



E.W. Hyde,
founder of Almont

We dedicate this book to the founders of our town and to the pioneering forefathers who so courageously settled this area. In compiling this book we more fully realize the hardships and inconveniences endured. Our present community has been made possible because of their brave efforts and noble sacrifices.





Claude Ritz
Mayor

To preserve the history of our pioneers and the many events of our community for future generations, we have strived to gather information, both written and oral, from those who can still remember the early life of our settlers, and also old pictures and newspaper articles from family albums and scrapbooks.

Working on histories has brought back many memories of loved ones and a new appreciation of the hardships they endured to make this community the place it is today.

We honor and admire these people of many nationalities, for the love they had for their land, families, home, neighbors and God. Thus, we are preserving the history of our pioneers with a written record of their activities ... ours is a great heritage of which we have just cause to be proud.

Please excuse errors and omissions. In some cases, material was condensed to save space and also to avoid repetition.

Almont History Book Committee

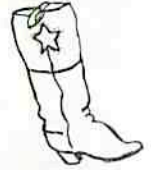


ALMONT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE

L to R - Standing: Harvey Thorson, Sig Peterson, Joel Johnson.
Front: Mrs. Edith Skjolsvik, Mrs. Sig Peterson, Mrs. Roman Peterson.



HISTORY OF ALMONT



1906



Hoisting the U.S. flag at the Almont Townsite. L to R: Templeton, Hyde, Hurley and Burt.

History of this area dates back to the Louisiana Purchase of 1806, however, the developmental history of this specific area, though not recorded, begins much earlier - possibly with the initial immigration of the Mandan Indians to this area for permanent habitation in the 1300's. As we visualize these earliest inhabitants, roaming through and hunting the ground west of the Missouri River, one cannot help but contemplate on what might have been their names for this fertile valley, undoubtedly teeming with wild game. We must assume they were familiar with the area, as the stream forming the valley was the first branch off what had to be one of their primary trails ... the Heart River.

It was the Northern Pacific Railroad builders, moving westward from Bismarck and the flatter land to the east, in the years following 1878, who get credit for the name which graces the cover of this 'look back' in local history.

In the days of single-track railroads, it was imperative that side-tracks be established every few miles in order that trains moving in opposite directions could pass, and so that fast trains could move ahead of slower moving freights. These sidings were usually named so that dispatchers could easily and clearly give instructions to the train crews. Through planning or chance, one of these sidings was constructed just west of the railroad's westward turn into the valley of the Big Muddy Creek.

It is likely that at the time of construction of the siding, or shortly thereafter, someone on the construction crew, or on the follow-up inspection party, had a French background. He was possibly impressed with the size of the hill through which the cut had been made to make the turn in the valley, and also with the other hills and buttes in the immediate valley, and decided a description of the region would be an apt name for the siding. The French words, Alta (high) mont (hill), became official for the railroad siding ... hence, ALMONT.



Chase Elevator - First elevator in Almont

Almont remained just a railroad side-track from that time until July 4, 1906, when a young man with visions for the future, founded a town on the prairie,



Almont about 1906

beside the siding called Almont. Eber W. Hyde of Rauville, SD, had traveled the Northern Pacific Railroad as far west as Glen Ullin looking for a likely site to establish a lumberyard and elevator to serve people moving to the "New West." Although he had initially decided on a location in Sims, lots were not available in that community, and this promoted Mr. Hyde and his partner, J.W. Burt, to look elsewhere. They decided on the next siding west of Sims ... Almont.

On July 4, 1906, the site was surveyed by county surveyor H.H. Harmon, Mr. Hyde and A.O. Young, brother-in-law of D.C. Filkins, owner of the land. The town was laid out according to the railroad, near the big V, with streets running diagonal to section lines. It took all day to survey the nine blocks of the original townsite. Almont, the town, was begun!

By July 15 several cars of lumber had been moved from the right-of-way at Sims to the Almont siding and were unloaded there. On July 15 the American flag was hoisted on the townsite to indicate a town had been started.

An elevator with a capacity of 40,000 bushels of grain, and a hotel were among the first buildings built. In five weeks a pasture had been changed to a town and five businesses were already in operation — C.H. Chase Lumber and Elevator, Chalmer's Hotel, DeVaul's Store and Sherwood Restaurant.

On August 12 townspeople took time out to cele-

brate the beginning of their new town. People arrived from all directions to take part in the activities. About 300 persons attended a church service held in the Chase Lumberyard shed, which was the first religious service held in the new town. After a picnic dinner, the crowd enjoyed a concert by the Bohemian band. A baseball game between Sims and Almont proved to be the highlight of the day. The Sims team was already recognized as an outstanding team and looked good in new red uniforms. The Almont team was made up of men living near Almont or connected with the building of the town, and they played in overalls! The score was 2 to 2 at the close of the 9th inning ... then Almont made a score in the 10th and won the game!

Almont was one of the busiest places in Morton County that fall. Good crops of flax and potatoes were raised all through the country and wheat averaged 18 bushels per acre. The big difficulty was getting the grain to market. Farmers from as far away as South Dakota were hauling grain to Almont (with team and wagon). Bridges were needed and neither the county or township board would build any, so Almont built two of their own. Ties were used for the foundation and were covered with 8 x 10 x 40 ft. timbers with planks laid crosswise. At one bridge the wagon wheels cut the approaches so badly that even the snatch team could not help them through.



First church service in Almont - August 12, 1906

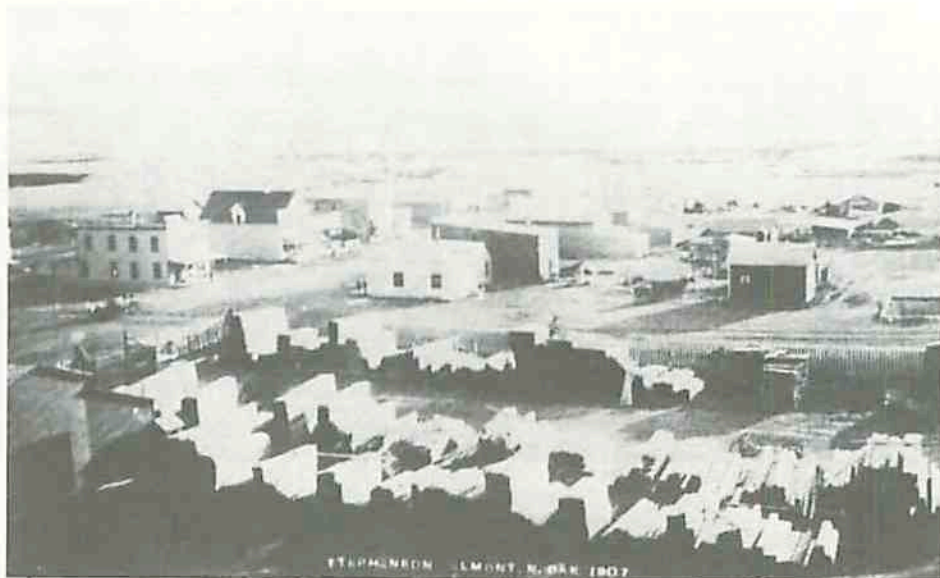
On August 16, 1906, application was made to F.H. Hitchcock, Assistant Postmaster General, for a postoffice at Almont. The application was granted and E.E. Templeton was appointed postmaster to serve a population of 300, including the rural area.

1907

C.C. Atkinson, NRR brakeman and a great booster for Almont, purchased land adjoining the town site in June and had it surveyed into a second addition, naming it the Atkinson Addition. Filkins Addition was the first addition.

Mrs. E.W. Hyde organized a Sunday School in April, with John Frey as assistant superintendent and Ruth Sherwood as secretary-treasurer. Their first meeting place was Attorney Goff's office and they later met in community halls and the school. For almost 10 years this was the only regular religious service in the community.

On August 12 and 13, Almont observed its first anniversary and several hundred people came to enjoy the two-day celebration. The Valley Forge Brass Band entertained with some lively music; Simon Pederson gave an address. In the afternoon, Almont's baseball team defeated Carson 7 to 3, followed by horse and foot races and a dance in the evening. Activities the second day were much the same as the first, with an oratory by Attorney James Campbell of Mandan. The ballgame was a disappointment, however, as Almont lost to Sims 3 to 2.



Valley Forge Brass Band played at Almont's first anniversary celebration.

In existence for 13 months, Almont now had 22 business concerns, namely: two banks - First State Bank with C.F. Peterson of New Salem as president and John Bondus as cashier; Farmers State Bank

with E.W. Olson as president and N.E. Becklund as cashier; (capital, \$10,000 each) ... two elevators - The Chase Co. with E.W. Hyde as manager and the Lyons Co. with P.A. Caldwell as manager ... three stores - Fred Holritz and Son, C.A. Knutson and Co., and John Frey Store, each carrying a complete line of dry goods, groceries, etc. ... one hardware store - J.P. Casserly, proprietor ... three lumberyards - Heart River Lumber, Clarence Berglund, manager; Mandan Mercantile Co., Henry Lechteuger, manager; and C.W. Chase and Co., E.W. Hyde, manager ... one implement store - Jens Nelson and Sons ... two hotels - Almont Hotel, J.R. Sherwood, prop.; Tischler Hotel, John Tischler, prop. ... one restaurant - James Bateman, prop. ... one livery stable and feed barn with Ben Bird and Connelly, owners (they employed four men and had eight teams and also did draying and grading) ... two meat markets - A.N. Pelette and C.H. Larson ... David Peterson, a confectionery store and J.R. Thompson, a blacksmith shop ... one drugstore ... one barber, Frank X. Todt ... a medical doctor, Dr. Barton and a lawyer named Hiram S. Goff. The Almont Advertiser, with Jasper A. Smith as editor, kept



Center section, west side of Main Street.



East side of Main Street.

everyone posted on the doings of the town.

A new hall 24 x 60 was built this year and a school which would employ two teachers. The two-story depot under construction was said to be the finest between Mandan and Dickinson.

E.E. Templeton was the Almont representative for the Lutheran Colonization Co., one of the strongest of its kind and was engaged in settling vacant lands in the country.

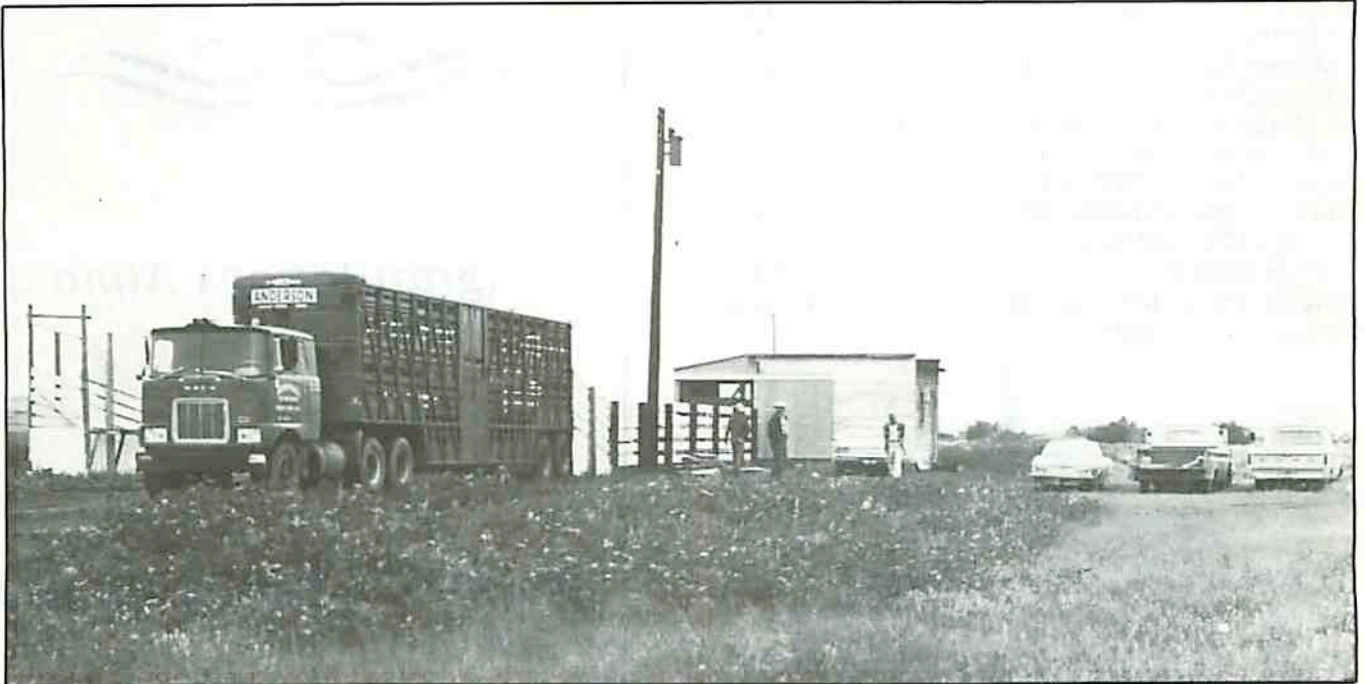
The great coal deposits near Almont were expected to boom the town in the near future.

Watch Almont Grow!

If you are interested in the growth of this young city which is the largest in the state for its size, with a fine
 water supply and a fine harbor, and a fine location for the great future of the state, you will find it
 interesting to know that the city of Almont is now being developed by the Almont Colonization Co. and that the
 company is now offering lots of land for sale at a low price. Apply at once for your
 information to the office of the Almont Colonization Co. in the city of Almont, N. D. You will soon see
 that the city of Almont is the place to live in.

C. C. ATKINSON
 Mandan North Dakota

Advertisement in Mandan Pioneer - 1907.



Congratulations from
ALMONT WEIGHING ASSOCIATION



STREET VIEW ALMONT N.D.



Almont - 1908

By 1908 the townspeople realized they should have some kind of civic organization for the betterment of the community. The men in town met and the Almont Commercial Club was organized. Their first projects were a city well and a fire engine.

On March 20, 1908, the first election was held to decide whether or not to build a jail ... it carried by a large majority. The first public market day was held on April 4 ... the first baseball team was organized in April, with C.C. Johnson as manager and Adolph Nelson as captain ... the Lutheran Colonization Co. telephone line to the Heart River was repaired and service was re-established.




Almont Creamery, 1 mile south of Almont. Louis Larson, butter maker; Pete Hoovestol, pickup cream service; Joe or Ted Hoovestol with their dad.


The Almont Creamery Association was incorporated in April 1908 with the ice house already completed. The creamery was completed in May; officers were Hogan Anderson, president; B. Schmitz, vice president; E.M. Willman, secretary; N.E. Becklund, treasurer; directors were Christ Kaelberer, Rickart Olson and J. Held. The creamery opened for business June 19.




More buildings were erected this year — O.B. Adams built a two-story hotel (Almont now had three hotels); W. Hurley erected a place of business on Main Street and Angus Gillis moved to Almont from New Salem and built a blacksmith shop ... Almont is growing!

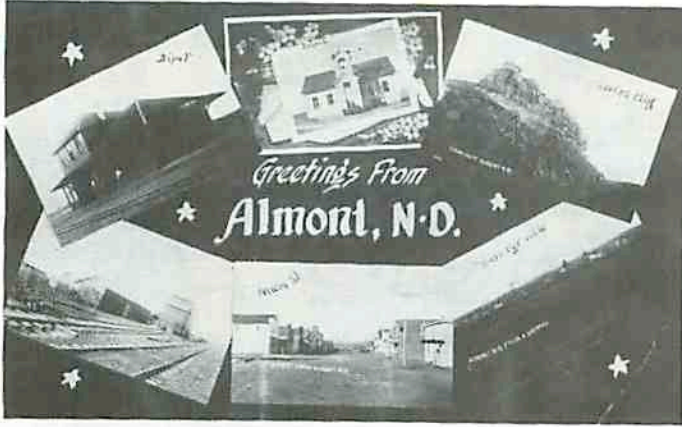


Congratulations Almont



Norman & Nettie Hansen





Jim Bateman opened a new restaurant on March 5 named the Red Star. The Heart River Lumber Co. sold their business to C.H. Chase Lumber and to Mandan Mercantile Co., each taking half of the stock.

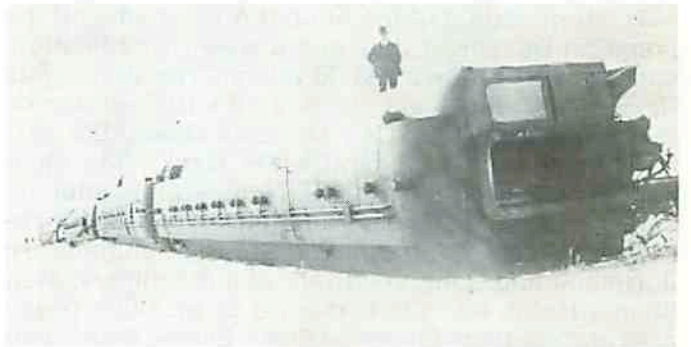
Almont really boomed during the summer of 1909 when the N.P.R.R. south branch was being built. All building material, graders, horses and men used for

building the line were unloaded by rail at Almont. Oldtimers recall that 500 mules were unloaded at Almont one day and taken to Carson, with a crew of black men to care for them. Stores, hotels, boarding houses did a big business with the influx of laborers. Many of the local farmers got work also. Law and order in Almont was getting to be too much for Deputy Sheriff Ben Bird, so a town marshal was appointed to assist him and paid \$65.00 a month.

1910



Almont - 1910



Train wreck eight miles east of Almont - January 1910 - 40 injured, including some Almont people.

Honorable Board of Township Supervisors,
Sims, Township, Morton County, North Dakota.

The undersigned citizens of the unorganized, platted town of Almont, hereby petition the Honorable board of township Supervisors to appoint a Marshall to serve as night watchman in above named unorganized town and perform such other duties as are required by law of such officer.

_____	J. R. Anderson
_____	Samuel Brad
_____	A. L. Wright
Anderson	David Pederson
W. Becklund	N. P. Wilson
J. W. Hawley	B. C. Bird
John May	H. C. Anderson
J. C. Smith	Frank Tott
C. A. Anderson	Louis Larson
A. Kesterson	J. Wilson
E. A. Holm	
Fred Holm	
H. C. Smith	
Johann Fischer	
Benj. Haisch	
C. E. Hall	
J. W. Smith	
H. P. Schilling	
M. A. Smith	
Wm. Hoff	
James M. Johnson	



The night of June 1 was a critical setback for Almont. Fire destroyed both elevators, the Chase Lumberyard and Adams big red barn. It was a close call for the entire town as burning shingles were flying everywhere and many small fires were started on roofs and sidewalks. Children were taken to the schoolhouse for protection and safekeeping. The



Destruction of fire on June 1, 1910.

fire was thought to have started by a passing train emptying its fire box - with the wind blowing sparks toward the elevator. The Glen Ullin fire department came after seeing the red sky to the east, but were too late to help and Almont had no firefighting equipment. The burning elevators were filled with last year's bumper crop. Afterwards burned wheat was sold for \$10.00 a double wagonbox load. Both elevators were rebuilt again. Almont was determined to survive!

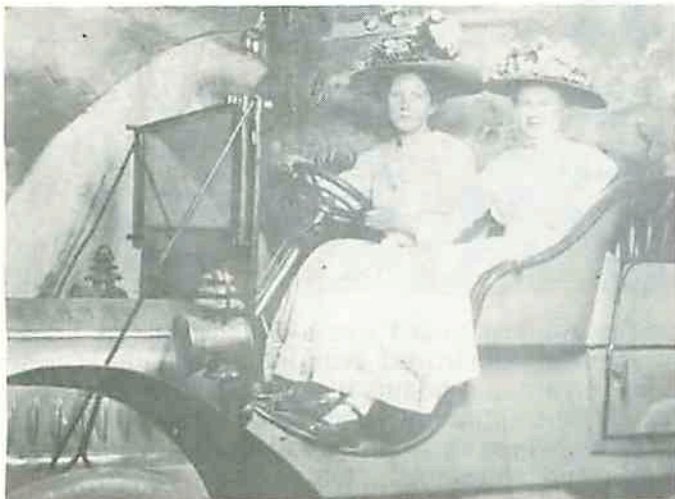
The first edition of the Almont Arena came off the press on December 2. It was a weekly publication; subscription rate was \$1.50 a year. The editor was Ray Lindner. Ads were placed in the first edition by C.H. Chase Lumber Co.; Mandan Mercantile Co.; Farmers State Bank; First State Bank; City Meat Market, J.N. Sharff, mgr.; E.E. Templeton, realtor, insurance, postmaster and auctioneer; Almont Pharmacy, J.W. Hurley, prop.; P.L. Stanton, pharmacist; J. Nelson and Sons, hardware and machinery; Merchants Hotel, A.L. Clark, mgr.; G.G. St. Clair, physician and surgeon; Ellingson Store; Livery, Stable and Stage Lines, Ben Bird, prop.; Thomas Miller, blacksmithing and horse shoeing; Fred Holritz and Sons, general merchandise; C.A. Knutson, dry goods, groceries and hardware; August Timmerman, groceries and dry goods; Palace Cafe; G.G. Chamberlain, blacksmith; Frank X. Todt, barber; and J.R. Sherwood, hardware.



These stores also perished in the fire of 1910.



John Nelson & Sons Implement Co.



Florence Casserly (steering the car) and a friend.

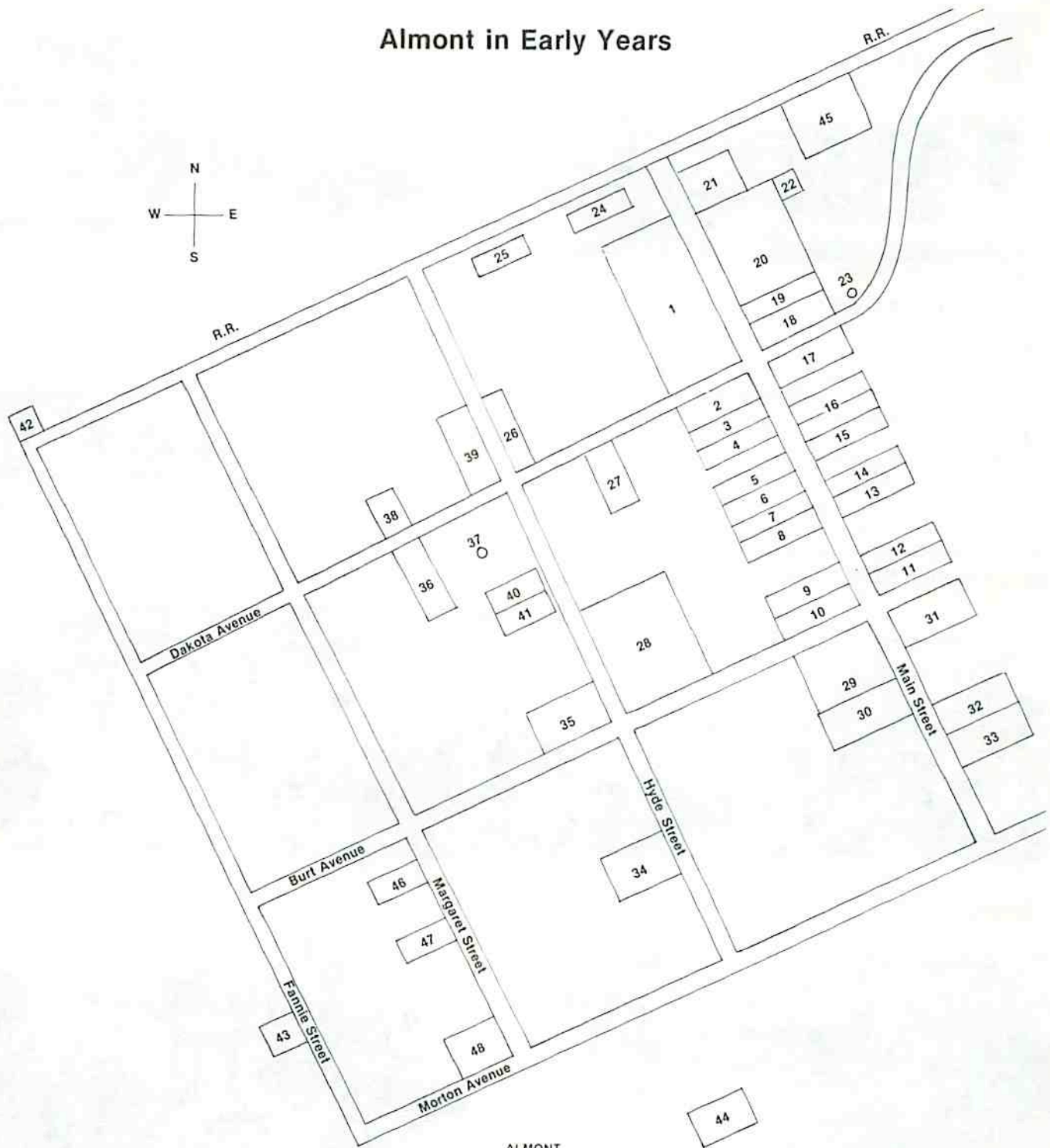
*Congratulations and Best Wishes
from the*

Diamond Lazy D Ranch



Levi "Bud", Eva and Jim Dawson
Almont, ND 58520

Almont in Early Years

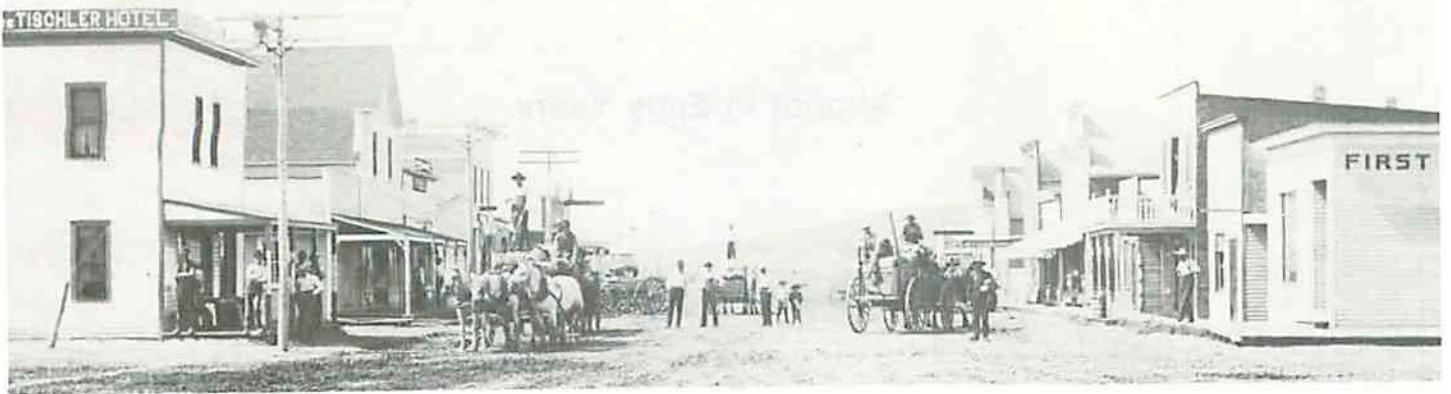


ALMONT

- 1. Chase Lumber Company
- 2. First State Bank
- 3. Attorney Goff
- 4. Sherwood Hotel
- 5. Todt Barber Shop
- 6. Frey Grocery
- 7. Davenport Brothers Drug
- 8. Casserly Hardware
- 9. Bateman Cafe
- 10. Hurley Pharmacy
- 11. Pederson Confectionery
- 12. Dance Hall
- 13. Printing Office
- 14. Farmers State Bank
- 15. Knutson General Merchandise
- 16. Holritz General Merchandise

- 17. Tischler Hotel
- 18. Bird Pool Hall and Cafe
- 19. John Scharff Meat Market
- 20. Mandan Mercantile Lumber Co.
- 21. Farmers Co-op Dance Hall
- 22. City Hall
- 23. City Well
- 24. Chase Elevator Co.
- 25. Occident Elevator Co.
- 26. Graham Cigar Factory
- 27. Adams Hotel
- 28. Heart River Lumber Co.
- 29. Jens Nelson and Sons Hardware
- 30. Templeton Real Estate and Post Office
- 31. McDugall Blacksmith
- 32. Louzon Hat and Novelty

- 33. Meat Market
- 34. Jens Nelson Residence
- 35. Hyde Residence
- 36. Livery Barn
- 37. Well
- 38. Adams Feed Barn
- 39. Gillis Blacksmith Shop
- 40. Ben Bird Residence
- 41. Sherwood Residence
- 42. NPRR Depot
- 43. Public School
- 44. Templeton Residence
- 45. Stockyards
- 46. Gunvaldson Residence
- 47. Stoeckel Residence
- 48. G. H. Anderson Residence



1911

In May a millinery store was opened by Mrs. Nellie Lauzon ... now the ladies could buy their hats ready-made or have them made-to-order.

G.H. Anderson was appointed U.S. Commissioner for the Bismarck Land Office which made it more convenient for the homesteaders to make final proof of claim.

There was excitement in Almont the day 1500 head of cattle were driven through Almont as they were being moved from the Knife River to the Standing Rock Reservation.

An important business transaction took place this year ... the First State Bank and the Farmers State

Bank were consolidated in July and business was continued in the Farmers State Bank Building.

A new physician, Dr. W.T. Cain, set up practice in Almont and also bought the Almont Pharmacy, assuring residents that they would get the best of medical treatment.



Dr. Cain had office above store.

Almont coal was gaining in demand and in December the Knutson Coal Mine was shipping about 12 cars of coal a week.



Distributing mail in Almont P.O. are Lena Pederson, Emilie Pederson, Ole Ellingson.





COAL TRIAL - January 21, 1911
 Front: Nels Jacobsen, Byron DeLange, August Timmerman, Tinius Ramsland, Judge Jake Johnson, Theodore Larson. Center: Amund Johnson, Hogan Anderson, Ben S. Olson, Jake Scharff, Rickart Olson, John Scharff. Back: Otto Christianson, E.E. Erb, Carl Thor, Rudolph Feland, John DeLange, Ben Bird, Norman DeLange, Jonathan Pederson, Henry Stevens.

The government contest case against Tinius Ramsland came up for hearing in Mandan in January and testimony was taken from a number of witnesses in the vicinity. As the government reserved the mineral rights on all homesteads, they charged Tinius with selling government coal. He was acquitted because he did not sell the coal ... he had just charged \$1 a ton for his labor and the cost of the dynamite. The coal was still free. However, he was fined \$50 or 5¢ a ton for what coal he had taken out. This vein of coal was 4½ to 6 feet thick and judged by coal men from St. Paul to be the best lignite produced in the state. Since coal rights for 40 acres could be bought for \$240., Tinius did this, but the money was later refunded when the government relinquished mineral rights to homesteaders.



Morton James



W.W. Bond

Lawrence Nelson opened a poolroom in the building south of the postoffice. The Almont Arena was cut to four pages; the subscription rate now only \$1 per year.



Grace (Jacobsen) Nelson at her homestead shack - 1912.

Orville A. Schulz

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Lock Drawer 358 • 322 Main Avenue

New Salem, ND 58563

Telephone: 843-7550



The Mandan Transfer Co. grading the Almont streets.

The Mandan Transfer Co. graded the Almont Streets in May.



A fire on August 2 threatened to wipe Almont off the map. It started in the barn behind the Merchant's Hotel and spread to the hotel and Holritz store. Townspeople, though scorched by the flames, fought until the fire was under control. The women and girls aided in carrying water. Kelsven, Templeton and

Becklund were treated for burns by Dr. O.C. Gaebe of New Salem, who had begun practice there in 1911.

There were a few changes again this year. E.E. Templeton resigned as postmaster and joined the firm of Jens Nelson and Sons in July and the store's name was changed to Nelson-Templeton Implement Co. August Timmerman installed a wagon scale in front of his store on Main Street which had been moved from the Timmerman Store in Sims.

There was some excitement in town when the local Blind Pig, operated by Charles Ellsworth, was raided by County Sheriff Chas. McDonald.

Jens Nelson drove home a new Metz car from Dickinson in June and H.G. Timpe bought a new Minneapolis separator for threshing grain.



Note board crosswalks

Board pedestrian crosswalks were installed across Main Street, which helped the ladies cross the street without getting the hems of their dresses muddy.

The need for a recreation facility was realized and a tennis court was put up for the enjoyment of the younger set.

Alfalfa, Hay and Seed

North Dakota has already gained a place for herself in the matter of Alfalfa seed production, which brings a good price in comparison with the southern grown seed. In nearly all cases a crop of hay is removed with the first cutting and this hay is sufficient in value to pay the expenses of the field for the year; the seed crop therefore is a net gain.

Knute Stanger of Taylor reports a net income from a field of 60 acres of \$33.75 per acre and M. C. McCaffery of Midway reports a net profit of \$62.00 per acre. The seed averaged a little better than two bushels per acre. S. D. Gregg of Gladstone says his alfalfa netted him \$37.00 per acre for hay. George Kline of Mott, reports that his field netted him \$35.50 for hay per acre. R. J. Lynnea of Fessenden reports an income of \$31.50 per acre for hay. Thomas Panton of Ayr reports \$18.50 per acre and L. W. Beckwith of Oakes reports \$25.00 per acre.

Two hundred farmers' institutes were held during the past fall and winter with an aggregate attendance of 18,000.

FOR INFORMATION WRITE---

Western Dakota Land & Loan Co.
ALMONT, N. DAK.

We offer for sale both wild and improved farm lands.



Horse sale at Bluff Dale Stock Farm.

Horses played a very important role for the early settler and were much in demand. On March 11, 40 horses and two Percheron stallions were sold at a horse auction at Bluff Dale Stock Farm, with E.E. Erb as auctioneer.



E.W. Hyde



BIG HORSE SALE!

At Bluff Dale Farm

On section 14-138-86, three miles south of Almont, North Dakota, on

MARCH 11TH 1913

Jonathon Pederson
horses 40 horses

Consisting of light and heavy brood mares, draft mares and geldings, light driving mares and geldings, also a few not broken to harness.

**Two Percheron Stallions,
 1 yr old Durham bull and a
 few head of cattle.**

SALE BEGINS AT 10:00 O'CLOCK, SHARP.

BIG FREE LUNCH AT NOON

TERMS: All sums of \$10.00 cash; on all sums over \$10.00, Time will be given on bankable paper bearing 12 per cent interest and payable Nov. 1st, 1913. Liberal discount for all cash.

Joe Pederson, Owner

E. E. Erb, Auctioneer.

G. H. Anderson, Clerk.

Bernard L. Ringham



**RINGHAM INSURANCE
 AND REAL ESTATE**

410 Thayer Avenue, Bismarck, ND

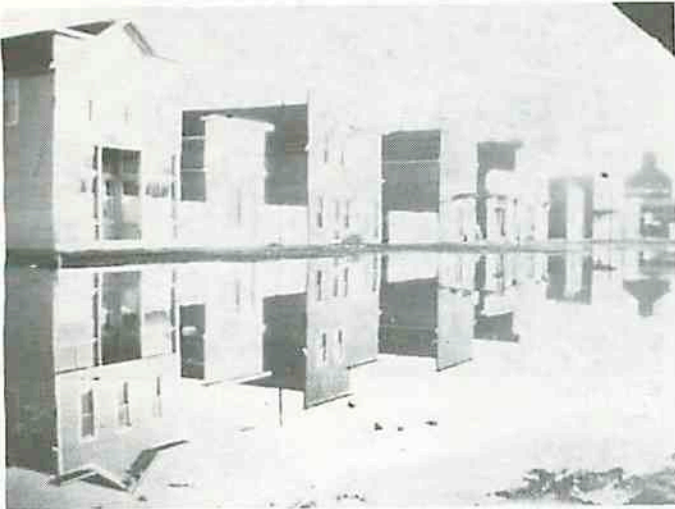
Business: 223-1912

Res.: 223-6743

*All Lines of Insurance
 Real Estate - Homes and Farms*

1914

The postoffice was moved to the C.A. Knutson store after Mr. Knutson was appointed postmaster in December 1913.



Streets under water.



Horse-drawn manure spreader served as transportation.



Jonathan Pederson

All railroad and mail service was cut off for four days following a heavy rain on July 3 which washed out more than eight miles of tracks from the swollen Sweetbriar and Curlew Creeks. Water rose to a depth of six feet over two grades east of Almont; some farmers had to seek higher ground and a part of Almont was inundated.



Hauling coal in 1914.



A Sunday in August, 1914, at Bluff Dale Stock Ranch.

The final issue of the Almont Arena was published June 19, 1914. The New Salem Journal bought some of the equipment and agreed to publish all Almont happenings from now on.

Congratulations Almont

D.L. Moum, DDS

Thomas Lengowski, DDS

John M. Grunseth, DDS

Mandan, ND



Day after the fire of 1915.

Fire raged in Almont again this year on February 25 destroying the Timmerman Store, Davenport Drug Store, Frank Todt Barber Shop and Casserly Hardware Store. Almont's firemen were assisted by fire fighters from New Salem who came on Train #1, but the buildings could not be saved. Wells were pumped dry, but a bucket brigade from the creek checked the spreading to other buildings.



Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Pederson

Farmers Union Locker Association

Richard Cole, Manager

Groceries

Lockers

Clothing

Slaughtering

Meat Processing

New Salem, ND 58563

Groceries: 843-7511

Plant: 843-8277

Another disaster befell the Almont area late one afternoon in July when a hailstorm destroyed thousands of acres of the most promising crops ever grown in the area. The 5-mile wide strip of hail started just west of New Salem city limits and headed westward, then south down the Muddy and Heart Valleys, leaving total destruction in it's path. Many farmers working in the fields with their teams narrowly escaped death while unhitching their teams from mowers and rakes. Horses were badly injured from the large clinker-shaped hailstones, and small pigs, chickens, turkeys and wild game were found crippled or dead. A high wind accompanied the storm which moved buildings and damaged others. Trees were completely stripped. The destruction by the storm was a severe setback to farmers who were expecting 30-bushel to the acre wheat.

Changes took place in Almont again this year. J.R. Sherwood traded his hotel to E.E. Erb for his farm; H. Mitzman of Worms, ND, opened a store in the old Hurley Drug Store building and S. Reinholdson set up a jewelry shop in the Almont Arena building. G. Gunvoldson arrived in March from Minnesota to open a meat market and Tenius Ramsland is the new proprietor of the Merchant's Hotel.





First man unknown, Martin Peterson, Cornelius Knutson, Lawrence Nelson, Ben Bird.

1916



Almont celebrated its 10th anniversary on July 4. The New Salem band provided music for the celebration, which was termed a success in every way. There was an estimated crowd of 2,000 with 200 automobiles.

Industry came to Almont this year. A cigar factory, operated by George Graham, began in June and put out more cigars than any other factory in North Dakota. "Miko" cigars were in such demand that the factory was running 300,000 behind on orders.

The NPRR put up a new stockyard with a capacity of 30 carloads of stock. Until now, cattle had been shipped from Sims.

School opened in September with Mrs. G.H. Anderson as principal and Naomi Anderson of Brisbane in charge of the primary department. Enrollment was 70.

Chamberlain bought the Timmerman Lumber sheds to store buggies and wagons and Louisa Wright sold her entire stock of hats, dresses, rugs and notions.

Women's Lib was in evidence in 1916 when a new physician, Dr. Julia Keats, began her practice in Almont. She was also a druggist.

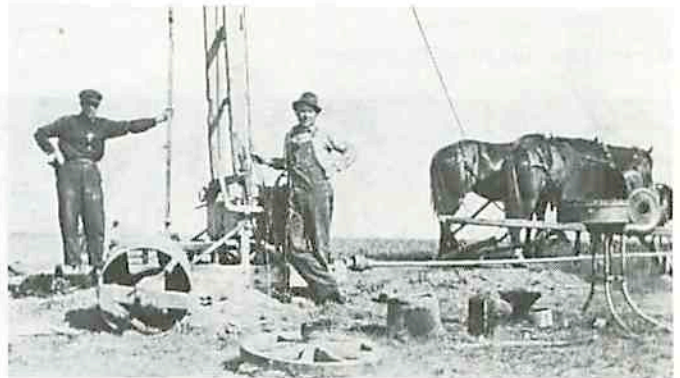
1916 was the year Morton County was divided by an election, forming two counties: Morton and Grant.



George Chamberlain shoeing a mule.



Jacob Olson home



Well drilling - Otto and Martin Olson



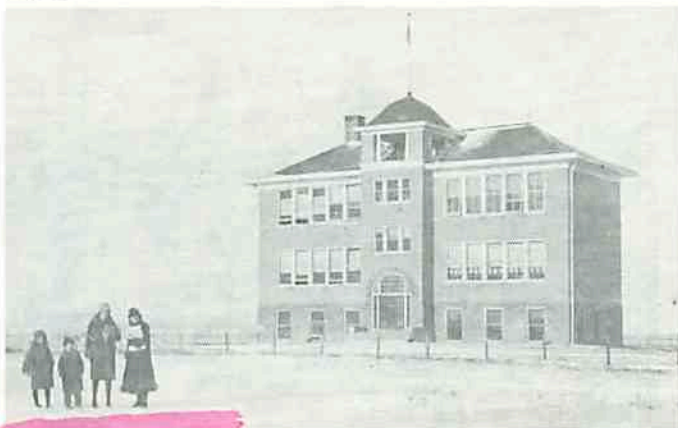
With Cordial
Christmas and
New Year
GREETINGS
and in
Appreciation
of your
Good Will

Farmers State Bank
Almont, N. Dak.



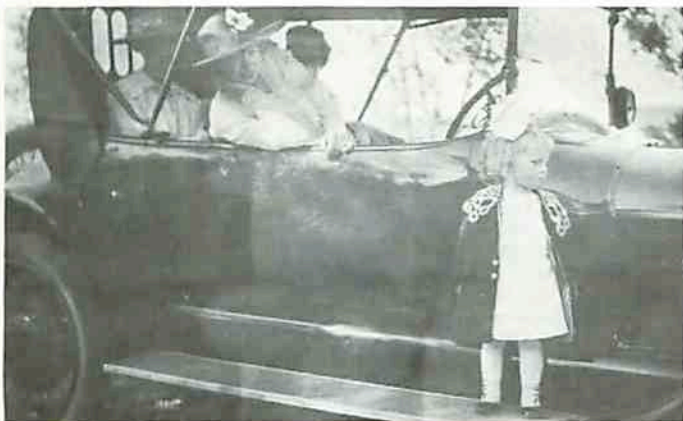
Picture of Almont shown on pages 19, 20 and 21 was taken in February, 1920.

1917



The new school

The Almont Commercial Club appointed a committee to circulate a petition for a new school, sufficient in size for the community. A special election was held March 31 and the vote for a new school was passed. The new school was ready for occupancy the following year with 20 freshmen enrolled as the first high school students. The new school was dedicated the following April.



An outing in N.E. Becklund's new car. Mrs. G.H. Anderson, Beatrice Williams and Marjorie Nelson.

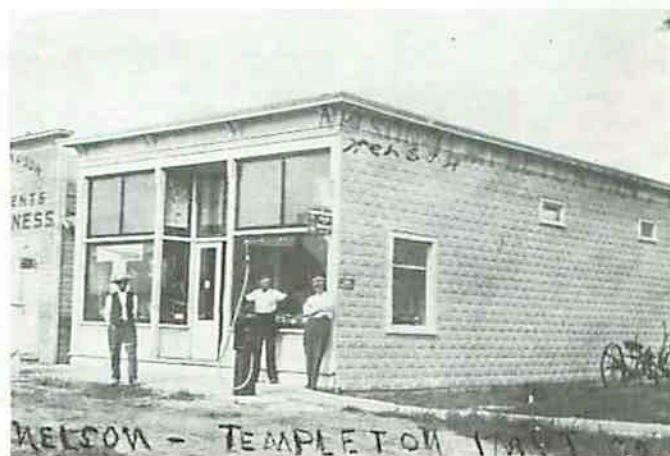
The clouds of war cast an uneasiness over the community and on April 6 the U.S. declared war on Germany. Almont citizens rose to the cause and a

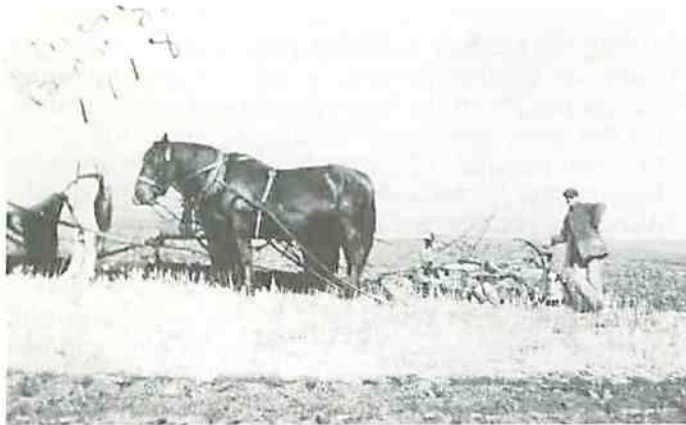
strong Red Cross Auxiliary was organized, with Dr. Keats as chairman. Sales were held to raise money for the organization. The government needed horses for the army and began buying geldings from 1,000 to 1,500 pounds. The effects of the war were being felt in every home ... draft quotas were being filled ... Almont's young men were going to war.

1918

The effects of World War I were felt. Sugar and flour were rationed; each person could purchase three pounds of sugar a month and three pounds of flour substitute had to be purchased with every seven pounds of flour. Saturday was Porkless Day. There was a \$5,000 fine for hoarding! In March the Red Cross Society sent in their first shipment of handmade articles. Anything written in German was not allowed to go through the mail. There was anxiety in every home as they awaited news from the boys who had gone overseas. Some had enlisted before the war and were already involved.

Not only did the war take it's toll, but a big flu epidemic broke out. Many in the community were very ill, and there was a ban on public meetings. Those who succumbed to the dreaded sickness were E.E. Erb, Nels Olson, Jake Johnson, Mrs. O.C. Ellingson, Mrs. Otis Malone and Mrs. Ben Bird.





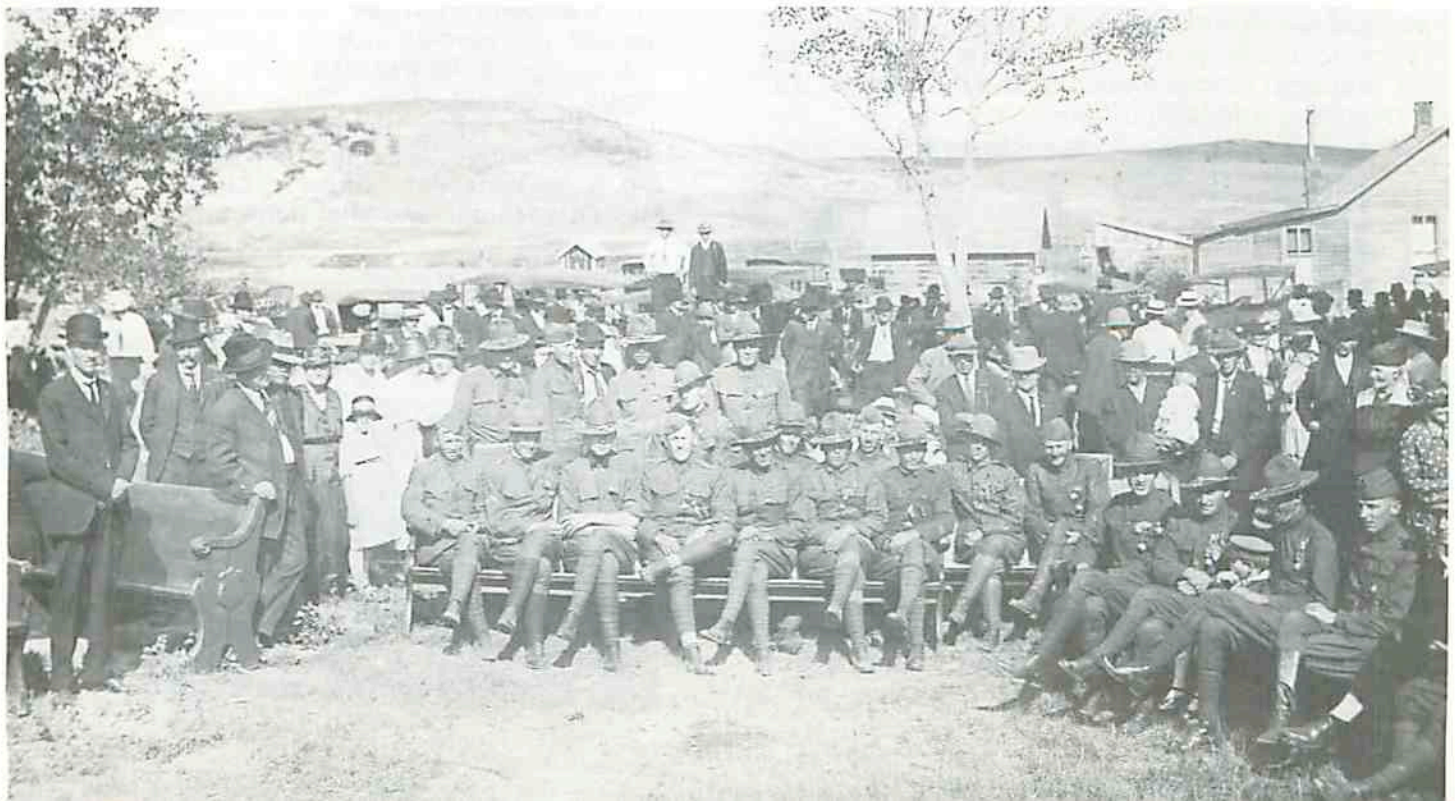
Edwin Bond



C.A. Knutson and E.E. Templeton

WORLD WAR I VETERANS HOMECOMING AT SIMS LUTHERAN CHURCH - 1919

L to R - Seated: Olai Elvik, Clifford Leach, Oscar Feland, Martin Olson, Joe Hoovestol, Arthur Olin, Herman Gabrielson, Peter Thorson, Jos. H. Olson, Carl Fallgren, (?), Magnus Svensrud, Oscar Anderson, Paul Rud, Henry Anderson, (?), Joseph Olson (not in uniform). Standing: Wm. Johnson, James Olson, Lawrence Ims, Robert Gray.





There was great rejoicing on November 11 ... the date the Armistice was signed and the war was over! The community began making plans for a great homecoming for her boys!

1919

When the clouds of war settled, two soldiers did not return from the battlefield ... John Trovik and Christ Lien were killed in France. Two others died of the flu in camp - Adolph Nelson and Herbert Schwartz. Red Cross benefits and drives continued this year.

On Sept. 12 a Homecoming celebration was held in honor of the boys. One of the largest crowds Almont has ever had was there to take part in the festivities. A sumptuous meal was served to the servicemen and their families by the ladies of the community, followed by a speech by Major J.M. Hanley of Mandan. At the close of his address, the roll call of the soldiers was made and 42 were present to answer. Three Spanish-American War veterans were also present. When the program was over, a movie was shown, followed by a dance. There was also a big Homecoming day at the Sims Lutheran Church in October.

Changes in Almont during the year was the sale of Hurley's store to Henry Mitzman and Mr. Goldberg sold the meat market to George Wilson of Glen Ullin, who also bought the Gunvaldson property.

There was a lot of home brew being made and sold during this period.

The first 8th grade graduation exercise for Almont school and surrounding districts was held June 13. There were 17 graduates from five districts.

1920

Almont High School had its first graduation on May 26 with three graduates: Edith Bird, Thelma Hyde and Andrew Willman. A large 8th grade class graduated at the same time and certificates were presented by Theodore Feland, president of the school board.

The Nyquist family moved to town and Mr. Nyquist began operating a shoe repair shop and cream station.



Amanda Nelson & Ruth Bond

1922

During the summer of 1922 there was excitement in the area over an oil boom, a prospect no one had thought of before. There was some activity in the northern part of the state and local businessmen formed a group called the "Three Forks Co." and obtained the services of two geologists. This hope of new prosperity in oil helped to dispel the discouragement of the summer's drought. Very little was accomplished by the Three Forks Co., which was later dissolved and the prospects of oil were forgotten.

1923

Fire completely destroyed the Mitzman Store and adjoining building this year ... another setback for Almont's business district.



Leo Timpe cutting ice.

Ice skating became the popular winter recreation after a skating rink was made, covering two acres of land (located on the lots where the Grace Nelson and Thorvald Larson homes now stand).

In December Almont sportsmen staged a rabbit hunt and bagged about 400. Kelsven had 40 to his credit.

Quite a number of farms are now lit up with carbide lights. Almont businessmen are considering installing an electric light plant in town. Some homes have their own Delco light plants.

The high school glee club put on a minstrel show in December at the Almont Hall.

1924

Cars were becoming numerous and popular for long distance travel which necessitated better roads. The main road from the east to the west coast ran through Almont and more cars were traveling the road every day. The National Highway System named the road the "Red Trail," which ran south from Sims along the NRR coming to the north edge of town and turning west to Curlew. Many tourists came into Almont and used the new tourist court and camping site. Donations were sent to the Highway Department from the Commercial Club to help with the maintenance of the road in the Almont district.

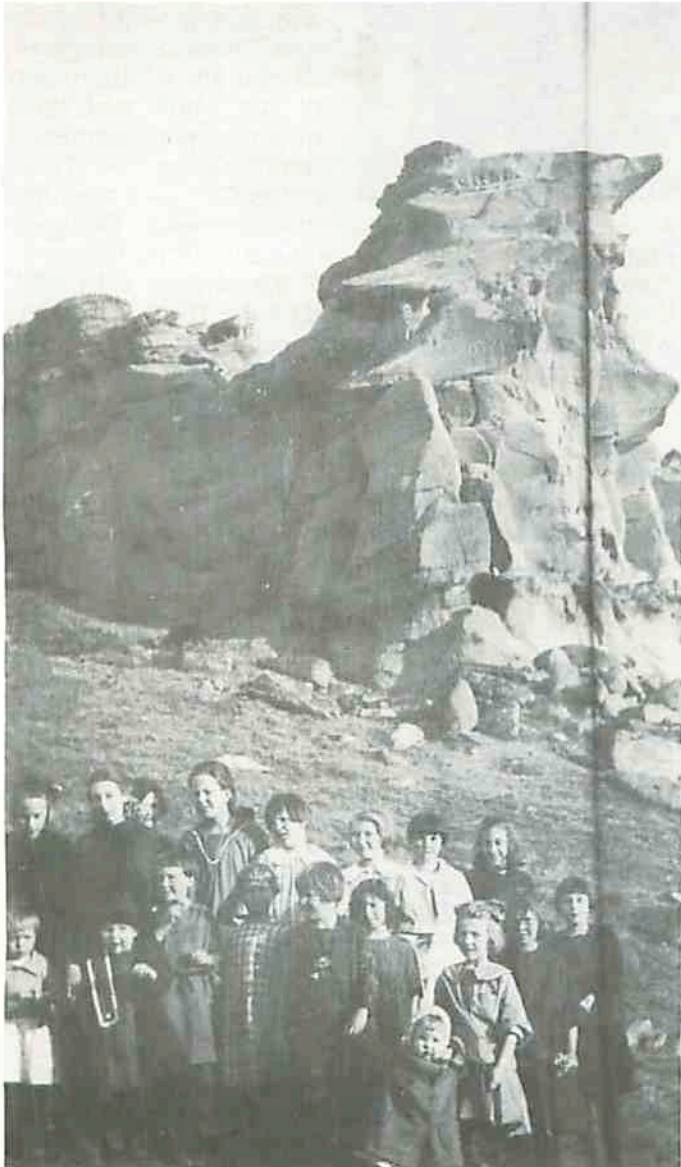
A new invention - the radio - made its appearance in Almont this year. The first sets were owned by the bank, Kelsvens and Andersons. This writer remembers the excitement of listening with earphones to the radio at the bank - and only hearing static!



Albert and Wallace Anderson

Several changes took place this year: The Banner Oil Company started building a new station; C.E. Kelsven added a soda fountain and ice cream parlor to his store, which also housed the postoffice; this was a very popular place to congregate, especially on Sundays, waiting for the mail to be distributed. Fred Knight bought the barber shop from Casey Martin, and Bill Johnson was the assistant barber in the Gillis Barber Shop.

Mr. Kelsven made plans for "coon" hunting and shipped in a coon hound from Kentucky which he named Trailer. The dog proved to be everything he was supposed to be.



Picnic at Lover's Cliff

Wilson

Wagon



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