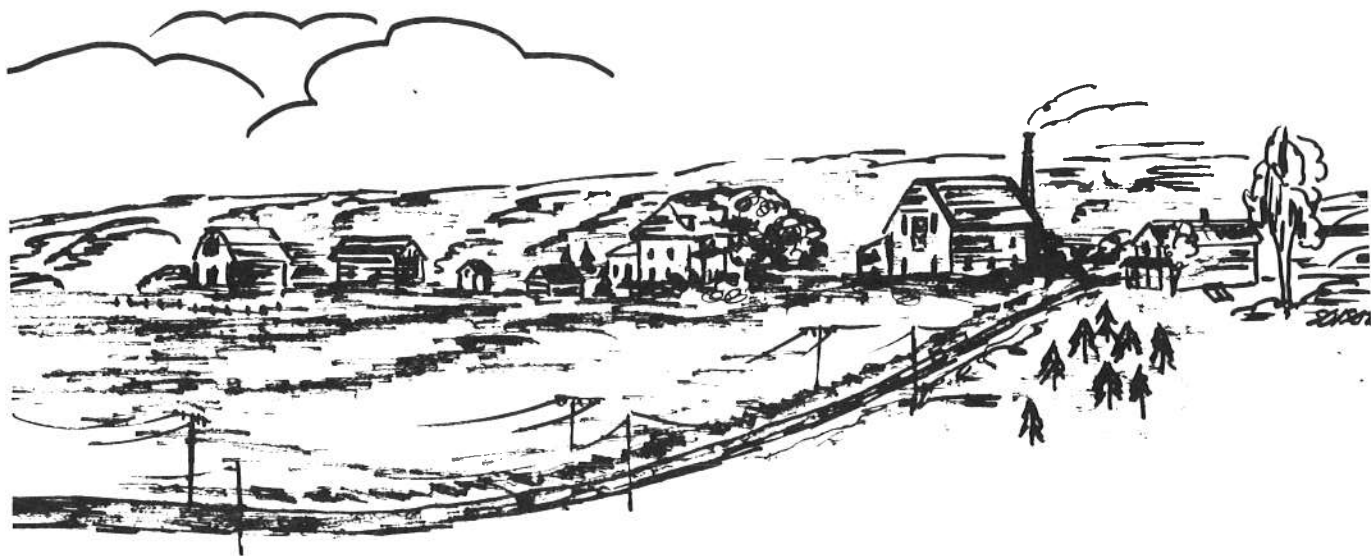


*Memories of*  
**Wanamingo**  
*and Area*



*Memories of*  
*Wanamingo*



*Includes . . .*

*Cherry Grove, Minneola,*  
*Roscoe and*  
*Wanamingo Townships*

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Wanamingo, Minnesota 55983

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# FOREWARD AND DEDICATION

The Bicentennial year of 1976, "The Historical Society" of Wanamingo began a project to eventually publish a history of Wanamingo and four area townships. Much volunteer work has been done both in writing and soliciting financial support for the book.

The Historical Society wishes to thank each and every one for the efforts and support given to the project.

This book is dedicated to the people of the community, past and present, whose purpose in life has been to serve the community.

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Cover and Title Page Sketches Drawn by  
Mrs. Richard (Sandra) Olson

# Wanamingo City

Compiled and Authored by  
Miss Clara Hellickson

## ORIGINAL LONG-TIME OWNERS OF WANAMINGO LAND

Erik E. Dvergedahl was born in 1844 in Sogndal, Norway, where he married Kari Overby in 1864. They came to America in 1870, and later bought a farm of 160 acres in Wanamingo Township. Here they established a home and reared a family. In 1902 The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Co., purchased a part of the Dvergedahl farm for the purpose of laying their railroad through and establishing a village. This land was plotted and given the name of Milwaukee Addition. This part is the northwestern part of Wanamingo. After Erik's son, Edward, acquired the farm, he sold land in the west part of the village for residences.

Amund Johnson Steberg came to America in 1866 from Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. Ole Taraldson Seljord, wife Inger and daughter, Kalotte, also came to America in 1866 from Osterdalen, Norway. In 1869 they bought land in the western part of Minneola Township and started a home there. Amund Steberg and Kalotte were married in 1870. They acquired the land from the Seljords, who remained living with the young



Mr. and Mrs. Erik Dvergedahl

The northwest corner of the city of Wanamingo was originally part of their farm.

couple until their deaths. When the railroad came through Wanamingo it cut through their yard, leaving the house on the north side of the track and the barn on the south side. By this time they had purchased additional land, in Wanamingo Township, just across the road. The first plat of the village



Amund Johnson Steberg with his family. He began farming the land in 1868. The Wanamingo City is situated on all this land. Front row, left to right, Kalotte Steberg, Ida Steberg Hoven, Amund Steberg. Second row, Mina Steberg Swenson, Charley Steberg, Alfred Steberg, Oscar Steberg.

was Amund Steberg addition - - the northeast part of the present village. Earlier, son Alfred Steberg, had acquired part of his father's farm. He made several additions, as the A.A. Steberg addition, The Bueno Vista Manor, and Beverly Hills Additions which were sold at auctions for residences in the southern part of the village, on both sides of Main Street, hence the biggest part of Wanamingo lies on this land.

## THE VILLAGE OF WANAMINGO

Due to the growth of the village creating a need for Fire Protection and the coming need for Public Utilities, which at that time was complicated to provide by a township, and furthermore the site of the Village involved two townships. In May 1917, a majority of the citizens provided for incorporation as a village by an election.

Prior to the election, a mass meeting of the citizens was held to discuss the pros and cons. People at that time were more conscious as to increase of taxes than now. Towards the end of the meeting an elderly gentleman of Norwegian descent expressed his viewpoint to the pros as follows: 'Aa you promised good, you promise good, but yust vendt til you Korporate, you will Bonss the town for twenty, tirty, forty, fifty, or maybe tirty-five tousand.' Incidentally, the indebtedness after installing the Water and Sewer system in 1926 was about \$35,000.00.

The first Village Council to serve in 1917 was as follows: A.K. Syverson, Councilmen: Henry M. Halvorson, A.A. Steberg, J.A. Norstad and Martin Tiller, Clerk. Other mayors in this order have been: Rudolph Emerson, Lewis Helleckson, Marvin Sathrum, Mernie Braget, Lyle Hogstad, Halbert Loken, Lars Hjermstad, Vernon Haugen, Joel Fredrickson. Only three men have served as Village Clerks:

Martin J. Tiller, Halbert Loken, and Sidney Gonstad. Besides the above named first councilmen, other members of the council have been: C.D. Olson, John M. Holtan, Martin Severeid, Martin O. Haugen, Lars Johnson, Archie Sundry, Vernie Fossan, Thos. J. Quamme, John Brisance, Bernie Satren, Lu Verne Johnson, A.K. Axelson, Bill Bailey, Robert Benson, J. Charles Fredrickson, John Shelstad.

## THE SMALL FRAME BUILDING ON MAIN STREET

One of the very first buildings in Wanamingo was a frame building on the west side of Main Street. It looked very insignificant, a 16 x 18 ft., one-story building, but it very likely served a greater variety of uses than any other building in town. It was built in 1902 by Wrigly Lumber Company, and was used as an office for selling lumber and coal. It is difficult to determine the exact sequence of those who occupied it, but an attempt has been made to include them all. Dr. Scholl, a veterinarian who used it as an office, also lived in part of the building. L.J. Johnson used the building as a telephone office for the Wastedo Telephone Company for a few years. The Barr Clay Company, east of Wanamingo, used it as an office. Henry Helleckson started the Ford Agency there. Carl Hel-



Wanamingo Main Street looking south - 1905

leckson used the building for vulcanizing and repairing tires a short time. Ludvig Ohr used the place as an office for his construction business. August Johnston had it as a place for a produce station, where he bought eggs, poultry and cream. Sjur Baker had a popcorn and lunch stand there a while. Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Charles Zenther used the place as a millinery shop. The Security State Bank had its beginning there, while a new bank building was being erected. Lavina Rokke had her office there for her chiropractic work. John Juveli had a cafe there a short time. The Wanamingo Oil

Company started business there. Later when the Farmers Co-op Oil Company organized they purchased the property from the Wanamingo Oil Company and put up an oil station there. The old frame building was moved to the rear of the lot and was used for storing supplies. There the old frame building burned.

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## GENERAL STORES

The general stores in the early history of Wanamingo were

quite different than at the present time. The people in the community were used to raising their own food, making their own clothes, and even had a cobbler come to the house at times and make their shoes. They raised their own sheep, sheared them, washed and carded the wool, spun it into yarn and dyed it. From this yarn materials were often woven and made into clothing, or bed blankets, or it was knit into stockings and mittens. Sheep pelts were often used as covers on beds also. Every farmer had his own cow, pigs and fowls. The life of a housewife was a busy one. She churned her own butter, made her own cheese, and bread, as well as other bakings. The farmers did their own butchering of beef, hogs, and sheep. The big butchering time was very late in the fall, so the meat could be frozen, no refrigerators or freezers in any home. Some farmers had icehouses and harvested their own ice from the river, and they froze their meat in that way. Butchering was also a family affair. The different cuts had to be made, meat and pork had to be ground by hand, and children in the home often helped with that. Some of the ground meat was put into casings, and made into 'polse.' The blood was taken care of and used for bloodsausage, even for pancakes. Headcheese was made from the heads of hogs, even the pig's feet were cleaned, boiled and put into brine. Some beef was prepared for drying later in the year. Ham and side pork was prepared for smoking. Lard was rendered at home. Many women did all the preparation of the meat, except the butchering. With this background the stores in Wanamingo were started. The demands were not great, and a general store usually had a very small grocery department. So the stores specialized in staple articles such as flour, often sold by 49 lb. sacks or by the barrel. Sugar was often sold by the barrel or a barrel was opened and the customer bought 25¢, 50¢, or \$1.00 packages of sugar - - which had previously been weighed and put into paper bags. Coffee came as whole beans, and in large sacks. These were often weighed and ground at the store in a large coffee mill, turned by hand. Many individual homes had their small coffee mill, and preferred grinding their own coffee. No milk nor cream was ever sold in the stores. The only butter sold was what farmers brought into the store in small crocks, in exchange for other groceries. No bread or any other baked goods were sold. Oatmeal was the only cereal sold until "egg-o-see" came on the market - - a dry cereal like corn flakes. There was no pectin for canning, no lids for fruit jars, just the old-fashioned type - - a cover and a rubber ring. When farmers brought produce to the store and the value of the produce was more than their purchase, they were given "due bills" for the difference. These due bills were pieces of metal resembling our coins, and bearing the name of the merchant as well as its value. The early settlers in the village followed quite much the same pattern as the farmer in that many of the residents of the village owned a cow. Those who did not have a cow managed to buy milk from a neighbor. Many in the village raised a few chickens - - enough for their own use. The merchants, as they pioneered in Wanamingo rather specialized in men's overalls, shoes, stockings, underwear and notions. There were items for women - - no ready-made dresses, but yard goods which included mainly calico and gingham, and the sewing was done at home. Women's hosiery were also sold, but that was a simple matter as only the black color, and cotton were worn. Later the lisle hose were sold and

worn. Children's clothing were limited. Living was cheaper in those days, but the income was much lower. Here are some of the early prices: 49 lbs. flour 95¢, 2 tall cans of salmon 19¢, 3 boxes of Jell-O 21¢, spices 6¢. Even in the 30's bananas 3 lbs. for 19¢. Some of the prices of meat by the pound were: sirloin steak 20¢, short ribs 12¢, spare ribs 16¢, beef roast 13¢, fancy brick cheese 30¢ per lb.

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## GENERAL STORES

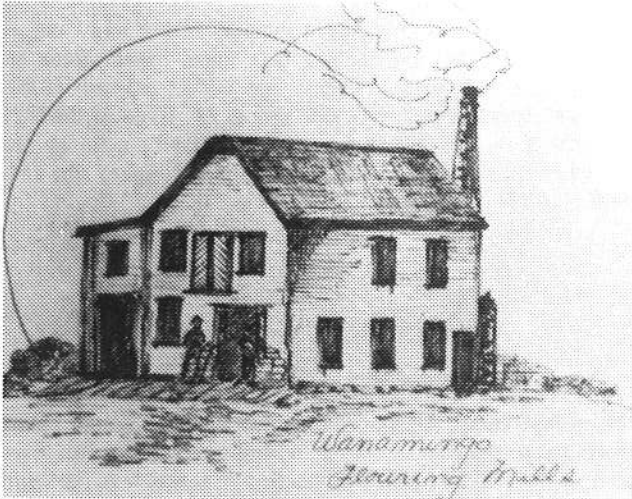
Ole Sletten had established a general store here long before the railroad came. He started business in 1889, located below the hill near the Zumbro River, where a mill and a creamery also operated. In 1904 Mr. Sletten's son-in-law, Edward Hammer, operated the store until 1906, when he moved to Zumbrota. Those who pioneered in the general store business after the railroad came through Wanamingo were: Johnson & Opsata, who had a store erected in 1903. After only one year they sold their store to J.A. Norstad. This is the south part of the present drug store. Mr. Norstad continued in that business until 1918. Halvor and Nels Romness, "Romness Bros." came to Wanamingo in 1904. They had a double store erected on the corner where Heinold Commodities is located. The Romness Bros. sold clothing and shoes as well as groceries. In 1910 Halvor Romness sold his interest in the store, and it became Romness & Son. Joseph, son of Nels, joined his father in the business, and after Nels' death Joseph continued alone, until his health caused him to sell out, 40 years later. By that time they had put a new brick building in the next block south, where Doctor Morgan now has his dental office. There were general or grocery stores in various buildings, owned and managed by many. A Farmers Store was started in 1914 and that continued until 1950. The first manager of the Farmers Store was Ernest Bergren. Others who were in store business short periods were: Christ Torgerson, John Joranger, Hans Holthe, Reubne Swanson, Sevrin Nelson, Hartweg Hilling, George Speten, John Jondahl, Oscar Solsrud, Steven Lund, Marie & Obert Rosvold, Russel Boraas, Henry Mellom, Arthur Anderson, Cap Stucky, Douglas Fellows, A.K. Axelson, Kenneth Flaten, O.J. Brekke, Mons Baker, who was in business for 25 years. Mr. Baker sold his business to Lars Johnson, who in turn sold to his son, Lester in 1929. Lars continued to work in the meat market department with his son until his health caused him to return in 1976, after 55 years in several business ventures in Wanamingo. Lester Johnson and Terry Mosher are the two grocery and meat markets in town. Several of the others mentioned have also carried meat products along with groceries and other staple products.

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## WANAMINGO FLOUR MILL

The first flour mill was built one half mile west of the town line between Wanamingo and Minneola Townships in 1857 and operated by Mr. Clark, who sold it in 1861 to Nels O. Norby. Mr. Norby sold half interest to Henry Nelson. In 1868

## DAIRY PRODUCTS - - MAPLE ISLAND INC.



Wanamingo Flouring Mills

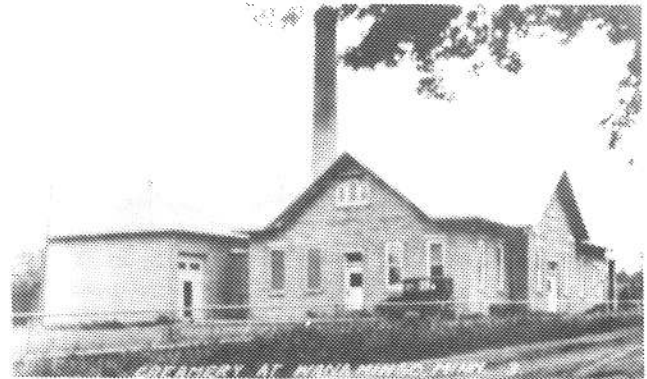
the mill was moved to the location just west of town line, and on the south side of the river (where the park is now located). About this time Mr. Norby became the sole owner of the mill. In 1890 Arnt J. Fordahl bought half interest in the mill, and the following year his brother, Pete, bought the other half, forming the firm of A.J. Fordahl & Co. In the fall of 1891 they built a new mill which burned in 1892. In the spring they rebuilt and began grinding feed and flour. In 1900 Arnt bought out his brother and it became Wanamingo Flour Mills. Their speciality was "Nonpareil" and "Staff of Life" flour.

The power dam west of the present Clubhouse was improved and the canal leading to the mill south of the regular river channel was perfected. Here the water rushed into a round wooden casing of 8 or 9 feet in diameter, turning the vertical turbine. This was more than 10 feet below the water level. Above, in a canal, a gate controlled the amount of water let in to turn the turbine. The power produced was transmitted up through a vertical shaft through heavy bevel gears to the mill basement. Here also there was a steam power so either method could be used. This also powered electric lights. The water in the canal after leaving the turbine went northeast under the road and farther east joined the river north of the creamery. Besides producing Nonpareil Flour, they ground flour for farmers, also did feed grinding. The Fordahl family of ten children lived in the home where Jacob Olness now lives. This was also mill property. The beautiful grove was used for community doings such as song fests by combined choirs, temperance rallies, and band concerts. There was a large band stand erected for this purpose. The mill dam was excellent for fishing, swimming in the summer, and skating in the winter. There was even a boat or two and after heavy rain one boat would venture down stream. Arnt Fordahl sold out in 1910 and moved to Hettinger, North Dakota. Much of the above information was given by daughter, Anna, and son Albert Fordahl of Hettinger.

Wanamingo Milling Co. took it over in 1910 and made some changes. Flour was ground until 1917, and after that time only grinding of livestock feed was done. The mill continued in operation till 1925. Some time later it was razed, lumber and usable articles were sold.

The location on the east side of Main Street or Highway 57 beside the river has had a varied and lengthy history of dairy industry. As early as 1889 The Steberg Cheese Factor located here with a capital stock of \$600, and A.J. Steberg was president and R.O. Lund, secretary. Then it was changed to a creamery by Gutzler Bros. of Kenyon and a few local men. When this failed the patrons took it over for the money owed them for cream. More stock was sold and it became The Diamond Cooperative Creamery Co. This name was changed to The Minneola Creamery Co., when it was organized in 1893. The officers of the company were J.B. Locke, president; O.T. Berg, secretary; E.G. Hammer, manager. It did thriving business and a new modern cement block building was erected in 1908. It later was operated under the name of Wanamingo Coop Creamery, and also as Roch Dairy Products Company.

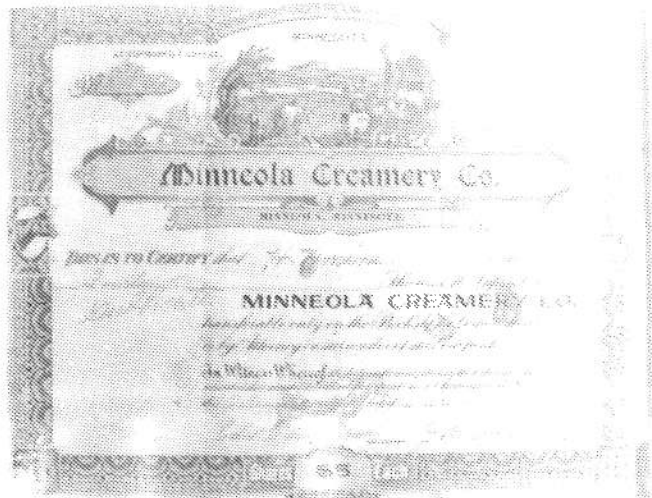
While it was a creamery, only cream was bought from the farmers who delivered it themselves, while others let cream haulers bring their cream to the creamery. Individual tests were taken and pay was based on the test for butterfat. The cream haulers used horses and wagons filled with large 30-gallon cream cans. The cans were jacketed with wooden slats and there was a float to keep the cream from splashing out. The cover was clamped on. On bad roads or tip-over the can did not spill the cream. Before the cream was poured into the large cans a small glass vial was filled for the test. The test tubes were encased in a suitable covered wooden box by the hauler. Butter was then churned from the cream and buttermilk was a by-product. The farmers bought the buttermilk back, using it to fatten hogs. It was hauled out to the farms in barrels while many had constructed large wooden tanks, holding 125 gallons. These were fitted and anchored on steel wheeled farm wagons. To start with, the buttermilk was sold on a come first basis, but with this arrangement, some



Minneola Creamery

had to go home with empty tanks. A system, of allowing each one a definite number of gallons, put an end to the quibbling often called the buttermilk war. In 1929 the creamery accepted whole milk from the farmers, and separated the cream from the milk in large powered separators. This put an end to the hard work of turning the separator by hand for the farmers. In 1947 The Roch Dairy Products Co. was bought by four men: A.J. Hugstad, Robert Evans, Carl Dahlstrom and Otto Schroder, and then named Arco Dairies

Co. This company sold to Maple Island, Inc. The plant has expanded and is doing an extensive manufacturing of a variety of dairy products. This has provided employment to many local people as well as an outlet for local milk producers.



Creamery share

#### FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO.

The Farmers Mutual telephone company was organized in 1903. The first officers were: O.T. Teigne, president; P.L. Paulsness, vice president; A.J. Fordahl, secretary; Martin Halvorson, treasurer. Other directors were: P.L. Ulstad, O.R. Reberg, and L.L. Romo.

The first switchboard was located in the A.J. Fordahl home, now the Olness residence, with Mrs. Fordahl attending the switchboard. It was later moved to the second floor of the present drug store. L.J. Johnson had a telephone line known as the Wastedo line which was brought into town. They had their switchboard also in the drug store, and later in the small frame building north of the drug store. In 1909 a telephone exchange building was built on the east side of Main Street, which was used until the dial system was completed early in 1969. The stock corporation of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Co. was organized as a local company with local control, shares selling at \$25.-- each and none could own over five shares. It was not mandatory to buy a share to get the telephone into the home. It was operated with a capital stock of \$5750. In 1958 the name was changed to Wanamingo Telephone Company. In 1966, by unanimous vote of the stockholders, it was sold to the Minnesota Telephone Company. At this time it was changed to a dial system and private lines. When the above change occurred a lengthy account appeared in the Wanamingo Progress under the heading of "Pioneer Village Institution Passes Into History." Here are noted the following officers who had served over twenty-five years as officers or directors: L.J. Gjense, 32 years; Oscar Loken, 52 years; M. G. Hoven, 46 years; O.K. Syverson, 30 years; and Halbert Loken, 47 years serving as an officer and manager besides having served as bookkeeper for two years before his entry into the armed forces.

A list of the devoted linemen is also included where it is noted that Charles Nute met with tragic death while performing his duties. In 1932 Walter McKeever became lineman and served until his death in 1967. He became a familiar figure around "The Central," and it has been said that were not any telephones he could not fix short of rebuilding it. The man who served as lineman met with many hardships, especially during electric storms, sleet and snow storms. They served well and averted many a disaster. The loyalty and devotion of the switchboard operators must also be noted. They were local women, personally known to all, and willing to serve beyond their required duties. In times of fire, distress or sickness their help can never be overestimated. This personal touch was greatly missed when the system was completely mechanized. Several other changes occurred too; such as, the chance to hear what your neighbors were doing by listening on the party line, memorizing a string of numbers as your number was only three or four ciphers before. Some residents had retained the same telephone number all these years. But in place of this we have the privacy of a private line, and quick dial service, both locally and to more distant places.

#### BANKS

The Farmers State Bank of Wanamingo was organized in 1904 by Henry and Martin Halvorson, Jr. The capital was \$10,000. It was opened for business in Feb. 1905 in the brick building which is now the post office. The stock was held by businessmen and farmers of the community, The early directors were: O. Follingstad, N.J. Olness, Chas. O. Roe, E.B. Lunde, T. Thompson, Martin and Henry Halvorson, Hon. C.L. Brusletten and Hon. A.J. Rockne. It followed the devel-



Farmers State Bank - 1904

opment of the community for 24 years and had increased its capital and surplus to \$50,000. Adverse financial conditions of the nation generally closed its doors for business Nov. 1929.

The Security State Bank was organized in 1917 by a group of Twin City men headed by Kelsey S. Chase, with a capital of \$15,000, of which \$10,000 was subscribed by businessmen and farmers. The bank opened for business, in the small frame building where the Coop Oil Co. is now located, with

O.A. Ouren as cashier. Later the Twin City group sold their interest to local men with an amendment to the charter for capital stock of \$40,000. Charley Wing was elected president and O.A. Ouren continued to be cashier. In 1919 the bank moved to the south corner of the block, buying the south part of Romness store, which they purchased. In 1942, a new bank building was erected on the Myron & Olson corner,

one block farther south, including the Jellum Jewellery building and the Oscar Bakko plumbing building. These buildings were all razed and the corner cleared for a new modern bank building. The present officers of the bank are: Kenneth L. Syverson, president; Olaf Naeseth, vice-president; Evert Ohr, exec. vice-president; Gary Bakko, cashier; Barbara Goodman, assistant cashier.



Security State Bank - 1973

#### WANAMINGO MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

The Wanamingo Mutual Fire Insurance Company celebrated 100 years of community service at their annual meeting in 1977, with a dinner served in the Wanamingo School Cafeteria. An interesting historical booklet was given to all present. The company was organized in Wanamingo Township in 1876 by thirty-four residents of three townships, with the name "Wanamingo, Cherry Grove and Minneola Mutual Fire Insurance Company" given to the new company. Wanamingo was to be the principal place of business. The first president was Ole P. Flaaen (grandfather of Ole. J. Floan); first secretary was N.J. Ottun; and first treasurer Nils O. Overby. The thirty-four charter members collectively owned property in the three townships of more than \$25,000. The by-laws were amended to require that the president and secretary reside in Wanamingo township. From time to time, the area has been enlarged and now covers 109 contiguous townships, villages, and cities in seven counties. As of May 1, 1976, the company had approximately \$42,000,000 in force with net worth of about \$210,000 in their policy holders surplus fund. The present board are: Carl Kunde, president; Martin Lohman, vice-president; Martin Tongen, secretary; Kenneth Henderson, treasurer. The directors are: Alfred Morkre, Obert Loken, Harold West, Ordean Greseth and Harvey Hadler. This company has the distinction of being the oldest business enterprise in the Wanamingo area. (Information from "100 Years with Wanamingo Mutual," which contains much more interesting data, too lengthy for this publication.)



50th Anniversary Picture - Top row, left to right, Henry Halvorson (Director and Secretary in 1904), Martin Kindseth (Director), R.A. Kettner (Director). Middle row, John Quam (Director), H. August Lohmann (Director), Oscar Loken (Director and Treasurer), August Hinz (Director). Bottom row, T.O. Sundry (Director and Vice-President), Martin O. Floan (Director and President), O.K. Naeseth (Former President and Secretary), John Baar (only living Charter Member), Andrew H. Tongen (Director and Secretary).

## INSURANCE

The first General Insurance Agency in the town was established in 1904 by Henry M. and Martin Halvorson. Halbert Loken joined this agency as a partner in 1915, and the agency was operated as Halvorson Brothers & Loken Insurance. From January 1, 1930, the agency was operated by Halbert Loken as the sole owner and was known as Loken Insurance. On June 1, 1968, O. E. Naeseth joined this agency as a partner, and the agency was known as the Loken and Naeseth Insurance Agency, and was so operated until June 1, 1972 when it was sold to Everett A. Ohr, Gary E. Bakko and Arthur J. Johnson, which has since operated as the Village Insurance Service.

When the Security State Bank of Wanamingo began its operations in 1918, Cashier O.A. Ouren became an insurance agent and later was followed by Robert J. Lund in that capacity until in 1922. The insurance was then operated by E.E. Severeid and C.D. Olson, and was known as the Severeid and Olson Insurance Agency which was later joined by O.E. Naeseth as a partner. When C. D. Olson retired in 1950, the agency was continued as the Severeid & Naeseth Insurance Agency until 1957 when E.E. Severeid retired. The agency was then operated by O.E. Naeseth, who later took on Everett A. Ohr as a partner. In 1968 Naeseth sold his interest in the agency to Gary E. Bakko, and was then known as the Ohr and Bakko Insurance Agency until June 1, 1972 when Arthur J. Johnson joined the firm as a partner. At that time the new partnership purchased the Loken and Naeseth Insurance Agency, and since has operated under the name of Village Insurance Service.

Among other insurance agents residing in Wanamingo were Edward Dvergedal and Martin J. Toller. Jens Island, while a resident of Wanamingo, was appointed a Life Insurance Agent, a vocation he followed the rest of his life.

## POSTAL DEPARTMENT

A post office was established at Old Wanamingo in 1856 with Martin Halvorson, Sr., the postmaster. Henry Halvorson took over the store and became the post master in 1901, after his father's death. When the Farmers State Bank was established in the village of Wanamingo in 1904, Henry Halvorson continued to act as postmaster, moving the post office to the Farmers State Bank. In 1909 Herman Naeseth served as postmaster for a short time. C.E. Pearson was appointed postmaster, and the office was moved to the building where Mr. Pearson had his photographic studio, the building now occupied by Mangel Opfer. In 1910 Iver Tiller became the postmaster, and the office was later moved to the south part of Martin Tiller's building on the east side of Main Street. Martin served until 1942, when Anne Brislance Meyer served as Acting Postmistress until B.C. Moe was appointed. He served until 1961. The post office had again moved back to where it started in the village. Frank Perrit served as acting postmaster a short time before Palmer Kylo, the present postmaster, was appointed to the office in 1962. During the years there have been many changes in the postal service. Postal rates have changed

many times. The rate on a card was one 1¢, on letters 2¢, with out-of-town letters requiring 3¢. In 1952 rates went up considerably. At the present all letters require 13¢, and post cards 9¢. In 1924 air-mail was inaugurated. Zone for parcel post came in 1928. Use of zip code came in about 1966. A rural route out of Wanamingo, 26 miles in length, was started in 1922. In 1951 this route was extended to 44 miles, and in 1952 to 52 miles. Clarence Perret was the first route carrier. He retired in 1963 after 41 years of delivering the mail to the community around Wanamingo. At that time Donald Greseth became the present carrier.

## RESTAURANTS AND CAFES

In 1904 Andrew and Hannah Monson opened the first restaurant in Wanamingo. After only one year Henry Satren bought the place and he and his two sisters, Matte and Anna, operated the restaurant and boarding place for six years. After that time there have been numerous owners and operators of that restaurant, in the same building: Arne Lunde, Clarence Torgerson, Sjur Baker, Arthur Eckblad, Wilbur Nelson, Henry Helleckson, Nick Pipel, Herman Gudnecht, Paul Olds, Nels Overby, Bennie and John Satren, and at the present time Leone Glasner.

Bernard Ree was also a pioneer in the restaurant business in Wanamingo. He started in the building directly south of the present post office. Mr. Ree carried on business there for 16 years, and that place served as a boarding place also. Lars Johnson had that restaurant for a couple of years. Many other parties have been in the restaurant or cafe business and various buildings have been used for that purpose as: the small fram building where the Co-op Oil is located, the north section of the present drug store, where the present post office is located, where the coffee shop is, the corner building where the Magic Mirror Beauty Shop is located, the building where Pat & Bernie have their cafe. Those who have been in the restaurant business here, as far as is known are: Edwin Kleven, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Eckblad, C.W. Irwin, John Juveli, Carl Langeness, Arnold Rund, George Heckl, George Citrowski, Mrs. August Carlson and her son, Carl, August & Dorothy Streich, Donald Tilbury, Andrew Flaten, Henry Urness, Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Hostager, Fred Groth, George Brunchorst, Margaret & Peter Lindell, Chalma Fredrickson, Mabel Greseth, Louis Rasmusson, Mrs. Parker, Helen Campbell, Ruth Morken, Gladys Harris.

Sjur Baker was a long-time restaurant operator here, arriving in 1908, and continued for 34 years. He had several locations, and always sold foods. When the Wanamingo Park was completed Sjur had a small building there. After a short time he had that building moved up town and enclosed in brick, and continued there until his death. George Romness started in the restaurant business in 1938 in the building where Sjur Baker had been, near the present Chevrolet garage. That building was destroyed by fire in 1942, but was rebuilt and Mr. Romness continued there until his health failed in 1961. Joyce Oldenburg Syverson has been the proprietor of the Coffee Shop since 1955.

## LUMBER YARDS

With the coming of the railroad through Wanamingo, in 1904, there was a rush of lumber dealers locating in the village. The Wrigly Lumber Company was the first to put up a building for the purpose of selling lumber and coal. That was the small frame building where the Farmers' Coop Oil is now located. There was The Charles Betcher Lumber Co., which was soon purchased by The North Star Lumber Co. That was sold to The McMillan Lumber Co. That lumber company remained only a short time also before it became The Wanamingo Lumber Co., managed by Christ Bjornethun, and later by Harry Swan. In 1913, a Farmers Lumber Co. was organized by a group of farmers with N.J. Olness as president. According to an advertisement in an issue of the Wanamingo Progress in 1913, \$6000 was paid to the Lumber Co. by the Farmers Company. C.D. Olson was hired as manager. In 1919 Mr. Olson resigned and Lewis Helleckson, the assistant, took over the management. In 1942 a fire destroyed the wooden building and a new brick and tile building was erected in its place.

In 1948 Lewis Helleckson resigned from the Farmers Lumber Co., and started his own Wanamingo Lumber Co. Inc. Roy Holthe, the assistant, was hired as manager of the Farmers Lumber Co., and later Arthur Anderson assumed the management. In 1954 the Wanamingo Lumber Co. Inc., purchased the Farmers Co. building (then closed) from Martin Syverson. In 1956 James Helleckson, son of Lewis, became a partner with his father and took over the management. Duane Berg is the present manager. Lewis kept in contact with the Lumber Co., and spent much of his time there until his death in 1975.

## LIVERY BARN AND DRAY LINES

Livery barns were a necessity years ago, when the transportation depended largely or entirely on horses. The barns were used to stable and feed horses when the farmers and others came to town.

Each livery and dray barn had many teams of horses which were used for hauling everything that the public



Richard Tiller's Livery Barn - 1903

needed. The horses were also for hire by the day or night for the transportation of the customers.

The first livery and dray in Wanamingo was built for Richard Tiller in 1905. He did livery, but specialized in heavy hauling, and he hauled lumber from Zumbrota for some of the first buildings in Wanamingo, before the railroad came. His barn was located one block east of Main Street. In the early 30's Mr. Tiller disposed of his livery barn and horses and did trucking for about 10 years. The barn located there at present is the second barn as the first one was destroyed by fire. The building is now owned by Robert Emerson and is used for storage.

In 1911, the Helleckson livery and dray barn was built for Martin Helleckson. This barn was located on the lot which the Johnson blacksmith shop is now. Henry and Lewis Helleckson assisted their father for a while. They specialized in livery. Rigs could be rented with one or two horses, and with or without a driver. The driver's job was a 24-hour job. The customers were doctors making local or rural calls, ministers with rural congregations, mid-wives, veterinarians, salesmen traveling from town to town, and individuals needing transportation. In 1915 an automobile was added to the service and was used whenever the roads were passable. There were no automobile roads at that time. In 1917 the dray line was sold to Ed Skogen, and he later sold the line to Charlie Zenther. The barn burned to the ground shortly thereafter. The barn was owned by Wallaker and Torgerson at the time it burned.

## MEAT MARKETS

Paul Jacobson was a pioneer in buying cattle, butchering, cutting up and selling meat in Wanamingo, starting here in 1908. Often the carcass or quarters or halves were hung in the ice cooler, and the customer could walk into the cooler and point to the meat which he wanted to buy. Jacobson's shop was on the east side of Main Street, the place of Pat and Bernie now.

Oscar Norstad was also an early dealer in meat, having his market on the west side of Main Street on one of the lots now used as part of the Security State Bank. Mr. Norstad continued in the meat business only a few years before he sold his place to Martin Thoreson. Farmers could place orders with Mr. Thoreson for meat for threshing crews, or other large gatherings, and it would be delivered to the farm in due time.

Others who have sold meat are: Henry Helgeson, Elling Underdahl, Mons Baker, Oscar Brekke, Lars Johnson, Lester Johnson and Terry Mosher. Several of the last mentioned included meat products with the selling of groceries.

## EMILY OHNSTAD'S MILLINERY

Around the turn of the century, millinery was a fine art. Each hat was hand made. The shape of the crown was hand-molded by shaping them over steam. They were then lined and decorated with different braids, flowers, ribbons, or feathers, according to the whims of the customer. Emily Ohnstad (Mrs. Martin Syverson) of Leon township, established a millinery shop in 1908, upstairs of what is now the Wanamingo Drug Store. In the evenings prior to Easter, and again in the early fall, Miss Ohnstad often worked until the

wee hours of the morning to complete the promised hat on time.

Others who had millinery shops were Hilda and Susan Hommedahl, Mrs. Rowell, Mrs. N.M. Loven, Mrs. O. E. Haugen, Mrs. C. Zenther, and Mrs. P. Johnson. Some of these women rented the upstairs over a store, or a corner in a store. Some combined a dress shop and millinery as: Eunice Charlson and Jennie Brekke, A. Hildes, Charles and Nicholi Zane.

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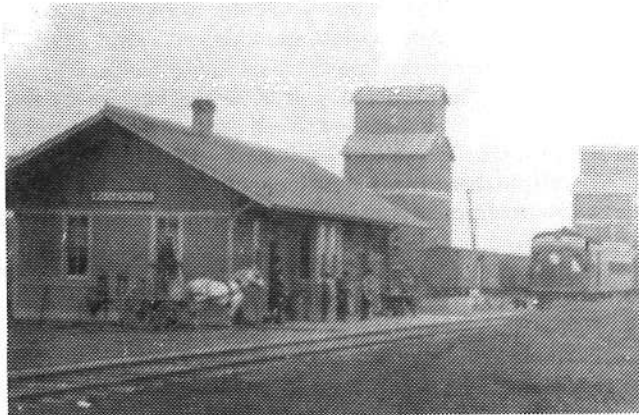
### BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

Olaf Rosvold, Sr., was the first resident carpenter in Wanamingo. He built a house for himself and family in 1903. Peder Simonson was also one of the pioneers as a carpenter. Ludvig Ohr opened an office as a contractor and carpenter in the small frame building on Main Street in 1916. Torris Ohr, Ludvig's brother, worked with his brother for a few years and those carpenters erected many of the early homes in the village. Ludvig Ohr continued that work until his retirement in 1964. Later carpenters were: Alex Anderson 1949, at first with his brother, Clarence, and later with his brother, Arthur. In 1973 Alex retired, but is still doing small jobs. Olaf Rosvold, Jr., did carpenter work here for a number of years. Others are: Ragnar Swee, Gary Bragett, A. K. Axelson, Jerome Grothe, who are all doing carpenter work at the present time. Bert Milan did both carpenter and cement work in town.

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### TRANSPORTATION

When the railroad came through Wanamingo in 1904 there were four passenger trains a day; two going east and two going west. Connections were good at Faribault for going north or south. There were also good connections in Wabasha for points east. In 1923 the Jefferson Bus Lines between St. Paul-Minneapolis and Rochester stopped at Nygaard's corner



Wanamingo Railroad Station

on Highway 52 to pick up passengers, using a large touring car. In 1927 the Jefferson Line had six busses on their route between Rochester and St. Paul, and these all stopped at Tiller's Store at Hader, where tickets for travel were sold. In 1929 passenger train service was discontinued through

Wanamingo. The same year four Jefferson busses began running through Wanamingo on their runs between Rochester and St. Paul. In the early 60's the busses no longer came through here, but Bernie Satren ran a shuttle bus between Wanamingo and Hader to meet certain busses. This lasted only a short time. In 1941 the Viking Bus Line came through Wanamingo on a run between Red Wing and Faribault. That last a few years. At present, travelers have to depend on private cars or chartered busses. By 1949 Lyle Hogstad, who then owned the school busses, would make arrangements for chartered busses, when his busses were available. The Quamingo busses, owned by David Quam, could be chartered. After the death of Mr. Quam that line was taken over by Lyle Wolf, who has it as the present time. Bernie Satren is owner of the school busses and rental busses, which are available for larger groups any time, and school busses when not needed for school purposes.

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### GRAIN ELEVATORS

The people who lived in the community of Wanamingo were nearly all farmers, and they needed markets for their grain. The distances to town were long and tedious since only horses were used for transportation at that time. So naturally the farmers hoped to be able to haul their grain to Wanamingo when news of the coming railroad arrived. Even before the trains began running in 1904 three elevators were being erected. The Loomis Elevator was one with Harry Swan as manager. There was the Wanamingo Elevator with August Moses as manager. Rollef Lund, a local man had an elevator erected, which he managed for three years, and then sold it to R. E. Jones. That elevator was managed later by August Moses. A Farmers Elevator Company was organized in 1905 with L. J. Gjemse as the first president and Charles Roe, the manager. Mr. Roe continued until 1909 when Herman Næseth became the manager. In 1913 The Farmers Elevator Company purchased the Loomis Elevator, west of the railroad station. That elevator was temporarily closed, and later razed. In 1920 a new Farmers Elevator was erected and opened for business with Rudolph Emerson as manager. The new elevator was larger, and a larger plant than the former one previously built. In 1925 that elevator burned, but it was immediately rebuilt, and was superior to the one which burned. Mr. Emerson spent about 40 years in the buying and selling of grain.

The Farmers Elevator, in 1948, was sold to Osborn McMullan Company. In 1963 the elevator became the Wanamingo Elevator Corporation. Recent managers have been Mernie Bragett, Conrad Tiller and John Vangsnæs, the present manager. Improvements have been made in grain storage. Drying facilities and fertilizing facilities have been added.

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### STOCKYARDS

The Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway built a large stockyard a block west of the depot. This was a high plank fence of one large pen and several smaller pens with gates

opening into the larger area. The scale enclosed with plank fence was on the east side, and also a small office beside the scale which registered the weights. Empty railroad cars to ship cattle and hogs were left on the side track next to the stockyard until needed.

Cattle were loaded into the cars through a loading chute from the yard. From the very first cattle were bought by Alfred Steberg from farmers over a wide area. he had an active business for many years. The cattle were bought either by telephone or directly at the farms. Some farmers sold their animals for price agreed upon, while others sold for a stated price per hundred weight. These animals had to be weighed before they were loaded into the railroad cars. It has been said that Mr. Steberg's cattle-buying, plus elevators, creamery, Syverson's Implement and Fordahl's Mill were the biggest source of instant growth of this young village.

The cattle were chased into town by droves or one or two tied securely behind wagons or sleighs and made to follow, or sometimes one cow or bull led by ropes with two men handling the ropes. The animals would soon tire and become easier to handle. At one time a cow being led this way became tired and ornery and laid down right on Main Street. No amount of persuasion or punishment could make her move. One resourceful banker on Main Street knew what to do, saying he knew the right words to make her move. He quietly walked over to the cow, and "whispered" into her ear. The cow jumped up and dashed down the street pulling two men with her, hanging on to the ropes. Unknown to bystanders, he had not whispered, but blew all he could into her ear. This will make any "critter" move.

The empty railroad cars were ordered by the cattle buyer from the depot agent for the specific day. When the cars arrived, a padding of straw was pitched into the cars before the cattle were loaded. This was the job of Alvin Steberg and Harold Ramsey, depot agent's son, who always received plenty of assistance from young village boys with straw fights, making the work merrier. The number of carloads varied although as many as seven carloads were loaded with three to eight hogs in a load depending upon the size of the hogs. The hogs and cattle could not be loaded in the same car unless a partition was used between them.

Buyers from Zumbrota, Thore Olson and Jim Hoffman, sometimes used the Wanamingo stockyard for shipping out cattle too.

Horse buyers came in the early history of the village and bought horses enough to ship out a carload at a time. There are no definite records of this. In the memory of a few, the saying goes that the buyers would pay fabulous prices, especially if the color of the horse was gray. The horse-drawn fire fighting equipment in the Twin Cities was drawn by large gray horses. Some farmers like to boast that a horse they once owned now was a fire horse.

In 1927 a local auctioneer, Harold Hanson, together with a Western Company, shipped in a carload of horses and auctioned them off to farmers. About 60 of the horses did not sell, and they were put to pasture two miles east of town for six weeks. Again they were loaded into train cars to a different destination for a horse sale.

A Farmers Shipping Association was formed in 1916 with Alfred Steberg as their buyer and manager. After a year he resigned for the association and continued in business as an independent buyer. Martin Swee was the next manager of the Farmers Shipping Association, followed by John Holtan.

With the coming of improved highways for year-around roads livestock was trucked to the St. Paul Stockyards and sold directly by the owners. The checks were sent out by mail and the commission firms withheld enough money, and paid the truckers. In 1929 the office of the local stockyard burned down due to a transient who used it for lodging. The office was not rebuilt, and the business was discontinued, a victim of changing times.

Livestock truckers from Wanamingo have been: Aaron Myran, Casper Syverson, P. J. Fredreckson, Grendahl and Satren, Grendahl and Nelson, Phillip Doraas, Jr.

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## HARDWARE STORES AND IMPLEMENTS

In 1903 Myron and Olson of Zumbrota established a hardware store in Wanamingo, having a double store erected on the corner where the Security State Bank is now located. Andrew Berg managed the store, and sold general hardware, wagons and farm implements.

Earl Hunt also in 1903 had a small frame building erected on the site of Doctor Walters' offices. After a very short time the hardware business was closed, and the building moved to the east side of Main Street, and is now part of the Wanamingo Progress Office.

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## SYVERSON HARDWARE

After having spent three years homesteading at Ray, North Dakota, Martin Syverson approached his brother, Adolph, who had attended a business college in Minneapolis, if he would be interested in establishing a business in Wanamingo. Wanamingo was then only four years old. In 1908 with no experience, but with their youthful ambition and a strong desire to succeed, they entered into the farm implement and hardware business. They ordered linseed oil and buggies by the carload and somehow managed to sell them. According to an old daybook the first sale of equipment was made to Arndt Swee, who purchased a platform buggy for \$62.00. One of the first customers was Martin Halvorson, who paid \$3.25 for a buggy-shaft.

It continued as a partnership until 1939--when Adolph sold his interest to Martin Syverson's oldest son, Kenneth. In 1952 Martin sold his interest to his youngest son, Marvin. In 1970 it was incorporated, as Kenneth's son, Henry, plus Marvin's son, Jon, joined the firm, and thus the establishment's name is now Syverson, Inc. Marvin's son, Jim, joined the firm in 1976. This is the only establishment in Wanamingo which has been in the same business, carried on by the same family and using the same name for nearly 70 years.

A new building was erected in 1976, using the old building as a warehouse. Many changes have taken place over the years. Gas engines, heating stoves, cream separators, washing machines with rollers, each gave way in their day to

modern electric ranges, radios and television sets, automatic dryers and washers, snowmobiles, fancy and varied electric dryers and micro-wave ovens.

Both Adolph and Martin took an active role in the early days of the development of Wanamingo. Adolph was the first mayor. Both were constables and they helped fund the beginnings of several new businesses. Martin was trustee of Trinity church for many years and Adolph was treasurer.

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### HARDWARE STORES

Martin Quitem and Fred Joranger formed a partnership for the purpose of conducting a hardware store in 1914. They were in the north part of the present drug store, but they soon dissolved their partnership. In 1915 Martin Quitem and Peter Paulsness formed a partnership, and had a brick building erected where the Magic Mirror is now located. They sold general hardware and farm implements. There were others who became partners with Mr. Quitem until his death in 1921 namely Andrew Berg, Elmer Olstad and John Holtan. Later it was Holtan and Norby. Christ Overby later joined Mr. Holtan as a partner. In 1920 Vernie Fossan purchased the hardware store, and he also sold John Deere implements. Wilfred Hermann joined Mr. Fossan in 1959 as a partner and continued until he had his own business farther south on Main Street. After Mr. Foassan died, in 1961, Mrs. Fossan sold the hardware business to Roger Floan. Mr. Floan closed out the stock, and sold the building. After the building had been used for the sale of hardware for 49 years, it has never been used for that purpose again.

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### HERMANN IMPLEMENT, INC.

After Mr. Hermann conducted business in the former Julius Quamme garage for a short time, he moved his implement business out on Highway No. 60, where he sells farm implements and snowmobiles.



Early Street Scene in Wanamingo

### GROTH IMPLEMENT

Fred Groth started the implement business here in 1946, handling Massey Harris machinery, later he added the New Holland. Later Mr. Groth sold his business to Milton Poncelet. In 1974 Lew Groth bought the Wanamingo Lumber

Company building from the Hellecksons and started the present Groth Implement.

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### DRUG STORE

The north part of the present drug store was built in 1903 as a drug store for S. Reynolds of Zumbrota. Oscar M. Nelson was the pharmacist, who later owned and operated the store. In the early history of the drug store L.J. Johnson of Wastedo had his telephone exchange in the rear of the store. Mr. Pembleton was the operator and pharmacist of the store in 1908. O. M. Nelson again operated the store a few years. The building was used as a restaurant for a number of years. L. M. Larson with son, Theodore, and daughter, Selma, operated a drug store a few doors farther south for some years. When Theodore Larson returned home from the armed services, the Larsons moved into the former drug store, in 1918, and became the owners of the building. When Mr. Larson died in 1939, Mrs. T. Larson as proprietor, and Selma as the pharmacist, operated the store until 1964. At that time Norman Edwards purchased the building and the stock. He also purchased the adjoining building to the south which had also been erected in 1903 as a general store by Johnson and Opsate. The store now is a complete drug store, as well as a variety store operated by phamacist Norman Edwards.

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### NEWSPAPER

In 1909 Edward Ordalen began publishing Wanamingo's first newspaper, The Wanamingo Progress. He started in the building now owned by Dr. Walter. The newspaper office was later moved to the east side of Main Street, into the Hunt building, the present building of the Wanamingo Progress. In 1913 Andrew Leding became the publisher of the newspaper. He continued about a year when O. W. Hennings became the editor and publisher of the paper. John Brisance became an apprentice of Mr. Hennings in 1942. Mr. Brisance then took over the work, and published the newspaper for two years. In 1944 Mr. Brisance purchased the newspaper from the Hennings estate, and published the paper until 1972, when he retired, after spending 52 years in the newspaper business. He was assisted by his sister, Anne, from the time he purchased the business until he retired. Anne had started in the newspaper office working under Mr. Hennings in 1927. In 1938 she served as postal clerk, with O. W. Hennings as postmaster. Following Mr. Hennings' death in 1942 Anne acted as post mistress until 1943. In 1964 James C. Meyer, Anne's husband, joined the Progress staff, and continued until John sold the newspaper. Both Mr. and Mrs. Meyer had weekly columns in the newspaper. His was "Here's Lookin Atcha" by Jay Cee, and hers was "This'n That from Here'n There" by Mrs. Jay Cee. Both were interesting columns; his contained many quotes of wisdom, while hers were household hints and recipes. Earl Campbell purchased the Wanamingo Progress in 1972 and is the present publisher, with the assistance of his son, Steve Campbell. Gwen Haugen and Joyce Syverson were the editors in 1972 after Mr. Campbell became the



Birds-eye View of Wanamingo 1908, Note the three grain elevators

publisher. David James was the editor for a short time. Gwen Haugen became the editor again in 1974, and Barbara Davidson the advertising manager, positions they both hold as of this printing.

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#### GARAGES

Anton Kolsum and Martin Swee were the pioneers and partners in the first automobile business in Wanamingo. They opened for sales and repair services in 1910 in the building now occupied by Maynard Romness and Leslie Revland. The first cars they sold were the Velie, Ford and Overland. After three years a change of ownership was made. The one who remained the longest in the business was Oscar Flom. He was sole owner and carried on business there for 25 years. Others who were in the automobile business at that place were: Ole Homme, John Joranger, Fred Haller, Oscar Haller and Elmer Olstad. The last ones mentioned were in partnerships with each other. Martin Tiller sold and repaired cars in the building which was razed in 1977, on the corner, now a part of Haugen's Inc. Mr. Tiller's home was in Old Wanamingo before coming into town, so was no stranger to the community.

Henry Helleckson started the Ford Agency in 1913, in the small frame building on the west side of Main Street. The next year he moved across the street, and had a garage erected where the Chevrolet Garage is now located. Mr. Helleckson continued selling and repairing Fords until 1939 with his partners, Oscar Flom and Ole Homme, for short periods. Later Fred and Oscar Haller had the garage. In 1942 Oscar Haller became the owner of the garage. His son, Curtis, worked with his father until 1970 when he became the owner of the garage, and he is at present operating it with the agency for the Chevrolet cars. Julius Quamme operated a garage farther south in town for some time, and later Maurice Island had a garage business there.

#### BLACKSMITHS

Blacksmiths in the village of Wanamingo have been numerous. Some stayed many years while others only a short time. Some did general blacksmithing, others did only horse-shoeing or welding. The following is a list of those who did some sort of blacksmithing as far as is known: John Wolf, Edward Mauppin, John Tommeraas, Tom Trener, Martin Stromstedt, Bennie Krogh, Harry Randall, F. N. Grothe, Anton Kolsum, Henry Helleckson, Martin Goplen, Gust Myran, and LuVerne Johnson, since 1952, and he is still here.

In 1912 John Pederson had a tin shop for a short time.

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#### OIL COMPANIES AND OIL SERVICE

Before there was any oil service in Wanamingo, oil, gasoline and kerosene had to be hauled in from neighboring towns. H. Degener from Zumbrota, brought gasoline and kerosene to Wanamingo using a large tank on a wagon drawn by horses. Mr. Kolbe also hauled gas in this manner for a time. In 1921 a group of businessmen, nine in number, organized an oil company, and named it The Wanamingo Oil Company. Henry Helleckson became the president and Oscar Flom the secretary. The new oil company had its office in the small frame building opposite the lumber yard. Ole Teigen was the manager. They continued business until 1926 when The Farmers Co-op Oil Company was organized. Their stock was set at \$30,000 and each share at \$25.00. The first board of directors were: President, A. O. Naeseth; Vice President, Albert Hjermsstad; Secretary-Treasurer, B. A. Okkelberg. The new Co-op Oil Company purchased the existing Wanamingo Oil Company. Ole Teigen continued as manager of the new company. Other managers have been Edwin Goplen, Lars Hjermsstad, and present manager, Lester Greseth. The early drivers for the Co-op Oil Company were Archie Sundry,

Martin Sevareid and Christ Overby. In 1928 the small frame building was moved to the back, and a new station was built. Two later additions have been added to the present station. In 1965 the Co-op Oil Company merged with the Cannon-Hampton Oil Company. In 1971 an L. P. Plant was built on Highway No. 60 in the western part of Wanamingo. That same year the Co-op Oil Company took over the management of the Soil Service Center west of Wanamingo. In 1974 the Co-op Oil Company purchased the Soil Center. The Co-op Oil Company now employs about 25 men, including those who work delivering oil in the outlying areas, and other oil stations owned by the Co-op Oil Company.

Other men who have supplied Wanamingo with oil and gasoline are: Sundry Oil Co., Archie Sundry, proprietor. Archie later opened an oil station. After Archie's death his son, Arlan, has delivered oil. Others who have had some part in the oil business here are: Arthur Lewis, Orlando Greseth, E. E. Mercier, Holger Sevareid and Sid Gonstad, George Hoven, Fred Groth, Arne Stockmo, Bruce Sevareid, Carl Langeness, Emelius Greseth, and Erling Baker, in the present place since 1957.

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#### THE VILLAGE HALL

In 1913 a federation was formed for the purpose of erecting a hall seating 300 people. Stock was sold, the hall erected, and it became of much use to the community. At one time it was called The Opera House, though no operas were performed there. Around 1916 Henry Otterness had charge of the hall, and roller skating was introduced. Movies were shown as many as four times a week. Medicine shows, lyceum programs, home talent shows, wrestling matches, basketball games, and other entertainment were given in the hall. In 1917-18 a first-year high school was conducted in the hall - - previous to the erection of a new building. Commencement exercises were held in the hall for a number of years. Voting was also done there, after the village was incorporated in 1917. Previous to incorporation people living on the east side of Main Street had to go to the Minneola townhall to vote, and those on the west side of Main Street had to go to the Wanamingo townhall at Aspelund. C. E. Overy purchased the hall in 1925. The hall became the property of the village again in 1933. In 1948 Fred Groth became the owner. J. A. Anderson owned it in 1952, and used it as a carpenter shop until 1973, when Jerome Grothe purchased the building, and it is now Jerry's Cabinet Shop.

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#### UNDERTAKING AND FURNITURE

Andrew O. Berg was the first man to become a resident undertaker in Wanamingo. He started in 1908, together with A. C. Larson, in the Myron & Olson Building, where furniture was also sold. The hearse was drawn by horses at that time. Funerals were different from what they are in 1977. When undertakers were first heard of here, they went to the homes to embalm the deceased. By 1930 the undertakers had established places where they could do the embalming, and the body of the deceased was taken to the estab-

lishment, kept there until the day before the funeral when the casket was taken to the home. There were no funeral homes where reviewals could be held. On the day of the funeral, a short service was held for the family and close friends at the home. Either the pastor or a layman conducted such a service just before removing the body of the deceased to the church for the funeral service there. Andrew Berg continued as an undertaker until 1929. At one time he had Martin Quittem as a partner in the furniture department. Elmer Swanson opened a furniture and funeral business in Wanamingo in 1929, also in the Myron & Olson building. Later Mr. Swanson had a building erected in the next block south. This building was built to accommodate his funeral service, using part of his home for reviewals previous to the funeral service in church. Mr. Swanson continued until his death in 1966. Since that time the Swanson home has been used by James Lohman of Zumbrota for funeral reviewals. Mangel Opfer came to Wanamingo in 1948, and sold furniture in the south part of the present drug store building. He was also a mortician. In 1952 Mr. Opfer disposed of the furniture business, and moved to his present location, directly west of the present post office. He does upholstering along with the funeral service. In 1929 Louis Brisance and Ed Larson of Kenyon had furniture with funeral service in the Myron & Olson building for a short time.

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#### MEDICAL PROFESSION

Quite early in the history of the village Doctor Hoff opened practice in his home in Wanamingo. A part of the house was used as an office. Doctor N. Klove came here in 1914, and had an office on Main Street. The village was without a doctor for a short period at times. The most difficult time to be without a doctor was in 1918, when nearly every home was hit by the flu epidemic. Only one death was caused by the flu. Harvey Helleckson, 2½ year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Helleckson, died. There were, however, numerous deaths in the rural area and vicinity. Dr. F. A. Engstrom came here in 1919. He had an army assignment in 1920. When that was over he came back and stayed until 1945, at which time he discontinued his practice due to failing health. Then Dr. C. N. Rude and Dr. J. T. Boswell were here for short periods. In 1954 Dr. William Walter came and is serving the whole community. He was Chief of Staff of the Zumbrota Community Home, and for the Sunset Home in Kenyon. He also serves on the Goodhue County Nursing Advisory Board.

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#### DENTISTS

The first resident dentist in Wanamingo was in 1915, when Dr. A. J. Knutson opened an office. Other dentists who were here later were: Dr. A. K. Simmons, Dr. L. N. Nerison. After that Dr. L. G. Mack spent part time here until 1924, at which time he opened an office here and remained until his death in 1964. Dr. Wm. Morgan, D.D. S., came here in 1967 and continues his practice here.

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#### OPTOMETRIST

As early as 1913 A. J. Korstad of Zumbrota came to

Wanamingo once a week and had his practice in the drug store. He continued coming here for a number of years.

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### CHIROPRACTORS

Miss Lavina Rokke spent certain days of the week in Wanamingo for her practice. In her youth she lived two miles east of town. Doctor Moe was in town a short while; he had his practice in his home.

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### MIDWIVES

Two registered midwives have practiced in Wanamingo. Mrs. Norby was here a number of years, before and up to 1910. Mrs. Nettie Avery was here two different times later.

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### VETERINARIANS

Doctor Scholl was in Wanamingo in the very early history of the village. He had his office in the small frame building on Main Street. He had competition, as Nels Haller, though not a licensed veterinarian, but a self-made one, was a local man, having grown up about four miles west of Wanamingo; he had in the past saved many farm animals.

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### HAUGEN'S, INC.

The history of Haugen's, Inc., had its beginning in 1931. It was started by Martin O. Haugen, who came from a farm three miles north of Wanamingo to begin a new venture - a chick hatchery. The original name was Wanamingo Hatchery Association, Ltd. Mr. Haugen expanded into the feed business and the poultry business and two later it became the Wanamingo Hatchery. The business continued to grow in the 30's until the death of Mr. Haugen in 1946. After that the business was operated by three of Haugen's sons, Anthony, Milton, and Vernon. At that time it was named Haugen Bros. Hatchery. The business continued to expand by establishing a poultry farm two and a half miles south of Wanamingo. The business was incorporated in 1957 under the name Wanamingo Hatchery and Feeds, Inc. It grew to be Goodhue County's largest hatchery. In 1969 Anthony and Milton passed away and the business has continued to be run by Vernon Haugen with his sons Tom and John. The name of the business is now Haugen's Inc., the name having been changed in 1976. Some of the highlights since its beginning in 1931: they have handled Purina feeds since 1936; they have been associated with DeKalb Ag Research in the poultry business since 1952; the poultry farm has grown so that today they raise approximately 100,000 pullets a year and they have about 20,000 laying hens; they have established a beef herd and have registered Simmental cattle.

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### ELECTRICIANS

Oscar Flom was the first one to carry on the electrical work in town. Later Rudolph Hostager had an electric repair

shop in the Swanson building, where the Security State Bank is now located. George Brunckhorst and Carl Langness sold small electric equipment for a short time. John Nelson sold radios and television sets for a short time. Herman Froyum and Hiram Thoreson are at present doing installation of electricity in homes and electrical repairs.

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### PLUMBING AND HEATING

Oscar Bakko spent 40 years in Wanamingo doing plumbing and heating. Others who have spent less time at that work are: Olaf Braaten, Charles Swarthout, and Ed Axelson.

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### BARBERS

The very first barber in Wanamingo was Mr. Parkhurst from Kenyon. He came here certain days, and occupied a corner in Henry Satren's restaurant. He charged 25¢ for a hair cut. Oscar Simonson later had a shop of his own, and he remained for many years. Jens Island joined Mr. Simonson, later Arthur Hennem worked with Mr. Simonson. In 1915 Mr. Hennem opened his own shop and continued until he retired in 1962. Others who have been here as barbers have made shorter stays as Mr. Peterson, Mr. Goucher, Mr. Hughs, Mr. Samals, Mr. Dutton, Mr. Germain, Elmer Clair, Gordon Sandberg. Present barber is Ralph Hanson.

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### THE VOGUE

The Vogue was a Ladies' Apparel shop owned and operated by Evelyn and Marzella Syverson, from 1934 until 1938. It was located in what is now the south half of the Wanamingo Drug Store. The surrounding communities provided a large part of their clientele, even though these were depression years. A high fashioned dress of excellent material and workmanship could be purchased for \$7.95 up to \$12.95 in those days. Although there were snow suits, there were no pant suits.

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### MEN'S CLOTHING AND SHOE STORE

Lewis Satren pioneered in the shoe business in Wanamingo, being located in a frame building on the west side of Main Street, formerly the Hunt Hardware Store, on the site of Dr. Walter's offices. Christ Torgerson had a shoe store in town. The early general stores sold shoes as: J. A. Norstad and Romness Bros., who also sold men's clothing for a time. And there was O. E. Anderson, Ed Erickson, Mr. Lehman, Charles Wahlberg, who also did altering and tailoring. Donald Greseth was the last one to have a men's clothing store in town. Lars Trygstad did tailoring in his home for many years.

## JEWELRY STORES

Oscar Simonson, in partnership with Peder P. Ronning, sold jewelry and glassware in the south part of Simon's barbershop building.

Emil Jellum was a jeweler and did watch and clock repairing for many years here in town. He was located in a small building on one of the lots where the Security State Bank is now. Warren Jackson was a watch and clock repair man for a few years in the 60's.

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## PHOTOGRAPHERS

There have been three photograph studios in the village. The first one was opened for business in 1908 by O.E. Pearson, in the building now occupied by Mangel Opfer. Three years later Martin Larson, who was born in the log house, now on Main Street, purchased the business from Mr. Pearson. Mr. Larson continued for four years. In 1948 the Nordsletten Studio opened with Kenneth and Orville Nordsletten as photographers. They were the earliest photographers to go out and take colored pictures of weddings. They remained here a couple of years.

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## BEAUTY SHOPS

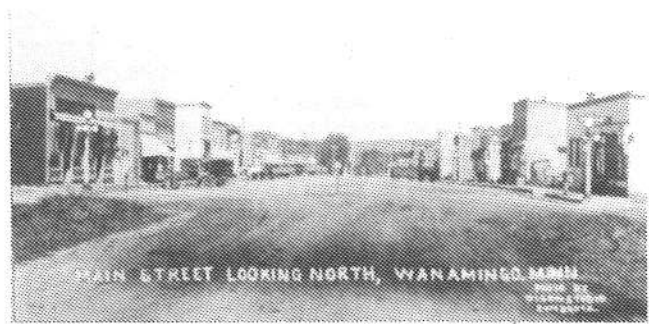
When Wanamingo became a village there was no need for hairdressers, as every lady had long hair, and took care of her own hair. When women cut their hair, the need for hairdressers arrived. As far as can be determined, the following have at some time had a shop here, or have done work in their own home in the village: Marie Peterson, Mabel Lunde, for about 10 years; Hazel Husbyn; Mrs. Dublin Flaaen; Shirley Olson; Nadine Bracken; Fern Johnson and Lucille Caprez. LaVonne Bjorngaard and Sharon Swanson had the Magic Mirror for some time, but neither of them worked in the shop in town at that time. Mrs. Bjorngaard became the sole owner of the shop in 1970, and now she spends a few days there each week; her assistants are in the shop all week. Mrs. Caprez had her shop for many years; it is now owned by Linda Parker, who works there full time.

Sharon Bjorngaard and Mrs. Tadge opened a NORSK NOOK and sold novelties and imported items, in a part of the building where the Magic Mirror Beauty Shop is located. At present, Sandra Wallaker occupies that place as Sandi's Corner. She specializes in hand-made articles and novelties.

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## BAKERY

There was a local bakery in Wanamingo around 1913. Mr. C. W. Irwin had an oven built south of where Baker's Oil Station is now located. He mainly baked bread for use in his own restaurant, where he also sold the bread. None of the grocery stores sold bread at that time. Evidently the venture did not prove successful as Mr. Irwin did not remain in Wanamingo long.



Main Street looking north, Wanamingo in the 20's

## GREENHOUSE

Andrew Lovgren had a greenhouse in the southern part of the village for a few years. He supplied people in the village and surrounding area with plants for their gardens. After his death no one has continued that business.

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## HARNESS AND SHOE REPAIRING

A. J. Brisance and family came to Wanamingo from St. Paul in 1906. Mr. Brisance established a harness and shoe repair show on the west side of Main Street, where Peder-sens' Hobby Shop is now located. In 1912 Mr. Brisance had a building erected on the east side of Main Street, where Mr. Brisance had his shop, with living quarters for the family in the rear part of the building and above the shop. In 1916 the Brisance family moved to Palisade. The building and part of the stock was sold to Edward Glestad, Sr. Three years later the Brisance family returned to Wanamingo. On his return to Wanamingo, Mr. Brisance again opened a shop on the west side of Main Street, where he continued his business until his death in 1928.

Louis Brisance, a son of A. J. Brisance, continued the business a few years dealing in leather goods.

Mr. Hellum came from Minneapolis to Wanamingo before 1911, and did shoe repairing, but he did not remain here very long.

In 1953 Juel Ohnstad was here for a short time doing shoe repairing, and he also did canvas repairing.

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## EGG AND POULTRY BUSINESS

Every farmer and many of the citizens of Wanamingo Village had chickens, mainly for their own use; but farmers raised large flocks of chickens and sold some of their produce. In 1924 there was recorded that 70 cases of eggs had been collected, presumably 30 dozen cases. These cases had been collected at local stores, hauled to Kenyon to be shipped by

truck to a firm in Iowa. Eggs and poultry was accepted by all general stores and sufficed to cover the grocery bills for many farmers. Later in the history of the village, places were established for the business of buying poultry products for cash. August Johnston opened a business where he advertised that he paid cash for eggs and cream. In 1927 Oscar Dahl managed a concern where eggs and poultry was bought.

In 1932 Carl Langeness opened the Wanamingo Produce Company. Others followed Mr. Langeness either as partners or as individuals. Bennie and John Satren were in the egg and poultry business a while. In 1946 Lawrence Morken became the owner of an egg and poultry business, and had eggs trucked to the eastern states. He continued in that business and in trucking until 1973, when he sold his building and moved to Texas.

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#### RAILWAY STATION ATTENDANTS

Sam Ramsey was the attendant of the Railway Station when the first trains came through Wanamingo in 1905. Henry Otterness, in 1919, followed Mr. Ramsey. Later ones to have charge of the station were: Stanley Butler, Carl Balmgren, Lyle Baker, and A. Harnoss. The last one in charge of the station was Richard Quinell. After that the station was closed in 1950.

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#### SOIL CONSERVATION AND WANAMINGO DAM

The Zumbro Valley Soil Conservation Association was formed in 1935. The board of directors were: F. Aug. Lohmann, president; Will Judd, vice president; Alvin R. Steberg, secretary-treasurer; Clair Dutton, Wm. Borgshatz, Arthur Erickson and Edwin Goplen. The main purpose of this association was to encourage the use of the methods of conserving soil and follow the practices established by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), located in Zumbrota. They served the area in the southern part of Goodhue County. Area farmers, a very few at first, had availed themselves of the assistance given by this National Program. The young men enrolled in this work were under the supervision of qualified technicians. Much ridicule was heaped upon the first farmers who cooperated about their crooked plowing and odd shaped fields while now almost all hilly land is worked by the method.

The last meeting of this association was held in Wanamingo in December, 1942. Phillip Nerison, who was the secretary-treasurer at the time, recorded that the books were duly closed. The money on hand, from dues by members, was divided evenly to the newly organized South Goodhue District and Dakhue Soil Conservation District.

The South Goodhue Soil Conservation District held its first organizational meeting in December, 1942. At this time the board of supervisors were as follows: Edwin W. Goplen, chairman; Ole J. Floan, vice chairman; Roy Voxland, secretary-treasurer; Alvin R. Steberg and F. Aug. Lohmann the other two members. At the regular fall elections board members were elected to serve on this board. The eight southern townships were included in this district. Others who served

on the supervisor board were Martin Lohmann, Gilman Hoven, P. J. Hegseth, Lyle Jacobson, Peter Swiggum, Ole Romness, Conrad Clementson and Roy Janousek. The office was located in Wanamingo. The first technicians to serve there were: Paul Van Devere and Robert Rogers. Other technicians while in Wanamingo were: Walter Copp, Arthur Anderson, Willis DeValois, Robert Anderson and E. A. Jarvinen.

In 1960 this district consolidated with the East Goodhue and the portion of the Dakhue District, which lay in Goodhue County, forming The Goodhue County District. The office was later relocated in Zumbrota. The work has been carried on there until the present time.

A quote from an article by Edwin W. Goplen, printed in the Zumbrota News, about the Wanamingo dam relating to soil erosion reads as follows: During the early 30's the construction of a dam on the Zumbro River at Wanamingo had gained the enthusiastic support of that community as it would provide a beautiful attraction with wonderful recreational possibilities, besides it would be the only lake in Goodhue County. Objection to this project was often voiced by a few individuals who believed that a lake thus formed would be of short duration due to the heavy silt load frequently carried by the Zumbro River. However, their warning was unheeded and the dam was built in 1935, and a wonderful lake formed.

In early 1936 this lake was drained in order that its south shore could be improved and a more suitable bathing beach provided. When the lake was drained, it became evident that the area which had so recently been flooded was already covered with silt to an average depth of seven inches. This then became the great concern of all interested in the preservation of the wonderful lake. It was quite understandable that the solution would be to keep the silt out of the Zumbro River. Thus the Wanamingo dam became a great factor in promoting the prevention of soil erosion. Its brief life of nine years provided convincing evidence of the dam destructibility of erosion as well as its damage to our land in soil loss.

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#### ATTORNEYS

In 1964 F. Peterson and Raymond Wahlberg opened an attorneys' office in Wanamingo. Mr. Wahlberg took care of legal matters here. In 1975 Steven Jorstad joined Mr. Wahlberg, and took care of the business in Wanamingo. In 1977 that partnership dissolved and Mr. Jorstad is the attorney here at present.

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#### LAUNDROMAT

A laundromat was started in Wanamingo in 1966, in the rear part of the building most recently occupied by the Roger Floan Hardware Store. Mr. Woods of Kenyon had the laundromat. A lunch room occupied the front part of the building, with Margaret Dalseide as the operator of that. This lasted only a short time when a firm from Minneapolis bought the building. In 1976 Joe and LaVonne Bjorngaard bought the building and are now running the laundromat which serves people both in town and in the surrounding community.

### MINNESOTA FARM BUILDINGS

Wanamingo Farm Buildings was started in 1968 when James Helleckson purchased the Wanamingo Lumber Company building in the south part of the city. In 1971 land was purchased from Wilfred Hermann on Highway No. 60, where they are presently located. In 1972 the name was changed to Minnesota Farm Buildings and a Truss plant was built on the site. In 1974 the present office building was constructed.

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### LOCKER PLANT

The Wanamingo Locker Service was launched by 25 local men in 1941, and was approved by the Farmers Elevator Company, who erected the building. Mr. Buer became the manager. In 1949 Glen Hoven and Marvin Sathrum purchased the plant and operated it. In 1971 Glen Hoven became the sole owner of the plant, and is the present operator.

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### EXCAVATION

Charles Steberg started an excavating business in 1974 in Wanamingo. He does basement digging, sewer system, pump truck service, sand fill and septic tank plumbing.

Robert Benson started selling Polaris snowmobiles in 1970, and has a shop in town where he repairs snowmobiles, and has it as his headquarters for work with bridges and concrete work and also a crane operator.

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### HEINHOLD COMMODITIES, INC.

Heinholds Commodities, Inc., opened a business in 1977, in the building formerly used by The Security State Bank. The purpose of the business is to keep Wanamingo in touch with world trade markets by the means of a Commodity Board, which is one of the facilities of the Board installed by Winton Graf, a local man in the office of Heinoold Commodities, Inc.

After Mr. Graf purchased the old Security State Bank building in the fall of 1976 he proceeded to redecorate and renovate it. He renamed it the Exchange Building. The building is planned and furnished to be headquarters for a number of businesses.

Heinoold Inc., was the first business to be housed there. It is a commodity brokerage office, a branch of one of the nation's largest commodity future's brokerage firms. It is a member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Chicago Board of Trade and all other major commodity exchanges, and is a subsidiary of DeKalb Ag Research.

The 60-panel commodity board is larger than the average of its kinds, and is the only such Board in all of central and eastern Minnesota; the closest one being in the Twin Cities. On the Board are panels following trading of cattle, hogs, feeder cattle, pork bellies, eggs, broilers, potatoes; many international monetary market commodities - silver, gold, platinum, Mexican pesos, U.S. Treasury bills; sugar, cotton, cocoa, from the New York Exchange, among others.

Linda Saner, Registered Representative, is assistant broker with Mr. Graf, along with Dale 'Dewey' Larson, a registered broker.

On the Board trading is recorded daily from Chicago. Many local people come in to watch the Board in action in the Board room. The formal opening took place in January, 1977. Dean Curtiss of KDHL Radio, Faribault, broadcasted from the Exchange Building. Mr. Graf also arranged seminars in the evening with specialists present as guest speakers.

Mr. Ray Wahlberg is one of several others who joined the staff of this Agri Realty Company, and Mr. Wahlberg severed his connection with the attorney's office in the city.

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### WARS

In 1917 the United States entered into World War I. Registration of all men between ages of 21 and 31 was held. Many of these became the men who fought the war. The first Liberty Bond sale was held and the Wanamingo area subscribed \$16,000. School children were encouraged to buy War Stamps. Ration books for food appeared, substitutes for flour were sold, and knitting for Red Cross became the pastime. The Red Cross was organized as a unit of the county, in Wanamingo. The officers were Martin Halvorson, Mrs. Charlie Nute, Mrs. Elmer Olstad and Mrs. Lewis Helleckson. Mrs. L. Ohr was in charge of hospital supplies. Wanamingo always went over the top in its defense drives. The war ended Nov. 11, 1918, and men returned home, while others remained longer in the Army of Occupation.

World War II began with the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Again there was registration of men, while other men volunteered and joined the armed forces. Wanamingo was ready again to send men and to carry out all requests for rationing, sewing for Red Cross and related war activities.

In 1941 the Red Cross Unit was reorganized with Mrs. Reuben Swanson as president, and the women resumed work. Prizes were offered to students for essays written in high school. Women were knitting and garments were made for refugees. Four hundred and forty dollars was donated to the Red Cross War Fund. A home nursing class was organized with Lillian Engstrom as chairman and Lydia Halvorson, R.N., the instructor. This class had 28 hours of instruction. Many other women took part in this work. Olga Helleckson, Anna Fredrickson and Theora Johnson were in charge; sponges and pads were made. The class consisted of about 30 women who all wore white uniforms. The women were awarded Red Crosses for over 50 hours of making dressings.

In early 1942 Governor Harold Stassen established the Victory Aide Program "for the purpose of utilizing women of Minnesota in an orderly and effective manner to contribute to the strength of the Nation, to maintain a high morale at home and to increase our total preparedness as we move forward to victory." Mrs. E. E. Severeid was the defense chairman of Goodhue County. Mrs. Lewis Helleckson was appointed captain of Wanamingo Village; Mrs. Adolph Naeseth was the lieutenant. Some of the duties of the Aides were to call on homes and register the names of families of service men; take applications for war ration books; sponsoring cookie days for

the men in the service; assisting with gasoline and sugar rationing. The Aides took turns working two days a week, helping the public. Their biggest job was filling out applications for special sugar, sugar for canning. The government

allowed 10 pounds of sugar for each person canning. Special sugar was allowed for farmers, feeding threshing crews, harvest hands or temporary employees. All applications were sent to the rationing board in Red Wing.



Quamme Post V.F.W. No. 186, organized in 1919



Memorial Day - 1946  
Wanamingo, Minn.

QUAMME POST # 186

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

A short history of National Organization is undoubtedly of interest to many. The founding of the Veterans of Foreign

Wars of The United States was in the fall of 1899. There were no pensions, hospitalization or compensation awaiting

the veterans when they returned home from the war with Spain, The Philippine Insurrection or The China Relief Expedition. Therefore, the veterans formed an organization to help their needy, disabled or less fortunate comrades. The three groups already organized, joined together for the above-mentioned founding in 1899.

The preliminary work of organizing the Wanamingo Post was done by E. E. Sevaried, assisted by O. G. Sandstad of Kenyon. The Wanamingo Post #186, was named the Quamme Post, honoring the memory of Albert Quamme, a son of Tosten and Jetta Quamme of Minneola Township. He made "The Supreme Sacrifice" dying of wounds received in fighting Oct. 10, 1918 at The Argonne Front.

Quamme Post #186 was issued a charter in 1919, when obligations of 16 members of the 32 charter members was taken, and the following officers were installed: E. E. Severeid, Commander; Carl Helleckson, Sr. Vice Commander; B. C. Moe, Jr. Vice Commander; Halbert Loken, Adjutant, and Mons Baker, Quarter Master. The following year a few more members joined and The Post then had 100 percent membership of eligible veterans in Wanamingo and vicinity. The charter members have been a healthy group, as the first charter member to pass away was not before 1946 when Theodore M. Larson died. As of 1977, three of the charter members have held continuous membership and they are: Lars Johnson, Halbert Loken and Fred Perret.

The peak of membership was reached in 1958 when there were 103 members. This was after the return of WW II veterans and the recruiting efforts of George Romness and William Schultz.

Memorial Day was first observed in Wanamingo in 1919 when the arrangements were made by several patriotic citizens. Then in 1920, The Quamme Post sponsored the arrangements of the Memorial Day program and parade. The World War I veterans marched right out of town and walked the distance to the Wanamingo Cemetery. In 1923, after the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Post was organized, they joined with the Post in sponsoring arrangements of this holiday.

As to Civic Participation, in 1951 the Post donated \$3000 to the Wanamingo School Districts towards the purchase of land for the athletic field. Other minor projects have been cared for.

Mention can be made of the late B. C. Moe, who served for 33 years as the Post Service Officer, who ably aided service men in need of Veterans' Hospital care, and Halbert Loken for his continuous work and enthusiasm as Post Quarter Master.

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#### LADIES' AUXILIARY - QUAMME POST # 186

The Ladies' Auxiliary was formed as a national organization at Denver, Colorado in 1914. In 1925 a department of auxiliary was formed in Minnesota. The Ladies' Auxiliary to Quamme Post #186 is a part of the organization mentioned above. Sisters, wives and mothers of V.F.W. had considered for some time to form a local organization. Town women met for a meeting in 1923, and each one was elected an office as

follows: Mina Loken, President; Tabitha Kolsu, Sr. Vice President; Laura Quamme, Jr. Vice President; Olga Loken, Treasurer; Anna Fredrickson, Chaplain; Esther Zimmerman, Conductress, and Nellie Quamme, Secretary. A Memorial Day committee was appointed: Gitta Johnson, Theodora Johnson and Alma Moe. Of these, three are still members; Theodora Johnson, Mina Loken and Olga Loken Steberg. E. E. Severeid was the installing officer from the Quamme Post #186 by appointment of the National President of the Order.

The purpose of organizing was to assist the Quamme Post #186 and enter a program of service to the living and homage to the dead. The Auxiliary worked under various pass words used early in its existence such as Faithful Service, Good of the Cause, etc. Almost at once hospital supplies were sewed and sent to the Veterans' Hospital; donations for cheer and all requests sent from The Headquarters have been given. Knitting of afghans has always been a project, and there is no record of the very many made and sent to the Veterans' Hospital. The first activity to raise money was a "Tag Day," and a candy sales held in 1923, which netted \$70. Many paper drives to raise money have been held. The Blood Bank has been sponsored since its beginning; flag pole and flags at the Log House, were gifts from the organization, as well as other local projects. The emphasis has been on patriotism and service to the community, state and nation.

An article from the Wanamingo Progress in 1924 notes the following: The War Veterans held a picnic in the Steberg's pasture in August 1924, which was attended by over 4,000 people. Governor candidate, Floyd Olson was the main speaker. The Veterans' team of horseshoe pitching beat the St. Paul men by a score of 27 to 15. The Auxiliary had a stand decorated with red, white and blue bunting. At the close of the afternoon a quick rain shower came, but in spite of hast to get the bunting off, it was anything but red, white and blue any more.

In 1927 the Auxiliary began having one of the meetings in the summer as a family picnic, which were held as follows: Naeseth Country Club, Sibley House, Veterans' Hospital, Owatonna, Minnehaha Park, Rochester, Colvill Park in Red Wing, and in 1938, at "Our Dam." These picnics have been discontinued. Regular meetings were held at the school house, and when the membership became smaller, they met in the homes. Now the Security Bank is used for the monthly meetings. The membership has varied from the registration of 70 members to an average of 47 members. At the present time there are 23 members.

Taking part in the Memorial Day exercises has been an annual event. The list of veterans' graves and the branch of service they were in during the period of war reads as follows:

Wanamingo Lutheran: Halvor Lauve, Civil War; Helge Johnson, Co. L. 166th Inv., Pf Pfc-310 Supply Train AEF; Theodore Larson, WWI Pvt. Medical Pharmacist with Evacuation Hosp. #4 AEF; Gilbert Olstad, WWI, Camp Dewey, Great Lakes, Ill., Co. D 2nd Rgt.; Lewis Rasmusson, WWI, Minnesota S 2 USNRF; Leonard Birger Rosvold, Cpl. Co. D 312th Eng. 88th Div. AEF; Iver Johanneson Stene, Civil War; Oscar Stockmo, Minn. PFC, Engineers WWII; Oscar Thompson, 2/22/18, Priv. Co. 350th Inf. AEF; Therrold Moe, 215CAAA WWII; and Oscar Haller, 9/17/17, Priv. 20th Eng. Minneola Lutheran: Knute O. Bjorndalen, Civil War; Ron-

ald Fredrickson, TEC'S 40th Cav. Ron Trp. WWII; Nils Lersfald, Pvt. Co. A 387th Inf. Camp Cody, N.M. WWI; Bertram Okkelberg, Sgt. HQ. Co. U.S. Forces Fec. WWII; Albert Quamme, Pvt. 117th Inf., Died of wounds, Argonne Front AEF; Joseph Rostad, Pvt. Medical Corps, Camp Grant. Illinois, WWI; Christopher Shay, 1st Co. 161st Depot Brigade, Camp Grant, ILL., WWI; Benjamin Satren, Pvt. SVC Battery 361 Field Artillery, Bn WWI; Selmer Aslakson, Pvt. Co. K 54th Pioneer Inf. AEF; Richard B. Trelstad, Joined 5-13-1918, Co. B 354th Inf AEF; Melvin Peter Timbeross, 7/26/18 Co. L. 54th Pioneer Inf. AEF; Henry Gerhard Husbyn, 5/27/18 Co. C 306th Inf. AEF; Henry Vangsness, 7/26/18 Priv. Co. C 54th Pioneer Inf. AEF; and Johnnie J. Blakstad, 2/26/42 - 5/18/45 Co. F. Cavalry WWII.

Trinity Lutheran: Dr. F. A. Engstrom, Maj., 163rd Depot Brigade, Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Iowa, Medical Corps, WWI; Olai Greseth, Pvt. 26th Eng. Forrestry Dept. AEF; Anthony Haugen, M/Sgt. 9th Army Air Force, WWII European, Overseas; Wallace Haugen & 2c Navy, USS ARD-8, Pacific WWII; Conrad Lexvold, Co. G., 21st. Inf. Regt. Fort Riley, Kansas, Korea; B. C. Moe, joined 7/26/18, Priv. of Co. L 54th Pioneer Inv. AEF; Francis Romness, Sgt. 8621, Adm. Area Unit, Korea; Tryphena Severeid, Women's Aux. Corps, WWII; Ephriam Severeid, Sgt. Co. E 164th Inc. AEF; Elmer Swanson, Camp Wadsworth, S.C. WWI; Robert Romness, Cpl. A. Co. 27th RCT 25th Int. DIO, Korea; Oliver Berg, Tech 5 - 1918 SVC Comd. Unit WWII; William Schultz, WWI. Pr. 1st Cl. Co. K 128 Inv. AEF, WWII Member of Seabees, Pacific; Milton Haugen, Lt. Jr. Navy, ISS Amsterdam, Adiatic/Pacific WWII; Armund Romness, Veteran WWII; Holger Severeid, Qg. Brty. 980 Fa Bn, WWII; George Romness, 7/26/18 Pr. Co. G 54th Pioneer Inf. AEF; and Wilhelm E. Severeid.

Aspelund Lutheran: Henry Anfinson, Pvt. 1st Co. Div. Battalion, Camp Green, N.C. WWI; Julius N. Johnson, Died 2/9/19 at Camp Hancock, Ga. A A B-14-13 WWI; Henry Nelson, 54th Pioneer Inf. Co. L. AEF; Bernt Krogh, Pvt. Engineers, overseas AEF; Rudolph R. Hager, MM3 U S Navy WWII; and Kenneth C. Berg, PFC, U.S. Army, WWII, 2nd class gunner, 901st Field Artillery Battalion.

#### MINGO BARRACKS # 3247

Mingo Barracks #3247, Veterans of World War I, was organized in 1963 and the first meeting held in Wanamingo where the following officers were elected: Commander, William Schultz; Sr. Vice Commander, Alfred A. Pederson; Jr. Vice Commander, Oscar Bakko; Adjutant, Oscar Flom; Quartermaster, Halbert Loken; Trustees, Oscar Haller, Gerhard Fredrickson, and Walter McKeever.

The Barracks was organized due to soliciting efforts for members by William Schultz, George Romness and Alfred Pederson. A charter was applied for with signatures of 78 applicants and was granted by The National Department that same year.

At the time of organization, the nearest Barracks was located at Red Wing. Although the meetings are held at Wanamingo, the Barracks are actually a Southern Goodhue County Barracks. It was unanimously agreed that it is better to have one Barracks in the center of Southern Goodhue

County rather than small groups in each town. There are also some members residing in adjoining counties. The name Mingo Barracks was chosen as an abbreviation of Wanamingo.

#### MINGO BARRACKS AUXILIARY # 3247

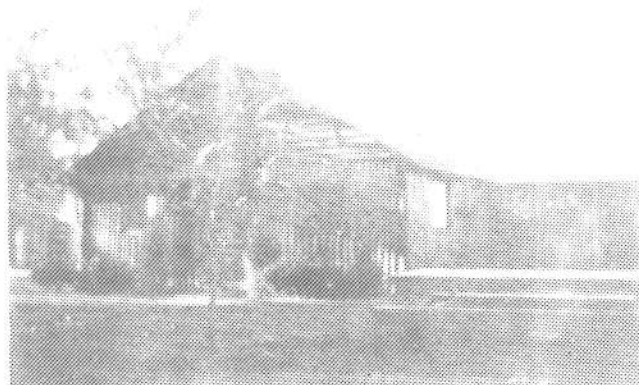
The Auxiliary Barracks to #3247 was organized in 1963 with the following officers: President, Lillian Engstrom; Sr. Vice President, Theresa Bakko; Jr. Vice President, Selma Morkre; Chaplain, Alice Romness; Conductress, Myrtle Flom; Secretary, Ione Pederson; Treasurer, Emma Berquam; Guard, Frances Schultz; Trustees, Stella Aakre, Bertha Swanson, and Ella Froyum.

They meet once a month. They contribute to the Old Soldiers' Home and other organizations. They try to bring whatever cheer they can into the lives of World War I Barracks members and also to the Auxiliary members.

The present President of the Auxiliary is Signora Mandsager.

#### THE CLUB HOUSE IN WANAMINGO PARK

In 1937 the Wanamingo Sportsmen's Club laid plans for a club house. Membership was then 91 members. C. D. Olson, Ole Floan and Gust Johnson were named as a committee of three to secure plans and specifications for the pro-



Wanamingo Club House, erected by the Wanamingo Sportsmen's Club - 1938

posed new club house. The House was constructed of split spruce logs, placed vertically. About 350 logs were used. They were secured in Northern Minnesota through agency of Carl Helleckson. The logs were hauled to Wanamingo by club members. Leveling the ground around the clubhouse and filling in the channel to the old dam was done by farmers and businessmen. Farmers came with their teams and tractors and in several days that work was completed. All the work of constructing the club house was done by members, and cost of materials was \$900, main house being 24' x 36', kitchen annex 12' x 16'.

#### BOY SCOUTS

The first Boy Scout Troop in Wanamingo was organized in 1926 under the leadership of Supt. Frank Keuhn and Olaf Naeseth. Unfortunately records are not available until

1948 when Lester Johnson was the Scoutmaster.

There have been Cub Scouts - ages 8 until 11 - and Boys Scouts here since then, but no accurate reports have been kept. So, lest some leaders' names be omitted, it is better to make no attempt to mention them.

Two boys have been initiated into the Order of the Arrow at ceremonies held at Hok Si La Camp near Lake City. They are Darryl Grendahl and Jon Syverson. They were encouraged in their efforts by John Kunz, Scoutmaster at the time.

Until 1960 the VFW sponsored Scouting here. The Lions Club sponsored until 1970 when the two churches in town have served as sponsors. About 1973 the Wanamingo Scouts became a part of the Wasioja District of the Gamehaven Council. Previously they had been in the Cannon River District. Training and expositions took place at Red Wing during that time. The Wasioja District expositions take place at Owatonna.

At least two times, in 1960 and in 1975, the Cub Scout Troop earned the President's Award at Spring Expositions, having the best overall booth at the District event.

Ken Dahl, Cubmaster in the 1970's, and Gwen Haugen Den Mother in the 1960's, earned District Scouter of the Year awards.

Barb Priem, active in Wanamingo Scouting in the 1970's, was the first woman in Minnesota Boy Scout history to be registered as a Boy Scout leader. After one year in this position, she was appointed Scoutmaster.

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#### GIRL SCOUTING

Evelyn Naeseth holds the honor of pioneering as a leader in Girls Scouting in Wanamingo. When the Mangel Opfer family moved here, Mrs. Opfer supplied enthusiasm for organizing scouting as their daughter, Megon, came here as a Girl Scout. At that time, in 1948, Evelyn Naeseth became the first leader for a group of Girl Scouts. Scouting is a National Organization, and the work by leaders and other help is all volunteer work. The girls are financed by United Fund. A girl may begin as a Brownie in her second grade in school, and then go into intermediate, the cadet, and a Senior Scout with no limits as to age. The girls learn to live in the outdoors and to appreciate that kind of living and to enjoy nature and the outdoors. There are camps where the girls may go in the summer for a few weeks. Each spring the girls sell Girl Scout Cookies which proceeds go to the camp, backed by the United Fund from the National Organization and some to the local organization. There was only one camp when Wanamingo formed a Scouting group. There are now three camps. The Brownies go to Pepinoak Camp Lake at Frontenac, while the others go to Singing Hills, near Waseca. This camp consists of 160 acres of land, and has been purchased from the sale of Girl Scout Cookies. Seven counties are now included, with 50 members in Wanamingo. Contributions are often made for going to camps by individuals, by the VFW Auxiliary, by the United Fund and other organizations. Besides going to camp, the girls learn to do many things at their meetings. They have made quilts and other items. Some who have been leaders or have helped in special ways are: Kathryn Moran, Mrs. Walter Nosek,

Ruth Morken, Shirley Helleckson, Mrs. John Satren, Mrs. Loretta Sevareid, Mrs. Robert Anderson, Mary Haugen, Mavis Kylo, Gwen Haugen, Janice Olson, Eva Ohr, and Mrs. Lillian Engstrom.

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#### VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 1913 a Volunteer Fire Department, consisting of 20 members, was organized with O. W. Hennings as the first Fire Chief.

The first fire truck was a Model T Truck equipped with double 36 gallon chemical tanks, ladders and axes, and was purchased in 1918. This truck was also used voluntarily to serve the surrounding townships.

The telephone operators were notified as to fires and a Bell Alarm, located on a steel tower, was operated by the telephone operators.

In 1926 when the waterworks system was installed, two man-powered hose carts with 900 feet of 2½ inch hose was purchased. The bell alarm was replaced by a siren.

Due to the fact that the nearby townships are being serviced, they are now contributing toward the cost of suitable trucks and equipment and the continued improvement. The Wanamingo Fire Department now has six trucks equipped with modern various fire fighting equipment.

Much credit is due to the efforts of Marvin Sathrum for building this department into a modern, up-to-date organization. Many days of donated time and study were put forth towards this accomplishment. Mr. Sathrum served as Chief for several years. The present Fire Chief is Bruce Sevareid.

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#### WANAMINGO COMMERCIAL CLUB

The Wanamingo Commercial Club was organized by the businessmen of Wanamingo in 1914, with 30 charter members. The first president of the organization was C. D. Olson. The purpose of the club was to discuss mutual problems common to the local merchants; to promote business and businesses, and to discuss matters which would mutually benefit the residents of the village and community. There are no records which would indicate how long this organization remained active. In 1919 the Wanamingo Commercial Club was reorganized with Joseph Romness as president. In 1920 the Club sponsored the construction of the first ice skating rink in the village. This rink was located west of what is now the Johnson Blacksmith Shop. Since then there have been various locations for rinks.

In the early 1930's the Club sponsored free outdoor movies on Saturday nights during the summer months. This provided entertainment to many people in the area who came to town for shopping. These free movies were sponsored for about 10 years.

Another large event sponsored by the Club was the Harvest Festival. This was held for two years on a Saturday in October. It was a gala event with the Main Street of Wanamingo decorated in a carnival atmosphere with many rides and concessions.

In 1935 in a cooperative effort with the Village Council, funds were approved to provide the village of Wanamingo with a dam on the Zumbro River. The work was a Federal

W.P.A. Project. The dam was completed and dedicated in 1938, which provided the residents of Wanamingo with a small lake and park.

For many years the Commercial Club was instrumental in providing band concerts in the village, usually on Saturday nights. The first band to give these concerts was a community band, and later when the high school engaged a band instructor, this group provided the music. And today, the high school band gives regular concerts down town weekly during the summer months.

During the 1940's and 1950's the Club undertook new community activities and projects, when they saw a need or opportunity to better community relations. Some of these still in existence are the Farmers' Stag Night, Annual Children's Christmas Party, and businessmen's free drawings at Christmas. In the 1960's they felt the need to do something for the women of the area, and an Annual Ladies' Night was held. This event is now held on alternating years with the Farmers' Stag Night.

As the need for doctors and dentists in the community arose, the Club took an active part in helping to secure these people and provide places for them to carry on their professions.

More recently, the Club has sponsored Fourth of July celebrations in the village. These are usually held at the athletic field and consist of ice cream social, athletic events for children, water fights by the firemen and a dance in the parking lot after the fireworks.

Another project started by the Club was the United Fund Drive held each year, now known as the Wanamingo Combined Charities. Fund raising activities have been many and varied. Home talent plays, donkey basketball and baseball games provided good entertainment as well as providing funds for worthwhile projects.

David Berg is the present president of the Commercial Club.

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### LIONS CLUB

A Lions Club was organized in Wanamingo in 1955 with 31 charter members. The first officers were: Vernon Haugen, President; Selmer Braaten, 1st Vice President; Lyle Hogstad, 2nd Vice President; Olaf Naeseth, Secretary-Treasurer; Curtis Haller, Lion Tamer; and Glen Hoven, Tailtwister. The purpose of the organization is to foster a more abundant civic life in the community. This has taken place as the organization, during more than 21 years, has had a part in various projects, such as: gifts for needy families, including people who have suffered disaster and needed relief; collection of eye glasses; hearing clinics; donations to a clotter machine at the Zumbrota Hospital; diphtheria-tetanus clinic at High School; donation to Camp Courage in Winnebago; scholarships for High School seniors; High School band instruments; athletic banquets; High School Alumni parties; faculty entertainment; Christmas and Halloween parties for children of the community; skating rink; ice hockey; support of children's theatre; swimming pool; flags for the Boy Scouts; support of Softball League; improvements for the city park; fire hall im-

provements; assistance for Vietnamese family; flags along Main Street for the Bi-Centennial; and they have assisted in various other activities for the welfare of the community.

Chief among fund-raising projects is their popcorn wagon. They have also sponsored donkey basketball games; novelty basketball games; softball; steak fry dinners and dances.

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### THE BUSY BEES

A group of ladies who were together one day in 1933 decided to meet again as a club. The next time they met each brought one other person, and Gladys Sundry suggested the name "Busy Bees." They did hand work and also brought their small children along, they were indeed busy. A collection of ten cents was gathered for a petty cash fund. From this meager beginning over the years, they have contributed to local activities such as swings for the city park, paid for making an ice skating rink by Satren's Bus Garage, complete with lights, and basketball hoops for practice and also contributed to other worth-while causes. After 47 years they still meet once a month for a social meeting. According to the word of a present member, they have always been a loose, but congenial, organization.

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### WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

A Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized in Wanamingo in 1928 at a meeting in the school auditorium. Mrs. J. A. Norstad and Mrs. Hanson, both of Red Wing, assisted in organizing this unit and explained the purpose of the unit. Twenty women signed the pledge cards. The following officers were elected to serve for one year: Mrs. R. Emerson, President; Mrs. J. Romness, Vice President; Mrs. O. J. Norby, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Oscar Flom, Recording Secretary; Miss Mina Loken, Treasurer. Some of the activities of the organization were: sponsoring cancer concern; clothing drives for Northern Minnesota; sponsoring public speakers on the perils of liquor; letters sent to Congressmen; children's poster contests; slides; lectures and literature for school age. This was a busy group of women concerned and doing good in different ways. The membership rose to 36, but the membership dwindled to 20 women, and some of them are not active any more. The last meeting was apparently the annual picnic in the Wanamingo Park in 1970.

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### TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

Wanamingo had a Temperance Society around 1909. An account of an annual meeting in 1913 gives a list of those elected to office as follows: Martin Tiller, President; J. A. Norstad, Vice President; Rosa Fordahl, Secretary; Oscar Thompson, Treasurer. The group met once a month in the first school building in town. The programs consisted of musical numbers, readings and usually a speech.

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### HELP THE HUNGRY

In 1974 a group in Wanamingo formed "Help The Hungry"

with Pastor Daniel Behnke as chairman. The other members of the committee were: Shirley Friese, Betty Malchow, Barb Davidson, Gwen Haugen, Pastor Coltvet, Mary Johnson, Barbi Smedsrud, and Ruth Currier of Zumbrota. In the fall they set up a booth at the Goodhue County Fair, where they distributed pamphlets sold Help The Hungry buttons, sold hand-made banners, and advertised their activities planned for the coming months. There were three main fund-raising and educational events that year; a hunger banquet (when 17¢ portions of rice, beans and buttered bread were served); two hunger walks where people of the community participated. These walks were backed by paying sponsors; also a basketball game; and some worked and turned over the pay for their work to the fund. The Rev. David Brown of the American Lutheran Church Task Force on World Hunger was a speaker at the banquet. In their first year, the committee helped to raise over \$4,000. In the following years they have raised an additional \$2,500. The following causes have received monetary gifts from Help The Hungry committee: Lutheran World Relief; Larry Ward's Food For the Hungry projects; Operation Bootstrap in Tanzania, a self-help program; Marie Sandvik Center in Minneapolis; and Mansueto Guavez, a Phillipine agriculturist. He was referred by Lloyd Johnson of Cherry Grove, a personal friend; support for Guatemala Relief.

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#### SENIOR CITIZENS

The first meeting of the Wanamingo Senior Citizens took place in January 1973 at Trinity Lutheran Church with 80 Senior Citizens attending. Meetings were held alternately at the Wanamingo Lutheran Church until May when an agreement with the City Council gave the Senior Citizens permission to meet in the council rooms at the firehall. Given this privilege, the Senior Citizens upheld their responsibility by purchasing the carpet and the inside equipment. Meetings were held on the first Thursday of each month; later changed to Friday, with pot-luck luncheons at 12 o'clock.

The first officers who presided for six months were: Kent Bergum, President; Herman Froyum, Vice President; Ingwalla Walstad, Secretary-Treasurer.

The organization received its funds from the Revenue Sharing Fund dispensed by the county. The members who represented the club on the County Board were: Kent Bergum, Herman Froyum, and Evelyn Johnson.

Tuesday evenings were used for card playing (namely rook) from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. with a coffee break at 9 o'clock. For a couple of years a group of the senior women met at the firehall twice a month during the winter. Their purpose was to bring together the women who were interested in arts and crafts. Favors were made by the group for Zumbrota Community Home and the Kenyon Sunset Home. Ideas and patterns were exchanged in hand-work, and naturally coffee was served.

Several short trips were taken, such as: to Diamond Jims, The Virginian, shopping tours to the Twin Cities, Ice Capades, Shrine Circus, Winona Fish House, Chart House, and a boat ride on the Mississippi. Belonging to the Senior Citizens' group entitled the members to join the County Tours, such as: The Guthrie Theatre, Chanhassen and the

Amana Colonies. The expenses were defrayed by the individuals themselves at reduced rates.

In the fall of 1977 the local Senior Citizens' group donated \$2,500, plus \$7,500 from a government grant to remodel and enlarge the municipal firehall building, as space was very limited for social activities.

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#### THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB

The Fortnightly Club was organized in 1924. Mrs. A. G. Severson was instrumental in stirring up interest in a study club. Officers were elected as follows: President, Mrs. Lillian Engstrom; Vice President, Mrs. A. G. Severson; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. R. Emerson. The other charter members were: Mrs. Martin Syverson, Mrs. Martin Halvorson, Mrs. Al Pederson, Mrs. Henry Halvorson, Mrs. Henry Helleckson, and Mrs. John Dale.

The club met every two weeks, hence was called "Fortnightly Club." The objects of the club, as provided in the constitution, received the following priorities: Intellectual advancement, social enjoyment, civic advancement, and help in civic affairs. Some of the accomplishments were: March of Dimes, school inoculations (requested by the school), a drive for new books for the school library, and members assisting to keep the library open to the public.

The club programs consisted of varied programs. Some of the studies were: government, banking, taxes, foreign affairs, bonds, Biblical books, and reviews. Also on the agenda were 'one-act plays,' debates and various public affairs; there were 'Teas' with a prominent speaker, and receptions for the school faculty.

Once a year the members entertained their husbands at a dinner party. Each year a trip was taken. Some of the places visited were: Convocation Hour at the University of Minnesota, radio stations, Star Tribune with Cedric Adams, General Mills, Bell Telephone Company. The highlights of one of the trips was the Mayo Clinic with 'tea' at the home of Doctor and Mrs. Charles Mayo.

During the war many activities were curtailed. In 1948-49 every other meeting was social. These social meetings became so popular that now all meetings are social.

Mrs. Lillian Engstrom and Mrs. Al Pederson are the two charter members remaining.

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#### JAYCEES

In 1972 a group of 22 young men organized the Jaycees in Wanamingo. The following officers were elected: Ron Haugen, President; Gary Alme, State Director; Ken Lee, Internal Vice President; Jim Kelm, United States Director, Southwest Region, Minnesota. The purpose of the organization is to render service to the community. They have provided recreation and sports for young men beyond high school; they have contributed a sum of money to the Red Wing Jaycees to be used toward the purchase of a gun to be used in Goodhue and Wabasha Counties in schools for periodic immunization. They rendered service in the preparation for the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976 in the

village. They have also shown interest in the proposed home for the retarded.

#### MRS. JAYCEES

A group of young women met late in 1976 with the interest of organizing a Mrs. Jaycees Unit in Wanamingo. They elected temporary officers, and proceeded to secure a charter. The charter has now been received, and the following officers elected: Sally Fredrickson, President; Diane Auseth, Vice-President; Marcia Hovey, State Delegate; Norma Alme, Treasurer; Marlene Syverson, Secretary. The concern of the organization is to improve the community; help the ill and handicapped, and to build a better world for our families and others around us. They have not operated very long, but have held a turkey raffle, and held a baby-sitting clinic.

#### WANAMINGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A group of 16 people met in the firehall in February 1973 and organized a Wanamingo Historical Society to stimulate interest in and preserve history of the town and surrounding area. At this first meeting Lewis Helleckson was temporary chairman. Officers elected were: Evelyn Johnson, President, and Sharon Swenson, Secretary-Treasurer. A board of directors, consisting of three persons besides the two officers, was elected later.

Some of the first activities were: getting a display cabinet, provided by the bank, where interesting pictures and artifacts could be displayed. Tours of interesting places were conducted, and a style show was held. This show became a 'trip into the past,' raiding attics and closets. Many old garments were modeled besides the current styles from two Zumbrota stores. Climaxing the style show was the appearance of Wayne Hjermsstad wearing Mons Baker's uniform of World War I. Other fund-raising efforts have been: sale of Wanamingo stationery and plaques, reprinting of the 1909 Goodhue History and the liberal donations from the four area townships, Minneola, Wanamingo, Cherry Grove, and Roscoe, toward the erection of the log house on Main Street. In 1974 a log house having been built in the early 1850's, was donated to the Society by Garvin Friese. This was the former Lars Larson's home; the house having been built by Lars Larson (Lawson) and his young son, Edward. The Green Thumb, under the watchful eye of Lewis Helleckson, dismantled the log cabin, which was once the home of the Larson family. The logs were numbered and hauled to town and the cabin built on Main Street. A large table and benches were made by Mr. Helleckson. The following year, 1975, a feature of the 4th of July celebration was the dedication of the log house. The program was held on the ground of the log house, with the Chatfield Brass Band giving a concert. Doctor Walter is a member of that band, as is former Wanamingo resident, Helen Opsahl Bickness. Ardella Larson Fossum, a great granddaughter of Lars Larson (Lawson), read the history of the pioneer family, written by Clara and Cindy Helleckson. Hostesses and members of the Society appeared in authentic clothing of early years.

During the Bicentennial Year, under the presidency of Laura Perrett, the Society carried out several activities. Old

pictures were gathered by Evelyn Johnson and Olga Steberg and made into slides, and several of the members were in the musical play "The Town Where I Was Born." Another project, started that year, was the gathering and writing a history of the Wanamingo area. A group of women have been faithfully at work on this venture. Credit should be given to Kent Bergum and Manton Voxland in asking for donations of money, and thanks to all those who responded liberally to this cause.

#### WANAMINGO BICENTENNIAL

Wanamingo officially became a Bicentennial Community December 16, 1975, when Lt. Governor Rudy Perpich came to town and presented a Bicentennial Flag to Mayor Joel Fredrickson. The ceremony took place in the auditorium of Wanamingo School. It was attended by students and others of the surrounding areas. The school band, directed by Wayne Morris, played, and Avonne Grove sang "Minnesota, Hail To Thee." The Bicentennial Flag flew from the Log



The Larson Log Cabin,  
restored on Main Street, 1975

House flag pole, directly underneath the American flag. Other signs of the Bicentennial around town consisted of a Harvestore flag, loaned through Ken Henderson. There were American flags for downtown light posts, official Bicentennial highway signs for approaches to the town.



The committees were organized early in 1976, when July 4, 1976 was set as the day for the City Bicentennial observance. Joel Fredrickson served as chairman. Avonne Grove took minutes at all the committee meetings.

A Syttende Mai Dance was a major effort in raising money for local Bicentennial activities. The newly-organized Jaycees sold Bicentennial souvenir buttons, and sponsored a contest to select a design.

In May tryouts were held for a local Bicentennial pageant. Sylvia Langworthy agreed to write the play and direct it. Assisting her on the Performing Arts Committee were Sue Berg and Jan Wolf. When the script had been outlined, the play was given the name "The Town Where I Was Born." Laura Perrett assisted as a program coordinator. She and Sylvia spent hours interviewing long-time residents, and also delved into Goodhue County history books and old issues of the Wanamingo Progress, selecting old pictures to be projected on the giant screen on the stage, and also gathering incidents of special local interest to feature in the play. A high light of the production was the local switchboard returned to Wanamingo for use during the Bicentennial. The switchboard is kept at the Zumbrota Covered Bridge Park Museum. The play revolved around the switchboard, where so much information about the town's history was collected.

Members of the cast, billed as the Wanamingo Community Players, included: Jan Wolf, Shirley Lund, Avonne Grove, Laura Perrett, Sandi Tiller, Norm Edwards, Sue Berg, Merry Christensen, Larry Grove, Arlene Olstad, Rahn Lund, Joyce Syverson, and Leanne Tangen. Rachel Coltvet was the accompanist, and Wayne Morris was director of the instrumentalists. The child-acting troupe included Elizabeth Coltvet, Garrett Ibsen, Erin Langworthy, Laurie Nelson, and Sheila Swarthout. Leanne and Don Tangen were featured as dancers. The play was presented the nights of July 3-4.

Other events for Bicentennial weekend, 1976, in Wanamingo were: Arts, Crafts and Flower Show at the Old Bank Building; outdoor worship service at City Park the morning of the 4th, with a joint choir directed by Arland Sundry; hot dogs and soft drinks on sale by Wanamingo Volunteer Firemen; open swimming at the pool; puppet shows; a huge parade at 2 p.m.; open house at the Log House; displays and refreshments at the firehall, sponsored by Senior Citizens and VFW Auxiliary; parachute jumping exhibitions; swim show and competition at the pool; games and contests led by the Jaycees at the softball blacktop; softball tournament; fireworks at dusk; and a street dance at the school blacktop.

Members of the Wanamingo Historical Society took an important role in the city celebration. They were at the Log House open house displaying a commemorative quilt, among other old items of much local interest. Clara Hellicksen spent the winter researching a project which listed all businesses which had been in operation on Main Street. Posters were displayed around town, identifying the location of these businesses. Sharon Swenson, Evelyn Johnson, and Olga Steberg, worked with the County Heritage Committee, and manned a booth at the County-wide Celebration July 25th. The weather was perfect for the Wanamingo July Bicentennial observance. It was a day to remember.

It was estimated that about 5,000 people attended events in town that day; "the largest crowd ever seen in Wanamingo."

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#### PRIVATE MUSIC INSTRUCTION & ENTERTAINMENT

Several music teachers have given private lessons to pupils in Wanamingo and surrounding areas. Some were local women who gave lessons in their homes, as: Mrs. Jenny Kolsum Tiller; Mrs. C.J. Carlson, and Mrs. Agnes Lunde. Others lived in the area and came to the homes of the pupils, or gave their recitals in Wanamingo by their students. Inga Baker of Kenyon came here on the morning train and taught piano, and returned home on the evening train. Later Gudrun Fossum and Ruth Erstad gave lessons in the homes of the pupils. Andrew Berg, as school orchestra and band leader, gave lessons to members of those groups.

Earl in the history of the village Andrew Berg started a "cornet band" for men of the village and surrounding area. The second floor of the Myron & Olson building was used as a hall where various entertainments were held. Adjoining school districts often gave programs there, and annual meetings of various organizations were also held in the hall. Magic Lantern Shows were held in the hall. The Magic Lantern was a forerunner of the silent movies. The Sons of Norway met. No records are available of those meetings and it is thought that the records burned with the building. After Wanamingo had a village hall the entertainments were held there, such as home-talent plays, school commencement exercises, roller skating, wrestling, and medicine shows. At those shows voting for the most popular girl was carried on. For each bottle of healing (?) medicine bought, votes were given to the girl of their choice. This was a good gag for selling their wares.

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#### THE NORSEMEN

This chorus is made up of men from the surrounding area of Wanamingo, Kenyon, Zumbrota, and West Concord. Part of this group was originally the United Male Chorus, later becoming the Community Male Chorus, formerly directed by Mrs. A. M. Thorson, and accompanied by Mrs. Arnold Flom. Mrs. Marlin Benrud is the present director, with Mrs. Norma Rostad as accompanist. At this time the name Norsemen became their title. Besides their annual appearance in Wanamingo, they have appeared in churches, Community Homes, and outdoor programs. In the fall of 1975 they traveled by bus to give a concert in the Mountain Lake Church in Mountain Lake. After the chorus had provided the program, they were guests at a dinner in the church. The extra proceeds of this chorus are always given to the Heart Fund.

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#### THE VILLAGERS

In early 1970 a group of adults from the Wanamingo and Zumbrota area organized a singing group, which later in the year adopted the name The Villagers.

The original singers were: Gaylen and Fran Hoven, Carrol Davidson, Ardel Revland, Val Haugen, Sue Edwards, Curtis Haller, Dale Mikkalson, Gwen Haugen, Arland Sundry, Shirley Lund, and Erling Baker. Later some changes

had to be made, but the majority of the original group are still the same ones. The accompanists who have assisted are: Miss Hanson, Mrs. Percuoco of the Wanamingo school faculty, Mrs. Benoy Romo, and Mrs. Norman Nerrison.

The Villagers, with a repertoire of secular, folk and sacred music, presented concerts in the vicinities of Wanamingo, Zumbrota, and Kenyon, and also in other localities, such as the Twin Cities, St. Charles, Blue Earth, and Briceyn. They did quite a bit of performing during the Bicentennial year - both in Wanamingo and at Zumbrota festivals. They have also assisted The Norsemen Singers at a number of their Fall Concerts.

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### ENTERTAINMENT

"Song of Norway," an operetta based on the life of Edvard Grieg, was presented in the Wanamingo Park on Aug. 22nd and 23rd, 1969. The music for this production is Edvard Grieg's; the lyrics and musical adaptation was by Robert Wright and George Forrest. The members of the cast were from the village and surrounding areas.

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### VISTA

VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is an arm of Action bureaus under HEW (Health, Education and Welfare) Department. It is the domestic equivalent of the Peace Corps, which seeks to serve the needs of the poor people in foreign countries. The United States has been divided into five sections where a volunteer can choose to serve. Assignments to any particular area depends upon what the volunteer was trained to do.

There can be many reasons for deciding to serve in VISTA. Many young people choose it when there seems to be no job opportunities open to them. It offers a chance to gain experience and at least a livelihood. Do not judge these volunteers harshly for the reason of service. The vast majority of them have served very well and found a great joy in serving others. Others have entered VISTA with an earnest desire to serve unfortunate brothers and sisters and have found themselves fulfilled. Still others, as I, in a different age bracket, have joined VISTA because they felt they still had something to offer the less fortunate and have found that they were blessed in their service. Once you have been accepted as a VISTA volunteer you are given a period of indoctrination. In my case, in 1972 I left for Austin, Texas for a 10-day training period. There had been a request for a volunteer in education in northeastern Arkansas, so I was assigned to that area and sent for further training and instruction with other Arkansas volunteers to Little Rock, Ark., for four days. Then I went to Pochantas, Ark., where my headquarters were at the Black River Area Development, the sponsoring agency I worked in three-county area with Head Start and Day Care centers. I supervised programs and acted as a consultant to the teachers. I also set up a new Day Care Center at Piggott, Ark., and worked in it until it was running smoothly. As you worked with these disadvantaged people you dealt with problems of insufficient food and clothing, illiteracy and

hopelessness. Whatever the problems I found and was able to deal with gave me an immense satisfaction. To me it was a satisfying year well spent.

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### WANAMINGO FIRES

The Myron & Olson building burned after a few years of serving the village, but was rebuilt again.

In 1918 the building, which had served as a harness and shoe repair shop, and home for the Brisance family, burned. At the time it burned, it was owned by Charlie Zane.

Richard Tiller's livery barn was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt again.

The livery barn, owned by Wallaker and Torgerson, was destroyed by fire in 1920, and was never rebuilt again as a barn, but a blacksmith shop was built there and it is still used for that purpose.

The office at the stock yard burned. That was not rebuilt.

The Farmers Elevator burned. The loss of that was estimated at \$50,000. It was well covered by insurance, and a new elevator was immediately erected.

In 1942 The Farmers' Lumber Yard, the garage, now owned by Curtis Haller, and the Romness Cafe, burned. These buildings were replaced, and are being used for the same purposes.

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### LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF WANAMINGO

Cora Heller Swee has lived continuously the longest time of anyone as a citizen of the City of Wanamingo. She came here in 1903 at the age of 15 years, and operated the Wastedo Telephone switchboard for four years before she married Martin Swee. The switchboard was located in the rear of the drug store. The telephone was not new to Cora as her grandfather, Anders Haller, around the turn of the century had a 'private' line between his home and that of his two sons, Ole, Cora's father, and his other son, Andrew. The instrument, if it could be called that, was simple, consisting of a wire between the places, and each home had a small box on a wall in one room in the house. This box was wrapped with leather, and had either a copper penny or a button completing the mechanism. One party would pound on the box, and that was heard in the other home, and that summoned a person, or the whole family, to listen, and speak if so desired. In the mornings Grandpa Haller would pound on his box in his home. As soon as the others gave a signal that they were listening, Grandpa would conduct a devotion and sing a hymn.

The Romo Brothers, Ludvig and Jens, also worked out such a telephone connection with some of their neighbors. This system required no operator, there was no crank to turn, no bell would ring at the other end, to say nothing of a dial system, no long system calls, but it served a purpose. Perhaps others in the area had similar telephone arrangements, and remember such telephones in their homes. Several of our present Wanamingo residents remember those telephones in their homes. Could it be that the owners of the 'private' telephones had heard of the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone in 1875?

## TRAIN WRECKS

In 1868 three cars of a Milwaukee Road freight train were derailed two miles east of Wanamingo one morning. The high water in the nearby Zumbro River, which was over its banks due to recent rains, had weakened the track bed. The diesel engine and one car made it over the soft section of the track before derailment occurred. Behind the three derailed cars were four cars and the caboose. The derailed cars contained pool tables, butter and powdered milk, but there were no injuries. Farther on, west of the derailment, the track was washed out 6 inches to 2 feet deep, a distance of 400 feet. Workmen worked two days on the track so that a work train could bring in gravel to fill the washouts and right the derailed cars. A few years later a Milwaukee Road freight train, consisting of an engine, two cars and a caboose, derailed inside the city limits on the track between the Wanamingo Elevator and the Locker Plant. It was caused by soft ground and heavily loaded cars. This did not cause much monetary damage.

## THE NORTH BRANCH ZUMBRO RIVER

The North Branch of the Zumbro River supplied water power for the flour mill, and was a place for the cheese factory and creamery to drain its rinse and wash water. Fish was abundant and often people were found on its banks fishing. During the winter ice on the dam was sawed into blocks and hauled to ice houses where the ice was packed in sawdust. The ice was used in the summer for refrigeration. Some farmers and places of business, such as the meat markets, had their own ice houses in the rear of their buildings. At times it was possible to row on the river, and in winter to skate on the ice. The river also brought tragedies, and a number of drownings occurred. Gunnar Rolfseng drowned, leaving a wife and infant daughter. Peter Strand Sletten, who had made his home with the Slettens since a very early age, drowned in the Dvergedahl Creek. A tragedy happened due to the drowning of Mr. Vangestad of Cherry Grove, who had spent a part of a day at the R. Chrislock farm north of the river, near Wanamingo. Rain came in torrents. When the rain was over he attempted to drive home. Upon approaching the narrow bridge the horses became unmanageable and went too far out on the east side, tipping the waggon. The horses managed to swim ashore and went home, but Mr. Vangestad drowned, and his body disappeared down stream. The bridge two miles east of Wanamingo was washed away. Several days later Halvor Loken was crossing the river on the bridge rafters, when something like clothing, entangled under the rafters, caught his eye. He investigated and finally managed to loosen the body and pull it ashore. News did not travel fast those days and he knew nothing of the drowning, nor could he recognize the body. This was in the summer of 1888, and rainfall was heavy that summer, causing the river to overflow its banks many times. Heavy rain came again, and if Mr. Loken had not secured the body with a rope, it would have floated away as the river rose again. The next day the body was claimed and burial rites were held. Many years later, two cousins, Joseph Swenson and Oscar Ronningen, drowned in

the Dvergedahl Creek. Another drowning was that of Knute Ronningen, a bachelor who lived north of the river. During the iceflow and swollen river of 1938, he was last seen standing beside the bridge watching the iceflow and possibly slipped and fell in. Search for the body was hampered by the overflow, and his remains were not found before the following year, about two miles downstream east of town.

A wayfarer to Wanamingo village was burned to death in 1929 in a fire that totally destroyed the old office building at the Wanamingo Stockyards. A mere remnant of the body was found. By this time the office building was seldom used, as most stock was sent to South St. Paul by truck. Ted Trygstad and Rudy Simonson saw the fire and spread the alarm. However, the watchman would not immediately let the fire fighting equipment out, which was a chemical truck with a hose cart. The night watchman believed it was just a Halloween prank. However, the delay did not cause the death as it was believed that he suffocated from smoke. Mike Collins had been in town several days and had asked for money from business places. Hoboes often used the place without permission, spreading straw and hay on the floor for a bed. He had also picked up coal along the tracks. Sparks from the stove no doubt ignited the straw. Hank Miller, an itinerant junk peddler, was often his traveling companion. He had left town on the afternoon train that day. A. C. Larson, the coroner, took the remains and had suitable burial after it was established that it was Collins who had been seen there.

## WANAMINGO THROUGH THE YEARS

1902 - - The mill, creamery and Sletten Store were here and became part of the village when The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway was being built, with direct route between Faribault and Wabasha. The men who did the work in preparation for the coming railroad were foreigners, including Italians who did not speak nor understand English. They used pickaxes and hand shovels, loading the dirt into carts. Some of the laborers camped, moving their camps as they proceeded with the work. Others lived in boxcars and cooked outside. There are a number of people living in Wanamingo and community who, as youngsters, recall watching this miracle happen - - a railroad would mean that a new town would soon spring up.

1903 - - The village was platted. There were a number of buildings being erected though the railroad was not completed. A drug store, a restaurant, lumber yards, telephone service, hardware store, and people had homes erected and moved in. There was much excitement in regard to the new town being built. Much of the lumber was hauled in by horses and wagons from Zumbrota for the first buildings in town.

1904 - - The first trains came through Wanamingo, two trains going east, and two going west each day. Connections could be made for the Twin Cities at Faribault, and connections for points east at Wabasha. Trains were also adequate for freight in and out of Wanamingo. The Farmers' State Bank was organized, and Myron & Olson of Zumbrota opened a hardware store.

1905 - - Many new residences were built during the year.

**The Farmers' Elevator was organized.**

1906 - - Wanamingo had a 'cornet band' with Andrew Berg as director. The band consisted of men from the village and surrounding area.

1907 - - A large frame building, to be used as a school, was started.

1908 - - The school building was completed and school was started in Wanamingo in January with Inga Lund as the only teacher. Children who had attended country schools were transferred to their local school in the village. Before the village was incorporated there were only self-appointed law officers. Later it was necessary to select a peace committee. Paul Jacobson opened a meat market in town. Adolph and Martin Syverson opened a hardware and implement business, and Oscar Simonson opened a barber shop.

1909 - - The first edition of a newspaper was published in Wanamingo. Edward Ordalen was the publisher of the Wanamingo Progress. He started his work in a small frame building on the west side of Main Street.

1910 - - Several ski enthusiasts of Wanamingo went to Red Wing by train from Zumbrota to see the National Ski Tournament. Halley's Comet was seen during the latter part of April. A number of farmers delayed their spring planting until after the disappearance of the comet as it was claimed by some scientists that the world would come to an end, or some major change would take place. The first garage in the village was started by Anton Kolsum and Martin Swee.

1911 - - The Barr Clay Office opened an office in the small frame building on Main Street. Bowling was very popular in Wanamingo at this time.

1912 - - The new Wanamingo Lutheran Church was dedicated. The Northern States Power Company brought their electric line to town. This was placed along the railroad track. Some young men hauled three logs at the time by horses from Zumbrota, doing this in the morning before the farm work started.

1913 - - A federation was formed to establish a hall where general meetings could be held. There was considerable interest in incorporating the village. A committee was chosen to investigate adequate fire protection. Cord wood for heating was advertised in the newspaper. This was usually sawed into stove lengths. The second Goodhue County 8th grade graduation was held in the Olness grove with 185 graduates. It was an all-day affair with a program of songs, recitations, and music by the Zumbrota band, and an address by a professor from the Fergus Falls Agricultural College. Picnic dinner was enjoyed at noon followed by races and a baseball game. It was estimated that 5,000 people attended. Wrestling matches were held in a bowery on Main Street, located where Haller's Garage is at present. Martin Helling was the star wrestler and promoted wrestling among the young men of the village and area. The first market day was held in the village in the fall.

1914 - - An Opera House came into being, owned by men of the village. Four shows a week were offered to the public. A special election was held for the purpose of incorporating the village, but the actual incorporation did not take place until a few years later.

1915 - - A Wanamingo Commercial Club was organized, with C. D. Olson as president. At first only a few men showed up, but the organization grew rapidly, and after a short time a banquet was held in the village hall. C. H. Chrislock was the

speaker. His topic was 'Women's Sufferage.' The banquet was catered by B. M. Ree. A second-hand surrey in good condition, was advertised for sale by Swee & E. Olstad. There was sign of much business in the village one certain morning at 10 o'clock when there were 39 rigs on Main Street (team of horses) exclusive of a few automobiles. Electric lights were installed in most business places, and in many residences, usually one small light bulb in the ceiling of each room. Ice cutting was done on the Zumbro River by C. R. Tiller. A six-day chautauqua was held in the village during the summer. Hair cuts were raised from 25¢ to 35¢, due to high cost of living. The first Lyceum entertainment was given in the village hall. Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Haugen enjoyed a motor ride to Hader one day, according to the Wanamingo Progress. Mrs. Haugen always carried her knitting with her, in case of car trouble. If the trouble came she sat down along the road with her knitting until the car was in running order again. A three-day convention of the Minnesota Total Abstinence Association was held in Wanamingo. One prominent speaker was R. H. Stub, President of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

1916 - - There was considerable interest in consolidation of schools in the community. Articles to that effect were written and published by L. J. Gjemse. He pointed out the advantages of consolidation. Martin Tiller secured the agency for Dodge cars. Oscar Simonson, a pioneer barber, sold his building on Main Street to Edward Glestad. Mr. Simonson had, besides his barber business, sold jewelry, cut glass, silver table ware and notions. He still continued his barber business in the north part of the building, while Mr. Glestad used the south part of the building for a harness shop. Bread was increased to 6¢ per loaf at the three Wanamingo Restaurants. The Barr Clay Brick & Tile Factory was sold to Colburn, the purchase price being \$40,000. The office in the village had been closed, its activities at the plant are a thing of the past. The history of this plant so far makes interesting reading, and the efforts of the officers to make it a paying proposition were costly to themselves as well as the other stockholders, who collectively dropped something like \$300,000 in the venture, under the management of the officers of the Barr Clay Products Company, its incorporators.

1918 - - Elling Albertson, age 84 years, died. He was the only Civil War Veteran who had lived in the village of Wanamingo. He was born in Norway, and came to America at the age of 13 years. In 1862 he enlisted in Company H. Minnesota, and served three years and seven months in the army, taking part in 13 battles. J. A. Norstad was elected Clerk of Court for Goodhue County. He had been a merchant in Wanamingo since 1904. All youngsters under 16 years of age were notified by the curfew bell at the telephone central that they were to go home. They were to be off the streets by 10 o'clock. This same bell also notified the people of the village that it was time to eat their noon meat at 12 o'clock. Romness Bros. sold the corner part of their store to the new Security State Bank. L. M. Larson purchased the north part of the drug store, and that part of the building again became a drug store with Selma Larson as the pharmacist. In the fall, the village was hit by the flu epidemic. Schools were closed and there was a ban on all public gatherings.

1919 - - The village received the White Way lightning on Main Street. A drive was put on in the village for clothing to

be sent to Europe for distribution for needy people. Thomas Nelson opened an auto tire repair shop in the south part of the Simonson Barber Shop building. The armistice was signed at Versailles, which closed World War I. Soldiers were returning home in great numbers. Armistice Day, November 11th, became a legal holiday. Wanamingo put on a celebration with a patriotic program. The electric carpet sweeper, or vacuum cleaner, was advertised in the Wanamingo Progress as something new. It was described as extracting all dirt, clear to the floor, and did its work without injuring the floor.

1920 - - This was an important year for all women of legal age as they had their first right to vote in all elections of our government. A new brick school building was erected. The first census was taken in Wanamingo, and was reported to be 350 people.

1921 - - New iron hitching posts were placed in the concrete gutters in front of a number of business places in town. Armistice Day was celebrated with a parade on Nov. 11 th. Free dinner was served to the Veterans. There was a patriotic program at 11 o'clock, given in the village hall. There was a drop of 2 cents a gallon for gasoline announced by the Standard oil Co., bringing the price to 27 cents.

1922 - - Martin Tiller resigned as clerk of the council. Halbert Loken was appointed to take the office as clerk. A rural mail delivery route was established with Clarence Perrett as the carrier. There was a Goodhue County Farm Bureau picnic held in the A. A. Steberg pasture, which was attended by a crowd estimated at 6,000 people. The Wanamingo School Orchestra, under the leadership of Andrew Berg, took part in the program. There were speakers and musical numbers. Refreshment stands, manned by the V.F.W. Post, and the Wanamingo Cornet Band, were all sold out long before the day was over. Wanamingo was popular with traveling salesmen. Nine salesmen get off the train one afternoon.

1923 - - Radio interest was sweeping the country. Many of the people in the area purchased radios, and enjoyed them greatly. The Farm Bureau held a meeting here. A debate was part of the program. The question for debate was: "Should a tax be imposed on bachelors?" Affirmative side: C. H. Chrislock and A. O. Naeseth; Negative, E. E. Severeid and Dr. L. G. Mack (the last two were single men). The judges gave their decision in favor of the negative. Before the city had water and sewer, there was a public well north of the Farmers' State Bank, where part of the street is now. When the street was widened, the site of the public pump and well was no more. Each business or resident could come there for water, but many of the residents had their own pumps, or a neighbor had one. It was very "necessary and convenient" for the young fry to get a drink there, but not all water pumped by them reached the mouth. It was an interesting place for some water fights. The last Chatauqua was held on the school ground, due to the lack of interest by the public. Fire destroyed the Charlie Zane & Oscar Simonson building. There was no adequate fire protection at that time. The Ladies' Auxiliary of Quamme Post #186 was organized in May with 10 members. Many "Tronders" from Wanamingo and vicinity spent time at the two-day "Tronderlag" in Zumbrota. Edw. G. Hammer was chairman for the meetings.

1924 - - Snowplows were used on the Faribault-Wabasha line of the railroad almost daily for a week in February. Logs were being sawed into lumber on the A. A. Steberg property just north of the village. Sirloin, round and pork steak sold for 20¢ per pound; shortribs at 12¢; spareribs at 16¢; beef roast at 13¢; bologna at 10¢ a ring, or 3 rings for 25¢; flour, \$1.49 for 49 pounds. Romness store closed their line of women's and children's shoes, but continued to sell men's shoes. A horse-shoe association was formed in the village, and horseshoe pitching was very popular. A book was issued by the Goodhue County Farm Bureau where the statement was made that Wanamingo had more cooperative-owned enterprises successfully run than any other town in Minnesota, and the following list is given: bank, creamery, elevator, general store, insurance company, lumber yard, oil company, shipping association, and telephone company.

1925 - - City water works system was voted in by the council and the residents of the village looked forward to getting their water supply from a tap instead of from a pump. The water works also was a security against fire. The first airplane landed in Wanamingo in A. A. Steberg's pasture. Five loads of people had 10-minute rides at \$2 apiece. President Coolidge visited Minnesota and spoke before the grandstand at the State Fair. Many people from this vicinity heard him. There was a hearing before the Railroad Commission in regard to discontinuance of passenger service through Wanamingo.

1926 - - Material for a new water tower arrived and a concrete foundation was laid for the 117-ft. to hold the tank above the municipal well. Buena Vista Manor opened by A. A. Steberg, with lots for sale.

1927 - - Fishing licenses were required for fishing in all lakes and rivers in Minnesota. A freeze-up in the village water tank during the present cold spell was loosened after a line of steam from Lars Ronningen's steam engine had been steadily poured into the upper portion of the tank for a considerable length of time. Lars Strand was the engineer. Milk was delivered to homes at 11¢ per quart by Oscar Moen. Trinity Lutheran Church was dedicated. Prices of Ford cars were from \$385 - - \$570. The Wanamingo Cement Company started by Joseph Rude, was dissolved after the death of Mr. Rude.

1928 - - Passenger train service on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway was limited to one daily train going east in the evening, which brought mail. For service going west there was one passenger and one mixed train three days a week, alternating the two. The weekly newspaper published radio programs for the week. Trucks replaced teams of horses and wagons to maintain highways. The council voted to levy a tax to the amount of \$400 to support the village band. Water Works System for Wanamingo Village was voted in at a special election. This secured added protection for homes and business places against fire, and supply every home with inexhaustible supply of pure water.

1929 - - About 15 of the village men spent the afternoon of Washington's birthday in shoveling a parthway for cars from the village to Hader. They succeeded in opening the road so cars could get through if they had good chains and plenty of speed. The Jefferson Buses came through Wanamingo on their route between Minneapolis and Rochester. There were two buses each way, morning and evening. This was on a trial basis. A new currency about one-third the size smaller than

at 6 p.m. Arthur Mostad was hired by the village as operator of the water treatment plant. He is also weed inspector and local defense director. The population in Wanamingo in 1960 was 540.

1961 - - Maynard Romness purchased the Oscar Flom garage. A postage vending machine was installed in the local post office. A TV clinic was opened by Roger Ekstrom and Larry Truax.

1965 - - Alfred and Ione Pederson opened a hobby shop in one of the Syverson's small buildings on Main Street. A Federal aid grant was allowed for a sewage disposal plant. In March there was heavy damage to the telephone lines due to a combination electric-sleet storm. Land was purchased for treatment disposal of sewage. Somkeng Laungphinth of Laos was an Exchange Student in the Wanamingo high school for two years, and graduated with the class of 1966. He lived with the Anthony Haugen family, and while in Wanamingo he used the name "Bill Haugen." The first Medicare was available for senior citizens. Personal property tax was abolished.

1967 - - Dr. Wm. Morgan, D.D.S., came to Wanamingo and started practice. In appreciation of having a dentist in town again, and one who could do oral dental surgery, the Commercial Club held open house for him. Syverson Hardware and Implement Company erected a new building.

1968 - - Bonds were issued for water and sewage disposal plant, and the plant was completed. There was an ordinance by the council to regulate the operation of snowmobiles. Snowmobile races scheduled to be held on the Wanamingo Ski Club hill were instead held at Lake Bylesby near Cannon Falls. The two pair of skis, given by the local club, were won by Oscar Haller and Vernon Hanson. For Oscar at 75 years old . . . not bad.

1970 - - Inga Lund Olson, the first teacher in the village, died. Wanamingo said goodbye to the railroad station, which had closed a year earlier. The depot, which had served the people of the community for 66 years, was moved to the Holden Church Park. The question whether or not the village should operate a municipal liquor dispensary was voted down by 181 against and 150 for. The former telephone company office building, which for some years had been used for a voting place, was acquired by the village for the purpose of housing the fire department equipment. Ambulance service became available from James Lohman of Zumbrota. The population in Wanamingo in 1970 was 574.

1971 - - The city bought the property owned by Maurice Island, which had been used as a garage and repair shop, now to be used to house the fire equipment. The Hillcrest Manor Mobile Home Park was started east of the school building by Ed and James Axelson.

1972 - - The Security State Bank erected a new and larger building. They purchased the corner lots where Myron & Olson had a building erected in 1903, and also two small buildings where Oscar Bakko had a plumbing shop and Emil Jellum a jewelry store. When the new modern bank building was completed the bank held open house. The city council sponsored summer band concerts and recreation.

1973 - - Senior Citizens met at Trinity Church for their first meeting. The Historical Society was organized with 18

people present. Curbing and gutters were constructed throughout the city.

1975 - - Eighteen local ALC congregations celebrated the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sloop Restoration, which began the immigration of Norwegians to this part of the U.S.A. Herman Froyum was named the County Senior Citizen of the Year at a meeting in Zumbrota. Lt. Governor Rudy Perpich came to town one afternoon and officially announced that Wanamingo had been designated a Bicentennial Community by the Bicentennial Administration. The Lt. Governor presented Mayor Joel Fredrickson with a framed certificate of official recognition and the Bicentennial Flag, which flies in the cities so designated. The ceremony took place in the school auditorium and was attended by school children and others interested. The swimming pool was opened near the school. The Edward Larson log house was rebuilt in town and was dedicated. Lewis Helleckson supervised the moving of the logs and the construction of the cabin on Main Street. The Tran Van Lan family, consisting of 11 members, came to Wanamingo from Vietnam.

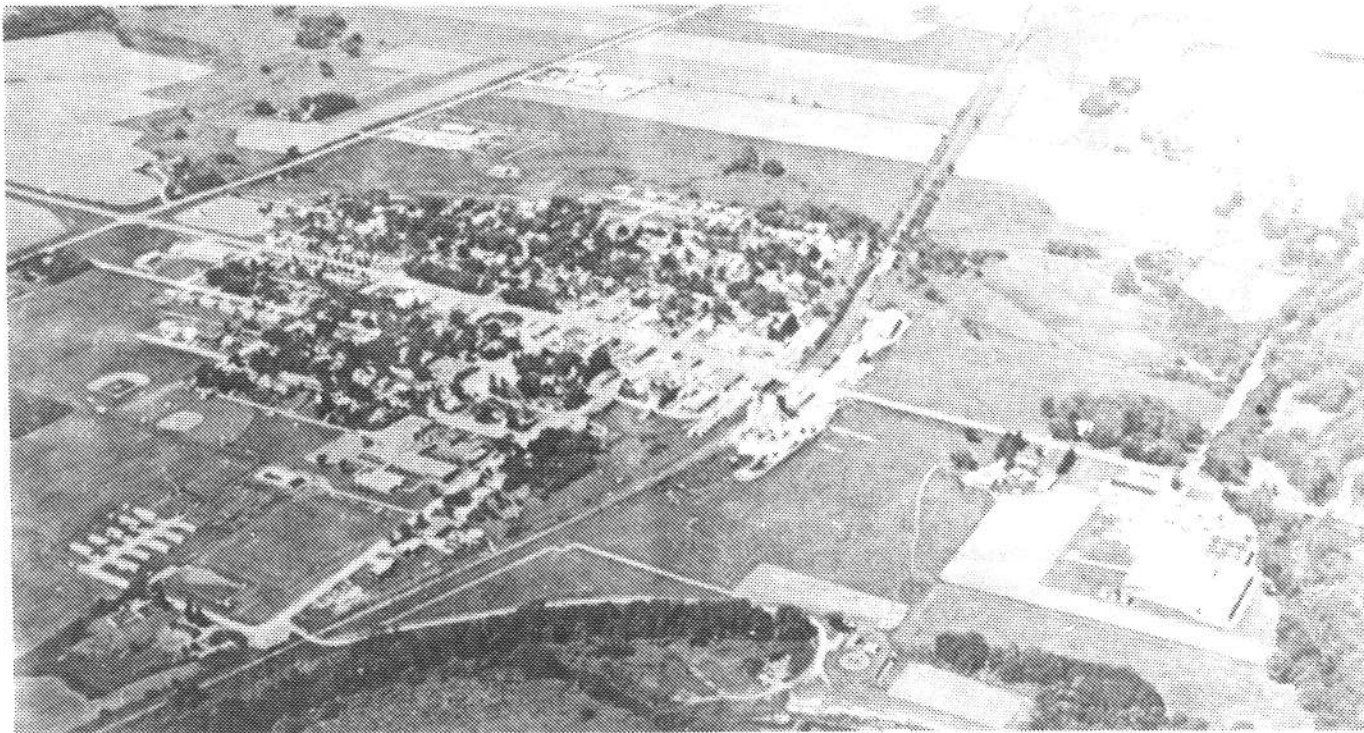
1976 - - Wanamingo received street signs. A Swine Flu Clinic was conducted at the fire hall, while Senior Citizens were requested to go to their local doctors for shots. Again, Wanamingo was true to tradition and on the liquor question voting more than 2 to 1 against a petition to sell hard liquor. Lyle Wulf purchased the Quamingo Roller Rink from Mrs. David Quam. In spite of the dry summer, and many places suffering draughts, the Wanamingo Elevator received so much corn that the elevator was full to the brim, and trucks waited to unload. About 50,000 bushels of corn had to be placed on the ground temporarily.

1977 - - Wanamingo has lost many of its beautiful Elm trees due to the Dutch Elm Disease, and many boulevards look very bleak. The Wanamingo Mutual Fire Insurance Company celebrated its centennial when its annual meeting was held in the school auditorium. The 4th of July was celebrated again this year with a parade, races and contests at the swimming pool. The School Band gave an outdoor concert, fireworks were displayed, refreshments served and a street dance was held. The fire hall is being enlarged to accommodate larger groups as the Senior Citizens and many other gatherings. Work on the municipal building is being financed for the most part by the Federal Government. A housing complex was completed during the fall. The seven-apartment building is owned and maintained by Ed Axelson, and is located in the southwest part of Wanamingo. The Riverview Manor in the northwest part of Wanamingo is being constructed. This building will provide housing for the mentally handicapped. A new building has appeared on Main Street between the Progress Office and the Magic Mirror. This is a steel building, owned by Joel Bjorngaard, and is to be used for offices. About ten residences have been built in the extreme east part of town since 1975, which indicates that a good deal of building has been going on of late. It is not so many years since the new section of the city of Wanamingo had business places started out southwest on Highway 60, and the three places out there are Hermann Implement, Minnesota Farm Buildings, and the

L.P. Plant. These are all mentioned elsewhere.

It may be noted that sometimes Wanamingo is referred to as a village most times; some times as a town, and later as a

city. We were considered a village to begin with, but can now be called a city according to the reports from the county. This change came about in the mid 70's.



Wanamingo, looking southwest

#### SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

1908 - - First elementary school building erected in the Village of Wanamingo with the school opening in January with Inga Lund as the first teacher.

1917 - - One year of high school education offered in the village hall.

1919 - - Construction began on the new brick school building.

1924 - - The first High School graduation was held.

1925 - - The new school auditorium was completed and in use for various programs and basketball games.

1926 - - First Boy Scout Troop organized under the leadership of Supt. F. Kuehn and Olaf Naeseth.

1934 - - One class room more was made available.

1941 - - Construction was begun for a new gymnasium and class room, built by the W. P. A. This gymnasium replaced the smaller one, and was dedicated when finished.

1943 - - First school annual was issued.

1945 - - Band Parent Club was organized. Land was donated for an athletic field by the Quamme Post No. 186.

1947 - - Hot noon lunch program was started, meals as low as 11¢-15¢ per meal, depending on when paid.

1948 - - Home Economics addition added to the school. First Homecoming Parade. Consolidation of the country

schools began.

1953 - - Consolidation of the country schools was completed. Several of the rural teachers began teaching in the Wanamingo Public School. Bus transportation for rural students began, established by the school district and served the entire High School area of Wanamingo. There were only two school buses, one 42-passenger and the other, 48-passenger. Buses owned and operated by Lyle Hogstad.

1955 - - The Band Parents Club was dissolved, and the Wanamingo P.T.A. was organized.

1960 - - A new grade addition for grades 1-3, and music, and shop and agriculture room were completed.

1966 - - Another addition was added to the building to accommodate grades 4-6, and a principal's office was completed. The first school patrol was established on Main Street, James Meyer in charge. The local National Honor Society was organized.

1970 - - The Wanamingo School Band was featured on WCCO TV.

1971 - - A Flea Market netted \$439 and a Band Blazer Dinner was held for Band Blazers.

1971 - - The first year-round kindergarten for half days was offered.

1972 - - Head Start program began.

## THE WANAMINGO SCHOOL

In the early days of the village of Wanamingo, there was no school in the village. Most of the children attended school at Old Wanamingo, about one mile west of the village. Miss Louise Mark had already taught that school for a number of years. She had a salary of \$35.00 a month. The enrollment of 60 pupils ranged in age from six years old to grown men.

During the winter months several men attended the public school in order to learn the English language. These men were immigrants from European countries, mostly from Norway. All the children walked to school, sometimes great distances. They carried a noon lunch of buttered bread with maybe a slice of salt pork as a filling. The lunch pail was a tin pail that had contained syrup, hence called syrup pails. These were left in the entry where the food often froze by noon. Water was carried from a nearby home and everyone drank out of the same dipper. Consequently, communicable diseases spread throughout the enrollment quickly.

The first elementary school in Wanamingo was a large frame building which was started in 1907. It was completed for the school term beginning in January 1908, with Miss Inga Lund as the teacher. This school was known as Rural District No. 165, with an enrollment of about 40 pupils. As the enrollment grew it became necessary to finish the upstairs and two more teachers were hired. The school was responsible to the County Superintendent of Schools. At this time certificates were issued to the 8th graders by the county. The school building was also used for Sunday School, afternoon church services by area pastors, and by the Temperance Society for their monthly programs. For the school term 1919-1920, the faculty was increased to three teachers with the downstairs room being made into two rooms. This was the last year this building was used. Martin Swee purchased the building and moved and remodeled it into a house.

In 1917-18, one year high school was started using the Village Hall as a facility. The following students were members of this class: Martha Halvorson, Sigrid Haugen, Bertha Johnson, Jacob Olness, Minora Ostgaarden, Julia Ottem, Agnes Rislov, Elizabeth Rislov, Martin Rislov, Gitta Romo, Harry Romo, Leonard Trygstad, Louise Trygstad. Miss Maybelle Hoyt was the teacher. The following subjects were taught: Algebra, English, History, Latin and Sewing for the girls. This class also gave a play including all the students. The class discontinued after one year due to insufficient room.

In 1919 a new brick building was begun and completed in time for the opening of school in 1920. The new building, housed the elementary classes and also contained facilities for a one year high school course taught by Miss Mae Kohn. During the next three years, one more year of high school was added each year, so by 1924, a high school graduation was held. This building is today part of the present school structure.

## SCHOOL FACULTY

Inga Lund, 1907-08; Nina Farwell, 1908-09; Olive Ringdahl, 1909-13, 1918-21; Mabel Hanson, 1911-12; Josie Hanson, 1912-14; Emily Nerhaugen, 1913-14; Pearl Anderson,

1914-17; Hannah Jorstad, 1914-15; Selma Sampson, 1915-18; Maybelle Hoyt, 1917-18; Selma Fraas, 1918-19, 1920-21; Valborg Nydahl, 1919-22; Olga Loken, 1919-22; Mae Kohn, 1920-21; J. A. Belsheim, Supt., 1921-22; Esther Haugen, 1921-22.

A. G. Severson, Supt., 1922-25; Francis Christian, 1922-23; Marion Weiss, 1922-23; Edna Gercken, 1922-24; Mildred Johnson, 1922-23; Ethel Daily, 1922-23; Emily Peterson, 1922-23.

Marie Ugland, 1923-25; Ethel Strom, 1923-24; Mildred Denison, 1923-24; Lila Bartel, 1923-26; Gladys Mandel, 1923-24.

Carmen Wold, 1924-25; Delpha Kahl, 1924-27; Bernice Rost, 1924-26; Ione Homme, 1924-26.

Frank Kuehn, Supt., 1925-28; Vesta Christianson, 1925-26; Anna Regner, 1925-26.

Novia Larson, 1926-27; Sylvia Jensen, 1926-28; Florence Karleen, 1926-27; Amanda Langemo, 1926-28; Haven Andrist, 1926-27; Agnes Bjugstad Sevareid, 1927-29; Myrtle Anderson, 1927-29; Ruth Kolbe, 1927-29; Louise Johnson, 1927-28; Violet Gilbertson, 1928-31; Valfrid Hegge, 1928-30; Norine Breck, 1928-31; Mildred Ringstad, 1929-30; Viola Solsem, 1929-30; E. R. Johnson, 1929-30; Katherine Johnson, 1930-31; Ida Tollehaug, 1930-35; Rhoda Ross, 1930-37.

Clifford Sather, 1931-32; Mildred Ellingson, 1931-37; Myrtle Voxland, 1931-36; Ruth Enger, 1931-32; Elmer Nelson, 1931-35; Leonore Jacobson, 1932-35; A. I. Langehough, Supt., 1935-43; Ted Midtaune, 1935-43, Supt., 1943-46; Trvøna Sevareid, 1935-40; Edna Berg, 1935-39; David Koefod, 1936-41; Helana Sandahl 1937-40; Jeanette Ringstad, 1937-40; Solveig Kaasa, 1938-39.

Helen Burroughs, 1939-41; Marion Iverson, 1939-40; Cora Walen, 1940-41; Sybil Anderson, 1940-42; June Kompelien, 1940-42; Mary Navsk Satren, 1940-46; Hulda Schroeder, 1941-42; Marydele Maynard, 1941-42; Irene Nesseth, 1941-43.

Margaret Emerson, 1942-43; Kathryn Johnson, 1942-43; Ruth Schmidt, 1942-43; Wilma Peterson, 1942-43; Chester Barry, 1943-45; Geraldine Koch, 1943-45; Katherine Moran, 1943-63, 1964-65, 1966-70; Gretha Halvorson, 1943-47; Edna Kastner, 1943-44; Wilma Peterson, 1944-45; Mabel Nelson, 1944-46; Joyce Evans, 1945-47; Lorraine Brisance, 1945-47; Irene Hagen, 1945-47; Alvin Hilde, 1945-46.

C. O. Ranheim, Supt., 1946-47; Lester Hoven, 1946-47; Marcelle Storm, 1946-47; Coral Kelly, 1946-50.

Grant Johnson, Supt. 1947-48; Alf Larson, 1947-50; Ethel Carlson Haugen, 1947-49, 1960-66; Eleanor Gerdes, 1947-48; Oral Larson, 1947-50; Thora Larson, 1947-48; Jerome Marsolek, 1947-53; Robert Schuh, 1947-48; W. K. Nosek, Supt. 1948-53; Eva Ohr, 1948-49, 1965-66; Edna Rossi 1948-74; Wayne Gilleland, 1948-52; Shirley Persons, 1948-53; Adeline Boraas, 1949-50.

Jennie Brekke, 1950-64; Betty Johnson, 1950-51; Verna Black, 1950-51; Marie Delaitsch, 1950-51; Phyllis DePeu, 1950-51.

Jan Herbert, 1921-52; Grace Nelson, 1951-52; Evelyn Pederson Kyllo, 1951-54; Norma Hilden, 1921-52; Merle Maher, 1951-56; Marjorie Duschek, 1952-54; Robert Sershen, 1952-54; Margaret Denzine, 1952-54; Selmer Braaten, 1953-58; Florian Savelkoul, 1953-57; Lydia Pretzer, 1953-68; Nina Biorn, 1953-55; Ingwalla Walstad, 1953-70; Richard Peterson,

1953-56; Nancy Swanson, 1953-54; Warren Wheaton, 1953-57; Ardelle Pearson, 1954-55; Anne Krussow, 1954-59; Ruby Langseth (homebound) 1954-66; Gayle Wolfe, 1954-55; Freida Mindrum, 1954-55; Patricia Santleman, 1954-55; June Dronlokken, 1954-55.

Margarethe Satron, 1955-66; Gretchen Braaten, 1955-58; Bergliot Larson, 1955-58; Edward Larson, 1955-57; Helen Sands, 1955-73; Douglas Johnson, 1955-57; Henry Baretl, 1956-57; Glen Montzka, 1956-59; Peter Rickardson, 1956-60; John Kunz, 1957--; W. Haaland, 1957-58; Marie Voxland, 1957-58.

Ed Eggers, Supt., 1958-60; Wayne Stiehl, 1958-60, Supt. 1960--; Alice Fjelstul, 1958-59; Priscilla Witzel, 1958-59; Wayne Anderson, 1958-60; Dorothy Gresch, 1958-60; Patricia Murnone, 1958-59; Charlotte Wolff Fennie, 1958-70.

Eline DePoe, 1958-59; Lois Jensen, 1959-61; Doreen Finnesgaard, 1959-63; Nanette Remold, 1959-62; Eugene Jensen, 1959-64; Robert Johnson, 1960-64; Thomas Classen, 1960-66; Herbert Espinda, 1960-61; Robert Jorstad, 1960-64; Beulah Callister, 1960--; Janet Piphoo, 1960-62; Irene Haasken 1960-61; Gary Korpela, 1960-62; Armin Piphoo, 1960-62; Laura Perrett, 1960-63.

Loren Blaken, 1961-62; Maynard Gronli, 1961-63; Carole Knudson, 1961-62; Edith O'Mera, 1961-63; Mildred Ohnstad, 1961--; Ella Fadness, 1962-63; Carole Wendt, 1962-63; Sally Hanson, 1962-63; Bill Bailey, 1962-65; Karen Bailey, 1962-63; James Strum, 1962-64; Gale Benson, 1962-69; Shirley Langfield, 1963-64; Mary Bakke Lyon, 1963-66; Lois Magnuson, 1963-64; Beverly Bailey, 1963-65; Leo Wilson, 1963-64; Dean Hoadly, 1963-71; Barbara Hoadly, 1963-66; Gloria Classen, 1963-66; Esther Gulsvig, 1963-66; Mrs. Mattson, 1963-65; Ethel Carlson Haugen, 1963-66.

Harry Buelke, 1964-67; Brian Ingvalson, 1964-66; Shirley Wilson, 1964-65; Celestia Kirkegaard, 1964-65; Russel Lueck, 1964-69; Dale Mikkalson, 1964-74; Patricia Irthum 1964--; Wayne Erickson, 1964-69; Mrs. Sogge, 1964-66; Mrs. Beulke, 1964-65.

Lee Dahl, 1965--; Russel Nohorniak, 1965-69; Eva Ohr, 1965-66; Mr. Heyer, 1965-69; Gail Mikkalson, 1965-66; Janet Kienholz, 1965-66; Robert Fisher, 1965-66; Lois Harp Bjorngaard, 1966--; Mr. Brand, 1966-69; Mr. Boyum 1966-69; Mr. Christofferson, 1966-68; Richard Nagel, 1966-69; Sharon Bjorngaard, 1966--; Mrs. Morrow, 1966-68; Mrs. Luedke, 1966-73; Carl Swenson, 1967-68; Miss Moran, 1967-70; Robert Hoffman, 1968-69; Mr. Morriem, 1968-72; Mr. Aunan, 1968-69; Mrs. Webb, 1968-70; Howard Wolf, 1969--; Mr. Steinhoff, 1969-72; Wayne Hertle, 1969--; Karen Bailey, 1969-70; Miss Finstuen, 1969-70; Mrs. Gjervik, 1969-70; Lary Jansen, 1969-75; Mrs. Hanson, 1969-70;; Lowell Salo, 1969-77 Dale Klawitter, 1969--; Mr. Ellsworth, 1969-74; Mrs. Ellsworth, 1969-73; Lorinda Brummond, 1969--; Mary Pellette, 1970-71; Mary Huseh, 1970-71; Diane Bastin, 1970-71; Sonia Kylo Tatge, 1970--; Jay Stearn, 1970-72; Mr. Johnston, 1970-74; Mrs. Mc Donald, 1970-72; Mrs. Kuchar, 1970-71; Mrs. Swenson, 1970-71; Karen Zakula, 1970--; Ray Dahlen, 1971-75; Loretta Jemminges Froyum, 1971--; Gary Addington, 1971-74; Mrs. Percuco, 1971-72; John Schlegemilch, 1971-72; Miss Gibbon, 1971-72.

John Levstik, 1972-76; Miss Waskewicz, 1972-73; Cheryl

Sasse, 1972--; Cheryl Meyers, 1972-75; Diane Fahl, 1972--; Mr. Rossman, 1972-74; Mr. Neil, 1972-75; Mrs. Wright, 1972-74.

Miss Neilson, 1973-74; Charles Steier, 1973-76; Mary Johnson, 1974--; Dennis Jackson, 1974--; Wayne Smith, 1974--; Leola Dahl, 1974--; Carolyn Olson, 1974-76; Bill Squires, 1974-77; Larry Ebert, 1974-77; Wayne Morris, 1974--; Miss Tilton, 1974-75; Mr. Ferrin, 1974-75; Tim Cuff, 1975-76; Holly Turnquist Fisher, 1945--; Jan Overski, 1975-76; Steve Brehmer, 1976--; Dale Felton, 1976--; Roxanne Messer, 1976--; Ruthann Griffin, 1976--; Diane Mathias, 1976--; Katherine Schultz, 1976--; Paula Mc Donald, 1977--; Ron Evjen, 1977--; Jeff Evert, 1977--; Melva Cratty, 1977--.

#### LIST OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

1924

Mildred Boraas, Fern Dale, Gidrim Fossum, Joseph Gjemse, Seraph Greseth, Ralph Halvorson, Delphine Jackson, Helga Kaasa, Bernice Norby, Berdella Steberg, Olav Tiller.

1925

Darwin Dale, Helen Halvorson, Agnes Haugen, Agnes Lunde, Agnes Ostgaarden, Martha Teigen.

1926

Reuben Berg, Clarence Carlson, George Halvorson, Berdella Jackson, Jerome Lee, Alfred Lunde, Eleanor Martin, Jeanette Norby, Hilda Satren, Marie Sevareid, Margaret Tiller.

1927

Kenneth Bakko, Anne Brisance, Harold Fossum, Olaf Halvorson, Clara Hoeseth, Nora Husbyn, Kenneth Nelson, Goodwin Nesseth, Irene Norby, Evelyn Norstad, Ellen Olson, Minda Romo, Clara Rude, Selma Syverson, Oscar Swee.

1928

Harold Bjugan, Stanford Dale, Howard Emerson, Gida Fredrickson, George Johnson, Gerhard Johnson, Doris Martin, Edna Romo, Tryphena Sevareid, Evelyn Syverson.

1929

Rosella Fredrickson, Marie Halvorson, Eva Hjermstad, Rachel Hoeseth, John Kindseth, Myrtle Norstad, Martha Ohr, Rosella Swee, Conrad Tiller, Martin Tongen.

1930

Myrtle Aslakson, Peter Blakstad, Arnold Bjugan, Robert Emerson, Conley Engstrom, Hilda Haugen, Mildred Helleckson, Harriet Jacobson, Gladys Kvalvog, Burton Okkelberg, Ingram Rustad, Evelyn Steberg, Kenneth Syverson, Obert Syverson, Edna Thompson, Celia Vangsness.

1931

Goldie Anderson, Elnora Bjugan, Mildred Dale, Shirley Emerson, Reuben Fossum, Evelyn Froyum, Ruth Haller, Eva Hanson, Arla Helleckson, Kenneth Jensen, Barbara Naeseth, Borgny Okkelberg, Stella Quam, Louise Quittem, Thelma Sevareid, Elsie Syverson.

1932

Constance Bjugan, Esther Halvorson, Herbert Halvorson, Norman Hostager, Orville Haugen, Violet Jackson, Lillian Jacobson, Mildred Kvalvog, Doris Langeness, Lois Naeseth, Phillip Ohr, Edna Syverson, Marcella Syverson, Thora Thoreson, Nora Tongen.

1933

Ella Bjugan, Carl Chrislock, Charles Dale, Janet Engstrom,

Gwendolyn Jackson, Francis Jensen, Leo Jensen, Pearl Joranger, Melvin Quittem, Wilhelm Severeid, Ardyce Thompson.

1934

Lillian Anderson, Florence Emerson, Helen Froyum, Gertha Halvorson, Anthony Haugen, Ruby Hennem, Bernice Island, Naurice Romness, Obert Rosvold, Martha Tiller.

1935

Russell Boraas, MarCella Fredrickson, Ovida Haller, Palma Jacobson, Lillian Larson, Hazel Quam, Stella Romness, Blanche Ronning, Eleanor Rude, Jerrol Syverson.

1936

Lester Bolmgren, Margaret Chrislock, John Dale, Rolf Deraas, Dorothy Emerson, Mildred Froyum, Carl Goplen, Russel Helleckson, Clarence Jensen, Lawrence Kolsum, Ardella Larson, George Olson, Alyce Quittem, Orville Simonson, Alma Thompson.

1937

Gerhard Bjugan, Minerva Fredrickson, Palma Fredrickson, Dorothy Jacobson, Everett Ohr, Alvira Syverson.

1938

Adeline Bjugan, Milton Haugen, Harriet Helleckson, Ellyn Hennings, Kathryn Herzog, Joyce Hoven, Lester Hoven, Marlowe Island, Albert Jacobson, Nina Johnson, Lillian Kirkeby, Norman Morken, Genevieve O'Kane, Ruth Olson, Orwin Peterson, Sybil Quam, Solveig Tiller.

1939

Byron Boraas, Jerol Fredrickson, Mariann Helleckson, Myrtle Hjortaas, Grace Husbyn, Ralph Langeness, Ruth Perret, Doris Quamme, Adeline Rude, Maurice Swee, Marvin Syverson, Grace Thompson.

1940

Helen Chrislock, Doris Dale, Philip Dale, Fredrick Engstrom, Phillip Goplen, Ruby Goplen, Gladys Greseth, Merdeen Grove, Vernon Haugen, Sylvia Hennem, Gilman Johnson, Janet Johnson, Lester Johnson, Alvira Moe, Ruth Nestvold, Jeanne Quamme, Belton Romness, Stanley Rude, Meldora Shelstad, Lillian Swee, Evelyn Stensland, Harold Swenson.

1941

Jeroy Carlson, Ruth Chrislock, Howard Fredrickson, Margaret Fredrickson, Norris Fredrickson, Ronald Fredrickson, Francis Goplen, Sybil Grove, LaVonne Haller, Wallace Hilling, Norma Hoven, Hazel Husbyn, Doris Jacobson, Palmer Kylo, Genevieve Larson, Charles Lee, Chester Maxson, Margaret O'Kane, Eunice Swan.

1942

Phyllis Bakko, Verna Erickson, Arnold Evans, Marion Fredrickson, Roselyn Fredrickson, Lorraine Friese, Lila Greseth, Ruth Grove, Mildred Krogh, Eugene McKeever, Luverna Ohr, Myrtle Olson, Frank Perrett, Robert Quimby, Melvin Romo, Mavis Schlappe, Dwight Schultz, Vernon Steberg, Virgil Swenson.

1943

Fredrick Ashler, Thelma Bjorngaard, Lorraine Brisance, Marlowe Floan, LouBelle Friese, Arnold Froyum, Sherman Goplen, Wallace Haugen, Thelma Husbyn, Marilyn Iverson, Walton Kylo, John Monson, Marilyn Norstad, Joan Olness, Lorraine Quittem, Pauline Rasmussen, Yvonne Rassmussen, Blanche Rockne, Elaine Romness, Helen Romness, Dorothy Schultz, Alvine Steberg, Orva Stensland, James Swanson,

Robert Swenson, Lois Tiller, William Zeller.

1944

Clarice Fredrickson, Grant Fredrickson, Lyle Greseth, Curtis Haller, Alton Hegseth, Marvin Johnson, Elaine Kvalvog, Phyllis Kvamme, Orion Kylo, Conrad Lexvold, Ronald Lund, Dondal Perrett, Audrey Ree, Arlin Rude, Barbara Swanson, Otto Thoreson, May Thompson, Marvin Walstad, Arlene Zeller.

1945

Leone Ashler, Lyle Baker, Marlynn Bordson, Marlys Erickson, Emogene Erlanson, Evelyn Flaaen, Edith Goplen, Dorothy Hegseth, Ruth Hilan, Donald Hilling, Lavern Holt, Gaylen Hoven, Idella Iverson, Avis Kylo, Lyla Larson, Howard Quimby, Louis Rasmusson, Leslie Revland, Edridge Simonson, Harlan Steberg, Amy Stensland, Lorraine Stockmo, Arland Sundry, Hazel Tiller, Mary Truelsen, Marcella Vangness.

1946

Maurice Anderson, Melroy Blakstad, Stanley Broin, Ardelle Davidson, Pauline Floan, Avis Friese, Esther Froyum, Jerome Greseth, Isabel Harnoss, Arvin Iverson, Arleen Kvalvog, Jewel Ness, George Romo, Dolores Solberg, Arlene Stockmo, Clifford Syverson, Richard Trelstad, John Vangness, Adrienne Zeller.

1947

Gale Allman, Harold Blakstad, Melroy Broin, Carrol Davidson, Loren Fox, Donovan Fredrickson, Marlowe Fredrickson, Ronald Groth, Raymond Hegseth, Evy Lou Hilan, Mildred Hommedahl, Gladys Johnson, Edythe Krogh, Maurice Kylo, Irene Loken, Gaylord Maxson, Shirley Nelson, Virgil Nodland, Lynn Nord, Muriel Okkelberg, James Overby, Oryen Peterson, Berenice Quittem, Audrey Rasmussen, Enuice Ree, Robert Romness, Aileen Steberg, Shirley Syverson, Ruby Thompson, Arlene Vangness.

1948

James Brisance, Allyn Ellingson, Melorie Erlanson, Ernest Flaaen, Roger Floan, Virginia Fossan, Maynard Goplen, Jean Groth, Harriet Haller, Arlene Johnson, Colleen Myron, Verna Okkelberg, Janice Olson, Patricia Quimby, Oscar Quittem, Ramon Sands, Donald Solberg, Dorothy Syverson, John Tiller, Clarice Vangness, Betty Windhorst.

1949

Erling Baker, Carole Bakko, Ruth Blakstad, Paul G. Comstock, Edith Deraas, LaVonne Flom, Phyllis Froyum, Ann Greseth, Arnold Hadler, James Helleckson, Mavis Hoven, Charles Iverson, Charlotte Iverson, Donald Kunde, Evelyn Kvalvog, Donald Larson, Theodore Larson, Nathyle Luebke, Bernell Lunde, Beverly Myron, Joyce Nelson, Jerome Ofstie, Michelle Rudie, Clinton Sathrum, Vivian Stockmo, Marian Syverson, Shirley Syverson, Val Syverson.

1950

Marlan Berg, Arlene Bjorngaard, Rose Bjorngaard, Phyllis Boraas, Lyle Bordson, James Carlson, Arnold Fredrickson, Darlene Fredrickson, Dorothy Froyum, Robert Haller, Lila Hennem, Jackie Holt, JoAnn Hoven, Dyrol Jackson, Joyce Johnson, Lloyd Kunde, Florence Kylo, Eileen Lexvold, Evallin Pederson, Wayne Rasmusson, Francis Romness, Esther Romo, Edwin Stensland, Roger Stockmo, Harriet Thompson, Christine Tongen, Charles Vangness, Stanley Vangness, Ordeen Veiseth.

1951

Duane Berg, Clarice Blakstad, LeDonna Davidson, Berneice Flaaen, Garvin Friese, Glenn Froyum, Lester Greseth, Fredrick Halvorson, Marlys Johnson, Janice Luebke, Barbara Monson, Gilman Myran, Doris Romo, Ruthel Shelstad, Donald Simonson, Merrill Solberg, Carol Sundry, Arlene Syverson, Bonnie Syverson, LeRoy Thompson, Orland Walstad, Palmer Yngsdal, Jr.

1952

Ardelle Borgschatz, Obert Braaten, Thomas Comstock, Lloyd Cordes, Marna Deraas, David Fossan, JoAnn Fredrickson, Gunder Froyum, Ruth Froyum, Katherine Gunderson, Roger Hostager, Ilene Hoven, Arlyn Johnson, Elrene Kunde, Dorothy Kvamme, Maurice Kylo, Shirley Kylo, Bette Langeness, Mary Milan, Betty Myran, Gunder Myran, Orvin Romo, Roger Smith, Lolis Swee, David Vangsness, Doris Vangsness.

1953

Kathryn Anderson, James Bird, Norris Bjorngaard, Carol Carlson, Audrey Cordes, Carol Fredrickson, Dexter Hershel, Virginia Hjermstad, LaVain Hjortaa, Harlan Hokanson, Jerome Kylo, Wesley Larson, Norlene Lawson, Phyllis Loken, William Lund, Mary Mack, Richard Myran, Roger Naeseth, Roger Nelson, Chester Overboe, Sigurd Ree, Carol Sathrum, Dorothy Satrem, Mary Solberg, JoAnn Stockmo, Maurice Swenson, Lila Syverson, Carolyn Thompson, Duane Thompson, Melroy Thompson.

1954

Darlene Auset, Eileen Berg, Rochelle Bergum, Joann Bird, Sharon Bjorngaard, Marie Bjugan, Irene Borgschatz, Robert Braaten, Gary Braget, Donald Floan, Shirley Friese, Carol Gjemse, Ordean Greseth, Shirley Johnson, Phyllis Lawson, Marcia Luebke, Sonia Myran, Lynda Myron, Janet Nelson, Darrell Nesseth, Clara Overboe, Barbara Romness, Beata Romness, JoAnn Romo, Earl Strand, JoAnn Swenson, LeRoy Thoreson.

1955

Harriet Amundson, Nodine Anderson, Gary Bakko, Donna Berg, Roger Blakstad, Elaine Cordes, George Currier, Charlene Fredrickson, Gertrude Froyum, Edward Glestad, Ilene Groth, Mary Groth, Sandra Grothe, James Haller, Allen Hjermstad, Shirley Hostager, Janice Hoven, Luther Hoven, Vonda Jackson, Philner Kvalvog, Karen Kvamme, Marlene Kylo, Jane Milan, Charlotte Myran, Evelyn Nelson, Megan Opfer, June Overboe, Orvis Pederson, Duane Sande, Carol Swenson, Patricia Syverson, LaVonne Thompson, Dorothy Tongen, Arvid Vangsness, Delores Wallaker.

1956

Jacqueline Auset, Dennis Berg, LaVerne Bjugen, Duane Blakstad, Robert Blakstad, Yvonne Bordson, Karen Floan, Sylvia Froyum, LeRoy Gjemse, Donald Hjortaa, Harlean Kunde, Mary Kylo, Delores Lexvold, Einar Lunde, Glen Mehrkens, Harold Melhouse, Roxanne Naeseth, Donald Nord, Elaine Overboe, David Parkin, Elaine Quam, Lyle Quamme, Gary Swanson, Marlene Swiggum, Faith Thompson, James Underdahl.

1957

Vernon Berg, David Borgschatz, Robert Cordes, Diane Coyne Kay Fredrickson, Roger Friese, Marie Froisland, Robert Gjemse, Richard Grendahl, Shirley Grove, Karen Gulsvig, Marie Hendrickson, Deanna Hessedal, Harlan Hjermstad, Lawrence Hjermstad, Gary Hoven, Marion Kunde, Donald

Kylo, Sharon Langeness, Duane Lexvold, Ruth Mehrkens, Shirley Myran, Clifford Nelson, Phyllis Orsten, Martha Overboe, Jerry Perkin, Kathryn Pederson, Ann Quamme, JoAnn Romness, Barbara Romo, George Rostad, Charles Sundry, Lyle Sundry, Kenneth Syverson, Curtis Thoreson, Irene Thoreson.

1958

Pervin Bjorngaard, Harland Bjugan, David Braaten, David Brisance, Mary Coyne, Roger Flaten, Avice Greseth, Evelyn Groth, Madelon Grothe, Eugene Gullickson, Evelyn Gulsvig, Richard Hessedal, Roger Hessedal, Roger Hokanson, Sherman Hommedahl, Bonita Jackson, Eunice Kylo, Dennis Lindquist, Charles Lunde, Janet Myran, Faith Nygaard, Katherine Orsten, Ann Ring, Ronald Stromme, John Thompson, Harris Wallaker.

1959

Jane Auset, Kathleen Berg, Yvonne Berg, Paul Bygd, Diane Carlson, Gweneth Davidson, Charles Fredrickson, Sherry Greseth, Betty Grove, Reuben Hjermstad, Marie Jarvinen, Millard Johnson, Judith Kylo, Stanley Lexvold, Roger Lunde, Leon Milan, Donna Morken, Donna Myran Mavis Nelson, David Opfer, Sonia Opsahl, Donovin Quittem, Gyles Randall, Karen Romness, Paul Shelstad, Mary Syverson, James Yngsdal.

1960

Carl Beckstrom, Kent Bergum, Gale Blakstad, Joanne Flaten, Sandra Fredrickson, Robert Grendahl, Marcelle Greseth, Marilyn Gronseth, Lew Gene Groth, Robert Gudknecht, Margaret Gulsvig, Franklin Hessedal, Gary Hokanson, Mark Hoven, Eugene Johnson, Doris Jonas, Stella Kylo, Merle Larson, Howard Myran, Jeannette Nerison, Helen Opsahl, LeRoy Quam, Irene Romo, Bruce Sevareid, Gary Shelstad, Suzanne Swanson, Judith Thompson.

1961

Galene Aadahl, Lila Berg, Bruce Boraas, Thelma Bygd, Judith Flaten, Ruth Ann Froisland, Marvin Grendahl, David Gullickson, Sherman Haugen, Ned Henschel, Julie Jarvinen, Sylvia Johnson, Nancy Kublie, Susan Kylo, Sandra Lexvold, Carol Loken, JoAnn Myran, Joan Opsahl, Judith Ronningen, Richard Skillestad, James Smith, Patricia Solberg, Orlyn Strorime, Rodney Svien, De Ann Swiggum, Patricia Thompson, Theona Thoreson, Joan Windhorst.

1962

David Alme, James Axelson, Russell Boraas, Jr., Garry Dublin, Marcia Fredrickson, Susan Fredrickson, James Froyum, Judith Froyum, Nancy Gonstad, Karen Grothe, Avonne Grove, Dorothy Hessedal, William Honecker, Michael Hoseth, Gale Hoven, Allan Kristenson, Karen Langseth, Martha Myran, Herbert Nerison, Charles Olson, Mary Peterson, Vernice Ring, Gerald Sviggum, Wayne Thompson, Carl Trelstad, Vernon Vangsness.

1963

Thomas Auset, Larry Berg, Jacklyn Bjorngaard, Marvin Bjugan, Sandra Blakstad, Deanne Clapp, Phillip Deraas, Judy Greseth, John Gronseth, Kenneth Gunderson, Ruth Hegseth, Morris Hjermstad, Neil Hoven, Karen Johnson, Marvin Johnson, Marlene Larson, Sandra Lyke, Bonita Milan, Richard Morken, Dorothy Myran, Lauritz Romo, Diane Sands, Duane Schriever, Barbara Shelstad, Gary Smith, Steven Swarthout, Henry Syverson.

1964

Elaine Aadahl, Neil Alme, David Berg, Gene Berg, JoAnn Blakstad, James Bork, James Crouse, Eugene Erie, Larry Evenson, Lois Flaten, John Flom, Joan Fredrickson, Sharon Fredrickson, Ann Grimrud, Ruth Grimrud, Stanley Hendrickson, Michale Hogstad, Marlene Hokanson, Lorraine Hommedahl, Marc Jackson, James H. Johnson, Stephen Kristenson, Jacjueline Kuchera, Sam Michels, Lila Myran, Roger Randall, Kelly Ronningen, Judith Satren, Gary Solberg, Jeffery Swarthort, Marilyn Swee, Carole Syverson, Thomas Teigen, Kathleen Thoreson, Linda Torkelson, Lois Veiseth, Jerry Yngsdal.

1965

Ruby Lyke Anderson, Linda Axelson, Reuben Berg, Susan Broin, Carol Dublin, Dale Froyum, Harvey Fossum, Luana Grothe, James Gullickson, Norman Hauschildt, Wayne Hjermstad, Gary Johnson, Karen Kristenson, Charles Kylo, Jeanne Kylo, Mary Morken, Dale Nerison, Carrol Olson, Robert Opfer, Linda Perrett, Robert Rolland, Carolyn Satren, Michael Satren, Judy Stockmo, Gregory Swarthout, Mary Swiggum, Paul Tangen, Gary Windhorst.

1966

Harvey Aadahl, Gary Alme, Wanda Bergum, Ronnie Blakstad, Roy Blakstad, Arnold Boraas, Peggy Boraas, Curtis Burdick, Judith Deraas, Wayne Dublin, Thomas Foley, David Fredrickson, Gary Fredrickson, Duane Friese, Darryl Grendahl, Daniel Grimrud, Steven Grove, Irene Hedrickson, Linda Hogstad, Dean Hoven, Burton Husbyn, Steven Johnson, Mary Kuchers, Kenneth Lee, Somkeng Luangphinit, Carol Matti, Anna Michaels, Crystal Myran, Gaylan Myran, Glenda Newcomb, Terrance Peterson, Julie Hoseth Quast, Linda Satren, Jeanne Schriever, Darlene Shelstad, Mary Steberg, Susan Sundry, Larry Swenson, Margaret Syverson, Jon Syverson, Mary Tangen.

1967

Nancy Auset, Larry Berg, Mark Blakstad, Susan Clapp, Leslie Flom, Nancy Fellows, Grant Friese, Bonnie Grendahl, Joseph Grothe, Virginia Haugen, Karen Hauschildt, Kenneth Hessedal, Kathryn Hokanson, Grant Hoven, Paulette Kylo, Dennis McDonald, Geral Newcomb, Iris Olson, Sandra Olstad, Robert Otto, William Otto, Mary Perrett, Vicki Sands, Donald Skillestad, Betty Starz, Judy Starz, Jo Starz, Gwendolyn Steberg, Kraig Swanson, Marilyn Thoreson, Shianne Thoreson.

1968

Lyle Aadahl, Larry Axelson, Judy Berg, Melvin Beulke, Edith Blakstad, Rodney Boraas, Patricia Bordson, Dean Bork, Gail Flom, Griffin Fredrickson, Greg Gonstad, Janice Grendahl, Nancy Gunderson, Ross Haller, Martin Haugen, Thomas Henderson, Anna Holst, Wayne Island, Ronald Johnson, Sonia Johnson, Neil Jonas, John Lubahn, Norman Morken, James Newcomb, Aloyce Olson, Leslie Perrett, Merlin Ring, Janice Satren, Peter Satren, Allen Steberg, Jerry Stockmo, Robert Svien, Patricia Sviggum, Peggy Swarthout, Steven Swenson, Cheryl Swiggum, Harvey Swiggum, Gary Syverson, Donald Tangen, Ross Teigen.

1969

Stuart Berg, Brian Bjorngaard, Mary Blakstad, Mary Boraas, Bruce Bordson, Kenneth Burdick, Lynda Davidson, Bonnie Flom, Bradley Foley, Patricia Gombert, Barbara Graf, Ausan Haberman, John Hegseth, Harlan Hill, Daniel Hogstad,

Margie Lubahn, Barbi Lund, Rebecca Malchow, Marlene Myran, Mark Nerrison, Sandra Peterson, Alan Priem, Lynn Quinnell, Helen Schoenfelder, Thomas Sherman, Richard Simonson, Marlene Steberg, Terry Sundry, Cynthia Morken Swarthout, Mary Swarthout, Marlys Syverson, Martha Syverson, Lois Torkelson.

1970

Dale Axelson, Bruce Baker, Harriet Berg, Judith Bjugan, Patricia Brant, Donald Clapp, Marlyn Clemens, Sandra Davidson, Bradley Fredrickson, Brenda Fredrickson, William Fredrickson, Trudy Gonstad, Patricia Grove, Ruth Grove, Diane Habermen, Thomas Haugen, Sylvia Hessedal, Debbie Hugstad, Ronald Krause, Leslie Kylo, Patricia Kylo, Sharon McDonald, William Morgan, Randi Myran, Beverly Nerison, Becky Nodland, Curtis Olson, Michel Perrett, Gary Peterson, James Peterson, Daryle Ronningen, Judie Randall, Jeanne Schoenfelder, Dale Siem, Kenneth Simonson, Janelle Steberg, Lynn Stiehl, Susan Tangen, John Vangsness, Gerald Wallaker.

1971

Linda Benson, Linda Beulke, Becky Bjorngaard, Jerome Blakstad, Rebecca Bordson, Dale Carlson, Steven Deraas, Nancy Flaten, Roland Floan, Dennis Flom, Eric Froyum, Susan Graf, Mary Grove, Nancy Hanks, Bradley Haugen, Paul Haugen, Nancy Hegseth, Barbara Hegseth, Vicki Hugstad, Linda Kunz, David Kylo, Roger Lee, Duane Lunde, Susan Morgan, Leon Nerison, Stuart Ohr, Alan Olstad, Dianne Overby, Raymond Schoenfelder, Wayne Siem, Charles Steberg, Carol Stiehl, Lori Streich, David Swenson, Lowell Tangen, Birdeen Thoreson, Daniel Torkelson, Nancy Wallaker, Jacqueline Walter.

1972

Beth Axelson, Bonnie Axelson, Vicki Bjorngaard, Gary Bjugan, Kathy Broin, Bruce Brown, Douglas Clapp, Cheryl Davidson, Patricia Dildine, Gary Floan, Barbara Foley, Cynthia Fredrickson, Randall Greseth, John Harland, Penelope Haugen, Stuart Hegseth, Cindy Helleckson, Mark Island, Michele Kincade, David Lubahn, Bonita Nerison, Ross Olson, Gregory Peterson, Renita Revland, Rita Sharpen, Connie Scheffler, Rita Schoenfelder, Brian Severeid, Richard Sherman, Cheryl Simonson, Carol Steberg, Susan Swiggum, Maren Syverson, LaRita Wallaker, Jeffrey Walter, Janelle Wohlfeil.

1973

Kathy Auset, Evelyn Berg, Judy Blakstad, Renae Boraas, Dennis Borgschatz, Shirley Brant, David Davidson, Norman Edwards, James Flaaen, Fredrick Fredrickson, Val Froyum, Sherry Graf, Ray Greseth, Larry Grove, Neil Gullickson, Barbara Haller, Catherine Haugen, Brian Hegseth, Karen Hegseth, Cheryl Henslin, Wayne Hermann, Scott Hugstad, Steven Knapp, James Kylo, Wendy Lund, Lorraine Lunde, Jane Ohr, Rolfe Otterness, Arlys Revland, Christian Romness, Loretta Shelstad, Glen Siem, Contance Simonson, Gina Sundry, James Syverson, Barbara Vangsness, Debra Wallaker, Melanie Wolf.

1974

Dean Baker, Jeffrey Benson, Kevin Berg, Kenneth Beulke, Deborah Banks, Larry Bjugan, Gretchen Bordson, Gary Borgschatz, Cathy Carlson, Grant Floan, Dean Fredrickson, Julie Fredrickson, Kimberly Greseth, Timothy Gresethe, Jeffrey Groth, Betty Grothe, Bruce Hanson, Susan Harland,

Ronald Haugen, Mary Hegseth, Chandra Henslin, Renee Iverson, Alan Johnson, Nancy Judkins, Randolph Krause, Denise Kunz, Marjorie Kylo, Debra Loken, Mark Myran, Eric Nygren, Richard Otterness, Daniel Pischke, James Quimby, Carol Romness, John Schoenfelder, Owen Steberg, Phillip Stiehl, Marion Sviggum, Susan Thoreson, Gwen Windhorst.

1975

Beverly Berg, Sara Bjorngaard, Cynthia Cordes, John Dieffenbach, Mark Edwards, Jennifer Walter Fernandes, Pamela Forss, Sandra Forss, Patricia Friese, Ruth Goodman, Connie Graf, Daniel Haberman, Fredrick Halvorson, Michelle Haugen, Kristi Haugstad, Ronald Johnson, Mary Knapp, Jeffrey Kylo, Rahn Lund Kirk Nygren, Vicky Perrett, Donald Pishke, Danielle Schaefer, Linda Scheffler, Carol Schoenfelder, Jean Sherman, Catherine Simonson, Donna Simonson, Bradley Spitzack, Wayne Syverson, Sandra Tiller, Cheryl Wallaker, Steven Wolf.

1976

Diane Blakstad, Leslie Blakstad, Bonita Boraas, David Boraas, Sue Buchardt, Julie Carlson, Kimberleen Clark, Gwendolyn Davidson, Susan Forss, Karen Fredrickson, Kathryn Fredrickson, Rhoda Fredrickson, Randy Gladden, Rita Goodman, Ronald Haller, John Haugen, Jane Hegseth, Gregory Helleckson, Todd Hugstad, Gayle Johnson, Debbie Friese Knaup, Craig Kunde, Cynthia Kylo, Barbara Lubahn, Louise Morris, David Nesseth, Leo Nesseth, Karen Otterness, David Otterness, Susan Otterness, Brian Romness, Cynthia Sabin, Bradley Sharpen, Diane Scheffler, Brenda Spitzack, Lyle Steberg, Collin Sullivan, Jean Tangen, Darell Thompson, Elizabeth Thoreson, Debra Tiller, Richard Udenberg, Sharon Vangness, Teresa Wallaker, Mark Windhorst.

1977

Daniel Benson, Carol Berg, Robert Bird, Marjorie Boraas, Kimberly Brant, James Dieffenbach, Laureen Erlanson, Roxanne Feuling, Jeffrey Greseth, Tanyia Greseth, Dawn Gunderson, Kyle Halvorson, Larry Hanson Sheila Haugen, Craig Henslin, Debbie Hermann, Steve Kunz, Reed Kvittem, Linda Kylo, Rebecca Kylo, Randal Livingston, Jeri Lund, Scott Nelson, Stephen Ohnstad, Richard Olson, Timothy Otterness, Brian Peterson, Julie Peterson, Darrell Quam, Lori Revland, Jody Schaefer, Judy Schoenfelder, Jeff Siem, Robert Simonson, Peter Solberg, Wanda Steberg, James Stiehl, Craig Sundry, Brian Surratt, Jay Syverson.

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#### TEACHERS STUDY CLUB

The Teachers Study Club was organized in Wanamingo in 1920 by the teachers of District #165 of Wanamingo Village. Surrounding rural school teachers were invited, and it became a very active organization. They met Saturday afternoons. Current books on teaching methods were read, as well as other books. These books were usually discussed at the meeting. Teaching problems and methods were also discussed. This was followed by lunch and social hour. The club disbanded some years later when the Wanamingo School became an independent school district. There had not been any Parent-Teacher Organization in Wanamingo before



Reading Circle of teachers in Wanamingo and area

1945. That year a Band Parent Club was begun which lasted ten years. This group raised money to buy new marching uniforms for the band and helped the band in other financial ways.

In 1955 a P.T.A. was begun in Wanamingo. This organization is active and interested in all related school activities. The National Congress of Parent and Teachers was organized in 1897, and at the present time there are 38,000 organizations active throughout our land.

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#### SKIING

Skiing became popular locally in the 20's. A ski tournament was held at the Henum Hill south of town, which had been advertised and was well attended.

In 1926, a ski scaffold was erected on the Lund Hill north of town. This blew down in a wind storm. It was rebuilt bigger and better. Enthusiasm ran high for this sport while Halvor Bjorngaard, a native of Norway and a nephew of the Hastads, was winning trophies for his big jumps on a National scale. However, this sport died a natural death when support dwindled down.

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#### WRESTLING

Wrestling began in Wanamingo around 1911, when a bowery was built where the Chevrolet garage is now located. Martin Helling was the promoter for this sport. Many matches, with local wrestlers taking part, were held. Admission fees were 25¢ and 50¢ for big matches. There was no charge for the "small-fry" who viewed the matches through peep holes.

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#### BOWLING

During the 20's a single lane bowling alley was installed in the basement of the Farmers Store--now Doctor Walter's Office. Ownership of the alley changed several times. It was a popular center of relaxation for those who enjoyed bowling, and a source of a small income to the young boys who set pins. Bowling was popular again for a short time in 1927.

## HORSE SHOE PITCHING

Horseshoe pitching became a popular competitive sport in Minnesota in the 1920's. Horseshoe pitching had been carried much earlier in Wanamingo and area long before that time, but not on a competitive basis. In the 1920's many Wanamingo men joined the fun, and the matches. Matches were held with other area teams. By reports from our Newspaper, Wanamingo's team won the majority of the matches.

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## GOLF

Adolph Naeseth introduced golf to the Wanamingo area by laying out a 9-hole course on his farm in 1924. By 1925 the Naeseth Country Club was organized into membership from Wanamingo and Zumbrota. When the club disbanded a few years later a number of golfers from Wanamingo took up golfing in neighboring club.

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## SWIMMING POOL

In 1973 a group of volunteers became interested in securing a swimming pool for Wanamingo. An open meeting was held where the following committees were formed: donations, projects, publicity, steering, sites. Arland Sundry became the president for the Pool Project. Many conceivable methods of raising money were used during that year with good results. Perhaps the biggest effort was the door-to-door canvass of every home in the school district, including the whole rural area, asking for donations. By this united effort the pool was ready by 1974 and turned over to the city. American Red Cross swimming instructions have been given from the beginning. The staff is qualified to teach senior life saving. The pool has provided recreation for the children of the area. Synchronized swimming has been taught, and three swimming shows have been put on by the swimmers.

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## ROLLER SKATING

After the village had a hall, roller skating became popular, and enjoyed by many in town and the community. The hall was open for skating several evenings a week with Henry Otterness in charge. Later Oscar Bakko and Alvin Steberg bought 65 pairs of skates, while some bought their own skates. The hall was leased on a percentage basis. The price for an evening's use of skates was 35¢ per person. This was during the winter of 1919. The hall was open for skating two evenings a week, also opened by request on Sunday afternoons. Due to poor winter roads, this became practically only Wanamingo and near community young people who could enjoy these evenings together. The roller skating in the hall existed for several more years with ownership changes as follows: Oscar Bakko sold to Oscar Flom, who later sold to Oscar Rosvold, so Alvin Steberg was in partnership with three different Oscars. After 1925, when the hall was owned by Christ Overby, he had the hall opened for roller skating, but the skaters had to bring their own skates, and pay a small fee

for skating.

In 1960, David Quam built a large roller rink in the east corner of Main and Beverly Street. It became a great attraction for the young people at that time also. The building has also been used for family reunions, antique auctions and dances. A contest was carried out for choosing a name for the rink. The winning name was Quamingo, a contraction of Quam and Wanamingo. Anyone having a birthday could use the rink for a birthday party. Annually a contest was held to choose a roller skating queen. Mr. Quam met with an accident causing his death in 1974. The rink was sold to Lyle Wolf in 1976, who also bought the bus service which was used to bring large groups from farther away for an evening of fun. Mr. Wolf is the present owner of the rink.

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## GIRLS ATHLETICS

Basketball for girls was started at the local school in the 1920's and continued until 1927 as a competitive sport with other schools. For a short period of time only intramural games were played by the girls.

In 1973, basketball was resumed as a girls sport and the local high school in that year won the Conference Championship. The same year, volleyball and track were also added to the girls sport program, and softball was added in 1976-77 years. The softball program carried over into summer recreation and some outstanding independent girls teams competed during the summer season with neighboring towns.

Track for the girls is in the early stages of development but already three of the Conference Track and Field records are held by the local team.

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## BASKETBALL

The first basketball was played in the high school gym in the school year of 1920-21. It was a matter of teaching the fundamentals of the game, and Rev. C. J. Carlson and Robert Lund provided the help in coaching at that point. It was in the 1923-24 school year when the teams entered competition with other schools. The games were played in the old school gym until 1926. That year the games were moved to the Overby Hall (Grothe's Cabinet Shop) to provide room. With the building of the new gym in 1941 the games were returned to the school and have been played there since that time. While none of the teams have progressed as far as the State Tournament, there have been a number of sub-district and district championships. There have been a great number of teams that provided a lot of good spectator sports for the people of the area. We would be amiss in not mentioning the team of 1952 which progressed to the finals of the region before losing to Austin by a 59-55 score.

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## FOOTBALL

Football as a competitive sport was introduced in the school in 1925. The games were then played in a pasture area northeast of the present Wanamingo Elevator. Due to a small enrollment, football was discontinued in 1930, and re-established in 1944, as a seven-man team sport. In 1949 it was

changed to an eight-man team and in 1950 back to an eleven man team again.

The year of 1952 was the dedication of the present Memorial Athletic Field, a joint project of the Quamme V.F.W. Post #186 and the school. League championships were won in 1947-48-52 and '67. Although it did not win the championship that year, one of the outstanding teams in that era was the team of 1975.

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### TRACK

It is recorded that the first Goodhue County Track meet was held at the Wanamingo School in 1925. The second meet was also held at Wanamingo, and the third County Track Meet at the Cannon Falls Fair grounds.

Track was discontinued as a high school sport after 1927 and was resumed in 1966.

The track team of 1968 placed 2nd to Red Wing in the Goodhue County Track Meet and the same year won the sub-district meet.

Due to a limited enrollment and more emphasis on baseball in the spring, track has become a minor sport and entries in meets have been only on an individual basis and not as a team.

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### BASEBALL

It seems fitting that a history of baseball in Wanamingo should start with a brief sketch of the legendary Adolph Naeseth. Adolph "Cocky" Naeseth graduated from Luther College in 1909. He pitched eight games against major universities, defeating Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Following graduation he was signed with the St. Paul Saints, of the American Association, but an arm injury cut short his professional career.

The earliest record of High School games was in 1923. The High School team of 1977, managed to get to the State Tournament, by defeating Southland for the district title, then losing to Morgan in the State Tournament, played at Kenyon.

Town team baseball flourished in the thirty's. They joined the Zumbro Valley Baseball League. In 1938 the team became members of the Goodhue County League. No baseball was played in 1942-43-44 and '45, due to the world war. After completion of World War II, baseball was not resumed until 1953, when under the direction of Victor Schultz and Sid Gonstad, Wanamingo again fielded a team.

Once of the most remarkable records is that of the Wanamingo Pee-Wee baseball team under the direction of John Kunz. After losing the first two games in 1960, the Pee-Wees won thirty-seven straight during the seasons of 1960-61-62 and '63. Top hitters in this streak were Greg Gonstad 528, Marty Haugen 488, and Larry Axelson 388.



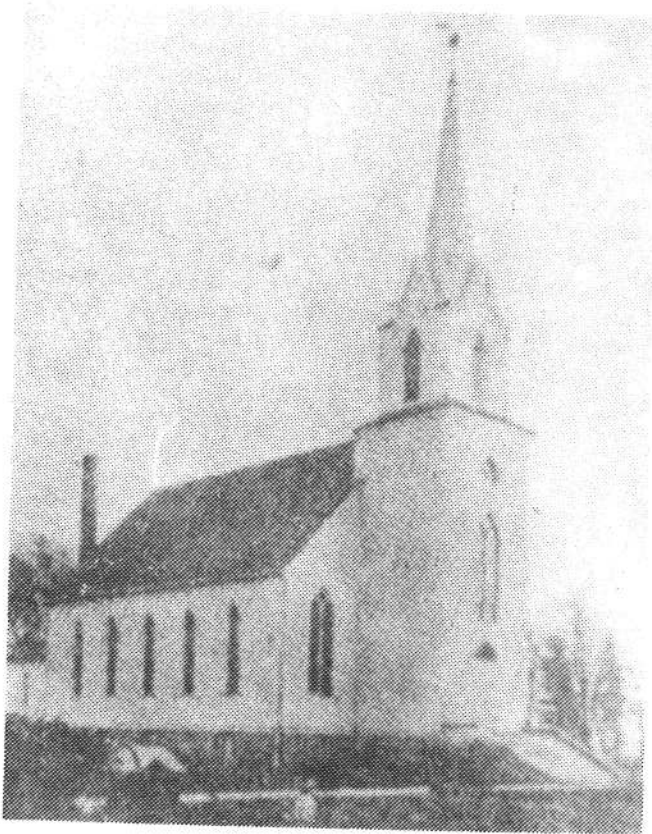
# Churches

## DALE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dale Congregation had its beginning like all other early churches by laymen preaching and leading in hymn singing in their small homes. In Dale it was Johannes Skaar, who had been a pastor's helper in the home church in Norway, and Iver Sage Morkre led the hymn singing. By 1857 the Nor-

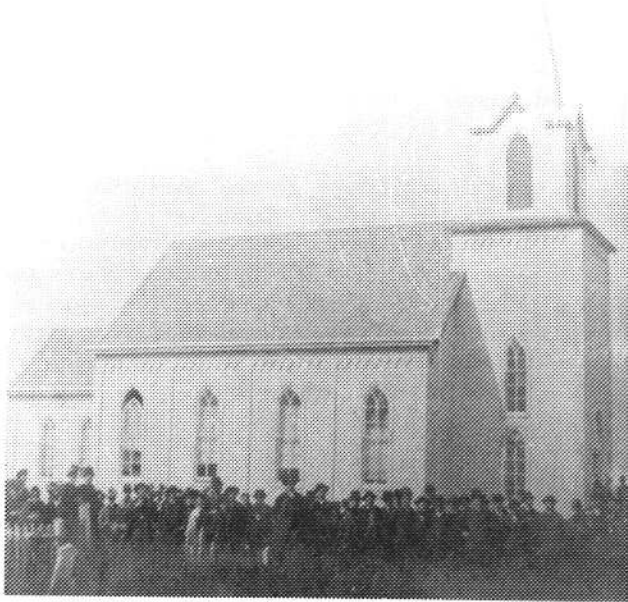
wegian settlers had built a small log chapel.

Pastor P.A. Rasumssen from Lisbon, Illinois, came periodically and conducted services and performed all other needed pastoral duties. He was followed by Pastor B. J. Muus, who was serving Holden Congregation, assisted by Pastor M. O. Bockman who was serving Gol, west of Kenyon. A new church was built in 1877 about one and a half miles farther south. The first resident pastor was T. A. Hanson, who served for two years. Pastor Anton Winther served the next three years. Pastor L. M. Biorn of Lands-Minneola helped them the following years until Pastor Muus again took over, and since that time, 1899, Holden and Dale congregations have been a parish. Other pastors have been: N. J. Ellestad, H. O. Fjelstad, Axel Shefveland, S. O. Simondson, A. J. Thorson, and the present pastor, C. H. Schroeder. In 1947 the church burned down, and the present church was built that same summer. This building has had several changes and an addition was added in 1970.



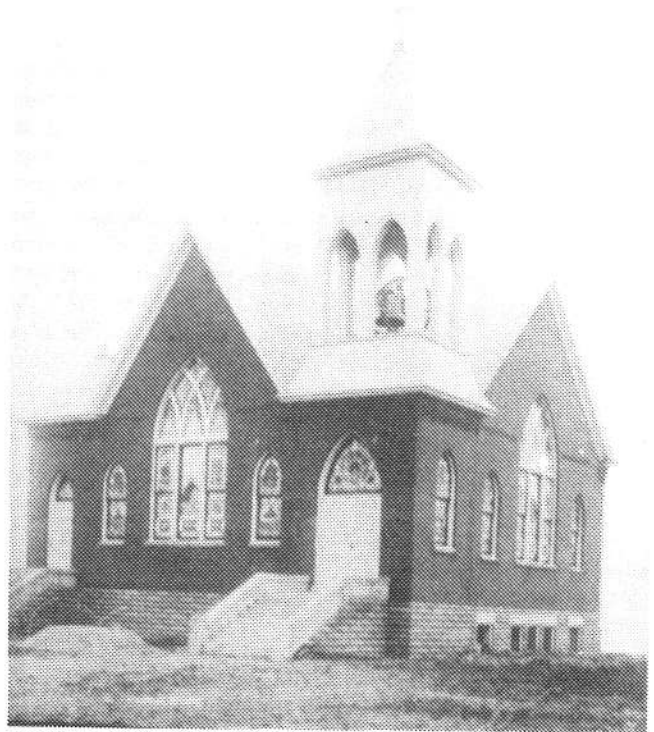
## WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH

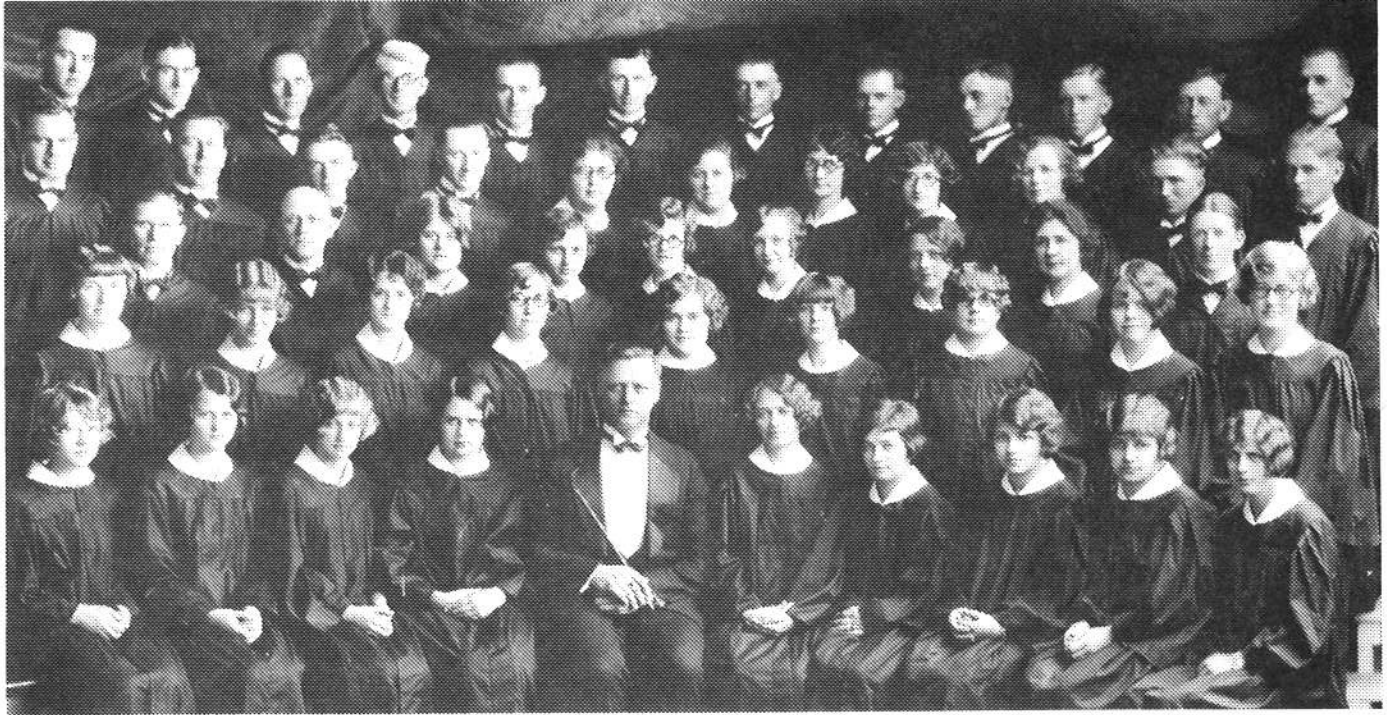
The Wanamingo Lutheran Congregation was organized in 1869 with the following officers: Erik Erikson Dvergedahl, Tosten Toreson, E. T. Sandstrom, Otto Toreson, Nels Christofferson and John Swenson. A small church was built in



1877, one and a half miles northwest of Wanamingo Village, where the Wanamingo Lutheran cemetery is located. This church was razed in 1911, and in 1912 a brick church was erected in the village. In 1969 a new entrance to the church and offices were added. From its beginning the congregation was a member of the so called Conference - - which was an offshoot of the Augustana Synod. Wanamingo Lutheran became a member of the Lutheran Free Church when that Synod emerged in 1893. In 1963 the congregation became a member of the American Lutheran Church. In 1892 Wana-

mingo Lutheran had joined in a parish with Hegre Church, south of Kenyon, and Hoff Church, near Goodhue. Hoff was later dropped from the parish. In 1967 a new parish alignment was made with Stordahl's Lutheran, dropping Hegre. The congregation at the start was served by pastors living away from the community - - L. D. Green, N. E. Vikre, J. H. Blegen and Rasmus Anderson. Nels Halvorson became the first resident pastor, later it was Sjur Rislov, C. J. Carlson, Torgney Kleven, C. J. Nestvold, Home Johnson, Karsten Kristenson, Paul Jenson, Daniel Behnke, and Paul Reppe is the present pastor.





Trinity-Roscoe Choir which gained excellence under the direction of Odvin Hagen. They gave many concerts locally and elsewhere.



Wanamingo Area Choir with Henry Halvorson as director. Taken around 1910.

## Parishes No Longer Active

### GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH MINNEOLA TOWNSHIP

The German Methodist Church was built in 1872 in Section 10 of Minneola Township. Early pastors were: Burch, Miller, Rabe and Grose. Further records are not available anymore. Perhaps due to some members joining their English-speaking brethren and others to the German Lutheran Church, the congregation disbanded. The building was sold to Minneola Township in 1902, moved and became the Town Hall. There was one stipulation, that there should never be any dances held in this building. The forgotten and unkempt cemetery of the congregation is still located where the church stood.

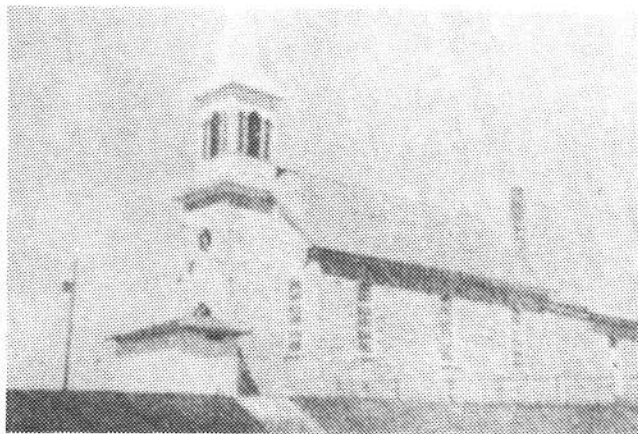
### NAZARETH LUTHERAN CHURCH AT HADER

(Church of the Lutheran Brethren)

Nazareth Congregation was organized in 1897 by Pastor K.O. Lundeberg as a part of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren (Brodersamfundet). Pastor Lundeberg served as the pastor of the congregation for about six years, together with Bethany Church of Kenyon. The building at Hader, which was used for services had been built in the 1870's, and was then used as a general store. Besides K.O. Lundeberg the following served as head of the church: J.T. Berg, and Pastor G.E. Sletta, who served until the church closed and the congregation disbanded in 1916. The building was sold and razed in 1918.

### ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic settlement in Cherry Grove Township was visited in 1860 by Father Felix Tissot of Wabasha, who had been put in charge of catholics living in Wabasha and Goodhue Counties. His first baptism occurred April 26 of that year. He was succeeded in 1865 by Rev. Chr. Joseph Knauf of Red Wing, who was given charge of Goodhue County. He visited Cherry Grove, Belle Creek and Belvidere. In 1878, Rev. Fr. W.T. Roy was assigned as resident priest at Belle Creek, with missions at Cannon Falls and Cherry Grove. The parish was established in 1878 and Holy Mass



celebrated in homes at first before the church was completed in 1879 by Cherry Grove residents. The 12 families in the parish who assisted with the construction were: Thomas O'Kane, James P. O'Kane, Patrick Bradley, Hugh Bradley, Samuel Tunks, Joseph Devlin, John Henry, George Devlin, Hugh Vallely, Patrick Griffith, Thomas Duignam, and Dominic McWilliams. The structure was built of stone "drawn" from the quarries near by on the Samuel Winston and Thomas O'Kane farms. Samuel Tunks was the stone mason. A large bell for the belfrey was hauled from Red Wing, with a team of horses, by James P. O'Kane and Hugh P. Bradley.

St. Rose of Lima was annexed to the church of St. Michael, Pine Island, and a short time later to the church of St. Paul of the Zumbrota parish. Priests who have served since 1879 are: Rev. Fr. Hugh MacDevitt, Rev. Fr. Robert Fitzgerald, Rev. Fr. James Prendergast, Rev. Fr. Owen F. Rice, Rev. Fr. James C. O'Hara with Rev. Fr. Carrol of Kenyon as his assistant, Rev. Fr. Hiliary Jordan, Rev. Fr. John P. McGuire, Rev. Fr. Michael Condon, Rev. Fr. George Campbell, Rev. Fr. Anthony Louis, Rev. Fr. Joseph J. Quinlan, Rev. Fr. T. Francis Fenelon, Rev. Fr. Robert Dillon, Rev. Fr. Edward Szymanski, and Rev. Fr. Thomas Kavanagh.

The cemetery is being cared for, but the church edifice is no longer used since the new Catholic Churches were built in the surrounding area in Kenyon, West Concord, Zumbrota, and Pine Island.



Parochial School at Stordahl Church in 1893. 52 students with their instructor, Mr. Edward Ringstad.



Swedish Mission Church Incorporated in 1898





# Cherry Grove Township

Compiled and Authored by  
Mrs. Donald (Elizabeth) Malloy

## CHERRY GROVE

Cherry Grove Township is unique in that it is larger than most townships by having a half mile added to the western row of sections. The old name of the township was believed to have been Sacton. Cherry Grove has the elevation of a high prairie, with drainage toward the north and south from the central portion. The northern part drains into the north branch of the Zumbro, while the southern part drains into the central branch and along its valley are some wooded portions. Section #35 still has much wooded area. Near the center of the township is a grove of timber and cherry trees which attracted the early settlers and its believed to have gotten its name from these cherry trees.

The township was a wilderness until about 1854, in that spring Madison Brown located a claim in Section #33. By fall Reading and Benjamin Woodward arrived and located claims next to Brown. Soon after Woodward left and traveled to Iowa. In 1855 Silas Merriman arrived and bought out Madison Brown who also went to Iowa and was supposed killed in the Civil War. Others who arrived in 1855 were Samuel and William Shiels, Joseph Seymour, Wilson Kelsey, Thomas Haggard and John and Charles Lent.

In the second week of June 1856, E.G. Comstock (Elbridge Gerry), Israel Taft Comstock, Hiram Comstock, Samuel Winston, John Nichols and J.A. Ray settled between Ayr and Fair Point. The cherry trees in the Ayr area attracted the Comstocks. In June Mr. and Mrs. Abner Blackmer and family came from Vermont and settled near Fair Point, and the John Henry family came and settled one mile north of Fair Point in Section #28.

In the northern part of the township in Section #6, Darius Johnson and Byington Root located claims, and shortly after other Norwegians came bringing with them their recipes and their dishes such as romegrot, palse, krumbaker, fattigmand, sandbakkles. They started the Dale Congregation with the assistance of Rev. P.A. Rasmussen. At first they had a "meet-

ing house" northwest of where the present old Dale cemetery is.

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## AYR

One of the earliest postoffices in Cherry Grove Township was Ayr located at the junctions of sections #22, 23, 26, and 27. The first village of Ayr was started on this corner being where the Old Territorial Road from Roscoe on the east, joined the Territorial Road from Old Concord on the south. This Old Territorial Road went south from Ayr about one half mile to the Winston corner then west one half mile to the center of section #27 and then south by the present Henry and Shaske farms. In section #34 the road winds around a rock quarry and passes through lands owned in 1894 by Devlins and now Fairbanks, then straight south to the Dodge County line where it again turns left for a short distance and then south into Old Concord. North this Territorial Road from Ayr went between sections #22 and 23, 15 and 14 following an Old Indian Trail angeling to the center of section #11, straight north to the center of section #2 then angling northeast and then straight north into old Wanamingo.

When the road between sections #22 and 23 going north from the Albert Hegge farm was being rebuilt in 1971 a territorial road marker was found by Albert Hegge and given to the Wanamingo Historical Society. Another Territorial Road marker was remembered by J.N. Olness as having been at the corner in the road in the center of section #2, before the road was rebuilt. He remembers the stone marker as standing about three feet tall with the #27, inscribed on it, he presumed this to mean 27 miles to Red Wing.

Ayr had its beginning on April 20, 1862, when Israel T. Comstock was appointed the first postmaster. Ayr is a Scottish name. Many of the early settlers in the area came from Scotland and it is possible that is why they chose the name. Ayr was first located in the southwest corner of section #23 on

the farm of Israel T. Comstock where the first schoolhouse, a log cabin, #86 was also located. This log cabin schoolhouse was replaced in 1861 with a stone schoolhouse, which in 1905 was destroyed by fire and was replaced with a neat wooden structure which remained until consolidation in 1952 with Wau-namingo. The first school was taught in the log cabin in the winter of 1857 by E.G. Comstock. In 1868 E.G. Comstock represented Goodhue County in the State Legislature.

Israel T. Comstock was born in Woodstock, Conn. in the year 1831 and arrived in Cherry Grove Township in June 1856. An Indian trail from Mankato to Rochester led through the E.G. Comstock yard. Mrs. Comstock gave the Indians salt for their meat and remained friendly with them.

A list of the early Ayr postmasters include: July 23, 1867, Carey D. Brown; November 24, 1868, Henry Catlin; January 3, 1870, Solomon Sutherland; April 7, 1871, Jacob N. Nesson; January 29, 1874, Henry Catlin; December 16, 1875, Newland Catlin; July 26, 1876, Daniel C. Smith; October 12, 1877, John G. Bjorgo; March 11, 1880, Andrew L. Aabye; March 30, 1882, Israel T. Comstock; August 28, 1882, Mrs. Ellen M. Simpson; May 22, 1893, Cortland D. Hunt. From the Town Record book, the Town Supervisors held a meeting on June 24, 1878 at Bjorgo and Aabye store with the board of Samuel Tunks, H.M. Billings, Lucius Rupp and James Simpson, Clerk present.

The Ayr postoffice was discontinued February 4, 1884 and the mail was transferred to the Roscoe postoffice only three miles to the east. On November 6, 1893 the Ayr postoffice was re-established, not in its old location but one mile to the north, in the southeast corner of section #15 on a farm owned by David Simpson with James Simpson as the postmaster. He retained the job of postmaster until it was discontinued September 30, 1898. According to a 1898 map the Ayr postoffice was then located in the southeast corner of section #14.

Some businesses and their owners located at Ayr: 1871, Jacob Nesson operated a small store; 1875, Catlin and brother operated a general store; 1878, Bjorgo and Catlin a store; Henry Catlin a blacksmith shop and E.J. Winston a physician. In 1880 the store owned by Bjorgo and Catlin was bought by Andrew L. Aabye and was still operating in 1884. In 1884 and 1885 businesses listed for Ayr included Cortland D. Hunt, general store; Aabyes store.

Other stores listed for Ayr in County Histories are Jacob N. Nessen as proprietor of a general store in 1873 and Daniel C. Smith as having operated a store from 1871 to 1877. In 1888 a store was located at the Ayr location in the southeast corner of Section #15, and operated by Layng and Barsness and late in 1901 the store was moved to Skyberg in sections, where it was rebuilt north of the bank. The General Store in Ayr was in an old house located where the present house on the Andrew Johnson farm now stands. The Johnson farm is presently owned by Glen Rechzigel. A blacksmith shop in the northeast corner of section #22 was operated one summer and a grainery and pump in the northwest corner of section #23 is all that remains of old Ayr.

John Barsness who operated the General Store in Ayr was an uncle to Lars and Jens Barsness, while his partner Will Layng's wife was Nettie Comstock. The grocery store business of Layng and Barsness in Skyberg operated a grocery wagon route, through the countryside selling groceries, over-

alls, and all kinds of staple products, much like a milk or ice cream route today.

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## FAIRPOINT

Today it's hard to believe that Fairpoint was once a thriving crossroad village with a postoffice, many homes, stores, a cheese factory, and two churches, the German Evangelical and the Wesleyan Methodist, who met in the Fairpoint Schoolhouse and helped establish the Riverside Cemetery in Dodge County. The Nesson family were members of this church, located in the southern part of Cherry Grove Township in Section #33. Until the fall of 1977 nothing remained of Fairpoint but a few crumbling foundations and the old Evangelical German cemetery. A new home owned by Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Quimby is now standing in the corner where the old cheese factory stood years ago.

Government land office in Mantorville provided for a road through this area. This route became a mail route, so mail was delivered to Fairpoint by Pony Express from Fairbault. Many Indian arrowheads have been found in the area.

Fairpoint was plotted in 1857 and by 1863 several buildings were erected. The post office was started October 23, 1857 with David M. Haggard as the first postmaster. Because of the small amount of mail it was discontinued July 20, 1861.

During the winter of 1858 a group of pioneers who had settled near Fairpoint were called together on the occasion of the death of a small child of Benjamin Woodwards. David M. Haggard, a young man known as a disciple, was asked to conduct a brief funeral service. From this beginning, the idea of holding regular religious meetings developed. They were held in the homes and led by David Haggard.

Shortly thereafter they began using the name "Church of Disciples". There were members in both Goodhue and Dodge counties. The ten people whose names were enrolled constituted the nucleus of what was destined to be the "Church of Christ of Concord" and included: David M. Haggard, elder; Levi P. Hill, deacon; Mary Haggard, Christine Hill, Benjamin Woodward, Hannah A. Woodward, Redding Woodward, Thomas B. Haggard, Ebenezer Tilden and Elizabeth Tunks. In 1869 the place of meeting was changed to Eagle Valley. In 1860 the whole community joined in erecting a log building in Eagle Valley for church and school purposes. This was used until the present one at Concord was built.

In 1855 the Germans began coming in considerable numbers and the German Evangelical church was started on March 11, 1876. Henry Linnaman, president by election, Charles Sorn and Valentine Golden, duly elected trustees by members of the Evangelical Association of Fair Point a part of the Kasson Circuit in the Winona District, Minnesota Annual Conference of said Evangelical Association to take charge of the estate and property belonging to the said church at Fair Point. Signed by Henry Linnaman and George Fellman. George Easby, Justice of the Peace.

(Copied from an old document) Fair Point, January 28, 1876 - We the undersigned promise to pay to the trustees of the Evangelical Association on or before the 7th day of Nov. next, the sum set opposite our names for the purpose of building an Evangelical German Church at Fair Point in Goodhue County. Kelsey and Williams, \$50., E. Russell \$25., A. Fogle-

song \$15., P.H. Williams \$5., S.S. Semans \$5., estimated to be paid in work \$15., George Easby, two acres of land, \$200., Morgan Abel in work \$10., G.T. Hepner in work \$10., Wilhelm Kuhn \$10., John Custice \$5., (copied from an old document).

In 1877 the pastor was Rev. F. Smith. George Jahn served as organist in Fairpoint church, he also had an organ to practice on, which he kept in a grainery on the John Broin farm, west of Fair Point. There were only four families left, Peter Erath, Leonard Erath, John Stonke and John Smith, and couldn't support the church, so it was closed.

In February 1931 the Fairpoint German Evangelical Church was moved across the field one mile south, using a stump puller and one horse with the church building on walnut rollers, by Fred Glove, father of Charlie Glove. It was placed on the southside of the schoolhouse and became a community center. In those days money was more scarce and people were more content with local pleasures, so card parties and dances were held in the community center. As cars became more plentiful and roads improved people began going greater distances for their entertainment, and the community center closed. The Fairpoint schoolhouse was bought and moved by Arnold Ehrich to his farm for a grainery.

**Tombstones - Fairpoint German Evangelical Cemetery.** West side, south end, 1886-1952. Charlies (Carl) Martin, Bertha Martin, Alma Reider, Samuel Reider, Mary Reider, Samuel Reider, John Smith, Lydia Smith, Hilda Lydia Smith, Minnie Smith, Joseph VonWold, Anna VonWold, Emma Jedike, Chris Jedike, Mary Jedike. East Side - Joseph Erath, Anna Erath, Jacob Erath, Anna Erath Neukom, Leonard Erath, Emma Dingler Erath, Peter Erath, Louise Erath.

Jack Stonke was the choir master at Fairpoint Church for a Christmas Program in 1894. They passed out Christmas bags with candy and nuts. John O'Kane remembers attending this program.

Life wasn't all work. Fairpoint had a baseball team that played in the field east of the schoolhouse. A favorite spot was the fishing hole on Ed. Comstocks farm, south of John O'Kanes. The fish were mostly suckers but the swimming was also much enjoyed. Barn dances were an all time favorite. Many dances were held in the big Sackett barn, south of Roland Quimby and the old Jim Bradley barn, later owned by William Henry with Anton Larson as the fiddler. Usually they had two fiddlers and danced square dances, waltzes and the two step.

Adam and Mary Stonke Jahn moved into the old hotel at Fairpoint when they married and used it as a home. Adam Jahn was a paper hanger and painter.

Two churches were listed to early Fair Point, The German Evangelical Church and the Wesleyan-Methodist Congregation that met in the Fair Point schoolhouse. This church group also started the Riverside Cemetery, located south of the schoolhouse in Dodge County.

Judd Henkel came from the southern state of Virginia and settled in Fair Point as a blacksmith. When the Civil War broke out he fought with the Northern Army. In 1888 two blacksmiths are listed in Fair Point - Judd Henkel and John Hoff.

Henry Nesson, father of Leeland Nesson also fought in the Civil War, stationed at Fort Snelling. He had a home in Fairpoint located about 40 rods east on the north side of the

road. On the early map it is number 10. In 1903 he sold his house to Herbert Quimby who using a stump puller and one horse moved the house straight south, across the field on rollers to its present location on the Orville Quimby farm where it still stands today. The Quimbys lived in this house until they built a new home, southwest of the old house. The Nesson family later owned the farm on the west side of road #1, between Fairpoint and the schoolhouse.

According to the Town Records in 1880 Ed. Garrison operated a blacksmith shop at Fairpoint. Henry Catlin also operated a blacksmith shop there. Emanuel Andrist, a store, H. Kelsey a store, A.B. Edgar was a harnessmaker in 1892, his grandmother was a Collins.

March 2, 1865 the postoffice was re-established at Fairpoint with Alvin D. Williams named postmaster. In 1867 Eastman and E.B. Jewitt opened a store at Fairpoint. In 1872 this store is listed as owned by Eastman and Russell. April 1, 1872, Joseph H. Kelsey was appointed the postmaster. C.D. Hunt, a great-grandfather of Debs Kindseth, a Kenyon mail carrier on route #1, was also a postmaster in Fairpoint.

In 1883, Kelsey and Charlton began a creamery at Fairpoint in response to the wishes of the local farmers. Early in the twentieth century a cheese factory was built there by Godfrey Andrist, who in 1912 sold his plant and a quarter acre of land to the newly organized Fairpoint Cooperative Cheese Association for \$1200. The stone mason work on the cheese factory was done by the Fenne Brothers, who also built the stone basement of the Orville Quimby barn, which is still in use today. Organized March 26, 1912, the Fairpoint Cheese Cooperative continued making cheese until 1946 when it closed. Officers of the Cheese Association for many years were, William Bosshart, president; Charles Henry, Secretary; and Herbert Quimby, treasurer. Cheese was made from the whole milk delivered by local farmers. The most patrons was 34 in the 1920's when Charles Henry was the secretary. After Henry's death Kate Henry served as the secretary until 1933 when Clifford Quimby became the secretary and served for 11 years. The last secretary was Ervin Bosshart. Local farmers brought in the whole milk from which the cheese was made, cream was then separated from the remaining whey and sold and what remained went back to the farmers to feed to their hogs. Some cheese makers at Fairpoint were: the first cheese-makers, Robert and Fanny Nesbitt, Donald Weiss, Walter Weiss, Clifford Weiss, Kenneth Zeller, 1924; Harry Weiss, 1934, Tracy Bradshaw, Clifford Thompson, Ralph Bradshaw, Holiday and Arleigh Hones, the last cheesemakers.

Kenneth Zeller, still in his teens and for several years the states youngest cheesemaker, won the State Fair Champion Cheesemaker award for Minnesota and Wisconsin in 1927 and received a gold watch. Charles Henry, the father of George Henry and then the secretary of the Cheese Association, traveled with Kenneth Zeller in December 1928 to Madison, Wisconsin to accept the award. The Charles Henry and Clifford Quimby families hauled milk to the cheese factory the entire time it was in existence. Other patrons remembered were: Ervin Bosshard, Ed. Martin, Charlie Martin, Jack Vangeness, Henry Fairbanks, Phillip and Rudy Apfel, Ross Quimby, Pete Knutson, Jack Baebler, Fred Kraft, Lee Nesson, John Broin, Jack Streiff, Arnold (Boots) Bosshart, Peter Erath, John Bury and Knute Fenne. Arnold (Boots) Bosshart was president when they closed the cheese factory. John

Broin remembers buying a share of stock in the Fairpoint Cheese Association for \$10. when he began hauling whole milk to the cheese factory and when they closed he got about \$50. for the share.

Ed Blaisdell operated a harness shop at Fairpoint, his son Lloyd still lives in West Concord.

Knute Fenne, an uncle of Louis Fenne lived a short distance north of Fairpoint on the farm presently owned by Darrel Quimby and operated a blacksmith shop there. George Sackett was also an early owner of this farm. Lars Barsness remembers how he and his brother Jens took something to be fixed there in their pony cart.

Ruts of an old wagon trail route can still be seen going southwest-ward through farm land now owned by Russel Barr just west of the Orville Quimby farm and north of the Rolland Quimby farm.

Old Indian trails were the first roads in the area and squeaky wagons and carts drawn by oxen or by one horse and one ox as Lars Olson Barsness did. His team was named Jim and Jack and Lars remembers hearing how his grandfather hauled his wheat to Red Wing with his team, returning with a load of lumber to build the house he still lives in. Lucille (Mrs. John Quimby) remembers hearing how the family could tell that the father was returning by listening with an ear to the ground for the squeaky wagon's sound vibrations.

Early people traveled only if necessary as the roads were mud holes when it rained and dust bowls when dry. Clifford Quimby remembers well the mud hole in the road just north of his farm and how people would get stuck in the mudhole. This farm is now owned and operated by his son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Quimby. Such mud holes were common so people usually carried along a rope to use for pulling them out of the mud. He remembered pulling Don Malloy and his mother out of this mud hole in about 1932 when they got stuck returning from West Concord with their Model T Ford.

The government land office was located in Mantorville. A trail was started in 1856 leading from New Ulm through Mankato, Faribault, and through this area, passing through the Comstock yard. Many arrowheads and artifacts have been found in the area, from early times when Indians roamed the area. Many early Cherry Grove settlers came to Red Wing by boat and followed the old Indian trail to old Wanamingo, Ayr, Old Concord, and to points south.

At one time a National Matrimonial Agency listed its address as Fairpoint. Its official publication included a section called "Cupid's Column", where were listed the announcements of about 500 men and women all seeking correspondence. Its editor was Henry Jahn, a brother of Adam Jahn, he was never married.

The postoffice was moved after the store closed to the John Henry farm, 1 mile to the north and little east, or just west of St. Rose Catholic church on the north side of the road, in Section #28, where it remained until Rural Free Delivery from West Concord started.

The Charlie Martin family lived southwest of the Evangelical Church in an old stone house which still stands. The 1877 map lists this place as owned by R. Woodward. The Martin's had three sons, Millie, Charlie Jr. and Paul Martin, who owned a threshing rig and worked for area farmers. He did threshing for John Broin, who remembers how on a very windy, dry fall day he burned up his machine while threshing

flax for Broins. The straw wound up inside the machine and started to burn. He was bagging the flax and remembers well how hard he had to work to save his wagon and horses from the fire as horses become very frightened.

After 1890 area farmers turned gradually from raising wheat to dairying. Milk was shipped daily to the Twin Cities. The Chicago Great Western railroad operated a train known as the "Milk Shake", which carried the milk daily to St. Paul and Minneapolis. Farmers hauled milk by team and wagon to stations located every few miles along the line. Empty cans were returned in the evening. Bakko Station and Skyberg, were two such stations. Bakko Station later became a cheese factory, and still later used as a home and it finally burned down.

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## BOMBAY

Bombay started in 1903, is the only village in Goodhue County since the turn of the century.

This hamlet is still in existence today and doing well. It is located on State Highway #60, half way between Kenyon and Wanamingo. Bombay owes its existence to the construction of the Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul-and Pacific Railroad line between Faribault and Zumbrota, completed in 1903. Railroad lines had been completed earlier running north and south through Faribault and east and west between Zumbrota and Wabasha.

Crews started work on the new railroad line between Faribault and Zumbrota in 1902, but not much was accomplished. In the spring work was resumed but due to problems with the crew and the weather conditions the line was not ready for traffic until October. By mid-summer the surveyors reached the farm of John Davidson in Cherry Grove Township. There the railroad people soon learned that John Davidson was not the type of person to be pushed around. He didn't want his farm bisected by a railroad. In blunt and emphatic terms he told the easement solicitors to cease and leave. Mr. Davidson was not about to budge. Sweating and unhappy the solicitor mumbled something about "how hard it was to deal with a 'stubborn Norwegian'." Finally the solicitor shouted, "Read the law man, read the law, it will show we're right and you're dead wrong." A surveying crew was detailed to map the line through Mr. Davidson's farm. Unknown to the crew, one of Mr. Davidson's bulls had trotted out to investigate the situation. Head lowered, a front hoof pawing angrily and throwing up dust, the bull began making threatening gestures. Alarmed, the crew scattered. The chief surveyor raced up to Mr. Davidson, shouting angrily, "You've got to get that bull out of here. How can I get this job finished if that bull keeps harassing my crew?"

"Why sure," Mr. Davidson smiled, "just read him the law, man read him the law." This all happened the summer before the railroad was completed. The first passenger train made the run from Faribault to Wanamingo on November 9, 1903.

In July 1903, the railroad selected the John Davidson farm for a railroad station and suggested the name "Bombay", a name which displeased Davidson and many others. Several other names were suggested but the name "Bom-

bay" was the name that stuck. Some Indians in the area wanted the name, "Bombay." A freight shed was the first building constructed on the village site.

The Loomis Elevator and the Milwaukee Elevator with a lumber yard were built as soon as the railroad was completed. By August the freight shed was replaced by a depot, including an office, waiting room, freight and express storage rooms.

At first the depot was run by Charlson and John Otterness, who also ran the village store. Later a permanent depot agent by the name of "Day" was hired. He moved with his family to Bombay, and occupied the house now owned by the Selmer Quams.

In 1930 the Milwaukee Railroad discontinued agency service at Bombay. Agent Day remained as custodian of coal and grain. Passengers could still obtain tickets on the train. Later the Milwaukee Road reduced service to two or three trains a week. At the present time one or possibly two freight trains pass through Bombay each week.

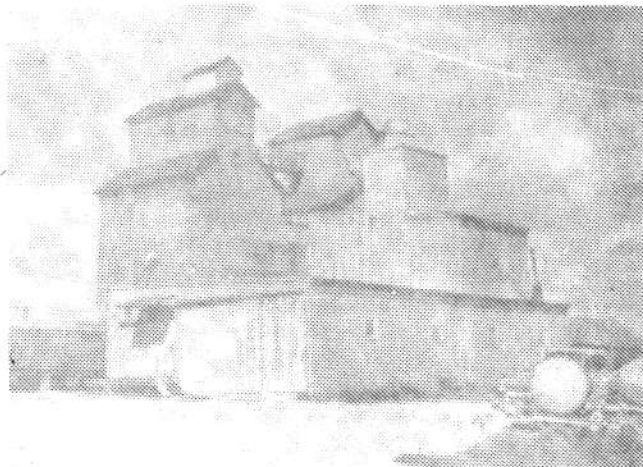
In the meantime both elevators were doing a good business, although the Milwaukee Elevator was a much larger enterprise. The elevators had many managers until 1905 when Simon Lecholt was hired as a manager.

In 1910, area farmers organized and bought out the Loomis and Milwaukee elevators; also the coal sheds. The Loomis Elevator was moved over to the west side, next to the Milwaukee Elevator. Managers of the elevators included Rohe, Rosvold, Ruud and Shepherd. Shepherd gained a controlling interest in the company. His son Frank became manager July 1, 1919. Business flourished until late in October 1924 when the Bombay Elevator could not meet its financial obligations. The elevator was sold to the Fleischman Company in Red Wing and young Frank Shepherd left as manager. After the elevator at Bombay closed the stockholders held a meeting and decided not to file bankruptcy, but to voluntarily pay the double liability, that is, surrender their shares in the Bombay Elevator and also pay the elevator, \$10.00 in cash for each share they owned. In this way they felt the creditors would get more than if the courts took over. In any event the shareholders were liable for double liability, that is surrender their \$10. shares and also pay \$10.00 for each share. At the meeting some people said, "Let the court take over, decide what to do", but they were voted down.

A group of farmers organized the Bombay Shipping Association in 1924 in connection with the elevator. The stock yards were located directly west of the elevator. It was managed by Shepherd who served as secretary and treasurer. Later this position was held by Lars Ugland. This business was discontinued when the elevator was sold by the farmers to the Fleischman Elevator Company of Red Wing. Josie Lunde was Frank Shepherd's wife and had been employed as a telephone operator at Wanamingo.

In 1939, Claremont Skillestad bought the feed mill west of the elevator from Andrew Flaten and operated this mill until 1944 when all the Fleischman Elevators were purchased by the Commander Elevator Company, a branch of the Archer Daniel Midland Company.

Martin Ruud and son Arnold Ruud were managers of the elevator until 1943 when Claremont Skillestad became the manager. In 1960 Farmers Union bought the elevator which still serves the farmers of the community and is now called



G.T.A.

In May of 1904, John Otterness and Marcus and John Charlson of Sogn opened a general merchandise store directly north of the Loomis Elevator. The store building is still standing in the same place today and is still a store. Some people say that the store was built by Herman Flaten, a local farmer and carpenter. He lived and farmed where Alice and Alfred Hostager live today, Section #6. In 1908 Otterness bought out the Charlson's share of the business. His wife and a helper



then opened a dressmaking shop in their living quarters upstairs at the store.

By this time the people of the hamlet of Bombay realized their need for recreation and entertainment, so a village band was organized in 1907. It consisted of farmers in the immediate area. A band instructor by the name of Adolphe Lucke was hired and came by train from Faribault to practice with them once a week. The band entertained at many village functions including the Fourth of July celebration at the Adolph Neseth grove, a Box Social at Einar Overbys, a picnic at Sjur Frettem, at a double wedding near Wanamingo. Whenever they were called on they were ready.

In 1912, Michael J. Davidson, son of John Davidson, purchased the general store from Otterness. The Davidson family moved into the apartment over the store where they lived for years and where their daughter, Sadie, (Mrs. Helmer Morkre) was born. It remained in his possession until 1968 when due to the death of his wife, Clara, he sold the store to

**Mr. and Mrs. Claremont Skillestad.**

Late in 1927, Carl Langeness took over the store. It was operated by his wife, Signora, and his sister, Martha Langeness Means for about three years after which they closed out the store and it remained closed for two years. In 1932, old highway #21, running from Faribault to Zumbrota, was re-routed past the store. Because of the increase in traffic past the store, and increased business at the elevator, Michael and Clara Davidson decided to reopen the store. It was a general merchandise store with a gas pump also installed for gasoline customers. The Davidsons moved back into the apartment over the store in 1934. The Davidsons continued to run the store until the death of Mrs. Davidson in July 1868. The last few years Mrs. Davidson ran the store alone after Michael J. Davidson became disabled. In 1968, after Clara Davidsons death, the store was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Claremont Skillestad who operate it at the present time.

Farmers tried as early as 1904 to start a cheese factory in Bombay. Efforts were fruitless until 1909 when the first meeting was held and it was decided to build a cheese factory. Sever Haugen served as the chairman at this meeting and Olaus Morkre served as the secretary. Herman Flaten was hired to build a cheese factory and hired to be treasurer and sell the cheese, sort of a business manager. David Kunz, a cheese maker from Pine Island was hired to operate it. In 1913 a group of farmers organized under the name of Bombay Dairy Company and purchased the business. The cheese factory never became a profitable business and did not manage to stay out of the red until they closed in 1920. Rob and Jane Nesbits were cheese makers the later years. They lived upstairs at the Elmer Yngsdal residence. Some farmers that Alfred Morkre remembers hauling milk to this factory were Heltnes, Barsness, Quams, Flatens, Uglands, Blakers, Broins, Bert Ness, Sever Haugen and Morkres. The old cheese factory building still stands along Highway #60, east of the Selmer Quam residence. A garage was opened in the cheese factory building in 1923 by Ole Yngsdal and later operated by his brother, Elmer Yngsdal.

The house west of the Claremont Skillestad residence was built and owned by John Davidson and rented out to various families managing the elevator. At the present time, the house is owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Yngsdal.

At one time there was a blacksmith shop located about where the Claremont Skillestad residence now stands. It was run by a man by the name of Enger. He moved here with his family but did not stay in business very long.

Since its beginning in 1903, Bombay has managed to hold its own. It has fared better than most villages of its size despite the changes in the rural economy. It still occupies much the same area as it did in its beginning. The elevator, feedmill and store with its gasoline business still continue to carry on a good business.

The current residents of Bombay include: Mr. and Mrs. John E. Davidson (Our current Goodhue County Commissioner) and sons, John Davidson, Jr. and Jeffrey Davidson; Mr. and Mrs. Claremont Skillestad and son, Larry Skillestad; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Yngsdal and son, Elvin Yngsdal; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Simonson and Emil Oseland (an uncle of Mrs. Claremont Skillestad), who occupies the apartment over the store. Ralph Spitzack is the present manager of the

G.T.A. Elevator and with his family lives in Wanamingo.

The old railroad depot was purchased from the railroad and rebuilt on the John Davidson farm in 1944 for a chicken coop.

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## SPRING CREEK

According to the early postal records, Spring Creek post office was established May 12, 1860 with Leonard Briggs as the first postmaster. It is presumed the first postoffice was in the Briggs home, located in the central part of Section #5, just west of the Spring Creek, creek after which the postoffice was named. This farm is presently owned by Mrs. Richard Langeness and Ralph. The Spring Creek postoffice moved often with the frequent change of postmasters and was usually found in their homes. As at all the other postoffices, it brought business to the store and served as a social meeting place while waiting for the mail. In 1870 it was listed by the Postoffice Department as being located in the south-west corner of Section #4. The map of 1877 shows Spring Creek located at the junction of the present Highway #60 and Goodhue County Road #1, about one mile east of the present Bombay. A store was established by J.O. Strandness in this north-east corner of Section #5 presently owned by Vernon Crouse. A house stood on the south side of this store. This house was moved in about 1906 to the Blaker farm and placed north of the other Blaker house, where Frank lived. Elizabeth and Fredrich Blaker was Alfred Morkre's first and second grade teacher and noted for being an exceptional cook. The land around the store, 79.95 acres, was owned by N.K. Finne. In 1877 when Jacob O. Strandness was appointed the postmaster for Spring Creek, the post office was moved to this location.

The next eighty acres south of this corner was owned by Jacob Blaker whose brothers Eugene and Frank purchased the adjoining 119.50 acres south from B. Root. In the year 1921 the farm was sold to Haaken Brenna with Maurice Brenna as the present owner. Along the south line of the Root farm in 1871, Spring Creek school was established and the school house was built in 1877. On the map of 1877 Spring Creek school is listed as School 5.

The early map shows a blacksmith shop north-east from the Strandness store in Wanamingo Township. Some foundation stones have been found there by the Lowell Broin family, who now farm this land. Strandness sold out his store in about 1900 and the store building was then moved to the present Brenna farm by the Blakers, who had a blacksmith shop and grocery store on their farm. The Blaker brothers, Eugene and Elizabeth Fredrichs Blaker lived in the north end of the house while Frank and Hannah Arvidson Blaker lived in the south end of the house. Eugene Blaker lost an arm in a corn shredder accident at the John Davidson farm, about 1910 near Bombay. The Blaker brothers had a threshing rig and also shredded corn for other farmers. They did all their field work with a beautiful Percheton horse.

In February 1886, Duane S. Root was appointed the postmaster for Spring Creek. His farm was located in the north-east corner of Section #8, presently owned by James Shoberg, so it is presumed the postoffice was moved to his home. The

1877 map lists the farm to S.D. Root, according to the township record books his father, Byington Root, was one of the pioneers of Cherry Grove Township and served at various times as different officers and overseer of the roads.

The last Spring Creek postmaster was John H. Bradley, appointed October 11, 1896. His farm of 160 acres was located in the southwest corner of Section #9, and the 1877 map lists it to Hugh Bradley and is presently owned by Joseph Kvittem. This postoffice was discontinued September 30, 1902. Some say that a blacksmith shop was also operated from this farm in about 1893. Alfred Morkre remembers how he and his sister Signora and brother, Ingmar walked across the field to pick up their mail from the Bradley postoffice, which was east and west. John Broin also remembers walking to the Bradley post office for mail from his fathers farm, northeast of the present Highway #60 and County road #1 in Wanamingo Township. A structure about 20 by 30 feet made of logs right to the peak, was built on the west end of the present Kvittem house. When torn down Myron Kvittem remembers hearing the men say that they would estimate it to be ninety years old. Along the south side was an old fashioned porch. The Bradleys built the west side of the present house and Kvittems the east half. The inside of this log addition consisted of a kitchen and an 8 x 10 pantry along the north wall, along the east wall next to the kitchen was a room about 4 or 5 feet wide for the postoffice, a stair well going up east and a small bedroom, a living room in the southwest corner. The postoffice room had shelves and pigeon holes for the mail. A small door about 2½ x 2½ feet, waist high was to the east, apparently where you could come to pick up your mail as the old road went on the east side of this log house. Alfred Morkre remembers picking up his mail from this window. When tearing down this old Bradley house, Myron Kvittem found two old cards, remains from the old postoffice.

The mail was delivered about twice a week by horse back or by a two wheeled road cart, to the postoffice. Our present roads were then only wagon trails, now it's hard to believe them having been deep rooted wagon trails.

In 1901, a Spring Creek column appeared in the Kenyon Leader. Some happenings taken from the early column follow: Thursday, July 18, 1901. "The rye is in the shock, ready for stacking and the barley is ready for the sickle. Chinch bugs are doing great damage to crops in this vicinity, Julius Peterson, Skyberg visited Sunday with his brother, Oscar. Gladys Root of Kenyon is spending part of her vacation at Mrs. Blakers. During the storm Wednesday, forenoon a yearling heifer belonging to Blaker Bros, was killed by lightning. Mrs. W. Stewart, who goes home by way of Buffalo Exposition and Canada is visiting relatives here."

Notes from March 7, 1901, column: "Spring Creek is anxiously waiting for "Free rural mail delivery". Mrs. J. Langeness and sons Carl and Richard have been on the sick list. The Blaker family is still on the sick list. A Phrenologist lectured at the Spring Creek schoolhouse Friday evening and the Brickstein schoolhouse Saturday evening. Quite a number were in attendance."

Noted from the Thursday, March 21, 1901, Spring Creek column: "Mrs. E.L. Peck, of Zumbrota attended the "Kvindeforening (Ladies Aid) at Mrs. Overby's last Tuesday. A good attendance is reported. Louis Langeness who has been attending school in Kenyon has come home to help on the

farm during springs work. Farmers were preparing for spring work until the recent snow storm gave them a few more days of rest."

In the Kenyon Leader also appeared a Cherry Grove Column with the following from March 7, 1901, "John Stafford closed a very successful term of school last Tuesday. Miss Maggie Devlin is quite sick, with the mumps."

Some early teachers in the Spring Creek School, #85: 1876 - Ella M. Scofield; 1877 - Mary Richter; 1878 - Duane Root; 1878 - Flora Greene; 1879 - S.D. (Duane) Root; 1879 - Amy Stone; 1880 - Mary C. Richter; 1880 - Florence E. Murphy; 1881 - Ella V. Keeley; 1882 - S.D. Root; 1882 - Ada J. Layng; 1883 - Ida F. Pugh; 1883 - Amanda S. Darn; 1884 - Hattie E. Elwell; 1885 - S.D. Root; 1885 - Jessie M. Andrist; 1885 - Mary A. Bradley; 1886 - Alice M. Millie; 1887 - Katie R. Bradley; voted to build a wood shed, 12 x 12 x 8 foot posts; 1889 - Mary R. Anderson; 1890 - E.L. Blaker; 1890 - Ellen Bradley; 1891 - Ole Jackman; 1893 - A.C. Charlton; 1895 - Jens Ottum; 1897 - Chas E. Henry; 1899 - Lena Wrolstad; 1899 - Effie F. Root; 1901 - Mrs. E.F. Blaker, first day of school for Alfred Morkre, age 6. Arbor day they planted 3 box elder and 2 maple trees and 1 lilac bush. The yard contains 15 living trees. 1902 - Emma Bergum, 1903 - Emma Arvidson; 1904 - Edgar B. Rehnke. Average monthly wage of teachers including value of board, \$30.

Other teachers through the years that I have heard about in #85 include: Selma Haugen, (Mrs. Alfred Morkre), Maurice Flom, Tillie Knutson, Minerva Fredrickson, Hazel Ramstad, Luella Berg, William Otterness, Eloise Rustad, Dorothy Foras, Janet Schafer, Ruby Farus, Elizabeth Jensen, Edith Hegseth. The school was consolidated in 1954.

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## FARMS

Mattson Farm. Section #17: Knute Johnson Bergum, 1856, Homesteaded 160 acres: Bergum Estate-Walter and Edna Bergum-1949; Bernard and Donna Mattson-1975, (Granddaughter of original owner.)

Davidson Farm: David and Martha Krogen (Great-Great-grandfather); John and Gertrude Davidson; Michael and Clara Davidson; John and Vi Davidson-1944; Michael M., John E. Jr. and Jeff C. Davidson-1974.

George Henry Farm: Prempted from U.S. Government-Lavander F. Blackmer, July 22, 1856; T.S. Slingerland, July 3, 1865; James McBride, May 31, 1875; Ferdinard Lick, June 1, 1875; Anna Lick, May 8, 1875 (grandmother of present owner Mary Ann Bury Henry); David Bury, February 16, 1885; John Bury, June 12, 1916; Mary Ann Bury Henry, December 10, 1954.

Overby Farm: Jens Anfinson Fardahl-Christian (Kristie) Wilkum Fardahl-1860; Karen Susanna Fardahl-Inger Overby; Jens Overby-Martha Barsness Overby; James Overby-Patricia Quimby Overby (great grandson).

Quam Farm: Jens Anfinson Fardahl-Kristine Wilkum Fardahl; Cecelia Fardahl-John Johnneson Quam; Alfred Quam, Sr. and Mildred Myran Quam-(Married 1878, farm wedding gift); Daniel Quam-Sharon Nesseth Quam-1977 (great-grandson).

Hjortaaas Farm: Hiram Albert (North 80) U.S. Govern-

ment-1860; John and Martha Erickson-May 22, 1874; John and Martha Erickson (South 80-U.S. Government) 1856; Martha Hjortaas-Sons, Hans and Joseph, daughter Louise (Mrs. Ole Thompson)-1903; Joseph Hjortaas-Paula Bjorngaard Hjortaas-1903; Juel Hjortaas-Minda Romo Hjortaas-1934; Donald Hjortaas-Margaret Durst Hjortaas-1968.

Apfel Farm: William Sorn (Brothers great uncles of present owner) and August Sorn-1875; Phillip Apfel; Rudy Apfel (Present owner).

Barsness Farm: (Section #4-W. one-half of E. one-half of S.E. one-fourth 140 acres) Andrus Johnson Barsness (homesteaded)-1858; Johannes Barsness-1916; Alfred Flikke-1935 (Grandson of Andrus); Henry Barsness-1970 (Grandson of Andrus).

Section #3: (N. one-fourth of N.W. one-fourth 40 acres and Section #4-100 acres) Andrus Johnson Barsness-Home-steaded-1858; Fred Barsness-1916; Henry Barsness-1943 (Grandson of Andrus).

Malloy Farm: 80 acres-northeast quarter of section #21; James Wall preempted land from government; 1858 Terrance Malloy; Thomas and Alma Hurdler Malloy; Donald and Elizabeth Covert Malloy (Present owners).

Jacob Olness Farm: (South one-half of Section #2) Arne Anderson-Carrie Bjorg Anderson (Came to Cherry Grove before the Civil War. Enlisted in the Civil War, 1862 with the Wanamingo Group enlisted for three years or until the war was over); Nels J.-Christie Anderson Olness-1887; Jacob N. and Anna Swenson Olness-1931.

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## UNIQUE PEOPLE

The Fenne Family, Andres and Sigvor, had a family of seven boys and two girls. The older boys worked as cement masons for years, building barn and house foundations, bridge abutments, and silos in a ten or more mile radius of their home in Section #29, Cherry Grove Township. In those early days before cars and trucks they would walk to their jobs early Monday morning, carrying their tools in a gunny sack on their backs, returning Saturday evening after work.

Many of their jobs were in the Holden Church area. Louis Fenne remembers building the basement foundation for the barn on the Paul Voxland farm, then owned by Paul's grandfather, Lars H. Voxland. They also built the old Aakre bridge, west of the Roy Voxland farm. They slept nights in the old Ole Voxland barn, they had a canvas shack for cooking and used a gasoline stove. Their cement was all hand mixed. The young men mixed the mortar while the older men laid the stones. He remembers well how happy they were when they got a one seated buggy to haul their tools to work. Cutting a large stone was quite an art. By sizing up the stone they were able to judge where the stone would break. Bringing a 100 pound weight down with all their might in just the right spot they were able to break the stone off smooth. They did the masonry work on the Randall Implement building on Main Street in West Concord, the Fair Point and Bakko cheese factories. Silos were tile and red clay block. The stone for their own barn basement was hauled all winter from the Fairbank's quarry, two loads a day. They also built the basement of the house and barn on the Myron Kvittem farm in 1904.

They didn't work all the time, what did they do for fun? Ballgames were great sport. Walking many miles to get together for a game, 15 miles was nothing. They met for many games at the Spring Creek schoolhouse. Another past time for the Fenne Brothers was carrying a 66 pound steel ball to the top of a 50 or 60 foot windmill tower, and throwing it down with as much force as possible to see who could make the deepest hole. Some sport, especially when you think of having to watch your balance and not hit the tower platform.

Ingemann Fenne remembers taking his big wheeled bicycle into West Concord one July day to attend a celebration, with 75 cents in his pocket, leaving about 6 o'clock in the morning. With not much money he still had a lot of fun. Many wagons, buggies and surries came to the race track out west of town. David McCarty had a store on the corner. When clouds formed and it began to darken he headed for home. When the rainstorm hit he had to push his bicycle through the mud getting soaking wet and muddy. It was dark when he reached home. He attended the Kenyon High School. Each Monday morning he walked to Skyberg, got on the Milk Shake and rode into Kenyon where he stayed for the week, returning home Friday evening the same way, only the evening Milk Shake was unpredictable, so many times it was late at night before he reached his home.

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To be an early school teacher you needed only to take a ten week Teacher Training Course, pass a test and be at least 17 years of age. Mary Nolan, (Mrs. John O'Kane) took a ten week Teacher Training Course at the Southern Minnesota Normal School at Austin. She took her test in February, got a certificate and began teaching the first Monday in April, a week after her 17th birthday. The last year she taught was 1945 when she finished the last half of the schoolyear in #146 when the teacher quit at Christmas time and also 1946, after which the school was closed. Most schoolhouses were similar in structure.

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The Zumbro Valley Thresherman's Association, which was organized August 1, 1955 and incorporated July 17, 1956, preserves the memories of the days of the steam-powered threshing machines and other equipment operated by the trust worthy steam engine. They staged their first "Thresherman's reunion Saturday and Sunday, 1955 on the Budenski Brothers farm, located in the south-east corner of Cherry Grove Township. In 1956 the second annual reunion was held. Visitors had an opportunity to see events that have now all but passed from the American scene, threshing demonstrations, lumber sawing and shingle sawing, plus music and entertainment in keeping with the occasion. Many items of interest to people of all ages were on display, a grain cradle, antiques and small engines in addition to a machinery exhibit. 1957 officers of the association were T.M. Ruble, Oakland, president; Robert Budenski, West Concord, vice-president; Marilyn Trelstad, West Concord, secretary; E.M. Budenski, West Concord, treasurer; Directors included: Henry Bennett, Oakland, Albert Budenski, W.J. Giese, Louis Budenski, Leo Matti and Alf Andrist, all of West Concord; John Schultz, Hammond and Joe Ladd, Blooming Prairie.

The name Fardahl originated from a farms name in Nor-

way. An act of Congress, March 3, 1856 granted Bounty Lands to soldiers who were engaged in Military Service of the U.S. Onfin Barsness Fardahl was granted 120 acres in Cherry Grove Township, Section #3. The original document held by the James Overby family shows it was signed by President James Buchanan. They built a two story log house used until 1977 when it was replaced with a new house. He was also known as Jens Anderson and Jens Anfindson. Jens Overby recalls a horse barn being moved by horse and rollers from the Overby farm to one operated by Phillip Deraas in Cherry Grove Township. It was a slow moving operation requiring several days before the moving job was completed. It is still being used. The first Dale Church was built on Fardahl land. Susanna Overby was the first Dale Church organist for 25 years. Her granddaughter, Mrs. Marvin (Evelyn) Danielson has followed in her footsteps, serving as the organist at Gol and First Lutheran Churches.

To reach 100 years is quite a distinction as very few do or will reach it, and remain as clear in mind as she did. Clara Nelson Ryberg (Mrs. John) lived most of her married life in Cherry Grove Township, passing away at the age of 102 years



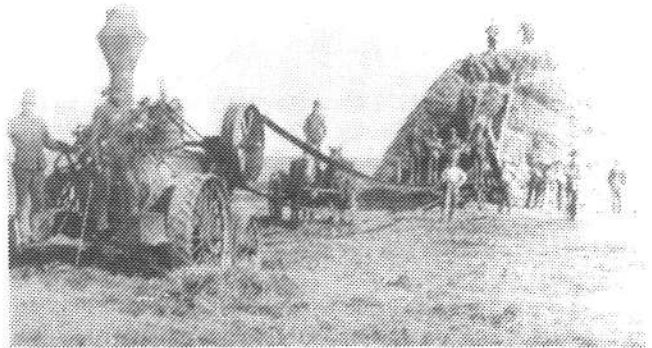
and 6 months. She remembered her oldest brother Peter coming home from Red Wing and telling of the assassination of President Lincoln, also the Indian uprising in Mankato and preparation for their survival should the Indians come as far as Spring Garden. Another of her recollections was of riding to Red Wing on wheat loads with Peter and the long wagon trains hauling wheat to the market. Mr. and Mrs. John Ryberg came to Cherry Grove Township in 1892 after purchasing 160 acres in Section #21. Mrs. Ryberg counted her ancestors from seamen, her grandfather was a sea captain and her father a sailor until coming to the U.S.

Mrs. Phillip Apfel, nee Minnie Koop, came to Cherry Grove Township from Langesbergen on the Weser, Germany, April 12, 1912, about the same time as the Titanic, an English ship on its maiden voyage hit an iceberg and sunk. They passed the area where the Titanic sank the next day. Minnie was homesick and so remained below deck, but others reported seeing ships debris, huge icebergs and bodies floating in the water.

About two weeks after leaving Germany, Minnie began

working for the Herb Churchill family. They were building the barn, that burned down on the present Peter Sviggem farm. Minnie's chores included helping care for the family, cleaning, cooking for the thirteen men building the barn, chop up old boards from the wrecked building for firewood to use in the kitchen cookstove, haul water in from the well and later out. When asked if America was the way she had pictured it to be, Minnie replied, "No, I looked for something all together different. Everyone has to work. I thought the floors would all be carpeted, with swell things, instead I found white wooden floors to keep clean, no carpets, and I had to learn to peel wet potatoes, instead of dry like in the old country."

From an early record book owned by Alfred Morkre we find that a threshing rig owned by Morkre and A.J. Fardahl, worked in the northern part of Cherry Grove Township. From this record book we find that they threshed or served a total of 241 customers, for the average job they received \$27.58.



Olaus Morkre was the son of Iver and Sigrí Morkre, who came over to America from Norway and settled four miles east of Spring Creek schoolhouse in the southwest corner of Section #7, Roscoe Township. They raised a family of seven children, one of who was Olaus who married Brita Lunde and bought the 160 acres of land from Ole Johnson Fladland in the north central part of Section #9, Cherry Grove in 1894. The other 80 acres of this farm was sold to Yngsdahl. Tragedy hit the family in 1930 when a son Arnold and a cousin, Alfred Lunde were killed when the airplane in which they were joy riding or "Barn Storming", with a pilot named Dahlen crashed into the Wanamingo watertower. In 1921, Alfred married Selma Hauge, the Spring Creek school teacher, and lived on this farm until 1968 when they sold the farm to James Overby and moved into Kenyon.

Another threshing rig was owned by William Henry and operated in the central and southern parts of Cherry Grove and some in the West Concord area. He had twelve men in the crew and had a Case threshing rig and an Aultman Taylor separator. The Henry family preempted land in Section #28 in 1856 and the last Fair Point post office was operated from their home until Rural Free Delivery from West Concord began.

The O'Kane brothers, James and Henry came to Cherry

Grove Township and preempted each eighty acres in Section #17. One eighty acres is the former Frank Vanderhyde Farm now owned by Ruben Jensen and the other eighty acres was the Jack Vallely farm now owned by Marlin Benrud. Henry enlisted in the Civil War and served as a volunteer nurse at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. After the war was finished he stayed and helped with the Malaria Fever patients. It was so prevalent there, he contracted the disease himself and died. James P. then got both eighty acre farms and then sold them and acquired land in Section #24. This farm is presently owned by Lloyd Cordes. John O'Kane remembers his father building the west section of their house in 1898, the same year the house was built on the then farm of Herb Churchill, now owned by Peder Sviggum.

When the grain was sold it was taken by team and wagon or sleigh in the winter time to the nearest market. O'Kanes sold their grain to Zumbrot and later to Wanamingo when the Wanamingo Milling Company was formed in 1911, west of the present cemetery. This milling company advertised on a 1911 calendar that John O'Kane still has, "Staff of Life" and "Sweet Sixteen" flours, featuring a good looking girl of that era.

Albert Hegge in 1971 when they were rebuilding the road past his farm between Section #22 and 23, found an old Territorial Road marker placed there many years before to mark the road for travelers. J.N. Olness remembers having seen a road marker north of his farm in the center of Section #2 where the road angles to the north-east. After the road was rebuilt the marker disappeared. It has the number #27 inscribed on it, being the number of miles to Red Wing. Another similar marker also inscribed with a number was seen north of old Wanamingo by Adolph Thorson.

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#### RICHARD CHARLTON

On October 5, 1861, when nineteen years old he walked from Spring Creek, Cherry Grove Township to Fort Snelling to enlist in Company A, Minnesota Regiment of Sharpshooters, organized under Berdan. He participated in skirmishes at various points throughout the Civil War. He fought in the Battle of Gettysburg under Lieutenant Colonel Francis Peteler. He was wounded at the Battle of Antietam and lay on the battlefield without attention or aid from Wednesday to Saturday and was confined to the hospital six months. On September 22, 1864 he was mustered out after serving three years. In 1868 he married Mariah J. Wait and farmed in Section #28 about forty years. He then retired and moved to St. Paul where he was a real estate man for nineteen years.

When Jens Olson Barsness crossed the ocean from Norway they had to bury one of their children at sea. The first year here in Cherry Grove Township they lived in a dugout house of two rooms. The home on the Lars Barsness home is about 100 years old. Martha Barsness, Lar's grandmother when young would herd the cows during the cold winter to the creek west of the Virgil Nodland farm, for water each day as this creek is spring fed and runs all winter. This creek is about

a mile and a half east of them with a round trip of three miles. Imagine a woman making this trip every day, their heavy woolen clothes must have been warm. Two weeks before she died at the age of 90, in the fall of 1929 she walked to Wanamingo to get groceries. In March 1949 Lars married Genevieve Morrison Diltevsen, and they still reside in this one hundred year old Barsness home.

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One of the earliest mail carriers out of Skyberg was Frank White. Another early Skyberg mail carrier through this area was Ernie Hunt who lived just east of Skyberg on the farm owned by Earl Erath. He was a grandfather of Debs Kindseth and carried mail through this area from 1913-1926. Ernie delivered mail with a team of horses and a buggy. In winter he had a wooden green structure on the buggy for protection. Catherine and Bob Henry thought he was the Santa Claus as he brought all their gifts, ordered from the catalogs. In early days the roads were deeply rutted. He was a very dedicated mail servant and rarely missed a delivery. Sometimes he would have to leave his team and walk to make a delivery, but the mail had to go through. Dick Fenne followed him as the Skyberg mail carrier until it closed. Many times he would drive as far as he could by car and then ski to make a delivery. When the Skyberg postoffice closed this area changed to a Kenyon route with Adolph Charlson as the first Kenyon carrier in this area.

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The John Henry family homesteaded in 1856, one mile north of Fair Point in Section # , and shared their farmstead and well with the Indians. Indians loved corn for themselves and their horses. At the John Henry farm to protect his corn, he would leave his coat lay in the corn crib, on which his dog liked to make his bed. The dog wasn't too friendly to strangers.

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Home dressmakers or seamstresses are a thing of the past. Most clothes nowadays are either store bought or made by the person who likes personalized clothes.

Josie Urness sewed for people in their homes. She learned her profession from Mrs. Emma (Ingeborg) Munson, a dressmaker who had a shop on Main Street in Kenyon. Mrs. Munson was the mother of Mrs. Jay Held.

Each family had their own sew machine and furnished all the necessary things, and Josie came and sewed, receiving one dollar a day and her room and board. She made everything from small fancy dresses to Confirmation dresses and mens silk shirts that were very much in style then. She remembers that her family bought their first trette type Singer sewing machine when her sister Mary got married.

Oct. 17, 1977 Josie was honored on her 90th birthday at the Dale Lutheran church. She and her family lived on the farm now owned by Mons and Millard Johnson in Cherry Grove. An old house now torn down was her family home for over 60 years. Her father and mother, John and Mary Krogen Urness came from Norway and settled here raising a family of twelve children. Her father served in the Civil War. The Americans couldn't pronounce the name Urness, so they call-

ed him Johnson, as his first name was John, so he was named John Johnson.

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### MILT WILSON

After serving his penitentiary sentence of 13 years he returned to Cherry Grove Township to spend the rest of his life. He moved his one room house, first to the Herb Churchill farm east of the present buildings then to the John Henry farm Section #28 where it stood south and west of the present farm site in a small grove of trees. He usually had a small patch of about one acre of land for raising broom corn. He had an old machine outside between his house and the Henry house on which he made brooms to peddle around the neighborhood. Alive Ryan Henry described him as a "big burley fellow who looked like he had escaped from a cave, and quick tempered." The Henry family, for whom Alice worked, was good to him and she had to take hot breads and rolls over to his house on baking day. Having heard all the stories about him she was afraid of him. In later years his mind became deranged and many times in the night he would have a spell and only Frank or Will were able to quiet him down. They seemed to have a lot of patience with him. He built his own coffin from wood and highly polished it and inlaid stones and shells, ground up, into intricate designs on the cover, crosses and stars, which he fashioned to fit perfectly.

The designs were set in so they were perfectly smooth across the top and varnished. Mrs. John Henry gave him material for lining and a pillow. He died at the "Little Sisters of the Poor" in St. Paul and was buried there.

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A friendship that lasts 75 years or more is really outstanding. With our society as mobile as it is today friends of many years are few and far between. Not for Lasse Iverson and Lars Ness who not only are cousins but life time friends beginning in Norway. They went to school together, were confirmed together, crossed the ocean together in the spring of 1910, worked together in a northern Minnesota lumbering camp during the winter and neighboring farms in the Wanamingo area in the summer, later purchasing farms near Wanamingo, putting their roots deep in our area soil, each living and owning a farm.

In this area Lars worked for L.E. Johnson. Used a four gang plow and plowed about 20 miles a day. He had 36 horses, which he kept in a nice barn. Johnson was very proud of his horses, which were curried and put in a livery stable when driven to town. Wanamingo had two livery stables - Tiller and Helleckson. Tiller was located behind the now Haugen Hatchery and Helleckson where the present blacksmith shop is located. In 1913, Johnson had a gas engine which he used to pump water and generate electricity which was stored in storage batteries and used for lights in the barn.

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Kathryn Comstock Henry (Mrs. Charles) 92 years young in 1976 was still frying her delicious doughnuts and making pies at the home of her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Sander Sinjun near Dodge Center. She was always a great seamstress, sewing for her children and grandchildren up to

her 91st birthday.

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The Malloy family had their wheat ground into flour in Red Wing. Terrance Malloy, grandfather of the present owner Donald Malloy, carried many sacks of wheat to Red Wing following the Old Indian Trail, later called the Territorial Road to Red Wing north through Sections #15, and 14 angling to the center of Section #11, straight north to the center of Section #2 angling to the township line and then straight north into Old Wanamingo. Alma Malloy told the story many times of how he walked to Red Wing one day with a sack of wheat, returning the next day with a sack of flour on his back.

Terrance and Catherine Gleson Malloy came by barge to Red Wing and followed the old Indian Trail to Cherry Grove where the O'Kanes and Henry families lived, they had known them from the east. The first year they lived with the Henry family. They had three children, one son died in infancy and was buried on the Henry farm. A log cabin was built south of the present house and later moved and became part of the grainery which still remains. When the mother saw the Indians peeking in the windows she became so frightened that she took the infant daughter Mary Ellen and went back east. Nothing was heard of this branch of the family until 1972 when through cemetery and other records they were able to locate us.

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Catherine Henry still owns a fifty cent silver piece from 1856 that her Uncle Frank gave her. It was de-valued when he drilled a hole through it for a chain so she could wear it around her neck to cut her teeth on.

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The Knute Johnson family homesteaded the west part of his farm in the north-east part of Section #17 in 1856. They built and lived in a sod dugout house where a grove of trees remain today, south-west of the present farmstead operated by a granddaughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Mattson. He, with the help of his neighbors, dug a well and stoned the sides. Mrs. Bergum and sons Walter and Allen, were home alone one day when she noticed Indians emerging from the grove. She quickly grabbed the children and hid them in the attic. The Indians came in and looked around, they wanted food. She gave them what she had, some salt pork, potatoes, and a little bread. They wanted more but she finally convinced them that there was no more food and they left.

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Olaus Morkre served as the choir director at the Dale Church in 1909. Some choir members then, remembered were Ingmar Morkre, Anna Kvittem, Carl Langeness, Palma Albertson, Signora Morkre, John Broin.

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Life wasn't always perfect in Cherry Grove Township. We did have bad times too. Two murders occurred in about the center of the township in 1875-76. The Wilson murder occurred on his farm in Section #16, and the Churchill in Section #22. Both were gruesome affairs.

Doctor E.J. Winston, a great uncle of Mrs. John (Lucille) Quimby was a very unique country doctor. He made house calls using his horse and buggy until he grew tired of driving and had people come and get him. Whether or not he was a licensed medical practitioner was of little consequence to sick people who put their trust in him. He was very good hearted in his way, would look up the symptoms in his medical book before making a diagnosis. He was considered by many in his day to be a good doctor, a conscientious person, set in his own ways, like most of us. He married Mary Ella, daughter of Elihu and Eliza Rogers, Nov. 5, 1890. Her nickname was Min. While he was able he would always bring the cows home, leaving the milking to Min. As he grew older he depended more and more on Min. She would pack the tobacco into his pipe, which had to be just right. He smoked "Old Tom" in his pipe and the smoke was very strong. Both were buried in the Old Concord Cemetery, east of West Concord.

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#### 4-H CLUB

The original 4-H Club in Cherry Grove Township was the Lucky Leaners, started in about 1929 by Matt Thorfinson, then the Goodhue County Agent and Kettleston, who preceded T.H. "Dad" Erickson as the State 4-H Director. Matt Thorfinson preceded Dick Kuneu as the County Agent. The County 4-H leader was Mrs. Clarence Danielson. Myron Kvitem remembers them coming to District #71 school and talking to Miss Nina Nesson (Mrs. Carrol (Kelly) Noser), the teacher about starting a 4-H Club and being an adult leader. Other adult leaders remembered were Mrs. Douglas Albright, Lillian Blain Lilleskov, and Stanley Callister. The club met in area homes and District #108, which had a large basement for meetings and recreation.

Arloine Thorsdahl Rehneke remembers going to the Junior Livestock show with her sheep and receiving a Grand Champion. In about 1932 she received a State Fair Trip with her sewing, a Grand Champion on workmanship at the county and blue at the state. She also was in the Style Review.

In about 1929 Joseph Kvitem won a Grand Champion with his chickens, and got a trip to the State Livestock Show. One of the highlights was a banquet served to all exhibitors and their families at the Masonic Hall in St. Paul. Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Kvitem, Joseph and Myron attended. Joe remembers that each exhibitor received a softball which were used as decorations on the tables and the time he had hanging on to the ball as it wouldn't fit into his pocket.

December 9, 1941 thirteen boys and girls met to organize the Cherry Grove Busy Gophers 4-H Club. The first officers were President: Glen Albright; Vice-president: Jewel Ness; Secretary: Eunice Johnson; Treasurer: Lois Johnson; Reporter: James Overby. Miss Katherine Moran was the adult leader, Miss Hoffman the 4-H agent and Mr. Dick Kuneu, the County Agent were present. The Charter members included: Glen Albright, Virgil Nodland, Burnell Lunde, Gail Vieths, Jewel Ness, James Overby, Curtis Urness, Curtis Albright, David Walker, Harvey Urness, Nathlye Luebke, Lois Johnson, Eunice Johnson, Norma Swelland, Lois Walker, Milton Kvitem, Lila Tiller, Althia Ryberg, Deloris Swelland, Gladys Swelland, Vernon Ryberg, Mabel Quam, Arlene Morkre, Virginia Berg, Dean Kvitem, Marilyn Aakre, DeLoris Aakre and Ramona Berg.

## PROJECT OR HOMEMAKERS GROUPS

### CHERRI-MINGO PROJECT GROUP

The Cherri-Mingo Homemakers Group was organized in the fall of 1943 with the following: Nettie Sande, Berdell Wallaker, Josie Ness (deceased), Edna Broin (deceased), Selma Grove, Myrtle Grove, Gladys Barsness, Alma Quam, Selma Morkre (deceased), Florence Luebke, Emma Brenna (deceased). Florence Luebke is the only charter member still active in the group. Berdell Wallaker served as the first president. Each month an educational and entertaining lesson is enjoyed. During the month of February they usually enjoy an evening out with their husbands as special guests.

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### ROS-GROVE PROJECT GROUP

The Ros-Grove Project Group was organized in 1945 with Mrs. Elmer (Mavis) Romo instrumental in getting the club organized. The charter members were Mrs. Alfred Sviggum, Mrs. Ray Gronseth, Mrs. Einar Lunde, Mrs. Louis Vieths, Mrs. Jennings Auseth, Mrs. Phillip Derass, Mrs. James Jacobson, Mrs. Melvin Myran, Mrs. Melvin Grendahl, Mrs. Obert Grothe, Mrs. Juel Hjortaas, and Mrs. Elmer Romo. They were a small but active group throughout the years of its existence. The group disbanded in 1976 because of the decrease in membership, they do however continue their annual Christmas party which they find very enjoyable.

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### CHEERIO HOMEMAKERS GROUP

In 1946, a group of ladies decided to form an extension group in Cherry Grove Township. Eighteen ladies joined the group. Esther Ryberg and Irene Lips were named co-chairmen of the group which was named Cheerio Homemakers Group. The charter members included: Edna Gergum, Ruth Kindseth, Martha Ryberg Saufferer, Irene Lips, Marion Smith, Tillie Germundson, Sally Vanderhyde, Esther Ryberg, Alice Henry, Julia Berg, Mary Kolb, Lois Walker, Myrtle Valley (deceased), Margaret Hillestad (deceased), Milma Bergum (deceased), Edith Walker (deceased), Agnes Albright and Sophie Kvitem (deceased). Three Charter members still belong to the group. They are Esther Ryberg, Ruth Kindseth and Martha Ryberg Saufferer. The present enrollment is fifteen. Over the thirty years of the clubs existence they have been associated with over seventy ladies.

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### BURIALS

Abandoned one acre cemetery in southwest quarter of section #23, located on former Comstock farm now owned by Harold Archer.

Israel Comstock, Dec. 1, 1869; Sarah, wife of Wm. Catlin, April 19, 1866; Hiram Comstock, Nov. 13, 1881-(a head stone) with the letters R.G.; William Rogers, an old soldier, Feb. 10, 1880; Samuel Wilson (Native of South Wales), May 13, 1870-a stone, "In Memory of Winston-father and

mother''; David Simpson, Jan. 1889; Wm. Fracher, Co. E. 45th, Ill. Inf.

Burials on Romness farm, now owned by Don Law, southwest one-fourth, Section 26. Willie C. and Holter H., children of W. and J.A. Kelsey.

Burials in woods on Fairbanks' farm in section #34, north one-half, north-west one-fourth. All moved to St. Rose Cemetery.

Devlin Cemetery, Section #28, graves moved and burials made in St. Rose Cemetery.

Alfred Morkre remembers being told by Hugh Bradley that there was a man buried south of their barn on top of the hill.

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### THE COUNTRY SCHOOL BEN DAUGHERTY

The little white country schoolhouse was a quiet scene during the three summer months of vacation. The one room structure with a very high ceiling was a silent place where the mice could scamper about at random never fearing any disturbance, or if they wished to make a nest in the drawer of the teacher's desk and couldn't get the drawer open - well it was no trouble at all and they had plenty of time to gnaw a nice round hole and thus make an entrance of their own and thus get into those precious papers that were so perfect for their nest building. Bless those little creatures who worked so tirelessly all summer long shredding and molding those papers into soft fluffy little nests that were rounded out to just fit their furry little bodies where they could cuddle up and sleep after their hard days work. But just imagine the teacher's surprise when she opened the drawer and out jumped a frightened little creature fleeing for his life. And then to discover all his fancy works of art and craft used in building the nest. After the first year a teacher learned to never leave any papers in the desk over vacation.

If travelers should happen to stop at the school for a picnic dinner on a warm sunny day, they would notice that the grass had grown tall and the dandelions were old and white. The only activity would be maybe a cottontail hopping leisurely about or a squirrel frisking up a tree only to stop and chatter after he had reached the branches, or maybe a meadowlark sitting on a fence post only to dash away. The sounds of crickets could be heard coming from the cracks in the wall of the building.

A few days before the vacation ended a kind farmer interested in the future of his children would come with a team of horses and a mower and cut the grass while the ladies came with brooms, scrub brushes and dust cloths to clean up the room and put the room in order for school. The first thing to do was to sweep up all the dead flies, wash the woodwork and hang the clean curtains. It took a lot of scrubbing and maybe some painting to get the room in order.

Then came the opening day of school. It was quite a different scene. The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement. The children were anxious to choose the seat that they were to have and then to sharpen their pencils and put their tablets away. Everyone seemed bubbling over with joy and anxious to tell the teacher something that they had done or something

that had happened during vacation. Next thing was to get their books and assignments. The books were mostly old and worn, only a few new library books that were purchased with program money or basket socials money. Many times a mother brought her little child on his first day of school. It was a joy to hear her tell how much of the alphabet he or she knew or how far he could count.

After a few days, the excitement eased up and the school studies became a daily routine as well as the daily routine of the teachers chores. The pupils were willing and glad to help with the sweeping, washing the blackboards and dusting. The older pupils carried water and filled the fountain. But the teacher built the fires and banked them on cold days of the winter. We usually burned hard wood that was stored in the wood shed and the pupils would bring in the wood and pile it by the wall for the day. It was a great improvement when electricity was put in and we had lights, otherwise the room was lighted by lamps with reflectors hung on the wall. The rest-rooms were located about seventy-five feet from the building. The path had to be shoveled after every snow storm.

Games were different also. Some of the games played were Fox and Goose, One Ole Cat, Duck of the Rock, etc. Later on we played baseball and had Friday afternoon off to go and play some neighborhood school. I remember we played one school where Ray Strandemo was the pitcher. They won because no one could hit his curve ball. Hazel Underdahl was our pitcher and it was very hard for anyone to hit the curve ball that she threw. We also went skiing behind a sleigh which was fun.

One of the highlights of the year was the Christmas program to which everyone looked forward with anxiety. Tensions ran high when dialogue books were given out and each one chose his or her parts. Bed sheets were hung on a wire with safety pins and it was not uncommon for it to come down during a program. On the day before the program was to be presented, everyone was worried that it would be a flop and the teacher was probably worried the most, but on the night of the big event everything went off good. Then came the excitement of passing out gifts, candy and apples. So while the pupils unwrapped their presents the parents sat around and visited. The next day was spent cleaning up the schoolhouse and everyone wished each other a happy vacation.

One of the big headaches of the year came at the close of the school year when the eighth graders had to look forward to passing the state examinations. Otherwise they couldn't enter high school. Later that rule was abolished. Some of the true and false questions as well as other questions were very confusing and the pupils were nervous and made many mistakes on questions when they knew the answers.

My salary while teaching in the rural schools of this community ranged from fifty to one hundred eighty-five dollars monthly. But it was a joy to be working with the youth and praying that something may be accomplished by my effort put forth.

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### RECOLLECTIONS OF THEODORE WEISE AS A RURAL SCHOOL PUPIL

I recall many cold winters as a young boy attending rural schools, walking from the Cooper's farm, across the pasture

fields, carrying my lunch in a small Clover Leaf lard pail. My fingers were frozen to the handle when I arrived at the school and the teacher (a young lady) would take me on her lap and have a wash basin of cold water to thaw out my fingers, while I shed a few tears. I remember the recess sessions of about ten minutes in the morning and afternoon. I also recall that most of the class would laugh and the teacher said, "the next time this happens you will be sent home." Well, I was sent home -- but instead of going directly home, I cut across lots, to stay in what was called the grove, and waited until I thought it was 4 p.m., so away I went home, but low and behold it was the p.m. recess and not 4 p.m. When I arrived home, Mom did say, "My lands is it that late?", but my answer was, "Gee, Mom I'm starving, what can I have to eat?"

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In 1865 J.W. Hancock was the Goodhue County Superintendent and was paid \$850. a year. Teachers in the county were being paid an average of \$25. a month in 1876.

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Schools have changed drastically down through the years. The first county superintendent of schools, Rev. J.W. Hancock in 1860 reported the following - "One school was found in session in a large barn. In the basement were the stables, where the horses and cattle were kept at night. Two long benches with no backs were the only seats provided. Light was furnished by the large folding doors for the reception.

Central school, district #71 was located in about the center of Cherry Grove Township and was very similar to other schools in shape and size. The schoolhouse was used alternately with the Cherry Grove schoolhouse, district #86 for Town Meetings until about 1890 after which they were held in District #70 continually. The pupils looked forward to elections as a day off from school and if the vote was extra heavy and the Town Board needed extra time to count the votes they maybe got an extra half day off. Some early teachers included: 1886, Jessie M. Andrist; 1887, Catherine Tunks; 1888, Ellen Bradley, 1888, Rosy Buckley; 1889, Ellen Bradley; 1890, Lizzie Rice; 1891, Katie Bradley; 1892, Alice Devlin; 1893, Alice Devlin; 1893, Katie Bradley; 1894, Katie Bradley; 1895, Nellie Bolger; 1895, A.C. Charlton; 1896, Katie Bradley; (only one-half term, diptheria broke out); 1900, Jessie Millie; 1901, Mildred Cole, Oscar Olson, Russel Manning, Hazel Chase, Mable Samson, Josephine Tarrant, Ida Bratttjerde, Esther Stefferude, Nina Nesson, Marie Lindhome, Margaret Satrum, Edna Aakre, Ruth Bergum, Lillian Blain, Hazel Quam, Ruby Susie Thorson, Elizabeth Malloy. Central school was sold to Howard Flaaten when it was consolidated with Kenyon and remains today as a storage shed on the James Wilkus farm.

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Originally school district #108 was located in the southwest corner of the north-east quarter of section #18, on land owned by Thomas Bradley. In 1910 the school was moved to the center of the south line of District #18. The land for the school yard was given by Mr. Andrew Munson, in the southeast corner of his farm. The new schoolhouse was built by Mr. Herman Flaten. Andrew Munson, Olaus L. Tonjum and Lars Anderson built the fence around the yard and planted trees.

District #108 was one of the larger schools of Goodhue County. More than 20 families had children attending the school. There were many large families and at one time up to 53 pupils attended with only one teacher at \$55. a month. The new school was a large square building with a full basement and a furnace. There was a large classroom with large windows on the north side and smaller ones on the west. On the south side of the classroom there were five smaller rooms, one a large library, one a girl's cloakroom, one an entrance with the rope hanging there for the school bell, one boy's cloakroom and a hall leading to the basement. There was a large porch on the south side and sidewalk out to the road and a well on the north side. The large yard with beautiful evergreens and other trees was always well kept and the school was the center for social gatherings. In 1953, District #108 was consolidated with the Kenyon district, and the building was sold to Odean Floren and torn down and used for an addition to the Odean Floren house while the flooring was used in the Lewis Floren house when they remodeled. The school yard was given back to the Munsons who later sold it to A. Vold of Faribault. All that remains today is a deserted yard overgrown with grass and weeds, an eyesore to the community.

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On June 27, 1889, Peter J. Marum sold a building site to the newly organized District #116 for the sum of \$15. This district evidently was one of the smallest in Goodhue County as it comprised only eleven families. The school continued in operation until spring of 1933, when it was closed due to the fact that there were only two children of school age left in the district. In 1946 after being closed for thirteen years the schoolhouse was reopened, there being about twelve children of school age. It remained open for seven years until it was permanently closed due to school consolidation with Wanamingo District #165 in the fall of 1953. The school building was sold to Peter Deraas and he moved it to Wanamingo and remodeled it into a living house. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Boraas, the present owners reside in this house now. The school house site reverted back to the farm owner by the heirs of Louise Hjortaas Thompson (Mrs. Ole Thompson). When this farm was sold to Juel Hjortaas, Olaf Thompson bought the schoolhouse lot. In 1976 he sold the lot to Carl and Virginia Durst who constructed a home and are now living on the schoolhouse lot. A most beautiful site for a home. An amusing incident that happened in this school. Boys will be boys and I'm sure this school had its share of mischievous boys. During a recess a group of boys went into the corn shocks in a nearby cornfield and filled their pockets with mice. After school was in session they let the mice loose. Imagine the consternation - mice running hither and thither searching for an escape. Call it mice-ophobia, the mice were just as scared as the pupils. Finally the mice disappeared into the many holes around the building. I never really heard what punishment the guilty ones received, but the usual punishment was to stay after school for a length of time. What boy wanted to stay after school when it was time to beat it for home.

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The township was divided into two road districts, east and the west. Oldest roads through the township was the Territorial Road from southern line through Ayr, north to old Wa-

namingo. The oldest east west road came from Kenyon, east following the southern sections line of 7, 8, 9, and 10, joining the Territorial Road to old Wanamingo in the southwest corner of section #10. The Territorial Road to Cannon Falls began where the southern corners of Sections #8 and 9 meet, then north between sections 8, 9, 5 and 4, to the old Spring Creek post office.

May 1, 1859 the Kenyon-Zumbrota Road was surveyed. This road later became part of the old Highway #21. The road begins between sections #1 and 12, runs due west to the town line, a distance of 2045.2 rods. April 30, 1859 voted that a three day Poll Tax be levied upon each male inhabitant.

October 11, 1859 a petition signed by 31 legal voters was received to establish a road from the Dodge County line, through the center of Section #33, past Fairpoint, due north, to the Territorial Road on the southern border of Section #9 (present corner between Joseph Kvittem and Louis Floren farms), a distance of 4 miles, (now present County Road #1), then west to intersect the Territorial Road leading north toward Cannon Falls. This road along the southern border of sections #7, 8, 9, and 10, called Red Wing road, it intersects the Rice Lake Territorial Road coming from the south through Ayr. The Johnson family presently live on this corner.

August 12, 1859 22 legal signers petitioned to lay out a road four rods wide, commencing at the east line between sections #24, and 25, west 2 miles to Ayr, (present Archer-Auseth corner) thence north one half mile, thence west and north, following lines where it is practicable to the quarter section stake between sections #8 and 17, then west on section line to the town line. 1859 voted a regulation forbidding the running at large of any domestic animal, repealed in 1860 and in 1861 this regulation was again placed in force.

April 1, 1862 voted to levy a tax of \$40. upon the property this current year for the purpose of paying for a burying ground. Herman Eastman appointed to burying committee. Comstocks gave land one half mile north of Ayr for a burying ground.

In 1869 a special town meeting was held to consider voting aid to a railroad through the township by way of Pine Island, Wanamingo, Cherry Grove and St. Paul. Bonds of \$25. pm every 40 acres of land in township when railroad was completed. Railroad was never built.

January 23, 1869, special town meeting, in Stone Schoolhouse, 9 a.m. for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of aiding the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company in the construction of a branch railroad via, Chatfield, Rochester, Cannon Falls to St. Paul. The following motion was made by Wm. Catlin and adopted unanimously-A committee of three be elected to confer with the officers of the railroad and with other towns along the line in matter of proposed branch of railroad. Committee elected, E.G. Comstock, C.J. Brown and Wm. Catlin.

A petition for a special town meeting was presented and a special town meeting was held Jan. 15, 1870 and a committee of five was elected as a railroad committee, Daniel E. Sawyer, E.G. Comstock, William Catlin, Frank H. Ballock and C.J. Brown. The following resolution was then offered by E.G. Comstock: That we are in favor of aiding the construction of a railroad passing through this town by town bonds to an amount not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars payable within ten or twenty years, with interest therein not exceed-

ing 7 percent per annum. Provided that the bonds shall not be issued until such times as the road is completed or is running into this town and the cars are running regularly there on and that a depot shall be established in this town. Adopted.

Town meeting held at Fairpoint, April 5, 1870. Moved and seconded that the railroad committee be discharged from further service, carried.

The St. Paul-Dubuque Railroad was supposed to have been built from the south passing through Old Concord and Cherry Grove Township. In the township records of April 1870, fifteen landholders signed a petition that a special town meeting be held to vote twenty thousand dollars in bonds to aid the construction of this railroad. Provisions: The Dubuque and St. Paul railroad company shall have a good first class railway constructed and in operation from the south line of the state of Minnesota by way of Austin in Mower County and the township of Cherry Grove to the city of St. Paul, within three years from the date of the issue of the bonds and establish a passenger and freight depot with suitable buildings for accommodation of passengers and the storage and freight within the township.

At a special meeting held at the Stone Schoolhouse, June 25, 1870 54 voted for railroad bonds and 76 against.

On July 16, 1870 9 a.m. a special meeting was called in regard to the St. Paul and Dubuque railroad and issuing fifteen thousand dollars to aid them other requirements same as before. At a special election July 16, 1870 to vote aid in the construction of the railway, 71 voted for railway bonds, 69 against Railway bonds.

March 12, 1872, the following was offered by Hugh Bradley: Resolve that we rescind the action of a Special Election held July 16, 1870 voting the sum of fifteen thousand dollars in town bonds and aid the St. Paul and Dubuque Railway Company in constructing a railway. 17 for and 13, against. To show good faith, some scraping and digging was started in the southern part of the Churchill farm now Peter Sviggum farm, called the "Railroad eighty." This railroad didn't materialize, instead the Chicago Great Western Railroad was built farther to the west so the town of West Concord was started.

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The railroad was never built.



# *Minneola Township*

Compiled and Authored by  
Mrs. Alvin (Olga) Steberg

Minneola Township was originally part of Zumbrota Township which had the following officers: I.C. Stearns, T.D. Rowell and Geo. Sanderson, and was organized in 1858. The west half was separated from Zumbrota township at a meeting held at the residence of Daniel Eames. Notice had been posted in several places, stating that voters living in township 110, range 16 should meet and consider forming a separate township, choose a name, elect officers and conduct the necessary business. This was held in 1859. There were thirty-two voters present. Officers were elected and a name chosen. A.J. Grover and J.B. Locke were instructed to present this to the county board. The County Board shelved it until both townships could act on it. The Zumbrota Township approved the separation at their spring meeting in 1860. The County Board met again in June, acted and approved the separation. A notice was issued of a meeting to be held at the home of J.B. Locke later that summer. Twenty-five voters attended this meeting and the following became the first officers: Supervisors: J.B. Locke, R. Persons and Christian Peterson (Lunde); assessor, Egra Wilder; clerk, N. Mulleken; justice of peace, A. Twombly; constables: A.J. Grover and H.C. Shedd. The name Minneola was derived from two Indian words meaning much water. The North branch of the Zumbro River flows through the township from west to east, with springs and creeks joining the river, giving it plenty of water.

There were no Indian villages, but there were some Indian camps at times along the Zumbro, proof of their having been here, such as stone arrows found even in present years. The early settlers had only Indian trails to follow and a few military territorial trails. The latter finally became the early roads. Later the St. Paul and Dubuque (Iowa) stage coach route ran diagonally across the township from Hader to Zumbrota. An early immigrant road from West Wanamingo to Red Wing crossed it to the northwest corner. Older settlers often spoke of a trail from Wabasha to Faribault, which also

crossed this township along the Zumbro River; no definite records are available as to its exact location. The first petition for a road was from the south town line, one and one-half miles east from west line to connect north to the Red Wing road. Instructions were to turn out for sloughs and hazardous side hills. Cart roads criss-crossed each other as the need arose between settlers. Roads were made by the use of shovels, pick axes and strong muscles of the settlers. The next improvement was hand scrapers pulled by horses. Property owners (real estate and personal) were taxed 25¢ per \$100. valuation. Then came the polltax requiring every able bodied male to work 2 days without pay. If they were willing to work extra days, the pay would be fifteen cents per hour. A man with team could get 25¢ per hour. A bachelor who owned neither horse nor cart was ordered to come and work out his poll tax. His reply was "Why should I work on the road, I only cross it now and then, and then on foot." Rates were later raised to 50¢ per hour. The early supervisors served without pay, but later they were paid \$1.50 a day. Soon a system of 12 overseers for 12 designated areas were appointed at the spring meeting. Somewhat later, horse drawn road graders were purchased by the Town Board to be used in the township. However, man labor and hand scrapers were still in use. Permanent cart roads were two rods wide, if not petitioned shut, the roads have now become four rods wide. The first roads were dirt roads, dusty in dry weather and deep in mud during rainy periods. Gravel from creek beds or sandy hill-sides was used for a topping. The gravel was pitched into plank wagons with shovels, hauled and dumped by tipping the planks sideways. This was then leveled with use of rakes and shovels. A far cry from the splendid roads we now have.

In 1946 a bond issue of \$65,000. was voted in. This was taken as a measure to finally get all roads up to good standard. In 1935 Minneola Township officers became a part of the Goodhue County Unit of Minnesota Association of Town-

ship Officers. In 1917, a heavy snow winter, it is noted that pay was issued for shoveling out snow in deep cuts and finally some roads were ordered shut until spring. This same year it took two High School students at Zumbrota High School, living in the western part of the township, from 6:30 in the morning until 1:15 in the afternoon to get to school. The horses lodged in the snow drifts and had to be shoveled out time and again. The road over Dryeson Hill, now highway 60, was completely blocked for a whole week.

Financial reports were first printed in 1949 and passed out at the town meeting. Financial reports have been issued every year since that time.

The Zumbro River running through the Minneola Township makes interesting listings of bridges that had to be built. The first bridge built was on the territorial road called "The Adams Bridge" directly north of the present Obert Loken home. This was built in 1866 with rather crude construction. In 1880 a much better structure was built costing \$1260. with the county paying \$700. toward the total cost. The Township paid the rest of the cost. An iron bridge was built in 1884, 1½ miles east of the town line between Minneola and Wanamingo townships costing \$1229., the county paid half and the township the other half. This bridge is near the Harlan Steberg home. Four years later this bridge went out with the spring thaw and ice flow. The bridge floated less than half a mile east and lodged. In the summer the work of dismantling by hand and hauling it back to its location was carried out. The foundation of stone was raised two feet to protect it from future floods. This bridge was replaced by the steel bridge which had spanned the river north of Wanamingo. The State



A game of cards by the Zumbro River. Left to right, Henrik Hendrickson, Adolph Syver-son, Steffen Thune, Peter M. Olson, Alfred Thune. (Photo by Elmer Thune)

gave this bridge to Minneola township when the bridge on Highway 57 replaced it. Plank bridges over swollen creeks were continually being washed out and had to be replaced. Crossings were no problem on the sides when trusty horses were used, but with the coming of the auto the story was different. All of these bridges have been replaced by better structures of large culverts. The latest ones to be replaced are the bridges over the creek on the Barr Clay Road by the Bill Budenseik place and the other one by the Duane Sharpen



Swenson and Loken sisters strolling across the Halvor Bridge (bridge by Harlan Steberg home).



Alvin and Olga Steberg after a sleet storm in 1921. (Note old plank bridge)

home. This one has two large concrete culverts to handle the load of water from a large drainage area. These were put in late in 1977. If you lived near a bridge in "the good old days" the rumble of the planks would alert you that company was coming. The bridges were narrow. Two vehicles could not meet and pass each. The wide farm machinery of this day could not have crossed these bridges.



Minneola Town Hall since 1902. Formerly German Methodist Church built 1872.

At first the business meetings and township elections were held in the homes. After schoolhouses were built, the meetings were held in one of them. In 1902 a church building was bought from the discontinued German Methodist group in the township. This was moved to the central location where it still stands. It is still in use and was recently painted indoors and outside. In 1945 electric lights were installed, the old kerosene and gas lamps were removed. The grounds were kept mowed and neat. When the Zumbrota Wesleyan Methodist congregation needed a place to meet, they used the town hall for five years after which they built their own church in town. About in 1910 and 1912 spell-downs for rural pupils in the township were held here. The winners went into further competition. Some neighboring school also used the hall for programs and basket socials. The Minneola Farm Bureau bought folding chairs, and an electric plate and cups for use for 4-H and other gatherings. It did not prove popular for them to meet there, since that time chairs and dishes have disappeared.

This township cannot boast of any ghost towns although at Barr there was a small store and boarding house when the plant was in operation. The Minneola Post Office was in the Locke residence. There were two towns, Zumbrota to the east and Wanamingo to the west. Early abstracts of some Zumbrota city homes still read as Minneola. The people in Zumbrota on the west side of Main Street had to go to Minneola to vote, and some of the early township residents lived and had business in Zumbrota until Zumbrota was incorporated in 1877. When Wanamingo sprang up in 1904 the east side residents had as its polling place the Minneola town hall. Office holders who lived in Wanamingo were Adolph Syverson, Constable in 1913 and Martin Halverson, Justice of Peace in 1914. Since the first platting of both towns, the expansion has been felt by the township as new annexations have appeared several times.

In scanning the old township ledgers many interesting articles can be found. Across the pages where no official records were recorded there are pasted in numerous newspaper clippings. A complete set of clippings about all United States presidents from Washington to James Garfield are there. The Cabinets of the presidents are also listed. George Washington had only four in his cabinet. There are also ten columns of Norwegian clippings of current interest of that time. Several articles are also pasted in from early Zumbrota papers. The instruction sheet to voters on how to vote were on five sheets of paper, typed one sheet of each language as follows: English, German, Norwegian, Finnish and Polish.

In an obituary of an early resident, who had been Justice of Peace, it is recorded that he possessed the knowledge of a lawyer having had to draw up legal papers as deeds, mortgages, and other papers. In an early ledger of this township there are many, and lengthy civil actions recorded. One of these, dated 1867 is a lengthy report of a civil action between two parties over a sum of \$8.75 which was tried by Albert J. Grover as Justice of Peace and E. Stacy, constable. When the case was settled the following fees were added: Justice fee \$2.25, Constable fee \$1.45, Witness fee \$2.10 and stamp 50¢, making a total of \$8.20, almost as much additional as the original sum, which had to be paid by the defendant. Many suits were recorded held at the home of the Justice of Peace, and some at various locations in Zumbrota. Later ones show that

attorneys were hired. The early Justices of Peace have recorded these using many legal terms and beautiful legible handwriting. Another ledger called the Book of Chattel Mortgages has many entries of very small mortgages in comparison to that of the present time.

The Goodhue County Fair is located in Minneola Township. In 1871 the county fair was located at Hader, being there until 1874. For two years it was held on the Barteau farm in this township. The race track was the private Barteau track. Then until 1914 it was held as a Street Fair. About this time the present location in section 26 of the township where land was purchased. This has since been the location of the Goodhue County Fair.

There is no available record of how long Minneola had a post office, but it was a great day in 1900, the rural route out of Zumbrota began delivering mail every day except Sunday. The mail routes have changed several times and part of Minneola Township is now on the Wanamingo route. There were Norwegian dailies, "Skandinaven", published in Chicago, from 1866 to 1941, "Minneapolis Tidende", from 1887 to 1935, "Decorah Posten" published from 1874 which had a popular section called "Ola & Per". The Germans had their newspapers, and the English papers from the Twin Cities replaced the other languages in later years.

Almost before they built their homes, they built their churches. And very quickly they built schools. The schools taught more than the three R's or the knowledge and skills needed to build a society. The schools were dedicated to

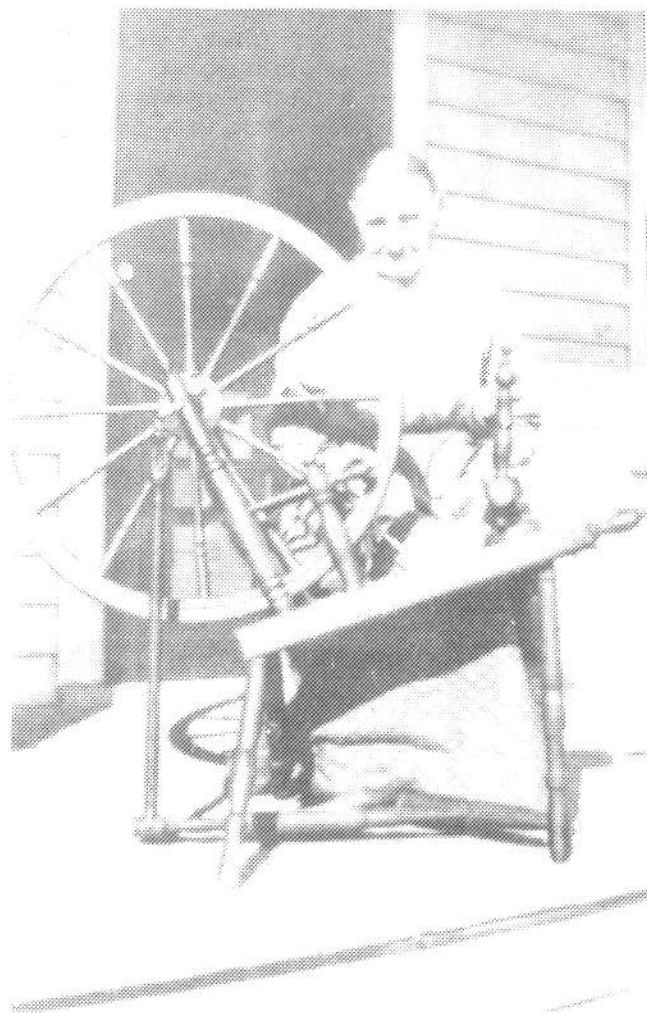


John Peterson looking regal in his band uniform before 1900.

strengthening their children in the faith of their parents. Mothers taught their children how to read. Memory work and religious instruction was carried on by rote. The mothers knew their few books by memory. Reading was learned by spelling the word and then pronouncing it. One little boy in spelling out a word omitted a letter "e". The mother said, "there is an e standing there." The boy replied "Ja! let it stand there!" (heard by an immigrant who lived in the same house).

When the early settlers could afford it, they bought instruments such as a "Salmodicon" or monochord. By the 1880's melodeons and organs became the important instrument as well as the violin. Whistles from small willow branches were made for the children. The Minneola Brass Band was organized and directed by a gifted German musician, Richard Dorn. In 1893 this band had a membership of seventeen men. There was also a Hader Band, in which several Minneola township men played. Richard Dorn was the director for that band for a time. Pictures show them wearing fancy band jackets and caps.

The churches early organized choirs where those of sing-



They came and brought their spinning wheels  
--Mrs. Nils (Ane) Ronning.

ing abilities could use their talents. In the summer these grouped together and had "Sangerfests" (song festivals) in some central place. Quite a few of these fests were held in the Fordahl Grove, or at west Wanamingo, in the Tiller pasture, or at Lands Church Parsonage grove.

Some years after the Lands-Minneola Parish was established in 1867 two Norwegian schools were built. The one in Lands was a mile south of the church. This one was in use for a long period of time, but discontinued when rural school houses could be used during vacations. The Bordson school house of Minneola Congregation was used from 1886 to 1937. Both of these were used exclusively for religious instruction, using the Norwegian language. The German Lutheran, St. John's built a school in 1875 where religion was taught in German.

Provisions for schools in Minnesota, were made in 1849 by an act of the first territorial assembly. A tax levy of two and one half miles was passed. Two sections of each township was set aside for school aid. (Source - Minnesota Milestone in Education). After this area became settled, school houses were gradually located as the following districts: District 65 (Doxey), District 66 (Grover), Dist. 67 (Hammer, later Barr), Dist. 68 (Zumbrota Public School), Dist. 94 (Pirius-Skordahl), Dist. 95 (German, Starz), Dist. 138 (Dyreson Hill), Dist. 160 (Dengerud, Swenson), Dist. 165 (Wanamingo Village). In 1918 a new modern building replaced the small, old schoolhouse in Dist. 67 which had been built in 1869. Dist. 160 had been organized by dividing Dist. 67 in two. (The first schoolhouse of 160 was moved to Wanamingo and used as a storage place). Dist. 160 built their second building in 1919. This building was left at the site and remodeled into a home. The second building in Dist. 67 was sold and torn down. The first schoolhouse here was below the hill next to a large wooded area. This too was dismantled and lumber used elsewhere. On one side of the schoolhouse was a deep inclosure where extensive stone quarring had been done and below that was a winding brook. A perfect setting to learn about nature. The woods abounded in wild flowers, where even our State Flower was found. The teacher's knowledge was often tested by all the questions asked of her. The stones even came in for research, as fossils were found in the flat rocks. Many pleasant memories remain from both these school districts both as a pupil and later a teacher. Outstanding among these was the morning of November 11, 1918. The news hadn't reached the teacher yet that the war was over, however, an eighth-grade pupil, Alton Swenson, who was the janitor, had heard it. When he opened up that morning, he rang and rang the bell. The teacher approaching the school was ready to pronounce punishment. Coming closer she heard "The War is Over". From then on that day, there was more ringing of the bell and celebrating instead of actual study.

Consolidation absorbed all rural schools and children were bused to school. Lunch buckets and walking to school was soon forgotten and the era of rural schools became a thing of the past. The pronounced difference in country children and town children was entirely erased. It wasn't easy for a rural child from a one room school to adjust to a larger school upon entering High School. In those days there weren't too many from rural areas that went on to High School.

RURAL SCHOOLS IN THE TOWNSHIP



At Left  
New District  
160



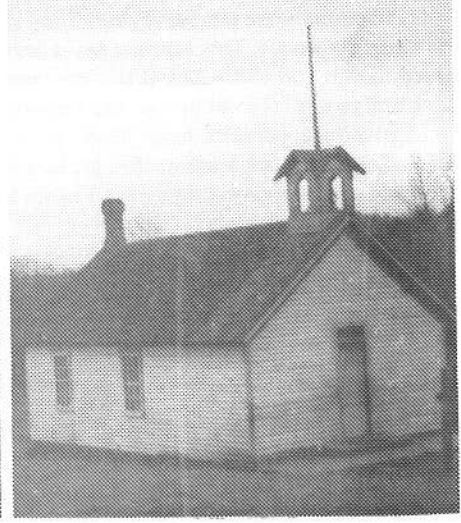
At Right  
New District  
67



District 65



District 94



Old District 67



Old District 160



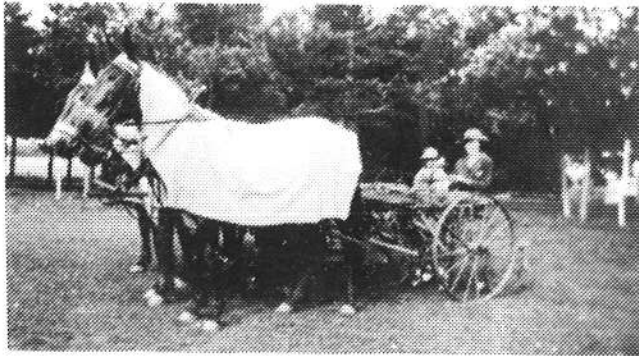
District 66



District 95

The first railroad to come through here was The Chicago Great Western, but that has been discontinued now. The Chicago Milwaukee railroad running from west to east was completed in 1904. This one is still being used. At various dates the voters favored bonding for railroad otherwise the railroad would not have come. Many older residents remember the construction crews who set up large camps in pastures along the route. The work of grading was hand labor, mules and scrapers. The camps housed the men and mules in tents. A cook and the cook-tent was at the camp at all times. When the railroad and fences were completed, the camps moved on to new locations. A railroad destined to run from Canada to a southern city was surveyed through Minneola township in 1912. The surveyors set up camp late one night in Halvor Loken's pasture by the Zumbro. He thought they were gypsies and was all set to chase them off at daylight. However the farmer from Mantorville who brought them and their equipment vouched for their behavior and character, and they were permitted to stay. This camp consisted of two large tents, one for sleeping and the other for cooking and eating. There were eight college students in the group hired for the summer. One young man was cook and housekeeper and he stayed in camp while the others were out surveying. They stayed in this location about six weeks. This railroad never materialized, but the carved names and addresses of the boys remained on the old plank bridge until the old bridge was replaced by a new one.

Agriculture pursuits have been the main source of income. The early implements for grain raising were home made and crude. Harvesting by hand came to an end with the

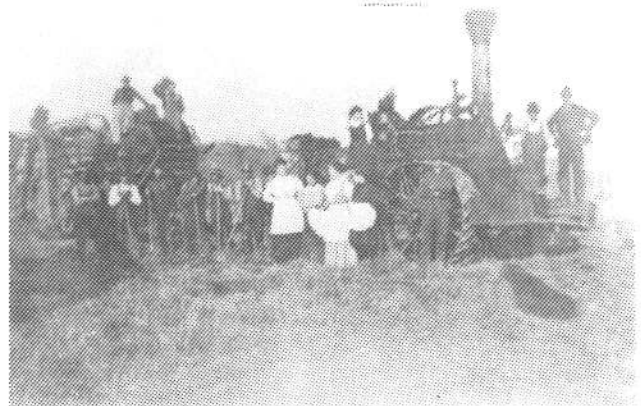


Two youngsters going out to cultivate corn. Note the fly nets on the mule team.



Haying 1818 - Steffen Loken driving, Halbert Foss and Albert Romo loading.

hand tied reapers and threshing machines. The first threshing rig was owned by Halvor Loken. It was run by a round horse power using four teams. "The Power" wound up as power, in its final days to saw wood using two horses hitched single. The next threshing rig by Loken and Bordson was powered by a small steam engine called "The Little Giant". Now the threshing machine boasted a straw carrier. Other later threshing rigs in the township were owned and operated



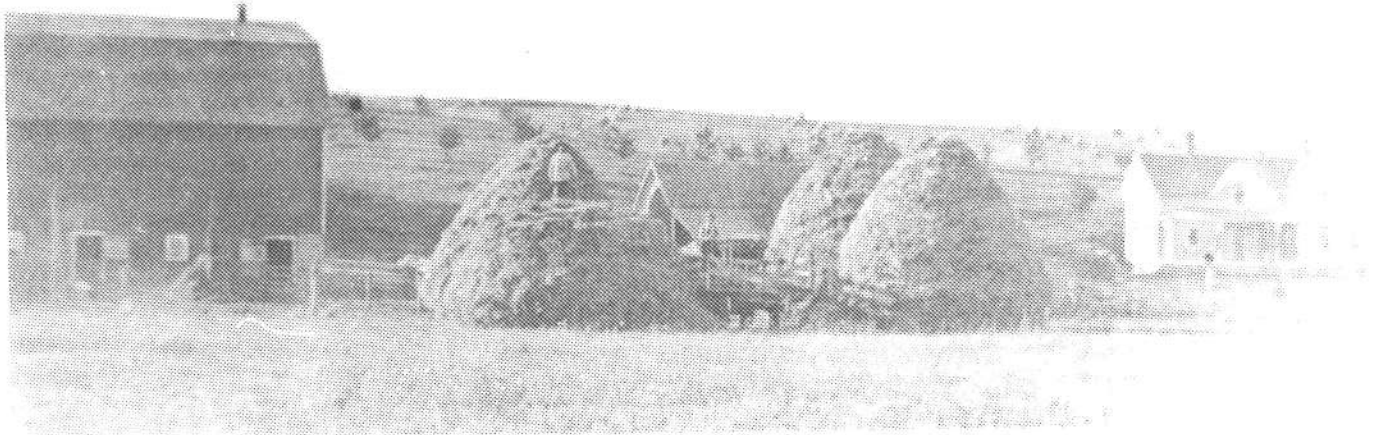
1906 - Oscar and Alfred Loken's threshing rig. Lunch hour at H.O. Loken.

by Lars Ronningen, Oscar and Alfred Loken, Alfred Steberg, Louis Opfer and Alvin R. Steberg and H.T. Hendrickson. The engines burned straw for steam power, these were followed by large tractors burning oil such as the "Advance Rumely Oil Pull." The rigs went from neighbor to neighbor as the scheduled runs were followed. Price paid was figured on the



Alvin R. Steberg in his Advance Rumley threshing tractor 1928.

number of bushels, each kind of grain was priced separately. Some years the threshing run took longer due to rain. In early years the grain bundles were stacked in settings of four stacks where the machine was backed in between the stacks. Then later it was found possible to haul the shocked grain to the

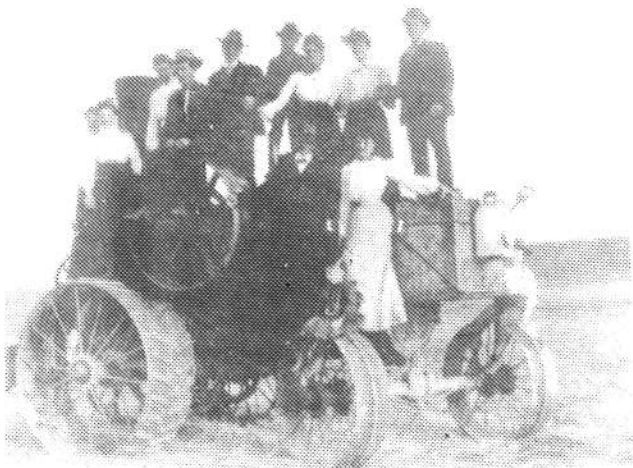


Stacking grain bundles, a lost accomplishment. Loken farm. Note shocks of grain on the hill.

machine without stacking. This meant having many bundle wagons which led to "Exchange Work" among the neighbors.

The farmers' wives had a busy time feeding the crew who were always known to be greasy, dirty and hungry. As a rule it called for five meals a day with two lunches brought out in baskets and hot coffee in coffee boilers. A hired girl or daughter would ride out to the rig with the lunch in the grain or sack wagon. One old lady said, "It was fun too". When the threshers left it there was the clean up work to be done. Straw, chaff and dust invariably blew toward the house. Threshing couldn't be postponed because of wrong direction of wind. After the season was over, a wind-up party was held at the home of the rig owner. Then the crew looked different all

sued between 1867 and 1900. (Source: "Barbed Wire Identification"). More recently electric fences are being used. When walking was the mode of travel, the shortest route always went thru pastures, crawling thru fences caused many a bad rip of clothing, but shortened the distance.



Part of threshing crew enjoying the Sunday wind-up party, posing on steam engine.

cleaned up in their Sunday best. Threshing has been completely replaced by the use of combines.

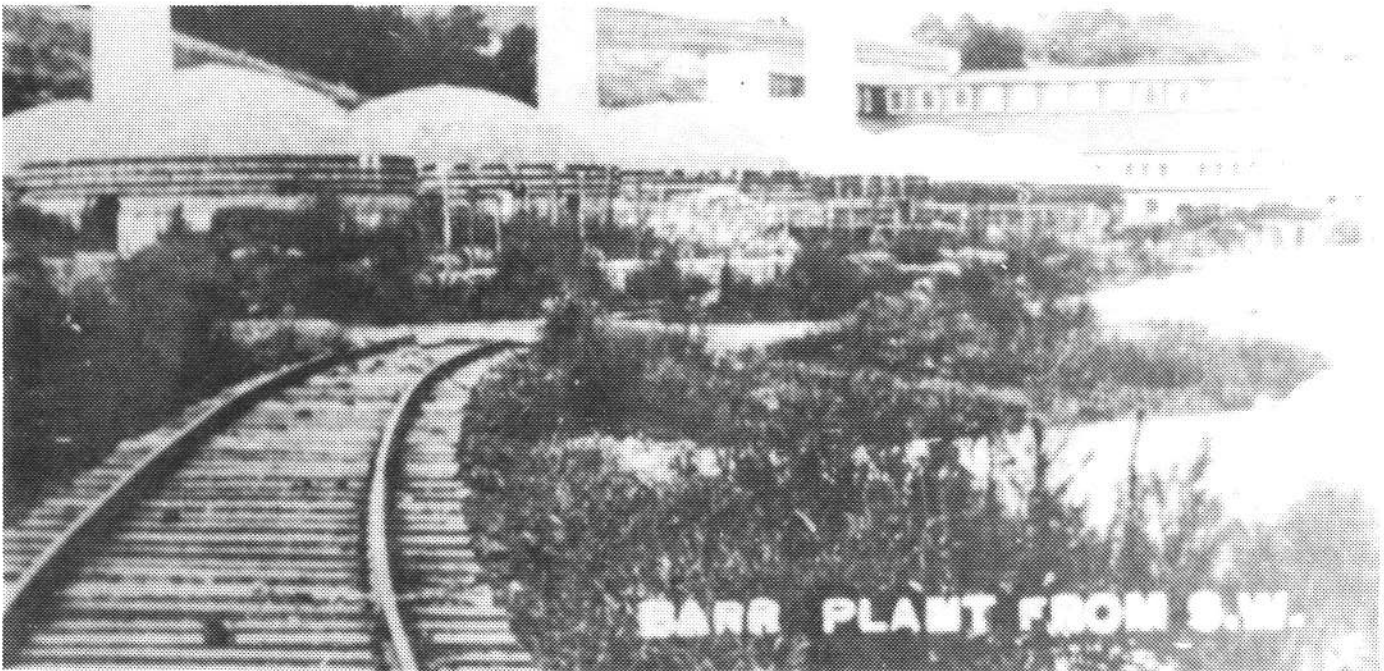
Livestock raising has been changed too. Beef herds are now just as common as dairy herds. Changes in the methods of fencing have been from the use of rails to using wire of a varied kind. Over four hundred patents for barb wire were is-



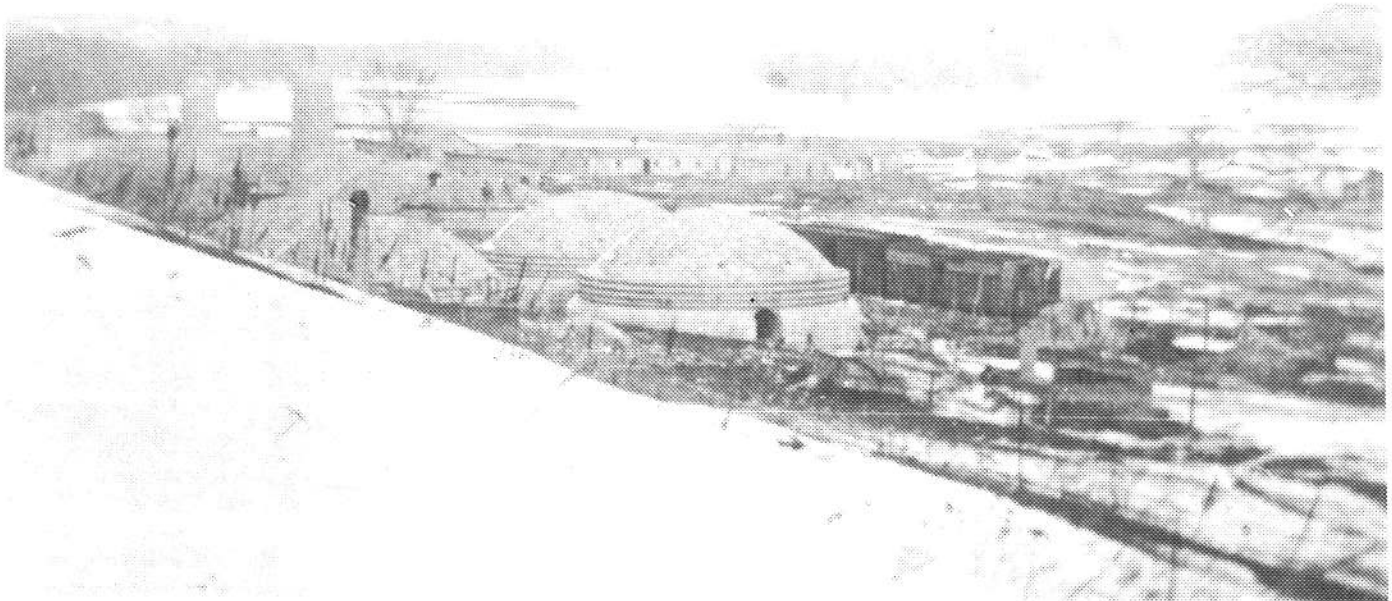
This is the way it was straddling woven wire to shorten walking distance by crossing pastures.

The two brick yards gave employment to the men in the area. Quarrying for stone for early building was done in five different quarries. Two of these have provided crushed rock for roads more recently. Several gravel pits have supplied sand and gravel for building purposes and for fill and black topping for highways. The Steberg pit supplied the sand for the first topping from Mantorville to Wanamingo for Highway 57. The Obert Loken pit which has been dug extensively and presently supplies washed sand for building purposes. Several cheese factories took care of early dairying and flour

mills near both Zumbrota and Wanamingo supplied an outlet for wheat and a place to get it ground into flour. Blacksmith shops numbered four where crude implements were made and repaired, but these have gone the way of other enterprises in this changing world. Out of necessity the pioneers also fashioned many of their own tools. Their oxen also needed shoes and these were made and placed on their hooves by the blacksmiths. The oxen have a cleft hoof so the blacksmiths had to make two shoes for each foot. There have been a few oxen shoes found in the fields even in these later years.



1910 - Barr Clay Products Company showing kilns, main building, and railroad and side tracks.



Barr Clay Products Company. Note boxcars on railroad tracks.

A clay manufacturing company was organized in 1906, and bought land in Section 22 from Samuel Scott and Lars

Ronningen, and built a plant to manufacture clay products. This closed and was reopened again in 1908 with additional

stock, which continued for a while and later became part of the Barr Plant. In 1910 Ed Barr, a promoter began searching for Decorah Shale, a clay suitable for tile and brick making. After having option on several farms, he chose to buy from Andrew Olson in section 21 and formed "The Barr Clay Products Company." By hiring a contractor he began excavating for the plant construction. This was done by men and teams of mules, horses and dump carts. The men lived in tents along the Zumbro and were mostly Mexicans. The Milwaukee railroad built a spur to the plant and a small building was placed on the south side of the river by the track. There one could wait for the train, hail it and get a ride either to Zumbrota or Wanamingo for 10 cents. Two-room cottages were built, a boarding house for other workers with a small section of the building as a store was also erected. This became a flourishing inland center with a social life all of its own. By 1911 the plant was sold to stock holders with Charley Roe and H.S. Swan as managers. Earlier they had as their office a small frame building in Wanamingo north of the present drug store, and Miss Dumphrey was their secretary until 1913. Later an office was built at the factory. This firm failed, and it changed hands many times with a loss to the stock holders each time. Colburn and Murray reopened the plant in 1917 and put in a brick and tile machine which was the largest of its kind that could be found in use anywhere. High water overran the river banks near the clay factory in 1917. This washed away some Northern States Power poles, thereby breaking the wires and shutting off the power and light service from the plant for some time. The last firm to operate the clay plant was Gunderson Brick & Tile Company. Both closed entirely in 1932.

Mr. and Mrs. Olaf J. Peterson, the present owners, began to salvage tile and equipment, renovated the homes, of which five are still in use. Within the last few years, they and their two sons have developed Shades of Sherwood Campground on this site. They have added more land, and several wood lots to the original Barr Clay Products land for a larger campground. There are 24 water and electric hook-ups, a recreation hall, wilderness tent sites, heated pool, bathhouse, picnic tables and other features to be enjoyed by campers. During the summer months this has become an enjoyable spot for those who love camping. It has a natural setting with plenty of folk lore and historical background to add to its outdoor appeal.

During World War I Minneola Township contributed to The Red Cross the sum of \$1,155.55. Besides the above there was a Lands-Minneola Red Cross Branch organized with Andrew Henning, chairman; Mrs. Andrew (Anna) Henning, vice chairman; Mrs. C.A. Erstad, secretary; M.S. Kindseth, treasurer. This branch had a membership of 599, raised \$3,084.88 and made 513 refuge garments and 287 knitted articles. A Red Cross picnic with patriotic program was held in Oscar Loken's pasture by the Zumbro River. A lunch stand, selling coffee, lemonade, ice cream and cigars netted a big amount of cash towards the sum quoted above. Knitting hose by written directions was a problem for old knitters. The Red Cross headquarters would not accept articles knit differently than by their directions. One lady would knit the men's hose to the heel and another lady would finish knitting the heel, foot and

toe by the specified directions. After the war this branch was discontinued. World War II Red Cross membership was again resumed with chapters in the nearby towns. During World War II the victory aides for the township were: Mrs. Alvin R. Steberg, Mrs. Harry Starz and Mrs. Orrie Thomforde. Their effort for the way was a bond drive which met with great success. In recent years the Combined Charity Drive has been very successful, carried out by volunteers. This method replaced the many neighbor to neighbor envelopes when each charity sent out their own envelope which were often delayed and caused more work.

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#### 4-H CLUBS OF MINNEOLA TOWNSHIP

In 1921 R.B. Nelson became a leader for this area. He was paid by a fund supported by the Wanamingo Commercial Club and Zumbrota School Board. Eight farm boys, assisted by Robert Lund, each bought a pig with money borrowed from The Security State Bank. They exhibited them at the County Fair under the banner, "Security Pig Club."

Mrs. Halbert Loken and Mrs. Fenne organized "The Live Wires" in 1927. Possibly the first to compete at the State Fair from here was Shirley Emerson and Mildred Helleckson. This club later became "The Wanamingo Wide Awakes" and early showings at the State Fair were: Phillip Nerison, Brown Swiss; Walter Froyum, colt; Frank Perrett, potatoes; and Joel Fredrickson, Health Champion. In 1935, Phillip Nerison went to the National Dairy Show in Dallas, Texas. Other achievements through the years have been: Norlene Lawson, to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago on Safety; Phylis Lawson, on health to Itasca State Park; Marie Jarvinen, on conservation to Itasca State Park; and two sisters, Marie and Julie Jarvinen on the Dairy Judging Team.

In 1959, the Lutheran God, Home-Country award was won by Julie Jarvinen, the report states that she was the first one to win it in the County. Similar awards were won later by Theona Thoreson and Carol Loken.

In 1960 Jeanette Nerison went to Maryland on an exchange visit and some years later Pam Forss went to Missouri as exchange visitor. Milliard Johnson and Julie Jarvinen went to The National 4-H Congress in Chicago in 1960. In 1972, Patty Freise and Steven Knapp went to the Junior Livestock show. Beth Thoreson went to the Regional Dog Show. A great many State Fair trips won are too lengthy to enumerate.

The 50th anniversary was celebrated in 1977 at the Wanamingo Club House. This was a day of remembering, especially "the fun part" of great softball teams. Credit was given Phillip Nerison for his pitching. No doubt, other memories were enjoyed and thanks goes to the adult leaders. (Contributed by Mrs. Maynard Forss).

Two other clubs were the Minneola Wecanduits and the Minneola Minute Men. The Wecandoits was organized in 1937 with fourteen members. Adult leaders were Mrs. T.E. Olson, Mrs. Alvin R. Steberg, Miss Eggesboe and Mr. C. Dutton. The records are not available. Health Champs to the State Fair were Alvin L. Steberg and later Harlan Steberg. Alvin L. Steberg was at the State Fair also as "Good Grooming" contestant and was placed in the blue ribbon group. Members of this club later joined the other two clubs.

The Minneola Minute Men was organized in 1929. Their present membership is thirty-five. Same names appear throughout as children and grandchildren are still carrying on. The list of leaders is too lengthy to publish, but their work has been reflected in the many trips and success won by the members. In 1958, a highlight was the blue ribbon on their booth with the eye-catching title "Keep Goodhue County Green."

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#### PROJECT GROUPS OF MINNEOLA

The Home Extension was started in 1918-19. The first were open meetings on methods of canning by cold pack. The Normal Training students were required to attend these meetings. In 1935 Township Chairman in each township was appointed and Evelyn Sell was Home Demonstration agent. Mrs. Ted Olson was chosen as chairman in Minneola.

In 1936 a group of Minneola Township women formed a club to study Child Development. This was all due to the effort of Mrs. Ted Olson. After forty-two years, Ruth Langeness and Cora Loken are the only two women out of fourteen charter members who have kept a continuous membership.

This club after a year or so became a garden club for a while before it became the Minneola Demonstration Group. For a short time during World War II the name of "The Victory Round Table" was used after which it went back to the Minneola Home Demonstration Group No. 1. Since 1958 the name has been "The Minne-Moms".

Lessons from the Extension Office were followed through all these years. Some early lessons dealt with such topics as: Room Furnishings, Color Harmony, Floors and Floor Coverings, Window Treatments, Walls, Woodwork and Furniture Repair. At one time a footstool frame was made by each member and upholstered, complete with tied springs on a base of webbing. Much emphasis was put on Food Preparation, Hospitality in the Home, Home Nursing and Etiquette. When one member told her family the lesson for that particular time was on etiquette, her little boy replied, "Well, whatever that is I'm not going to eat it."

Dues of five cents for each member were collected at every meeting. Twenty-five cent gifts were exchanged at Christmas parties, which were always held in the homes. At one meeting a three-course turkey dinner was prepared and served, of which the total cost was \$4.59. The cost of turkey alone was \$2.40.

Through the years the members have enjoyed an annual tour, visiting many places of interest in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester, Faribault, Austin, Red Wing, Stillwater, Lake City, Owatonna, Chanhassen, and Decorah, Iowa. The tours have included both rides, Cinerama movies, packing plants, radio programs, furniture factories, various other factories, State Schools, State Prison, and the State Capitol. Included in the tour has always been eating out at some interesting place.

This organization has been a very active group, as it has at present with the current membership of fourteen members. (Contributed by Cora Loken).

The "Towerettes" were a project group for about ten years. The twelve members enjoyed and profited by the lessons and other activities. This group lived around the "Towers" hence "The Towerettes." Several members have moved

away and the ones remaining felt they were too few to carry on and decided to discontinue late in 1977.

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#### CENTURY FARMS

Century farms are farms that have been continuously owned by the same family a hundred years or more. A list of such farms in Minneola Township reads as follows: Hans Bordson farm now owned by great-grandson Marlyn Bordson and wife Audrey; John Dorn farm, owned by grandson Herbert H. Fredrickson; Ole Salveson Haugen farm owned by grandson Oswald Haugen and wife Ethel; James McWaters farm owned by great-grandson Duane McWater and wife Verna; Andrew Syverson Lexvold farm owned by great-grandson Jerrold Lexvold and wife Corrine; Ole Rollefson Lund farm owned by great-grandson Harold Lund and wife Esther; Halvor Olson Loken farm now owned by grandson Harlan Steberg and wife Lou Belle; Ole S. Reberg farm now owned by granddaughter Ruth Langeness and husband Manley; J.J. Starz farm owned by great-grandson Marlyn Starz and wife Ora; Kristofer Tollefsrude farm now owned by grandson Lawrence Tollefsrude and wife Jeanette; Margit and Ole Holmen farm now owned by great-grandson Daniel Torkelson and wife Vonnie.

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There was no draft for any army for the Civil War, it was dependent on volunteers and each township was expected to fill its quota. Minneola Township voted to pay each volunteer a bonus of \$100. In 1865 this bonus was raised to \$500. The money, to finance this, was borrowed at an interest rate of twelve percent. The volunteers did not have to be residents of the township whose quota was filled. Rasmussen's "Pot Pourri" states that Goodhue County paid \$135,000. in bounty money. "Goodhue County in Word War" has lists of Civil War veterans by townships, but these contain names of non residents too. The cemeteries in this township contain the following names of Civil War Veterans: Lands Lutheran Cemetery: Hans Aurlunnd served 1863 to 1865; Ole Bakke, 1863-1865; Ole T. Berg, Co. G. 7th Minn. Inf., where he was Corporal; Peter Flatland, died in 1864; Ole Holm (Holmen); Jens Lysne; Ole A. Strand, Corporal 1863-1865; Torkel Swenson; Tollef Swenson; Tosten Dengerud Hendrickson, 17th Wis., Regiment, where he was severely wounded. Many Norwegians joined the 17th Wis. Regiment because of Colonel Heg, who was of Norwegian immigrant parents. Tosten Dengerud often told of how Co. Heg would issue his orders in Norwegian and go into the thick of the battle with his men. Col. Heg's death was caused by wounds in the Chicamauga battle. Some of the names listed above whose records are incomplete most likely served in his regiment. Minneola Lutheran Cemetery has Knud Bjorndalen, the only known veteran; St. John's Cemetery had no Civil War Veteran listed and The German Methodist Cemetery, which is neglected, may have had some Civil War Veterans buried there, but there are no records.

The following men have served in the Legislature from Minneola Township; J.B. Locke, Representative 1865; A.J. Grover, Representative 1869; B.C. Grover Representative 1876; C. Nordvold, Representative 1887; S.B. Barteau, 1889; N.A. Stageberg 1913 and M.S. Chandler, Senate 1883.

Men who have served faithfully on the town boards these hundred and eighteen years are too numerous to list. The present town board are Duane McWaters, Selmer Kylo, Ronald Mona, Harry Hadler and Ernest Jr. Kempf. Serving the longest span of years are: Alvin R. Steberg, who was a supervisor continuously for thirty-three years, Oscar Loken who was assessor for 40 years, and Christy Kalass as constable for 48 years. Others who served a long time are John McWaters as supervisor for 18 years and the present clerk Harry Hadler who has served in some township capacity for seventeen years.

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The first claim in the township was made by Kristian Petersen Lunde in 1855 in section 26. A.C. Erstad, Ole and Erik Swenson, J.J. Starz, John Dorn, Zetsman, James and Robert McWaters, Ole A. Strand, Bernt Thompson, Christofer Tollefsrude, J.B. Locke, A.J. Grover, Bernard Boraas, Knute and Tosten Dengerud, Amund Steberg, Halvor O. Loken, Ole Ronningen, Erik Smogaard, Ole Rollefson Lund, and the other four Swenson brothers, Lars, Knute, Torkel and Tollef, who came later and all settled in the township. Many more could be listed, but lack of data makes that impossible.

Words of a German immigrant who left his home in 1850's eventually coming to Minnesota with his wife and small son in 1855 wrote this in his memoirs: "If anyone thinks we were discouraged at hardships in the beginning, he is mistaken. We marked our way on trees and every week we met to sing hymns and songs we had memorized. When people live in dense forests in their little houses, they learn to depend upon one another, and I can not remember that any discord ever disturbed our beautiful neighborly peace . . . Minnesota had no entered statehood and was thinly settled yet."

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To write about each and every early eminent pioneer would be an impossible task. Much of this has been written in county histories before. A few short sketches follow:

J.B. Locke figured in so much early Minneola history, being the first chairman of the town board also enrolling officer for the Civil War volunteers for Minneola and Belle Creek townships. He served in the legislature in 1869. The Minneola Postoffice was in his home on the Stage Coach Route. All three daughters taught school and an early historian credits the son, Charles Locke, as being the first teacher in a private school before district schools were established. His early death was caused by drowning in the Cannon River while attending Carleton College at Northfield.

Pastor Niels Thorbjornson Ylesaker came to America with his wife and family of five children in 1886 having received a call to work on the home missions field of Norwegian Lutheran Synod. They came directly to Red Wing where he was ordained as a Lutheran minister, and was installed to serve the Red Wing congregation, Hoff congregation east of Goodhue and Lands and Minneola congregations. They lived in Red Wing for three years until the Lands Parsonage was built. From then on he served the Lands-Minneola Parish until his death. During these years he knew the rigors and hardships of pioneer life being beset with failing health. In 1872 he

was given a leave of absence to go on a lengthy missionary journey to the Red River Valley. A travelogue written by him in Norwegian dated in December 1872, Lands Parsonage, tells of his journey, his trials, his dissappointments and Christian accomplishments among his countrymen, baptizing children, performing weddings, and acquittal services, and organizing congregations. This travelogue was published after his death in "Kirketedende" 1879, translated and published again in "The Valley Lutheran" in 1957. He returned to Norway and traveled in the interest of Evangelism. Upon his return to Lands Parsonage, his health grew steadily worse and his death came in 1877.

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Pastor L.M. Bjorn came to America in 1862 being an ordained minister from Norway, and served parishes in Wisconsin til 1879 when he and his family came to the Lands Parsonage and served the Lands-Minneola Parish for twenty-nine years. He was well educated, an able speaker with strong will power seasoned with kindness and compassion. During the early period of the churches, it was a common practice to publicly chastise its members for any wrong doing. This chastisement led to better living and renewed fellowship. A doctrinal issue was much debated in the eighties and nineties in which Pastor Bjorn took a strong stand. This led to high offices for him in the Anti Missourean Brotherhood, which later became the United Lutheran Church of America. Besides all this travel and work he served the large parish and also was Interim pastor for Dale Congregation for two years. During a period when the German Lutheran Congregation of Zumbrota, without a pastor, he also preached there using the German language. His last sickness lasted less than a week, ending a long and fruitfull life whose influence lasted long after his demise in this community. It can be summarized thus, Ps. 125:1 "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion which cannot be moved, but abides forever."

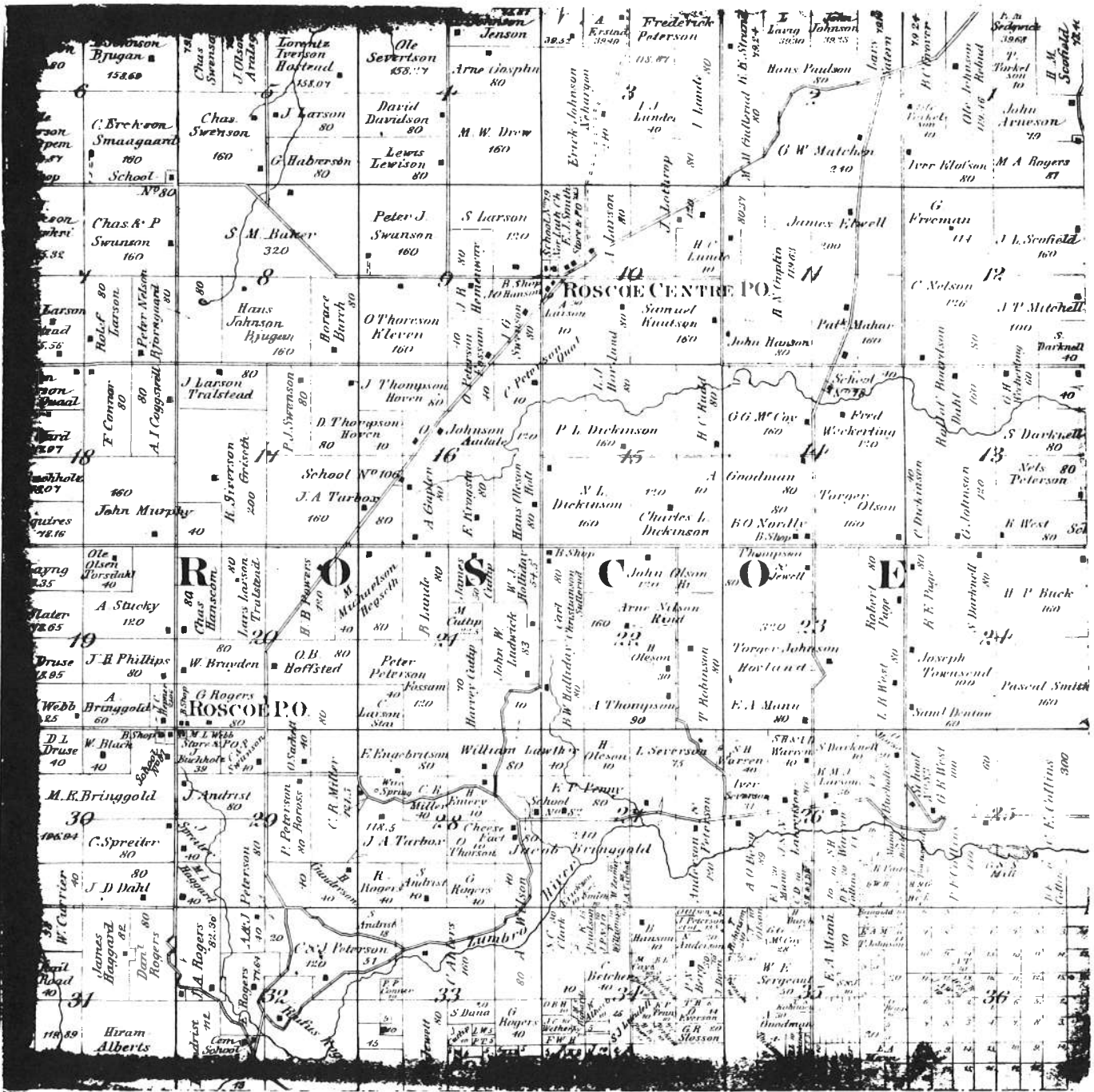
Many others should be written about in this history. But let us keep in mind that all pioneers, young and old alike, contributed to the formation of our country. All endured the same and shared the fellowship, the friendships, and the hopes of a better life for the coming generations.

They built, and built well.

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# TOWNSHIP PLAT BOOK

1877



# Roscoe Township

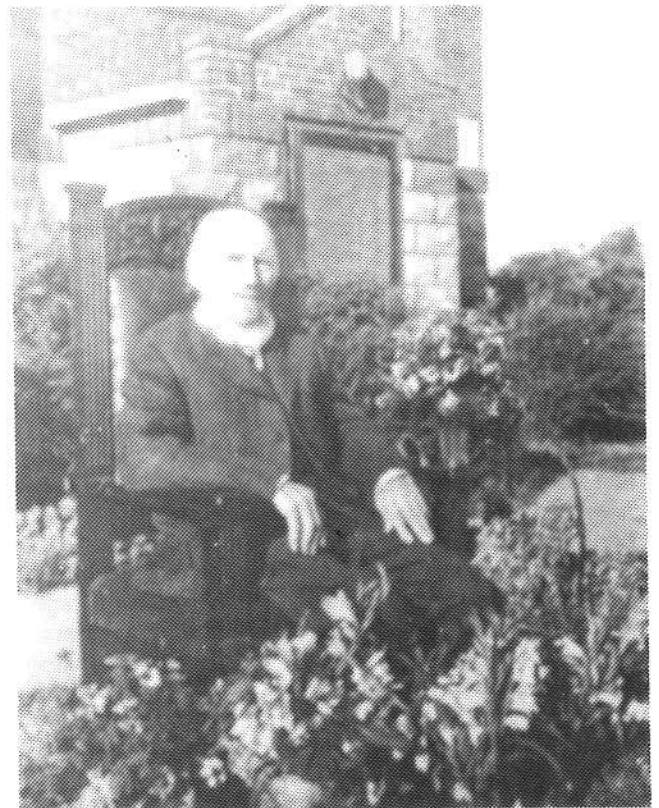
Compiled and Authored by  
Mrs. Harold (Ruth) Currier

As early as 1854, pioneers were settling at what is now Roscoe and Roscoe Center. Among those settlers were James Haggard and W. Wilson, who did not remain long in the area, with their claims being taken up by others, including S. Sackett, J. Mitchell, D.F. Stevens, H. D. Devoe and Josiah Lothrop. Mr. Lothrop was the grandfather of Orville Freeman former Governor of Minnesota. Other names which have become familiar through the generations are those of John Hemenway, George Freeman, and Norm Dickenson.

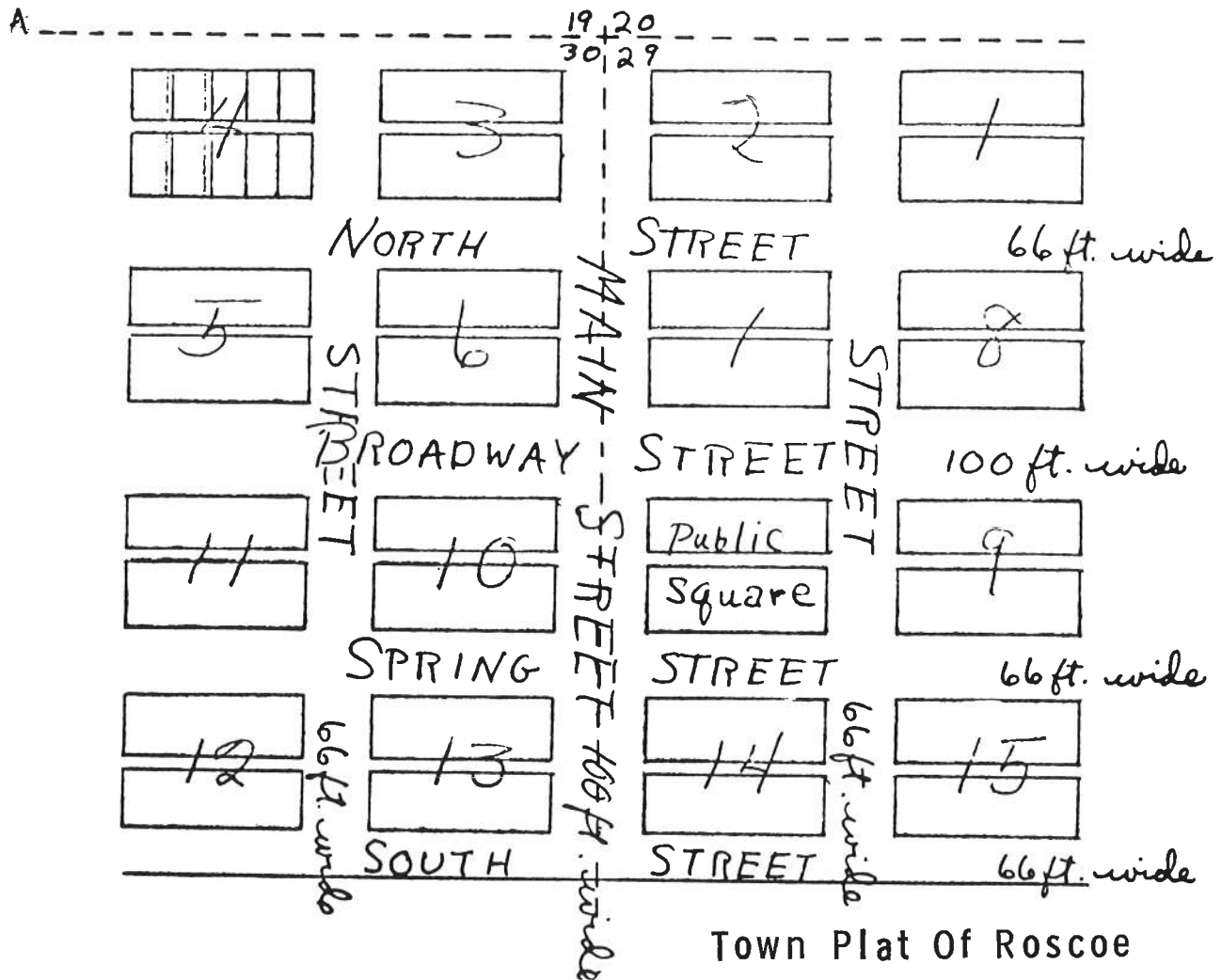
Records indicate that the twins born to Mr. and Mrs. Haskell Burch in 1855 were the first white children born in the township. The first marriage was H. C. Emery and Mrs. Mahala Sackett in 1856. A church was organized in 1857, as was a school with Annette Leck as the teacher.

Early settlers in the township had come from the east after Minnesota became a territory in 1849, and was opened to white settlement. Among the immigrants who came to Minnesota in 1855 and eventually to Roscoe Township were Jake Goode and Fletcher Hagler, who took up claims and conceived the idea of establishing a town on their claims. They had plats made locating a town; laid out streets and blocks, and sold lots. The town plat of Roscoe, recorded on July 8, 1857, shows the layout of the village having fifteen blocks and a public square. What is now Goodhue County #11 formed its northern boundary and the present Goodhue Co. Road #27 was the 100 ft. wide main street. The two men sold small acreages to individual buyers, and Mr. Goode gave free lots to those who would either build homes or start a business on their property. Mr. Hagler had already built a frame house; a general store, and a hotel, possibly in the same building.

At the first town meeting in 1858, Roscoe was chosen as the name for the township, the name having been suggested by Mr. Charles Dana, who with his family had come from Roscoe, Ill. Two other names were suggested: Sunape and Scopio. Roscoe became the township name as well as that of the newly platted village. The settlement later known as Roscoe Center was known as Sunape for a time.



Lorn Hastad on his 100th birthday, celebration at Stordahl Church in 1932. He had come from Norway in 1866, walked from Red Wing to Roscoe Township where he took up land in section 5, and constructed a sod hut for a place to live. This farm is now owned and occupied by Curtis Olson family.



At this same town meeting officers were elected as follows: Supervisors - Oliver Webb, James Mann, and N. D. Libby; Clerk - Wm. Sackett; Justices of the Peace - Fletcher Hagler and James Mann; Collector - J. S. Wickham; Assessor - J. T. Mitchell; Overseer of the Poor - Horace Barber; Constables - E. P. Penney and J. R. Goode.

These early years were evidently years of growth for the new village, although it appears that Roscoe had no special features to insure its prosperity. Located on the open prairie, it had no water power to turn mill wheels which at that time were a necessity. It was, however, located on a road which was used for travel, and as a way station on the road from Red Wing to Mantorville. The Red Wing road to Mantorville crossed the Zumbro River at Zumbrota, continued on to Sunape (Roscoe Center) and then to Roscoe. This route was started by a Mr. Smith, who persuaded farmers from points south to try a new route to Red Wing. In this way, after a while, there was a wagon track that could be followed in a northeasterly direction from Roscoe to Zumbrota.

In 1858 Sunape was given a post office, with Truman Parker as postmaster. Within a few years a blacksmith shop, a store and a separating station were added. A school was established with township minutes reporting a township meeting being held in the log school of District 79 in 1870. A Lutheran

Church was built in 1878 - a white frame building. After the church was demolished by a tornado in 1914, a brick structure was erected, and still serves the Stordahl congregation.

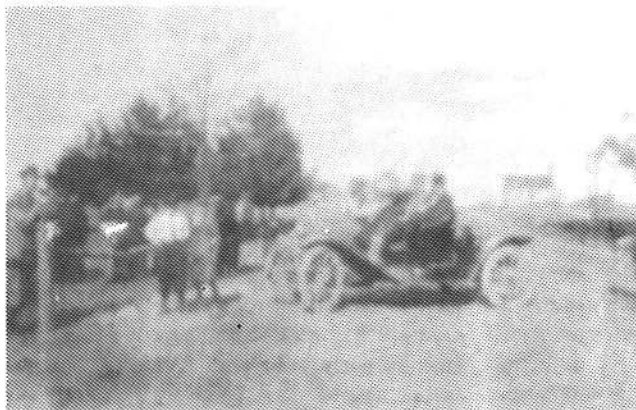
As previously mentioned, Fletcher Hagler was established as postmaster of Roscoe in 1857. He held the job less than three months, being replaced in January 1858 by Oliver Webb, who remained for nearly ten years. The post office was taken over by George Houghlund in October 1867, was discontinued in November 1868, but re-established sixteen days later with Fletcher Hagler as postmaster. It is noted that Mr. Hagler had been elected to several terms as justice of the peace of Roscoe township, had captained a home guard organization called the Roscoe Mounted Militia during the Sioux uprising and had served as an officer in the First Minnesota Artillery late in the Civil War. Mr. Hagler moved to Cherry Grove in 1869, and from there to Pine Island in 1875. Other postmasters were Mr. Hepner for five years, followed by August Buchholz. John Carlson was appointed in 1892, followed by George Hibbard in 1893 who held the position until 1898 when T. O. Sundry was appointed. In August 1900 Andrew Finstuen was appointed, to be followed the next February by Nels Romness of the firm of Romness Bros., who were then running the store. The Roscoe postoffice outlasted most of the other offices off the railroad,

but it was finally discontinued on January 14, 1905.

Soon after the post office was discontinued Nels Romness went to Wanamingo to run a branch store, with his brother Halvor staying at Roscoe. By this time the store was located at the site of the present store. In July 1907 the store and adjacent residence burned to the ground. Although it was at first thought that the store would not be rebuilt, it eventually was and has remained in business ever since. The Peterson Bros., Julius and Otto, ran the store for some years until Otto became the sole proprietor. He sold it in 1937 to Knute Lien. Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Henschel then purchased the property



Roscoe Store in early 1900's. Note grocery wagon, on left, for delivery.



An automobile in front of Roscoe Store is an object of curiosity. In the background the old cheese factory.

in 1946 and have continued to operate it.

From early town meetings it is learned that in 1859, a committee on stock proposed that "fences should be good and substantially made of wood or stone, and cattle, horses, and mules be allowed to run at large from April 1 to November 1 in each year provided that calves, hogs, and sheep not be allowed to run at large under penalties to be paid as follows: For each offense for cattle, horses, and mules, \$5 each; for calves, sheep, and hogs, \$3 each; for bulls, \$5; and for stallions, \$8." The Township's income was increased by payment of fines levied on those settlers whose animals were impounded.

Early township meetings were largely concerned with peti-

tions for establishing and maintaining roads. In 1854 the town board divided the township into four districts and an agreement was made with Pine Island township that Roscoe should keep the 2¼ miles on the north of the township line in repair, and Pine Island should keep the rest. In 1859 road districts were increased to seven. In 1860 a poll tax was passed and male inhabitants were assessed two days labor.

In 1861, the town board turned its attention to education, dividing the township in six school sub-districts. In April of that year they voted to have a three month school in each district, paying a teacher \$2 a week. In October it was voted to have a three month school during the winter. It was estimated that \$500 would be necessary for the expenses of the school. A recommendation that an eight month school term be held was rescinded in favor of a six month term.

When the Civil War broke out, many young men from Roscoe volunteered. Company A of the first Minnesota was composed primarily of boys from Goodhue County and several boys from Roscoe were together for the duration of their service. Enlistments were not hard to secure the first year of the war. A promise of a short conflict, adventure, and opportunities to get away from the monotony of farm life were the major inducements. Pay was good, thirteen dollars a month with rations and clothing furnished. Most boys of the prairie hadn't seen that much cash money at any time in all their lives. In addition, the federal government promised a mustering out bonus of \$100 and Goodhue County was giving an enlistment bonus of \$20. Sixty-two men from Roscoe served during the War between the States. Among those who lost their lives were Joe Kuhns, Nat Jordan Leander Root, and Mr. Hemenway, first name unknown. During the latter years of the Civil War, several meetings were called for the purpose of hiring volunteers to fulfill the quota of the town. Money was raised on individual notes. When one considers the limited resources of the pioneers, one must be impressed by the degree of patriotism exhibited by the people of those days.

After the war ended, the town officers could again turn their attention to building bridges which were often washed



In 1916 Andrew Boraas, Cherry Grove Township, was the proud possessor of a Titan tractor. Much used in Roscoe Township after the Boraas family moved there.

away during heavy rains. Each male inhabitant continued to pay 50 cents on each \$100 and was assessed one day's labor. This continued until 1896 when males might pay \$1.50 instead of working on the road.

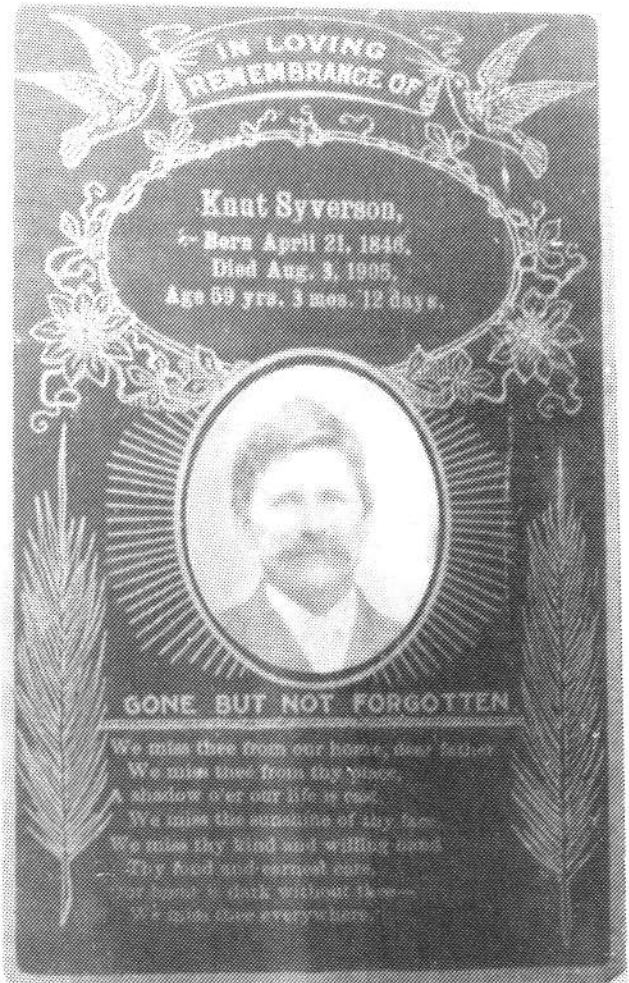
In the early days of settlement, economic conditions were

not good, but began to improve in the 1870's. The village consisted of a store, a post office, two blacksmith shops, a school, and a Methodist Church. There was also a carpenter and a wagon maker. Roscoe seemed to have difficulty in keeping a blacksmith. In 1896 Edward Hagness of Moland started a shop, but left to join Co. C. at Zumbroa at the outbreak of the Spanish American War. He later returned, and several others followed him. So long as the era of the horse lasted, there was a blacksmith shop at Roscoe. The old buildings on the west side of the road, south of the school, remained standing until the 1940's. The last occupant of the building was Martin Goplen, who had a repair shop there in the early 1920's. The large Roscoe School sat on the hill for many years, was used for a time as a combination home and repair shop in the lower level. It was later used as a machine storage shed until being sold in 1977 to an artist who moved it to Mantorville where it now stands and is being used as an art gallery.



Iver Davidson "Roscoe Giant" on left. Man in center is of average height. Mr. Davidson traveled with a circus for a time.

In the late 1880's, the monotony of winter was relieved by a debating society that met at the school house and debated such topics as: Resolved that Dakota should admit into the Union as two states; or Resolved, that the railroads and telegraphs should be owned by the U. S. Government; or Resolved, that women should have the right of suffrage. On the whole, the topics debated at Roscoe seem to have been more contemporary and political than those discussed at Hader which were: Resolved, that novels are more injurious than beneficial; and Resolved, that wealth does not tend to elevate the human character. It is noted that a debating society was again revived in the 1920's, due largely to the efforts of Mrs. Andrew Boraas. The group met in the "Roscoe Hall" on the second story of the Roscoe Store.



Typical memorial card of early 1900's. Gold print on black makes impressive remembrance.

Throughout the years following the early settlement of the township, vast changes have occurred. The earliest settlers were on prairie lands which needed to be cleared of brush and stones. Wheat was the early cash crop and after the fall harvest some farmers hauled their produce by horse and wagon; or after the snow, by sleigh to Red Wing and often the trip required two days. Dairy farming and diversification came in gradually. About 1890 cheese factories and creameries were built to handle dairy products. Roscoe farmers organized a company and erected a creamery at a cost of \$500. A fire in 1892 destroyed the building, but it was promptly rebuilt. This burned in 1898 and was rebuilt as the Roscoe Butter and Cheese Factory. The Roscoe Dairy Association was organized in 1918 with farmers of the area as stockholders. The making of cheese was the main function, with whey cream as a by-product. This factory stayed in business for many years, finally closing in 1949. The building is presently (1977) being rejuvenated to be used as a welding shop. Some cheesemakers at this factory were Mr. Karlen, Melvin Greseth, Peter Swee, John Schutz, Obert Holthe, and Mr. Flicek.

At Roscoe Center a cheese factory corporation was organized in 1912 and a fine building was built. This factory remained in operation until 1966; the last cheese factory in Ros-

coe township to close its doors. It is now being utilized as a farm storage building. Cheese makers at this factory included Jake Karlen, Adolph Schlappi, Mr. Miller, Henry Rossi, Adolph Stromback, and John Holliday.

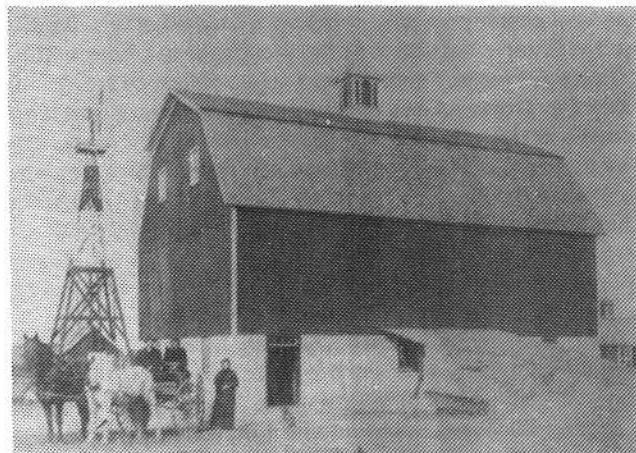
Let us pause to reflect on some of the changes since the first settlers came in their jolting covered wagons over the rough prairie land, and with back-breaking effort cleared their acreages, built their homes, and their bridges, and established schools and churches. Gone are the one-room schools, the cheese factories, the windmills and the horse-drawn farm equipment that were once such a part of the rural landscape. Today, contoured fields, giant farm machines and clusters of silos greet the eye of the beholder as he travels



Pitching hay to haystack are Olaf, Carl and Oscar Beckstrom.

over the miles of well-kept highways. How amazing our forbears would find the marvels that take place at the flick of a switch!

May we carry on and be as willing as the pioneers to build and to care what happens to our land.



Newly built barn (1898) shows wooden windmill and team and buggy. Mr. and Mrs. Gun-der Nodvig on the present Joyce Johnson farm.



Double wedding performed July 8, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Opem and Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Greseth. Ordean Greseth now lives in this house.

## EARLY HISTORY OF ROSECOE TOWNSHIP

From reading the early history of Roscoe Township it is obvious that the township has been, from its beginning, populated by persons of strong religious convictions. One history gives the information that the first religious service was held in 1854. No further information is given, but it is assumed that the service was held in someone's home and was conducted by a circuit preacher, probably a Methodist or a Baptist, as both those denominations are mentioned in a book entitled "Twice A Pioneer" written by Earl Lawrence Druse. In this book Mr. Druse relates the story of his ancestors' coming to Roscoe in 1857. In a letter written in 1857 by Mr. Dana, Roscoe pioneer, to his wife in Illinois, Mr. Dana tells of a quilting bee which was held "over to Mr. Goode's store" and stated that "the quilt is intended to be presented to the circuit preacher." He also mentioned that he and his stepson attended "meeting and Sunday School" every Sunday and were learning the hymn "There Is A Happy Land."

In another letter, headed Rosecoe, January 9, 1858, Mr. Dana's wife, Sally, writes to her parents in Illinois the following: "We have had a Baptist minister to see us several times, a regular line Yankee by the name of Waldron. He is from Wisconsin. He preaches again in four weeks. I tellyou it was quite a treat. Some of the Methodists think if that is the way the Baptists preach, they are not what they thought they were." In a later letter Mrs. Dana writes, "The M. E. Society have been holding meetins for the last two weeks. Some were good. I think I have found a few Baptists but they are scattering and few. The most of the people seem think that the Close Baptists are a huge kind of animal, something like a whale or some other large fish. I heard a woman say she had never heard one preach."

In the same book Mr. Dana states the schoolhouse at Roscoe was the center of all community activities, Sunday church services and Sunday School being among those mentioned.

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## 4-H IN ROSECOE TOWNSHIP

4-H is a very important aspect of rural life. It was originally started by "Dad" Erickson around 1920. Over the years, we have had three 4-H clubs in our township. The Rosecoe Hill-climbers was started in 1942 by Miss McManus, but lasted only until 1948. The Roscoe We Can Do Its was started in 1939. This later became the Roscoe Rockets, which came into being in 1960. The W-C-D-It club disbanded in 1976 because of low membership and too few older members. The 4-H'ers joined either the Cherry Grove or Roscoe Rockets 4-H.

Over the years, many things have changed in 4-H, especially the projects, having earlier been mostly concerned with the home projects, dairy, beef, sheep, chickens, and hogs. Now they have branched out to cover almost any subject or project. Also, it is no longer just a rural club, with many city children also belonging. In the last few years new innovations have been brought into the 4-H program to modernize it and bring it more into focus with today's world. There are exchange programs between southern states and Minnesota, besides exchanges with foreign countries, namely Japan and

Norway. This letter exchange is especially meaningful to our community with its large percentage of Scandinavian descendants.

4-H is more than just having a good time and exhibiting at the fair. It is also doing for others and developing community awareness. Some of the projects carried out over the years are: making Christmas table centerpieces for the Zumbrota Nursing Home, sending apples as a Christmas gift to Faribault State School, caroling at the Zumbrota and Pine Island Nursing Homes, painting the inside of the town hall and buying new curtains, painting the fence around the grandstand at the fair, picking up cans and trash in the ditches, having booths at the fair to show others some of the things we are interested in and that we want them to be aware of, and having a mothers' tea prepared by the girls of the club. They have also been involved in helping to plan 4-H Sunday, having floats in local parades to show some aspects of 4-H, sending acts to the county Share-the-Fun contest, sending the best local 4-H'er to the county Good Grooming contest, etc. Also, some boys and girls enter in the radio speaking contest, speaking on some pertinent subject, preparing and giving demonstrations on the local and county levels, and entering the Dress Revue, not only hoping to be chosen Queen, but also to gain self assurance and poise.

Old records are not available, but Roscoe had an active club started early. Interest lagged and it was discontinued. In 1944 Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Langhans reorganized the club with about a dozen members. They kept the old name and met at the Roscoe school, where most of the members were also students. In 1948 the neighboring club of Roscoe Hilltoppers discontinued as an active club, with several of their members joining the Roscoe W-C-D-I club.

In 1952 membership reached a high of 44 members. This made for a very good year for the softball team as the senior team won the county championship. 1953 found the boys winning the softball championship. This year they also had a booth at the fair on conservation. The 1957 fair booth used the theme, "Blast Off! Fall into Orbit with 4-H" 1958 found the Roscoe W-C-D-I club in the top 10 among the county 4-H clubs. In 1959, membership was at an all-time high with 55 members, and seemed to be outgrowing the town hall. Special meetings were held about the possibility of dividing the club and starting a new club in the southern half of the township. Ten members were the nucleus of the new club named the Roscoe Rockets, which began in October, 1960. The Roscoe We Can Do It 4-H club, in their last year as a combined club, were again in the top 10 of county 4-H clubs in 1960, placing their highest ever as 5th.

Some of the winners of state fair trips, trips to the Jr. Livestock Show, and to the Market Shows were:

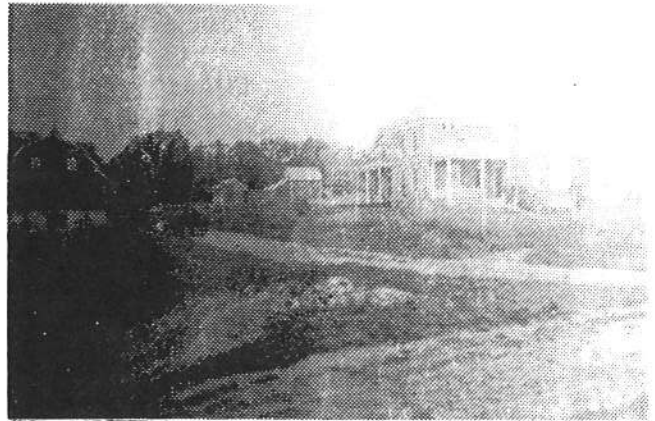
- 1948 Ann Greseth, Champion Clothing; Lester Greseth, Trip to Jr. Livestock Show; Ilene Hoven, Demonstrated at State Fair.
- 1952 Sigurd Ree, Dairy State Fair Trip; Ordean Greseth, Dairy State Fair Trip; Audrey Cordes, Champion Clothing; Ilene Hoven, Dress Revue Queen and Pie Champion.
- 1953 Sigurd Ree, Champion Guernsey; Ordean Greseth, Dairy State Fair Trip.
- 1954 Connie Knutson, Little Miss Homemaker in Dress Revue

- 1955 Janice Hoven, Dress Revue Style Queen; Janelle Hoven, Dress Revue Princess; Bonnie Abel, Dress Revue Queen Attendant; Janice Hoven, County Champion Good Grooming Contest.
- 1956 Ordean Greseth, Jr. Herd Champion; Robert Lervold, Champion Bull; Owen and Charles Knutson, Champion Dairy Demonstration at State Fair; Owen Knutson, Trip to Cattle Congress at Waterloo.
- 1957 Charles Knutson, Champion Groomed boy
- 1958 David Alme, Champion Groomed Boy; Paul Tangen, Champion Sr. Yearling in Dairy; Neil Alme, Champion Hog; Gary Alme, Champion Chickens.
- 1960 Paul Tangen, Champion Holstein; Linda Hernlem, Little Miss Homemaker in Dress Revue; Gary Alme, Champion Chickens; Elaine Shelstad, Champion Health Poster; Connie Knutson and Judy Froyum, Champion Demonstration.
- 1961 Carol Berg, Champion in Food Preparation; Larry Berg, Champion Demonstration; Gerald Haugen, Champion Agronomy; Elaine Shelstad, Champion Health Poster; Dale Froyum, Champion Dairy Showman; Paul Tangen, Champion Barrow; Connie Knutson, County Dress Revue Queen Attendant and State Fair Dress Revue Honor Court.
- 1962 David Tollefsrud, Best Groomed Boy; Connie Knutson, Dress Revue Queen Attendant; Stanley Henrickson, Champion Conservation; Paul Tangen, Dairy State Fair Trip; Dale Froyum, Dairy State Fair Trip.
- 1963 Connie Knutson, Dress Revue Queen Attendant; Gary Alme, Champion Barrow; Dale Froyum, Champion Dairy Showman; Donald Tangen, Champion Tractor Drive in Jr. Division.
- 1964 Gary Alme, Champion Hog and Res. Champion Showman; Dale Froyum, Champion Guernsey and Res. Champion at State Fair; Eric Froyum, Brown Swiss Calf State Fair Trip.
- 1965 Gary Alme, Champion Gilt and County Good Grooming Champion; Mary Tangen, Dairy State Fair Trip; David Rude, Champion Tractor Driver.
- 1966 Donald Tangen, Champion Swine Showman; Mark Evert, Champion Rabbits; Gary Alme, Champion Barrow; Eric Froyum, Champion and Res. Champion Brown Swiss.
- No records are available again until 1972.
- 1972 Janice Friese and Debbie Friese, Sheep State Livestock Show.
- 1973 Todd Johnson, Champion Market Lamb; Jean Tangen, Dairy State Fair Trip; David Friese, Sheep State Fair Trip; Laurie Livingston, Sheep Market Show.
- 1974 Jim Dieffenbach, Champion Horse; Todd Johnson, Champion Rabbits; Randy Livingston and Laurie Livingston, Beef Steer Market Show; David Friese and Jill Friese, Sheep Market Show; David Friese, Champion Ewe and Market lamb; Robert Quam, Champion Trio Lambs; Kim Olson, Dairy State Fair Trip.
- 1975 Michelle Greseth, Needlecraft State Fair Trip; Bruce Johnson, Champion Lamb; David Friese, Champion Trio Lambs; Jean Tangen, Champion Dairy Jr. Herd.
- 1976 Jean Tangen, Dairy State Fair Trip; Jill Friese, Sheep State Fair Trip; Brian Hoven, State Fair Trip; Jim Gop-

len, State Fair Trip; Reed Clementson, Market Show Trip.

1977 Ann Tangen, Champion Demonstration and Dress Revue Queen Attendant; Keith Knutson, Champion Electrical.

There may be some winners who have been inadvertently omitted, but according to the records we have this is the list.



Typical farm home which nurtured our 4-H'ers. Gunder Hoven farm about 1905.

#### ROSECOE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Various sources prove that there were schools in the township from the start of colonization in the 1850's. By the middle 60's districts were being organized and given numbers by the County Superintendent's office. There were nine districts in

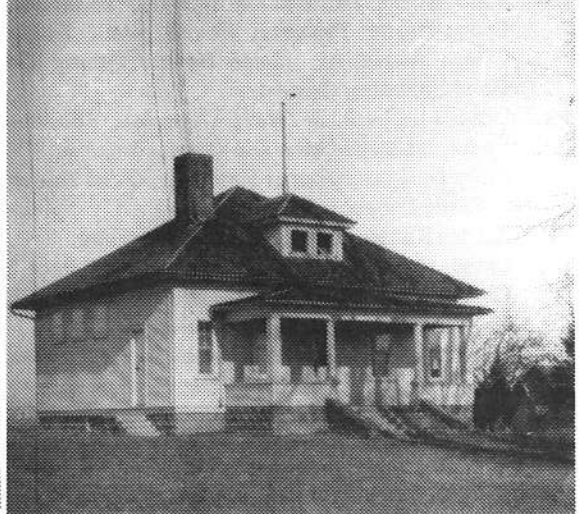


Carl Swain, elected County Superintendent of Schools in 1910, received his early education in District 78. Graduated from Zumbrota High School and St. Olaf College, he took post-graduate work at Columbia University. For many years he was Rural School Commissioner.

RURAL SCHOOLS  
IN THE  
TOWNSHIP



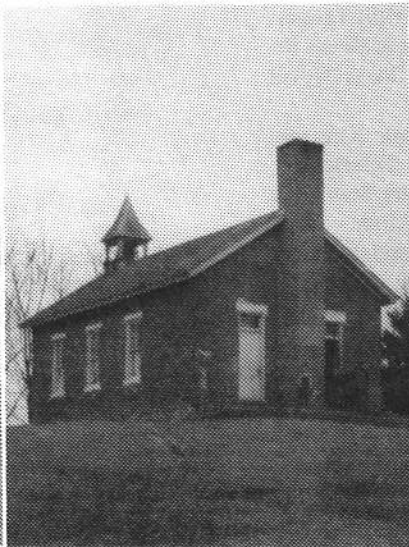
District 78



District 79



District 80



District 81 (prior to 1916)



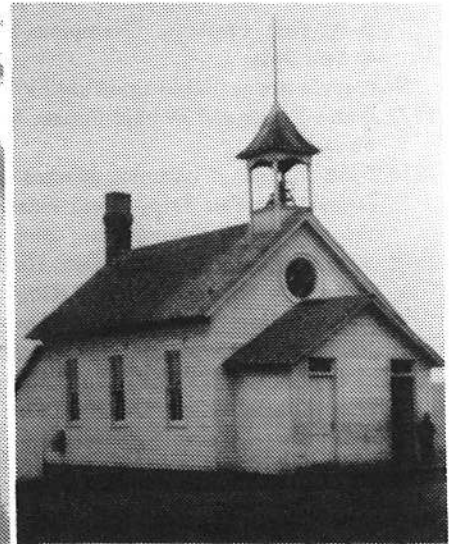
District 81 (after 1917)



District 82



District 83



District 103

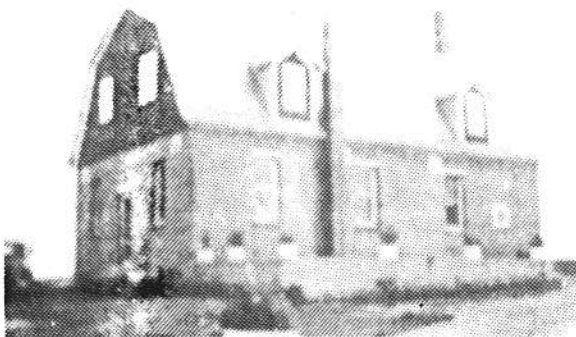
the townships: #78 has no available records. #79, the Roscoe Center School, organized in 1872, built a new building in 1913. This building now serves as the Roscoe Town Hall. No records are available for Dist. #80, the Smogaard School. Dist. #81, the Roscoe School, was organized in 1869. The original building was of red brick and was replaced in 1917 by a white frame structure, described as one of the finest in Goodhue County. The school was consolidated with Wanamingo and closed in 1953. In 1977 the building was purchased by an art teacher, Ed Gallina, and moved to Mantorville where it is an art gallery and dwelling. Dist. #82, known as the Bringgold School, was organized in 1870 and the building erected in that year served the district until it was consolidated with Pine Island in 1953. Dist. #83, the Collins School, was organized in 1871. In the early 1890's this school was taught by Iva Miller, Mina Rogers, Bertha Squires, and Florence Parkins, for two or three month terms. Dist. #100, organized in 1869 closed in 1918. Dist. #103, Pleasant Valley School, organized in 1865, built a school house in 1875 which served the district until it consolidated with Pine Island in 1953. Dist. #106, no date of organization, was closed by a petition of the voters in 1912 (circa) and children went to Dist. 79 or 82. The building was purchased by a neighboring farmer and used for a farm building.

#### CHEESE MAKING IN EARLY DAYS

Pioneers coming to Roscoe brought with them draft animals, farming equipment, pigs, poultry, and cows. The latter provided their families with milk, butter, cheese, meat, and fertilizer needed for the production of farm crops. Since Roscoe township was blessed with green valleys, wooded hills, and numerous springs and streams, in addition to fertile soil, it seemed an ideal place for dairying to the people of Swiss background who settled in large numbers in the southern part of the township in the second half of the 19th century.

In the early years the milk was cared for in the home by the women of the household. Butter was churned and when there was more than was needed by the family, could be sold or exchanged for merchandise at the store.

The art of cheesemaking was introduced by the Swiss. A Mr. Bringgold, who had a large dairy farm at Roscoe, employed a man to make Swiss cheese at his farm and sold



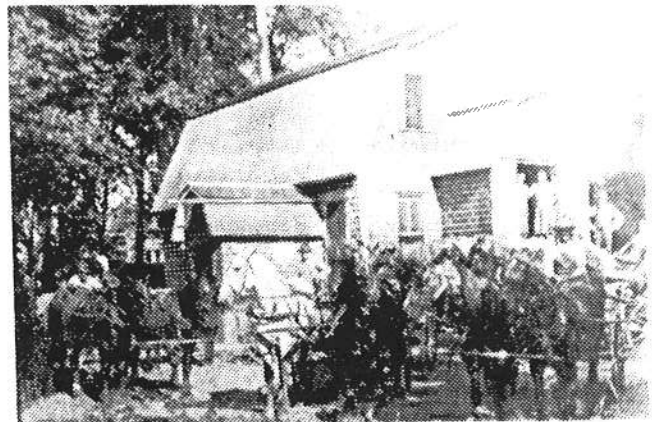
Roscoe Cheese Factory

the cheese in Red Wing. Since he had a large herd of cows, the amount of cheese produced was considerable. The cheese maker lived in the home with the Bringolds.

At first, some families made cheese in a large copper kettle over an open fire. As time went on small buildings were built and cheese factories sprang up every few miles where a cheese maker, often assisted by a 'second man' was busy every day converting hundreds of gallons of milk into cheese.

By the early 1900's American cheese had replaced most of Swiss Cheese.

The art of making cheese was learned by young men as they worked as "second men" to a skilled cheesemaker who had learned the trade in the same manner. Often the tradition was passed through generation from father to sons who took pride in their ability to produce cheese of fine quality. One such family was Harvey Weis, Sr., who was hired by Mr. Bringgold in the Miller Valley to make cheese. Mr. Weis was the father of 11 boys, all of whom became cheesemakers, several of them making it their work of a lifetime. At the present time there are still men of the Weis name who are employed in one capacity or another in large dairy-connected factories.



Roscoe Center Cheese Factory - 1916

By the early 1900's the privately owned cheese factories had largely given way to farmer cooperatives and cheese producing was an important part of the farm scene. Each morning the farmer, or a son, would haul the milk to the factory where it would be taken in for the process of cheesemaking. Gradually this practice declined with the increase of mechanization. It became more convenient to have the large bulk tank trucks come to the farm and transport it to factories for various purposes: milk - homogenized, pasteurized, dried, powdered, or canned; butter; ice cream; and countless varieties of cheese. The cheese factory at Roscoe Center, which ceased operation in 1946, was the last in the township to close its doors.

A cheesemaker's life was not an easy one. He had to be on the job at 4:30 a.m. each day to be ready for the milk when it was delivered. He had to work every day, Sunday and holidays included. If ever he wanted a day off he might have difficulty in finding a replacement!

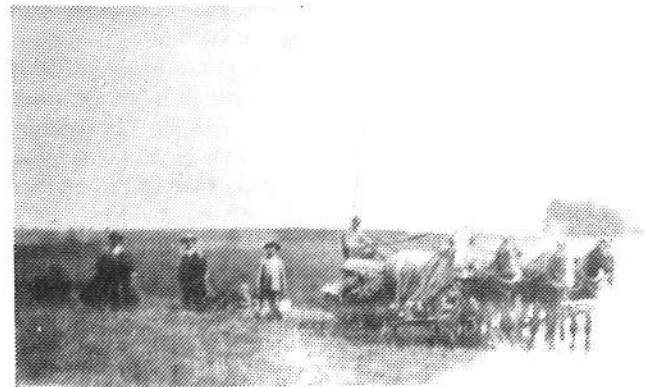
The cheesemaker tested each farmer's milk for cleanliness



Berg Cheese Factory (about 1915).

and quality before it was emptied into hugh vats where the process started. Starter and rennet were added and the substance was allowed to "set." After a period of about twenty minutes it was cut into cubes and cooked up to a temperature of 102 degrees, being stirred constantly. Then the whey would be drawn off and the cheese was again cooked until the proper degree of acidity was reached. At that time, the cubes would be ground and again stirred for another half hour. Salt was added and when that was dissolved the cheese was put to press. The whey was an important by-product of the cheese industry.

Dairying remains important to many farmers in Roscoe township, although many changes have occurred. Many farmers no longer have dairy herds. Some have turned to beef production, some into raising hogs, while others use their land for grain, corn and soybean production. How amazing farm practices of today would seem to the ancestors who got it all started.



Harvesting timothy, early 1900's on Knute Haugen farm (now owned by Wayne Lubahn). Man on binder Adolph Haugen, man with lunch basket Knute Haugen, man with shock, Carl Haugen.





# Wanamingo Township

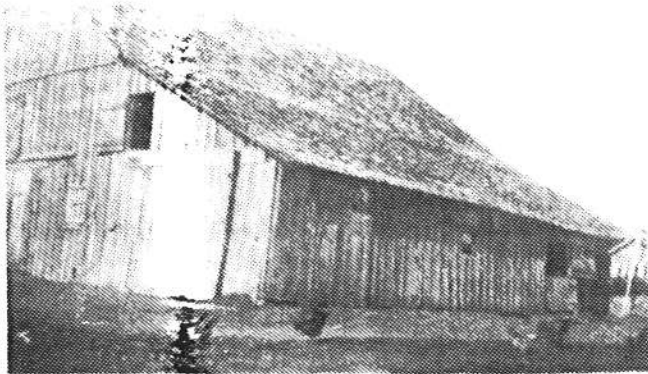
Compiled and Authored by  
Mrs. Manton (Terra) Voxland

## HADER

Hader, located in the heart of Goodhue County, came into being in 1857. April 17th of that year a Post Office was established with Joshua C. Pierce as postmaster. He was replaced by Samuel T. Babbit who lasted only a few months, he was followed by Shubael Wales who had made a claim on the future site of Hader in June 1856. He was born in Vermont in 1818. He migrated to Massachusetts and then to Minnesota.

The early settlers or residents saw great possibilities for Hader. It was the crossing point of the main trail from Red Wing to the Southwestern part of the county, Kenyon and Faribault, also it was the main road running between the Twin Cities and Dubuque, Iowa.

The mail was brought by stage from Red Wing to Faribault with Hader as one of the stopping overnight places where horses were changed. The stage was a two-seated



Hader livery stable from the early days

heavy buggy with cover. There was a hotel or tavern as it was sometimes called and a livery stable at this point. Sixteen horses were kept there and men cared for them.

In June 1857 the town site of Hader was platted and re-

corded on August 22nd of the same year. The plat was 122 blocks in size with one block at the center reserved for the Court House, one block for a park, and one for a cemetery. Hopes ran high at the time of making Hader the county seat. At the election that followed, the vote lost by a small margin. Old timers say it lost by one vote when Red Wing was selected. One drawback, there was no river which would help generate power for manufacturing; and the failure to get the railroad also prevented Hader of being a principal village of the county. The first settlers were mostly New Englanders, commonly termed Yankees in those days. They settled in Hader and a few miles around. They finally became discouraged and after a time moved away, being succeeded by Norwegian immigrants in about the year of 1876, nineteen years after they had settled there.

In 1861, Mali Davidson, a nineteen-year old immigrant from Norway, came to Red Wing and found employment at the Hader Hotel and stage station, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hanson. In the days of the Civil War, often as many as twenty men would come unexpected for dinner. She said, "It was not easy to be without bread." She would sometimes walk to Holden Church on Sundays to services. She was self-educated, having attended school only one day. Her school training was taken care of by her father. She was a great reader and had many books. She was married to Hans Ofstie and lived in Roscoe Township until her death in 1936 at the age of 94 years.

There was a high rate of turnovers in Postmasters during the early years. Shubael Wales was replaced by Thomas Hanson in 1862 and Joseph Leet in 1863. Then Wales returned to hold office for two years. In December 1868, John Jameson was appointed. Samuel Arnold held the office in 1870, Andrew Jackson in 1871 for three months when Samuel Arnold came back. He is listed as a prosperous farmer and a native of New York.

In the year of 1872, there were two general stores, one operated by D. Collings and the other by John Jameson, two blacksmith shops, a shoe-maker, and a cabinet-maker. Hans

P. Olson was listed as a watch tinker.

In 1873, Thomas T. Cockran was proprietor of a store and was appointed Postmaster. His term was brief. Two years later he was replaced by John A. Ryden. His appointment documents the replacement by Norwegians of the original American settlers who had started the town. All succeeding postmasters bore Norwegian names.

In 1895, Mr. L. J. Gjemse, once "Up Hader Way" correspondent for local papers, remembers going with his grandfather to the Hader Store and Mr. Cockran spoke only English. He could barely remember the County Fair at Hader.

The townsite of Hader had been platted in 1857, occupying all of Section 1 and a portion of Section 12. The first proprietor of the Hotel was listed as Otis I. Smith. In 1861, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hanson had charge. William H. Purdy was owner of the farm and operated the Hotel and Livery Stable for many years. In 1889, Purdy left Hader and rented the Hotel to C. Thompson. Three years later, it was being run by E.S. Sweatland. Purdy sold his property to A. S. Haugen in 1888.

The County Fair which originated at Red Wing in 1864 was moved to Hader in 1871 where it remained until 1875. Then it was moved to Zumbrota. There was a board fence erected running north and south, on the west side of the road. Behind that was the race track. This fence stood there for many years. There was a large open pavillion built and used for celebrations. Fourth of July celebrations were held there Annually and attracted large crowds of people.

The 1878 gazetter reflects the change to Norwegian names. B. Halvorson was a carpenter; Thomas Storseth was a shoemaker; J. S. Goxal and Hans Harrison were blacksmiths. Dr. Christian Hveen was now practicing medicine at Hader. The place was supposed to have sixty inhabitants. There was a tailor, a shoemaker, Mr. Besse Carlson was a furniture maker. Mrs. George Rostad has a table he made. There was a milk station directly south of the store. Andrew Rosvold and Hans Holstad, immigrants from Norway then in their twenties, were running the store. Rosvold was appointed Postmaster. In the twenty-two years of Post Office, eleven men had served as Postmaster. In the twenty-four remaining years the office existed, only four men held the office.

Christian Hveen, a physician and surgeon, was born June 2, 1835 in Norway. He was married to Andrea Eggen in 1861. They came to America in 1867. He was a graduate of a Chicago Medical College. They moved to Hader and purchased 73 acres of land one-half mile west of Hader and built a beautiful residence which was taken down in 1963.

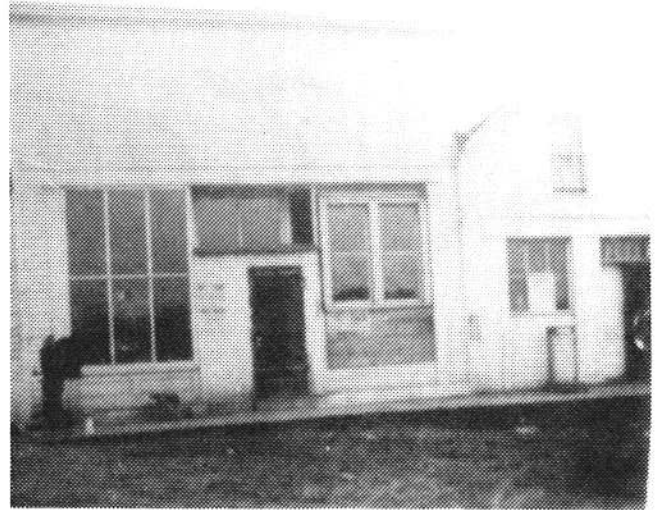
In 1884, when sixty to a hundred persons were said to live there, the village had a feed mill run by H. M. Hjermstad, a lawyer, P. S. Aslakson with Hader as his address. The Hotel had been remodeled. There were two millinery stores. The one operated by Mrs. Andrew Fjerstad was also a dress shop located upstairs in the old Hader Store. The hats were hand made, also the dresses. There were young ladies learning the art or trade who helped make hats and dresses. These were called apprentice girls. John Kvaal built a blacksmith shop in North Hader. Then he and Knute Finne bought the Andrew Jackson farm and built a blacksmith shop there. Daniel Lindsay is listed as a proprietor of a store in 1896. Lorenze Moe was living at Hader and was a skilled carpenter.

Old time photographers, Larson and Sterhaug who made

Hader their headquarters for a time, had their gallery on wheels.

The store at the east side of the road was in operation all the time and held the Post Office at times.

When Erstad and Haugen had gone out of business in 1895, the store was bought by Ohnstad and Larson and moved across the road and added to their building. The first



Hader Store which burned in 1932. It was built in 1868.

store was built in 1867. The following were owners: John W. Jamison, 1867-1876, John Ryden, 1876-1879, Andrew Rosvold, 1879-1893, Knute Fenne, 1893-1895, Joseph Larson and Joseph Ohnstad, 1895-1900, Ole Teigen, 1900-1903, Edward Haller, 1903-1908, Mrs. H. Satren 1908-1920, J. R. Tiller, 1920-1941, Conrad Tiller, 1941-1943, Ed Holt, 1943-1945, Tiller and Fredrickson, 1946-1960, Duane Sharpen, 1960-1972.

Hader's last Postmaster was Ole J. Teigen, appointed in February 1899. The Post Office was discontinued on October 31, 1903 when rural free delivery started. The mail for Hader patrons was sent to Cannon Falls. Later a Zumbrota rural route was substituted.

By this time the blacksmiths and other trades had gone out of business. The Hader Store kept operating and was purchased by Joseph Tiller in 1920.

Bennie Moe ran a feed mill with a big business and sold the first gasoline ever to be sold at Hader at 12¢ a gallon, tax free.

There was a store building in North Hader that was erected by Olaus Larson in the 1870's. This was in operation off and on through the years. Edward Haller was the last proprietor. It was vacant for some time until Colbin Jacobson and a few other interested residents collected money and bought the building and converted it into a church in 1897. Rev. K. C. Lundeberg conducted services there every two weeks. It was given the name of Nazareth Church. Residents referred to it as the Lundeberg Church. By 1911 the congregation had been reduced by deaths and removals, so it was sold and taken down. The proceeds were donated to the Mission of Lutheran Brotherhood. There were three graves in the cemetery, Mrs. Gilbert Loken, Mrs. Ellingson (Thor-

vold Ellingson's mother) and a young boy who died of diphtheria, whose name is not available. This lot is west of the Cheese Factory, now Logan Body Shop, marked by some low trees and lilac bushes. When Highway 52 came through with the four lanes, the intentions were of taking the Cheese Factory and more land, but being a grave lot was there, it was left.

There was another cemetery in East Hader which belonged to the New Englanders who founded Hader. When they moved out, some of the graves were opened and caskets were moved to a cemetery in Featherstone for re-burial. Five or six were left. These were marked by white marble slabs about 30 inches high. They stood there until Andrew Hanson bought the three-cornered piece of land containing the cemetery. When he wanted the land for a field, he dug up the stones and carried them a few rods north to the fence line and put them down flat on the ground where they can be found today. The land was plowed up and planted. There is no trace of the graves now.

In 1973 Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Borah of Huron, South Dakota came in search of his great-grandparent's graves. They had visited six cemeteries in the Hader area. While at Holden, they were told to go to Oscar Haugen's near Hader which they did. He told them about the stones in the fence line near the Hader rock quarry. These graves of Seth Davis and wife Clarissa Hoyt Davis date back to 1865 and 1868. The Davis family moved to Goodhue County in 1857, and secured 120 acres of land in Section 26, Leon Township. A daughter Sarah and her husband Edward Bailey lived on the farm until 1869 when the land was sold for \$1,195.00 to Swante Anderson of Leon.

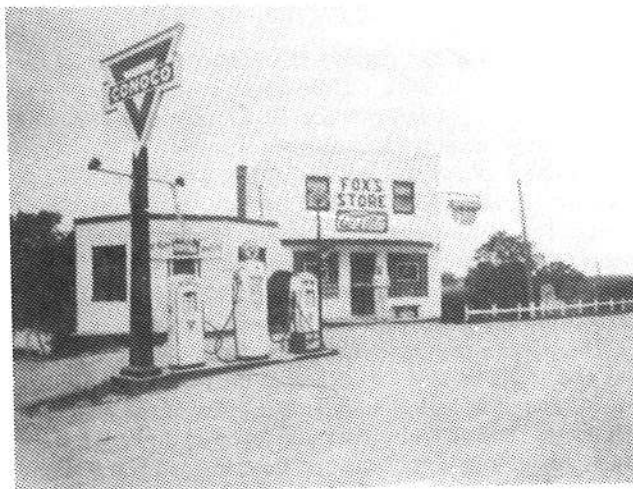
February 18, 1932, the Hader Store, owned and operated by J. R. Tiller, burned to the ground. It happened at noon, and believed to have originated from a defective chimney. The Tiller family had their living quarters on the second floor. This was a great loss. Mr. Tiller promptly had the building replaced by a modern two-story brick structure with living quarters upstairs.

There was a gasoline pump installed in front of the store and operated by the store.

Thirteen years later on August 8, 1945, this store was totally demolished by a mysterious explosion. This was one of the most tragic accidents to happen to the community. It occurred at 4:40 p.m., killing two person and injuring another. The dead were Ed. Holt, 42 year-old operator of the store, and his fifteen year-old daughter, Helen, who died instantly, being blown out the opposite side of the building. Mr. Holt was hurled 30 feet by the blast and died a short time later, after being carried from the spreading flames. Leroy E. Peterson, 31, driver of a bakery truck, was also injured. He had fractures of the arm, shoulder, and fingers, also lacerations on his body. Mrs. Holt was spending the day visiting her father in Faribault, Mr. and Mrs. Holt were operating the store for Mr. Tiller at this time. Another brick structure was built. This was a one-story building with living quarters in the back. It was opened for business the following year with Conrad Tiller and Ray Fredrickson as proprietors. They continued the tradition of offering weekly grocery deliveries to the homes in the community. At first a team of horses and wagon was used, but later it was handled by a truck. They would deliver groceries that were ordered

and pick up eggs. In 1960 the store was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Duane Scharpen, and was in their possession twelve and a half years. Mr. Scharpen worked at the Minnesota Farm Builders at Wanamingo, and his wife operated the store.

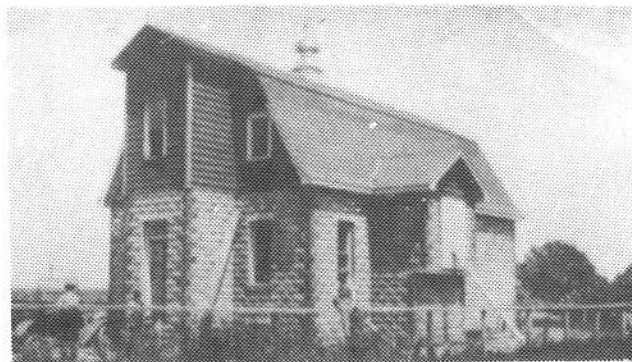
Walter Norby of Wanamingo built an oil and gas filling station north of the Tiller Store in 1930. It was taken over by Clifford Fox and I. O. Lund and later purchased by Clifford



Fox's Store at Hader

Fox. After the destruction of the Hader Store it was expanded into a general store with living quarters in the back. Mr. and Mrs. Fox were the proprietors and ran the Bus Depot for the Jefferson Bus Line from 1946 to 1970. They retired in 1972 and Mrs. Fox is still living there.

Hader Cheese Factory was organized by a group of local farmers, September 15, 1919. It was owned and operated by its patrons, all of whom were stockholders. The first officers were S. O. Haugen, Pres., H. M. Hjermsstad, Vice-Pres.,



Hader Cheese Factory was built in 1919, and discontinued in 1964. For a few years it was occupied by the Frontier Plastics Inc. Since then it was converted into the Logan Body Shop operated by Darrol Logan.

M. C. Jacobson, Sec., and Obert Tiller, Treas. It was given the name of "The Hader Cooperative Cheese Factory." The factory was built and began operating September 1, 1920. C. A. Zimmerman was the first cheese maker. Other

cheese makers were Mr. and Mrs. K. Zeller, Clyde Green, J. Paulson, and Joseph Hoidahl. The assistants were Ray Simonson and Sanford Flaten. Estel Shorter took over in 1959. His assistants were D. Harper, R. Blakstad, and J. Carpenter. After ceasing the manufacture of cheese in 1963, it served for about a year as a collection and processing point for milk sold by members of the association. The factory was then closed for two years, after which it was bought and remodeled by the Frontier Plastic Inc., which was in operation for two years.

A rural School-District #64 was started at Hader in the pioneer days. It always had a large attendance. It was discontinued in 1951 and children were picked up by bus and taken to the Wanamingo School.

A Concert Band was active in 1889 when a photo was taken, which was given to the Goodhue County Historical Society. There were eleven members-Gunder Reppe, John Boraas, Knute Sather, A. J. Foelm, Edward Ofstie, Anton Holst, Lars Flormo, John Peterson, J. Ullevig, H. O. Holstad was the leader and A. J. Ulvig, snare drums.

There was a popular belief that some of the Jesse James gang visited Hader a few days before the Northfield robbery in 1876. The most logical story is that a few of the gang had their horses shod at White Rock and followed the trail toward Hader. About a mile northeast on County Road No. 8, there was a grove of oak trees by a well. There were mangers for feeding the horses and a place to drink from the well. It is believed that the James gang stopped there and watered their horses, and also stopped at the Hotel for a meal.

The snowstorm, October 22, 1938 was unusual and will long be remembered. A heavy fall of snow started in the morning and continued through the day. A strong northwest wind developed and piled huge drifts on Highway 52. Highway maintenance crews could not make any headway, so



Richard Dorn, director and original organizer of Hader Band. Previously he had directed the Minneola Band.



Aspelund Cornet Band - 1913-14

they turned back. Traffic was stopped by high drifts of snow. 181 persons had to stop at Hader until the next day. The crowd filled the Tiller and Fox stores, the oil station, S. O. Haugen's home, the former hotel, and some stayed in their cars. Mrs. Fox said they used up their entire supply of pancake mix. A man at the Haugen residence noticed that Mrs. Haugen was baking bread and he said, "We won't tell the onces across the road because there is no bread left in the store."

S. O. Haugen bought the 240 acre farm where the Hotel and Livery stable stood in 1888. Although the townsite of Hader had been platted, the streets had never been laid out. No part of the plot was vacated until 1940, when Mr. Haugen took action to have the portion of the plot he owned vacated. Nettie and Severt Haugen came to Hader on May 14, 1897 as newlyweds. They settled on the farm, moving into the house which was formally the hotel. They raised a family of five daughters and one son. They moved to Wanamingo in 1940. A daughter and husband, Arnold and Agnes Schriever moved onto the farm in 1946. In 1950 the old hotel was taken down and replaced by a modern house. By 1961, when U. S. Highway 52 became a four-lane freeway, they had rebuilt all new buildings except the barn which was built in 1918. The Highway took the whole homestead including 40 acres of land. The Schrievers bought another farm 4½ miles west, and moved the house, a large machine shed, and a grainary to the new farm. The barn was razed together with trees and other small buildings. There are memories of the ice-cream socials on the Haugen lawn, sponsored by organizations of Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Aspelund. These were well attended. It was an evening of enjoyment for young and old with a good program, games for the younger set, and a good lunch. There were also Farm Bureau and 4-H meetings on the Schriever lawn.

In 1974, the cheese factory building was bought by Darryl Logan of Zumbrota. He opened a Body Shop there. He also has a tow truck and is enjoying a good business.

James Axelson of Wanamingo is operating an assembly plant in part of the cheese factory building. It is called "Midwest Assembly." It is an assembly plant for electronic switches which are used on push-button telephones, adding machine keys, and computer keys. Also a vacuum-forming plastic machine. He employs nine part-time workers.

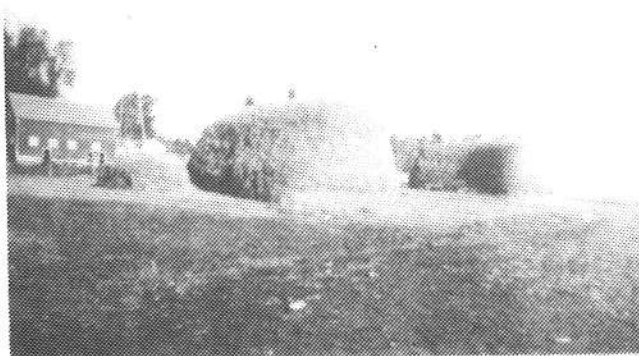
The Sharpen Store closed in 1972, but there were tenants in the living quarters. In July 1977, the store was purchased by Betty and Bob Behlke of Sogn area. They remodeled the building to serve as a place for extracting and canning raw honey. They call it "Homestead Apiaries." They have colonies of bees in a location near Faribault and at their farm near Sogn. The honey is brought to Hader to be extracted, canned and sold. The tag on the honey jars sold at the Homestead Apiaries reads, "Thanks to the honey bee, our honey is a natural example of the beauty in Southeastern Minnesota. We enjoy the art of beekeeping and strive to keep the honey in its natural raw state, just spun out of the combs. Without the use of chemicals or heat, we have preserved the valued natural enzymes and wild yeasts from the flowers."

Hader is not what it was intended to be over a hundred years ago. It gave way to highway construction which cut

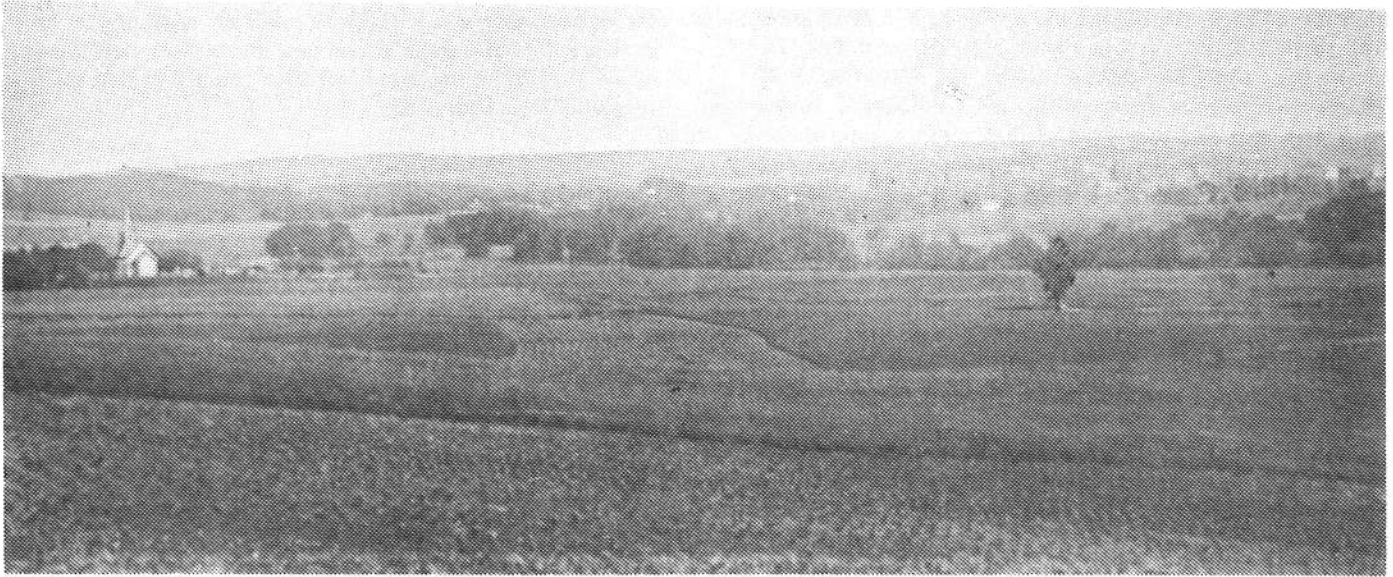
through the community. Hader is gradually regaining its importance in the area. Three new businesses have been established by young people who are pleased to find buildings suitable to their needs.



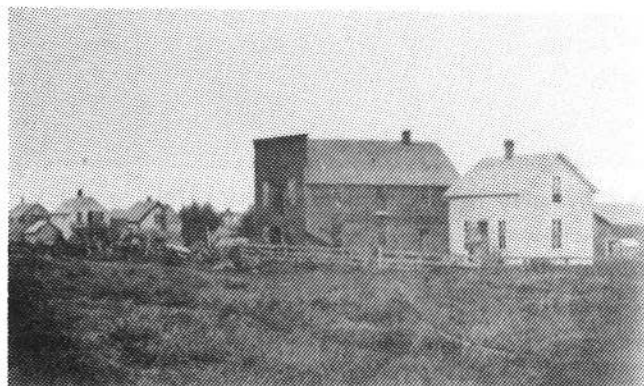
Grain bundles from the grain shocks were hauled on hay racks and stacked into cone-shaped stacks, held together by a long oak pole driven into the center top when the stack was completed.



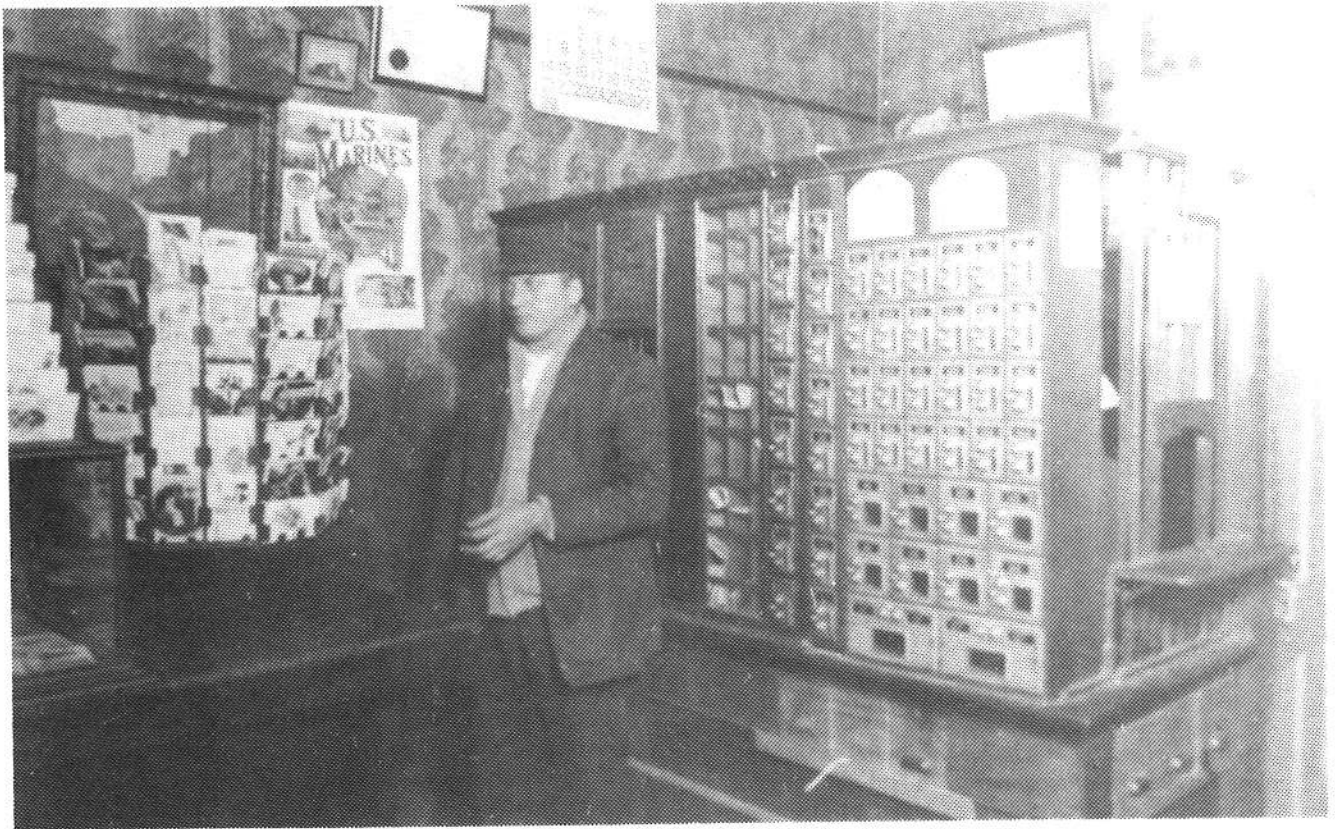
A perfectly hand-stacked straw pile, or stack. The straw was used for bedding for livestock. Oat straw was also used feed. Bed mattresses were also filled with oat straw. Early pioneers made straw stables using straw for walls and roof.



Panoramic view of 'Old' and 'New' Wanamingo



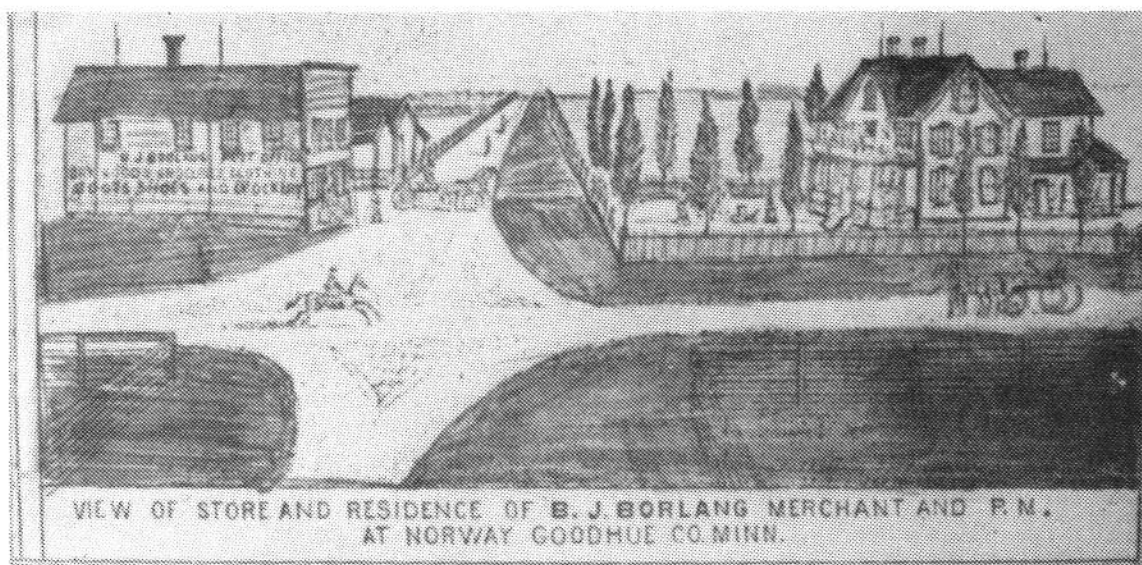
Old Wanamingo, 1875, looking northwest. Johann Tiller house and blacksmith shop on the right. Chrislock blacksmith shop and house on the left.



Iver Tiller, postmaster. The post office was in the rear of the Farmers State Bank Building, which is the present post office. Picture was taken in 1918.



West Woods: Rabbit-hunting followed by a rabbit stew. Note the Model T truck. Left to right, Sjur Baker, Frank Helberg, Vivian Herzog, George Romness, Ole Romness, Shorty Rosvold, Halbert Loken, "Dundas" Nygaard.



Sketch of Norway Corners

#### NORWAY CORNER

The Norway Corner Store had its beginning in Section 24 of Holden Township along a State road laid out in 1856. This was a center of a Norwegian settlement. The Norway Post Office was established in the store June 1, 1857 with Ole Olson as postmaster. The store was soon moved across the line into Section 19 of Wanamingo Township. The second postmaster was Ole D. Huset, appointed February 8, 1865. A Mr. White kept the store. April, 1867, Butler Johnson became postmaster and was proprietor of the store. The first store was referred to as a shanty. Evidently a new store was built about 1870.

North of the store up on the knoll was a barn and feed mill. There was a windmill that propelled the feed grinder. This was in use for some time and had good business.

When the farmers brought grain to grind and there was no wind it was left there until there was sufficient wind to turn the mill. Then they worked day and night until it was done.

Botolf J. Borlaug was appointed postmaster, May 1873 and served until 1891, the longest term of any of the postmasters. The store was destroyed by fire July 16, 1886, but promptly was rebuilt and open for business that fall.

The following story was taken from C. A. Rasmussen's "Pot Pourri" in the Wanamingo Progress. A young man known as Anders Helgelien was employed on farms in Wanamingo Township. The store of B. J. Borlaug at Norway was robbed and burned, and he was arrested on a charge of being the perpetrator of the crime. Largely on circumstantial evidence, he was convicted and sentenced to ten years at Stillwater.

On expiration of his term, he took up abode at the home of a brother in South Dakota.

After remaining there for some time he read an advertisement in a Scandinavian paper inserted by Mrs. Bella Gunness at a point in Indiana, who advertised for a manager for her farm. She was also Norwegian. He was re-

quired to have \$1,000 in cash and the woman stated that if the arrangement was made and everything was mutually satisfactory a marriage might follow. Now after his release from Stillwater someone had been digging on the farm of Aslak Breidal not far from Norway Corner and it was suspected from some coins found shortly afterwards that Helgelien had there concealed the loot he had obtained from the Norway Store. In any event he journeyed to the home of the widow in Indiana. When his brother did not hear from him for several weeks he traveled to Indiana to locate the missing one. Being suspicious of foul play because he could find no trace of Anders he enlisted the aid of the sheriff of the county. An investigation followed to the discovery of Ander's body, buried in a field with his head severed. Very soon fourteen other bodies were found. Steps were taken to arrest Mrs. Gunness, but before this could be accomplished her home burned to the ground. In the ruins were found remains of three persons, supposed to have been those of Mrs. Gunness and her two children. A hired man was accused of burning of the home, but he was never brought to trial as there was not sufficient evidence to warrant prosecuting the charge against him.

The store served as a commercial center for the farmers' trade over a wide area. It was located just north of now Goodhue County 8 and on the west line of Wanamingo Township. Botalf Borlaug left in 1891 to become a banker at Kenyon. The store was called the Borlaug Store long after he had left. During this time Norway was the address of a blacksmith, a shoemaker, a physician, Dr. Christian Grunvold who had two offices, one on the second floor of his home which was located about one mile east of the store. The other was at Kenyon in back of the Holman Bank Building, now the Security State Bank.

Peter A. Floan took over the store and was appointed Postmaster, May 9, 1891. About this time the Crescent Creamery Co., opened a milk separator here which was in operation for some time.

The Post Office passed into the hands of Knute S. Groven

May 1896, but A. S. Holmquist seemed to be running the store at that time. In the fall of 1898 he sold his stock to Ole Huset who became Postmaster. Nicolae A. Huset was the last postmaster appointed in August 1901. He served only a little more than six months before the Post Office was discontinued on March 15, 1902, when the rural free delivery or mail was started.

The store did not long survive the Post Office. When it closed the merchandise was sold at an auction which took place two evenings. Lars Underdahl was the auctioneer.

The blacksmith and shoe shops were east of the store. Directly across the road south was the Borlaug residence. Across the road from the Borlaug house to the west was a house occupied by an Ulefus family. South of this was the home of the blacksmith and the home of the shoemaker. The Ulefus house stood there until 1925 when it was moved to the place where Harlan Hjermsstad now lives. When he build a new house it was moved to a farm east of Urland Church.

The Borlaug house must have been built about the year of 1873 when Botalf Borlaug took possession of the store and was appointed postmaster. It was an elegant home. The house was immense with a beautiful porch with gingerbread railings and a deck on top with same curlicues as on the porch. The steps had railings decorated as on the porch. The gables were also beautiful with filigree work at the peaks. It was built of white clapboards. There was a white picket fence around it and a boardwalk from the house to the road, which went clickety clack when they walked on it. Hilda Gronvold, now of Minneapolis, remembers the more it clickety clacked the more fascinated the neighborhood children were. The living room had fantastic wall paper. The ceiling had a huge round madallion in the center with scroll design radiating to the four corners and side walls. The paper on the walls had a scenic motif just like a picture. There were old fashioned lace curtains held back by a tasseled, twisted white rope. A carpet covered the floor. The furniture was also elegant.

Most of the teachers of School District #148 roomed and boarded there.

Botolf Borlaug was born in Norway in 1842, came to America in 1854. He attended the Commercial College at Madison, Wisconsin and worked in Wisconsin and Red Wing until he came to Norway Corner. In 1868 he married Susan Lowe, a native of Norway. Their children were Joseph, Carl, Randi, Julius, and Arthur.

After Borlaug left, Peter Floan lived in the house until Litzheim, a parochial school teacher came there to live with his large family. He also served as clockern at the Holden Church. When he left the house, it was old and falling apart so it was taken down.

Some of the old timers remember hearing about three of the Jesse James gang stopping at Norway Corner to water their horses. They wore light colored dusters which later was learned were to conceal their weapons. They were good riders and had the finest of horses and equipment. It is believed they came through Hader and had traded one horse at the Lars Gjesme farm, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rueben Lee. Gjesme was the grandfather of Mrs. Lee. While at Norway Corner they took the road north and met a few other riders of the gang at what is known as the Brekke bridge.

Rasmus Brandvold, then a small boy four years old was walking with his older brother going to Norway Corner to get the mail. The horsemen talked to the boys and asked where Northfield was. The older boy pointed west and one of the fellows took a shiny quarter out of his pocket and gave it to Rasmus who was delighted getting a nice new quarter, which he kept for a long time.

In May 1905, William Willianason who later changed his name to Ronningen bought the four acre lot containing the store from Borlaug who was going to remove it.

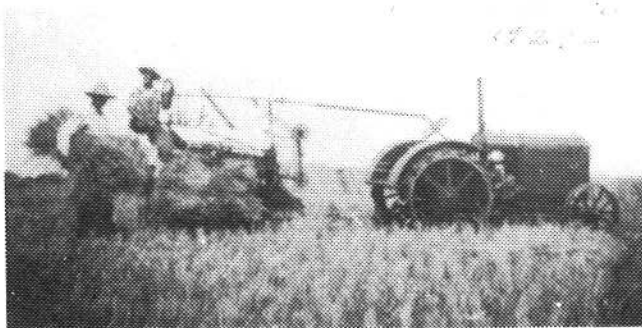
Norway Corner remained through out its history as a rural Post Office and small trading center. The last remaining cottonwood trees were removed in the 1930's.

In the fall of 1976 a group of the "Patchwork Community" from the Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis held a weekend retreat at Holden. They were interested in hearing of Norway Corner, the small trading center for the pioneers. Chuck Jacobson, one of the members, made a wooden sign "Norway Corner," and presented it to Paul Voxland and family who are living on the farm once owned by William Ronningen, just west of the corss road, where the store once stood. Their house was built in the 1870's and since has been remodeled.

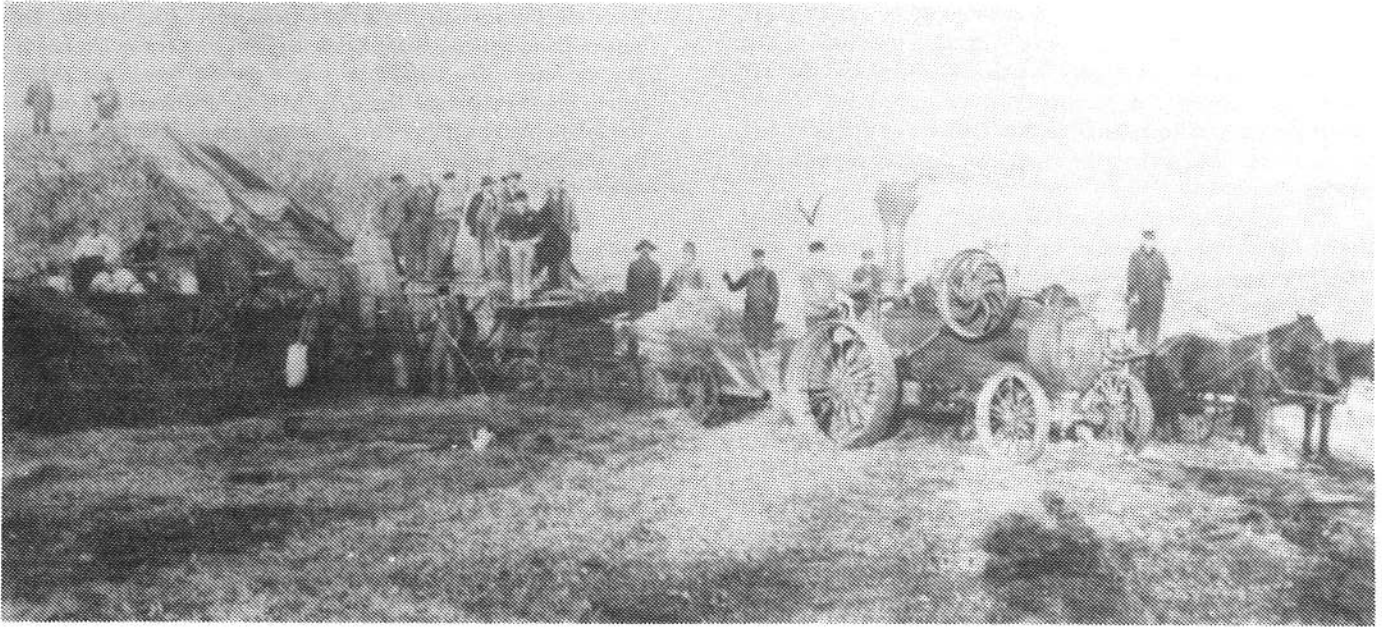
The sign can be seen on the lawn. This is the only identification there is of the busy pioneer hamlet that was started one hundred and twenty-two years ago. There are many memories, now open fields occupy the corner along Goodhue County Highway No. 8.



Seeding Grain



First binders used four horses. The bundles were than shocked and left to dry until stacking or threshing. Years later when tractors were used, a hitch was made so the man could operate both the binder and the tractor from the binder seat.



A threshing rig from early 1900's showing a straw conveyer.



Another threshing picture showing a later improvement of a straw blower. Also note the filled straw cart behind the engine. Straw was fed to the engine to produce steam which powered the wheels. This rig is coupled up ready for departure.

RURAL SCHOOLS  
IN THE  
TOWNSHIP



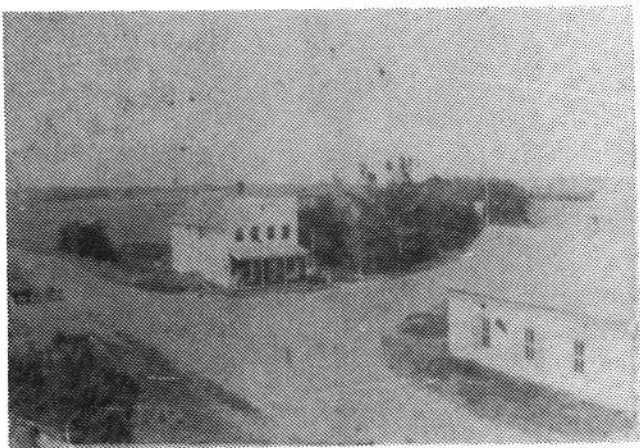
District 61 East



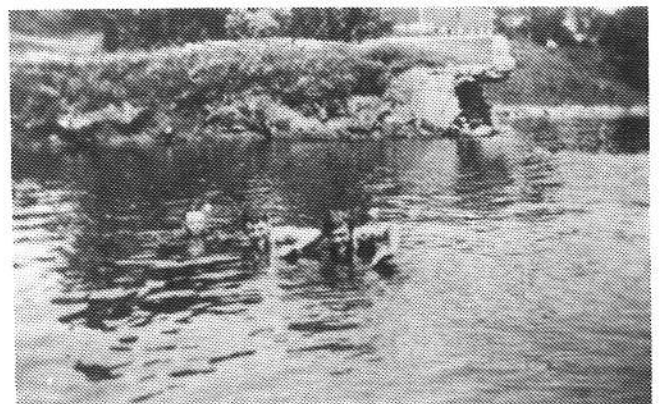
District 60



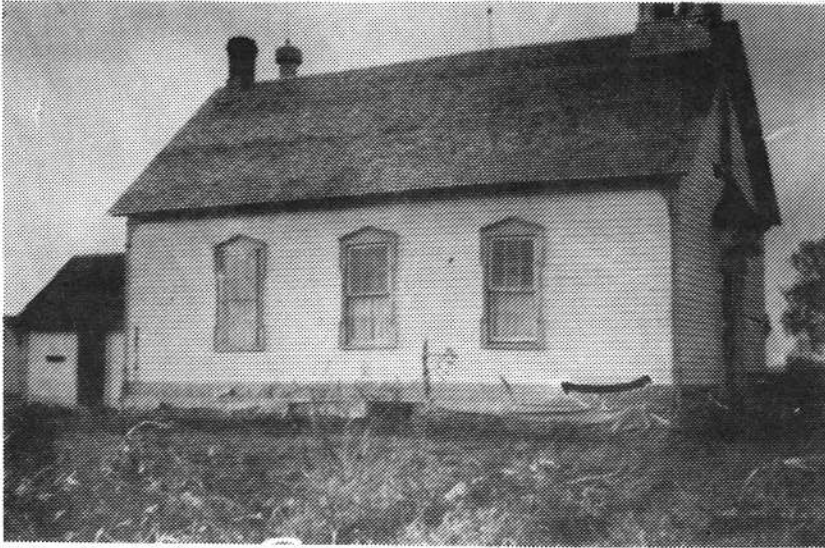
District 99



Old Aspelund Store, taken from tower of  
the old church in 1880's.



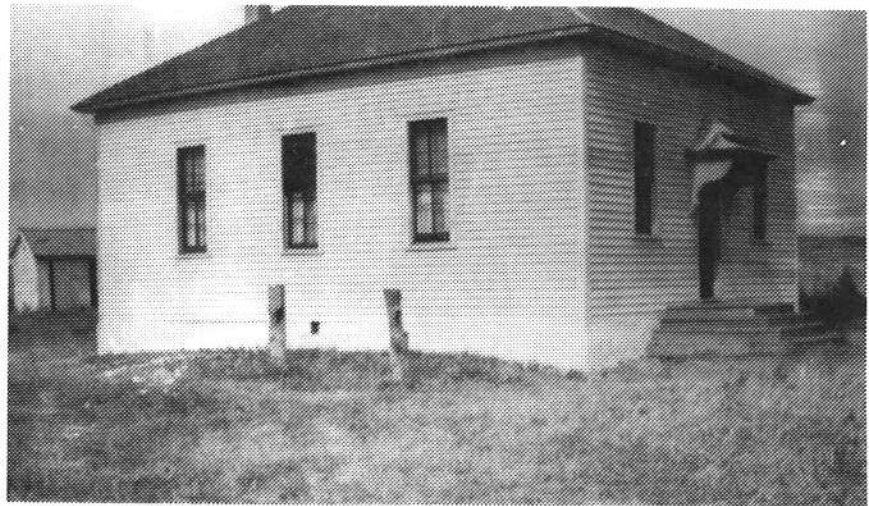
Three young boys swimming in the old mill  
dam in 1908, prior to the second dam.



District 63



District 145 - At Right

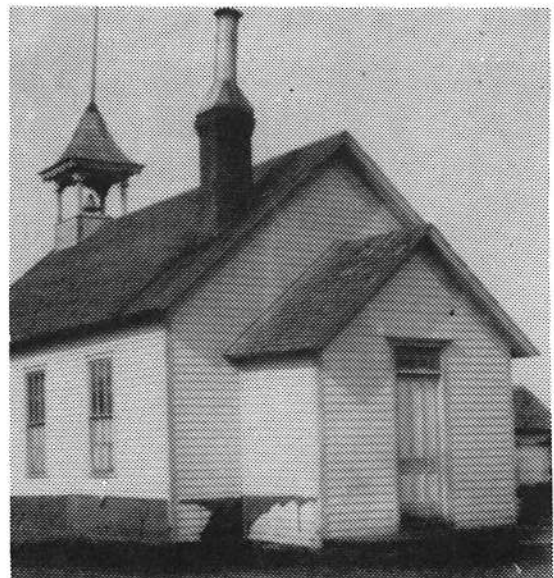


District 148 - At Left

District 62



At Left  
District 64



At Right  
District 61 West

Compiled and Authored by  
Mr. Harold Syverson

THE IMMIGRANT WAGONS RUMBLE WESTWARD

The little caravan of ox-drawn wagons had been many days on the trail since leaving Dodgeville, Wis. The men and women gazed anxiously about them, now and then breaking into comments about the land they were seeing for the first time. For three weeks they had jolted their way westward.

Now it was 11 o'clock on the morning of June 12, 1854. They crossed the north fork of the Zumbro River in what is now Wanamingo Township. They paused after fording the stream.

Their leader, a bearded man with bold eyes, looked approvingly at the rich soil. It was a magnificent stretch of country with enough timber to enable settlers to build their homes. He was greatly moved. Speaking in Norwegian, he exclaimed, "Here will I live and die."

The man was Toge Nelson Talla (also spelled Talle), who with his brother Henrik had come to America and settled in Koshkonong, a Norwegian settlement in southeastern Wisconsin. Henrik and Talla had spent some time with the other goldseekers of 1849. He had suffered many hardships, hadn't found any gold, but had made a small fortune selling groceries and other supplies to the prospectors. The Tallas had come to America from Lyster in Sogn, Norway.

On that eventful day the Talla family was well represented. The brothers had with them their two sisters, Mrs. Jens Ottun (also spelled Ottum) whose husband had not yet arrived from Norway, and Mrs. Nels K. Fenne, whose husband was still in California. Others were Tosten Aabye and his family from Sigdal in Buskerud, Norway, together with Wilhelm Ronningen and Nils Gulbrandson from Telemark, Norway. The last two were carpenters.

Toge Talla had prospected for gold in Australia. Obviously the Talla brothers were not afraid to try their luck in strange lands. They were ambitious and eager to make their fortune in Minnesota.

For Tosten Aabye, the trip from Wisconsin to Wanamingo Township was an especially difficult one. He had become sick shortly after departure. There was no stopping at a hospital until he could recover. In fact, there were no hospitals in this country. Day after day he was jolted in the overcrowded wagon as it bumped its slow way along the trail chosen by the Talla brothers. There were no springs in the wagon.

Years later Aabye was to tell his family about the pain he suffered and the feelings of frustration and despair that swept across his mind.

"It was a great relief every time an axle was broken so the wagon had to be stopped while repairs were made," he related. "I would silently thank the Lord for every mishap that would require the wagons to be halted. We would camp along the trail for a couple of days while repairs were made. Then, once again, we would start jolting our way westward."

Finally, the Tallas saw something to their liking. It was an unusually beautiful landscape. The black soil grew a luxuriant growth of tall, succulent grass which their oxen grazed eagerly. A lively little stream and a great forest with suitably open spaces caught their eyes. Toward the south there wasn't

a tree to be seen -- only a great open plain as far as their eyes could see. The grass billowed gently in the gentle breeze.

The weary wanderers stood as if entranced. Then Toge Talla exclaimed: "Three parts of the world have I lived in and wandered through many countries but never have I seen a more beautiful sight. Here I will live and die."

The others seconded his thoughts. They camped for the night. In the morning they began staking their 160-acre claims to which they were entitled under the Preemption Act of 1841. This gave settlers the right to buy 160 acres for \$1.25 an acre.

More than half a century had passed since the United States, aided by French fears that her Louisiana territory might fall into British hands, had bought the enormous region for \$15 million. It was a steal. The region stretched from Louisiana in the south to present-day Montana in the north and west. It still ranks among the greatest land bargains in world history.

Minnesota was a part of the Louisiana purchase but as late as 1851 few white people had ventured into it. They were afraid of the Indians. Then, on Aug. 1, 1851, two treaties were signed with the Sioux. Nearly 24 million acres of land were sold by the Indian leaders for about 2½ cents an acre.

The huge tract included about 19 million acres in Minnesota, three million in Iowa and more than 1,750,000 acres in South Dakota. Now the barriers were down. A trickle of settlers began moving into what is now Goodhue County which at that time had only about 300 Indians living in small encampments at Red Wing and Pine Island.

Far off in Europe, people on the bottom end of the economic scale were hearing wonderful stories about fertile land in America that could be had almost for the asking. Even the poorest family could afford to buy land. If nothing else, they could borrow money for the trip by sailing vessel to America and then work long enough to accumulate enough funds to buy a quarter section.

In Norway, there was a compelling urge to come to America. To land-hungry Norwegians it was like manna from Heaven to learn good arable land could be bought so cheaply. Later, of course, after Congress passed the Homestead Act of 1862, the land was free. Even before then, by 1835, emigration to the United States snowballed to such an extent that Norwegian officials actually feared their country would be depopulated. Some ministers spoke from their pulpits against emigration. But there was no stopping the younger sons who could never hope to inherit farms and the crofters who had a snowball's chance in a hot oven of ever owning a farm. Even farmers who owned lands in Norway were convinced they could do better in the United States in such states as Illinois, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas.

In the 1840's nearly a thousand Norwegians left Norway every year while in the 1850's an average of more than four thousand were emigrating to America.

The little caravan that rumbled westward into Goodhue County were representatives of the Norwegians who were coming in ever-growing numbers to Minnesota. No country except Ireland has had a higher rate of emigration; in the 1880's 11 out of every 1,000 Norwegians were leaving their country annually compared to four Germans, six Swedes or Englishman, and 16 Irishmen.

To the land-hungry Tallas, it was unthinkable others

should share in the bonanza. They took steps to frighten other emigrants from locating in their choice location. Even Tosten Aabye, their longtime friend and traveling companion, was forced to travel several miles before the Tallas gave him permission to settle.

The Aabye family felt deserted and lonesome. Day after day they scanned the horizon hoping to see somebody coming into their neighborhood. The Tallas, however, were vigilant. No one was permitted to claim the prized land. Instead they staked out claims for several miles, carving their names on the stakes. Consequently whenever a newcomer came into the region he would see the name "Talla" or "Nelson" on the market. Concluding the land was taken, he would travel on.

Then one morning in late summer, Tosten's wife was awakened by a cowbell. It had a different sound from those of their cattle. She sat up in bed to listen. To her it was heavenly music because it indicated a new family was in the neighborhood.

In great haste, Mrs. Aabye awakened her children and set out to find the cow and its owner. The grass was heavy and wet from the morning dew but she did not mind. They hurried up and down the hills until finally they caught sight of several cows peacefully grazing. So pleased were the children that they jumped up and down in glee. Tears rolled down Mrs. Aabye's cheeks. Impulsively she and the children ran over to pet the animals.

Soon she came upon the night's encampment. They had parked their emigrant wagons and "kubberollers" (wagons with wooden wheels) in a circle. Mrs. Aabye's joy was great when she learned the entire group was composed of Norwegians who spoke the same dear mother tongue.

A huge Norwegian named Sven Nordgaarden was the caravan's trail boss. He greeted Mrs. Aabye and her children warmly.

There was no welcome from the Tallas, however. When the newcomers had arrived late the previous afternoon, they were met by the Tallas, who were in a hostile mood. One carried a huge club.

"Are we meeting Norwegians?" asked Nordgaarden.

"Yes," said one of the Tallas, "but what do you want hereabouts?"

Puzzled, the new arrivals looked at one another uncertainly. What kind of a welcome was this?

"All the land hereabouts is taken." Toge Talla informed them.

"Is that so?" sneered Nordgaarden. "That's too bad. But since we have to settle down here for the night, we'll do just that. And since our shoes are worn so badly, could you loan us a shoemaker's awl so we can make repairs?"

"No," said Henrik Talla. "We have nothing to lend you. It is best you leave here tonight. We don't want strangers around our houses at night."

"Well," retorted Nordgaarden, "we're spending the night here. And in the morning we are going to look around. We wouldn't travel any farther tonight even if Old Erik (the devil himself) says so."

His companions growled their assent.

Baffled, the Talla brothers left while Sven turned to his oxen and began to unhitch them. The others followed suit.

The next day the newcomers began filing their own claims.

This led to what is known as the "Battle of the Clubs" in Wanamingo Township. The details of this skirmish vary for no written accounts exist but it seems the Tallas tried to pull a sneak attack on Sven Nordgaarden and his men.

Nordgaarden, however, was prepared. He had posted a sentry in an oak tree. When the lookout saw the group skulking through the draw and into the woods, he sounded an alarm.

Nordgaarden grabbed up a big club and rallied his men. Then he led them to the rear of the Talla troop. Unseen, Big Sven and his men moved through the timber and brush. Then, with a mighty yell, they hurled themselves upon the Talla band. Muscular arms toughened by swinging axes routed the invaders. Cries of pain and terrors soon were mixed with guttural oaths and yells.

Big Sven swung his club like a berserker gone insane. The fight was over in minutes. The invaders fled the battleground.

An uneasy peace then settled upon the land. Government officials checked the claims that the Tallas had made and forced them to restrict their operations to 160 each.

The Tallas, however, prospered mightily. Since there were no banks at that time, they were rumored to carry their wealth in the form of gold coins in money belts. One story is that about the time of the James and Younger gang, a group of riders were seen in the vicinity of Aspelund. They were said to have inquired about the whereabouts of Henrik "Rich" Talla. Apparently they failed to find him for there is no report of his being robbed.

C.J. Talle, one of their descendants, became a civic pillar of Kenyon. He was banking in banking circles and also served as mayor of Kenyon and secretary for many years of the North Star Creamery in Kenyon.

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## NEIGHBORS FOR CENTURIES, NOT JUST YEARS

If a contest ever is held to determine which American farm families hold the all-time record for neighborliness, the Thoreson and Iverson families of Wanamingo Township would win it, hands down.

The story of these remarkable farm families has been chronicled in several farm publications. The two families have been neighbors for 120 years in Wanamingo Township but for centuries in Norway.

The story begins one day in 1858 when two neighbors -- Thorstein Kleven, 21, and Iver Rolfseeng, 18 -- boarded a small sailing vessel from a Norwegian port. Weeks later they docked in Quebec. Their odyssey ended in Wanamingo Township where they began farming.

Today, more than a century later, descendants of Kleven and Rolfseeng continue to be neighbors. As was the custom among Norwegians of that era, Kleven changed his patronymic to Thoreson and Rolfseeng to Iverson. In Norway owners and farm workers alike used the name of Iverson. Then, on emigrating to the United States, many adopted new names. Five brothers with the last name of Haugen, for example, could wind up in the United States with five different names.

The Thoreson family, represented by brothers Thorney and Roy, and Thorney's son, Birdeen, operate the 200-acre farm originally settled by Thorstein Kleven in Section 13. Roy and

Thorney are Mr. Kleven's grandsons. Across the road from their farm is the 203-acre farm, also in Section 13, owned by Mr. Iverson, whose grandfather was Iver Rolfseng.

Family records of these two families have been consulted in Norway. They date back to the year 1430 showing the same families have been neighbors in Norway for something like 560 years. In Norway the farms are small. Only 3 percent of the land is suitable for farming in that country.

"I would say the average farm runs to about 40 acres, including pasture," Thorney Thoreson says. "But this tillable acreage is supplemented by several hundred acres of woodland up in the mountains."

Norwegian farms have passed to the oldest son under the rule of promogeniture. This prevented a farm from being divided among several heirs. In feudal times this rule had a useful purpose. It foiled stronger neighbors intent on taking over fragmented estates.

The Thoresons and Iversons have made several trips to Norway to visit relatives in central Norway. There they have been guests of relatives.

The Thoreson farm will continue to be operated by a Thoreson after Birdeen Thoreson retires. Matt Thoreson, the four-year-old son of Birdeen and Linda Thoreson, would be the fifth generation of the Thoreson family to farm the ancestral acres in Wanamingo Township.

Iverson has two daughters but no sons. The daughters are Renee, wife of James Hill of rural Zumbrota, and Pamela.

A footnote to the longtime neighborliness is that the Okkelberg farm also has been in the same neighborhood as the Kleven and Rolfseng farms. Mrs. Thorney Thoreson is the former Hildegard Okkelberg of Minneola Township. Her kinfolk in Norway are neighbors of the Kleven and Rolfseng families.

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#### AN UNUSUAL FARMER-MUSICIAN

Ray Sands is a quiet, smiling dairy farmer who also is one of the best-known musicians in this part of the state. Successful as a milk producer -- his herd ranks consistently at the top among the county's leading herds enrolled in the Dairy Herd Improvement program -- Ray Sands also has achieved a high degree of success in the musical field.

Operating a 200-acre dairy store next to the Immanuel Lutheran Church near Aspelund, Ray Sands also was a founder of the well-known Polka Dots, a dance orchestra. He and his wife, the former Sue Fossum, also play at a well known dinner club in a Minneapolis suburb two Sundays of each month. With them is Manton Steberg of Zumbrota. The trio often plays for lodge or club special dates.

When he was nine years old, his parents gave him an accordion. His brother, Wilbur, was given a guitar. Entirely self-taught, the two boys worked out arrangements with their sister, Doris (Mrs. Virgil Nodland), who played the piano. In 1945 the Sands Trio was formed and achieved considerable fame as a family entertainment combo.

The Polka Dots were formed in 1949 at Zumbrota. In early years when the Polka Dots were not too well known and it was necessary to acquire a reputation, they accepted dates whenever and wherever they were available. This often posed

problems, especially in the spring, summer and fall months with field work when hours were long enough without adding the time spent playing engagements a long drive from home. Sands, however, persevered until now when dance engagements are limited to week-end dates. Bookings often are set up a year in advance.

Among those who have played with the Polka Dots are Harry Erickson, Nancy Erickson, Manton Steberg, Mrs. Andrew Rosch, Rolland Fosberg, Larry Nelson and Ray Cleveland. Chester Lee, an accomplished violinist from Holden Township who also farmed for a living, played for many years with the Polka Dots while Enoch Thune of Kenyon joined the orchestra as a drummer.

Arvin Iverson and Jewel Ness played numerous engagements in the Kenyon-Wanamingo-Zumbrota area. They formed an accordion-guitar duo.

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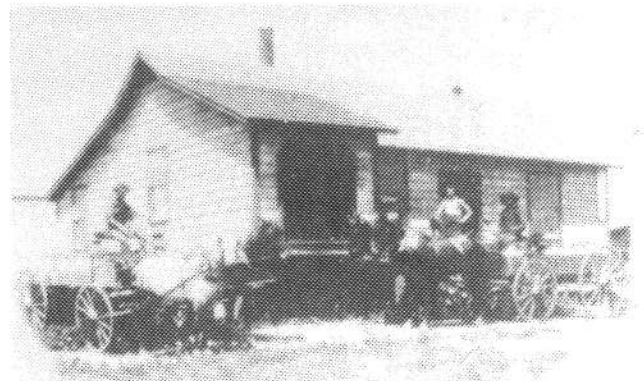
#### WORLD WAR SERVICEMEN

At the close of World War I, a book entitled "Goodhue County in the World War" was published. This listed men from various townships and communities in the county who had served in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps. The list, not guaranteed to be complete, includes the following from Wanamingo township and village:

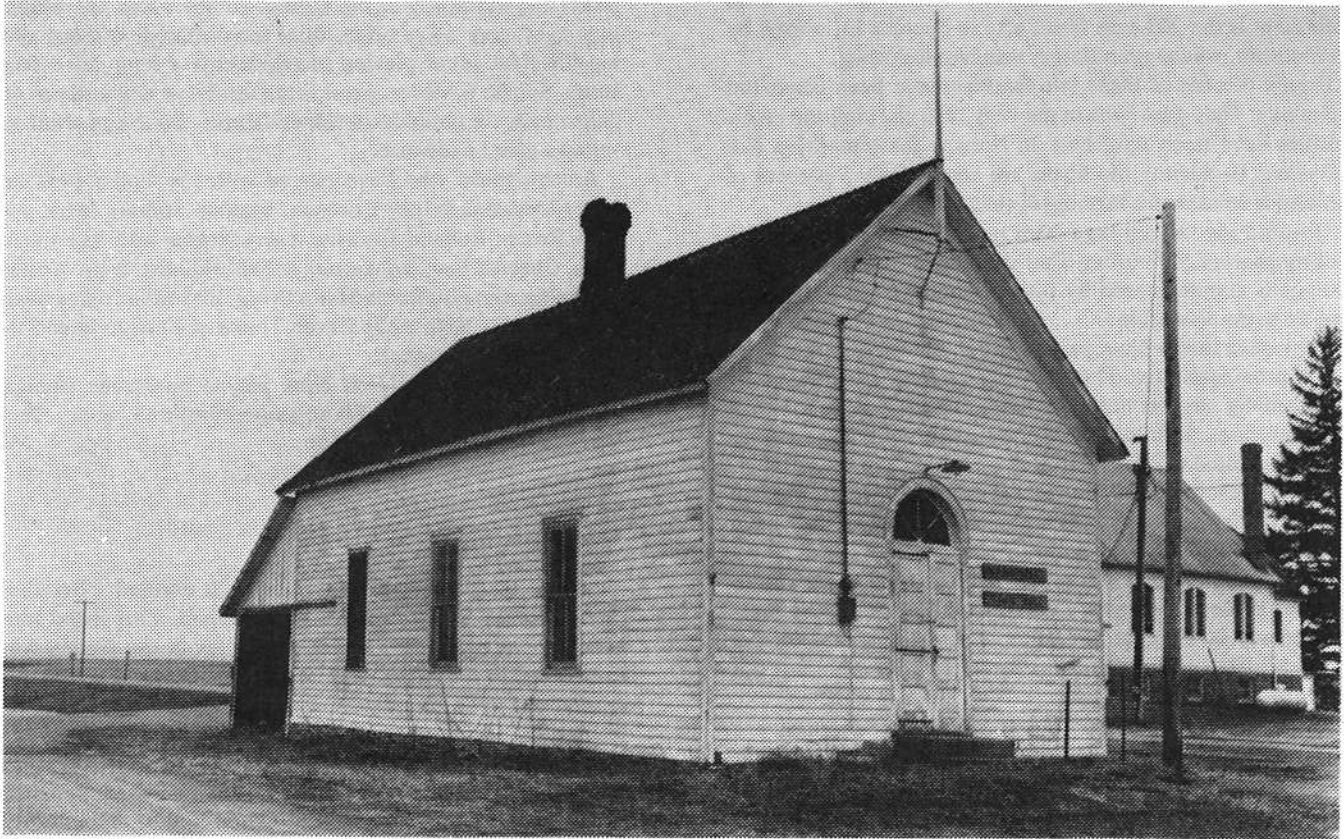
Alfred Albertson, Joseph E. Anderson, Andrew Anfinson, Henry G. Anfinson, Juel M. Bonhus, Hoogen Brenna, Albert J. Brisance, Harold J. Chrislock, Alfred Brekke, John Dahle, Arthur W. Eckblad, Alfred Fladhammer, Oliver G. Fjelstad, Oscar E. Flom, Peter E. Foss.

Oscar Haller, Victor E. Hanson, Carl Hellickson, Walter F.A. Hensch, Herman R. Hommedahl, Hilman H. Jacobson, Martin Jellum, Helge Johnson, Lars Johnson, Edwin J. Johnson, Olaus Kvam, Theodore M. Larson, Benny Lee, Selmer N. Lilleskov, Halbert Loken, Robert J. Lund, Joseph Mamre, Bennie C. Moe, Carl A.N. Ness, Carl A. Olson, Gilbert B. Olstad, Alfred Olstad, Albert Ovick.

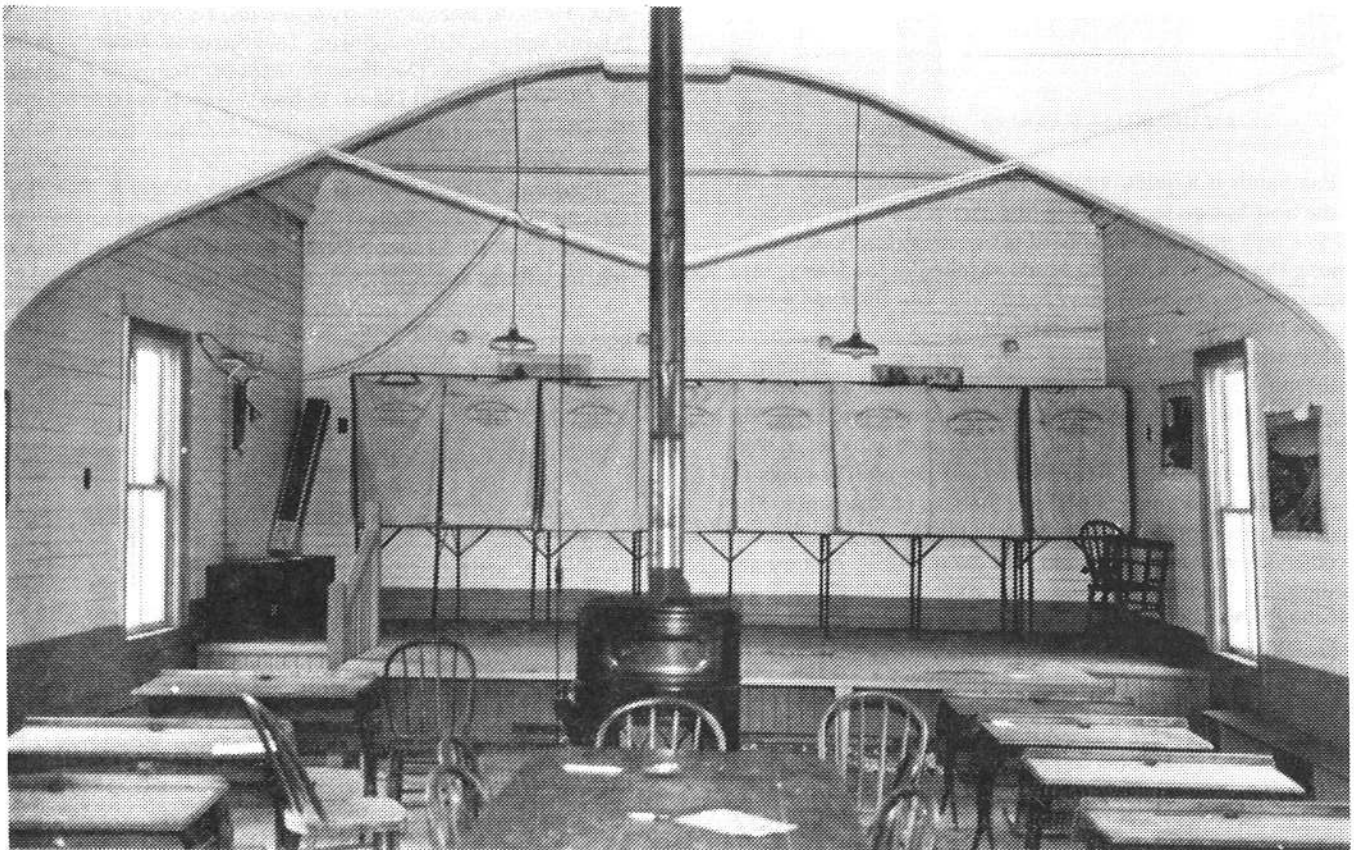
Frederick Perrett, Thomas J. Quamme, Edgar B. Ramstad, George T. Romnes, Berger Rosvold, Eddie Satran, E.E. Severeid, Carl H. Skogen, Oscar Thompson, Peter Tongen, Martin Ullevig and Adolph H. Westermo.



Old milk separator station before the turn of the century - right east of Aspelund (store on right).



WANAMINGO TOWN HALL AT ASPELUND  
Below: Interior View of Same



# 1990 Update to Wanamingo History

## CHURCHES

**Dale Lutheran, Holden Lutheran:** The present pastor is Michael Lockerby. ELCA.

**Emmanuel Lutheran, Aspelund:** Pastors after Paul Monson were Karl Berg, Kenneth Anderson, Donald Greven, Steve Kneeland and presently, Rodney Strueland. AFLC.

**Lands Lutheran:** Separated from Minneola in 1984. The present pastors are Dawn and Joel Keller. ELCA.

**Minneola Lutheran:** Separated from Lands in 1984. David Johnson became the first pastor and Merlin Sellman is the present pastor. ELCA.

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran:** The present pastor is Randall Kuznicki. WELS.

**Trinity Lutheran:** Present pastors are Nancy Monke and Gary Lundberg. ELCA.

**Stordahl Lutheran, Wanamingo Lutheran:** The present pastor is Paul Reppe. ELCA.

**Sowers of the Word:** Founded in 1980. The present pastors are Lloyd and Betty Thomforde.

## SCHOOLS

**1989-90:** Plans were finalized to join in a share/pair arrangement with Kenyon school district with joint classes to begin in the 1990-91 school year. The senior high classes will be located in Kenyon and Junior High in Wanamingo. Each district will keep its elementary classes. The smaller enrollment in recent years made it more difficult and expensive to offer the varied classes to small size groups. An all-class reunion was held June 30, 1990. Graduations were held from 1924, with the last one being in 1990.

**Graduating Seniors** from 1978 through 1990 are as follows:

### 1978

Randy Amundson  
Pamela Anfinson  
Jon Axelson  
Michael Bartel  
Barbara Bjugan  
Jeffrey Blakstad  
Jodeen Bordson  
Dawn Borgschatz  
Keith Bown  
Janice Christenson  
Marie Davidson  
Sonja Edwards  
Jay Floan  
Barbara Forss  
Janice Friese  
David Froyum  
Robert Goodman  
Patricia Haller  
Anne Haugen  
Tammy Hjermstad  
Clarence Judkins  
Janet Kylo  
Steven Loken  
Arlys Myran  
Cynthia Nelson  
Roger Olson  
Roger Overby  
Stuart Peterson  
Joy Post  
Brenda Quam  
Darold Quam  
Mark Revland  
Elizabeth Rohl  
Julie Romo  
Steven Rostad  
Monty Schaefer  
Karen Singer  
Susan Surratt  
Beth Thompson

David Thompson  
Wendi Thompson

### 1979

Vicki Thompson  
Marie Bartel  
Jon Benson  
Sally Bird  
Brent Bjorngaard  
Leo Buchardt  
Scott Cordes  
Valerie Erlanson  
Obert Flikke, Jr.  
Robert Flikke  
Darryl Flom  
Kenneth Forss  
Dale Fredrickson  
David Friese  
Brenda Rostad  
Michelle Greseth  
Daniel Greseth  
Annette Grothe  
Dean Hegseth  
Pamela Iverson  
Valerie Johnson  
Laurie Livingston  
Teri Lund  
Micky Nesseth  
Sandra Nesseth  
Janet Ohnstad  
Constance Otterness  
LeeAnne Post  
Donald Reynolds, Jr.  
Joel Rostad  
Teresa Sabin  
Wes Scheffler  
Betty Simonson  
John Simonson  
Jeffrey Solberg  
Mark Steberg

Pamely Stephan  
Sheila Surratt  
Mardell Syverson  
Brenda Wallaker

### 1980

Timothy Amundson  
Kimberly Baker  
Brian Bakken  
Twila Bakko  
David Carlson  
Mark Christensen  
Lee Marie Dieffenbach  
Paul Edwards  
Linda Flikke  
Camilla Glestad  
Janet Grothe  
Michael Hamblin  
Miles Haugen  
Bradley Hegseth  
Julie Hinrichs  
Lorrie Iverson  
Bradley Kempner  
Robin Kunz  
Donald Loken  
David Malchow  
Patricia Miller  
Dawn Nelson  
Gene Nelson  
Sara Nelson  
David Olson  
Robert Priem  
Sheldon Ree  
Marcelle Romo  
Kelli Ross  
David Satren  
Randy Schaefer  
Bruce Spitzack  
Glen Steberg  
Keith Thompson

Ronald Thompson  
John Tiller, Jr.  
Lavonne Torkelson  
Scott Windhorst

### 1981

David Anfinson  
Gene Bang  
Mark Bartel  
Sandra Bird  
Brenda Braget  
Mark Comstock  
Bruce Ellingson  
Mark Estrem  
Ramona Feuling  
Scott Forss  
Jill Friese  
William Froyum  
Linda Goodman  
Todd Greseth  
Laurie Hjermstad  
Gregory Hokanson  
John Irrthum  
Sally Iverson  
Steven Johnson  
Todd Johnson  
Debra Loken  
Donna Lubahn  
Doreen McDonald  
Brian Nelson  
Michael Nelson  
Daniel Ohnstad  
Arthur Otterness  
Gloria Otterness  
Nancy Peiffer  
Bruce Peterson  
Nancy Peterson  
Robert Quam  
Marlys Ree  
Bruce Rohl

Dale Simonson  
Wayne Simonson  
Mark Smithart  
Janine Surratt  
Chad Swenson  
Ann Tangen  
Tamy Thompson  
Daniel Thoreson  
Loralie Vangness

### 1982

Karla Bakko  
Michelle Bartel  
Jill Berg  
Matthew Bird  
Steven Boyum  
Michelle Brant  
Debbie Clark  
John Cordes  
Dana Ellefson  
Deanna Ellefson  
John Ellingson  
Rochelle Feuling  
Karon Flikke  
Bradley Forsell  
Gregg Forss  
Jill Fredrickson  
Robin Friese  
Cynthia Glestad  
Christopher Goodman  
Gina Grothe  
Thomas Haugen  
Laurie Hermann  
Janice Hinrichs  
Brian Johnson  
Pamela Kempner  
Denise Loken  
Richardo Lopez  
Julie Ohnstad  
Steven Olson

David Reppe  
Jill Russell  
Tracy Shelstad  
Mark Solberg  
Trish Swenson  
Dallas Turner  
Linette Vangness  
Armando Velasco  
Kim Wallaker  
Todd Walstad  
Todd Walter  
Julia Wood

**1983**

Mark Anfinson  
Heidi Arndt  
Dung Huynh  
Cindy Ellefson  
Timothy Foss  
Randy Friedrich  
Kyrsten Glestad  
Daniel Hegseth  
Todd Hegseth  
Janelle Hinrichs  
David Hjermstad  
Clifford Iverson  
Michelle Johnson  
Dawn Krier  
Ellen Morken  
Markk Nelson  
Byron Nesseth  
Dana Rechtzigel  
Sarah Reppe  
Daphne Romness  
Jennifer Russell  
Stefan Schmidtsdorff  
Lisa Shelstad  
Taina Veittikoski  
Ann Wetzstein

**1984**

Jennie Archer  
James Berg  
Bruce Boyum  
Mark Braget  
Jonathan Coltvet  
Jerry Dieffenbach  
Carrie Foss  
Kay Fredrickson  
Bruce Froyum  
Susan Goodman

James Grothe  
Vonda Hansen  
Eric Hanson  
Todd Hinrichs  
Garret Ibsen  
Katherine Myran  
Eric Nelson  
Nathan Olson  
Carole Olstad  
Lynn Opfer  
Julie Quam  
Jerilyn Ree  
Jonathan Reppe  
Brett Rohl  
Jeffrey Shelstad  
Robert Smithart  
Barbara Spitzack  
Jon Steberg  
Teresa Surratt  
James Vangness  
Chad Wallaker  
Kimberly Woodwick

**1985**

Melody Anderson  
Nick Auset  
Brenda Berg  
James Beulke  
Bradley Bjorngaard  
Linda Comstock  
Melissa Fredrickson  
JoAnn Goodman  
Laura Goodman  
Lisa Greseth  
Brian Hokanson  
Bruce Johnson  
Julie Kempner  
Cynthia Krier  
Ehryn Langworthy  
Jane Renee Nelson  
Laurel Nelson  
Grant Quam  
Peggy Romo  
Amy Simonson  
Kari Skjeie  
Loren Stream  
Stacy Surratt  
Sara Thompson  
Daniel Vogelgesang  
Kimberly Walstad  
Tracy Winchester

**1986**

Heather Arndt  
Donna Bird  
Timothy Bjorngaard  
Theis Christensen  
Todd Evenson  
Renee Feuling  
Joan Flood  
Michael Grewing  
Judd Hanson  
Jane Hinrichs  
Trent Hjortaa  
Gail Irrthum  
Michael Jackson  
David Jacobson  
Kaia Kunde  
Leah Langworthy  
Bryan Law  
Cindy Nelson  
Darcy Nelson  
Ronald Post  
Jeffery Quam  
Keith Quam  
Kristina Rasater  
Anthony Rechtzigel  
David Rostad  
Craig Schmitz  
Kelly Vangness  
Kim Vangness  
Leanne Vogelgesang  
Kyle Wallaker  
Robby Warneke  
Timothy Woodwick

**1987**

Jodi Amundson  
Duane Archer  
Beth Borgschatz  
Ann Brevik  
Timothy Buck  
Michael Comstock  
Carol Estrem  
Chad Foss  
Thomas Foss  
Matthew Fredrickson  
Kelly Grothe  
William Gullickson  
Jonathon Helleckson  
Daniel Hokanson  
Darin Hokanson  
Brandon Husbyn

Jeffrey Ibsen  
Rebecca Johnson  
Tamara Johnson  
John Myran  
Lisa Opfer  
Randall Ostrode  
Bradley Quam  
Katariina Ratia  
Troy Rechtzigel  
Sarah Russell  
Gabriela Santana  
Teresa Sevareid  
Matthew Shaw  
Melissa Shaw  
Tbre Wilberg  
Paul Wilkus  
Teryl Woodwick  
David Wright

**1988**

Christine Alme  
Amy Auset  
Bret Behnke  
Thomas Bird  
Jeffery Flom  
Brett Gjemse  
Christopher Haugen  
Daren Ibsen  
Mark Jackson  
Jeffrey Kaeder  
Susan Kempner  
Cara Kunde  
Fahmi Lubis  
Darren Nelson  
Susan Quam  
Karen Ree  
Matthew Rohl  
Jason Schmitz  
Todd Stockmo  
Todd Syverson  
Susanne Vogelgesang  
Jodie Windhorst

**1989**

Mireya Alvarez  
Eric Arndt  
Mark Bakko  
Angela Berg  
Tricia Berg  
Jennifer Bjorngaard  
Lisa Fredrickson

Scott Goodman  
Brian Gudknecht  
Stephen Hart  
Lori Hegseth  
Joyce Hinrichs  
Kristie Husbyn  
Michelle Krier  
Shawnee Langworthy  
Margo Law  
Gina Quam  
Jason Rothen  
William Surratt  
Tammy Winchester  
Kevin Wright  
Tamara Yngsdal

**1990**

Mike Alme  
Tricia Anfinson  
Miwako Asayama  
Cheryl Bird  
Chad Blakstad  
Paul Braget  
Tammy Buck  
Ken Burr  
Laurie Burr  
Darik Champion  
Aina Dohl  
Dan Evenson  
Jessica Flom  
Peter Fridlund  
David Graham  
Heidi Greseth  
Geoff Kempner  
Becky Kilmer  
Krista Kunde  
Shane Lunde  
Elizabeth Meiley  
Jeremy Olson  
Rosanna Olson  
Rex Quam  
Jason Rath  
John Russell  
Chris Smedsrud  
Boon Sorensen  
Paul Sorensen  
Heather Stockmo  
Jonna Vetergard