

## AXEL NELSON

Axel Nelson was born in Bodi, Norway, in 1890. He came to the United States in 1909, spending two years in Mandan and then moving to the Curlew vicinity in 1911. He bought Joe H. Olson's homestead and farmed there until 1942 and then sold out because of ill health. He moved ½ mile north of Almont, where he bought an 80-acre farm from Olaf Overgaard.



Axel Nelson

Axel began working for Agricultural Adjustment Administration in 1936 and continued to work with this administration until his death in 1955. His work included measuring fields and grain bins. Also checking farm practices in Morton County.

Axel had a few hobbies and card playing was one of them. He loved to play whist. He was one of the best players in the area and was well known for his fairness and honesty with everyone.

Axel managed to make a trip back to his home country, Norway, during the late forties.

## MR. AND MRS. JENS NELSON



Mr. and Mrs. Jens Nelson

Jens Nelson, born in Aalborg, Denmark, in 1853 and his wife, Mary Larson, also born in Aalborg on March 15, 1850, came to the United States in 1879, locating in Chicago where Jens was employed delivering milk. In 1887 the family moved to Bancroft, IA, where Jens was engaged in farming and stock buying for 10 years. They lived in Ringstad, IA, for four years and then moved to the "land of opportunities", settling in Almont in the spring of 1907. They had nine children, all born in Chicago and Iowa; one died at an early age and the three oldest had married before they came to Almont so did not move to North Dakota with them.

The Nelsons filed on a homestead southwest of Almont and Jens started the first hardware store in Almont in 1907 under the name of J. Nelson and Sons. In 1913 he entered partnership with E.E. Templeton, under the firm name of Nelson-Templeton Implement Co. This partnership lasted until Mr. Nelson's death in March 1927. Jens and Mary made

a trip back to their native land in 1910.

The Nelsons were charter members of the Almont Lutheran Church. Before Almont had electricity a power line was run from the Nelson's Delco electric plant to the church to provide the necessary lighting for evening meetings. The Almont community honored Grandma Nelson on her 81st birthday with a party. Her grandchildren, Marjorie and Burton, and other schoolchildren from the rural area made their home with Grandma Nelson as did several others employed in town. She passed away at her home on Christmas Eve 1933 at the age of 83.

The Nelson children were: Peter and wife, Nan, lived in Baker, MT, until 1930 when he went into partnership with Templeton in the implement company. He died in 1947 and his wife moved to Washington, D.C. and died Feb. 26, 1978, at the age of 96.

Judith (Mrs. E.W. Ladwig) lived in Barnard, SD, until her death in 1962. They had four children: Virginia, Waco, Averil and Lorraine.

Otto and wife, Alma, lived at Ceylon, MN. They had two children, Lawrence and Evelyn. He died in 1925.

Adolph died in the U.S. Army camp in 1918. His twin brother, Arthur, and wife, Marie, resided in Fargo until his death in 1960. Marie lives in Mesa, AZ, with their only child, Mercedes.

Christine (Mrs. Ben F. Gardner) worked several years in the Farmers State Bank in Almont. After her marriage, she lived in Minneapolis where she passed away in 1953, ten days after the death of their son and wife who were killed in an auto accident in Fargo. They had one other child, a daughter, Beverly.

Lawrence married Grace Jacobson. He was a World War II navy veteran and spent the rest of his short life in and around Almont. His sudden death in 1930 came three weeks after his family had moved to Mott where he had gone into partnership with his brother-in-law, W.E. Larson, in the White City Creamery. They had four children: Marjorie, Burton, Frances and Audrey.

Amanda (Mrs. W.E. Larson) worked in the Almont Postoffice and Kelsven Store for many years. After selling the White City Creamery in Mott in about 1935, they moved to a farm in Red Bluff, CA, and later had a small business in Redding, CA. They retired in 1953 and moved to Silverton, OR, where she passed away in a nursing home in 1972. Walter died in 1969. They had no children.

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## LAWRENCE C. AND GRACE (JACOBSEN) NELSON



Lawrence Nelson

Grace Nelson

Lawrence C. Nelson, one of nine children, was born in Bancroft, IA, on June 7, 1893, to Mr. and Mrs. Jens Nelson (who had arrived from their native Denmark in 1879). In 1907 he accompanied his parents to Almont where they homesteaded southeast of town. Lawrence was associated with his father and brothers in establishing the first hardware and implement store in Almont, continuing in this occupation until his enlistment in the U.S. Navy in 1914. He served as a bosun on the Battleship USS Carolina until his discharge in 1918. 1914 was also the year in which he and Grace Jacobsen were married.

Grace Agnes Jacobsen, youngest of three children, was born in St. Paul, MN, on April 7, 1891, to Mr. and Mrs. Nels Jacobsen. For the two summers following 1903, she and her family spent their summers living in a sod-covered house on her father's homestead claim, about 13 miles south of Sims, ND. In the spring of 1905 the family moved there permanently. In 1912 Grace filed on her own homestead claim southeast of her parent's farm, living the required time in a 12 x 12 shack which has since been relocated and restored as a family museum on Sig Peterson's O Bar O Ranch.

Grace's formal education did not include college; however, with the help of her sister, Carrie, she studied for, and passed a teacher's examination enabling her to teach in North Dakota. The difficulties encountered by teachers in a newly settled area such as North Dakota at that time was highlighted by the fact that at her first school, northeast of Judson, only one of Grace's ten pupils could speak English.

Marjorie Gail was born Nov. 6, 1914. During the years when Lawrence was in the Navy, Grace and Marjorie lived with grandparents and on the homestead claim and Grace worked occasionally as a seamstress and housekeeper for the Hyde and Templeton families in Almont. Lawrence was discharged in 1918 and returned to Almont to resume employment in the hardware store and also did some farming. After his father's death in 1927 he inherited an interest in the hardware business.

Leslie, second child of Lawrence and Grace, was born March 25, 1919, but in 1921 died of pneumonia, a then uncontrollable disease which felled many children, especially that winter. John Burton, their third child, saw the light of day December 22 of that same year.

During the 1920's, Lawrence was very active in Al-

mont and neighboring community affairs, primarily recreation and sporting activities. He was instrumental in promoting and building golf courses in both Almont and New Salem and a prime mover in getting the first tennis court and ice skating rink built in Almont. He gave his support and assistance to the formal introduction of ring pheasant and game birds to Morton County and helped organize and play on one of the first independent basketball teams in Almont. He could be counted on for his support and participation in skiing, tobogganing, skating or hunting and helped bring the first air show and parachute exhibition jump to Almont.

Two more children were born to Lawrence and Grace: Frances Corrine, March 1, 1929, and Audrey Lawrence, Aug. 11, 1930.

In 1930 Lawrence went into partnership with Walter and Amanda Larson (Lawrence's sister), in the White City Creamery in Mott, ND. The family moved there shortly after Audrey's birth and on Oct. 11, 1930, Lawrence suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and died at the age of 37. Grace and the children: Marjorie 15, Burton 7, Frances 19 months and Audrey 2 months, stayed in Mott for the remainder of the school year. During this time Audrey was very ill with pneumonia and had special nursing care. In the spring of 1931 the family moved back to Almont to the Jacobson farm where they made their home with Grace's aging mother and blind brother, Harry.

During the 30's, Grace continued to maintain the farm home for her mother and brother while bearing the sole responsibility for raising and caring for her children. After Marjorie moved to town in 1934,

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**Nelson family**  
 Leon, Audrey, Grace, Marjorie, Frances, Burton  
 Louise, in front; Sig and Willard, standing

where she was employed in the postoffice, she was able to share family responsibilities with her mother by providing a home and guidance for Burton, Frances and Audrey during the school year. In 1936 Audrey again had pneumonia and required special nursing care for several weeks. That year she also had eye surgery.

In 1937 Grace, Grandma Jacobsen and Harry moved to a rental house in Almont where they lived until Grandma's death in 1939. In that year Grace and the children and Harry moved into a new home she had built on the site of the first skating rink Lawrence had organized and helped build. She continued to reside there for more than 47 years and also provided a home and cared for her brother, Harry, until his death in 1957.

During these years in Almont, Grace worked as a clerk in the dry goods department of local stores, sewed and baked for others, (Her hand-decorated wedding cakes were much in demand), and provided board and room for many generations of students and schoolteachers. She became affectionately known throughout the community as "Grandma Grace."

Grace was also very active in church and community activities beginning in the early years of Almont. She is a charter member of the Almont Lutheran Church and women's organizations of the church, taught Sunday School for more than 25 years. Her rich contralto voice, regularly heard for many years in church choirs, other singing groups and also solo, is fondly remembered. In 1968 the Almont Homemakers Club, of which she was a charter member, bestowed on her the distinct honor of nomination for the North Dakota Mother of the Year.

Since October 1980, Grandma Grace has been a resident of Elm Crest Retirement Home in New Salem. She will celebrate her 90th birthday April 7.

Current status of the Nelson children is: Marjorie (Mrs. Sig Peterson), Almont (history found elsewhere in the book).

John Burton, Arlington, TX, married Louise Jeffers of Washington, D.C., attended Jamestown College, taught country school one year; U.S. Navy World War II; retired personnel director for Federal Bureau of Prisons; Two sons, Larry (wife Linda, two children, Michelle and Michael), and Steven, both of Arlington, TX.

Frances (Mrs. Willard Rusch), New Salem, ND; attended Bismarck Junior College, Dickinson State; taught at Almont High and Curlew country school; Four daughters: Joan (Mrs. Dave Turner), Las Vegas, NV; Susan, Aberdeen, SD; Linda, student at BJC; Jennifer, 5th grade.

Audrey (Mrs. Leon Olson), Williston, attended Dickinson State; Children: Lorin (wife Luceile, two sons, Seth and Nathan), Billings, MT; Teri (Mrs. Rodney Nelson), Towner, ND, and Lance, student at UND, Grand Forks.

## MR. AND MRS. CLARENCE NILLES



Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Nilles

Regina Timpe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Timpe, Almont, ND, and Clarence Nilles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Nilles, Glen Ullin, ND, were married June 7, 1937, in St. Leopold's Catholic Church in Almont, ND. The nuptial mass was performed by Rev. Father Bernard Fritz O.S.B. The music and singing was furnished by the Lutheran Choir from the Almont Lutheran Church.

They lived in Glen Ullin until February 1939. It was here that their son, Clarence Jr., was born. They moved to Almont and purchased the home of her folks. It was here that their second son, Darrel, was born.

Regina graduated from Almont High School and Dickinson Teacher's College. She taught school for 10 years.

Clarence worked for road contractors, in coal mines, and as a farm hand until he and August (Punch) Timpe went into partnership and ran the Timpe and Nilles Coal Company at North Almont. In 1943 they and August Timpe moved to North Almont where Clarence Jr. and Darrel attended grade school. Clarence and Punch first uncovered and loaded coal with a steam shovel, they later had a diesel shovel to do the work.

Trucks came from all over the state for coal, some came from as far as Minnesota and South Dakota.

In 1956 Clarence bought a farm south of Almont from Kasper Hegel, this farm was the former Timpe homestead, where Regina was born and attended grade school.

In 1958 they moved back to Almont into their former home, where they still live.



Clarence Jr. married Norrine Bender. They live in River Heights, Mandan, and have five children: Shannon married Dennis Ell and has one son, Trevor, Mitchell is in the National Guard; Judith, Jim and Michael are in school.

Darrel married Marian Peterson, daughter of Cuno and Esther Peterson of Almont, on May 3, 1975. He is now farming in partnership with his dad eight miles south of Almont. They are living one mile south of Almont, ND, and have a son, Steven, born June 27, 1980.

## MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM NYQUIST



Anna Nyquist - 1924



Anna Nyquist

William O. Nyquist born in Lulio, Sweden, 1878, came to the United States with his parents in 1892, settling in Isabella, MI. After growing to manhood, he worked in logging camps for several years. Mrs. Nyquist, nee Anna Maria Lanng, was born near Randers, Denmark, in 1881 and came to Escanaba, MI, in 1902 where a brother was living. She and William Nyquist were married in October 1903. Mr. Nyquist was a carpenter and for several years was engaged in building houses for the Bay De Noc Lumber Co. in Nahma, MI, a town five miles from Isabella near Lake Michigan. They also owned and operated a small farm. Five children were born to this union, three daughters and two sons; a daughter died at age three and a son in infancy.

They lived in Isabella until the summer of 1918 when the family moved to a farm south of Almont. In 1920 they moved into the town of Almont where Mr. Nyquist operated a shoe repair shop and cream station. He died in the fall of 1922 after a year's illness. In May 1923 Mrs. Nyquist purchased a home owned by Miles Adams, one of the earlier homes in Almont. She continued to operate the cream station for the North American Creamery Co. for several years and also did practical nursing.

In May 1926 she took over the Northwestern Bell Telephone Exchange which, at that time, was housed in the Farmers State Bank and the switchboard was moved to her home. Her hours were long — from 7:00 A.M. until 9:00 P.M. She also took emergency calls outside of regular hours. She was assisted by her son and daughters when they were at home. As time passed, three rural lines were added and a larger switchboard was installed but still manually operated. She operated this exchange for 17 years.

Ingeborg graduated in 1926 and taught school for five years before marrying Fritjof Trovik in May 1931.

Mimi graduated in 1927 and taught in the Judson area that fall, where she met Oscar Hoyer. He was operating his parent's farm. They were married in Mandan in August of 1928 and his parents moved into New Salem that fall. Oscar and Mimi became owners of what was his parents' homesteads, each having filed on a quarter of land when they came here from Germany.

Oscar and Mimi had two children: a daughter, Audrey, and a son, Glyn, who both attended rural school and graduated from New Salem High School. Audrey taught school for two years, then married Kenneth Henke in June 1949. They reside on their parents' farm northeast of Hannover. They have two daughters and three sons: Mrs. Charles Cartwright (Valerie) who lives in Washington; Mrs. John Lambrecht (Vicki) in Detroit, MI; Ross and his wife in St. Louis, MO; Randy and Ricky at home. Randy has gone into dairying on the home farm and Ricky is a junior in Center High School.

Glyn was in the service for two years in Germany, coming home in May 1958. He went into a dairy partnership with his father which they operated together for several years. He now owns it and has enlarged it. He married Nancy Smith of Hankinson in 1960. They have three children: Kim, a student at Mary college; Scott, a sophomore in high school and Susan a third grader.

Oscar and Mimi continued to live on the farm and be actively engaged in its operation. They moved into New Salem in 1975, but Oscar still spent much time on the farm; they also kept up their farm home. They were active members of the Zion Lutheran Church where they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1978. Oscar had many friends who, with his devoted family, deeply mourned his sudden death in December 1979. Mimi continues to live in New Salem and is active in the church, the Judson Homemaker's Club, of which she has been a member since 1937, and in teaching classes in 4-H.

Henry graduated from high school in 1930. He did carpenter work and operated a small shop for some time. He was inducted into the air force in early 1942, stationed at Lowry Field near Denver, CO, before being transferred to Spokane, WA, in 1943. He married Eleanor Schwartz of New Salem in April 1942. She died in October 1943 when twin daughters were born to them in Spokane. He was later transferred to Sioux City, IA, where he was discharged from the service in 1945. He continued to live in Sioux City for several years where he operated a cabinet shop. He also remarried there and they had one daughter, Gretchen, who lives in Sioux City where she has a managerial position in a hospital.

Henry's mother went to Spokane and brought the twins, Adelaide and Eleanor, home with her and cared for them until they were 5½. Then she took them to Sioux City. Adelaide is a registered nurse and has worked for several years in the University Hospital in Iowa City, her alma mater. She has also attended the University there, pursuing a doctorate degree in art history and has done some teaching in this field. She did some of her research for this degree in Europe. She continues to live and work in



Iowa City.

Eleanor attended more than one college, then taught in Oneonta, NY, for a few years before going to the University of Kansas at Lawrence to complete her work for her doctorate degree in speech, drama and costuming. She did some of the research work for this degree in Europe, primarily in Sweden. While at Lawrence she met and married Dr. Bobby Patton, who heads up the speech department of the university and is the author of several books.

Henry and his wife moved to Colorado in the 60's where he was employed at the Butler Manufacturing Co. in Denver. Because of a serious illness resulting in failing health, he was forced to retire in 1972. He died in September 1978. His wife continues to reside in Colorado.

Mrs. Anna Nyquist, a faithful and active member of the Wesleyan Church, also served the community in many unselfish ways. She disposed of her home in 1958 and lived with her daughter, Ingeborg. She passed away in November 1967, at the age of 86.

### MR. AND MRS. ALFRED OLIN

Alfred Olin was born in Vic Shurn, Sweden, in 1883 and came to America as a young lad of 14. He worked as a hired hand on a sheep ranch near the "Russian Flats". He also did farm work and worked as a section hand on the railroad. He found it very difficult to learn the English language, as it seemed so different from the Swedish he was accustomed to speaking.

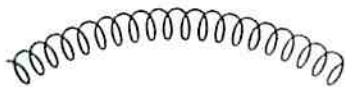
During Alfred's early days there were few settlers and many wide open prairies which gave the country a lonely appearance. In 1904, at the age of 21 years, Alfred filed on a homestead and began farming, digging rocks, and walking behind a breaking plow. He looked forward to the time when he could afford to buy stock for the place.

On March 10, 1912, Alfred and Tilda Olson were united in marriage. Three came to bless their home: Irvin, born Nov. 7, 1913, grew up in this community and worked on a farm most of his life. He is now retired and resides at Almont; Violet married Everett Miller and they now reside on the Olin homestead; and Leona is married to Dan Christianson, Lark, ND.

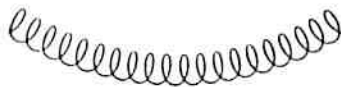
The Olin family have been members of the Almont Wesleyan Church for many years. In 1949 they retired from the farm and made their home in Almont. Mrs. Olin passed away in 1952 and Mr. Olin in April 1963.

### MR. AND MRS. ALTON OLIN

Alton Olin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Olin, married Mabel Christianson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tollef Christianson. They have a son, Rod, who married Judy Yantzer and has two girls, Sonja and Stephanie. They live in Jamestown. Melton married Luenette Bieher and they have two daughters, Melissa and Melinda. They live in Center. Marjjan married Melvin Yantzer and they have two children, Stacey and Scott. Alton passed away May 29, 1972, and Mabel continues to live in Center, ND, where she is a part-time beautician.



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## ARTHUR L. AND DELIA (JACOBSON) OLIN



Olin Family Submitted by LoAnn Leach

Jack, Keith, Delia, LoAnn (Olin) Leach  
Arthur, Gaynelle (Olin) Nesheim and Ray

Arthur L. Olin, son of John E. and Tobine Olin, was born June 22, 1895. With the exception of a term in the U.S. Army, Art grew up and lived in the Sims community his entire life.

Art spent his early life on his parents' farm northwest of Sims. He attended the rural schools and the Sims Lutheran Church. During World War I, Art served in the 37th Field Artillery, stationed at Camp Lewis, Washington. After the war, he returned to the Sims community.

Delia Jacobson, daughter of Jacob and Bertina Jacobson, was born April 13, 1903. She attended the Sims school and the Norwegian parochial school, which was held at the Sims church. Delia grew up on her dad's farm. Her mother had died when Delia was a young girl.

Art and Delia were married April 3, 1923, at Bis-

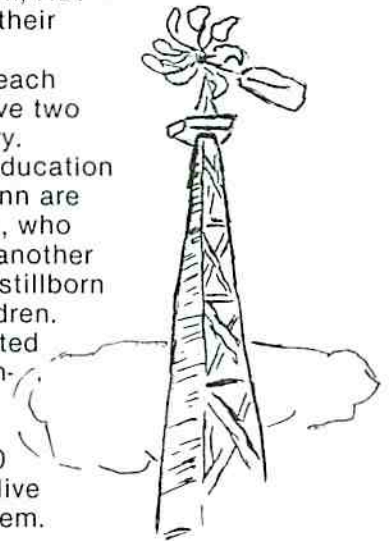
marck, ND. After their marriage, the couple moved to the Nels Olson farm, five miles east of Sims. Later, they bought some land closer to Sims, where they built a home and lived until their retirement from farming in 1969. They then moved to New Salem.

Art and Delia, like others of their time and era, survived the depression and the drought of the "30's". Their garden usually provided most of their food. During their retirement, the garden was a source of enjoyment for them.

Art and Delia had seven children: Gaynelle (Mrs. Harold Nesheim), New Town, ND; has three children: Nedra, Bradly and David. The Nesheims are engaged in farming in the New Town area. Keith, a cabinet maker and carpenter, lives at Leith, ND; Jack married Velma Sailer of Dodge. They live at Dickinson, ND, and have three sons: Scott, Bruce and Craig. Jack is a partner in the Dickinson Ready-Mix Company and has served in the ND House of Representatives. He is currently serving as State Senator from the Dickinson district; Ray married Carole (Ottmar) Jacobs of Taylor, ND. They have three boys: Shawn, Toby and Josh. Ray is engaged in farming and owns Rolin Mfg. of New Salem, ND.

Ray and Carole live on their farm in the Sims area; LoAnn married Eldon Leach of New Salem. They have two children, Micky and Rory. LoAnn is a secondary education teacher. Eldon and LoAnn are now divorced; Larry Jay, who lived only one day and another unnamed boy that was stillborn were the other two children.

Art and Delia celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1973 at the Sims Lutheran Church. Art died in 1980 and Delia continues to live in her home at New Salem.



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### AUGUST OLIN FAMILY

August O. Olin was born July 29, 1883, in Vic, Shurn, Sweden. When he was nine years old he came with his mother, Anna, and his younger sister, Clara, to America. They joined his father, Carl Olin, and his older brother, Jonas, in Sims, ND.

Ellen Lundstrom was born in Bjorna, Sweden, Nov. 17, 1891. When she was 14 years old she came with her parents, Jonas and Christina Lundstrom, to this country.

Jan. 10, 1910, they were united in marriage. He was engaged in farming and also worked in the coal mines. In later years he had his own coal mine.

A family of eight children were born and reared in Almont. Mr. Clarence Olin of Arlington, WA; Mr. Alvin Olin of Everett, WA; Mr. Warren Olin (deceased June 1978); Mrs. Marjorie Downes of Anderson, IN; Mrs. Joe (Anna) Kronberger of Saginaw, OR; Mrs. Al (Mae) Backstrom of Arlington, WA; Wanda Berg of Arlington, WA, and Mrs. Mel (Lois) Berg, Everett, WA.

August Olin died Dec. 16, 1967; Ellen passed away April 13, 1947.



## ERVIN AND THELMA OLIN



Ervin Olin family

Ervin Olin, son of Emmanuel and Nellie (Johnson) Olin, was born in Sims, ND. He married Thelma Torgerson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Torgerson. Thelma was born March 3, 1912, at Kurtz, ND.

Ervin and Thelma lived on a farm in the Curlew Valley until 1941 when they moved to Almont. They operated a cream station and Ervin did electrical work and also operated the county road maintainer. Ervin managed the Almont baseball team for a few years and was interested in other sports. In 1951 the family moved to Billings. Thelma got work at Eastern Montana College in the food service department and is still employed there. Ervin worked for Marshall Wells as warehouse manager and later worked in the county courthouse.

In 1959 Ervin had a complete laryngectomy. He soon mastered the art of speech and spent much time traveling and speaking for the American Cancer

Society. In 1968 Ervin was State Crusade Chairman; at the National Cancer Convention he met and visited with Lawrence Welk. Ervin passed away May 30, 1968.

Ervin and Thelma had four children. Nellie, born in 1934, died of pneumonia in 1937.

Don Merle, born April 1, 1931, attended school in Curlew, Almont and Bismarck Junior College. He joined the armed forces in 1952 and was discharged in 1962 due to a leg problem. Don was involved in several businesses in Montana. His leg problem resulted in an MS condition. He passed away June 6, 1969.

Ardys was born June 1, 1938. She attended Eastern Montana College and Billings Business College. She has had employment at several business firms in Billings. She lives with her mother in Billings.

Audre was born Sept. 21, 1944. She received her schooling in Billings and took a data processing course in St. Louis, MO, which has been her line of work to the present. She married Gary Zent in 1969 and they live in Hysham, MT. They have two children, Darren and Jana.

## JOHN E. AND TOBINE (JACOBSON) OLIN



Mr. and Mrs. John E. Olin - 50th wedding anniversary

John E. Olin was born in Harasand, Sweden, April 12, 1854. He came to Dakota Territory in 1882, and worked (cutting stone) on the Northern Pacific Railroad bridge across the Missouri River. Later that year he came to Sims to work at the brickyard, then a booming business, as were the coal mines.

Tobine Jacobson, born in Lyngdal, Norway, Feb. 22, 1861, came with her father, Jacob Abrahamson (later taking the name of Bringsjord, where he had lived in Norway, and three sisters, Petrine, Ingeborg and Anna. Tobine worked in Fargo before joining the others at Sims. She was a passenger on the first train that crossed the newly completed bridge between Mandan and Bismarck.

John and Tobine were married Oct. 19, 1884. They were the first couple to be married after the organization of the Sims Skandinavian Lutheran Church congregation which they had helped to charter in September of 1884.

John and Tobine homesteaded near Sims but later



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moved to Mrs. Olin's father's homestead three miles north of Sims, where they made their home. John served as a deputy sheriff in Dakota Territory, was interested in state politics, and was present at the laying of the cornerstones for both of the state capitol buildings. The first ND capitol building was faced with brick from the Sims brickyard. The Olin home was a favorite meeting place for their friends, both young and old. They enjoyed company at all times and were known as "the young folk." John and Tobine were always ready to help whenever there was sickness or death and were active in church and community affairs.

John learned to drive a car after his 72nd birthday, practicing in a field of wheat shocks. He hit some of the shocks but mastered the driving so that he and Tobine could drive to Bismarck to visit two of their daughters. The couple had seven children.

Rachel married Fred Swenson, Bismarck. They had six children. Fred served as Register of Deeds in Burleigh County; Rachel later held the same office. Rachel died in 1961.

Ellen married C.L. Anderson, foreman in a freight depot. The Andersons lived in Mandan, later moving to Billings, MT. They had six children, four of whom are living. Ellen died in 1971.

Jake, a son, died of typhoid fever in 1922; single.

Emmanuel (Jack) married Nellie Johnson of Sims. He was a conductor on the Northern Pacific and later moved to California. They had three boys. Later

Jack married Myrtle Sims of Mississippi. Jack died in 1956.

Anna taught school for several years before she married Walter Bakken, an operator and later depot agent at Almont. They bought the old homestead where they lived until moving into a retirement home. Anna is currently living at Elmcrest Manor, New Salem, ND.

Arthur married Delia Jacobson of Sims. They bought a farm near Sims and lived there until retiring and moving to New Salem. They had seven children, five are still living. Arthur died in 1980.

Lucille married Thorvald Larson of Almont. They lived on a farm and ranch known as the Ramsland Hills, and had five children. Thorvald is currently at the Marion Manor Nursing Home, Glen Ullin; Lucille continues to live in Almont. Lucille is still an active member of the church her folks helped to establish.

John and Tobine lived to celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary. Tobine died in 1944 and John in 1946. John was the last surviving member of the original group that founded the Sims church.

Today's generation owes a deep debt of gratitude to the men and women whose vision and courage made possible the opening and developing of this western territory. John and Tobine were a part of that group with a vision and had the courage to stay and see that vision as it was developing.

This history is based on the John E. Olin history in the **Prairie Roots** Morton County History Book. Submitted by LoAnn Leach

## Elm Crest Manor Intermediate Care Facility

New Salem, North Dakota



*Congratulates Almont, North Dakota,*

*on their 75th Jubilee*



## MR. AND MRS. OSCAR OLIN



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Olin

Oscar Olin was born in Halaborn, Sweden, on Feb. 3, 1872. As a young man he engaged in lumbering there until he came directly to Sims, ND, in 1894. A cousin, John Olin, who had come previously, urged him to come too.

Oscar filed on a homestead three miles southeast of Sims. On April 6, 1906, he and Minnie Berdine Olson were married. She had come from Chicago in November to visit her brother, Nels Olson, who also had a homestead near "Olin's claim". Mrs. Olin also had an aunt, Mrs. Bertha Nelson, who had come from Norway to the United States nine years earlier. She had lived in Chicago up to this time.

The young couple established a home on the farm where they continued to live until 1943, when they moved into their house in Almont. Six children were born to them: Melvin, Myrtle, Alf and Agnes died in childhood. Alf Lenard passed away October 1961.

Orval, New Salem, married Ruth Willman. They have three children: Dennis married Carol Zeutchel, they have two children - Sandra and Darrin; Diane (Mrs. Steve Larson) has two daughters - Michelle and Malinda, resides in Minneapolis, MN; Arlen is employed and living in Minneapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Olin were members of the Sims Lutheran Church. Their home was always open to all who wished to come and enjoy their hospitality. Mrs. Olin passed away in July of 1961 and Mr. Olin in June, 1944.

## RAY OLIN FAMILY



Toby, Sharon and Josh

Carole and Ray Olin

Ray Lewis Olin, fourth child of Arthur and Delia Olin, was born March 13, 1934, at Sims, ND. He has two brothers and two sisters: Jack, Dickinson, ND; Keith, Leith, ND; Gaynel, New Town, ND; LoAnn at

New Salem, ND. Ray attended Sims grade school and graduated from Almont High School in 1952. After graduation he drove truck for about ten years and farmed with his father. In 1968 he went into the manufacturing business in New Salem. He started by manufacturing a stackmover and later expanded into other farm machinery.

Carole Jane Ottmar, oldest child of Reiny and Julia Ottmar, was born Nov. 3, 1942, at Mott, ND. She has two brothers: Myron, Fargo, ND, and Dale at Sioux Falls, SD. Carole attended schools at Mott and graduated from Mott Lincoln High in 1961. She attended Dickinson State College and was graduated with a Standard degree in 1963. She taught school for 10 years in North and South Dakota schools and in 1972 received her Bachelor's degree from Dickinson State College.

On Dec. 31, 1973, she married Ray Olin at the Sims Lutheran Church. Since their marriage they have lived on the Olin family farm and have three sons: Shawn, Toby and Josh.

## BEN S. OLSEN FAMILY

Ben S. Olsen was born on Dec. 14, 1862, in Falen Spangereid, Norway, the eldest son of Reinhardt and Tonetta Olsen. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Norway. He spent his early



Ben S. Olsen

manhood as a sailor in Norway until 1882, when he came to the United States and settled in Sims, ND. He secured work in a coal mine and also worked in the brickyard. Later he homesteaded west of Almont, ND.

In 1886 Ben was united in marriage to Bertha Kristine Pederson (better known as Stina). To this union seven children were born; namely, Tobine (Mrs. Tollef Christianson); Pauline (Mrs. Edward Christianson); Maria (Mrs. Peter Stiller); Rudolph; Bernard (better known as Beas); Bertina and Bertinius (both of whom died in infancy). All seven of the children from the first family are deceased, including all of their spouses with the exception of Mrs. Beas (Huldah) Olson. She resides at Glen Ullin, ND.

After the death of his first wife, Stina, in 1910, Ben returned to his native Norway in 1911 and spent his time doing carpenter work. In 1912 he married Ida Christianson. They had three children: Tom, Chris and Borghild. His wife passed away in 1919 and their daughter, Borghild, passed away the same year at the age of eight months. Ben then returned to the United States, in 1920, with his two small sons and went to live with his son-in-law and daughter (Mr. and Mrs. Tollef Christianson). Ben and his two sons lived with them for about two years and then moved to Almont where he built a new home and went into business for himself.

In 1923 Ben was united in marriage to Gurine Tobiason of Norway. Ben and Gurine resided in Almont for the duration of Ben's life. Tom and Chris liv-



ed on and operated the farm (Ben's homestead).

In 1940 Ben's health failed so he retired from his business in Almont. He passed away June 6, 1946, at the age of 84. His wife, Gurine, continued to live in Almont for a number of years and then retired to the Baptist Home in Bismarck, ND. She passed away March 21, 1964, at the age of 80 years.

Tom retired from the farm in 1976 and now resides in New Salem.

Chris married the former Anne Brown of Richardson, ND, in 1944. Chris served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. They have lived in Mandan since his discharge from the service, where Chris was owner and manager of Western Auto Company. He retired April 1, 1980. They have two children: Glenda married Donald J. Vogel of Mandan and has four children: Krislyn, Wade, Reid and Chad. Robert married Coral Hirsch of New England, ND, and has three children: Blaine, Robyn and Brent.

## TOM OLSEN

Tom Olsen was born Jan. 24, 1913. He came to Curlew with his father, Ben Olsen, and his brother, Christ, on May 25, 1920, from Spangereid, Norway. They lived with Tollef Christianson until 1923 and then in Almont until 1933. Tom and Christ started farming in 1933 until 1944 when Christ went into the service. After his discharge he was with Western Auto in Mandan until his retirement in 1980. Tom continued to farm until 1976. He then retired to New Salem.

## ARNOLD G. OLSON

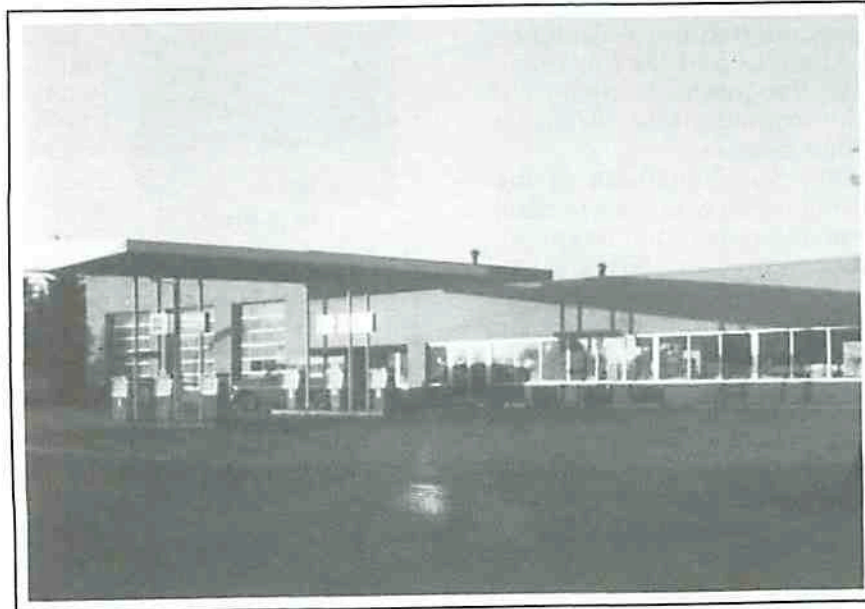


Riverside Ranch

Arnold G. Olson was born in Sveniveg, Norway, Sept. 14, 1914, to Tobias and Olivine Olson. Being in the middle of quite a large family, he was the only one not born in the U.S. because his family had sold out and moved to Norway, but only stayed about a year, so he was only 6 months of age when they came back to the U.S.

When they returned to the U.S. they settled on a farm in the Curlew vicinity, where Arnold attended school. He was confirmed in Almont Lutheran Church and grew to his manhood and worked with his dad on the farm, as well as other odd jobs, such as roads, railroads, etc. In September 1941 he joined the armed forces of World War II, serving four years and 4 days; 37 months were spent overseas.

In August 1945 he was married to Pauline Bara Erlandsdottir in Iceland. He was discharged in September of 1945 and settled on his father's farm south of Curlew, where he farmed and ranched until



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the spring of 1952 when he and his wife moved to a ranch on the Cannonball River, south of Brisbane, ND, where they resided for three years. In 1954 they bought the Jack Chesrown Ranch on the Cedar River about 20 miles further south still being in Grant County, about 8 miles north of Watauga, SD, where they are now living and ranching.

In 1958 they adopted Mary Ann. She attended country school her first four years and finished her education in McIntosh, SD. She married Clifford Johnson of Morristown, SD, in September 1976. They have two lovely daughters, Laura Helen and Amanda Dawn. Clifford owns his own truck and also has a partnership in Arnold's ranch, where they now live. Time has been good to them and the Good Lord has blessed them in many ways.

Arnold liked cattle, but horses have always come first. The first thing he got ahold of after crawling out of the cradle was a rope and bridle. He takes pride in being the only child of quite a large family that is still living on the land and working with his horses.

## BERNARD T. OLSON FAMILY



B.T. Olson Family

Bernard Olson, also known as 'Beas', was born in Sims, ND, on Aug. 4, 1899, the son of Ben and Bertha Kristine (Pederson) Olson. After the death of his mother in 1910, he made his home with his sister, Mrs. Tollef Christianson, at Curlew. In 1914, at the early age of 15 years, he went to work for the Northern Pacific Railroad Co.

He married Huldah Mae Monson on Dec. 17, 1923. They made their home in the NPRR depot (then vacant) at the Curlew railroad station from 1923 to 1932, when they moved into the Curlew section-house. They boarded section men, rural teachers and kept two elderly people in their home for years.

In 1947 they moved to Glen Ullin, due to the fact that the railroad had been re-routed, cutting off the Curlew-Almont station. Beas continued working for the railroad in Glen Ullin until his retirement on Aug. 4, 1964, after almost 50 years of service. He passed away July 11, 1968. Huldah was nominated for Mother of the Year in 1969. She continues to reside in her home in Glen Ullin.

The Olson family attended Lutheran church services in the rural schoolhouse at Curlew for years and later attended the Lutheran Church in Almont. The family was all baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith.

One of the events enjoyed by the whole family was when the church women served a meal for Ladies Aid once a month with the entire family attending. Sometimes as many as 150 people attended. July 4th celebrations, school and church picnics were all well attended. Ball games in the area were a Sunday afternoon amusement. There were no telephones at the time. Transportation was a Model T Ford which also provided transportation for the children to drive seven miles each day to attend Almont High School.

Their children are: Gordon, president of Minot State College; World War II veteran of the Medical Corps; married to Carley Yates of New Salem; children: Linda married John Bittay - a daughter, Heather; Corliss married to Gary Clark, two children: Chadrin and Wendy married to Kerwin Sletto, live in Minneapolis.

Leon, superintendent of Williston schools; World War II veteran of the Air Force; married to Audrey Nelson of Almont; a son, Lorin, married to Lucille Alexander - two sons: Seth and Nathan, living at Billings, MT, a daughter, Teri (Mrs. Rodney Nelson), Towner, ND, and a son, Lance, student at the University of North Dakota.

Lois taught school several years; married Arlie Burgess; children: Wade and wife, Gayle, have two sons: Michael and Eric, and Claudia (Mrs. Darrel Schultz).

Merril G. graduated from Bozeman State; married Sylvia Leno and has a son, Clay. They own a ranch near Glen Ullin.

## IDA, INER AND ALMA OLSON



Ida Olson

Iner Olson

Alma Olson

Ida Olson, moving from the farm to Almont, was employed as a clerk in the postoffice by Postmaster Otis Malone for two weeks during the Christmas rush. Sometime later she worked as a clerk for Bill Joersz in the Red and White store and for Chris Halvorson in the I.G.A. store. In 1945 she bought the cafe in the north addition of Halvorson's store. A year later she moved her cafe into the hotel, which she bought and remodeled. She sold this business to Harold Halvorson.

In 1950 she bought the Wm. Joersz dry goods store and Iner Olson bought the groceries from Don McDowal and managed the grocery store. Later he bought the grocery store in Towner, ND, and Ida managed the store in Almont. The Almont business was sold to Ida Kronberger and Lorene Peterson. A year later, Iner, having retired from farming obtained Bill Knutson's groceries and managed that business until 1960 when the Super Valu store was built



across the street.

Ida Olson, a member of Who's Who of the Midwest, has been honored by Super Valu, Inc. for 20 years of service. Ida has also held other offices: two years as treasurer of Sim's school board; eight years as clerk of Almont school board; 21 years as financial secretary of Morton County Library; served on board of Credit Union and different church boards.

When Iner retired from the grocery business, he was employed by the State Highway Department, also worked on construction and did carpenter work.

Alma Olson began working in the postoffice for Postmaster Otis Malone and held that position until her retirement.

## MR. AND MRS. JACOB OLSON



Mr. and Mrs.  
Jacob Olson



Jacob Olson came to America from Norway in 1883. He located in Sims where he met Jette Syvertson, who also came from Norway in 1884. They were united in marriage in May 1885. Mr. Olson took up a homestead four miles west of Almont in 1885. Besides farming, he worked in a coal mine at Sims during the winter months. They had seven children:



Mrs. Olson

Otto, Sigval, Oscar, Martin, Joseph, Hjalmer and Anna, all deceased.

Mr. Olson passed away April 20, 1903, and Mrs. Olson remained on the farm with the family. The following year she filed on a homestead two miles south of the farm. She lived on the farm the remaining years of her life except for one winter when she lived in Almont.

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## JOEL AND JILL OLSON



Joel and Jill Olson, Jackie and Jenny

Joel Olson, son of Marvin and Joyce Olson, was born at Bismarck, ND, on Feb. 14, 1951. He graduated from Almont High School and attended North Dakota State University for two years. Joel enjoys rodeoing and in 1973 won the calf roping saddle of the North Dakota Rodeo Association.

Jill Anderson, daughter of Wallace and Marion Anderson, was born at Bismarck, ND, on August 15, 1953. She graduated from Almont High School and Bismarck Junior College. Jill worked for the N.D. State Health Dept. in Bismarck for three years and was secretary for the Almont School for two years.

Joel and Jill were married on April 12, 1975, in the Almont Lutheran Church by Pastor Doug Brandt. They live on the Marvin Olson farm three miles northwest of Almont. Besides farming and ranching, Joel is a cattle buyer. They have two children: Jenny, born July 23, 1977, and Jackie, born Aug. 31, 1979.

## MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH H. OLSON

Joseph H. Olson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Olson, was born on Oct. 21, 1889, in Curlew Valley. He was the first child born in that community and attended a rural school there. In 1908 he worked as a cook in the Dave Pederson Restaurant in Almont. In 1911 he attended the North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo. He enlisted in the army during World War I and served in the infantry in France until the end of the war.

On Jan. 4, 1922, he married Rosella, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hendrickson. Rosella was born Aug. 23, 1901, in Jackfish, Ontario, Canada. After the death of her parents, she was adopted by her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Sander Hendrickson of Mandan, ND. She attended high school in Mandan.

After their marriage, Joe and Rosella lived in California for several months; they returned to North Dakota and built a home on a farm 3½ miles west of Almont. They resided there until 1926 when they





Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Olson

moved to Dunn Center, where he and his brother, Martin, had purchased a hardware store. In 1929 Joe sold his share to his brother, Martin, and they moved back to their farm west of Almont.

Joe was treasurer of the Sims church for 11 years; chairman of the Sims school board for four years; clerk of the township board for seven years, and a member of the New Salem Legion Post until Almont Post #261 was organized with Mr. Olson as a charter member.

In 1951 they moved to Almont. Joe passed away Oct. 29, 1957, and Rosella moved to Mandan in 1968 where she lived until her death on Feb. 12, 1973.

Six children were born to this marriage: Duane, deceased; Joyce (Mrs. Marvin Olson), deceased.

Noreen (Mrs. Edward Willman), Almont, four children: Doreen (Stiefel), deceased; Jerome, a lieutenant in the Bismarck Police Dept, he is married to Judy Zuern, two children: Justine and Jason, and they live in Bismarck; Lynell (Mrs. LaVern Ackerman) employed and living in Peru, IL, and Corlys, employed in Bismarck.

Shirley (Mrs. Joe Fitterer), Tacoma, WA. They have three children: Claudia (Mrs. Terry Maves), Puyallup, WA, two daughters - Heather and Holly; David, Puyallup, WA, married to Becky Pederson and they have two sons - Dylan and Erik; Kevin is a student at Tacoma Community College.

Beverly (Mrs. Bernard Ringham), Bismarck, one son, Bryan, married to Barbara Sweeny and they have two children - Bryant and Laura Beth.

Marilyn Bondeson, Mandan, has two children - Susan and Steven.

## MR. AND MRS. LEONARD OLSON



Janice, Scott and Leonard Olson

Leonard Olson, son of Melvin and Marie Olson, was born March 11, 1937. Leonard attended Almont grade and high school, graduating in 1955. He served three years in the U.S. Army and at present is a real estate broker in California.

Leonard married Janice Ritz on May 17, 1963. At the time of their marriage they were living in San Francisco, CA, but were married in Almont at the Lutheran church.

Janice, the daughter of Claude and Minnie Ritz, was born April 14, 1940. She attended the Almont public school system, graduating in 1958. She worked as a secretary in Seattle, WA, before joining Trans World Airlines as a flight attendant in 1961, a job she still holds today.

A son, Scott Leonard, was born in Walnut Creek, CA, Oct. 14, 1974. At the present time the Olsons make their home in Concord, CA.

## MARVIN L. OLSON FAMILY

Marvin L. Olson was born Aug. 3, 1927, to Melvin L. and Marie (Wedde) Olson in Almont. He lived his younger years on Melvin's home place on the cut-across road between Albert and Oliver Andersons. They then moved to the Rickart O. Olson farm where Melvin and Marie still live.

Marvin married Joyce R. Olson on April 2, 1950, at Almont and farmed on the Joe Olson place which he bought. Joel L. Olson was born to them Feb. 14,

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1952. Joel married Jill L. Anderson April 12, 1975. They have two girls, Jenny and Jackie, and they live on the home place. Marvin and Joyce adopted a girl, Jody Marie, in 1959. She is married to Robert Ferderer and they have two children, Dale and Michelle, and live in Bismarck.

Joyce died Sept. 11, 1960, and Marvin married Pearl Thorp Mesloh in 1963 at Bismarck. She had a son, Peter Wayne, born July 27, 1959. Marvin and Pearl had a son, Eric Jon, born Feb. 15, 1967.

Marvin was active in many things. He farmed until 1975 and had a trucking line on the side until 1960. He helped Elvira Thiel start Curlew Valley's first 4-H club and served as leader for many years. He worked part-time for the Soil Conservation for many years; a good share of the trees you see around farmsteads and fields in Morton County were planted by him. When he helped plant the trees around the top of school hill in New Salem, the planter kept tipping over, but they finished the job with a few scrapes and bruises. The trees look nice up there! He measured fields for many years (one eccentric farmer objected and followed him back and forth with a gun threatening to shoot him in the back). He also raised work horses as a hobby and used them for many chores. He delivered mail and groceries with the sled and cutter when the roads were blocked in the winter time and always showed up on Santa Claus Day to give rides in the bobsled. He, or Melvin, drove the governor, senator or other state officials in the buggy on Labor Day parades up until 1976. He seeded grass in the ditches along the North Almont road when it was rebuilt with the horses. Several places were so steep the horses rolled over and got tangled in the harnesses. A picture of him working with his

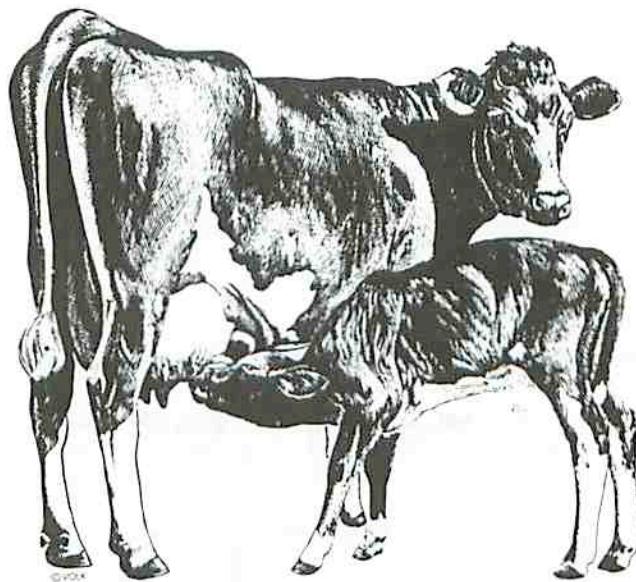
team, Molly and Dolly, was taken and used as the cover in the State Engineering Magazine.

Marvin started as a substitute rural mail carrier for his brother, Alden, in 1964 and after Allie's death he delivered mail until the routes were released on bids. He took over as mail clerk when Alma Olson retired, under Ben Ramsland, and kept that job until Ben retired in 1975. His appointment to postmaster was called through on Good Friday, 1975, during a bad blizzard. He was sitting in the bar trying to keep warm, as the electricity had been off for 24 hours. I've often wondered what they would have said if they knew they were calling the local pub to appoint a new postmaster!

The love of Marvin's life was cattle buying; he started out in 1960 working at Kist's and buying a little on the side. Over the years he built it up to an exciting business for eight months of the year. He never forgot a face or a name and knew where everyone lived in all the surrounding counties. He was instrumental in getting the Almont Weighing Association started and a scale and yards built. It has been added on to over the years and a lot of cattle pushed through. He also helped New Salem, Flasher and Glen Ullin plan their scale layouts. He was quite put out when Flasher built theirs just the opposite of the plans and the gates all opened the wrong way; he never weighed there if he could help it.

Joel took over most of the buying and shipping in 1975 when Marvin moved to town and became a full-time postmaster. Since Marvin's death in 1978, Joel has taken over the cattle business entirely. Pearl and Eric still live in Almont in the Becklund house. Peter lives on the old Keller place down by the river.

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**MR.  
AND  
MRS.  
MELVIN  
OLSON**

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Olson - 60th anniversary

Melvin Leonard Olson, son of Rickart and Olena (Lewison) Olson, was born April 26, 1898, in Sims. He moved with his family to the homestead (now Melvin's home), 1½ miles west of what is now the town of Almont, in 1902. He married Marie Wedde, who was born Dec. 31, 1899, at Oxford, WI. Marie, being an adventurous kind, came out to work for people originally from Wisconsin. She liked North Dakota and stayed. Melvin and Marie were married at Mandan, ND, on July 26, 1920, by the Rev. C.J. Fyelling.

Melvin and Marie lived on the Overgaard farm the first year they were married, moving to town for the winter as Melvin hauled mail to the Carl postoffice. In the spring they moved to the Pauline Christianson farm, living there until 1922 when they moved to the Compton place, living there until the spring of 1941 when they moved to the original homestead or home place where they still reside. Melvin served on the school board for six years. The coffee pot has always been on for all who stop in whether to chat or pick up eggs by the dozen.

Melvin and Marie were blessed with seven children: Marvin Leon, born Aug. 3, 1927, died in October 1978. He married Joyce Olson, who died in 1960. They have one son, Joel, married to Jill Anderson, two daughters; adopted one daughter, Jody, married to Robert Ferderer and have two children. Marvin married Pearl Thorpe Mesloh in 1963 and they have two sons, Eric and Peter.

Alden Leroy was born Oct. 3, 1930, and died in March 1972. He was married to Irene Kary and had four children: Gregory, Blaine, Bethany and Melissa.

Della lone married Bill E. Wilson and has four sons: Ricky married Brenda Brock, one daughter - Shannon; Rex, Ronald and Randy. All live in Riverside, GA.

Delbert Lowell married Marion Peck and they have three children: Randy, Jody and Marty, and live in Orlando, FL.

Arlone Ann is living in Bismarck and her twin brother, Archie Lynn, died in December 1934 at the age of one month.

Leonard Melvin married Janice Ritz and they have one son, Scott. They reside at Concord, CA.

Melvin and Marie have 16 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. They celebrated their golden wedding on July 26, 1970, at the Almont Lutheran Church. Their 60th anniversary on July 26, 1980, was celebrated on the farm with a family gathering and with the community on July 27 at the Almont Lutheran Church.

## MILDRED PEDERSON OLSON

Mildred Pederson Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Pederson, was born in Almont. She graduated from Almont High School at which time she received the Golden Eaglet Award in Scouting. Mildred attended Valley City and Minot State College and taught in local schools for 15 years. She was a cub scout leader and Sunday school teacher for many years.

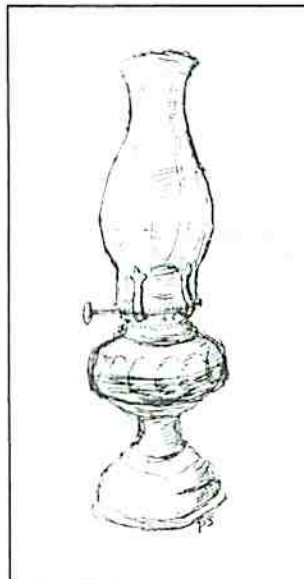
She married Everett Olson and they have four sons: Stuart married Candy Gustafson; three daughters: Janay, Daradee and Brandi; Stuart received his B.A. from Moorhead State College, Moorhead, MN, and is a certified public accountant for Warner Phillips



Mildred Olson

& Co., Albany, OR. Charles is married to Alyson Jarrett and has three children: Cheri, Jason and Christi; he has a B.A. degree C.W.S.C., Ellensburg, WA, and is a certified public accountant with Linkenheimer Hebrew, Olson & Co., Santa Rosa, CA. Dale married Sue Luepp and has a daughter, Beth; he also has a B.A. C.W.S.C. degree from Ellensburg, WA, and is an internal auditor and operations manager for Van Waters and Rogers Co., Toledo, OH. Wade Robert is a senior, majoring in Business Administration, at Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.

Mildred and Wade have their home in Albany, OR, where she is a reading specialist and diagnostician for Harrisburg Elementary and High School. She is a reading textbook evaluator and Right-to-Read director for the state of Oregon. She has a master of science degree in Extreme Learning Problems, Elementary and Secondary Education.





## OLAF OLSON



Back: Mrs. Olaf Olson, Ragna, Oscar; Front: Olga, Trygve & Agnes

Olaf Olson was born at Grimstad, Norway, on May 16, 1868, and married in 1892 to Miss Ingeborg Larson, born Dec. 21, 1872, in Lillesand, Norway.

Olaf came to the United States in 1903, working as a carpenter in New York before coming to this community in 1905, where he homesteaded nine miles south of what is now Almont. In 1907 Mrs. Olson came from Norway, bringing their five children: Ragna, Oscar, Olga, Agnes and Trygve.

While living on the homestead four other children were born in this family: Iner (who passed away in infancy); Iner Olaf, Alma and Ida. Mr. and Mrs. Olson moved to Almont in 1939. Mr. Olson passed away in 1941 and Mrs. Olson in 1952.

## MR. AND MRS. REUBEN OLSON

Reuben Olson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Severt Olson, was born Feb. 28, 1910, at Almont. He grew up in the Almont community and attended school there. He served 3½ years in the military and after returning from the army he married Beverly Norton, Feb. 16, 1945. They farmed on the home farm until their retirement in 1977 when they moved to Almont.

They have three sons: Jerry and Bruce of Almont, Elliot at Beulah; one daughter, Vicky (Mrs. Fred Smith), and one grandson, Freddie Jr. of Bismarck.

## MR. AND MRS. RICKART OLSON



Mr. and Mrs. Rickart Olson

Rickart Olson was born Aug. 12, 1865, in Norway and came to Sims in 1883. Oleana Lewison was born March 5, 1860, in Madison, WI. Rickart and Oleana were married in Sims Lutheran Church, then the upper story of the parsonage, on May 9, 1890.

Rickart was first employed on the section and later in the coal mines at Sims. Together with his brother, Ben, they worked to bring their parents, brothers and sister over from Norway. Rickart filed on a homestead two miles from where Almont is now located. At the time the surveyors were laying out Almont, Mr. and Mrs. Olson served them lunch and coffee.

Mr. Olson served as a township supervisor for a number of years and was a director of the Sims school board for 35 years. Mrs. Olson passed away in April 1943 at the age of 83; Mr. Olson passed away in 1956.

They had eight children: Matthew (died in infancy); Alvin (died in early childhood); Rudolph married Anna Oien, six children, lived in Jamestown until his death in 1965; Selma (Mrs. Nels Seim), three daughters (deceased February 1981); Ludwig (deceased 1963), married to Martha Drapper, lived in Spokane, WA, two children; Melvin, living on the home place, married Marie Wedde, seven children; Alvin, Spokane, WA, married to Edwina Johnson; Bennie (deceased 1967), married to Rose Zempel (deceased), three children.

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## RUDOLPH M. OLSON FAMILY

Rudolph Martin Olson was born at Sims, ND, June 23, 1891, to Rickart and Oleana Olson. He grew up on his parent's homestead, 1½ miles west of Almont, ND. He worked for his parents until his marriage to Anna Oien on April 25, 1912. That summer they rented Oscar Thorson's farm and in the fall of 1913 they leased John Knutson's coal mine, a few miles south of Almont. It was an open mine and he sold and hauled to many people in and around Almont, with horses and sled.

The spring of 1914 they moved to Almont, where they bought Ben Bird's dray line, livery and feed barn. Later, Rudolph took over the Heart River mail route. In winter he drove a team of horses and delivered mail in a sled. It took all day to make the route and when he came to a certain farm at noon, he unhitched the horses, watered and fed them, and ate his dinner there. In winter when there was a lot of snow, he didn't get home until late in the evening. Once I recall, it was 10 o'clock in the evening before he got home.

Six children were born to the Olsons while they lived in Almont: Raymond Omer, born Oct. 17, 1914, at Almont, attended school through sixth grade. He moved away and later returned to Almont and lived with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Rickart Olson.



Raymond and Catherine Olson

Raymond married Catherine Reams from Jamestown in 1938. They have two daughters, Constance and Karen, and a son, David. Raymond is retired and moved to Newberg, OR. Raymond, Lester and Alford stayed with relatives in the community and attended the local high school.

Lester Jerome was born Aug. 13, 1916, and he and his family live in Bemidji, MN.

Alford Randell was born Jan. 22, 1919, and passed away March 11, 1980. His wife and two of the children live in Jamestown. A son and family live in Grand Forks.

Warren Harding, born Nov. 28, 1920; he and his wife live in Jamestown and have one daughter.

Madelyn LaVern was born Sept. 15, 1922; her family lives in Jamestown; one son and two daughters.

DeLores Adeline, born April 8, 1928; married Robert Jacobson, son of James and Alice Jacobson, who live on a farm near Sims, ND. DeLores and her family live in Billings, MT.

In the summer of 1925 the Olsons left Almont and moved to Minnesota on a farm where Mrs. Olson was born and raised. The Olsons returned to North Dakota and settled in Jamestown. Mr. Olson bought a dragline and operated it until he went into trucking for himself. He also took over the sales and service

of Electrolux vacuum cleaners and held that position until he passed away Sept. 29, 1965.

The Olsons were members of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Ladies Aid, Senior Citizens, and she still helps to make quilts for missions. Mrs. Olson will be 94 May 13, 1981. She lives alone.

Lester, Alford and Warren served in World War II.

Mrs. Olson has 14 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.



Red Olson

## MR. AND MRS. RUDOLPH N. "Red" OLSON



Oleana Olson

Rudolph N. "Red" Olson, a pioneer of Almont-Sims community, was born in Curlew Valley on Nov. 10, 1889, to Ben S. and Kirstine Olson.

Red homesteaded seven miles west of Almont in 1908. In 1911 he bought an additional 40 acres of land. He married Oleana Oien from Red Wing, MN, in Mandan on Dec. 21, 1912. To this union five children were born: Judy (Mrs. Frederick J. Zempel), Almont; Omar (deceased) married Loretta Schreck; Lenora (Mrs. Francis Wagner), Ostian, WA; Bernie (deceased) married Noreen Olson; Marvin (deceased). Mrs. Olson died in 1927.

Red proved his homestead by farming small grains and feeds. Red's life was mainly raising horses and traveling the rodeo circuit. He was a well-known figure, coming into town a week or two before rodeo time. People knew it was rodeo time when they saw Old Red pull in with his string of race horses.

Red, with his daughter Judy, son Omar, a wagon and team of horses with a string of horses tied behind would leave Almont in the spring and start on the rodeo circuit and probably wouldn't be seen in Almont again until winter.

Red was a rough, tough cowboy who rode the open range many years ago, but the open range is gone and so are the longhorns and wild horses he used to drive.

Red Olson took his last ride on Sunday, June 13, 1959. He was around the chutes and race track where he always was during rodeo season, when he died suddenly of a heart attack.



## SEVERT OLSON



Mr. and Mrs. Severt Olson

Severt Olson was born in Grimstad, Norway, in 1858 and came to the United States as a young man. He came directly to Fargo, ND, where he was employed for a short time. Hearing about homestead rights and other opportunities here, he came to Sims, ND, a thriving town then, and secured work at the coal mine. He left this work at one time and with a party of other young men, spent part of a year in the Black Hills prospecting for gold. With no success in that line, he came to Sims and filed on a homestead about a mile east of Sims. He became a member of the Sims Skandivanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1885. In 1889 he married Mina Jensen, born in Knitadaalen, Norway, Oct. 16, 1870. She immigrated to the United States at the age of 19 and came to Sims to visit her sister, Mrs. Issac C. Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson lived on their homestead a few years and their two oldest children, Minda and Joseph, were born there. They moved to the lakebeds south of the Heart River, but in a short time came back to this community where he bought land 13 miles south of Sims. They built their home there and engaged in ranching. Their youngest son, Reuben, farms this land now.

There are 12 children in the family, two died in infancy. They also raised two of their grandchildren whose mothers passed away when they were infants, Minnie Fulton (now Mrs. Claude Ritz) and Everett Miller, both of Almont.

With this large family and the inconvenience of getting the children to school, he built a house in Mandan in 1906 where Mrs. Olson lived during the school years. Then in 1917, when the high school was established in Almont, he built a house there so the children could attend school.

Mrs. Olson passed away in 1927 and Mr. Olson in 1935.

Their family consisted of the following children: Joseph Olaus, born Aug. 22, 1893, died Aug 16, 1961; Olga (Mrs. Walter Timpe), Almont, ND, born May 17, 1894, has 7 children; Inga, born May 29, 1899, died Sept. 16, 1962; Helen (Mrs. Peterson), Corona, CA, has 4 children; Ragna (Mrs. William Knutson), Almont, ND, has 3 children; Ida (Mrs. Rudolph Feland), Almont, ND; Reuben, Almont, ND, 4 children; Viola (Mrs. Ted Moore), Seattle, WA; Minda (Mrs. Julius Fulton), passed away in 1914; Selma (Mrs. Miller) passed away in 1924.

## SIGNAL OLSON 1897-1947

Sig Olson, a lifelong resident of Almont, never married and spent much of his young manhood running the family farm and caring for his mother. He also provided a home for some of his nephews at various times. One nephew, Donald Olson, made his permanent home with Sig until World War II, when he was drafted in the army. Sig never liked to live alone and usually had a family living with him.



Andrew Kilen and Signal Olson

Sig was known around the community for his help with livestock and served as shipping association manager most of his active life. This was the major marketing facility for livestock in our area. Cattle were shipped by rail and Sig would accompany the cattle to St. Paul, receiving a commission on the cattle for this service.

Sig raised Hereford cattle and Percheron horses, having some of the better ones of both at the time of his death. Sig considered himself a cowboy and was the horse wrangler for the family.

Sig's philosophy of this part of the country was, even in the 30's, that hard work and good management would bring success. He was always willing to lend a hand to his friends and neighbors.

## Congratulations Almont on your 75th Anniversary



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## MR. AND MRS. TOBIAS OLSON



Mr. and Mrs. Tobias Olson

Tobias Olson, son of Reinhardt and Tonetta Olson, was born Jan. 6, 1872, in Spangereid, Norway. He spent his early manhood as a sailor before coming to Sims, ND, in 1888 as a young man of 16. Here he worked in the coal mine and later the brickyard.

In 1898 Mr. Olson returned to Norway and on April 18, 1898, married Olevine Christianson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christen Christianson. He and his new bride returned to Sims, ND, where they lived for two years before moving to the farm known as the Oscar Olin farm. A few years later they moved to the Andrew Kilen farm and then to the farm known as the Oscar Jacobson farm. In 1910 they sold their farm and with their daughters, Ragna, Goldie, Helga, Nettie, Gertie and Mallie, went back to Norway. After spending a year there they returned and re-purchased the Oscar Jacobson farm. Four years later they again went back to Norway, where their son, Arnold, was born. They returned to North Dakota later that year and settled in the Curlew vicinity on a farm about a mile from their former home and lived there until Mr. Olson's retirement in 1945, when they moved to Almont. The farm had been purchased by their son, Arnold, which he later sold. The farm is now owned by Harvey Thorson (married to Nathalie Hansen, now deceased, a granddaughter of the Olsons).

Mr. and Mrs. Olson were very active in the work of the Sims and Curlew Lutheran Churches. Mr. Olson was a charter member and served as a layman for several years and Mrs. Olson was an active member of the Sims Ladies Aid. She spent many hours helping and aiding the sick and elderly in her community. The Almont and Curlew Ladies Aids of the church honored them at a reception commemorating their Golden Wedding in 1948. Then seven years later, on April 18, 1955, they were honored with a dinner and get-together by their children and grandchildren celebrating their 57th anniversary.

The children born to Tobias and Olevine and their grandchildren are: Ragna (deceased at 18 years of age); Goldie (Mrs. Paul Schreiber), Carson, ND, two children - Raymona Cofer and Harry, both of Carson; Helga (Mrs. Chas. Larson), Kenmare, ND; Nettie (Mrs. Norman Hanson), Almont, ND (separate history); Gertie (Mrs. Al Telford), Yucca Co., CA; Mallie (Mrs. Johannes Nelson); Ida (deceased at one year of age); Tobias and Olevine (twins, died in infancy); Arnold (born in Norway) separate history; Lillian (Mrs. Adam Hoffman), Hemet, CA, children - Gerald, Stan-

ton, CA - Kay Johnson and Vickie Johnson, both of Columbia, SC; Evangeline (Mrs. James Monson); Adeline (Mrs. William Backsen, twin to Evangeline), New Salem, ND, children - Toby, Jerris and Shelly at New Salem, ND - James at Des Moines, IA; Reynold resides in Mandan with his wife, Louise, children - Daniel, Almont, ND - David, Mandan, ND - Diana Myers, Mandan, ND; Winona (Mrs. Robert McCoy), Washington, PA, and children - Cindi and Jeff.

Mr. Olson passed away June 11, 1955, at the age of 83 and Mrs. Olson passed away at the age of 89, on Jan. 16, 1969, at the Elgin Hospital.

## HELGA (OLSON) LARSON

Helga married Charlie Larson of Mandan on Jan. 1, 1930, at Mandan. They lived in Mandan, Minot, Bismarck and Kenmare, where they still reside. Their children are John and Adele.

John married Joan Weber in 1953 and they live in Kenmare. Their children are: Catherine, married to David McDermott, they live in Minot; Timothy married Judy Slater and lives in Selz, ND; Keith lives at home and Diane is employed in Minot.

Adele married Richard Broadst in 1960 and they live in Mesa, AZ. Their children are: Eric, Julie, Ronda, all living at home.



Charlie and Helga Larson

## GERTIE (OLSON) TELFORD

Gertie, the fifth daughter of Tobias and Olevine Olson, farmers in the Curlew Valley, ND, was born Nov. 19, 1907, at Sims and received her education at the Curlew grade school, Almont High School and Dickinson Teachers College. She met Alfred Telford when teaching at Gorham. He was working on his parent's ranch. Her sister, Nettie, and she had a double wedding at the Sims Lutheran Church.

The first year they worked with his folks at the ranch. They moved to New Salem and made their home there for several years.

Their four children were born in New Salem: Larvell (who has chosen to use his middle name, Jerry), Marlene, Sylvia and Lynn (he also chose to go by his middle name, Dave).

November 1942 they moved to the Los Angeles area in California, settling in Compton. Both of the boys served Uncle Sam, for the required time. The



Gertie and Alfred Telford



children are all married to native Californians and all have their homes here. There are six grandsons, four granddaughters, two great grandsons and two great-granddaughters.

Al worked at the shipyard, then had his own service station for several years until the serve-yourself stations became plentiful. He sold out and went to work as a welder for Harvey Aluminum and worked there until his retirement in 1969. They sold their home and left the city for a small community in the Hi-Desert. In 1977 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Most of their social life centers around the children and their families and also the church. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the Life: no man cometh to the Father but by me." John 14:6, Our Blessed Saviour.

## MALLIE (OLSON) NELSON

Mallie, daughter of Tobias and Olevine Olson, was born and raised in Curlew Valley, ND. She lived with her parents until she got married to Johannes Nelson of Bottineau County, ND, on Oct. 2, 1932.

In the spring of 1933 they moved to Nashua, MT. While in Montana, two sons joined the family - Lowell and Lloyd. Lowell was born in 1934 and spent part of the time in Grafton State School and is now at San Haven, ND, a branch of Grafton State School.

Lloyd was born in 1936 and married LaVonne Schmidt in 1959. They have one son, Layne. They live



Back: Marlis, Lloyd, Lowell; Front: Mallie, JoAnn, Johannes

in Bottineau, ND, and Lloyd is the owner of a Fairway grocery store. LaVonne is secretary of the First Lutheran Church. One daughter, Marlis, joined the family in 1939. After finishing school, she worked in a hospital and also spent several years as cook in a restaurant. She passed away in June, 1979 - age 39 years.

JoAnn joined the family in 1944. After finishing school, she married John Mueller in 1965. They have one daughter, Joelle. They live on a farm near Wales, ND, and are owners of a TV and Radio sales and service, located on their farm.

## Congratulations Almont

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