

1925



Punch Timpe with dray

Leo and Punch Timpe bought the dray business from Myles Purfeerst and also had bulk gas delivery; Carl Hill bought the meat market from Alvin Olson and Waldemar Hanson bought the pool hall from Hans Hanson. The Mann Store, managed by Ervin and Ella Kruger, had a closeout sale and was sold to Chris Halvorson and P.D. Pfaff.



Threshing crew at George Monson farm with Hoovestol's threshing rig.



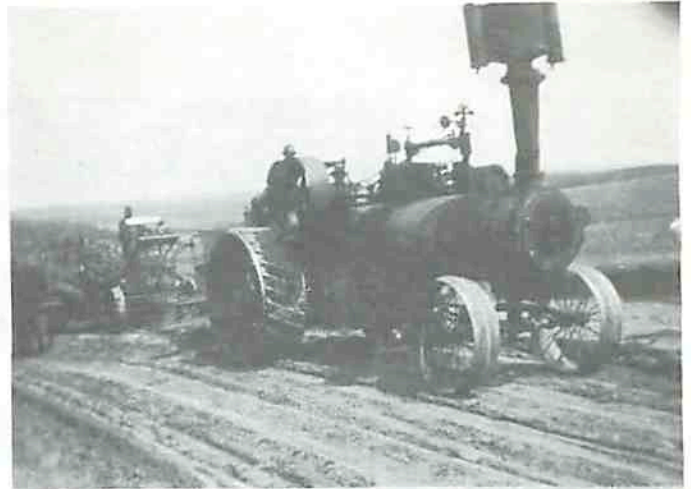
Hoovestol threshing engine at George Monson's farm.

People were beginning to buy tractors to replace horses; Fordson tractors sold for \$495.00 F.O.B. factory.

In the fall, 232 carloads of grain and 50 carloads of livestock were shipped out of Almont and 66 cars of merchandise were unloaded here.

Benefit socials and a fund drive were held this year for a school piano.

The Almont Lutheran Choir of 21 voices gave a cantata on Easter Sunday under the direction of Mrs. N.E. Becklund.



Grading country roads

*Congratulations Almont  
on your  
75th Anniversary*

# Bank of Glen Ullin

Glen Ullin, ND 58631

**Full Line of Insurance**  
**\$100,000 FDIC Guarantee on Deposits**



## 1926

An Old Settlers Picnic was held in Almont May 28. Approximately 1500 people from Oliver, Grant and Morton Counties came for a day of renewing old acquaintances. The idea for the gathering was that of John Olin, pioneer of Sims, who with the assistance of the Almont Commercial Club, made it a possibility and a very successful day. Mrs. S.P. Weekes had the honor of being the oldest settler, having come from Wisconsin in 1871. The program included music by the New Salem Boys Band and speeches by prominent people in the area. A ballgame between Carson and Almont ended 20-19 in favor of Carson in the 10th inning. The day concluded with a dance at the Bowery, which had been built for that purpose.

There was a need for rural telephone service and Tenius Ramsland was instrumental in organizing the first country line out of Almont, which was called the Farmers Cooperative Telephone Co. The Commercial Club raised \$250 to pay for five miles of the line.

A school P.T.A. was organized and 30 people joined at the first meeting held in December.

Business changes saw Lee Thurman buying the hotel from Bateman and Ben S. Olson taking over the cream buying business, formerly in Mann's Store.

## 1927

The High School Literary Society was organized with Mrs. C. Halvorson as advisor. The monthly meetings were open to the public and included a program of debates, forums, drama and music.

The Lutheran Choir presented a 1½-hour program over KFJR-Radio in April and two quartets from the Lutheran Church competed in the contest at the Mandan Auto Show the same month. The ladies quartet consisted of Mrs. N.E. Becklund, Mrs. J. Thornell, Mrs. L.C. Nelson and Mrs. A. Bergstrom.

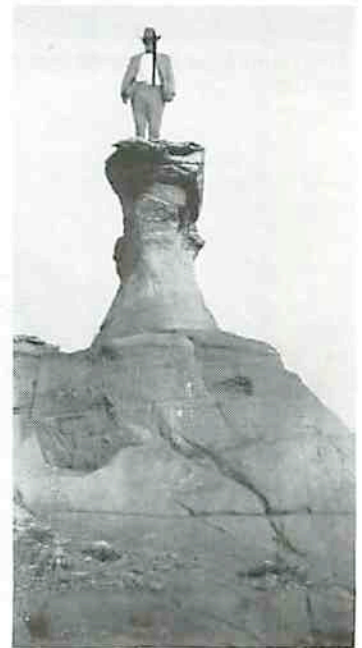
The men's group was C.R. Hill, D.G. Smith, C. Halvorson with George Ims and Erling Willman alternating.

E.W. Hyde had the Chevrolet agency and quoted the following prices: Touring car - \$525; one-ton truck - \$494; half-ton truck - \$395.

## 1928

In June the Almont School District voted to approve an addition to the school. With increased enrollment and lack of space for gymnastic sports, there was a need for additional space. Basketball hopefuls were elated over the decision to build a gymnasium.

An epidemic of scarlet fever swept through the community that spring and all public activities were cancelled for 2½ months. School was closed and some classes were held out-of-doors to prepare for May exams.



Carl Feland at Lover's Cliff

In October a golf tournament was held at the local course and Lawrence Nelson took first place with a 97 score on 18 holes.

## 1929

The Almont Telephone Exchange was sold to Almont businessmen and Mrs. Nyquist continued to operate the exchange which was located in her home.



Old Settlers Day in Almont

The AHS stock judging team consisting of Harold Harris, Howard Knutson and James Stoeckel were entered in the state contest at NDAC at Fargo. Harold won the dairy championship and received a gold medal and the team received a first place ribbon in horse judging and second place in dairy.

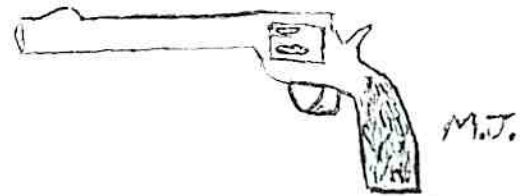
High school students were thrilled to move into the new school addition which was dedicated in January. The new facility included a gymnasium, assembly room and English room. The small stage was a disappointment to the drama coach who was looking forward to a big stage for plays and other productions. Until now all programs had been held at the city hall. The first basketball game in the new gym was held February 11 with Glen Ullin. The newly organized team entered the tournament in Carson that year and because of snow-blocked roads, made the trip by team and sled. The girls also had a basketball team that year.

The greens on the golf course were resurfaced this year and other improvements made. Several New Salem golf enthusiasts tried out the links and were impressed (the golf course was laid out on the Knutson land southwest of Lover's Cliff).

The Chautauqua was in Almont for a week in July and was well attended.

Morton-Grant County Old Settlers Day was held in Almont June 15. Speakers were General E.A. Williams, Bismarck; J.F. Nelson, Glen Ullin, and John Handtmann of Mandan.

The Cozy Inn Cafe at the hotel was open for business Dec. 16 under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Peterson.



Sewing Club - back from camping trip

Ruth Pederson, Verna Adnerson, Dagmar Pederson, Louise Aanstad, Amanda Nelson holding Frances Nelson, Marjorie Nelson, Ruth Bergstrom, Madaleen Templeton.

The girls Sewing Club camped for several days at Heart River. They were chaperoned by Amanda Nelson and Mrs. Ed Solberg.

LUMBER

PAINT

HARDWARE



**Farmers Union Lumber  
Company of New Salem**

New Salem, ND 58563  
Telephone: 843-7575

*Congratulations to the city of Almont  
We're here to serve you!*

### 1930

Almont residents were glad to see new buildings erected this year on Main Street. Joe Hoovestol built the City Garage on the site of the former Timmerman Store and sold gas for 18¢ a gallon ... A new office building was erected for the Almont Lumber Co.

Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Hyde toured Europe and the Holy Land for three months.

The "high line" was completed from New Salem to Almont and on May 15 the current was turned on. Most of the homes had been wired for electricity by then and people were able to try out their new appliances and put away the gas and kerosene lamps they had used for so long.

The high school Drama Club entered competition in the Inter-High School contest in Fargo in May and placed third with their one-act play "Cabbages." Valley City placed first. The cast included Harold Harris, Howard Knutson, Bill Weiss, Madaleen Templeton, Dagmar Pederson, Viola Olson and Marjorie Nelson.

Saturday night dances were held at the Lover's Cliff Bowery which had been moved there from Main Street.

### 1931

Pheasants were brought into the area by the Isaac Walton League who shipped in 25 birds and put them along Curlew Creek.

The NP depot was completely destroyed by fire August 14. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bakken who lived upstairs (Walt was depot agent) barely escaped as the

fire began in the front part of the building. Flames consumed everything including freight, papers and books in the office and the Bakken's furniture and personal belongings. A strong wind helped burn the building in a short time.

NO _____	DATE _____	193 _____	BALANCE \$	
TO _____			DEPOSITED \$	
FOR _____			TOTAL \$	
			THIS CHECK \$	
			BALANCE \$	

77-438 FARMERS STATE BANK 77-438

ALMONT, NO. DAK. \_\_\_\_\_ 193 \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

PAY TO THE ORDER OF \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DOLLARS

9

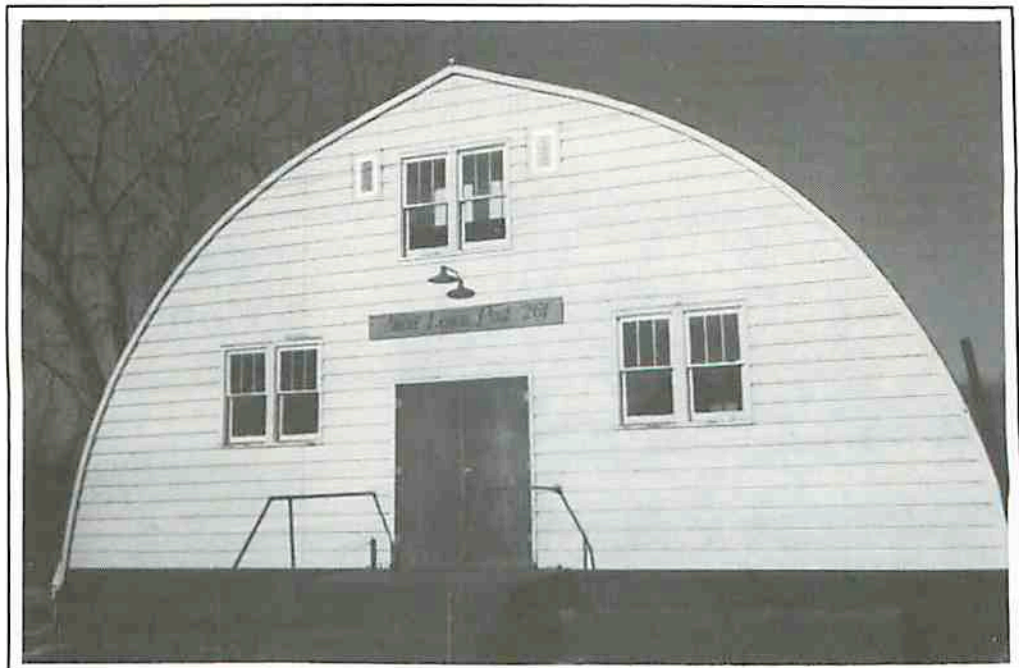
The first effects of the depression were felt in Almont when the Farmers State Bank closed their doors in the fall of '31. The bottom seemed to drop out of everything. Besides the economic depression, it was the start of a dry cycle. Farmers worried about crops and prices and others worried about jobs. It was the beginning of the "dirty thirties," and extremely hard times.

### 1932

Several from the Almont community witnessed the laying of the cornerstone for the new State Capitol in Bismarck. The old building was demolished by fire in December 1930. Winter came early this

# CONGRATULATIONS

from  
Legion  
Post 261



year and what proved to be the worst storm in the history of Morton County came the middle part of October, starting with a rain which changed into snow and high winds leaving the community without lights, telephone or telegraph connections. Moisture amounted to two inches.

The new Wesleyan Methodist Church was dedicated November 25. The Rev. L.D. Harris was pastor of the church and also was in charge of building and did much of the work himself.

The Hebron Milling Co. set up an exchange service for farmers so they could exchange four bushels of wheat and 15¢ for a 98 lb. sack of flour. They also offered their pure wheat mixed feed for \$6 a ton.

1933

A storm raged through the area in May doing considerable damage. C.A. Knutson's barn and well-house were demolished; Joe Pederson's barn and garage and Rick Olson's farm buildings were damaged. Chickens were killed on all three places.

William Knutson discovered a skeleton under a rocky ledge on his farm about nine miles south of Almont. Sheriff Robert Gray was called out and upon close examination of the skeleton and other contents of the grave, they determined it was an Indian burial place of long ago.

1934

Otis Malone was the new postmaster, succeeding C.E. Kelsven, and took over his duties January 1 with Marjorie Nelson as clerk. The postoffice was still located in the Ice Cream Parlor of the Kelsven Store. Mr. Kelsven had served as postmaster for 15 years under a Republican administration. Clerks under Kelsven had been Amanda Nelson, Blanche Kelsven and Katherine Malone.

Boy Scout Court of Honor for Christianson District was held in Almont in February. F.L. Atkinson was scoutmaster for the Almont troop.

A new road from Highway 10 to Almont was built. Until now the road had gone through Sims to Almont.

Because of severe hard times and drought, the government set up the Federal Emergency Relief Administration for a feed program. An emergency crop lien office was opened in Mandan for farmers wishing to apply for seed loans. The minimum loan was \$25 and the maximum \$150. The farmers also got wheat allotment checks.

**C. E. KELSVEN**  
DEALER IN  
**GENERAL MERCHANDISE**

ALMONT, N. D., Nov. 24 1933

SOLD TO Stephen Thiel

SALESMAN	ADDRESS	
1	P Butter	35
2	3# Peaches	30
3	11# Paprika	13
4	Chocolate	28
5	2# Coffee	46
6	4# Walnuts	86
7	Vinegar	20
8	6 Mapples	45
9	Peppercorns	35
10	5# P. Platts 10	50
11	1/2# Alclat	30
12	flour	190
13	arbers flour	275
14		913
15	2	

49697 G. SOMMER & CO., ST. PAUL, MINN.

Caroline Frey was the clerk who filled the order.

Farm produce prices were very low. Wheat sold for 25¢ a bu.; hogs and cattle brought about 2 1/2¢ per lb. in St. Paul. In some cases the NPRR demanded freight payment in advance, due to the low prices.

**James Crosby & Sons**  
Live Stock  
COMMISSION/MERCHANTS

St. Paul, Minn. Nov 20 1934

Sold for Account of C. E. Kelsven

RETURNS TO Stephen Thiel

DATE	BREED	CATTLE	HOOD	WEIGHT	CHANGES	PRICE	AMOUNT	TOTAL
11/20/33		4		1400		2.50	10.00	111
		1		350		2.75	8.25	111
		1		350		2.75	8.25	111
		1		350		2.75	8.25	111
		1		350		2.75	8.25	111
		1		350		2.75	8.25	111
		1		350		2.75	8.25	111
		1		350		2.75	8.25	111
		1		350		2.75	8.25	111
		1		350		2.75	8.25	111
		1		350		2.75	8.25	111

CAR NO.	W. B. WEIGHT	RATE	AMOUNT	CHANGES
13072	41000	41	17020	
		91.25	1800	
FREIGHT (Including Charges on Transit)				17020
YARDAGE				1800
HAY 10 SALES 15				1500
CORN				
BEDDING				
SALES				
HAULING CHARGES				
N. W. Live Stock EXPRESS				
STATE INSURANCE 15 CENTS PER CAR				
STATE WEIGHING CHARGES				
COMMISSIONS				2025
NET PROCEEDS				6941.60
CHECK TO				CASH 73.22

1934 has gone down in history as one of the driest years on record. To help the farmers during this critical time, the government bought cattle in the drought areas. They paid \$20 per head for cattle over two years of age; \$12 for yearlings and \$6 for calves. Carl Knudson and Olous Christianson were the government cattle appraisers in this area. The buying lasted three months and the cattle were distributed for the Emergency Relief Administration which provided food for the needy. An exodus of livestock, unmatched in North Dakota history, moved from North Dakota farms.

This year the country was also plagued by grasshoppers. Through the County Extension Service,

poison bran was distributed to use to kill the hoppers.

Boys from the area worked in the Civilian Conservation Camps where they earned wages for working on federal projects such as dams, parks, etc. The boys lived in camps similar to the army. A part of their wages were sent home to support their families.

The use of thistles for hay was recommended by the North Dakota Agricultural College and many in the area used this feed for the few head of livestock they had left. Hay could be bought for \$4 to \$4.90 a ton and later rose to \$11.30.

### 1935

Children up to 18 years of age were inoculated for diphtheria and vaccinated for smallpox at a clinic conducted through the Emergency Relief Administration.

Low prices and unemployment continued ... People were looking for a better place to make a living.

### 1936

P.D. Pfaff, manager of the Occident Elevator for 20 years, was forced to retire because of ill health; Paul Ewald of Hebron was named the new manager.

Because of the severe drouth in the area, the Peterson Bros., Willman Bros., and George Ormiston took 500 of their cattle by train to the Fort Totten Indian Reservation near Sheyenne, ND, where hay was plentiful. They hayed for a month before they took the cattle up and rented a large sheep camp for the

winter months. Many of the farmers and ranchers had to sell out most of their stock.

The North Dakota Dept. of Health and Works Progress Administration set up a project for the construction of outdoor privies, which could be had by property owners of school districts for the cost of material only. Many in the area were employed on WPA projects and more young men were being employed in CCC camps.

On June 16 an election was held in Almont which decided that Almont be incorporated. Until now the city had been under the jurisdiction of Sims Township. The election was held 30 years after the townsite was platted.

The drouth of the 30's continued and it was estimated by the County Extension Office that 1600 Morton County farmers would have to purchase seed for next year's crop.

### 1937

On a cold Sunday in January (and it was cold that winter with many records set!) radio dials were tuned to KCGU-Mandan to hear the Almont male quartet present a half hour of music. Members of the

# 9c SALE

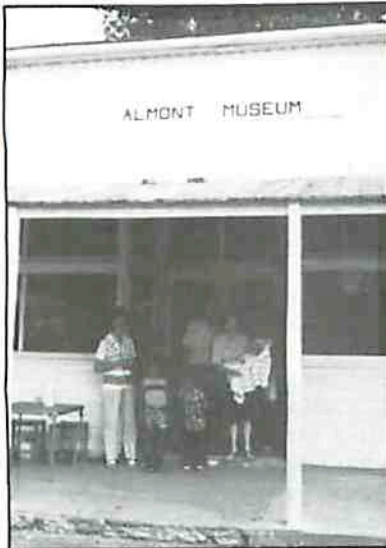
Aug. 27 - 28 - 29

Wach For Further  
Details.

THE HOME GROCERY  
RED & WHITE

Advertisement in 1936

## Congratulations to "OUR TOWN"



We aim to preserve your past  
for the present and future.



## ALMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

group were Christ and Harold Halvorson, Howard Knutson and Sigurd Peterson, with Marjorie Nelson as accompanist.

Members of St. Leopold's parish held Mass in their new church on Sunday, January 22. The church had been under construction for about a year.

A Rifle and Pistol Club was organized with Paul Ewald as president; Fay Atkinson, vice president; Kelsven, secretary; Art Feland, executive officer.

The WPA Recreation Program built a tennis court and new concrete sidewalks on both sides of Main Street which replaced board walks. Their next project was a park on land south of the creek within the townsite.

Boys between the ages of 18-25 worked for the National Youth Administration and received \$14 for 44 hours work; 30¢ an hour was paid for a team of horses. Harold Halvorson was appointed recreational director for the city.

Men could register for work in the harvest fields in the Red River Valley as the drouth was not as severe there. Wheat yields in this area were two to 17 bushels per acre with dockage up to 30%. Wire worms, cutworms and grasshoppers helped cut the yield.

The postoffice was moved from Kelsven's store to a building which was originally the Almont Advertiser, and was located south of the Nelson-Templeton Implement Co. The building was moved to a lot adjacent to the Fire Hall.

The drouth cycle broke in June when about two weeks of cold rain drenched the area. The rain was accompanied by high winds and was very hard on livestock, killing many new colts. Roads, which were not graveled at that time, became almost impassable.

## 1938

Weather conditions were slightly improved in 1938 and prices were a little better but farmers were still suffering hardships.



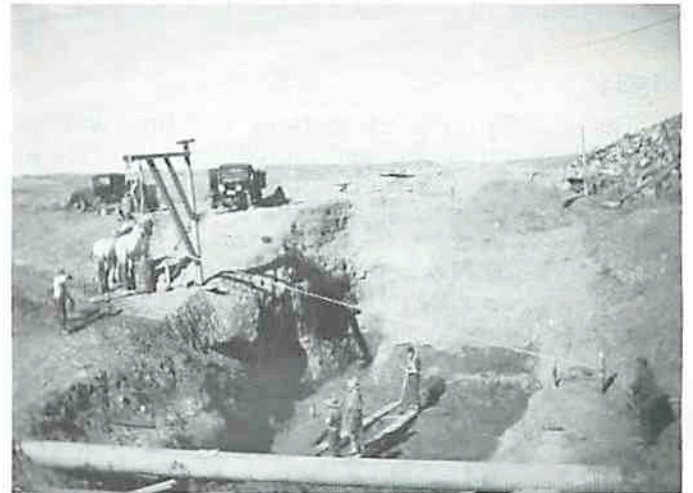
Swinging foot bridge at end of Main St. Audrey Nelson, Evelyn Erlandson, Frances Nelson.

The foot bridge was completed across the creek to the new park, and a dam was built on the creek just below the Templeton residence. The Boy Scouts made a totem pole which they erected in the park.

A new ordinance was set. The stores were to close every evening at 8 p.m. instead of 9 p.m., except Saturdays, when they could be open until there were no more customers. The postoffice kept similar hours.



Commodore Pete Hoovestol gave about 200 folks rides in his sailboat "Petrine II" on Lake Almont south of town.



This dam, built across Almont Creek, was a W.P.A. project during the thirties.

## 1939

The new telephone line south of Almont was connected to the Almont Exchange January 1. The line was constructed with creek poles and cost each farmer \$28, which included the telephone.

December 31 brought an end to the Dirty Thirties, which had brought hardships to everyone. Many from the community moved west during these years to find employment and better living.



Enoch, Elmer and Margido Willman

## 1940

Another telephone line was added to the Almont Exchange from Curlew. A Sims line was the next to be constructed.

Relatives and friends of Jonathan Pederson gathered at his home February 29 to surprise him on his 15th "leap year" birthday. The party was hosted by his six daughters and was a complete surprise.

Fifteen Boy Scouts and their scoutmaster, Carlylle Challgren (school supt.) enjoyed a week of camping at Detroit Lakes in June. Transportation was provided by Don Kuns and his truck.

Grocery prices were unbelievably low: 5 lb. coffee - 99¢; 6 cans sardines - 25¢; 3 cans peas - 25¢; 3 doz. jar rings - 10¢; men's work shirts - 47¢ and bib overalls - 97¢.

The crops were the best they had been in years and it was the beginning of a new farming era with new farming methods and equipment.

Rumblings of another World War were a threat to peace. Hitler and the Nazi Movement in Germany were making strides and conquests in Europe.

## 1941

The old Farmers State Bank building was purchased by Bill Joersz and remodeled for a Red and White Grocery. C.E. Kelsven decided to retire from the grocery business after being an Almont merchant for 28 years. He sold his store and business to Chris Halvorson, who had been operating a grocery store in the Pederson building.

Free movies, sponsored by the businessmen,

were shown on Main Street on Saturday evenings during the summer months.

Grace Nelson began writing the Almont news for the New Salem Journal after the former correspondent, Mrs. Jim Stoeckel, and family moved to California.

With war in Europe, the Red Cross was re-activated by Mrs. G.H. Anderson and ladies in the community were busy making garments to be sent abroad for War Relief.

The frightening earth-shaking news that came over radios on Sunday, December 7, will never be forgotten by those who heard it. Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor! We were on the brink of war again. The following day the U.S. declared war on Japan and a few days later declared war on Germany and Italy. We were in World War II and it would affect the lives of everyone. Our immediate concern was for the boys from the community who were already in the service.

## 1942

The Almont community immediately responded to a cause. A week's drive for the Red Cross ended with a benefit party which was a success from both the social and financial standpoint. The party was held in the school gym and included a program, cake walk and folk dancing. The Red Cross committee consisted of Mrs. G.H. Anderson, Mrs. Sig Peterson, Otis Malone, E.E. Templeton and Chris Halvorson.

The effects of the war were being felt in many ways. Boys and men were enlisting in the service and all unregistered men between the ages of 20-45 were required to enroll for possible military service.

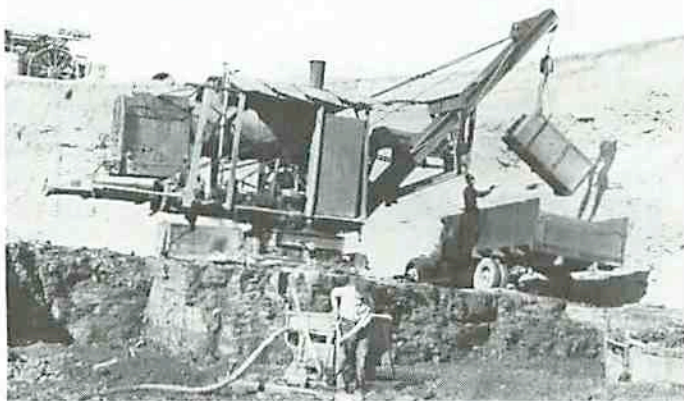


## ALMONT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Almont, North Dakota  
*Low Income Housing*



People were urged to buy Defense Bonds and Stamps. Rationing began with sugar, followed by coffee, gasoline and tires. Housewives were looking for recipes using little or no sugar and coffee substitutes were tried. There were scrap iron drives, Victory gardens were planted and everyone did their part towards the war effort.



Punch and Leo Timpe coal mining in the early forties.

### 1943

Winter brought an abundance of snow with many roads impassable for weeks at a time. A fast thaw in March caused floods, probably the worst in North Dakota history; All rivers and streams overflowed; water measured 10 ft. on the highway between Mandan and Bismarck; three bridges on the Heart River south of Almont washed out and all outbuildings on the Clara Mortenson farm were lost and also 17 head of cattle, a team of horses and chickens; the Otto Feland bridge was also washed out. A month later a prairie fire burned the prairie from the John Bahm farm to Adolph Johnsons. Sixty-five men fought the blaze which was fanned by a 40-mile wind.

The Telephone Exchange was sold to Bennie Ringham, who would operate it from his home; Mrs. Anna Nyquist retired after serving as "central" for 17 years.

The Almont Exchange Banking Service opened for business on Nov. 1 under the management of John Gillis; Fred Reetz resigned his duties as school custodian to take over the Almont Dray Line, formerly managed by Bennie Ringham. Adolph Nagel replaced Fred.

Rationing of all canned and packaged food went into effect; a tin can drive was in force and Red Cross sewing was urged. Seventy-one men and women from the Almont area were serving their country in the Armed Forces.

### 1944

The Almont Lutheran Church dedicated service flags and honor rolls in honor of their members serving in the service. A program, conducted by the Rev. C.J. Fylling included special music by the choir, men's quartet, Vernon Knutson and a girls trio (Marlys Knutson, Frances and Audrey Nelson).

The fourth War Loan Drive was held in January. Mrs. Grace Nelson and Mrs. Chris Halvorson were in charge of a window display of pictures of the service men and women from the community to create an in-

centive to buy war bonds. The Almont territory again went over the top in the Red Cross drive in April, collecting \$792.08.

Families tried to read between the lines in letters they received from those in the service. All mail was censored and it sometimes took months to get a letter.

Wilbur Wanstrom, who survived Pearl Harbor, came home on leave after receiving his Wings and commissioned 2nd Lt.; C.A. Knutson received word that their son, Howard, had received the Purple Heart for military merit after being wounded in Italy.



Myrtle Hoovestol and Wendell Dawson ready to cross Heart River.

### 1945

E.E. Templeton sold his interest in the Nelson-Templeton Implement Co. to Pete and Art Nelson.

Things were beginning to look a little bleak for Almont. The Northern Pacific Railway was planning to re-route their line and go directly west from New Salem to Glen Ullin, cutting off service to Almont. A hearing was held in January at New Salem and was well represented by local citizens who witnessed to the need for rail service to our community. Former Gov. Shafer was Almont's attorney.

Almont went over the top again in this year's Red Cross drive, collecting \$911.80.

President Roosevelt died April 12 and all business places were closed for an hour to pay respects to their president.

F.L. Atkinson received word that his son Edward had been awarded the Air Medal and was promoted to Captain. He had flown 35 aerial missions over France. Robert Feland came home after being honorably discharged and was wearing a Silver Star and seven battle stars. He had been in the service over three years and had served 33 months in the Medical Detachment with the 7th Army in Europe, and had never been home on furlough.

There was great jubilation in Almont when news of Germany's surrender came on June 8 and greater rejoicing when Japan surrendered August 14. The war was over! Church and schoolbells rang and auto horns honked for the good news. A special service of thanks was held at the Methodist church. All business places were closed the following day and gas rationing came to an end.

Several changes took place this year. Al Stegmeier accepted a position at the Nelson Implement Co. and Fred Reetz began his janitorial duties at the school. Otis Malone retired as postmaster after serving for 12 years and Ben Ramsland began his term of service, assisted by Alma Olson, clerk.

## 1946

More changes took place in 1946. Bill Knutson opened a grocery store in the same building his father had operated in Almont's early years. The lunchroom, operated by Ida Olson, was moved to the hotel; Bill Joersz, who had bought out Chris Halvorson, moved his dry goods into the lunchroom. The former bank building was sold to Claude Ritz, who remodeled it into a beer parlor. The Ritz family resided in the upstairs apartment. John Gillis also opened a pool hall and beer parlor on Main Street (the original Sherwood Hotel).

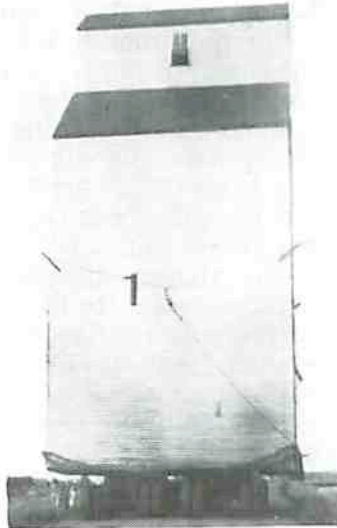
Many boys returned home from the service and were trying to adjust to civilian life again. Veterans got first chance to buy new farm machinery and equipment which was in short supply.

A local Legion Post and Auxiliary were organized in January by veterans of both wars. They sponsored the first Memorial Day program, which has been an annual event every year since then. The post began construction of a 38'x80' hall with full basement.

Twenty-seven years after Almont had a homecoming for veterans of World War I, a second homecoming was held - this time for World War II veterans, and some were sons of WWI vets. The Legion and Auxiliary sponsored a banquet and program and several hundred attended. Another homecoming was held at the Sims church in August for the servicemen belonging to the Sims and Almont congregations. A noon dinner and program followed the morning worship service.

Construction began on the new railroad bed from New Salem to Glen Ullin. Almont would be an inland town and, according to rumor, was doomed to die. Despite the prediction, Almont was determined to overcome another hurdle and stay on the map!

The first signs of the NRR leaving was noticed when the two grain elevators were moved out of Almont in July to a new station named North Almont, a distance of eight miles. The first elevator moved without trouble but the second toppled by a strong wind and was wrecked beyond repair.



Forty years have passed since Almont started and August 2 was chosen as the date to celebrate the occasion. About 2,000 people attended the 2-day event which opened with a parade led by the Legion Color Guard and the New Salem Band. Almont defeated Judson 8-1 in a baseball game that afternoon and there were three airplanes giving people rides. There was a free movie that evening followed by a dance. On Sunday afternoon the crowd moved to the rodeo grounds east of town for a horse show and rodeo preceded by an address by the town's founder, E.W. Hyde. Other honored platform guests were Rick Olson, J.R. Sherwood and Ben Bird. Hyde's address

included a short history of Almont's beginning and he urged everyone to hang together and keep Almont alive!



40th Anniversary Parade

## 1947

Almont's future looked a bit shaky when, on December 6, the last train (the North Coast Limited #1) made its final trip through Almont blowing its whistle in a fond farewell. Conductor C.C. Atkinson, an Almont booster, stopped the train to let four passengers off: Mrs. Edgar Skjolsvik, Mrs. George Kaelberer, Milre and Edith Ann, who had come from Jamestown. To lose rail service was indeed a blow to the community and many wondered if the town could survive without it. Only time would tell and the community was determined to make the best of it.

Several changes took place resulting from the NRR's pull-out. Tollef Christianson retired as sec-



**SALUTES  
ALMONT**

**75th  
ANNIVERSARY**

tion foreman after 45 years of service; B.T. Olson, who worked for the railroad 25 years, was obliged to move his family to Glen Ullin where he continued his work; station agent Walter Bakken was transferred to the North Almont depot, where the mail express and freight were left for pickup, and the old railroad bed was given to the adjacent landowners and much of the gravel was used to improve roads in the area.

### 1948

The American Legion Hall was completed in January. Much of the work was done by Legionnaires and local people.

The local cafe changed hands again. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Tavis of Glen Ullin purchased the building and equipment from Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hoerner, who had operated it for a year.

Construction of the Heart Butte Dam was begun in April, after 40 years of planning; water from the dam will be used for irrigation.

### 1949

The Joersz Store was sold to Ed Reeff after Mr. Joersz went into partnership with Emil Moos in the Piggly Wiggly Store in Mandan. Everett Olson bought the dray line business and train mail service from Ed Reeff.

A snowstorm in February almost isolated Almont. Twenty young men started shoveling the road to New Salem and were met halfway by Clarence Nilles and his bulldozer. Farmers had to resort to tractors and teams to get to town for supplies. The 5th Army bulldozers and government snowplows operated around Almont to open roads and clear roads to haystacks. Mail routes were blocked and some patrons didn't get mail for more than a month. The services of Willard Rusch and his plane from New Salem were used several times to transport people, needing medical aid, to the doctor or hospital. A new rural mail route was established in the Sims and Curlew area with C.A. Knutson as carrier. Patrons would receive mail on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.



Drill Team

The Almont Commercial Club, American Legion Post and Saddle Club staged a 2-day "Old Settler's Picnic and Shodeo" in June. There was a parade both days. Activities included an address by Rev. Stewart of Mandan, street races, ballgame and a dance on the first day; a shodeo the second day. Horse clubs from eight neighboring towns were represented and 150 riders took part in the Grand Entry. A drill team of 16 local mounted riders, directed by Sig Peterson, presented a drill. Almont's stake team placed first in the stake contest.

## Almont Shodeo

SPONSORED BY ALMONT COMMERCIAL CLUB, ALMONT LEGION POST 261 AND ALMONT SADDLE CLUB

Saturday, June 11, 1949

Bob Feland, Arena Director

Entry Fees Added To Purse

### Entry Blank

Deposit money for all entry fees with Everett Olson, Almont

MARK WITH AN X, EVENTS ENTERED

ENTRANCE FEE	EVENT	PRIZE
1—	Grand Opening	
2— none	Pleasure Horse Class	\$5, \$3, \$2
3— none	Stake Race	Trophies
4	Drill Team	
5— \$5.00	Calf Roping, 1st Section	\$15, \$10, \$5
6— \$3.00	Steer Riding, 1st Section	\$10, \$6, \$4
7— none	Wheel Barrow Race	\$5.00
8— \$3.00	Bending Race	\$15, \$10, \$5, Entry Fee Not Included
9— none	Bronc Riding	\$5 Mount Money
10— \$1.00	One Horse Relay	Winner Take All
11— none	Musical Chair Race	\$5.00
12— \$2.00	Scoop Shovel Race	\$5, \$3, \$2
13	Steer Riding, 2nd section	
14	Calf Roping, 2nd section	
15— \$2.00	Wild Cow Milking	\$10, \$6, \$4
16— \$5.00	1/4 Mile Race	\$10, \$6, \$4
17— \$1.00	Cow Boy Race	\$5, \$3, \$2
18— \$1.00	Cow Girl Race	\$5, \$3, \$2
19— \$5.00	Pony Express Race	\$15, \$10, \$5

In consideration of the foregoing entry, I hereby release the Almont Commercial Club, Almont Legion Post 261 and Almont Saddle Club, and the officers and the members thereof, and I hereby assume and accept full risk and danger of any hurt, injury or damage which may occur through or by reason of any manner and also any injury or damage to any horse I use to take part in any of the entries during the Almont Shodeo Day.

Name *Bob Atkinson*  
Address *Grand Ave*

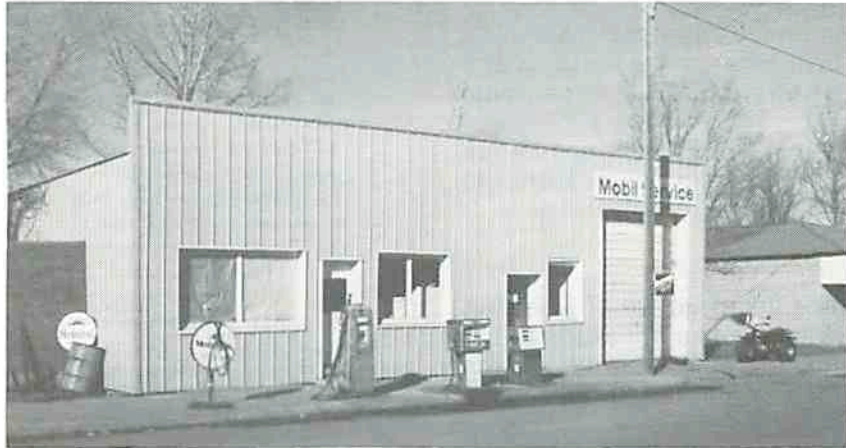
If this blank is not signed, the entry will not be effective.

### Entry blank for Almont Shodeo

Andrew Willman bought the Almont Lumber Co. from E.W. Hyde and changed the name to Willman Lumber Co. Bob Atkinson and Bernard Ringham will stay on in their present positions.



*Congratulations Almont  
On Your 75th Anniversary*



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## 1950

1950 was a year of records! Almont had the greatest snowfall, the lowest temperatures on record and the worst flood! Weather observer Fred Ramsland said January 1950 had no equal as far as records were concerned. Ten days showed 30° below; 5 days 35° below and two days 40° below and snowfall twice the normal amount. A raging blizzard in March caused power line failure and a 3-day blizzard in April blocked all roads and stranded a group of 11 people at the Walt Bakken farm for two days.

The flood took place on April 17. Water on Main Street measured 34 inches in depth at the Willman Lumber Co. Ice jams destroyed many bridges, including Art Felands, Charlie Hogers and the steel bridge south of town. Warnings had been received the evening before and by 4 a.m. on the 17th all the residents, except a few, had left their homes and were in cars on the hill north of town. With very few exceptions, most homes had damage, mostly to basements, and wells were ruined. Vernon Knutson operated a boat above the dam in Almont to enable people from the south area to trade in town. The swing bridge and park were ruined. The bridges were later re-constructed.



Bridge on Muddy Creek near Valley Forge School.



Fred Zempel and Joe Hoovestol on bridge south of town.

1950 had its good points, too. The REA (Rural Electrification Act) brought electric power to farms in the area in July ... a dream come true for farm families.

Many Almont folks attended "Dr. O.C. Gaebe Day" in New Salem on October 5. "Doc" was honored for 40 years of loyal and unselfish service to the people in a wide area surrounding New Salem.

The Legion Auxiliary sponsored a lutefisk and lefse supper November 1 and it continued as an annual event which attracts up to 800 people every year.

The census for Almont was 190.

## 1951

The Almont Creek rose fast April 4 after a quick thaw and threatened the temporary bridge at the Sharff crossing. South people had to use a cable with carrier stretched across the creek where the foot bridge had been, to get into town.

Mr. and Mrs. Olous Christianson spend three months in Norway visiting relatives Olous hadn't seen since he left the country in 1910.

The United States was involved in the Korean Con-



flict and men from this area in Korea were Richard Bond and Martin Doll, Jr.

Fire destroyed the Naucke Feed Store, the former First State Bank Building. The cream station, which the Irvin Olin family operated for eight years, was leased to Fred Reetz when Olins moved to Billings.

A Thanksgiving Day Ecumenical Service was held in the Almont Lutheran Church. Taking part in the service was the Rev. E.V. Sollie of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Carl Thompson of the Gideon Society and the Rev. C.J. Fylling, Lutheran pastor.



Cattle loading on Willman Ranch - Enoch and Margido Willman and Martin Peterson.

## 1952

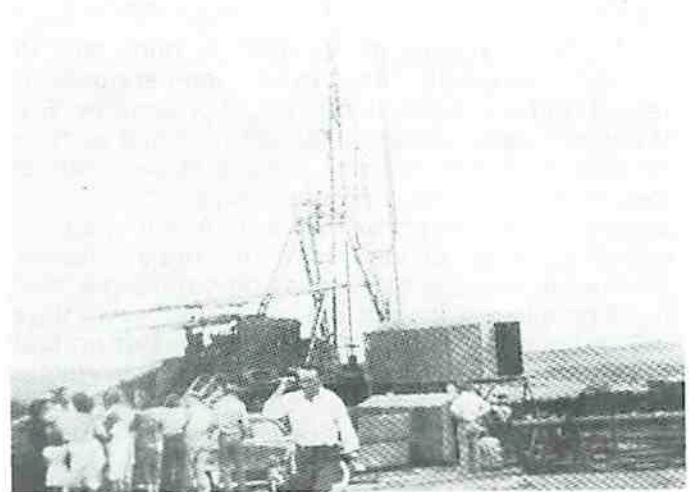
The school gym got a facelift this winter and a dressing room was constructed in the north balcony of the gym.

The Eagles basketball team won the Class C District 30 championship.

The Lutheran choir, under the direction of Carol Atkinson, sang two anthems at a special youth service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck in May.

There was an air of expectancy in the area as the Days Rock Oil Co. moved in a rig and started drilling at the Hilda Johnson No. 1 well in August. Hopes of an oil find dwindled as the well was plugged and abandoned at 8103 ft. with a report of no oil.

Harvey Thorson, mortician, established the Thorson Funeral Home in the former John Gillis building. The equipment and stock was sold the following year to the Henne Funeral Home of New Salem.



Hilda Johnson A No. 1 Oil Well

## 1953

With unusually high temperatures in January, melting snow filled dams in the area. After freezing temperatures returned, there was ideal skating and many made use of the winter recreation.

Mr. Hyde attended inaugural ceremonies for President Dwight Eisenhower in Washington, D.C., and had the privilege of having a seat close to the speaker.

The Almont Legion and Auxiliary sponsored Jackie Tavis Day in February. Jackie had been bed-ridden with rheumatic fever for several months. A

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program and dance was held in the Legion Hall and was very well attended.

Dr. Leon Jacobson, formerly of Sims and a graduate of Almont High School, was honored in St. Louis, where the American Radium Society awarded him the Janeway Medal. Dr. Jacobson was the youngest man to receive the medal. At the time, he was professor at the University of Chicago and director of the new hospital built by the Atomic Energy Committee for the research of cancer.

After fire had destroyed the Hoovestol garage in March, men of the community donated their time and labor to help build a quonset type building to replace the razed building.

## 1953

The Veterans Farm Instruction Program, under the direction of Peter Bergen, was discontinued after being operation for three years. Twenty-two had been enrolled in the school.

A farm beautification tour, sponsored by the Almont and Live and Learn Homemakers' Clubs, was attended by 50 people and the group visited the farms of Peter Thiel, Sam Thiel, Roman Peterson and Sig Peterson.

The Sims Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrated their 70th anniversary in October. More than 400 attended, including three former pastors. Rickart Olson was the only charter member still living.



Carl Knudson, State Representative

Almont was proud to have one of her native sons elected to the State Legislature. Carl Knudson was elected Representative from the 30th legislative district.

Records showed that December was one of the mildest and driest since 1905.

## 1955

The Eagles basketball team, coached by Gil Holle, won the District Class C tournament in New Salem. The championship game was with Selfridge.

A class of 17 met weekly for a Red Cross First Aid course, taught by Mrs. Vernon Knutson.

The Sims-Almont Luther League hosted the Bismarck Circuit Luther League in May. There were about 150 young people present. Corma Feland was the local Luther League president.

Ernest Vanilla purchased the Almont Telephone Exchange from Mrs. Rena Ringham and moved the equipment to the Tavis Cafe, where Pearl Tavis assisted as operator.

A.A. Stegmeier, owner of the Almont Implement Co., had a 3-day auction sale in December and sold the complete line of hardware.

Almont folks surprised Mr. Hyde on his 84th birthday, when they gathered at the school gym on June 15 to extend their congratulations to the founder of the town. More than 300 attended the program and reception. Speakers on the program included Vernon Knutson, on behalf of the Commercial Club; Rep. Carl Knudson, Dr. O.C. Gaebe, Rev. Sollie, County Commissioner Herman Kaelberer and E.E. Templeton.

Two pioneers celebrated their 90th birthdays this year: Ole Halvorson was honored at a community party at the school on July 6 and members of the Rick Olson family had an Open House for Rick on August 12 at the Melvin Olson home.



Willman Bros. cattle - winter feeding on Heart River.

## 1956

With the help of the New Salem and Glen Ullin fire departments, the Almont Legion Hall was saved from total destruction in April. Damage was estimated at \$4,000.

The Commercial Club appointed Sig Peterson, Claude Ritz and Everett Olson to be in charge of a Golden Anniversary Celebration for Almont's 50th birthday. June 23 and 24 were set as the dates for the celebration. They also decided to publish a history book and Thelma Klingensmith was appointed to head the project. Others on the history book committee were Hazel Hoovestol, Grace Nelson, Rosella Olson, Ragnhild Feland and Beatrice Becklund.

May 19 was picture day ... all organizations in the community had their pictures taken for the history book.

The Almont Homemakers Club took on the project of erecting signs along the rural roads giving directions to the various farms.



*Congratulations Almont  
on your 75th Anniversary*



**Almont Rural  
Fire Department**

Almont, North Dakota



## 50th Anniversary Celebration



Almont celebrated its 50th anniversary on June 23-24. An estimated 3,000 attended the 2-day event. Saturday was dedicated to the Old Settlers and Pioneers and opened with a parade led by the Legion colors and Almont school band. Ed Reeffs took first place with their float and second place went to the Almont Homemakers Club and third to Live and Learn Homemakers Club.



Four of the original Almont businessmen: Front-N.E. Becklund and E.E. Templeton; standing-C.A. Knutson and E.W. Hyde.



The afternoon program honored the old settlers (70 years of age or older) and the Pioneers (50 years or more). Jack Swenson of KFVR was the guest speaker and Leon Olson was the emcee. Special recognition was given to four Almont men who were in business when the city started: E.W. Hyde, E.E. Templeton, N.E. Becklund and C.A. Knutson. Musical numbers included selections by the band, directed by Philip Johnson, and the Community Chorus, under the direction of Carol Atkinson, and songs by a vocal trio - Marlys Dolezol, Frances Rusch and Audrey Olson.

The Almont and Live and Learn Homemakers Clubs were in charge of the evening program which was emceed by Nathalie Thorson. Live and Learn presented the skit "Picture Day" and the Almont Club presented "The Old Patch Quilt" with Mrs. Grace Nelson as narrator. Other numbers were vocal solos by Sig Peterson and Grace Nelson (who sang a medley of 26 old favorites). Three poems were read, written by Eleanor Pederson Hilleman, Henry Nyquist and Marjorie Peterson. The Fiddlers also played a few numbers and a mixed quartet sang (Carol Atkinson, Joel Johnson, Sig and Marge Peterson).

A dance at the Legion Hall concluded Saturday's entertainment.

A rodeo was held on Sunday which attracted 3,000 people. Oldtime cowboys introduced were Joe

Pederson, Red Olson and William Thiel. A pony, complete with saddle, martingale and bridle, was won by Joe Beierlein of Glen Ullin. The Almont band played during the afternoon.

The 50th Anniversary History Book with 108 pages was off the press in time for the celebration and included the history of Almont and the organizations, pioneer histories and many pictures. Thelma Klingensmith was in charge of the publication which sold for \$1.50.

The 2-day celebration was sponsored by the Commercial Club, Range Riders Club and American Legion Post.

The Almont Lutheran Church constructed a new building this year and dedication services were September 9. Dr. Loyal Tallakson, president of the North Dakota District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, officiated at the dedication service.

Open air concerts were held several Saturday evenings during the summer by the school band under the direction of Philip Johnson. Several adults in the community played with the band: Rev. Jolivette, trumpet; Mark Willman, trombone; Sig and Marge Peterson, saxophones. In October the band gave a concert dedicated to Rev. Jolivette who was leaving for another parish.



Almont's Old Settlers (70 years and older) Front: Mrs. P.R. Peterson, Mrs. Alfred Hermanson, Chas. Hoeger, Mrs. Hogan Anderson, Mrs. John Jacobson, Mrs. Axel Peterson, Mrs. Theo Ramsland, Mrs. W.J. Thiel. Center: Alfred Hermanson, Nels Seim, Jonathan Pederson, Oscar Feland, Martin Willman, Martin Peterson, Julius Bradvold, E.E. Templeton, Jake Scharff, Mrs. E.E. Templeton, John Frey. Back: W.J. Thiel, Henry Fehring, Oscar Thorson, C.G. Thor, Tenius Ramsland, E.W. Hyde, Nels Becklund, Mike Claussen.



Almont Pioneers (over 50 years of age) Front: Mrs. Wm. Behrend, Mrs. Carl Fallgren, Mrs. Agnes Dettmen, Emil Keller, Thorvald Barstad, Mrs. Grace Nelson, Mrs. Louis Stoeckel, Mrs. Oscar Jacobson, Cornelius Knutson, Harry Jacobson, Tony Lang. 2nd row: Mrs. George Kaelberer, Mrs. Floyd Harwood, Mrs. Leo Timpe, Mrs. Walter Bakken, Mrs. Herman Bahr, Mrs. Martin Willman, Mrs. Emil Keller, Mrs. Carl Knudson, Mrs. Thelma Klingensmith, Don Klingensmith, Art Nelson. 3rd row: Norman Hansen, Pete Thorson, Mrs. George Wanstrom, George Wanstrom, Mrs. Oscar Olson, Mrs. Tobias Olson, Mrs. Nels Seim, Mrs. Ed Bond, Mrs. Albert Schmidt, Mrs. Herman Hartman, Mrs. Tom Ashbridge, Mary Timmerman. Back: Herman Bahr, Carl Knudson, August Timpe, Oscar Olson, Ed Christianson, Mrs. Ralph Dawson, Ralph Dawson, Bias Olson, Mrs. Bias Olson, Ragnhild Feland, Mrs. Chas. Hoeger, Hilda Johnson, Alice Anderson Ternstrom, Mrs. Edgar Skjolsvik, Mrs. Thorvald Larson, Edgar Skjolsvik, Olaf Feland, Thorvald Larson, Mrs. Martin Olson.

## 1957

Farmers Supply Inc. had their grand opening March 23. The store is located in the former Almont Implement building and is managed by Harvey Thorson and Everett Olson. Directors are Sig Peterson, Claude Ritz, Val Kary, Norman Hansen, John Bachler, Norman Kilen and George Kaelberer.

Mr. and Mrs. Rolv Herbst and son, Hilmer, German refugees from Russia, came to Almont in February, sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Don Klingensmith, who also found employment for them. Hilmer attended school in Almont that year. They later moved to Mandan.



Ardella Reetz and Pakistani children.

Ardella Reetz returned home in February from Pakistan, where she had served as a missionary nurse for five years. Enroute home to the states she spent a month in Iraq with her sister and husband, Rev. and Mrs. Earl Erickson, who were missionaries there.

Morton County Homemakers Day was held in Almont in June, hosted by the Almont, Live and Learn and Busy Beavers Homemakers Clubs.

The Commercial Club sponsored the annual Morton County Soil Conservation Awards banquet on Nov. 5. The Almont Homemakers Club prepared and served the meal. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Thorson were the county winners and were honored at the State Convention in Grand Forks in October.

## 1958

A dream came through for Almont residents - good, clear water, piped into their homes from a deep well and storage tank north of town. Until now, each residence had its own well and only a few homes had "running" water.

# Almont Water System Goes Into Operation

Residents of the town of Almont, 50 miles west and south of Mandan, are enjoying running water for the first time from the new city water system. The project was completed after several months of work.

The new city well is located about a quarter mile north of Almont. The water is pumped to the new storage tank on the hill adjacent to Almont from where pressure is sufficient to produce a flow of water to all users.

More than 50 homes and business firms will be supplied by the water system when all have plumbing installed.

Prior to this time all Almont had received water from individual shallow wells. Some of the wells have gone completely dry this summer due to the dry condition of the ground and the lack of an underwater supply.

The city water tank was erected by the Welk Construction of Bismarck and ditching to the homes has been done by William Knutson, Ralph Dawson, Clyde Hoovestol and Olson and Rodenbaugh of Dickinson who also did the ditching for the main line. Ernest Bechler did whatever drilling was necessary.

The Sims School District Reorganization Plan was approved by the voters with a vote of 245-28 on June 28. A Citizens Committee had been working with the surrounding school districts to form the new and larger school district.

Mrs. Thelma Klingensmith was elected County Supt. of Schools in the fall election.



Klingensmith

## 1959

Two band concerts by the Almont School Band were presented this year under the direction of Harold Foley.

Buildings under construction this year were the Postoffice and Memorial Hall. The hall was built with funds received by the local Legion Post from the Morton County Memorial Fund and was constructed under the supervision of Everett Olson, with much of the labor donated by local men.

A tribute to the late Rudolph "Red" Olson was given at the Beulah Rodeo on Sept. 6. A Memorial Race was held with three horses in the race, one of them a black horse with empty saddle. While the audience stood at attention, the horses circled the track with the black in the lead to the finish, as he had oftentimes done under Red's guidance.



The Steam Engine Club sponsored a Thresher's Reunion on October 17.



Almont's first school bus was in operation in November on a route west and south of Almont extending as far as the Ralph Erhardt Farm. Eighteen students rode the bus which was driven by Ernest Bachler.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Timpe spent Christmas in France with their daughter and family, Lt. and Mrs. Wm. Keubker and two children. They returned home the last of January.



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## 1960

The census has remained the same ... 190.

The new Almont Postoffice, built by Postmaster Ben Ramsland, was dedicated May 21 with ceremonies in the Legion Hall. Special guests were Almont's first postmaster, E.E. Templeton, and Almont's first mayor, E.W. Hyde.

The Commercial Club honored three charter members at their monthly meeting in February: E.W. Hyde, E.E. Templeton and N.E. Becklund.

A citizen's meeting was held June 1 at the Legion Hall to ask for better mail service. The Metro System had gone into effect, which delayed mail to Almont by a day. A letter of protest brought results and Almont's mail was again left off at North Almont for pickup.

The School Band under Harold Foley's direction presented two concerts this year; The Men's Chorus presented concerts in October at Daglum Church near New England and at the Lutheran Church at DeLamere.



The Steam Engine Club sponsored Pioneer Days Sept. 4 and 5. The big day was Monday, the 5th, and

included a parade, thresher's dinner and two steam threshing demonstrations. A program at the hall, emceed by Axel Hoovestol, included a talk by Carl Knudson, singing led by Thelma Klingensmith, violin duets by Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Hoeger and a piano duet by Sandra Christianson and Karen Olson. There were home movies shown and a dance that evening. About 500 people attended.

The new Super Valu Store opened for business in December. The cement block building was built by Iner and Ida Olson, owners of the business.

## 1961

There was a lot of music in the community this year. A community chorus of 48 voices presented the Easter cantata "Life Eternal" at the school gym March 26. The chorus was directed by Harold Foley with Sandra Christianson, accompanist. The Men's Chorus and Lutheran Junior Choir sang during intermission.

Carlyle Reeff took first place with a trumpet solo in the County 4-H Talent Show in New Salem April 21.

The School Music Department presented a Cafe Concert with 27 students taking part.

The Memorial Hall was dedicated May 3. Mrs. Harry Barth was honored as a Gold Star Mother and Mrs. Joe Hoovestol received recognition as the newly elected 7th District Auxiliary president.

1961 was a dry year and ranchers were looking for hay. The eastern part of the state opened up soil bank land and many from this community put up hay there and hauled it home.

In July a Junior Horse Club was organized with 25 boys and girls joining the club.

The Almont Commercial Club hosted the West Morton County Soil Conservation Recognition Awards dinner in Almont in October, assisted by the Almont Homemakers Club who prepared and served the meal. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Feland were first place winners in the contest.



COMMUNITY CHORUS - 1961

Front: Harold Foley, director; Sandra Christianson, Cheryl Christianson, Mildred Olson, Marilyn Miller, Ardys Brinkman, Jean Wetzel, Marilyn Olson, Nancy Gustafson, Karen Olson, Veralyn Wanstrom, Judy Gustafson, Ginger Gustafson. Middle: Laura Johnson, Joan Johnson, Caroline Schwartz, Linda Jacobson, Maxine Bachler, Mary Renner, Doris Feland, Dianne Olson, Carol Kilen, Norma Kilen, Ida Olson, Carol Huber, Alma Olson, Donna Johnson, Marge Peterson. Top: Stuart Olson, Rodney Peterson, Harvey Hogan, Paul Myers, Wayne Schwartz, Mark Willman, Roman Peterson, Sig Peterson, Joel Johnson, Clarence Jacobson, Duane Johnson, Darrel Nilles, Dwayne Thiel, Ernest Feland, Lee Harper, Carlyle Reeff, Myron Rosendahl, Larry Dawson and Ray Myers.

## 1962

The School Band and Chorus held a Cafe Concert in April and also entered the music contest in Bismarck. Harold Foley was the director.

The Pioneer Day celebration, held on Labor Day, was co-sponsored by other organizations in the community, and besides the events held last year, added the local 4-H Achievement Day and a performance by the newly organized Junior Horse Club Drill Team.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Ritz and their daughter, Janice, who is an airline stewardess, spent two weeks in Europe this spring.

## 1963

Two business changes took place on January 1. Wayne Becker took over as manager of Farmers Supply Inc. and Idar Handegard bought the Ritz Bar.

The school addition was completed and ready for use in February. The addition, built on the front of the building, included two classrooms, an office and a storeroom.



Charles Olson, Stuart Olson, Rodney Peterson, Sig Peterson, coach.

The 4-H Judging Team, coached by Sig Peterson, took 2nd place in Over-all Judging at the Winter Livestock Show in Valley City on March 1. There were 237 contestants from 32 counties. The team was comprised of Rodney Peterson, Stuart and Charles Olson and Bruce Peterson as alternate.

A prairie fire on March 30 swept through south of Almont burning all of Elmer Gustafson's pasture and a portion of pastures belonging to Art Feland and Fritz Hoeger. Fifty men and six tractors with plows fought the fire.

Sewing classes were conducted in seven meetings over a 3-week period in March and April by the Home Extension agent, Marianne Schaff and Mrs. Sam Thiel. Twenty-four ladies took the course and each one completed a dress or ensemble which they modeled at the annual Homemakers Achievement Day.

The homemakers clubs in the Almont area were hosts for the annual County Achievement Day in June. It was held at the school and 260 people attended the affair. Host clubs were Almont, Live and Learn, and Busy Beavers.

Almont obtained their first fire truck September 10. This was the first fire-fighting equipment since the hand-drawn fire cart was out-dated. Until now the town had to rely on the New Salem and Glen Ullin fire departments.

The community and nation was stunned and saddened by the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22.

## 1964

Calico 4-H Judging Team did very well again this year at the Winter Livestock Show in Valley City by placing first in beef judging. Rodney Peterson, Stuart and Charles Olson made up the team, coached by Sig Peterson.

The Boy Scout Troop was very active in '64 with Harvey Thorson as scoutmaster. They cleaned the weeds in the tree plantings on the north side of Almont and planted 100 new trees; Stuart Olson and Rodney Peterson received their Pro Deo Et Patria Award in February; the troop spent a week at Heart Butte in July and in August Douglas Thorson, Charles Olson and Bruce Peterson attended the Order of Arrow Conclave at Heart Butte. Bruce also attended the National Boy Scout Jamboree at Valley Forge, PA.

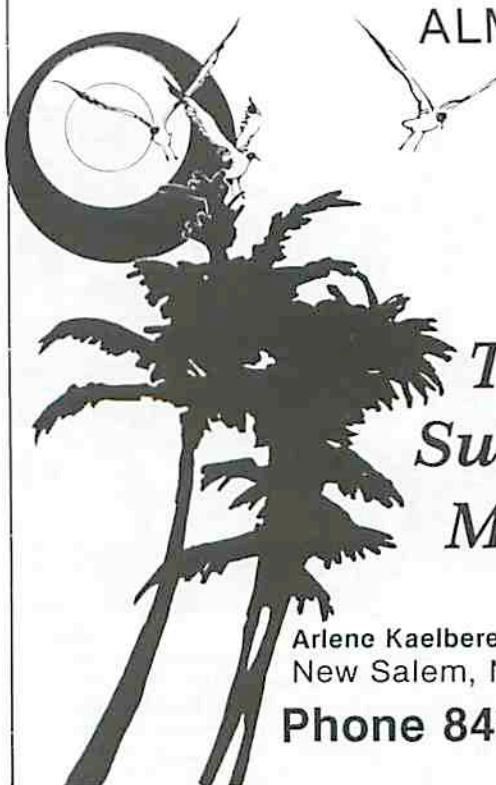
In the fall, an adult typing class was offered to adults in the community under the extension course from the evening division of Bismarck Junior College. Twenty-two were enrolled in the 18-week course taught by Mrs. Roman Peterson.

An early storm on Dec. 14 and 15 caused considerable hardships; many people were marooned away from home, roads were blocked, school was closed and there were some cattle losses.

## 1965

The bad weather continued into 1965. Since mid-November there was almost continuous below zero readings and snow continued to fall and pile up causing blocked roads. Stockmen were worried about their feed supply and community activities were almost at a standstill. The unusual weather

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