

## Erma Braa

I am sending several postcards of Sherman taken many years ago. Our big white square house was moved on to the Lew Wold farm just north of Sherman around 1918. Mathilda Braa and family lived there then and later Clarence and Erma Braa and family lived there. In later years it was purchased by Harvey and Martha Koch, and is now owned by Mark Leister.

As a teenager of 13 or 14 I remember Sherman at that time as a thriving little town. I enjoyed going to movies in Locke's Hall where they had a player piano for music. This around 1915-16. Around 1927, Lawrence Welk's band came to play for dances which were held in the new Wilson Implement building. As I remember it, there were several restaurants, a pool hall, James Helmey Drug Store, with the telephone company in the upstairs. Wilman Walvatne had the Harness Shop. There was a Millinery Hat Shop, Bank, Post Office, Creamery Station, Barber Shop, Berg & Estensen Mercantile, and Walter Simons Garage. There was a large windmill and watertank near the depot so the trains could get water for the steam engines.

## The Braas

by Hazel Boyenga (Braa)

It is interesting to note that Sherman became a village in the Dakota Territory a year before Statehood was declared for SD.

Sherman is home to me because I spent my childhood and my youth there. I am the youngest of the Braa children. My mother was Mathilda Braa. She moved to Sherman in the late teens of that period, probably 1920 or so. My brothers were always put in pairs. The big boys were Clarence and Art and the "little boys" were George and James." My sisters were Agnes and Lillian, then myself. We also had an assortment of cats and dogs. We often wondered "How did our mother cope with all this?"

We had lived but a short time in Sherman when our house burned. My Uncle Lew, who owned the house, had it replaced. He built a cement block basement, using blocks from the cement block factory, and then moved the old hotel from its site in midtown up to where it still stands. It is now occupied by Mark Leisters' family.

We had plenty of room for a growing family, and grow we did, soon off for each one to "do his own thing." Clarence farmed for several years, married Erma Schmidt, then started a trucking business. Later they moved to Washington where they raised their family. Agnes became a teacher and married John Evans. Arthur worked for a meat packer, then for John Deere, and then farmed. He then married Esther Peterson. Lillian became an RN and worked in her profession in Luverne and in Hardwick and California. She

married Milford Kravig. James worked at the dairy in Luverne and at construction. He married Winifred Duncomb. George had a trucking business in Sherman and later worked as a heavy equipment operator. He married Ione Meyer. I went to vocational school to become a business secretary. I married a farmer, Ralph Schwartz, and we lived in the Hardwick area. After his death, I remarried and became Mrs. Jake Boyenga and retired in Luverne.

My mother lived to be 94 years old. Most of my relatives, including their spouses, have passed away. The only ones left living are Agnes Evans, Erma and myself. Our extended family consists of sixteen nieces and nephews and more grand and great grand nieces and nephews than I have counted lately.

I remember Sherman when the streets were lined with houses and all filled with families. The church was the center of activities such as the annual Mission Fest (sometimes more than one day). The Fall Bazaar and Chicken Dinner. This all took place over the Hardware Store. Then the church was raised for a nice large basement. The men who worked at the "dirt work" used horses and a sort of "hand scraper."

The new school addition was just great. When I observe the schools now and how complex all aspects are, I feel privileged to have attended school at Sherman, SD. All through high school and no busing! Great day in the morning!

The small acreage across from the "80", where we lived, was the source of deep friendships with neighbors throughout the years. To name a few, Sundem, Lammert, Kopren, Syverson, Kampa and McDowells. I still keep in touch with some of these people and it is great to see old friends from home.

## Roland and Amee Brandt

We have a good memory of how we were so cordially invited to the Firemen's Pork Roast just a few days after we had moved to Sherman at the end of August in 1972. It was a very personal, verbal invitation for everyone living in the parsonage. It gave us a very warm feeling.

We also have good memories of the friendliness and helpfulness of so many individuals in Sherman and vicinity, the church janitor, the members of the church council, the postmistress, the service station operator, to mention just a few.

We especially remember the big gathering when the 75th anniversary of First Lutheran and the centennial of the establishment of the Norway, Rosendal, and South Highland congregations were celebrated in June 1974. That was a happy occasion.

Then, too, following a very different line of thought, we often remember those fierce snowstorms.

Our son, Sam, is still in Papua, New Guinea, serv-

ing as the Director of Kristen Pres, the publishing arm of the church in Papua, New Guinea. Lois has recently moved to Los Angeles and is working at the Cardiac Care Unit of Cedars-Sinai Hospital. Her husband is an inspector with the Customs Department of the Federal Government. The older children are still in the work they had begun when we were in Sherman. Mary is in Bayport, MN. She works for the medical department at the State Prison in Stillwater. Her husband works for Andersen Windows. Fred flies for Northwest Airlines, and Mark is a mechanic with the same airline. Tom is still in PNG, now working at the Sports Institute of the national government. Only Jennie is a South Dakotan. She was married in 1984 to Thomas Merklings. He works for St. Paul Insurance in their Aberdeen branch. They have two children, Mary and Mitchell.

## The Brennan Families

Written by Carol Flanagan

Pat and Margaret Brennan had five sons and a daughter. They came to Springwater township, MN, when the oldest boy, John was eight years old. They had lived at Chatfield, MN. John married Alice Teetor. They lived in Sherman for a period of time when John carried mail west and north out of Sherman. He had a mail cart which was a glorified box on a small buggy and powered by one horse. Then they moved to the farm south and east of Sherman. They raised three children, Paul, Carol and Dolores, all of whom graduated from Sherman High School.

Pat Brennan married Edith Hansen (sister of Harold Hansen, a very familiar figure in Sherman). To this union thirteen children were born. They later moved to Oakes, ND and farmed there. At their table there was always room for one more, even at a moments notice. When Edith Hansen Brennan died all of the members of the family came home for the funeral. My mother, Alice Brennan, also attended. Right after the funeral, a terrific storm struck. There were twenty-six members of the family at the house.

Those who could go home went home, but it left twenty-six people stranded there for ten days. Twenty-six people ate and slept in shifts for ten days before they were finally able to get out of Oakes and return to their respective homes. One husky young man used a ball of twine to find his way and made a trip downtown each day for groceries. Now that was "family unity" or "togetherness" or what have you?

These thirteen children were all well educated, and lived very happy and successful lives. Did you say that it is hard to raise a family now days? How would you like to try for thirteens to raise?

Mart Brennan married a sister to Alice Brennan, my Aunt Rose. They had no children so they were very good to the nieces and nephews.

Dave Brennan married Mary Hennessey, and they moved to a faraway land named Montana. They had one son.

Dan Brennan moved to Oakes, ND, and married Jennie Sturzinger. They farmed in Oakes and later moved to Ellendale. My dad always referred to him as "Dapper Dan." They had six children.

Tom Brennan married Agnes Murphy. They had three children. He was a real estate agent as well as a farmer. He sold lots in Sherman and later became involved in North Dakota land sales. That land sold for six dollars an acre. His brothers, John, Pat, Dan, and a brother-in-law Frank Horan all bought land there and all (with the exception of John and Mart) moved up there.

Johanna was the lovely sister to all these boys and the apple of their eye. She married Frank Horan and lived in ND.

These five boys, what with their cousin Will cut quite a swath in their day.

Nick Brennan was the father of Will, Bertha, and Lavinia. He owned and managed the lumber yard in Sherman and later worked for Loonan Lumber Co. He was "Uncle Nick" or Grandpa Brennan to all. Nick's wife died at a very early age and he raised the three kids by himself with help from his many friends in Sherman. Will married Louise Lemke. Their two children were Madora and Billy.

Lavinia Brennan married Marcus or "Si" Syverson. They had seven children and lived in Sherman for a long time. Times were rough and later they moved to Chicago. Some of the boys still live there and we expect to see some of them for the Centennial. The attitude of this family was remarkable. They shared everything and everything was accepted with a bit of humor and laughter. They, too, always had room for one more. I spent many nights there and had many meals there. "Lupskous" (a sort of stew with vegetables and gravy and fresh buns) was a favorite with all.

Bertha married an Engebretson, (kin to our Engebretsons, but I do not know just how) and lived in Montana.

Will Brennan, or W.O. as he was affectionately called was the Postmaster for many years. Perhaps Madora will write a story about him, but I am adding these lines just to be sure. An interesting sidelight was that he bought cream and eggs in a part of the Post Office. These were shipped out by rail. Can you imagine buying cream or a chicken in one of our modern postal installations?

The Brennan clan were an integral part of the life in Sherman. I guess they made a mark in Sherman history and certainly Sherman left a mark in their lives. Can't help but wish we had a magic mirror to look ahead. It has been such fun taking a backward look into the history of Sherman, our town!

## Memories Before High School

Written by Dolores (Stub) Brennan

One of my favorites is the outdoor movies set up with plank seats and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We didn't see too many regular movies in those days.

Another memory is of my sister Carol's graduation banquet and dance to follow. Mom had made her a beautiful dress made out of a taffeta dress of my Aunt Rose's. She was the Queen of the ball as they left. About 10:30 a car drove into the yard and who gets out but Carol. Her taffeta dress had split everywhere there had been a fold. She was a sight to behold, especially when you add a bucket of tears.

One of my high school memories is our Senior Skip Day. I don't remember where our original destination was to be, but we stopped in Garretson and the first person we see is the principal of Sherman High. It pretty much spoiled our skip day.

I guess there are dozens of tales to be told, but this is my share.

I hope to make it to the celebration, but in case I don't, I hope you all have a grand time.

## Maxine Johnson Coisman

I lived in Sherman for the first twenty years of my life and still consider Sherman my home. I lived in a house that once stood where the new Post Office is. Then spent, I can't remember, probably eighteen years in the house my parents still live in which is just west of the church. Always thought it was great to be the only people on our block.

I remember Sherman well. There were almost as many animals as people. Everybody knew everybody. We thought we were great in the third and fourth grade, because we had school in Sherman and had the playground equipment and the rest of the grades didn't. All the annual Sherman Fireman Dances were at the old store. I remember the cafe that was open for a short time, swimming in the old sand pit on hot summer days, walking the bean fields, mowing the school yard and having our farm yard of animals, riding horse through town and in the evening having them pull the buggy. The neighbor kids all came out and played ball, horseshoe or volleyball in the church yard. Oh, what memories.

I have moved from there, but my parents still live there in the house and "little farm" on the west side of the First Lutheran Church where all seven of us kids were confirmed. I like coming home and bringing my daughter. We can now play in the little park and still have a good time and see old neighbors.

Sherman will always be home to me, no matter where I'm living.

## Aarbok No. 2

### Historical Records of Early Settlers

From Numedal, Kongsberg  
Og Omegn Lag 1930

Ole K. Dokken (the Southern) born in Opdal Numedal 9th, Apr. 1840 and lived in the home area until adult. In Sept. 1869 he left alone, from the home valley and traveled by steamship from Oslo by Hull, Eng. to New York - 7 weeks. Then traveled by railroad to Prairie Du Chien, WI. and by ferry across the Mississippi River to McGregor, IA.

In the beginning he stayed at a hotel while working in the surrounding area. At that time he became acquainted with Astri Tufte (Northern) Tufte farm, and that acquaintance ended with marriage at a later date.

In the fall he got work threshing for \$1.00 a day. It was a 15 hour day, sometimes longer. In the winter he hired out to a "Yankee" for \$12 per month. Later he got \$18 a month in the summer. The next winter he stayed with S. Gronneflaata and worked on the railroad at Dubuque, IA. He worked around Clayton Co. for two years, and later near Ridgeway, IA. Winneshek Co., for two years. Early in 1874 he traveled westward to the Sioux Falls Prairie and filed on both a homestead and a tree claim, in Minnehaha Co., SD. About three miles northeast from the place where the town of Sherman, SD now is. Sioux Falls was just a few shanties and the land office. Now, it was almost spring and he went back to Ridgeway, IA., after his wife and two children. In a covered wagon pulled by two oxen, they went westward to build their new home. They had 35 cattle. His father Knut and wife went along with them. The parents were healthy and good travelers, so they helped herd the cattle. The 300 mile trip took a month, so it was June when they got to their destination. They lived in the covered wagon until fall. Then the sod hut consisting of one room was completed with the necessary furniture. They had one more child now.

A sod barn was also erected. They had enough food, and enough money because they'd been saving. The clothing wasn't fancy and when Mrs. Dokken was dressed up, it was in a calico dress and sunbonnet.

There was soon a flour mill in Dell Rapids, 15 miles away. People had to prepare for hard winters. So they bought their flour in the fall, also seed for the next spring.

Ole Dokken had broken some sod on both quarters the first year. Later, he bought two more quarters of land.

Pertaining to churchly affairs, they soon received the ministry of Pastor Sando and services were held in sod shacks and huts in the neighborhood.

Ole and his wife had twelve children, Louisa

(deceased), was married and her son Louis has assisted his grandparents for many years; Tollef and Konrad are both farming near Ryder, ND; Tonetta (Mrs. Thorstenson) Long Beach, CA; Louis, Railroad Station worker at Devil's Lake, ND; Ida (Mrs. Korman) near Sherman on one of his fathers farms; Hilda (Mrs. H. Palm) Minneapolis, MN died October 1929, leaving 4 sons; Hilmer died as a young man leaving a wife and two children; Alvina married and living in Madison, SD; Ole Jr. lives on the homestead near Sherman.

Ole Sr. and his wife have lived in Sherman for many years, where they bought a nice home and left the farming to their sons, Eno and Ole. The old folks have for the most part been in good health. Ole lately has suffered with asthma and Mrs. Dokken had to have surgery for cancer a few years ago.

Ole died suddenly 21, Sept. 1929 at the age of 89 years. The funeral took place 25th Sept. at the home at 1:00 and in the Norwegian Lutheran Church at 1:30. He is now resting in the cemetery next to the church, which he and the other pioneers around Sherman built.

Ole Dokken came from a large family of which Halvor; Vesle Knut and Store Knut, each had a homestead near Sherman, SD. Sverno (Sam) had homesteaded near Dell Rapids, SD. They all died within the last 4 or 5 years. Sister Ann (deceased) lived in Brookings, SD; Sister Astri lived in Chicago, IL; a brother Einer and a sister Gjertrude did not come to America, both deceased. Gjertrude was the mother of Ole G. Dokken, Sacred Heart, MN. All had large families and are scattered here and there.

Astri Tufte (North) born in Opdal Numedal 23, Sept. 1848. As a young girl, she came with her parents and brothers and sisters to America in the spring of 1865. They traveled with the sail ship Laurdal, Capt. Peterson. The journey took 5 weeks and 5 days. They arrived in Montreal, Canada and took a canal boat to Chicago, IL, and then by railroad to McGregor, IA.

From that place they rode along to S. Gronneflaata (Green Flats) with someone who was married to Astri's sister Kristi. Which therefore got to be her home from time to time.

In addition to Astri was her father "Tolef" (N Tufte), her mother and the following three in the group, (two sisters Margot and Ragnild and a brother Gol). The father died the first winter from nerve fever. Then the children had to work with strangers. After 5 years work in Clayton Co., Astri married Ole K. Dokken.

A sister who had arrived in America earlier with the S. Tufte family was married to Johannes Grot. Is now living in Clermont, IA and is 90 years old.

This was translated from a Norwegian Book by Pastor Sverrer Lundh.

## History of the Evenson Family in Sherman



Rev. A. J. Evenson

Written by Jeanette Evenson Cavanaugh and Edward Evenson

In 1919, our Father, Alfred J. Evenson, accepted a call to serve the Sherman Lutheran Parish, which consisted of four churches. In August of that year, we moved from Wisconsin to Sherman. We lived in the northern most house of the three then located across from the schoolhouse to the west. Our family consisted of our father, mother, grandmother (Marit Storing), and Martha, age 7, Jeanette, age 5, and Alfred, almost 3 years of age. In January of 1920 Edward joined our family.

The parsonage, constructed of concrete blocks made in Sherman, was built a couple years later. We moved into this home, next to the church, and lived there until 1950.

There was seldom a dull moment, as our house was headquarters for most church activities; especially in winter when it was impractical to heat the church. Missionaries, musical church groups, visiting Pastors and professors stayed at our house usually; which made for a rich conversational heritage for us children. Mealtimes, especially, as well as leisurely evenings were instructive and interesting. Our mother was a genius at stretching the menu for the frequent unexpected guests from near and far. We were not necessarily unique in entertaining unexpected guests as everyone operated on the same principle; that whoever was there when a meal was served, was always whole-heartedly invited to partake with the family.

I remember the excitement that occurred with the disappearance of Edward when he was around two or three years old. When mother checked us all before she herself went to bed, she discovered his absence, and the search was on. Every neighbor was out looking for him. Especially remembered is the lady who picked up all the scatter rugs and looked under them. He was finally discovered in the kitchen. Our table had a drop leaf which was usually left up and pushed to the wall with two chairs under the leaf. He must have come downstairs and somehow crawled into that space and the tablecloth came down far enough to hide him.

Many weddings took place in our parlor. One evening during the Christmas holidays a blizzard was rag-

ing when the bridal couple and their attendants arrived. By the time the ceremony was completed it was evident that it would be foolhardy to venture out. Mother prepared rooms for our "guests" and we children happily settled on the floor and were up early the next morning to help mother prepare a special breakfast for the newlyweds.

Christmas was always a special time and we decorated our house. There were years when some of the church activities were held there. Carl Aanestad faithfully rang the bell at Rosendahl Church for a half-hour at 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. In the cold, crisp winter, the sound of the bells was clearly heard in Sherman, two miles away, where we always bundled and went out to enjoy them. Before the depression, a big Christmas party for the whole community was held at the school just before Christmas vacation. There was a huge decorated tree and generous candy and fruit treats for all. People brought in large clothes baskets piled high with gifts for family and friends.

Our father was clerk of the school board for as far back as we remember, but had no vote in their decisions. However, it was exciting for us as all correspondence from prospective teachers arrived at our house. If they received a favorable reply from the board, they arrived at our house first, and father would take them to meet the members of the School Board.

It may seem odd to children now that we could entertain ourselves since there were few radios, no TV's, VCR's or automobiles in which we could go "cruising." A trip to Sioux Falls was infrequent and therefore, memorable. Always one visit to the big city was made on the Friday after Thanksgiving Day. We made our own entertainment, even making a tennis court one year with the fathers helping to clear and smooth an area on the football field. One year we built a skating rink on the schoolground, only to have our labor disappear in the big January **thaw**. The mighty Split-Rock River provided skating in the winter for those hardy enough to enjoy it; and swimming and fishing in the summer. We talked, flew kites, had picnics, hiked, and worked for months on decorations for the annual Junior-Senior Banquet which was prepared and served by the mothers, with some sophomores waiting on tables. The juniors put on a yearly play to make money to pay for the banquet and the seniors put on a yearly play in order to have money to leave a special gift in their memory to the school. Of course the athletic, dramatic, and musical events of the school were of interest to us all and many of us participated in all of them. We had many activities in which to participate and few did not take an active part because of lack of money. We were pretty much all in the same boat and the cost was minimal.

Our teachers secured room and board in various

homes. Of course, those with families set up their own homes. Teachers were expected to take part in all community activities, especially on Sundays. Few even had their own cars. They, thus, became a part of the community and were close to many families. I cannot remember any serious school discipline problems as most of us knew if a teacher reprimanded us at school, the punishment incurred there was apt to be doubled at home. We respected our teachers, and many were loved and treasured friends.

We had few "snow days" and, as there were no buses, many students from the country, during storms, stayed over with friends or relatives in Sherman. Quite a few students had perfect attendance through the 8th grade; and some even through the entire twelve years.

The "big fire" that destroyed several businesses in the downtown area occurred when Edward was about nine or ten years old. We remember the great blaze and the large chunks of flaming cinders that sailed far over our house. Alfred was up on our roof wetting down the shingles with the garden hose. Only the efforts of the Garretson and Jasper Fire Departments and the brick wall of the bank finally brought the fire under control.

Cancer claimed the lives of our father in 1950 and Martha in 1977; a heart attack took the lives of our mother in 1966 and Alfred in 1969. Edward is retired and lives in Springfield, IL, Jeanette Evenson Cavanaugh is living in Sioux Falls.

## The Fjellangers

Written by Lucille Nesheim

In 1853, in Voss Norway, Andrew Benagboo was cutting trees with an axe when the axe slipped and cut his knee badly. While he was laid up, his wife, Bertha, was out in the barn feeding the cows, when she gave birth to her son, Peter. She put him in her apron and carried him in to her husband and said, "I have brought you a barefoot boy." Then she got into bed and gave birth to a second son, Nels, caring for herself, by herself!

Nels was seven years old when he drowned in the fjord.

Peter (Anderson) and Martha Fjellanger were married in 1873. They emigrated to the United States on their wedding trip. In 1875, they journeyed to Highland township to homestead and to take a tree claim. There, they spent the rest of their lives.

Anderson being such a common name caused a lot of mixed up mail, so Peter took his wife's name, Fjellanger.

They never forgot the blizzard of 1888. Anton and Andrew were watering the cattle at the creek. Peter saw the dark cloud approaching and ran out in his shirt sleeves to warn them. The weather was so very mild. He told the boys to hurry and get the cattle in

the barn. They led the horses and the cattle followed. Just as they got to the barn, the storm struck, with all of its fury. The cattle went past the barn and drifted with the storm. They were found a few days later frozen to death. It took three days for the storm to blow itself out. Anton froze his cheek going from the house to the barn. The temperature took that severe drop so very quickly.

Martha served as a midwife to many others. Many a time she was awakened in the middle of the night by a stranger who needed her aid. Seldom was she ever paid for her services.

When Peter retired, he turned the farm over to his oldest son, John Swenson.

Andrew was born in 1874, he married Lena Monger in 1904, died in 1936. Ole was born in 1875, he married Hana Monger in 1918, died in 1924. Ann Bertha was born in 1877, she married George Swenson, died in 1963. Dena was born in 1880, married J. Nesheim in 1941, died in 1962. Simmon was born in 1886 and died in 1941, married Jacob B. in 1887, died in 1893.

## Gibson Family

Glen and Dolly Gibson came from Sioux City, IA in 1939 to Sherman, SD. Each one had been a mail carrier from the Sherman Post Office while they lived in Sherman.

Glen passed away in 1955 and Dolly moved to Minneapolis where she lived until her death in 1972.

They raised two children, Virginia (married Eugene Kampa) who owns and operates a heating business in St. Paul with her son Robert. Dale Gibson resides in Sioux Falls.

## The Grant and Tofte Families

by Glenn and Donald Grant and Mrs. Verlyn (Eunice) Howe

Our great grandfather, Arnt L. Grant, came to this country from Norway in 1870 and worked in Chicago for the H. A. Pitts' Sons, manufacturers of threshing machines. The Pitts' Company moved to Marseilles, Illinois after the Chicago fire in 1871 and Mr. Grant moved with the company. In 1872 he brought his wife and four sons to this country.

Our great grandfather, Ole H. Tofte, came to this country from Norway in 1866 and he also worked for the Pitts' Company in Chicago. He returned to Norway in 1871 intending to stay in Norway, however, in 1872 he returned to this country and this time he brought his wife and two children with him. He also went back to work for the Pitts' Company in Marseilles, Illinois.

In the spring of 1874 the Grant family, the Tofte family, the Bratsberg family and Iver Shjegstad came to the Dakota Territory. They came by train to Vermillion and from there by oxen to Highland and Logan Townships where they homesteaded.

The Ole Tofte family brought lumber for a house

when they came to the Dakota Territory. They homesteaded (northwest quarter of section 19, Highland Township) on the farm that Verlyn and Eunice Howe live on now. Ole Tofte first built a one room shack. Fourteen people lived in this one room shack for a short time. They were: Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Bratsberg and two small children, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Grant and three of their sons, Peter Digre and the Ole Tofte family of four.

The next house that was built was the Grant sod house and then the Bratsbergs lived with the Grants in this sod house for a while. This sod house was built on a tree claim on the farm where Gordon Winterton lives now. The Grants lived here for three years and then built another sod house on the Grant homestead (southwest quarter of section 30, Highland Township) where Brian Howe lives now. They lived in this sod house until 1879 when they built a two story house.

The Highland Post Office was in the A.L. Grant home for a period of ten years (1884-1894). L. A. Grant (son of A. L. Grant) was postmaster and G. A. Grant (son of A. L. Grant) was assistant postmaster.

Toftes lived in the shack for a month and then they tore the shack down and built a house. (First frame house in Highland Township - from South Dakota History, Volume 4). Mrs. Tofte and the two children stayed with the Grants when the house was being built.

The Stordahl Lutheran congregation was organized at the Tofte home on September 27, 1874. This congregation eventually got too large and they split up into Sherman, South Highland and Stordahl churches. The Stordahl church was located two miles south of Dell Rapids. The South Highland church was located across the road from the Gordon Winterton farm.

Gustav A. Grant (son of A.L. Grant) married Ingeborg Tofte (daughter of Ole Tofte) on September 30, 1891. They lived on the Tofte homestead until 1922 when they moved to the Grant homestead. They had one son, Obed and two daughters, Serene and Helen. Serene and Helen continued living on the Grant homestead after their parents died. When Helen died in 1974, Serene moved to Garretson.

Obed Grant married Ina Christopherson on January 11, 1922 and they lived on the Tofte homestead. They had three children, Glenn, Donald and Eunice. Glenn married Elvira Rislov on July 14, 1943 and they have a son and a daughter, Charles and Charlene. Glenn and Elvira live in Pine, Arizona. Donald married Carolyn Nelson on November 15, 1946 and they have three daughters, Linda, Sharon and Deborah. Donald and Carolyn live in Sioux Falls. Eunice married Verlyn Howe on June 5, 1953 and they have four sons, Mark, Brian, Steven and John. Verlyn and Eunice and their son John live on the Tofte homestead.

## Eugene Haley

Our own "Skinny Haley"

Gene Haley came to Sherman in 1922, worked on various farms, helped Bill Brennan in the cream station, helped in Bergs store, moved to Ellsworth for a few years and then came back to Sherman. He started a cafe, card room, pool hall and general place where people loved to visit. He and Ruby, Patricia, and Marion lived in the quarters above this place for a while. They moved to the house and there four more daughters, Rose, Lois, Dorothy, and June and two sons, Raymond and Patrick were born. After a period of time, Gene moved his place of business to the old Berg store building. (The store had moved over to the cement block structure which housed the hardware.) The south side of Gene's place was made into a locker. Earl Kickland, John Trotter, and Harold Meester operated that.

An interesting sidelight in the years after the cafe was in the old store was the manner in which they cooled the pop and beer. They used ice which was stored in the old "ice house" and which was cut from the river in the dead of winter. It was kept all summer by keeping it covered with sawdust. It was a sight to behold when the men were "putting up ice."

He sold seed corn for DeKalb before he moved to Sioux Falls in 1961. Gene will always be thought of as an enterprising person, ready and willing to help anyone, always ready with a smile.

## Our Mother, Marie

by Geraldine Carlson

One of the most persevering and untiring workers in our village is Marie Haley. Never complaining, Marie raised two daughters and two sons by herself. Without transportation, she walked the railroad tracks to Garretson, when necessary, and also took in sewing to help with her needs of the family. Marie and Emma Dahl, next door neighbors, also worked at Eugene "Skinny" Haley's restaurant. Later she clerked at the Berg & Estensen store and when it was purchased by Joe Eidem continued in that work.

Entertainment was simple and fun, such as the school plays, declam contests and the ball games—especially the games between Garretson and Sherman. Not to be forgotten were the "free" movies, and sliding down the fire escape at the school house.

The big Easter Hunt was always held out in the country at Grandpa Bill Dolge's farm. The team that found the most eggs, then received a sack of "boughten" candy; that ended when we got older and the kids started smashing the hard cooked eggs!

Joe & Amanda Kampa, our Aunt and Uncle always had the 4th of July pot luck picnic and big fireworks in the evening.

One day when the gypsies came to town and I was in the first grade, I went barefoot to school because Jimmy wouldn't wait for me to put my shoes on.

As we got older and wanted to go away on Saturday night, we took the Great Northern Railway to Jasper. Grandpa Dolge had moved into Jasper, so if we didn't get a way home, we could always stay there.

Dorothy Dolge was a teacher in the country schools, and always had good programs, plays and a Harmonica Band. Basket Socials were a "specialty" of the times.

Marie Haley continued her hard working habits and her church work left a very important legacy and example for the rest of us to follow.

## Poem

Composed By Marie (Nesheim) Hinz

Welcome to Sherman, as we are all here  
To celebrate the Centennial Year!  
I am sure we will have in mind  
Many Happy memories we've left behind.

Many of us remember our High School Days.  
After graduation, each went our ways.  
We still think of Sherman as "used to be"  
It brings back memories for you and for me.

So let's celebrate in Sherman today,  
And remember our friends we had every day.  
For we love Sherman and don't forget  
All of our memories are with us yet.

So let's all celebrate the CENTENNIAL YEAR,  
For Sherman is the place we all love so dear.

## The Hollings



Mary and Frank Holling

Frank Holling was born in Schleiswig, Germany to John Holling Sr. and Minnie Stahl Holling and came to America when he was three years old. They went directly to Davenport, IA. In a few years Grandpa Holling moved his family to Luverne, MN. After a few years he bought farm land east of Sherman, to put his boys to farming.

In 1904 Frank married Mary Stanton daughter of Edmond and Ellen Walsh Stanton who had migrated to the Jasper, MN vicinity from Odell, IL. When they were married they farmed in Rock County, MN., LeRoy (Red) was born when they lived in MN. Later they moved to the Rudd farm (later the Steffe farm), south of Sherman. The next move was to Sherman, to the house west of Jensen's Service Station now the Alan Dunn home. Elmer (Ole) was born in that house.

When this place was sold, the Hollings decided to buy land and build a home of their own, so they purchased three lots north of the school house. Until this house was completed, the family lived upstairs in the Lyder Larson home, which was west of the church and now occupied by Dorothy and Selmer Johnson. The stork was flying around Sherman. Two days before Edna was born Earl Larson was born downstairs to Mr. and Mrs. Lyder Larson. Both babies were delivered by Dr. Jones our local doctor. Quite an interesting fact, Earl weighed 12 lbs. and Edna weighed 6 lbs.

In the spring the Hollings moved into their new home. They were very happy to know the moving around was done. They spent the rest of their lives living there. The Gaylen Jensens now live in that home. Some years later Elaine was born in that house.

Frank worked as a clerk and windmill repairman for the Berg and Estensen Hardware. His ability to speak German so fluently helped him a lot as the German settlers came to shop. He picked up the Norwegian dialect quickly. He enjoyed working there and often joked about the fact the people would not believe he wasn't Norwegian.

After a number of years he went to work for the Great Northern Railroad as a carpenter, in the Round House, at Wilmar and Ihler, MN, repairing box cars and building whatever was needed.

Mary (Mayme) kept busy with her four children, cooking, sewing, baking and enjoying to have friends and relatives for a friendly visit and cup of coffee. She was an excellent cake baker and knew she'd always have to bake a cake for any function. We could always take friends home for a fresh baked treat after school.

All four children were fortunate to attend school in Sherman for their twelve years. LeRoy was a member of the first graduating class in 1926 from the new addition to our school. Before that after two years of high school, students went to Garretson, Washington High in Sioux Falls or Jasper, MN, in order to receive a twelve year diploma.

LeRoy (Red) lived here all his life, he drove truck for Deep Rock Oil, Harvey Koch and at one time trucked on his own. He died in 1976.

Elmer (Ole) married Gertrude Frackman of Jasper, MN. They lived in Sioux Falls where he was employed as a mail carrier for the Sioux Falls School System. Elmer passed away in 1981. They had one son Mark who is married, he has a family and lives in Omaha, NE. He works for Northwestern Bell Telephone.

Elaine married Howard Heiser of Sioux Falls who worked at Morrell's and later Johnson's Veterans Administration. They had three children, Dennis who married Joyce Emeling and lives in Chicago, IL, where he is employed at Alden's Press. Keith lives in Sioux Falls with his mother and Debra (Mrs. Robert Smith) lives in St. Paul. She has two daughters, Chandra and Cherisa. Howard is deceased. He died in 1978.

Edna Henjum still lives in Sherman. She was married to Neil Henjum who was employed at the Farmers Elevator until his retirement. They had one son David who passed away at the age of 42 years of a heart attack. He married Kathleen Kruhaj of East Chicago, IN and had two children, Paul and Jill, who are living in Aberdeen. David had retired from the Aberdeen Fire Department because of ill health. Kathy is an RN at Dakota Midland Hospital in Aberdeen.

Edna spent about thirty-five years as a teacher in this area. She retired from the Sioux Falls Public School System in 1976.

LeRoy, Elmer, Howard, Dennis and David all served their country in the armed services of our nation.

## Sherman (written in the 60's)

by LeRoy E. Holling

Sherman at the present time has a population of less or near one hundred persons. Back about 1924-25 there was around two hundred twenty-five.

The town is located approximately 25-30 miles northeast of Sioux Falls, in the eastern part of Minnehaha County, one mile from the Minnesota state border line.

Sherman received its name from E. A. Sherman who lived in Sioux Falls and owned land here at that time when it was started. Sherman is about seventy-seven years old.

An interesting event that occurred in the area was the blizzard of 1888. This storm came very suddenly. Many farmers had their cattle out in the fields. When the blizzard was over and folks were able to get out, they found some of their cattle frozen to death standing up in the snow drifts.

Mr. Zeilef, who lived in the little white house west of the filling station, where George Reed lives, was coming home from the Palisades. At the time Garretson was a part of the Palisades and it was moved to



the present site of Garretson. When he realized that he could not get home he unhitched his team from the sleigh in which he had straw and blankets. He removed this, placed it on the ground, tipped the box off the sleigh, crawled under it for shelter. While he was under the sleigh the horses never left. As he kicked his feet against the box to try to keep them warm, his horses would whinny softly to him so he knew they were there. The next morning he put the box back on his sleigh and loaded the straw and blankets. He then hitched his team to his sleigh and drove to the nearest farm house to get warm. When the people helped him they discovered his feet were so badly frozen the toes had cracked. He was in bad condition for some time because of this misfortune.

By the way the little "white house" and his home was the first home built between Luverne and Dell Rapids.

Jesse James and his band of outlaws must have passed through the Sherman area after they had robbed the Northfield Minnesota Bank. There is a cave between here and Garretson, known as the Jesse James Cave. It was said that papers found in the cave were from a Sherman Bank that had been robbed sometime before.

One of the greatest floods that the Sherman town has witnessed came on June 14, 1914. The Splitrock River overflowed and the water came up to the depot and the railroad tracks. In the country the water came up to the buildings on the Iver Kammerud farm, three miles north and east of here. This was Iverna Rekstad's home. A farmer, George Docken, had a boat and rescued the family and brought them to Sherman out of danger. A lot of livestock were lost as they were washed down the river. When they reached the Harry Hansen farm area they were killed when they hit the bridge and many of them drowned too.

Bad fires took their toll here also. About fifty years ago the depot burned. The wind was from the south which made it dangerous for the rest of the town buildings.

At one time Sherman had five elevators and a very large corn crib. These were also burned. Some were rebuilt and finally only one was left. This one burned in October 1922. It was rebuilt and is the elevator now here. This fire was caused by a spark being blown to the top of the elevator as the section men were burning weeds and grass south of the tracks. I think it could have been put out, but there was no way to get water to the top. Fire departments came from Garretson, Luverne, Jasper and Dell Rapids. Garretson arrived first. Luverne only had five hundred feet of hose, so they borrowed from Garretson and then were able to reach the river. The people in town were up on their rooftops putting out sparks with pails of water to save buildings and their homes.

Going back to about 1912, Gust Olson and sons were owners of the Hardware Store. One night someone came after gasoline. While they were filling the can, one lit a match to see if the can was full and the flame followed the fumes to the big tank which caught fire. Walter Simons, who had the blacksmith shop, grabbed a big shaft and punched holes in the tank so it could drain and it didn't explode. Otherwise that would have been a big fire.

The next big fire was the building that had been built by H. G. Wilson, who had an implement building until he retired because of poor health. The Wilsons had also built the house where Richard Koch now lives.

Carl Sievert had a garage and implement business in the Wilson building when it caught fire in the tire room. It had such a good start that nothing could be done to stop it. A number of cars and new tractors were destroyed. Two buildings on the north side were destroyed. One was the Helmey Drug Store. A family was living upstairs and were nearly overcome by smoke. The other building was the Walvotne Variety Store with a harness and shoe shop in the rear of the building. The tin roof from this building fell against the bank building, keeping the flames away from the building and damage to the bank was not too serious. This fire was in 1932 a year after the Sherman Fire Department had been organized by Carl Sievert, who was elected Fire Chief. The fire department at that time only had the two small chemical tanks, which were pulled by the firemen. They were not much for any large fires. Now they have two trucks and plenty of hose to reach most of the town. They also have a small pump which can be used to pump water for quite a distance. At this time there are only two charter members of the beginning fire department left—Carl Johnson and LeRoy E. Holling. This year the 35th Anniversary will be celebrated by having a firemen's dance in the R. O. Koch building.

The first business in Sherman was a store and post office operated by E. E. Umphey. Mr. Umphey was also a school teacher for a number of years. He had his business east of the depot on the south side of the tracks.

G. O. Henjum had the blacksmith shop. He lived in the building north of the fire station. Most of the building was cut into sections and moved to the country. When he became too old to do blacksmith work he changed the shop into a furniture store which became Henjum's Emporium. He had two children. His daughter was Mrs. M. H. Dahl and she and her husband moved to Alaska. They were the first from here to venture there. They stayed two years and came back. Mr. and Mrs. Dahl and her father Mr. Henjum then moved to Canada.

The lumberyard was owned by Nick Brennan. His

three children lived here with him.

The Berg and Estensen's lived here also. They had the grocery and hardware stores. The grocery and clothing store was in the building where Eugene V. Haley later had a restaurant. The hardware was where Richard Koch had his seed corn business. The old hardware was divided and one part was the Pugh Barber Shop and where Martha Pugh lived. The other part of the building was moved to the country. The block hardware building was built in 1917 about the same year as The Wilson Building.

The first depot agent in Sherman was L. L. Gordon. He was an agent for many years until the railroad employees struck. When the strike was settled he lost his job.

In the early years of the town, the people had their parties in the elevator. They had their dances in the driveway and served lunches in the office. Basket socials were held in the school house. Many had card parties playing five-hundred, rook and whist.

Church bazaars and ladies aide dinners were held in the basement of the Lutheran Church. When the town was young, the meetings and church services were held at the depot.

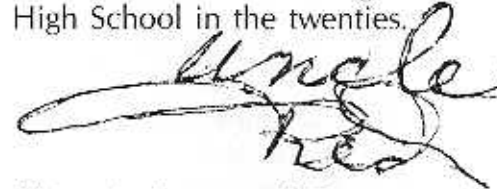
We did not always have a school. There were two country schools; one a mile south and the other a mile north and a quarter mile west. Later the two schools were moved to town and joined for a two room school. Mrs. A. K. Hansen (Nettie Hansen), sister of Mrs. Ida McKenzie was one of the two teachers. Before the schools were moved to town a cyclone (tornado) hit. The school north of town was carried to the Gilbert Lee farm where Eugene Hoyme now lives. Before the cyclone hit the teacher locked the doors and windows. No one could get out of the school house so no one was hurt. Good thinking and work by the teacher. About 1911 a new school house was built. It had ten or eleven grades. In 1925 the present brick part of the school was built. In the early forties the wooden building was torn down. The new school had 12 years of school. The first high school graduates were in 1926. A few years ago Garretson and Sherman were consolidated. The lower grades remained in Sherman and the others went to Garretson by bus.

Sherman used to have two basketball teams two in school, boys and girls, and also a town team. It was too bad for Baltic in those days especially 1924 and until the high school was discontinued.

They also had several competitive horseshoe teams who were good players.

We also had some very good baseball and softball teams. One of the baseball teams in 1909 was super. Two of the team players are still living, W. O. Brennan and John Override, who both live in California now. Later Sherman had one of the best teams in this

part of the state. They played a team from Sioux Falls who had a pitcher and catcher who later went to the American Association of Baseball. Sherman **won** that game. The team played eleven games that year, won nine, losing two. **Shut** Garretson out three times. The K. C.'s of Sioux Falls played at Wall Lake with Sherman and won 9-2. When they returned to Sherman, the K. C.'s were defeated by Sherman 6-2 by pitcher Johnson, who struck out seventeen. Our high school had baseball in High School in the twenties.



*This brief bit of historical events of Sherman was written by LeRoy E. Holling (Uncle Red) for his nephew David Henjum who had asked him to write some of the stories he often told to him. He wrote this while he was a patient at the Veteran's Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. The bits of history seem to bring out his loyalty, patriotism and love for the old "hometown." It was written in the early 70's and closed with his signature as he was known to all the kids in town.*

## Greetings From Sunny California

Written by Evellyn Huyser

My name is Evellyn (Andersen) Huyser and we lived on a farm west of Sherman for nineteen years. I was born there and attended White Willow School for eight years along with eight sisters and brothers. There were twelve in our family, but the three oldest had finished grade school before we moved there. Five of us were baptized at First Lutheran Church and seven confirmed all by Reverend A. J. Evenson.

Only three of us graduated from Sherman High School, Viola Lammert of Luverne, MN; Esther (Ellefsen) Loken and myself. I graduated in 1938.

I have many memories of Sherman and remember it was a thriving town when I was going to high school with both Berg and Estenson and Wangsness Grocery stores, lumber yard, post office, which also served as a produce outlet for selling chickens. My mother was an excellent buttermaker having learned this in her native Denmark. She churned with a large barrel churn and butter was made up in one or two pound crocks to be delivered by my dad to various individuals in Sherman. I recall that at one time the price was 15¢ a pound! During the depression we were always able to make ends meet by growing a very large garden and several of us worked during the summer months for various farm households as needed. At the time I was doing this, the average weekly wage was \$4 to \$5 (a week) and with that, we managed to buy school clothing.

I remember the community fondly because the farm was a great place for a large family, along the Split Rock River where we could skate and slide in the winter and our dad built a row boat we used in the summer. We also went fishing mostly near Garretson along the Devil's Gulch. There were also several tragic things that happened on that farm including the killing of all Dad's milk cows by a train on the Great Northern Railroad, also at another time, his best team of horses.

My husband and I live here at Citrus Heights having moved here just this past year. We lived most of our married life in Sioux Falls where he was a postal clerk for thirty years and I worked for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

## August and Alma Johnson

Alma Berg Johnson was an early Sherman resident as she was a daughter of Andrew and Emma Berg who settled in Sherman in 1888. Alma Berg was born in 1887 in Minnehaha County, SD. She spent her entire life in the Sherman community, except for the years when she attended college at Jewell, IA, and St. Olaf College at Northfield, MN.

Alma and August Johnson were married December 29, 1906. They observed their Golden Anniversary in 1956. They had one son, Curtis.

August was born in Sweden and came to the United States in 1897, first to Sioux City, IA, then to Sherman where he was a resident since 1898. They were in the mercantile business in Sherman until they retired in 1954. August Johnson also served as Postmaster from 1900 to 1915.

They were both long time and active members of the Lutheran Church. Alma was organist for about 60 years, and she directed many special events and programs for the community as well as for the church. Both were interested and active in civic affairs. August was a member of the Sherman Town Board for seventeen years, and also served as Mayor.

August Johnson died June 12, 1958, and Alma passed away August 19, 1969. Both are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Sioux Falls, SD.

## Carl and Ruth Johnson and daughter Helen (Yusella)

After living out on the Olson Farm, just east of Sherman, they moved to Sherman. Carl operated the Deep Rock Oil Company's bulk plant. He later worked for the Mobil Oil Co., and for the Palisade Oil Co., when it was operated by Harold Jons.

Carl was very good to children and to all of his customers and friends. He treated the children to bubble gum, watermelon when in season, and did many

good turns such as opening driveways. When Iver Kammeruds Farm, Yivey, was overflowing its banks, Carl took his boat out and rescued them.

He took part in many P.T.A. plays and really enjoyed doing that. He served as Mayor for a number of terms and also served on the town board a number of times.

Carl and his family have always been thought of as Public Spirited Citizens interested in the Village of Sherman.



1927—Carl Johnson working on a sand pit on the present farm of Don Smith.

## Curtis and Berniece Johnson

Curtis E. Johnson was born in Sherman, SD, May 24, 1908 to August and Alma Johnson. His early education was in the local school. He attended St. Olaf College, earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, his Master of Arts Degree from the University of South Dakota, and further study at the University of Minnesota. He began his teaching career at Elk Point, SD.

Curtis married his high school sweetheart, Berniece Olson, in June 1931, and they had 54 years together. She was the daughter of Anthon and Helen Olson and grew up on their farm two miles west of Sherman. Berniece attended Augustana College and taught elementary school.

Curtis was a teacher and athletic coach at Elk Point, SD, Hawarden, IA, and Mankato, MN. In 1945 he decided to go into administration and became principal of the junior/senior high school at St. James, MN. In 1952 Curtis and Berniece moved to Falcon Heights, a suburb of St. Paul, MN, when he accepted the position of principal of Alexander Ramsey Senior High School in Roseville, and he served there for 20 years until his retirement in 1972. Alexander Ramsey was a new school just being built and Curtis was privileged to organize the educational program, select the equipment and supplies, and choose the new staff of teachers to be ready for the opening in 1953.

Curtis was recognized for his educational leadership locally, state wide, and on the national level. He was on the Board of Directors, Vice-President, and

President of the Minnesota Association of Secondary Principals. He also served on several state advisory committees, including the committee on Foreign Languages, on Teacher Education, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, and the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education. On the national level, he was elected to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Secondary School Principals for eight years. His colleagues voted him president of the organization in 1969-70. He served on several national committees, was a guest instructor at the University of Minnesota, Duluth and Minneapolis. He authored articles for the MEA Journal, the MASSP, and NASSP Bulletins, and contributed a chapter to the book, "The Three R's Plus." Curtis was also a member of the Board of Directors of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, the National Academy of School Executives, the Headmasters Association, and Phi Delta Kappa.

Curtis and Berniece were active in their community, in Commo Park Lutheran Church, Lions Club, American Field Service, Sons of Norway, Scholia, and other groups. Curtis received WCCO's Good Neighbor Award in June 1972 when he retired.

He was very active in the Retired Educator's Association of Minnesota, serving as State President, State Director for the National Retired Teachers Association, and as State Legislative Chairman.

Curtis passed away June 16, 1985. He was a schoolman of superior quality and made a lasting impression on his students, faculty, the support staff, parents, and community.

## Kampa Family

Joe and Amanda Kampa were poor share croppers in the Sherman area. It seemed like they were always blessed with more bills than money, but like good country folks they hung in there and raised a family of five children.

Pearl (the oldest) married Earle Kickland they live in Mitchell, SD. Bernard was killed in the war as a tail gunner in a B-24 over Austria. Eugene was a business man in St. Paul, MN, until the time of his death. He married Virginia Gibson, daughter of a past postman or mail carrier, Glen and Dolly Gibson. Mildred (married to Dud Ahrendt) resides on an acreage over by Highland Church known as the Goose Farm. Dud died in a work related accident in 1985. Dorothy (nickname Punchie) passed away at a young age of 39 years. She was married to Oliver Mackley of Hibbing, MN, where he still lives and works.

Joe worked for many years in the Sherman Farmers Elevator with Dick Winkle and Neil Henjum. Amanda was then remembered for her good home made rolls. Their home is now gone, but it was located next to the August Johnson home across the street from

the church which Roger and Margie Wick purchased and live in.

The one thing remembered most about Joe and Amanda was their way of hosting the Dolge family 4th of July picnic every year up until 1967. Good times by all. Joe passed away in 1969 and Amanda in 1973.

## The Koch Family



1912—Adolph Koch in the Legislature at Pierre, SD.

Adolph Koch was born September 18, 1869, at Davenport, Iowa. He was united there to Amelia Damman on February 28, 1893. To them one son, Richard, was born January 15, 1894.

Land companies from Maine, having bought land in the Garretson and Luverne areas, prearranged for five or six families from Davenport to share rent this land. The machinery and horses were transported on one train and the families with their belongings on another.

In March of 1894, Adolph, Amelia, and Richard moved by immigrant train to the Damman farm, four miles east of Garretson. They farmed there for nine years and in 1903, Adolph bought a farm two miles west of Sherman.

While living there he served one term in the legislature at Pierre from 1912 to 1914. In 1917, he retired from farming and built a house in Garretson, where he served as manager of the Garretson telephone system and Mayor of Garretson for fourteen years.

Amelia passed away November 25, 1938.

Adolph's life came to a tragic end when his car was struck by a freight train in Garretson. He had reached the age of 83 years.

Richard Koch was born at Davenport, Iowa, January 15, 1894. He moved with his parents by immigrant train to the Garretson area. He attended grade school in Sherman, SD and attended Brookings College, studying grafting trees, livestock judging, welding, and iron works. He said he learned the world was bigger than just your farm, when he attended college.

Richard married Elline Marie Marth, daughter of Herman & Etta Marth of Garretson, on February 3, 1917.

They purchased the farm from Richard's father Adolph. Their four children were born, Harvey and Virgil of Sherman, Warren of Colorado Springs, CO, and LaVonne Rasmussen, Sioux Falls, SD.

During his farming years, neighbors Frank Locke, Anton Olson and Richard built the electric line from Garretson to their respective farms.

He served on the school board, telephone board, Sherman Livestock Shipping Association, community fair board, conservation board, and the Federal Land Bank.

Mr. & Mrs. Koch at this writing reside at Palisades Manor, Garretson, SD.



Richard Koch

## MAPLE LEAF STOCK FARM

RICHARD O. KOCH, PROP.

REGISTERED

DUROC JERSEY HOGS AND SHORT-HORN CATTLE

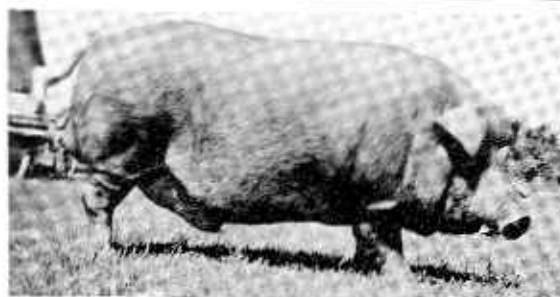
BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK CHICKENS

ACCLIMATED WIMPLE'S YELLOW DENT SEED CORN

STOCK GUARANTEED

PHONE 2421

SHERMAN, S. D.



## Kopren Family

Written by Gen Heineman

The Kopren family lived in a house one block west of Main Street in Sherman. Mr. and Mrs. Kopren and children, Irvin, Sylva, Earl, Arden, Genevieve and Maxine. Modern conveniences were few. The house had a full basement which had a cistern pump, a cook stove to heat wash water and a furnace to heat the house. There was no running water. Bathroom facilities consisted of a small house out near the alley. A pump in the back yard furnished the water for the house. There was also a large garden spot in the back yard.

Ole, a stone mason from Norway worked his way from Norway to Sioux Falls building large buildings from stone. He, with Lew Wold, started the Wold and Kopren Block Factory. It adjoined a sand pit just south of the depot and the Farmers Elevator. It later burned to the ground.

Our entertainment was mostly in the dance hall above the implement shop. It was also used for roller skating.

Ole died in October of 1932, shortly after the implement shop burned. He and his friend, Dick Winkle, manager of the Farmers Elevator were avid hunters and fishermen.

## Just Reminiscing

Written by Leonard and Tressa Kornmann

Leonard isn't sure, but he thinks the first schoolhouse in Sherman had previously been on what was Gilbert Lees' land, and another school south of Sherman on Hanson land, were moved into Sherman, and joined together. Leonard went to that school for his first year.

A new wooden school building had been built so he took his second grade in it. I also started school in the newer building.

When the new brick addition was added, it wasn't finished at the start of the school term. So the 8th grade was taught for a couple of months in a building on the east side of main street. High school classes were upstairs over Al Estensens' Hardware, also on the east side of main street.

I always had to walk to school. During one of the lower grades, I was hurrying to catch up to my Aunt Florence, who had started out one winter morning ahead of me. I had a narrow river to cross and slipped on the icy stones and fell in. My clothes got all wet, but I continued on to school. My clothes were frozen to me. My teacher sent me down to Tjeldes with a note from her to put some of Sylvia's clothes on me while she dried mine out. And lo and behold I found out Sylvia wore bloomers made out of flour sacks, too. Because they had the flour name printed

on them, just like mine.

I remember the many hikes we took up the railroad tracks to Jessie James Cave. We usually had weiners to roast and marshmallows to toast on the end of willow twigs and a bon fire. There was also a teacher or two as chaperones. In earlier days girls didn't wear slacks, we wore dresses. On one of those hikes, it really rained as we were walking the tracks home, and Edna Holling's dress had shrunk so it was about four inches shorter when she got home. I don't remember if it had a hem to let down.

We both remember being in school programs in Locke's Hall. Locke's Hall used to be the showhouse with "Silent Movies" and you had to read pretty fast sometimes. Remember that player piano in that hall? All of us kids would beg Grace Locke to let us pump the pedals on that piano. We really felt like we were playing that beautiful music. A couple titles I remember were "Whispering" and "Beautiful Ohio."

Oh yes, one more school incident. I don't remember what grade I was in, but it was the intermediate room. At the time there were no screens or storm windows on, so when an airplane crashed into some trees on what was just east of Gus Wilson's house I think all of the kids in that east school room just dropped themselves out of the windows and to the ground. The bell rang but we all ran to the crash. Most of us had a piece of the planes propellor to take home as a souvenir that night.

Another time Stanley Estensen and Mable Tollefson took us down to Sioux Falls on a tour through where the newspaper was being printed, also through the Penitentiary, and the Manchester Biscuit Company. While at the latter place, we could have free samples of cookies. Earl Larson was especially fond of chocolate cookies with those marshmallow centers. He filled his suit coat pockets. Now, there were seven or eight of us kids in that Estensen car besides two teachers so we were a bit crowded. When we got to the Tollefson home for a nice supper, Earl had marshmallows and chocolate squeezing out of the top of his pockets. Earl was usually where the fun was.

## Gilbert J. Kringen

Gilbert J. Kringen, the oldest son of E. B. and Carrie Kringen, was born September 20, 1915, on a farm west of Sherman in Logan Township. He attended Corothers Country School, District No. 36, near his home. He started farming with his father at an early age and continued farming on the same farm until his retirement.

One of his memories of Sherman is using a team of horses and a wagon to haul many loads of grain to the elevator there.

His family includes his wife Myrtle and nine

children, Eleanor, Grant, Ben, Karen, Marie, Ada, Harry, Rose and Lynne. Gilbert and his wife are members of the First Lutheran Church in Sherman.

We really felt that we could not publish this report without telling some of the many public spirited deeds which Gib and Myrtle have done all through the years. So we have added a bit to this.

Gib was always known as a great horseman. He had a set of ponies and a cart which he cheerfully brought to every parade in the area. He played Santa Claus to many children with his team and sleigh for many years. I believe that it was his custom to go to the Crippled Children's Home and give the children a ride.

It seemed that his theme song very well could have been "My Time Is Your Time." He was very unselfish and one always wondered who was having the better time, the Kringens or the people that were being treated and entertained. Myrtle, too, was very unselfish. One never heard a complaint from her department.

Gib has been having a problem for a few months, having suffered a light stroke. His son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Sharon, have tried to carry on his traditions until he can recuperate enough to take care of these things himself. The entire family seem to know the joy of living and giving. Our hats are off to the entire Kringen family.

## Lyder and Minnie Larson Family

Lyder Larson and Minnie Johnson, decendants of pioneer families who had migrated from Norway and settled in the Sherman area after a brief stay in Iowa, married in the early 1900's and settled on a farm close to Sherman, SD.

Deciding farming was not for them, they moved into Sherman in 1909 where Lyder became a rural mail carrier. Through rain, hail, snow and muddy roads, Lyder served his route until he retired in 1952. Roads were mainly dirt in those early days and the patrons showed their appreciation for the effort to deliver the mail in spite of bad road conditions by buying a replacement when Lyder's car was stolen.

Minnie died in 1919. Lyder continued to carry mail and raise his young family. A son, Earl Justin, had passed away before they moved to Sherman, but Julia, Lester, Edythe, Alpha and Earl Palmer grew up and attended school in Sherman.

Julia became a teacher and moved to California where she continued to teach. She passed away in 1980. Following WW II, Lester was involved in construction in the state of Washington. He retired to Texas where he died in 1986. Edythe became ill while a student at Augustana and passed away in 1933. Alpha became a nurse and practiced her profession

for many years. She was especially active in the nursing home field. She presently lives in Sioux Falls. Earl returned to Sherman after WW II and lived there many years. He was employed at the VA and his wife, Marge, was the postmaster at Sherman. They now live in Dell Rapids.

Lyder's one regret was that he had no grandchildren. After many years of being a widower, Lyder married Hazel Boyum who had five children and he became an instant grandfather. Lyder died in 1958.

## Sherman 1921

Written by Earl R. Perkins

I remember Sherman very well from about 1921 on. My parents Lloyd and Esta Perkins moved to the West River place about then (1 W., 3/4 S., 1/4 W.). It was there that several memories are still bright in my mind.

My dad had a Bates Steel Mule Tractor (single caterpillar track with open drive chains), which cost Dad his thumb and index finger. A neighbor to the east, John DeBates, got Dad to Dr. Devall in Garretson, and saved number 2 finger.

We fished lots in the old Split Rock Creek, and played a lot on the rocks along the bank. I started to school in 1925 in the new Sherman brick building. I thought it was the biggest building in the world! I well remember my music teacher and two of the little songs she taught us. I was supposed to go to country school southwest of us, but since it was 2 1/2 miles by road, that district paid my tuition in Sherman.

I remember the Sherman Bank closing, and the impact on the community. I also remember Sherman as a busy shopping center, and what a thrill it was to "go to town."

## Ole and Kari Opstedahl

Ole Opstedahl was born in Viki Sogn, Norway on January 9, 1853. He came to America in 1869 with his father, three sisters, and a brother. His oldest sister started with them, but after a storm at sea, went back to Norway. The family stayed at Ridgeway, Iowa until 1873 when they came to South Dakota. They took a homestead three miles north and one west of Sherman. Ole's wife, Kari, was born in Vodd, Norway on January 9, 1858. She came alone to America in 1877 and was to meet her brother, Andrew Bim, in Lanesboro, Minnesota. He was moving to South Dakota at the time, and went ahead in a covered wagon, but his wife waited for Kari and they took a train to Luverne, Minnesota. Kari got to South Dakota June 19, 1877.

On April 7, 1883, as the snow was flying, Joe Hermanson—Ole's only brother, drove the buggy and took Ole, Kari, Andrew Bim, and Bertha Jacobson (later Mrs. Knute Docken), to the Reverend Mr. Sands

near Baltic who married Ole and Kari. Mrs. Sands gave them dinner and they returned home in the snowstorm. They lived on the farm until 1920 when they moved to Sherman.

Ole's dad was Hermund Olson so his sons were known as Hermanson's, but since there was another Ole Hermanson on the Sherman mail route, Ole changed his name to Opstedahl, the part of Viki Sogn he came from and loved. He said that if it hadn't been for the ocean, he would have crawled back to the mountains in Viki.

Ole and Kari had seven children. Ronnie (who never married), Bessie (Mrs. Ole Rislow), Emma (Mrs. Martin Lerdal), Henrietta (Mrs. Melvin Hatlestad), Henry, and Amberg. A son Herman died in infancy. Henry and Amberg both farmed north of Sherman.

Ole died December 18, 1939. He was the last one of the charter members of Rosendahl Lutheran Church, which was destroyed by fire in August 1943. Lightning hit the steeple. Orlin Rasmussen saw it hit and called for help, so all the contents were saved. Ole was 22 days short of being 87.

Kari died on March 22, 1945 at the age of 87 years, two months, and thirteen days. She was the last of the charter members of Rosendahl's Ladies Aid.

### A special to the Argus Leader December 23, 1931:

How a cottonwood tree which had blown down late in the summer, but still had leaves, was used as a Christmas tree for a gathering of early pioneers near here, was related by Ole Opstedahl, pioneer here.

Opstedahl's brother went to Luverne, MN to get a spruce tree at a nursery there, but finding none large enough, went on to Lone Rock, near Pipestone. Finding none there, either, he adopted the suggestion of getting the old cottonwood which had blown down. It was taken to the John Simonson store in Highland Township five miles northwest of Sherman, across the road from the residence of Frank Kummerfeldt today.

The tree was set up in the store and decorated with colored paper, home-made candles, flowers and apples. Parents and children of twelve pioneer families gathered to get what they could of Christmas cheer, so as to help in dispelling the loneliness of the prairie. Twisted hay was used as fuel for the store.

A short program was given and afterwards gifts were distributed. There were no elaborate toys or other luxuries, but the children's hearts were gladdened by presents of socks, mittens, and other wearing apparel which the pioneers had made at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Opstedahl have lived here since retiring from their farm eleven years ago. In the time she has been here, Mrs. Opstadahl has knitted more than a hundred pairs of socks for her children, grandchildren, and others, from wool which she herself has carded and spun.

## Bonnie Peterson Ramsey

My memories of Sherman begin during a brief two year period of my childhood. My dad operated a farm one mile east of Sherman, owned at that time by Dr. O. V. Ophiem. Dad became ill and we moved back to Sioux Falls, but those two years were not to be the last connection I would have with Sherman and its people.

I remember attending school in Sherman those years. So different from the school I had attended in Sioux Falls. Three grades in one room, carrying my lunch, and running downtown during our lunch hour for candy. There was a general store operated by Alma Johnson and her husband, and Alma's sister Mabel Docken. This was a gathering place for farmers and their families on Saturday night to catch up on the latest news and exchange ideas for home and field.

There were classmates who would always be held in my quiet memories. Joyce Olson, Marge Haley, Rachel Grange, Dorothea Olson and others. Joyce's parents, Melvin and Ellen, were good friends and neighbors.

When we moved away from the farm I never dreamed I would one day return to this same place with a husband, a little son, and a new baby on the way. We moved three-fourths of a mile west of Sherman and there we raised four sons. The older ones, Mike and Dan attended school in Sherman for a few years, having classes in the same building I had once gone to school. By the time Tim and Kevin were ready for school, Sherman and Garretson had become one district. Mike and Dan had the good fortune to have for a teacher a very special lady, Mrs. Sigrid Grange. I appreciated her concern for her students and her teaching not only the three R's but the importance of being good people.

The years my sons were growing up were full of happy times and some sad times. Friends who became family, sharing each others joys and sorrows. There are many memories that crowd my mind as I write this. Teaching Sunday School in the Sherman Church and singing in the choir. Remembering the preschooler in one of my classes who said "God told Adam not to eat that apple pie." Another who carefully drew an airplane with "Pontius the Pilot." The Halloween night Martha Koch and I took Paul and Kevin to Dick Winkles and after knocking several times they came to the car and as only six year olds can say, "He just renored us." The time JoAnn cooked supper for the Koch and Peterson kids and used her Mom's Fostoria. A goblet got broken and the kids all saved their money until they could replace it and then we were told about it. The time JoAnn danced on the dining room table to entertain the rest of the kids. There are so many memories that will keep Sherman and

its people always close to my heart, too many to put down here.

Time and circumstances change our lives, some more than others, but a true friendship like God's love is forever.

May God continue to bless Sherman and the people who call it home.

## The Schneider Family

Written by Paul Schneider

Ernest Schneider was born in Germany in 1888. At the age of three he came to America with his parents, John and Louise Schneider, and brothers, Carl and Richard. Later after being in America, a brother, Gust, and a sister, Lizzie were born. They settled in Peru, IL, where father John worked in factories. At a young age the children got jobs in the area picking up chunks of coal that had fallen from the railroad cars. This was used for fuel in their home. After school and on week-ends they picked corn putting it in piles for the farmers to earn a few dollars.

When the children were in their early teens, the family moved to South Dakota, on a farm three and a half miles east of Renner on the Schneider homestead.

Ernest's wife, Clara Lydia Aanestad, was born in Minnehaha County in the Garretson area. She was the daughter of Rev. Helge Aanestad, who served the 3 point parish call of Rosendahl Church, two miles north of Sherman, Saint Paul Church, located at the south edge where Eros now stands, and North Splitrock Church, which is two miles north and one mile east of Corson.

In the early 1900's, Lydia as everyone called her would go with her father, Rev. Helge, by horse and buggy to play the organ for the worship services at the different churches. After a few years, she attended Normal College in Sioux Falls to become a teacher and taught in the rural areas of Sisseton and Plow. Later, she taught in the Schneider School (Rural District), where she met Ernest and after a courtship they were married in 1914. They moved to a homestead north and west of Corson known as the Ed Swenson farm and lived there for three years. In 1918, the bought the Ellingson farm (160 acres) 5 miles north and one-half mile west of Sherman, where they live the rest of their lives. This is the farm where Ed and Vonnie Schneider live. After this move Sherman became their shopping center.

In 1929, gravel was hauled from the Sherman Pit owned by Ole Kopren (this was southeast of the depot and elevator across the tracks), lumber was purchased from the lumber yard managed by Melvin Johnson and the hardware supplies were purchased from C. A. Estensen to build a barn which was done by Knud



Hellie and his carpenter crew.

In 1935, materials were purchased likewise to build the house from Sherman businesses. It was built by E. J. Talbert and his crew from Sioux Falls.

The First National Bank of Sherman operated by Ben Wangsness and Melvin Nettiberg, played an important part in the financing of these projects being built, because of the depression days.

It was also at this time the bank was robbed and created a lot of excitement in town, especially the kids, as it occurred during daytime hours.

Ernest Schneider hauled many loads of corn, barley and feed by wagon and team, and an old Model T Ford truck on old Highway No. Eleven, north of Sherman. The elevator was managed by Dick Winkel of Sherman. Mr. Schneider raised many cattle and hogs during his farming career.

During this time he purchased Eastern cattle from ranchers and had them shipped by rail directly to Sherman, where they were unloaded at the Sherman Stockyards, and driven by foot to the farm feed lot. Sometimes when the cattle were ready for market, he brought them back to the yards and they were loaded on cars and shipped by rail to Chicago for slaughter.

Ernest died on March 23, 1967. He had reached 79 years of age. Lydia passed away January 19, 1953 at the age of 64. Ernest Jr. died in 1970 at an early age of 45.

Ernest's father, John, passed away in 1921 and his mother, Louise in 1911.

Survivors of the children of the Schneider family are Paul, Mrs. Ruth Renner, Martha, and Edward.

## Fond Memories of Sherman

Written by Joyce Olson Sande

First Lutheran Church was a big part of our lives. Pastor A. J. Evenson's ministry covered three generations of our family. He confirmed mother (Ellen Anderson), married mother and dad (Melvin Olson), baptized us four children Don, Helen Ann, Ellen Jean and myself. Married Lyle and me and baptized our first son, Wayne. We all remember the inspiration, love and guidance of that special man of God.

The Helping Hand Society Bazaars, the Lutefisk, and other special suppers put on by Ladies Aid taught us the joy of work to support our church. Mother remembers the beautiful altar in the church which was a project of the Helping Hand when she was a member.

My first eight years of school were enjoyed in Sherman. Besides good, basic classes we had music, operetta's, plays, and sports. I especially remember watching basketball games from the "pit."

Lyle has lots of memories of Sherman years, also,

because his dad, Joe Sande, was janitor of the school in the 30's, and many of the teachers had their meals at the Sande's.

Of the city, I remember coming to the Berg Store on Saturday night to trade eggs for groceries and staying for the free show on the vacant lot across the street.

## Otto and Sylva Sorenson

Otto and Sylva lived one mile east of Sherman on the old Gust Olson farm. They moved there in 1943 and lived there for 42 years. In 1985 they moved to the Centennial Apartments in Luverne, MN. Sylva was a lifelong resident of Sherman. She was the former Sylva Kopren. She attended school in Sherman and graduated from high school in 1926. Sylva was active in all school activities and was a member of the "Great Sherman Girls Basketball Team." After graduation, she attended college in Madison, SD. Then she taught in the country school (Harnacks and Rekstads).

In 1929, she married Otto Sorenson, from Garretson. They had four children. Dennis lives in Garretson and is married to Dorothy Stensland. Arden is married to Mary Ellen Liester, and they live on the old Iver Kammerud farm. Maurine and her husband Marvin Peterson live in Brandon. Margie is Mrs. Jim Martens. Margie and Jim live west of Garretson. At this time she is owner and publisher of the Garretson Weekly.

Otto and Sylva have sixteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. On July 20th Otto and Sylva will celebrate fifty-nine years of married life.

## William and Clara Thielmann

No doubt sometime during 1918 or maybe before, William and Clara Thielman gave serious thought to the idea of buying a farm. They and four children were living on a 160 acre farm near Alford, Iowa. The transaction took place sometime during 1918 and they purchased a 318 acre farm a couple miles north of Sherman, SD. The Rosendahl Church and cemetery were located on the west quarter section of land.

In the fall of 1918, William started to move machinery, etc., by horse teams, a distance of forty miles. He would dismantle some of the machinery and load and pile it together.

On March 19, 1919, livestock, household furniture, and whatever else that was left was loaded into a divided freight car.

As time went on, William and Clara rebuilt all the buildings and fences. They replaced a small house (kitchen, living room, and four small bedrooms—by this time there were six children). This was quite a change. The children all graduated from Sherman

High School.

William and Clara were active in the community. So were the children. One incident I recall was a trip to Pipestone, MN. William was driving a car full of girls who were to play basketball. On the way, he hit a patch of ice and the car spun around and flipped over. Somehow we crawled out, set the car upright, and were on our way. Best part of all, the Sherman Basketball Girl's Team won the game!

## The Tjelde Family

Written by Sylvia Gordon

You surely can't get that name confused with any other family, can you?

The "Tjelde man" was what most kids called my dad. And, mother was always Grandma Tjelde to both kids and grown ups. Both of my parents cherished the privilege of raising a family in "Good Old Sherman."

My, what great memories Gladys and I have of those. They passed all to quickly.

Dad first built our barn (later called our garage). Odin was "born in the barn." Then Dad built the house so that the rest of us could come along.

Mother was forty-two when I was born. (Phil Donahue recently had a program on babies born to mothers of that age, as if it were very unusual.) I had lots of mothers, believe me. Clara and Gusta did a pretty good job. Gladys fought my neighborhood battles for me. Elmer sort of thought that the new baby (Sylvia) wasn't really so necessary, but both he and Odin were always there to protect me.

Just don't let anyone ever take the name "Sherman" off the South Dakota map, please.

## Cal Vickerman

The first house we lived in at Sherman was on the east side of town, near Dick Winkel's. It was sold to a farmer near Jasper, and moved there. It still stands at that location. Then we moved to an apartment over a restaurant. This was by a big implement building where they sold Ford cars and International machinery. One night, the big implement building caught fire and burned the whole half block up as far as the bank. Then we moved to a building next to Wangsness Bros. Store, operated by Ben Warren. We lived there many years. I have a lot of memories of Sherman, some good, some not so good, but as long as I live, I will never forget good old Sherman, SD.

## Viola Erstad Wangsness

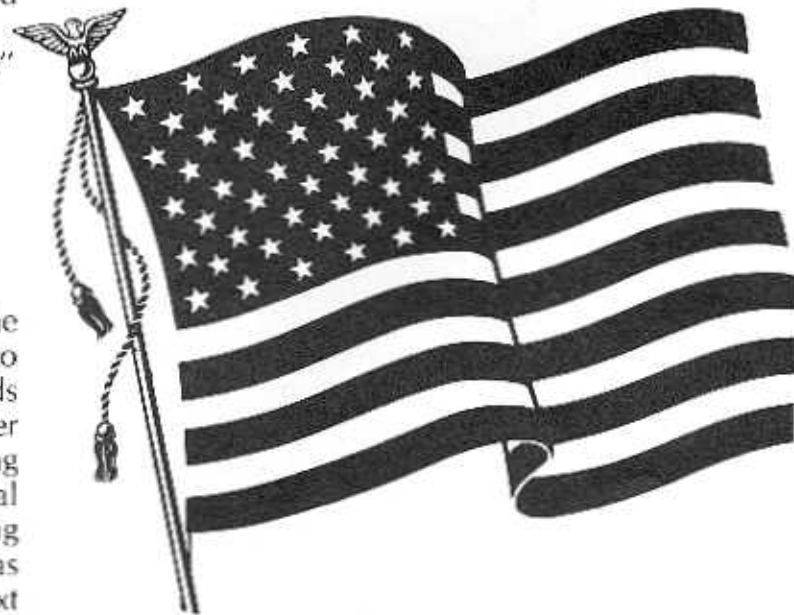
As the Centennial Celebration of Sherman, SD is upon us, it is a good time to update one another on the happenings which have transpired through the different periods of this town's one hundred years.

I, Viola Erstad Wangsness am a 1928 graduate of Sherman High School. After high school, I attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls. I graduated there with a "Certificate of Teaching," for both the state of South Dakota and the state of Minnesota. I taught school in Minnesota for seven years. The first eight grades of my education were received in the rural school near my home.

In 1936, I was married to Robert Wangsness, son of Tom Wangsness, banker in Garretson. We had three children, a daughter, Joann and two sons, Jon and Mark. The Wangsness home was established in Garretson, SD.

My brother, Ernest Erstad graduated from Sherman High School in 1926, getting to school in Sherman by riding horseback in and out from the farm. After graduation he continued to farm the home place.

My father and mother, Ed and Olena Erstad, immigrants from Norway, built up and settled on a farm in Rock County, MN. Just two and one half miles south and east of Sherman. The town of Sherman and its history will be a very lasting memory to me.



## Hail To Our Armed Forces!

This is a tribute to those persons who through their dedication, served their county in the Armed Forces of our Nation.

# The Great Tragedy In Our Little Town

Written by Carol Flanagan

No town can go through the long years without having some great joys and some tragedies. Even as happy times cement friendships, and draw people together, sadness has the power to make an even stronger relationship. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hansen lived in Sherman, worked in Sherman, and were raising their family there in a cheery, happy atmosphere. This was in 1919, when World War II was being fought. Nerves were very frayed, people were dying for their country, and no one really knew the far reaching effects which could happen, and even less did anyone expect that our little city of such closely knit people was to face such a deep tragedy.

A very serious strain of flu was raging through the community. Mrs. Hansen had a very bad case of flu. Also the children were all sick. Harold always went to the depot to bring the mail up to the post office and then went home for his breakfast. On this particular morning when he returned to his home the shocking sight which greeted him was to find his wife had shot herself, but fortunately she had not been killed. In her concern over the sick children, she had shot and killed every one of the five children in their beds. A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN.

I remember going to their funerals. Five little white caskets. Five little angels. It was a very sad community which mourned so deeply. In reviewing this, it makes us all realize that these terrible things have happened in the past, as well as in the present, and that we cannot blame "the times" as we are so prone to do.

## Epilog

A real misconception concerning the values of rural life is the possibility of success for those of us who were educated in the smaller schools. When we went through the names of the people who have passed through our educational system, we certainly see that our small community need not take a back seat for any other area. When we look at our people we can readily see that the people from here have been able to occupy top positions in nearly every field in the entire nation. Our Pentagon was designed by a Sherman graduate. We have any number of doctors, lawyers, ministers, teachers, social workers, business men and women, administrators, well really whatever profession you may name. Then we have the 100% back up teams who remained here and carried on for the next generation.

To us this plainly shows that the rural life and education has provided our people with the knowledge, the capability, the self assurance, and good judgement to meet, and conquer any challenge given to them.

We hope that you have enjoyed the book, and that you will take it in the spirit in which it was written. We wrote it with love, understanding, deep respect for our forefathers. We are grateful for having had a part in this celebration, and may we all enjoy the celebration of the centennial in July.

We fully realize that we may have missed some things, but it is impossible for us to reach 1,000 of you and it is much simpler for each of you to reach one of us. If you didn't reach us, you didn't get in the book. Now isn't that a simple fact?

We tried to include facts, humor, a bit of philosophy and sort of an overall picture of the changes. We wonder now, as we look back, which came first, the chicken or the egg? Radio and television knocked out visiting for visiting's sake. Improved transportation knocked out the purchases in our own towns, also losing the passenger train service. We wonder what the next one hundred years hold for us. Since there is a Supreme Being making the plans, they must be good.

## "Confucius Say"

Did Confucius have something to do with confusion? As we near the end of our findings, our memories, we are really confused! We thought this little quote might tell you how we feel.

The world would be better off  
If people tried to become better.  
People would become better if  
They stopped trying to become better off.  
For when everybody tries to become  
better off, nobody is better off.  
Everybody would be rich if  
Nobody tried to become richer.  
And, nobody would be poor if  
Everybody tried to be poorest.  
And, everybody would be what  
He ought to be if everybody tried  
To be what he wants the other fellow to be.

Peter Mavrin

Now, for heavens sake **what** did that man say?



# SHERMAN DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Walter Simms, Representative

Sherman, S. D., Oct. 7, 1915



View of the new plant at St. Lawrence, Minn., showing the large open space and the buildings.



LOONAN LUMBER CO. building in Sherman, S. D.

**LOONAN LUMBER COMPANY**  
 To build the Loonan Lumber Co. building in Sherman, S. D. The building is a large, two-story structure with a prominent sign on the front. It is surrounded by a well-kept lawn and a few trees. The building appears to be a modern industrial or commercial structure for the time.



RESIDENCE OF A. C. BIRD, SHERMAN, S. D.



NEW & EXTENSIVE MERCHANTS' STORE

**WILL GOVERN STOUT FALLS**  
 represents the best life insurance companies

The first thing that you should do when you start a business is to get a good name for it. The name should be simple, easy to remember, and distinctive. It should also be something that you can build a reputation for. A good name is the foundation of a successful business.

**NOTICE**  
 In order to reduce the price of our goods, we have decided to sell our goods at a discount. This is a rare opportunity for our customers to get the best value for their money. We hope you will take advantage of this offer.

**WALTER SIMONS GARAGE**  
 Sherman, S. D.

## LUMBER

For Everybody  
 And For  
 All Purposes

It is rightly good lumber. It will never be cheaper than now.

Lath, Shingles, Lime, Cement, Tiling, Cement Blocks, Sash, Doors, Blinds, Glass, Etc.

**LOONAN LUMBER COMPANY**  
 R. E. Brennan, Manager

Sherman, S. D.

New creation with the finest motor is offered by the addition of new features and wire agents. Over 100,000 parts are in stock. Call on us for a price list. We will be glad to give you a list of the latest models, quality and general popularity of the various cars, and the latest improvements.

Walter Simons Garage  
 Sherman, S. D.

## "That is My Bank"

It has what you need. It has what you want. It has what you need to know.

It has the best of everything. It has the best of everything. It has the best of everything. It has the best of everything.

**SHERMAN STATE BANK**  
 SHERMAN, SOUTH DAKOTA

# Fires, Rail Decline Shrink Sherman

BY BOB RENSCHAW  
Argus-Leader  
Reporter-Photographer

SHERMAN, S.D. — Combined effects of declining farm population, better transportation and its location off major-traveled tourist routes have reduced this once-thriving community to a shadow of its stature during the early part of the century.

Only businesses now active in town are a grain elevator, service station, coffee shop, bulk oil business, feeder pig dealer and seed corn supplier. A series of fires, one of which took out a block of buildings along the west side of Main Street, hastened the decline of business activity.

At one time the town offered 50 acres of two banks, five grain elevators, a lumber yard, three garages, a drug store, two barber shops, a blacksmith shop, three general stores, a harness shop, theater, and three mail routes originated here. A dance hall above one of the garages regularly featured music by the Lawrence Welk orchestra and other well-known groups in the area.

Sherman is located along the eastern edge of Minnehaha County beside Split Rock Creek. Only highway through town is County Highway 11 which winds from Garrettsen to the southwest and continues to Jasper to the northeast.

Because no major highway passes through town, one of Sherman's biggest blows was loss of passenger service on the Great Northern Railroad. Sherman is on the main line between Sioux City and Willmar, Minn.

Trade with farmers in the rich agricultural community has always been the mainstay of Sherman businessmen. As farms began getting larger, fewer farmers were left and those who remained found it increasingly easier to travel to larger trad-

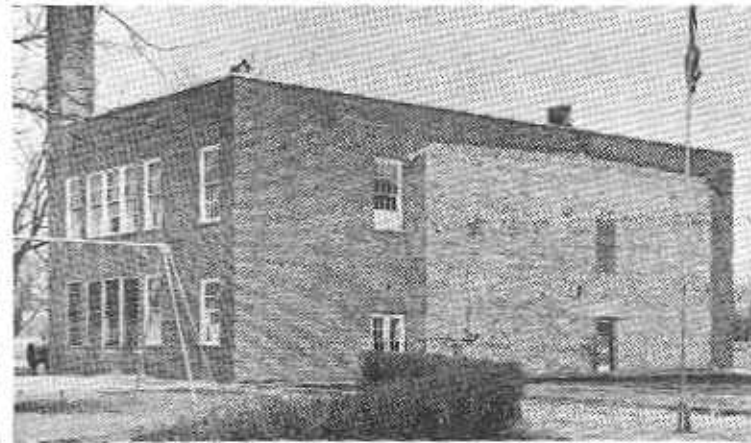


Mrs. Sigrid Grange

Mayor Carl N. Johnson



SHERMAN'S MAIN STREET, with several empty buildings, displays only a fraction of the business activity that it did at the turn of the century.



FOUR TEACHERS instruct two sections each of third and fourth grades in the Sherman school house. Since 1963 Sherman has been a part of the school district containing Garrettsen and surrounding area.

a city garage which also houses a city maintainer and other equipment. Enough hose is on hand to reach from the city well to any location in town and a modern pumper provides needed pressure.

Two brothers who were graduated from Sherman High School have gone on to careers in the nation's capital. Lester V. Johnson, an architect and engineer, worked on and was commandant of the Pentagon for several years after it was completed. Walter H. Johnson is a chemist with the Bureau of Standards and has been active in setting up laboratories in a new building for use by the agency.

Doors of Sherman High School were closed during the early '60s and students began attending at Garrettsen on a tuition basis. Two teachers taught the eight-grade elementary school until the district was reorganized with the Garrettsen district in 1962.

Since that time two sections each of third and fourth grades have continued to attend in the Sherman school. The building was remodeled to provide four classrooms and a hot-lunch kitchen. Use of the old gymnasium makes it possible to include a physical education program and provides a place for children to play during recesses when the weather is inclement.

Mrs. Sigrid Grange, one of four teachers in the school last year, pointed out that Sherman had a taste of school district reorganization many years before emphasis was being put upon it. She recalled that there were two rural schools, one a mile south and the other the same distance south of town. These two districts combined with a third, moved two school-buses into Sherman and began transporting students with buses and buggies.

ing centers as highways were im-

proved. There has been no new home-

building in Sherman during the past 10 years. Mayor Carl N. Johnson recalled that 17 houses have been moved out of town since he arrived in 1936. One place where an increase has been noticed in recent years is membership of the town's only church — First Lutheran Church.

Mayor Johnson believes the only hope for rejuvenation of the town is to induce industry to locate there. There are no municipal sewage disposal or water supply facilities, but the-

mayor is certain that if an in-

vestor decided to come in, re-

sidents would vote in favor of

the town is also ideally situated

for efficient disposal of sewage.

To illustrate that water is plentiful, the mayor said the fire truck can pump with a 2-inch line from the city well for 2 1/2 hours before the water level is drawn down.

Even with low taxes, some improvements have been made, including installation of some new sidewalks and purchasing a new garage and fire-fighting equipment. Fire protection is provided by a 20-member well-equipped volunteer fire department.

Two fire trucks are kept in-



"Snick" Olson—The Harvey Koch's beloved hired man for 28 years.

## Koch Family's Egg Production Publicized

A very interesting article regarding the chicken business on the Harvey Koch farm three miles north of Garretson appeared in a recent issue of *The Farmer*, St. Paul.

The article tells how an unused dairy barn was converted for use for the chicken business, making space for 4,000 layers where conventional plans would accommodate only 1,500. "Quarters are crowded," the article says, "but the hens don't seem to mind. They have been laying about 3,000 eggs a day, a production level of 80%."

Mrs. Koch runs the business, and she and seven children, ranging in age from four to 17 do all the daily chicken chores.

The laying flock is divided into four groups of 1,000 birds each. Two of the pens are on the ground floor and two on the second floor. Mr. Koch is planning to add a third story to house another 2,000 birds the coming spring. One thousand replacement pullets are brooded at a time in a separate house, to replace layers which taper off.

Mrs. Koch is qualified for a dealer's and egg-candler's license, and has developed a private market for quality eggs. Eggs are gathered twice daily, and are cleaned, packaged and stored in a cooler before marketing.

The article is most interesting, and contains pictures of Mrs. Koch and the children and some of the operations.



# Sherman Post Office Celebrates 100th Year

The Sherman Post Office will be celebrating its 100th Birthday on Tuesday, March 22, 1988. The occasion will be celebrated with birthday cake and coffee being served that day in the Post Office. Hours are from 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

The Sherman Post Office began service on March 22, 1888 in the Berg & Estensens Store. Later it was located in a building on the east side on Main Street and some years later in the old bank building until moving to its present site.

In March of 1986, the Postal Department erected a new modular office in Sherman. Marge Wick is the Postmaster and has had that position since 1982. Prior to that, she was Officer In Charge for five years. The Post Office serves 30 town residences. The 160 rural delivery customers are served from the Garretson office.



Gilbert Krings, Garretson, drives a horse-drawn chemical unit from the Sherman Fire Department in a parade of firefighting equipment June 9, 1984, in downtown Sioux Falls. Krings said the unit is about 75 years old.



Centennials, Centennials, Centennials—  
We are sick and tired of hearing about Centennials!  
Hey Friends, the book is run, the work is done!  
From here on in, it's fun, fun, fun!

Come now and enjoy the Centennial at Sherman,  
SD—July 15, 16, 17, 1988

See you there, the Centennial Book Committee.

Carol, Edna, and Martha

We also want to thank Mary Ellen for her help in  
gathering ads for the Sherman Centennial Book.