

MR. AND MRS. JONAS IMS



Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Ims

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Ims and three children arrived in Sims, July 4, 1881, from Inwood, IA. Pastor Norby had started a colony in the Sims area and had written to Mr. Ims telling him of the free land in North Dakota. The trip lasted an eventful seven weeks. They traveled in a covered wagon pulled by oxen. They brought two cows, a few sheep and chickens with them. It was necessary to stop every third day to rest the oxen and wash clothes. One day they were chased by an Indian chief. Mr. Ims drove the oxen as fast as possible in order to reach the Missouri River. After a harrowing chase, he drove into the river and the Indian left. At other times, when they would be followed by Indians, Mrs. Ims would give them a loaf of bread and they would be on their way. On July 3, a few miles out of Sims, a tornado struck. The family spent the night with the Egli brothers. The toranado ripped the cover off the wagon but no one was injured.

In Sims Mr. Ims helped to build the fort and dig trenches on the hill west of the present school house. He also worked in the brick yard and in the coal mines. Some years later he homesteaded near Flasher, where he ranched for about five years.

The children are: George Ims (deceased); Laura Ims Holritz, Bismarck, ND; Inga Ims Johnson (deceased); Laurence Ims (deceased); Agnes Ims Dettman, New Salem, ND; Hildreth Ims (deceased), and Arthur Ims (deceased).

MR. AND MRS. NELS JACOBSEN



Mr. and Mrs. Nels Jacobsen - 1897
Carrie, 11 yrs., Harry, 8 yrs., Grace, 6 yrs.

Nels Jacobsen was born near Skein, Norway, Aug. 20, 1860. His mother, Mrs. Jacob Olson, died when he was two years old and he was raised by his Aunt Karen. The other six children were reared by their grandfather, a shipbuilder in Skein. At the age of 12 he went to sea, crossing the Atlantic in a sailing vessel 25 times. His four brothers were also sailors and two were lost at sea.

Nels came to the U.S. in 1882 to visit his brothers and two sisters in St. Paul, MN, and secured work there with the Great Northern Railway. In 1885 he married Augusta Forsberg, born in Sweden on Dec. 1, 1858. Her father died when she was a baby and she was raised by an uncle and aunt in Oslo, Norway. She came to the U.S. in 1883. She was an art teacher in both Norway and St. Paul before her marriage. The Jacobsens lived in St. Paul 20 years. Their children were born there - the youngest, William, died in infancy. Harry had scarlet fever as a child which resulted in a gradual loss of sight and finally complete blindness.

After hearing of the free land in North Dakota from his brother, Ole, who had moved to Sims in 1893, Nels filed on a homestead 13 miles south of Sims in 1902. With the help of his brother and other relatives (the DeLanges), he built a two-room frame house with sodd roof, as he was told a shingled roof would not withstand the wind. The family spent two summers on the claim, returning to St. Paul in the fall to attend school. In the spring of 1905 they moved to their North Dakota home. Their carload of household goods, which included a piano, was unloaded at Sims and with the help and kindness of neighbors, nine wagon loads were taken from Sims to the Jacobsen farm in one day. This friendliness among neighbors remained through the years and the Jacobsen's small house accommodated many a social gathering. A drive of 10-15 miles with horse

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and buggy for an evening of music and games was common in those days. In 1906 everyone was excited about the new town of Almont being built five miles closer than Sims. The Jacobsens built their new two-story house in 1914. Nels passed away suddenly of a heart attack in 1918. They were charter members of Almont Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Jacobsen and Harry (born May 22, 1880) continued to live on the farm although Harry's sight was gradually becoming worse. In spite of his handicap, he drove a team and buggy to town every week to get groceries and sell cream and eggs. In later years he only rode horseback,

trusting his high spirited saddle horses, Molly and Net, to take him to town or a visit to the neighbors. In 1937 they moved to Almont to live with their daughter and sister, Mrs. Grace Nelson and family. Mrs. Jacobson passed away in February 1939. The farm was rented to Sig and Marjorie Peterson until 1946 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Feland.



Harry passed away Oct. 31, 1957, at the home of his sister, Grace.

The Jacobsen's oldest daughter, Karine (Carrie), was Almont's first schoolteacher and continued to teach for 15 years in the community. In 1916 she married John Kennedy of St. Paul who filed on a homestead 12 miles south of Almont in 1910. Their four children were born on the homestead and in 1924 the family moved to St. Paul. Both John and Carrie passed away in May 1948; John died the 19th and Carrie four days later, of a stroke.

Their children are: Marian (Mrs. Roger Larson), Jane (Mrs. Earl Pitman), John William (Buster), all of St. Paul, MN, and Nell (Mrs. Herb Lans), Muskegan, MI.

Grace Jacobsen married Lawrence Nelson in 1914. Their children are: Marjorie (Mrs. Sig Peterson), Almont; John Burton, Arlington, TX; Frances (Mrs. Willard Rusch), New Salem; Audrey (Mrs. Leon Olson), Williston. Lawrence passed away in 1930.

MR. AND MRS. OLE JACOBSEN

Ole Jacobsen was born in Skein, Norway, in 1856, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Olson. After the death of his mother, he and his three brothers and two sisters were raised by their grandfather, a ship builder. In 1882, after many years of sailing the seas, he came to the U.S.

In 1885 he married Anna Olson, also of Norway, and they continued to live in St. Paul until 1893 when they moved to Sims where he purchased and operated a general store for about a year. He then took up a claim 15 miles south of Sims on Crown Butte Creek near the Heart River. He built a log house which still stands. Ole became one of the prosperous ranchers of pioneer days and took great pride in his herd of Hereford cattle. Mrs. Jacobsen was an



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Jacobsen

accomplished musician and artist. Ole was interested in the growth of the new town, Almont, and in 1907 he and Ted Peterson built the first Almont Hall on the main street. He retired from ranching in 1908 but they continued to live on their ranch home until his death in 1917. Mrs. Jacobsen lived alone on the ranch for two years and then sold to Engebrecht Trovik and went back to Bergen, Norway, where she passed away in 1930. They had no children.

MR. AND MRS. CHAS. JACOBSON



Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Jacobson

Chas Jacobson came to Sims from Sweden in the year 1891. He found work at the Steve Weekes ranch until he filed on a homestead in the Sims-Almont community. A year later he and Miss Mary Olson, who came from Stockholm, were married. Nine children were born to this union: Arthur (deceased); Matilda, Mrs. K.E. Julian (deceased); Hilder, Mrs. Joseph Johnson, New Salem; Anna, Mrs. Ed Mumby (deceased); Emma, Mrs. Herman Starck, New Salem; and Clarence, married Agnes Olson, Billings, MT. Clara, Clarence and Martin died in childhood. There are nine grandchildren: Arlene (deceased), Duane and Joel Johnson; Phyllis Starck Knight (deceased), Charlotte Starck Makelky and Doris Starck Messmer; Roger and Richard Jacobson, and Mary Ann Jacobson Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson's last years of life were spent in a cozy little home in Sims. They were members of the Sims Lutheran Church and Mrs. Jacobson was a member of the Sims Ladies Aid.

Mr. Jacobson passed away in 1947 at the age of 86 and Mrs. Jacobson in 1948, age 79 years.

CLARENCE AND IRENE JACOBSON

Clarence Jacobson was born Feb. 2, 1903, at Sims to Mr. and Mrs. John Jacobson, and Irene Hauge was born Feb. 28, 1918, to Peter K. and Martha (Tystal) Hauge at Leith. She had four brothers and five sisters.



Clarence and Irene were married Aug. 24, 1939, in Bismarck and lived in Mandan until 1940 when they moved to Carson. They moved to Almont in 1942 where they lived on Clarence's home farm at Sims until his death Sept. 14, 1967. Irene continued to live on the farm until she moved to Bismarck in May of 1969. She passed away March 1, 1973.

They had one child, Linda, who graduated from Almont High School in 1960 and married Eugene Harper on Jan. 16, 1965. They have four children: Robert, Rebecca, Thomas and David. A son, Jimmy, died in 1979. The family lives at Baldwin.

EDWARD AND ARLENE JACOBSON



Edward Jacobson family

Edward Jacobson and Arlene (Voigt) Jacobson were married Aug. 28, 1954, at St. Gertrude's Church, Raleigh, ND. Edward, son of James and Alice (Hanson) Jacobson, was born Aug. 26, 1926. His grandfather, Jacob, and father lived in the Sims area. James and his children attended the Sims school -Edward is the oldest of nine children, namely: Edward, Wayne, Bob, Betty, Phyllis, Evie, Peggy, Carol and Jerry.

Arlene is the daughter of John and Frances (Gondringer) Voigt, born Jan. 10, 1935, on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation (now under Garrison Dam waters) where she also attended school. She is the third oldest of eight children: Duaine, Sr. Frances Marie, Arlene, Bernard, Diana, David, Michael and Jerome.

This union of Ed and Arlene Jacobson was blessed with nine children: Debra (deceased July 1966), Dusty, Dale, David, Darrel, Andrew (deceased April 1966), Jared, Michael and Mark. The Jacobsons live on the Theodore Feland place south of Sims. Ed has been a board member of the Sims school district #8 for 12 years. He served in the U.S. Army in 1944-45 with 18 months duty in the South Pacific.

JACOB O. AND BERTINA (FELAND) JACOBSON

Jacob O. Jacobson was born in Hegelan, Lyndal, Norway, May 19, 1857, to Ole and Ganel Jacobson. There were six children in the family: Severine, Gabriel, Jacob, John, Celia, and Ellen or Ella in Norway. When a lad of nine, Jacob had gone to live with his grandparents. At age 14, he started as a sailor and spent most of his early life on the high seas. Jacob was an excellent swimmer.

In 1881, when 24 years old, he left Norway for America. He traveled to Iowa where he worked on a farm for two years, leaving for Sims, ND, in 1883. At Sims, Jacob worked on the railroad and in the coal mines before buying a farm one mile east of that town. He continued to work in the mines after buying his land, walking from the farm to the mines and back each day.



Jacob Jacobson

Bertina Feland was born in Traland, Norway, Nov. 17, 1866, to Ole and Aaselina Feland. She had lived on a farm in Norway before coming to America sometime before 1886. There were eight children in that family: Theodore, Otto, Oscar, Rudolph, Dina, Olivia, Jacobina and Bertina. Bertina's grandmother, Talegolina, was a Dutch girl who had been kidnap-

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ped by Per Traland, Bertina's grandfather, as he had sailed the seas. They were married on board ship by the ship's captain. The Tralands settled in Norway.

Bertina, her dad, and some brothers came to America first. Aaselina stayed behind on the farm in Norway. Expecting to come to America soon, she had sold her farm. When word reached her that she was not to come at that time, she bought another farm and waited four years before she came to this country.

Jacob and Bertina were married Dec. 7, 1886, and lived on Jacob's farm. They had nine children; Tildah, Mrs. Martin Willman of Almont, had nine children. Tillie died in 1977.

Oscar married Ann Stromberg of Battle Lake, MN, and they had two boys. Oscar died in 1973.

James married Alice Hanson of Flasher, ND, had nine children, and James died in 1969.

Julia married Clifford Leach of New Salem, lived in the Sims area before moving to Montana. They had five children, four of whom survive. Julia lives at Miles City, MT.

Delia married Arthur Olin of Sims, had seven children, five of whom survive. Delia lives in New Salem.

Borgany married Frank Toepke, Judson, and they had five children. Borgany died in 1973.

Edward drowned in the Heart River in 1916.

Anna married Ralph Cox, Dickinson; one child, Joan Cox Dixon. Anna died in furnace explosion.

Dagne lived only a few days and died in 1908.

Bertina died of pneumonia on May 4, 1911, shortly after giving birth to Borgany. Jacob, who had moved to Almont the latter part of his life, died April 25, 1939.

Based on the Jacob O. Jacobson history in the Morton County History Book, *Prairie Roots*. Submitted by LoAnn Leach.

JAMES O. JACOBSON



Mr. and Mrs. James O. Jacobson

James O. Jacobson, son of Jacob and Bertina Jacobson, was born at Sims, ND, in 1895. He grew up on a farm east of Sims. In 1925 he married Alice Hanson, who was born at Timmer, ND, in 1908, daughter of John and Anna Hanson. James and Alice were married in Flasher.

Nine children were born to them while they were living on the home place east of Sims. They sold their farm in 1948 and moved to Miles City, MT. He had employment with the Milwaukee Railroad until

1957, when he had to retire due to ill health. He passed away in 1969.

Their children are: Ed, living in Sims on the former Theodore Feland farm, married Arlene Voight, daughter of John and Frances Voight. They have seven boys; one girl died of drowning.

Wayne lives on a farm at Baker, MT, is married to Pearl Nauke, daughter of Otto and Antonia Nauke. They have two daughters and one son.

Bob married Deloris Olson, daughter of Rudolph and Anna Olson, and they have two children. Bob is area manager for Peter Keiwitt Construction Co.

Betty, Mrs. Fred Scheid, lives in Miles City, MT, and her husband is in construction.

Phyllis, Mrs. Bill Clauson, lives on a ranch at Co-hagen, MT, and they have three children.

Evie, Mrs. Charles Hopkins, lives on a ranch at Alamosa, CO, and they have six children.

Peggy, Mrs. Russ Martin, lives in Miles City, and Russ is with the Miles City Fire Department. They have four children.

Carrol, Mrs. Gibb Lloyd, lives in Broadus, MT. They had one child who died in 1972.

Jerry is married, too, and they live at Rapid City, SD, where he is in construction.

Mrs. Alice Jacobson died on Oct. 19, 1979.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN JACOBSON

John Jacobson was born in Lygndal, Norway, Aug. 21, 1859. His younger days were spent as a seaman and at the age of 22 he emigrated to America, to State Center, IA, where he homesteaded and engaged in the carpenter trade for 15 years. He came to Sims in 1895 where he homesteaded again and continued as a carpenter and building contractor. He and Miss Rachel Johnson, who was born in Spangereid, Norway, and emigrated with her parents in 1879 at the age of five years, were married in 1898. They made their home on a farm on the outskirts of Sims. Mr. Jacobson



Mr. and Mrs. John Jacobson

died in 1941 at the age of 83 and Mrs. Jacobson passed away at age 87 in 1961.

Mrs. Jacobson's father (Arion) came to California during the goldrush days and returned to Norway where he went into the shipping business. He eventually returned to America as an emigre with his large family in 1879.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson held many offices of trust in the community. In fact, Mr. Jacobson served as justice of the peace in Sims for several years. The family was very active in the Sims Lutheran Church.

They raised a family of seven children, four of whom are now living: Mrs. J.E. Harding (Thalia), Nampa, ID; Melvin, Reseda, CA; Maurice, Boise, ID;



John Jacobson family

Back: Clarence, Melvin, Leon, Sitting: Raymond, Thalia, Morris Leon of Chicago, IL. Arnold passed away in 1937, Clarence in 1967 and Raymond in 1980.

Leon is physician-scientist at the University of Chicago; served as Chief of Hematology, Chairman of the department of Medicine, Dean of Biology and Medicine, and Director of a research hospital all at the University of Chicago. His research on chemotherapy of cancer, blood formation and transplantation has brought him many awards and international recognition. His portrait hangs in the Hall of Fame in the Capitol in Bismarck.

MR. AND MRS. MORTON JAMES

Mr. and Mrs. Morton James and their two daughters, Lottie (Mrs. Frank Gonsaguskwi, Baraboo, WI) and Hazel (Mrs. Tom Olson, Redmond, WA) came to North Dakota in the summer of 1906 from Iowa. Their neighbors in Iowa, the Jens Nelsons, were interested in North Dakota and their son, Pete, told Mr. James of the wonderful opportunities there. Almont was a new town then.

The settled on a farm 4½ mi. east of Almont. Five more children were born there: Charles, who died in 1954; John, who died in 1946; Edith (Mrs. Ralph Bloss, Rock Springs, WI); Lillian (Mrs. Gordon Hengstler, Rock Springs, WI); and Margaret, (Mrs. Robert Benden, Baraboo, WI).

Mr. James did a lot of freighting to the south country before the railroad came through there. He and Ed Ulrickson (brother-in-law of Pete, Abe and Ted Peterson) bought their first steam engine and threshing machine with which they turned over many acres of sod and threshed for people for many miles around Almont. Morton continued to thresh for people for as long as he lived in North Dakota.

In 1916 the James family moved to a farm 4¼ mi. west of Almont and farmed there until they left North Dakota in 1919 for a farm in Friendship, WI.

Mrs. Morton James passed away in 1930. In 1945 Mr. James spent some time with his daughter, Hazel, and son-in-law, Trygve Olson, and their



Mr. Morton James

families living in Almont. He enjoyed the renewing of acquaintances and meeting old friends of the Almont community. Some of daughter Hazel's fondest memories are of the James family piling into the buggy or sleigh for a visit or party at a neighbor's home. Mr. James passed away in 1949.

Hazel's husband, Trygve, passed away and she married Tom Olson.

MARTIN JENSEN

Martin Jensen was born Aug. 5, 1875 in Norway and came to Minnesota in 1889. In 1906 he and his brother, Johannes (1873-1939) homesteaded seven miles south of Almont. Another brother, Hans, lived in Sims until his death in about 1920. They were brothers of Mrs. I.C. Johnson and Mrs. Severt Olson.

Martin worked as a coal miner in the Sims mine. He also spent several years working for Simon Pederson in the Kolbank Coal Mine at Leith.

Martin's house was later moved to the Reuben Olson farm. He lived there until moving to a retirement home in Mandan. Martin died Jan. 5, 1964.



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MR. AND MRS. HERMAN JOERSZ



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Joersz

Mr. Joersz was born in Germany and came to the United States at the age of 14, settling on a farm four miles south of New Salem with his parents. He grew up in that area and worked as a hired hand at Toples Delivery Stable, Otto's grocery store, and at John Christiansen's farm.

In 1901 he took a homestead, but it was not approved until 1908 because he was not yet a citizen of the United States.

Martha Borchers was the maiden name of Mrs. Joersz. She was born in Bigby, MN, and came here with her parents at the age of 16 and they settled on a farm south of Judson.

On Nov. 23, 1902, they were married and in the first years of their marriage Almont had not been started, but when it was, they were very happy because it was nice to have a town so close.

Seven children were born into the family. They are: Hildigard (Mrs. E. Moos), owner of the Moos Food Market in Mandan; Ella (Mrs. Westmeyer), also of

Mandan; William, owner of Bill's, owns a bakery in Hazen, ND; Emma (Mrs. Walter Mathisen), lives on a farm north of New Salem; Arnold, salesman for Rott-Keller Supply Co., living in Bismarck; Helen (Mrs. Norman Kilen), living on a farm by Almont.

Mrs. Joersz died in March of 1955 and Mr. Joersz died one year later in June of 1956. Mr. Joersz always felt that Almont was his home.



MR. AND MRS. AANEN JOHNSON



Johnson family at the store - Thanksgiving Day, 1940 - John, Joseph, Jake, Simon holding Ardys and Karen, Andrew and Tillie

Aanen Johnson was born in Spangereid, near Christiansund, Norway, in 1840. He married Andriana Jacobson, also of Spangereid. They emigrated to America in 1882, coming directly to Sims to be near his brother, Arjan Johnson, and to work in the coal mine. Later he filed on a homestead three miles north of Sims and farmed there until the time of his death in 1915, at the age of 75 years.

Mrs. Johnson, a woman of strong religious conviction and faith in God, continued to live on the farm with her children until her death in 1939, at the advanced age of 90 years. Mr. and Mrs.



Johnson were charter members of the Sims Lutheran Church.

Twelve children were born to this union: Theodine (Mrs. Theodore Feland), John, Anna (Mrs. Paul Jacobson), Andrea, Jacob, Nellie (Mrs. E. Olin), Andrew, Simon, Joseph, and Tillie. Two children died in infancy.

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MR. AND MRS. AMUND JOHNSON



Mr. and Mrs. Amund Johnson



Amund Johnson family

Amund Johnson was born Oct. 10, 1863, in Gubrandsdalen, Norway. He and Ingeborg Mortenson were married at Willmar, MN, in 1885. In 1887 they filed on a homestead south of Almont, where they resided for 56 years. When they first came, the country south of the ranch was all prairie, with very few residents for miles around. In those days their home was a haven for everyone, and the latchstring was always open to all who traveled to Almont or Sims to do their trading. In 1938 they retired to a home in Almont where they lived until Mr. Johnson's death in 1942. Mrs. Johnson moved to Bismarck, where she made her home with her son until her death in 1947.

The Johnsons had 11 children. Four are deceased: John, Charlie, Ted and Mrs. Rena Dunn. The others are: August, Idaho; Oscar, Grand Forks; William and Adolph, Bismarck; Ida (Mrs. C.W. Pathman), Moberge, SD; Edwina (Mrs. Alvin Olson), Spokane, WA, and Anna (Mrs. John Gillis), Sacramento, CA.

MR. AND MRS. ANDREW JOHNSON



Andrew Johnson family

Norman, Palmer, Vendora, Melton, Valborg, Leander, Andrew, Willard. Front: Adeline.

Andrew Johnson, son of Aanen A. Johnson, was born on April 7, 1886, at Sims, ND. He married Valborg Johnson on Sept. 24, 1913. She was born Sept. 22, 1890, the daughter of Iver C. Johnson.

Andrew and Valborg bought a farm nine miles west of New Salem where they lived all their lives. They were faithful members of the Sims Lutheran Church. Valborg passed away March 8, 1959, and Andrew died May 7, 1965.

Andrew and Valborg had seven children. Vendora taught school for 25 years and then helped Andrew and "The Boys" by being chief cook and bottle washer. She passed away April 14, 1979.

Milton was born Dec. 9, 1915, and except for his years in the army during World War II, he farmed. Norman was born Dec. 27, 1917, also farms. Willard was born Nov. 2, 1919. He lives at Sims, farms and is also the church caretaker. Palmer was in the service during World War II, was born March 29, 1922, and was a farmer until his death on June 15, 1975.

Leander, born March 25, 1926, married LaVerne Wetzel on Jan. 20, 1951. They live in Garrison, ND, where Leander is an electrician. Their children are: Aleta, a teacher; Arland, working with refrigeration; Ardale, student at NDSU; and Lee, helping his dad.

Adaline was born Feb. 4, 1931, married Jim Gibson on Aug. 6, 1954, and had two children: Jay, a coach at Bismarck High, and Billie, a freshman at Dickinson State. Adaline has taught fifth grade at Roosevelt in Dickinson for the past 19 years.

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MR. AND MRS. ANTON JOHNSON



Mr. and Mrs.
Anton Johnson



Mr. Anton Johnson was born in Norway in 1883 and Mrs. Johnson was born there in 1886. They and their two oldest children, John and Simon, came to America in 1882. They lived in Minnesota until 1887 when, through the Norwegian paper "Skandinaven", Ole Tronson from Sims advertised and told of the good land and homestead rights there and of the wonderful opportunities that part of the country offered.

On the strength of that ad, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson moved here with their family and homesteaded five miles north of Lark, in the Otter Creek country. They later moved to the Heart River where they built a two-room log house, adding to it later, and where the Johnsons spent the remainder of their lives. The same log house is still standing on the Mortenson Ranch. Mr. Johnson passed away in July of 1928 at the age of 75. Mrs. Johnson continued to live on the farm with her son, George, until 1942 when they moved to Almont. She passed away in March 1943 at the age of 87.

Mr. Johnson was appointed postmaster of the first Heart Postoffice, established in 1906 in the Johnson home. It was discontinued for a few years and re-established again in 1911 with Mr. Johnson as postmaster. In May 1914, while Mr. Johnson was still postmaster, North Dakota Governor L.B. Hanna issued a certificate to Mr. Johnson to be one of a committee to represent North Dakota in the unveiling of the statue of Abraham Lincoln at Christania, Norway, on July 4, 1914. Mr. Johnson was deeply honored by the invitation, but was unable to go.

There were eight children in the Johnson family: John, Simon, Harold, Anna (Mrs. Carl Fallgren), Julia (Mrs. Thorvald Mortenson), Rena (Mrs. E.B. Ringham), Alma (Mrs. Arthur Weeks), all deceased, and George, the only one remaining, Carson, ND.

MR. AND MRS. CHAS. E. JOHNSON

Charle E. (1887-1972) and Manda (Twite) Johnson (1895-1980). Charle was the son of Amund and Ingeborg Johnson, pioneer residents of the Heart River country.

Manda was the daughter of Martin and Martina Twite of Carson. Manda came to North Dakota at the age of 16 from Caledonia, MN, with her sister, Minnie, and was employed at Bismarck and Carson communities until their marriage in 1913 at Mandan. Their first home was a one-room house on the Heart River. Later they moved to the Ed Tebesar farm.



Chas. Johnson family

Four children were born to Charle and Manda: Clarence, Evelyn (Skretteberg), Omer and Bernice (Steinley). All live on nearby farms south of Almont.

In 1945 they moved to his parent's farm, the Rose Dale Stock Farm, where they lived until 1960 when they retired and moved to a new home in Carson.

While on the farm, irrigation from the Heart River Irrigation Project was developed and used for many years before they moved to Carson.

Charle served one term as county commissioner in Grant County and 23 years as treasurer of the Lincoln School District.

CLARENCE AND CHARLOTTE (FELAND) JOHNSON



Clarence Johnson family

Charlotte Feland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Feland, was united in marriage to Clarence M. Johnson of Almont Sept. 5, 1936, at Mandan, ND, by the Rev. C.J. Fylling. Charlotte was born on the Oscar Feland farm home on Oct. 8, 1917. She attended a country school and Almont High School. Clarence, son of Charle and Manda Johnson, was born at the Rose Dale Stock Farm, which was the home of his grandparents, on Nov. 11, 1914. He attended the Lincoln country school and in later years he was clerk of the Lincoln and Thain school districts. He is also a member of the ASC Committee of Carson.

Clarence and Charlotte were custodians at the Thain school for four years until they moved to the B.L. Schmitz farm in 1940, where their six sons were born.

Duane married Deloris Miller of Raleigh, ND. They have five children: Scott, Charisse, Shannon, Shawn and Kristine Ann. Duane runs the Standard bulk plant at

Turtle Lake, ND.

Dale married Claudia Striegel of Carson and has two children, Lee and Lisa. They live at Carson, ND, where Dale works on construction and Claudia is a loan clerk for the Farm Home Administration at Carson.

Derald married Bonnie Gappert of Carson. They have three children, Randy, Russell and Robbyn, and live at Fairbanks, Alaska, where Derald is a foreman for City Electric.

Darvin married Colleen Beach from Seattle, WA, and they have three children: Tammy, Jeff and Brad. Darvin works for Van-gas Co. at Fairbanks and Colleen works as a clerk for J.C. Penney in Fairbanks.

Dennis married Marlene Johnson of Carson, has four children: Diane, Darren, Debbie and Dustin. Dennis is in the farming business and took over his dad's farm in 1979.

Allan married Bonnie Quenzer from Herreid, SD. They live in Peekskill, NY, where Allan works for Midwest Unit Farm Publications.

Clarence and Charlotte are members of the First Presbyterian Church at Carson.

HILDA JOHNSON

Hilda Johnson, daughter of Iver C. and Elizabeth (Jenson) Johnson, was born in Sims July 16, 1886, the second daughter of the family.



Hilda Johnson

Hilda attended school in Sims and also in the community where they lived. She later went to business college in Minneapolis and then worked in different places as bookkeeper. Her last job of this kind was with Barnes and Nelson in Glen Ullin.

Hilda decided she would like to teach school, so in the 20's started teaching rural and city schools and also continued her education at Dickinson State Teacher's College. She received her degree at Dickinson and then

taught high school until her retirement in 1948.

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She continued to keep the family farm and rented to her nephews. The first oil well test drilled in the Almont area was on her land.

She made her home with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mr. George Wanstrom, for many years and after their deaths continued to live with her nephews, Wilbur and Charles Wanstrom, on the Wanstrom farm. Hilda Johnson passed away in August of 1978, while residing at Marion Manor in Glen Ullin.

During her teaching career, she gained the respect of many for her sincere and untiring efforts.

MR. AND MRS. IVER C. JOHNSON

Iver C. Johnson was born May 22, 1854, in Orje, Norway. He came to Fort Dodge, IA, in 1881. In January 1883 he was married to Elizabeth Jenson who came from Christiania, Norway. She was born June 23, 1862, at Nittedalen. The spring of 1883 they came to Sims, Dakota Territory, where his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Anders P. Nelson, lived.

In the winter of 1888 they lived on a homestead east of Sims when their third child was born. A terrific snowstorm came and after the storm C.L. Timmerman and another man came out on skis to see how they were.

"I.C.", as he was known, worked in the coal mines of Sims for many years until he homesteaded seven miles west of Sims in 1900. He farmed some, but mostly raised cattle and horses.

The following children were born to this union: Amanda (Mrs. Mike Classen), Hilda, Inga (Mrs. George Wanstrom), Valborg (Mrs. Andrew Johnson), Alma (Mrs. Ture Swansen), Willie and Nathan. Two children died in infancy. Mrs. Johnson passed away March 19, 1914. An accident caused Mr. Johnson's death in the coal mine on his farm Nov. 26, 1928.

JOEL AND DONNA JOHNSON



Joel Johnson family
Grant, Donna, Joel, Kay and Bryan

Joel was born Nov. 6, 1933, at New Salem to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Johnson. He attended grade school at Curlew and Sims. After graduating from Almont High School, he farmed with his father until taking over in 1954. Joel was active in sports, playing high school basketball and several years of Independent ball. He also played baseball on local teams.

Donna, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Knutson, was born May 28, 1932. After graduating from Almont High School, she attended Dickinson State Teachers College for two years and taught in Washburn and Bismarck. In 1973 she received her B.A. from Mary College and is presently teaching in the New Salem school system.

Joel and Donna were married Dec. 19, 1954, by Pastor Norbert Jolivette in the Almont Lutheran Church. They are members of the Sims Lutheran Church and are active in the organizations of the Sims-Almont Parish.

The Johnsons have three children: Grant, Bryan and Kay. Grant graduated from Almont High School and attended Dickinson State College. In 1978 he graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in Vocational Education and taught Vo-Ag at Hebron High School for two years. He is presently doing graduate work at NDSU. Bryan graduated from Almont High School, attended Dickinson State College, and Montana State University. He will graduate this summer with a degree in chemical engineering and has accepted a position with Amoco Oil Company at Dickinson. After attending the Almont school for nine years, Kay completed high school at New Salem, graduating in 1979. She is now in her sophomore year at Dickinson State College, majoring in physical education.

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH JOHNSON

Joseph Johnson was born Aug. 20, 1891, to Mr. and Mrs. Aanen Johnson at their homestead three miles north of Sims. He attended a rural school in Caribou Township. Later on he enrolled in an agricultural course in Fargo. He was married to Hilder Jacobson on Feb. 10, 1923, in Bismarck, ND, by



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Johnson

Pastor Munson. Hilder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Jacobson, was born July 2, 1902. Her family lived in the Sims area except for a short time spent in Oregon.

The Johnsons made their home on a farm in the Curlew Valley until 1943 when they moved to a farm adjoining the family homestead. Three children were born to them: June Arlene, born May 19, 1927, passed away in 1930; Duane, born July 11, 1931, and Joel, born Nov. 6, 1933. Duane is married to the former Joan Knudson, has four children: Pamela (Mrs. Terry Karch), they have one daughter; Paul, married Candace Olson, they have two children; Janet (Mrs. Dan Syvrud), and Mary. A daughter, Marcy, passed away at the age of two. Joel is married to Donna Knutson. Grant, Bryan and Kay are their children. Joseph passed away Nov. 12, 1963. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were both active members of the Sims Lutheran Church. Mrs. Johnson resides in New Salem.

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VAL KARY FAMILY



Back: Irene, Val, Alvina, Barbra, Delores. Front: Angie, Mary, Ann

Val Kary was born April 3, 1905, at Bismarck, one of eight children of Philip and Anna LaFrank Kary. He attended school at Conn and a country school south of Leith. The family moved to the small town of Kaiser in 1912, where his father ran the elevator. When Val was about nine years old, he was home alone and a freight train passed through the town and sparks from the train set fire to the wooden elevator platform. Not knowing how he could get this fire out by himself, he remembered there was a section crew working about one mile away so he jumped on his saddle horse and rode to tell the crew what had happened. The crew came on a hand-pumped cart and put the fire out, and for this, the Milwaukee Railroad awarded him \$2.50 (a day's wages) and told him they would rename the town after him. Three months later the crew brought a new sign with the name, Kary, on it. They took down the sign of Kaiser, smashed it and hung the sign, Kary, on the depot. This was a very proud moment for Val. This town is gone now but it can be found on old railroad maps and old state maps.

In 1918 the family moved to St. Joe where they lived on a farm at the time of his father's death on Jan. 27, 1923. Val helped his mother raise the six younger children. Val had three brothers (Ted, Philip and Nick) who have all passed away and two living sisters, Mrs. Angilina Meuchel, Glen Ullin, and Ethel (Mrs. John Knoll), Duluth, MN. Two sisters have passed away, Eva (Mrs. Melvin Isermen) and Barbra (Mrs. Gene Heffner). Both lived in Minneapolis at the time of their death.

Val married Barbra Wetzstein in 1928 and came to the Almont community March 13, 1930. They settled five miles southwest of Almont where they rented land from E.W. Hyde. They started with 20 head of cattle, eight horses, a Fordson tractor, a seeder and a gang plow. The farm site consisted of a small house, a small rough board barn, a granary, small chicken coop and an outhouse. This was a bad time for farmers, with dust storms, drought, grasshoppers, lots of hard work and no crops. Through the years they bought land and expanded the operation to raise Hereford cattle, hogs and grain.

They have six daughters: Alvina (Mrs. Rodger Schultz), Bismarck, ND, three girls and three boys; Irene (married Aldon Olson in 1953), two girls and two boys, Aldon passed away in 1972 and the family lived in Almont until her marriage to Everett Olson in 1975. They have one daughter and live in Federal

Way, WA; Delores (Mrs. Wallace Toepke), Mandan, ND, three boys; Ann (Mrs. Adam Gratz), Dickinson, ND, one girl and one boy; Angie (Mrs. Gary Tressel), Kent, WA, seven girls; Mary (Mrs. Dave Hoffman), Gillette, WY, one girl. The Kary girls attended grade school at Feland No. 3, a small country school southwest of Almont. They all attended Almont High School. Barbra passed away in 1973.

Val is a member of the Almont Commercial Club, Historical Society, the Weighing Association, The Prairie Rose Senior Citizens, and St. Leopold's Catholic Church where Val serves as trustee. Val has been a member since the church was built. The church was built by the members of the parish who donated their time and labor.

Val and Claude Ritz owned and operated the Almont Oil Bulk Station for over 20 years, which is now owned and operated by Edward Thiel.

Val later married Gladys Nelson Kary from Salina, KS. She has three sons: Philip, Los Angeles, CA; William, Denver, CO, and Mark, Salina, KS. The Karys still make their home on the farm southwest of Almont where Val has lived for the past 51 years.

DELORES (KARY) TOEPKE



Wallace Toepke family

Daughter of Val and Barbra (Wetzstein) Kary, Delores was born on the family farm, attended grade school at Feland No. 1, and graduated from Almont High School in 1949. She married Wallace Toepke in 1952 and they have three children: Pat, Jay and Kirk. Pat married Roxanne Ecklund of Bottineau and have a son, Travis James; Jay married Pam Schaner, Mandan, and they have two sons, Travis Christopher and Justin Daniel; Kirk is still single and living at home.

The Toepkes have been Mandan residents for 29 years and Wallace has been employed at the Amoco Mandan Refinery for the last 27 years.

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MR. AND MRS. EMIL KELLER

Emil Keller was born on a farm nine miles east of Almont on Sept. 8, 1887. When he was 17 years old his father, brother and he went to St. Paul, MN, to make their home. There they worked in a glue and furniture factory. Two years later Emil came back to North Dakota and worked on the farm of Mrs. Fred Lieb. Minnie Lieb was born in Iowa and came with her parents to North Dakota when she was 14 years old.

On June 14, 1908, Emil and Minnie Lieb were united in marriage. A year later they filed on a homestead 14 miles southeast of Almont, near the Heart River and Beaver Creek. He started to farm with three horses and a walking plow. The buildings were a two-room house and a sod barn. Some years later they added to the house. They built a new barn and also a two-story house on their farm.

There were no roads, only trails leading over the prairie and the people passed by the Keller farm on their way to the twin cities of Mandan and Bismarck. The Kellers did most of their trading in Almont, traveling with horse and buggy or wagon, as they hauled their grain and lumber for new buildings. In



Mr. and Mrs. Emil Keller

later years the roads were improved and a truck was purchased to haul grain and cattle to market.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Keller. Evelyn married Rev. Alvin House; Kathryn married Ray Kahavec. They had one daughter, Naomi, who married Robert Engelter and has two children, Joana and Lee; Norman married Ardythe Rogers and they had two sons, Douglas and Duane. Douglas married Linda Nagel and they had one daughter, Shari. Douglas is remarried to Clarene (Wedge) Riedlinger. Norman passed away May 26, 1970, at the age of 51.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Keller lived on their farm for 50 years. On June 14, 1958, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Almont High School gymnasium. There was a Christian program which the children arranged for them with their son, Norman, as the master of ceremonies. A reception followed the program.

They sold the farm in the fall of 1958 and on Nov. 1, 1958, they moved to Bismarck where they purchased a home and retired from the farm. On April 22, 1959, Emil passed away. Minnie continued to live in the home. For 11 years she lived in a rest home and since May 31, 1980, she lives in an apartment house in Bismarck.

Her children had an open house for her Oct. 25, 1979, on her 90th birthday at the First United Methodist Church. There was a program and a reception followed. Naomi Engelter, a granddaughter, baked the birthday cake.

MR. AND MRS. HENRY KELLER

Mr. Keller was born in 1881 in the Red River Valley. He was among the first immigrants to come to New Salem by covered wagon. He was a year and a half when he made this journey in the year of 1883. His parents settled on a homestead south of New Salem, which is now the location of the Bethel Church. He stayed there until he grew to manhood.

Mr. Keller took a homestead in 1903 under the Homestead Act and worked this land for five years before the government approved the land to be his. His homestead was located six miles east of Almont, which is now known as Rocky Ridge.

Mrs. Keller, formerly Mary Lieb, was born in Fenton, IA. She moved to New Salem with her parents in the old frontier days of 1904. Mary was 15 years old when she made this trip with her parents.

Dec. 20, 1906, was the date of the wedding of Mary Lieb and Mr. Henry Keller. They lived on the homestead that Mr. Keller had gotten through the Homestead Act. They later added to the amount of land and they built a new barn in 1910 and a new house a few years later, but in the meantime they lived in the home that Mr. Keller had built when he got the homestead. The new house is completely modern.

Six children were born into the family. They are: Mrs. Wm. L. (Florence) Joersz, deceased; Elmer, deceased; Mrs. (Edna) Monson; Henry Jr., lives on a farm that is just one mile from the old homestead of his parents. Leo, the youngest of the children, lives on the land his father worked for so many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Keller are both deceased.

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MR. AND MRS. C.E. KELSVEN

Clifford Kelsven, born in Jackson County, MN, lived with his parents on a farm near Crookston, MN, until he was 21, when he left the farm to go into merchandising. He worked in stores at Jud and Berlin,

ND, and came to Almont in February 1913 to open his first general merchandise business in the store that was previously opened and operated by Fred Holritz and Sons. June 25, 1913, he married Katherine McRae at Jud. He brought his bride to Almont where they resided in the rooms above the store. Their four children were born there. Their only son died in infancy.

Mr. Kelsven had a successful business in Almont for 27 years. He

took an active part in civic affairs, was a member of the school board, and was postmaster for 16 years. The Kelsven family were active members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

In 1941 Mr. Kelsven sold his business to Chris Halvorson. The family moved to Sheridan, OR, where he opened a Western Auto Store and was later associated in the business with Jim Stoeckel, formerly of Almont. After selling his interest in the store, he was associated with the Sheridan Realty Co. until his retirement.

He passed away suddenly at his home in Sheridan in May 1953 at the age of 67 years. Mrs. Kelsven moved to Portland, OR, to be with her daughters, Marion and Beverly. She passed away in April 1961 at her home.

Daughter, Kathleen, married Burdette Edwards in April of 1953. They live in Seattle, WA, and have three children, two daughters and a son. Marion and Beverly live together in the Portland, OR, area. Marion is a nurse and Beverly is a high school teacher.



Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Kelsven

MR. AND MRS. JOHN KENNEDY

John Kennedy, born in St. Paul, MN, came to Almont in 1910 and filed on a homestead 12 miles south of Almont. In 1916 he was married to Miss Karine Jacobson, also born in St. Paul in 1886. Miss Jacobson was Almont's first schoolteacher and she continued to teach for 15 years in this community.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy lived on his homestead where their four children were born. In 1924 the family moved to St. Paul, where Mr. Kennedy was employed with the city water dept. In May 1948 both Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy passed away; Mr. Kennedy after an illness of two months on May 19 and Mrs. Kennedy four days later.

Three of their children: Mrs. Marian Larson, Mrs. Jane Pitman and William (Buster) Kennedy and their families still live in St. Paul, MN. Mrs. Nell Lans and family live in Muskegon, MI.



Mr. and Mrs. John Kennedy

ANDREW KILEN FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kilen

Andrew Kilen came from Lyster, Norway, to Meden, WI, in 1903 to work for his uncle. In 1905 Ellen Myklemyr came from Jostedal, Norway. They were married in Urne, WI, on May 27, 1905 and in 1919 they came to North Dakota and lived on a farm in the Curlew Valley. In 1924 they moved to the farm, which is being farmed by their grandson, Arvin. They retired in 1948 and moved to Almont. Ellen was 79 at her death on April 18, 1966. Andrew was 86 at his death Feb. 25, 1969. Two special occasions occurred in the Almont church — their Golden Wedding Anniversary and their 60th Anniversary, May 27, 1955 and 1965.

They had eight children, seven of which are still living. Martin, their sixth child, passed away July 5, 1936, in a drowning accident.

Clara, their first child, was married to Carl Krummel. They had two children: a daughter, Joyce, who died at nine months, and a son, Edwin. Carl passed

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away in 1973 and Clara lives in Federal Way. She has one granddaughter, Stacy.

Gilman, the first son, lives in Almont and has remained a bachelor. He lives in his parent's home.

Alma married Kenneth Keil in Tacoma in 1936. They have two daughters. Dorothy lives in Bellevue with her son, Mark. Daughter Jean lives in Centralia, Karen lives in Annandale, Virginia, with her two daughters, Jennifer and Tanya. Alma and Kenneth also have one great-grandson, Benjamin.

Anna married Helmer Erlandson in Mandan, ND, in 1936. They moved to Tacoma, WA, and had two children: Loyd, living in Wenatchee, WA, has three daughters - Lori, Carla and Erika, and one son, Andrew. Elaine lives in Puyallup, WA, and has four children: Krista, David, Michael and Jennifer. Helmer passed away in 1977. Anna also has one great-granddaughter, Rebekah.

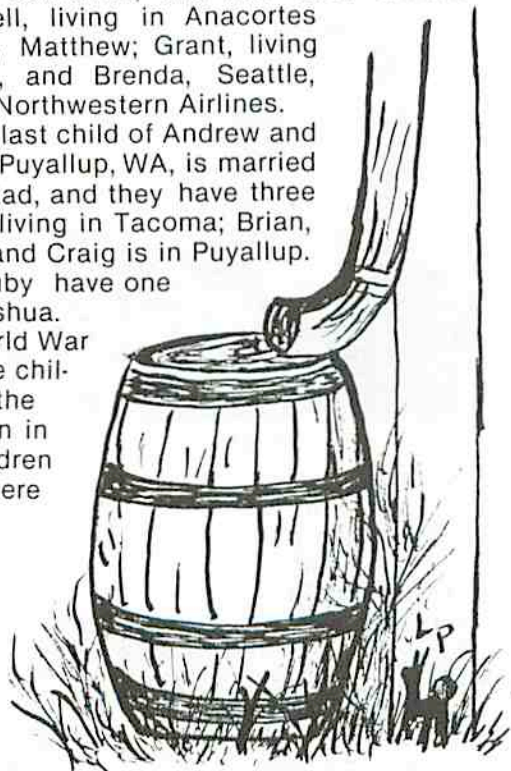
Johan lives on a farm west of Almont. He married Ruth Seim and has two daughters and four sons. Their daughters are: Captain Orletta, who is in the U.S. Army Nurse Corp. stationed at Letterman's Army Medical Center on the Presidio of San Francisco, CA, and Amy Lou, who married Robert Traxel and lives in Hazen. Johan and Ruth's sons are: Arvin, married Patricia Rykman, lives in Almont and has two daughters, Janelle and Jennifer; Sheldon passed away in 1960; Duane and Loren are living at home and working with their father.

Gudren lives in Anacortes, WA, married Norman Lorentzen in California, and has three children:

Janice Russell, living in Anacortes with her son, Matthew; Grant, living in Anacortes, and Brenda, Seattle, who flies for Northwestern Airlines.

Edwin, the last child of Andrew and Ellen, lives in Puyallup, WA, is married to Ruby Barstad, and they have three sons: Bruce, living in Tacoma; Brian, in Puyallup, and Craig is in Puyallup. Edwin and Ruby have one grandson, Joshua.

During World War II, three of the children were in the service; Johan in the army, Gudren and Edwin were in the navy.



CARL T. KILEN FAMILY

Born in Lyster, Norway, Jan. 20, 1888, Carl's real name was Christian Theodore. He was one of seven brothers and two sisters. His father, Theodore Kilen, lived to the age of 103 and was in good health until his eyesight failed at the age of 91. Carl's mother,

Kari Kilen, died in childbirth when Carl was five. The child survived and was named Christifor.

In 1907, when Carl was 19, he and Christifor came to America where they joined their brothers, Andrew and Elias. Carl worked as a farm laborer in the tobacco fields in Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Later he settled in the Curlew area where his brother, Andrew, lived and began working as a section laborer on the Northern Pacific Railway in 1917.

He married Francis Monson in Mandan on July 9, 1921, and for several years they lived in the section house at Curlew. It was the scene of many area gatherings where Carl would play his old-time button accordion and everyone enjoyed dancing and visiting. Later, when the family was older, they rented farms in the area and Carl would walk to and from work. During bad winter weather he would rely on the skiing talents he had learned in Norway to get him from place to place.

He drove a Model T Ford but never mastered shifting gears. One Sunday, as the family prepared to go to a ballgame, he drove through the yard fence and hit the porch. He never tried to drive again.

In his 40 years with the railroad, Carl witnessed the changes from the steam engine to the modern diesel engines. He retired in 1957 and spent his later years enjoying a favorite hobby ... fishing. He died May 18, 1962.

He and Francis had 10 children. Three of their sons: Raymond of Dickinson; Virgil, New Salem, and Thornton, Mandan, are engineers with the Burlington Northern Railway. Norman (deceased) farmed near Almont and Tharen, Mandan, works with the State Highway Department. The five daughters are Mrs. George (Mavis) Voracek, Fargo; Mrs. Arnold (Florence) Joersz, Bismarck; Mrs. Elmer (Grace) Smith and Mrs. Edward (Charlotte) Thiel, both of Almont, and Mrs. Burton (Etheleen) Hoovestol, New Salem.

There are 46 grandchildren living throughout the United States and Holland, and 31 great-grandchildren.

GILMAN T. KILEN

Gilman Kilen was born in Verndale, MN, on Aug. 14, 1908. He was the second child and oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kilen.



Gilman T. Kilen

Gilman moved with his parents to North Dakota on Oct. 23, 1919. They lived on the farm in the Curlew Valley until 1924. On May 27th they moved to the present farm at Almont.

Gilman farmed with his brother, Johan, on the home place until Oct. 5, 1959, when Johan and his family moved. Gilman continued to farm the home place until his retirement in September of 1973.

He moved to his house in Almont on the corner of Morton and Hyde streets in the spring of 1974 and continues to live there today.

JOHAN AND RUTH KILEN



Johan and Ruth Kilen

Johan Arvin Kilen was born July 24, 1916, in Verdale, MN. He was the sixth child and second son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kilen. On Oct. 23, 1919, the family arrived in the Curlew Valley and farmed there until May 27, 1924, when they moved to a farm seven miles west of Almont.

Johan married Ruth S. Seim on Nov. 30, 1947, at Sims, ND. Ruth was born July 6, 1920, at Almont, the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nels O. Seim. She graduated from Almont High School in 1940, attended Capital Commercial College and Bismarck Junior College, and from 1943 to 1947 she worked at the Mandan Creamery.

Johan and Ruth farmed with Gilman on the home place until 1959 when Johann and Ruth bought the farm, where Ruth was born, from her father and moved there Oct. 5, 1959. They continue to farm there.

They had six children, two daughters and four sons. Orletta, born Oct. 31, 1948, is a captain in the U.S. Army Nurse Corp., presently stationed at Letterman Medical Center on the Presidio of San Francisco, CA; Amy Lou, born Sept. 11, 1950, married Robert L. Traxel May 10, 1975, in Almont and they live in Hazen, ND; Arvin, born Sept. 17, 1951, married Patricia G. Ryckman on Dec. 30, 1973, in Pollock, SD. Arvin works at Almont Lumber and Pat is at home with their two daughters, Janelle and Jennifer Jo, their home is on Main Street in Almont; Sheldon Lynn, born July 29, 1954, in Bismarck, ND, died Aug. 13, 1960, in Grafton, ND; Duane Andrew, born March

24, 1958, in Mandan, ND; and Loren Allen, born Aug. 20, 1960, is engaged in farming with his father three miles west of Almont.

NORMAN KILEN FAMILY

Norman Theodore Kilen was born in February, 1922, to Carl and Francis Kilen in the Almont-Sims area, growing up there. In March of 1944 he married Helen Alma Joersz who was born in October, 1920, in New Salem to Herman and Martha Joersz. After their marriage they made their first home at the Severson homestead north of Almont, then owned by Simon Johnson. In February of 1945 their first child, Norma, was born and in March of 1946 Carol was born.



Norman, Helen, Norma, Carol, Arlene; Front: Ethel and Dwight

In the fall of 1946 they moved to the Herman Joersz homestead, farming there, and in September of 1952 Arlene was born. In the spring of 1954 they moved to a farm ½ mile north of Almont where Ethel was born in May of 1957 and Dwight was born in June of 1962.

Norma married Bert Esser of Holland in April of 1975, moving to Wolvega, Holland, at that time and still resides there. They have two sons, Norbert, born in December, 1976 and Mark, born in January, 1979.

Ethel married Harold Thoemke of Bismarck in October, 1975, and moved to Donnybrook, ND, where their daughter, Wendi, was born in 1976. They moved to Linton, ND, then to Loveland, CO, in the spring of 1979, where Harold died in August of 1979. Ethel married Douglas Heald in September of 1980 and they are presently living in Berthoud, CO.

Arlene married Charles Bittner of Bismarck in April of 1976, residing there until the present time along with Brian, a son from Charles' former marriage.

Carol married Duane Zimmerman, Carson, ND, in April of 1977, residing till the present time in Bismarck. They have two sons, Jerry, born in April of 1978, and Paul, in January of 1980.

Norman died in June of 1977 and Helen remained at the Almont farm home with Dwight, the youngest son, who graduates in May of 1981.

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DON AND THELMA KLINGENSMITH

Don J. Klingensmith was born on a farm April 1, 1901, near Lovilia, IA, the son of George F. and Dora Kincaid Klingensmith. He came from Iowa to North Dakota as a young Methodist minister. He had committed his life to the Lord at an early age in special meetings in their rural Methodist Church.



Don and Thelma Klingensmith

On Sept. 11, 1930, he married Thelma Hyde, daughter of Eber W. and Ida Lebert Hyde of Almont, born May 23, 1904. Thelma had found her Savior at the age of 10 when she and Edith Bird read tracts sent by her mother to all Sunday School families. Don and Thelma were classmates and alumni of John Fletcher College in Iowa and theirs was the first wedding ceremony in the new Almont Wesleyan Methodist Church.

After serving North Dakota pastorates for eight years, the Methodist Home Missionary Society called them to be superintendents of the Ponca (Indian) Methodist Mission in Oklahoma. During these years in the North Dakota pastorate, their son, Joseph, and a daughter, Eunice, were born.

During his North Dakota pastorates and at Ponca Mission, Don saw the need for a Bible translation into everyday words. With the help of Indian youth and adults, the "Gospel of Luke in Everyday English" came off the press in 1941. The Mission Board used it in other Indian missions.

After returning to the pastorate in Wisconsin and North Dakota, Don continued his translating of the New Testament from the Greek into "Everyday English". The entire New Testament was published in a paperback edition in 1974.

The Klingensmiths returned to Almont after the death of Thelma's mother and made their home with her father. Thelma taught in the Almont High School and edited the "Almont Golden Jubilee" history book in 1956. She served as Morton County Superintendent of Schools from 1959-1973. The Almont PTA sponsored her as a candidate for State Mother in 1965. She was selected as "North Dakota Mother of the Year" and attended the American Mother's Convention in New York City representing North Dakota.

Joseph married Maree McGaughey and their two sons, Wesley and Peter, live near Rochester, NY, where he is a botany professor at Rochester Institute of Technology. Eunice married Hilary Evans, M.D., who is on the medical staff of Lee Hospital in Johnstown, PA. Their children are James, Jonathan and Elizabeth (deceased).

Don and Thelma now live in Mandan where Don continues his concern for New Testament translation and distribution. Thelma spends much of her time in church and library activities. In October 1980,

Thelma was presented with the North Dakota Library Trustee Citation. Both have been active volunteers in helping secure good legislation for North Dakota. In August 1980, their children and families honored them with a Golden Wedding celebration which many friends and relatives attended.

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CHARLES KNUDSON FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knudson

In 1901 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knudson, originally from Norway, came to the Sims area of Morton County. Two years later they moved five miles south to a site just 2½ miles from what is now Almont.

Before they could harvest any crop on a part of their farm, the Knudsons found it necessary to rid their land of a thriving prairie dog town.

In 1917, when a resident of Almont passed away, the town had no burial ground; Mr. and Mrs. Knudson donated a three-acre plot to the town for this purpose.

The Knudson family consisted of five children: Anna, a registered nurse, married Tollef Christianson (both deceased); Clara, a schoolteacher, married John Baillet (both deceased); Agnes (deceased), married Olaus Christiansen; Carl, now living on the home place, was a farmer, auctioneer, served two terms in the State House of Representatives from the 30th district, and married Roxie Boicourt (deceased) of Medora; Aalga, also a teacher, married J.R. Fero (deceased) of Youngstown, Ohio.

Charles Knudson was born Jan. 17, 1860, and died July 29, 1919; Dena Feland Knudson was born Jan. 8, 1867, and died May 19, 1937.

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MR. AND MRS. ANDREW KNUTSON

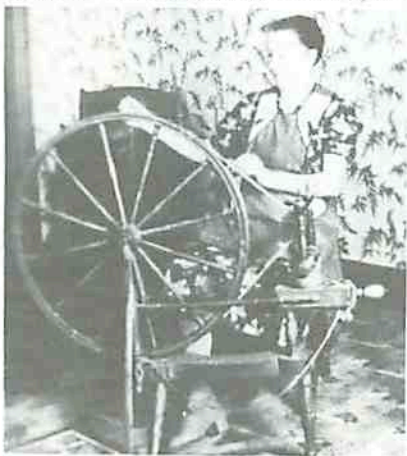


Back: Mary, Cornelius, John; Front: (baby) Melvin, Mable, Eddie, Regina and Andre / Knutson.

Andrew Knutson was born in Norway on Nov. 19, 1857. He came to the U.S. when he was 22 years old to be with an elder brother in Wisconsin. Later, he came farther west to Valley City where he worked on farms. While there he met the girl who became his wife. Mary was born June 17, 1861, in Norway.

They heard of the booming town of Sims, so came out looking for work and decided to remain there. However, the Montana gold fields beckoned and they lived there for three years before filing on a homestead 1½ miles southwest of Almont where they farmed and raised cattle for the remainder of their lives. Andrew also had a general store in Almont for many years. He passed away in 1917 and Mary died in 1949, at the age of 89.

They reared a family of eight children: John, deceased in 1968; Cornelius, married to Inger Anderson, deceased in 1958; Melvin, deceased in 1924; Edward, deceased in 1975; William, married to Ragna Olson, deceased in 1962; Mable Anderson Atkinson, deceased in 1972; Regina (Mrs. Sam Anderson), deceased; Viola (Mrs. Walter Moore), Austin, MN.



Mrs. Knutson

MR. AND MRS. C.A. KNUTSON



Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Knutson - 1911

Cornelius A. Knutson was born on the homestead ¾ mile west of Almont on Aug. 5, 1886. He was baptized in the Sims Lutheran Church, which was upstairs above the parsonage in Sims, and was confirmed in the Sims Church in 1898 by Rev. Gaustad. He attended the first year of school in Sims and the next two years of school were conducted in a room in the John Fallgren home. A school was then built near the present Albert Anderson farm. Cornelius attended college in Fargo for one year — 1906. In 1907 he and his father started a general store in Almont. He was postmaster in Almont for six years and rural mail carrier for 35 years. During these years he delivered not only mail but also groceries, kerosene and machinery parts from local businesses. He would pick up eggs and cream at the mailbox and on the next trip return the empty cans and crates plus the groceries. One elderly lady, who lived with her schoolteacher daughter, would make Cornelius wait while she tried on her clothes from the mail order catalog. If they didn't fit she would re-wrap them and send them back the same day. He delivered mail by horse and buggy, sleigh, skis, Model T and finally new and better cars.

Cornelius was married to Inger Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Anderson, pioneer settlers of the Heart River area. Inger was born on her father's farm in 1890. She died Dec. 13, 1952, and Cornelius died in February 1958.

Inger and Cornelius had seven children: Myron (deceased); Lillian Heinle, Seattle, WA; Howard, Oxnard, CA; Vernon, San Jose, CA; Carol Atkinson (deceased); Dorothy Vollrath, Grand Forks, ND, and Marlys Dolezal, Killdeer, ND.



Lillian, Vernon, Marlys, Howard and Dorothy

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM KNUTSON



Mr. and Mrs. William Knutson

William Knutson was born March 14, 1901, to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Knutson. He attended school in Almont and farmed with his family two miles southwest of Almont. He was married to Ragna Olson on Nov. 26, 1927, in Mandan, ND.

Ragna, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Severt Olson, was born Dec. 8, 1903, at their home 10 miles south of Almont. She attended the early elementary school years in Mandan, where her mother and family lived during the school term. After a high school was established in Almont, she completed school there. Ragna attended Valley City State College and taught in rural schools near Stanton, Lefor and Almont.

The Knutsons farmed the Ole Jacobson place for 10 years and then moved to the Reichel farm, where Bill also mined coal. In 1946 they started a grocery store in Almont in the same building Andrew Knutson had a store 40 years earlier. They operated the store for 12 years. Bill was employed at the Farm Supply Store in Almont at the time of his death, Dec. 23, 1962. They were members of the Almont Lutheran Church. Ragna taught Sunday School for several years and is still active in Mission Circle.

Their children are: Donna (Mrs. Joel Johnson), Almont, born May 28, 1932, a teacher in the New Salem school system; Donald, Almont, born Sept. 30, 1939, a trucker for Almont Lumber and Equipment; and Gary, Bismarck, born Nov. 19, 1947, Senior Claims Representative for American Family Insurance. Gary is married to the former Marlene Stoxen. There are four grandchildren: Grant, Bryan and Kay Johnson and JoDean Knutson.

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"WHERE FRIENDS MEET FRIENDS"

JOHN A. KOPA



Mr. and Mrs.
John A. Koba

John A. Koba, born in Wahpeton in 1883, first came to Almont in 1908 when he came to visit his parents on their homestead. After his parents left Lidgerwood for their homestead, John went to Minneapolis and worked there until 1921 when he came to Almont to stay.

In 1908 he was married to Miss Mary Jacobek in Minneapolis. They had no children. She died in 1920. The next year John came to Almont and made his home, living with his parents on the homestead until their death. He continued to live there alone for another 11 years, moving into Almont in 1948 when he retired from farming. He is now deceased.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN KOPA



Mr. and Mrs.
John Koba



Mr. and Mrs. John Koba came as a young couple to America from Czechoslovakia. After a few years of working for a farmer in Iowa they came to Wahpeton, ND, in 1880 where Mr. Koba worked in a grocery store. Here their two oldest sons were born.

After farming for some years near Lidgerwood, ND, they came west in search of a homestead. In 1906 Mr. Koba went as far west as Dickinson looking for a claim and decided to settle at Almont which was just beginning. The prairie looked wide and open after living in the eastern part of the state, but they chose a homestead about three miles east of Almont and lived on it the rest of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Koba, Joe and three daughters came first. Mrs. Koba died April 14, 1927, at the age of 73, and her husband 12 years later, April 22, 1939, at the age of 86.

Their children were: Mary Koba, died in 1946; James Koba, died in 1954; John Koba, deceased; Mrs. J.G. (Barbara) Havlena, Sawyer, ND; Rose, died in 1955; Mrs. W.M. (Katie) King, Yakima, WA; Mrs. Tom (Lena) Brown, Portland, OR, and Joe Koba.

MR. AND MRS. ELIAS LARSON

Elias Larson, a sailor from Lyngdal, Norway, born in 1846, came to Sims in 1882. He worked in the coal mines and was cook in the brickyard boarding house. After two years here he went back to sailing and in 1887 was shipwrecked in the Atlantic and he, with the entire crew of 42 men, was lost at sea.

It was very hard to make a living in Norway in those days. Mrs. Tobine Larson worked for the equivalent of 15 cents a day and the four boys, Christ, Tenius, Tobias and Amandas, worked as they grew old enough for as little as 3 cents a day. They managed to save enough money for their fares to this "land of promise." Christ came in 1891 at 16 years of age; Tenius in 1900 at 18. In 1902 Mrs. Larson, who was a sister of Mrs. Gabriel Peterson, came to Sims with her other two sons, Tobias 22 and Amandas 17. Mrs. Larson and Tobias homesteaded east of Sims in 1906 on a quarter known as Klondike. Tobias worked for the NPPRR. Amandas took a homestead six miles south of Almont, close to Square Butte in 1907. He played on the Almont baseball team at their first celebration and later was a regular third baseman on the Sims team.

MRS. ANNA RAMSLAND LARSON

Anna Peterson was born at Treland, near Farsund, Norway, on March 20, 1856. In March 1878 she was united in marriage to Ben Ramsland, who was born July 24, 1852, at Haaman, near Farsund, Norway.

They came to Fargo on May 17, 1881, with their son, Tenius, Anna's mother, Bertha Peterson, and Ben's brother, Theodore. In November 1881 they arrived at Bly's Mine, later known as Sims. Crossing the Missouri River at Bismarck was a memorable event as there was no bridge. They walked across the ice, with Anna carrying Tenius on her back.

Ben homesteaded at Sims and gave the building site for the Sims church. After living in Sims for five years, they moved to their ranch 12 miles southwest of Sims; this was a hilly and wooded area and was called "the woods." Their ranch house was made of logs and rock; it was built over a spring which came out of a coal vein and provided water for the house and barn.

Ben passed away in 1889 at the age of 37, leaving his wife and five children: Tenius, Ole, Dena, Anna and Fred.

In the fall of 1890 Anna married Theodore Larson, born March 27, 1862, in Spangereid, Norway. He came to Sims in March 1883 and worked on the section; he was section foreman at Sweetbriar for several years. He and Anna lived on the Ramsland Ranch until 1935 when they retired and moved to Almont. Mrs. Larson passed away May 10, 1937, at the age of 81. Mr. Larson died February 1941 at the age of 79. They were charter members of Sims Lutheran Church and Anna of the Ladies Aid.

Theodore was a great horseman, but they bought a tractor in 1920; his son, Thorvald, asked him to drive it while he ate dinner. Against his will, he started plowing; the plow soon left the furrow and Theodore yelled for help to stop the tractor, which Thorvald did. After this experience, Theodore never

attempted driving either tractor or car.

Bertinus (Ben) and Anna Ramsland had five children: Tenius, married to Susie Wohlman of near Almont; Ole married Mrs. Wilson and moved to Canada; Dena, Mrs. Jim Bateman, lived in Minnesota, Almont and later years Billings, MT; Anna, Mrs. Andrew Torgerson, farmed near Almont and later moved to Billings, MT; and a son, Fred, died in his teens.

Theodore and Anna Larson had five children: Lizzy, Mrs. George Reichel (deceased), farmed and had a coal mine at Almont and later moved to Oregon; Tillie, Mrs. Clint Wright, lived in Almont where Clint had a gas station and was a mechanic. Tillie is living with her daughter, Mrs. Harold Halvorson, in Bismarck; Thorvald died when he was about two years old. Another son was born and he was named Thorvald, who married Lucille Olin of Sims. They lived on the home ranch until they retired and now live in Almont. Their son, Jake, and family now live on the ranch; Dora, Mrs. August Johnson (deceased), farmed near Carson, then moved to Oregon.

THORVALD LARSON FAMILY



Back: Lois, Caroline, Jake, Adeline, Joyce - Front: Lucile and Thorvald Larson

Thorvald, son of Theodore and Anna (Ramsland) Larson, was born Aug. 2, 1896, at their home 12 miles west of Sims, known as the Ramsland Hills. He was baptized and confirmed at Sims Lutheran Church. He attended country school, usually three months in the spring and three months in the fall, if farm work didn't interfere. It was nearly three miles or further to school, he either walked or rode horseback while pulling his younger sister (Dora) on a sled. Once Thorvald and Frank Sibla had to spend the night at school No. 2 due to a raging snowstorm. There was no telephone to let their folks know where they were.

Thorvald has spent all his life farming and ranching with his folks and later for himself. He spent one winter with his brother, Ole, in Canada where he learned to walk with snowshoes and drive dog teams. Dogs were tied to hitching posts as we tied our horses here.

He married Helen Keuther of Center and they had a girl named Dorothy. They were later divorced.

In March 1929 Thorvald married Lucille Olin of Sims, ND, born April 30, 1901, to John and Tobine Olin. She attended school in Caribou district and Sims. She also went to high school in Almont one

year and later attended business college. She spent a year and a half in San Francisco with her brother, Emanuel (Jack), and his wife, working for an Anti-Saloon league. After their marriage, they lived in a two-room house for five years. Three of their children were born there - Joyce, Jake and Lois. In 1934 they lived on John Olin's farm where Adeline was born. Caroline was born on the Larson farm, where they moved in 1935.

Thorvald broke his leg in 1932 and was in the hospital several months and never did get over it. The "Dirty 30's" were very much of a struggle!

Thorvald and Lucille and their children were all baptized and confirmed at Sims. Theodore Larsons and John Olins were both charter members of Sims Lutheran Church. Thorvald's mother's first husband, Ben Ramsland, gave the land for the church to be built in 1884.

After selling the ranch to their son, Jake, they retired and lived in Almont in the same house they lived in the first five years of their marriage.

The children include: Dorothy Larson, married to James Holland on June 18, 1949. They have three boys and live in Edina, MN, where Jim works for Northwestern Bell Telephone Co.

Joyce, born Dec. 20, 1929, married R. Middleton, Jr., graduated from Almont High School, received B.S. Degree from Dickinson State College. She taught in rural schools and one year in Gary, IN. They have one son, John, and live in Bellair Beach,

FL, where she continues to teach.

Jacob, born Feb. 16, 1931, married Virginia Hauge on Nov. 10, 1957. (see separate history)

Lois, born Aug. 4, 1932, attended rural school and graduated from Almont High School, attended Dickinson State College, taught one year, and graduated from nurses training at the Bismarck Hospital. She married Rhine Klaudt Feb. 22, 1930, and they farm in the Linton area, being the third generation of Klaudts on that farm. They have five daughters: Camilla, Paula, Becky, Nancy and Linda. They also have a granddaughter, Billi Ann.

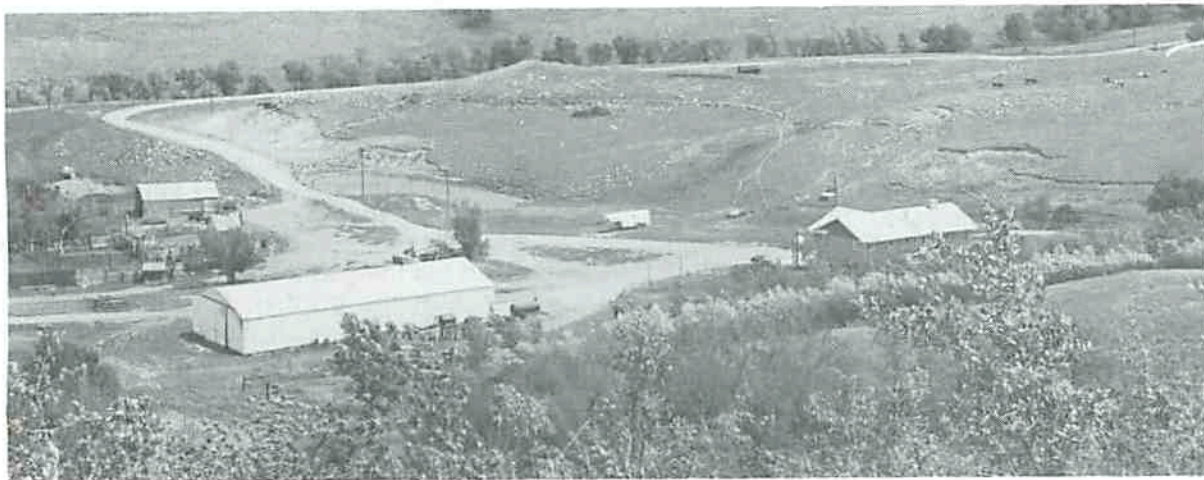
Adeline, born Aug. 28, 1934, also attended rural school and graduated from Almont High in 1952. She worked at the State Capitol in Bismarck, in Seattle and in Los Angeles. She married Ted Thiede on June 16, 1932, an engineer at Hughes Aircraft. They lived in Japan for three years and now live in Cerritos, CA. They have three children: Laurie, Randy and Robert.

Caroline, born Sept. 10, 1936, received elementary education in rural school, graduated from Almont High and attended Dickinson State College. She taught in Mott, ND, and married Wayne Schwartz Feb. 18, 1933. In the summer of 1960, they moved to Almont where Caroline taught school in the local school. She has continued to teach in several positions and earned her B.S. Degree from Dickinson State College. They live at Watford City, ND. They have five children: Jeff, Guy, Kim, Robin and Kari.

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JAKE LARSON FAMILY



Jake Larson family

Jake Larson was born to Thorvald and Lucille Larson in 1931. He is the only son in a family of five children. He is living on the same farm that his grandfather homesteaded on in the 1880's.

Jake attended grade school in the Olin school district, two miles south of the ranch, and attended high school in Almont, about 6½ miles away, graduating in 1948. He was an active member of the Rodeo Cowboys Association and North Dakota Rodeo Association for about 20 years, competing in the calf roping, team tying and wild horse racing events.

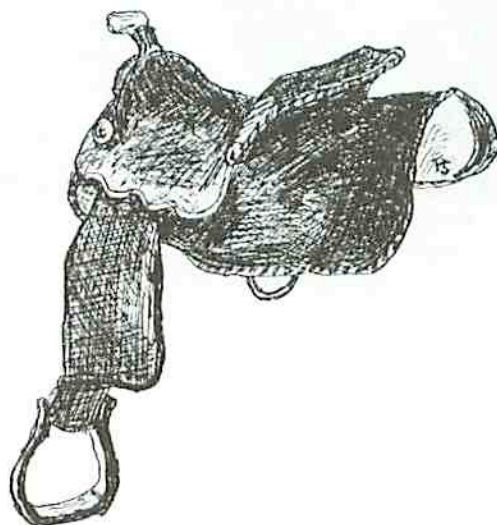
In 1957 Jake was married to Virginia Hauge at the Almont church. They had four children: Julie, Jamie, Jay and Joel.

We were in partnership with Jake's dad until 1966 when we purchased the ranch and cattle, which were basically the original cattle his grandfather had back in the 1880's. With this basic herd, we have been breeding up a purebred herd of Simmentals. We have a purebred Simmental bull which we imported from Ireland in 1973. We have one of the first foundation herds of Simmental cattle, which we have shown and sold at some of the major shows and sales in the United States. At the present time we have a purebred black Simmental heifer at Carnation Genetics in California, that they are collecting eggs out of and transplanting in donor cows. Someday we hope to have a small herd of purebred black Simmentals. The raising of Simmentals has been a very educating and enjoyable experience for us.

Jake and his family are members of the Sims Lutheran Church, where they have held various offices. At the present time, Jake is a director on the American Simmental Association Board, North Dakota Stockman's Association, North Dakota Beef Cattle Improvement Association, North Dakota Resource Council and president of the Morton County Surface Interest Association.

Our children are just about all grown up now. Julie is a senior this year at Dickinson State, majoring in physical education and elementary education, so

she will be out on her own next year. Jamie was married to Doug Bauer of New Salem in September 1979 and passed away three weeks later in October 1979. We are having a hard time accepting the fact that she won't just drop in and say, "Hi! Mom and Dad." We still miss her very much. Jay is a freshman at Bismarck Junior College, where he is taking up Farm and Ranch Management. Joel is a junior in high school at New Salem, and keeps us busy going to football and basketball games. He hasn't decided what he wants to be when he graduates.



LoANN (OLIN) LEACH

Jeaneane LoAnn Olin, daughter of Arthur and Delia Olin, was born March 3, 1940, at Sims, ND. Raised on the family farm one mile east of Sims, she attended the country school there. She was graduated from the Almont High School in 1958.

Nov. 5, 1958, LoAnn married Eldon D. Leach, son of Clayton and Mollie Leach of New Salem. The couple lived on the Leach farm in the Blue Grass area. Eldon farmed and worked for the Peavey (Occident) Elevator at North Almont. In 1961 Eldon was transferred to Dunn Center, ND. Moving again in 1962, the couple this time lived at Menoken, ND, when Bing took over as manager of the elevator there. 1964 saw them moving again, this time back to the New Salem area, namely, North Almont, where Bing managed the elevator until it was closed. 1970 — they moved again — back to the Leach farm where Eldon farmed and later worked for Rolin Mfg. at New Salem.

Upon returning to the Sims area, LoAnn became active with the newly reorganized Sunday School and other church activities. In 1974 she started college, graduating with a degree in 1976. Previous to college, she worked at May's Camera Shop, Bismarck. She is now a secondary education teacher.

Eldon and LoAnn have two children: Micky Lea, born Nov. 24, 1959, is enrolled at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, and Rory Dale, born Nov. 4, 1962, will be graduated from New Salem High School in 1981. He plans to attend college in the fall. Eldon and LoAnn are now divorced.

LEITEL FAMILY



Rev. and Mrs. John L. Leitel, Mary and Ann

Pastor John Leitel was born Dec. 20, 1949, at Lincoln, NE, and grew up in Omaha, NE. Mrs. Leitel, the former Ruth Jacobsen, was born July 16, 1947, at Estherville, IA, and grew up mostly at Albert Lea, MN.

The couple met at Dana College, Blair, NE, from which both were graduated. They were married June 18, 1972, at Albert Lea. Following Pastor Leitel's graduation in 1975 from Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA, they moved to Almont to begin serving the Sims-Almont Lutheran parish, as well as the Presbyterian congregation at New Salem. Pastor Leitel was ordained at Almont Lutheran Church Aug. 20, 1975.

Their children are Ann, born June 26, 1975, at Dubuque; Mary, born May 24, 1977, and Adam John, born Feb. 27, 1981, at Bismarck. Before the birth of the children Mrs. Leitel taught music at Omaha, NE; Galena, IL, and Hazel Green, WI, but has remained at home since moving to North Dakota.

MR. AND MRS. OTIS MALONE

Otis and Etta (W. Anthes) Malone were born in 1875 and 1877 respectively. Mr. Malone was a printer by trade. He was a sergeant in the army during the Spanish-American War and served in Cuba. After his discharge from the army, he again followed his trade. In March 1901 he and Etta W. Anthes were married. They are the parents of four daughters, all graduates of Almont High School. The three oldest became teachers; Ruth, the youngest, was a stenographer.

The Malone family and Edith Anthes, Mrs. Malone's sister, now Mrs. Fred Grimm, came to North Dakota in March 1909 and settled at DeVaul, where Mr. Malone was postmaster for five years. When living at DeVaul (10 mi. north of Flasher), Mr. Malone hauled his wheat crop to Al-



Mr. Otis Malone

mont and on the return trip would haul a load of lumber to Flasher for the building of that town.

In 1914 the family moved to Almont and lived on a farm south of there. Mrs. Malone passed away in July 1918. In 1929 Edgar and Edith Skjolsvik went to live on the farm and Mr. Malone moved to Almont. He was a McNess dealer for a few years. He also managed the Almont baseball team for several years. In 1934 he was appointed postmaster at Almont, holding this position until his retirement in July 1945. He passed away in December 1945.

Three of the Malone daughters are still living in Morton County, ND.

Katherine, the eldest, married George Kaelberer and lived on the Kaelberer farm for several years. Three children were born to them. Leslie passed away at the age of three; Milre is married to Van Westbrook, has two boys and lives in Georgia; Edith Ann lives in Glen Ullin. The Kaelberers live in New Salem.

Edith was married to Edgar Skjolsvik from New England. They lived on the home place south of Almont for a few years, then bought a farm about six miles south. They had three children: Ronald, married, has five children and lives in Fort Worth, TX; Muriel married Alvin Bumann, New Salem, and has two boys and four girls; Carol passed away in June 1955, and Edgar in 1963. Edith is still on the farm.

Mary was married to Harold Weiss from New Salem. They farmed for several years, then moved to California. They had five children, all are married, have families, and reside in California. Harold passed away in 1972 and Mary passed away in 1980.

Ruth is married to Stanley Abraham and lives in New Salem. Four children were born to them: Henrietta is married to Howard Foreman and lives in Bismarck; Iris and Tom Moran live in California; Daniel is married to Diane Starck and they live in Rapid City, SD, and Jordis married C. Marc Conrad and lives in Bismarck.

MR. AND MRS. CASEY G. MARTIN

Casey was the son of "Kentucky" Martin, as he was called in the early years, and his mother Jane. He was born in 1894 in Providence, KY, and came with his parents to homestead eight miles south of Almont in 1906. On the Martin side, there were four children and only one survives. The oldest, Aubrey, has been a resident of Missouri Slope Nursing Home for 7½ years and will be 90 years old in June 1981.

I, Lillian, daughter of John and Thea Hansen, was born in Spencer, IA, in 1901 and came with my parents from Minneapolis in April of 1906 and settled on a homestead 2½ miles southwest of Almont. I was five years old and when a neighbor brought a box with half a dozen chickens in it, I never forgot how frightened I was of those cackling things and ran for the house. Mother and we children were alone most of the time as father was a painter and worked in Bismarck and Mandan. Mother and we children were so frightened at night when we heard the coyotes with their mournful howling. As we grew up, we spoke of how we all ran barefoot over the prairie and were never bitten by a rattlesnake. God

must have been with us. On the Hansen side, there were eight children, only three surviving. Mary lives in Lancaster, CA; my brother, Chris, lives in Huntington Park, CA, and myself here in Bismarck. Mary and Chris and his wife plan to come in June for the Almont celebration.

I was 17 the first time I met Casey when he was playing violin with the Timpe boys in a string band at a country dance. We were married two years later in June of 1920. Casey graduated from Moeller Barber College in Minneapolis in 1921. His first shop was in Almont in a small building on main street that had been a meat market. We lived upstairs in two rooms. After a few months, we moved over the pool hall and barber shop next door. The last Saturday night we lived in Almont, there was a dance in the hall and crowds of people were in town. He never forgot that night because he cut hair until 4 a.m. Sunday. In 1924 we moved to Bismarck where we have lived these many years. Casey owned and operated the Capitol Barber Shop in Bismarck for 40 years and was retired for 16 years.



Casey Martin family

The Lord blessed us with three lovely daughters. Marian, who until a few years ago worked for the Unemployment Compensation Division, and her husband, who is a landman in the coal and oil industry, live next door. They have one son, John, who is an attorney. His wife, Carol, is also an attorney and they have law offices in downtown Bismarck. They have two children, Casey and Miki, 8 and 10 years old.

The second daughter is Florence, who has lived in Los Angeles for many years and is an executive secretary to a hospital consulting firm. She has four children: Her oldest, Gary, is 34, unmarried and has his own apartment. He teaches in a private school in the vicinity. Another child, Joanne, works at Universal Studios and has two boys, aged 8 and 12. Another daughter, Marla, is in nurses training and the youngest, Freddy, just graduated from college with a degree in engineering. He is 22 and single.

Our third daughter is Betty. She and her husband live in Devils Lake where her husband manages two S & L stores and a Stevenson store and has for many years. Betty works for the Juvenile Commissioner. They raised two children: Donna and her husband are on their farm near Tolna and her husband teaches in the college in Devils Lake. They have two children, 4 and 8. Donna drives the school bus with 46 students aboard. Betty's son, Tom, is 28 and an audiologist. He teaches in the college in Minot and is not married.

Altogether there are seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

We have been members of McCabe United Methodist Church for 55 years. In 1970 we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with 200 people attending. That was a day to be always remembered with so many out-of-town friends coming and also my sister, Mary, from Los Angeles. My two brothers, Harold and David, came from Seattle, as did my cousin, Helga, and sister-in-law, Rose.

Our home was a happy and joyful one until sadness came when Casey passed away Jan. 24, 1979. We will always remember him as a kind and loving husband and father. My life goes on with renewed faith in God and thankfulness for the many friends and relatives I have.

MR. AND MRS. EVERETT MILLER

Everett Miller, son of Fred Miller and Selma Olson Miller, was born in Mandan, ND, Sept. 25, 1916. Everett grew up in the Almont community and received his education from the Almont school.

In 1938 he married Violet Olin and their children are: Robert, Rapid City, SD; Virginia (Mrs. Marlin Bachler), Seattle, WA; Marilyn (Mrs. Gary Mertz), Bismarck, ND; Terry, Bismarck, ND, and Joel, Bismarck, ND. Two infants died at birth.

The Millers are still engaged in farming and reside on the Alfred Olin homestead. There are 10 grandchildren.

JOHN MILLET

John Millet was a black man who homesteaded on the NW¼ of section 14-138-87 in the Curlew vicinity. His father was white and his mother black. Mr. Millet never married; he had an auction sale and moved to Bismarck in 1921.

Mr. Millet was very well liked and respected. The neighbor children enjoyed having him come for visits as he would hold them on his lap and tell stories that were very interesting. He raised good horses and had several well-matched teams. He kept and managed a company stallion which was owned by several of the Curlew farmers.

Mr. Millet's father worked for Oscar Will and Co. in Bismarck and developed a strain of tomatoes, named the Millet strain.

MR. AND MRS. OSCAR MONSON

Oscar Monson was born the son of George J. and Nettie Mae (Wilson) Monson on June 29, 1909, on the family farm about three miles east of the former Kurtz railway siding of the Northern Pacific Railway, east of Glen Ullin, ND. He married Cora L. Seim on Dec. 27, 1935, at the Sims parsonage with Rev. Carl Nelson officiating.

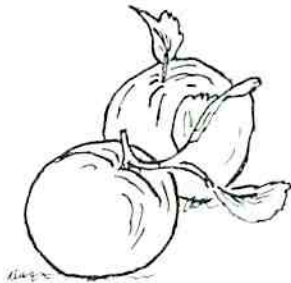
Cora (Seim) Monson is the oldest daughter of Nels Seim and Selma (Olson) Seim. She attended Almont grade and high school and Dickinson State College, Dickinson, ND. She taught school for 19 years in Morton County.

Oscar and Cora Monson have two daughters: Leona Vera (Mrs. August Schaaf Jr.) of Glen Ullin,

ND, and Lorna Renee (Mrs. Donald D. Bender) of Bismarck, ND. We have five grandchildren: Cassie Linae Schaaf (nee Mrs. Paul Schlenvogt), Madison, CA; Gail Colleen Schaaf; Dionn Arva Schaaf; Lowell Austin Schaaf, and Monica Claudette Bender.

Oscar has farmed small grain, corn and raised cattle all his life. He started out by renting Tom Hoovestol's for one year and doing construction work, working on the road from Almont to North Almont when the road was constructed. He then rented the home (Monson) place for three years and bought the place in 1941. In 1950 he sold the place and bought the Torgerson place in section 10-138-87 from Walter Torgerson.

Farming has had many ups and downs throughout the years but the most serious problem occurred in 1945 on May first when the house burned down with all its contents and on July 4th our complete crop and garden was totally demolished by a hail storm that also pounded holes in the roofing and siding of our temporary summer shelter. These adverse conditions did teach us many things. One, being life can still be very good when we stop to value the things in life we have been given throughout these many years.



MR. AND MRS. OLE MORTENSON



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Mortenson

Ole Mortenson, born at Lillehammer, Norway, March 9, 1863, came to America to seek better opportunities. He worked at various jobs in Wisconsin and in eastern North Dakota. In 1887 he came to Sims and worked at the Riverside Ranch. Later he took up a homestead on the Heart River, 10 miles south of Almont. During an Indian scare, many early settlers went to the Ole Mortenson homestead for protection.

Ole returned to Wisconsin in 1904 and married Clara Olson Aanstad on Jan. 25, 1905. They returned to his homestead on the Heart River where the con-

tinued to make their home. In their early days Mr. Mortenson raised horses and cattle and in different instances sold his horses right from the equipment they were being used on. As years went on, he raised more cattle and grain.

He served many years as a school board officer in the Lincoln school district in Grant County. He also served as a road overseer for a number of years.

In their early years it was very hard to get to church at Sims with the team and wagon, so the Mortensons together with their neighbors would have the minister come and have services at the home and spend some time with them.

Mr. Mortenson made his home on his homestead until he died on March 21, 1930, after being partially paralyzed for four years. Mrs. Mortenson passed away Oct. 1, 1954. They were members of the Sims Lutheran Church.

Ole left three sisters and one brother in Norway. His two sisters here were Mrs. Ingeborg Johnson and Mrs. Agnita Lien and a brother, Thorvald Mortenson.

During the flood of 1943 when ice broke up on the Heart River it wiped them out. They had to leave their home in the middle of the night and walk to the Van Dyck place. They lost their horses, cows, chickens, and every building with the exception of the log house. They replaced that with a new home.

The Mortensons were the parents of eight children: Mable (Mrs. Trygve Feland) passed away in 1972; Thelma (Mrs. Ole Feland) passed away in 1966; Anna (Mrs. Homer Chesrown), Lark, ND; Clifford, Lloyd, Irene and Evelyn live on the home place south of Almont. One son, Clarence, died at the age of three years.

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