people, held services and began to organize a church. His death ended his work; he was succeeded by Rev. T. N. Windross.

On July 16, 1903, an ice-cream social was held in the new school house in Drake. At its close, a meeting was called and preliminary steps to organize a church taken. At the meeting were Mrs. Sophia Johnson and Mssrs. and Mmes. R. L. Redding, Charles Kemper and Peter Johnson.

The church was organized and officers named: Redding, Kemper and Andrew Nelson, trustees; Redding and Kemper, deacons; Mrs. Isabel Redding, treasurer; and Mrs. Jennie Kemper, clerk. A Sunday School was organized March 10, 1903.

The first services were held in the school house. In 1907 Rev. C. S. Wiley conducted services and it was voted to continue under the old organization and officers. The church was known as the Bethany Congregational Church of Drake.

In 1908 they chose a building and finance committee to consider building a church, which was done about 1909. In 1913 the trustees conferred with the Ladies Aid concerning finishing the church and pews were purchased from the Catholic church the next year. "Electric lamps" were bought in 1915 and in 1916 purchase of a parsonage was planned.

About 1921 the church ran into financial difficulties and met just once a month. H. E. Kenady was the last minister to serve in the pulpit. The Lutherans then rented the building and in 1929 the Board of Trustees recommended sale of the property for \$1,509. (1952 Drake Register)

Drake Baptist Church

By Mrs. Dale McCarty and Mrs. Ervin Adam

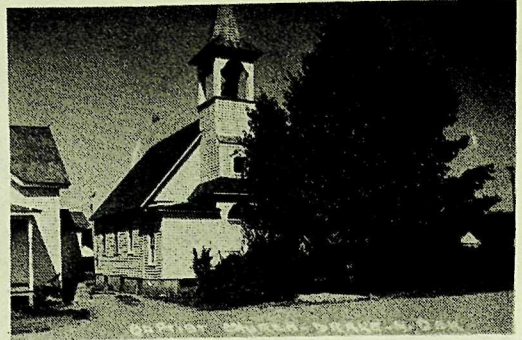
Only a few details of the early history of the Drake Baptist Church congregation have been recorded.

It had its beginning in April 1900 when six Baptist families from California, Missouri, joined the many pioneers to take up homesteads in McHenry County, northwest of what is now Drake.

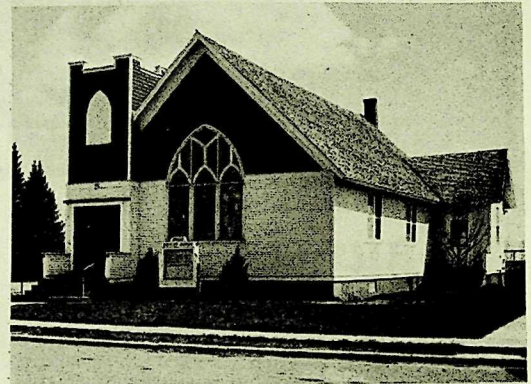
This group met in a school house for some time. Then in 1908 a church was erected two miles west of Guthrie on the farm of John Haldi Sr.

The Great Northern Railway Company, in staking out its Surrey cut-off, found the church yard directly in its path so negotiations were made to have the church building moved to Guthrie. Today fast Burlington Northern trains travel over the old church yard with never a thought of days gone by.

Until 1915 the church served by Anamoose Baptist pastors as an outstation. In this year, however, the church



Drake Baptist Church



organized itself and became a member of the Northwestern Baptist Association and the now American Baptist Churches of America.

In the summer of 1945 the church at Guthrie was moved to Drake to meet the need of a growing community here.

The old edifice continued in use until November 1951 when, because the congregation had outgrown it, the present church building was purchased from the Baptist people at Roseglen and moved to the new location where it stands today.

Charter members of the church were the families of John Haldi Sr., Gottlieb Beutler; Samuel Gerber, Ernst Gerber, Mrs. Kate Beatty, William Koenke, Rudolph Roth, Louis Beutler, Henry Beutler, William Beutler, Sam Beutler and Fred Beutler. None survive.

Dedication of the present church was Nov. 11, 1951. Rev. A.W. Bibelheimer of Turtle Lake, who had recently served the Drake church and who did much work in securing the building, delivered the dedication message. Dr. Roy W. Hodges, executive secretary of the Baptist State Convention, delivered the main address.

Ground-breaking service at the new church site was June 17, 1951.

Present executive officers of the church are William Rutter, Dale McCarty and Eddie Beutler, deacons; Jay McCarty, Harold Harris and Andrew Jans, trustees; Mrs. Ervin Adam, clerk; and Eddie Beutler, treasurer.

Rev. Ernest Latt is pastor. The church is active in support of Camp Bentley west of Drake.

Names of pastors who have served the church, as remembered by John Haldi Sr. were:

Rev. August Herringer
Rev. A. Schulz
Rev. Henry Schniut
Rev. G. Eichler
Rev. William Graybel
Rev. S. Olander
Rev. William Reese
Rev. A. C. Anderson
Rev. H.H. Thorlakson
Rev. A. Jacobson
Rev. C.F. Brown
Rev. N.E. McCoy

Rev. Frank Anderson
Rev. Willard Osborn
Rev. H.C. Knuth
Rev. A.W. Bibelheimer
Rev. J.S. Hefta
Rev. D.H. Yeend
Rev. Howard Arnstutz
Rev. Dennis Anundson
Rev. Albert Steinke
Rev. Tyler Kriedeman
Rev. Ernest Latt

Drake Volunteer Firemen see work increase

Records of the Drake Fire Department tracing back to 1916 show G.J. Prchale was then fire chief, assisted by S.M. Bennett. However, it is certain the organization existed at least as far back as 1908.

Firemen on the roster in 1916 included Ole Otterholm, John Fritz, William Putzke, Sam, Fred and John Beutler, Henry Shink, A.L. Saueressig, Peter Anton, Frank Peerboom, E.M. Phiefer, Ed and Al Hohman, W.C. Drake, John and August Weigelt, Henry Muss, Fred Borchardt and Ed Dahlman.

Other chiefs through the years since then have included E.M. Phifer 1917-21; E.C. Jones 1922-32; Peter Anton 1933-37; Harry Billings 1938-39; Henry Ortery 1940; Roy Hegge 1941-43; Verdie Shink 1944-47, 1950-55 and 1958-61; Woodrow Hamers 1948-49; Harry McNamara 1956-57; E.M. Haykel 1962-64; Ed Merbach 1965; Lloyd Degenstein 1966-68; John Ziegler 1969-74; and, since then, Tom Weninger.

Nolan Seehafer is now assistant chief, Melvin Rienits second assistant, and George Stancel secretary-treasurer. There are 23 firemen.

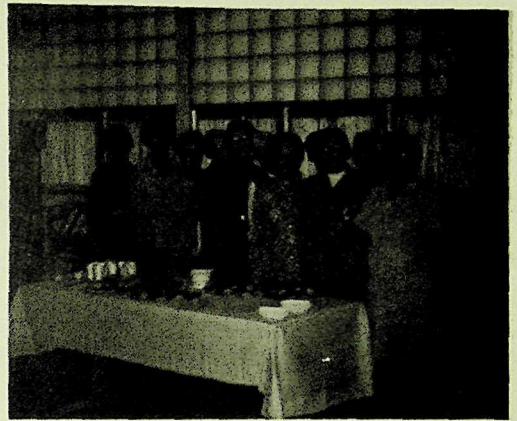
The city department has a 1951 Ford two-ton truck carrying 500 gallons of water which can be pumped in one minute, while the rural association owns a 1960 Ford 2½-ton truck with a 1,000-gallon capacity and a 750-gallon-per-minute pump.

The city houses all equipment and provides manpower for the rural unit in return for use of rural equipment in fighting big city blazes.

The department also has a rescue unit carrying air masks, oxygen and other equipment. The vehicle, a 1972 GMC owned jointly, cannot be used as an ambulance because the state will not allow it unless Drake can provide a nurse or trained attendant.

A fourth unit was ordered this spring, a 1977 GMC three-quarter ton four-wheel drive truck which will have a 300-gallon tank with a high-pressure system. Owned by the rural group, it is planned primarily for use in fields and rough areas now difficult to get to, Weninger said.

The firemen cover an area of 82,000 acres besides the city, some 40 miles long. Last year they fought 30 rural fires, with Alfred Martin's barn the biggest.



Library Guild open house Nov. 14, 1974. Left to right, Mmes. Hordinsky, Spear, Krueger, Seehafer, Teyler, Merbach, Hoffer, Arndt, Bruner, Halbert and E. Adam.

The Drake Library Guild

By Mrs. Ervin Adam

On Oct. 10, 1934, the Drake Study Club met with Mrs. Phillips and decided to reorganize and start a library. It was decided at this meeting to form a Library Guild to operate the Public Library.

Meetings were set for the third Friday of the month at 2:30; members were to pay dues of 10 cents a month; and lunch was to include one item plus coffee.

On Dec. 14, 1934, the group had 26 adult books and 21 juvenile books on a rental shelf at the drugstore. Fines for overdue books were 2 cents a day.

Many bake sales and fund drives were held to start the library.

About 1935 they moved to a room at the school; boys of the manual training class built a bookcase and brought it to the library.

On April 26, 1935, the first officers of the Drake Library Guild were elected to succeed Study Club officers who had presided. Mrs. Phillips was first president of the Library Guild, Mrs. Huffman vice president, Mrs. Van Horn secretary and Mrs. Rohde treasurer.

During the years the library has been located in three different rooms on the upper floor in the Drake Public School, until the summer of 1974 when it moved to the present location on the east lower floor.

Since 1961 the library has been financed by a one-mill levy from the city and a small portion of librarian's dues and fines on overdue books, as well as some donations.

The guild's 17 members volunteer their time and efforts as librarians. They meet the fourth Thursday of each month at 2:30 p.m. in the homes of members, conduct business on hand, discuss a topic and visit and have lunch. The library is open from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. each Wednesday during the school year and, and since we have been in our present location, from 2 to 4 p.m. each Wednesday during the summer months.

Current officers are Mrs. Gerald Krueger, president; Mrs. Olga Halbert, vice president; and Mrs. Ervin Adam, secretary-treasurer.

Drake Masonic Lodge

A petition from 21 Drake residents who wanted to become charter members of a new Masonic Lodge at Drake was presented to the secretary's office of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota in November 1917. Charter member Thomas Morrow became the first Worshipful Master.

On Nov. 19, 1917, a dispensation was issued authorizing Broken Column lodge, named for the home lodge in Iowa of charter member James H. McAllister, to proceed under dispensation until the following June. The first meeting was Nov. 28, 1917.

Regular meetings were held throughout the winter and spring of 1917 and 1918 and in due course officers petitioned for a charter, which was granted on June 19, 1918.

Dr. A. B. Parmenter, who was Worshipful Master in 1924 and served as lodge secretary for many years following his term as Master, held the office of District Deputy Grand Master for District No. 2 for seven years. He also was a member of the special Grand Lodge committee on the Frank Thompson memorial and served as a member and chairman of the committee on Grand Master's Address and Reports of other Grand officers. (When this story appeared in the 1952 Drake Register, K. D. Voelz was Worshipful Master and J. A. Erickson secretary.)

Drake PTA organized in 1919

Mrs. H. Schwerdtfeger was the first president of the Drake Parent Teacher Association which organized Dec. 19, 1919. Mrs. C. J. Olstad was the first vice president and Supt. G. O. Chase was secretary.

The list of equipment donated to the school over the years is lengthy - piano, band instruments, film projector, stove and hot water heater, playground and hot lunch equipment—and the methods of raising it just as varied—food sales, tag days, lunch counters at carnivals and programs, and Mom and Pop basketball games such as the 1951 effort which netted over \$250.

The PTA also sponsored such community activities as immunization clinics, chest X-Rays, back-to-school night programs, entertainments honoring faculty members, and participating in state PTA meetings.

Early presidents included one man, O. M. DeLa in 1923-24, and many women: Mmes. Nehrenberg, A. B. Parmenter, Fred Borchert, J. Rindt, Lloyd McQuay, Raymond Kemper, O. W. Fors, Henry Ortery, Kennett Refus, E. W. Fors, S. J. Gausemel, Jacob Adam, Adolph Dockter, Art Dieterle and A.M. Teyler.

(From 1952 Drake Register)

The Drake Threshing Association

The Drake Threshing Association came into being in March 1971, after a dinner meeting in the Drake City Hall with 64 people in attendance.

Entertainment was movies of the earlier shows, shown by Ray Senechal and Ed Merbach.

The group elected Lyle Bakken president, Bob Alme vice president, Ruben Michelson secretary and Pete Ziegler treasurer. Directors were W.O. Krumwiede, Herbert Blumhagen, Joe Schell, Alden Bethke, Oliver Kronberg, Christ Baier, Wendlin Koble and Albert Bossert.

The group decided to hold a show Sept. 25 and 26; to name Albert Bossert, who had directed the first two informal shows, as threshing manager; and to buy equipment from Erling Markuson of Denbigh for \$3,000: an H.P. Case steam engine, a 36-inch Nichols and Sheppard grain separator, water tank and wagon.

There were 160 charter members and life memberships given, in 1972, to Charlie Drake and Albert and Eddie Bossert for their contributions. (In 1975, Ruben Michelson received a life membership.)

The 1972 show was scheduled Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Officers elected included Bakken, president; Kronberg,



vice president; Ziegler, treasurer; and Michelson, secretary. The Fort Totten Wagon Trail Train was invited to attend the show and Mrs. Tom Jacobson of Coleharbor donated a cookcar to the association.

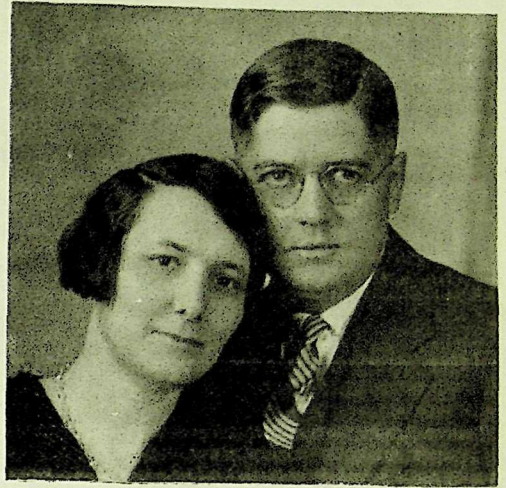
In 1974, the 7th Cavalry from Wilton was invited to take part in the display Sept. 28 and 29. That was the cold year when the threshing was done in parkas and snowmobile suits.

In 1975 Ziegler was elected president; Bruner vice president; Michelson secretary; and Bakken treasurer. The show in 1976 was a divided event - Saturday members threshed at Bill Krumwiede's antique show and threshing bee at Voltaire and Sunday they were to return to Drake.



In 1976 Clarence Wipper replaced Michelson as secretary and the show included the 7th Cavalry and the Minot Airplane display.

The association, despite three consecutive years of bad weather, has acquired the Balfour depot to be used as a museum, a storage building and much equipment.



Rev. Wilson W. White and Mrs. White, 1926.
(Mrs. William Knuth)

History of the E.U.B. Church

In April 1912 Rev. H. D. Smith was transferred from Des Lacs to Drake to care for the Drake mission. After 1913 this mission included Drake and the Emmanuel congregation northwest of Drake.

Rev. Smith organized the Drake congregation with 11 members, the nucleus being families of G. J. Nehrenberg, the first class leader, and William Beutler. Mrs. Smith was the first Sunday School superintendent.

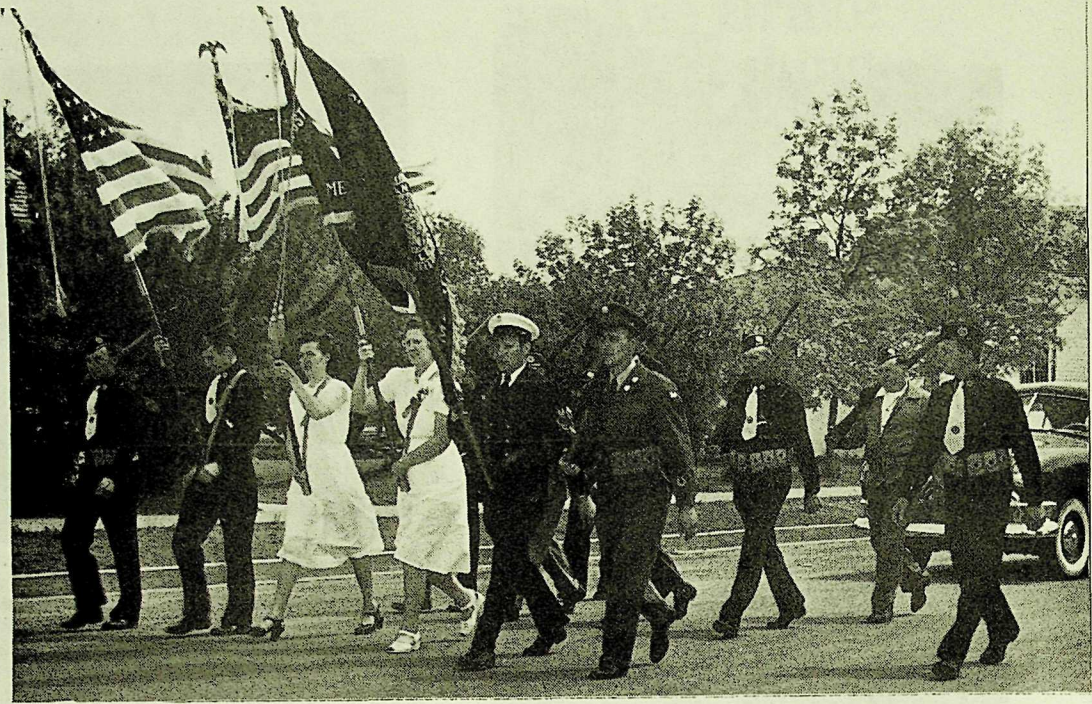
Services were held in homes, later in the Congregational church which had been rented, then in the Catholic church building and for a time in the city hall.

A church building, erected in the fall of 1914 under the direction of presiding elder D. C. Hauk and pastor Phillip Schmidt, was dedicated Jan. 10, 1915, with Bishop Fouke present. Trustees were Nehrenberg, Beutler and W. Conrad who also were the building committee.

Tent meetings had been held with good results previous to erecting the church building. In 1917 a seven-room parsonage was erected just south of the church under the direction of Rev. J. J. Gotheridge. In 1924 the north congregation was discontinued with members joining Balfour or Drake groups; these congregations were joined in 1925 to constitute the Balfour-Drake Mission, with the pastor living at Drake in 1925, at Balfour from 1926 to 1931 and then at Drake again.

The early pastors who served at Drake included H. D. Smith part of 1912 with J. C. Driver and A. R. Schmalle finishing the year; A. G. Cleaver, 1913-14; Schmidt, 1914-17; Gotheridge, 1917-22; F. W. Agte, 1922-25; C. R. Breau, 1925-31; William Brieher, 1931-32; Wilson White, 1932-38; H. E. Bergland, part of 1938 to May 1940; Vincent S. Schneider, 1940-46; Robert Bechtle, 1946 to June 1951 and Rev. E. Rudolph beginning in 1951.

(From the 1952 Jubilee Edition of the Drake Register)



Carrying the colors for the David D. Nehrenberg Post 32 at Drake were, from the left, John (Bud) Leder, Robert Marvin, Mrs. Sammy (Ella) Mehl, Christine Olstad, Gerald Roth, Virgil Ziegler, Reinhold Fandrich, Alfred Sherlock and Sammy Mehl.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, located 10 miles northwest of Drake, traces its early beginnings to the spring of 1899 and the missionary efforts of Rev. A. H. Teyler, later of Oregon City, Ore., who came to Anamoose in July 1899.

The church was once part of the congregation which existed a few miles northwest of Anamoose.

In 1907 when a congregation was established at Anamoose, people around the present Immanuel Lutheran Church site decided to have their own services, first in a school house. In 1913 they built their own church, which was remodeled shortly before 1952. The pastor at that time was Rev. E. W. Zimbrick of Anamoose.

(Information from 1952 Drake Register Jubilee Edition)

David D. Nehrenberg Post No. 32, The American Legion

The David D. Nehrenberg Post 32, the American Legion, in Drake, was chartered in September, 1919.

The post was named in remembrance of David D. Nehrenberg of Drake who lost his life in action in France

on May 2, 1918. He was the first World War I veteran from McHenry County to lose his life for his country. His mother, Mrs. Mary Nehrenberg, was the first president of the American Legion Auxiliary and his brother, Harold of Melbourne, Fla., is a present post member.

Officers of the newly-chartered post were John Score, commander; F. C. Roth, vice commander; A. L. Saueressig, adjutant; Owen Drake, chaplain; Ross Hewitt, sergeant at arms; C. A. Drake, finance officer; and E. O. Lindell, historian.

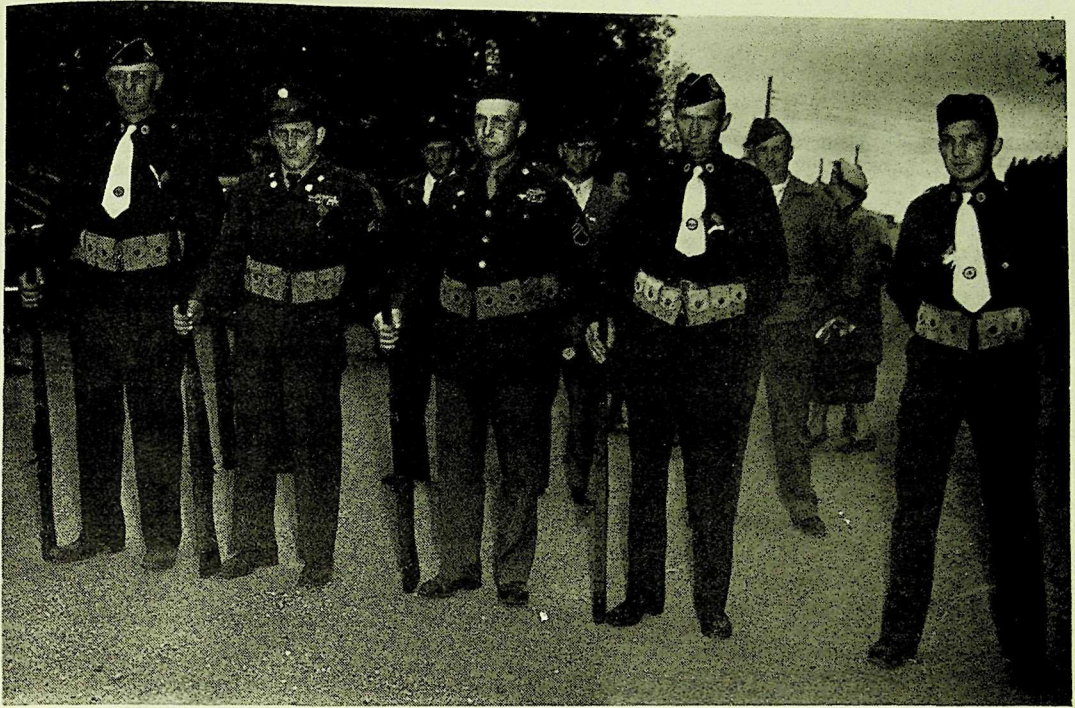
Other charter members were Jacob Kloss, Charles Hersey, Alfred Nehrenberg, Lawrence Mauritson, Joe Nussbaum, Goodman (Ned) Selvog, John A. Everson, George M. Iverson, Lloyd McQuay, Ole J. Selvog, Tycho Wiegelt and William McNamara.

Others joining in 1919 were L. T. Ward, C. E. Hiffman, John Weigelt, Verne H. Booth, William A. Walters, Harry Billings, William Drake, Tyler O. Anderson and M. W. Heimudinger.

At first meetings of the post were held in private homes; much was sacrificed by members to keep the post active. In 1963 the post purchased the former Rodewald Building which housed the Drake Post Office, retaining the lower floor for their post home.

In 1976 the post erected a new building to the south of their present location, which is contracted to the U. S. Postal Service. Plans are to renovate the present post home to more convenient and larger quarters.

The present post includes World War I, World War II, Korean and Viet Nam veterans. WWI veterans E. W. Fors, Roy Belzer, C. A. Drake and Lloyd McQuay were presented life memberships to the post during the 50th anniversary observance Nov. 11, 1969.



Some of the American Legion members who participated in exercise in this year gone by included, left to right, Roland Krueger, John Ruff, Walter Lepke, Art Mavis, Eddie Beutler, Reinhold Fandrich, Alfred Sherlock and Sammy Mehl.

Former member C. H. Rodewald, now of Tioga, is a past commander of The American Legion, Department of North Dakota. Goodman (Ned) Selvog, another former post member, was honored with a life membership from the William G. Carrol Post 36 of Minot.

Through the years the post has grown to its present membership of 126.

The David D. Nehrenberg Post 32 of Drake has given support to programs of the Legion on state, national and community levels. Present post commander is William Myers. —G. J. Stancel, Adjutant

David D. Nehrenberg Unit 32, American Legion Auxiliary, Drake

On Friday, March 2, 1928, 18 ladies and a number of Legionnaires met at Drake High School to organize the David D. Nehrenberg Unit of the American Legion, the result of the effort of Walter Stiehm, then commander of the local Legion post.

Mrs. J.R. Pence of Minot, vice president of the Department of North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary, briefly explained the work of the organization and a motion was carried to organize the unit.

The charter, now hanging on the wall of the Legion post, was dated March 16, 1928 and signed by Irene McIntyre Wallbridge, national president, and Hazel Nielson, department president.



Mrs. Mary Nehrenberg, first Legion Auxiliary president.

Charter members were Mmes. Mary Nehrenberg, Anna Stiehm, Frances Rasmussen, Mabel Bechtle, Violet Selvog, Alvina Billings, Blanche Larson, Ethel Phillips, Augusta Larson, Theresa Saueressig, Cora Fors, Bertha Iverson, Alta Rindt, Merle Taber, Christine Selvog, Marion Semrau, Mayme Romine, Theresa Drake, Rosa Refling, Eleanor McQuay and Mabel Sohljeim.

Five are still members of the unit, Mmes. McQuay, Refling, Fors, Larson and Stiehm.

Mrs. Nehrenberg, gold star mother whose son the Drake post was named after, was elected first president and Mrs. Stiehm vice president.

This unit, with the efforts of dedicated, hard-working members, has striven to carry out programs of the American Legion Auxiliary and to work with and support American Legion members.

Special honors came to the unit in 1958 when Mrs. Martha Krause, after holding various unit offices, was elected Department president.

As the auxiliary's contribution to the celebration of the country's Bicentennial, the unit planted red, white and blue petunias and several trees in the park area north of the Drake Clinic. On Memorial Day, President Mrs. Hedwig Krueger presented the Betsy Ross Bicentennial flag to the American Legion, to be flown over the Drake Postoffice.

The unit has 114 members. Mrs. Krueger has been president since 1973. The unit plans celebrations for Drake's 75th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of forming the organization in March 1978.

Past Presidents

1928-30 Mary Nehrenberg	1956-57 Eleanor Roth
1930-33 Ethel Phillips	1957-59 Emma Hamers
1933-35 Mabel Bechtle	1959-61 Arlene Kandt
1935-39 Eleanor McQuay	1960-61 Eleanor McQuay
1939-41 Blanche Larson	1961-63 Christine Steig
1941-42 Maude Ortery	1963-64 Mary Sendebach
1942-45 Wilhelmina Merbach	1964-65 Betsy Alme
1945-46 Alvina Billings	1965-67 Lottie Jans
1946-48 Martha Krause	1967-69 Mary Sendebach
1948-50 Alice Jacobson	1969-70 Joyce Haykel
1950-52 Christine Steig	1970-72 Emma Heydt
1952-54 Bertha Sprenger	1972-73 Mary Sendebach
1954-56 Elissa Drake	1973- Hedwig Krueger

Auxiliary Committees

The following committees are the foundation of American Legion Auxiliary work: Membership; Mrs. Eleanor McQuay has been chairman for 10 years, assisted by Mrs. Lucille Shink.

Sunshine: Mrs. Evelyn Weninger, chairman, sends cards.

Child Welfare: Mrs. Joyce Thorp, chairman, sends gifts to the adopted child, Donald Bettenhausen of Wishek.

Community Service: Mrs. Linda Weninger, chairman, names committees for various functions and members help in contributions such as the American Cancer Society, muscular dystrophy and mental health, and selling poppies made by disabled veterans in veterans hospitals.

Rehabilitation: Members make bibs, lap robes and slippers for patients in veterans hospitals and for gift shops there.

Legislation: Mrs. Krueger, chairman, and Mrs. Helen Rieniets, Mrs. Evelyn Weninger and Mrs. Orpha Stancel

write to congressmen regarding bills dealing with veterans and keep members informed on legislation.

Education and scholarship: Scholarships are awarded. The local unit sends students to Girl's State and International Music Camp.

Poppy: Mrs. Lottie Jans, chairman, directed selling over 850 poppies annually.

Leadership and Americanism: Plans with Legionnaires for Memorial Day and Veteran's Day and other events.

Order of Eastern Star early history

On Jan. 5, 1921, Alba Chapter, W.D., O.E.S., was instituted at the Masonic Hall in Drake.

Those petitioners present included Dr. and Mrs. George Coffin, J.W.R. DeLa, Alma Edmonds, Jessie Mauritson, Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Parmenter, Lillian Parmenter, Anna Phelps, Adele Stiehm and Mssrs. and Mmes. B. B. Bennett, Carl Krantz, J. C. Miller, Thomas Morrow, Fred Wolden and William Hibbard.

Mrs. A. B. Parmenter was the first Worthy Matron and DeLa first Worthy Patron. The chapter was named in honor of DeLa's wife who died in 1920.

The first year the chapter met in the IOOF Hall which had been rented by the Masons. Then it moved to the W. G. Schucht building, then used by the Farmers State Bank.

Until Nov. 9, 1921, the chapter worked under dispensation but then it was constituted with a charter under the name Alba Chapter No. 98, O.E.S. First initiated members were Ed Rohde and Laurence Mauritson. In November 1937 Phoebe Chapter No. 95, Balfour, was affiliated with Alba Chapter.

Among honors tendered chapter members by the Grand Chapter were naming of Anastacia Rohde, Alice Parmenter and Mrs. George Nelson as District Deputies; Alice Parmenter's committee work and Grand Chapter offices including Grand Ada, Esther, Martha and Warder; and in 1933 Anastacia Rohde's presentation of the Eastern Star flag at Grand Chapter session.

(From 1952 Drake Register)

Prairie 4-H Club history

On Nov. 21, 1947, the young people of the area met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sieg Krueger. Verne Kasson, McHenry County agent, explained the 4-H program.

The group voted unanimously to organize a club. There were 12 persons present and all of them joined. Several others who were interested joined at the next meeting. Seventeen members were enrolled the first year.

Ray Senechal was selected as leader with Harold Sitz as assistant and Ethel Sitz as girls leader.

Charter members were Donald Hass, Harold Hass Justine Krueger, Robert Krueger, Ruth Lois Krueger, Sieghard Krueger, Arlo Seehafer, Ellie Seehafer, Laville Seehafer, Nolan Seehafer, Eileen Senechal, Joyce Senechal, George Senechal, Roland Senechal, Gerald Buelow, Arlene Sitz and Beverly Buelow. After seven years, 11 of the original members were still active.

The club specialized in crops judging with several members winning expense-paid trips to Minneapolis as awards at the Valley City Winter Show. Winning first place at Valley City in 1977 were Roland Senechal, Donald Senechal, Lois Senechal, Steven Senechal, Lora Senechal and Joan Senechal.

Other major winners were Eileen Senechal and George Senechal to the 4-H Club Congress in Chicago; Lois and Lora Senechal to Washington, D.C.; and several members who were awarded trips to the 4-H Institute in Fargo.

In the early years of television the Prairie 4-H Club took part in several TV shows of 4-H lessons and demonstrations.

The club has had members on the county judging teams in livestock, crops, dairy, home improvement and other activities. Projects carried range from rabbits to horses, gardens to field crops, and cooking and sewing. Recreational activities included square-dancing for the Drake 50th anniversary pageant in 1952. Other clubs have invited the Prairie 4-H group and have been their guests.

Ray Senechal has been the main leader for all 30 years. Girls leaders have included Ethel Sitz, Ethel Krueger, Viola Seehafer, Mrs. Robert Senechal Jr., Mrs. Eddie Beutler and Mrs. Roland Senechal. Roland Senechal has been assistant leader the past 15 years.

The club has been a fruitful experience with members and leaders "learning by doing" to "make the Best Better."

— Aurora Seehafer



Charter members of the Prairie 4-H Club, all of whom put in seven or more years of club work, are, left to right, front row: Don Hass, Arlo Seehafer, Nolan Seehafer, Gerald Buelow, Harold Hass; back row: Sieghard Krueger, Eileen Senechal, Beverly Buelow, Ellie Seehafer, Joyce Senechal and George Senechal. (Senechal's picture)

The lodge continued to meet in the Morris Hall until it burned, when some of the early records were lost. Then the lodge moved to upstairs rooms in the old bakery building, where they met until 1917 when the IOOF Hall was dedicated.

After the IOOF lost ownership of the building (later the Drake Theatre) the lodge rented rooms there until 1941 when they bought the Schilling building.

Although the lodge has no surviving charter members, there is one member, Mrs. Ruth Hegge, who served as Assembly President in the state in 1948-49. Mrs. Hegge, the present Noble Grand, deserves much credit for keeping the lodge active.

The lodge meets in the IOOF Hall which was purchased in 1941 and in which the Senior Citizens also meet.

Other officers now include Mrs. Olga Halbert, Vice Grand; Mrs. Eleanor McQuay, Secretary; and Mrs. Ella Rieniets, Treasurer.

Present officers of Drake IOOF Lodge No. 108 are Roy Hegge, Noble Grand; Andrew Jans, Vice Grand; Howard Krause, Secretary; and Alden Bethke, Treasurer.



Prairie 4-Hers on TV January 10, 1954, Gerald Buelow, Sieghard Krueger, Arnold Hass and George Senechal. (Senechal's picture)

Rachel Rebekah Lodge

Only six years younger than Drake itself, Rachel Rebekah Lodge No. 59, a branch of the Drake Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 108, was instituted on March 9, 1908. T. E. Sleight was responsible for organizing both lodges as well as the Drake Patriarchs Militant and the Drake Canton.

Charter members were Mssrs. and Mmes. B. B. Bennett, Thomas E. Sleight, E. R. Freeman, A. R. Pickeral, Ernest C. Jones and O. K. Walter. Institution of the lodge was held in the old Morris Hall with a class of 60 members initiated.

First elective officers were Mrs. Anna Sleight, Noble Grand, and Mrs. Laura Pickeral, Vice Grand; Mrs. Helen Jones, Secretary; and Mrs. Ethel Walker, Treasurer.

Rosenfeld Baptist Church

A church born in the heart of an individual before it has its origin in a visible organization brought about the Rosenfeld Baptist Church.

In years preceding 1903 many families from Europe, especially Romania, homesteaded near the Rosenfeld community. Worship services and prayer meetings were held in homes and other places; soon a need was felt to organize a church.

The first minutes of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church from Feb. 1, 1903, say, "Under the guidance of Rev. August Herringer, pastor of the church of Casselman, N.D. (now Martin) met for the purpose of organizing a German Baptist Church. Meeting was opened singing a hymn from the 'Gloubens Haife'. Scripture reading was from St. John 15. Prayer was offered. Ferdinand Blumhagen was elected church clerk. Other officers elected were

Christian Blumhagen, deacon and Sunday School superintendent; Daniel Derman and Martin Kandt, deacons and trustees; and Julius Blumhagen, Sunday School treasurer. Name of the church: Rosenfeld Baptist Church."

A parcel of land was given by brother Christof Maier for a church building and construction of the church began by members and friends of the congregation; the church still stands at the same site and is looked upon by many as "the church by the side of the road," witness to Jesus Christ.

In the fall of 1905 a call was extended to Pastor Benjamin Schlipf, who became the first resident pastor. He began his aggressive work for the Lord. During his five years of pastorate at the Rosenfeld Baptist Church, 107 souls were baptized and received into church fellowship. A total of 167 were added to the church membership roll by baptism and by letter. Pastor Schlipf drove 25 miles with a horse and buggy, many times during inclement weather, to serve the station of Tabor near Mercer.

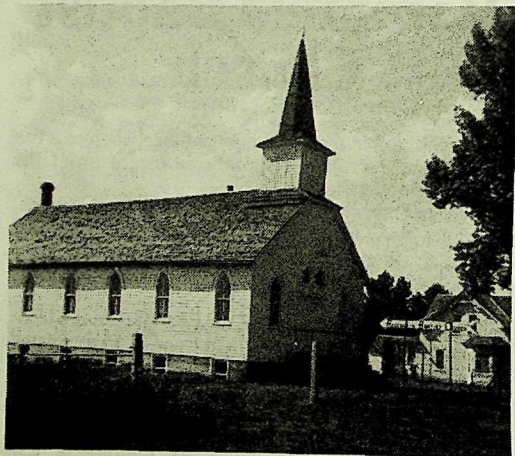
One highlight of the early church were five-day Association meetings held in a large tent on the church grounds, with gatherings of 2,500 people or more from area churches. Many traveled by horse and buggy and meals were served from cook cars by women of the church. These were joyous times of inspiration and fellowship when the word of God was planted.

Two local men from the church felt called by the Lord and went into the ministry: the late Samuel Blumhagen, a son of Ferdinand Blumhagen, and Samuel Blumhagen, son of Christ Blumhagen, now of Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Shortly after the church was completed, a parsonage was constructed just north of it. The first occupants were Pastor Schlipf and his family. Over the years the parsonage has been enlarged and remodeled. Trees planted by Pastor Schlipf still stand today.

Since 1965 there has been no resident pastor so the parsonage was sold in 1970.

On Dec. 1 and 2, 1953, the Rosenfeld church was privileged to observe the 50th anniversary. Rev. Arthur Voigt was pastor. At the present time Rev. Myrl Theisis, pastor of the McClusky Baptist Church, is also serving the Rosenfeld church. Ruben Kolschefski, Elvin Kanko and Hubert Blumhagen are deacons.



Rosenfeld Baptist Church

Former Pastors

Rev. Benjamin Schlipf	1905-10
Rev. Adolph Guenther	1912-16
Rev. Christian Bischof	1916-20
Rev. S.J. Fuxa	1921-23
Rev. J.R. Matz	1925-30
Rev. Gustav Rauser	1931-35
Rev. Alfred Bibelheimer	1936-39
Rev. C.M. Knapp	1940-45
Rev. Wesley Simonson	1947-49
Rev. R.C. Schmidt	1949-50
Rev. Rueben Stading	1951-53
Rev. Arthur Voigt	1953-58
Rev. Arnold Friez	1958-62
Rev. Erhard Knull	1962-65
Rev. Rueben Grueneich	1965-69
Rev. Alvin Auch	1969-75
Rev. Myrl Theisis	1975-now

History of St. Margaret Mary Church

(The early part of this history was prepared by Father James Wehlitz, church pastor, for the 1952 anniversary of the city.)

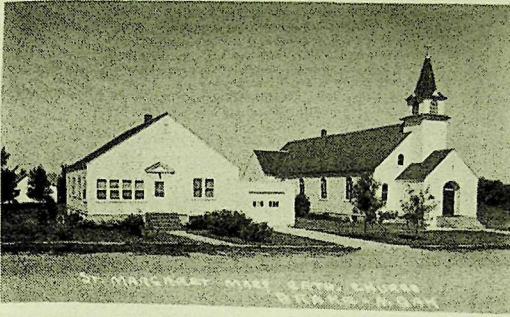
The few Catholic pioneer families felt a great need of having Mass offered in their midst; therefore, in 1909, the first Catholic church was erected in Drake on the present site of the rectory, the site being in the Sendelbach addition and contributed by Leo Sendelbach.

They were served by a mission from Anamoose, first by Father Zumbush, then by Father Yunker. Their hardships were many and, with hardships of pioneer life, it was found necessary to discontinue services about two or three years later.

These were resumed in 1922 when the pioneers, under the leadership of Charles Creapo, made it possible. They



St. Margaret's Catholic Church, 1941. (Wally Schrader)



St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

were still being served as a mission from Anamoose, with Father Eck then their pastor. He was followed by Father Wilkes in 1931.

Membership increased until the church was found to be too small. So, in 1941, with Father Wilkes as pastor, the present church and rectory were built. On Oct. 17, 1941, Archbishop Muench of Fargo blessed the church and named it St. Margaret Mary. (Originally named St. Leo's in tribute to Leo Sendelbach, the name was changed by ecclesiastic permission.)

It was then the church became a parish with St. Joseph's of Balfour as a mission. With untiring efforts by Father Wilkes and cooperation by pashioners, the church and rectory were made possible. On May 18, 1943, Father Wilkes died. Rev. S. Heyl became pastor serving from June 1943 until September 1945, when Father Wehlitz came to serve the parish.

In July 1950 St. Joseph's at Balfour was separated as a mission and attached elsewhere. Thus St. Margaret Mary became a parish, enjoying a daily Mass and two Masses on Sundays and Holy days. This was necessitated by the great growth in the parish, which had doubled. School children of the parish received weekly instruction during the school year and two weeks of summer school instructed by the Sisters of Presentation of Fargo.

Among pioneers are such names as Frank Kaufman, Charles Van Eckhout, John Rutten, Leonard Paulus Sr., Matt Hamers Sr. and Jr., August Niederle, John Hanenberg, Leo and Henry Sendelbach, Frank and Louis Van Eckhout, John and Frank Peerbaum, George Kruesal, John Ficker, Jake, Peter and Mike Anton, Thomas McLaughlin, Helen Stoefel and Nick Muss.

Father Joseph Axtmann, who succeeded Father Wehlitz in 1959, served the parish until 1976 when Rev. David Schmit, the current pastor, came to Drake.

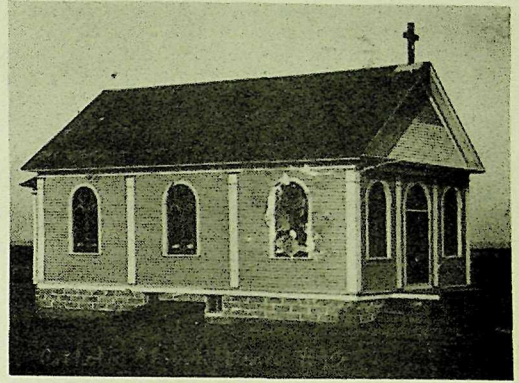
St. Peter's Lutheran Church

St. Peter's Lutheran Church south of Drake was organized around the turn of the century. It was built on a site about two miles north of its present location, which is 11 miles south and 1½ miles west of Drake. In 1903 it was moved to its present location.

For many years it served most of the families of the Skogmo community.

Worship services were suspended in the fall of 1947 although several funerals were held in the church after the suspension of worship services.

— Mrs. Arthur Uhlich



Original Drake Catholic Church. (Math Paulus)

Salem United Methodist Church

The Salem Evangelical Church of Drake had its beginning in April 1912 when the Defiance, Iowa Conference of the United Evangelical Church transferred Rev. H.D. Smith from Des Lacs to the Drake mission.

The first services were held in the Catholic church. The Drake mission then consisted of Drake and three classes east and north, known as Clifton, Lake View and Center. In 1913 the latter were transferred to Anamoose and the Drake mission included Drake Salem and the Emmanuel Evangelical congregation northwest of Drake.

The Drake church was built in 1914 by William Conrad and dedicated Jan. 10, 1915, with Bishop M.T. Maze giving the dedication message. The first parsonage was built in 1917 when Rev. J.J. Gotheridge was pastor.

On Nov. 16, 1946, the Evangelical church and the United Brethren Church merged. The Drake church was then the Salem Evangelical United Brethren church. In April 1968 the Methodist church and the EUB church merged to form the Salem United Methodist Church.

In 1964 the congregation met to discuss the possibility of building a new church. After several meetings the decision to build was made. On March 11, 1965 the congregation voted to dismantle the old building and on



May 16, 1965, groundbreaking services were held. E.L. Sheetz was the contractor.

During construction, services were held in the Drake school. On Dec. 19, 1965, cornerstone services were held and on Dec. 22 the first service in the new structure was celebrated, though the building was not quite completed. The building committee included president Carl J. Notbohm; secretary A.J. Schmidtgal; building fund treasurer Emil Beutler; and Leslie Gerber, Ernest Haykel, Alfred Sherlock, Clayton Kemper and Elsie Kofstad.

Bishop H.R. Heinger was unable to attend the church dedication June 5, 1966, so Bishop George E. Epp gave the message. District Superintendent A.J. Martin and Southern District Superintendent L.A. Kruckenberg participated.

On April 4, 1976, the congregation observed mortgage-burning services, with the help of District Superintendent, Rev. Cameron Johnson; Rev. Clarence Stanley who was pastor when the church was built; and Rev. Thomas Benoy.

In July 1976 the congregation started to build a new parsonage which is near completion. Rev. and Mrs. Henry Goldsack will be the first occupants. The parsonage building committee includes Wilbert Kandt, Richard Chole, Eldean Hase, Aileen Filler and Mary Ann Coombs. Ernest Haykel is building fund treasurer and Gary Hoffer was the contractor.

- Mrs. Elsie Kofstad

The Tip-Top Homemakers Club of Drake

Thirty years ago this April, in 1947, the Tip-Top Homemakers Club was organized by the women of the North Drake community.

The first president was Mrs. Sieg Krueger; Mrs. Ira Traiser, vice president; and Ethel Sitz was secretary-treasurer.

During the years, membership has reached as many as 20 members who worked together for the community.

At present, 12 members make up the roll, with Maria Blumhagen, president; Mrs. Anton Weninger, vice president; Mrs. Con Van Eeckhout, secretary; and Mrs. Anton Hanenberg, treasurer.

Many projects of health, safety, family relations and government have been studied with much interest, with social fellowship enjoyed at each meeting.

- Marie Blumhagen

Trinity Lutheran Church

It seems whenever a church is found in rural North Dakota, it has a history that includes several other churches that once existed but have long since merged

together to form a more viable congregation.

The history of Trinity Lutheran Church is no exception to this rule.

Trinity's history includes such churches as St. Peter's Lutheran Church which was located south of Drake; Zion Lutheran Church at what was Norfolk; Zion Lutheran Church at Guthrie; St. John's Lutheran Church of Funston; Drake Evangelical Lutheran Church; and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Drake.

At one time these many churches were necessary to the early settlers. In the early settlement days when the farms were smaller and the rural population greater these churches easily maintained an effective ministry.

However with larger farms, declining population, and better opportunities many of these smaller churches were forced to close their doors and merge with those centrally located in town.

There are of course the name of many pastors appearing in the church records of these early churches. These men, undoubtedly, had an effect on the ministry these churches provided.

Some of the German pastors over the years were as follows: K. Haerle, A. Affeld, E. Lehne, L. Oberammer, P. Warner, K. Wulff, A. Killian, O.F. Herder, F.J. Kordewich and W. Borchardt. These pastors served St. Paul's, Zion of Norfolk and Zion of Guthrie, St. Peter's and St. John's of Funston.

The Drake Evangelical Church was formed in 1928 and was served until 1951 by the following pastors: H. Hanson, J.M. Mason, O. Haugen, A. Sellid and K. Xavier.

It is during the pastorates of Rev. Borchardt and Rev. Xavier that Trinity Lutheran Church was formed.

For several years Drake had supported two Lutheran congregations; one predominantly German and the other Norwegian. Both St. Paul's and Drake E.L.C. had resident pastors and church property, but neither church was able to handle their respective programs adequately. This was generally recognized and according to the dedication booklet "wiser heads advocated a merger for many years without making an impact."

In the early 1950's the talk of merger was received once again. Pastors Xavier and Borchardt endorsed such a move and each of them volunteered to resign so that both congregations could be closed and a new church formed with a new pastor to serve it.

On December 16, 1951, a group of members from both churches met at the Drake school and Trinity Lutheran Church was organized. A new constitution was prepared, articles of incorporation were adopted, a charter was applied for and received on March 25, 1952, and a committee was elected to contact an architect to draw up plans for a new church building.

The first church council elected on Dec. 16, 1951, included Henning Rossebo, President; Walter Krueger, Secretary; Peter Bruner, Treasurer; Owen Refling, Financial Secretary; Christ Merbach, Verdie Shink, Ed Merbach, Deacons; and Arnold Olson, Sieg Krueger, O.A. Refling, Trustees.

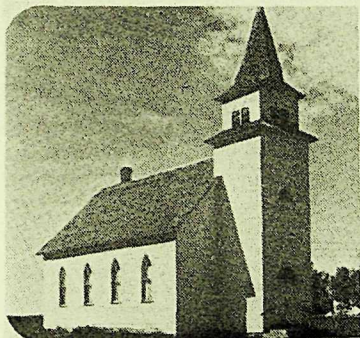
According to records, the soliciting of donations for the new building was rather slow at first. There was a wait and see attitude as to whether the new organization would function.

However, more courageous members persisted and after selling the property of the Drake E.L.C. and moving St. Paul's church building, excavation work began on the new building on March 27, 1954.

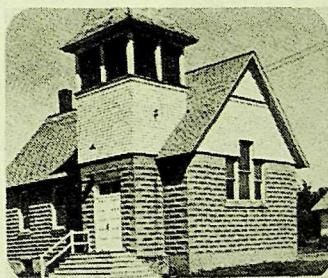
On April 25, 1954, the church was dedicated with former pastors Borchardt, Xavier, Hanson and Herder present. Also present was Dr. George Landgrebe, the president of



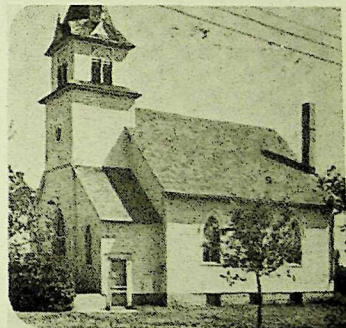
Trinity Lutheran Church



St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Evangelical Church



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

the Dakota district of the former American Lutheran Church of which Trinity was a member.

As they had promised Pastors Xavier and Brochartd resigned and a new pastor was called to serve the new congregation. He was Rev. Karl F. Weltner who came to Trinity in July of 1952 and continued to be Trinity's pastor until his retirement in October 1957.

In November 1957 Pastor Chris Ottmar was installed as pastor of Trinity. Toward the end of his pastorate in October 1960 St. John's of Funston closed and its members assumed membership at Trinity. Until that time the pastors at Trinity had served St. John's.

The third pastor of Trinity Lutheran was William Fink who assumed his position on Nov. 30, 1960. During the period of time that Mr. Fink was at Trinity the debt on the building was retired, in 1961. Pastor Fink left on Jan. 11, 1966, to serve a parish in Nebraska.

Pastor Joel Hernes, who had previously served in Bottineau, was then called to Trinity's pastorate. He

began his ministry on March 9, 1966, and served until Dec. 10, 1969.

He was succeeded by a graduate of the Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, Rev. Oscar Kraft who arrived in October 1970. Pastor Kraft, the first seminarian to serve as pastor of Trinity, resigned his position on February, 1973.

The second seminarian called to the pastorate and the present pastor is Rev. Galen Strand, who arrived to assume his position on July 1, 1973.

Throughout the 25 years of its existence Trinity has had active womens groups which have met regularly for Bible Study, as well as also making many improvements on the church and parsonage.

The Luther League has also functioned for most of the 25 years with ministry done for and by the youth of the church. The Sunday School has also been in existence for all of the church's 25 years. It is considerably smaller than it was years ago due to the fact that the church

membership as a whole is less and the family size is smaller.

The present council includes Lyle Bakken, Gerald Krueger, Don Pattis, Shelley Haugen, Bob Marvin, Dan Dockter, Larry Ziegler, Dwayne Blumhagen, Albert Ehrman and Alvin Smith.

The officers of the Trinity Lutheran Church Women are Ella Blumhagen, Laura Hanenberg, Orpha Stancel, Maren Bakken, Regina Krueger and Suzanne Strand.

Since the settlement of the Drake area, Trinity Lutheran, and its antecedent churches, has served both the people of the community and God by ministry provided in the community and the world at large. Other histories written before had made note that Trinity has had its "ups and downs" but through them the church has done a job that is faithful to Christ's Gospel and has filled a need to provide ministry and healing to a broken world.

—Galen Strand, Lyle Bakken

The United States Army Mothers Post # 3, Drake

Charter members included Joyce Billings and Mmes. Halbert, Van Horn, Mary Bruner, Regina Paulus, Corienne Shook, Clara Ostrom and Minnie Bromley, who are living, and Mmes. Louisa Sept, Anna Quant, Betsey Alme, Delia Zimmerman, Leona Slaughter, Mary Paulus, Emma Mehl, Anna Bossert, and Alvina Billings.

The United States Army Mothers Post # 3 of Drake was organized Sept. 4, 1942, at the Drake City Hall. Mrs. Olga Halbert was the first Commander, Rose Van Horn was adjutant and Mrs. Alvina Billings finance officer.

Mrs. Halbert was National Commander in 1967-68 and also has served other national offices including color bearer, chaplain, historian and fifth through first vice commander.

Mrs. Refling who has served as national banner bearer, flag bearer, first and second sergeant-at-arms, and historian, is now national organizer.

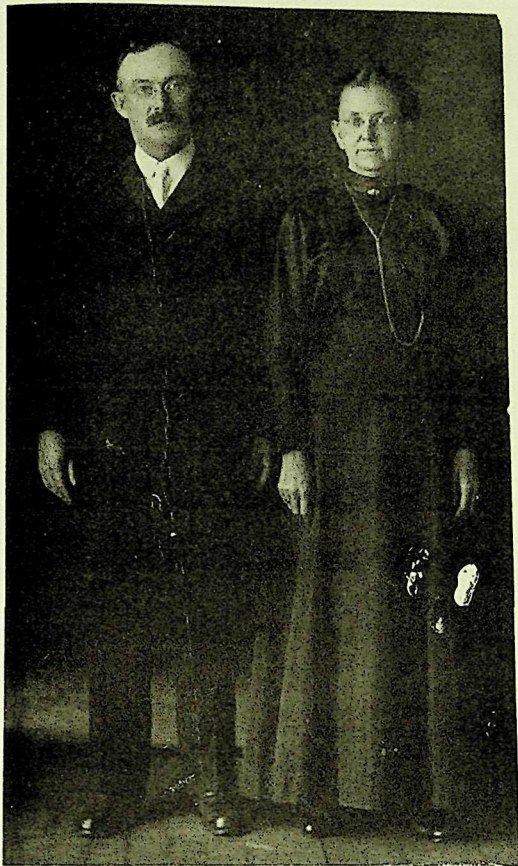
The Drake Post, affiliated with the national organization headquartered at Kansas City, Mo., tries to help bring cheer to men and women in service. For hospitals they have made quilts, tray napkins, lap robes and many other items. They also sell forget-me-nots for Disabled American Veterans.

Currently Mrs. Refling is Post Commander, Mrs. Halbert adjutant and Mrs. Alice Erickson finance officer. Also members of the Drake post are Mmes. Pauline Hargrave, Hila Fors, Eleanor Anton, Edna Uhlich, Emma Hammers, Marie Blumhagen, Helen Rienets and Evelyn Rogers of St. Paul, Minn.

—Rose Refling, Olga Halbert

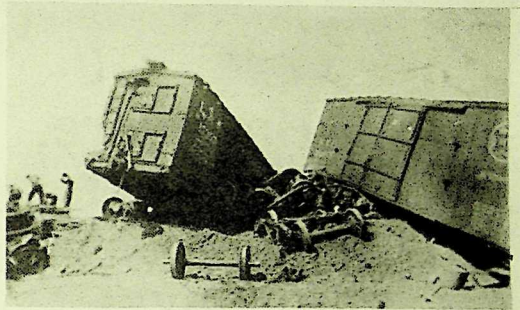


Drake Independent Order of Oddfellows Hall.

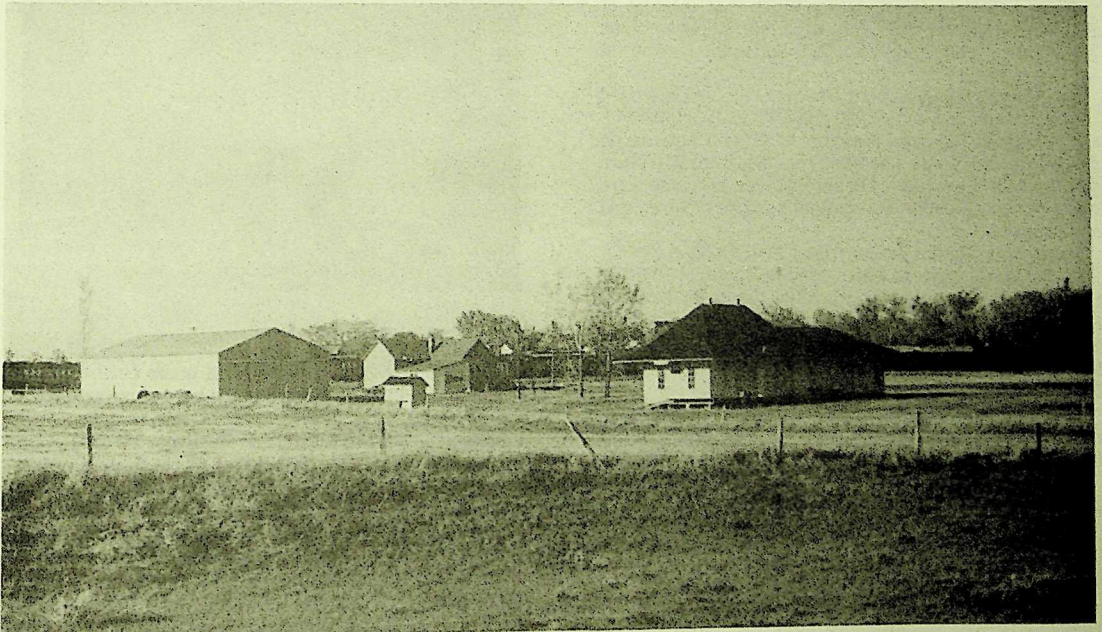


Rev. and Mrs. Cleaver, 1913. (Mrs. William Knuth)

The Soo Line wreck of 1923. (Archie Martwick)



Drake threshing show has Balfour's depot and a machine shed.



Drake Businesses

Alme Implement

Norman Alme, left, and his brother, Bob, operated the Alme Implement Company with their father, Joseph T. Alme, who started it in 1939. After his death they continued the firm and replaced the building after a disastrous fire in 1970. Bob is married to Roberta Hegge; their children are Mrs. John (Beryl) McLaughlin, Minneapolis; Mrs. Mark (Barbara) Stroup, Melbourne, Australia; Beth, Brenda, Robert B. (Bo), and Bryce. Norman is married to Alice Mergel; their children are Nathan, Marianne, Kenneth, Melinda, Steven and Stephanie.



Bethke Hardware, Silver Bar and Drake Motor Company

Three long-time Drake businessmen met in front of their firms: Alden Bethke, left, Emil Martin, owner of the Silver Bar, center, and W.C. (Ted) Schmidtgal, owner of the Drake Motor Company.

Schmidtgal, who was born Dec. 14, 1925, and attended Drake schools, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Schmidgall. He purchased the Ford-Mercury truck and automobile dealership which was started in the '20s, from five other stockholders a year ago. He and his wife Lorraine were married Sept. 25, 1964. Schmidtgal has two children and eight stepchildren.

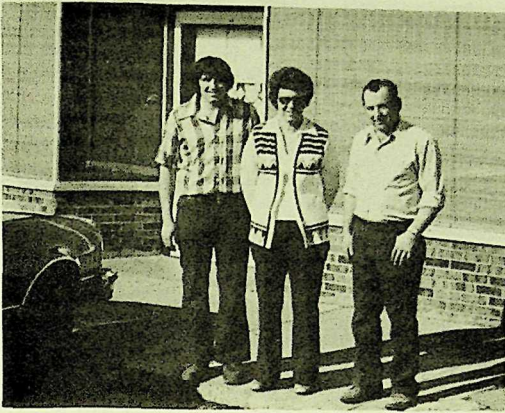
Martin, who bought the bar from Floyd Kagel in March, 1950, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Stanus Martin at Orrin in 1914. He grew up and was educated there. He married Rose Heintz at Orrin in 1940. Their children are Ralph of Minot, Jim of Renton, Wash., Mrs. Paul (Shirley) Scheifer, Crystal, Minn., and Tim, Wayne and Allen at home.

Alden Bethke, who was born and received his early education in Balfour, is a son of the original owner, Aaron Bethke, who died March 1, 1977. Alden attended the University of Minnesota in 1940 and 1941 and served during World War II before returning to Balfour.



Aaron Bethke bought the funeral home business from A.A. Page in 1927. He started in the hardware business at the same time, operating it for a few months in the basement of Weidler's Cafe, now the Empress Cafe. A few months later in 1928 the firm moved to its present location.

Aaron, born in 1884 in Minnesota, married Thea Jorgenson at Balfour on June 22, 1910. Mrs. Bethke, a native of Norway, lived on a homestead south of Harvey. In 1906 she came to Drake to assist Mrs. Metcalf, then went to Balfour to work, where she met Aaron and was married. Their children are Mrs. Ernest (Lucille) Nygaard of Plaza, Alden of Drake and Wallace of Williston. There are three grandchildren.

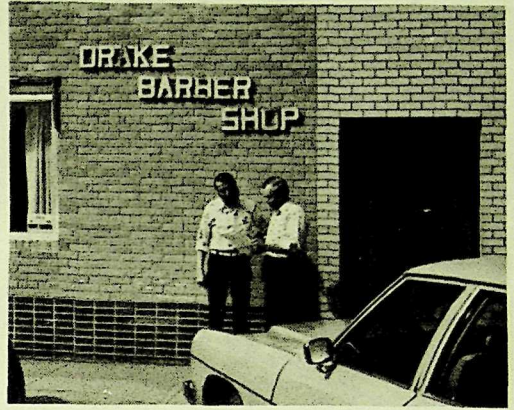


Ludwigs' buy Glen's Lounge

Gary Ludwig, left, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Ludwig, bought Glen Krueger's lounge on the west side of Main Street in March 1977.

Dan, a son of Joe J. Ludwig, and his wife Adeline were married at Drake in 1952. They farm near Drake. Their children are Michael in Fargo; Gary; Deb at Bismarck Junior College; and Bruce at home.

Gary, who is 22, graduated from Drake High School in 1973 and attended the State School of Science at Wahpeton. He worked in Fargo prior to buying the lounge.



Drake Post Office and Drake Barber Shop

Drake Postmaster Melvin Alme, right, and Elmer C. Neuharth, owner of the Drake Barber Shop, are business neighbors on the west side of Main Street.

Neuharth, who purchased the firm on June 1, 1970, from Ferdinand Hoffer who started it in 1958, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Neuharth. He was born Nov. 18, 1940, attended McClusky schools and on Aug. 8, 1965, was married to Shirley Ulhich at Drake. Their children are Scott, 9, Brad, 7, and T.J., 6.

Alme, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Alme, was born in Balfour in 1921. He graduated from Balfour High School and has worked for the postal department in Drake since 1958. He and his wife, Laura, have two children, Mrs. Bob (Priscilla) Keogh of Dickinson and Jeff, a student at North Dakota State University.

Alme became postmaster in September 1973, following the retirement of Clarence Nelson who had held the position since 1947 when Emil Christianson served.

Drake had two rural routes earlier, one operated by Raymond Kemper which Melvin Alme later had, and one which Mr. Jacobson had, later carried by Darris Drake. When Drake retired, Alme had both routes. When Alme was promoted to postmaster, Henry Ewert of Anamoose was transferred to Drake to run the combined route.



Drake Bakery

Palmer and Lena Flatlie were photographed in front of their Drake Bakery with an employee, Naomi Schnase. Flatlies started the business in 1953 in an old wood frame building on the same location. Palmer, who grew up at Leeds, moved into the new modern brick building in 1961 when O.A. Refling completed the building.

Drake Farmers Elevator

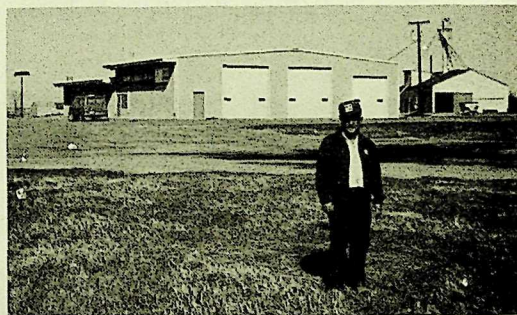
Charles Haring has been manager of the Drake Farmers Elevator since 1971. The elevator was formed in 1959. In 1973 they bought out the competition across the road, the Peavy firm, adding a second house. In 1976 they moved in an annex and steel tank from Guthrie, adding 60,000 bushels storage for a total of 220,000 bushels. They also built a new drive on the main elevator.

Haring, who was born in Cayuga in 1946, attended high school in Forman and college at the State School of Science at Wahpeton. He and his wife, Madelyn, have three children, Joe, 9, Gaye, 7, and Lyle 2.



Drake Co-op Creamery

Manager Lyle Weist, who started with the Drake Cooperative Creamery in November 1969, is a newcomer compared to bookkeeper Delores Krpoun. She started with the company nearly 25 years ago, first in the plant.



Two Drake Farmers Union Oil Company faithfuls welcomed the relocation of the company on the north side of Highway 52 in April this year.

Joe Schell, manager of the Drake Farmers Union Oil Co., has plenty to smile over with the new building joining the warehouse facilities and fertilizer plant on the north side of U.S. 52.

Schell, who has been manager at Drake for 14 years, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Schell, born in Orrin in 1925. He and his wife, the former Christine Heilman, were married in Karlsruhe in 1947.

They have three sons, all Farmers Union Oil Company employes, Gary at Newburg, Kermit at Devils Lake and Randolph, both at Devils Lake. Christine is bookkeeper at Drake, making it a family business.

Henry Rieder, who has been with Farmers Union Oil Company for 25 years, pauses in front of the old quarters, the former Catholic church, which the firm left in April.



Drake Repair

Bob Marvin, who was born at McClusky Dec. 4, 1918, to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Marvin, attended Drake schools and the State School of Science at Wahpeton. After five years in service he returned to Drake and in 1952, in partnership with Jerry Roth, he started the Drake Repair firm. In 1958 he bought Roth out. Marvin and his wife Margaret, whom he married in 1947 at Drake, have four children, Tim in San Francisco, Tom at Guthrie, Trudy in California, and Tammy in High School at Drake.



Drake Pharmacy and Mel's Jack and Jill

Melvin Rieniets, right, owner of Mel's Jack and Jill, and Al Smith, owner of the Drake Pharmacy, visited in front of their establishments.

Rieniets, who was born Sept. 19, 1929, lived in a number of area towns before completing his education in Drake. He bought the grocery store Dec. 9, 1961, from Harry Bossert. He and his wife Helen were married April 30, 1952.

Smith, who bought the drugstore in November 1967 from Mrs. Dick Kirchoff, remodeled the interior of the pharmacy and fountain area in 1970. He was born in 1938 and attended Drake schools, prior to studying pharmacy at NDSU. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Nelson. He and his wife Bernice were married in Drake in 1967. They are the parents of a son, Dale Kemper, 17, a senior at Drake High School.

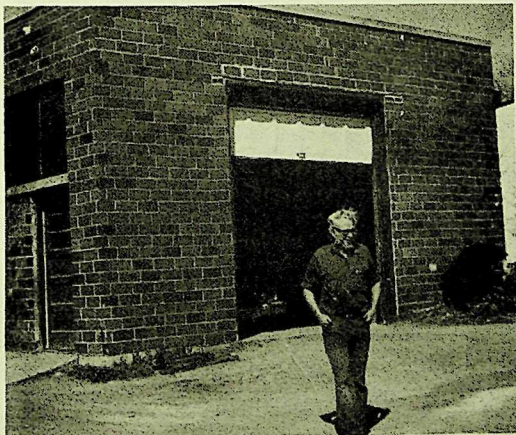


Eichhorn Implement

Gordon McQuay, owner of Eichhorn Implement Co., is a Drake native. A son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd McQuay, he was born here in 1927, attended Drake schools and the State School of Science at Wahpeton. He studied linotype operation and worked in advertising and the newspaper business before joining the implement dealership which started in 1925. In 1963 he bought the firm from John Eichhorn. McQuay married Elaine Eichhorn in 1948. They have four children, Mrs. Ronald (Linda) Ziegler, Drake; Mrs. Dennis (Judy) Blankenship, Alabaster, Ala.; Mrs. Rich (Bonnie) Harmon and Mrs. Carl (Nancy) Haugen, both of Minot.

Eichhorn Implement was started in Drake in 1926 by John F. Eichhorn and his wife Bessie. They owned and managed it until 1963, and in 1970 they retired and moved to Prescott, Ariz. Mr. Eichhorn died in 1975 and Bessie lives in Arizona.

Eichhorn Implement was started as a farm equipment business and through the years has served the family farm with machinery, livestock equipment, automobiles, electric appliances and other necessities of farm life. In later years, since farming has become more mechanized, they sell primarily IHC farm equipment and Farmhand haying equipment.





Empress Hotel

Mr. and Mrs. O.W. Fors, longtime business people in Drake, have been in the hotel business since 1959 when they purchased the Empress Hotel from the Miller estate. Mrs. Shelke ran it for five years before the Forses took over.

First National Bank Has Long History

Lyle Bakken, right, president of First National Bank in Drake, and Nolan Seehafer, cashier and insurance agent, are involved in one of Drake's earliest businesses. The bank was incorporated as the Merchants Bank on April 5, 1906 by Benjamin B. Bennett, the first president, Larry O' Brien and M.H. Bennett, who invested a total of \$8,000. While they approved several loans between \$10 and \$100, they refused two for \$200 and \$600 as being too large to handle!

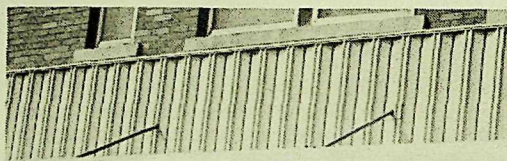
On Aug. 31, 1907, Harold Thorson joined the firm as director and vice president; he was elected president in January 1908. O.A. Refling was elected president April 15, 1920, to fill the vacancy created by Thorson's death. Mr. Refling was president and held controlling stock until May 1960. Then he sold to Bankers Financial Corporation of Fergus Falls, Minn., and W.R. Olson of Fergus Falls was elected president and Henning M. Rossebo was executive officer until his retirement in January 1966.

Then Lyle Bakken became executive officer and manager. The bank was extensively remodeled in 1971. In January 1974 he was elected president and in Drake 1975 Bakken and Raymond A. Lamb of Fargo purchased controlling interest. Present directors are Bakken, Lamb, A.H. Haykel of Drake, Harold Refling of Bottineau and Ivan Levi of Fargo.

Lyle Bakken, was born to Theodore and Mamie Bakken at Drake on April 11, 1934, and attended Drake High School and Dakota Business College. He and his wife, Maren, who were married in 1958 in Drake, have four children, Michael, 17, Nancy, 16, Derek, 9, and Kyle, 6.

Nolan Seehafer, born to William and Viola Seehafer on April 3, 1934, attended area schools and Drake High School. After farming for a time and working seven years as an elevator manager, he became a banker and insurance agent nine years ago. He and his wife, Sharron, whom he married June 28, 1959, at Emanuel Lutheran Church, rural Drake, have four children: Nanette, 17, Jeffrey, 15, Steven, 13, and Kevin, 12.

Joyce Haykel Runs Tax Office

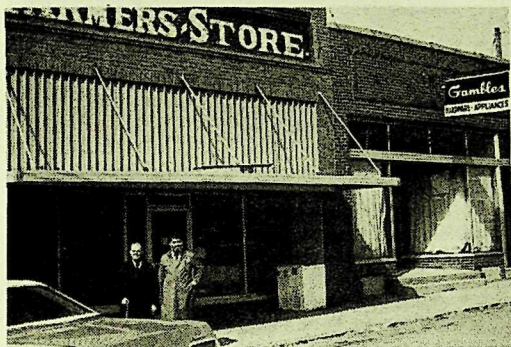


Joyce Haykel, left, started her tax firm in Drake in 1951. Mrs. Leslie (Carol) Gerber has assisted her in the business since 1959. The building was remodeled in 1969.

H & H Welding Co.

Mike and Pat Haugen, Butte natives, bought the H & H Welding Company building from Gerald Roth in July, 1976. They are sons of John Haugens of Butte. Mike, who attended Minot State College after graduating from high school at Butte, is married. He and his wife, Janice, have a son, Aaron, 2, and twin daughters, Leslie and Lori, eight months. Pat, who served in the Army after high school at Butte, and his wife Shelly also live in Drake.

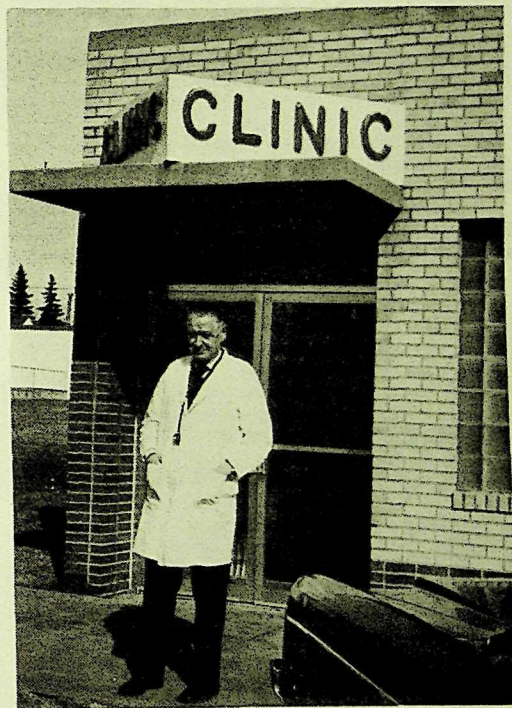
Janavaras, Inc., Old Name in Drake



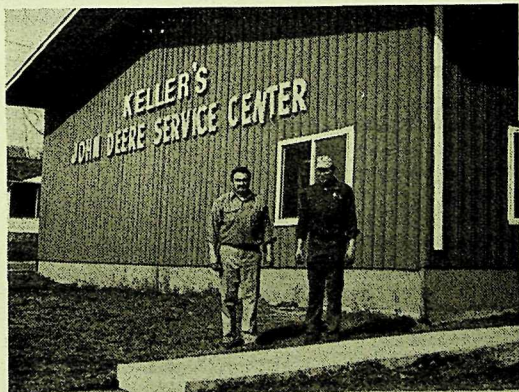
Gust Janavaras, left, and Mark Janavaras operate several businesses in Drake, including Gust's Farmers Store and Mark's Fairway Foods Agency and the Farmerette. Gust is a long-time Drake businessman.

Keller's Service Center

Ed Bossert, left, manager for Keller's Service Center in Drake, has been with the firm since it opened in Drake in 1973. Gilbert Thingvold, service manager, started with the center in April 1974. Bossert, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bossert, was born in 1935 in Drake and grew up here. He and his wife, Sharon, whom he married in Drake in 1964, have three children, Steven, Beth and Mike. Thingvold, a son of Bill Thingvold of Martin, was born at Rugby in 1949. He attended schools at Martin and Harvey as well as two years at Wahpeton.



Dr. B.Z. Hordinsky steps out of the Drake Medical Clinic for a breath of air. The clinic, a 37 by 60-foot structure, was built in 1952, a year after Dr. Hordinsky completed his residency at Bottineau and came to Drake to stay.

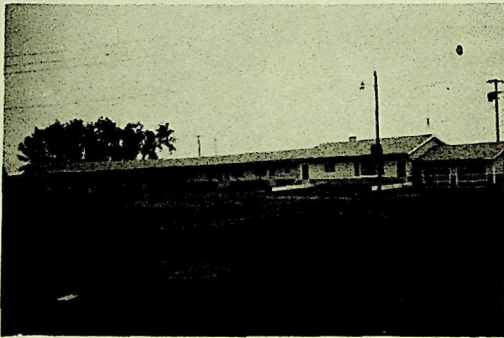




Heydts operate Morris Hotel and Bar

John and Hilda Heydt, who came to Drake in April 1966, own and operate the Morris Hotel and Bar, one of the older businesses in Drake.

The Heydts, who previously lived in Harvey, bought the hotel from Lloyd Degenstein. They recently purchased a home in Drake.



Rest View Motel

Frank and Regina Paulus, who bought the Rest View Motel from Ben Hauff and Andrew Jans in 1964, still operate it. The motel was built in 1958, the first one in the community. Paulus, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Paulus, has lived in the community all his life. The Pauluses are the parents of nine children.

Ryan's Mobil Service

Ryan Kriedeman, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kriedeman of Drake, has operated Ryan's Mobil Service since 1974 when he bought it from Blaine Paulus. The first was originally operated by Ben Hauff, Kriedeman said. Ryan, who was born in 1950, was graduated from Drake High School in 1969. He attended college in Minot before returning to Drake. He and his wife, Linda, who were married in 1972, have a daughter, Rachel, 2.



Serve & Save Lumber

Everett Krohnke, left, has been manager of Serve and Save Lumber Company of Drake, since 1973, coming here after growing up in Iowa, living in Minnewaukan for a time and in Oregon from 1950 to 1973.

The lumber yard burned in the early 1960s. A new one was built in 1965, and Tony Feist ran it until 1968. It then was vacant until Krohnke became manager.

Krohnke and his wife, Shirley, have three sons, Dean, 30, Jerry, 28, and Rick, 26.

Pictured with Krohnke are his son, Dean, and Clarence Degenstein, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Degenstein of Drake, who began a plumbing business in Drake, C & D Plumbing, in March 1977.

Degenstein attended Drake schools and worked 3½ years for Keith Bonebrake of Minot and six months with Berg Homes of Minot before beginning his firm. He and his wife, Karen, who were married March 17, 1971, have two sons, Cary, 4, and Keith, 1.

Soo Line Railroad

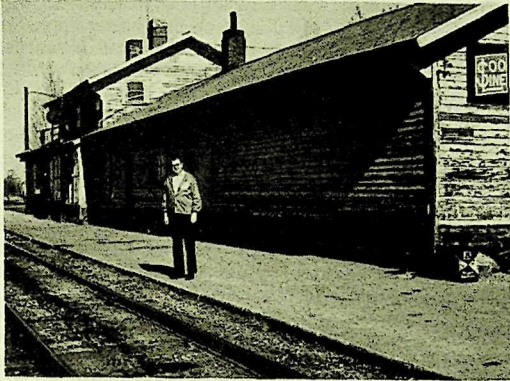
George Stancel, a Kintyre, N. D., native who has been in Drake as Soo Line agent since 1958, has worked since 1939 all over the line.

He noted the Soo is down to one man in Drake and some section work in Drake, a city which once saw 12 men working on the rip track and 10 in the roundhouse.

Just as many cars are going through, Stancel said, but only one train a week now comes from Thief River, compared to twice a day in earlier times. The Bismarck run is now four times a week, instead of the original two passenger and two freight trains each day.

In the days when there were 12 stations, each with its agent, between Drake and Bismarck, tickets were sold, cream shipped and express handled. Now it is just full-car lots and two traveling men handle the area plus more.

However, improvements are being made in the Soo Line, Stancel noted. Rock ballast shipped in from Wisconsin and new ribbon rail are being put down between Drake and Max. Three gangs—tie, ribbon rail and ballast—are working on the main line this year and in less than a year the whole Soo line will be ribbon rail.



Tom's Westland Service

Tom Weninger, who has owned and operated Tom's Westland Service since 1968 when he bought the business from Pete Ziegler, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Weninger, was born at Drake in 1943 and graduated from Drake High School. He married Linda Larson of Harvey on Sept. 25, 1965. They have three children, Brian, 10, Linnette, 9, and Kurt, who is 1½.

Ziegler Oil Company

John Ziegler, who was born to Mr. and Mrs. Sebastian Ziegler at Balfour in 1920, went into partnership with Bencer Kjos in a Chevrolet dealership in Drake when he returned from the service in 1945. When the partnership ended in 1954, he bought the Westland station from Andrew Jans, who had built it in 1950. In 1957 Ziegler added the bulk service and in 1961 he leased out the station. Ziegler, who attended Karlsruhe schools, married Verna Regstad in Karlsruhe in 1942. Their children are LaDonna in Iowa, Linda in Maryland, Ronald in Drake, and Robert, now interning as a pharmacist at Towner.



Empress Cafe

John and Joann Heintz have owned and operated the Empress Cafe since 1968. They were married at Karlsruhe in 1948 and, after living at Orrin a year, came to Drake to make their home. He worked at construction prior to buying the cafe. Their children are Laurel of Minot, Douglas in Drake and Mrs. Lorrie (Deborah) Schaefer of Minot. A daughter, Cheryl, died in 1966.

History of the Community

Warning: Those seeking a definite, scholarly history of the community of Drake have not found it in this small volume. This portion of "Prairie Patchwork" is intended to reflect the lives and times of the area as seen through the eyes of local weekly newspapers and diaries, complete with misspelled names, corrections and deletions, and amazing rumors of oil wells, gold fields, and Drake to be the new state Capitol.

We have faithfully attempted to show a balance of life in the city and the farms, for they are inextricably interwoven; to indicate major changes in the community such as the rise — and fall — of major buildings, schools, hospital; to record broad shifts of operation in railroads and highways; to touch on such national or world changes as strongly affected Drake, wars, prohibition, the beginning of the NonPartisan League; and, most of all, to show the frenetic activity and belief in the future which made the city possible, as lived and recorded by its pioneers.

Some record exists of the early ones and fortunately one of those is an interview of H.R.W. Bentley done by a writers' group in the WPA in 1937.

His record is particularly valuable because Bentley's ranch on the east shore of what was then called Brush Lake was to serve as the first post office and, with its general store and blacksmith shop, as a center for trade and information in the south Drake area.

Born in Grand Rapids, Mich., in 1854, Bentley worked in a barrel factory for a time. But in 1884 A. L. Chubb, his boss in Michigan, decided to sell well-drilling equipment in the Dakotas where land was opening up.

Young Bentley and a brother, Chubb and a man named Young went to Reynolds, N. D., where they dug a well. Chubb and H.R.W. Bentley's brother returned to civilization but Bentley and Young stayed, working in the Red River Valley harvest fields that fall.

They earned their board that winter working for farmers and in June of 1885 they set out, with a team and covered wagon, for the wild west. They came by way of Devils Lake and Grand Harbor, paying 25 cents to be ferried across Devils Lake. The pair journeyed as far as the Turtle Mountains but got so full of wood ticks, Bentley insisted in later years, they nearly fainted from lack of blood!

Leaving that pest-ridden area, they followed Willow Creek to where it empties into the Mouse and then south to about eight miles north of where Towner now stands, arriving ten days later. Bentley took up a pre-emption there, remaining till he had proved up the land, but Young returned to Michigan.

Bentley made a week-long trip to Devils Lake, the nearest city, for supplies, and in the fall of 1885 he went back to Reynolds, bought a cow and calf and trailed them back to McHenry County behind his wagon.

He broke up 12 acres of land, broadcasting it to wheat and in 1887 had a good crop. When his supplies ran out he cracked wheat and ate rabbits to tide him over until

spring. His one-room oak log cabin had poles for a bed and hay for a mattress.

When the railroad came through he picked buffalo bones and sold them to Robert Fox at the Towner site for \$8 a ton. He also did some trapping to buy necessities, with muskrat furs selling at a dime each, and, an accomplished violinist, he earned money playing at dances. He earned \$3 on Dec. 27, 1885, playing for the wedding dance of Mr. & Mrs. James Rosencrans.

Bentley kept all his she-stock and borrowed \$200 from his brother in Michigan to buy young stock. By 1888 when he took up his homestead near Drake, he had 50 head; remnants of the herd exist today in Harold Harris' herd.

He took the homestead in the fall of 1887 but he didn't move until the next spring. The earliest settlers had to be especially self-reliant: Mr. Bentley's nearest neighbor was Nick Comfort, seven miles northwest, and Fred Craveth, seven miles southeast.

Other neighbors, each about 10 miles away, were Theodore Thorson to the northeast, Frank Fork to the southeast, Edward Truman south, Frank Masteller southwest, and Perry Pendroy to the west.



The Schnabel homestead.

Weather really was worse in the early days, old-timers insist, and Bentley was no exception. The drought years of 1888-1890 were worse than the ones in the '30s. In those days there was always a question whether small grain crops would escape early and late frosts; no one thought corn had a chance to mature and early-day newspapers tell of June and August snow-storms.

The worst blizzard he recalled was in 1894, lasting 10 days. A Hartwick boy froze to death near Bentley's homestead; the body was identified by a mitten when it was found in the spring. The winter of 1896-97 was one of snow so heavy travel was impossible, he recalled.

Indians also made use of the Brush Lake and its nearby

Dorothy Olson's History of Strege Township

Dorothy Olson, daughter of Christ Olson, wrote a history of Strege Township for the Drake Register in May 1938. The information came from Dorothy's father and Ole B. Olson.

"Some of the first people to settle in what is now Strege Township arrived in 1899. Among the first were Msrs. John Strege, Ole B. Olson John Nussbaum, T.C. Bakken and Lue Lushen and their families and Fred Gustavson, Erick and John Johnson. The winter of 1899-1900 was what was called an open winter, fortunately for the early settlers who arrived late in the fall with very little money and no houses or buildings to live in.

"I came in a covered wagon," Ole B. Olson said, "bringing some horses and cattle, a trip of some 200 miles. In company with me were a brother, Christ Olson, and a Montana cowboy, Charley Hart. We arrived Oct. 11, 1899, a day which did not look so well for us as it had rained for two days and that night it began snowing. In the morning there was about 15 inches of snow, which disappeared in a few days.

"We then built a house and a barn and cut and stacked 25 tons of hay. This hay the stock wintered on and were in fine shape in the spring.

"The weather being fine and work over on Nov. 15, Christ Olson and Charley Hart set out on a hunting trip which took them west along the Mouse River, then south to the Missouri River, arriving back home Dec. 18. All this time they lived in a tent and ate by a campfire."

In June of 1900 the settlers found it so dry it was not possible to break the sod or sow crops on that soil already broken, so they kept busy working on their new homes and securing fuel for the coming winter. Most of the settlers came from Traill and Cass counties of North Dakota or from Missouri for the free land. They used to travel to Anamoose for supplies and later to Balfour.

Signa Bakken, born to Mr. and Mrs. T.C. Bakken on Aug. 19, 1900, was the first child born in the township. Anna Verstagen and Robert Lauch were the first couple married and the first postoffice, named "Lillian, was located on Dan O'Brien's farm in about the center of the township.

The first school in the vicinity was in what is now the northeastern part of Strege Township. Rose Kately, now Mrs. Carl Olstad, was the first teacher. She described it thus: "It was made of sod with no floor except Mother Earth; its door was of rough boards with leather hinges; a window of six panes but its ventilation system was complete. In fact, we had to put papers in the crevices to prevent too much ventilation, and in this small building we lived, breathed, and had our beings, yes, and headaches for several weeks. Then a kind-hearted bachelor moved out

of his house and let us move in. This building was a 10 by 12-foot frame building with a gable roof. We fairly gloated over this place. The pupils attending the school were Willie Jones, Ella Agnes, Henry and 'Weeny' Nussbaum and Nellie and Anna Rutten."

Rev. Skenski was the first minister to these people; religious services were held in the school houses.

The township organized in 1901. The first officers were Ole B. Olson, Dan O'Brien, Flow Verstagen, and E.J. Lockwood. The village of Guthrie was started in 1910. John Rutten and a friend named Senechal played the fiddle and a folding organ for the first dance which initiated the town. John L. Goeson was the first Guthrie postmaster; Fred H. Denien built the first store, which is now owned by Joseph Hellel. Denien was postmaster in 1938.

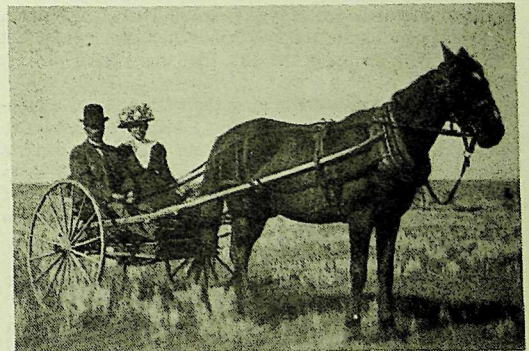
In 1913 the people voted to build a four-room rural school and the northern part of the township became Guthrie Special School District No. 53. The school board elected at that time were Martin B. Olson, president; Ole B. Olson, Frank Kaufman, John Goeson and John Haldi.

While the new building was being erected, school was held in two rural schools and the Guthrie Baptist church. The first teachers in the new building were Georgia Blankenship, Anna Forberg and Florence Hageman.

The Great Northern "Surrey cutoff" was constructed across the north part of the township in 1911-12. The "Fordeville Branch" of the Soo Line crosses the southeastern corner of the township.

The people of Strege Township get their mail from Drake, except those who lived in Guthrie. Lend Vandenberg was the first letter-carrier to serve them.

Among the first settlers in the township were Nellie Rutten (Mrs. Charlie Van Eeckhout), Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Lockwood, Mr. and Mrs. Ole B. Olson, Anna Alexon, Mrs. T. C. Bakken, John Haldi, Gust Strege, Ida Beutler and Fred Denien.



Rev. and Mrs. Oberhammer, 1901 or 1902 (Chris Merbach.)

hills. Bentley recalled trails running from that area north to the Turtle Mountains, east to the Fort Totten Reservation, west to the Fort Berthold Reservation, south to Washburn, southeast to Sykeston which became a trading area when the Northern Pacific Railroad lines extended to that point. The Indians did not trouble Bentley but went about their hunting and trapping.

Bentley hauled lumber from Towner to replace his one-room soddy on the shores of Brush Lake with a big two-story house on the hill, used until very recent years. That kitchen became the post office and in 1900 he was officially appointed postmaster for the Brush Lake, N.D., P. O.

He received a percentage of the cancellation. Mail was brought to his post office by team on a star route with Ed Bernhardt as carrier. The office served an area 10 miles south, 12 miles north and 12 miles east. Bentley continued as postmaster until Drake was established; he served there two years.

Gradually other people began to come into the territory. Mrs. Charles Kemper's record preserved at Bismarck noted her husband came by train on March 27, 1900, and she and her son followed April 9. They bought a walking plow, a sulkey plow valued at \$9, a \$29 wagon, four horses, a heifer, a sow, two dogs and 40 chickens.

Another early Drake resident, like Mrs. Kemper a rural school teacher, was Rosa Kately, later Mrs. Carl J. Olstad, who arrived at Anamoose on April 18, 1900.

By 1900, however, there were quite a few neighbors with more coming every day. A 1910 McHenry County atlas, in just a partial listing, mentioned many farmers who arrived early: Bentley, of course, and S. Schnabel, his father-in-law, who came in 1897; Thomas Bakken, Gust Berndt, Archie Billings, John Johnson, Daniel Klukas, Henry Lumhar (Lemer?), G. E. Mittlestaedt, Hans Moen, all in 1899; and the following year, A. C. Anderson, Mike Anton, Gus Beyer, August Fenner, H. M. Peterson, Wilhelm Pieske, Gustav and Herman Strege and F. M. Versteegen.

Some, like Kempers, bought machinery - a drill which cost \$99 - grew 100 bushels of flax on 30 acres, and built a home that year. Theirs was a four bedroom frame house 16 by 22 feet with six windows. They heated it with lignite coal bought for \$2 a ton in Anamoose.

Some people in the vicinity opened a lignite mine near where Butte later was located and mined their own coal, Bentley recalled. Later Frank Masteller opened the first commercial mine near Dogden, now Butte, charging \$1 a ton. Bentley hauled coal 15 miles home.

He also hauled some lignite from the Stony Gulch mine, a vein of poor lignite about 30 inches thick under eight feet of dirt. With stripping the dirt, that was a hard two-day trip!

If fire was hard to come by in the winter, it was all-too-constant a hazard in the summer. Bentley recalled a fire in the fall of 1898 when he saw smoke from a fire coming his way three days before it arrived. He and his neighbors had prepared by then: they plowed furrows a short distance apart and burned the dry grass between them so the conflagration detoured around their homesteads.

They were spared one early problem - grasshoppers didn't do much damage until the 1916 infestation.

About 1900 schools also started. Mrs. Kemper taught a two-month term that year with the first classes on Tom Manahan's homestead. She borrowed what books could be found among the neighbors for her five pupils, Peter and Fred Martwick and Henry Selz among them.

Erwin Kately, her brother, was board clerk, Bentley was treasurer and Walter King, William Jones and Peter Johnson served on the board.

Early-Day reporter came in 1900

Mrs. Jennie Kemper and her son Raymond arrived in Anamoose April 6, 1900, and husband Charles, who had come a few days earlier with a carload of goods, met them. The next morning he took them out to the homestead he had claimed in 1889, Charlie leading with a wagonload of household goods and his wife and son behind in a buggy.

They drove nine miles over unbroken prairie with no sign of human habitation till they came to the Schnabel farm, about a mile south of what is now Drake. A bit farther west was the farm Mrs. Kemper was to occupy for 40 years.

Their house was just a frame, so they stayed three days in the 14 by 20-foot stable until the roof was done.

A post office was established in the kitchen of Bentley's farm house, known as the Brush Lake Post Office. Mr. Bentley also ran a blacksmith shop and general store. Ed Bernhardt delivered mail from Balfour to Brush Lake Post Office two or three times a week by "mule express" for \$80 a year.

With the opening of the post office, this part of the county gained some prominence and Mrs. Kemper was "elected" news correspondent by the Anamoose Progress, Balfour Statesman and Towner News and Stockman. News was scarce, she recalled, and she had to make the most of every item!

A report from her also made headlines in the Center Point, Iowa, paper on Aug. 20, 1900: "Notwithstanding the extreme dryness of the spring and summer, Brush Lake, N.D., is still marching on," the young homesteader reported. "The harvest here will not be an abundant one, but I think it will average well with the usual first crop."

"The surface is a rolling prairie interspersed with small lakes; the lowlands are covered with luxuriant grass, and water is good and easily obtainable with average depth of wells in this immediate vicinity about 30 feet.

"Houses have sprung up almost as if by magic and have increased in number at least twenty-fold since April...Just as a generation or two ago, our parents stepped out into the wilds of Iowa, Minnesota or some other new region, and just as today they look with pride on their fine lands, their well-kept farms and stately buildings, so we, in a few years expect to gaze upon, with the same degree of personal pride, an equally well-settled and prosperous neighborhood. In fact, we think that day to be not too far distant as we are now only one-half mile from a railroad and have two good towns, Balfour and Anamoose, five and nine miles distant and are within a mile of a general store, post office and blacksmith shop."
(From the 1952 Drake Register)

Olstad School Days

Mrs. C.J. Olstad (Rosa Kately) wrote about the area's earliest schools in the Register.

"In the spring of 1900, settlers began to move in," she said.

"About half the settlers were single, but many of these homesteaders had families and children of school age so in some manner schools had to be provided before autumn.

"On June 30, 1900, a petition was circulated to organize a school district. The required number of signers were obtained and Brush Lake school district was formed, six miles wide east to west and 24 miles north to south. In 1900 a school board elected, Peter Johnson, William Jones, and Walter King; Archie Billings, clerk, and H.R.W. Bentley treasurer.

"The first school opened in September of that year and I was the first teacher," Mrs. Olstad said. "Mrs. Jenny Kemper, who had been a teacher in Illinois for years, began teaching school No. 2 a week later."

Mrs. Olstad, who taught five years, recalled that the first building used for a school stood on the Ben Brekke homestead, a mile south and a half mile east of where Drake now stands. The small homestead shack was purchased by Peter Johnson from Henry Leder. The seats and desks were made by the school board. They had but a few books, so pupils were compelled to use any book they had brought from their "home estate." (No real estate in the district had final proof made on it, so no tax money was available except a small sum from the county.)

The second school was held in the Thomas Minebarn house, a mile west of where Drake now stands. Mrs. Kemper said no books were provided for this school. She used her own books, with "Black Beauty" as a reader.

These schools only had funds to continue three months that fall. Teachers were paid with warrants. Some of these were cashed by discounting them for 50 cents on the dollar, which didn't leave much of \$30 a month.

School NO. 3 opened in December and Mrs. Olstad taught there, (having completed the term in NO. 1). There were 20 pupils enrolled in this school, a 10 by 14-foot sod building northeast of Guthrie. Its floor was sod and its only window held six panes of glass. Its walls had many holes between pieces of sod, plastered with mud or filled with paper. A laundry stove was the heating plant. But one day a bachelor neighbor, Mike Strand, visited the school and offered to move out of his house built of lumber.

"When I came back in the spring to teach again in No. 1, our former building had been sold, so the board rented my house for school and I built an addition to in which I lived," Mrs. Olstad said. (Later when no housing was available near school, she bought a small building for a home and board member Mr. Sleight moved it from one school to another!

Rosa Kately's delightful diary, to be found in part at Bismarck, records some of those events of 1900 in frustrating brevity.

On May 29, she says, "Brother Erwin and Mrs. Martwig's son just got back from killing wolves. Stayed up on the prairie all night; got nine young ones last Sunday evening. Will go to Towner tomorrow to try to get bounty."

On June 3: "Well, Balfour and Anamoose play ball today," and on the fifth, "We have been breaking today with four horses for the first time." She attended the July Fourth dance at Bentleys, and the next day records that a hard storm the preceding night blew the roof off Mr. Jones' house.

That fall, while she was teaching a term which ran from Sept. 15 to Dec. 6, school was called off on Sept. 17. The stove was not yet installed and there had been snow. Teacher enjoyed the day off by walking to neighboring farms to buy eggs and milk.

That was also the fall they stacked and threshed flax in the snow, hauling the grain to Anamoose, and she went to Billings' to help cook for threshers. With her earnings, Rosa bought a cow from Mr. Drake and paid 50 cents for two chairs.

During the time before school resumed April 21, with nine pupils, she waited tables in Fessenden. On May 14, Rosa Kately enjoyed a party at the home of Martha Somebody, which included Mr. Olstad. May was a memorable month—she planted potatoes on the 17th, the wind blew the roof off her sod shanty on May 21, and Schnabel's yellow dog sucked the first egg her hens laid on June 26.

May 31 topped off the month with "a great ball game, speeches and a bowery dance in Anamoose." On June 6, 1901, it snowed but soon Rosa was telling that "Jeannie and I went to Erwin's shack and brought home our aprons full of wood... Yesterday was hotter than Dutch love."

The school term ended June 21 after a picnic at Brush Lake on June 14. On June 26 she seeded flax and went to singing school. Rosa was named secretary for the Sunday School which was organized June 15, 1901, with Peter Johnson as superintendent, Mr. Kemper as assistant superintendent and Mrs. Kemper as treasurer.

She also recorded the minor events: catching gophers till 9 a.m. June 8, then ironing and baking till noon; planting corn July 2 while Mr. Olstad and Erwin went to the Mouse River for wood; eating watermelon on July 7; and a runaway with the team on Aug. 9.

Her diary which goes into 1903, records school beginning in Rosenfeld district on Dec. 1, 1902, with 25 pupils and the season's first blizzard on Dec. 23.

Another interesting history at Bismarck was that of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Macheel who moved to the Lake George area in 1901 after pioneering in the southern part of the state for several years.

They described twisting flax-straw for fuel in the "hay burner," later taking the wagon to dig stumps in the sand hills to burn. Either was preferable to using cow ships which, she said, had a "terrible smell and had to be poked every few minutes to keep the fire burning." Macheels for a time used water from a well dug in a slough so one had to wade in to dip the water.

Mrs. Macheel, who did the shocking and part of the pitching and raking of hay and bundles, discing, plowing and dragging, also was in charge of the cows. With fire a constant threat on the dry prairie, often she started off to look for the cows and glanced back to see the sunset reflected in the house windows. Frantic about her children, trapped, she was sure, in a burning house, she'd rush home only to have to go again when she was reassured.

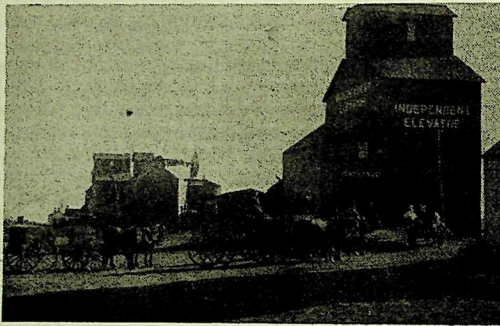
Their home at Balfour must have been typical of many homesteader's shacks. The 12 by 14-foot, slant-roofed dwelling held a bed and a trundle bed with sacks of seed grain piled beside it. There was also a wardrobe, cookstove, double spring that had to go outside every morning along with big boxes of bedding to make room for the day's activities. The chairs, when not in use, hung from nails in the ceiling.

Later they built a bigger shack with a bedroom and kitchen and, by the time they had 10 children, a house with three rooms, a closet and a hall upstairs, and a bedroom, front room, dining room, kitchen and pantry downstairs.

Macheels also recalled the beginnings of their school, in 1901, with William Wegener donating an acre of land and, when the new school was built about 1928, selling the district another acre for \$25.

After having services in homes as early as 1901, the Macheels and other members of the Evangelical Lutheran persuasion finally started a congregation of 12 families served about two years by Rev. Long. Sometimes they attended church in Drake and after the church was built in Guthrie, joined there.

As the very early days of buffalo bones and covered wagons faded away and schools and churches became more commonplace, a grumble arose in the area: it was too far to go to Anamoose or Balfour or Towner for supplies and to sell grain.



Horses pull loads of grain to the Drake Independent elevator.

Archie Billings recalled in the 1952 Drake Register how the town of Drake actually came into being. Archie was visiting with Charlie Koehler and with Herman Drake, who had visions of a townsite on his land near the railroad.

Billings said he believed, if farmers agreed to grade up a side track, the Soo Line would lay steel rails there. Drake and Koehler made a list of farmers who would donate the work and use of teams; Drake went to Minneapolis and made a deal with Soo officials.

In short order the Soo sent a surveyor who laid out streets and platted the town and that fall they hauled crops into new elevators on a new side track. Gust Strege, then a 17-year-old farm boy, and Fred Martwick Sr. were two of the farmers who, with teams and two-horse road scrapers, built the grade.

By March of 1903 the Anamoose Progress was reporting a great deal of activity from its new neighbor to the west: bids from the Brush Lake School District for three school houses; Oscar Bush painting A. C. Metcalf's and J. W. Miller's stores; George Kruesel's store nearly ready for

opening; and in May Ed Phelps delivering oats to the Royal elevator.

A May 1903 Balfour Statesman had Dr. T. O. Sandbo's advertisement for his office in Sleight's Hotel. The following month it told of J. W. Miller taking over from Bentley as postmaster; noted a big dance was scheduled on the new 24 by 40-foot dance floor at the pool hall; and reported a small but severe hail-storm a mile wide and just a bit longer which damaged Carl Olstad's flax and piled hail a foot deep at Joe Millers.

Bald Butte

Many years ago the Indians used the big hill north of Drake to send smoke signals and as a lookout point.

There is an Indian legend that a band of Chippewa hunters found a dead man on the hill and, as he was dressed as no one that they ever had seen before, they buried him and named the hill Aweaconisen, meaning Hill of the Strange Dead Man in the Chippewa language.

About 50 years ago a man by the name of Sidmore heard this story from an old Indian so he dug up the skeleton and took the skull to their school, but in the course of time it disappeared.

Another story has it that this hill was used by horse thieves as a hideout during the day for stolen horses. Down the northwest slope is a deep ravine with trees that ropes could be stretched to, to form a holding place till nightfall so they could go on.

I heard most of this bit of history from Carl Eidmann who has contributed quite a bit to the historical society.

—Frank W. Tuchscherer

The town was seeing improvements, too: S. R. Finley of Harvey had secured the contract for an 18 by 32-foot school house; A. H. Buelow of Little Falls, Minn., planned to establish a bank in Drake within a week or two; and Ginther and Co. had added a new wooden porch on their store.

Also in June: work began on a new school three miles south; 30 couples attended that dance at Muss and Dirk's Hall; Carl Olstad brought back a load of posts from the Mouse River; and Robert Krueger began a fancy \$1,500 house, 24 by 34-feet, just 10 miles south of town. Stiehman and Hensler, with 25 years' experience, offered to catch and break broncs.

Not everyone believed in Drake's future, of course: August Strager sold his farm to Miss Wheat in June 1903 and loaded an emigrant car for Canada.

It was difficult not to be enthusiastic: On Dec. 31, 1903, the Statesman reported the Rugby and Bismarck Railroad Co. was negotiating with John Nussbaum for a townsite on his quarter 13 miles northeast of Balfour and with Fred Martwick for a townsite on his farm two miles west of Drake.

Besides, turkeys sold for 15 cents a pound locally (compared to 18 cents in Minneapolis, 25 in Chicago and 30 in Boston) and grain prices were: flax, 80 cents; rye, 37 cents; oats, 35 cents; speltz, 40 cents; wheat, 66 cents and barley, 38 cents. In January 1904 flax rocketed to \$1.90 a bushel!

The Balfour Leader also had some Drake news from the early years. In its December issue it noted the Louis Ginthers, who were treated to a party with dancing at the Pleasant View Hotel for their seventh anniversary, bought the millinery stock of Peter Riba at Balfour and took it to Drake. Louis also had the word he would probably be appointed postmaster at Drake; J.W. Miller was leaving because his store had burned, The Leader said.

That was the year a man named Merbach from Minnesota bought John Sherry's farm for \$1,950; James Lowery began to erect a home; and the passenger train killed T.J. McLaughlin's mule and Mrs. Moore's horse on the tracks just west of Drake.

Not all the news was so important, of course. One January report dealt with a peculiar horse accident. "As Robert Jeffries was driving into Drake with a load of flax, both of his 1,400-pound horses fell into an old well on Charles McNamara's place. The tongue broke as the horses went into the four-foot hole. The well was 40 feet deep but the lowest horse was only nine feet from the surface. The other horse was dragged in. Jeffries went in and cut the harness to pieces. Willing hands were offered to drag them out without serious injury. The mystery is how two horses that size could get into a four-foot hole."

By March there was more serious news: wheat was up to 82 cents. There was talk of stock dying because of lack of hay. People were caught in storms and some froze; 10-foot drifts stopped trains.

Not even 10-foot drifts stop Cupid however and on March 23, 1904, B.B. Bennett and Maude Ginther were married at her parents' home.

In April it was still snowing and suddenly a thaw hit; with bridges washing out. By May Editor Schribner of the Drake News visited Balfour to report Drake was booming, and almost as suddenly, after the thaw and a flood in Velva, farmers were seeding - some had early wheat almost two-inches high.

The Balfour Leader had an April report on its new neighbor, too. Sherlock and Warner were digging the new well for the creamery, supervised by W.A. Marlatt. It proved to have 15 feet of water. The creamery began taking cream on June 4. George Selvog made the first batch of butter - 120 pounds - and 800 pounds was made the first week. (By September, however, the farmers had only got 9 cents a pound for butter; a lack of ice caused low prices.)

Mr. and Mrs. Muss leased the Pleasant View Hotel in April; B.B. Bennett bought G. Roe's drugstore; and the brick work was completed on the First State Bank.

On the social side the Leader reported the Congregational Church had acquired a larger organ; A.C. Metcalf began building a 16 by 24-foot, two-story house; Herman Drake platted a park; and the Drake Flickertail ball team ordered equipment and uniforms.

Politics were important, of course, with the Republican convention set May 16 and caucuses called at the Martha School House in Lake George, the school house on Section 29 for Strege Township, and at the Drake School for Spring Grove.

T. E. Sleight reported having seeded 225 acres that year, 1904, but there was other money to be made. With so many tracks washed out and the shortage of grain affecting the market, one enterprising fellow earned \$2.05



Soo workers. (Gust Janavaras)

Soo Line opens McHenry County

The Soo Line, which opened much of the country, built the mainline from Harvey to Portal, 154 miles, in 1893. The Drake-to-Plaza line, 84 miles, was built in 1906 and the 131 mile stretch to Fordville from Drake in 1912.

In the summer or early fall of 1902 a "boarding car" was set south of the new side track, just west of the present building, to use as a depot. Earlier that year farmers and others of the area scraped and leveled the place where side track was laid.

Olen Gifford believes William Young was the first Soo Line agent at Drake. Typical pioneer railroaders included J. H. McAllister, formerly Anamoose agent, E. N. Erickson and Mr. Scott.

Lester D. Hendry was first foreman at the round house, built in 1906, recalled Gifford, and others were W. H. Schribner, Pat Tully and Andrew Kringen. The rip track was started about the same time, 1906; and foremen included Johnny Sunt, Peter Hanenberg, Ed Dahlman and Jack Lassila.

In the early years there were always 8 or 10 men working just around the depot, and Mr. Gifford recalled that in 1909 or 1910 when he worked for B. B. Bennett in the drugstore, he had to service Bennett's car, an E.M.F., for a trip north of town on which Bennett took a Soo purchasing agent to buy right-of-way for the Fordville branch.

(Drake Register, July 1952.)

a day plus board working on the Soo Line Tracks.

The May 12, 1904, Balfour Statesman said, "It was just eight months ago today when a storm and blizzard swept down upon us, freezing all green grain and much stock. Yesterday we were again visited by a snow storm which lay on the ground three inches thick and school children who had gone to school in bare feet had to have shoes and stockings taken to them by their parents. This last storm

was a great benefit. It did not freeze and snow saturates the ground much deeper than the same amount of water in a rain storm. The western edge of the storm was midway between Balfour and Voltaire."

On May 24 the Balfour Orchestra furnished music for another dance in Drake and R. L. Redding, the Drake photographer and past Master Workman of the Drake A.O.U.W. Lodge, was in Balfour, photographing the town. B. B. Bennett Land Company of Drake was offering to loan money on your farm, from \$200 to \$1,000 depending on location and improvements.

"Indian Country"

North Dakota was admitted to the Union Nov. 2, 1889.

Two years later in October 1891 the Shoshone and Arapaho Indians sold a million acres of land to the government for 55 cents an acre. Then the homestead land was opened up and people started to flock to the Dakotas.

But Drake, like many another Dakota town, was not on the map until Jim Hill and other Empire Builders put the railroads through. People needed access to mail, freight and transportation.

The railroad, particularly in a town such as Drake, which became a connecting point for other spurs, bought box cars, flat cars and immigrant cars all loaded with the country's most vital need—people.

— Frances Kloehn

The Balfour Leader reported T.E. Sleight had harvested 20-bushel wheat, and by October 225,000 bushels of wheat and flax had been marketed from Drake.

Editor Scribner was leaving Drake News for Chester, Montana, with A.H. Harnack to succeed him. And Drake was planning two major additions: a public hall for lodges and entertainments, and a passenger and freight depot for the Soo Line.

And on July 4, Drake lost the baseball game to Balfour, 12-9.

A. H. Harnack, editor of the Drake News, reported in his July 21, 1905, edition that work on the new German Lutheran Church would begin the next week. Many of the ads, including Sleights and Ginthers were printed in German as well as English.

It was in July that Sherlock Brothers bought a Northwestern threshing machine; that Ferdinand Martin built a new home eight miles southwest of the city; Fred Carlson sold his farm eight miles north to Parker Brothers for \$2,500; and that Hamers and Peerboom took charge of the hotel from Beath.

A new enemy, black rust, was discovered in fields north of the city but no big damage was seen yet. Peter Hanenberg, Charles Sherlock, Henry Peterson, Charles Thom and Sander Lerberg filed final proofs on their land. They and others fought the wily gopher — 18,000 tails were taken to the Norwich Township Clerk.

Sugar was 15 pounds for a dollar at Kruesel's store and Fred Martwig invented a dog-powered washing-machine.

"The dog is placed in an eight-foot wheel, attached to a McCormick clipper wheel and a chain to a smaller clipper wheel on the washing machine. It works fine," the editor said, and added, "Fred also does his churning with dog power."

That was the same issue he said, "On account of our press going through the floor, the News appears late." (What next?)

"Drake is enjoying a building boom," Harnack boasted. "The new hotel is fast nearing completion, and the other hotel will be enlarged. A new large machinery house is being erected next to the new hotel. A saddlery, meat market and several residences will be under construction in the next few weeks. One new general store is opening Wednesday and another by September 1. A new blacksmith shop will be built and work on the new Soo Depot is to be started in three days. A three-pen stockyard will be built there." Sidewalks being built the length of Main Street were a decided improvement, too!

Things were booming for the neighbors, too. The first annual McHenry County Agricultural Fair was set for Granville Sept. 26-28 with a race track and the Soo Line was building a new town 10 miles west of Balfour. A Velva "pigger" pleaded guilty and received "the usual package of 90 days in the cooler and fine and costs amounting to \$225."

By Sept. 1, 1905, a long-distance phone had been put in the drugstore. Number 1 wheat was worth 72 cents a bushel, flax 96 cents, eggs 12½ cents and butter 15 to 20 cents. Pete Hanenberg was in town to get his new threshing rig — but the rig wasn't. He painted the air blue, the News said.

Mrs. Ettestad Remembers

Mrs. Ole Ettestad recalled in the 1952 Drake Register that her family lived halfway between Drake and Balfour in the section house. Mr. Ettestad took that section about 1900 and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Marsh moved into the section house in April 1901. In the summer of 1902 the side track was laid in Drake which Mr. Ettestad and his men put in, she said. The roadmaster on the Soo Line between Harvey and Portal at that time was Mr. Monson. Before 1901 Christ Johnson lived in the section house.

Ole B. Olson brought in the first load of 1905 wheat. Prices dropped off to 93 cents for flax and 70 for wheat, but big yields were reported: J. F. Senechal, seven miles north, 1,400 bushels of wheat from 70 acres; George Krueger, four miles northeast 4,000 bushels of wheat from 200 acres and 2,000 bushels of oats from 35; Ludwig Kloehn out north had rye that ran 42 bushels; Jake Rieder had 22 bushel wheat; Curtis Speers had 22 bushel wheat, 40 bushel oats and 50 bushel speltz while James Johnson, 10 miles north, had 2,000 bushels of wheat off an 80 and T. E. Sleight had wheat that ran 18 bushels and 50 acres of oats yielding 2,500 bushels.

That was the year Walter Noreen was killed by lightning; Metcalf and Sons sold kids' shoes for 75 cents



Making hay. (Harold Harris)

and up; and "a number of gasoline powered threshing rigs are reported successfully used in the state."

A prairie fire west of town along the river did considerable damage; Bruner Brothers of Round Lake received their J. I. Case rig; Leo Sendelbach bought the 60-acre Lowry farm north of town for \$4,500; and "Gesche, the grain man, choo-chooed through town in his automobile." Metcalf Brothers were building a 50 by 60-foot livery barn and Ole Olson traded a piano for a team.

On Nov. 10 it was reported the Royal Elevator was being enlarged to 20,000 bushels but just weeks later the new bin was partly torn down to save the main elevator when C. G. Ireys' elevator nearby burned. The origin of the fire was blamed on sparks of an eastbound freight, but Ireys assured them a new 30,000 bushel facility would be erected. One Soo boxcar also burned. Loss of the elevator, 13,000-bushel capacity and nearly full, was \$10,000.

Elevators were big news, of course. Besides Ireys, W. F. Stiehm and the Woodward Co. secured sites, each planning a 25,000 or 30,000 bushel building.

Of course, rural and city population was expanding: the school had 39 pupils including three new ones. W. M. Young, the Balfour day man, was appointed Drake depot agent; and free rural mail routes were set up. The one 26½ miles north had 146 houses with 730 population while the 26-mile south route had 735 population in 147 homes.

1906 Off to Good Start

The year 1906 got off to a good start, with wheat at 86 cents a bushel and flax at 94. But the population explosion had caught up with the school.

"School began Jan. 6, and as the school is getting too small for an increasing number of students, the Woodmen's Hall is being transformed into a schoolroom," the Drake News reported. "Mrs. Stephenson has charge of lower classes at the school, Paul White the upper

classes...A new school house will be erected in the spring."

The new elevators were taking grain by then, with Ireys' firm having 10 bins and a direct spout, 5 by 12 elevating cups and a three-bin coal shed. Stiehm also had 30,000-bushel capacity, but 11 bins, with storage for 5,000 bushels of oats over the driveway AND A Fairbanks scale with a 6-horse engine and 100-bushel hopper scale and cleaner.

Fishing was good at Brush Lake; The Hamers and Ewert Star Meat Market put an ice house on the Lettengarver place; and the pool room proprietors, Herman and Gust Wilmovsky, put in a laundry basket-out Monday, back Friday.

Later in January Hugo Verstegen's building on the west side was transformed into another school house. George Kruesal advertised 50 bushels of North Dakota-grown Brome grass at \$1.40 a bushel.

The burning question of the day became whether or not Drake should incorporate.

B. B. Bennett, A. L. O'Brien and others incorporated Merchants State Bank, capitalized at \$8,000. T. E. Sleight sold his store to W. I. and L. Ginther so he could erect a cement-block manufacturing plant. He paid \$1,000 for Block 9, and the plant, which will also handle lumber, reportedly will top \$25,000 in cost.

However, all work makes Jack - or Tom Sleight - a dull boy, so he also became manager when the baseball enthusiasts organized a team. O'Brien was captain, Bennett secretary-treasurer. A dance to benefit the team cleared over \$70.

The farmers north of town were arranging for a telephone line to connect with Drake; The Creamery Association decided to incorporate, selling shares for \$15; and O. M. Parker sold his farm nine miles north to Ernest Gerber for \$3,000.

The bond issue for the \$6,000 for the new two-story four-room consolidated school passed narrowly and was challenged-some said it was an illegal election with votes

allowed from people outside the district and even from women. (The editor noted women are legal.) However the courts overruled the editor and ruled the election void. Schools were big business, of course—there were 146 schools in the county which met more than four months a year!

In late February, 1906, Drake was overjoyed to learn it would get the Soo Line branch line to Garrison. Foley Brothers and Larson and Company of St. Paul got the contract with the grade to be done by Sept. 1 and in use by Oct. 1.

C. E. Jameson, representing the contractors, did what the Soo Line directed in every construction town — he came to Drake to close down the “blind pigs.”

North Dakota was in a ticklish situation—while it had been a “dry” state since its constitution was drawn, the federal government sometimes issued liquor licenses. What was legal?

A. C. Wegner moved over from Anamoose to succeed depot agent Young; the Rosenfeld congregation was organizing a choir; and August Peterson of Anamoose bought a lot south of the harness shop to put up a bakery. A bowling alley was to be built next to the pool hall and the Golden West Hotel, with Curtis Speers in charge, will have 30 rooms and a 24 by 30-foot dining room.

In April a high wind spread a fire from the A. G. Scott farm 16 miles northeast of Drake over an area three miles wide and 14 miles long. John F. Hickman and his neighbor to the south, Harry Treat, both lost everything including the new Hickman house.

In May, 1906, 17 carloads of settlers from the area between Drake and Towner left for Canadian homestead land, afraid the sandhill land would quickly be exhausted.

Some people had faith, however: the German Lutherans accept bids for their new 30 by 50-foot church with a 64-foot steeple: \$945 to Sleight for lumber and \$310 to Fred Koester for the labor.

There were more changes in June: Stiehm sold his elevator to M. Blythe, the Pleasant View Hotel was renamed the “Hotel Drake” and Curt Speers’ place became just the West Hotel.

The Soo Line had seven wrecks in eight days in June, including a freight 3½ miles west of Drake near the Wintering River tank. That mishap, which demolished eight cars, was caused by spread rails.

However, the railroads were advertising a Chautauqua summer resort opening on Devils Lake for three weeks, with the Minot High School band playing and daily excursion rates available on the Great Northern. Cheap railroad rates also were available to the fair at Fargo July 23-28 and the NDAC Farmers Excursion—\$2.50 for that.

At home work was progressing, too, on the new 30 by 80-foot, two-story depot with a 350-foot platform. Ole Olson, Robert Strege, William and John Merbach and August Burchhard were building new barns north of town and H. L. Forney was erecting a two-story 24 by 40-foot hardware store in Drake.

The Soo Line had two east-bound trains at 5:24 p.m. and 2:55 p.m. and two west-bound, at 12:40 p.m. and 6:45 a.m.

With the bond issue legally passed, E.C. Jones of Drake got the contract for the new school to be ready by Dec. 1 - a 46 by 48-foot two story frame edifice 26 feet high with four rooms.

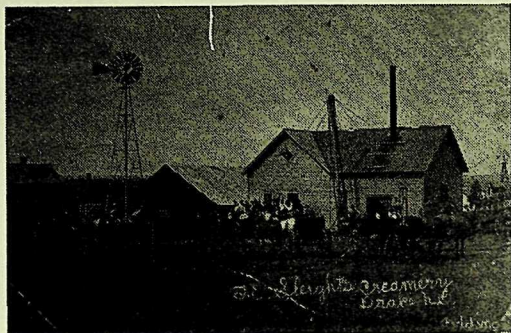
Mrs. Harnack, presumably the widow of editor A.H. Harnack, sold the Drake News to Grace Connelly who has worked on the Balfour Statesman and on the Wells County News at Fessenden. Grace’s sister Arlie was to be the compositor and the Connellys bought a new press.

By September, 41 carloads of grain has been sent out of Drake and cars were already in short supply. Charles

Kemper said his 20-bushel wheat was due to not burning the straw.

Two freights crashed into each other in the Drake yards. One engine was disabled and two boxcars thrown off the track, but a sprained ankle on a fireman was the only human casualty. Henry Peterson and Lena Martwick had a narrow escape from injury when a runaway occurred.

Sheriff Jevnager raided the blind pigs in town; in one instance he took the establishment with him - it was in a



Sleight's Creamery. (Wally Schrader)

tent and he took poles and all!

Emanuel Weiss, proprietor of the West Hotel, was digging a basement and putting in steam heat and a barber shop with a bath. Now that's cleaning up the town!

The New German Lutheran Church had its first services Oct. 28, and on Nov. 18, the new Drake school opened with 56 pupils. The P.F. Riba family moved into a fine new home on north Main Street - 12 rooms in two stories, six bedrooms, each with its own closet! Of course it cost a fantastic \$4,000!

By December it was obvious that 1906 was going to be a bad winter. Mrs. Riba was snowbound for a week at Kensal and coal was in short supply in many areas. In late December the first passenger train from the east for a week was gladly greeted.

Nevertheless, it was business as usual in the growing young community: the first meeting of the Drake Commercial Club was held Dec. 27 at 7:30 in the Drake Brothers office with E.F. Drake serving as chairman; William Kulp rented one of the hotels; and J. Peerboom built a new 24 by 40-foot machine shop.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Morris bought Beall's restaurant; the Independent Order of Odd Fellows organized; and the ladies gave a bazaar and supper to help pay the expenses of incorporating - \$30 was raised.

John Jacobson met with a group of citizens in December 1906 at the Drake Brothers office to take up the telephone proposition. He asked those present to sign a petition of support for a franchise to establish a telephone exchange in Drake. If it passed, he would move to Drake and give the exchange his personal attention.

A third meeting of the Commercial Club was held to go over the constitution prepared by Parker, Drake and Hoffman. The group was to meet twice a month.

Stockholders of the Creamery Association met and moved to incorporate and pay up their debts.

Dr. Ransom was snowbound 15 hours on the Great Northern 40 miles out of Grand Forks. Everetts and Sherlock bought the new building which was used as a "blind pig" last fall and had it moved up to Lake Street. Henslers, who had been quarantined for smallpox, made their first visit to town, reporting none of them had been very sick with it.

Two laws topped the news at the beginning of 1907. Sears Roebuck had to discontinue their grocery department because of restrictions of the pure food law, but Sen. Hansbrough got a law through in Washington allowing homesteaders to legally leave their claims for three months in the winter because of the cold weather.

Lommens arrived in June 1900

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Lommen shipped out of Spring Grove, Minn., for what was to be Spring Grove, N. D., in June 1900 with an immigrant car containing household goods, a lumber wagon, a single buggy, breaking plow, one cow and eight horses.

They landed at Balfour and filed on land which is now the Reuben Dieterle farm southwest of Drake. A neighbor, Peter Aanrud, invited them to sleep in his small claim shack and they cooked and baked out in the open on a black cook stove.

The breaking was too late to be seeded so there were no crops that year but the early settlers built homes: cut sod into two or three-foot lengths to be laid into a wall supporting a few rafters and boards to hold up a sod roof. A small four-light window was set into the dirt wall and the bare ground was the floor.

Old-timers gathered for dinner parties, stopped to visit on the road, and worked on such community chores as plowing a firebreak. (Mrs. Lommen, 1952 Drake Register.)

E.H. Bernhardt sold two quarters of land and held an auction Jan. 22; J.R. Herzday closed his Drake Hotel Monday and reopened it Thursday after getting rid of the deadbeats; and ads were sent out for a good lawyer to locate here. Peter Dix called a vet for one of his horses; the vet said it was glanders and destroyed the animal plus one of Len Vandenberg's and two belonging to Chris Peterson. After losing 16 animals to glanders last fall in the Drake-Anamoose area, everyone hoped this was the end of the disease.

The severe winter of 1906-07 made the biggest headlines. however. The bad weather cancelled the IOOF masquerade; only \$18 was brought in at school basket social; the town was suffering from a sugar shortage; and Dr. Featherston, the visiting dentist, announced in January he wouldn't be back till spring. The big rotary snowplow, followed by the first passenger train in a week, got through on Jan. 20.

"Editors have their troubles, too," the Drake News announced, "as evidenced by the fact that several state papers have been printed on wrapping paper and unless the

freight arrives soon, our next issue will be on vari-colored wall paper."

Activity continued in the snowbound community, however: The Commercial Club held a mock trial and a home talent play to defray expenses of incorporating; G.P. Cook rented the Drake Restaurant and Rose Neiberlie the Drake Hotel; and Rev. E.S. Shaw of Velva, Congregational missionary, looked Drake over as a possible church site and returned in February to preach and subscribe for a resident minister.

In the long-postponed masquerade Winifred Guthrie as Queen of Hearts won first prize with Elsie Drake and Lena Wentland as "just arrived from Russia" winning second. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ginther carried off the prizes as seven tables of progressive Cinch were played at a surprise 29th birthday party for Emanuel Weiss of the West Hotel, held at the People's Drug Store.

Myra Day of Velva began teaching in the primary room, replacing Christie Stevenson who sent to teach the rest of the year at the school nine miles north. Bessie Cook took charge to fourth and fifth grades and Joan Stevenson the seventh and eighth grades.

The News announced the rotary plow was sent out early in February to clear the branch line, taking a large force of men along to shovel in the drifts, some 10 to 20 feet deep and a quarter-mile long. It took them over a week to get to Dogden (Butte) and the whole job was over a month!

Suddenly the papers stopped talking about how bad the weather was and began to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative: A.C. Metcalf was named Drake's representative to a new group working to dispell the horror stories eastern papers were printing about North Dakota's weather. The Connelly sisters of the Drake News noted, for instance, that more people froze to death in New York than North Dakota.

The news concentrated on such stories as the public auction set up by the Commercial Club at which anyone can sell items without advertising; or that William Kulp rented the Drake Hotel; or what to do if tuberculosis strikes your family.

Then spring was a sudden March visitor. Ed Borchert and A. Ally left for Harvey to get two loads of flour for the store before roads broke up. City fathers announced Drake homes would not lack for cream and butter even if the creamery didn't operate since Curtis Speers, C.E. Larson and C.J. Olstad were all delivering milk. And 15 ardent baseball players met in A.J. Ingalls office to signify "their intention of sliding bases and throwing curves to the delight of fans and lady enthusiasts of Drake," the paper announced. Slim Noble was elected captain, Gust Sitz manager.

The Balfour degree team, M.W.A., came to Drake to initiate 18 Drake members; 50 Woodmen were present and "they must have a good time as they did not finish with the last candidate until 7 this morning," the paper said.

Metcalf Bros. and Parker received a carload of horses but two had to be shot after a train "making a flying switch bumped into several cars of wheat and they knocked out one end of the car with the horses." Jacob Roth of Algona, Wis., was in town transacting business; someone had 200 bushels of clean rye seed for 50 cents a bushel; and Leonard Jacobson and Albert Erickson arrived from Minnesota to erect the new telephone line here.

The Dan Morrises bought the building known as Beall's restaurant to conduct a short-order restaurant, confectionary, bakery and ice cream parlor. The Merchants State Bank built a vault with the newest burglar proof safe; the company even offered \$2,000 to anyone who can blow it in under 17 hours! E.E. Dunn arrived to work in the bank; Lee Crowell, whom

succeeds, was given a bachelor shower before he went to take a claim at Ruso.

The IOOF organized March 30 with six charter members, L.Ginther, B.B. Bennett, T.E. Sleight, A.A. Page and George Cook, and 40 candidates. The Commercial Club worked on arrangements for opening a road to Brush Lake, "an ideal visiting spot in the summer."

The baseballers met with the Commercial Club, too, and Ginther succeeded Gust Sitz as manager and uniforms were chosen. The ball team earned \$55 at a basket social and dance at the Morris Hotel.

By mid-April, C.J. Olstad was in the field; C.L. Thoms and A.J. Ingalls were building homes; and there were two lumberyards in town, Sleights, bought later that month by Bovey-Shute chain, and the new Rogers Company with a new 20 by 130-foot shed and office. George Boom of Round Lake, having purchased a well-drilling machine from William Senechal, was ready for business and guaranteed an adequate water supply.

Drake won a walk-away from Anamoose with John Spain pitching and Dunn catching. Anamoose quit at the end of the seventh inning when Drake made another score, making it 10 to 6. Work on the diamond a quarter mile southeast of town was completed. Drake won a second game from Anamoose 17-13 but Fessenden broke their streak, 13-9.

A small snow storm May 1 didn't last long enough to hurt corn 3 inches high and Aultman and Taylor Machinery Co., one of the oldest and best threshing machine firms, announced they were locating a branch house in Drake.

C.L. Lee was put in charge of the Morris bakery and Morrises served free ice cream on Saturday to celebrate the arrival of their soda fountain. Charles Boylen of Velve succeeded A.R. Mollison as station agent and the home

talent show to benefit the baseball team, featuring Frank Harvey's Buck and Wing dance, was such a hit it traveled to Butte to repeat the performance.

The telephone men, waiting for those poles, built a 12 by 16-foot building for the telephone exchange. Jacobson said three rural lines north and one south would be built this summer. Finally at the end of May the poles came. Farmers Mutual Telephone Co. organized in Lake George and Strege Townships. A.W. Carlson was named president Martin Olson secretary and Ole B. Olson treasurer. The phones, which cost each individual \$45 plus \$2 a year to run the exchange would be completed by harvest.

August Stierming, Osborne-McMillan Elevator Co. agent here, announced a 5,000-bushel annex would be built that summer and dedication services were set for June 9 at the German Baptist Church six miles north, on the Beutler settlement, with state missionary Rev. Harmon preaching the morning service in German and Rev. Paul of Martin and Rev. Wahl giving English afternoon and evening sermons. A free dinner and supper were enjoyed, with a collection made for the new church.

But as far as the papers was concerned, those were sidelights: Baseball was the big news: The Drake wins over the Balfour Colts, 12 to 4 with Friedlein pitching; over Anamoose 6 to 3; the Drake kids over the Balfour juveniles 20-16.

One of the most prideful pieces in May read: "Wasn't it a shame? Such a business. Well, I do declare. The score was only 16 to 14, not worth mentioning, but the fact remains we beat them. The Drake 'aggravation' of twirlers took Train 108 Sunday morning for Fessenden. A goodly bunch of fans, among them many ladies, accompanied the team and arriving at Fessenden took possession of the Corner Hotel for the day."

The Soo, which had said it would make an unscheduled

High Drifts Welcomed Mrs. Nord

The reception Mrs. Ingliel C. E. Nord got in North Dakota was hardly reassuring! In her reminiscences in the 1952 jubilee edition of the paper she recalled a cold storm winter in 1901, with drifts high as the house in March.

She and Mr. Nord came to Audubon, Minn., in 1901 from Oslo, Norway. That fall he worked at a sawmill in Bemidji while she spent the winter with A. C. Andersons, distant relatives, 10 miles west of Anamoose. Mr. Nord arrived March 20 and he filed on land north of Andersons, only three forties since the rest was taken up.

With the help of G. O. Iversons, who also came from Audubon, they put up a large one-room sod house and barn. The house had a wood floor, whitewashed walls and was light and warm.

It was too risky to drive 10 miles to Anamoose for fuel so they burned flax straw in a tin heater and cow chips in the cook stove.

"Did I ever have a time learning how to cook and bake the American way," Mrs. Nord recalled. "My first loaf cake was a complete failure; I used a heaping tablespoon of soda and

it raised all over the place. My first loaf of bread would have killed a mule and my husband refused to eat 'that mess,' my first head cheese."

In 1902 they heard Herman Drake was giving a townsite seven miles north of us, welcome news! And A. C. Anderson donated a lot for the first school house.

The little community, called New Audubon, faced many difficulties. With no roads or signs they sometimes wandered for hours on the prairie before they found their way home. Blizzards and prairie fires were their worst enemies.

But they "plugged along and were quite contented caring for our babies and homes," Mrs. Nord recalled. She insisted the Nord's had the most babies but Iversons the best-looking and joked she almost kidnapped Gladys Iverson, now Mrs. Henning Rossebo, once, by accident.

Through the years changes came: the telephone line, mail route, the New Audubon Church in the Nord School, with faithful Pastor Fladager willing to drive 18 miles from Skogmo regardless of bad roads and stormy weather.

stop at Drake if 30 tickets were sold, jammed in 70 baseballers and fans.

"The visitors first showed marked superiority over Fessenden's lads. But the strain from being up all night commenced to tell and by many errors the boys let Fessenden bat them it made the game look rather sick for Drake fans. The last two innings showed the boys up in right style for they bunched in five runs and held Fessenden down for a single, making the finals 16 to 14 for Drake."

Pride goeth before a fall, however; the May 31 paper had a headline saying, "Drake loses to Balfour by a score of 7 to 8 in a hard luck game on a windy day."



Otto Buelows making soap. (Bill Buelow)

Drake Telegram Gives View of 1908

The IOOF was planning a masquerade ball, Arthur Burke, editor of the Drake Telegram, reported in January, 1908. J.W. Gifford was the new manager of the West Hotel; W.D. Hoffman ran the "Cash Store"; A.C. Wagner returned as depot agent; and Burke and Peterson ran the Star Dray Line.

Illness suddenly made headlines. Peter Merbach's home was quarantined for scarlet fever by the town

board, John Feland, Will Merbach and H.A. McCarty. Merbachs lost two sons, Peter, 4, and Walter, 8, and little Carl, age 3, was very ill. Robert Strege's baby had scarlet fever, too.

A terrible fire struck the city in January. The Telegram reported the \$35,000 blaze began at the Drake Mercantile, then burned the Sleigh building to the north. Hamers and Sons butcher shop, with its uninsured \$600 contents, was next to go, followed by Redding's traveling photo car and, a particular loss in these days of illness, Bennett's drug store.

Steel siding on the Home Bakery just 12 feet north saved that, though it had to be kept wet with blankets through the night. The Drake Hotel across the street caught fire three times and Koehler's house more than a block away once began to blaze, but they were saved.

Metcalf and Sons store was scorched and the big window cracked, but the awning was let down and kept wet, which saved the establishment.

The Drake Mercantile owners immediately announced they would rebuild in cement blocks. In the February 1907 issue Ginther of the Drake Mercantile said the building would be a 50 by 80-foot two story brick structure.

Restaurant Extraordinary

Mrs. Pat Tully, then Mrs. Hegge, came to Drake in 1908 with her husband and children and began to operate the Hegge Restaurant. The two-story building stood between the present Empress Cafe and the hotel. The restaurant, feeding crews building the round house and the Fordville line, was operated by Heggess, their daughters Pearl and Irene and a hired girl, at one time Nellie Hanenberg Rauw. Those crews added up to 200 or 300 at every meal! Mrs. Tully says she baked 30 or 35 pies daily and made 50 gallons of soup. She baked everything but the bread and a full meal with pie or cake cost 25 cents. The restaurant was sold in 1914 and later the building burned.

(Drake Register July 17, 1952)

E.E. Crowell took over the Drake Telegram that month.

M.B. Lytle was elected manager and C. Shanahan assistant manager at the baseball meeting held at the Palace Cafe; the team included Merriman, Sampson, Lytle, Freidlein the pitcher, McKean, Schaeffer, Woodward, Blood, Rupert, Herman, Verstagen and F. Smith.

The second floor of the Morris City Bakery was cut up to use as hotel rooms in response to an urgent need for housing. On the lighter side, the editor noted in February 1908, "Martha Martwick was up from Anamoose Monday. Her broken arm is all right but her heart is in danger."

In March, T.E. Sleigh announced he was running for Sheriff; the people of Drake turned out to build sidewalks to the depot on a fine Saturday and Rev. N.G. Nehlen arrived to preach Sunday morning in Norwegian.

The Drake Southwestern Telephone Co. organized and elected William Vettle president, Anderson, secretary, and Seneberg treasurer. Their line, which had 19 phones, ran nine miles southwest.

Their neighbors followed suit: The Drake Northeastern Telephone Co., with 14 phones out four miles east and four miles north, elected Curtis Speers president, Herman Sherlock secretary, and William Senechal treasurer.

The village also elected new officers: H.L. Forney, W.D. Hoffman, Peter Riba, trustees; E.O. Merriman, clerk; W.O. Sampson, treasurer; E.R. Freeman, assessor; T.E. Sleight, justice of peace; and John Darringer, marshal.

The village board immediately ordered the "blind piggers" to quit business.

Sleight sold the drug store to young Ginther who said he would start a harness and hardware store.

In April 1908, W.A. Sauressig and W.D. and C.F. Frankhauser opened a mercantile store, buying W.D. Hoffman's stock, and C.J. Shanahan bought the Drake Hotel.

John Jacobson was building a pair of houses, John Beutler's seven miles north cost \$1,600 and Carl Olstad's near town for \$1,200.

Not everyone worked all the time, of course. The Rachel Rebekah Lodge No. 59 was instituted with Mrs. Anna Sleight as Noble Grand; and Drake beat Anamoose 7 to 6 in the first game. Legering and Dalman were putting a bowling alley in their place. In May the Morris Hotel put a croquet ground between the restaurant and pool hall for those who preferred participation sports; spectators could go watch Drake beat Fessenden 24-3 at baseball.

Rain and snow for two days late that spring had trains stuck and raised havoc with baseball, but the team stayed in shape to beat Towner 7 to 1 and 5 to 3 in a doubleheader. The Lutheran Ladies Aid had a necktie social and Rev. F. Zumusch began holding Catholic services in Drake the third Sunday of each month.

June was a headliner month in 1908: the West Hotel put in cement sidewalks; the road south of town was being graded; Curt Speers' barn burned; and M.B. Lytle sold the Drake Elevator to J. Johnson. Advice was given on how to grow strawberries, "now considered practicable in N.D. by ND Ag College."

That was nothing, however, compared to Peter Riba buying a "Richmond automobile car" and T.E. Sleight buying an "International automobile holding four, propelled by a 15-horsepower engine!"

After beating Minot 7 to 1, the baseball team went into a slump. One explanation offered by the editor in June was "the team lost to Towner 5-0 after putting in a strenuous time with the Boston Bloomers and attending a dance." The editor noted the men beat the Bloomers, who were women, of course, 6 to 0. They didn't say who won the dance.

In July the Wintering bridge got new pilings; the team beat McClusky 3 to 1; B.B. Bennett bought a Brush runabout, a single cylinder six-horsepower engine described as "a great hill-climber." Alfalfa was introduced to the state.

On July 27 harvest began in 1908. Sleight, who bought a threshing rig, began on barley that day.

In town work began on a brick addition to the First State Bank, and Shanahan, who was running both hotels, was putting gas lights in the west one. A good future was predicted for the new town of Kief, which had received 20 applications for elevator sites.

A.H. Buelow, planning a 35-foot addition to the bank, also got a gas engine to pump his new 176-foot well.

Harvest, as always in North Dakota, was the big news that fall: Carlson Brothers tried out their new rig, threshing their own grain first; Ole B. Olson bought a new Advance separator and G.O. Iverson a new Avery separator.

Leo Sendelbach reported 21 bushel wheat; S. Schnabel's durum put a scare out— it ran 15 to 18 bushels to the acre but was poor quality and smutty. The wheat averaged 14 bushels an acre in 1908, heavy grain on short straw. Martin Olson had one 27-bushel field with a 20-bushel average.

Farm land was changing hands, too, after a harvest like that— Robert Jefferson sold a half section to Robert Thoms for \$6,400 and Charley Gerber sold his farm to William Knuth for \$4,500.

The winds of change were sweeping across the country. Orville Wright made another flight on Sept. 4, this one four minutes and 15 seconds, approaching 35 miles an hour and 30 feet off the ground.

The Congregationalists in Anamoose were thinking of calling a woman pastor!

And a 100-foot coal vein 200 feet deep was found north of Balfour, the Telegram reported, "worth millions."

Most people were more interested, however, in the November storm that snowed in the rural route and the city dads investment in \$3,000 worth of fire protection: a Waterous gas fire engine, hose cart, hook and ladder wagon. The brick engine house would be built to house the apparatus, worth \$1,950 by itself!

The fire-fighting equipment didn't come in time to prevent one tragedy: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ives lost their home and two young daughters in a fire.

Not all the news was bad. The last issues of 1908 announced the Bushels of Fun Club was organized; a five-story brick hotel was being discussed; and T.E. Sleight hauled 600 tons of ice to two ice-houses from Brush Lake in just eight days.

Tuberculosis was a hazard for cattle as well as humans: 43 head were slaughtered on the advice of state experts at Grand Forks. The experts also advised more tree planting for the state, with \$100,000 appropriated for a station at Mandan.

One bit of major news at Drake was William Senechal's decision to "run an auto livery and handle autos next season," the Telegram announced. Senechal was not discouraged by the fact that Postmaster Leslie has smashed up his automobile in a grand finale to the year.

The year 1909 opened with some amazing predictions by Thomas A. Edison: that we would see concrete homes, electric railroads, aerial navigation and "talking pictures."

That was one of the years that diphtheria and scarlet fever took their toll; that Franz Haldeman came over from Balfour to organize a band; and that an earthquake centered at Helena, Mont., sent tremors this far east.

Dan Peterson was a hero in the Drake fire in February, according to the Balfour Messenger. He climbed up the side of the elevator just north of the depot and kept a spray of water to prevent its burning, despite intense heat.

"With hard wheat at \$1.10 and macaroni \$1, a fellow wouldn't mind having a little to sell, eh?" the paper asked.

Sheriff Kramer went to Drake to pick up a four-passenger Buick that summer and we were told McHenry County had shipped out 517 cars of wheat in 1908. But it was dry in July, too dry to keep the plow in the ground. In August there was a bad hail storm, which cleared an area five miles wide near Drake. But John Scheer threshed 160 acres that went 17 bushels an acre. (Later reports listed 12 to 14 bushel as an average.) A Balfour man's crop on fallow went 24 bushels an acre!

It was a late fall with no frost yet in October, and there was concern about grasshoppers in 1910. That fall the Great Northern bought the Henry Beutler farm five miles north of Drake for some mysterious purpose.

Continued on page 126.



Among the families pictured in this group was that of John Gagne who came to the U.S. in 1839 and homesteaded in Lake George Township. Among those pictured are Mary Gagne Weninger, Katherine Gagne Klein, great-grandfather George Gagne, great-grandmother Elizabeth Singer Gagne, grandpa John Gagne, grandma Theresa Erssman Gagne, two of grandpa's brothers, Ben and Benjamin Gagne, John Gagne, Lowell Schiele, Matt Schiele, Carl Gagne and John Sheers. Taken John Gagne farm July 4, 1908. (Bennie Gachne)

In Dad's Day

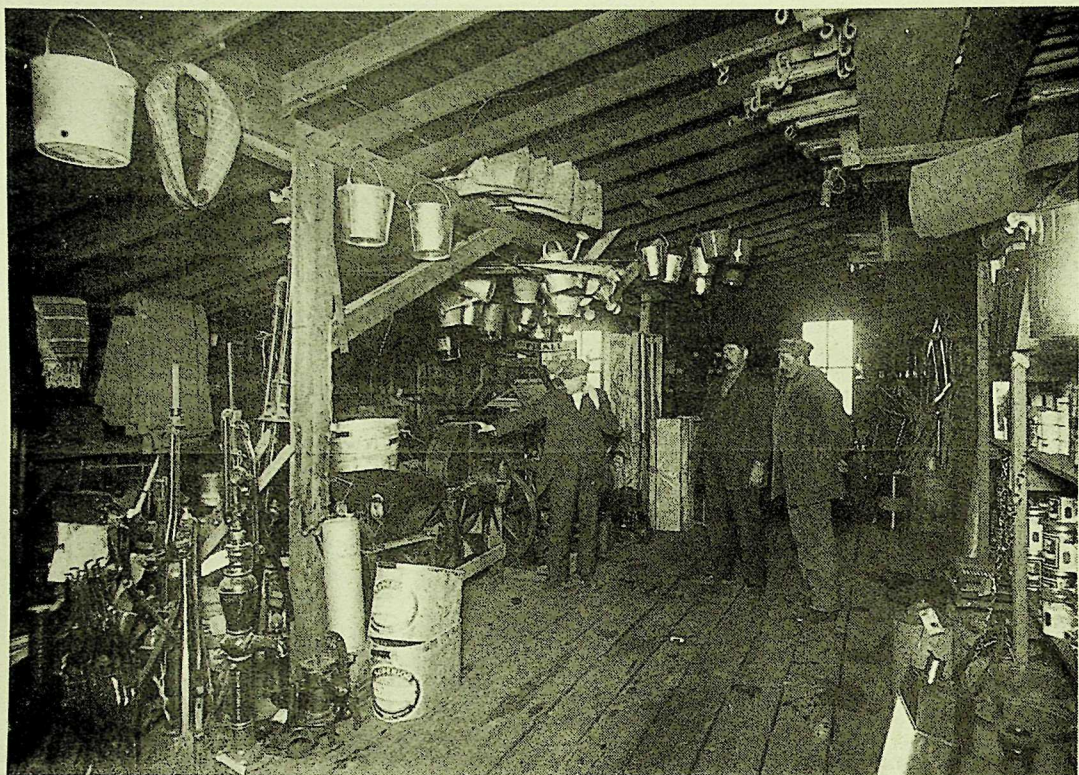
The parents of one contributor were typical of many of the pioneers. Frances Kloehn wrote about the Frank Lettengarvers.

"During my Dad's lifetime, he never drove a car; he never learned the art. He did not own a tractor; everything was done by six steady horses. He never lived to see TV; in his day the only luxury was a hand-crank phonograph, treadle sewing machine and hand-turned cream separator. Sad irons were heated on the cookstove for that job and the washing machine was a hand-crank model.

"It was common for neighbors to trade horses and horse traders would wander through the country. Today's talk of who had the best car had not yet come; neighbors would bet which horse could out-run or out-pull another. It was the age of the "surrey with the fringe on top"—and the old-fashioned buggy or a spring wagon. There was many a run-away with horses and many an accident. In 1940 yet, Drake had 30 to 40 teams of horses, with every kind of horse-drawn equipment including buses with tops.

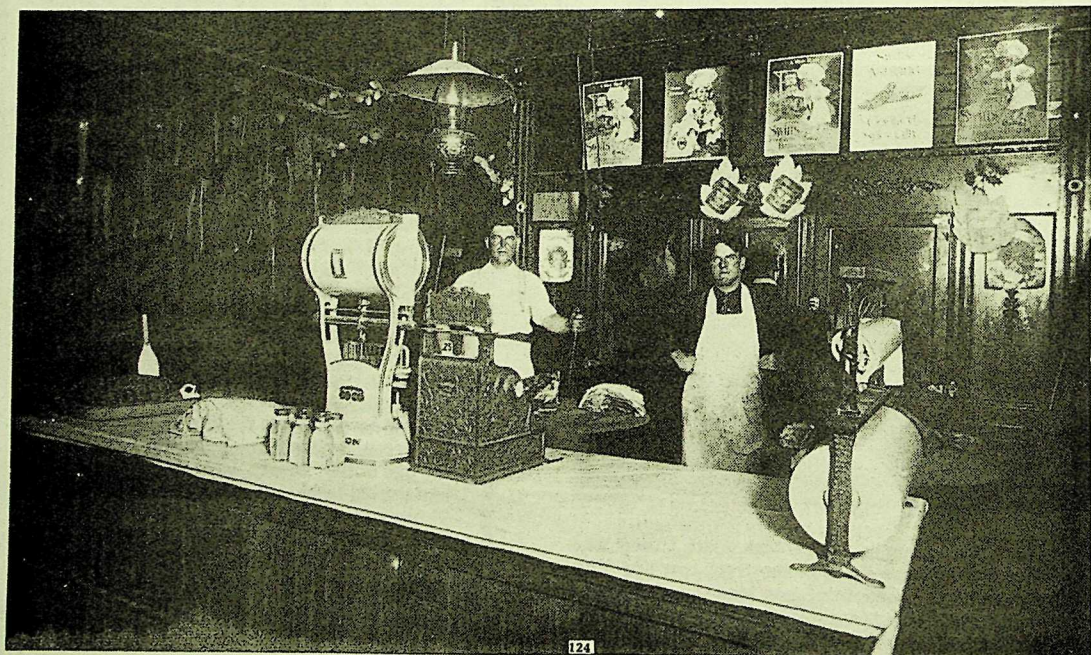


Basketball stars of an early era. Mrs. Math Paulus who owns the picture says those in the front row are Miss Forsythe and Amanda Nieberle, now Mrs. O.A. Johnson of St. Paul, and back row, Margaret Nieberle, later Mrs. Ben Magnuson, Olga Riba and Hazel Metcalf.



In Schrader's store. (Wally Schrader)

William Merbach, left, about 1911 in the market. (Ed Merbach)





The circus came to Drake, 1909. (Harold Harris)

A customer, Henry Schrader, the owner, and employe Pete Merbach in the store, 1915. (Wally Schrader)



The Fire Demon gets three more buildings: Started in empty Hoffman building

"Drake's new fire engine is a hoodoo. Ship it back quick. Drake got along very well without it for a year, having but two small fires but since the engine was received two fires have taken place and both were bad ones. First it was the Soo Depot loaded with freight and now it's three business houses and in both cases the fire engine was not given a pleasant look.

"It's a brand new fire engine and appears to be a \$1,200 ornament. There is no one in town able to run it and the company has failed to send anyone here to teach them how and it begins to look like a good deal of a fake.

"With Drake's new fire engine safely ensconced in a building nearby, a fire dared to break out in the unoccupied Hoffman building recently purchased of B.B. Bennett by Ellingson. The fire was discovered by Dave Keyes and another young man just as they stepped out of the hotel across the street. It was smoking good then. Keyes sent his partner to warn T.E. Sleight.

"Sleight owned the big building just north of the burning building which was doing a thrifty butcher business. The adjoining building was a long pool room and bowling alley.

"Sleight burst in the front door of the burning building and a Mr. Patrick went upstairs in the back, dark room and saw the fire burning along the top of the wall under the eaves. The heavy smoke blinded him and he shut the door and returned. It was thought that it could not be put out.

"Everybody then commenced to tote stuff out of the pool room and the butcher shop, and the

contents of these two places were saved. The burning building was vacant.

"The fire crept steadily on and cleaned out the middle building first. The fiercest heat was on the furniture building 50 feet south of the fire. Here five sacks of flour were used and a lot of quilts and blankets which were kept wet but caught fire just the same. At one time the furniture building was abandoned but the effort to save it was renewed and with success.

"North of the meat market was the brick building of the First State Bank, just 25 feet away. Nevertheless it was favored and the place that looked to be certain to be the most dangerous got out of it easily. There was a huge drift of snow on the roof and this was spread around and strange to say did not melt readily. When water was poured on the rubberoid roofing it would run right off; taking the cue from this condition, snow was carried up instead of water and the roof was soon covered. Shingles that came dropping down like so many smoking little devils met a cold reception and gave up their life.

"The meat market and hall building was the largest and was formerly used for a hotel.

"While the individuals all lost by the fire, the town is the gainer. The buildings were perched up three feet from the sidewalk and were veritable fire traps. They will someday be replaced by brick or cement block buildings down on level with the sidewalk."

— The Bergen Review
Feb. 25, 1909

In 1910 there was a great deal of activity but very little of it got into files to which we had access.

That was the year that saw a 60-horse outfit unloaded at Drake at the end of April as the Foley Brothers firm started to build the branch line east. The Bismarck train would run from Bismarck to Devils Lake.

The Soo was to cross the Great Northern survey an estimated eight miles east of Drake and be the earlier of the two lines to be built.

There were 28 surveyors working out of Drake on the Drake to Devils Lake line. The Soo had another crew working from the Devils Lake end, thus assuring Drake it would be a division point.

The First National Bank of Drake changed its name to the Farmers State Bank, according to a legal ad signed by cashier Mary C. Buelow.

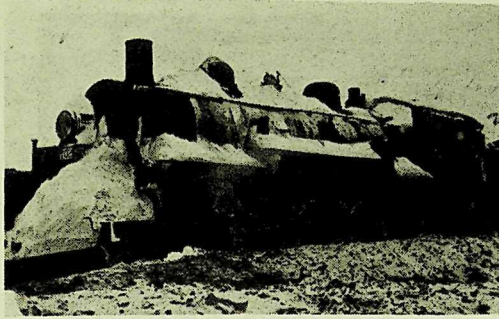
Things didn't look so hot for the farmers. A late April blizzard had damaged some crops. They were reported taking wheat out of elevators and hauling it to their farms

to save for the next year's seed, since "present crops are too puny to make good seed."

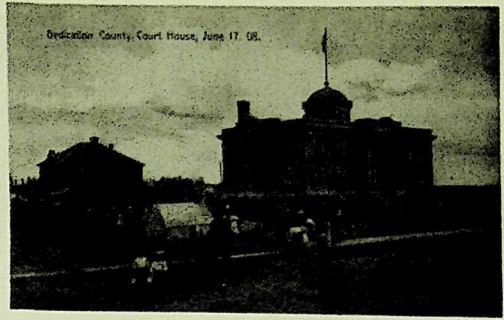
This was the year everyone, including Editor Sperry from Drake, went to Velva on the Fourth of July to hear Gov. Burke; watch Drake's team beat Balfour 7 to 4 for a \$100 purse; and most of all, to see a dirigible. The Velva Journal estimates on crowds varied from four to seven thousand, but it was a mob.

Iron ore was found at Brush Lake and E.R. Freeman of Drake went to Velva to buy a Ford from L.C. Stearns. That was the year Northwestern College opened in Velva, offering advanced education to Drake kids, closer to home.

But there were very poor crops across the state with the McHenry County yields among the worst. People here hoped they would get seed back. Hay was scarce, too, and the agriculture college at Fargo told farmers oats and barley could be cut green for feed; even wheat and corn could be used as fodder.



Results of a snow storm seen by the Soo, 1908. (Harold Harris)



Dedication of McHenry County Courthouse, June 17, 1908. (Harold Harris)

March of 1911 was a busy month, with J.H. Miller elected president of the newly re-organized Commercial Club. That was the spring the state school of agriculture decided rhubarb or pieplant could be grown in North Dakota; the state and county law confiscated 34 gaming machines worth \$3,000 in Drake; H.D. Odegard took a

patent on a new kind of tug-hook; and there was talk of a new bank organizing.

The census showed Drake was thriving with 348 citizens. There were 115 people living in Strege Township and 128 in Spring Grove. The prosperity brought the A.H. Buelow family Buelowville, Mont. Additional help was asked at the Drake depot; and the citizens organized a gun club.

By June Drake had twice beaten the Anamoose baseballers but Towner had the apparent lead for the county championship.

The Merchants Bank installed a triple time lock on a fancy new safe. McHenry County land was valued at \$4.02 an acre, compared to \$3.80 for Ward County, \$4.10 for Pierce, \$3.30 for McLean and \$7.52 for the leader, Cass County. Farmers offered a \$175 reward for apprehension of chicken thieves.

By October work was being rushed on the Fordville Line; in November typhoid fever became a common threat; the Drake elevators had handled over 60,000 bushels of grain with threshing only half done. A snow storm on Nov. 24 put much grain under snow and some thought it would be spring before threshing was finished. A warm-up let most finish, however.

In December Drake teacher Pearl Merriman was robbed and scared half out of her wits when she returned to her home to find a man there. She ran screaming for help but when she returned he, and her jewelry, had disappeared. The George Seibold home, south of town, burned Christmas Day while they were dining with neighbors.

The year 1912 opened with lots of meeting activity: the congregationalists had a revival meeting which was a great success; a series of 19 farmers' institutes, similar to today's county agent meetings, were hosted by Drake; and the Farmers Club organized and elected A.C. Anderson, president; Curt Speers, vice president; C.J. Olstad, secretary; and Frank Kaufman, treasurer.

The Soo Line moved the railroad shop from Harvey to Drake in February of 1912 and predicted the Drake-Fordville line would be completed that year.

Politics was a major interest in 1912 with the Drake News editor deciding to remain independent in the Roosevelt-Taft-LaFollette presidential campaign. Editor Sperry did, however, support F.P. Pratt, Drake school superintendent for three years, in his race for the county superintendent post against four other candidates.

O.A. Refling burned his face and hands while trying to light a fire; States Attorney C.D. Donnelly had a fire, too—the slot machines and other gaming devices confiscated a year earlier were burned at the Drake dump.

Labor Laws Protect...

"The dinky arrived in Drake from Bismarck Saturday evening about 9:45. An hour was then consumed by the train crew and division superintendent sparring over the 16-hour law passed by congress and which both trainmen and railroad officials dread.

"When the train arrived at Drake they received their clearance but Conductor Pike wanted a message from the superintendent ordering him to go to Minot. The train dispatcher informed him that they lost 3 hours and 20 minutes when they were struck in a snow drift and that they could use that time to go to Minot on, that the snow storm was an act of God over which the railway company had no control, and that it was in nature of a washout.

"Pike answered he didn't think God had much to do with it and he wanted orders if they wanted him to go on to Minot. Supt. Baxter wired Pike to use the time lost in the snowdrift to get to Minot in. The engineer then butted in and sent a message to Baxter to give them orders to go to Minot irrespective of the 16-hour law and they would to. Baxter wired back to use the time lost in the snowdrift and the company would protect them. The engineer wired for the superintendent to give them orders to go to Minot or send a watchman up on 107; if he failed to so that, he would kill engine N. 36.

"The superintendent could not see the way clear to give the order. So the watchman was emphatically called for and word was sent up that a watchman would be sent up on 107. The dinky then went to sleep."

— Bergen Review
Feb. 25, 1909



Mrs. Raymond Kemper's class in 1916, clockwise starting with Mrs. Kemper, included Edna Schaefer, Paul Kennedy, Leonard Sendelbach, ?, Dorothy Engel, Dorothy Otterholm, Elsie Merbach, ?, ?, John Dahl, ?, Frank Coffin, Boyd Sitz, Clarence Beutler, Wayne Saueressig, Earl Peterson, ?, Godfrey Ruff, Edmund Fortman, Bill Merbach, Alfred Bakken, and Clarice Peerboom. (Alfred Bakken)

Sleight and William Beutler formed a partnership for the Guthrie Hardware Store; Rudolph and Lohrke, Balfour lawyers, opened an office in Drake; and a huge 40-car load of Case machinery went through Drake.

As promised, rail started going in on the Fordville branch by June 15, with predictions of completion in three weeks.

John Haldi, eight miles northwest, lost his barn and hay and oats in a blaze that began in a chicken coop built against the side of the barn.

Drake lost a baseball game to Towner, 14 to 3, but the Drake Creamery equaled the state record with a state test score of 94.

A jury ruled foul play in the July 12 death of a laborer named Jacob Getz who worked as a waiter in one of the camps on the new Soo Line; he was murdered and then tossed in front of a train. His killer apparently escaped detection.

The North Dakota Better Farming Association was campaigning for planting of alfalfa and for diversified farming, a theme much used during the years of hard times. Even electricity on farms was being discussed!

Snow halted threshing in early October in 1912 but it was resumed a bit later. Willie Tinker had an estimated potato crop of 4,000 bushels but he lacked help; school children were out Saturday working.

In November Engineer Ellis and a porter were badly injured when No. 151 went through an open switch and hit the Drake-Devils Lake freight. The freight engine was badly wrecked but the flyer engine, being heavier, escaped relatively unscathed.

In December the round house foundation was completed; it would accommodate four engines and could be enlarged. T.E. Sleight won the Soo Line trophy for the best cream at his Drake Creamery. The Elevator at the new town of Aylmer on the Great Northern Line five miles northeast of Anamoose was destroyed by fire. Seeley M. Bennett was married by Rev. Ratch of the Congregational church to Anna Talbott, Saueressig's sister, and W.J. Schauble of Pierce, Minn., was in Drake to look over the situation for building a flour mill.

That was another hard winter. By February 1913 there was no hard coal in town.

Two freights met in head-on collision in a blizzard in February. Then it appeared the depot was burning so the fire bell was rung; the whistle rope on one engine caught in the wreckage and that rang for half an hour, so the town was noisy. In the bustle, however, the Drake Fire Department discovered it didn't have enough hose to protect the depot so the Soo promptly dispatched an additional 600 feet of hose.

An explosion, fortunately not followed by a serious fire, prompted local stories that natural gas had been found—B.B. Bennett held a burning match over an unused well in the rear end of the hardware store he owned with Will Beutler. Both men were burned about the hands and face in the explosion that followed.

Spring was late in 1913 and then dry.

In June a passenger train was put on the completed Fordville line; Thomas Berry of Velva bought the Morris Cafe though Mrs. Morris kept the boarding house; and two inches of rain came June 22 just in time to save the crops



Miss Plate's class, photographed during 1914-1915, included Daris Drake, Olina Sendelbach, Ruth Jones, Clementine Miller, John McLaughlin, Hildgard Riba, Ted Nehrenberg, Neil Peterson, Julius Dahlman, Joe Fritz, Leonard Sendelbach, Ed Merbach, Norma Shink, Daisy Smiley, Sarah Nehrenberg, John Dahlman, Irene Fritz, A Zimmerman, a Gimble, Ralph Beutler, Alice Erickson, Pete Scott, Eugene Hargrave, Opie Leder, a Murray, Eldon Johnson.

Mr. Tinker

"The pioneers were a hard-working breed with dreams of improvement, lust for land which meant security to them, men of ambition in the prime of life.

"Mr. Tinker was such a pioneer and his dream was potatoes. He was the 'Potato King' from 1910 to 1936. He started with a few potatoes, a team of stubborn mules and the love of the earth

"He planted apples, plums and evergreens along with potatoes. He made home-made windmills, and he usually employed Indian families, who came by wagon train from the Turtle Mountains with tents, dogs and children, to hand pick potatoes in the fields.

"Mr. Tinker had a 1920 Model-T Ford with the push-back, collapsable top. He put down the top, side curtains and all— he wanted to 'see out' and would not be caught dead enclosed in one of these 'death-defying' machines speeding down the road at a terrifying 20 miles an hour, hanging onto the steering wheel for dear life.

"Mr. Tinker, trying to pay help with potatoes selling at 50 cents a hundred, came to mind three years ago when we paid 20 times that much!"

— Frances Kloehn

after a three-week drouth. There was hope of a 12-bushel yield.

Mattie, the 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Len Hamers who farmed 10 miles northeast, was badly cut on the leg by the mower sickle while making hay; he stepped up to fix a broken breast strap, the horses lunged and he was hurt.

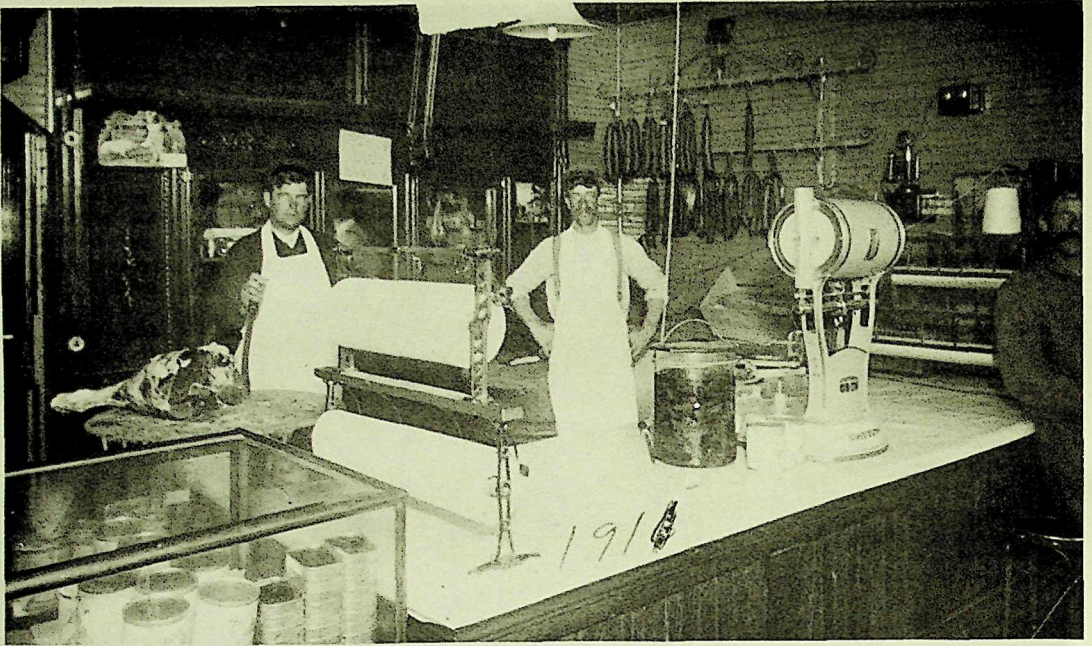
In a special election in August Drake citizens voted to bond the village for \$4,500 and pay its debts; the proposition passed by a 12-vote margin.

States Attorney Ulsrud and Deputy Sheriffs Wik and Green closed three Drake business places on charges of gambling and bootlegging, with one offender getting \$50 and 30 days and another six months in the pen. Bootlegging was especially profitable then because of all the harvest hands in the area.

The law was tough in those days: Lotta Wilson, the Round Lake lady game warden, charged two men with shooting prairie chickens out of season. They were fined \$25 each and the chief warden said she was worth two of some of his deputies.

There were other honors due in Drake that year: working to have the school classified as a third class high school in 1913, the system was praised by the county superintendent as "very well equipped and grounds among, if not the most, attractive in the county— Mr. Sleight gets the 'blame' for this."

And the Towner paper said, "A mistake by Uncle Sam robbed the Schatz family of two winners in the boys' acre yield contest. Clarence Schatz produced 96-bushels of corn on one acre, but the entry blank of 12-year-old Adam never reached the office. His yield, 95 bushels, if good for second place, and a special prize will be awarded."



Henry Schrader, center, and his employe, Pete Merbach, chat with a customer. (Wally Schrader)

No one was hurt when a defective switch caused a pair of coaches to tip at Max.

George E. Todd of Minot submitted a bid to have electric lights in Drake by July 1, 1913, but, alas, that was premature, and H.O. Melland of Morris, Minn., was the latest considering a flour mill.

Farming remained the last word in 1913: the county agent was introducing the new Marquis seed wheat, available at \$1.25 a bushel, and suggesting sheep as "the latest thing."

Nineteen-fourteen got off to an inauspicious start with rumors the Soo was pulling fast trains 150 and 151 off the line because they had been losing money for some time. The Soo would still run six trains daily.

Two Russian emigrants bound for Canada were attacked by two thugs with revolvers in the Drake railroad yards. The frightened foreigners ran to town "yelling at the top of their lungs." The would-be robbers fled toward Anamoose but the posse of Drake citizens didn't catch them.

Burglars plundered the homes of Sleights, P.A. Beath and D.W. Hume; and two-year-old son of Dan Senechals broke his leg.

Not all the news was bad. Attorney T.D. Morrow of McClusky rented an office in the Senechal building and planned a permanent move here. It was believed an "electric road" (line) would be established between Drake and Towner; and Dr. G.H. Coffin moved to Drake from Dogden (Butte).

There was some talk about establishing a new county by dividing McHenry into north and south units as it is naturally divided by a range of sand hills. However arguments about who would pay bills now owed by the county diminished ardor on that plan, though the Towner editor implied Drake had delusions of being a county seat town.

By April 1914 there were predictions many new homes were to be built in the city, good news for G.J. Prchal, the new manager of the Bovey-Shute lumberyard. (Leonard Jacobson of Mohall was the new Drake telephone system manager.)

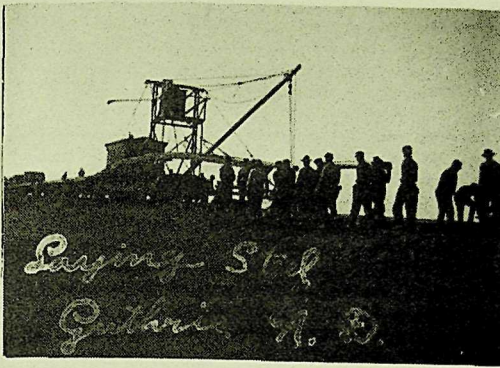
Sure enough: S.M. Bennetts, Eugene Sperry and George Seibold were building houses and Sperry also was building a new home for the Drake News.

The firemen got waterproof hats and coats; Sleight bought the Catholic church furniture and loaned it permanently to the Congregationalists; and T.J. McLaughlin opened the Drake Bakery. Emil Schnabel, breaking up the Bennett farm, was using a 60-horsepower tractor hauling 10 14-inch plows and turning over 25 acres a day!

The editor scolded the people of Drake in May that they must provide a ball ground if they wanted to see games. He won; and T.E. Sleight was named team manager in June. T.D. Thorson came to Drake to be auditor for his father's banks; he bought the Sleight house. (His father was honored in June to be among Gov. Hanna's party en route to Norway.)

The railroad unloaded 175,000 ties for the Plaza extension and the town was full of laborers. "Never were so many trees planted in Drake as this spring," The News exclaimed.

Another meeting was held to consider forming a creamery; Christ Fandrich's barn burned; Louis Stroebel returned after trying life a while at Harlem, Mont.; and the farmers' picnic was held in June at Kaufman's grove. Kids and firecrackers caused a minor blaze at Hougens's store. Bennetts big \$3,000 Welch-Packard car burned at Lake George. They were picnicking with Hougens; B.B. cranked her up to start home; it backfired—good-bye, Packard.



Laying steel at Guthrie. (Dale McCarty)

The county voted not to levy funds for a farm expert (county agent) of their very own, with all that good information coming out of the ag school. (Drake was given the good news that watermelons can be grown here.)

William Merbach again bought the Drake Meat Market; Frank Peerboom rented his blacksmith shop to R.R. Schnable and his Ford agency to Olaf Refling and Frank moved to Balfour to run the engine on their flour mill.

In August 1914 the Soo bought 80 acres south of Drake for a nursery and lightning struck Mrs. Thomas Bakken's barn which burned. (Some Drake citizens devoutly wished the same bolt would strike members of the Women's Suffrage League which was stirring up a controversy.)

McHenry County had 3,695 homes, 2,374 of them on farms in 1914. The farms averaged 382 acres each and their average value with machinery and livestock was \$13,109. But with big sales, such as the quarter from Carlson Brothers to William Hass for \$4,000 or a 40-acre tract near town sold for \$1,750 in October, that figure was quickly out-dated.

In town the Morris Hotel addition was nearly complete; Fred Albrecht took over the West Hotel; and the vote coming up on the poor farm stirred controversy. The rumor the Soo might take off 107 and 108, reducing Drake to "rotten" service with just two passenger trains a day, stirred anger.

Probably readers were just as interested in the story about Martin Olson's Ford skidding into the ditch and overturning when he tried to pass a team on a narrow road north of Drake. Martin and his brother Ole B. ended up underneath, but John Fieland and another passenger in the back who were thrown clear lifted the car off them—no injuries incurred.

Henry Frandson boasted about his 12 acres of corn that went 35 bushels but even prouder were the young winners of the Grange potato contest: Tyler Anderson, first prize, \$5; Francis Whittaker, second, \$4; Clayton Kemper, third, \$3; Florence Kemper, fourth, \$2. Among the honorable mentions who got \$1 were Melrud Wright, Peter Ficker and Harry Harris.

Henry Buelow and Willie Hass were among the corn contest winners.

In November 1914, war news was making headlines, but readers still wanted to know that the tango was the big dance; that L.L. Metcalf was back after three years in Canada; that North Dakota banks were strong and collections of debts easy here. Readers were assured

Guthrie Special School Teachers

- 1913-14 Rose H. Springer
Aurra H. Forberg
Florence Hageman
- 1915-16 Georgia Blankenship
Josephine Liddy
Vern E. Martin
- 1917-18 Hazel E. Warren
Mrs. F.B. Benedict
Mavis Rolland
- 1918-19 W.M. Olney
Hazel Hamand
- 1919-20 Helen Monagin
Glady L. Tweet
- 1921-22 Dorothy Phillip
Hope Shafer
Lyla Hoffine
- 1925-26 Pauline Halldorson
Flora Brieu
- 1926-27 Lillian O. Lund
Everett E. Monagin
John H. Moore
- 1927-28 Elizabeth Meland
Lillian Lund
- 1928-29 G.R. Shelby
Alice Slynester
- 1929-30 Florence Phillips
Alice Slynester
- 1930-31 Mary Payne Hanson
thru 34 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bell
- 1934-35 Ingbold Johnson
Aurelia Paulus
Blanche Pemble
- 1935-36-37 Elsie R. Finke
Sophie M. Neilson
- 1937-38 Angelette G. Bakken
- 1938-39 Mrs. A.G. Roe
Hazel Strege
Mrs. Gerald Adamson
Mrs. Martin Berndt
Nordis Loken
Ethel Sitz
Emma Haldi
Mrs. Paul Kohlman

Drake would soon have its electric light plant, delays notwithstanding.

In December they learned George Olson was opening a barber shop and pool hall in the Stiehm building; that the Commercial Club was interested in establishing a city band again; that O.A. Refling and Rosa Drake were married; and that the Soo promised to resume running 150 and 151 in January.

Some changes in 1915 were comparatively minor: D.W. Hume bought Herman Drake's store; A.Abrahamson opened a jewelry store; many businessmen decided to close at 6:30 p.m. till April 1; and the Commercial Club started its farmers' institute series. But other changes were major: the "juice was turned on in Drake Business places and will be extended to the residential district in



Threshing. (Walter Olstad)

the spring," the paper said.

And the United Evangelical Church was dedicated early in January.

And Emil Laack and Al Busher will start a feed mill.

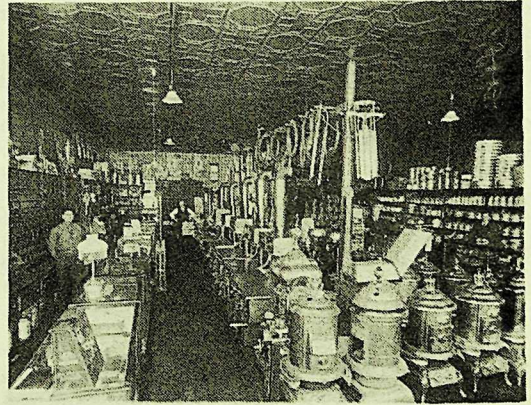
In February the Commercial Club donated \$65 for the band's bass horn and bass drum. Rev. T.W. Bradley, revivalist holding meetings in Drake, praised the city but complained about pool halls not closing on Sundays. And rumors flew that the Soo ordered the Drake elevators to be moved to make room for a new side track to be used by branch trains.

The year 1915 saw Will Beutler opening the second hardware store in Drake in the Laack building and Mrs. Olson opening a bakery and restaurant. John Dallman sold his dray line to O.C. Romine and bought and merged two harness shops; Riba sold the pool hall to Just and Moe of Granite Falls, Minn.; and W.R. Duncan again was Drake school principal with an enrollment of 184. Wheat was selling at \$1.42 a bushel, flax at \$1.72; and barley at 65 cents.

In March, Jacobson sold the telephone exchange to Northern Telephone at Minot. A basket social brought the Drake band \$150; Brush Lake was stocked with croppies and the Soo Nursery work was underway. Frank Peerboom announced he would erect a 50 by 70-foot fireproof garage.

That was the year T.E. Slight shipped his threshing rig to Plaza area; the Soo offered a \$5 round-trip fare from Minneapolis to get harvest help to this area; Henry Thorson sold the theatre to Ibling and Reiter of Martin; and the Beutler Bros. blacksmith shop was damaged and three automobiles lost in a fire.

The Drake News published a booster edition listing a dentist, doctor, lawyer, two banks, theatres, livery barn and 24 other businesses. The Commercial Club ended the year discussing the possibilities of bonding to put in a city water system and incorporating the village into a city.



Beutlers Hardware, 1914. (Gary Bettcher)

"Drake is no longer a village but a city," the Drake News, published by Eugene W. Sperry, trumpeted in January 1916. By a vote of 36 to 24 voters the city form of government was adopted in a small vote. Twenty days thereafter voters were to elect a set of officers to put the new form of government into operation.

Jack Anton leased the West Hotel that January. C.H. Koehler and Art Mewis accompanied Einar Nelson to Montana where Einar was shopping for a homestead.

Jimmy McKay bought the Pastime Barbershop from H. Gulbo. J.J. Reider was managing the Gem Theater. The ads were interesting, too: C.H. Burch was selling rubbers and ladies coats; W.F. Senechal's real estate firm



Drake Flickertails about 1915. (Gust Janavaras)

had a "nice home for \$475" with only part needed in cash; William Beutler had Majestic ranges and dishes and silverware; while the "Big Store" owned by Sauressigs had apples from \$1.25 to \$1.75 a box.

Oscar Schilling was Drake's new postmaster, succeeding C.H. Burch who had held the job four years. Banker S.B. Bagne reported on his State Bank of Guthrie; Ed Hohman was painting the inside of his pool hall; and Beutler Brothers announced they had installed a new Oxy-Acetylene welding machine.

For the ladies, McCall's magazine was advertising subscriptions for 50 cents a year, and of course a free pattern was thrown in. The Harmony Club entertained husbands at whist; Rebekahs installed officers. The Helping Hand League met with Mrs. D.W. Hume.

It was 46 degrees below zero in Schiller Township in January, but the News thought things were going to get hotter. "Tonight's dance should prove exceptionally interesting," the editor said, "for Rev. Walsh has promised, so it is said, to be present."

Ads told us E.M. Phifer and O.E. Romine ran competing dray lines; J.M. Hamer Jr. was auctioneer; A.R. Hohman opened a jewelry store in the Busy Bee building; and Fred Buttman announced the City Lunch Room would have a full line of short orders and candies.

William McNamera got \$600 for 40 hogs and a local boy, Walter Olstad, who won the pork producing contest,

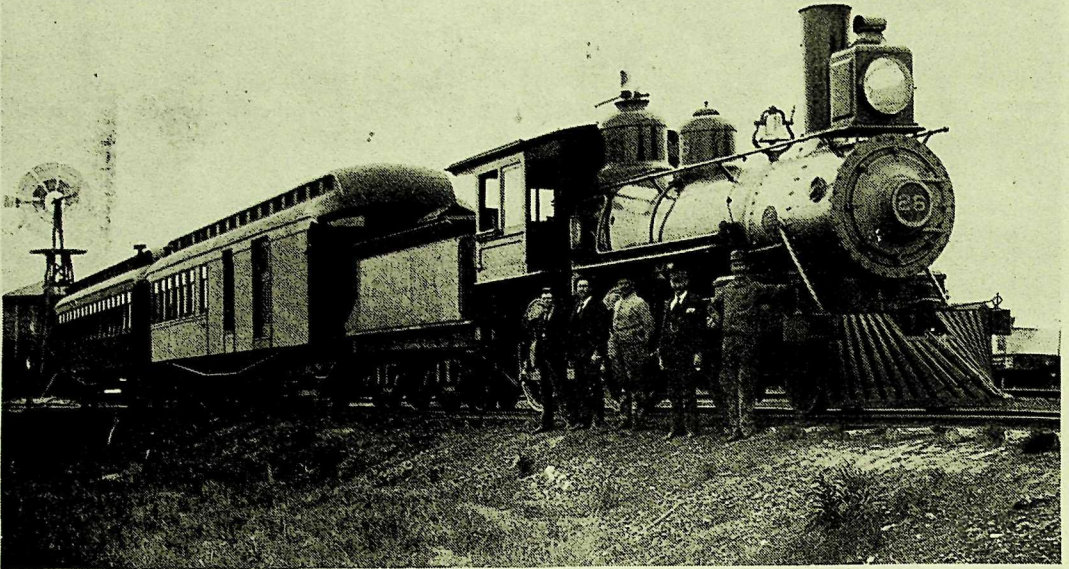
received congratulations from the Ward County ag agent, W.A. Peck.

T.E. Sleight bought out A.J. Ingall's interest in the creamery and took over the company that ran the Drake Electric Company. He planned to operate the firms together, running it with a 24-horse steam tractor.

The News explained, "Sleight will leave Sunday for Minneapolis to buy a new engine and boiler for the light plant. The steam tractor now doing duty is far from being satisfactory, the chief trouble being the amount of water it consumes, requiring in the neighborhood of about 70 barrels every 24 hours and as the well will produce only half that amount, the balance has to be hauled in a tank, a very disagreeable task when the thermometer registers 30 below as it has every day so far this week. The new outfit will consist of an 80-horse boiler and a 75-horse engine."

Weather continued to make news, with six inches of snow falling overnight Jan. 29; and people in towns along the Drake-Fordville line blocked in by snow more than 10 days. One report said, "the last train leaving here last week managed to get as far as Silva where it was stalled for more than a week. To make matters worse, the section crew at that point, when ordered to shovel the train out, threw down their shovels and went south for a greener field." (More than two weeks after it left the "Moonlight Limited" got back.)

Continued page 136.



A fine looking locomotive. (Harold Harris)

Schiller Township history

by Lawrence Reinowski

Schiller Township has an almost central location in North Dakota. It consists of rolling prairie which was covered with buffalo grass and wild prairie flowers. The soil is a deep rich loam in the south and west and a light sandy loam in the extreme northeast. There are no big lakes but several sloughs which were filled with water when the early pioneers came, but are now dry.

This used to be a hunting ground for Indians as we have found buffalo bones and Indian relics.

The first settlers, who came in the summer of 1898, were of German descent and came from Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa. As there were no trees they built rude tar-paper shacks.

The county seat was at Towner, a distance of 30 miles. They drove to Towner with horse and buggy, following a trail through the sand hills. They watched a big hill, Bald Butte, so they would not lose their way.

Early settlers were Jacob Rieder who came in August 1898, Anton Reinowski who came in October 1898, August Lueck and Cornelius Roufa, both in 1899. The first child born within the boundaries of the township was Valentine Rieder, born May 10, 1903.

The first school was built on the southwest quarter of section 27, a one-room frame building. The first teacher was Anna Hess. In 1919 two

modern consolidated schools were built, one at Funston and the other three miles south in Section 28. A community hall named Schiller hall, built in 1905, was used for community gatherings and entertainment. It was destroyed by fire in 1936.

In the township we have two German-Lutheran churches. One was built in 1901 in Norfolk, destroyed by fire, but in 1926 another one was moved from Guthrie to the same location. Rev. Herle was the first minister.

Two railroads cross in the central part of Schiller Township, the Drake-Portal branch of the Soo line and the Surrey cut-off of the Great Northern. Norfolk, consisting of an elevator and a depot, is on the GN and Funston, slightly bigger, is on the Soo.

In 1906 a rural free delivery mail route was established from Anamoose; Louis Keihle was the carrier. A telephone line was built out from Anamoose in 1908.

In March 1904 the township was organized and named Roosevelt Township but in 1908 by a popular vote of the people, the name was changed to Schiller.

The first election was held in School No. 1 on March 8, 1904. Officers elected were supervisors Ed Olson, C. Stair and A. Rosener; clerk Herman Lueck and treasurer George Krueger.

When the settlers came they broke up the land with breaking plows, planting spring wheat and flax. In 1900 we had a dröuth, in 1905 and 1915 bumper wheat crops. Crops were generally good and people prospered. By 1910 the township was well settled. As the land became less productive

Continued page 135



Farmer's picnic, 1912, at Peter Johnson's Grove. (Harold Harris)

from continual wheat farming, the people turned to diversified farming.

Some early winters were very severe but there has never been a shortage of food and seldom a shortage of feed for livestock. In the early years some crops were destroyed by grasshoppers. In later years drouths have brought some hard times to our farmers. Gophers are always troublesome but we control them by trapping, poisoning and shooting them.

Most of our settlers own their own farms of one-half to one section. The homes are well-built and well-kept with large groves, silos and barns indicating dairy cows are raised here.

One place of special interest is Home Sweet Home Park on land owned by Emil Spletstozer. He has developed a beautifully landscaped garden with evergreens of many varieties, willows, native trees, fruit trees, berry bushes, flowering shrubs and flowers of every kind. An avenue of purple lilacs and a rose arbor, picnic benches and entertainment spots make this a favorite spot.

A Second Opinion

By Jeanette Werner

(To indicate the problems historians face, we include portions of a second Schiller Township history which seem at odds with parts of Lawrence Reinowski's account preceeding. Both are from the Drake Register in June, 1938.—Editor)

The first settler in the township was Norman Lueck. He came in 1897. Some of the early

settlers built clay houses while others built theirs of logs from the nearby sandhills. Some clay houses are still being used but are somewhat modernized, having been sided and nicely furnished inside. Others are being used for woodsheds and chicken houses. Before wells were dug, slough water was used.

Some supplies were brought from Bismarck. The trip was made about twice a year. Later Anamoose, which consisted of a livery barn and general store, was started; then they went there for supplies. Some of the trips were made to Towner.

The first church was built in Section 33 in 1899. The minister was Rev. Tyler. The first mailman was Louis Kiehle starting out in 1905.

The township, named for Pres. Theodore Roosevelt in 1904 when it was organized, had its name changed because there was another Roosevelt Township. The name was named to Schiller after Schiller Hall which was named for a famous German poet; it burned Aug. 15, 1935. The first board of supervisors was William Zahnnow, Len Hamers, August Beise and Clerk Herman Lueck.

The Great Northern completed construction in 1913; the Norfolk elevator was built in 1912. The Soo started construction in 1911; Funston was started in 1912 and in 1913 a depot, store and elevator were completed. The agent was Fred Norton; John Hyatt was the first Funston section foreman.

In 1917, 1935 and 1936 there were grasshopper plagues; in 1908 there was a scarlet fever epidemic and in 1918 the flu was the pestilence. There was a severe drouth in 1904-1905; people had to drive their stock many miles for water.

The Farmers Non-Partisan League met at the Gem Theatre; Clarence Olson came home from Mayville to visit his parents, the Ole B. Olsons, and the state prohibited any North Dakota publications from advertising liquor.

Demon rum was making headlines closer to home however. "One of the hardest fights ever staged in the history of this town is now being fought between the forces of the church, ably assisted by almost all the businessmen, against the blind pig and gambling element. Rev. J.T. Walsh, who is conducting revival meetings here, is leading the church forces on to a glorious victory. The past record of the other party has become so offensive to people who are doing business here that they are fast being dethroned. Already abundant evidence has been secured which may lead to criminal prosecution of a number of men and something more than interesting is expected within the next week."

In the same issue city authorities offered a \$10 reward to anyone for giving evidence leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone selling booze or running a poker game.

The Drake paper was silent on the issue thereafter for some time. Finally in the July 7 issue we read: "The Anamoose Progress says, 'Drake has at last got her much needed cleansing up. According to the sheriff, booze has been pretty freely dispensed in the town in the past. It was considered that the time was about ripe for Drake to put on a clean shirt. For some time there has been a couple of detectives making that town their home for the purpose of obtaining evidence. It appears that the sleuths obtained all the evidence of a moist nature necessary for that purpose, and what was the consternation of the lawless element of that burg was when the sheriff accompanied by a deputy proceeded to take them in tow. Several parties were arrested but sufficient evidence against only two of them was obtained. The hearing for the two men was held before Justice Vettel and they were bound over to the next term of district court. Report has it that the speed used by the other violators in getting out of town exceeded the laws of the state.'

The Drake editor, Sperry, replied, "We have grave suspicions that the Progress editor is trying to make the public believe that this is really a tough town, and that it's the duty of some patriotic, peace-loving citizen to cut around Drake with a hayknife and let 'er disappear from view."

If the blind pig business was hampered, little else was. Drake voters agreed, 45 to 32, to double the size of the school building. The Mayor appointed and the council confirmed officers: W.H. Williams auditor; E.M. Phifer chief of police, T.C. Merriman fire chief and Dan Hamers assessor.

B.B. Bennett sold the Drake Hardware Co. stock, the implement business and his home to William and John Beutler, who consolidated that with Will's hardware stock. Will also traded his old hardware store to P.F. Riba for the opera house.

Bennett had bigger fish to fry. His auto ad noted the prices of iron and steel in his Buicks had gone up 20 per cent and tires up 10 per cent so he urged everyone to order their Buicks early for the present low prices, \$950 to \$1,485. (B.B. also sold Overlands.)

Saueressig was selling the new Grant six for \$795; H.A. Schrader invited folks in to see the new Studebaker; and Mrs. M.J. Morris, the only owner of the New Era car in the community, was lectured in print by the editor who doubted, with local dealers selling 12 makes of cars right in Drake, that she needed to go to Minot to buy an auto.

The economy of the state and region was of much interest in 1916 as now. An editorial proclaimed that

"No Time Left For Liberation"

"There was no women's lib movement in North Dakota in 1900. The women were determined, gentle, hardworking as their partners.

"In the early days they sewed their own clothes, crocheted, tatted, knit, made quilts and feather-ticks as well as men's shirts and undershirts with lace and ruffles. No Kleenex in those days either!

"Remember the 100- and 50- pound flour, sugar and salt sacks printed with 'Dakota Best', 'Best in the West,' or 'American'? That red and blue dye required soaking in lye water, boiling, bleaching, scrubbing and putting out on clean grass for the sun to bleach. The sacks became dish towels, pillow cases, quilts and undergarments— the strong cotton would stand for years of service.

"Groceries were put in paper sacks and tied with white string. The string was saved and tied in a ball until there was enough for doilies, bedspreads or tying quilts.

— Frances Kloehn

"Dakota wheat, owing to its richer gluten content, makes the best flour in the world. Mills should be built in the state to convert wheat to flour. With a farmer-controlled packing plant to prepare the meat and with our dairy products, North Dakota would advance in independence and prosperity."

Prosperity if not independence was increasing in Drake. Walter Stiehm was working at the roundhouse; H.A. Schrader remodeled his implement building to include hardware; Fred Buttman ordered a soda fountain for his lunch room; and D.W. Hume contemplated constructing a brick building between the drugstore and the West Hotel. A.R. Hohman remodeled the Busy Bee building to install a confectionary store and restaurant.

Mrs. Thomas Bakken was hauling lumber for a new 28-foot-square house; Lewis Burlot rented the Beutler building to open a general store; and Amil Schnabel succeeded A.J. Ingalls as night electrician at the light plant. The News didn't say who was in charge the night a connecting rod on the engine broke, plunging Drake into darkness on a Sunday evening.

The citizens of the growing city played as hard as they worked. The W.O.W. Lodge cleaned up \$38 at a Friday night dance. A school entertainment and basket social at the Schiller Hall by Roosevelt District schools 2 and 3, directed by Misses Floberg and Regge, cleared \$71. Another Friday night event in February, a masquerade, was a hit, with prizes given to Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Jones, representing the Drake News, Mrs. E.G. Gallic as George Washington and Darris Drake as a typical boy. And on St. Patrick's evening the Helping Hand League had a new gimmick at the Opera House: ladies were asked to bring a ball of sewn carpet rags (to become property of the

League) with their names in the center and a box lunch for two. Rag balls were sold to the highest bidder.

Good news came on St. Patrick's day.

"That Drake will have a hospital ready to receive patients within the next three weeks is almost a certainty. A suitable building has been selected and if citizens are interested in the proposition enough to contribute between \$500 and \$600, it will become a reality. Dr. Coffin has announced his willingness to furnish the building throughout at a cost of approximately \$2,000 but feels that the citizens should be sufficiently interested in the new institution to raise the money the pay a year's rent on the building. Most businessmen interviewed are willing to do what they can so there is little or no doubt that the necessary amount will be subscribed in a short time. Drake has long been in need of an institution of this kind, and it is hoped everyone will bury their little hatchet and help the movement along. A hospital will attract many outsiders to our city; no town is up-to-date without one."



Drake's Hospital. (Harold Harris)

The Velva Journal scooped the Drake paper with an interesting squib: "A gentleman from Minnesota met with the Drake Commercial Club last week and said he would put in a flour mill if the city would donate a site and \$2,000. Why finance the proposition for the man?"

Drake chose to ignore the insult to their business acumen. In April the News announced, "At a special meeting of the commercial club it was decided that, in order to keep abreast of the times, we should have a modern flour mill. Mr. Swietzeger, a practical mill man from Sanborn, Minn., who met with commercial club some time ago, was present and gave a description of the mill he would put up. When he first met with the club he asked for \$2,000 and a site; now he is willing to do business for \$1,000 less. The club looked with favor on his proposition and appointed a committee to get out and raise the \$1,000. In a few hours they raised most of the money while Herman Drake donated a site, across the street north of the creamery. So the long-looked-for mill will become a reality. Work on the same will commence just as soon as the frost is out of the ground."

Some sad news made page 1, too. Mrs. O.E. Olson took charge of the Palace Cafe and the Hegge family, which had operated the place "off and on the past several years, expect to leave in a month or two for Montana where they have a homestead."

And fire, probably from a defective chimney, destroyed the Frank Krueger home five miles northwest. The family awoke just in time to escape. H.A. McCarty, Pat Gallagher and H.D. Odegard helped them move a house from a nearby farm to the Krueger place.

John Eichhorn received a new International gas tractor early in March; Ole B. Olson was hauling material for a large barn; Herman Sherlock bought that building Beutler vacated; and Henry Shink accepted a night job at the roundhouse.

A.J. Ingalls took over management of the thoroughly renovated local ice cream factory; Pat Tully sold his interest in the Royal Cafe to A.R. Hohman; and S.S. Morrison, the new superintendent of schools, and his wife arrived from Wahpeton. Senechal Realty was paying \$2,500 to \$4,000 for good 160-acre farms three miles or less from town.

The Farmers State Bank was selling auto licenses and it was a good thing; Bennett received four carloads of autos, two of Buicks, one of Oaklands and one of Fords, and a few days later two more of Oaklands arrived, making 65 cars on hand for spring delivery.

Frank Peerboom received a shipment of Chalmers cars; Frank Kaufman and Matt Hamers each bought one; and the city set a 10 mile-per-hour limit in town.

By May, Postmaster Schilling had men excavating the basement for the new post office, to be constructed of brick, with living quarters for Schilling in the back. The baseballers organized, electing Ed Hohman manager. Martin, Ole and Christ Olson returned from Mayville where they attended the funeral of their mother.

Professor Hoverstad, Soo Line agricultural agent, invented the first successful tree planter; three men and a team can plant 20,000 trees a day. In hand planting, it was a good day's work for a man to set out 100 trees. Hoverstad was using his invention on the Soo nursery southwest of Drake.

Dr. Coffin went to Chicago to buy hospital equipment; O. Schlueter advertised for sale a twin-cylinder Harley Davidson motor cycle, good as new; McHenry County reported 197 motor vehicles; and the Drake Broadview Grange picnic was set for June 17, 1916, at Ole Lommen's five miles southwest, with auto and horse races and sports for young and old.

C.H. Burch opened a wholesale fruit and grocery house in Drake; the Soo promised to build a spur to the flour mill which would have a capacity of 125 barrels daily; and hundreds of gallons of ice cream was being shipped weekly to neighboring towns in all directions.

W.F. Senechal was offering 640 acres, 520 tillable, 3½ miles from town for \$4.50 an acre, \$1,000 cash and the balance at 6 per cent.

A bad storm over the July 4 weekend raised havoc in the area, warping Mrs. Tom Bakken's barn out of shape and moving it eight feet off the foundation; almost destroyed Otto Zahnow's barn; and cut into crowds at the grand celebration in Drake.

Yankee Robinson's circus was a thriller even though only about 1,000 people showed up. Rain also forced the Drake-Dogden game onto vacant lots north of the school as the regular diamond was a swamp. (Drake won, 5-3.)

A Chautauqua was held at the same time, with a talk by Gov. Hanna. That program was held at the Gem Theatre because the storm blew the tent down just as the evening performance was about to begin. (The wrestling match between Drake's Jack Collins and Gust Nelson of Aberdeen, S.D. was declared a draw after 30 minutes of wrestling without a fall.)

Later in July, reports of rust began to come from Grand Forks. Then black rust made its appearance near Drake and some predicted half a crop. The Drake-Fordville train derailed two cars; an east-bound freight was wrecked three miles west because the section crew was changing a rail when it came along; a large cattle shed and full granary on the Herman Stoeber place burned after being

struck by lightning, and George Olson's house started on fire after a lightning bolt hit it.

War news began showing up in the paper— there was difficulty getting newsprint and various officials urged enlistments.

The mixed feelings of many first-generation Americans in Drake was echoed in an editorial in August. New editor, Edwin J. Carlen said, "The trend of the war is as unpleasant now as at any time as a topic for discussion, because no matter which side it favors, it cuts deeply into the feelings of many people. No matter what happens it will not be proper to indulge in hurrahs in this country, where so many have come from the countries engaged in the war. Let us all give due consideration to the sentiments and feelings of each other."

Not all news was serious: Emil Sitz announced a dance at his new barn at the end of July; the Drake Band directed by Professor Williams was making rapid progress and raised \$40 at a concert and ice cream social.

Better facilities would soon be available. "Drake will soon have one of the largest and handsomest opera houses in this part of the country," The News proclaimed. "Everything will be built along modern lines and will be of sufficient size to meet the needs of the city for several years. T.E. Sleight and E.M. Phifer have the contract for excavating the basement. The new brick structure will be 48 by 90 feet, two stories with a full basement. The first floor will be used for the opera house with a stage 18 feet deep and 28 feet wide, a dressing room on each side. In the front there will be two rooms, 14 by 18, equipped with clothes closets and a ticket office, 12 by 14 feet.

"The upstairs will be used for lodge purposes and will contain a 30 by 46-foot lodge hall, 18 by 36-foot dining room, kitchen and china closet. Large double doors will connect the dining room and lodge hall. The basement will probably be used for club purposes and a gymnasium. The cost will be in the neighborhood of \$10,000 with Denbigh brick used throughout.

"Drake has been sadly in need of an opera house for some time and her acquisition of this commodious play house will be appreciated by people in general. The Odd Fellows of this city have taken the initiative in erecting this beautiful structure and enough funds have already been raised to warrant completion of the building."

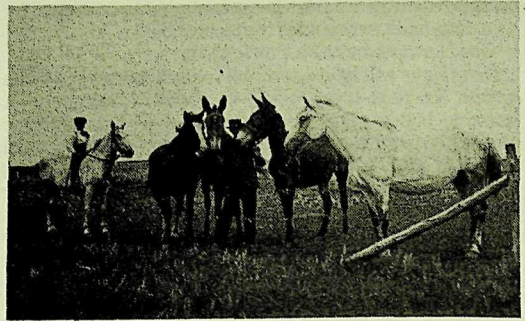
Things were looking great in this little city. The three-story mill was progressing; Al Gimse of Hastings, Minn., began remodeling the old post office for a jewelry store; and G.J. Nehrenberg was to take possession of the West Hotel.

G.L. Strenge, proprietor of the Drake Bakery, said business had grown by such leaps and bounds he was unable to attend to the baking alone, so he secured the services of Casper Schmalz, an expert baker from Minneapolis. Every town on the Plaza line is using Drake Bakery bread, some 500 to 800 loaves a day consuming two tons of flour each week.

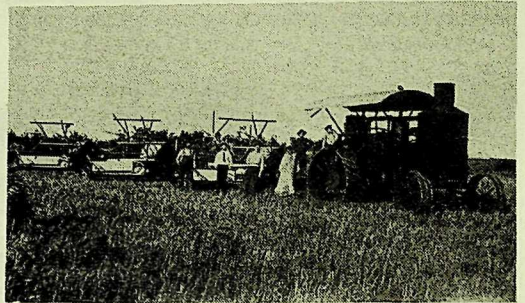
Fred Martwick was coming along fine with his new elevator on his farm west of town, a modern facility with a 9,000-bushel capacity equipped with scales and an enclosed driveway. H. Thorson also improved his farm southwest of town by adding a new house and barn.

The farm picture wasn't all rosy, of course. B.C. Buri was in town to adjust cyclone losses for Theo Sitz, Emil Traiser, Charles Van Eeckhout and W.F. Stiehm. The state ag college said plow under rusted wheat that won't be harvested. And the Society of Equity advised farmers to hold wheat till No. 3 Northern gets up to \$1.60 at terminals after a Dakota-Minnesota conference.

The first threshing returns in 1916 came from William Hublou's farm, a small piece of wheat considered a fair



Harry Harris and mules, 1912. (Harold Harris)



Harvest with Pete Johnson, 1915. (Harold Harris)

average of this year's stand which went six bushels to the acre. The wheat weighed 44 pounds and brought \$1.10 on the market. Rye threshed in that neighborhood went about 14 bushels.

One August issue was full of disasters: The Drake-Fordville train derailed two cars; an east-bound freight was wrecked three miles west because the section crew was changing a rail when it came along; lightning started a fire on George Olson's house, which was saved; and it also destroyed a large cattle shed and full granary on Herman Stoeber's place, which were destroyed.

The editor, however, was not dismayed. C.O. Caburn of New Rockford was in Drake, nosing around about prospects for an ice cream factory in the spring.

"Drake is going forward by leaps and bounds, and at the present time is the most talked of town in this part of the state. New business firms are coming up every week. The latest acquisition for the city is a cold storage plant, which is the stepping stone putting Drake to the front as a distributing point. A new company, C.H. Burch Fruit Co., has formed, capitalized at \$25,000 and incorporated. Directors are Burch, H. Thorson and H.O. Paulson.

"Plans are being made for the building to be located north of the mill and it is expected work of excavating for the basement will be in progress next week. The building, 30 by 46 feet, will be erected over a full basement. The basement will contain two 15 by 15-foot banana rooms and the first floor will also contain two 15 by 15-foot refrigerator rooms. The four rooms will be so arranged as to be cooled by an ammonia plant which will be installed next year. Ice will be used for cooling the balance of the season.

"The new company will do wholesale business in fruit, groceries, cigars, etc. With railroads reaching out in five directions and traversing a prosperous country, there will be an exceedingly bright future."



Drake School. (Harold Harris)

Midwestern farmers continued to grumble, however, feeling they were not getting their share of prosperity of the pie. Minnesota farmers were reported "going into the fold of the Farmers Non-Partisan League of N.D." but were expected to have a state league of their own by Dec. 1. A.C. Townley, president of the NPL of North Dakota, now in St. Paul, said League organizers were having much success.

Farmers at home were making news, too: Durum on the Thorson farm southwest of town averaged 16 bushels and rye about 10. Senechal's oats went better than 22 bushels and wheat just six to eight bushels, but the prices were good. A.H. Buelow sold his quarter a half mile north to J.M. Hamers for \$45 an acre and Curt Speers sold 40 acres adjoining the city to W.F. Senechal for \$40 an acre where Senechal planned to start a dairy and poultry farm! And August Kaibel began hauling lumber for a 32 by 64-foot barn, plus a lean-to for his farm 12 miles south.

Farmers were beginning to look over the seed wheat for the coming year. There were estimates good seed might cost \$2 a bushel and be scarce at that, so experts were guessing more corn and less wheat would be planted.

Henry Thorson, who re-opened the Gem Theatre, ordered a motor to attach to the moving picture machine. "Very few who attend the movies realize the unpleasantness of sitting at the machine and turning the crank to which the film rolls are attached for two solid hours," the editor reported. "The motor will do away with this task besides giving the machine a more steady motion." What progress!

W.H. Williams will supervise the West Hotel dining room which G.J. Nehrenberg took over from Jack Anton. The corner room was leased to George Behner for a two-chair barber shop.

School directors accepted William Fors' bid for the new school building, a frame structure 18 by 28 feet with 12-foot posts.

At the end of September, Soo officials were elated over the good quality and abundant flow of water at the new well near the round house. With a depth of 271 feet, the test pump gave 50 gallons a minute for 16 hours. On the strength of that, the Soo said six stalls would be added to the round house, giving it a capacity of 10 engines, with the Bismarck line track moved 25 feet south for several hundred feet to make room. A coal chute and turn table also were planned.

The Oak Street wholesale district was coming right along: Mill machinery installation was going rapidly with everything to be in place in three weeks; Contractor Vowels was rushing Burch's cold storage structure; the Soo was installing spurs to the cold storage plant and light plant; and negotiations were underway for improvements of the electric light plant. The overloaded plant would be entirely too small to handle needs of the new firms so a larger engine and dynamo were being considered. There was a rumor that alternating current was even being considered and that Drake might have 24-hour a day electric service by spring!

It was expected the ice cream factory and creamery would be re-established in the spring, too.

In October the Drake Mercantile Co., composed of E. Stoudt and A.P. Dahle of Minot, who bought the Hougen store, were adding new fixtures. The Thursday Evening Study Club, with 16 members, elected officers: Mrs. F.C. Schlueter, president, Mrs. E.L. Lampman, vice president; Mrs. T.D. Morrow, secretary and Mrs. J.H. Miller, treasurer.

"Those going to Minot should be very careful about drinking the city water," the editor warned. "The board of health has sent out notices, warning consumers not to drink water until further notice as it is not fit for drinking purposes. Minot is using a million gallons of water a day, while the plant has a capacity of treating chemically only 500,000 gallons daily. Until a change is made in the water system, Minot consumers will have to content themselves using river water—for bathing purposes."

In November electric signs, such as those at the Morris Hotel and the Battman and Behner barber shops, decorated main street. In December, the Drake Hardware was damaged by fire after the furnace exploded; C.H. Burch bought out the Berlot and Gilman Store; and the IOOF made plans for the opening of the new hall.

At the end of 1916, the Broadview Grange elected J.P. Kemper, master; H.A. McCarty, overseer; Mrs. McCarty, lecturer; Peter Ficker, steward; Mrs. A.C. Anderson, chaplain; A.C., treasurer; Henry Fransen, secretary; Walter Dugan, gatekeeper; Mrs. Frank Kaufman, Ceres; Rosina Kemper, Pomona; and Mrs. Goodlaxson, Flora.

Nineteen-seventeen opened with a tragedy: Samuel Zimmerman, car inspector, died after he was struck by a special freight moving through the Drake yard without headlights.

Eight carloads of material were unloaded in the yards with extensive improvements set for spring. The Palace Cafe was offering satisfying meals for 25 cents and owner T.L. Burns had just put up an electric sign! Henry Thorson, manager of the Gem, was reopening the movies with a four-reeler, "Diamond in the Sky" for the first offering.

Heimerdinger and Son of Paynesville, Minn., bought George Duley's interest in the Drake Milling and Grain Co. but H. Schwerdtfeger and John Dammann kept their shares; the new firm, incorporated for \$40,000, was to do general milling and grain business.

Senecal's orchestra rehearsed at the Frank Kaufman home; Rev. Kilian opened German school; between 70 and 100 citizens' voices organized a chorus with "Anchored" and "A Revel of Leaves" chosen for the first two pieces. Mr. Quast from Farmers State Bank, who had a fine education, was chosen to teach an evening school for young working people. After all, Drake's population was 750!

Editor Carlen installed a linotype machine and used it for momentous news: Gov. Lynn Frazier had signed the bill giving women the right to vote after July 1. There was plenty to vote on: bonding of \$7,700 for a sewer system and \$10,000 for water as well as the bond issue for the new school which also passed, by 53 to 19.

C.H. Burch was snowed in on the Fordville train near Orrin and rather than spend several days there, he walked to Drake. There was sentiment changing the car license fee to \$5 from the \$3 then charged since, with 60,000 machines in the state, that would generate \$300,000 for the good road fund.

Fire Chief G.J. Prchal apologized to fire department members for blowing the new whistle but he was ordered by the city council to test it. However until the whistle could be tested the old fire bell would continue to be the official fire call. Prchal didn't live to use the new whistle; he died when his car overturned later that spring.

The film, "Birth of a Nation," with 5,000 scenes, 3,000 horses and a \$500,000 price tag, was shown at the opera house Feb. 15, with comedienne Victoria Lynn booked in as the fifth lyceum number.

Dedication of that IOOF Hall was a fine affair: the \$3 banquet involved baked salmon with cream sauce; pork

and veal roasts, chicken salad and other assorted goodies.

Despite war clouds on the horizon, life continued as usual in Drake. "Farm machinery costs 40 per cent more than it did two years ago and some more than that," the editor groused. He also reported requests by branch lines for better train service, and did his best to explain something new that Germany, the U.S. and 11 other countries were trying: daylight savings time.

Fred Beutler had attended a North West Auto School seven-week electrical course in St. Paul to help diagnose troubles in automobiles. Mrs. Sleight was honored by the Birthday Club on her 51st, and A.P. Dahle and his bride were honored at a reception by the Bachelor's Club after he deserted their ranks.

Mrs. M. J. Morris was laying plans for a 50 to 70-room fireproof, brick hotel, three stories with a 40-foot front, just south of the Morris, now that sewer and water problems were being solved.

And the Drake Milling and Grain Company turned out the first batch of flour on March 25, 1917.

Rev. J. J. Gotheridge and his family moved into the Riba home as he began to serve the United Evangelical Church. The Drake Baseball team elected Ross Hewett captain and George Behner manager. William Haldi, Herb Senecal and John and Henry Beutler returned from an auto trip to Yellowstone National Park.

But the war news overshadowed all. The United States entered the war against Germany. Stacia Nieberle was

Lake George history by Elizabeth Voller

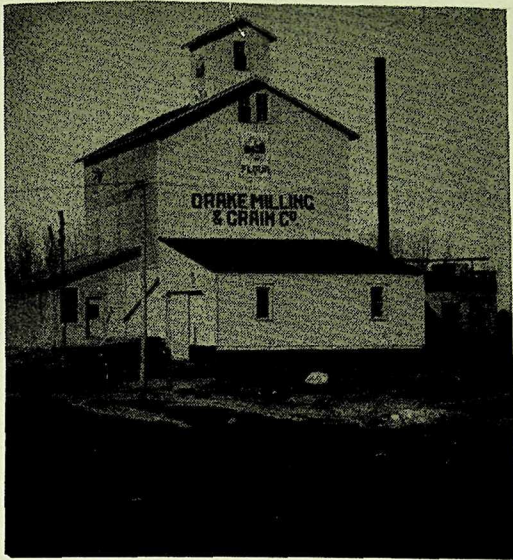
Lake George township was at one time a part of Brush Lake Township. It was organized as Lake George in about 1904 or 1905. The name Lake George was chosen on account of the lake by that name in the northeast corner of this township. The first board members were R.G. Wylie, clerk, L.J. Schuch, William Knuth Sr. and William Jones.

Lake George was the important land mark, being the important recreation spot for early settlers. It was noted far and wide for its excellent picnic grounds. One of the yearly gatherings was during the harvest moon, when the settlers had the big Corn Day celebration and the Norwegian Corn Day was celebrated. Fourth of July celebrations and picnics were held at Lake George. During the celebrations young and old enjoyed games, boating, swimming, bathing and danced.

The first school in the township was the Senecal school, built one mile south of a country store called Martha, located in the east center part of the township. Robert Graham Wylie was the first teacher and board members were Wylie, clerk, J.P. Senecal, treasurer; Charles Kriedeman, William Jones and Otto Buelow.

This school was the first place of worship and services were held by Rev. Dudley Howel. The first church built in the township was the English Lutheran Church in the middle of the township where it still stands.

Continued page 141.



Drake mill. (Chris Merbach)

appointed Navy recruiting agent, and Drake led McHenry County with 77 men registered for service.

The war news included those drafted; patriotic programs as send-offs for men leaving for service; letters from men at the camps; and organizing of the Red Cross. With many of the men gone, women were more active than ever in organizations: the Owl Club, the Harmony Club, Birthday Club, Thursday Evening Study Club all took up time and attention from other worries.

Of course the papers carried other news: "Sleight went to Velve and bought a truck and drove the machine back down that evening. It is a powerful machine capable of hauling about two tons at a load. It will be used in connection with the City Meat Market but has already proved valuable hauling ice and was sorely tested with two head of cattle weighing nearly 3,500 pounds."

B.B. Bennett sold 58 cars that spring, 3 Overlands, 2 Oakland and the rest Fords. The power-crazed community learned Sleight's Drake Electric Company had decided to leave power on till 9 a.m. Mondays for those with power washing-machines.

The Drake Band was reorganized with 12 members and that many more were expected. Fred Mollison was to be conductor, E.C. Jones, president and A.P. Dahle secretary-treasurer. The city had a new well that fall, 299 feet deep with 134 feet of water. Hume's new brick Model Clothing Store was about completed.

The first mail service was in 1905, a star route from Drake to Linusville, a store and post office two miles west of the township. This route took in the country post office and store at Martha. Mail was delivered twice a week. Mr. A. Mehlenbacher was the mail carrier on this route. In 1906 a mail route was established from Balfour; the first rural carrier was C. Hetle.

The early trading centers were Balfour, Anamoose and Towner.

Among the first people to file were John Bremmer in 1889; R.G. Wylie, Peter Randall, Emil Traiser, and Oscar Dennitz in 1900; and Mrs. Eva Mehlenbacher in 1901. The first white child born was Elsie Knuth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Knuth.

In the early years settlers recalled no particular shortage of fuel, food, feed for cattle or illness, no epidemics or pestilence, winters no more severe than they are now. The township was never bothered much with gophers until these later years, or with drouth or grasshoppers.

One exceptional incident was in 1905 when a three-year-old child was lost and Gottlieb Roth found him playing in the hills. He had a stick and was playing that he was riding horseback; evidently by playing he had wandered away from home. What made this incident interesting was that the parents were of Russian descent, unable to speak English, so they could not explain their distress to neighbors very well.

Early settlers found this township quickly growing, with a town, Rangeley, being started. The Great Northern Railroad built through the southern part of the township in 1901, and Highway No. 14 running north and south the entire length completed in 1927, a great

improvement. Number 14 joined U.S. 2 on the north and U.S. 52 on the south. Two mail routes operate in the township, Charlie Nehrenberg's going west from Balfour and Ruben Jacobson east of Drake. The telephone was built in 1906 from Balfour.

Settlers have seen growth from one school house to four, three replaced by modern buildings built in 1927, 1928 and 1929.

Mrs. A.H. Mehlenbacher (the former Eva Randall) taught in the northern part of Lake George Township in 1903 before it was organized as a township. She held school in her claim shack which was 12 by 8 feet. Home-made benches and desks were used for pupils and room was limited.

The enrollment was quite large, so when all the pupils came, which was not very often, it was necessary to send the younger ones home so that the older ones could get an education.

Lake George has always ranked second in McHenry County for its wealth. One of our latest developments was the great gold fever that swept this township and adjoining territory. The location for the experiment taking gold from sand was located about a mile south of the Midway country store on Highway 14. Machinery was imported from various cities and great preparations were made with large forces of men working day and night to make ready for taking out huge supplies of gold anticipated lying just a few feet under the surface of this great gold area. Pictures were taken, great crowds came to view the operations, and much excitement prevailed in the township and surrounding territory. We regret to say that the great gold rush in the north part of Lake George Township turned out to be a fiasco!

Drake Register, June 2, 1938

Barney Roher, who worked with the water works crew, died, accidentally when he was caught in the drive belt at the power plant, and itinerant painter D.C. Steward was killed in a brawl after a poker game; three men were charged.

The Drake National Farm Loan Association organized with W.F. Senechal as secretary-treasurer and over \$40,000 subscribed, to obtain loans for farmers.

The threshing rig of John Adams and Julius Blumhagen caught fire from a spark from the engine and the rig and eight stacks of wheat burned. The wheat was good quality in 1917 but running only one to 5 bushels an acre; hay was selling at \$15 a ton.

The year ended on a spectacular news now: The old school building burned Nov. 27, flames originating in the basement. No water to fight it was available when a casting on the engine broke but the new school, less than 100 feet away, was saved with a bucket brigade and fire extinguishers. New books were ordered and school reopened in the Evangelical Church and two floors of the opera house.

January of 1918 opened with all sorts of mechanical news: E.N. Phifer and his foreman, C.H. Koehler, unloaded three new boilers for the new school house. W.M. Williams had four radiators installed in the power plant engine room; with several motors installed there, the rate for motor power was reduced from 12 to 7 cents; 24-hour service was being promised to Drake. The Harland Harrow Attachment Co. decided to headquarter and assemble equipment at Beutler Blacksmith Shop after harrows had been cast at Fargo.

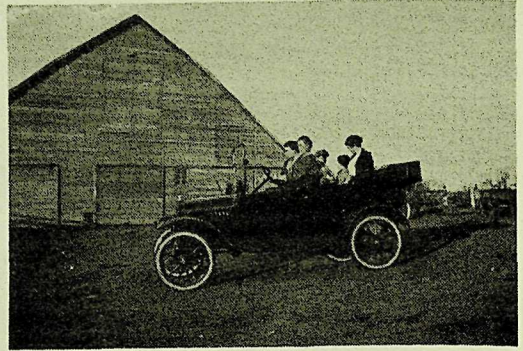
On Jan. 24, the excellent city water was on in full force, and homeowners who had had the connections made before freeze-up were enjoying it. The 10-horsepower motor arrived Saturday and given its first test late that day. "Since Monday, the pump has been on a steady go day and night and up to the hour of going to press, the tank is half full of water and half the mains are in operations," the News reported.

The 24-hour electric service was finally delivered, and the News noted the city had "nine power washing machines and 18 electric irons but most of them had been set aside, the housewives declaring that they were unable to use them when only depending on night service. Undoubtedly most of these have been put into use, judging from the steady increase in the use of 'juice.' In order to encourage the use of electric contrivances the city is in the position to furnish electric machinery at cost by placing the order with the city auditor."

Of course the war effort took up much attention: The Red Cross ladies met to knit for soldiers. Rationing was in effect— no meat on Tuesday, no pork on Saturday, no wheat on Wednesday. The ag college home ec department came out with tested recipes using oatmeal, cornmeal and other substitutes. The Thursday evening study club cleared \$25 for the UMCA with the newest in entertainment— car races; and the IOOF and Harmony Club each had card parties to raise money for the YMCA, while the Broadview Grange gave a dinner to benefit the Y at the Commercial Hotel— 50 cents a plate.

Drafted boys honored with speeches included Lloyd McQuay, Knute Anderson, Frank Johnson, Walter Nienow, Dr. W.W. Coe in April and in May Alfred Saueressig, William Johnson, Henry Nussbaum, William Drake, Andrew Schill and Fred Berndt. In May letters from the trenches included Henry Johnson, John Weigelt and Fred Roth. The long list of McHenry County men called up carried the names of Leopold Krueger, Michael Ficker, Albert Trulson, LeRoy Belzer and Wilber Graham.

The war took its toll. David D. Nehrenberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. G.J. Nehrenberg, was killed in action in France



Bentleys' first car. (Harold Harris)

May 2, the first to volunteer the summer before and the first county boy to die in action. He was 21. Forest Hume also died in France and Henry Johnson and Edward Selvog were wounded.

Not all the news happened overseas, of course. The Nehrenberg house, in which the Behner family was living, was destroyed by fire. The Drake school team won its first game over Anamoose with Fred Nehrenberg pitching, Harry Merbach making a homer and Hegge a double. The Drake Equity Exchange was organized at the Grange Hall and elected as directors Pete Johnson, chairman, H.A. McCarty, H.R.W. Bentley, John Kemper and Matt Hamers. J.W.R.J. DeLa formerly of the Balfour Messenger, bought E.J. Carlen's Drake News and Rev. J.C. Leek came to serve the Drake Congregational Church. W.D. Hume had a closing-out sale at the Model Clothing Store.

The Drake school band gave an open air concert, directed by Fred Mollison with cornet solos by Peter Ficker and Alfred Saueressig. The News raved: "The bass is a puddin' for A.P. Dahle, a musical wonder. He can blow through the tuba from either end or the middle and make its discourse sweet music in seven dialects. Johnny Saueressig can tickle the most sombre baritone in the world and make it cut up like a kitten with syrup between its toes. Peter Anton, first to come and last to leave with his young associate Edwin Merbach, can fairly make the alto talk and make the listeners think of that Sunday evening in the summertime back in the woods when that only girl was at the church waiting for you to take her home and you couldn't on account of that boil you had on the back of your neck. The sliding trombone is the foundation of the band and here is where Andrew Ewert, Owen Drake and director Mollison stand like the Rock of Gibraltar. They can slide that trombone so gracefully and unanimously and harmoniously that they make the earth tremble, windows rattle and cause flies to keel over and die. Roy Hegge and Dan Jarus, two drummer boys, can drum back into our memory the days of Lexington where the boys of '76 Yankee Doodled the reds out of the British uniforms for the first time." Whew! Walter Leigh and others also came in for a measure of praise.

The summer dwindled away in that war year with the North Side Knitting Club giving an ice cream sociable Aug. 31 in the Guthrie Baptist Church basement to benefit the Red Cross; with Drake businessmen helping shock grain; and with Mrs. Tom Bakken's 40 acres of wheat making almost 18 bushels, Sleight's rye 12 bushels and Willaim McNamara's barley 70.



The Drake Concert Band was directed by Professor Williams in 1915 when this photo was taken. Both Gust Janavaras and Walter Leigh had copies of this fine photo, which includes Martin Monson on the bass; Walter Leigh, clarinet; Hank Muss, saxophone; Forest Hume, clarinet; Fay Seeger, bass; George Muss, snare drum; Tycho Weigelt, bass drum; alto: Pete Anton, Darris Drake, Hank Nehrenberg, Ernie Phifer; Ed Larson, baritone; and Alfred Saueressig, Owen Drake, Jim Janavaras, Bill Drake, Charles Drake, coronet.



Walter N. Leigh in World War I uniform. (Walter Leigh)

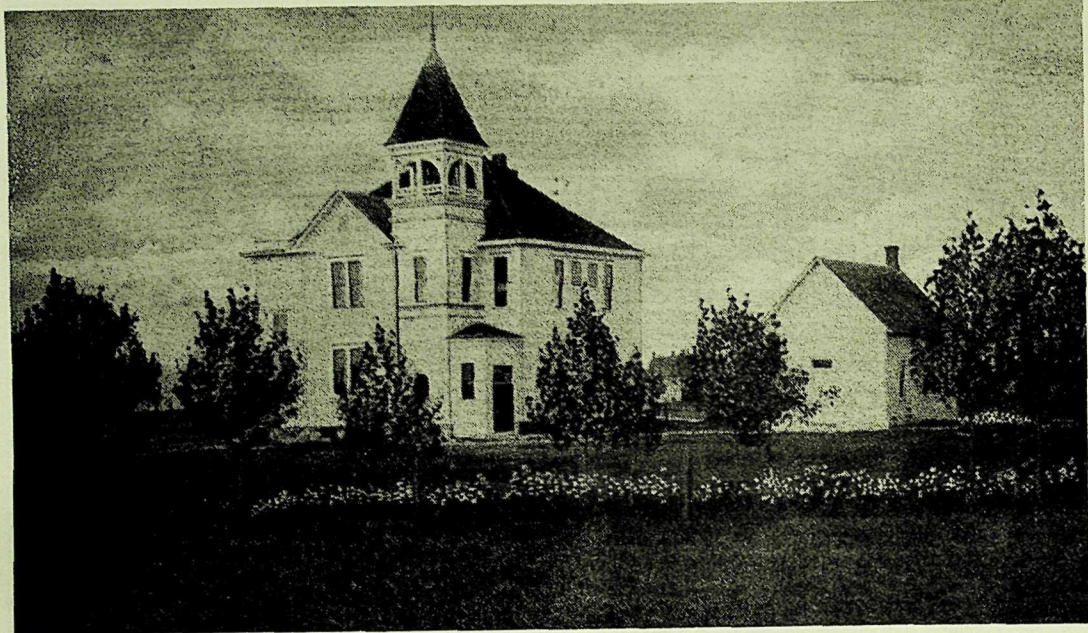
In October the influenza epidemic began. Mr. and Mrs. T.L. Burns, formerly of Drake, died in New Rockford. Drake schools were closed and the mayor ordered no public gatherings, including churches.

The school finally reopened the first week of November but then came the headlines in red ink on Nov. 7, a "extra" announcing, "WAR ENDED 2 P.M. TODAY!!"

As Drake and other communities geared up to honor and to greet the soldiers on their return, other activities went on. The B.B. Bennett drugstore burned Oct. 29. The Burch store and others were threatened but through the efforts of fire chief E.M. Phifer and his men were saved. The Drake Bakery oven collapsed Dec. 1 just as Mr. Streng was getting ready to put in 600 loaves. It was rebuilt in one day by Steve Leigh and Perry Smiley.

The Christmas show at the hall was excellent; a slight recess had to be taken to fight a fire started from an overheated furnace but T.E. Sleight spoke to the crowd in a quiet way and the hall was emptied in an orderly fashion. Under the direction of J. Bob Jenricks, the Herman Drake store building was moved next door to the telephone office where Ed Swensrud was to open a shoe shop.

Nineteen-nineteen opened with hurrahs for returning servicemen, of course. For instance the Broadview Grange gave a banquet for: Charles and William Drake, Ross Hewitt, Bill McNamara, Ole Selvog, Goodman Selvog, Albert Noren, George Sherry, Richard Noren, Anton Nussbaum, Wenond Nussbaum, Lloyd McQuay, Charles Martwich, Tycho Weigelt, John Score, Charles Blumer, Ole Arneson and Mike Ficker.



Drake School. (Harold Harris)

The IOOF hosted the district convention in Drake; Thomas D. Morrow bought the Commercial Hotel from G.J. Nehrenberg; and Bennett and Peerboom advertised their Fordson tractor. (A.W. Carlson cut 100 acres with an 18-foot binder and plowed an acre an hour without effort using a Fordson.)

The News remarked, "Some time ago the city purchased the electric light plant of T.E. Sleight and has been running it as a municipal plant since. This has not proved satisfactory so yesterday the city council made another deal whereby Mr. Sleight took back the plant. Mr. Sleight is known everywhere as a business hustler and The News is glad to wish him a Happy New Year in the electric field."

The Drake Bakery installed a \$600 cake-mixing machine and completed that 400-loaf oven. E.M. Phifer, street commissioner, said Drake's Main Street would be graveled that summer; Sleight installed a modern meat slicer and iced meat counter; and the Soo was shipping in heavier steel rails to be used on the south branch line.

Warnings about more grasshoppers in 1920 were being talked by September while members of the United Evangelical Church prepared for a visit to Drake by newly-named Bishop Maze of LeMars, Iowa, and the Nonpartisan League, which won the county vote by a wide margin, bought DeLa's Drake News.

National prohibition starting June 30 was big news, of course.

The town was abuzz in late 1919 with more local concerns, however. The state bought the Drake Milling Co. plant for \$20,000, to operate as a State Mill. State Mill manager J.A. McGovern warned Drake more dwellings would have to be built if the city wished to retain the state mill. Other changes were anticipated: 40 by 60-foot elevator 120 feet high, plus storage tanks, 250,000 bushel capacity. A new mill would be added, too, with a 750 to 1,000 barrel daily capacity. A flax mill also was in the discussion stage, and a cold storage plant and creamery

in the works.

The Drake Chemical Company was organized in October by C.E. Larson, D.W. Hume, Dr. George Coffin, J.H. Miller and T.E. Sleight, to make paint. By early November part of the machinery was installed and the factory superintendent was in Drake and by the end of that month, paint salesmen were on the road.

At the end of 1919, the paper said, "The paint factory is running day and night, turning out 20 gallons of paint an hour. New machinery which has been ordered will double the output."

The state mill at Drake was doing well in the opening months of 1920; it showed a \$5,660 profit for its first 111 days of operation and was being run day and night by 11 employees.

T.E. Sleight sold the City Market to E.C. Jones who discontinued the grocery department and handled only meat; A. Ally bought the C.H. Burch Store and changed the name to the Drake Farmers Store; and Dr. A.B. Parmenter arrived in February to look Drake over with a view toward locating here. (He later chose Photographer Miller's vacated studio for his dental office.)

The Saueressig store was robbed of \$325 in merchandise, including two \$45 suits. H.W.R. Bentley was haying again, trying to top his record of 900 tons in a single season. Last year it was 700 tons. E.M. Phifer found 21 pairs of children's shoes near the roundhouse in the weeds, believed to be among those stolen from the freight yard some time ago.

The first "Drake Register" was published by Mrs. A.C. Phelps Sept. 2, 1920, a continuation of the Balfour Messenger. The paper was printed en route for a time when the building was being moved, machinery and all, partially tipped, broke the press and pied (spilled) the type. However, the work went on.

Rev. J.J. Gotheridge went to Anamoose and bought 60 chairs from the Anamoose Evangelical Church for use in

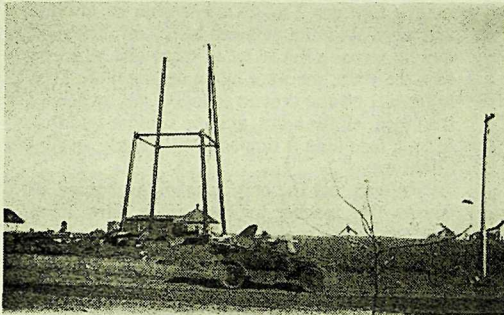
Drake. A splendid new platform was built for the Soo depot; and a bus was introduced to haul students east of the city to school. (School had opened Sept. 7 with G.O. Chase superintendent and J.W.R.H. DeLa principal.)

J.B. Rieder, first to thresh in September, said rust had damaged his wheat but the oats seemed unaffected. Jacob Roth built an addition to his barn and planned to milk 24 cows the winter of 1920-21.

Ben Magnuson accompanied aeronaut Harry Davidson to Martin, a trip which took only 12 minutes, or 75 miles per hour for Ben's first trip!

Ole B. Olson and Mr. Iverson collided with their cars and Ole B. traded his new Ford. Authorities, state and federal, passed through Kief with six whiskey cars captured at Martin. The first car, a heavy Willis- Knight loaded with 18 cases of whiskey, refused to stop until the officers opened fire, hitting six inches from the driver's head.

McHenry cast 3,532 votes for President Harding; passenger rates on the Soo jumped 20 per cent; O.A. Johnson became bookkeeper at the Burch Fruit Company. Velva coal mines looked promising; the Drake state mill had a fire but got it out without damage; and the Drake water tank was about finished. The O.W. Fors and Wilson babies were the center of attention at the Ladies Aid supper.



Building the water tower. (Harold Harris)

The year 1920 ended with the Drake basketball team losing four games in a row and Mrs. Phelps quoting, "Somewhere the sun is shining, somewhere the children shout..."

The team came out its slump with the new year, 1921, to beat Harvey and Balfour, then Velva 43 to 8 and Fessenden 22 to 18.

The Drake IOOF installed Fred Roth as Noble Grand and the city library was started by Drake's Thursday Study Club in Dr. Parmenter's office from 3 to 5 p.m. Three Karlsruhe and Balfour farm homes were raided, with stills and liquor confiscated. Medora, Madam DeMores, died in France.

City Drug, owned by B.B. Bennett and operated by Carl E. Krantz, burned starting a flurry of business swaps. Krantz announced he had rented a building south of the City Drug to A.S. Blakey; William Raddatz bought the Lorraine Cafe from Kurt Raddatz, who was going into the moving picture business, and W.A. Tyler bought Getts' barber shop.

The "rejuvenated" Commercial Club elected L. Mauritson president, J.E. Johnson vice president, Burch secretary, J.H. Miller treasurer. There were 21 members. Fred Borchert's 1920 Ford touring car was stolen and a \$50 reward offered.

In a political switch, F.J. Gorman replaced manager Hibbard at the state mill. Smut and grasshoppers posed a more evident threat to farmers of the area, however, occupying the attention of McHenry County's first agricultural agent, M.C. Thomas. He suggested they also look out for sow thistle. Aid was proposed for farmers who had lost cattle to tuberculosis.

J.W.R.H. DeLa again took over the Drake Register in July 1921 and told of Richard Nelson's drowning at Brush Lake; the robbery at W.D. Hume's clothing store after which the thieves, transients, were arrested at Guthrie where they had broken into the Tom Bakken home and stolen food; and the talent show netting \$57 for football uniforms.

DeLa also asked, editorially, if land in the Drake area might not someday be worth \$100 an acre. He noted Fred Martwick, again the first grain harvester in the area, reported rye threshed on July 25 ran better than he had expected.

The IWWs caused some problems in the area: they tried to hold up some stockmen in the stockyard but arrival of others frustrated their plan. A Soo policeman shot an IWW on the Soo line after the Wobbly shot first.

The liquor situation was heating up, too. Booze runners shot and badly wounded federal officers near Mohall. By a telephone hookup, audiences in New York and San Francisco heard President Harding's address at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery near the Capitol, a miracle of modern science. And national troops were fighting huge Minnesota forest fires.

But the local citizenry was undoubtedly just as interested in local issues. In August E.P. Moorehead of

King of the Hill

Ed Merbach joined Annie and Elsie Weigelt on top of a piano box addressed to Fred Borchert in 1915.

(Ed Merbach)



Minneapolis and Anamoose talked of drilling for oil eight miles south of Drake. The editor urged reorganization of a city band and the Drake basketball team beat Carrington and Bergen.

DeLa in November, 1921, was worrying about a local enterprise: "Now that our recall election is history and we are endeavoring to re-adjust ourselves to new conditions, the question naturally in the minds of citizens of Drake is the attitude of our new state officials will take towards the present management of the Drake mill. F.J. Gorman is the right man in the right place. He took charge of the mill last spring when everything was in a deplorable condition owing to too much politics being permitted to pay part in the affairs of the mill. He cut out politics, put things in shape, substituting business efficiency instead. The result has been gratifying. We sincerely hope politics will be forever divorced from management of our state mill at Drake and that Gov. R.A. Nestos and his advisors will give Mr. Gorman the loyal support he so justly has earned."

But the Fargo Forum was chief among those blasting the mills editorially, commenting on a \$2,500 loss each month since Jan. 1. DeLa noted there had been a different set of criticisms prior to the re-call and subsequent shake-up and urged fair play on the Forum.

Nineteen-twenty-one ended on an ominous note, however, with a small notice in the Drake Register that business at the mill would be on a cash basis hereafter.

"Twenty-two was the year 'Peter Pan,' 'Hans Brinker' and 'Pinocchio' were among the new books at the library; the year Mr. Armstrong directed the high school orchestra in its first concert; and Drake cleaned Minot 32-22 at basketball. It was the year farmers met, formed an organization "to see what can be done to make farming conditions better or at least not to get worse," and elected William Sherlock chairman.

The Fargo agricultural agent was trying to organize people to grow potatoes and the Broadview Spud Growers Association was formed. It was the year the school musical was well-received and the orchestra played for the movies.

The Register and DeLa believed January through March 1922 would be remembered as one of the worst winters in 20 years, but by May, with rains, things were looking better. Soo Line day operator John Hallett developed a pretty little park near the Depot and second baseman Charlie Drake's two home runs helped Drake beat Towner.

That was the year of the BIG July Fourth celebration: horse races, foot races, girl's potato races; a parade; TWO ball games, Drake and McClusky in the afternoon and Drake and Velve in the evening. (It turned out to be McClusky and Balfour, and Drake beat 'em both.) There were two wrestling matches, a band concert, dances and fireworks. The crowds began arriving at 5 a.m. and the Drake Farmers Store won the merchants' float prize.

The Crown Bottling Works, owned by E.A. Hohman, was the new and welcome industry in Drake, selling pop at 5 cents a bottle. The Morris Hotel added a new heating plant; Leo Charipar bought the Lorraine Cafe from Tycho Weigelt.

There was some hail north of Drake that year; Emil Spletstoser was growing gooseberries, plums, currants and raspberries on his farm northeast of here; and the Drake tennis courts were busy.

By September A.J. Schauble, the new state miller, gave the Drake Mill a full crew; Gorman started a 24-hour-a-day run he hoped to continue till New Year's.

The city light plant burned down Oct. 7 that year. Fire chief E.C. Jones directed valiant efforts but city well

"School days, School days"

"Our country school was a mixture of all nationalities, all religions and family and family backgrounds. The teacher had all grades through the eighth; the school was built of raw, green boards with a big black stove in the middle designed to roast you on one side while you froze on the other. But we were taught "the three R's."

Unlike today's hot lunches, we had home-made lunch: home-made bread cut thick, no waxed paper, put up in syrup pails for lunch buckets. We all ate sausage seasoned with garlic, all strong smelling and usually frozen!

"My brother and I walked to school, rode horseback or drove old Polly on the buggy. When two rode on a horse it was usually the one in back who fell off; the one in front had the advantage of the reins or mane for a handle. We usually fell off on the way home when the horse decided to gallop for some oats and water.

"The first day I made my brother sit in back and when old Polly galloped he fell off. The next day he forbade me to sit in front and when he took the whip, she went into a dead gallop. True to form, I hit the ground soundly; got up seeing the moon, all the stars, and my brother and Poll headed for home. I limped a mile home, crying all the way.

"We were not the only ones riding horses, of course. Our teacher for four years, Mrs. Fred Borchart, rode a red horse 3½ miles out from Drake and 3½ back, weather permitting. Borcharts then bought one of the first autos of the time. One morning she came in late to report someone had stolen the car during the night-back to horseback!

"Mrs. Robert Rhendt, a depot agent's wife who taught at the second Strege school, also rode back and forth every day.

—Frances Kloehn

pressure was so weak that little water could be directed on the blaze. The mill nearby was threatened but saved. By Nov. 20 the light plant was going again.

The first snow fell Oct. 6. The Catholic church, which was purchased and being renovated, was nearly ready, its furnace installed. Fire damaged the Hume store, and the Blakey Drug store and Saueressigs were robbed.

Father Eck of Anamoose conducted Mass for the formal opening of the church. He also praised Charles Creapo for his untiring efforts to open the Catholic church. Drake now had four with the Evangelical Church led by Rev. F.W. Agte, the Congregationalists with Rev. H.E. Morrow; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church by Rev. O.F. Herder.

The winter sent its usual way and spring finally arrived in 1923 with the baseball group organizing a first sign of spring. (Ben Abbott was named president and J.H. Miller secretary-treasurer.)

Home-Made Entertainment

"Lacking professional entertainment, the pioneers felt obliged to make their own.

"When Robert Jenrichs were married in 1912, the bride and groom were grabbed by a jovial crowd and hurried out to a spring wagon decorated with tin cans on chains and drawn by a spirited team. As they galloped through the streets of Drake, the team heard the noise behind them and got out of control. They tore around a corner; one wheel fell off; and the bride went flying into a ditch with the bedraggled bridegroom landing on top of her. However, their persecutors rushed in, dusted them off and went to a home where food and refreshments awaited. All's well that ends well.

"Another wedding party which ended in a chivari was that of C.F. Frankhausers in 1901. They hid in an upstairs bedroom while the men who came to chivari them put the buggy on top of their kitchen roof. What they did NOT see, nor discover till they tried to cook breakfast the next morning, was their friends stuffing the chimney with hay and straw!

"One memorable Halloween Eve was about 1914, when older folks joined the young in pranks. The John Leder family had just moved onto a homestead in a coulee between two hills. The McNamara, Sherlock, Lettengarver and Jenrich families decided to initiate them into the neighborhood. About 10 o' clock at night they took their hayracks full of people to the moonlit top of a hill where nearly 20 people donned white sheets, lit lanterns and started to sing. John Leder said he thought the angels were coming from Heaven, but he forgave them the scare when they produced lunch and refreshments!"

-Frances Kloehn

Fred Burgemeister of Kief located in Drake, buying cream for the North American Creamery of Paynesville, Minn. Sen. Lynn Frazier was giving away garden seeds that spring and William Nissen sold a record hog: 7 feet from nose to tail, 37 inches tall and 715 pounds.

Magnuson Lumber got the contract to build the modern \$6,000 school in Strege Township, with a Jamestown firm getting the plumbing contract. Anton Bruner won a Ford coupe given away at the Drake Catholic church benefit supper. (It was a bang up evening, with dancing to follow the supper.)

Jacob Rindt, Soo Line agent at Drake, presented Alexander Dumas' works to the library. The Soo Line completed a test well in Drake and E.M. Canfield, an international pilot, came to Drake on Sept. 16 to give rides.

That winter Charles Creapo installed a new radio receiving set; H.L. Thorson and John Hallett already had

them, so Drake was ready to hear the news of Chicago, Cincinnati and other spots.

That winter flax sold at \$2.09 and wheat at 95 cents. President Coolidge, with his farm background, said farmers needed relief and promised help.

A farmers institute was set Feb. 24, 1924, with J.P. Kemper. H.A. McCarty, Frank Kaufman and Archie Billings on the reception committee. It was an all-day affair, with speakers at 2 and 7 p.m., held in the IOOF hall.

A.L. Benson and Jacob Lassila had their filling station, a block east of the south end of main street, about completed. Ben J. Abbott was elected manager of the baseball club for that year; he had three good pitchers lined up. E.P. Moorhead of Minneapolis, an Anamoose ranch owner, was backing a creamery for Drake.

The N.D. Evangelical conference was held in Drake in May 1924 and Mr. Kidder was directing work to organize a Boy Scout troop here. He was successful and soon had the boys out camping along the Mouse River.

Agriculture agents were talking modern things: trench silos, raising bees or sheep, potatoes, corn, talking about diversification.

In August 1924 the Drake Hardware literally blew up. It started as a fire but when gunshells starting blowing up, firemen backed off. Then they about had it under control when the oil barrels at the back ignited. Owners Will and Henry Beutler estimated the loss at \$25,000 to \$30,000. A.L. Saueressig's store next door also had heavy smoke damage.

Peter Merbach's 10 cows averaged \$127 each in milk income, with milk selling at 10 cents a quart. And F.C. Roth of Quality Market in Drake shipped in a special treat for the Christmas trade in 1924—a buffalo to eat.

Special meat led off the news for 1925, too— Fred Borchert had lots of smoked meat for sale after the rendering vat at the Quality Market caught fire. He was nearly overcome by smoke, but escaped.

That was the year Lloyd McQuays rented the West Hotel and barber shop from William Asplin; that North Dakota advertised on WCCO radio; and four veins of oil reportedly were found between Drake and Anamoose. Balfour won the District championship in March but Drake beat 'em the next week. B.B. Bennett sold 135 Fords that summer and expected to make 200 before the year was out. O.A. Refling built a \$5,000 farm home and a 28 by 60-foot barn and cement silo out at his farm; and six Boy Scouts beat the firemen to the O.W. Bethle home and put out the flames when a gas stove blew up.

Roy Hegges suffered through an earthquake on their honeymoon trip through Yellowstone Park.

There was hope a perennial problem was solved that October when "two wonderful wells, 53 feet deep, producing 100 gallons per minute," were brought in on the lot belonging to Mr. Smiley.

Dr. J.M. Toomey took over Dr. Hammargren's practice at Drake; the Burch Fruit Company expanded; and Gust Janavaras was appointed by Gov. A.G. Sorlie as local chairman of Golden Rule Sunday, Dec. 6, 1925, to promote harmony among nations and people. That year the Greater North Dakota Association urged that a park in North Dakota's badlands, honoring President Teddy Roosevelt, be set up.

'Twenty-five ended with T.E. Sleight's ice harvesters at work, cutting ice 16 to 18 inches thick of the finest quality. Five trucks and eight or ten teams were bringing it in from Brush Lake.

By the end of the winter of 1926, the editor was pressing for a larger hospital, properly equipped for the city, which

Continued page 150



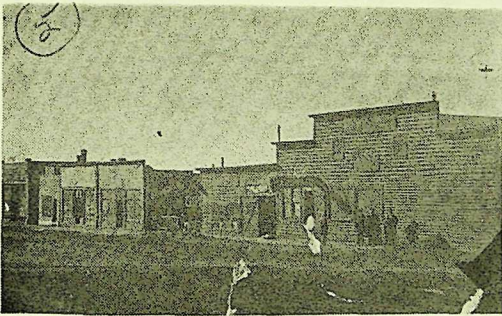
Martha Kroll and Gust Janavaras 1927. (Gust Janavaras)

Drake School. (Walter Olstad)



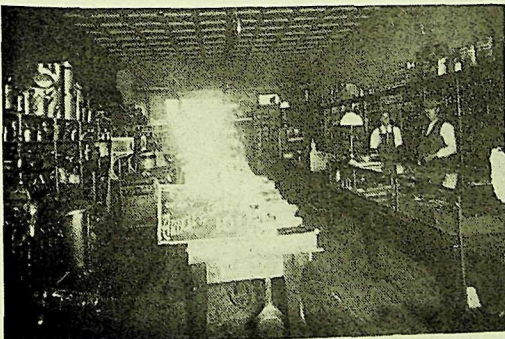


R.J. Fandrich in Skogmo Store. (Connie Hoffman)



North end of Main Street, 1917. (Wally Schrader)

Present Gambles store before 1911. (Ed Merbach)



Mr. and Mrs. Christ Fandrich. (Donna Jean Halstengard)

was progressing nicely. J.M. Lassila moved his auto showroom to just south of First National Bank; T.E. Sleight sold his brick building to A. Ally and moved his butcher shop. In May Roy Hegge bought the Blakey Drug store, changing the name to the Drake Pharmacy.

The Campfire girls organized early that summer and Merbach and Sons shipped four cars of cattle which they had corn fed, plus two cars purchased from others and farmers themselves shipped a seventh carload, total value in excess of \$15,000.

A June rain broke the "northwestern drouth" as the paper referred to it and a wheat pool was organized. Dr. B.D. Hurd decided to locate in Drake and a dinner was held to boost graveling of No. 9 from Harvey to Minot yet this year, 1926.

J.M. Lassila won a trip to Detroit for big sales in Paige and Jewett automobiles and T.E. Sleight installed a fine creamery churn.

One bit of exciting news that fall was "a machine that harvests and threshes standing grain in one operation, being tried out this year in North Dakota, according to the ag engineer at NDAC. About 25 of them, called 'combine harvesters,' are being used." No binder twine was needed and they did more efficient threshing with reduced labor. The drawback was the high moisture content in the grain.

A.L. Benson, proprietor of the Teapot Dome Filling Station, installed new storage tanks before the killing frost came in mid-September. Henry Ford started the revolutionary five-day work week with the same wages his employes drew for six days!

The year ended on a cheerful note that "cars are being used again now that snow is somewhat packed."

B.R. Krebsbach was proprietor of the popular West

"Work Hard; Play Hard"

"Chores came first after school: bring in wood and coal for the next day, pump and carry pails of water for the reservoir of the old cook stove, milk cows and separate the cream;

"Then, after 8 o' clock usually, we studied by lamplight or read old history books and the 'Farm Journal.' By 9 o'clock we were in bed.

"As we grew older, in the 1920's we had house parties chaperoned by parents. Sometimes my brother and I would go five miles on horseback, carrying extra clothes, then dance all night and, in twenty below weather, ride for home.

"They were usually on Friday or Saturday nights: young people within a few miles enjoying the music of some one who knew how to play accordion, piano, guitar, banjo, violin or occasionally, a drum.

"We began with girls whispering in one corner and boys snickering in the other end of the room until the music started.

"These were family affairs, adults and all members of the families joined in. We'd give a big clap if some adults ventured on the dance floor. Square dances were ladies' choice.

"Lunch served at midnight ended the affair."

- Frances Kloehn

Drake School. (Andrew Jans)



Hotel in Drake, in 1927 and in May Mrs. M.J. Morris sold the Morris Hotel to Steve Panas to Max.

That was the year the special "better seed" train stopped in town to give farmers and businessmen a chance to inspect modern machinery to be used for better cleaning and treating of seed.



Blondina Fandrich. (Connie Hoffman)

It was sure the year for it: wheat smut was abundant and all the experts were urging treatment.

Firemen erected a special 40-foot steel tower for their siren.

Snow and rain fell May 5 through 7 in 1927, but by Memorial Day things were clear enough so Drake's remaining Civil War veteran, A.W. (Dad) Parmenter, was honored by having the band march to his home and serenade him. G.A. Lindell was the Memorial Day speaker.

The state was seeking bids for its mill at Drake. The auditor said the mill had lost \$133,000 in operation and, since its closing a year earlier, had lost another \$12,186 through interest charges; therefore he recommended selling it as soon as possible.

The Drake Rebekahs and IOOF held their picnic at Pendroy's Pavilion on the Mouse that July, and electric cooking appliances were demonstrated by Central Light and Power Co.

On Aug. 7, the Ruby wheat threshed on Fred Martwick's place ran 22 bushels and 60 pounds, after the wet spring. Rust was a problem, of course, with that weather, and was on the barberry which carried the rust continued.

E.P. Moorhead had a good crop at Anamoose: 100 acres of wheat produced 15 bushels an acre, the barley 18 and speltz 25 bushels.

Trials were being made with commercial fertilizer, but the cost was high: \$36 a ton and those trying it were using up to 200 pounds an acre.

A Minneapolis expert said, near the end of 1927, "The disparity between prices of wheat the farmer sells and what he pays for things he must buy, though less than five years ago, sharply reduces farm profits."

In November, A.W. Bethke of Balfour bought out A.A. Page to set up a modern undertaking parlor in Drake, later to be combined with a hardware business.

Fourth of July at the Henry London farm about 1920. Families include those of London; Pietsch; Anton, John and Peter Bruner; Herman Peiler; Gust Berndt; Curt Speers; John Ewert; Fred Ruehl and others. (Mrs. Frank Rudnick)



Radio was the big thing by early 1928; The Mouse River Farmers Press noted Frances Lettengarver and brother Floren were radioing at the Van Eckart home; that H.H. McCarty's had a new Zenith and W.E. Kempers a Kolster radio.

Farmers received only 1.15 cents for the wheat in a pound loaf of bread that cost 8½ cents a loaf; the February wind blew the wheels off the windmills; March's mild weather added to the flu. But GNDA was working for more state settlers; Rev. Otto Herder bought a Chevy coupe; and 50 members of the Broadview Grange met at the McCarty's.

In March the David D. Nehrenberg American Legion Post was formed with 17 members; Drake beat Anamoose 50-9 at the 7th District basketball tourney at Minot Teachers College, beat Minot 36-24 and Granville 37-21 in further tournament eliminations, but lost 27-32 to Williston.

Manager Nissen reported the Drake Co-op Shipping Association was shipping cattle, two carloads in March and from one to six every week or two.

By April 20 a large amount of wheat was seeded in the cool spring. The daylight radio long-distance reception was improving, but the Juniors had little time to listen—they were getting ready to present "Yimmy Yohnson's Yob." The Women's Missionary Society gave away a quilt at a 50 cent dinner. (At that price all they served was meat loaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, baked beans, pickles, etc., etc., and strawberries on angelfood cake.) They made \$99.

"The federal highway will soon become a reality," papers reported. "The bridge gang has been busy for quite a few weeks and the 130-foot bridge over Wintering creek is nearly complete." Later in July it was noted the federal surveyors and graders were working on a route which touched the southwest corner of Drake, coming in from 2½ miles straight west, south two miles, then east to Anamoose. Spring Grove Telephone Co. was busy moving poles out of the right of way.

Things were tough on the farm scene: farmers organized a march on a Kansas City Republican meeting demanding farm relief; a frost June 8 followed a heavy rain and did some damage; in July wheat and hay stands were reported thin because of early drouth; and the state vet checking cows for tuberculosis found four in the area.

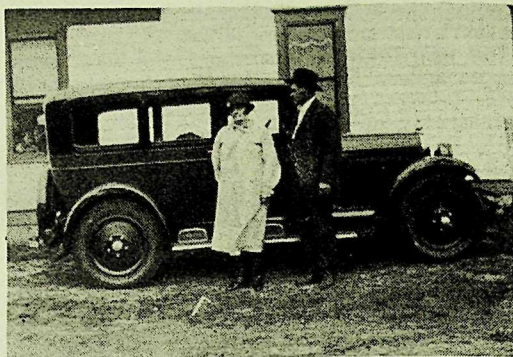
But some people had faith: Bechtle Motor Co. was adding to their garage so they could repair Buicks and Chevrolets; Land O' Lakes was in Drake to try to start a creamery; the Wild Rose Club organized, elected Mrs. C.J. Olstad president and sponsored a picnic at Pendroy's Pavilion. Clayton Kemper traded his Fordson for a McCormick-Deering tractor; Broadview Grange received a carload of Bismarck twine needed for harvest. Wind came with a 3½ inch rain, took the Nissen silo down.

Many people took the Fourth of July off to take in the parade, ball games, Drake band concert and fireworks in town.

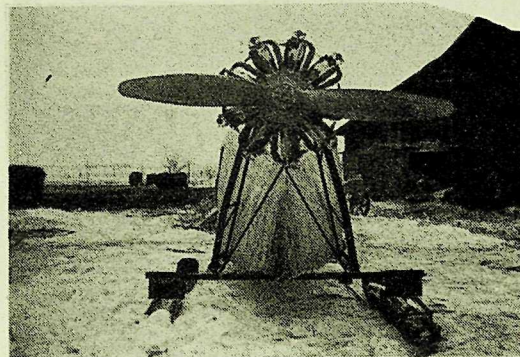
The harvest proved to be no bumper crop, with wheat running about 13 to 15 bushels an acre and oats 35 to 50 bushels, but prices were so low many wondered if they would break even.

However, the Soo Line began the cuts southwest of town on the Bismarck line and loaded the soil on flat cars and brought it back to Drake; rumor was another track would be put in. Rev. Hjalmar Hanson took over the Norwegian Lutheran congregation after a nice reception. Dr. Rasmussen bought the Metcalf corner and planned to erect a large building with hospital on the upper floor and offices and shops below.

That fall home ec, partly paid by the federal



Martin Olson's new Nash, 1926.



Roth's snow sled with French Rhone engine. (Walter Leigh)

government, was offered at DHS; W.E. Kempers and son Clayton autoed to Minot to shop in the new Montgomery Wards retail store; and Oscar Christensen became the new Skogmo star route carrier. As the year ended several hundred folks attended the fair in Drake sponsored by the Commercial Club with talks on vocational agriculture. Radio stations began "getting their own berths" from the federal government, and Wear-Ever aluminum began to be sold.

Despite temperatures at 36 below zero, the PTA raised \$80 for the new stage at a fun night. Walter Stiehm, retiring Legion commander, gave the club a building; the girls basketball team lost 18-9 to Harvey; and the Beauty Nook opened in the West Hotel. No one was allowed to attend the funeral of a diphtheria victim in Drake for fear of spreading the disease.

The modern age had come; many heard their first inauguration of a president (Hoover) after getting radios; Thomas Edison predicted "talkies" in homes of those who could afford sets: Harry Billings bought a Chevrolet truck; and a huge plane, "The West Wind," was being shown in Minot: three 300-horsepower engines, 115 miles per hour cruising speed and 74-foot wingspan!

In April 1929 J.C. Penney Co. leased the A. Ally store and that fall opened their store. The horses and equipment of Charles Schultz Company returned to road work.

In May the hospital was moved to the W. Saueressig building three blocks north of the depot; the new

Evangelical Lutheran Church was dedicated and the new Campfire Girls group and their mothers hiked two miles southwest to Goldenrod Lake for a picnic.

The Dakota rye crop was small that year and the wheat price plunged below a dollar in Chicago. Also that summer, A.L. Benson erected a new filling station south of the tracks and bought a new Chevrolet truck for his business. The Co-op Creamery was organized with Roy Belzer elected president. The Drake Alumni Association formed, elected Ruth Soderberg president and planned a homecoming banquet. The Legion Auxiliary picnic at Lake George attracted 150; the four-day Chataqua featured music and comedy; the Baptist tent meeting was a success; and the Verdie Shinks and Orville Kempers were "treated" to chivari parties after their weddings. But the big news was President Hoover signing the farm relief bill.

In July they were repairing the Occident elevator but by August it was apparent this was no bumper year: hot dry weather, 'hoppers, temperatures up to 106 degrees, a half a crop of prairie hay. The rye averaged 10 bushels, the wheat a surprisingly good 10 to 20 bushels. But rain was needed before fall plowing even could be done. Smut losses also were alarming for the fifth year.

In the early winter the new \$16,000 creamery was begun; the Legion sponsored a big minstrel show; and the annual poultry and grain show at the school had a style show, plays and violin contests as added attractions. A 16-by-30 foot addition to the hospital brought it up to 26 bed-capacity; it had averaged 12 patients since its opening in May. The year ended with the first homecoming and the opening of the creamery.

The month that opened what was to be the worst decade in Drake's history, January 1931, was a mixed bag: 51 Drake High School alumni gathered for a reunion; fire destroyed the state capitol and some urged centrally-located Drake should be the new one. Grandma Johanna Peterson celebrated her 90th birthday with daughter, Mrs. Chester Ross, some 30 years after she came to Drake to live with her son Henry. (In Idaho, wheat, a surplus and cheaper than coal, was being burned for fuel.)

Frank Eichhorn replaced H.M. Peterson on the Drake Co-op Creamery board at the first annual meeting, attended by 600 people. (They were told a new "contrivance" had been invented to milk 50 cows at once.)

The Drake basketball team, starring LeRoy Kringen and E. Langeland, beat Towner 28 to 10 but the Drake girls lost 39-21. In March the Drake junior team, coached by Frey, defeated Velva 8 to 7 for the county championship title. On that team were A. Kringen, G. Fors, M. Keller, M. Klimpel, G. Iverson, A. Nygaard and A. Burgemeister.

On the business front, the Drake Farmers Store was selling Trixie frocks, sizes 14 to 20 or, for the more robust, 36 to 50, for \$1 to \$2.95, and coffee there was 44 cents a pound. An overheated furnace signalled the end of Schrader's Hardware.

In April A.M. Haykel opened a handy repair shop; the King and Queen of Siam went through Drake on a train, without a wave to the curious; and a Williston man proposed dynamiting clouds for rain.

The Farmers Union began organizing as value of North Dakota farms dropped \$5 million in 10 years while per-acre value dropped from \$41 to \$25 average. Bill Langer and Sen. Gerald Nye spoke at the picnic June 17 at Tagestads north of Towner.

In May the Register announced the Drake state mill, with an investment of some \$30,000, was to be sold.

Others were willing to invest: E.P. Moorhead was building a large Spanish style ranch house on his place at

Anamoose— seven rooms and three baths! It was to be enclosed with a high stone wall.

Emil Spletstoser, who came to Schiller Township in 1899, invited everyone to spend the Fourth enjoying his improvements at what he called Home Sweet Home Park four miles east and two north of Drake: a five-acre patch of a former wheat field in 1910, it was now a garden of flowers, fruit trees, pines and shrubs.

Rain improved the look of things for a while: Drake had 1.93 inches in the first 10 days of July, with the average for the whole month only 2.24 inches. But June had lagged badly, 1.32 inches compared to an average 3.35.

In July the government had some good news and some bad news: while feed loans would be available; world wheat prices would be low, maybe down to 25 cents a bushel; and grain to be used for feed should be cut now.

Adding insult to injury, a wind storm starting in the flats southwest of Balfour on July 27, blew down or damaged many barns and buildings and brought hail with it.

A 2-by-6 was driven through a wall of the Dave Shook house; 14 freight cars were blown off the track and the Balfour Catholic church and other buildings were damaged.

For those grimly hanging on, the Drake Shipping Association sent 48 cars of livestock out, \$56,527 worth; the Broadview Grange was expecting a carload of twine; and Guthrie farmers demanded a moratorium on mortgages of farms through such agencies as Federal Land Bank.

By mid-1931, it was obvious the weather was conspiring with economics to chasten and humble the North Dakotans

Some areas of western North Dakota reported not even seed was left in their granaries, and the Farmers Union was talking of making flour for needy farm families. Farmers were told not more than a third of roughage fed cattle should be the once-scorned thistle; a larger proportion caused digestive problems.

In Drake the United Welfare League took charge of relief work in the area. Dr. Parmenter was president, serving with Otto Bechtle, Emil Christensen, and Mmes. Nehrenberg, Phillips and H. Beutler. (They decided no one having a car, radio or dog was entitled to aid— they weren't that needy if they could afford such luxuries.)

One Drake dream died in 1931; C.H. Burch bought the old mill at Drake for storage and the machinery was sold to a Canadian firm. (Erected in 1917 by Miller Hermerdinger of Paynesville, Minn., who ran it successfully three years, it was bought by the state in 1920, ran five years and was closed.)

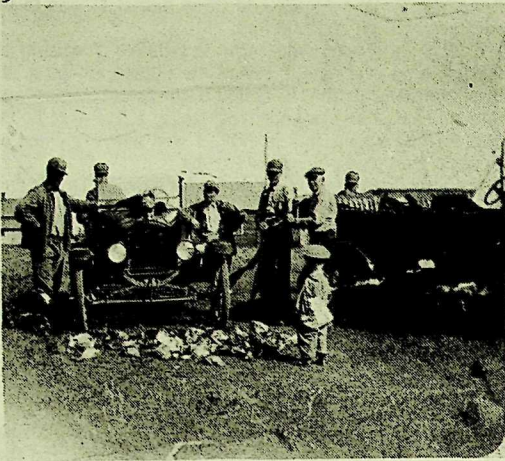
'Thirty-two opened with new tries at overcoming the economic situation. Railroad labor agreed to accept a 10 per cent wage cut to aid that vital industry and a tax reduction in North Dakota was talked by cutting government costs.

One brief bubble of miraculous hope formed: it was reported there was gold in them thar hills after gold nuggets were found in crops of chickens raised at Denbigh and, amidst geologic explanations for how gold was washed out of sand beds and settled at the bottom of prehistoric Lake Souris, gold claims and contracts were staked on 50,000 acres.

By May of that year, a 75-foot-long sluice box was built in the hills south of Towner, but talk soon dwindled.

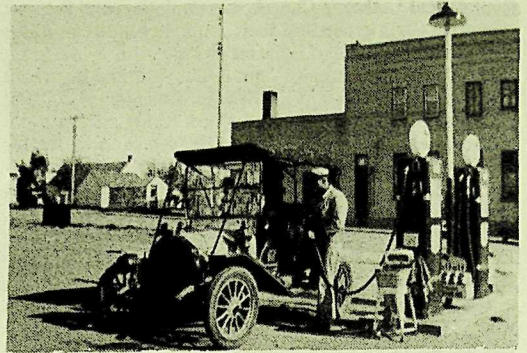
Attention was claimed by things happening away from Drake: the kidnapping of hero Charles Lindbergh's baby and F.D.R. beginning to tell his programs via radio and Ford producing a V-8 car that would go 75 miles an hour!

But local interests came first: the fire destroying the H.F. Harris farm in March; Reinhold Rauser seeding the



The hunters return

Among the successful hunters in this photo from the fall of 1919 were Mr. Grigsburg, Hank Nass, O.W. Fors, Ed Dahlman, Jack Lassila and Howard Peterson.
(O.W. Fors)



Ready to See World

Alex Semrau, of Ortonville, Minn., formerly of the Drake-Balfour area, and his 1913 Buick are remembered by many area old-timers. Semrau, a cousin of longtime McHenry County judge, had lost both hands, but he drove his Buick all over the United States. Various testimonials inscribed on the body of the car verified his travels. Alex came to Drake to visit Ernest Nehrenberg and Ernest, then an employee of Drake Oil Co. and Jans' Service Station filled up the Buick.
(Andrew Jans)

Olen Gifford Recalled Early City Businesses

Olen Gifford in the July 17, 1952, Drake register recalled E. N. Erickson was the first person in Drake to get the flu in the 1918 epidemic and his wife, the former Aurora Duncan, the second. Dr. George Coffin didn't lose a patient but he said later if they had known the seriousness of the disease they would have died right and left!

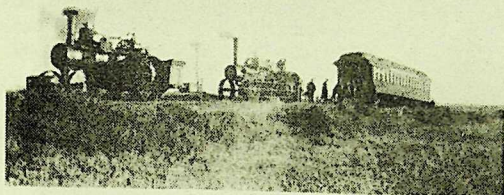
Mr. Gifford listed some early businesses he recalled: Ginther Bros. General Store where the

Farmerette is; Miller General Store about two lots south of the bank; the Star Cafe near the Empress Cafe; The West Hotel (the northernmost part of the Empress Hotel) built in 1906 or 1907 by Immanuel Weise and first managed by George McShane; John Dahlman's pool hall south of the bank; T. E. Sleight's meat market; and the B. B. Bennett Drug Store just north of the Farmer's Store.

A. Ally and Elsie Matthews in 1920. (Gust Janavaras)



This old Pullman car, to become the home of an area man 22 miles northwest of Drake, was pulled to that location by a steamer, up unimproved N.D. Highway 14 in 1932. When it got stuck in the sand, a second steamer had to be called in for power. The steamers are Fred Vollmer's 75 horsepower Nicolous Sheppard and Ole B. Olson's 80-horse Case. (Howard Olson)



B.B. Bennett's Model T Fords. (Walter Leigh)



“Mary had a little lamb...”

“Being on the farm, we had a collection of all kinds of animals.

“There was our pony, Black Beauty, and the work horses. And there were calves. We could catch a ride on a calf's tail; we would hang on for dear life while the calf ran wild around the corral. Finally he would outrun us and we would have to let loose, panting and flying.

“But besides the red ‘fighting’ rooster and the cuddly rabbits and chicks, our favorite pet was the billy goat.

“He stood staunch with a twinkle in his eye, always eating something, which made his whiskers bob up and down. Our children played with him by the hour, tag, horseback and other games. If they got on his back, he would buck and dance and then head for the barbed-wire fence. He usually went through the fence and the kids had scratches to prove it.

“If you looked out the window, you'd usually see him atop the hay stacks or granary. If snow was deep, he would be on top of the barn, and his favorite perch was on top of the car, daring anyone to take him down.

“A week before Easter one year, I acquired a second-hand bright red silk dress. I spent a weeking taking it apart and sewing a dress for Marcy, who was seven. After my prize was finished I put it out on the clothesline to freshen.

“A few moments later I looked out to see all my work in rags! The goat had chewed the dress in half and pulled the rest in shreds trying to get it off the line.

“We traded him to a neighbor for a sack of flour.”

— Frances Kloehn

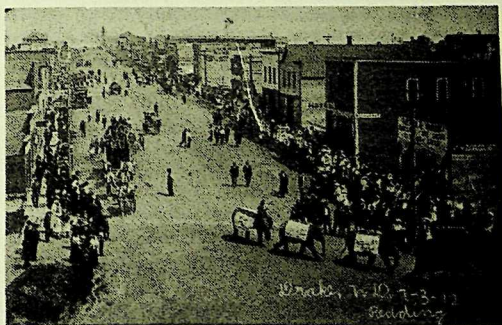
Let it snow, Let it snow

The William Beutler home, now the Kemper place, was bare and snowy in 1909.

(Ed Merbach)



Circus comes to Drake in 1912. (Dale McCarty)



first 1932 wheat south of Drake on April 5; and the sighting soon after that of grasshoppers in Sheridan County, just south of Drake. McHenry, as a county, joined the fight against 'hoppers.

The Commercial Club reorganized that year, elected O.W. Bechtle president, O.A. Refling vice president and Emil Christensen secretary. They agreed to sponsor the county play day at Drake. Vic Stiehm, a recent University of North Dakota graduate, decided to open a law office in Drake.

Prohibition was voted out; not everything was serious, even in 1932: the Drake firemen prepared for a carnival with a dance, music provided by Frankie Glasier's Dance Kings. Mae Weidler was elected Worthy Matron and E.R. Christensen Worthy Patron of Broken Column Lodge AF, AM, and Alba Chapter of Order of Eastern Star.

Drake was cut off from the world in the beginning of 1933. By February Soo Line branches were all blocked, with dynamite being used on drifts 12 to 15 feet deep, and new cold records were set as temperatures held between



Pool hall burns. (Wally Schrader)

That June the Drake Shipping Association, with Richard Nissen elected president, shipped 44 cars of cattle worth \$32,960. Prices rose relentlessly: postage on a letter was raised to 3 cents.

However June rain was above average; Drake had an inch. July brought a good deal of hail and wind loss near Drake and a wheat rot made its appearance.

The contract for the state capitol was let to a Chicago firm for \$1,463,775; the St. Lawrence Seaway was to be built; the Farmers Holiday Association organized; and on Aug. 31 there was an eclipse of the sun. Farmers from Drake joined others in picketing a governor's meeting asking for demanding better prices.

At home, the new St. Paul's Lutheran Church parsonage was dedicated and a carbonating machine was installed in Fred Buttman's soda fountain.

By October, Anamoose and Drake were isolated by a sleet storm.

North Dakota voted for Gov. Langer, F.D.R.; for Republicans in state offices and Democrats in control in the state House and Senate.

34 and 40 below zero for a week. Wind added to the misery.

In March, Henry Eichhorn, 64, died at the home of his son Frank. The New Jersey native came to Drake in 1906, farmed at Kief till his retirement in 1928 and lived a time at Hardin, Ill., before returning to Drake in 1928. His sons John and Fred lived at Drake, too.

There was plenty of moisture for the 1933 seedbed as that snow melted and the city had the good news that First National Bank of Drake, closed March 4 along with all the others, by the order of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was deemed "100 per cent okay" and was almost the first in the state to reopen March 15. The late season and bad weather curtailed wheat planting.

Though the Bank of North Dakota then owned 2,200 farms, foreclosed because of the drouth and depression, land sales were reported increasing. On the strength of reports of poor crops in many areas, the price of wheat climbed back up to 62½ cents, and it appeared the economy might again be on the upswing.

Nineteen-thirty-three was the year Brush Lake was stocked with bullheads; J.C. Penney visited his Drake

store, Gust Janavaras was elected Golf Club president and Herman Stoerber and William Scott were getting greens in shape. The Empress Hotel was putting on an addition; that V-8 Ford arrived at Drake Motors, the Chevie at Bechtles; and Christ Merbach wed Viola Kraff.

The gold bug bit a few people again in 1933. Gold was being talked at Granville and Verendrye in June, and by July the Register was reporting "excellent placer gold" from Brush Lake secretly being tested by a group of St. Paul men; a "gold machine" was to be shipped to Drake.

Despite a big storm with hail July 17, most Drake farmers were more interested in the local gold, such as the rye, seven bushels an acre, that Ole Engen threshed in July. The wheat that year, though of good quality, only ran 6 to 12 bushels an acre and was worth just 81 cents a bushel. Flax held at \$1.65 and barley at 34 cents.

By August of 1933 local producers had agreed to cooperate in reducing acreage. Wheat bonus checks arrived, and it appeared Drake would get an airport. Once again the editor was optimistic, though 20 Dakota cattlemen visiting New York were screaming about paying \$1.50 for a steak, from beef for which they received 1½ cents a pound!

That fall Henry Morrow took over the postmaster job from Mrs. E.T. Rohde and William Merbach opened a Gambles store in the basement of the Merbach Market, where there had formerly been a pool hall.

The Minot Production Credit Association was organized that year to help farmers hang on.

After a skimpy Christmas, manager O.W. Fors brought the first talking picture for the area to the theatre: "Above the Clouds."

John Dillinger's escape from jail and the possibility he was hiding out in North Dakota were titillating topics, of course, and so was the return, in April, of Fritz and Gerhard Nissen who had spent four years pioneering in the Peace River Country of Alberta.

Dr. A.W. Parmenter died March 20, 1934, at 88. The Illinois native grew up in Iowa, served three years in the Civil War and married Elizabeth Seay at Sidney, Iowa, in 1869 before coming to Drake in 1902.

That summer the Register reported 11 of the last 20 year had been below normal in rainfall for North Dakota, with only 3 above normal. No one had to tell the farmers. They knew the government cattle buyer was in the country, paying \$12 to \$20 for good cattle over two years old, \$10 to \$15 for yearlings and \$4 to \$8 for those under that.

Nevertheless people occupied themselves within their world. Refling's Holstein herd and Agnes Wilde's shorthorn bull won honors at the Northwest Fair in Minot in July; the St. Olaf Choir sang here; the Drake Golf Club agreed to buy land for its course; and the Grange picnicked at Kaufman's and several thousand people hear candidates speak at a Democratic rally in Pendroy's Park.

Even more exciting was the news that, with 200,000 acres under lease, gold mining was beginning eight miles north of Karlsruhe; and that E.R. Manning was succeeding Mr. Lillehaugen as Drake superintendent of schools; and that work had begun on the International Peace Garden on the Canadian border.

In September 1934, E.P. Moorhead, who homesteaded south of Anamoose in 1900 before returning to Minneapolis to establish a beer wholesale office, died after a car crash. (He had returned to Anamoose to live two years earlier.) In November J.F. Senechal, German native who came to the U.S. in 1868 when he was 19 and came to North Dakota in 1902, died here.

John Romsland, after trying business in Dickinson and

Rugby, had returned to re-open the Drake Bakery. Cattle were slaughtered at the Drake stockyards and given as relief meat. Eighty-six head were divided among 243 families.

Another tragedy threatened area cattlemen: Bangs disease became a problem appearing in many herds.

For the dreamers the paper explained that fall that McHenry gold fields, washed in from a body of water which extended to Devils Lake, Scobey, Mont., and into Canada, were found to be paying out. In May 1935 came the announcement cynics had anticipated: the ore proved not to be commercial quality.

Basketball occupied part of what was, to most, an unpromising winter with lettermen George Fors, Lawrence Fors, and Richard Magnuson back on the squad with Harold Refling, Ernest Haykel, Bob Marvin and Vic Senechal.

People in Drake argued over a pardon for the maverick, Bill Langer; talked about possible diversion of Missouri River water; and said things must be getting better—the Federal land bank had sold over 1,000 farms back just in North Dakota.

As spring approached in 1935 they also took action: ice dams were built three and seven miles southwest of Towner to flood the hay flat with what snow run-off there was. An April snowfall finally quieted the dust storms that had covered a wide area of the U.S. including North Dakota. Drake got a quarter-inch of moisture out of that April snow.

There was more moisture, however, as '35 wore on and by July the editor was insisting this was the best crop prospect in the area since 1928.

However, by the July 24 issue, grasshoppers were threatening the flax, and rust was reportedly damaging 60 to 90 per cent of the crops on some fields. The following week a wide-spread hail storm hit, doing 25 to 80 per cent damage on the fields in that area. By Aug. 6 harvest was underway.

Dr. Rollie had faith: he added a sunporch and new roof to his hospital, and the federal old age pension was up to a maximum \$20 a month, but to many people in Drake, as 1935 ended, agriculture, now being taught as a class at DHS, seemed like the worst idea in the world.

After New Year's of 1936, some were still sending their youngsters back to college, perhaps the girls in smart dresses from Penney's (at \$2.98): Pearl Parmenter, Theima Shipman, Mozelle Nelson, Adele Edmonds, and Alvin Kringen, Stanley Stenseth, Roger DeMarais and Lawrence Fors.

For those at home, the Roxy Theatre was showing Buck Jones in "Fighting Sheriff," and the 60 by 175-foot skating rink at the Otto Milas home was open with Derris Drake in charge.

The Drake Degree of Honor Lodge installed Mrs. William Merbach as president, succeeding Mrs. O. Romine, at the Raymond Kemper home; the Rachel Rebekah Lodge installed Mrs. Martin Olson and the Odd Fellows Ed Larson as Noble Grands; and the Red Cross was thanked for Christmas bags they sent.

Drake beat Velva the second time this season, 22-9, with Bob Marvin, Jack Schons, Ross Borchert and George Marvin as standouts. Herman Stoerber took over the Roxy with "Red Heads on Parade" and "Diamond Jim" as his first offerings. And Mayor Sleight sent Roy Hegge, William Gimble, Lloyd McQuay and R. Bennett to Aberdeen, S.D., to bring home the new fire truck with its 200 gallon tank and 150-foot hose line.

The farmers were warned about light seed and buying from strangers; told North Dakota's financial welfare

was slowed by the end of the AAA program and by stem rust which came in 1935, as it did in 1916, from the south. 'Hopper infestation was moderate in the area; Ceres wheat was the thing. In 1935, however, moisture was above 1928, even slightly above normal. However, having been almost eight inches short in 1934, there was much to make up.

The moisture was evident in February: with roads blocked, most Butte folks came to Drake by train to do business. New records were being set for cold, coal supplies were being exhausted and, because of drifts, it was hard to get more.

John Haldi did take in the IH convention in Minot, though, and the Drake, Velva, Kief and Anamoose school bands gave a mass concert in March. Lloyd Varner and Arnold Marzolf organized a handicraft club for junior high boys; six teams competed in the county tournament at Drake (Martin, Towner, Velva, Norwich and Goodrich); and cards, especially bridge, passed time.

Rev. Wilson W. White came to serve the Evangelical church in the area. Rev. W.W. Knauff was serving the German Baptists and Rev. W.E. Gehrs the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. Rev. J.M. Mason succeeded Rev. H.F. Hanson as pastor of the Norwegian Lutheran Church for Drake, Balfour and Butte.

Despite the worst storm in years, faithful Soo Line trackmen, Tom Ogne of Drake and Casper Rice of Anamoose, walked eight or nine miles to patrol tracks. (Six broken rails were found between Harvey and Anamoose in one week.) Schools were closed in the storm, of course. Anamoose was out of coal but people there located four cars in Drake and were able to shovel a way out and back in with it.

A fire, started in the Bossert Hardware attic by a defective chimney, did \$2,500 damage; extreme cold and a damaged hydrant added to firemen's woes.

Highway 52 was finally plowed out from Minot to Anamoose after being blocked Feb. 15 to 25, open one day, and blown shut again. It took five hours to get a path from the Lake Bentley curve to the Notbohm farm at the top of the hill. Heavy snow cut off most of the Soo Line branches. Drake to Devils Lake was closed since the first of the year with one gorge 20 feet deep for several hundred feet at the Nissen cut. The line finally reopened March 1.

But that signalled the beginning of spring in 1936: Fred Burgemeister opened his Drake Hatchery; the creamery began pasteurizing milk; President Roosevelt urged farmers to restrict crop acreages; and giant shelterbelts began to be planted. Area boys enlisted in the Civilian Conservation Corps, with expanded programs asked, and in April the WPA men began to remodel the Drake City Hall for the new fire truck, adding full basement, hot air furnace and city sewer service.

It was in April that seeding began, with Stanus Martin first. 'Hopper menace was predicted again and summerfallow was urged. Wind generators were being sold: "the conveniences of electricity for radio and a few light bulbs." Big Mack overalls for men were 98 cents, too, but property tax collections had dropped 27 per cent since 1931, a good indication of how little money was around.

Mrs. Ben Magnuson introduced a new game, "Monopoly," that spring; Willie Tinker had a song published; E.C. Darst of the co-op creamery won the Land 'Lake butter-maker efficiency award; and the Drake Sportsmen's Club dispatched 190 crows with Derris Drake's team beating Herman Stoeber's.

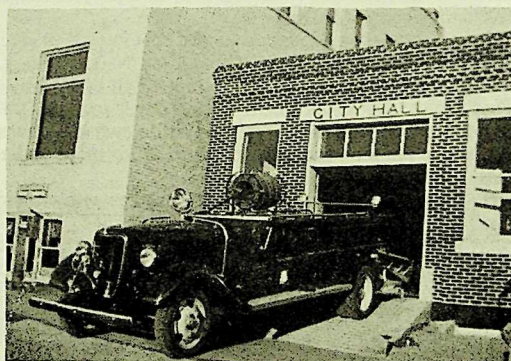
The Drake Seniors presented "Look Who's Here" that spring, and a trip to Fargo for livestock and home ec judging was a treat for Robert Johnson, Harold Van Horn, Clifford Anton, Bennie Jans, Ruth Refling and



Pictured above is the new rural fire truck which will be housed in the Drake City Hall. The truck, a 1946 Ford V-8, is equipped with a 400-gallon-per-minute pump and carries 500 gallons of water. The hose equipment includes 20 feet of suction hose, 300 feet of one inch booster hose, 250 feet of 1½ inch hose and 250 feet of 2½ inch hose. Other equipment includes extension ladders, axes, siren, running light for night driving. All in all, the truck is equipped to meet every fire-fighting need. The entire cost of the truck as equipped is \$3,800.

Until a new and larger door has been installed at the City Hall the truck is being kept at the Drake Motor Company garage.

Below is a picture of the fire truck which Drake has had for a number of years. The truck is equipped with a 500-gallon-a-minute pump and carried 200 gallons of water. It has 20 feet of suction hose, 150 feet of booster hose, 500 feet of 1½ inch hose and 800 feet of 2½ inch hose and the usual equipment of ladders and axes. Because of Fire Insurance Underwriters rules, this truck is not allowed to leave the city limits. (From the Drake Register)



Wendela Huffman. Drake won the eighth South McHenry Play Day with Ross Borchert setting a new record in the discus, Glen Fors in the pole vault and Ruth Mavis in the baseball throw. Drake's band was tops in the county music festival, too, with other winners including Robert Rollie, the girls sextet and quartet, Maxine Romsland, Delah Ortery, Harriet Johnson, Robert Magnuson, De Eon Romine, Gladys Magnuson, Evelyn Nelson, Marion Parmenter and Arnold Marzolf.

In the summer of '36, work began on the International Peace Garden; A.C. Townley spoke in Drake on the Non-Partisan League; the Drouth Association and farm loan

associations were active; and a rust-resistant wheat was finally being developed.

At home, B.B. Bennett's barn and other buildings, five calves, hay and tools burned, a loss of several thousand dollars. The county and city baseball teams organized with Steve Panas of the Empress running the Drake effort. Drake teams beat Balfour, Towner and Orrin for starters.

Dedication of the new home for the fire truck was a gala occasion, and people of the community could use a bright spot of hope—there were many farm sales in the area, many farmers were eligible for WPA work, and school finances were becoming a very serious problem.

Efforts were being made: Ag men from NDAC were working to bring together farmers with feed and those who had good cattle but no feed due to drouth. Gov. Welford was urging a plan to insure crops; a Granville man was studying shallow well irrigation, and there was talk of an irrigation dam on the Missouri River. FDR himself was coming to visit the drouth-stricken state. A third of North Dakota's citizens would be on relief by fall, experts said.

Drake got rain, the heaviest in the state, almost an inch, on July 18. But it came with wind and hail which completely wiped out crops on 10,000 acres near Balta. By using headers, farmers in many areas hoped to scrounge together a harvest averaging one to three bushels an acre.

With everything tinder dry, the Sportsmen's Club carried ducks to lakes and every spark had dangerous potential. A spark from the Great Northern destroyed the hay harvests of John Hanenberg, John Ewert and Math Paulus, and a cigarette started the fire which burned down the Schiller Hall after a dance.

With a pioneer faith that things will work out for those who really try, Drake plunged ahead. The recreational park, site for baseball, football, tennis and other sports, was begun with \$300 in school funds, about \$800 dug up by citizens, and \$2,500 from the federal government in materials.

The Drake golf course, delayed two years, was going again, funded by several Drake men. The club, with 50 to 60 members, had two greens completed by August and a tournament was set Sept. 13, (won by Lyle Foering of Towner.) In August also, the Drake Gun Club opened for skeet shooting south of Drake, with Peter Anton, Ross Borchert and Walter Senecahl having the initial high scores.

The McHenry County six-man football league, in which Drake was to star, was organized. Drake beat Velve 25-0 with Bob Quandt, Bob Marvin and Harvey Billings starring, assisted by the new guys: Vic Beutler, Tyler Kriedeman, Russel Olson and George Kellel. Weber, Billings and Refling were good in the game against Anamoose, which Drake won 20-13.

If one didn't like football, he could see Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in "Follow the Fleet," with music by Irving Berlin; or join the Sportsmen on their rabbit drive; or argue about politicians having to make financial disclosures. It was too warm to flood the skating rink.

A new guy, Louis Bowes, took over the Register from O.C. Wold, who moved to Rugby in October. Bowes wrote about Patrick Tully's appointment as Drake policemen; the Eaton Dam to be built in the spring to flood 7,000 acres of hayland; and about "Keymen" appointed by the Farm Holiday Association to hear grievances—Roy Belzer, Balfour, Oscar Dennitz, Lake George, Louis Reider, Round Lake, and Richard Nissen, Schiller.

As 1936 ended, changes were foreseen. Attorney Thomas D. Morrow of Drake, the new States Attorney,

was on his way to Towner to take office, and with the new legalization of hard liquor, many in Drake feared outbreaks of "riotous times" would occur.

There was some good news seen for the area as 1937 opened. Higher prices for farm products seemed inevitable; Drake got the go-ahead on a \$22,000 project for preparing its streets for paving; and Herman Peiler was chairman of the board of county commissioners. The state was trying to decide between blacktopping U.S. Highways 2 or 52; since several miles of 52 was already paved east of Minot and it is the shortest route to Minneapolis, Drake citizens had hopes.

The Golf Club elected Roy Hegge president, Herman Stoerber vice president, E.R. Christensen treasurer and Harry Amory, Earl Peterson and Ed Merbach to the board.

The Lloyd McQuay home burned that winter when a coal stove exploded. The fire truck ran out of gas less than two blocks away because someone had stolen the gas, firemen said, and had to be pushed to a station before returning to fight the blaze.

The Seniors performed "Call Me Mike," starring Harold Refling, Gladys Ogne, Dale Stenseth, Alvin Adam, Edwin Nagel, Clifford Anton, Rosie Ehrman, Magdalene Voller, Geraldine Burch, Bob Quandt, Ethel Larson and Violet Isaak. DHS students earning A's at the county music festival were singers Robert Rollie, Muriel Nelson and Robert Magnuson and pianists Roberta Hegge and Marion Parmenter. (Arnold Marzoff got a first in brass instrumental solo at the district contest in Minot.)

H.A. Peters took over the Chevy garage in Drake that spring; Suereessig's store was robbed of \$250 worth of clothing; and a cold three-day rain in June brought joy and 7.06 inches of moisture at Drake. There was hope the cold might kill the 'hoppers and cutworms as they hatched.

The Drake Co-op Shipping Association elected Frank Kaufman president and L.E. Goodlaxson manager and reported 54 cars of stock, bringing \$54,910, were shipped in 1936. A short circuit in a power line caused the \$4,600 blaze in the Progress Print Shop fire in June; Oscar Christianson and Russell Bennett were injured fighting the fire.

The Drake recreational park, 8½ acres one block northwest of the school with a grandstand seating 500, was well underway after many delays. O.W. Fors did the work when the pharmacy and City Meat Market put up new store fronts, some \$1,500 job. Ole Otterholm remodeled the front of the post office building, too. Newsboy Bill Gimble Jr., 14, won a trip from the Minneapolis Tribune to Chicago and Milwaukee.

Thatcher wheat, which was rust resistant, was being offered, but that was about the only good news for the farmers and the city dependent on their trade. Rust damage was seen on wheat; grasshoppers swarmed over the city and late crops, "looking like a cloud between the earth and sun," the Register reported. The area yield was about 4 to 5 bushels-an-acre average, up to 10 in the Skogmo area.

A horse disease, sleeping sickness, was spreading over the state. That fall, consumer resistance to cattle and beef prices resulted in a market suffering one of the sharpest drops in history, and the "worst ever" hopper infestation was predicted for 1938.

In town, because of increasing water demand, the city fathers considered a new well. Layne Western Co. of Minneapolis guaranteed 100 gallons a minute or no charge, (though they drilled to 354 feet without enough water later.) Gilbert Nelson of Butte was to run the 36 by

54-foot modern blacksmith and machine shop John Eichhorn added to his garage.

At school, Lester Shook and Marlys Christianson were royalty for the third annual Black Cat carnival, which included a boys' style show and a mock wedding starring Jeanette Bakken as the bride and Wallace Schrader. Shook, Duane Kringen, Gimble, Fors, Weber and Refling were on the Drake squad which beat Granville 62-0 the same week.

That December Stephen Leigh, 84, and a Dakota hunter over 35 years, successfully bagged his deer from a tree about 20 miles south of Coleharbor, along the Missouri. Son Walter was along.

Harvey Billings, DHS sophomore who was a halfback on the All-State second team, made the "American Boy" magazine honor roll.

In January 1938, Harry Billings was elected fire chief to succeed Pete Anton; the Rebekahs and IOOF installed Ruth Hegge and A.W. Bethke; and the Degree of Honor elected Mrs. Mary Gimble president. Milton Olson was installing a Delco plant, running at 110 volts for refrigerator and radio. He also put in water and sewer.

The Drake creamery paid off all indebtedness and in a congratulatory story, the Register noted the co-op began in 1930; paid dividends in 1932; made its first profit this year. On the first board were Richard Nissen, Theodore Sitz, Roy Belzer, H.M. Peterson, John Krueger, George Seibold and O.A. Refling while the present board included Belzer, president; Refling, secretary-treasurer; and William Haas, Simon Jans, John J. Adam and John W. Beutler. Fors erected the building for \$7,280; E.C. Darst was buttermaker from 1930 until 1936 when he left and Harvey Kringen was promoted. The group was affiliated with Land 'O Lakes.

A generous April rain ended soil blowing and helped pastures. That spring for the eighth year in 10 the Drake track team won at the county Play Day contest. New records included Lester Shook in the 100-yard dash, Erwin Johnson in high jump and Evelyn Nelson in girls' high jump.

Politics were interesting that summer, according to Louis A. Bowes, Register editor, because R.G. Wylie of Drake was running for county judge, T.D. Morrow and Vic Stiehm, both Drake men, were running for States Attorney and incumbent Herman Peiler and W.E. Kriedeman were vying for county commissioner.

Drake Boy Scouts and their master E.R. Manning spent Friday and Saturday in June at "Kampingo" in Minot with scouts from all the Great Plains area, and William Gimble received the star badge at a court of Honor. A joint Drake-Anamoose baseball team won its opener from Granville, 11-10.

Drake merchants agreed to sponsor band concerts Wednesday evenings with drawings of a \$15 prize, \$5 prize and 10 \$1 prizes. The council decided to leave liquor licenses at \$500 or, off-sale, \$300. Drake was still trying for a new soft water well; this time a contract with a minimum cost of \$4,500 for minimum production of 30 gallons per minute and bonuses for more than that.

Ed Horab of Ryder bought the Roxy Theatre; postmaster Harry Morrow was recovering from a slight skull fracture after falling on stairs; and Kenneth Fors was hurt in a firecracker accident the Fourth of July.

A rain of 3.30 inches helped the crops, even though it also washed out the road to August Kaibel's farm south of Drake, but black rust was said forming in some fields.

By July cutting and shocking of rye was underway. The hoppers had arrived and farmers hoped to harvest before they ravaged the field. "Skies were dark for almost two hours July 18 as 'hoppers winged their way to the fields,"

Drake Merchants From 1937

Advertising in the Register's Christmas issue were Adolph Dockter's Kozy Korner Cafe; Drake Dry Cleaners; Magnuson Lumber; First National Bank; Steve Panas' Empress Hotel and Cafe; Fred Borchert and the Drake Grain Co.; Andrew Nissen's dray line; Occident Elevator, Pete Anton, manager; Standard Service; A. A. Page and Willaim Gimble; A.P. Nehrenberg's Barber Shop; Jake Adam's Pure Oil distributorship; Drake Pharmacy, Roy Hegge; Dentist A. B. Parmenter; Videll's Beauty Shop; J. Romsland's City Bakery; C.H. Burch Co.; A.W. Bethke Hardware; Drake Motor Co.; Drake Hospital (Dr. C.O. Rollie); Drake Farmers Store; the Bun Shop (Herman Stoerber); Drake Co-op Creamery, H.G. Kringen, Manager; J.C. Penney's; Roxy Theatre; Kemper Service Station; Merbach grocery and Gamble's Store; Atty. Vic Stiehm; Bossert Hardware; Milton Olson's bar; W.G. Schucht, insurance; H.A. Peters Motor Co.; Fairmont Creamery, E.S. Johnson, manager; Deep Rock Service station, R.J. Kelly, proprietor; Marvel Beauty Shop, Alice Wohl and Ella Brodehl; L.I. Shook, barber; John Eichhorn, IH and Hudson-Terraplane dealer; Billings Dray Line; Kozy Korner barber shop, Jack Slaughter and Fred Burgemeister; Kjos Motor; Drake Shoe Shop; and A.L. Saueressig.

The Register recorded. The hay harvest was late because of heavy rains in June and July. Nearly an inch of rain July 26 was good for crops. The wheat yields varied from 4 to 20 bushels an acre. Theo Volk reported 10½ bushel crop with Thatcher wheat.

That summer 88,000 state families were getting surplus commodities; O.W. Fors was able to place several local men in steady jobs near Albert Lea, Minn., where a federal housing program was underway. The Drake dump was on the list of federal make-work projects, too, and seeking help on paving and water projects. Many transients appeared looking for harvest work and, often, a good hand-out, but they left when they learned there was little harvest and no work.

Drake Lutheran Church held a 10th anniversary celebration; Rev. J.M. Mason resigned to take an Iowa college position; and Rev. Wilson W. White, pastor for seven years of the Evangelical churches, resigned, succeeded by Rev. H.E. Bergland of Bismarck.

A complaint filed with the Attorney General by a Drake pastor prevented the circus from playing town on Sunday, but there was still fun to be had. Anamoose won over Drake in a donkey football game. The winners in the crow hunt sponsored by the Sportsmen were feted in a picnic Aug. 14 at Lake Richards with Reuben Jacobson tops, Verdie Shink second and Herman Stoerber third.

The Drake board of education asked for federal help via a PWA grant for a new gym; got a PWA grant of \$17,000 for a new water well, then \$29,880 for paving. Their vote in October for bonding for \$7,000 in building improvements lost 3-2.

The farmers got a 26 to 30 cent-a-bushel subsidy for complying with a soil conservation program and cutting

back 30 per cent on wheat planting in 1939. Crop insurance was explained and they were told that the downward drift of farm prices was checked. However, 'hopper damage in McHenry County was said to be \$246,875 for the season and auction sale dates continued to appear in the papers.

The first snow of the season, after weeks of dry weather, came Oct. 17.

Drake's six-man football team beat Max 27-8 in District play-off, defeated Wildrose 24-7 for the Northwest district title led by Capt. Harvey Billings who scored two TD's in the final quarter. They got new uniforms for incentive, then beat Minnewaukan for the state title, 38-34, after defeating Fort Yates 33-18. The team coached by Gus Schlickemeyer, included Galen Jacobson, Norman Haykel, Glen Fors, Duane Kringen, Alfred Sherlock, Loren Benson, Edmund Jans, Orris Christianson, Billings Orris Rollie, William Gimble, Harold Refling and Eldor Weber. They were honored with a banquet attended by 173 fans in November, turkey and goose, for 50 cents a plate.

McCarthy Well Company of St. Paul got the well-drilling job; in a marathon two-day session the council decided they were likelier to get water by paying McCarthy than by taking the 45 per cent grant from PWA funds and giving the job to the lowest bidder, a firm with which they had previously been dissatisfied.

Oppen's took over Will Saueressig's building that December, to open the ninth Oppen's store in a chain. Anamoose Farmers State Bank was forced to close, though FDIC made good deposits; thousands of fish died in Brush Lake due to low water. Thus ended 1938.

Lawlessness was the prime target of the Drake city council early in 1939 after numerous complaints about slot machines and other gaming devices, public drunkenness, after-hours liquor and other offenses.

Clyde Ostrom of the Morris Hotel asked for a special policeman in the business section at night because of rowdiness. Mayor William Merbach said the city budget wouldn't handle an extra policeman; he put liquor dealers on notice that unless gambling machines were out by Jan. 10 they would be destroyed and the proprietor subject to arrest.

The Drake Civic club organized that January, with Harvey Kringen as president.

In February there were persistent rumors the roundhouse would be relocated in the spring, moved south of the Deep Rock Oil Co. bulk tanks and east of Herman Drake's crossing. The mercury dipped to 45 below on Feb. 8, and trains were behind schedule.

An interesting history of businesses in town began, with a booster page approach. Drake Hospital was one of the first. Editor Bowes noted Dr. Coffin started the first one in 1913, using a home for the purpose. In 1916 he started a regular hospital and operated it several years. When business declined, he maintained only one or two rooms for emergency work. In 1924 Dr. Rasmussen bought out Dr. Coffin's practice, using a house in the east part of town for a hospital. Beginning in 1925 Dr. Hammergren was briefly a partner of Dr. Rasmussen, prior to moving to Harvey. In 1927 Dr. Rasmussen bought another location and added onto the building two years later. Dr. C.O. Rollie moved from McClusky to Drake in 1930, joined Dr. Rollie and in 1931 bought out the practice. In 1931 the building was purchased from Rasmussens, in 1934 and 1935 additions were made and by 1939 it could accommodate 16 adult patients and had a nursery with five bassinets. Dr. Olga Johnson joined Dr. Rollie in 1937.

The cold continued in February but it didn't discourage the Sportsmen from building 10 feeders and filling them with 12 bushels of millet for grouse and pheasants.

Weather didn't discourage J.T. Alme of Balfour, Oliver representative for several years, from opening an implement agency in a warehouse between Bossert Hardware and City Bakery. Alme was to retain the Oliver dealership and also represent J.I. Case Threshing Machine Co.

Two more interesting business histories call for a reprise: J.C. Penney Co. opened its first Drake store in September 1929 with G.H. Borman as the first manager, succeeded in 1930 by C.E. Robbins and in 1938 by J. C. Jensen.

The Drake Pharmacy dated back to 1903 when Dr. Sandbo and T.E. Sleight handled the first drug stock in the city. They turned it over to Mr. Ginther who operated a general merchandise store for a time, and after a year it was taken over by Al Roe who opened the first drugstore. In 1906, the Register reported, B.B. Bennett bought it, ran it till 1911 when his brother S.M. Bennett bought it. In 1914 B.B. bought it back, placing Charley Hersey in charge. In 1918 Bennett sold out to Carl Krantz who ran it until 1920 when the building was badly damaged by fire and the balance of the stock sold to Alfred Blakey in 1921. He ran it until April 1926 when he sold the drugstore to Roy Hegge.

Despite storms such as the one in March 1939 which postponed Frank Bossert's John Deere program, the Broadview Grange celebrated its 25th anniversary; Steve Panas made plans to add several rooms and a 26-foot lobby to the Empress Hotel; the Drake Midgets won the McHenry County basketball championship from Granville; and Evelyn Refling, 11, gave a history of Drake over KLPM radio.

March arrived with 50 degree weather and a fast melt; April brought light snow for added moisture and farmers started plowing.

The co-op creamery distributed \$2,500 dividends to patrons; the county music festival produced A's for Orris Rollie's solo, the band, boys quartet, boys and girls glee clubs, piano duet by Harriet Johnson and Janet Werner, Glen Fors, Duane Kringen, Lawrence Nagel and a sax duet by Earl Midas and Dorothy Johnson.

The group working for a paved highway from Charleston, S.C. to Fairbanks, Alaska via Chicago, Minneapolis, Wahpeton, Minot, Portal and Regina reported good receptions in May. The Drake Golf Club, with A.C. Decker its new president, planned a low-cost membership to produce \$100 a year on their \$700 debt.

One week Bowes reported a test well of McCarthy Well Co. for soft water produced 50 gallons a minute, hit at 302 feet with 150 feet of water in the well. The following week, a headline said, "Wanted: information as to the whereabouts of the McCarthy well drillers who left Drake over two weeks ago for the home office."

It was not a joke, but rather the result of a dispute between the city and company about the size of screen and pipe. The disagreement was resolved and in July Drake accepted the new well with a 30 gallon-per-minute production.

The governor warned farmers to join the fight against hopper crop damage since failure to spread poison bait might cost them the loss of federal crop insurance. By May 6 there were reports of the voracious pests hatching.

Oppen's opened a variety store in Drake in May 1939; Milton Olson began to erect a new store north of the Drake Farmers Store with two bowling alleys in the basement and a liquor store in part of the ground floor; and G.O. Iverson remodeled his property. George Iverson moved his shoe repair shop to the rear of the building and Herman Stoeber of the Bun Shop leased the front to handle Drake Creamery ice cream that summer.

Four softball teams organized for an interfraternal rivalry: Drake Motors, Drake Creamery, City Market and Oppen's.

Drake deferred the project for an overpass of the Soo tracks because of lack of funds; Rev. O.T. Haugen of Absarokee, Mont., accepted a call for Drake Lutheran church and Rev. A.W. Bibelheimer began his ministry with the Anamoose Baptists after serving Rosenfeld parish.

In July, the farmers were jubilant over the chance of a bumper crop, the best since 1913, and the next three weeks would tell the story, the editor said. Little hopper damage had been reported to mid-July and no hail or rust. Wheat 20 to 35 bushels at a dollar was anticipated. (Indeed, it was realized—In December wheat hit a dollar a bushel in Chicago, and at the end of the year the state had seen its best economic condition since 1929.)

John Lerner north of Drake lost his second barn in a year, first one to a tornado and the new one to fire, and Fred Cole's dancing pavilion between Drake and Towner burned but for most people the luck was running the other way that year.

Drake's enrollment reached a new high in September, 99, with 10 more expected; S. Victor Hilden was the new coach. Drake's six-man football squad rapped Velva 47-0 for its fourth win. The Drake Gun Club opened the trap-shooting season in September; Drake's Rebekahs hosted district lodges and the Legion Auxiliary hosted the district too.

Drake's football heroes beat Plaza 47-0 in district play-off; but lost the state grid title 20-19 to Starkweather, first loss in two seasons. Despite the loss, the boys were treated to a trip to Minneapolis for the Minnesota- Wisconsin game by the Civic Club.

Videll Cain and Roy Mavis were royalty at the fifth Black Cat carnival; turkey buying started locally in November; and LeRoy Kringen bought the ice cream parlor from Herman Stoeber and called it Roy's Hamburger Shop.

By December another city well was being discussed; added work at the Soo repair shop meant another job in town; Milt Olson's bowling alley opened; and the skating rink opened. Eldor Weber was named to the state All-State team and Harvey Billings got honorable mention. After the first snowfall on Dec. 11, the temperatures again soared to the 60s. Things were looking up!

The weather cooled off in January 1940 as the European war heated up. Boves published a "stay out of the war" editorial. The Drake theatre and IOOF hall were remodeled in January; the grid team was listed among the nation's 30 best; and Harvey Kringen was re-elected head of the Civic Club.

February 1940 saw the Drake Farmers Union Oil Company organized, with 250 or 300 farmers there to elect Roy Belzer chairman, I.H. Traiser vice chairman, Clarence Soderberg secretary-treasurer and August Kaibel Jr. and John Bruner Jr. on the board. (In July they bought lots 7 and 8 in Block 8 to construct a bulk station for a \$40 tax deed.)

The better farming train, stressing soil improvement methods, stopped in Drake. The new Ford tractors with Ferguson unit implement were now available at Drake Motors; implements adapted to the new tractor and handled just by pulling a lever included a 14-inch two-bottom plow; 12-inch two-bottom plow with sod or digger bottoms, and general or row cultivators.

The IOOF and Rebekahs reportedly were considering paying \$2,000 for the Oscar Schilling building between the post office and Merbach's Gambles store.

In March the Civic Club began drumming up support for improvements on Highway 52 and in April, the students, previously forbidden to have a prom, polled their parents with a 59-19 vote in favor: the prom held May 3, 1940, had a Dutch motif with a windmill.

Rain and snow for two inches of moisture gave the best ground moisture in 10 years, up to two feet into the subsoil. A carnival with six free acts headlined the May festival and A.W. Bethke was remodeling a building for a new funeral home.

The 1940 census showed Drake's population at 649, a gain of 5 from 1930. Anamoose Township had 271 people, Schilling 335, Strege 278 and Spring Grove 179 citizens.

At a dedicatory program at the end of June, electric services came on in Verendrye, the lignite mines near Sawyer and to farm homes along a 67-mile line route, under the management of the Verendrye Electric Cooperative. And Gov. Moses said North Dakota was on the route to economic recovery.

Harry Langren of Valley City took over John Romsland's Drake Bakery and Milton Olson opened the "Pioneer Bar" in July. (Charles Degenstein, former Anamoose merchant, requested the license to open a liquor store in Olson's Drake building but was refused because of a regulation stating the owner must have lived in Drake a year.)

A quarter inch of rain aided the grain crops, suffering from heat and dry weather late in July. By August editor Boves was reporting spotty crops and harvest delayed by rain, but the wheat being taken off was running 15 to 23 bushels and 55 to 69 pounds, a bountiful harvest after earlier years.

In North Dakota, 9,400 were still on WPA rolls and the European war was blamed for a slump in the wheat market. It became obvious America would not stay out of the war. Gov. Moses was concerned about the draft; UND said the draft wouldn't hurt enrollment. By Oct. 16, men ages 21 to 36 were ordered to register.

At home the talk involved the shop and mechanics course to be offered at DHS; about the McHenry County all-star baseball team choices including Ken Huso and Oscar Erickson of Rangeley and Clarence Nelson, Herbert Pfaff and Vic Senechal from Drake. H.W. Landgren closed the Drake Bakery, saying local grocers had to stop trucking bread in from other areas if they wanted a bakery in town.

The Drake six-man football team won the Dist. 3 title over Velva 34-7; the Region B title from Wildrose 63-25; and beat Fort Yates 21-6. Then a storm stopped the Kindred-Drake state championship game with co-titlists talked.

The Register ran a front-page editorial condemning lawlessness and public drunkenness; the city hired Daris Drake to be full-time town marshal, aided by Pat Tully.

The year 1940 ended on a war-like note: among McHenry men called for military training were Bert Lommen, Walter Sherlock, K.C. Bruner and T.P. Strege. Lester Schley, printer at the Progress Print Shop, and Harold Burgemeister, who volunteered, were called up, and the word was out McHenry County might have to send 25 youths in January.

The New Year opened on one bright note: agriculture income in 1940 was the highest in 11 years, many new homes were being built and 760 state farms were back on the tax rolls.

Drake's second well, drilled by Independent Drilling Co. of Aberdeen, S.D., looked promising, 334 feet deep, pumping 32 gallons a minute and almost free of sand. Gust Janavars was elected head of the Civic Club.

A strange malady was reported in Drake with symptoms resembling infantile paralysis but no germ was yet isolated; those stricken included Dorothy Schrader and Howard Olson.

In February the Register won first place in the GNDA community development contest; and Rev. H.E. Bergland of the Evangelical Church resigned due to poor health.

With a three-inch snow falling after warm weather in March, the highways were heavy but still open and sloughs were filling up. Then came the fierce storm of 1941 which caused 39 deaths, had winds of 47 miles an hour in Bismarck and 70 to 75 in Fargo and Grand Forks. Most of the bad weather, except the snow, missed Drake.

April saw Floyd A. Kagel of Flaxton buying the Drake Register and Anamoose Progress from Louis A. Bowes, who was in poor health. Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Johnson of Balfour took charge of the County Home near Velva (Gene Autry was showing in "Carolina Moon" at the Drake Theatre with the first chapter of the Lone Ranger serial to be shown. Errol Flynn was another favorite.)

A 1.20-inch rain prepared the ground for seeding but made Highway 52 near Carrington and between Drake and Minot in bad shape.

In May Drake students did well at district music contest and took second in the county declamation contest. St. Olaf College honored Harold Refling as Ole honor athlete of the Year and St. Leo's in Minot broke ground for a new church. A referendum for wheat quotas was set May 21 and 80 per cent of the farmers favored control of sales of the 1941 crop. State farm leaders called for government reform, including firing Department of Agriculture personnel known to be antagonistic to farmers.

Two thousand Farmers Union members picnicked at the park in Velva and heard FU President Glenn J. Talbott.

The Drake Shipping Association met and re-elected Richard Nissen director; named Frank Kaufman president, A.L. Woitte vice president, J.P. Kemper secretary-treasurer and L.E. Goodlaxon, manager. They had shipped 42 carloads of cattle in 1940, and voted to reduce shipping charges to 5 cents a hundred-weight on cattle and a dime on calves, hogs and sheep.

By July, after the wettest year since 1896, North Dakota was starting harvest, and Funston's Occident Elevator, which had been closed five years, was moved to Drake to store the crop. By August the paper was reporting heavy losses from too much moisture: Drake received 1.37 inches of rain between Sept. 1 and 11th and values of grain laying in the soggy swath fell with the rain.

Of course, other things concerned the Drake area residents that year. A multiple tragedy struck several families in July when drowning at Round Lake 14 miles northeast of Drake claimed the lives of Nanning Nissen, 10; Hulda Bromley, 17; and Delores and Dorothy Ganske, 15 and 17.

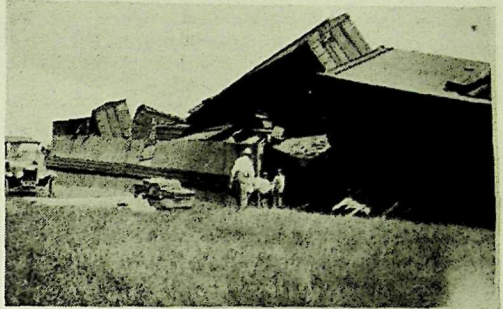
Lloyd Carlson became coach at Drake; Adolph Dockett leased Frank Paulus' Standard Oil service station on the corner by the Morris Hotel; Adolph sold his cafe to Lloyd McQuays.

With the war effort, aluminum became a precious metal and scrap was being collected.

The new St. Margaret's Catholic Church, a 32 by 84-foot structure seating 250, was dedicated Oct. 29. Father Wilkes who has charge of the parish, moved to the 32 by 46-foot rectory, complete with winter chapel, when it was completed.

Rev. F.J. Kordewich, recently honored for 25 years in the ministry, led the American Lutherans, Bibleheimer the Anamoose and Guthrie Baptists, and Rev. Vincent Schneider the Evangelical church.

That November, John Bruner Jr. was named head of the AAA committee; the westbound Soo Passenger train and east-bound local collided with several people slightly hurt; and Rudolph Schmidt leads Iverson's Harness and shoe shop; and the census showed there were fewer North Dakotans, they were older than in 1930 and farms larger.



Soo Line's 1922 wreck three miles west of Drake.

A formal declaration of war ended the year, an answer to Japan's "dastardly and unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor." The president said we lost two warships and 3,000 men. "The American conscience is now in fighting armor."

The draft ages were set from 20 to 44, and all the people worried and some of them worked: the Helping Hand League knit 45 sweaters for the McHenry County Red Cross.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wohl learned their son Oswald was among those who died at Pearl Harbor.

The good farm outlook was overshadowed by the war and farmers were enlisted in the efforts: order implement repairs early, register trucks they were urged. Substitute flax, soybeans and canning crops for wheat acres without changing wheat allotments for the future, they were told.

The city people also felt immediate impact. War relief funds were over-subscribed; victory gardens were promoted; coach Carlson left for the Army and Superintendent Manning took over. The Drake Legion and Auxiliary became active in registration programs and providing patriotic items for such events as PTA meetings. Toothpaste tubes were collected as were shaving cream and ointment containers for their high grade of tin. The Drake Civic Club, noting the urgent need for scrap iron, offered to ship it for farmers.

Of course, other things were happening, too. The Drake Co-op Creamery distributed nearly \$10,000 in dividends. The Farmers Union filed two petitions, one asking for a graduated land tax and the other to permit classification or property for determination of taxes on a percentage of its value. (The second would tax public utilities on 100 per cent of valuation instead of 50 per cent, and lower personal property taxes.)

At the end of March, after an almost snowless winter, the countryside was covered and all roads drifted deep after a snow storm, preceded by rain. A million trees were ready for farmers to plant; the Farmers Union bought the old Catholic church for a service station; and the Drake creamery was building a \$4,000 addition to allow space for a locker plant when one could be added.

But most of the news was war-connected: the county board was checking reports of sugar hoarding; only ministers with parishes outside of town were eligible for

new tires or tubes; men 45 to 64 were asked to register for the draft April 27 and by May boys as young as 18 were registered. Even the Junior-Senior banquet served Army rations—beans, rice and mule meat—using the rest of their money to buy a defense bond.

In June the state's anti-corporation farming law was upheld by the N.D. Supreme Court; K.H. Rehffuss succeeded O.B. Jensen as Penney's manager; the Drake stockyards moved a quarter-mile east, out of town, ridding the city of an eyesore and a hazard; and the shipping association sent 77 carloads of cattle. But the big news was that extra sugar would be available for canning and that farm gas would not be rationed.

War needs in conflict with harvest became apparent in July: storage of wheat became a big problem but needed men would be deferred until after harvest. By July, with its high yields of 20 to 30 or more bushels per acre, and with loan value on wheat set at \$1.14 a bushel, farmers were happy. But by Sept. 24's Drake Register, harvest was being delayed by rain and then by snow. That year, 1942, North Dakota topped its record for producing the most new wealth.

Of course, there was other news. Mrs. Lester Shook replaced Mrs. A.C. Decker, the telephone operator for seven years, at the Northwestern Bell exchange. Soo Line service was curtailed where bus lines ran parallel; V-mail service was available and a carload of scrap rubber was shipped from Drake. Pioneer B.B. Bennett, who came to Drake in 1904 and moved to Harvey in 1927 to start a Ford garage, died Aug. 20. A.M. Haykel bought the Drake Gamble's Store from William Merbach and A.M. Teyler bought the Drake Machine firm from Vernon Roth who enlisted in the Navy.

Andy Hardy was making 'em laugh in the movies in 1942; Drake High began to offer pre-flight and other "war courses"; the Army Mothers in town organized.

At the end of 1942, the Register said income tax was up—a single man who paid \$3.60 last year would be paying \$54 in 1942. Because of transportation rationing and a lack of nuts and candy, Santa missed his Drake appointment and a free movie was shown. The Drake Shipping Association sent 25 cars of livestock in November, largest shipment in the North Dakota-Minnesota district. The Farmers Union enclosed its grease rack to make it year round, and the government now wanted used silk and nylon hosiery.

January 1943 brought word that goals in scrap-collecting has been surpassed; that Emil Isaak was a Jap prisoner-of-war; that Pearl Jacobson's dog was being trained to be a pack dog for soldiers; and that farm goals and machinery quotas had been set.

The creamery distributed dividends of \$14,053. In March Dr. Rollie said he would remodel the Drake Hospital into apartment buildings; he had closed it the previous fall due to a lack of trained nurses. Meat and butter rationing were seen by mid-April.

A five-day blizzard in mid-April stopped all traffic and the flood which followed in a swift melt took six lives in the state and washed out Highway 52 between Voltaire and Balfour and between Drake and Anamoose.

Drake lost several pioneers early that April: Rev. Fred J. Knuth, William Pieske, Mike Usselman and L.E. Goodlaxson.

E.R. Manning left Drake to take a job at Minot State Teachers College and C.H. Rodewald replaced him; the Rebekahs had a 35th anniversary; the Drake shipping association had its biggest year, 119 cars of stock; and a rollback was seen on beef and butter prices. Father Siegreid W. Heyl replaced Rev. H. Wilkes who died as Drake's priest.

Hail storms, some of it doing 60 per cent damage, struck farms of Paul Kriedeman, Ted Sitz, Robert and John Senechal, P.H. Knuth, and Pete Duchsherer. Lightning also killed some animals. The next week, in July, a twister hit Rueben Roth's farm 12 miles northwest and also did damage for John Kramer, Ludwig Schiele, Henry Hass, Robert Hass, Clemens Schatz and Mike Kuntz.

The Farmers Union was pressing for full parity for 1944 wheat; Rev. O.T. Haugen of Drake Lutheran resigned and was replaced by Rev. E.W. Zimbrick; and the Drake Creamery installed the locker plant.

But the town was more interested in the surprise meeting of Albert and Dan Uhlich on a battlefield in Tunisia.

That fall Mrs. Conrad Hanson leased the Empress Cafe, Mrs. R.J. Kelly and Mrs. Myrtle Nelson leased the Drake Coffee Shop from G.O. Iverson, and Genevieve Woitte took over Mrs. Lloyd McQuay's place, calling it the "Pastime Cafe."

Lack of coal cars and labor were hurting small coal mine production and, though farm machinery rationing eased, lack of rubber meant no more conversion of tractors from steel to rubber was allowed. By November, a hopeful Gov. Moses was speaking of a post-war plan for rehabilitation of wounded and other veterans. Harold Refling was awarded an Army Air Force Commission.

The town carried on: the school set an amateur contest with a king and queen to be named; the creamery was assured of getting lockers; and nine boys in Rosenfeld Township organized a 4-H Club with Dale Blumhagen president, Howard Krause vice president and Verne Blumhagen secretary-treasurer. Roy Krpoun decided to have a wheat project with eight other beef projects.

H.W.R. Bentley, who came to Brush Lake long before Drake existed, died at the end of 1943.

'Forty-four opened with Dr. Abraham Kositsky coming to Drake; a fox drive in Rosenfeld Township; Milton Olson buying the Empress property; and fire at Eichhorn's destroying two cars and damaging a truck, two tractors and the building. A prairie fire also burned over 160 acres of Bentley's hayland.

Twenty-one men met to organize the Civic Club again, headed by George Schafer, Earl Peterson, K.E. Rehffuss, W.G. Schucht and Verdie Shink. The Drake volunteer firemen hosted a meeting with farmers in February to talk about rural fire protection. By April the Drake locker plant was operating.

However, for the citizens of the area, more important was the word that Lt. Robert Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. O.A. Johnson, was reported missing over southern France and then that he was a Nazi POW. Word came that S. Sgt. Eddie Beutler got a commendation for action at Bougainville, that Leo Myxter received the silver star for gallantry in action, that Johnson was cited as was E.H. Haykel.

May 1944 also included a band concert, a prize for the most gopher tails, wheat loans set at \$1.28 a bushel and George Schafer buying Charlie's Bar. But even the news that 52 from Anamoose to Velva would be the first post-war road job was overshadowed by the invasion of Normandy on June 6.

The WPA was done by the end of June and grass and legume seed were said to be in short supply. In August Purple Hearts were awarded to Ken Fors, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Fors of Drake, and Pfc. Dan Dockter, son of the Jacob Dockters of Anamoose. The word was out that hunters might get more shells as the Nazi effort collapsed, after being allowed only one box in 1943.

Plans were available from the county for an inexpensive auger-type grain elevator which could be

built for \$30. Drake tried 11-man football and beat Sykeston. For the first time since 1914 all counties have county agents now that McHenry County voted one in.

But the most vital statistics at the end of the year were that North Dakota had sent 50,460 soldiers off to war; McHenry had seen 847 inducted and 345 enlist. Harry Daugherty and Francis Anderson died. Though parts of the war were winding down, more draft calls were planned and rationing was still a fact of life for citizens of Drake at the end of 1944.

January 1945 furnished more statistics, all of them grim. North Dakota war dead was 1,330 with 390 missing, 1,903 wounded and 295 prisoners. One of 30 who entered the war were killed or missing.

Some civilian statistics were more encouraging. Drake taxes were down 50 per cent. Fifty miles an hour was the state speed limit but the editor noted those caught going over 35 might lose gas coupons. The average monthly salary for the state's 3,141 rural teachers was \$114, less than \$1,000 a year. Average for all teachers and superintendents, 6,719 of them, was \$138 monthly.

In February, S.J. Gausemel headed Drake Civic Club Pearl Jacobson became manager of Oppen's Food Market and Variety; and Stuart Johnson, J.C. Penney's manager, was transferred with C.H. Knudson his replacement. Rev. Alvin Selid was installed as Lutheran Pastor. Sen John Moses died at Rochester and a 47-year-old farmer named Milton R. Young was appointed.

The Drake Sportsmen elected Milton Olson president; and right-of-way for the new U.S. 52, being rerouted between Sawyer and Anamoose, was being bought.

Adele C. Edmonds, a flight nurse, got the Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster and Delmer Martwick got the bronze Star Cpl. Emil Isaak was out after three years in a Jap prison camp and vets were being discharged.

FDR Dies

The death of FDR in April was bordered in black in the Register which, in May, hailed the end of the war in Europe. That did not come quickly enough for some: Drake sports hero Harvey Billings died of wounds in Germany in the last great push by Patton's 3rd Army.

The paper printed letters from Emil Isaak about the horrors of the prison camp, the last letters from Billings, and the news Bob Johnson had been liberated.

Other news as the spring and summer wore on included Mrs. Lester Shook's piano students' recital in May; the Spring Grove and Guthrie Farmers Union locals organizing, headed by William Stack and Theo Sitz respectively; and the Fordville train derailment blamed on the road bed condition.

The Drake Farmers Union Shipping Association organized with Peter Wolf as chairman, William Kriedeman secretary and George Bromley, Richard Wilde and August Kaibel Sr. on the board. Fred Rienits was trucker.

It was the Drake Sportsman versus the crows once again; the Drake Commercial Club planned to build a beach at Brush Lake; and Drake Co-op Shipping Association sent out 106 carloads of stock.

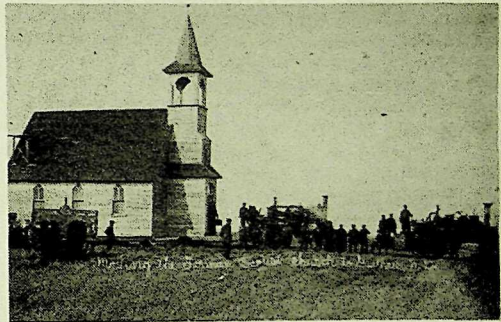
The farm census showed McHenry County had 1,843 farms averaging 606 acres, compared to 1,992 farms averaging 518 acres in 1940, and 2,242 farms of 467 acres in 1935.

The Japanese suicide planes were causing great damage, Drake heard, and Pfc. Eustachius Duchscherer won the Purple Heart. But finally the news came in the Aug. 16 issue: The war is over, President Truman had accepted an unconditional surrender.

Colleges and employers began to gear up for returning veterans and the news was full of news of the end of the war. Rationing stopped on one item at a time: Sugar, cheese, rubber. Slaughter of cattle without permission was again allowed. Soo trains 107 and 108, war casualties, were restored and service was improved.

At home C.H. Burch sold his wholesale firm to Alfred Berg of Harvey, who retained all the employes. A record crop, 1,469,400,000 bushels of wheat was forecast; and penicillin, the wonder drug, may prove to be a wonder cure for mastitis.

In September a new town was planned for 10,000 people near the site of a dam proposed at Garrison; Bossert Hardware was to erect a 50 by 80-foot fireproof building now that the war was over; Earl Peterson of City Market was to build a 25 by 60-foot fireproof building just north of the Pioneer Bar; Alme's 50 by 86-foot structure was nearing completion; and Bencer Kjos was remodeling the Peters Garage building he bought last summer. A.M. Teyler was building for his business, too, and O.W. Fors and Anton Mosser planned homes.



Moving Baptist Church to Guthrie. (Mrs. Dale McCarty)

In November the Drake Baptist Church, moved in from Guthrie, was dedicated and Bibelheimers were to live in the modernized parsonage which also was moved. But that fall was even more notable for the list of those discharged: The first one, titled, "Call Me Mister," had 118 names of McHenry County servicemen discharged and there were 123 out the next week.

And the most noticeable result of that, in the paper, was a rash of weddings. Some of them were local folks and others were girls from away: Michael J. Weninger of Drake engaged to Beth Marie Oliver of Everett, Wash., Warren McQuay wed to Phyllis Johnston of Toole, Utah, and Lt. Otto Heath and Helen Barr and Emma Mehl and Jacob Heydt. The war was definitely over.

The year 1946 opened with GI bill information, with 82 more McHenry County discharges from service in January and 66 in February; with Harold Ostrom buying Magnuson Lumber and Ed Merbach heading the Drake Commercial Club.

Drake Sportsmen offered a \$25 reward for anyone found killing birds near their feeders after shell casings were found. Vern Kasson was named McHenry County ag extension agent.

Heavy snow in February had trains blocked by snow, seven cars stalled near Notbohms, and all side roads crossed only by tractors or horses. Pilot Kenton Bischke of Minot flew to Kief to bring Andrew Huber to Drake to catch a train to Minneapolis for medical attention, took Fred Martwick who had been snowbound in Drake to his home near Kief and hauled two other snowbound Kief men home by plane.

Finally as weather eased up, Drake citizens began to hear about other subjects: Gov. Fred Aandahl urged legislation to further the St. Lawrence Seaway; Drake lost the Dist. 14 championship game to Minot Model, 27-25; Soo locomotive was damaged by fire in the roundhouse; a new Ford would be ready in six weeks for the rural fire truck; and veterans got preference for new farm machinery.

In April Harry Bossert of Karlsruhe bought Earl Peterson's City Market; a county baseball league organized; and a mass meeting was held, successfully, to save Highway 14 which the state would have abandoned in favor of one north from Velva. In May the Soo was ordered to curtail passenger service to comply with a defense order to conserve coal, but the price ceiling of wheat was raised 15 cents (25 cents for corn) to encourage planting to feed Europe.

On June 14, 1946, Drake celebrated its 44 anniversary--and the end of three disasters, drouth, depression and war-- with a parade, ball game, carnival and dance plus the usual speeches. Roman Hanenberg won the best saddle horse contest and Adam Koble's team won the tug of war.

Ten persons were left homeless when the McHenry County Home for Aged and Dependent Persons burned at Velva. Drake beat Bantry 9-7 to hold a 3 win, 1 loss record.

In July 1946, the Guthrie post office was discontinued when Fred H. Denien, postmaster, retired after 31 years. The circus visited Drake July 23. In August, bids were let for 14 miles of bituminous surfacing on the highway east of Velva; a war surplus sale was held at Devils Lake; air mail postage shot up to 5 cents; and the Drake library reopened with school, lending such new books as "The Egg and I", "Black Rose," and John Steinbeck's Cannery Row."

Drake, back in six-man football beat Velva 40-12 and won 33-0 to hand Parshall its first defeat since the 1943 season.

The pheasant season opened Oct. 13, but the duck season was frustrating-- cut to 45 days with a limit of seven birds.

Frank Bossert bought out his brother John to become sole owner of Bossert Implement, opened as a partnership in 1931. A new 50 by 80-foot building was to go up on the present location when material was again available.

The Baptists were dealing with Mrs. Anna Bentley and planned a Baptist youth camp on Lake Bentley. Construction on Garrison Dam was to begin in the spring the next year, 1947.

In late November 1946, undefeated Drake beat St. Mary's of Devils Lake 13-6, beat Esmond, tied Rugby for the lead in the Central N.D. league. In Drake, they were organizing to build an airport: Milton Olson reported over \$1,800 had been donated to buy 80 acres needed. (The airport was completed yet that year.)

The Men of Drake Lutheran Church served a lutefisk and roast venison supper; two breaks in water mains left much of the city without water and closed the school; and Drake Lutheran installed the altar, communion rail, pulpit, pews and baptismal font from a closed church northwest of Balfour. Polio cases were reported.

Prices had shot up after the war ended. By the end of 1946, Oppen's had canned corn, peas and beans at 3 cans for 59 cents, oranges 39 cents a dozen, celery for 16 cents a

stalk and lutefisk 19 cents a pound. City Market sold coffee for 37 cents a pound on sale, and Penney's had boys' overalls for \$1.67 and girls' coats for \$3 to \$5 on a special sale.

To lead off the year 1947, Drake took third in the Anamoose tournament; Joe Alme headed the Commercial Club, Verdie Shink the firemen, Herbert Adam and Mrs. Mildred Kagel the IOOF and Rebekahs. A bumper baby crop was underway; the first blizzard of the season stopped all traffic; and Drake lost to Rugby 28-37 for second place in the Central North Dakota basketball conference tourney at Harvey.

Farm building was still not looking too good, with prefabrication of units termed "a disappointment."

By March the 22-member band, directed by O.A. Bergstad, was practicing and working toward purchase of uniforms through bake sales and serving lunch at events. Earl Peterson bought the Fors building and theater; Penney's was remodeled; and Highway 52 was indeed among the first to be rebuilt.

The Drake baseball club donated their uniforms from 1946 when the American Legion post decided to sponsor a junior baseball team. (Drake won the McHenry County softball title that year in May.)

The Drake Golf Club, reorganized with Ed Merbach as president and S.B. Utgaard secretary-treasurer, was trying to get the course, unused for several years, back into shape.

Lloyd McQuays bought the Morris Hotel from the Clyde Ostroms and planned to reopen the cafe which had been closed several years. Drake hosted several hundred delegates to the Baptist Northwest Association convention in June; Herman Drake, 87, town founder, died June 23.

In July road speeds were advanced to 60 for cars on several roads including Highways 10, 83, 2 and, east from Anamoose, U.S. 52. Wheat producers were guaranteed 90 per cent of parity by the USDA; and Eichhorns arranged a showing at the Emil Johnson farm of the new IHC Cub tractor, a small one pulling a single 12-inch moldboard plow, which would work 3½ acres in just 10 hours.

With a camp just south of Drake, workers began in August on the Anamoose to Bergen segment of U.S. 52. The bag limit on ducks was down to four; the hunt for oil in the state resumed; and the government recommended early tillage and early swathing because of a new pest, sawfly. No surprise: elevators were filling up and box cars were in short supply as harvest started, so farmers were told to save good storage room for flax on the farm.

North Dakota had dropped 107,000 population in seven years of drouth and people leaving for war defense work, it was noted. While state land averaged \$13 an acre in value, McHenry County land was listed at \$10.41.

Clarence Nelson, with a .450 season average was McHenry County League batting champ. The All-Stars, including Senechal, Erickson and Jacobson of Drake, lost to league winners, the Towner Cowboys, 10-1.

In September Drake asked for another crossing of the Soo Line tracks; Dr. Abraham Kositsky announced he would leave Drake Oct. 1 to specialize in ear, nose and throat work; and W.A. Seehafer and C.H. Rodewald, Drake Electric's owner, opened a new building.

A 10- mill building levy and an increased school levy needed to qualify for state aid were passed. On October 1947 President Truman asked Americans to have meatless and eggless days because of hunger in Europe; worse, he asked whiskey distillers to stop manufacturing for 60 days. Otter Tail Power Co. asked customers to refrain from using electricity at peak-use times through the winter; the Future Homemakers of American organized at Drake High; and the Commercial Club

prepared the new skating rink site, owned by Joe Alme and the Masonic Lodge.

In November Drake won the six-man Central Conference title coached by James Anderson; Greenwood and Caron made the All-conference team with Dieterle and Sitz getting honorable mention.

Drake Pharmacy opened a basement electric appliance and gift shop in December; Santa was back in Drake; the USDA predicted no drop in clothing costs to the beleaguered homemaker; and with heavy snow, North Dakota was spending \$10,000 a day in December to keep on trucking.

As 1948 opened, the first post-war line of Ford trucks was being shown at Drake Motors and power equipment was being considered for weed and insect spraying. Woodrow Hamers was elected fire chief; and the Drake Army Mothers installed LaVerne Heydt commander, Lillian Kemper first vice commander, Betsy Alme second vice commander, and Olga Halbert adjutant.

In February Harold Ostrom became president of the Drake Commercial Club and Dr. L. Henderson joined Dr. Parmenter in his dentistry practice. The Drake creamery paid \$15,300 dividends in March; the Drake Sportsmen elected Walter Olstad president; and a Court of Honor advanced Scouts Dennis Bergstad, Eddie Bossert, Curtis Erickson, Elton Fors, Lee Gausemel, Jack Knudsen, Merlynn Olson, John Utgaard, Robert Wentz and Henry Bibelheimer. Drake grade kids won the Granville tournament, defeating the host 24-10.

That was the summer Drake proposed to pave 17 blocks downtown and began searching for ways to bond a Memorial building or gymnasium.

There was a demonstration of haying with power equipment on the Clayton Kemper farm; and the Drake Shipping Association shipped 77 carloads of cattle, with some outstanding receipts—a 1,680 pound steer selling for 34 cents a pound or \$571; a 1,485-pound cow bringing \$354; and a 290-pound calf at 33 cents or \$95. J.P. Kemper, secretary for the 22nd year, was honored by the shippers association.

The volunteer fire department had two big calls in July: a grass fire at the Soo Line nursery south of town and a call to the Theo Volk where a boxcar used as a summer kitchen burned. During the Volk blaze, firemen Eddie Jans and Art Mavis took one truck back to town to refill it with water. A bystander turned the hydrant on while they were connecting the hose, which kicked and threw Art down, breaking his shoulder blade.

After leading the South McHenry County League for a time, Drake ended up in a tie with Kief and Balfour for first place. Balfour won, and then lost to Towner for county championship. The Drake Band Mothers organized that fall; farmers were urged to hold flaxseed for more orderly marketing; and an appreciation party was held for retiring postmaster, Emil Christensen. The Ideal Homemakers Club met with Mrs. C.B. Bartz and a foods lesson by Mrs. Ewert and Mrs. Con Van Eeckhout. The Tip-Tip Homemakers met with Mrs. Con Van Eeckhout.

As the year ended, North Dakota farm incomes averaged a reported \$9,147—a good thing, since Northwestern Bell had just asked a 40 per cent rate hike.

That was a whale of a winter, one for the record books, even in North Dakota. A blizzard in January stopped all traffic. Bert Trulson, county snow plow operator, assisted with several sick calls since all county roads were blocked. The Register went to press without Kief news: no Bismarck train had made it through that week. Bread-baking Butte housewives were as bad off as bread-buying ones after nine days of isolation—there was no yeast left in town either. The following week in late January, Butte

also was out of coal, school closed, people burned fence posts. Churches discontinued services and distributed their small amounts of lignite among the most needy families.

In February 1949, five fellows trucking coal to Drake spent the night in their trucks at the mine south of Velva when roads became blocked. When Highway 14 was finally opened at mid-February, the Steffen and Funston schools got coal—the first time Highway 14 had been open in a month.

(Despite the weather, John Eichhorn was showing the new Studebakers and Mrs. LaVerne Heydt opened a shop of kids and ladies' clothing and gifts in the south half of the Parmenter building and Arlone Larson opened Arlone's Beauty Nook in the Empress building.)

Records Set In Winters of 1948-50

In February farmers were running short of fuel and feed that five small planes were operating in McHenry County making "haylifts" and dropping coal. Milton Olson had the Drake area, the townships of Lake George, Round Lake, Karlsruhe, Balfour, Schiller, Land, Cottonwood, Anamoose, Rosebush, Strege and Smokey Lake. (Later he added two more.) A system was worked out to signal what was needed: using ashes or a dark material to make an "F" for food, "L" for coal or two parallel lines a few feet apart for medical help. He was understandably vexed when he made a difficult landing and learned the family was just testing to see if the system worked. It's nice to know.

Olson later was made supervisor for the 5th Army Snowbound operations in the second commissioner district of McHenry County, directing the small amount of equipment available. In view of the mammoth problems, Olson said roads would only be opened once to a farm, except in case of emergency, and, with snow drifting back in almost immediately, farmers should rush out and lay in supplies of food, fuel and feed as soon as roads were opened.

In many areas farmers got together on a pre-arranged basis to shovel in gangs to some major road and, as a group, bring back groceries and fuel.

That March the N.D. legislature spent nearly \$82 million, a record, some \$27 of it for education. Fred Nehrenberg headed the Drake Commercial Club; the Drake school copped the McHenry County grade basketball tourney; and the school proposed to build a new gym.

On March 16 Drake celebrated the opening of the Bismarck branch and by early April a new but predictable weather monster had arisen—high water. A half-mile of 52 was under water at Velva (and all but a six-block area of that city under water.) The trains were re-routed because the Wintering Bridge was weakened and highway approaches there threatened.

However, that, too, passed, and Drake turned to summer months. Nehrenberg managed the Drake baseball team; after 26 years in one location the post office moved to the Rodewald building; George Schafer bought out Oppen's to open Schafer's Super Valu on June

10, 1949; and Haggart Construction moved to Drake to begin its paving job.

Lloyd H. King was named to head Drake schools, with his wife to teach English; Hugh Fitzpatrick of Harvey had a short stint as head of the paper while Floyd Kagel took over the bar George Schafer had operated; and Robert Johnson opened a wholesale house to operate as the C.H. Burch Wholesale had. Kermit Voelz was to run the Drake and Kief elevators, bought by Woodworth Company; Fred Borchert was retiring.

Anamoose Enjoys Jubilee in 1949

Many Drake folks took time off in 1949 to take a peek at Anamoose's Golden Jubilee, perhaps a preview of their own three years later.

The Anamoose "Progress" golden anniversary issue recalled the section house occupied by the William McNamara family was the first building.

One early settler recalled that on March 13, 1899, there was no depot, just George Walker's restaurant. In the morning, across the street, one could see Fred Albrecht's general store.

In June 1899 Cook's Hotel was added and a lumber yard with Willie Tinker in charge. Then came Schoessler Bros. harness shop, John Schmidt's implement and a small bank run by Ross and David.

The Albrechts didn't finish that first store until early September 1898. They saw a prairie fire coming toward them, three days before it got there. But fortunately a horse rancher named Fred Cravath who lived nearby had made a 100-foot wide firebreak and, with all the men working furiously, it detoured the flames around the beginning of the city.

The Commercial Club planned a pavement dance to celebrate the street completion and Drake police chief Ferdinand Jans took second in the Peace Officer's Shoot at Minot. A displaced family arrived to make their home with the F.J. Blumhagens. Haying was behind schedule at the end of June— 4.87-inches of rain had fallen— and by July green aphids were reported in McHenry County fields. Leo Krueger, 10 miles south, was the first to start swathing on July 14.

Both boy and girl scouts were active, the boys at Metigoshe camping and the girls maintaining a nursery and selling homemade candy at the fire hall during the Improvement Day celebration.

That was the big day: there were 2,500 people in Drake; Loville Seehafer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Seehafer, was named Dairy Queen; and the band formed seven months earlier by Mr. and Mrs. Lester Shook gave a fine performance. There were races and games, a baton twirling demonstration, and \$250 in prizes for various events.

By August, harvest reports were coming: 16 bushel wheat weighing 60 pounds from Louis Schiele. Joe Alme, Clayton Kemper and O.E. Kemper had 60-pound wheat, too.

August 1949 saw two prominent area citizens pass, Dr. E. C. Stone formerly of Balfour died and Milton Olson died with two Dunseith youngsters in the crash of his plane at Dunseith. A control cable might have snapped, it was thought, Olson, who was a former state representative, had been visiting his wife, a patient at the San Haven sanatorium, due to be discharged next month.

In September, several thousand dollars was spent on extensive remodeling of the Drake school; a fox drive was set; an Anamoose boy, LeRoy Rudnick, 15-year-old son of the Frank Rudnicks, was the area's first polo victim.

In November Rev. W. Borchardt came to serve the American Lutheran churches in Drake and Funston; Bossert Implement co. had a show for the Model R. John Deere diesel tractor on the Frank Paulus farm; and, with a new extension of Verendrye Electric Cooperative service in the Blumenfeld area, the Catholic church and some 30 farms were lighted electrically.

The Drake Commercial Club agreed to sponsor a displaced doctor, Bohdan Hordinsky, aged 38, and to build a clinic!

As 1949 ended, John Bruner Jr. was appointed second district county commissioner to fill Henry Schilling's unexpired term; pioneer G.O. Iverson died; and the state reported 80 per cent of North Dakota farm homes had electricity and 40 per cent had telephones.

Nineteen-fifty, as Drake approached the half-century anniversary, was marked with passing of an old generation of pioneers and the coming of at least one new one. On Jan. 1 Dr. and Mrs. Bohdan Z. Hordinsky and their sons arrived in Drake and, after a reception, were taken to Bottineau where he began serving his internship.

And in February, Drake respectfully saluted several leaders who died: D.W. Kemper at 81, who came here in 1899; Mrs. W.F. Stiehm, 83, who came in 1902; Caroline Belzer, 86, who came in 1902; and former commissioner Henry Schilling, who came in 1900 and died at age 74.

Of course, there was much other activity. The Stars and Masons installed Anastacia Rohde and Emil Christensen; the Masons, A.W. Bethke. American Legion commander Bob Marvin urged people to donate toys being collected for Europe; and the federal REA granted an \$8 million loan to Central Power Co-operative to build a 45,000 kilowatt plant in the Minot area. Herbert Zwiegle took over the creamery from George Paulus who had been there five years.

In February it was decided to use a special \$30,000 war memorial fund to help the school build an auditorium, and a bond issue to help with that project passed by 80 per cent.

After a week of mild weather in March during another bad winter, the March lion again appeared. Sleet caused power failures in the city for several hours and a week later another storm tied up all but main lines of the railroads. At the end of March Bob Johnson took over the Drake creamery job.

Mercury-vapor lights were installed in April, a dozen on the two main streets. Fire destroyed Matt Paulus's six-room farm home just after the Forrest Olson family moved in; a small kerosene heater to warm the porch for baby chicks was the cause. Leonard Arfsmann succeeded S.L. Plachek as Penney's manager; the commissioners set grasshopper meetings and the Anamoose wildlife club invited area residents to a crow shooting contest.

Spring was not here yet, however— April brought 15 inches of snow.

The Drake Ball Club elected K.D. Voelz manager, the Drake Legion Auxiliary Mrs. A.N. Steig president; and

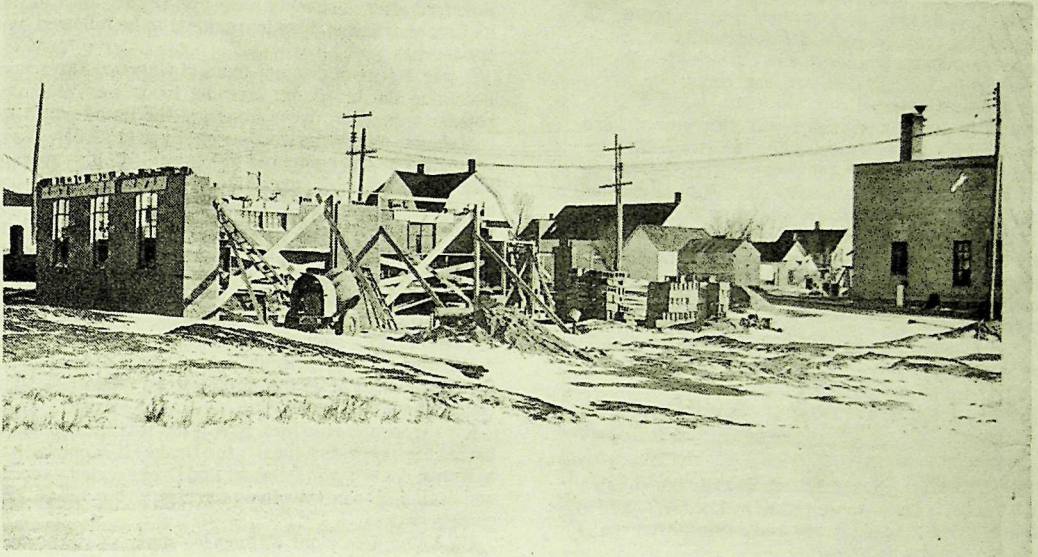
Aileen Jans was the McHenry County Young Citizen League president and later the state vice president.

More than eight inches of snow May 2 stopped farming and the annual play day and softball tournament were cancelled. Flood damage, especially around Jamestown, was to cost the state millions of dollars. With snow still on the ground May 10, cattle losses began showing up, including 40 calves of Dr. Parmenter. Water-softened track caused an eight-car derailment at Butte.

Farmers were given some directions: Because of late spring seeding, grain aphids could be a hazard so watch for them. And brucellosis, which humans can contact, was beginning to be a problem, so aborting cows should be quarantined and the area thoroughly cleaned.

Wind and hail which hit the area in July blew down William Sherlock's barn and did 100 per cent damage in some areas.

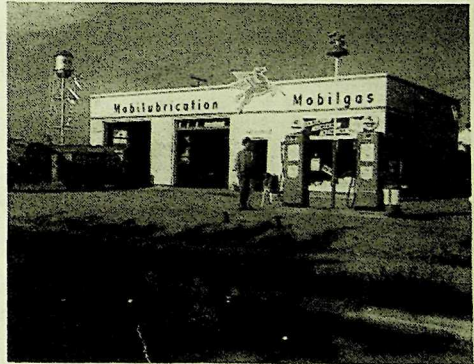
But worse news was in the offing: Korean conflict



Winter of 1950 Caught Jans

Andrew Jans got caught by the winter of 1950, so the opening of "the nicest and most modern Mobil Oil Company service station between Jamestown and Minot" was delayed for a time. However, after the Jans' Service was opened, Andrew ran it until 1957 when it was sold to John Ziegler. Two years later Ziegler changed to Westland gas and oil. Ziegler, who owns the station, leases the building to Tom Weninger.

(Andrew Jans)



In June youngsters had the early headlines: Geraldine Adam, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Adam, at the FHA convention in Kansas City; Beverly Doescher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Doescher, winning the "outstanding citizen" medal at Girls State; and the Boy Scouts having a Court of Honor. Jim Wiese headed the summer recreation program; and at the national Boy Scout Jamboree in Valley Forge were some Drake fellows: Robert Wentz, Lester Sprenger, Henry Bibelheimer, Eddie Bossert, Charles Drake, Gene Kemper, Dennis Bergstad and Scoutmaster O.A. Bergstad.

pictures began to be seen in the papers and the word came 11 McHenry County men were called for draft physicals.

There was other sad news. T.E. Sleight, aged 88, who came to North Dakota in 1901 and was a state representative and Drake's mayor for 28 years, died. So did Lydia Jans and Louisa Blumhagen, also in July, and, in August, John Ficker, 82, who came in 1902.

Not all the news was sad: The Drake Golf Club, dormant nine years, reorganized in August with Ed Merbach as president, Herman Stoeber vice president, and Owen Refling secretary-treasurer. They went to work, got

several greens built for use yet in 1950 and by Aug. 10 had work complete on seven of the nine greens.

Jim Wiese, Carl and George Bruner and Clarence Nelson were on the All-Star team which played the Velva champs at Drake Aug. 20; Velva won 10-7. In September many went to hear, and perhaps dance to, the music of "Whoopee John" and his orchestra of radio fame. And beavers trapped at Lake Bentley were released at a more suitable site.

Farmers were told aphids and a new kind of stem rust had appeared in the state, but no place is perfect.

In October Mrs. J. M. Wylie of Fargo gave the Drake Baptists a bell-tower system and electric organ; in November the Trojans beat undefeated Anamoose 26-8 to keep the six-man conference title in Drake with a pair of touchdowns by Lyle Bakken and one each from Anton Lemer and Lee Gausemel.

Already in November, there was heavy snow and correspondingly heavy roads. After the Drake Theatre installed new sound equipment, people braved the snow to see Joan Davis and Andy Devine in "Traveling Sales Woman" and "Wabash Avenue" starring Victor Mature and Phil Harris. Drake beat Fessenden 60-55 in basketball for a 4-1 conference mark and, marking the end of 1950, the city accepted auditorium plans from architect G.H. Bugenhagen of Minot of a structure 90 by 92 feet, costing about \$130,000.

Dr. Hordinsky Arrives

A major conflict opened 1951 in Drake: the weather versus the city's desire to welcome Dr. Hordinsky and to hold an election to fund its new auditorium. After many delays, the city won both fights.

(Hordinsky opened his office in the Parmenter building Jan. 15 and moved into the Stiehm house with his wife, sons and infant daughter, born Jan. 11 that year.)

(In March the school let auditorium bids: Fors Construction, general work, \$72,500; Rodewald, electrical wiring, \$3,860; and Cook Plumbing, Minot, \$9,949.) The building was to have a kitchen, lunch room, rest rooms and a 24 by 43-foot American Legion clubroom in addition to a 90 by 54-foot playing floor and seating for 1,200 people.

(And in April 500 people crowded into the old DHS auditorium to welcome their doctor. Father Wehlitz, chairman of the X-ray fund drive, noted the \$2,486 machine had arrived but some \$500 was still needed to pay for it—was pledged in 13 minutes, the fastest fund-drive in history.)

Of course other events were occurring, too, despite the weather. Ed J. Evans took over the Drake creamery as Bob Thompson re-enlisted in the service. Bob Marvin, Gerald Roth and Johnny Leder opened the Drake Repair Shop, with a service station planned. Jans Mobil Service opened June 20.

Amerada petroleum Company's oil strike at the Clarence Iverson well, an 18-barrel-an-hour producer near Tioga in western North Dakota, raised temperatures around Drake, too, especially when a second well, the Bakken No. 1 was brought in in September.

Many of McHenry County's big wealth producers, the farmers, did fairly well in 1951, with some ups and downs for interest. Rainmakers were tried in a six-county area in June when some grain planted didn't sprout and some fields couldn't be worked because the ground was too dry. Then June 6 brought 2.36 inches of rain for Drake, and by

July the Register was talking about "the largest crop ever in the making and great alfalfa, too," though wind and hail July 24 did much damage in some areas south of the city.

That was a busy summer in 1951. On June 12 the Drake Baptists broke ground and moved in a 28 by 54-foot, completely-furnished church from Roseglen. The Drake Ball Club sponsored a three-day rodeo in Drake June 29 to July 1, and the firemen sponsored a circus with a street dance and show. The Bibelheimers were leaving for Turtle Lake after serving Guthrie five years and six-and-a-half at Drake. The Legion team finally lost to New Rockford after 16 straight wins. The Drake Golf Club set its first annual handicap tournament to be followed by a city tourney.

It was a year of change; tours of Garrison Dam were becoming the big thing; freezing foods was becoming popular with instructions for using the bread sacks for containers; and farms were becoming ever larger. There were 1,715 in 1950 compared to 1,835 in 1945; the average size had increased from 612 acres to 650; 1,257 had electricity in 1950 compared to 360 in 1945; those with phones had increased from 587 to 740 and tractor numbers increased from 1,695 to 2,612.

Wet weather got in the way of many fall activities, including golfing, but, with blackbirds on the scene, harvest was hardest hit. Some grain lay in the swath five or six weeks. However, faith in agriculture was reaffirmed; Roland Senechal won a \$125 scholarship from the N.D. Bankers Association to attend a farmers short course Jan. 7 through March 2 at NDAC in Fargo.

For the second year Mrs. E.W. Fors was the school hot lunch cook (17 cents a meal); the Drake EUB church had a harvest home day in October; and Drake ended a second undefeated season with five victories in the 6-man grid game.

The Velva REA plant, waiting for steel, was expected to be "on the line" soon and Velva area farmers were reportedly becoming interested in artificial insemination of dairy herds.

Drake's Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran agreed, in December, to merge their congregations. Trinity Lutheran was the name chosen for the new group, Henning Rossebo congregation president, Walter Krueger vice president, Peter Bruner treasurer, Owen Refling financial secretary, Chris and Ed Merbach and Verdie Shink deacons, and Arnold Olson, Sieg Krueger and O.A. Refling trustees. Both ministers decided to leave to aid reorganization so Rev. Walter Borchardt took a call in South Dakota and Rev. Karl Xavier stayed while a new minister was called.

Nineteen-fifty-one wound down with Clem Weber Bencer Kjos and Alden Bethke golfing in December; with the Drake Commercial Club acting to raise funds to build the Drake Medical Clinic, capitalizing at \$50,000 with \$50 shares; and with rumors of natural gas found at Rosenfeld Baptist Church. That occurrence, said to "give this oil-conscious community a flutter," came about when a 300-foot well at the parsonage was put into use several it was drilled. All North Sheridan county farms in the area, 10 miles southwest of Drake, were being leased for mineral rights with the current price for half the farmer's share varying from \$4 to \$10 an acre.

The anniversary year opened with the Clinic Corporation organized; the first game in the new gym set against Bottineau Feb. 12 and coach Jim Wiese heading the Drake School temporarily after Dr. Lloyd King resigned as Drake superintendent to take a job at UND.

In February the Souris Valley Telephone Co-op headquartered in Velva proposed to buy out the farmer-

owned lines in Drake and several other towns. Alme Implement was showing two free films, "Crossroads of the Cross," about the Holy Land, and "The Good Earth," stressing soil conservation.

In March word continued to come from Korea as Drake area soldiers enlisted, were inducted and received wounds and awards.

Drake kept one eye on four wells being drilled: At Surrey, Ruso, Burlington and, excitingly, on the Peter Lenertz farm near Karlsruhe. In March more than 100 cars rafted through muddy fields to watch the drilling. Alas, on May 27, at 7,217 feet, the well was abandoned by Hunt Co. with no oil and little gas.

Ray Senechal was manager and Petie Wolf secretary-treasurer of the Drake baseball team; and president Johnny Ziegler announced the Drake Golf Club had set a tourney May 18.

Verdie Shink, Alden Bethke, A.J. Schmidgall and Ernest Haykel went to Litchville, Minn., to bring back the new fire truck, a \$7,500 Ford F-6, a two-ton chassis with a 500-gallon tank. Rev. Karl Xavier accepted a call to Coulee after Rev. Karl Weltner agreed to serve the new Trinity Lutheran congregation.

The community was shocked at the death of Mrs. Fred Notbohm and the injury of her children in a train-car collosion near Drake. Fourteen neighbors aided Mr. Notbohm with a plowing bee but, even more important, citizens were determined there should be a clinic in town. A community auction was held in June to aid the clinic drive; Despite rain there was a good crowd and \$1,700 was raised.

Up to five inches of rain which fell around and north of Drake on the weekend of June 21 and 22 aided late crops and parched pastures and filled potholes but over three miles south only a quarter of an inch drizzled down. The next week there was a "soaker" for the whole area but, unfortunately for the southerners, hail in the Rosenfeld area.

July, noted mainly for the Jubilee celebrating a half-century of existence, also was when a building site of Main Street was chosen for the clinic.

As an aftermath of the Jubilee, the Register announced that 351 pioneers lunched with Gov. Norman Brunsdale and Mayor Fors and the six floats tied for the "best" award were First National Bank, LaVerne's Dress Shop,

Drake Pharmacy, Bossert's Market, C & L Bar and Drake Creamery. Ostrom Lumber with five generations riding on a well-decorated truck was the best old-time float and "most comical" honors were shared by the Army Mothers and Adam Koble.

Also that summer, Rev. Weltner was installed; the Ground Observers Corps organized; and Drake took the 52 League baseball title from Anamoose 5-0. (The movies were big news that year with Clark Gable and Olivia de Havilland selling defense bonds, Richard Widmark, Constance Smith and Jeffrey Hunter starring in "Red Skies of Montana" and Clifton Webb, Anne Francis, William Lundigan and Charles Bickford starring in "Elopement.") Not that all the talent was in the movies—the firemen sponsored a home talent play, "Flying High," to benefit the clinic; ground was broken Aug. 9 for the 37 by 60-foot building.

That was the fall that William Krause and son from south of Drake had the Grand Champion Angus bull at the Red River Valley Fair in Fargo; that winter wheat was proclaimed "undependable" in North Dakota; and that the Democrats and Non Partisan League were trying to get up a coalition.

The farmer felt something was needed. He was told by a USDA man in October, "We've got wheat running out our ears." The surplus ruins the price, non-traditional states are lured into production by high price supports, and blending the Dakota product with poorer southern and western wheat is costing the North Dakota farmer.

The farmer was used to tough situation, however, and he pitched in with city neighbors to work for what he wanted and to cheer for the kids— Drake won its 20th game 48 to 14 whipping Anamoose for the Central North Dakota six-man title again.

At the end of the anniversary year the major excitement was the new clinic, now completely enclosed with work going on inside. A benefit variety program included basketball games between Country Squires and City Dudes; between alumni and high school teams; dance numbers and comedy. The Drake Homemakers Club donated \$100 out of club funds; the Anamoose VFW subscribed \$100 worth of stock; and the Drake Commercial Club ended the year by raising \$500 at a smoker.

History of Drake By Evelyn Refling

"In the fall of 1899 my grandfather, Herman Drake, came to look over land and as his homestead he chose land bordering the Soo Line Railroad. In 1898 Mr. Bentley settled near Brush Lake.

"The name of Spring Grove Township was chosen, when it was organized in 1903, because that was the name of the Iowa township Mr. Sleight had lived in.

"The first school in town was in a building owned by William Stiehm located just south of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. The first child born in Drake was Darris Drake of the Herman Drake family.

"Other interesting firsts were: Soo Line siding and elevators; in 1902 the first store; A.C. Metcalf blacksmith shop; first druggist, Al Rowe; first Hotel, Sleights; German Lutheran Church with Rev. Oberhamer as pastor. Dr. Sandbo arrived in 1903. In 1904 Drake got a depot, a boxcar with an office in one end. In 1906 the branch line to Bismarck was built by the Soo and the Fordville Branch was completed in 1912."

Mr. Drake recalled some trying times: shortage of food in the fall of 1900 when people in the East donated and shipped in food and clothing; smallpox epidemic and prairie fire in 1902; the gopher raids of 1901 and 1903; drouth in 1900 and 1911; the flood of Brush Lake in 1902 with the flooding of the Wintering River Valley and Soo Line railroad tracks; and the grasshopper plagues of 1917 and 1918.

Jubilee Celebrated in 1952

Those who have been in Drake less than 25 years missed a whale of a celebration when the city celebrated 50 years of existence in 1952!

Businesses shut down as employees joined others in preparing floats or some other aspect of the celebration.

Carnival rides for the kiddies (nine cents each!) started the event July 23 from 1 to 6 p.m.

At 1 p.m. the band, directed by O. A. Bergstad, entertained followed by free platform acts.

At 2:30 Steele's Frontier Days show did its darndest at the ball park, with matinees July 23 and 24 and an evening performance on the 23rd. The display featured 25 horses, 25 riders and 25 acts, including circus, stage and rodeo performances, clowns, comedy mules, trick riding and "the craziest comedy Ford of all times."

At 6:30 the performances began again with another band concert, free platform acts and the Frontier Days show, capped by a dance at 9 p.m. at the school auditorium with music by Elmer Roukinek and his orchestra.

It was free lunch for old-timers at the IOOF Hall and at 1:30 Gov. Norman Brunsdale spoke. Then more free acts, another band concert, a free pageant at the school auditorium and at 9 p.m. another dance at the school auditorium, this time with music by the Johnny Haider orchestra.

The pageant, "Prairie Years," written by Mrs. Jacob J. Adam, was produced with Mrs. Willis Ganske and Mrs. E. W. Fors assisting.

It was divided into six episodes dealing with community life.

The first portion included authentic tribal dances by Indian boys from the Fort Berthold Reservation, and a representative of the Verendrye Expedition played by Tom Anton, Charles Drake, Harley Sprenger and Harvey Teyler. Singers in this section included Robert

Schmidtgall, Raymond Kuntz, Celeste Sprenger, Sharon Sprenger and Faye Adam.

Railroaders in the second episode, "New Town on the Prairie," included Lyle Bakken, Elton Fors, Gary Ganske, Jack Halbert, Anton Lerner and Merlyn Olson while old settlers were Curtis, Alyce Mae and John Erickson; Eddie Bossert; Mabel Schlag; Carol Stregé; Dannie, Eleanor and Kenneth Bruner; Jerold Olson; Geraldine Dieterle; Richard Voelz; Jerold Kemper; Eileen Alme; Yvonne Schafer; Dennis Grad and Ralph Schiele.

Actors for "Schools on the Prairie" included Mrs. Ernest Haykel, Janice Stregé, Connie Hamers, Bennie Schiele, Daniel Schafer, Harold Teyler, Audrey Drake, Merle Nussbaum, Mary Jo Gausemel, Meredith Wentz, Kenneth Merbach and Patricia Paulus. The Prairie 4-H Club, directed by Raymond Senechal, danced for the "Good Times" episode.

The act on "The Prairie Church" was planned by Drake ministers and portrayed by their congregations, and the final episode, "The Prairie Serves the Nation," included American Legion and Auxiliary and Army Mothers members as a color guard. Actors were Mrs. George Riba, Mrs. Robert Alme, John Adam, Larry Kuntz, and Beryl and Priscilla Alme.

A community chorus, directed by Bergstad and accompanied by Mrs. Bergstad, and a quartet—Rev. Rudolph, Mrs. Alvin Knuth and Dorothy and Bob Wentz—added to the occasion.

No small share of the honors for that occasion - and for this project - must go to the faithful newspaper, the Drake Register and its editors, Floyd and Mildred Kagel, who put out a whopper of an edition, 24 pages filled with past and present doings, from which we have liberally and thankfully borrowed..CC

The clinic benefit night, which brought \$482, saw the alumni beat the high-schoolers while the Country Squires and City Dudes tied. At the first annual meeting, members were told only four to five thousand dollars was needed to complete it, and in March, Dr. Hordinsky moved in.

Moisture was above normal in 1952, USDA reported, 17.13 inches compared to the normal 15.71, and farmers wondered what his year's problem would be— it proved to be stem rust when the harvest was in.

Many pioneers were lost in 1952: Henry Thorson, 72, en route from his home in Dilworth to the IOOF-Rebekah installation of Mrs. John Eichhorn and Ferdinand Jans as Noble Grands; former Editor Mrs. Anna Phelps; Curtis Speers at 77 and Mrs. Ole Lommen at 76, both to the area in 1900; C.F. Blumhagen who came in '98; Mrs. Emil Traiser who came in 1900; and Drake native Bernhard Seehafer; and Carolina Adam who came to Skogmo in 1902. (Mrs. Charles Kemper, who homesteaded in 1902, died early in 1954.)

That February Drake won its sixth basketball game in seven Central ND conference outings, with Jim Wiese coaching, and then, in overtime, Harvey, 58-49. The boys and Wiese were feted by the Sportsmen's Club and the Commercial Club, headed by Bencer Kjos. Sports was important in 1953 as ever: the Sportsmen also sponsored a crow hunt and bought two clinic shares; the Baseball Club named Galen Jacobson manager and Petie Wolf secretary-treasurer; Velva took the 52 League title after beating Drake; and that fall the Sportsmen helped seine northerns and suckers out of deep holes in the Wintering and plant them in Lake Bentley. (One bit of news which was to become important to Drake and other state outdoorsmen was the word late in 1953 that water was beginning to gather behind Garrison Dam.)

Business was important in 1953, as well. Fors got the \$31,390 contract for material and \$34,500 for labor on the new Trinity Lutheran Church, as well as the electric bid. The Soo, finished with its Drake-Garrison line, was to

spend \$170,000 on renovation Garrison to Bismarck. Penney's manager Leonard Arfmann moved to Wyoming; Robert Hamby came in; The Soo discontinued two trains on line to Enderlin.

Snows April 28-29 and May 10 and 11 brought needed moisture but delayed spring's work. The wheat support price was \$2.19 for No. 1, and farmers voted rigid controls. Sen. Usher L. Burdick, that fall, urged cattlemen not to leave the business in their discouragement.

But the news raising the most talk was the search for oil: a test well four miles south of Towner in July; plugging that well; gas recoved in wildcatter 14 miles north of Drake and then abandonment of that.

The Drake Ground Observer crop was reorganized in September and erected a small watchtower near the city water tower. As the year 1953 ended, that Skywatch program went on a 24 hour-a-day basis; souvenir buttons and a dance were to benefit the clinic, still \$4,000 in the red; the veterans program benefits were extended to Korean veterans; Drake beat McClusky 36-19 in its basketball opener; and Rosenfeld Baptist Church, organized in 1903; observed its 50th anniversary.

'Fifty-four opened with the creamery switching to "paper bottles," with Palmer Flatlie opening a bakery; and with the Drake Indies winning their eighth straight over the Anamoose Nite Hawks. By March, manager Frank Paulus noted they had lost only 2 of 14 games, one of them the Velva playoff game. Players were Jim Borchert, Don Greenwood, Galen Jacobson, Orville Kemper, Danny Bruner, LeRoy Bowman, Bill Bossert and Gene and Gerry Kemper.

Jim Adelson, KCJB-TV sportscaster, MC-ed the Band Mothers benefit amateur program at Drake in March. In April Trinity Lutheran was dedicated with pastors Karl Weltner, W. Borchardt, K. Xavier, Dr. George Landgrebe, Hjalmar Hanson and Otto Herder on hand. The event for the 98-foot semi-modern building included an all-day program with dinner and supper.

Drake's Ground Observer Corps was honored in April along with Alpha Riba, the A.J. Lind family and former postmaster Melvin Alme.

In May John Ziegler sold his interests in Kjos Motor Co., and bought Jans' station. Jans, who will still run Drake Oil Co., moved his office to the bulk plant. A wild-cat well was started again in May on the George Bromley farm 10 miles northeast; by June it was plugged.

Talk of a new fire hall made the rounds but in June voters turned down the bond issue for it. Two to five inches of rain about June 7 drenched the area, put power out, destroyed trees, drowned crops. Drake city got 3.29 inches, but it was heavier southeast. There were 45 mph winds; ND 14 was under 3 feet of water south of Anamoose. Drake got another 3.25 inches and the road around the west end of Lake Richard was flooded.

In July, wheat acreage for the next year was cut another 12 per cent; A.M. Teyler patented a sickle grinder; Karlsruhe, Drake and Velva were in a three-way softball tie; Kjos showed the new Chevrolet Corvette; and Roy Hegge sold Drake Pharmacy to Mr. and Mrs. Milton Geiszler of Carrington.

The J.C. Penney Store, after a quarter-century in Drake would be closed July 17 manager R.J. Riesdorf announced. (In August, Andy Busch of Towner and his brother Clem of Bismarck bought the store, with Clem to move to Drake to run it.)

Souris River Telephone and Northwestern Bell were wooing rural telephone groups; the Farmers Union added 38,000 gallons of storage to its bulk plant now south of the Soo tracks; and although Eddie Wood of Harvey

won the second annual Golf Invitational, Drake also had winners—Clem Weber, S.V. McCarty and Petie Wolf. The year 1954 saw Drake with 21 inches between March and September, to be the state's wettest city; saw confrontations and court cases within Verendrye Electric Cooperative; and saw Drake men going to Powers Lake to help search, unsuccessfully, for little lost LaVern Enget, aged 4.

Late that year work started on the South Drake Telephone Line, 22 miles in McHenry and Sheridan Counties serving 25 farms; O.E. Kemper was president.

McHenry was one of 13 counties which lost crop insurance that year due to a major rust threat to durum seen in 1955. The year ended with Drake Baptists hosting 100 youths at the State Baptist Youth Fellowship winter retreat.

'Fifty-five saw North Dakota, hit by rust, drouth and hail, proclaimed a disaster area, but life went on as usual. Folks paid their last respects to Ernest Schwarze, Antelope Lake horse rancher, who died. The German native had come to Dakota in 1884 for the harvest, worked on a bonanza farm, ran a horse-ranch which he eventually bought. With up to 1,800 head run by 10 or 15 men, they grazed from the Antelope Hills to Butte and down to Steele. C.J. Olstad, who came to Drake area in 1901 and married teacher Rosa Kately, also died, at 84.

Not all the news was bad, of course: The Trojans, who lost to Carrington, beat McClusky, Velva and Towner teams. The Sportsmen held a benefit bingo party to raise \$300 for a public-address system for the community, its first use the west half district 4 basketball tournament here. The Trojans were on a winning streak: Downed McClusky again, 42-32, with Milt Bachmeier making 11 points; 55-48 over Leeds with Jack Halbert and Bob Greenwood in double figures; and over Anamoose, Velva and Harvey.

Verdie Shink sold the Drake Cleaners he had operated for 18 years to a Sarles man; Adam Koble was named head of the Wintering River Telephone Co., which planned to build seven miles of line; Jerry Roth and Bob Marvin of Drake Repair bought and remodeled the Kemper service station for their business; and a defective chimney cost the Jack Duchsherer family their home and possessions.

The Commercial Club sponsored a meeting to explain Social Security for farmers; the county had 150 bushels of the new rust-resistant Selkirk wheat available; manager Ed Evans explained at the 25th annual cooperative creamery meeting that the co-op had over \$70,000 in assets and paid an average 63 cents a pound for butter.

York native Dan Kelner, an ardent sports fan, was secured as a fulltime employe to assist in the South McHenry County Soil Conservation office. Winners at the Amateur contest included singer Ronnie Krueger of McClusky first, followed by Emanuel and Tillie Volk with a guitar-accordion selection; Aileen Jans with her Spike Jones imitation; and, honorable mentions, the Johnny Kuntz children, Harold Teyler, Faye Adam, Elaine Beutler, Teddy Nissen Jr. and Carolyn Adam. For the first time the Sportsmen's Club honored teams at a banquet.

That summer "Lucky Wednesdays" started with 28 businesses giving away over \$125 in drawings the first week. LaVerne Heydt sold her dress shop to Mrs. Albert Klug; A.M. Haykel sold the Gamble's store to Johnny Leder who had been a mechanic in Drake since World War II; and E.M. Haykels bought the Drake Insurance Agency W.G. Schucht had operated 25 years.

Sixty-two golfers participated in the Drake Invitational July 24; Karene Kay Kemper, 16, sponsored by the Drake



Gust Janavaras and three customers, 1952.

Dairy, was a dairy princess; Clem Weber won the Drake Golf Club championship followed by Mel Rieniets and Petie Wolf; and Drake, with 248 kids in school, hosted 4-H Achievement Days.

Howard Krause Angus topped the Minot Fair; more storage was needed for the big crop coming; but auction bills appeared everywhere; the state noted there were 4,000 fewer state farmers than in 1951; and those remaining were told the wheat support price would drop for inferior milling wheat.

There was some good news: Lester Bromley topped the calf market at West Fargo Union Stockyard with Edward, Clarence and Leonard Hoaglund: \$25 a hundred-weight for three steers, \$22 for 39 steers, and \$18 for heifers. Lights were finally to be placed at the dreadful Soo Line crossing west of Drake; the Fire Department was buying a resuscitator.

As 1955 ended, Drake papers reported Carl Notbohm, who had managed Bossert's Market the past year, had bought it. Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Krueger were injured in a car crash; and Leonard Paulus won the "Know Your State" contest.

The year 1956 also opened with elections— Harry McNamara fire chief, Milton Geiszler Commercial Club president, Petie Wolf Legion commander—and deaths: Mrs. Mae Morris, 94, who came in 1900 and built the Morris Hotel; Mrs. Fred Arndt, 73, who came in 1902; Martin Olson and Emma Stoeber who came in 1900; and Mrs. Carl Blumhagen, 1902.

Not all those who died were old: Ted Volk Jr., section foreman on the Soo's Drake-Bismarck line for three years, was just 42 when he died in a house fire.

And not all the news was grim: Chlorinators were installed in the Drake water system; the Legion post bought the North American creamery building from George Schafer; and, in February, a safe-driving course

began for juniors and seniors with a four-door Fairlane Ford.

Rev. E. Rudolph left the EUB Church in May after five years; Rev. Clarence Stanley followed him. The Band Mothers sponsored a dance by the Pete Goetz orchestra to buy uniforms; school window remodeling cost \$25,000.

The 1956 wheat supports were set from \$1.06 to \$2.27, more closer to market, less farther away. In June the Soil Bank program went into effect. In July two inches of rain, badly needed for crops and pasture, came down; North Dakota farmers voted overwhelmingly for a wheat quota; and bad grasshoppers were forecast for 1957. With slaughter cattle numbers up, lower prices were seen. Marketing cards were printed and ready.

That summer the lady golfers organized a club, Mrs. Milt Geiszler, president, Mrs. Bob Alme, vice president, Mrs. Cecil Latterell, secretary, and Mrs. LeRoy Juelke, treasurer; Leon Powers beat 66 others for Drake's fourth annual invitational title; northern pike were planted in the Garrison Dam reservoir; and Drake Baptists ordained their minister, David H. Yeend.

The Commercial Club worked on the clinic debt with donkey basketball games, a fall festival, community auction and raffle of a baby beef. DHS set its first homecoming in many years, Oct. 11 and 12, with a pep program, bonfire, football game, parade and queen contest. Band Mothers, starring Mmes. Ferdinand Jans, John Sprenger, John Kuntz, Emil Sitz, A.M. Teyler and Clayton Kemper, performed "Henry's Mail-Order Bride" in their variety program.

Rural roads were impassible with the first heavy snow Nov. 5 and 6, but people struggled out for the Prairie 4-H Club card party at the Lake George school no. 1, and for the Drake Sportsmen's Club Smoker with the Peter Goetz orchestra. They enjoyed basketball: Drake won a 40-25

Class B District 9 title victory over Upham with 14 points from G. Krueger and 11 from Tom Alme.

At the end of 1956, Melvin Rieniets became temporary route 2 mail carrier as R.S. Kemper retired after 36 years service. And Frank and Charles Bruner topped the Sioux City Livestock Market with steers averaging \$26 a hundred and heifers \$18.

Some grim price comparisons led off 1957: In 1932 No. 1 northern wheat was only worth 26 cents and in 1957 it was \$2.02— but it had been \$2.96 in 1947. Flax which had been \$6.42 in 1947 was now \$2.96 an doats, a dollar in '47 was now 56 cents a bushel. With grasshopper problems seen and feed supplies at a record high, depressing prices, farmers worried.

Drake folks needed something to laugh about— and they got it. The Drake PTA held men's night with a television skit: Ervin Adam doing commercials, Fred Nehrenberg the news, Rev. Stanley sports and Wood Hamers the weather.

The Commercial Club started talking about building a swimming pool and the Fire Department held a benefit bingo program for the project. Drake Repair was now owned just by Bob Marvin; school laws changed so no state aid would be available to schools with teachers having less than two years of college; and the amateur talent program aiding the band uniform drive listed as vocal soloists Noella Kuntz, Nolan Seehafer and Elaine Beutler, a duet by Avis McNamara and Meredith Beutler; and Harold Teyler's piano solo.

Drake was assured of having dial telephones in 1957; Tommy Alme and Maren Rossebo were Girls State and Boys State choices; and \$20,500 was made available for spraying 'hoppers after McHenry was named a disaster area. U.S. Army Mothers meeting at Drake elected Mrs. Gus Nordwall of Douglas state commander replacing Mrs. George Sendelbach of Drake. The Soo began laying 856-foot rails to get rid of the "Clickety-clack"; Drake businesses closed June 25 so Commercial Club members, employes and families could picnic at the William Merbach grove; and Eilene Senecahl was named the state Dairy Princess candidate.

Hail July 2 took all the crop for several farmers; by July 20 rye and barley were being harvested and showed some wheat damage; all yields were said down. The 1957 price support stayed at \$2 a bushel, and the new Aster yellow disease was hurting flax.

Farming was not the only game in town: Dr. Nestor Kohut, a Ukrainian dentist, arrived to set up practice; Alvin Smith was named Airman of the Month at his California base; and S.L. Tuchscherer was the Drake Golf Club champion. The Commercial Club set an appreciation day with a community auction, free lunch, football game with Leeds, free amateur program and dance with "Dakota Eagles."

In October Drake's 8-man football team, which had shared the Class B CNDC lead with Anamoose, won it at their second homecoming. Tom Alme crowned Marilyn Kemper queen; cheerleaders Kathy Lind, Maren Rossebo, Sharron Sitz, Audrey Drake and Florence Ludwig led the school song and there was a bonfire, snake dance, parade with float honors to the sixth and seventh grade for "The Mayflower" and a dance to Dakota Eagles.

In November Rev. Chris Ottmar was installed as pastor for Trinity Lutheran and for St. John's at Funston; Clem Busch was chief ranger of the newly installed Catholic Order of Foresters; and George Senecahl, state winner of the entomology award for 1957, was to attend the 4-H Congress in Chicago.

School reorganization, with Andrew Jans, Frank Paulus

and George Schafer heading a planning committee, was the topic exciting discussion as 1957 ended.

Radar along northern and coastal U.S. areas became effective enough in January 1958 to Drake Skywatch operations ended. Drake livestock truckers Fred Rieniets and son Wayne were featured in the Minneapolis Tribune Sunday magazine; and Melvin Alme was named route 2 carrier, replacing temporary carrier Mel Rieniets. Fewer 'hopper problems were expected than in 1957; Rev. Howard Amstutz became the new Baptist minister; and the Drake Bank led by Robert Drake played joint concerts with the Turtle Lake musicians. Ole B. Olson, 81, who homesteaded near Drake in 1899, died. (Other pioneers lost in 1958 included Herman Sherlock, who came in 1900, at age 80; Mrs. William Fors and Mrs. C.J. Olstad; and Robert Strege.)

But the big news that year was schools and reorganization, with Brushlake, Lake George, Strege, Guthrie Special and other districts coming in, although it was some time before that was accomplished.

A hot box on a freight car sheared off an axle, causing the worst wreck in Soo history on March 19. The 49 cars piled like cordwood on and off the track west of Drake carried crude oil and gas, cattle and grain. The petroleum set off a spectacular blaze and burned the wooden bridge over the Wintering. After Drake, Anamoose and Harvey Fire Departments put out the flames, the Soo worked round the clock to rebuild the bridge and get the line in operation.

Another record-setter was Drake's first boxing match. Drake winners included Larry Frieson, Allen Mack, Don Shafer, John Adam, Murlin Krenzen, Arlo Blumhagen, Duane Hass, Jim Uhlich, Ken Merbach and Brian Dieterle.

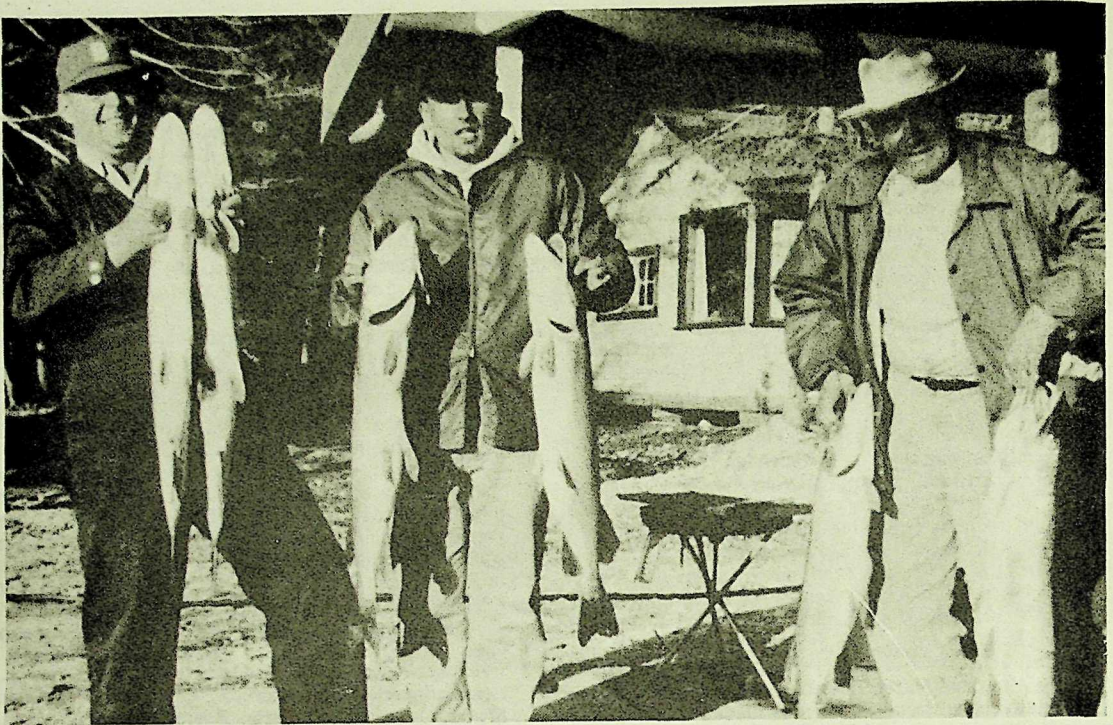
Not all the news called for major headlines: In April Gerald Roth bought the old Drake Repair building south of the track from Johnny Walz and opened South Side Service. The north half of N.D. 14 from Towner was to be black-topped; the DHS band played Saturday evenings in front of the Sportsmen's Club and was one of eight state bands invited to Winnipeg's Red River Exposition; Arnold Hass directed the summer program and gave private lessons; and Drake's city and ABC Homemakers clubs were in charge of county homemaker's achievement days in Drake. Ken Merbach, followed by Jerome Blumhagen, won the 4-H tractor-driving contest; the city bought a fire alarm system which receives calls and turns on the siren; and Mrs. William Krause, Drake Legion Auxiliary president, was named state president.

In July Ken Knutson, operator of the Drake Coffee Shop, opened a drive-in in the South Side Service building with counter seating. The Alme Implement annual picnic was set at the Alme Picnic grounds northwest of Balfour; and Ferdinand Hoffer built a 20 by 25-foot barber shop.

Late summer brought big news: Drake's bid for HEW help for a sewage lagoon was approved; and farmers decided to build a farmer-owned elevator. The Occident Elevator, in Drake since 1909 and modernized in 1940, bought the Woodworth Elevator and announced it would build a 50,000 bushel annex.

A summer storm tossed hail, rain and wind up to 70 miles an hour at an area northwest of Drake to south of Kief, five or six miles wide, with golfball size hail. (Gerald Krueger, hailed out in July, had seven head of cattle killed by a Soo Line train the next month.)

Robert Volk was the new Northwestern Bell installer-repairman; Raymond Bender re-opened the late Frank Kesler's cream station and shoe repair shop; and Drake's hot lunch program moved into new quarters in the old gym area.



Charlie Drake, his son and son-in-law with their catch.

Clem Busch bought Martha's Dress Shop, to be a variety store managed by Celeste Sprenger, in January 1959; the Anamoose Royals beat Drake in the tournament here 73-40 but the Drake boxing team won 7 of 12 bouts against Mandan. (They also boxed in district Golden Gloves matches at Parshall— among the winners there Jim Uhlich, Charles and Mike Toy and Dan Schiele.)

Drake's 8-man football team, aided by Brian Dieterle, Gordon Krueger, Wayne Dieterle and Jim Uhlich beat Karlsruhe, New Rockford, McClusky, Towner and won the CNDC championship at Anamoose. The basketball team lost a squeaker 47-46 to Minot Model but came back to beat McClusky and Fessenden.

Big news at the end of the year 1958 was the derailment of 24 cars of a 42-car freight north of Funston; and the sale of Schafer's Hi-Lo to Russell Abel of Minot. Schafers, who had been in the grocery business 20 years, bought the wholesale firm from the O.A. Johnsons.

'Fifty-nine was the year Salk vaccine was pushed for paralytic polio; that U.S. 52 was being re-routed near Logan; that re-sale of 1956 farm-stored wheat and flax was permitted with wheat supported at \$1.83 a bushel; and that Snake Creek Reservoir opened to fishing July 18 with 7-horse motors and no motors and no minnows; "Old Four Eyes", a musical about Teddy Roosevelt, showed at TR Park in Medora; former governor Norman Brunsdale was appointed by Gov. John E. Davis to fill the unexpired term of the late Sen. William Langer; and that nearly everyone in the area danced— to the music of Gene D'Louhy of Regina, Pete Goetz, Alton's Waltz Kings, Whoopee John or Mike Burchard and His Little German Band. (Girls in slacks were not admitted to some dances.)

Most people, however, were more interested in local news: the \$3,000 fire at the Drake Legion Hall caused by a

broken stoker; the deaths of old-timers Karl Wiersch at 94 and Julius Blumhagen at 84; Jerry Hordinsky at St. Thomas Military Academy and Elton Fors at UND winning honors; and the Drake Minstrel Show set April 2 with 50 to 60 local actors, to benefit the band.

Gust Janavaras leased the Penney's building in April; Lester Degenstein and his father, Charles bought a bar, now the C & L, from brother Lloyd. Adolph Dockters remodeled their service station to add a Dairy-all Drive-In. May 4 brought rain, snow and sleet, a much-needed half-inch of moisture.

Ardell Bergrud arrived in June to manage the Drake Farmers Elevator which was nearly completed; Ben Hauff and Andrew Jans, owners of Ben's Mobil Service and the nine-unit Rest View Motel, held open house; and Alvin Regstad bought Russell Abel's Hi-Lo Store. Mrs. W.H. Halbert was named state Commander of N.D. Army Mothers with Mrs. Eugene Hargrave adjutant and Mrs. O.A. Refling banner bearer. Cold weather in June meant only 46 men turned out for the annual Drake tourney, won again by S.L. Tuhscherer, and a storm June 26 dropped an inch of rain and destroyed Paul Callies barn and Marvin Vollmer's barn along with a grove of trees and other buildings.

But school was the big news: In May and county and reorganization committee approved new boundaries which would give Drake School nearly 240 sections of land with a \$2 million tax valuation in two counties. The change was approved June 29— 232 yes, 115 no— but the rural vote was much closer, 134 favoring it and 106 opposed. The new board elected included president Frank Paulus, Robert Marvin, Art Senechal, Albert Isaak, and Alfred Sherlock.

That summer the new elevator, with its 70,000 bushels of storage, cleaners, flax finishers, treater and modern scale, held open house July 26. O.W. Fors bought the Empress Hotel, which had been closed since fall; he remodeled the hotel to offer 10 modern rooms and planned to lease the cafe. The 14th annual 4-H achievement days at Drake Sept. 11 and 12 was sponsored by the Commercial Club. Bencer Kjos bought the Morris Hotel from Lloyd McQuays and sold it to Lloyd Degensteins.

Drake school enrollment was now 482 kids and notices went out that, with buses running at capacity, no unregistered riders would be allowed. Closing notices due to weather would be aired on station KQDY; patrons were getting accustomed to the new school.

A blizzard Oct. 7 left eight inches of white stuff and icy highways; no improvement was seen for cream sellers or hog raisers; and grasshopper troubles were predicted for 1960. O.W. Fors, plagued by lack of patronage, closed the theatre, and so 1959 ended.

"With some girls, the end justifies the jeans."
Drake Register, April 1959

The tough winter was responsible for more than icy roads. Early in 1960 the Benjamin Gange home six miles southeast burned. Neighbors called firemen but the truck got stuck a half-mile away on blocked roads. A benefit drive for Ganges was started.

The Cub Scouts in town organized in 1960 with Bob Marvin as Cubmaster. In the first six weeks of the year, two plane crews bagged 610 foxes; youngsters were reminded spotlighting rabbits was both illegal and dangerous; and the Drake Sportsmen's Club, meeting in their newly-redecorated club room, voted to have a crow hunt. (Walter Olstad was elected president, Bob Drake vice president, A.J. Schmidtgal secretary-treasurer and Verdie Shink director.

The bad winter caused problems getting in the 175 days of school the state required; Drake shop classes, in conjunction with Ostrom Lumber Co., held an industrial arts fair; the Band Parents planned a community calendar; and the school board planned remodeling for more classrooms.

Other spring news included introduction of the new Sheyenne tomato; the Drake Theatre re-opening with "The Mouse That Roared"; a barley support price of 71 cents; and interest reported in a new fire hall with club and council rooms. The community was rocked by the news that O.A. Refling had sold his First National Bank stock to a group of Minnesotans.

Art Dieterle's barn burned; Carl Notbohm was in a new location with Carl's Red Owl, and Mrs. Lester Degenstein opened "Ruth's Hair Fashions" at the Morris. Joe Frieson opened a supermarket in the former Bossert Store; and the annual golf tourney and Junior Legion ball both attracted attention.

Voters passed approval on the new fire-community hall but failed to pass the taxing limit increase to finance it; at a second election, they okayed both.

The new white fire truck arrived.

By August harvest was underway though hot, dry weather had cost farmers dearly in yield and weight of crops. Flax badly needed rain.

By September people were dancing at Johnny Kuntz' barn, and O.A. Refling had started a new building in Drake, with the bakery temporarily moved. The Drake Legion bought the Post Office building from C.H. Rodewald and remodeled the basement for clubrooms.

Drake had a population of 762, with 202 in Lake George Township, 149 in Schiller, 126 in Spring Grove and 166 in Strege. (McHenry County had 1,437 farms, average size 774 acres, average operator's age, 47 years.)

That fall the Ed Meckles took over Loren Fenner's cream station and were buying cream for Foremost Dairies of Jamestown. William Fink was the new pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church; new Representative J.T. Alme of Drake was among freshmen legislators attending a UND informational seminar; and the DHS Pep Club was sponsoring a semi-formal Christmas Ball.

At the end of 1960, bids were let for the new city hall building, 50 by 120-feet, just north of the former Schrader Hardware building. Fors Construction got the contract.

County Agent Al Kramer opened the year 1961 with farmer classes: weed and insect control; grain varieties and fertilizers, welding, and wills and estates. The IOOF and Rebekahs installed Noble Grands Pete Romel and Pearl Jacobson while the OES installed Worthy Matron Mrs. Sammy Haykel and Worthy Patron A.M. Haykel.

In February Trinity Lutheran presented the cantata "Life Eternal" with soloists Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Rossebo, Sharon Dockter, Mrs. Lester Shook, Nolan and Edith Seehafer, Mrs. Robert Krueger and Mrs. Victor Creed. The EUB and Drake Baptists planned joint lenten services; open house was held at the new Refling building; and the new wild oats chemicals "Avadex" and "Carbyne" showed great promise. A PTA committee began discussing kindergarten.

March 1961 was busy: over \$1,000 damage to the creamery after a cistern explosion; Robert Dieterle's Court of Honor for his Eagle badge; Lloyd Degenstein replacing Sammy Mehl as Standard Oil agent; and Drake beating Minot Model 45-38 for the Class B district 9 championship. Glen Krueger hit 16, Dwight Dieterle 12, and Larry Kuntz 11.

In April 1961 the Soo moved the car repair shop from Drake to Harvey but only increased the work force there by two, leaving several Drake men jobless. Later the Soo asked to drop local passenger trains in the summer.

The spring concert included solos, played by Harold Teyler, Priscilla Alme, Janice Sitz, Jean Schmidtgal and Henry Shink, and sung by Alex Neigel, David Jans and Sharon Dockter. In May voters again approved financing for the new hall.

By June all but six North Dakota counties were disaster areas; all small grains had deteriorated badly as a result of a hot, dry June. Little or no crop was expected since the late June cool spell was too late. Serious 'hopper problems had developed and county agent Kramer talked about using oats, winter rye and kochia weed as feed. The 1961 wheat support remained at \$1.79.

(Still, area farms continued to grow in size as smaller operators were forced out; there were now 11,367 farms over 1,000 acres, compared to 9,925 in 1954.)

In Drake the Legion Junior baseball team had a good season managed by Bob Marvin, winning 13, losing 4. The Drake Laundromat, built by Fors Construction for Keith Jones of Minot, opened Aug. 11. Wes Filler was the new manager of Ben's Service on Highway 52; the Fritz Erfles, who operated the "Pioneer Bar," re-opened the Drake Coffee Shop; Quay Peterson bought John Leder's Gamble store; and Lloyd Degensteins remodeled the Morris Cafe into a modern bar. The John Heintz barn and milking equipment burned; the fire department made three trips back to town for water since all sloughs were

Miracles Predicted for 1975

The Jan. 26, 1961, Drake Register predicted "Radical Changes Seen in 'Fabulous' 15 Years."

"By 1975, a nation that has grown to 230 million in population will have built an additional 22 million homes, cook dinner in 'miracle' kitchens, rely on ultrasonic sound waves to wash clothes, which will be made mostly of synthetics, eat meat that is tenderized on the hoof and frozen-dried fruits and vegetables, and drive cars of light weight aluminum, plastic or steel, according to 'Changing Times,' the Kiplinger magazine.

"The issue of the magazine, looking ahead for the next 15 years, points out that ideas which may seem far-fetched now are not nearly so remote as present-day products - jet planes, dishwashers and disposals, and antibiotics - were 15 years ago at the close of World War II.

"Examining the 'fabulous fifteen years ahead,' the editors see a population growth from 182 million to 230 million; a gross national product in the neighborhood of a trillion dollars; inflation that will shrink the dollar another 25 percent; individual incomes that are up 50 percent. The most growth will be in the West, Southwest, Southeast and the upper tier of the midwestern states, they predict, with the biggest population boosts coming in small fry, teenagers and young adults.

"All this growth means more homes, more jobs, more schools. The working force will be around 100 million, over 30 million of them women. A higher percentage of them will be white-collar workers and the trend from farm to city and industry will continue. Professional people will be in demand and the coming construction boom will make jobs for contractors, carpenters, electricians and plumbers. The government, particularly state and local government, will employ about 25 percent more people.

Computers will be used in production, management, government planning, medicine and air travel. The electronics industry will make dramatic strides in

developing machinery for data processing.

"In housing construction, builders will have to trim the price of construction to equalize rising land costs. One way will be more prefabrication of wall and roof panels, flooring, brick work and even plumbing and electrical assemblies. Houses will be made of plastic - walls, floors, exterior, even the roof, with color molded in, thus solving the problem of painting and maintenance.

"Tomorrow's kitchen is already on the way. There will be units consisting of a freezer and electronic oven that will produce a full meal in 10 or 15 minutes; cabinets, ovens, dishwashers and refrigerators that can be automatically raised or lowered to suit the housewife; automatic plastic dish makers in the kitchen; ultrasonic dishwashers; refrigerated cabinets and drawers scattered around the kitchen; stoves that can be turned off and on by dialing instructions from a phone booth; built in beverage bars; and servers and dishwashers that go automatically back and forth between kitchen and dining room or patio.

"The housewife will have vacuum cleaners that run themselves and homes in the suburbs will have power mowers that do the same thing; closed circuit TV will keep an eye on the baby.

"A whole family of synthetics is on the way to make clothing light, durable and easily maintained. Also in another 10 years or so, food stores will be selling foods that are dried, then frozen and put in airtight cans or pouches where they will keep for years.

"Growth will create a traffic jam. By 1975 nearly three-quarters of the population will live and work in metropolitan areas; the answer will be major emphasis on rapid-transit systems. But there will be cars, though they may look different, made of aluminum or plastic; smaller motors with far less routine maintenance; disappearance of the floor hump; devices that consume exhaust fumes; hydraulic units providing power for brakes, steering, wipers, air conditioning and suspension. By 1975 there may be electronic highways and cars equipped to use them."

dried up. The Nick Adam farm home also burned, the result of an overheated chimney.

At the end of 1961 Mrs. Howard Amstutz directed the Drake Baptist Christmas cantata; soloists were Cheryl Isaak, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Martin, Carol Christensen, Eddie Jans and Ben Hauff.

"The credit and financial situation of farmers may improve somewhat in 1962," Drake was told in January since wheat and feed grain supplies were down after a short harvest in 1961. Much of the record assets of U.S. farmers, \$211 billion by Jan. 1, 1962, was due to increased value in farm land but the total farm debt was just \$27 billion, or 13 per cent of assets.

Indeed it did turn out to be a good year for most area farmers: May 11 and 12 brought over an inch and a half or rain, with a total of 6½ inches that month and the crops were good.

So people turned their attention to other aspects of life: the blacktopping of the south half of N.D. 14; Ed J.

Evans' award for 10 years as Drake's weather observer; the death of Father Wehlitz; and the Fire Department seeking \$500 for oxygen equipment. 'Sixty-two was the year everyone was told how to build and equip a fall-out shelter in case of nuclear attack; that missile contractors were in town in February asking about availability of water for a cement mixing plant and about housing and trailer parking. They were back in March to explain their program and in September the following year Drake got the first of the Minot area missiles.

Tony Feist of Velva bought Harold Ostroms lumber company, a 15-year-old concern; the Drake Quarterback club formed, decided to have a letterman's banquet with Russ Smith speaking and elected Frank Paulus chairman, Dave Dieterle vice chairman and H.C. Edgerton secretary-treasurer. They were glad to hear winter pheasant kill had not been serious.

The Commercial Club and City Council sponsored a community auction to buy kitchen equipment for the new

city hall; the firemen had a benefit dance, too. The Commercial Club was holding record hops at the hall.

Bob Dieterle missed first place by a foot in the 440-yard dash and Johnny Erickson placed fifth in the state track meet at Valley City. Mrs. O.A. Refling was the new state commander for U.S. Army Mothers; Drake Drug was burglarized; the Little League attracted much attention; and H.M. Rossebo, after 17 years, resigned as school treasurer and was succeeded by Alfred Ritzke.

The big news of 1962 started to become apparent in August when, for the first of six times, the school board asked for a mill levy increase and was turned down, despite PTA support and explanations of the need and cost in the paper. Voters said No, No, No, No—136 to 76 on Aug. 14, 184 yes to 194 no on Aug. 31, on Sept. 28, and in October.

Of course, other things were going on: Three died in a flash flood at Velva on Aug. 20; the EUB Church observed its 50th anniversary; appreciation day by the Commercial Club included free bingo and drawings, music by the Harvey Clown Band, the Minot Motor Patrol and a free dance in the evening. That fall Gust Janavaras bought the Pioneer Bar building from Geraldine Olson and joined it to the Farmers Store. Bencer Kjos and Floyd Ettetad were elected to the legislature.

At the year's end, the Trojans won four of six: McClusky, 54-40, Riverdale, 46-38, Towner and Anamoose. They lost to Velva and Fessenden. Those mentioned in game descriptions included Merrill Krueger, Ricky Paulus, John Gange, Dennis and Don Jans, Frieson, Schiele and Dieterle.

"Vacation is a period when you exchange good dollars for bad quarters." Drake Register.

Drake's streak continued with Karlsruhe and Upham in the new year, and the voters came out in bitterly cold weather to defeat the school mill levy for the fifth time, 212 yes to 167 no, just 15 votes shy of the 60 per cent majority needed. And again it was defeated, 258 yes to 200 no.

That year, 1963, was when first-class postage went up to a nickle; when Alvin Kramer left McHenry County after 11 years to be replaced by Laverne Kreft of Devils Lake as county agent; and when Justin wheat was being tested. Verner Stolt's barn burned, with four milk cows, three calves, 10 pigs and hay; it was caused by defective wiring.

Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. dropped the toll charge between Anamoose and Drake that year; the Trojans who had won all home games completed their season by beating Willow City 55-42. It was the last game for seniors Dennis Jans, Merrill Krueger, Bob Dieterle, John Gange, Dennis Schiele and LeRoy Frieson.

In March Soo officials met with customers in Drake to explain lack of use was why they asked to drop the last passenger trains serving the city; Don and Lois Senechal placed first and second in 4-H crop judging at the Winter Show; a basket social by the Commercial Club bought a new stove for the City Hall; and Mrs. Ed Kriedeman opened the Drake Coffee Shop. Dennis Wehr purchased the C & L Bar; Frayne Peterson replaced Farmers Elevator manager Ardell Bergrud; and new uses for linseed oil, such as fast-drying paints, made the flax picture brighter.

Drake School was accredited on a qualified basis because of large enrolment despite "patron resistance to a financial increase which limits the program." Collections were taken to put lights on the Drake Athletic Field and plans for kindergarten went forward with the wee ones in the Memorial Room.

The weather was changeable that year: after dirt storms in March and temps in the 70s on March 30, May 1 arrived with sleet, snow, thunder and lightning, then snow and a blizzard. It rained through May and stayed cold; there was a solar eclipse July 20.

Local folks found sports more interesting. Drake won the McHenry County track meet; won the Velva softball tourney and the Pee Wee game from Anamoose; topped the Drake Little League Tournament with Balfour behind Bryan Bruner's one-hitter and Kermit Schell's pitching. The Quarterback Club sponsored two men's and two ladies' softball teams as well. The Drake Golf Club had a busy year in their newly-enlarged and redecorated club house with a "Little International" invitational Sept. 1, record membership and many social events.

Also that summer farm land prices climbed \$6 to average \$62 an acre; Joe Schell succeeded the late Sam Gausemel as Farmers Union manager; new zip codes were put on letters; Wolf's Dairy-All opened across from Bossert Implement shop; and after 15 years' absence as a linotype operator for the Kenmare News Gordon McQuay joined Eichhorn Implement.

On Sept. 27, by a vote of 92 yes, 89 no—therefore less than 60 per cent—a 5-mill building fund levy lost again.

Not that Drake people were opposed to change: they organized a Lion's Club with Dennis Wehr president; organized a riding association with Lloyd Aanrud president, Albert Ehrman vice president, Mrs. Roy Frankhauser secretary, Mrs. Milton Geiszler treasurer and directors Ben Huseby, Geiszler, Joe Moore and Carol Christianson. The 4-H awards banquet was at Trinity Lutheran with First National Bank as one of the sponsors.

That fall Priscilla Alme, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alme, was one of 68 U.S. music students chosen for the European band tour; Mel Rienets opened the Jack and Jill Store; and, at the 1963 year's end, the Drake Baptist Church, directed by Mrs. Howard Amstutz and Mrs. Wesley Filler, gave the cantata "Wonder of Christmas."

1964

In January 1964, Drake won its own invitational basketball tournament, defeating Butte and Bowdon; 15 foxes were bagged one week and 16 the next, with free dinners for the hunters; and the Lion's club benefit dance featured music by the Mavericks.

Among the signs of spring: salt-water shrimp stocked in Round Lake; the Farm Bureau women's luncheon at Drake; the Letterman's Club banquet; and organization of the Republican Women with Elizabeth Gilmer chairman and Mrs. John M. Kuntz secretary.

The Drake Golf Club re-elected officers, planned a membership drive and major improvements to the clubhouse including a screened patio running the length of the clubroom. Greens were in good playing condition in April.

Herbie Adam's barn burned along with a herd bull, hammermill and pigs; the blaze was blamed on a heat lamp for baby pigs exploding.

The Commercial Club planned to take part in the state's Diamond Jubilee July 19-20; Milton Horner was

named police chief to succeed Bill Anton; Peter A. Wolf headed the American Legion; and Charles McCarthy was burned in a tractor fire. A prairie fire charred an area a mile-and-a-half long and nearly a mile wide near Lake George.

Dick Kirchoff purchased the Drake Pharmacy in May; the Softball Association agreed to install lights; and the Lion's Club sought contributions, promoting the summer recreation program which would include baseball, basketball, softball, volleyball and other games.

The North Dakota Diamond Jubilee was a big time in Drake, too, July 18-29, with a horse show Saturday, sponsored by the Caballo Riding Club with Bill Eastgate as announcer and Henry Rogers as judge; a picnic Sunday at Lake Bentley; and on Monday a parade, carnival, beard contest, political speakers, Maverick's dance.

The Air Force color guard led a parade with 93 entries in addition to 52 horses. Verdie Shink and Dennis Wehr, co-chairman, said 230 old-timers registered.

Dennie's Bar team, which was leading the softball league, also won the tournament in July. The Drake Quarter Back Club won the district softball tournament at Towner; took the state title with wins over Lakota, Oakes and two Wahpeton teams; and Alvin Smith won the Drake invitational golf tourney over 66 competitors.

Although the storm July 26 did bad wind damage in Minot and total hail destruction between Kief and Balfour, Drake suffered only a few broken trees and a large window at Alme Implement.

A 13½-mill levy, in August, passed, 122 in favor 66 opposed; brown trout was planted in Round Lake in September; and in October the school announced enrollment was up slightly with 363 students through grade 8 and 148 in high school.



Fire in 1968.

Fire struck once again Nov. 12: a blaze starting about noon claimed the old theatre building and the city hall. The theatre, bought by O.W. Fors in 1929, was a two-story, 48 by 90-foot brick structure built in 1916 by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Fors remodeled it into a theatre and apartments; stopped using it as a theatre in 1959; and again remodeled. Five families, totaling 14 people, lost all their possessions but many groups and

individuals made contributions to them. The clinic was threatened for a time and Alme Implement's wooden roof had a hole burned through it but survived. Faulty wiring may have started it.

Drake turned its attention to holiday activities and the Christmas concert by the band, directed by Robert L. Nelson.

Then in December, fire struck again, this time the Drake Lumberyard. Again the fire started about noon, probably in the furnace room of the lumberyard. The owner, Tony Feist, was gone; his wife and six children escaped from their home and some possessions were saved before the house also went up in the flames. The lumberyard, built in 1904 or 1905, amounted to an \$80,000 loss but the Drake Bulk Oil Co. owned by Andrew Jans and Ziegler's Westland Bulk Oil Co., which were threatened, escaped.

1965

As 1965 opened, Frank Paulus bought the Rest View Motel from Bennie Hauff and the Prairie 4-H club members placed first, second and third (Lora Senechal with an astounding perfect score, Larry Senechal and Marlene Senechal) at district crop judging in Minot. Farmers were glad to hear the grasshopper threat seemed less in 1965.

In April the American Legion Auxiliary won a national award for patriotic service- Rev. Howard Amstutz, after seven years with the Drake Baptists, was going to serve Parshall. He was replaced July by Rev. Dennis Anundson, who had also worked as a mechanic and was to be employed at Eichhorn Implement.

A dry spring brought May fires rather than May flowers: prairie fire near Bernhard Bromleys, fire at the Ed Davis home, a blaze in the trees at the Paul Fiskum farm, and fires at the Drake dump, at the cemetery, at the Philip Spichke farm, and at the Art Uhlich farm where lightning claimed the barn.

Nevertheless, Drake citizens took time out to break ground for the EUB Church and for Lions to elect Wes Filler. Feist announced he would rebuild the lumberyard.

Precipitation was welcomed on May 26, even if the rain was followed by snow. No crop damage resulted though some gardens and early flowers were hit.

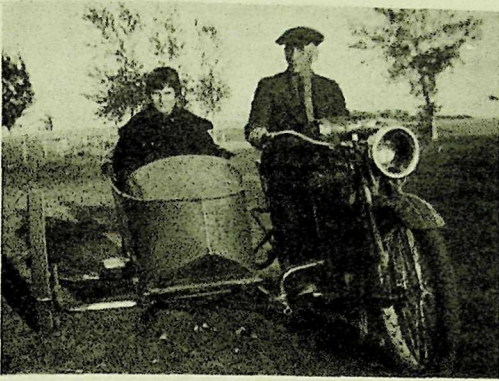
In June the Community Development Corporation formed; board members were Andrew Jans, president; Con Ziegler, vice president, and Joe Kuntz, Wayne Rienets, Pete Lommen, Joe Schell and Gerald Krueger.

Softball and Little League baseball both drew interest; the Lion's Club sponsored a circus June 30 to benefit the recreation program; and Drake's Quarterback Club team won the slow pitch softball state title. The Caballo Riders sponsored a second annual horse show at Drake Airport after a parade at noon.

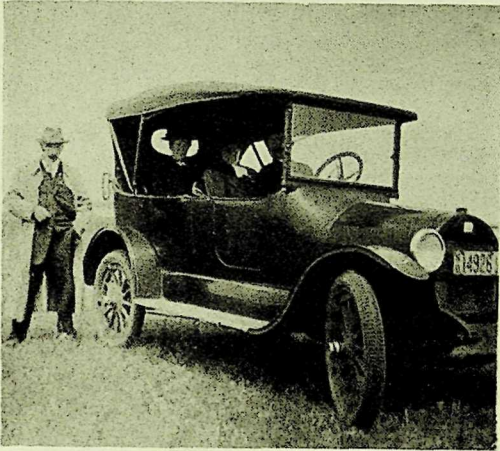
Building began on the EUB Church, concrete with a brick exterior, laminated rafters, an "L" shape on slab foundation. A 36 by 90-foot area served as sanctuary and fellowship hall with the study, kitchen and Christian Education facilities in a 58 by 38-foot area.

A storm July 22 did considerable crop damage, dropped 7½ inches of rain on the area south of Drake; and blew down barns of Aurora Seehafer and Lonnie and George Bromley.

In August Jerry Fundingsland won the Drake annual golf match; Pete's Bar of Drake topped the regional softball tourney at Harvey and then earned third place in the state. Feist was building a new lumberyard with a 30



Willie Martwick with a friend.
(Archie Martwick)



Mr. and Mrs. William Schmidt and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Knuth enjoy an outing. (Mrs. William Knuth)

by 60-foot brick office; the Soo Line asked to remove the Drake stockyard which had not been used since 1964; and the Buttons and Bows Homemakers Club of Drake and the Farmers Store and Farmerette joined forces for a style show in the Drake City Hall with 30 models.

Marvin Martin, 36, Drake police chief, was seriously burned in an explosion Aug. 7, 1965. A spark from a trouble light may have set off the blast as he was cleaning the cistern at the Drake Creamery.

War news was again in the headlines, this time from Vietnam.

At home Drake businessmen bought 4-H livestock from Achievement Days; fire in October damaged the Empress Hotel lobby; and the Drake Community Development Corporation got a \$17,000 Small Business Administration loan to construct a new lumberyard.

In November the Farmers Union Oil Company had its 25th anniversary; the Boy Scouts reorganized; the Alumni Association was formed; and a first-aid class was offered. As 1965 ended, Don Bryson was playing for the annual Drake Firemen's Ball and the Lion's home decorating contest winners were Mrs. Bob Marvin first, Mrs. O.A. Refling second, and Mrs. Lyle Bakken third.

Drake lost two pillars early in 1966, O.A. Refling at 81 and Harry Billings, 70. Rev. William Fink left Trinity Lutheran Church after five years, to be replaced by Rev. Joel Hernes.

In 40-below cold, 35 Soo Line freight cars derailed west of Drake at 5 a.m. in Jan. 23, tore up 330 feet of track and destroyed the Wintering River bridge. Then a derailment between Guthrie and Aylmer blocked the GN track for five hours.

The community was just as interested in the new Alumni officers— Frank Paulus president; Mrs. Wes Filler vice president, Mrs. Mel Rienets secretary, Nolan Seehafer treasurer, and directors Galen Jacobson, Bob Marvin and Mrs. Otto Bruner.

In March Mark Janavaras bought the Red Owl store Carl Notbohm had run 12 years; Drake won the District 21 basketball championship over Velva; Ron Ziegler gunned 26 points, Bob Gange 15 and John Isaak 14.

Senior Citizen housing was the concern of the Community Development Corporation in March but most people were more occupied with the severe blizzard March 5 and 6 which cost 17 lives across the state, closed schools, and piled in huge drifts adding to millions of dollars in cattle losses.

Business was the big news in April 1966: The Farmers Union was going to build a fertilizers bulk plant; John Heydts bought the Morris Hotel and Bar from Lloyd Degensteins who had run it six years and Floyd Kagel marked his 25th anniversary in the newspaper business at Drake and Anamoose. (He had spent 44 years in journalism by then, starting at age 14 and owning the Flaxton Times before coming to McHenry County.)

In May the USDA told farmers the drouth of the '50s had been more severe and more prolonged than the one of the '30s, but farmers and others were more interested in dedication of the \$60,000 EUB Church on May 5; and in the Caballo Riders, Little League, slow pitch softball, and swimming programs.

As dry weather continued in July, Soil Bank hay was released for grazing and hay-making.

In August Charlie's Bar of Drake won the regional softball tournament and was third in the state meet. In a second try, the school tax levy passed. The Knights of Columbus organized a Drake unit with Albert Bossert as Grand Knight and Tom Alme Deputy Grand Knight.

That fall, the Drake team won the Goodrich softball tournament; Maria Hordinsky, 15-year-old painist who won the state high school auditions in Bismarck, was named to represent the state in St. Louis. As the year 1966 wound down, the Fire Department presented 25-year pins to Ed Merbach, Mel Munson, Verdie Shink, Alden Bethke and Adolph Dockter; and the Buttons and Bows Homemakers Club held their second annual Christmas Fair with a show of hobbies, crafts and decorations.

1967

H.M. Rossebo retired from First National Bank after 40 years service and the Alumni Association began to work for the reunion as 1967 opened. A late March blizzard reminded many of "North Dakota's worst blizzard last year."

Pete Ziegler took over Con's Service Station in April, changed the name to Pete's Westland, and hired Tom Weninger. Con Ziegler bought the Harvey Enco Station. An April blizzard bringing welcome moisture to the area



The Guthrie Orchestra. (Mrs. John Kofstad)

was followed by thunder and lightning. Then another blizzard May 1, 1967, closed Drake School, downed 600 telephone poles and, with nearly a foot of the white stuff, blocked roads.

However, spring arrived; North Dakota went on Daylight Savings Time for the first time; an addition gave the Drake Clinic two more consulting rooms, a restroom and medical library. Rev. Clarence Stanley left the EUB Church after 11 years, succeeded by Rev. Thomas Benoy, and Alfred Sherlock was president of the new Drake 4-H club with Linda Notbohm vice president and Ellen Fiskum secretary-treasurer.

The 50th alumni reunion was July 29 with the Firemen and Commercial Club sponsoring the alumni picnic Sunday at Brush Lake, which chilly weather shifted to the City Hall. Saturday night's feature was the banquet, with a memorial service Sunday. Heggess, McQuays and McCarty's were among families honored.

North Dakota farm land was worth \$79 an acre average that year, and Alme Implement, having bought Bencer Kjos's tools and equipment for Chevrolets, was inviting farmers in for open house. Everett Martwick's barn burned with five calves and hay; Drake and Anamoose firemen save the other buildings included a modern new house.

In August Wes's Hi-Way Service team won the state slow pitch tourney; the Drake school enrollment was 462; and the school tax levy was defeated. The Caballo Riders show was held Oct. 1 west of Wes's Service. Virgil Barnes succeeded the late Henry Ebel as McHenry County Farmers Home Administration supervisor; one of his problems was the dry weather, with high fire danger and lack of grazing.

As the year ended, the tax levy failed once again; Ed

Evans retired as manager of the Drake Co-op Creamery to be replaced by Lyle Weist; and Alvin Smith bought the Drake Pharmacy; and the first snow of the season fell Dec. 17.

Editor's Note

Because of limitations of space and because probably most people reading this book are familiar with Drake's more recent history, the final decade has been treated in a headline form, divided into years.

1968

Postage rose to 6 cents for first-class mail.

A \$100,000 fire destroyed Alme Implement Co. Feb. 17; Velva, Anamoose Fire Departments assisted in saving home of Robert Alme, attached to shop. The firm, in business in Drake 29 years, lost 100 by 140-foot building, four cars, two trucks, tools and inventory. Alme's announced the company, selling Chevrolet cars and trucks, Oliver and Case machinery would be open immediately in temporary quarters.

Work began to convince state to pave road from the end of N.D. 19 near Esmond west to N.D. 14.

Rachel Rebekah Lodge celebrated 69th anniversary in March.

School levy defeated in April.

Faulty electric fence caused blaze which took Walter Doubek's barn and another pole barn.

For third year Ziegler Oil Co. team won Harvey Bowling Association bowl-off; John Ziegler, Frank and Martin Bruner, Hank Ewert.

New Drake city well, producing 300 gallons per minute, in operation.

Drake Knights of Columbus bought Sportsmen's Club building as Sportsmen disband.

Drake Band to Brandon, Manitoba, in June for annual Traveler's Day parade; asked to perform in other events such as Anamoose July 4 celebration.

Peavy Elevator in Drake closed in July and manager A.J. Ritzke transferred to Melville.

Drake Co-operative Shipping Association dissolved, inoperative for several years after 40 years' service; left-over funds donated to Drake Clinic.

Drake softball team sponsored by Wes's Standard Service won Rugby tourney 12-1, over Rugby; took second in state competition.

"Show me a man who understands women and I'll show you a man who's in for a big surprise."
Drake Register

Drake Little League won 15 without a loss.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Heintz took over Empress Cafe in August from Mr. and Mrs. Schielke.

Andrew Jans bought Dairy-All from Mrs. Petie Wolf, moved equipment to new building south of the highway.

Pete Ziegler sold Westland Service Station to employee Tom Weninger. Pete took job as maintenance man at new school bus garage.

Ed Meckle who operated cream station on north end of Main Street closed it, went to work for Drake Creamery.

Frost in August; additional problem for farmers trying to harvest amid rain.

Drake American Legion held its 50th anniversary dinner in September.

Referral on allowing corporation farming was hot issue in fall campaign.

First snow Nov. 15, but crocuses on George Riba farm.

New Polk wheat available.

1969

Pvt. Darrel Stolt wins Bronze Star in Vietnam.

Drake American Legion held mortgage-burning in February.

The 4-H talent show was held in Drake in April.

Maj. Curtis Erickson received the Bronze Star.

Minot suffered its heaviest flood damage since 1904.

Soo Line had \$234,000 derailment at Carpio.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Bolgen took over Andy's Dairy-All.

McHenry County 4-H'ers and families hosted Iowa 4-H'ers.

Laverne Kreft left McHenry County extension agent position in August to attend North Dakota State University, Fargo.

Gust Janavaras was honored at the Golf Club by Commercial Club members after 50 years in business in Drake.

Doyle Radke of Riverdale topped 66 others in Drake Golf Tourney in August.

Drake's first threshing bee was held, west of Drake Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27-28. Buttons were sold to help finance it; admitted holders to the Thresherman's Dance in the City Hall. Several old threshing machines with some Rumley, Waterloo Boys and John Deere early-day tractors attracted attention but for many visitors the six bundle teams, two grain teams and other horses used as it was done in the early days were the biggest thrill. Over 2,500 attended. Oats on Bossert and Alme farms which was threshed yielded so well grain haulers had trouble keeping up! Three thousand attended.

The Future Business Leaders of America chapter in Drake was organized in October, Colleen Bruner president.

Wes Filler, with Gene Spichke of Kief, was handling Arctic Cat snowmobiles.

Rev. A.W. Bibelheimer was installed at Drake Baptist Church in December; Rev. Joel Hernes was leaving for Alexander after three years at Trinity Lutheran Church.

1970

Low-income housing plans were made in Drake; to be one-story with living room, bedroom, bath, kitchen and storage all on ground level.

August Keller farm home south of Drake destroyed by fire.

Alfred Sherlock's barn burned in February.

The First National Bank provided a bus trip to the Valley City Winter Show for area folks.

A smoker at the Legion Hall in March was a benefit for the Drake recreational program and new baseball team uniforms; the Music Boosters Club sponsored basketball games— Anamoose men against Drake men and Anamoose women against Drake women— to help provide band uniforms.

Floyd Kagel, longtime Drake editor, died at 61.

Continuous heavy snowfall the weekend of April 18-19 closed schools and provided moisture needed for crops hard on cattlemen.

Mike Lerner's barn struck by lightning the following weekend! It burned.

Jaycee chapter organized in Drake, Alvin Smith, president; John Adam, first vice-president; Glenn Krueger, second-vice president; Gary Adam, secretary; Albert Krueger, treasurer; Jim Uhlich and Larry Kaibel, directors.

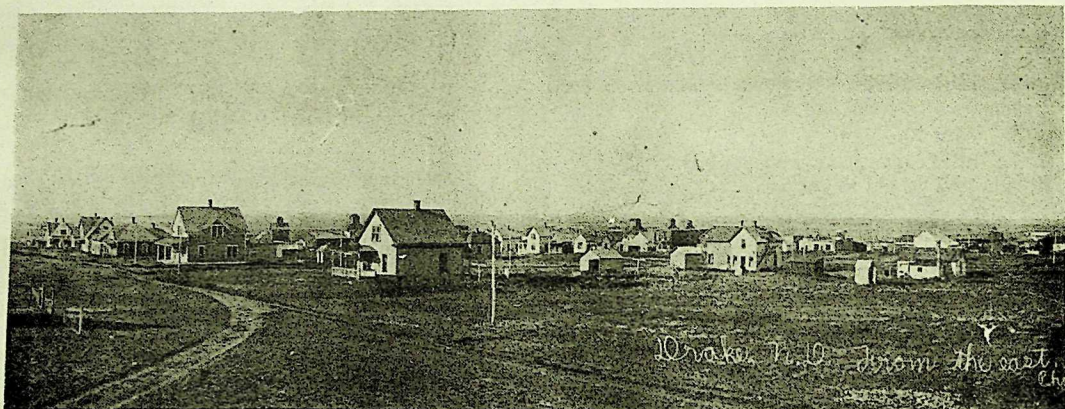
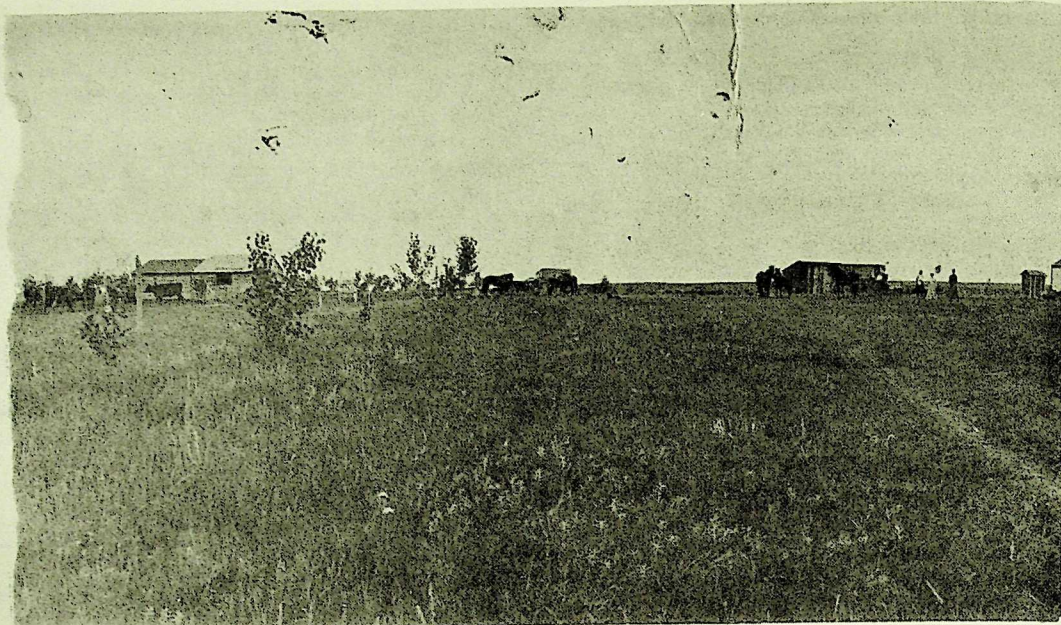
Hank Ewert heads Golf Club; Virgil Ziegler, American Legion commander, and George Stancel, adjutant; American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Fred Heydt.

Paving was discussed, bids let in May for \$161,000 with curbing, gutters another \$65,138.

Jaycees held banquet, dance to celebrate installation.

Bud Neuhardt buys the Drake Barber Shop, operated 16 years by Ferdinand Hoffer.

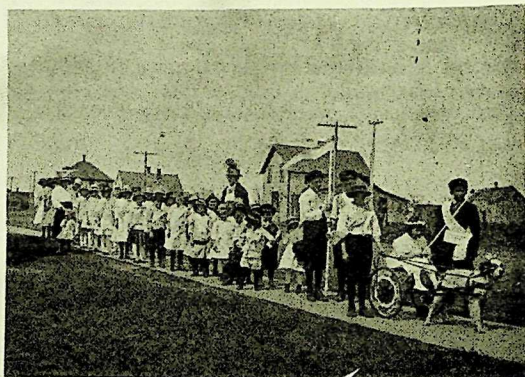
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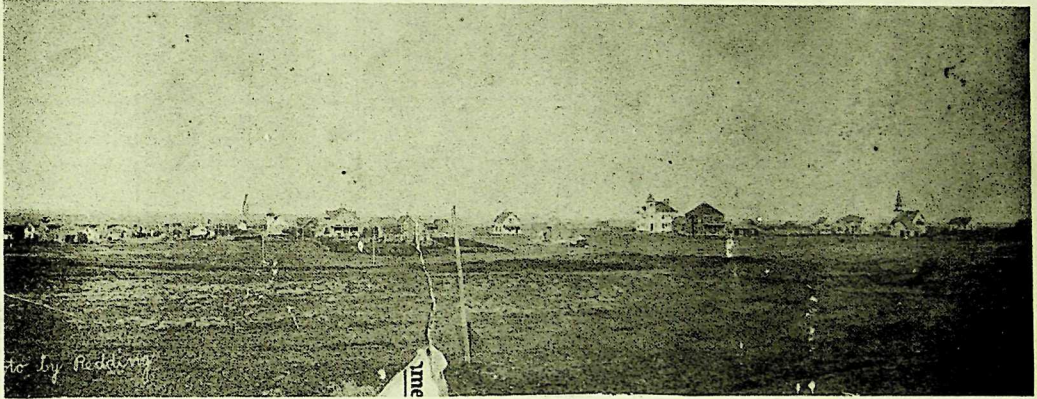
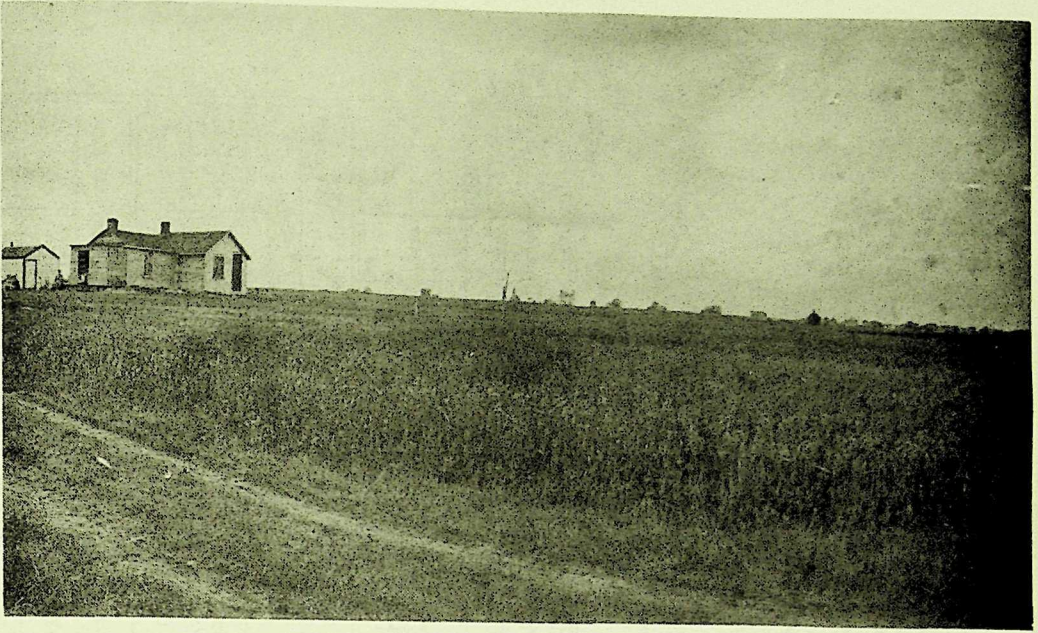


Two large photographs of Drake in its early days which could not be shown without dividing them were split between these two pages.

At the top is a view of Drake taken in 1905 from the west. In the foreground is the C.J. Olstad farm. The photo was lent to us by Walter Olstad.

The picture stretched across the center of the page is another view, this one taken from the east, photographed





in 1909 by Redding. It is another of Walter Olstad's collection.

The lower photo on page 184, which is owned by Ernest Nehrenbergs, is of an Evangelical Lutheran Church event.

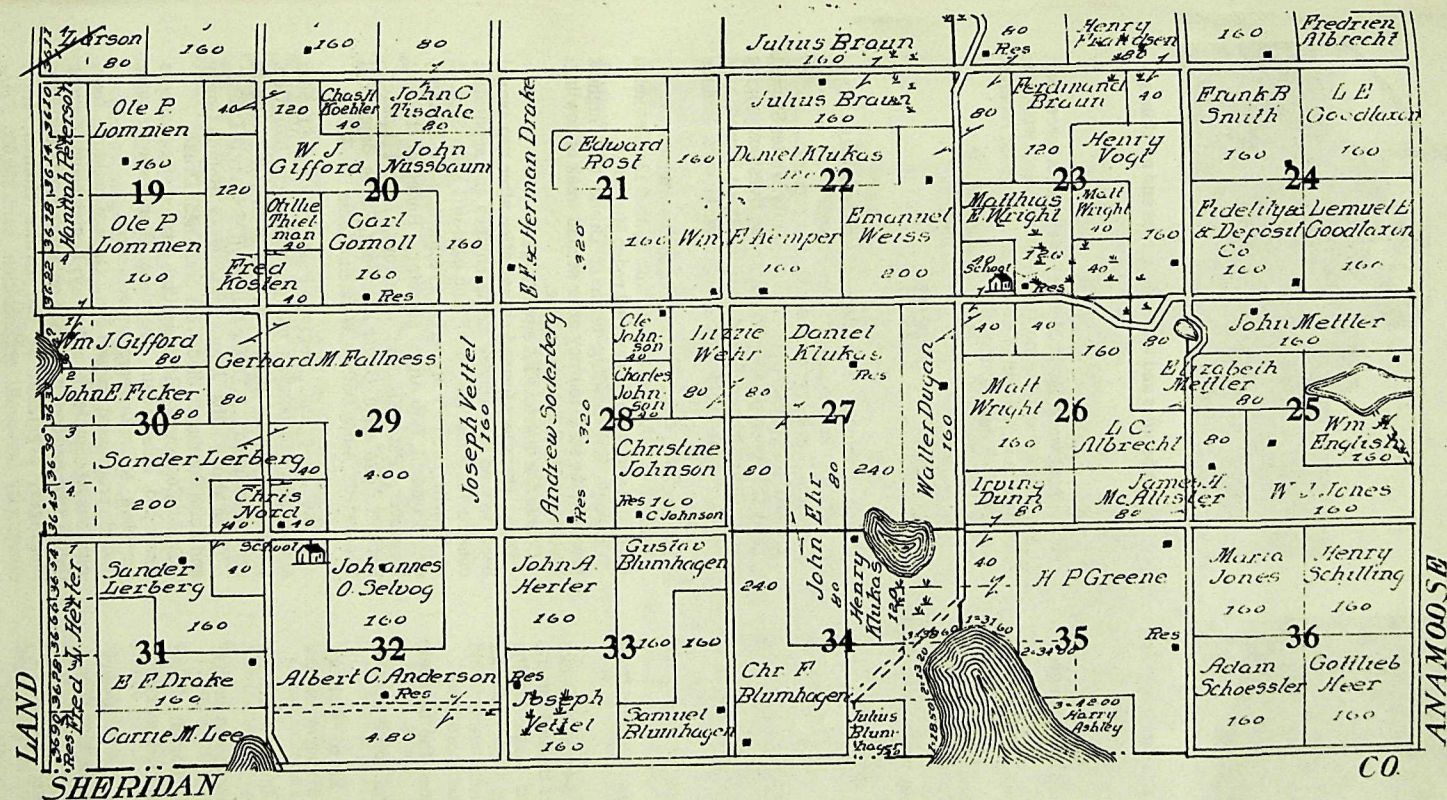
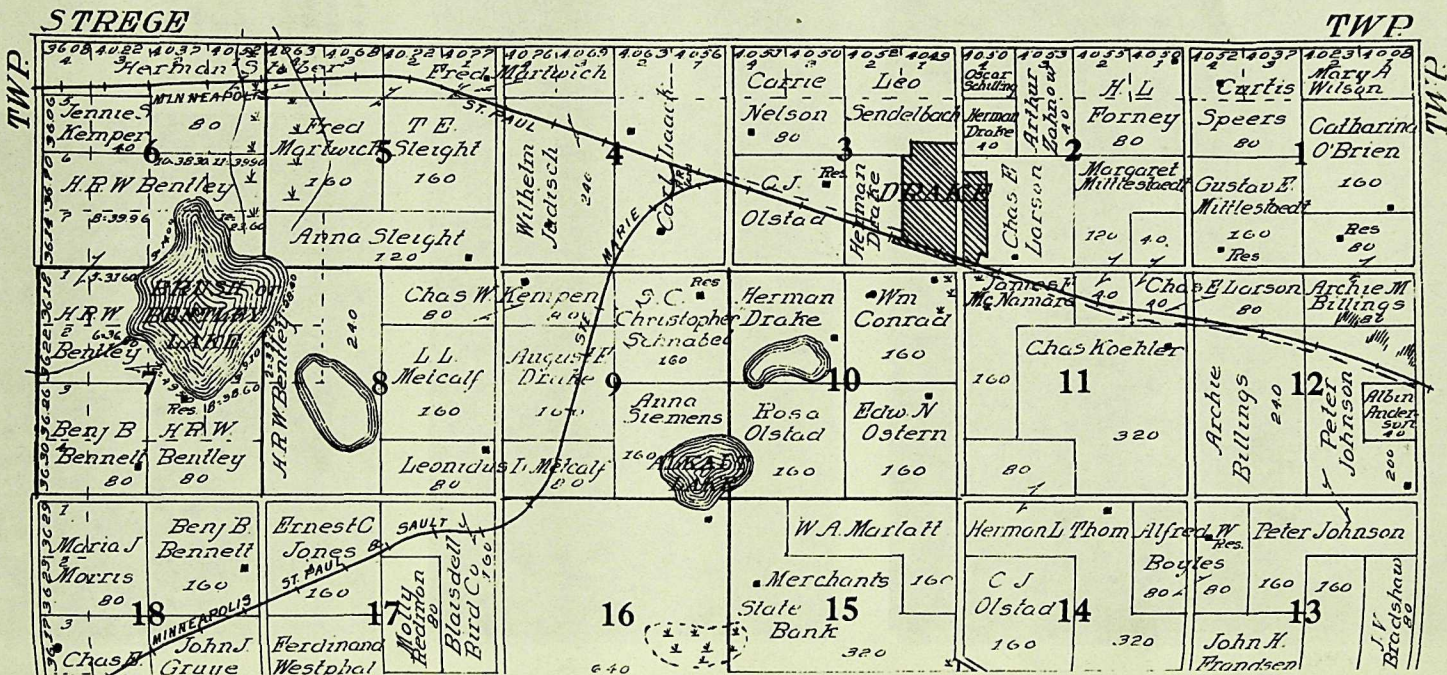
On the bottom of this page is a grand photo of Mr. Conrad, the carpenter who built the Evangelical United Brethren Church, according to Mrs. William Knuth who owns the photo.

MAP OF

TOWNSHIP 151 N., RANGE 76 W.

 of the 5th P. M.

SPRING GROVE TOWNSHIP





Thousands who have attended Drake's threshing shows enjoyed hauling bundles and watching horses and machines.

Glen Okeson replaced Frayne Peterson, manager seven years of Drake Farmers Elevator.

Jack Miller's rye, first in area on July 28, weighed 54 pounds, averaged 30 bushels.

Mark Ziegler shot a record 63, 5 under par, to win Drake Golf Tourney in August; Al Smith, runner-up.

With 20 per cent combining done, barley was running 30 to 35, wheat 8 to 22 with some hail damage.

Drake's two-ball foursome included supper and a corn roast.

Tim Marvin, U of N.D. student, was college ambassador to Holland.

Trinity Lutheran, directed by student pastor Rick Hendrickson, planned outdoor service.

Sgt. Kenneth Fiskum received Air Force medal in September.

Drake Midget team winners in KXMC-TV baseball tournament.

Mr. and Mrs. John Heintz bought Empress Cafe from O.W. Fors.

Second annual threshing bee held Oct. 3-4 west of Drake on Joe Frieson farm occupied by Albert Bossert family. Dakota Mountain Boys played old-time music for the dance; FFA chapter handled parking. Lyle Bakken, Commercial Club president, said, 10 bundle teams would keep up on 47 acres of oats; plowing contest was added.

Drake Knights of Columbus entertained the baseball midget champs.

Fire destroyed the Alfred Martin farm house west of Drake.

Drake Band played in Minot State College homecoming; Drake Chorus was invited to sing at concert hour at teachers convention.

Rev. Oscar H. Kraft was installed as minister at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Coho salmon was stocked in Lake Sakakawea behind Garrison Dam.

FFA members Glen Bruner, Alfred Berndt, Dave Schnase and advisor Jim Aanrud attended national FFA convention in Kansas City.

Drake businessmen met the FFA boys in donkey basketball and another FFA team played the high school faculty. (The donkeys won.)

County 4-H awards banquet held in Drake.

Kenneth Baker hired as police chief.

Youth center opened with pool table, pin ball machines, juke box in KC Hall basement.

Drake Motor Co., owned by Charlie A. Drake, burned Dec. 23, with 12 new cars. Loss of at least \$125,000; five

men without work. Eight Morris Hotel guests forced out; Drake, Harvey and Anamoose fire departments worked to save hotel and Knights of Columbus hall which received smoke and window damage.

1971

Charles Haring of Grand Rapids hired to manage Drake Farmers Elevator, replaced Glen Okeson.

Farmers Elevator opened again after repairs.

Drake Bank sponsored bus to Valley City Winter Show.

Drake FFA competed in Winter Show; livestock judging team: Glenn Bruner, Alfred Berndt, Myron Blumhagen; crop judging team: Pat Kuntz, Arden Howey, Rodney Thomas, Joel Lemer.

Ray Senechal was 1971 county Seed Show Winner.

Drake Rodeo Association organized, built 12 miles north of N.D. 14 and one mile east; set rodeo May 30-31.

Charlie's Bar bowling team of Drake held highest scores in the state tourney after second week of bowling. Also won state K.C. bowling title.

Connie Sitz district FFA sweetheart.

Drake Threshers formed organization after two annual bees; agreed to purchase steam engines and separator; constructed a machine shed; and held 1971 show Sept. 25 on Charlie Drake's property. President, Lyle Bakken; vice president, Bob Alme; secretary, Ruben Michelson; treasurer, Pete Ziegler; directors, Albert Bossert, Herbert Blumhagen, Oliver Kronberg, Christ Baier, Bill Krumwiede, Alden Bethke, Wendelin Koble, Joe Schell.

Drake American Legion Post celebrated 50th anniversary with banquet, party April 21 in city hall; Gen. LaClaire Melhouse speaker. Five of 16 charter members present included C.A. Drake and Lloyd McQuay of Drake.

Three area youths, James Kolschefskey, Roland Gange and Keith Borchardt, died in car crash near Drake.

Drake Community Boosters Club formed after Jaycees disbanded. John Adam, president; Glen Krueger, vice president; Al Smith, secretary-treasurer.

Work progressed on new Ford Garage building; four-unit housing complex is underway; Legion bought former Coffee Shop and tore it down to put up new building. Tom Weninger, president of the Drake Homes, Inc., community non-profit organization, said \$53,600 FHA-insured loan for construction of rental housing had been approved; 50-year repayment at 7 percent interest.

Grand opening of Alme Implement held in new building, June 25-26.



Doctors honored Drake's Doctor Hordinsky in 1971, Dr. Fred Erenfeld of Minot and Dr. C. Richard Lillehei of Minneapolis.
(The Minot Daily News)

Drake FFA won district judging contest.

With one of best crops in sight, hail storm July 9 wiped out many crops west of Kief and south of Drake.

"Dr. B.Z. Hordinsky Appreciation Day" set Aug. 28, with barbecue, program, banquet and dance. Norman Alme, George Schafer co-chairmen; Alvin Smith, secretary; Ernest Haykel in charge of button sales.

Soo Line donated Balfour depot to Drake Threshing Association. Threshers group built 42 by 70-foot steel building; moved depot Aug. 12; cut oats on 45 acres of Joe Frieson farm with 95 acres to go on Drake farm. (Rain Sept. 26 stopped second day of show; reset Oct. 3; rain again, finished Oct. 10 3,000 visitors.)

Drake hosted annual McHenry County 4-H and FFA Achievement Days Sept. 16-18.

Grand opening newly-remodeled First National Bank with pancake and sausage dinner following at City Hall Oct. 23.

1972

Drake Co-op Creamery began to handle Grade A milk on standby basis for Cass-Clay Creamery at Fargo.

Drake rural routes consolidated in March with Melvin J. Alme as carrier.

Threshers chose Albert Bossert as farm manager at May meeting.

Arden Howey and Ken Knodel received State FFA degree, given to top 2 percent at state convention; gold awards to Myron Martin, Pearl Berndt, Joel Lerner, Tim Volk, Alfred Berndt. In July Ken Knodel earned Grand Champion honors at State Fair in barley lot of sheaves.

Drake Boosters Club cleaned up Round Lake area.

Benefit supper held June 24 at city hall by Aid Association for Lutherans for victims of Rapid City, S.D., flood.

Camp Bentley observed 25th anniversary with family camp.

Drake, area farmers met in August to try to get John Deere service center in Drake; reported Keller Implement of Harvey would come if building provided.

Lynn Lund new editor of Drake Register and Anamoose Progress in September, succeeding Mildred E. Kagel who served 31 years; paper converted to offset. Combined two papers. Mylon Ash was publisher.

Fourth annual threshing show set Sept. 30, Oct. 1 west of Drake, Threshers dance Sept. 30, Fort Totten Wagon Trail Train! More than 3,500 persons attended Sunday, 2,500 Saturday.

Arena horse show three miles north of Drake set Sept. 24.

Drake Trojans won CNDC conference playoff, beating Goodrich 38-20. Lost to Esmond in championship game.

Glen Krueger opened lounge with live music.

Second annual Little Buckaroo Rodeo held at Drake Rodeo Grounds Oct. 22.

Drake and Anamoose held eighth annual joint band festival Nov. 17.

Ray Senechal honored at McHenry County 4-H awards banquet for 25 years as 4-H leader.

1973

Drake Motors Inc. burned out in December 1970 and in temporary quarters, bought former John Deere dealership in Drake.

Keller Implement started construction in January of John Deere service center in Drake; March opening set.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale McCarty named McHenry County farm family of the year.

Drake Farmers Union local reorganized, Frank E. Bruner chairman.

Drake chorus sang for Drake Senior Citizens.

Rachel Rebekah Lodge celebrated 65th anniversary in March.

Everett Krohnke takes lease on lumberyard, to be Serve and Save Lumber, to open in April.

Adolph Feyereisen new chief of police.

Frank Paulus bought Highway 52 Mobil Service from Wesley Filler and stock and equipment from Dennis Jans; to be run by Blaine Paulus.

O. W. Fors completed 20 years as Drake Mayor.

Drake girls' track teams, senior and junior high took the McHenry County meet in Towner May 3.

Drake Rodeo Association hosted annual High School Rodeo June 3.

The Drake PeeWees won their game with the Minot Federal team - televised!

Three-inch rain June 15 saved threatened crops.

Rev. Galen Strand arrived in June to serve Trinity Lutheran Church.

Anamoose celebrated its Golden Jubilee July 3 and 4.

Laverne Kreft, county agent 12 years, honored after resignation. Succeeded by James Andreson.

Clarence Nelson honored on retirement from Drake Post Office after nearly 25 years' service.

Three injured, 20 cars derailed when loose cars collided with moving freight on Soo Line three miles west of Drake July 14; 14 blocked.

Roman Hanenberg barn burned with 15 hogs, riding equipment, July 29.

Fifth Drake Threshing Show Sept. 29, 30 with threshers dance Saturday. Nearly 9,000 people attended.

Former IOOF hall became Senior Citizens Building in September. (73)

Melvin Alme named Drake Postmaster.

Joe Linnertz of Bismarck purchases Velvee Journal, Drake Register, Anamoose Progress from Mylon and Lorna Ash and Lynn Lund. Shortly thereafter, Rick McLaughlin became Drake's editor.

Drake achieved unwanted national publicity at the end of the year when English teacher Bruce Severy assigned books to which parents objected, including "Slaughterhouse Five" by Kurt Vonnegut and "Deliverance" by James Dickey. After the hiring of a replacement teacher, court action by the American Civil Liberties Union, and a settlement, the furor died down.

Lyle Bakken named First National Bank president.

The Drake FFA chapter was second in 21-team contest at Totten Trails.

Drake FFA topped district judging teams.

Drake really won the District 22 basketball competition: conference championship, cheerleader trophy, free throw and first place in district.

Soo Line derailment between Drake and Kief in March wrecked several grain cars, one of four in a month. And the next week it was east of Kongsberg!

Drake Band road trip included concerts at Des Lacs, Ray, Medicine Lake, Mont.

Rev. Ernest Lautt arrived to serve Baptist churches.

Drake Commercial club hosted DHS athletes, cheerleaders at banquet, including coaches Ray and Martin Theilges, Don Hoffman, All-American football player Joel Lemer. Norman Alme, Club president, was MC; Russ Smith spoke.

Drake elevator burned, May 21; oldest of three owned by Drake Farmers Elevator, erected 1906. Velvee, Anamoose, Harvey, Minot departments assisted.

Floyd Atkins new Drake Police Chief.

Melvin Alme hosted Andrew Mulholland of Belfast, Ireland, in a program to get children out of the war-torn country.

Democratic-NonPartisan League women sponsored "Sew and Tell" style-show, chairman Roberta Krim.

Drake Register became part of McHenry County Journal-Register along with Velvee, Anamoose papers.

Housing loan from FHA approved for six-plex in Drake, construction started in October.

Annual Threshing Show Sept. 28, 29; dance Sept. 28.

The Eichhorn brothers, John, Fred and Frank, and their wives celebrated the golden weddings of all three couples with a joint open house at Trinity Lutheran Church in September.

Suzanne Adam became the Drake and Anamoose editor for the Journal-Register.

Secretary of Agriculture Myron Just addressed a Democratic-NonPartisan League meeting and Public Service Commissioner Ben Wolf spoke at a Republican event.

Drake defeated the grid squad from Riverdale, 51-24, for the west division Central North Dakota Conference; lost to Esmond in the playoff.

Over 700 people enjoyed pancakes, sausages at the annual Appreciation Day in late October.

Dale Van Eeckhout was first, Sherry Bitz second in Drake junior class-sponsored talent show.

Ed Merbach caught a 17½ - pound Northern in Wintering River.

1975

Worst blizzard in years, three-day variety, hit in early January.

Tom Weninger elected Fire Chief, Alvin Smith Commercial Club president.

Drake won the Anamoose Invitational Tourney, 62-58, behind Mark Hoffman's 19 points.

Recount of Milton R. Young-William L. Guy election for the U.S. Senate had the same ending; Young wins by 188 votes.

Drake's basketball record was 11 wins, no losses at the



Pete Ziegler binding, 1972. (Cleo Cantlon)

end of January. They beat McClusky 55-54 with two pressure shots at the free-throw line by Mike Bakken. (Freshmen beat McClusky and Towner same week to add to victory list.)

In February Trojans lost to Esmond, 63-54, in last home game of the season.

Towner beat Drake 64-63 in overtime play to win the Class B District 22 title.

Charlie Drake was awarded his 50-year American Legion membership.

Gov. and Mrs. Arthur A. Link attended a District 7 spaghetti supper at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Drake.

Trinity Lutheran Cantata, "Halleluia, What a Savior," presented March 28, directed by Dale Fuhrman.

Joel Sitz won the Future Farmers of America chapter Greenhand award at annual FFA banquet, presented by 1974 winner Doug Gerber; Star chapter award to Jim Van Eeckhout.

Charlie Knuth home burned April 4 west of Drake.

Heavy calf losses reported after storm.

Among five thousand at Balfour's 75th anniversary at the end of June were Drake folks remembering the past and planning the future.

Drake Babe Ruth team won the title with a 15-0 record.

Drake alumni association met, elected Galen Jacobson president.

Fire July 30 at Journal-Register building in Velva didn't stop the operation; newspaper moved to Star City building temporarily.

Trojans opened football season with 16-2 win over Esmond.

Threshing Show set Sept. 27-28, with dance Sept. 26; plowing contest. For second year, threshers hit bad weather which cut into crowds.

Drake beat McClusky in the football game for Homecoming, set to coincide with Threshing Show.

Wind, rain damaged new crop being tried in the Drake area by Dan Bruner - sunflowers.

In October Drake Girls basketball team won the Butte Invitational.

Father Joseph Axtmann left Drake Catholic parish after 15 years; Rev. David Schmitt replaced him.

DHS Marching Band won McHenry County "Band of the Year" honors.

Drake Farmers Elevator announced plans in November to add 60,000 bushels of storage capacity and get two working houses by moving an annex and steel grain tank in from abandoned Guthrie Elevator; cost \$150,000.

American Legion Club announced new 25 by 50-foot building would be erected, costing \$35,000. Post Office would still have main floor to use.

Lyle Bakken of Drake and Ray Lamb of Fargo bought First National Bank of Drake.

1976

Ruth Hegge was elected Noble Grand of the Rachel Rebekah Lodge; Walter Olstad president of Drake Senior Citizens.

Surrey beat Drake for top honors in the Velva Invitational basketball tournament.

Area farmers attended meetings locally and sent delegates to a statewide meeting at Jamestown called by Agriculture Commissioner Myron Just to protest low farm prices; Jamestown meeting formed Farmer's Steering Committee and Wheat Pool to try to export grain.

Dorothy Lemer, Patti and Joan Senechal were first place judging team at Mino's Bull Durum Days.

Drake's observance of America's Bicentennial ranged from the ridiculous to the sublime: from the Cantata "I Love America" and the Drake Post Office receiving a national Bicentennial Flag to the American Legion Auxiliary painting fire-hydrants red, white and blue.

The Salem United Methodist Church celebrated its mortgage-burning in March.

Drake Farmers Union local reorganized in April, elected Roland Senechal president.

In May Lt. Gov. Wayne Sanstead addressed the FFA; Roland Senechal was awarded the honorary farmer degree.

The Drake Republicans hosted all four GOP candidates for governor.

Maria Hordinsky was one of the first 40 doctors to be graduated in the new program at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

Drake's Babe Ruth team took second-place in tourney at Red Willow Resort after an undefeated season. Bruce Ludwig of Drake was named Most Valuable Player. Playing on the Harvey-Drake team were Blaine Bruner, Ludwig, Tom Alme, Jeff Seehafer, Glen Hoffman, Charlie Nelson and Jay Thorpe.

Gerald and Eleanor Roth sold South Side Service, to Michael and Patrick Haugen of Butte, to become H & H Welding.

James Andreson, county agent since 1973, resigned; Tim Semler replaced him.

Eighth Threshing Show was a split event, threshing Sept. 25 at W.O. Krumwiede's near Voltaire and 26th at Drake. Bad weather Sunday hurt attendance but crowds enjoyed the show and North Dakota's 7th Cavalry.

In September the Farmers Union Oil Company announced they would build a new 70 by 100-foot station on the highway, costing \$125,000, near their fertilizer bulk plant and warehouse facilities.

Greg Schwarze, 29, Drake Chief of Police, graduated with honors from Law Enforcement Council training session.

Jaycee's Chapter again formed; elected Ryan Kriedeman president.

Elections for 1977 included Tom Weninger, re-elected Fire Chief; Lyle Bakken, Commercial Club president; Virgil Ziegler, American Legion Post; Mrs. Roland Krueger, American Legion Auxiliary; and Walter Stolt Jr., Golf Club.

The State Bank of Towner opened, under new management; depositors were insured of getting money back.

Tom Rieder was honored after 50 years as clerk of Schiller Township, a job inherited from his father.

Joan Senechal was the top scorer in senior 4-H crops judging at Valley City Winter Show.

A benefit was held for the Jacob Ammon family at Trinity Lutheran Church in February and for Bertram Lommen, who was waiting for a kidney transplant, a pancake and sausage breakfast at the City Hall sponsored by the American Legion.

Drake Knights of Columbus initiate six members.

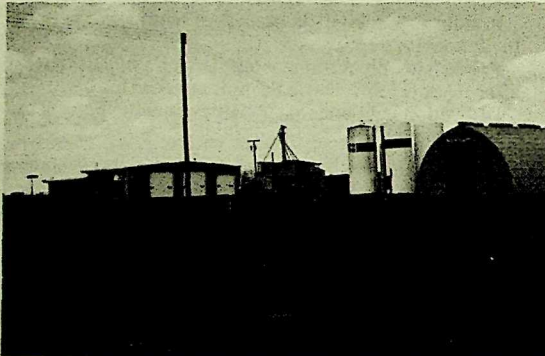
Allen Dahl, 30, Balfour coach, died in car-train collision north of Drake.

Prairie 4-H Club quartet was a winner in McHenry County talent show.

Jim Wacker, head football coach at North Dakota State University, Fargo, spoke at Lettermen's Banquet May 4.

Voters defeated a 32-mill school levy increase.

Drake Farmers Union Oil set June 18 grand opening for new station.



New Farmers Union station, 1977.

The Last Word

As the last months before Drake's observance of its 75th Jubilee fled, townspeople and country neighbors were concerned with a prolonged drouth stretching back into 1976, with low farm prices and high inflation, with school funding and graduation activities, with sporting events and business changes. But most of all, as a group, they were concerned with the twin features highlighting their diamond anniversary: the school alumni reunion set July 1 and 2 and the city observance July 3 and 4.

The people of Drake, biological and spiritual descendants of the pioneers who settled in the late 1800s and early 1900s, have planned, suggested, worked, donated, cooperated, quit in a huff, caught a second wind, amended, written, contributed, hoped, prayed, and, ultimately, produced an anniversary uniquely Drake's.

Drake: We salute you.

Cleo Cantlon

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Twyla Martwick was named president of the Future Business Leaders of America Drake Chapter; group decided to host Halloween party for children.

The Ed Striha home southwest of Drake burned in October.

In November Alfred Martin's barn west of Drake burned with 3,000 bales of hay.

The year ended with some local residents and the county government wondering about the fate of Pioneer State Bank of Towner, without Federal Deposit Insurance and held in receivership by state bank examiners.

