

FAMILY HISTORIES

MR. AND MRS. S. O. AANSTAD

S.O. Aanstad was born in Gausdal, Norway, on December 28, 1853.

He came to America in 1881 and was married the same year to Miss Carrie Olson of Baldwin, WI. The family made their home near Baldwin for many years.

Mrs. Aanstad passed away while the children were still at a very young age, so caring for the family was not an easy task for Mr. Aanstad.

After his family was grown and married, Mr. Aanstad decided to come to North Dakota to visit his daughter and her family, Mrs. Ole Mortenson of Almont, who lived south of the Heart River. He made his home there until he retired and moved to Almont, where he lived for more than seven years.

He was a member of the Lutheran church, being baptized and confirmed before coming to America.

Mr. Aanstad passed away after a lingering illness on February 14, 1931, at the age of 77 years and 1 month. He had three daughters and one son: Mrs. Henry Wernlund, Baldwin, WI; Albert Aanstad, who lives near Baldwin; Mrs. Ole Mortenson, who passed away on October 1, 1954, and Mrs. Olga Larson, who passed away September 28, 1954.

Albert and his brother, Leonard, drove a herd of horses back from Montana, breaking some on the way and the rest when they got home.

They retired and moved to Almont in 1958. There are eight daughters and one son in the family. Betty was married to Harold Geck, had four sons and three daughters, now lives in Carmichael, CA. Roberta married Arnold Boehm, has two sons and six daughters and they live in Orangevale, CA. Bonnie McMillan has two sons and lives in Citrus Heights, CA. Bernice married Eugene Thorson, has three daughters and two sons and lives at Almont. Darlene married Bill Bradley, has one daughter and three sons. Dauphine married Jack Niebert. They have four sons and two daughters and live in Hillsboro, OR. Audrey married Victor Borchelt and had three daughters and one son. Audrey is now married to Les Walton and lives in Bozeman, MT. Alfred married Ruby Kramer. They have one son and one daughter and live in Mandan, ND. Glenda married Clifford Buchanon and had one daughter and two sons. Glenda lives in Bellevue, WA.

Albert passed away in 1968; Leatha now lives in Citrus Heights, CA. They have 42 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

ALBERT ANDERSON FAMILY



Albert and Leatha Anderson

Albert was born in Spearfish, SD, on March 24, 1900, to Hogan Anderson and Anna Seim. The family moved to Sims when he was three years old and later moved to the farm west of Almont where he grew up. He spent many days with his brothers and sisters herding cattle around the area ... before there were fences. He received most of his education in the school near the farm. Albert worked on the railroad in this area and in Montana where he met Leatha Shumaker, daughter of Alfred Shumaker and Emma Jane Malloy. Leatha was born in Rockville, MO. Albert and Leatha were married on Jan. 2, 1926, in Mildred, MT. They farmed in Montana for about three years and moved back to Almont to farm.

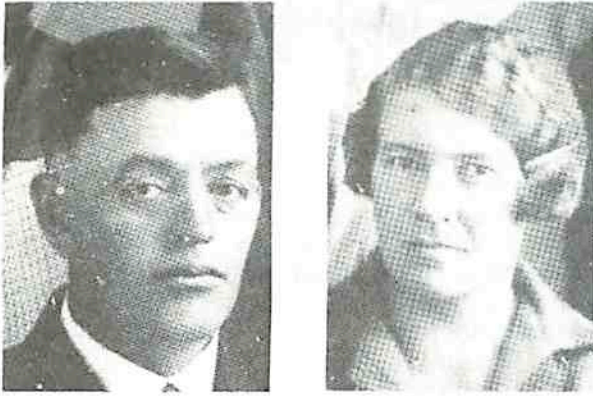
AUDREY ANDERSON WALTON

Audrey Anderson Walton, daughter of Albert and Leatha Anderson, was born in 1934 in Almont, ND. She graduated from Almont High School in 1953 and then moved to New Salem and lived there for 13 years. She has four children; Laurie, Zandra, Shelia and Ronald. In 1968 she moved to Bozeman, MT.

Laurie lives in Madison, WI, and has one boy; Zandra and her husband are truck drivers; Shelia lives in Bismarck and Ronald in New Salem on the farm. Audrey lives in Bozeman but Almont will always be home to her!

**Al's Barber Shop
and
Speed Wash**
Glen Ullin, ND

ALBERT H. ANDERSON FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Anderson

Albert H. Anderson was born at Lake Benton, MN, on March 10, 1884. In 1887 he came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Anderson, and sister, Amelia, to Sims, ND, in a covered wagon and settled on a homestead on the Heart River. In 1908 he married Mable Knutson. They made their home on a farm seven miles south of Almont for many years. Mable, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Knutson, was born in April, 1889.

Their children are: Irene Timpe, Flasher, ND; Wallace Anderson (deceased) was married to Marian Bond (four children), Almont, ND; Lucille (Mrs. Jack Magnus) Dayton, OH (two children); Verna (Mrs. Paul Simonson), Ryder, ND (two children); Clifford Anderson, married Mae Moran, Merced, CA (one son); Gordon Anderson, married Mary Gartner, Dalles, OR (four children).

Mr. Anderson passed away in November, 1932, and was buried in the Sims Cemetery. His wife, Mable, married F.L. Atkinson and lived in Flasher for many years. She passed away Sept. 7, 1912, in the Hillsboro Nursing Home at the age of 83.

Congratulations

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MR. AND MRS. G.H. ANDERSON

Among the first who came to Almont from Sims in 1906 was Mr. Anderson, very well known as "Andy." Before coming to Sims he made his abode in Waseau, NE. In Sims he was employed in the August Timmerman General Merchandise Store.

The first local newspaper, "The Almont Advertiser" was owned and edited by Mr. Anderson. Later he became associated with the Farmers State Bank, where he served for many years.

On June 29, 1910, he and Miss Nell Anderson, formerly of Obebolt, IA, were married in Bismarck, ND, and established their home in the Pelette residence.

Because of illness he retired from active business life in the year 1932, but was interested in all community activities.

Mr. Anderson passed away July 30, 1936. His body was taken to Alta, IA, his boyhood home, for burial.

Mrs. Anderson continued to make her home in Almont for a number of years after Mr. Anderson died. Eventually she sold the place and went to live with her sister until her death on May 13, 1960.

Being a teacher in the Almont schools for many years gave Mrs. Anderson the opportunity to leave a permanent impression upon the lives of two generations of children. Her self-confidence, sweet smile, and manner of always expecting the very best, completely won the hearts of her pupils. Many today are saying, "I thank the Lord for her influence in my life."



Mr. and Mrs. G.H. Anderson

HOGAN ANDERSON FAMILY



Hogan Anderson Kids

L to R: Mildred Dorothy, Leonard, Oliver and Alice

Hogan Anderson was born in Norway in 1870 and came to America as a young man. He lived in South Dakota where he met and married Anna Seim in 1897. Anna was born in Decorah, IA, in 1878.

In 1902 they moved to Sims and in 1906 moved to Curlew. The Andersons moved to Sandpoint, ID, in 1935. Mr. Anderson passed away in 1953 and Anna passed away in 1958.

There were eight children born to the Andersons: Clara (deceased) married Orville Halvorson (deceased). They had four children: Erwin, a retired Lieuten-

ant Colonel, lives in Bozeman, MT. Edith LeDoux lives near Soldata, AK. Jean Leitholt lives in Miles City, MT. Eddy is with Turning Point Christian Ministries and lives in Bozeman, MT.

Albert (deceased) lived on the home farm west of Almont. He married Leatha Shumaker and they had nine children. Leatha still lives in Spokane, WA. Betty Geck lives in Spokane, WA; Roberta Boehm lives in Sacramento, CA; Bonnie McMillian lives in Sacramento, CA; Bernice Thorson with her husband, Eugene Thorson, own the original Anderson farm near Almont, ND; Darlene Bradley lives in Sacramento, CA; Dauphine Niebert lives in Forest Grove, OR; Audrey Walton lives in Bozeman, MT; Glenda Iverson lives in Seattle, WA; Alfred Anderson married Ruby Kramer, they live in Mandan, ND.

Alice married A.B. Ternstrom (deceased). They adopted Louis Anderson (Monty's son). She lives in Havre, MT, and Louis lives in Tacoma, WA.

Oliver married Clara Seim and they have four children: June married Chester Kaelberer and lives near New Salem, ND; Clayton lives in New Salem and part-time in Yuma, AZ; Alice married Wilford Bopp and they live near New Salem, ND; Larvel married Jeanette Hoesel and lives in New Salem, ND.

Leonard married Ann Brende. They live in Richland, WA, and have four children: Karen Ann married George Hitler and lives in Akron, OH; Dr. Ronald Anderson lives in Seaside, OR; Erik lives in Seattle, WA, and Jon lives in Moses lake, WA.

Monty (deceased-1935) had one son, Louis, who was adopted by the A.B. Ternstroms when he died.

Dorothy married J. Palmer Lalum and lives in Kalispell, MT. They have a son, Andre, married to Gaylene Williams and they live near Joplin, MT. Diane married Gary Walker and lives in Tacoma, WA.

Mildred married Henry Lagrou and lives in Sandpoint, ID. They have three children: Donald married Jody Allen and lives near Olympia, WA; Linda married William Norberg and lives in Spokane, WA, and Barbara married Steven Thornton and they live in Othello, WA.

settled in Rio, WI. They lived there three years; moved to Lake Benton, MN, in 1873, where they remained for 15 years. Hans attended rural school there. He married Rachael Hovden of Lake Benton in 1882 and moved to Sims in 1887, in a caravan of five covered wagons. In the caravan with them and their children, Albert and Amelia, were Andrew Anderson, brother of Hans; Mr. and Mrs. Hans Bjorum and son, Edward; Mr. and Mrs. Tronson and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Langdon and family. The Anderson wagon had a cookstove with them so when they needed to bake bread they unloaded the stove and spent the day baking. In the evening they sat around the campfire singing and reminiscing.

Later Hans took up a homestead on the Heart River, 12 miles southeast of Almont. There was good water and lots of trees, which pleased Mrs. Anderson. They spent their entire lives here, except for three years spent at Sheridan, OR. They went to Oregon in 1911, accompanied by their daughters, Margaret, Lena and Clara, and during their stay their sons, Sam and Henry, operated their 840-acre farm.

When the Andersons first lived on the Heart River, there were rumors that the Indians were coming from the south to scare out the new settlers and one time Hans took his family to Sims, a distance of 16 miles by wagon, so they would be safe. However, the attack never materialized.



Hans Anderson Family

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson had a family of eight children: Albert, deceased November 1932; Amelia (Mrs. Philip Lux), deceased August 1931; Inger (Mrs. Cornelius Knutson), deceased December 1952; Sam, deceased June 1950; Henry, deceased February 1947; Mrs. Herman (Lena) Hartman and Mrs. Paul (Margaret) Rud of New Salem; Mrs. Albert (Clara) Schmidt, residing at Marion Manor in Glen Ullin.

Mrs. Anderson passed away Oct. 2, 1929, and Mr. Anderson on Dec. 6, 1948.

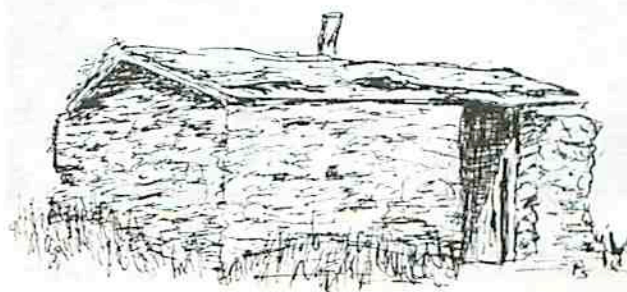
The farm now belongs to the Willman family.

MR. AND MRS. HANS ANDERSON



Mr. and Mrs. Hans Anderson Albert, Milly, Sam Inger and Henry

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Anderson were both born in Telamarken, Norway; Mr. Anderson on July 19, 1858, and Mrs. Anderson on August 23, 1862. Hans came to the U.S. at the age of 11 years with his parents and



MR. AND MRS. SAM K. ANDERSON

Sam Anderson, the son of Hans and Rachel (Hovden) Anderson, was born Dec. 11, 1887, at the family homestead on the Heart River about 15 miles from Almont. Sam, together with his brother, Henry, operated the 840-acre family farm while their parents were living in Sheridan, OR, for three years. Sam lived and worked at the family home until his marriage to Regina Knutson.



Sam and Regina Anderson

Regina (Knutson) Anderson, the daughter of Andrew and Mary (Foss) Knutson, was born March 29, 1895, at the family homestead near Almont. She worked in the post-office operated by her father and the store owned by her parents for a number of years preceding her marriage.

Eight children were born of this union and raised in Almont, namely: Madalene, married to Charles Wiebke, Jr., Carlton, OR, has 3 children; Harley, married to Theresa Bernards, Dallas, OR, has 8 children; Pearl, married to Leo Wiebke, Dallas, OR, has 5 children; Grace, married to Frank Marshall, Acampo, CA, has 3 children; Leon, married to Marjorie Blackwell, Sheridan, OR, has 3 children; Ione, married to Cliff Jones, Yamhill, OR, has 2 children; Joyce, married to Melvin Sprecher, McMinnville, OR, has 2 children, and Jean, married to Dwight Brown, St. Helens, OR, has 3 children.

Later, in Yamhill, OR, their ninth child was born: Robert, married to Diane Klotz, Crescent City, CA, has one child.

All of the nine children are living. In addition, there are 30 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Sam and Regina lived in Almont until 1937 when they moved to Yamhill, OR. Later they moved to Carlton, OR, in 1943 where they lived the rest of their lives. Sam worked in a sawmill there.

Sam passed away June 20, 1950, and Regina on August 22, 1961. Leon's first wife, Doris Mendenhall, passed away during childbirth in 1953.



Children of Sam and Regina Anderson

L to R - Top: Leon, Harlan, Bob. Bottom: Pearl Wiebke, Ione Jones, Jean Brown, Grace Marshall, Joyce Sprecher, Madalene Wiebke.

WALLACE ANDERSON FAMILY



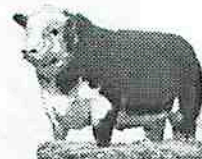
Wallace Anderson, son of Albert and Mabel (Knutson) Anderson, was born at Almont on March 17, 1910. On March 7, 1948, he married Marion Bond of Almont. Marion was born at New Salem, Nov. 3, 1927, the daughter of Edwin and Ermine (Lauzon) Bond. They lived on a farm located on the Muddy Creek, southeast of Almont, and raised a family of four children: Twins Jean Penelope (Penny) and Jane Patricia (Pat); Jill and James, all graduates of Almont High School.

Penny, born March 17, 1949, married Francis Pulver, Jr.; has two children, Jason - 9 and Jessica -6, and farm and ranch at Beulah, ND. Pat, born March 17, 1949, married Lester Feland; has two children, Susan - 6 and Mark - 4; they farm and ranch at Almont. Jill, born August 15, 1953, married Joel Olson; has two daughters, Jenny - 4 and Jackie 1; they farm and ranch at Almont. Jim, born Nov. 2, 1956, was named to the North Dakota All-State High School Basketball team in 1976 and was awarded a basketball scholarship to Bismarck Junior College in 1977. He lives in Alexander, ND.

Wally passed away Feb. 14, 1976, and Marion lives in Almont.

*Congratulations Almont
from the*

Robert Slavick Family



New Salem, ND

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EDD AND VIOLA BACHLER



Edd and Viola on their 25th anniversary - June 5, 1977

On June 5, 1952, Edward Bachler, son of John Bachler and Anna Seeberger, and Viola Hellman, daughter of Leo Hellman and Anna Paul, were married at St. Joseph's church, south of Glen Ullin. They settled on the Martin Wohlman place, 6 miles southwest of Almont, where they lived for 12 years at which time they bought the Bachler home place.

On June 22, 1953, a baby girl was born. They called her JoAnn and she died of pneumonia on July 10 of the same year. The children following were Dean, Patricia, Renee and Pamela. Five years later came Annette, then the three boys to even out the ratio; Joel, Edward Jr. and Anthony. Dean, the oldest, married Kathy Renner on Feb. 28, 1976. They are now living three miles west of the Bachler farm with two boys, Joey and Mark. Patricia married Richard Frohlich in September of 1977. They are now in Glen Ullin with their daughter, Elizabeth. Renee, single, is a senior at Mary College majoring in Social Work. Pam married Bill Willman in 1980, has a son, Jeremey, and they are at home in Mandan. Annette is a sophomore in high school and Joel is a freshman. Eddy is in the 7th grade and Anthony is a 6th grader.

In 1960 Pam, at the age of 2 months, was very ill with what was believed to be meningitis, a spinal disease. For several weeks the doctors had little hope for the infant.

March 2, 1966, began as a beautiful winter day but by evening the visibility was down to almost zero. The blizzard continued throughout the following day. On Friday, the 4th, upon doing chores Edd found the cattle shed in a collapsed state covering 92 head of cattle. It was quite a shock. Thirty head of the livestock were recovered unharmed ... the remaining did not survive the accident.

In 1974 Renee had some excitement traveling with other 4-H'ers on an International Exchange trip to Japan. She spent five weeks in a Japanese home in the city of Niigata. The Abe's, the family she stayed with, had a son, Takishi, and a daughter, Junko, ages 10 and 13 respectively. In 1976 Junko stayed at the Bachler home for a five week exchange. The family really enjoyed having her with them and Junko mostly liked playing in the wheat granary with the youngsters. Junko is now attending a university in Tokyo where she is studying English and American Literature. She is planning to visit the United States this summer and the exciting part of that, for the Bachlers, is that a stop in Bismarck is on her agenda.

In 1977 Edd and Viola celebrated their silver wed-

ding anniversary. Everyone in the family enjoyed the company of all of Edd's brothers and sisters that came home for the occasion. It was the first time they all spent together since 1964.

The Bachlers spend many occasions together as a family as all of the children live close to home. The older four have more or less chosen their vocations and the younger four, well, they're in the process of deciding what field fits each one of them. Well, some of them are deciding. Anthony has made up his mind ... he doesn't care what any else does ... or thinks ... he is going to be a farmer.

JOHN BACHLER FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. John Bachler - taken in 1964

John Bachler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bachler, was born in 1905 in Austeria, Hungaria, which today is under the rule of Romania.

In 1924 John came over to United States and settled with the Bahm family south of Almont. In 1927 Mr. Bachler and Anna Seeberger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Seeberger, were united in marriage at Sacred Heart church in Glen Ullin. The Bachlers lived on the Frank Brink farm 17 miles south of Almont until 1958, at which time they bought the Joe Drashil farm 7 miles southwest of Almont. They lived there until time of retirement in 1964, when they moved to Mandan.

To John and Anna Bachler 11 children were born: Caroline, Edward, Ernest, Lucille, Ann, Robert, Tony, Marlin, Maxine, Johnny and Linda.

Caroline married Ed Barth of Glen Ullin and lives on a farm in the St. Joseph area. Edward married Viola Hellman and lives on the home place southwest of Almont. Ernest married to a former Glen Ullin girl, Alice Gietzen; Tony and his wife, Cecilia Brown; Marlin and his wife, Virginia Miller, and John and his wife, Jean Wetzel, are all living in the Seattle area with their families. Lucille is presently living in Modesto, CA; Anna and Maxine are married to Steckler brothers and are located north of Elgin; Robert and his wife, Renate Hunicke, reside in Cincinnati, OH; and Linda married Jim Geiger and lives in Mandan.

In 1964 Mr. and Mrs. John Bachler traveled to Europe to visit his family. At that time he had three

sisters and three brothers living in Romania. They spent six weeks visiting his immediate family, along with other relatives. Mr. Bachler passed away that same year.

In 1977, at the time of Edd and Viola's 25th wedding anniversary, the entire family gathered in North Dakota. The other event included a family reunion at the home place on June 13th. Most of the sisters and all of the brothers along with their mother, Anna, joined in the job of roasting a pig. People were on duty for 24 hours in preparation for the feast. Most of the grandchildren, not to mention about 100 distant relatives and friends, joined in the celebration. This reunion was the first since their father's funeral.

On January 1, 1981, the North Dakota relatives gathered at the Sacred Heart Center in Mandan, rented by Mrs. Bachler. Lutefisk and lefse were the main foods for the day for the German-Hungarian family, but it was the people that made the occasion special.

Mrs. Anna Bachler lives in her own home in Mandan. Her children say she is now also responsible for the 50 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren she calls hers.

EVELYNE TIMPE AND LEONARD J. BACHMAN

Evelyne was born in Almont, ND, March 6, 1922, to Walter and Olga Timpe. She received her education at the Almont school and two years at Dickinson State Teachers College. She taught in North Dakota for six years and then received her Bachelor of Arts degree at Whitworth College in Spokane, WA, in 1965.

Leonard was born to Gottlieb and Regina Bachman June 1, 1919, on a farm south of Elgin. Later he moved to the Heart River community with his parents, living east of the Skretteburg place. He attended rural school and joined the armed services in 1941.

Leonard and Evelyne were married Feb. 16, 1946, by Rev. Fylling at the parsonage in Bismarck. They farmed south of Elgin and in 1955 moved to the Livermore place on the Heart River. In the spring of 1957 they had an auction sale and moved to Hayden Lake, ID. Evelyne has taught school in Idaho for the past 23 years and Leonard works for Northwest Timber Company.

Dr. Lowell R. Fahrni
Veterinarian

Glen Ullin, ND

Almont, ND

ARTHUR BAHR FAMILY

In 1919 Arthur Bahr and Clara Weiss were married and lived on the Julius Bahr place southeast of Almont. Arthur and Clara had three children: Willard, Mildred and Iris.

Willard married Enita Scharff in 1941 and has two children: Karon Kay and Gary. Karon Kay married Marvin Jonason in 1964 and has one child, Tamara Lynn. They live in Greeley, CO. Gary married Marilyn Neibauer in 1972 and has three children: Shawna, Tawnya and Gaylen. They live in Mandan, ND.



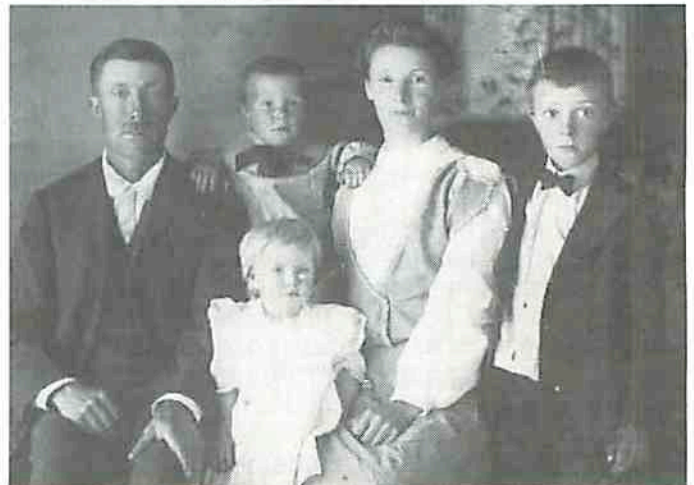
Enita and Willard Bahr

Mildred married Ed Elliot in San Francisco, CA, in 1947 and has two children: Mary and Jim. They live in Corte Madera, CA.

Iris married Peter Giacotto in San Francisco in 1948 and they have three children: Vicki, Perry and Pamela. They all live in Corte Madera, CA.

In 1949 Willard, Enita and family had an auction sale and moved to Mill Valley, CA, where Willard was in home construction. They lived there for eight years and in 1957 decided to come back to live on the original farm southeast of Almont where they still reside.

RALPH AND MARIE (JOHNSON) BAKKEN



Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bakken with Walter, England and Ruth

Ralph Bakken, born in Kristiansand, Norway, came to America the latter part of the 1870's. He entered service with the Northern Pacific Railway Company in 1882.

Marie Sophie Johnson, born July 10, 1876, Lyngdahl, Norway, came with her son, Walter, to America in 1902, coming to Sims at that time. She and Ralph Bakken were married in 1903 or 1904.

Ralph Bakken continued to work for the Northern Pacific Railroad as a section foreman in the Yellowstone division. At times he had 20 or more men in his charge. He later was section foreman in the Curlew

and Sims areas. Mr. Bakken was stricken with a paralytic stroke in June of 1920. The Bakkens had made Sims their home since coming to this country. They were members of the Sims Lutheran church.

There were seven children, two daughters and five sons. Walter, Almont, married Anna Olin; Leonard died at a young age; Ruth, Mrs. Gus Perman, lives at Glen Ullin, ND; Anna, Mrs. Theodore Gappert, lives at Mandan, ND; England married and is living at Silverdale, WA; Emanuel married and lives in Georgia, and Gordon never married and lives at Fergus Falls, MN.

Ralph Bakken died in 1924 and Marie Bakken died in 1910.

WALTER AND ANNA (OLIN) BAKKEN



Walter and Anna Bakken

Walter Bakken, born May 30, 1899, in Lyngdahl, Norway, came to America with his mother, Marie Sophie Johnson, and in 1902 settled in the Sims area.

At age 14 or 15, Walter began to work for the Northern Pacific Railroad as a water boy. He later worked with the section crew for the same company working his way up to a railroad operator and finally a depot agent.

Anna Olin was born June 19, 1891, to John E. and Tobine Olin. She grew up and attended school in the Sims area. Anna attended college at Valley City and then taught school for some years before getting married.

Walter and Anna were married Feb. 1, 1926, at the home of her parents. Rev. Thornell officiated and C.L. and Ellen Anderson were their attendants. At the time of their marriage, Walter was the depot agent at Pompeys Pillar, MT, but was later transferred to Richardton, ND. Walter was agent at many different points in the Yellowstone division before he became agent at Almont in 1928. The couple lived on the second floor of the NP structure until it was gutted by fire in 1931. The Bakkens escaped with only their nightclothes. They credit Warren Becklund for their safety as he saw the flames and awakened them.

The depot was rebuilt and Walter continued there as the agent until 1947 when the railroad was re-routed and the depot moved to North Almont. Walter was then the agent there until his retirement in 1966. After the fire they moved to Anna's parents' farm.

They later bought the farm and made it their home until 1976, at which time they went to the Marion Manor Nursing Home, Glen Ullin, ND, and later the Elm Crest Manor Retirement Home, New Salem, ND.

Both Walter and Anna were active in the Sims church and its organization as well as in other community affairs. Anna was a member of the Live and Learn Homemakers Club of Almont.

The couple had no children.

Walter died July 17, 1978, and Anna lives at Elm Crest Manor, New Salem, ND.

THORVALD BARSTAD FAMILY



Front: Karine, Thorvald, Ragna, Louise. Middle:Alta, Ruby, Alice, Thelma. Back:Arnold, Selmer, Norman and Obert.

Thorvald Barstad was born in Kristiansand, Norway, March 12, 1889, and came to Sims in January 1906. His father was an army sergeant and his mother ran a dress shop. He worked several years in the underground coal mines in Sims and also in New Salem. He filed on a homestead seven miles south of Almont in 1910. In 1914 he married Olga Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Olson. Their three children were Norman, Marmarth, ND; Alice Handegard, Seattle, WA; and Arnold, Sacramento, CA. Olga passed away in 1924.

On June 24, 1926, he married Ragna Olson Aanstad, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Olson, who was born Dec. 20, 1892. Her children are Louise (Mrs. Lars Handegard), Almont; Karine (Mrs. Irvin Miller), Bismarck; and Selmer, Billings, MT. Four children were born to Ragna and Thorvald: Thelma (Mrs. Victor Bushnell), Myrtle Point, OR; Alta (Mrs. Roy Schaar), Scranton, ND; Ruby (Mrs. Eddie Kilen) Puyallup, WA, and Obert, Mandan.

The Barstads continued to live on the homestead where they raised their family of 10 children. In 1940 Thorvald decided to try his hand at deep sea fishing in Alaska. Although he found fishing to be hard and rough, he went back again the following year. The family took care of the farm during his absence.

In 1959 they retired from farming and built a home in Almont where they continued to live until their deaths. Thorvald passed away in July 1975 and Ragna passed away in April 1979. They had 27 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. Their son, Obert, bought the home place and farms it, besides teaching in the Bismarck High School.

J. R. BATEMAN FAMILY

By Evelyn Bateman Peterson



Jim and Dena Bateman's 50th anniversary - June 3, 1957

L to R - top: Webster, Blanche, Evelyn, Walter. Seated: Vivian, Jim, Dena and Ray.

James Robert (Jim) Bateman was born June 16, 1883, in Spring Valley, MN. He came to Almont, ND, in 1906 to visit Joe Casserly, who was a neighbor in Minnesota and who with his brother had a hardware store in the new town of Almont. There he met and fell in love with Dena Ramsland who was born in Sims, ND, on Jan. 26, 1885, and grew up in that community.

Jim and Dena were married in Mandan, ND, June 3, 1907. They lived for a short time on the Larson ranch where their first child, Evelyn Ruth, was born July 3, 1908. Then they moved into Almont and opened a cafe. At this time there was a lot of traffic in the new town as people from south of Almont had to come to town to get their supplies of all kinds as the railroad had not yet reached the small towns to the south.



Grandpa Bateman

As I write this, I remember Mom saying that she would look out into the dining room which had long tables and benches and hope no more people would come in as they were so very busy and overly tired. But they were happy days, too, as there were parties and dances and then, as now, everyone joined in all the activities of the town.

Raymond Wellington, the first son of the family, was born in Almont August 30, 1909. Shortly after that the family moved back to Milroy, MN, as Jim's mother was very ill and needed care. The family remained in Minnesota until the summer of 1922 when they returned to Almont. While in Minnesota, Webster Warren born on May 28, 1911; Walter Harrison on April 13, 1913; Vivian Lois on Feb. 4, 1915, and Blanche May on May 18, 1918, were added to the family.

At the time we came back to Almont there had not been a hotel open for some time so the folks reopened the hotel and Jim had a filling station selling

Standard Oil products.

The folks were always in business, mostly cafe business until later years when they moved to the west coast where Jim worked in the shipyards. After the war they came back to Montana and lived in Billings and Great Falls.

Dena passed away in Billings Feb. 25, 1963, and Jim passed away in Great Falls on July 18, 1970. Both are buried in Sunset Memorial Gardens in Billings.

There are four children left in the family. Ray passed away Dec. 6, 1964, and is buried at Corning, CA; Vivian passed away in Great Falls May 19, 1967, and is buried in Billings; Webb and his wife, Loretta, live in Benton City, WA; Walter and his wife, Laura, live in Great Falls, and Evelyn and husband, Ralph, lived together in Billings until Ralph passed away June 7, 1979. Evelyn still makes her home in Billings.

Grandchildren of Jim and Dena are: (Ray) Robert Bateman; (Webb) LaReta Bateman Curtis, Bonnie Bateman Looney, James Bateman; (Evelyn) Janet Esser.

MR. AND MRS. N.E. BECKLUND



Beatrice Becklund



Nels Becklund

Nels E. Becklund was born on a farm near Winthrop, MN, in 1885. After reaching manhood he became interested in business and was sent to the new town of Almont by E.W. and A.L. Olson of the Winthrop Bank. The Farmer's State Bank of Almont was organized in 1907 with E.W. Olson, E.W. Hyde, Jens Nelson, G.H. Anderson and Nels on the board. The bank closed in 1931 during the depression years. Among the former bookkeepers were Christine Nelson, Robert Becklund, Carl Sherwood, Henry Peck, Mrs. P.D. Pfaff and Mrs. Becklund.

In 1918 Nels married Beatrice Williams, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. P.O. Williams of Otter Creek. Beatrice had come to Almont in 1915 to teach piano and later she clerked in the O.C. Ellingson and C.E. Kelsven stores. For about 30 years after the Almont Lutheran church was organized she was the church pianist and music director.

Nels maintained an interest in the oil and gas business in Almont for many years but was chiefly engaged in farming. The Becklunds moved to Minneapolis, MN, in April 1963 and Mr. Becklund passed away there June 5, 1964. Mrs. Becklund still lives there.

Five children were born into the family of Nels and Beatrice: Eileen, who married Dr. J.B. Friberg and went as missionaries to East Africa. They spent eight years there until forced to return to the states because of Eileen's illness of chronic malaria. They now reside in Minneapolis; Warren, Florida; Wayne, Minnesota; Thornton, Fargo, and Dr. Roger Becklund, Minneapolis. They also have 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

BENNIE BENSON

Bennie, as he was known in our area, was born in Friedheim, Norway, in 1890 and traveled to America about 1910. He worked on the railroad section crew at Curlew and also at the Spring Valley Mine at Glen Ullin.

Bennie bought a farm about 1920, the land is now owned by Oscar Monson and Ida and Vivian Christianson. A rural school was built on the southeast corner of his farm called the Benson School and served as a church and meeting place for the people in that area.

Bennie was talented at carving and making model ships. He also spent much of his spare time making drawings, designing cabinets and houses. He thought future houses should be made from glass but felt the quality of glass had to be improved. He was artistic in this type of work as a youngster and was invited to work as a sculptor by his cousin, Gustave Vigeland, but he chose to come to America.

Bennie had a good line of farm equipment and horses but drought and depression caused him to lose it all during the early 1930's. He moved to a high hill on the Andrew Torgerson farm, made a dugout which overlooked the land he had owned. The dugout was very neat and well kept. After living in this dugout for about two years, he moved to his uncle's farm (Oscar Thorson), helping with the farm work until he decided to return to Norway in 1949. He continued raising a garden and flowers until his death in 1975.

Bennie was a religious man. He never smoked or drank alcohol. Throughout his life he continued to give all but the bare necessities to charities and the unfortunate.

WILLIAM AND ALTA BETHKE



William and Alta Bethke

William was born at Judson to Oscar and Margaret Bethke, the youngest of eight children. He married Alta Schwinkendorf, daughter of Albert and Elsie Schwinkendorf, Sept. 24, 1949, at Bethel Church, New Salem. Alta was one of seven children.

In the spring of 1950 they moved to Almont community and due to the 1950 flood, bridges were out and they had to travel through the Pete Thorson and Carl Thor farms to reach the farm. It was a move

they'll never forget!

In the fall of 1951 they bought the Alvin Olin farm.

Their children are: Sandra, October 1950-1958; Leslie, January 1952 (married Peggy Itrick October 1972, they have two children, Missy and Susie), they live in Mandan and he works for Earth Builders; William R. Jr., June 1953-1953; Claye, April 1955-1955; Timothy, June 1962, is a student at NDSSS in automobile mechanics; Todd, May 1964, is a student at Almont High School in the 11th grade.

The Bethkes cared for three foster children over a period of six years.

Besides caring for their dairy and grain farm, Bill and Alta are members of the Almont United Lutheran Church and many other local organizations. She has been active in ALCW, Auxiliary, Morton Co. Youth Director, Live and Learn Homemakers Club, Punkin Center Farmers Union Local, and a Sunday School teacher for a period of 32 years. Bill is a member of the Commercial Club, ASCS committeeman, Legion, and has served on the school board and the church board for many years. Alta is a newly-elected trustee of the church. Both are active in P.T.O.

MR. AND MRS. BEN C. BIRD

Ben Bird was born Dec. 7, 1864, in Dennison, TX. Dennison was cattle country so it became natural for him to become a cowboy. He was with two cattle drives and one horse drive from Texas to North Dakota and Montana. The first cattle drive ended at the present site of Miles City, MT; the second trip was bringing horses to Ekalaka, MT. On this drive his 16-year-old brother was along. They were going through some timber country looking for some outlaws; Ben's brother came upon one of the outlaws lying on his back seemingly dead. The outlaw suddenly came to life and fatally shot Ben's brother. The third cattle drive was to Williston and was called the Long Bar Drive.

In 1896 Ben married Ida Connelly in Mandan. They moved to California where Ben drove a stage in Yosemite Park for five years. They decided to move back to North Dakota and settled in New Salem, where Ben bought and sold horses. They then took a homestead six miles southeast of Almont on the NW 1/4 of section 30-137-85. He and his brother-in-law, Bob Connelly, had a livery stable in Almont and also a dray line. Ben was constable in Almont for a number of years and had the respect of everyone. He always had good horses and raced them as a hobby.

Mr. and Mrs. Bird's children were: Bob, born in Mandan, married Phyllis Makelke of Dickinson, was



Ben Bird

train master for NPPR at the time of his death in 1953; Gladys, born in California, married Oscar Olson of Almont, later married Stuart Rose and now lives in Texas; Edith married Alf Steiger of Fairfield, ND. They live in Othello, WA; Verna, also born in California, died in 1922 after having taught school one year; Earl was born in Almont in 1907, Almont's second baby, he married Norma Lebo of Medora and now lives in Killdeer; Bill, the youngest, was born in Almont in 1911 and while stationed in Glasgow, Scotland, during World War II, married his wife who was in the British Air Force. Bill is still in Scotland and is managing director of Cathcart Engineering Co. Ltd.

Mrs. Bird passed away in September 1917, the first person buried in the Almont Cemetery.

In his later years Ben lived with Earl in Medora and went along when Earl was rodeoing and racing horses. He passed away on April 1, 1961, at 96 years of age.

MR. AND MRS. HANS BJORUM

Mr. Bjorum was born near Oslo, Norway, Nov. 11, 1858, and received his education there. He came to the United States in 1880, after the death of his parents.

In 1883 Mr. Bjorum was married to Miss Mella Rolstad, also of Norway. They lived at Lake Benton, MN, until May 1887 when Mr. and Mrs. Bjorum and several other families from there came to Sims, Dakota Territory, in a group of covered wagons. Mr. and Mrs. Bjorum settled on the Heart River on land which he farmed for 50 years. Mrs. Bjorum passed away in 1904 and Mr. Bjorum continued to live on the same farm until his death in 1937. This place is now the Lars Handegard ranch.

Mr. Bjorum helped organize the first Lincoln school district on the Heart River. With help from directors of the board, he built the first schoolhouse in Lincoln district, constructing it of logs. He served as clerk of the board for 44 years and was assessor for 10 years. He was one of Grant County's oldest pioneers.

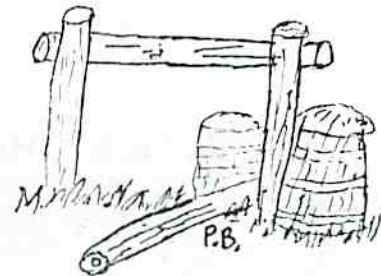
Mr. and Mrs. Bjorum had two sons: Edward, born in Minnesota and now living in Hettinger, ND, married Miss Minnie Peterson of Carson in 1905; Carl, born at the Heart River home, is married and lives near Chicago, IL.

THERESA K. BLETH



Mr. and Mrs. Jake Hoerner with their youngest daughter, 2½-year-old Margaret.

Theresa K. Bleth came to Almont in April 1919 looking for employment and found it as a clerk in C.E. Kelsven's store. She married Jake J. Hoerner, who was employed by the Mandan Mercantile Co. at Glen Ullin. They also lived at Wing and were in the grocery business at Esmond, ND, until he passed away. He was the brother of Henry Hoerner, who lived southwest of Almont.



WILLIAM EDWIN BOND FAMILY

W.E. (Ed) Bond, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Wallace Bond, was born June 7, 1900, in Iowa. He took over his parents' farm near Almont. He married Ermine Lauzon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Lauzon. Ermine passed away in April of 1959. They were members of the Almont Lutheran Church. Ed is now married to the former Mrs. August (Selma) Neas of New Salem, ND. They are now living in retirement in Chetek, WI.

Ed and Ermine had four children: Richard, his children: [Kirk (his children Andrew and Peter), Cheryl, Phyllis, Thomas, Lynn and Lee]; Marion (Mrs. Don Shannon), her children: Patricia (Mrs. Lester Feland), (her children: Susan and Mark); Penelope (Mrs. Francis Pulver), (her children Jason and Jessica); Jill (Mrs. Joel Olson), (her children: Jenny and Jackie); and Jim Anderson.; [Roger, deceased Feb. 8, 1979]; [Virginia (Mrs. Owen E. Landon), (children: Kim (Mrs. Paul Adams), Karen (Mrs. Joe Moore), Owen Jr., Susan and Mark)].

Richard and his family are third generation owners and operators of the Bond farm near Almont.

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WILLIAM RICHARD BOND FAMILY



Back: Tom, Lee, Lynn. Front: Richard and Eunice Bond

William Richard Bond, son of William Edwin Bond and Ermine Lauzon Bond, was born Nov. 13, 1925, in Albuquerque, NM. He married Eunice June Ensinger, daughter of Oscar H. and Tillie Hawck Ensinger, on Sept. 7, 1954. Eunice was originally from Elgin, ND.

Richard and Eunice were married by Rev. Clifford Fylling at his home in Bismarck. He served two years (Nov. 1954 to June 1956) in the military service and Eunice taught school in the Elgin rural school system one year before and one year after they were married. From 1959 to 1963 Dick and Eunice lived in South Dakota (Kenel, McLaughlin and White Horse, respectively). They then lived on the Emil Keller place on the Heart River southeast of Almont until January 1968 when they moved to the Bond farm six miles southeast of Almont, on the Muddy Creek, where they now reside.

Eunice, a mother and housewife, accepted a position as secretary at the Almont High School in 1979 and 1980, is an active member of the PTO, Almont Lutheran ALCW (treasurer), Almont Homemakers, Church secretary, and was superintendent of the Sunday School for 12 years (1967-1979). Richard has been a rancher all his life and they are members of the Almont Lutheran Church.

Richard and Eunice were blessed with six children: Kirk, Aurora, SD, born June 21, 1956; graduated from Almont High School in 1974; graduate of the

Gemology College in Quincy, IL, in 1978; married Deana Gail Ray of Quincy on April 8, 1978. Cheryl, born Oct. 16, 1957; graduated from Almont High School in 1975; from NDSU May 24, 1980, with a major in Dietetics; married Michael Johnson of Fargo, ND, on May 31, 1980. Phyllis, born Feb. 20, 1960; graduated from Almont High School in 1978; is a senior (majoring in advertising) at Moorhead State College, Moorhead, MN. Thomas, born Aug. 16, 1963, is a senior at Almont High School. Lynn and Lee, born Nov. 5, 1964, are juniors at Almont High School. The Bonds have two grandchildren: Andrew Richard Bond, born Nov. 15, 1978, and Peter Joseph Bond, born Oct. 3, 1980.



JULIUS BREDVOLD

Julius J. Bredvold, son of Mr. and Mrs. August Bredvold, was born in St. Peter, MN, Jan. 13, 1874. He received his education and grew to manhood near Springfield, MN.

In March 1906 he came to Sims on the train. He had an uncle who had homesteaded in Idaho. This uncle had walked from Mandan to the Black Hills, and the Black Hills to Idaho. When Julius left Minnesota he was undecided as to whether he should go there or stay in North Dakota. However, when he got out to the quarter he homesteaded, 4½ miles south of Almont, he decided this was a



good location, as he believed the land looked good for raising crops. After walking out to his homestead and staking his claim, he walked back to Sims and took the train to Mandan and back to Minnesota.

In June 1906 he came back to build his homestead shack. Julius did much to beautify his homestead land. He planted many trees and raised many beautiful flowers. He also raised some of the largest watermelons in the locality. He had the misfortune of losing his house by fire in 1930.

Bredvold was clerk of the Feland School District for many years and was a member of the Almont Lutheran Church. He lived on his homestead until moving to Mandan, where he passed away at a retirement home Jan. 16, 1966.

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ELDA REETZ BRINKMAN



Beverly, Elda and Ardys

Elda was born at Hebron, ND, on Dec. 9, 1921, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Reetz. She was the third of six children. She was a young child when her mother passed away in 1928. For several years she stayed with an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Darell Muncy, Dazey, ND. In 1934 they were all together as a family again. She attended grade school in Almont, Hebron and South Dakota. She graduated from a Mandan school. She then married Stanley Brinkman and had two daughters, Beverly and Ardys. They were members of the Almont Lutheran Church and Beverly and Ardys graduated from Almont High School. Beverly is married to James Walth and lives in Mandan, ND. They have two children: Deanna and David. Ardys is married to Charles Dohman and lives in Fargo. Elda and the girls made their home with her father, Fred Reetz, until the time of his death in 1958. She then moved to Bismarck in 1962 where she has resided ever since.

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CLARENCE B. CHRISTIANSON

Clarence was a son of Edward Martin and Polly Olson Christianson. He was born on their homestead west of Almont and the family later moved to Curlew.

After leaving school he worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad at Curlew before moving to Montana to work for the city of Billings. He then went to Bridger, MT, working with an oil drilling company for a year. This venture failed in business and he returned to the Yellowstone branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad in the Bridge and Building department.

He was married to Norma Erlandson and they had one child, a daughter, Bonnee Lee, now Mrs. Leroy Ritz. Norma passed away in 1940.

Clarence was called to serve in World War II in May 1942 and served until November 1945. He was overseas for 34 months, serving in Africa-European-Middle Eastern war theatres; the Battles and Campaigns of Naples-Foggia; Rome-Arno; North Apennines ... receiving 5 battle stars. Upon his discharge, he returned to Almont and his father's farm.

After his parents passed away he spent two winters at the North Dakota Soldiers' Home, Lisbon.

He was married to Mrs. Lenora Oliver of Lisbon on April 6, 1974, where they now have their home.



Clarence B. & Lenora
Christianson - April 6, 1974

CONRAD CHRISTIANSON FAMILY

Conrad Christianson was born June 6, 1921, to Tollef and Tobina Olson Christianson. Conrad graduated from Almont High School in 1941 and entered military service in the U.S. Navy in 1942. He received his discharge in 1945.

Conrad married Mary Stein (born Aug. 21, 1923 to Martin and Martina Stein) April 10, 1946 at Center and to this union two daughters were born: Cheryl and Darnell.

Cheryl, born Dec. 10, 1946, graduated from Almont High School in 1964 and married Eric Franklund in 1965. They live in Washburn and have two children: Dion and Connie.

Darnell, born Jan. 19, 1953, graduated from Almont High School in 1971 and married Rodney Kuhn in 1973. They have two children, Amber and Crystal, and live in New Salem.

Conrad has worked for the County Road Maintenance Service in the Almont area for 30 or more years.



Conrad Christian Family

**MR. AND MRS.
EDWARD M. CHRISTIANSON**

Edward (Ed) M. Christianson was born June 1, 1887, to Kristian and Seselia Smordahl in Myking, Bergen, Norway, and was one of nine children and an adopted brother. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Myking.

While in Norway he worked as a delivery boy. At 17 years of age, he wanted new adventure and changed his name from Smordahl to Christianson and decided to sail for America where his brother Tollef lived. Ed left Norway May 19, 1905 and arrived at Gladstone, ND, June 5th where he got a job on a farm for 18 months. It was quite different since he couldn't speak a word of English. From there he went to Montana and worked at various jobs until 1908.

He then moved to Almont and Sims where he met and married Pauline (Polly) Olson, daughter of Ben and Stina Olson in 1909. They lived on Polly's homestead until they bought a farm in Curlew and to this union seven children were born:

Carrie married Andrew Gray and they are retired and living at Beach, ND. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, July 1974, at Bismarck. They have six children.

Clarence married Norma Erlandson and they have one daughter, Bonnee Lee. Norma passed away June 21, 1940. On April 6, 1974, Clarence married Lenora Oliver and they live at Lisbon, North Dakota.

Emold married Audrey Wilkinson and they and they live at Livingston, Mont. They have 3 sons.

Morris married Clara Ding and they had two children; Sandra married Ross Roberts and Randolph, who is married to Lucy Morris. Morris passed away Oct. 24, 1975.

Leda married Paul Ewald and they had two children. Gerome is deceased and Karolyn married Eddie Fisher and they live in Eden Prairie, MN, they have two sons. Leda passed away April 26, 1951.

Ida and Vivian moved to Mandan in 1965.

Besides farming, Ed worked in the Spring Valley and Tavis coal mines in Glen Ullin and the Deep coal mine at New Salem.

Polly helped out by being a midwife and she delivered many babies. She traveled by horse and buggy, car and even rode horseback when the weather and roads were bad.

Polly passed away July 19, 1951, and Ed passed away July 26, 1963.

FLOYD CHRISTIANSON FAMILY



Floyd Christianson Family
Back: Tim, Floyd, Kevin; Front: Agnes, Debbie

Floyd was born and raised in the Curlew vicinity. He is the youngest son of Tollef and Tobina (Olson) Christianson. He attended school at Curlew.

Dec. 31, 1947, Floyd married Agnes Doll, daughter of Martin and Catherine Seeberger Doll. Agnes was raised and educated in the Almont area.

In 1947 they settled on the E.A. Smordal farm and in 1958 they moved on the Tollef Christianson farm at Curlew, which they later purchased and are still farming and ranching there.

Floyd and Agnes had three children: Tim Christianson married JoAnn Baskfasch from Golden Valley. They have two children, Todd and Jill, and reside in Mandan. Tim works for Industrial Contractors of Bismarck, ND. Debbie Christianson lives in Bismarck and is employed at Sak's News Agency in Bismarck; Kevin Christianson married Mary Jane Rodlund of Mandan and they live at Twin City Drive in Mandan. Kevin is employed at Simonson's Oil Company in Bismarck.

Floyd served on the Sims School Board for 6 years and is a member of the Almont Lutheran Church.

Agnes is active in the Live and Learn Homemakers Club and is a member of St. Leopold's Catholic Church.

MORRIS & CLARA CHRISTIANSON

Ben Morris Christianson was born at Almont, ND, on Nov. 24, 1916, to Edward and Pauline (Olson) Christianson. He attended school in the Curlew Valley and spent most of his life living and working in the Almont area. He worked a short time for the Northern Pacific Railway Co. In June of 1942 he married Clara Ding, daughter of Peter and Louise (Stelter) Ding of Hebron, ND. They spent the first years farming and trucking in the area. In 1954 they purchased and operated the Mobil gas station, known as Morris Service, and managed the Almont Oil Co., Inc. until selling it in 1966. Morris furnished school bus transportation for the Sims school district for many years and also worked as a truck driver for a construction company. He was an active member of the Commercial Club and served as alderman on the town board for many years and was



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Morris & Clara Christianson



Randy



Sandra

elected mayor. After his father passed away in 1964 he purchased the family farm along with his brother, Clarence, which he operated until the time of his death in 1975.

Two children were raised in this home. Sandra Lynn was born May 1947 and Randolph Edward was born December 1951. Sandra attended Almont school and was very active in school, church, 4-H and community activities. She graduated from high school in 1965 and attended the National College of Business at Rapid City, SD. She married Ross Roberts of Corpus Christi, TX, at the Almont Lutheran Church in 1967. They lived in San Diego, CA, for some time, where Ross was serving in the U.S. Navy. They were happy to make the move back to Bismarck, ND, in 1971. Two children have brought much joy to this home. Roslyn was born in 1969 and Russell born in 1976. Ross is employed by the Federal Aviation Administration as a logistics specialist. Sandra holds the position of secretary to the head of the Health Care Review Department at St. Alexius Hospital in Bismarck.

Randy attended Almont school and was also active in school, church, 4-H, Boy Scouts and community affairs. He received the ProDe Et Patrea Award at Sims Lutheran Church in 1963. He received the Best Defense Trophy in basketball and was an honor student when he graduated in 1969. He attended Dickinson State College and received a BA degree in Business Administration in 1973. He married Lucille Wirtz of Mandan at Faith Lutheran Church in December of 1971. They both were attending DSC and after graduation they moved to Fargo, ND. They attended Moorhead State College while being employed and graduated in May 1977 ... Randy with a secondary BA degree in Accounting and Lucy a Bachelor of Science degree in Teaching and Health Ed. & Phy. Ed. Two children blessed this home. Jason was born in 1976 and Sara born in 1979. Randy is employed at the CPA firm of McGladery Hendrickson, Inc. as auditing manager. Lucy is employed as manager with Evergreen Sales, the Tupperware distributorship in Fargo.

Clara has been active in church and community affairs. She worked for many years as bookkeeper for the Almont Oil Co. She actively supported the school P.T.A. and was a school bus driver. She has served terms as secretary and treasurer for the Almont Lutheran Church. After Morris' death in 1975 she attended Bismarck Junior College Intensive Training Center in Mandan and received her G.E.D. high school diploma and also took a secretarial

course. She belongs to the area art association and has had painting displays that have been chosen for gallery showings at several places in the area. She is active in the Almont Homemakers Club and is presently serving as president. She is now working at JoAnn Fabric, Gateway Mall, Bismarck, ND.



Tollef and Tobina Christianson

Ella and Gertrude

TOLLEF CHRISTIANSON

Tollef Christianson was born on Nov. 16, 1880, in Myking Bergan, Norway. He was the eldest of nine children born to Sesilea and Kristian Smordahl. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Myking Bergan. He spent his early manhood working on a farm, doing some carpentry work, and fishing in Norway. He then decided to go to the United States.

Tollef came to the United States on July 18, 1902, and settled in Sims, ND, and got a job in a coal mine. Later he became a laborer on the railroad. Tollef became a citizen and changed his name from Smordahl to Christianson. He homesteaded at Curlew, ND, and continued to work on the railroad. Later he became section foreman and held that position until his retirement in 1950. He also did some farming and raised cattle.

Two of his brothers, Eilert and Edward, came to the United States also and settled in the Curlew area. Tollef's three sisters, Josephine, Maria and Ellen, and three brothers, Sigurd, Ole and Karl, remained in Norway. Maria, Josephine and Sigurd have since passed away.

Tollef and Tobina Emilia Olson (daughter of Ben S. and Stena Olson) were united in marriage on July 25, 1907, in the Sims Lutheran Church with Rev. Isolany presiding.

Ten children were born to the couple. Selma and Conrad passed away at a young age; Ella (Mrs. V.L. Bradley) Rapid City, SD; Gertrude (Mrs. Mike Thiel) Mandan, ND; Mabel (Mrs. Alton Olin) Center, ND; Selma (Mrs. Martin Ostafin) Mandan, ND; Conrad (married Mary Stein) Almont, ND; Esther (Mrs. Val-



L to R - Back: Ella Bradley, Gertrude Thiel, Mable Olin, Selma Ostafin, Ester Klusman, Clara Wilkins. Front: Floyd, Mrs. Tollef Christianson, Tollef Christianson, and Conrad.

ance Klusmann) Bismarck, ND; Clara Wilkens, Bismarck, and Floyd (married Agnes Doll) Almont.

Tollef's first wife, Tobina, passed away on Oct. 7, 1928. He later married Anna Knutson on Dec. 12, 1940. He retired from the railroad at the age of 70 and moved to Glen Ullin, ND, where he resided until his death on May 6, 1969, at the age of 88. Anna passed away Nov. 8, 1976.

Floyd and Agnes reside on the family farm which he purchased before his father's death. Surviving family members are the eight children, 30 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren.

CLARENCE CLAFLIN FAMILY



Clarence Claflin Family

Clarence Claflin was born in Zumbra Falls, MN, Sept. 23, 1894. He moved to Sweetbriar, ND, with his parents. He was employed by the Bingenheimer Lumber and Occident Elevator before entering the service of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

While in Sweetbriar, he married Amanda Starck. She was born March 2, 1894. On Oct. 7, 1922, they moved to Sims, ND, with their two daughters, Audrey and Avis. In November 1934 the family moved to Cleveland, ND, and in 1936 back to Sweetbriar and then on to Mandan in 1947.

Mr. Claflin died in 1951 and Mrs. Claflin, age 86, lives in her home in Mandan.

Avis married Harry Kautzmann of Sweetbriar. They live in Mandan and have four children. Audrey married Chester McCormick of New Salem. They moved to Potlatch, ID, and had four children.

Audrey died Dec. 15, 1956.

Alta married Roy Lane in Seattle and they are the parents of eight children, all living in that area.

Arlyn married Charles Price of Mandan. They have five children and their home is in Sidney, MT.

Some fond memories of the happy years in Sims are of all the wonderful friends made there.

MR. AND MRS. LEVI DAWSON AND FAMILY



Back: Larry, Levi, Eva; Front: James, Janet, Terry

Levi (Bud) was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dawson on Oct. 25, 1921, at Barton, ND. He came to the present location with his folks on what was known as the S.P. Weekes Ranch in 1931. They still reside on this ranch, known as Diamond over Lazy D Ranch, located 14 miles southeast of Almont on the Heart River.

He joined the Marine Corps in June 1942, left for the South Pacific August 31, and returned to the USA on Dec. 1, 1944. He was discharged on Nov. 11, 1945.

On Oct. 1, 1946, he married Eva Hagel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hagel. She was born Sept. 13, 1927, near Glen Ullin. Their wedding dance was the first dance held in the basement of the new Legion Hall at Almont.

The Dawsons have four children: Larry, Rosemount, MN; Terry, Farmington, MN; Janet (Mrs. Bill Bahm) New Salem; and James at home. There are four granddaughters: Candy, Susan and LeAnn Dawson and Jessica Bahm.

In 1978 Dawsons built a new home and moved into it in November 1978.

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RALPH DAWSON FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dawson

Ralph A. Dawson was born in Clear Lake, IA, in 1898 and came to North Dakota in 1903 with his parents, R. John and Elizabeth Dawson. He lived with his parents in a two-room sod house for seven years before moving into a ten-room frame house built in 1910. Their homestead was located in Morton County, about 17 miles northeast of Flasher. The home place became known later as the Oak Coulee Ranch.

Ora Helmick Dawson was born in 1896 at Skidmore, MO, to Levi and Clara Helmick. She came with her parents to North Dakota in 1904 and settled on a homestead in Pierce Co., north of Rugby. She attended rural school and Rugby High School, then went on to Mayville and Minot Normal School and became a teacher. In 1918 she secured a teaching position in the Oak Coulee School District and it was there she met her husband-to-be, Ralph Dawson. After teaching six years and getting married in 1920, they ventured out on their own.

In 1923 they moved to the northern part of the state and farmed in Rolette and Pierce counties during an 8-year period. In 1931 they moved back to Grant Co. where they moved to what was known as the S.P. Weekes Ranch, located 11 miles north of Lark on the Heart River. It was here Ralph started a diversified operation of a good grade of Angus cattle and raised a variety of small grains and corn.

During the depression of the "30's", they felt the pinch of the economy along with everyone else. Ralph's mechanical skills were a big factor in making ends meet by rebuilding or remodeling rather than having to replace, during this time. His talents were also used by many neighbors who would bring their cars or tractors over for him to repair while they often would do some kind of labor for him. Money seldom ever changed hands for such labors. Of course, much of his labor was free.

Summer Sundays usually found Ora mixing homemade ice cream for the neighborhood kids. The boys got river ice from the ice-house and cranked the freezer for a treat to enjoy after swimming in the river.

During the 1940's, with the family members being old enough to help run the farm, Ralph ventured into the trucking business on a part-time basis to supplement the family income. In 1948 they retired from the farming operation and it was taken over by their sons, Levi and Wendal. Ralph then spent his time doing plumbing in many rural and city homes as the introduction of rural electric power provided pressure systems on the farms across the plains. Ora returned to teaching for several years.

In 1960 Ralph and Ora took up residence in Almont, where they retired. Ralph passed away in April of 1966 and Ora remained in their home for six years, then sold it and moved to New Salem in 1972, where she still resides.

Ora has been an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary and was awarded a lifetime membership by Almont Post 261 in 1978.

Ralph and Ora had a family of four boys and one girl: Levi (Bud), who still resides on the home place; Earl R., St. Paul, MN; L. Glen, Hill City, SD; Wendal O., Almont, and Clara Dawson Schafer, Mandan, ND. There are also 14 grandchildren.

WENDAL DAWSON FAMILY



Taken at Kelly and Marcy's wedding, Dec. 1979. Naomi and Wendal Dawson in front; Jody and Patty, Marcy and Kelly in back.

Wendal Owen Dawson, youngest son of Ralph and Ora Dawson, was born at Rugby, ND, on June 14, 1931. In the fall of 1931 he moved with his family to the Heart River Ranch where he grew to manhood.

He married Naomi Cusic on Dec. 19, 1953. They have two sons, Kelly Owen and Jody Scott. Kelly is married to Marcy Held and they have a daughter, Andrea Marie; Jody is married to Patty Hoger.

The Dawsons are members of the Almont Lutheran Church. Naomi has been Stewardship Secretary of ALCW for several years. She has also been active in art associations and exhibited many of her paintings.

Wendal has always been a community booster and the Almont community is home to the Dawson family. A good visit with friends is the highlight of any day.



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JOHN AND BYRON DELANGE

John DeLange, born in 1875, came from St. Paul, MN, to Sims in 1895. He worked for Gus Johnson and Otto Lidstrom on their ranches on the Heart River and a few years later took a homestead on the Heart River, 20 miles south of Sims. His brother, Byron, came from St. Paul to help him build a sod shack and to assist him in getting the ranching started. Their brother, Norman came in 1900 and in 1901 their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob DeLange, and sister, Gertrude moved up from St. Paul



Byron and John DeLange

and made their home with John on his ranch. Byron and Norman took homesteads and their father passed away at the ranch in 1912. John and his mother continued to live on the ranch until 1918 when they moved to Carson and John became interested in politics. He was married to Mrs. Mabel Bankson in 1923. They moved to California in 1935 and passed away in California in 1953. His mother died in 1931.

Byron married Blanch Allen of Carson and they had a son, Eugene, living in Glendive, MT. They are both deceased.

MR. AND MRS. MARTIN DOLL



Mr. and Mrs. Martin Doll

Martin Doll and Katie Seeberger were married Nov. 27, 1923. The son of Nick and Barbara Doll, Martin was born March 14, 1902, in Russia and came to the U.S. when 6-weeks-old. Katie was born Jan. 7, 1904, the daughter of Peter and Anna Seeberger. After their marriage they both worked at the Bismarck Hospital for awhile and then moved to a farm south of Almont. In 1926 they bought a farm eight miles west of Almont where they reared a family of eight children. They retired from farming in 1969 and

bought a home in Almont where they now live.

Their children are: Anna (Mrs. Ralph) Erhardt, Almont; Agnes (Mrs. Floyd) Christianson, Almont; Leo (married to Lorraine Kautzman), Billings, MT; Martin (married to Gloria Hansen), Livingston, MT; Donald (married to Violet Lalum), Livingston, MT; William (married to Judy Williams), Livingston, MT; Geraldine (Mrs. Vernon) Dittus, living on the home farm, Almont; Kathleen (Mrs. Linius) Wehri, Billings, MT.

MARTIN AND GLORIA DOLL



Martin and Gloria Doll and family

Martin Doll Jr., son of Martin and Katherine Doll, was born July 26, 1931, at Almont. He was raised on a farm southwest of Almont. In 1950 he enlisted in the U.S. Army, was sent to Korea in January of 1951 and was a prisoner of the North Koreans for 28 months from April 1951 until September of 1953. He then returned home and received his discharge in November of that year.

Gloria Hansen was born in New Salem on Sept. 25, 1933, daughter of Norman and Nettie Hansen. She was also raised on a farm southwest of Almont and graduated from Almont High School in 1952.

Martin and Gloria were married on May 6, 1954, at St. Leopold's Catholic Church in Almont. They have lived many different places because of Martin's work in the construction field, including North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Oklahoma, and Montana. Martin spent five years working for the Morrison-Knutson Construction Co. in Viet Nam and Saudi Arabia.

The family moved to Livingston, MT, in June of 1967 and have resided there since, where Martin works as a building supervisor for Easton and Hiller Construction Co. and Gloria works part-time at Public Drug.

The Dolls have four children: Gray Martin, who spent six years in the U.S. Air Force and is now employed by Easton and Hiller Co. in Livingston; Melanie Ann who was married to Jerome Helmer and works at the Livingston Enterprise. She has a 4-year-old daughter, Allison Amber. Gail Maureen married Gale Arnold and lives on a ranch at Emigrant, MT. They have a 2-month-old son, Justin Gale. Marilyn Fay married George (Butch) Stebbins and lives in Billings, MT. She is employed at the Rimrock Inn.

WILLIAM DOLL FAMILY

William Doll, oldest son of Peter N. and Rosa (Ferderer) Doll (one of two boys and seven girls) was born Aug. 26, 1930, near Almont and attended school at No. 4, southwest of Almont. His parents bought the "Tenius Ramsland place" in 1946 and farmed there until retiring to Mandan, ND, in the fall of 1966.

William served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955. He married Wilma J. Fordham in Beatty, NV, in October of 1955. They lived for 3½ years in Yuma, AZ, where he worked in Civil Service before returning to North Dakota in 1959, where he worked as a paint and decorating contractor. William and his family moved to the family farm the spring of 1967. He then semi-retired from painting and went into the dairy business in 1974.

William and his wife have 13 children: Linda, born in 1956, married William Kalvoda in 1975, resides in Almont with their two sons, Rodney and Timothy; Marianne, born in 1957, lives in Mandan, ND; Dennis, born in 1958, married Nancy Schmidt in 1980, now lives in Williston, ND; Richard, born in 1960, is now in the U.S. Army; Mark, born in 1961, is attending NDSSS, Wahpeton, ND; Theresa, born 1962; Patricia and Paula (twins), born in 1965; Micheal, born in 1967; Kenneth 1969; John 1970; Anne 1972; and Thomas in 1973. All of them are attending the Almont Public School or did attend.

They are members of the Almont American Legion and Auxiliary and attend St. Leopold's Catholic Church. William is also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

MR. AND MRS. O.C. ELLINGSON



Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Ellingson and Evelyn

O.C. Ellingson was born in Selje, Norway, on June 24, 1879, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Ellingson. After the death of his mother, he came to this country in April 1893 with his father and brother, Chris, and settled in Sims. He attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, and the North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo.

At the age of 21 he homesteaded near Lark, ND. He worked at the Northern Pacific depot in Almont for two years until 1909 when he entered the general merchandise business in what was then the Dave Pederson Store and Postoffice. He continued that business until 1923, when he sold out to the Mann Store Co. of New Salem.

On April 21, 1913, Mr. Ellingson married Amalia Anderson, niece of John Jacobson of Sims. Amalia died in 1918. They had one daughter, Evelyn (Mrs. Leland Ytreide who lives in Rapid City, SD). He and Evelyn moved to Bismarck in 1924 and that same year he married Theresa Hendrickson of Mandan. They had one daughter, Norma, who is married to Curtis Halvorson and they now live in Fargo.

Mr. Ellingson's life was dominated by his love for music and his church. Not many years after he settled in Almont, he realized the need for a church and was instrumental in organizing the Almont Lutheran Church.

Mr. Ellingson passed away Oct. 6, 1963. His wife still maintains a home in Bismarck. Theresa, like her late husband, has always been interested in music and has been a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church choir since 1924.

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