

## EVANGELINE (OLSON) MONSON



James Monson family - Jim, Evangeline, Maurene and Douglas

Evangeline Ragna Olson was born Aug. 29, 1919, in Curlew Valley to Tobias and Olevine Olson of Norway. She married James Townsend Monson of Glen Ullin, whose date of birth was June 25, 1911. George and Nettie Monson were his parents.

California has been the home of Evangeline and James since 1941 and they have one daughter, Maurene Dayle Raspberry, who resides in Texas with her two children - Jill and Lee Raspberry.

At the present time Evangeline is employed by H.H. Hiatt Inc. in a position of authority which she has held since 1949.

James was employed by Douglas Aircraft Co. and later joined the Northrop Aircraft Co. as senior mechanic and held that position for 20 years until 1971, when due to ill health he went on total disability and was retired in 1976. He also was a member in good standing with the Fraternal Order of Eagles. James was deceased Sept. 16, 1980.

## MR. AND MRS. OLAF K. OVERGAARD

Mrs. Olaf K. Overgaard

Olaf K. Overgaard was born March 4, 1867, near Aalesund, Norway, and grew to manhood there. He was educated there and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. He came to America in 1886 and settled at Clear Lake, IA.



Mrs. Olaf Overgaard was born July 26, 1874, near St. Olaf, IA, to Nels and Oline Sorum. She was baptized and confirmed at the Norway Lutheran Church of St. Olaf, IA. They were married June 6, 1895, at Clear Lake, IA, living on a farm near there until they moved to Morton County in 1901, settling near Glen Ullin. Later they moved to the Almont vicinity and were engaged in farming until his death in 1935.

They were members of the Almont Lutheran Church; Clara Overgaard was an active member of the Almont Lutheran Ladies Aid and left a legacy to the church.

Though they had no children of their own, they raised two nephews, Christ and Fred, and a niece, Gladys.

While visiting in Iowa, Mrs. Overgaard became ill from a heart ailment from which she never recovered. After several months in an Iowa hospital, she was brought to the Bismarck Hospital where she remained until her death on June 12, 1945.

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## GEORGE PECK FAMILY



George Peck family - 1942

L to R: Mary, George, Reliance (Godard), Coy (Godard), Henry, Agnes, Glen and Clare

Mr. and Mrs. George Peck came to Almont from Clear Lake, IA, in September 1907. They had three children: Glen 13, Henry 9 and Reliance 2 months. Mr. Peck, a carpenter, built a number of buildings in Almont and surrounding area; to name a few ... The Farmers State Bank, E.E. Templeton home and the barn on the Feland farm. In 1909 the family moved out to the homestead 4½ miles southwest of Almont on the southwest quarter of Sec. 8-137-86; their first home there was of sod.

Glen worked in the Almont area until 1915 when he enrolled in the Bismarck Business College. He worked in the First National Bank of Bismarck until 1917 when he was called into the service. After returning, he spent 2½ years in government hospitals; in 1923 he moved to California. His present address is Glen Peck, 605 E. Sycamore St. Apt. 1, Anaheim, CA 92805.

Henry worked in the Farmers State Bank of Almont for seven years. His wife, Agnes Albrecht Peck, taught for seven years in Almont - grades 7 and 8, music and high school German. Henry's present address is: Henry T. Peck, 874 D Avenida Sevilla, Laguna Hills, CA 92653.

Reliance went to school five years in the Peck school house, the building which is now in the Almont Heritage Park; she attended the sixth grade in Almont. She moved with her parents back to Clear Lake, IA, in 1923 and in 1925 they moved to California. Her present address: Coy Godard, 1845 Monrovia, Space 61, Costa Mesa, CA 92627.

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## MR. AND MRS. JONATHAN PEDERSON

In 1885, at the age of nine years, Jonathan Pederson came to Sims with his parents, Ole and Benedikte Martine Pederson, and five other children: Simon, David, Jacob, Anna and Lena. He was born in Chicago in 1876 and moved to Fillmore Co., MN, in 1877. After coming to Sims in 1885, the family lived in a 12 x 12 shack with Uncle Amund Pederson until they moved to Sims. This "home" was so crowded that uncle made a three-decker bed to accommodate everyone. A bed was built on stilts above the regular bed and a pullout bed was fastened below which could be pulled out at night.



Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Pederson

In 1897 he filed on a homestead 3½ miles south of Almont. He called his farm "Bluff Dale" which was descriptive of the area as the farm was nestled in the dale with bluffs surrounding it. The road from the Cannonball to Sims went by his homestead and was one of the main stopping places for rest and food along the way.

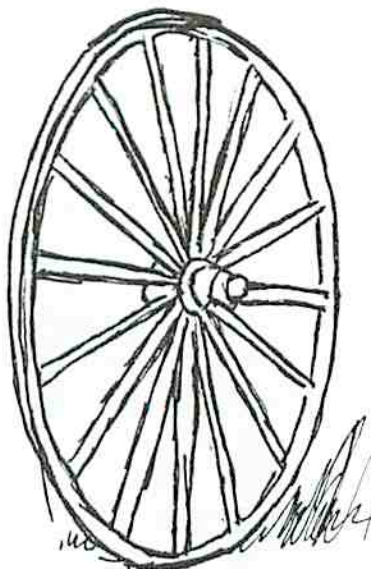
In the 1890's and early 1900's, the Pederson boys raised Percheron and saddle horses which were sold at auction in Chicago or to new settlers and to the cavalry post near Bismarck. The four Pederson boys had the brand PB and even after they sold out to Jonathan, he continued to use the same brand on his purebred Shorthorn cattle.

Jonathan was confirmed in the Sims Lutheran Church. Although he said he went to school only long enough to go through the third reader, he attended the Agricultural College at Fargo in 1903 for a course in blacksmithing and veterinary training and did much to help his neighbors along that line. He took a correspondence course in horsemanship, receiving his diploma in 1913. He helped haul lumber from Sims to build the new town of Almont in 1906.

Once while searching for stray horses, Joe stopped at Olaf Overgaard's and met a young nurse who was visiting her sister. She was Sophie Emelie Sorum, born Jan. 30, 1887, near St. Olaf, IA, to Nels and Oline Sorum. She was baptized and confirmed at Norway Lutheran Church, St. Olaf, and graduated from the Norwegian Deaconess Hospital, Chicago, IL, in 1909; worked at St. Luke's Hospital in Fargo and came to Almont in May 1910. In 1911 she attended the Agricultural College and filed on a homestead adjoining Jonathan's homestead. On Dec. 28, 1911, they were married at Veblen, SD, by Rev. Theodore Gunnarson, a brother-in-law to Jonathan.

The Pedersons were members of the Sims Lutheran Church but later joined the Almont Lutheran Church and remained members until the time of their death. Mrs. Pederson was the first superintendent of the Almont Sunday School and continued her

work in the Sunday School for many years. She was also active in the Lutheran Ladies Aid and Homemakers Club. Her training as a nurse was valuable to her family as well as many who sought her help in time of sickness.



The Pedersons had six daughters: Dagmar (Mrs. James Stoeckel), LaCrescenta, CA (separate history).

Ruth (Mrs. Lowell Britton), Atascadero, CA. They owned and operated "Britton's Jewelry" in Dickinson, ND, more than 20 years and now have their jewelry store in San Luis Obispo, CA. They have five children: Jon, Joel, Gene, Jane and Julie McGonagil.

Lillian (Mrs. Roman Peterson), Almont, ND (separate history).

Eleanor (Mrs. Harold Hillemann), San Fernando, CA. A former teacher in the Almont school, she has been a primary and kindergarten teacher for many years in the California school systems. Many of her poems have been published by Ideals Magazine.

They have three children: Walter, JoAnn Salas Krugh, and Carol Galbraith. Their grandchildren are: Erica, Desiree and Coralie Hillemann, and Gabriel and Loren Salas.

Mildred Olson, Albany, OR (separate history).

June (Mrs. Dale Hove), Hollywood, CA, was a secretary in the District Attorney's office in Los Angeles for several years and for over 20 years has been a court reporter. They have two children: Diane and Dean.

The Jonathan Pedersons lived on their farm until 1944, when they moved to California and made their home until their deaths. He passed away at the age of 81 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Lowell Britton, Dickinson, ND, Oct. 14, 1957. Mrs. Pederson died June 23, 1972, in Hollywood, CA. They are both buried in the Almont cemetery.

Bluff Dale Farm is now owned by their son-in-law and daughter, Roman and Lillian Peterson, who moved there in 1946 from New England, ND.



Lillian, Eleanor, Dagmar, Ruth, June and Mildred



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Ruth Britton Atascadero, CA	Mildred Olson Albany, OR
Lillian Peterson Almont, ND	June Hove Hollywood, CA

And Families

## LENA PEDERSON

Lena was born in 1877 in Fillmore County, MN, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Pederson, and came to Sims in 1885 with her parents. She attended Sims school and was confirmed in the Sims Lutheran Church by Rev. Norby.

She spent some time with her brothers, Jonathan, Simon and David, on the homestead south of Almont and also stayed with the future Mrs. Jonathan Pederson in her homestead shack. She attended the Agricultural College at Fargo and later worked in a department store in Jamestown.



Lena Pederson

At the death of Mrs. Simon Pederson in 1916, she went to Leith and made her home with her brother and cared for his young son, Thor, until he reached manhood.

During World War II she worked in the shipyards in Seattle and later moved to California and lived with Simon. She was a resident of the Alexandria Convalescent Home in Hollywood at the time of her death at the age of 95. She enjoyed life and wanted everyone to "have fun!"

## MR. AND MRS. OLE PEDERSON



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Pederson

Ole Pederson was born in Norway March 8, 1839, near Oslo. He came to America in 1866 on a sailboat and was on the ocean 13 weeks. He settled in Chicago, where he worked as a shoemaker.

Benedikte Martine Syvertson was born in Farsund, Norway, April 14, 1838, and came to Chicago in 1867. There she met Ole and they were married and lived in Chicago for nine years. Anna, Simon, David and Jonathan were born there. They moved to Fillmore Co., MN, in 1877 where Lena and Jacob were born. The family came to Sims in 1885, where they lived until Ole homesteaded south of Almont on part of what is now Bluff Dale Farm. They later moved back to Sims.

Anna married the Rev. Theo. Gunnarson of Vebelen, SD, and lived there until her death in 1964. They had 11 children.

Jake died in 1904 at the age of 23. Dave homesteaded south of Almont where he ranched

with his brothers. He had a store and restaurant in Almont in the early 1900's. Art, photography and music were interests of his. He was a traveling photographer until his death in California in 1919.

Simon, Lena and Jonathan all lived for many years in the area. Simon and Lena lived at Leith where he owned the Kolbank coal mine.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Pederson were members of the Sims Lutheran Church. Mrs. Pederson died at Sims in 1910 and Ole Pederson died at the Bismarck Hospital in 1911.

## MR. AND MRS. SIMON PEDERSON

Simon was born May 4, 1871, in Chicago, IL, coming to Sims in 1885. He attended Augustana College in Canton, SD, and ranched with his brothers south of Almont.

Mrs. Pederson, the former Anna Olivia Anderson, was born in Milwaukee, WI, in 1882.

They resided on their farm two miles west of Leith, which was then in Morton Co. Simon had a homestead north of this farm. He planted large groves of trees and developed and operated the Kolbank mine for many years. Fruit raising, gardening and beekeeping were a part of their farm operation.



Mr. & Mrs. Simon Pederson

Simon's weekly newspaper column "Notes of a Commentator" was read and enjoyed as well as "Notes of a Bystander" in the Carson Press. He was active in community and civic affairs and noted for his oratory at meetings and celebrations. He was an ardent reader of some of the world's greatest literature and had much of it committed to memory. He had a very fine and extensive library. Though blind from about 1936, he carried on a lively correspondence with friends and family until his death.

Mrs. Pederson passed away in 1916. Simon moved to California in 1941 where he lived to the age of 92. Their son, Thor, and his wife, Martha, live in Sherwood, OR.

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**MR. AND MRS.  
ABRAHAM PETERSON**



Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Peterson

Abraham Peterson came to Sims in 1886 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Peterson, his brothers and sisters. He was seven years old. Abe went to school in Sims and was confirmed in the Sims church by Rev. O.J. Norby. While in Sims he met a young lady who also came from Norway, Miss Jacobina Feland. She came with her parents and settled in Sims. She attended school in Sims and married Abe in Sims on Oct. 6, 1900, by Rev. Gaustad. Abe homesteaded on a piece of land southeast of Almont and built a home there. He farmed and did blacksmithing for many years. Mrs. Peterson passed away March 1, 1934; Abe passed away Oct. 17, 1955.

There were four children: Their daughter, Alvina, died at age two months; Olaf lives in Richland, WA, and has two daughters; George never married and makes his home with his brother, Alvin; Alvin served 3½ years in military service and while in the service he met his wife, Lorene, in St. Joseph, MO. When Alvin was discharged from the service, they came to North Dakota and settled on the farm that had been homesteaded by Alvin's dad, Abe. They still live on the same farm and live in the original homestead house. They have one son, Eugene, living in Almont with his wife Ginger, and two children.



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**MR. AND MRS. AXEL PETERSON**

Axel Peterson, born in Lulea, Sweden, July 16, 1879, left his home at Branneburg, Sweden, coming directly to Isabella, MI, and arriving at his brother's place in October 1900. He worked at Nahma Lumber Mills and in the woods in that area until his marriage to Hulda Bylund.

Hulda Bylund, born Jan. 10, 1881, left her home at Bjorna, Sweden, arriving at Denver, CO, on Oct. 10, 1900, where she worked for a number of years. She left there Dec. 2, 1904, for a visit to her childhood home and parents. They returned with her in December 1905. This time the destination was Isabella, MI, where her sister and husband lived. There she met Axel Peterson. After spending some time there, she went to Chicago where she was employed until Mr. Peterson came to Chicago for their wedding.



Hulda and Axel Peterson

Mr. Peterson wrote his friend, Gust Soderstrom at Almont, telling him of his marriage. Mr. Soderstrom telegraphed for them to come to Almont and get a quarter section of homestead land. They left Chicago, coming to Mandan with Mr. Brown, a real estate man from Chicago, and his daughters. Arriving on June 1st, they were disappointed in the bareness of the Dakota prairie. Alex Soderstrom took them around for 10 days looking at various plots of land. They had to make six trips to Bismarck before finally filing on a homestead on June 20th.

After staying in Mandan for six weeks and working in the harvest fields, they returned to Almont in November and built their home. As it was not completed before winter, they spent the winter in Michigan, returning in the spring. Their completed home is still part of the present residence. In November 1908 Alex went to Michigan for work in the woods as there was no work here, returning in March 1909. He spent several more winters in the woods, the last trip was in 1929-30. He remained active in farming until 1950. He passed away Dec. 27, 1952; she passed away in April of 1967.



Cuno and Esther, Lyle, Wesley, Ardythe, Marian, Granddaughter Lynnae

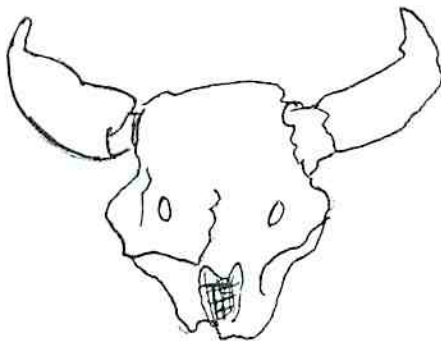
Their children were: Cuno, living on the homestead farm; Staff Sgt. Donald H., who entered the U.S. Army and was wounded while on sentry duty in the Seigfried line on Nov. 26 and died Nov. 30,

1944; Lillian died in 1931 when 17 years old; Vivian Peterson Lindstrand, Arlington, WA, and Ragnhild Peterson Johanesen, Hamilton, MT; two infant daughters died.

J. Cuno Peterson married Esther Lindstrand on Jan. 10, 1942, at Everett, WA; then moved back to Almont. They had four children: Lyle married Karen Reetz of Hebron, three children - Lynnae, Kristi and Ricky, living on the homestead place; Ardythe married Arnold Mortenson, Jr. of Carson, four children - Kurt, Monte, Michael and Tammy, living in Leith; Wesley married to Linda Heim of Elgin, two children - Eric and Brian, live in Elgin; Marian married Darrel Nilles from Almont, one son - Steven, living in Almont. Cuno died Dec. 17, 1968; Esther died Aug. 20, 1980.



Lyle and Karen Peterson, Lynnae, Kristi and Ricky



## EUGENE PETERSON FAMILY

Gene Peterson, son of Alvin and Lorene Peterson, graduated from Almont High School in 1963. He attended Wahpeton State School of Science and graduated in 1965. In March 1965 he began working at Farmers Supply Inc. as a mechanic. Gene has been manager of Farmers Supply since 1975.

Gene married Ginger Gustafson June 16, 1967. She graduated from Almont High School in 1965 and is the daughter of Elmer and Laura Gustafson, former residents of Almont. They have two children: Robyn, born Dec. 27, 1969, and a son, Dale, born Sept. 29, 1977. The Gene Petersons live in Almont.

## GABRIEL PETERSON

Gabriel Peterson, born in 1842, and his wife, Lena Tollefson, born in 1846, were both born in Lyngdal, Norway. After sailing the seven seas for 25 years, Gabriel immigrated to the United States in 1882 and located in Sims, ND.

There he found work in the Northern Pacific Coal Company mine. He filed on a homestead on the Muddy Creek but relinquished it and homesteaded four miles south of Sims. His original homestead later became known as the Hoeger farm. Having a pass on the sailing vessels, he made several trips back to Norway. On these trips he arranged for passage to this land for several young folks who came with him to Sims.



Gabriel & Lena Peterson

Before his last trip to the U.S. he left power of attorney with his wife and asked her to sell everything and bring the family to Sims. This she did, arriving in Sims on July 2, 1888, with her unmarried sister, Bertha (who passed away that summer), and five children: Peter 16, Tobine 12, Abraham 9, Theodore 5 and Gustava 1 year. In 1892 the family moved from Sims to the new homestead. Later Ted took an adjoining homestead and also gained a quarter section by tree claim. Gabriel was a charter member of the Sims Lutheran Church and helped build the parsonage and church, which were located across the street from their home.

In those days there were no fences or roads and grass was waist high, so there was a constant threat of prairie fires every fall. One fall day, as Pete and Dave Pederson were starting out for the Mandan fair with team and buggy, a spiral of smoke caught their eye. They raced back home to find the cattle had already been corralled by a very good dog. They burned a fire guard between furrows which had already been plowed and watched as the "header" came straight for the farmstead, traveling faster than a horse could run. The fireguard would not have been adequate, but fortunately the wind shifted slightly and the "header" veered, leaving the buildings intact but burned the entire rangeland.

Ted continued to live on the ranch with his parents. Gabriel passed away in 1933 at the age of 91 and Lena also attained the age of 91, passing away in 1937.

Ted later sold the ranch to Elmer and Oscar Willman and went to McMinnville, OR, to live with his sister, Tobine, and her husband, Dr. Wm. Powell. He passed away there in 1961.

The Powells had three children. Tobine died in 1966. Pete married Thora Daland in Norway and had six children; Abraham married Jacobina Feland of Sims and they had three sons and one daughter (deceased); Pete and Abe both passed away in 1955.

Gustava married Ed Ulrickson and they farmed

southwest of Mandan for several years, living a few years in Sims and in 1928 moved their 10 children to Nome, AK. Gustava passed away in Seattle, Wa, in 1945.

## JOHN PETERSON

John Peterson, born in Sweden in 1855, came to America in 1881. He first worked on a farm in Iowa and later secured work with the Northern Pacific Railroad when they were extending the railroad west of Bismarck. This work brought Mr. Peterson to North Dakota in 1883. While working with the railroad, he went to Montana where he contracted to dynamite in some parts of the mountains making preparation for the railroad.



John Peterson

In 1883 he was married to Miss Inger Marie Severson of Norway, who before her marriage was employed at the home of Dr. and Mrs.

Bentley in Bismarck. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson lived on her homestead near Sims (the former Morrell place) when they were married and later moved to a relinquished claim seven miles southeast of Almont.

The children born with his first wife are: Sigvald of Montana; Henry, who passed away several years ago; Martin, who resided on his homestead until his death; Mrs. Lenn Ryen of Belgrade, MT, and Mrs. Clara Mutz of California. After the death of his wife, Mr. Peterson went back to Sweden and had made other previous visits there. He married again and four children were born to this union: Palmer and Clarence of Oregon, and Melia and Mary in Montana. Mr. Peterson passed away in Sweden at the age of 78 years.

## MARTIN PETERSON FAMILY

By Lorraine Darling

My father, Martin Peterson, was born in Sims, ND, in 1886. His father, John Peterson, immigrated from Sweden. His mother, Inger Syverson, immigrated from Norway in 1882.

Martin Peterson took up a homestead southeast of Almont and in 1911 married Pauline Bahr. Pauline had come from Nebraska in 1909 with her parents, Julius and Henrietta Bahr, in an immigration train.

The Martin Petersons raised three daughters: Thelma Davidson, Kentucky; Arlene Zueger, Minnesota, and Lorraine Darling, Mandan.

Transportation in my early years was by horse and buggy, later a Model T. We were fortunate to have to walk only one-half mile to school. We had close neighbors, the W.W. Bonds, a very nice elderly couple who always boarded the teachers. In the summer their charming little granddaughter would come to visit them. Her name was Jean Mason. She grew up and remained very charming ... she became the wife of the former North Dakota governor William Guy.

In our home the week's washing took all day as it was done on the board. The water was carried from the creek the evening before as our well water was very hard. As everyone else at that time, we had wood and coal stoves and kerosene lamps. With an Aladdin lamp, you were really living. This made one form of our leisure hours much more enjoyable ... reading aloud after supper when the chores were done.

The family income was from cattle, sheep and grain. Mamma made and sold butter and eggs. In addition to the farming, Papa loved horses. Very few months went by that we didn't have a horse or mule that he was breaking for himself or someone else.

Like most country kids, when it was time to go to high school, we moved into Almont for the school years. This was during the depression years of the 30's, so I began working out early in homes, then in cafes in nearby towns and eventually in Mandan.

In 1938 I had become very much interested in a young man from Glen Ullin, Roy Darling. He proposed, I accepted. He was transporting cars from Detroit to Billings and would stop whenever he came through town. One December night I left my place of employment and drove with him to Billings, where we joined a couple of friends. One morning, we four started out to climb a mountain. On the way we picked up a marriage license, stopped at a parsonage and were married, all in breeches and boots.

In 1941 our daughter, Jacqueline, was born, we bought our first home, and Pearl Harbor was bombed. In 1943 we moved to Portland, OR, for defense work. In 1944 our son, Gary, was born. When the war ended, in 1945, we returned to our home in Mandan where Roy continued his work as a salesman for Mandan Beverage. When they went out of business, Roy joined the Mandan Police Force.

In 1959 Papa (Martin Peterson) passed away at his homestead and was buried the same day our daughter, Jackie, graduated from high school.

We then sold his homestead to W.E. Bond. With a good portion of my share of the inheritance, I took a course in hairdressing and cosmetology and at the present time own and operate Lorraine's Beauty Shop just two doors down from our first home on Ninth Avenue in northwest Mandan.

Roy and I are blessed with two granddaughters: Joli-Anna Jorgenson and Brianne Darling.

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## MR. AND MRS. P.R. PETERSON

Peder R. Peterson, son of Gabriel and Lena Peterson, was born in Lyngdal, Norway, on Dec. 24, 1871. In 1888 he came to Sims with his parents, brothers and sisters. In 1890 he went to Centralia, WA, where he prospected for coal for the Northern Pacific Railway. He went back to Lyngdal in 1898 and married Thora Daland, born Jan. 14, 1871. The newlyweds came back to Sims and lived across the street from the Sims Church. In 1900 Pete opened a coal mine; this underground mine was different in that it had no entry but had a shaft so the mine cars were hoisted straight up. Pete went back to work for the Northern Pacific Railroad and in 1912 was assistant roadmaster at Mandan, where the family lived for a short time. In 1915 they bought a quarter section of land 1½ miles east of Almont, which was home to the family until 1946, when Mr. and Mrs. Peterson and sons, Thorleiv and Barney, moved to Cedar Valley Ranch in Grant Co., near McIntosh, SD. They had been married 56 years at the time of Pete's death in 1955. Thora continued to live with her sons at Cedar Valley until her death in 1968 at the age of 97 years.



Mr. & Mrs. P.R. Peterson

In early years, the Sims church drew worshippers from quite a distance, some as far as the Heart River area and all came by team and buggy. Peterson's barn and yard on Sundays was filled with horses and many stopped for a cup of coffee before going home. Mrs. Peterson's coffee pot was always on the stove and if she had nothing else to serve with it she would stir up some pancakes. This hospitality continued through the years. While living in Sims near the railroad tracks, there were many hobos riding the freight trains. Many would stop for a handout; Mrs. Peterson never refused them even if it was only a slice of bread.

Music always played an important part in the Peterson home. Before the Sims church had an organ, Pete led the singing with his violin. He conducted choirs and encouraged various vocal and instrumental groups. For 20 years a men's quartet met every Monday evening at the Peterson home.

Petersons had six children all born in Sims: Borghild, Thorleiv, Ralph, Barney, Valborg and Sig. They were baptized and confirmed in the Sims Lutheran Church.

Borghild, born Oct. 29, 1899, was a Northern Pacific Railroad telegrapher for several years before marrying Ed Kruger of New Salem, a World War I veteran. Ed worked for Blank Motors in New Salem and Mandan and he and Borghild were both employed at the North Dakota State Penitentiary until their retirement. They lived in Bismarck. They had a son, Richard, and a daughter, Lois (Mrs. Jim Very). Ed passed away on Nov. 23, 1977. Borghild lived in an apartment in Mandan for a couple of years, then in November 1980 she moved to Grandview Apts., Glendive, MT. She is now near her son, Richard.

Ralph, born Oct. 19, 1903, was employed by the railroad as a young man. He farmed for a few years, delivered bulk gas for Blank Motors of New Salem, did road building for Morton County and ran a pool hall in Billings. He married Evelyn Bateman and they have a daughter, Janet (Mrs. Clarence Esser). Ralph passed away on June 7, 1979, and Evelyn still lives in Billings, MT.

Thorleiv (April 15, 1901) and Borghild attended school three months in the fall and three months in the spring in the old brick schoolhouse on the hill at the east end of Main Street in Sims. The next year they went into the new schoolhouse. Barney, Valborg and Sig also attended there until they moved to the farm where Almont became their school.

Thorleiv's first employment was as a railroad section hand — later he farmed east of Almont with his brother, Ralph. In 1927 Thorleiv began threshing for the neighborhood. He did this for 20 years. He dug wells and would guarantee water at \$1.25 per foot — casing, rods and pumphead included.

In 1928 Barney (Aug. 11, 1905) and his brother, Sig, bought a section of land just north of their folk's place. The \$500.00 downpayment was borrowed from their sister, Valborg, who taught school. Barney, Valborg and Sig started playing at programs and dances when quite young. Barney played the cello and saxophone, Valborg the piano and Sig the violin. Their dad would sometimes play with them.

In 1936, the driest of the drought years, they realized they would either have to sell their cattle or find wintering quarters. They, the Willman brothers, and George Ormiston shipped 500 head of cattle to the Ft. Totten Indian Reservation, south of Devils Lake. They also shipped horses and machinery. There was an agreement with the railroad that they would transport these cattle and horses to Jamestown, then provide a special train north to Cheyenne for the price of one-way freight. They paid 85% down and 15% on return. They left in September, expecting to return in April or May, but due to the lack of rain they had to stay until the first week in June when the rain finally came.

Thorleiv, Barney and their parents moved south to the Cedar Valley Ranch in 1946. It didn't take long to become part of the neighborhood and where they were happy and satisfied on the Cedar. The biggest undertaking at the ranch was moving the huge house and barn closer to the highway and away from the flooding Cedar River. Here, Mr. and Mrs. Peterson lived with Thorleiv and Barney until their death.

Valborg (June 22, 1907) was graduated from Almont High School; B.A., Dickinson, and M.A., Greeley, Colorado. She received a teaching certificate with her high school diploma. Her first five years of teaching were in Curlew and Sims. These were the years when a teacher did her own janitor work. The lignite clinkers in the big pot-bellied stove were so big and heavy she couldn't handle them, so Thorleiv made her a special tong in his blacksmith shop. She married Birdsall C. Fisher (1903-1970) in 1929. They both taught school in North Dakota and Oregon. Valborg spent 43 years in education, both teaching and administration. After her husband's death in 1970, she retired and returned to ND.

In 1972, Thorleiv and Barney sold part of the ranch



to Skip TenBroeck. They moved to a home on the north edge of Mandan where they lived with their sister, Valborg. Barney passed away Aug. 12, 1977, and Valborg and Thorleiv have continued to live in this home in Mandan.

The fourth son, Sig (Sept. 27, 1909), and his wife, Marge, live in Almont. Their history will be found elsewhere in this book.



Back: Barney, Valborg, Ralph; Front: Thorleiv, Borghild and Sig

## MR. AND MRS. ROMAN PETERSON

Lillian Pederson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Pederson, was united in marriage to Roman L. Peterson, New England, ND, June 25, 1944, at her home at Bluff Dale by Rev. C.J. Fylling.

Born at Bluff Dale, Aug. 27, 1917, Lillian attended school in Almont except for her second year when the family moved to Leith, ND. She graduated from Almont High School, Wahpeton State School of Science and received her B.A. degree from Minot State College. She taught business in Strum, WI, and Crosby, ND, for two years.



Mr. & Mrs. Roman Peterson

Roman was born at New England in the city hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Peterson of Simpson Township, Stark County. He attended local schools and farmed with his father on their wheat farm in the Daglum area. After their marriage, they resided on a neighboring farm and continued to farm with his father and brother, Gilman, for 1½ years when they moved to Dickinson. In 1946 they moved to Bluff

Dale and bought the home place, which had been homesteaded by Lillian's grandfather, father and mother. They built a new home in 1962.



Lyn Baker and Allison

Rodney Peterson

The Petersons have two children: a son, Rodney Dale, born at the Dickinson Hospital June 14, 1946, and a daughter, Lynn Ramona, July 7, 1949, at the Bismarck Hospital. They both attended school at Almont, graduated from Almont High School, and the Dickinson State College. Rodney married Diane Cameron at Edmonton, Alberta, Dec. 29, 1979, and resides at St. Paul where he has been an auditor for HEW for the past 11 years. Lynn taught at the School for the Deaf at Devils Lake, ND, and married Leslie Baker, a wheat farmer from Webster. A daughter, Allison Claire, was born Dec. 5, 1973, at the Devils Lake hospital. Leslie was killed Sept. 13, 1974, and that fall Lynn and Allison moved to Devils Lake where she was employed as a legal secretary. For several years they have made Rathdrum, ID, their home and spend a part of every summer with the Petersons and Bakers at Devils Lake. At present Lynn is secretary in the elementary school and Allison is in 2nd grade.

Roman and Lillian are members of the Almont Lutheran Church. Lillian served five years as the first woman trustee of the church, is a member of the ALCW, and homemakers club. She has been a teacher in the Almont school, both elementary and high school for 25 years, and has taught adult typing classes. A few years ago she started painting (oil) and has decorated their home with her art work. Roman is a member of the Almont Commercial Club, Fire Dept., Weighing Ass'n. and for many years sang with a local men's chorus. He continues to farm at Bluff Dale.



Congratulations Almont  
on your 75th Anniversary

**Bluff Dale Ranch**  
Roman & Lillian Peterson  
owners

## SIG AND MARJORIE PETERSON



Sig and Marjorie Peterson

Sigurd Peterson, youngest son of Peter and Thora (Daland) Peterson, and Marjorie Gail Nelson, oldest of the family of Lawrence and Grace Nelson, were married June 13, 1937, in the old Almont church. Pastor Reider Haakonson married them on his first wedding anniversary, at the close of the regular Sunday morning worship service. It was questionable whether relatives (and the groom!) would arrive in time for the wedding as the roads were almost impassable after almost two weeks of rain, which broke the drought of the thirties. Their planned honeymoon to the Black Hills, with all of \$40.00 in Sig's wallet, was canceled because of washed out bridges.

Sig was born Sept. 27, 1909, at Sims, across the road from the Sims Lutheran Church. He graduated from Almont High School in 1927 and went into a farming partnership with his brother, Barney. They bought a section of land and worked it with 14 horses, putting in hours from daylight to dark and played for dances on weekends to pay for the seed. Their livestock partnership continued until 1946 when Barney, Thorleiv and their parents moved to a ranch near McIntosh, SD.

Marjorie was born Nov. 6, 1914, in Ceylon, MN. Until her father returned from the U.S. Navy in 1918, she and her mother lived with her grandparents and also lived part-time in her mother's homestead shack in Grant Co. She grew up in Almont where she attended school except for her senior year, 1930, when the family moved to Mott. After her father's death that year, the family moved back to Almont to live on the farm with Grandma Jacobsen and Uncle Harry. This was the beginning of the 30's and times were extremely hard. Marjorie's hopes for a college education were gone — no money and the family needed her. She worked at the Almont postoffice from 1934 until her marriage and lived in rooms above the Methodist parsonage. During the school year her brother, Burton, and sisters, Frances and Audrey, liv-

ed with her. Her highest monthly check from the postal service was \$45.00.

Sig and Marge farmed the first year at the former Theo. Feland farm (now a part of their ranch). They mined their own coal from the last of the underground mines at Sims. They were snowbound most of the winter; the best mode of transportation was horseback and groceries were hauled home from town on a sled pulled behind the saddle horse. One cold night they were surprised when about 20 young people from town, including all the teachers except the superintendent, came out in a bobsled for an evening of fun. The weather became stormy and they were forced to stay all night. They arrived back in Almont in time for school the next morning but had to change horses at P.R. Petersons as the first team was exhausted.

The Petersons moved to Grant County where they lived for eight years on Marge's grandfather Jacobson's homestead farm. They also bought and rented land in the area for their ranching operation. During World War II, it was hard to get farm help so Marge was "drafted" to help and did everything from plowing to combining. She even drove horses ... and had a run-away! She always had a good saddle horse and helped with roundups and moving cattle. Summer help from Marge's brother and city cousins added fun and activity to the ranch, but caused a few gray hairs to Sig and Marge too! Sig organized the first rural telephone south of Almont which provided convenience and entertainment for the 22 parties on the line; "rubbering" was a favorite pastime.

In 1946, when Sig's parents and brothers moved to a ranch near McIntosh, Sig and Marge bought the home place where they have continued to live. The O-Bar-O Ranch now includes the former Theo. Feland and John Jacobson farms. Ed Jacobson, who began working at the O-Bar-O in 1946, has lived with his family on the Feland place since 1960 and has been managing the ranch since Sig's retirement in 1976.



Bruce Peterson

Mary Peterson

In 1950 the Petersons moved into their new house and a month later, on Aug. 10, adopted a 9-month-old boy, Bruce Leslie (born Nov. 14, 1949). After graduation from Almont High, Bruce enlisted in the Marines for a 4-year term and served as tank commander with overseas duty in Vietnam, Okinawa, Japan and the

Mediterranean. He passed away April 2, 1974. In 1959 they adopted 8-year-old Mary (born April 22, 1951). In 1973 she was thrilled to locate two of her "real" sisters who were living in Minot. Mary now resides in Roselaw, IN.

Music has been important in the lives of Sig and Marge as they came from homes where singing was the main source of entertainment. Sig has played a fiddle since he was four ... he learned to read notes from his dad before he could read. He has sung tenor with choirs and other musical groups since he was in grade school. He especially enjoyed singing with the men's quartet (organized in 1929), which later became an octet. They group sang for church and community functions for many years. Marge took piano lessons from Mrs. Rule in the 20's and rode the train to New Salem every Saturday for her lesson. She also played in the first Almont High School band. She has been organist at the Lutheran church for almost 30 years and accompanist for choirs and smaller groups since before she was married. Marge and Sig have sung duets for church, weddings, programs, and other events over the years. They acquired authentic Norwegian costumes in Norway in 1971 and since then have worn them when they entertain Sons of Norway and various other organizations throughout the state.

Since retirement Sig and Marge have enjoyed traveling (which they didn't have time for before). Their overseas trips have taken them to Norway twice and the last time they also visited Sweden, Denmark and Holland. Other trips have been to Mex-

ico City and Acapulco; Hawaii; cruise to Nassau; Hamburg, West Germany; a trip through part of East Germany to Berlin and a beautiful trip to the Holy Land. They've also enjoyed hosting foreign guests from Norway, Germany, Holland, Japan, Sri Lanka, India, Vietnam and Tanzania.

Sig and Marge have been involved in many local, county and state organizations through the years and have held offices in all of them. Sig became involved in community affairs at a young age, serving as Sims township supervisor before getting married. He has helped organize associations, both local and county. He chaired the Morton County Historical Society organizational meeting and also the first meeting of the Morton County Resource and Development Association, which was the first such organization in the state. He helped organize the Morton County Water Management District, the first of its kind in western North Dakota. In 1973 he was selected Commercial Beef Man of the Year by the N.D. Beef Improvement Ass'n; in 1979 the N.D. Soil Conservation Districts honored him as Layman of the Year in Conservation. Sig's 15 years as 4-H leader were very rewarding as has been his 20 years as a Soil Conservation supervisor. Of his awards, the two he values most are from the Almont community — one received from friends in the community on his 67th birthday and the other from the city of Almont in appreciation for promoting the Almont Historical Society.

1981 finds the Petersons involved in Almont's 75th anniversary and the history book.



*We're proud of our  
Norwegian heritage  
and  
our Almont community.  
Sig & Marge Peterson*

# **Congratulations Almont on your 75th Jubilee**





## PETER PFAFF

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Pfaff

Peter and Veronica Pfaff came to Almont in 1916 when Peter was employed as a grain buyer for Occident Elevator Co. Veronica worked for a time as telephone operator and as a bank clerk. In later years she clerked at the Home Store. They had one daughter, Florence. Mr. and Mrs. Pfaff were among those instrumental in bringing Catholic services to the community, and eventually, St. Leopold's Church.

In 1934 Peter's brother, Joseph, and sister, Regina, joined the family in Almont. Joseph may be remembered as the carpenter who completed the exterior and basement of St. Leopold's with the assistance of several of the men who volunteered as time permitted. Regina was quite handy with a needle and crochet hook.

Mr. Pfaff's illness in 1936 necessitated his termination at the elevator. The family moved to the north-

west, settling in Portland, OR. Peter spent several years in the employ of Portland Woolen Mills, until his death in 1956. Veronica continued in Portland until her demise in 1974. Their daughter, Florence, served with the WACs during World War II, then returned to Portland and married William Frank. They have three daughters: Judy Kitzes, the oldest, is in the Los Angeles area; Ruth Frank and Barbara Keys are in Portland. William succumbed to a lengthy illness in 1978. Florence remains in Portland, where she is employed as a bookkeeper.

In the northwest, Joseph Pfaff was employed at the Washington State School for the Deaf at Vancouver, WA, until his death in 1963. Regina worked at the same school for a time until her marriage to Joseph Sutherland. Currently, she is confined to a wheelchair in a Vancouver nursing home.



Regina and Joe Pfaff



**OLSON'S SUPER VALU**  
ALMONT, NORTH DAKOTA

**CONGRATULATIONS ALMONT**

## BEN RAMSLAND

Ben, son of Theo. and Mrs. Ramsland, was born Dec. 8, 1904. Part of his schooling was in River Falls, WI, where he also did construction work. In 1937 he started buying cream in Almont for Bridgeman Russel Co. of Mandan. He was inducted into the army in 1942, stationed for awhile at Anchorage, AK, and was shipped out to the North Pacific Islands. He attended officer's training and airborne school in Georgia and was discharged July 4, 1945. On Oct. 5, 1945, he



Ben Ramsland

was appointed postmaster at Almont. He built a new postoffice in 1959. He retired from postal duty in December 1974, having been postmaster for 29 years. He has served as finance officer for the local Legion Post for 31 years; secretary-treasurer for Almont Credit Union 20 years; secretary-treasurer, Almont Rural Fire Dist., 15 years; offices in Sims Lutheran Church; office in Almont Commercial Club and has served eight years as city auditor.

Ben has made three trips to Norway; there he spends most of his time with his mother's brother, Herman Gabrielson at Lyngdal.

Ben has collected antiques for many years. He recently donated the Almont Museum building to the Almont Historical Society. Ben has some real estate property in Florida and New Mexico.

## TENIUS RAMSLAND

Tenius Ramsland was born Dec. 21, 1878, in Norway. He came to the United States with his parents, Ben and Anna Ramsland, in 1881 and on Nov. 18 of

that year his mother carried him on her back across the frozen Missouri River at Bismarck. There was as yet no bridge and their party was first to venture across on the ice that year. They came on a freight train to Sims; there his dad worked in the coal mines and his mother ran a boarding house. After living in Sims for about eight years, the family moved to their ranch 12 miles southwest of Sims. Here Tenius grew to man-



Susie & Tenius Ramsland

hood. He later moved to a nearby farm (George Reichel), where he operated a coal mine.

On April 28, 1912, he married Susie Wohlman who was born March 3, 1895, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Wohlman. They lived on several different farms and Tenius had a threshing machine and threshed for the neighborhood. They later moved to a new farm in the Ramsland hills where they farmed, raised sheep and cattle until they moved to Almont in the

30's. After moving to Almont, Tenius was a McNess dealer and traveled from farm to farm selling his products.

Tenius organized the first country telephone line out of Almont in 1925. They were members of the Sims Lutheran Church.

Tenius passed away March 5, 1965, at the age of 87 years and Susie passed away Oct. 30, 1965, at age 70.

They had the following children: Lucille (Mrs. Ed Reeff), Bismarck, born August 21, 1914, Children - Coralyn (Mrs. Clyde Hoovestol), Charleen (Mrs. Albert Duppong), Charles (deceased), Carlylle. Elvira (Mrs. Sam Thiel), Almont, born Sept. 21, 1915, Sons - Donovan and Dwayne. Luella (Mrs. Bert Johnson), Jamestown, born Sept. 2, 1916, deceased, Children - Darrel, Douglas and Bonnie. Adolph, born Sept. 15, 1919, deceased July 1967, married to Dorothy Gregory, Children - Greg, Pam and Tina Marie. Laura (Mrs. Bud Thompson), Lewiston, ID, born Dec. 10, 1924, Children - Charmaine, Terry, Dale, Tandy and Susan.

## MR. AND MRS. THEODORE RAMSLAND



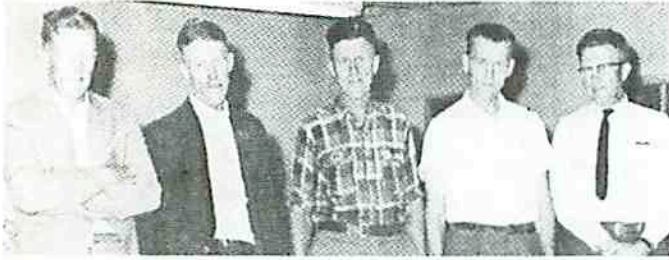
1899 - Theo. and Elaine

Born at Sannes, Lyngdal, Norway, Oct. 8, 1866, he came to Sims, ND, in May 1883 and worked in the Sims coal mine and later at the Sims brickyard. About 1886 the brickyard failed and he took up farm work. He also picked buffalo bones, which were plentiful at that time, and sold them to the bone market. Settlers at that time were 12 to 15 miles apart, at a distance of 10 miles away from the railroad tracks. He later worked on the railroad as a section worker during the summer of 1888.

There was very little hay to put up in those days because of the many prairie fires that swept the country every fall and sometimes in late summer.

In 1895 he purchased 160 acres of land 10 miles southwest of Sims, about 7 miles from Almont, for \$2.50 an acre and homesteaded another 160 acres in 1906. This constituted his home farm for 55 years.

Mrs. Ramsland (nee Elene Gabrielson) was born at Lyngdal, Norway, Dec. 6, 1883. She came to Sims with Mr. and Mrs. Tobias Olson and was also accompanied by Theodore Ramsland who had made a trip to his native Norway for a visit during the winter of



1962 - Ole, Hogan, Toby, Benny and Fred

1899. They arrived at Sims May 10, 1899.

Elene Gabrielson and Theodore Ramsland were married in the Sims Lutheran Church on May 17, 1899, and moved to the farm shortly afterwards. They celebrated their golden wedding May 17, 1949, at the same church.

There are five boys in the family: Fred, born July 1902, taught school from 1927 to 1950. He was then elected Morton County surveyor, a position he held for 12 years. During World War II he served as radio technician in the Army Signal Corps. In 1962 he married Neva Cederholm Morrow in River Falls, WI, where they still live. They spend some time each year in the new home they built in Almont.

Ben, born Dec. 8, 1904. (separate history)

Tobias was born March 10, 1907. He taught school for a few years and was inducted into the armed forces in World War II and had overseas duty in the air force. He taught school again after returning. He retired from farming in 1978 and now lives in Almont with his brother, Ole.

Hogan, born Sept. 1909, remained on the farm where he was a weather observer for the U.S. Weather Bureau for 20 years. He passed away July 18, 1967.

Ole, born July 11, 1912, remained at home to assist with the farm operations. Ole was in the poultry business for a number of years. He moved to Almont and is living with his brother, Toby.

Theodore passed away September 1960 and Mrs. Ramsland in March 1956.

### MR. AND MRS. EDMUND REEFF

Ed was born March 9, 1913, to Joe and Margaret (Wehri) Reeff of Glen Ullin. He grew up in the hay-marsh area north of Glen Ullin. When Ed was quite young his father passed away; Ed therefore went to

work as a farm laborer at an early age. He found work on a farm near Almont.

Lucille Ramsland was born Aug. 21, 1914. She is the eldest child of Tenius and Susie (Wohlman) Ramsland. She attended school in Olin district and later Almont High School.

Ed and Lucille were married in 1932. The first years were spent on



Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Reeff

farms. They had four children: Coralyn married Clyde Hoovestol and they have five children; Charleen married Albert Duppong and has five children; Charles married Cheryl Carson, he passed away at age 27, his wife is now Mrs. Sam NewMiller; Carlyle married Shirley Graner and they have two boys. Ed and Lucille have three great grandchildren.

A quote from Lucille: "We enjoyed our years in and about Almont. Ed was fire chief, clerk of the school board for 12 years, mail carrier from Almont to North Almont and New Salem for 21 years, school janitor 17 years, auditor for the village of Almont and trustee of the local Lutheran church. I was a member of the Almont Homemaker's Club and 4-H leader. We moved to Bismarck July 1968. It was hard to leave family and friends in Almont. During our 12 years in Bismarck we have not found people like those in Almont. We are still part-time custodians and I work in the mornings as a cook's helper and really enjoy it. We live in a mobile home and are able to visit our children often. In 1968 I passed a General Education Department test so I have my high school diploma from good old Almont High!

"In 1982 Ed and I will celebrate 50 years of glorious married life. We are enjoying what is known as the Golden Years.

"As I started to write this I was in the clouds for two reasons: I was somewhere up there 29,000 feet above sea level coming home from Lewiston, ID, where I visited my sister, Laura (Mrs. Bud Thompson), and family; the other reason was knowing that Almont is 75 and still alive!"

## The Morton and Oliver Counties Fire and Lightning Insurance Company

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## FRED REETZ

Fred Reetz was born in Hebron, ND, Dec. 16, 1891, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Reetz. His parents were poor, as were most of the other immigrants. At the age of six, Fred started to work on a farm for his room and board. He was a cheerful lad and, regardless of his hardships, he did not complain but did his work faithfully. In the spring of 1908, Fred's father needed his assistance at home. Although the work was hard, he was glad he could be home with his parents.

At the age of 10, Fred decided that he wanted to go to school and learn to read and write. His mother had taught him a few of the principles of reading and writing, but he was not satisfied with only that. During the cold winter months he walked 1½ miles to a little country school house. He continued his education until he graduated from elementary school. Fred had an earnest desire to attend high school, however, since they lived 12 miles from the closest town, he was unable to do so. From 1905 to 1908 Fred worked for farmers and saved his wages with which he later rented a farm near his home. After several years of hard labor and hardships, he saved enough money to buy the farm. Fred was tired of living alone and yearned for companionship. He met and fell in love with the country schoolteacher and after being engaged for two years, he and Martha Krueger were married on June 8, 1918, in a little country church near Hebron. His farm home was now complete.

They moved to the Almont community in 1922 and lived on a farm south of Almont for several years. Later they moved to Almont and Fred worked for the Timpe Dray Line for 10 years.

In 1928 Mrs. Reetz passed away from complications following the birth of their sixth child. Even in his sorrow he realized and met his responsibilities. He now had to take the place of both father and mother to his five children. His sister-in-law adopted the little baby. For several years the other children, except Laura who remained with her dad, stayed with relatives. Marvin and Ardella stayed with their mother's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Kuschel, on a farm near Hebron. Delbert made his home with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Reetz, and Elda stayed with an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Darell Muncey, at Dazey, ND. Fred Reetz and Laura made their home with the H.G. Timpe family for a time. In about 1934 the family was together again with their dad who brought them up to be a fine, well respected family.

Fred worked as a janitor in the Almont school for 12 years. Here he could more easily give his children the opportunity for a better education.

Fred's oldest son died when he was a sophomore in high school. Fred, jolly and good natured, was changed to a sad, bereaved man. In due time he was his old self again, realizing that there was still some good in the world ... he still had four children to support and a host of friends.

Fred also worked as a janitor of the village church.



Fred Reetz

He was employed by the Farmers Union elevator in New Salem for a couple of years, did some trucking and was assistant mail carrier on the Star Route from Bismarck to the South Dakota line.

He made his home with his daughter, Elda Brinkman, and her two daughters - Beverly (Mrs. James Walth, Mandan), and Ardys (Mrs. Charles Dohman), Fargo.

Fred was a member of the Almont Lutheran Church, of which he was the custodian for many years.

Life for both young and old in Almont was made more enjoyable by having Fred about to give a cheerful smile, lend a helping hand, or just to play a clever trick on someone. Fred was a pal to everyone.

Fred was not considered a great man in the history of our nation, but he was a great man in history to the people of Almont.

The people of Almont were saddened by the death of Fred Reetz on Oct. 10, 1958. He was a highly respected citizen and friend to everyone. All children loved Fred and his cheerful words were always welcomed by the shut-ins he visited regularly. Fred is greatly missed, but long remembered.

Fred's children: Mrs. Earl (Laura) Ericksen, Seattle, WA; Elda Brinkman, Bismarck; Mrs. Robert (Ardella) Seibert, Clear Lake, MN; Delbert, Des Moines, IA, and Mrs. George (Betty) Knox, Council Bluffs, IA. He had 17 grandchildren.

## LEROY REINHARDT FAMILY



LeRoy Reinhardt family

LeRoy Reinhardt, son of Jacob Reinhardt and Erna (Buchfink) Reinhardt, was born Aug. 8, 1941. He attended grade school at rural Hazen and began farming with his father. At age 16 he began playing drums with a neighborhood band and has been playing since then.

In the fall of 1973 his parents retired and he bought the Reinhardt homestead. The fall of 1978 the farm was sold and Oct. 8, 1978, the family bought the Wallace Anderson ranch and moved to Almont, where he is engaged in ranching. LeRoy graduated from the Western College of Auctioneering, Billings,

MT, in December of 1979 and is presently a licensed auctioneer. He has been a drummer with "The Valley Troopers", a country western band, the past five years. The band has just completed their first record album.

Connie Mittelstadt Reinhardt, daughter of Arthur Mittelstadt and Irena Schaper Mittelstadt, was born at Killdeer, ND, on July 30, 1945. In 1950 the family moved to a farm north of Halliday where she attended rural schools, graduating from Halliday High School in 1962.

LeRoy and Connie were married June 21, 1963, at Peace Lutheran Church, Hazen, ND. They have two children: Colleen, born at Hazen on Sept. 17, 1967, an eighth grader at the Almont school and a member of the Almont Luther League. She began playing and singing in her dad's band this fall, 1980.

John, born Nov. 24, 1972, at Hazen, is in the 2nd grade at the Almont school.

The family are members of the Almont Lutheran Church; LeRoy is a member of the Commercial Club and Connie is a member and present secretary of the Almont PTO, Almont Lutheran ALCW and the Almont Homemakers Club.



Lawrence Renner family

Larry, born in 1947, attended Almont schools, graduated in 1965 and attended Wahpeton School of Science for two years. He has since been a refrigeration man for Bridgeman Dairy in Bismarck, ND, where he resides.

Daniel, born in 1948, attended Almont schools, graduated in 1966 and served three years in the army stationed in Germany. He married Donna Mae Salwei of Zeeland, ND, in 1973 and lives in Bismarck. They have one son, David. Daniel is a salesman for Dubois Industrial Chemical Co.

Tommy, born in 1953, was an invalid and passed away in 1970.

Kathryn, born in 1957, attended Almont schools, graduated from high school in 1975 and married Dean Bachler in 1976. They live on a farm southwest of Almont and have two sons - Joey and Mark.

Julie, born in 1965, is a sophomore in high school.

## LAWRENCE RENNER FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Renner

Goldie Stiler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Stiler and Lawrence Renner, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Renner, were married Feb. 17, 1944, at Richardton, ND. They lived in the St. Joe area where Goldie taught school. Lawrence was drafted into the army in November of 1944 and later Goldie moved home to stay with her parents. In September of 1946, Lawrence was discharged from the service and they moved to a farm southwest of Glen Ullin in the St. Peter and Paul community. Here Goldie taught school and they farmed until 1951 when they moved to a farm west of Almont, known as the Axel Nelson farm. In 1963 they moved into Almont where Lawrence drove a school bus and a milk route. He later worked as manager of the Farmers Supply Inc. In 1968 Lawrence started driving the mail route between Almont and New Salem and, in 1972, acquired the two mail routes out of Almont. Goldie was hired as clerk of the Almont postoffice in 1975 and in 1979 became postmaster.

Their children are: Mary Ann, born in 1945, attended Almont schools, graduated from high school in 1963, worked for the State Highway Dept., and married Tharen Kilen in 1966. They have three children: Dawn Marie, Cindy and James. They live west of Mandan, ND.

Congratulations to Almont on its 75th

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Albert E. Bethke



## CLAUDE AND MINNIE RITZ



Claude, Minnie, LaVonne, Janice, Marvin, Audrey and Leroy Ritz

Claude Ritz, son of Carl and May Ritz, was born July 30, 1911, on a farm south of New Salem. In 1933 he married Minnie Fulton, born to Minda and Julius Fulton on March 1, 1914. Minnie's mother died shortly after and Minnie was raised by her grandparents, the Severt Olsons of Almont. She attended Almont schools and graduated from high school in 1932.

On March 1, 1933, she married Claude Ritz. They lived on a farm south of New Salem for 13 years and operated a coal mine on the Oscar Bethke farm. They moved to New Salem for two years and in 1947 they moved to Almont. They operated a farm south of Almont, retiring two years ago.

Claude has been mayor of Almont for 13 years.

Claude and Minnie have five children: Audrey was born in Flasher on Jan. 15, 1934. She married Cleon Striegel Oct. 8, 1954, and their children are -Mark, Dennis (deceased), Brad and Susan. They lived on a farm south of Almont until they sold out and moved to Joliet, MT, where Cleon is employed by Boise Cascade Building Company.

Leroy (twin) was born on a farm south of New Salem on May 25, 1936. On Jan. 26, 1957, he married Bonnee Christianson and they have two children -Paula (Mrs. Errol Schmidt), who lives in Mandan, and Monty, at home on the farm south of Almont.

LaVonne (twin), born on a farm south of New Salem on May 25, 1936. She married Leonard Hunter on June 7, 1961, and they have a daughter, Laurie.

Marvin was born in New Salem on Feb. 27, 1938. He married Carol Hauge Oct. 7, 1961, and they have three daughters - Lynnea, Lisa and Sherry. They live on a farm south of Almont.

Janice was born on a farm south of New Salem. She married Leonard Olson May 17, 1963, and they have a son, Scott. They live in Concord, CA.



## MR. AND MRS. LEROY A. RITZ



Leroy and Bonnee Ritz, Paula and Monty

Leroy Arthur Ritz, son of Claude and Minnie Ritz, was born May 25, 1936, on a farm south of New Salem. He attended school in New Salem for two years and then the family moved to Almont, in 1945. He was confirmed at the Almont Lutheran Church and graduated from Almont High School in 1955.

On Jan. 26, 1957, he married Bonnee Lee Christianson, daughter to Clarence and Norma Christianson. Bonnee and Leroy's wedding was the first wedding in the new Lutheran church. Bonnee was born Jan. 14, 1939, at Billings, MT, was confirmed at the Sims Lutheran Church and graduated from Almont High in 1956.

The couple have two children: Paula Jean, born Dec. 2, 1957, at Bismarck, confirmed at Almont Lutheran Church, graduated in 1976 from Almont High and married Errol Gene Schmidt on June 14, 1980; they make their home in Mandan.

Monty Jay Ritz was born Sept. 11, 1959, at Bismarck. He was confirmed at Almont Lutheran Church and graduated from Almont High in 1977.

The Ritz family lives on a farm eight miles southeast of Almont.

## CAROL AND MARVIN RITZ



Sherry, Marvin, Carol, Lisa and Lynnea Ritz

Marvin Ritz, son of Claude and Minnie (Fulton) Ritz, was born Feb. 27, 1938. He graduated from Almont High in 1956 and worked for Boeing Aircraft Co. in Washington until 1957 when he returned home and formed a cattle and grain trucking partnership with Alden Olson. In 1958 Marvin bought the Nels Becklund farm six miles south of Almont.

Carol Hauge Ritz was born March 15, 1940, to Arnold and Gertrude McLean Hauge of Leith. She attended high school in Leith from 1955-1956. From 1956-1958 she stayed with her aunt and uncle,

Clarence and Irene Jacobson, at Sims and graduated from Almont. Carol attended Capital Commercial College in Bismarck and after graduation worked for the Department of Public Instruction at the Capital and later at KFVR-TV writing television commercials. She is now a teller at the Almont branch of the Security State Bank of New Salem.

In 1961 Marvin and Carol were married. They have three daughters: Lynnea (Aug. 11, 1962), a student at NDSSS; Lisa (Feb. 16, 1963), and Sherry (Feb. 15, 1967), students at Almont High School.

## BERNT ROLSTAD

Born in Norway in 1840, Mr. Rolstad came to this community from Minnesota about 1890 and filed on a homestead 16 miles south of Sims on the Crown Butte Creek. He continued to live there and was never married.

In 1929 Mr. Rolstad went to Fargo to enter an old folk's home, where he passed away in 1931.

In the early years here, Mr. Rolstad was engaged in ranching and he was the first one to grow alfalfa in this part of the country.



Mr. Bernt Rolstad

## DON SCHERMERHORN

Don Schermerhorn was born Sept. 10, 1936, in Newton, IA. His parents were Edgar and Lucille Bauer Schermerhorn. He has two brothers, Gary and Craig, and two sisters, Karyl and Kay. He attended school in Newton, IA, and joined the army in 1953.

Pat Hardenburgh was born Dec. 30, 1936, in Baxter, IA, to Lorren and June (Townsend) Hardenburgh. She has one brother, Roy, and one sister, Mary Beth. She graduated from high school in 1955 at Monroe, IA.

Don and Pat were married in LeGrand, IA, on June 10, 1963, and lived in Newton for a year. He drove truck and she worked as a bookkeeper for a Chevrolet agency. They moved to Long Beach, CA, in 1964. Don worked as an auto mechanic and Pat as an auto bookkeeper. They lived there for 12 years.

In 1975 they moved to Almont, bought the bar from Bob and Char Timpe and took over July 1, 1975. Don drives truck part-time.

Don is a member of the American Legion and is on the City Council. Pat is secretary for the American Legion Auxiliary. She is interested in art and does a lot of painting. She is a member of the area Art Association and the Bismarck Art Association.



Pat and Don Schermerhorn

## FRANCOIS (FRANK) SCHOLLAERT FAMILY


Francois Schollaert, born April 26, 1843, at Aspelare, Belgium, and Melanie Huysmans, born May 28, 1848, at Everbecg, Belgium, were married in 1865. Mr. Schollaert was a coal miner and worked at various coal mines. Seven children were born to them while in Belgium. They were: Joseph, born March 25, 1866, at Gilly; Mathilda, Feb. 17, 1871, at Gilley and died April 30, 1875; Ida, Nov. 10, 1872, Montigny; Prudence, Aug. 6, 1874, Montigny; Francois, Aug. 13, 1876, Montigny; and Matilda Marie, May 13, 1878, at Charleroi.

In 1882 the family immigrated to the United States. Mr. Schollaert naturally went to the coal country at Larimore, PA. While there the third son, James, was born on Aug. 8, 1883.

Hearing later of the free land to be homesteaded in the middle west, they decided there would be a better future on a farm of their own. So, in 1884, they moved to Sims, ND, which was a large boomtown with coal mines ... besides it had the best and largest spring of water in the state. The family lived in Sims until a homestead was located three miles northeast of Sims. The father and son were both employed at the coal mine and the two oldest daughters worked away from home; funds were saved to build a two-room frame house on the homestead. The mother, with the help of the younger children, built a sod lean-to on the house to make more room for the family.

It is interesting to note that Mrs. Schollaert, after she arrived in America, taught herself to read, write and speak the American language by having the children bring their lessons from school and go over them with her in the evening. After a few years, French was no longer spoken in the home and the younger children were not taught the French language.

Later on they built a larger home of native sandstone. This is still standing on the original homestead, although it has been abandoned for many years and the inside is completely gone. The Schollaerts were real pioneers, suffering the hardships of poverty, cold winters, dry summers and crop failures. Prairie fires were a constant threat and fire almost destroyed the family home. During their years, Mathilda Marie died (Nov. 30, 1897) at Dickinson and the youngest daughter, Alice Emogene, was born Aug. 19, 1887.



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

**PAT SCHERMERHORN**  
Box 155  
Almont, ND 58520  
843-7939

Mr. Schollaert became very ill and went back to Belgium where in three weeks he died, Sept. 13, 1900, and was buried at Aspelaere, Belgium. Mrs. Schollaert operated the family farm until her retirement and she moved to Havre, MT. She died at the home of her son James in April of 1922.

The oldest son, Joseph, who homesteaded near his parent's home, lived there until he died in January of 1939.

Marie, Mrs. John White of Kalispell, MT, lived to be 98 years old and died July 7, 1967. Ida, Mrs. N.W. Sarles, Kalispell, died Jan. 22, 1956, at Hot Springs, MT. Prudence, Mrs. John Carrich, lived in Saskatchewan, Canada, and died at New Westminster, B.C., April 23, 1968. Frank Jr. retired at New Salem and died July 31, 1965. James, a retired railroad engineer of Havre, MT, is deceased, and Alice, Mrs. Fred W. Nagel, died July 1, 1971, and is buried at New Salem, ND.

## JOSEPH SCHOLLAERT FAMILY

Joseph Schollaert was born at Gilly, Belgium, March 25, 1866, to Francois and Melanie Huysmans Schollaert. In 1882 he came to the United States with his parents, sisters and brothers to Larimer, PA. After two years, in 1884, they emigrated to Sims, ND, the "boomtown" where fame had reached the eastern boundaries of the United States. Joseph traveled around the country for several years working at his trade as a coal miner. He was married to Lilly Mae Jones, October 1889, at Girard, KS. Their only son, Roy, was born at Roslyn, WA, Dec. 19, 1891. They returned to Sims where they lived for awhile. While

there Lilly Mae and baby son went to visit her parents in Kansas. While there she contracted yellow fever and died Dec. 3, 1893. Joe later met and married Idella Ellis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Ellis of Mustic, IA, Sept. 22, 1895. A son, Curtis, was born to them at Bevier, MO, on Nov. 29, 1898. In 1900 they returned to Sims with the two boys, Roy and Curtis. He filed claim to a homestead adjoining that of his father where he built a house and farmstead where he lived until his death. Idella died May 28, 1932, and Joe died Jan. 29, 1939.

He was active in politics and was the president of the Farmers Elevator, New Salem, ND, at the time of his death.

The children born on the farm were: Ellis, born March 14, 1902, died as a result of a car accident July 5, 1927; Eva, July 6, 1904, never married, died Nov. 10, 1961; Lee, May 28, 1906, lives with his wife, Alpha, in Phoenix, AZ; Lloyd, Sept. 12, 1908, married Victoria Feland, died at Billings, MT, Dec. 5, 1947; William, Nov. 15, 1910, died while in the regular army, Feb. 9, 1965, at Fort Benning, GA; Debs, Sept. 7, 1912, lived with his only sister on the farm, died July 27, 1968. The oldest boy, Roy, never married and died at Missoula, MT, Sept. 26, 1963. Curtis died of the flu on Dec. 1, 1918.

The farm was sold and the buildings abandoned.

## REINHART SCHWEMMER FAMILY



Lydia and Reinhart Schwemmer

Reinhart Schwemmer, son of Dave and Katie Schriok Schwemmer, was born Dec. 30, 1896, in the Volga area of Russia. During the Revolution of 1913, the family escaped from Russia, coming to America May 14, 1913. Money had been sent to them by Rhiny's brother from Mountain Lake, MN, where the family had settled.

In 1924 Rhiny moved to Carson, where he married Annie Bay of Carson. She was born June 14, 1908, to Fred and Anna Sokolofsky Bay. They had two daughters: Esther, born Nov. 8, 1924, and Annie, born Jan. 6, 1929. Esther married Adrian Sondag on Dec. 18, 1948. In 1929 Rhiny's wife, Annie, passed away and in 1933 he married Lydia Holwegner, born July 16, 1903, in Harvey, ND, to Jacob and Caroline Hauck Holwegner.

While living in Harvey, Lydia remembers her family had one horse and one cow with which they did their farming; the cow also provided milk for the family. They had five chickens penned off in one corner of the house and a wagon seat was the only chair they had.

## DON'S BAR

843-7939

Don and Pat Schermerhorn



On and Off Sale  
Beer • Wine • Liquor

Rhiny, Lydia and family moved to Almont in 1935 where they operated a bar until 1939 when they moved to a farm two miles southwest of town. In 1971 Rhiny retired from farming and they moved back into Almont. He passed away in 1973. They had one son, Marville, born in 1936 and two daughters who died in infancy.

Marville married Lois Curry, daughter of Daniel and Helen Curry, Tucson, AZ, on Sept. 19, 1969. They have two daughters, Lauri and Shelly, and a son, Daniel, and live on the Schwemmer farm. Lydia continues to live in Almont where she is a member of the Almont Lutheran Church.



### MR. AND MRS. NELS O. SEIM

Nels O. Seim, born Oct. 30, 1880, at Decorah, IA, moved with his parents to Nebraska in 1881. In 1887 they moved across the country in a covered wagon to Capitol, MT.

In 1893 the family moved to what is now Shadehill, SD, living in that territory until moving to Almont, ND, in 1910. In 1903 Nels started freighting groceries, lumber, posts and wire from the old town of Sims, back to South Dakota. Each trip with lumber wagons and horses would take at least a week; three days each way and one for buying the supplies. When Almont started in 1906, he freighted from there. This was continued until 1907 when the town of Lemmon, SD, started.



Selma and Nels Seim

Selma T. Olson was born Dec. 5, 1892, at Sims, ND. At the age of nine, she moved with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rickart Olson, to the homestead ... now the Melvin Olson farm, living there until her marriage to Nels Seim on Oct. 6, 1910. They resided on the former Rudolph Feland farm for the next 49 years.

In 1959, Nels and Selma retired from the farm, moved to Almont and bought the Nyquist house, where they lived until the spring of 1962 when it was destroyed by fire. They bought the Fred Reetz house on Main Street, where Selma still resides.

Seims celebrated their golden wedding at the Sims church on Oct. 9, 1960, where their wedding had also been held.

Nels passed away July 3, 1964, at a Bismarck Hospital of a stroke. He was laid to rest in the Almont Cemetery on July 7.

Selma keeps herself busy doing much hand work, reading and going to Mission Circle, ALCW and Senior Citizens group. She has three daughters who are: Mrs. Elmer (Beatrice) Wanstrom, (four children), making her home with her; Mrs. Oscar (Cora) Monson, (two children), and Mrs. Johan (Ruth) Kilen, (five children), on the home farm. She has 15 great-grandchildren.

FOOTNOTE: Mrs. Seim passed away Feb. 26, 1981.

### DON AND MARION SHANNON

Donald Shannon was born in Frazee, MN, Jan. 14, 1921, to Mr. and Mrs. James Shannon. He served 3½ years in the U.S. Army in World War II in the Pacific Theater. Don is a salesman for Northland Restaurant Supply Co. His four children are: Coleen, Danville, CA; Kay, St. Paul, MN; Keith, Bismarck, and Beth, attending the University of Minnesota, Morris, MN.



Mr. & Mrs. Donald Shannon

Don and Marion Bond Anderson were married Aug. 25, 1978, in Almont where they reside.

### JOHN SHARFF FAMILY

John Sharff was born in Jones Spring, WV, July 20, 1871. His wife, Mary Everhardt, also of West Virginia, was born in 1874. Two children, Wilbur and Nellie, were born in West Virginia. They moved to Woodstock, OH; while there Nellie died of diphtheria at the age of nine. In 1903 they came to North Dakota and in 1907 took a homestead four miles southwest of Almont. In 1922 they discontinued farming and moved to Almont. For a few years John operated a meat market in Almont and, until retiring, had a Rawleigh Products business. Two more children, Helen and Kenneth, were born after coming to Almont. Mr. Sharff passed away in 1952 at age 81 and Mrs. Sharff died in 1961 at age 87.

Wilbur married Katie Wohlman of Almont. They had one daughter, Enita, who married Willard Bahr, Almont. Katie passed away in 1927 at age 28. Wilbur died in 1966 at age 72. Wilbur was a well driller in the Almont area for many years.

Helen married Waldemar Hansen of Almont. They had two children, Wyman and Fontabelle (Mrs. Leonard Clapp). They all live in Seattle, WA.

Kenneth married Vivian Wolf of Flasher, ND. They have nine children: Darlene, Dale, Marvis, Vonda, Lee, Bonnie, Gaylen, Larry and Lida. They live in Seattle, WA.

### KENNETH SHARFF

Kenneth, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sharff, was born Nov. 16, 1906, on a farm southwest of Almont. He spent most of his younger life there on the farm. He attended a grade school in the country and went into Almont for high school. In his younger years he worked on farms and worked with his brother, Wilbur, digging wells in the surrounding area. Later he bought a well machine of his own and did quite a bit of work near Flasher and Lark.



Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sharff

In 1928 Kenneth and Vivian were married and lived in Almont for several years. In 1942 Kenneth and his family moved to Le-

high and he worked in the Lehigh Briqueting plant for three years before going to work for Rev. Reuben Will of the Dickinson Housemoving Co. He worked for this company for a number of years before moving to Seattle.

In Seattle he was a repairman for the Mall Tool Co. and Trace Electric. He also worked at Boeing Co. as mechanic until he retired. After retirement he built a small shop at his home where he does small tool repairing and also has many hobbies.

Their nine children are: Darlene Dunlap, Mt. Lake Terrace, WA; Dale, Denver, CO; Mavis Floyd, Columbus, GA; Janice Kostelecky, Missoula, MT; Lila Lou, Kirkland, WA; Vanda Hedberg, Bonnie and Larry, all of Seattle.

The Sharffs do lots of camping, fishing and traveling and each year finds them visiting relatives and friends in North Dakota, Minnesota and Colorado.

Their church home is the Westminster Assembly of God church in Seattle.

## WILBER AND KATIE SHARFF

In 1921 Wilber Sharff and Katie Wohlman were married and lived southwest of Almont. They had two children: Lenworth and Enita. Lenworth passed away in infancy. They moved to Almont and Dec. 20, 1927, Katie passed away. Wilber and Enita continued to live in Almont where Wilber was a well driller for many years.

During World War II, Wilber moved to Seattle, WA, and was a welder on the warships. When the war ended, he bought and operated a gas station in Seattle for awhile. He decided to move back to Almont and he built a house and continued to live there until his death in 1966.

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CLIFF'S SALES



## MR. AND MRS. J.R. SHERWOOD

Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Sherwood came to North Dakota from Washington, IA, stopping for a short time in New Salem.

When Almont was started in 1906, the family came here and opened a restaurant. Later they operated one of Almont's two hotels. Mr. Sherwood also took over the Casserly Hardware Store. The Sherwoods had a homestead south of Almont and, in 1934, retired and moved into Almont where they made their home until their deaths.



Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Sherwood

James R. Sherwood was born Oct. 17, 1867, and passed away Oct. 1, 1952. His wife, Phoebe, was born March 12, 1865, and died Feb. 28, 1940. Their four children were Ruth (deceased); Ross, a veteran of WWI who gave his life for his country, dying in Siberia, Russia; Carl and William.

## MR. AND MRS. EDGAR SKJOLSVIK



Edgar Skjolsvik



Edith Skjolsvik



Muriel, Ronald and Carol

Edgar Skjolsvik was born Jan. 5, 1904, in Minneapolis, MN. At the age of four years, he came with his folks, two sisters and two brothers to settle on a farm 17 miles west of New England, ND.

Edith B. Malone was born Aug. 17, 1904, in Columbus City, IN. At the age of four she came to North Dakota with her folks, Otis and Etta (Anthes) Malone, and her three sisters, Katherine (Mrs. George Kaelberer), New Salem, ND; Ruth (Mrs. Stan Abraham), New Salem, ND, and Mary (Mrs. Harold Weiss), Santa Rosa, CA (now deceased).

Edith graduated from Almont High School in the year 1921. She attended Dickinson State College and taught school in the Rocky Ridge school district

for a few years, then went to New England where she also taught school. There she met Edgar and they were married Dec. 22, 1928, in Mandan, ND, with Rev. Fylling officiating at the wedding.

After their marriage they moved to the Otis Malone farm where they lived until 1935. They then purchased the Grover Bahr farm located 6½ miles south of Almont.

Ronald, the oldest child, lives at Fort Worth, TX, and owns his own carpet business and store. Ronald has five children. His oldest daughter, Karen, attends college and is employed as a social worker at Fort Worth; Valerie is married to Joe Seagraves and they live at Fort Worth; Jason is a high school graduate and is working with Ronald, his dad; Douglas is employed with the carpet firm also and Eric is attending high school.

Muriel is married to Alvin Bumann and lives in New Salem, ND. They have six children: Craig is married to Donna Toepke, graduated from New Salem High, joined the army and was a military policeman for three years, will be graduating from Minot State College this spring as will his wife, Donna; Kelly graduated from New Salem High and is now in the army stationed in Korea for 13 months; Cathy graduated from New Salem High and is now attending Dickinson State College; Kristi is a sophomore and Kerri an eighth grader attending New Salem High; Carol is in the third grade at New Salem Elementary.

Carol Skjolsvik died June 24, 1955, at the Bismarck Hospital at the age of 21 years. She was not married.

Edgar died Sept. 26, 1963. Edith taught school for

17½ years, most of these years were after her three children were older. She is still active in Senior Citizens, Almont Auxiliary, Ladies Aid, Almont Lutheran Church and is secretary of County Council on Aging and Mission Circle. Edith also taught Sunday School for over 20 years. She still lives on the farm.

## ELMER AND GRACE SMITH

Elmer A. Smith was born Feb. 12, 1922, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Smith in Almont. He attended rural schools in the Almont area and worked on farms in the Almont area until he was drafted into the army in 1942. He spent most of his time overseas and was discharged in 1946. He worked on the railroad for six years (1947-1953) and has been working for Morton County since then, 27 years. He married Grace Kilen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kilen, on June 20, 1947, and they have made their home in Almont most of this time.

Grace was born Jan. 23, 1930, in Curlew. She attended school in Curlew and Sims and completed the eighth grade. She has been working in the Almont school for the past 23 years as a hot lunch cook.

They have four children: Mrs. Mick (Linda) Just of New Salem, ND, two boys; Edith Smith of Denver, CO, one girl; Larry Smith of Dickinson, ND, works for Power Fuels Company, married Sheila Fleckinstein and they have two boys and a girl; Terry Smith of Bismarck, ND, works for Bridgeman Dairy, is married to Mary Grinsteiner and they have three girls.



Suzy Neuens, 10 years old, and Evelyn Neuens

Walt, Evelyn  
& Don Neuens

Anything  
Western

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A team roper learning all about team roping equipment. Grandson Tom learning from the old pro, Walt Neuens.

NEUENS' WESTERN SHOP