

LABOR DAY

On October 17, 1959, the Almont Steam Engine Club staged a Steam Threshers Reunion. Walter Timpe's steam engine had been repaired and painted by Walter, Joe Hoovestol, John Kouba, Axel Hoovestol, Carl Fallgren, Fred Ramsland and other members of the club and was ready for use. The club demonstrated steam threshing and enjoyed a reunion of old time threshers and others interested in threshing. The day was such a success they decided to have a two day celebration (Sunday and Labor Day) the following year. An estimated 500 people were in town for the event which included a parade (led by the steam engine), threshers dinner, program and steam threshing demonstrations. The third and fourth years, the Commercial Club and Legion assisted

in sponsoring the event.

Since 1963, the Commercial Club has been the sole sponsor for the event which now involves everyone in the community helping to make it the successful celebration it has become noted for. 2000 to 3000 people attend the event every year which always features steam threshing, with the smooth running steam engine providing the power. Other events include a program with old time fiddling, 4-H exhibits, street races, rodeo, music for listening and dancing in the park and other attractions. The day concludes with a dance at Legion Hall. Except for a couple years, the New Salem Band has always been in the parade.

The Labor Day Reunion seems to be a time to get together and renew old acquaintances and reminisce over the "good old days". Among the notables who have attended and pitched bundles are Governors Wm. Guy and Art Link and Senators Milton R. Young and Quentin Burdick.



The children all get their hands into the grain pouring from the threshing machine. This machine is an original steam thresher which was among the earlier models made. Every year at the Pioneer Days, this machine is brought out for another demonstration. (Pioneer Photo)

Pioneer Day

1969



Mrs. Joe Hoovestol seems to be enjoying the song she is playing as she performs at the program in the Almont school gymnasium. (Pioneer Photo)



Sig Peterson stands before the large crowd which filled the Almont school gymnasium at the Almont Pioneer Days in Almont on Labor Day. Peterson was the spokesman for the fiddlers who performed at the program. (Pioneer Photo)



Huge Crowd Attends Labor Day Reunion

1975

A beautiful day last Monday helped towards the success of Almont's 16th annual Labor Day Reunion. An estimated 2000 or more people attended the event and joined in the festivities of the day, meeting friends from far and near. People from several states and many communities in North Dakota registered.

The parade, led by the Legion Color Guard, was enjoyed by many. The 7th Cavalry from Carson, beautiful floats, horse drawn vehicles and old time machinery, made the parade very interesting. The New Salem High School Band provided peppy music and favored the crowd with a couple numbers on main street.

The school gym was packed for the morning program which started with some tunes by the Old Time Fiddlers, Punch Timpo Rudy Feland, Chris Halvorson and Sig Peterson with Joel Johnson on the guitar and Marge Peterson on the piano. This was followed by a sing-a-long led by Mrs. Marshall Feland, and a welcome by Commercial Club president, Marshall Feland. A pageant, Our Heritage, was presented by the Almont, Live and Learn and Busy Bees homemakers Clubs. It depicted in costume, music and narration, the forming of the Almont Community by different nationalities. The pageant was narrated by Mrs. Roman Peterson with Mrs. Sig Peterson at the piano. Soloists were Grace Nelson, Eleanor Ritz, and Mrs. Marshall Feland. Chorus members were Mrs. Feland, Mrs. Dick Bond, Mrs. Lester Feland, Mrs. Marvin Ritz, Mrs. Joel Johnson, and Mrs. Willard Rusch. Members of the cast were Mrs. Mark Willman, Mrs. Orville Schaaf, Eleanor Ritz, Tom Bond, (Indians); Ragna Barstad, Grace Nelson, Valborg Fisher, Mrs. Elmer Kaelberer and Mrs. Duane Hoovestol (Scandinavians); Mrs. Bob Feland, Lydia Schwemmer, Mrs. Martin Wershau, (Germans)

Mrs. Irwin Thiel, Mrs. Floyd Christianson, Mrs. Eddie Thiel, Mrs. Tharen Kilen and Kelly Thiel (Hungarian, German-Russian); Mrs. Leo Timpe and Mrs. Leo Keller (English); Mrs. Wally Anderson, Mrs. Warren Hoovestol, Mrs. Marshall Feland (Scottish); Mrs. Art Feland and Mrs. Gene Peterson, (Irish); Mrs. Alvin Peterson the preacher and Sig Peterson the fiddler. The pageant was very well received by an appreciative audience.

In a very impressive ceremony, the Bicentennial Flag was presented to the Almont community by Lt. Gov. Sanstead. Preceding the presentation, Miss Kathy Fricke, Assistant State Administrator of the N. D. American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, introduced the state administrator, Dan Salzman who presented Mayor Claude Ritz and Sig Peterson with Bicentennial pins. The two men also received, on behalf of the Almont community, a framed bicentennial certificate from Joe Albi, Regional Commissioner of the ARBC from Denver and the bicentennial flag from Lt. Gov. Wayne Sanstead. Almont received these honors and recognition for being a Bicentennial Community, the second community in Morton County to be so honored.

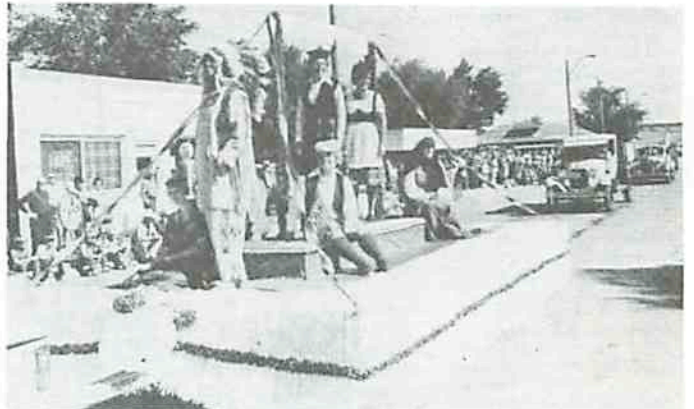
The afternoon program included foot races for the young people on main street, with many taking part. Steam threshing, heading grain, and horse races provided entertainment during the remainder of the afternoon. In late afternoon, folks gathered at the park to listen and dance to music provided by Tony Goetz and Alan Lennie.

An Art Show of oil paintings and ceramics by local people and 4-H exhibits by the members of Calico and Curlew 22 clubs, were on display all day and created much interest.

A free dance in the evening was sponsored by Ben Ramsland in recognition of his retirement as postmaster.



Lt. Gov. Wayne Sanstead [left] presents the Bicentennial Flag to the Community of Almont. Mayor Claude Ritz [2nd left] and Sig Peterson [right] hold the official flag.



The Our Heritage float depicted the many nationalities that settled Almont and the countryside.



Trygve Feland of Almont and his sister, Mrs. George Ferguson of Portland, Ore., ride in a turn of the century buggy during the parade. The clothes they are wearing are their parents wedding clothes worn in the 1890's.



the 7th Cavalry rides again! Carson's 7th Cavalry detachment preformed for the crowd during Almont's Labor Day parade.



Grant Johnson drives a 1918 Kelly Springfield World War I truck.

Labor Day Reunion Draws People From Far and Near

1977

Almont's annual Labor Day Reunion drew people from 15 states and 35 cities and towns in North Dakota. An estimated crowd of 2500 spent the day in Almont renewing old acquaintances, meeting new friends and taking in the activities of the day. The weather was most cooperative, providing the nicest day we'd had for weeks. The following day was cold, windy and rainy again. How could we be so lucky?!

Festivities started at 10 a.m. with a parade led by the Legion Colors Guard and the New Salem School Band who favored the crowd with their rousing tunes. After the parade, street races were held with Joel Johnson in charge.

A chicken Barbeque, fast food stands and a smorgasbord tried to satisfy the appetites of the hungry crowd which packed the streets at noon.

At 1 p.m. some of the crowd moved to the school gym where the program "Holidays and special events in Almont" was presented in song and script by a group of 25. Mrs. Roman Peterson read the script and Mrs. Sig Peterson was at the piano. The musical numbers included The Fiddlers (Sig, Rudy Feland, Chris Halvorson and Joel Johnson on guitar); Sig Peterson singing two Norse dialect songs; vocal solos by Mrs. Marshall Feland and Eleanor Ritz; vocal duet by Karen Olson and Ron Groninger; vocal trio with guitar accompaniment by Eleanor Ritz, Pam Bachler and Mary Erhardt; a vocal selection by the Bob Schubert family; the AHS Pep song and another selection by the School Band and five numbers by a mixed chorus of 18 voices. God Bless America was sung by the assembly. At the beginning of the program Marvin Olson, Commercial Club president, welcomed the audience and Sig Peterson introduced Dr. Leon Jacobson of Chicago, recipient of the 1976 North Dakota Rough Rider Award, who spoke briefly and thanked the people from this area for the honor bestowed upon him.

Another unusual number on the program was several old familiar selections by a male quartette. Three members of the quartette, Dr. Jacobson, Chris Halvorson and Sig Peterson, had organized a quartette in 1928 which met weekly for many years. Joel Johnson replaced the 4th member of the original quartette, who is deceased.

Other afternoon events included steam threshing with Punch and Leo Timpe operating the steam engine. Those who wished to bring back fond memories of an almost forgotten era, had a chance to do so by tossing bundles into the separator which threshed the grain.

Later in the day, rodeo events were held near the threshing site with Art Feland in charge. In late afternoon music in the park by Tony Goetz, Allyn Lennie and Sig, attracted many people who seem to enjoy an hour or so of relaxing to music, and if their feet were so inclined, they danced a little too.

During the day, people visited the Almont Arena, the Museum, Heritage Park, the

Arts and Crafts Exhibit and carnival booths operated by the Jaycees.

A big share of the crowd stayed for the dance at the Legion Hall that evening.

It was a big day and a very successful one. There were the familiar faces we see every Labor Day and many new ones too who said they'd be back again next year. We're pleased that people enjoy coming to Almont.



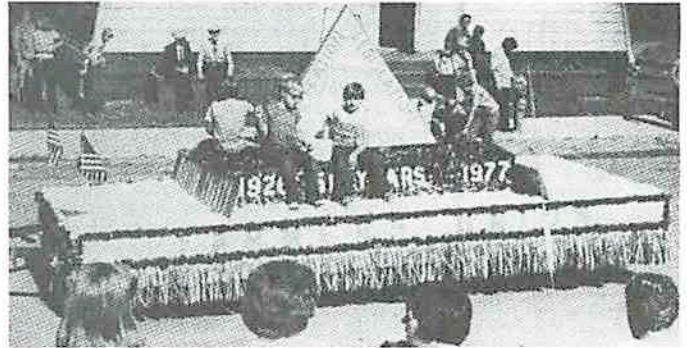
Retired area farmer, Philip Maier, 86, got into the act pitching bundles of grain at Almont's Steam Threshing Days over Labor Day.



Punch Timpe readies a steam tractor from an almost forgotten era.



The crowd filled both sides of Main Street for the parade and other festivities.



Just about anyone who wanted to pitch hay into the thresher could, [above], while anyone who wanted to play in the end results did, especially the children [below].





Senator Burdick in the parade, driven by Melvin Olson.



Governor Guy, Senator Young and Reverend Olsrud pitching bundles.



Senator Young and Melvin Olson.



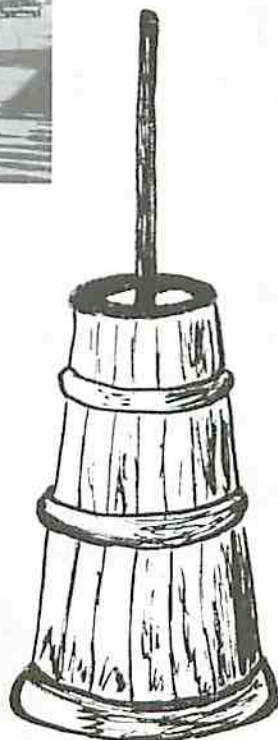
Fiddlers Governor Link, Punch Timpe, Chris Halvorson, Mrs. Pete Reader, Olaf Peterson, Rudy Feland, Joel Johnson and Sig Peterson.



New Salem Band.



Governor Link pitching bundles.



Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hansen.



Melvin, Leon, Ray and Morris Jacobson.



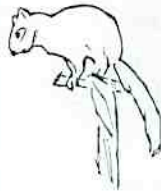
Peter Thorson and Fritz Hoeger, World War I veterans.



Fiddlers: Sig Peterson, Wm. Bethke, Punch Timpe, Joel Johnson and Rudy Feland.



Community Chorus - 1979



Labor Day Registration - 1970. Lillian Peterson, Joan Feland and Regina Nilles.



Almont LABOR DAY REUNION

Sept. 6, 1971
STEAM THRESHING



Parade at 10 a.m.

- New Salem High School Band
- Mandan Golden Age Kitchen Band
- 7th Cavalry Company C, Carson, N. Dak.

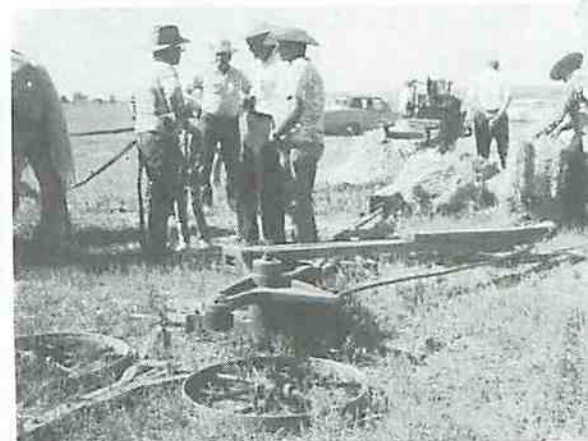
Program at School Gym at 11:00 a.m.

Noon Dinner at Legion Hall! Also lunch Stands and Picnic Facilities!

OLD TIME DANCE AT THE PARK IN LATE AFTERNOON
DANCE AT THE LEGION HALL IN THE EVENING

50¢ Button Covers All Daytime Activities

- Sponsored by Almont Commercial Club



Baling straw with stationary horse-drawn baler.



Dancing in the park.



MISCELLANEOUS

RURAL AND STAR MAIL ROUTES

The first Star mail route out of the Almont Post Office was down the Muddy Valley, with stops at the Heart Post Office (On Anton Johnson farm with Anton Johnson, Postmaster) and on to DeVaul, about five miles down river. Ottis Malone served as Postmaster at DeVaul from 1909 to 1914.



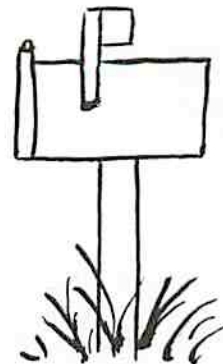
Joe Hoovestol ready to leave on the route - about 1928.

The first mail carrier was Hogan Anderson, followed by Ben Bird. Chris Ellingson was carrier for awhile and Joe Hoovestol carried mail for him in 1910-11. This delivery was entirely with horses. In 1918 Rudolph Olson became the carrier; Melvin Olson substituted in the winter. At this time DeVaul and Heart postoffices were discontinued.

The Carl Post office was started in 1910 and closed in 1922. It was first operated by Carl Thompson and later moved to the Fred Leaf home and finally to the Withroe residence where Withroe also had a small store. The mail carrier had to wait 1½ hours at Carl before returning to Almont and would eat his dinner there. When snow was deep Melvin Olson would sometimes get a fresh team of horses at Anton Johnson's farm.



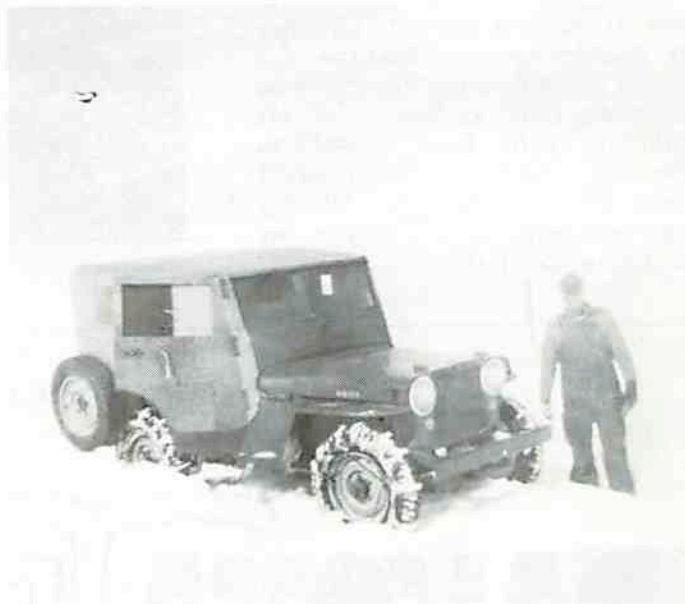
Joe Hoovestol standing by 1928 Dodge with skies - taken about 1933.



Joe Hoovestol got the Star Route contract in 1926 and continued serving his patrons until 1972, when he retired. He used horses, snow plane and various vehicles, plus the auto.

Cornelius Knutson began his duties as Rural Mail carrier in 1919 after being the Post Master for five years. The 34-mile route went southwest of Almont towards St. Joe. He too used horses when roads were impassable for cars. "Knut" continued to serve patrons on this daily rural route for 35 years. Vernon Knutson took over his dad's route for several years and was followed by Alden Olson. The Rural Route was a civil service job.

A new rural route was started in 1949 going east of town, around by Sims and up the Curlew Valley. This was also served by Vernon and Alden.



A bad day on the route.

A Star Route to north Almont began operation December 1947 when rail service was discontinued to Almont. Ed Reeff had the contract for the route until he moved to Bismarck in 1968. He was succeeded by Lawrence Renner. In 1972 the rural routes and star routes were combined and Lawrence Renner was given the contract for them all, including the one to New Salem. He covers about 130 miles a day.

ALMONT ARTISTS

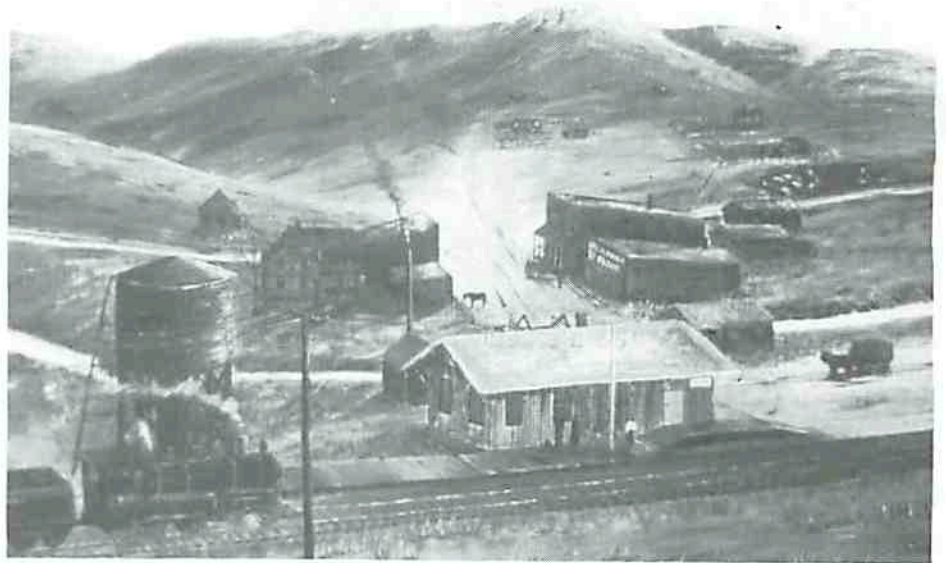
In the past few years many of the Almont folks have taken brush in hand and with canvas, easel, and palette created prize-winning exhibits. Some belong to the Art Association which includes New Salem, Almont, and Center. An added attraction on Labor Day is the Art Exhibit which has been held in either the Memorial Hall or Bank Building. The Post Office, Bank, and School have also displayed local works of art. Several paintings have been selected for gallery hangings at the Governor's Mansion and banks in Bismarck, Mandan and New Salem. Joel Johnson's painting "Sims-1905" provided the cover for N.W. Bell Telephone Book in 1978.

Local artists include Joel Johnson, Pat Schermerhorn, Clara Christianson, Marge Peterson, Lillian Peterson, Pat Feland, Carol Hoovestol, Edith Skjolsvik, *Dolly Feland*, Naomi Dawson, Carol Ritz, Irene Mortenson, Bonnee Ritz, Elvira Thiel, Grace Nelson, Betty Greff, Andy Schollmeyer, Joyce Erhardt and LaVonne Skretteberg.

Shelly Sailer, 5th grade student at Almont school, had her art design chosen for the Art Exhibit Booklet cover for the New Salem Art Show in November. Art students, with Betty Greff as volunteer instructor, furnished many designs for the History Book and will have a display at the Jubilee Art Exhibit.



Paintings from exhibit at Almont - Labor Day 1980.



"Sims - 1905" - Artist Joel Johnson.

CONGRATULATIONS ALMONT

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ALMONT AND SIMS CEMETERIES

The Almont community had no cemetery until 1917 when Chas. Knudson, who lived two miles east of Almont, offered to donate a three-acre plot on the south line of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36-138-86. The offer was accepted and the plot was surveyed.

Mrs. Ben Bird, who passed away in 1917, was the first to be buried there. A Community Cemetery Association was organized and some of the individuals who have served on the executive committee throughout the years include: E. W. Hyde, E. E. Templeton, N. E. Becklund, Norman Hansen, Carl Knudson and Sig Peterson.

For many years Memorial Day has been observed at both the Almont and Sims Cemeteries and the American Legion members have held special services for their fallen comrades.

A well was drilled at the Almont Cemetery in about 1940 and more recently a pipeline has been installed. Since about 1970 the R.E.A. has been the source of power for the electric pump. Power mowers have made maintenance much easier.

The Sims Cemetery plot, located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 14-138-86 was donated to the Sims Evangelical Lutheran Congregation by Christian Tonnesin in 1887. Members could bury their dead at no cost; \$2 per grave was charged non-members.

The English Cemetery, located northwest of the Sims town site in the SW corner of Sec. 2-138-86, was discontinued and a number of remains buried there were moved to the present cemetery.

Additional land to enlarge the Sims Cemetery was later donated by Theo. Feland. In the 1920's a well and pipe line was installed. Throughout the years Willard Johnson has put in much time and effort in the maintenance of the cemetery.

A Memorial Day dinner was served at the Sims Church for a number of years with the proceeds going to the cemetery improvement fund. Later the dinners were alternated with the Almont Lutheran Church and for the past several years serving has been discontinued at Sims and the Memorial dinners at Almont have continued as a community effort with proceeds going to community betterment.

The Almont-Sims community is perhaps the only place where grave digging is still done by friends of the deceased. It is not uncommon to see about twenty men gathered at the community cemetery to dig the grave of a friend who has passed away. Maintenance of the Almont and Sims cemeteries is also done by those who have an interest in its upkeep. We think this shows a community spirit and glad to see it continuing.

Almont Cemetery Cleanup





FIFTY YEARS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

By Fred Ramsland,
Amateur Meteorologist

My weather observations began during May 1929, making me a weather observer for more than fifty years.

During those 50 years, I have observed -50°F . on two occasions - on Feb. 15, 1936 and again on January 26, 1950 - in the village of Almont.

The highest temperature I have observed was 119°F on July 6, 1936. That summer was the hottest and driest period in the history of the U.S. Weather Bureau in North Dakota.

In December 1942 my brother, Hogan and I, were appointed cooperative weather observers by the U.S. Weather Bureau at Bismarck. He served in that capacity for 24 years. After his death, my brother, Ole, took over and is now the official weather observer.

During May 1949, I was successful in passing a Civil Service test in Meteorology, a science that deals in the elements of our weather.

From my files I find recorded these outstanding

events in Almont weather.

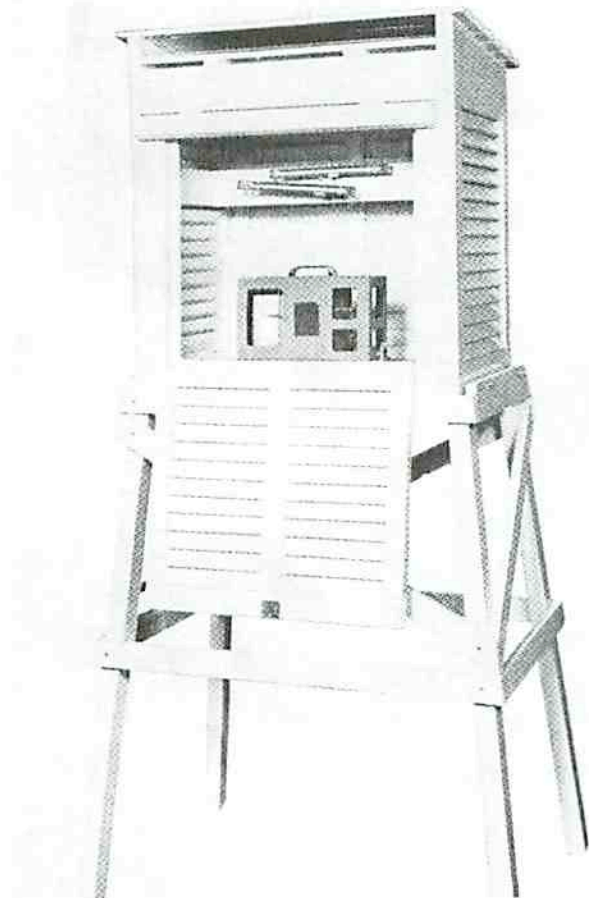
On June 24, 1914, a rainfall of cloudburst proportions occurred over our area which was estimated to have been over five inches in a 90-minute period. It resulted in no train service for over a week. The NRR tracks were washed out for 12 miles from Glen Ullin to Curlew.

On July 23, 1915, a severe hail storm hit the Almont-Sims area. The westbound NP train #7 had all the windows broken on both sides, forcing the passengers to stand in the aisles to avoid being hit by the hailstones. About 100 farms were totally hailed out.

October 18 and 19, 1932, a freezing rain, followed by a snowstorm, which dumped 12 inches of snow, was responsible for knocking down all the telephone and power lines from Dickinson to Bismarck. Almont was without electricity and telephone service and trains were dispatched by radio from KFYZ-Bismarck for over a week.

A storm, known as the "Storm of the Century" occurred March 2, 3, 4, 1966, in the form of a snowstorm accompanied by high winds with a velocity of 60 miles per hour. A 20-inch snowfall hit the hardest on March 3. The following day it finally subsided around 5:30 p.m. The NRR train #1 - westbound - was blocked in three miles east of North Almont in a deep cut where the snow was about 21 feet deep. Pictures of the blocked train appeared in Life Magazine.

On June 24, 1966, a cloudburst dropping about six inches of rain hit the Glen Ullin area and by the time it reached the Twin Butte area an eight

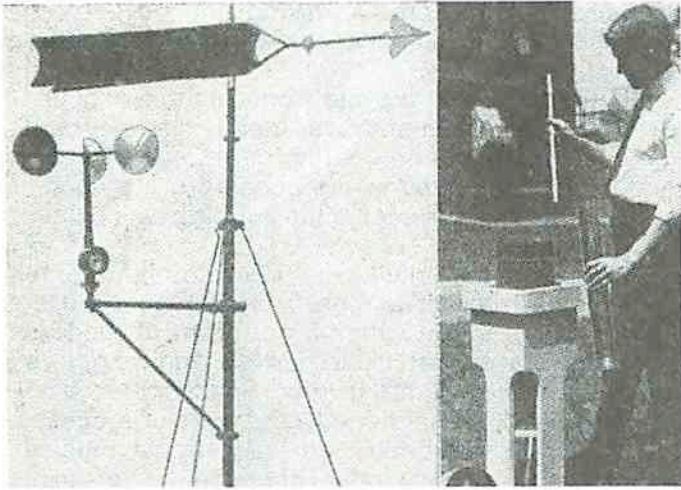


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Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.



inch downpour was reported in less than two hours. That rain resulted in a second flood for Almont which was more destructive than the flood which occurred on April 17, 1950.

December 1969 my brother, Ben, installed an automatic, electric thermograph in his kitchen window which helped me immensely. It has a revolving chart that automatically records the daily temperature.

On May 8, 1970, Almont was flooded for the third time. Early Friday morning a torrential rain of 5 to 6 inches caused the flood and damage to property.

The last outstanding event was the snowstorm of March 22, 1975. It lasted two days, dumping the most snow since 1950. Additional storms during the week resulted in a snow depth of 35 inches.

OFFICIAL WEATHER REPORT

Frederick Ramsland, Almont, N. D.
Amateur Meteorologist, in co-operation with U. S. Weather Bureau
Ole and Hogan Ramsland
Associate Observers

Date March 22nd, 1975

Av. Daily Minimum Temp. 15° F.

Av. Daily Maximum Temp. 35° F.

Normal Prec. for this month 0.85 inch

	Max.	Min.	Prec.	Snow Depth
Sunday <u>Mar 23rd</u>	<u>28°</u>	<u>26°</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>10</u>
Monday <u>.. 24th</u>	<u>13°</u>	<u>5°</u>	<u>1.69</u>	<u>16'</u>
Tuesday <u>Snow depth on the</u>				
Wednesday <u>ground</u>	<u>16"</u>			
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday <u>By Sunday Mar 30th</u>				
Sunday <u>the snow depth was</u>				
Monday <u>35 inches.</u>				

The water content measured 3.97 inches which resulted in the greatest amount of measured precipitation for the 50-year period.

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MEMORIES

ALMONT MEMORIES

by Carl Sherwood

The Sherwood family was among the first families to come to Almont. They came from New Salem. They built the Hotel Almont and it was put into use long before it was finished. Mother Sherwood put out a wonderful meal, all you could eat for 35¢.

During the building of the Mott railroad branch, a lot of the supplies were routed through Almont. One of the suppliers of steel culverts was a gentleman by the name of McCann. Father Sherwood spent long hours in running the hotel and he occasionally took advantage of a nap. This day he was sound asleep in his chair behind the counter. Mr. McCann had been out for a walk and had picked a wild rose. He came in the lobby with the rose in his hand a noted Dad's open mouth. He dropped the rose into Dad's mouth. A lot of the fellows called him "Rosey" for a long time.

I worked in the printing office (Almont Arena) during my grade school days. I was paid 25¢ for an afternoon setting and distributing type. Maxwell T.D. McNeal was the owner of the shop. He was a nice guy but spent many hours as an anti-saloon advocate. He sold out to Ray Lindner, who surely was not an anti-saloon man. One Thursday the paper was supposed to be out and Ray did not make it to the shop. I knew what to do ... make up forms, put them on the Washington Hand Press, and print the paper. However, I was not strong enough to handle the forms or pull the handle on the press. (This was the type of press that was featured on a U.S. Stamp of 1937.) I called in the local drayman (I cannot remember his name, maybe Bateman) to pull the press handle and we got out the paper.

Speaking of saloons ... a farmer (I will not mention his name) frequented John Hurley's saloon. (Hurley was the father of the firstborn in Almont, John Almont Hurley.) One day he became a bit obnoxious. After a few threats, Mr. Hurley took a shot at him. The farmer got out in a hurry. My recollection is that he was a sober man thereafter.

Next to the hotel to the north, Hiram Goff built a small building for his law office. One summer his sister came out to spend some time with him. Some time later, Mr. Goff fell off the wagon. One night he was drunk and dressed up in some clothes his sister had left ... a long black dress and a black, wide brim, merry widow hat. He went down to the railroad track and jumped into an empty boxcar full of tramps. The story was that we did not see a tramp around for quite a spell.

The same building was later rented to Ray Lindner, the printer. One night he and his wife had a spat and in some way she got him outside and then locked the door. Ray chopped a hole in the back door to get back into the house.

Jimmy Bateman had a small restaurant, it seems next to Hurley's saloon. An itinerant sign painter stuck around Almont for a spell. One night when he had a few too many; he tried to get into the

restaurant. After some knocking and no entry, he shouted, "Jimmy, Jimmy, let me in or I'll eat all the jam off the door."

I bought my first bicycle from Sears, Roebuck & Co. for \$14.00. The money was mostly made by carrying out the ashes and coal in for Mr. and Mrs. G.H. Anderson. They lived in the building on the corner north of the hotel. It seems the building was built for the other bank.

George Chamberlain, the blacksmith, had his shop on the corner across from Ben Bird's livery stable on the street which ran in front of the Hyde home. He stayed with us at the hotel and we got well acquainted with him. He read Shakespeare a lot. And the way he could use words, when he cussed, which he did frequently - it was almost musical. Especially when Ray Lindner chopped the hole in his back door right under his window.

A few weeks after I graduated from the 8th grade Dad said, "Carl, we like to have you around the house but I think you can get on as a hay hand if you go out to Emil Kellers. With 50¢ in my pocket, I climbed on my bike and left home to face the world.

I went to Bismarck to high school. I made it on \$50.00. The second year I could not make it. I had word from sister Ruth, who was teaching school at Golden Valley (West Central North Dakota) that the print shop needed someone to work there. This was the only time in my life that I was almost broke. I bought a ticket to Golden Valley and had 25¢ left. I could not get a train until the next day. I waited to eat just before the train came (10:00 a.m.) then went to the restaurant and got cakes and coffee. I did not worry about later because the job was with board and room.

I was home for a visit and Nels Becklund asked me if I would like to go to work in the bank. I accepted and April 1, 1914 (war declared) I went to work for Nels Becklund and Andy Anderson. Four years of the most profitable time of my life was this period. I learned a lot and the men were wonderful for a teenager. The one thing that stands out in my mind was what Nels told me one day. I do not know how it came about but he said, "Carl, when someone thinks that the place cannot run without him that is just the time they will try."

One day when the bank opened, a gentleman who was sitting on the step came in. He was a farmer from the Carson area and came to tell the bank that due to his crop failure he would not be able to pay his loan. Nels and he stood in front of the window talking and Nels asked where his team was. He said feed was so short he did not want to have the horses make the trip so he walked in. (Who today would do that?)

I had not been in the bank but a few days when Nels told me I was doing all right except that I would have to make figures that they could read or they could not use me. I enrolled in a correspondence course from the International Correspondence School and practiced by the hour.

I wanted a motorcycle and was trying to get Nels to loan me \$50.00. I did not get very far. A few days later a farmer came in and when Nels went over to the window he said, "Give me a thousand dollars." Nels called me over to witness his "X." I told Nels

that I guess no matter how fancy a man could sign his name did not make much difference, it was what he was worth.

One 4th of July (maybe 1916) Almont had a celebration. Myself and (I cannot remember who my partner was) were to be the "Thousand Guns at Sunrise." We borrowed two anvils from the blacksmith shop. An anvil has a square hole in the bottom about a square inch. We filled one with black powder, with a fuse, put the other anvil on top and lit the fuse. I can imagine today the rumble up and down the valley. We did this just east of town.

Another incident brings me a laugh. Nels Becklund and I boarded at the former Tischler Hotel. It was on the corner diagonally across from the lumber yard. The food got so bad that neither of us could take it anymore. I induced Grandma Nelson to take me in as a boarder and I believe Nels Becklund went to the G.H. Andersons. The lady was talking to someone about our leaving and said she hated to see Nels leave but she did not care about Carl leaving as he ate so much she did not make any money on him anyway.

D.C. Erb, auctioneer, had trouble stopping his car at the right spot after driving into his garage. He had doors on both ends. He opened both doors and when he got the car spotted right, he closed the doors.

Any oldtimers still around will remember the time of the big fire that destroyed three grain elevators, Hyde's lumber yard, Adams' feed barn and I do not remember what else. The fire started early in the evening, probably from a spark from a passing train, or so they thought. There, of course, was no fire-

fighting equipment. The fire burned without much hindrance. I remember the crowd standing around, stupefied.

There was a young student minister staying with the Templetons for the summer; a Rev. Merchant. I can see him today. He came running down the middle of the main street waving his arms. He shouted, "Come on, men." He jumped to the top of the board fence around the lumber yard. The men quickly joined him. They tore down the fence and started throwing the lumber back towards the fire. I always thought that maybe the rest of the town may have also burned had he not sparked the men.

MY HOMETOWN by Eleanor Pederson Hillemann, San Fernando, CA

The folks that live in my hometown
Are wonderful and true;
You'll never find more faithful friends
If you look the whole world through.

The spots I cherished as a child
Come back to me and then
For just a moment I relive
Those happy days again.

The hills of home still beckon me,
And oft I do return
To visit scenes and folks I love —
Dear ones for whom I yearn.

There'll always be a cherished spot
Within my heart, for you —
My own hometown and all the folks
Who've been so kind and true.

THE ALMONT ARENA

ALMONT, MORTON COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, FEBRUARY 22, 1913.

Price, Per Year

HOME MISCELLANY

Fred Holritz left for Mandau on No. 8, Friday morning to look after some business matters. How long he will be absent is not at the present known.

There is to be a sociable Saturday night at Sims, and a masquerade ball in the opera house in this place the same night, so the Shade of the immortal G. W. will feel it is at least remembered.

Up to date nothing has been positively learned as to the identity of the parties who entered the depot during the night last week and annexed two cases of beer. The report is current that a skeleton key was used to gain admission to the waiting room. Question: who has a key of that description?

P. R. Peterson returned home from the Pacific coast last Sunday, very much improved in health.

Dr. Gaebe of New Salem autoed to this place on professional business.

Miss Mary Schaeffer and niece, Ares, went to New Salem, the first part of the week for a short visit. From there Miss Schaeffer went to Beach where she will make her home in the future.

Frank X. Todd in the absence of a constable, is kept busy serving papers for New Salem and Mandan attorneys. Friday he was at Glen Ullin looking after business for a New Salem lawyer.

Several young and bad men while under the influence of liquor, brutally assaulted another and only for the timely appearance of Tenius Ramsland, would undoubtedly have killed their victim. It is understood that warrants have been issued for the apprehension of the aggressors.

Arthur Olin who has spent the last two weeks visiting his sister, Mrs. Fred Swenson, of Bismarck, returned home last week.

Last week during the fine warm days, he spent one whole day harrowing his fall plowed land. No trouble was experienced on account of frost he reported.

Mrs. G. Peck and son, Henry, left the fore part of the week for a few weeks visit to their old home at Clear Lake, Iowa.

Barley for Sale: 300 bu. Beardless Baralely for sale by George Waustron, at Curlew, 6 miles west of Almont, N. D. adv 9-4-p.

C. F. Peterson of New Salem, is looking after business in this place today.

Read the Arena's special farm paper offer in this issue.

Arena \$1.25 a year

DR. O. C. GAEBE
PHYSICIAN & SURGEON
TELEPHONE OFFICE 14
RESIDENCE 21
NEW SALEM, NO. DAK.

Business Change. \$1.25

The firm formerly conducted by F. Holritz and Sons, will open on Monday morning, Feb. 24, under new management.

The Arena was assured by the new management that the store will be maintained as a first class store, and a desire for the continuance of the patronage of the former patrons of the firm was expressed. Also they stated that the stock will be kept up and replenished from time to time to meet the demands of the buying public.

The premium plan as carried on by the former firm will be continued and those holding tickets will be given credit for the same, and last but not least they assure us that they will give value received in every way.

Mrs. J. Ims and Mrs. A. Holritz did some shopping in New Salem last Monday.

That lot of sale bills put out for Joe Pederson's sale, was the product of The Arena Job shop—and we can turn out bills for you on a very short notice.

Horses of all kinds to be had at my sale, March 11th.
Joe Pederson, Almont.

Coal Coal Coal Coal
The Knutson Coal Mining Company have opened its mines and will deliver coal to its patrons after date of this notice. C. A. Knutson, adv

ALMONT ARENA
ALMONT, NORTH DAKOTA.
PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE ARENA PUBLISHING CO.
ALMONT, NORTH DAKOTA

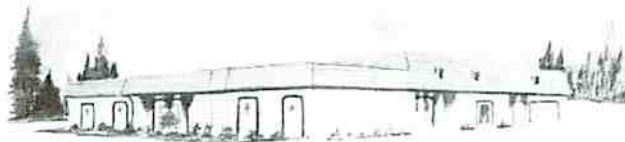
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Chapels
New Salem
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Center

Leo Timpe remembers

ALMONT PLAYS THE "ALL NATIONS"

One important thing that comes to mind happened some 64 or 65 years ago.

A celebration was put on by Almont — possibly their 10th anniversary — and they had the All Nation's team here to play Almont.

It was a great event because all of us were ball fans at that time. Almont, of course, lost the game. Boy, those All Nation's boys could really play.

This spring, while sitting in the barber shop waiting for a haircut, I engaged in a conversation with my old friend, Guy Hedlicka, and this subject was brought up. To my surprise, he remembered some of the things as I did.

When a big negro got up to bat, he informed the pitcher he was going to bat one into the creek — and he did! The ball diamond, at that time, was around where the old Lutheran Church is now.

At that time, there was a man by the name of John Bush, who worked for Malone. He was a wrestler and challenged anyone on the All Nation's team for a match. The third baseman on their team accepted. I believe it was one fall — winner take all. Charley Westerman was the referee. Neither of us remembers the minutes or how much the purse or how many side bets.

However, he pinned John Bush, who immediately objected to the decision, but was overruled.

There were other events that day, but this was the big one for us.

The year, 1915, was the first time that Pumpkin

Center played baseball with Heart River. The baseball field was near the farm that Guy Anderson lives on at this time.

Some of the Pumpkin Center baseball players were: Casey Martin; Walter, Leo and Punch Timpe; Joe and John Peltzer, Henry and Glenn Peck and Bud Oakland. The only person, whose name that can be recalled, that played on the Heart River team was Fatty Hansberger. His brother and Ed Timpe were spectators and got to arguing about who was the strongest person there. Hansberger said, "My brother, Fatty, can wrestle anyone here."


Ed thought of his brother, Punch, and bet him he couldn't.

After the 9-inning game, which Heart River won, they decided to have this wrestling match. Fatty Hansberger weighed 200 lbs. and Punch Timpe, 135 lbs. Punch threw Fatty in about two minutes. Fatty wasn't satisfied with this so he told Punch he would like to have another match with him on July 4th. They both worked hard to get physically fit. The time came and Punch threw him in a minute. There were many bets made on this match. Mr. E.W. Hyde bet one dollar on Fatty and lost.

This was the last time these two wrestled each other, but there were other matches after baseball games, with Charles Kaelberer and Fritz Schwinkendorf. Others Punch wrestled were John Reich and Christ Sauer from Hebron and Clifford Leach from Sims, all which he won. He then wrestled Fritz Kaelberer in the Almont Hall, and the second time in the Christ Kaelberer barn; this one he lost. They never wrestled again to see who won the tie. Fritz's father didn't care to have them wrestle. He said, "Wrestling is too rough for young men."

Congratulations

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A MONTAGE OF MEMORIES

by Burton Nelson

Remember gazing out through high school panes
To watch and listen to the trains?
I see us sliding on a drift of snow
To stop just short of creek below.

I hear the creak of school house stairs
And smell the gym's peculiar airs.
I feel the rush of wind and steam
As against the N.P. Depot I lean.

I see the chain-drive Timpe dray;
The post office and ice cream cafe.
I tried Jim Stoekel's tin canoe
And candled eggs at Chris's store too.

We skied the jump in Knutson's yard
And were pulled on skis behind a car.
I think on Fred's school boiler room
And remember first electricity in our home.

Skating the rink next to Tillie and Clint;
Buying a suit from Kelsven - measured to fit.
My one cow dairy - milking in a pail;
Joe Hoovestol's machines for delivering mail.

This and more keeps my memory humming
Like the wonder of Templeton's indoor plumbing!
Each separate thought ties more together —
If I don't stop now I'll go on forever!!

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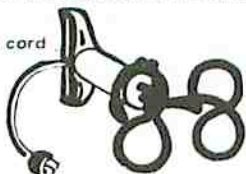
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RECOLLECTIONS FROM MY BOYHOOD IN ALMONT

by Jim L. Stoeckel

I remember the first day of spring and the thrill of changing from winter underwear to BVDs, and the warm summer days and the old swimming hole. Then the autumn and Indian summer days with the fragrance of harvest in the air ... beautiful sunsets and moonlit nights. Finally, winter with plenty of snow and ice for sleighing and skating, one of my favorite sports.

I remember the flu epidemic of 1918 when many were dying and funerals were held outside. The folks, who were able, went from home to home ministering to bedridden neighbors. Kindly Ben Bird was one of those. Henry Engelter, the undertaker from New Salem, made many trips to our town and the cemetery with his horse-drawn hearse.

I remember Myles Purfeerst transporting Dr. Gaebe by team and bobsled around the New Salem, Almont and surrounding rural areas, making house calls when the roads were almost impassable. I was one of the many "Gaebe Babies."

I remember our fire department had a 2-wheeled chemical engine, pulled by hand, with a capacity of about 50 gallons. The men of the town took turns coaling the stove in the firehouse during the winter to keep the engine from freezing up.

I remember the fire that destroyed several buildings on Main Street and watching with both horror and admiration the desperate, but futile efforts, particularly those of Lawrence Nelson, to extinguish the flames. To me he was a hero.

I remember the NP steam locomotive trains thundering through our town, punctuating the air with their shrill whistle as they rounded Rattlesnake curve, and the excitement when the "fast train" stopped rarely for some very important occasion. The depot was a fascinating place with the clicking of the wireless and watching agents Cunningham, Holritz and later Bakken tap out the Morse code.

I remember the creaking wagons hauling coal to Almont from the Reichel and Thor mines, with the drivers walking beside the horses to keep warm.

I remember the livery stable run by Ben Bird, where my Dad would rent a horse and buggy on Sundays for a family outing in the country.

I remember George Graham and his son Vincent, the cigar maker, who plied his trade in our town so long ago, and those grocery and drygoods stores with O.C. Ellingson, Mitzmann, C.A. Knutson, and later Mr. Kelsven and C. Halvorson as proprietors during the years.

I remember Angus Gillis and the clang of his hammer beating out plow shares and the sparks from his forge as he heated them in his blacksmith shop.

I remember how busy Walker's Barber Shop was on Saturday nights ... also the shops of Frank Todt and Johnny Gillis.

I remember Henry Peck and his new Kissell car, which was the envy of every young man.

I remember Punch and Leo Timpe cutting ice in the Knutson creek to store in the local ice house for summer use. I recall once Punch fell into the water in below zero temperatures and ran all the way to town for a quick change of clothes before freezing

stiff.

I remember the fun watching the baseball games with my Dad as Almont played the Sims team. Johnny Gillis, catcher, and Neil Gillis, the pitcher, impressed me.

I remember the great day when our town got electric lights, and later the new concrete sidewalks ... how proud we felt.

I remember in summer the Chautauqua coming to town with its exciting matinees and evening performances.

I remember when our school got the gym built and the many basketball games we played there ... the high school band held many programs there.

I remember the old Almont Hall, with the gas lights and coal stoves where many social activities took place. There were basket and pie socials, dances, high school plays, debates, medicine shows, song fests, my eighth grade graduation. I shall never forget the traveling "Fun Wagon" with its silent movies with Lois Williams playing the piano, adding greatly to the drama of the soundless pictures on the screen. Sometimes bootleg whisky and fights outside the hall on Saturday night dances added to the excitement. Other popular places for some years were Lover's Cliff Pavilion and the Dreamland Bowery near Sims.

I remember the inspiring Christmas programs with the real candles on the tree (before we had electricity) and the scent of the fir tree and boughs, and the beauty of the carol singing all conveying the magic of Christmas.

I remember getting up early in the fall mornings to go with the Timpe Bros. threshing rig and the many farms we visited during harvest. I pitched bundles and hauled grain, as we kept busy from morning till night.

I remember the many campfires Howard Knutson, Nick Timpe and I had along the Curlew Valley creeks and the wonderful aroma of coffee brewing in the crisp morning as we cooked our breakfast. I have fond memories of the boat we built, with an assist from Mr. Dinehart fitting the bottom, and then the thrill of trying it out in the creek and rowing away. That boat gave us many hours of pleasure.

I remember the traveling Romany gypsies pitching camp on the north side of the NP tracks, their big cars, music and campfires. Especially recall a colorful wedding held in their camp.

I remember the time the circus came to town, via the N.P.R.R., and watching them watering their elephants in a pond by the tracks, unloading cages of wild animals and later seeing the show in a huge tent with high wire and trapeze acts.

I remember our Senior Class of '31 and the fun the 12 of us had at our picnic at the Heart River. Also, the many weiner and marshmallow roasts at a favorite spot ... Lover's Cliff.

I remember that our Honeymoon Fund of \$50 bought a round trip by train to Detroit Lakes, MN, where we rented a nice cabin on the lake, with a boat dock and canoe, for \$15.50 for one week. We did our own cooking. We danced to Ted Fiorito's orchestra

every night for 40¢ a couple and we still had \$10 left for the charivari group when we arrived at our little dream house in Almont, which we rented for \$8 a month. We lived there for five years before we moved to California.

I remember when Almont had a golf course out near Lover's Cliff in the 1920's. It wasn't fancy, but was a popular place with a number of townfolk. I recall Chris Halvorson and Henry Peck out there many a time with their golf clubs enjoying the rustic greens.

I remember the tennis court near the school where many a game was played in the 1930's.

I remember the ol' skating rink behind where the Lutheran church used to be. It was a great place to skate and many a bonfire was made to warm icy hands during the late 1920's and early 1930's.

I remember the dam south of Almont, which we called "Lake Almont" and the Hoovestol sailboat, my canoe and folks fishing on Sunday afternoons. The name of the boat was "Petrine II" and was built and owned by Pete Hoovestol.

Now the trains no longer whistle going through the town, and the elevators have moved. But through fires, floods, hailstorms, and drouth the Spirit of Almont is ever strong and the citizens continue to make many improvements and interesting innovations ... making it a hometown I can say I'm proud to be from and always enjoy going back to.

MEMORIES

by Evelyn "Toots" (Bateman) Peterson

My thoughts go back to 1922 when I came with my family to Almont from Minnesota in a 1920 Model T truck. We moved into the Merchants Hotel and before we were well settled, our first boarder came - Agnes Aymond (later Mrs. Chris Halvorson). The hotel was a full and busy place. Railroad telegraph operators, teachers and store clerks were steady boarders. We had many traveling salesmen staying at the hotel because the Red Trail which went through Almont was the only east-west highway.

A couple from New York were traveling on the Red Trail and got bogged down in mud near Almont, which resulted in car trouble. They stayed with us four days and after they returned home they sent a package of gifts for our whole family ... I got a pair of crystal beads which I wore for my wedding.

I remember playing with other kids in town on the streets of Almont. Harry Mitzman, who had a store where the Legion Hall is now located, would call his children home with a referee whistle. His daughter, Ida (Podolsky), has told me that she used the same whistle to call her kids when they were small.

My Grandpa Bateman stayed with us and operated Dad's gas station (where the new bank is now located). At that time we got our hot water at the school for washing clothes so Grandpa rigged up a harness for our milk cow and with a stoneboat would haul water to the hotel in cream cans.

MEMORIES

by Glenn Peck

I remember Almont in September of 1907 as a town filled with horse-drawn wagons hauling grain to the elevators and loading lumber and provisions for six months' living. Many carloads of horses, cattle and machinery arrived at Almont for the homesteaders in the area with most of it going west and south of Almont.

Almont was a wild west town on Saturday night; cowboys would ride down Main Street with horses bucking. One cowboy, Ole Ramsland, while his horse was bucking would roll a cigarette and fire his six-shooter. The town marshall, Ben Bird, would walk out in the middle of the street with his gunbelt buckled and calm the cowboys down. They all had respect for Ben Bird.

I hauled water in milk cans and jugs from the Galauner spring, two miles west of town, for everyone. I took care of Mr. Templeton's horses and for this I got to use them at times. I carried the U.S. Mail from the postoffice to the depot and also the first class mail for the through trains, which I had to hang on a crane. In the winter I built the school fires and also stocked the shelves and filled the bins at the John Frey store. By herding cattle for Joe Peterson, I earned enough money to buy our first cow. I also remember our neighbor, Mr. Lane, who farmed with oxen. Those were the days!



*"BIG ENOUGH TO
SERVE YOU —
SMALL ENOUGH
TO KNOW YOU"*

**Congratulations Almont
from**

The Grant County State Bank
Carson, ND
with branch office in Flasher, ND

MEMORIES

by Henry Peck

My dad built the Farmers State Bank and our family had living quarters above the bank. There were three families residing there at one time — the Browns with three children had the two rooms facing the street; the Peck family of five occupied the big middle room and the Frank Wagner family with five children had the two back rooms. After I was married in 1923, my wife and I had the whole upstairs.

While working at the bank as cashier, I remember on a cold stormy day a Mr. Sibla drove his herd of about 30 head of cattle to town, then walked into the bank and said, "They're yours!" The prices had dropped since he had refused to sell at a good price, as the bankers had suggested. One of the bankers and I, with the help of some townspeople, put the cattle in the stockyard. A few days later, Mr. Sibla came in again and chased one of the bankers out of the bank, which caused considerable excitement in town that day.

Another humorous incident I remember was when Mr. Hyde had his handlebar mustache shaved off. It made a decided change in his looks. When coming back to his office his two sons, Wallace and Howard, were there so he disguised his voice and asked them if Mr. Hyde was around. The boys said no, he had gone uptown but they would go and find him. They returned later and said Mr. Hyde was not to be found!

MEMORIES

by Avis (Clafflin) Kautzman

When our family moved to Sims it was in its declining years and Almont's population and businesses were increasing. Groceries that could not be secured at the Simon Johnson store were purchased at Almont. The Lutheran church and the school were the center of social life. The school Halloween parties, Christmas programs, basket socials and card parties were highlights of the year and were supported by all community members. The church was the center for spiritual and moral training. The Young People's Society, Ladies Aid and Sunday School programs served more social needs. The delicious Ladies Aid suppers were served to anyone wishing to attend. A plate for a free-will offering was on the table ... the usual donation for a family was fifty cents.

The postoffice and store were in the same building. Mail service was superb. There were two mail trains from each direction every day. The townspeople met in the postoffice every day and passed on bits of family news. In the winter, when roads were closed, the jingling of sleighbells could be heard and it was a delightful sound to the school pupils as parents drove to pick them up. The town children usually checked out what was going on at the Jacobson coal mine on the walk home from school.

The store and depot were excellent places to

warm up; the young people skated on the ice on the dam.

Chores were part of every child's day. Everyone burned wood and coal; carried out ashes and brought water from the well — we carried ours from the spring. Kerosene and gas lights furnished the lighting for all homes and public places.

There was a telephone at the store and a railroad telephone at the N.P.R.R. maintainer's home so after store hours, people needing a doctor called from our house. We always knew the people who were ill and who had the latest baby. Once in the mid-20's, Dr. Gaebe came to give vaccinations for Smallpox and Diphtheria in the waiting room of the depot.

It is nice to recall some of the salespeople who came once a month to sell their wares. We awaited visits from Mr. Laurence who drove a horse and buggy and Mr. Malone who drove a car.

What a pleasure it is to return to Almont and Sims to visit old and new friends and to reminisce! We were fortunate to be a part of the community for 14 years.



VERNON KNUTSON REMEMBERS

When Dad (C.A. Knutson) used a team on the Rural Mail Route in the wintertime, he was usually accompanied by Al Showers' German shepherd police dog. When roads were blocked he had to lay the fence down to get around the deep coulee at the Otto Lidstrom place. One stormy day when he reached that area he heard the dog barking behind him so he turned around to investigate and found the dog standing by the let-down fence which "Knut" had missed.

Dad would sometimes stay overnight at Otto Lidstroms, but when he continued on home it would be late evening before he arrived home from the 34-mile route. The family would take turns listening for the hoofbeats and were ready to care for the horses. Icicles would hang from the horse's nostrils and even the dog was very tired. Besides mail, Dad would deliver groceries, machinery parts, etc. and would sometimes bring cans of cream to town for the farmer who was unable to make the trip to town.

Dad told about a salesman who had to wait for the next train and came to Grandpa Knutson's store in Almont. The salesman asked if there was good fishing in the lake north of the railroad (there was quite a large body of water from the snow melt). Grandpa said, "Ja, why don't you try it, you can use my fishing pole." The salesman took him up on the offer but came back sometime later complaining that he didn't think there were any fish in that lake. Grandpa said, "Well, there should be - there has never been any taken out!"

A customer once complained to Grandpa, "You want 12¢ for sugar and at the Frey store across the street it is 10¢." "Yes, I know," said Grandpa, "but they don't have any across the street. When I am out of sugar, I sell it for 5¢."

Congratulations Almont, on Your 75th Anniversary



From
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- **Golden Nugget Saloon
and Bottle Shop**
- **Golden West Hardware**

- **Little Nugget Arcade**
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- **Shear Artistry**
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PRIVY OF THE PRAIRIE

by Regina (Smith) Dinius

The Privy of the Prairie, long was your reign,
You have the praise of many, and those who will complain.
Like a pioneer American, you braved the slashing storm,
You sheltered many a little bird, and kept a kitten warm.

You were Home Sweet Home to a million flies,
And a spider web or two
But when the bees came swarming in
Your clientele were few.

You kept every secret, that was shared with a friend,
You may have moaned and groaned at times
But you were faithful to the end.

You knew all the sweethearts for miles and miles around
For their names within a heart, upon your walls were found.
Though your hinges always creaked, and the door never fit,
And often you were bruised so badly, that one could hardly sit.

And come time for washing dishes, and shining up the pans
You could bet your boots and saddle, the girls were in the can,
Our thanks to Mr. Roebuck, who gave a helping hand
For 'he,' and the Privy of the Prairie, were the backbone
of this land.

The author of the above poem attended school in Feland School District until moving to Mandan, ND, in 1921. She is living in Mandan at the present time.

WAS LIFE SIMPLER THEN?

Some recollections by Lillian Peterson

It's been said that life was simpler in the good old days and well it might have been, but many of my memories seem to indicate this was not always the case! Monday, wash day, was done with board and tub and was an all-day affair with each of us taking a turn at "rub-a-dub-dub." My mother was very proud of her homemade soap made with lard and lye. At first all the clothes were wrung out by hand, so we were most elated when a wringer was added to our laundry equipment! Ironing with the "sad iron" heated on the cookstove, especially in the summertime, was not to be relished. No perma-press materials were available!

I remember the feel of long underwear scratching my legs and by midweek getting out of shape so it had to be overlapped around the ankles. What a glorious day when we could shed the "long johns," or even have them laundered and back in shape!

The black pot-belly stove was somewhat of a comfortable heating device as long as you were within a few feet of it. It was a quick way to get warm after a nippy venture to the "outhouse" with the half-moon opening for ventilation and the Sears Roebuck catalog used for more than wishing! Peach wrappers were much nicer and the white rolls of tissue paper were great! It was a red-letter day when we took down the chimney after the arrival of spring and moved the black monster to a shed.

After a long winter, spring arrived as a wonderful time of the year — picking crocuses, wild roses, blossoms, and later chokecherries and plums for some delicious chokecherry syrup and plum jelly eaten with Mom's fresh homemade bread. Wheat was washed, dried, ground and made into whole-



My mother baking bread in her black coal stove.

some bread with no preservatives added! The Black cookstove, with heating space on top, needed to be burning just right to get the oven to the right temperature! Making butter in the big wooden churn was a weekly task that we were glad to be done with, but Papa (as we called him in our younger years) welcomed the fresh buttermilk as a most refreshing and healthful drink!

The advent of the rural telephone on the South Line, was most welcome and made life more interesting — it provided a source of entertainment, especially during a blizzard when the roads were blocked and the radio battery had gone dead! Several short rings would bring all of the 20-line families together for a chat, a song, news of the day (for anyone who had it), and even musical numbers on the violin! "Hello, Central" was a most welcome sound, especially when forced to call someone after hours, which was 9 o'clock.

Our needs and wants were fewer and simpler and making fudge and popping corn or freezing ice cream didn't require any traveling to enjoy! Home was where the heart was, and although ours was a humble place, it was "Home, Sweet Home!"



Getting the news and a good visit during a long winter night!



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THE BOWERY

The era of the bowery is a thing of the past. The bowery was an outdoor dance floor, usually located in a grove of trees. To the oldtimers it brings back memories of a pleasant summer evening's entertainment.

The first bowery in this area was located in Sims and built close to the Timmerman store. In about 1919, the "Dreamland Bowery" was constructed north of Sims in a bend of the creek close to where Joel Johnson now lives. In 1922, that bowery was sawed into sections and moved with team and wagon to the S.P. Weekes Ranch, where annual rodeos were held at that time. In 1926 it was moved to Almont for the first Old Settlers Picnic. It was placed on the vacant lots south of the Almont Arena building. In 1929 the bowery was moved to Lover's Cliff and placed down by the creek. A few years later it was moved to Sims and used for walls in John Jacobson's barn ... so ends the bowery era.

People enjoyed the bowery dances and being out in the wide open spaces. There was a fence around the dance floor and the men were charged 10c per dance as they came through the gates. Mantle gas lanterns provided good light.



THE WAY IT WAS

by Margido Willman

I would like to speculate on some of the changes that have taken place in past decades.

I remember seeing a tax statement receipt for a quarter section of land, dated 1902 for \$3.25, my Dad's homestead. In the 1920's most land was taxed at around 10c an acre and school land was leased for \$16.00 a quarter.

In the late thirties and early forties much of the railroad land, Dayton Clark, was leased for \$75.00 a half section and taxes were around \$25.00 to \$30.00 a quarter section. Our entire taxes for an early 1940 year was \$350.00 and taxes on a like acreage in 1980 was for over \$5,000.00.

Most of the early farms were much more self-supporting than they are today, as much of the food and fuel was produced right on the farm or from a surrounding area. Approximately 1/2 of the farm acreage went to feed the horses, as horses in the early days were the chief source of farm power. There were also three times as many farms and perhaps three times as many people living on farms than there is today. However, with more modern equipment, larger acreage and less diversification, a smaller number of operators seem to be able to get the job done.

THE BLACKSMITH SHOP

The Almont Blacksmith Shop was one of the more important places of business in the early years. Wagon and buggy wheels needed repair, iron was shaped and welded with forge and anvil. Horseshoes were made and fitted to the horse's hooves. There seemed to be nothing that a good blacksmith could not make.

One of the first blacksmiths in Almont was J.R. Thompson. Another was Thomas J. Miller; Angus Gillis came from New Salem in 1908 and had a shop across the street west of the present city park. He operated there until 1912 when G.G. Chamberlain took over as blacksmith. He also sold wagons, buggies and some machinery. He bought the Timmerman Lumberyard building and used it for storage. That building, across the street from the Hyde residence, was originally the Heart River Lumberyard. On March 5, 1909, the Heart River Lumberyard stock was sold to Chase and Mandan Mercantile, each taking half.

Another blacksmith was McDugall, who had a shop across the street east of Nelson hardware. Abraham Peterson moved his blacksmith shop to Almont from his farm and it was later operated by his son, Ole.

Most farmers had their own blacksmith shop where they sharpened their plowshares and did their own repair work. Blacksmithing was very hard, hot dirty work; most of the blacksmiths were very strong and in good condition. Big, burly G.G. Chamberlain was also sort of a poet:

Almont on the Boom!

Cheer up, old friend, don't be downcast
A first-class repair shop you have at last,
The time seemed long, but now how sweet
To get your carriage repaired so neat.

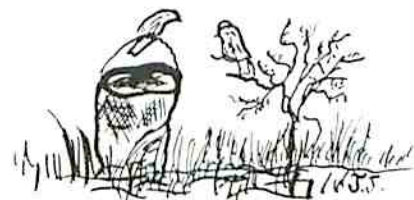
For ten long years, the people say
They had to go twelve miles away,
But now your town you need not pass
But get your work done up first class.

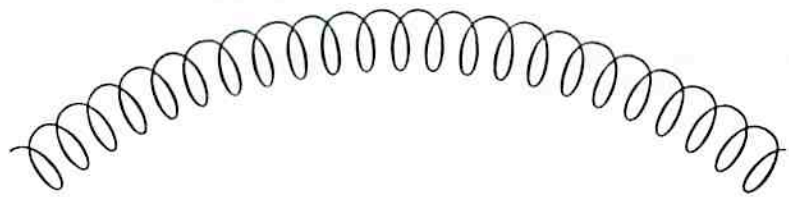
We'll paint your buggies and do it right,
And fix the seats up snug and tight.
When you take your best girl out with you
Well, I guess you'll know just what to do.

Now if you need some work this spring,
While passing by just please call in.
Our wood is good, our iron is fine,
And we'll steer you clear of the eyeless swine.

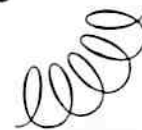
For fear you might pass our shop
And patronize some dearer spot,
You'll always find us on demand,
At Angus Gilles' former stand.

G.G. Chamberlain





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on your
75th
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- Dakota Northwestern Bank
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- The State Bank of Burleigh County
Trust Company
- Bismarck State Bank
- Bank of North Dakota
- First Bank Bismarck

MEMBERS — F.D.I.C.

MEMORIES OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE HISTORY BOOK OF ALMONT

Almont High School's English IV class in 1954 had, as a part of their assignment, the writing of an essay on Almont's early history. It was a requirement for completion of the course. Mrs. Klingensmith, teacher, had these essays printed into booklet form with a few early pictures of the town. This was the first "taste" of history writing that some had experienced but it whetted the appetite for more searching and recording of Almont's history.

When plans were begun in February, 1956, to celebrate Almont's Golden Jubilee Anniversary on June 23 and 24, 1956, the Commercial Club appointed a history committee with Mrs. Don J. (Thelma Hyde) Klingensmith as chairman.

Members of the community shared generously of their pictures, memories and mementos. The main source of Almont's history was found at the North Dakota Historical Museum in Bismarck, as members of the committee and others spent many days searching through the stored copies of the "Almont Arena," "Mandan Pioneer," "New Salem Journal" and other publications.

On May 1, 1956, the Commercial Club voted to put the history into permanent form and authorized signing a contract with Conrad Publishing Company of Bismarck. The book was divided into four sections: Almont town history, organizations of the town, pioneer family photographs and histories and Almont High School alumni directory.

For the Almont history, special effort was made to have pictures of as many former and present citizens of Almont and community as possible with the names of the people under their pictures. This was a real achievement with large group pictures, but invaluable as preserving memories of the individuals involved.

Histories were written of the organizations, which included church and school organizations, as well as social and civic groups. Since pictures were so important in the proposed book, it was decided to have a "Picture Day" to record present members of the organizations. George Wright, photographer for Conrad Publishing Company, came to Almont and took pictures much of the day, May 15, 1956. The people of the town and community turned out in full force. The Band Mothers served lunch at the schoolhouse (where the pictures were taken) during the day and it was a wonderful opportunity for friends to visit over a cup of coffee.

In the section on pioneer family photographs and histories, it was decided to have all the photographs in one section arranged alphabetically. The family histories followed.

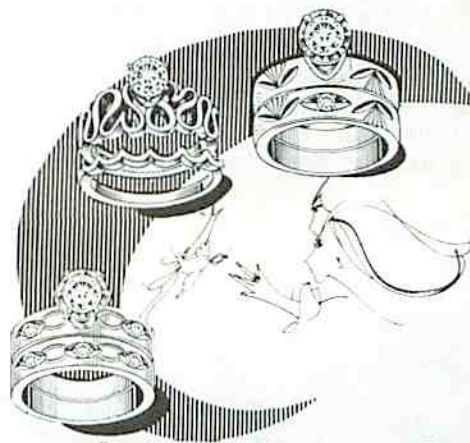
The Almont High School alumni directory was added at the request of some alumni, with the class members arranged by their years of graduation.

After the galley proofs were run and some pages printed, it was found that the stories and pictures were not together and the committee chairman refused to accept those pages. The publisher said, "If you don't like the way we are doing it, do it yourself." So the committee chairman went to Bismarck, stayed in a hotel for a week, and worked with the publishers. They assigned her a table in the office and gave her

a key when they left at night. She worked until about midnight, setting up galley proofs of printed material, pictures and names on the pages and left them on the publisher's desk. They ran them during the day, as she continued to assemble afternoon and night. The Almont Jubilee History book was available for the celebration on June 23 and 24, 1956.

It was a rare privilege to have had a part in helping to record some of the heritage of the past, appreciate the present, and share inspiration for the future. As the time for the work was comparatively short and the workers were amateurs in journalism, it was done as a labor of love for Almont - her citizens, past, present and future - and to the Lord who has poured so many blessings upon her.

Thelma Hyde Klingensmith, chairman
Almont Jubilee History Book Committee



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BITS AND PIECES - Sig Peterson

- When grading was being done for the NRR at Rattlesnake Curve, east of Almont, a fight took place and one of the workers was killed. The story goes that he was rolled into the ditch and buried.

- A train robbery took place at Rattlesnake Curve and quite a sum of money was taken. The robbers hid out in the hills around Almont and buried their loot— some say in the hills south of Almont and others said somewhere in the Curlew Buttes.

- Andrew Holritz, depot agent at Sims, had a three-wheeled bicycle which he rode on the railroad track. The third wheel served as a guide wheel.

- Otto Feland was employed by the NRR to plow a fire guard on each side of the track from Mandan to Dickinson. He did this with four horses on a walking plow.

- In about 1900 there was a scab infestation in cattle. The government declared that all cattle be dipped with a warm creosote water solution. A complete immersion was required. Louie Hammery and Oscar Feland made a dipping tank and corrals about six miles west of Sims, near the present Sam Thiel farm. Cattle came from as far as the South Dakota state line. The place is still known as Scab Creek. Emil Willman was bookkeeper and he composed a song about dipping cattle at Scab Creek.

- Mrs. Steve Weekes, one of the very earliest pioneers in the area, put her son Steve, Jr. out in the family swing and went back into the house. She glanced out of the window and saw an Indian running off with her boy; her screams attracted help and the Indian was soon apprehended and the boy returned.

- Model T trucks began making their appearance in the area in about 1925. Until that time, practically all grain was hauled to town with team and wagon; two horses on a 50 bu. box or four horses on a 100 bu. grain tank. In the fall the many wagons would pulverize the road, making it very dirty and heavy. The grain hauling continued throughout the winter, changing to bobsleds when snow permitted.



- Putting up a supply of ice for the summer was also a winter job. The ice would be cut in the creeks with a one-man, 6 ft. saw, when it was about 30 inches thick. Blocks were cut about 14 inches wide by three feet long; they were pulled out of the water, loaded on sleds and hauled to town or to farmsteads where they were stored in a pit packed with sawdust or straw. The ice kept surprisingly well and was used in iceboxes and for making ice cream.

- The horses used for winter work were kept sharp-shod. The worn calks in the shoes were replaced about every week. In some cases a heavy team would wear the calks down in a day.

- Horses which were not used for winter choring and driving, were usually turned out on free range. The Free-Range Law permitted grazing from Dec. 1 to April 1 and there were a number of open hilly



- Coal hauling was continuous all winter, supplying the homes and business places and also filling coal cars to be shipped out by rail. The average load for a team was about 2½ ton, depending on the roads.

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areas with good grazing. The horses were usually checked once a week.

- What an effort it used to be to start cars on a cold winter morning — and also keep them running without freezing the water in the radiator. Filling the radiator with hot water helped in starting (there was no antifreeze in those days). Cranking with the right hand and at the same time handling the choke wire with the left has now become a lost art. The back-firing of the motors would sometimes break an arm. The magneto lights of the Model T Ford were hardly better than nothing. One evening Thorliev Peterson took his uncle Ted with him to town. Ted said "Stop the car!" He then went in front of the car and lit a match to see if the lights were on!

- Grocery shopping years ago was much different than now. I remember giving my grocery list to the clerk at either Kelsvens or Ellingson's store and he or she would fill my order by weighing up the coffee, sugar, cookies, prunes, peanuts and other items which all came in boxes, barrels or sacks. The kerosene can would be filled from a barrel in the back room; the meat would be cut from a carcass in the ice cooler; pickled herring came in a wooden pail and in the winter frozen fish would greet you at the store entrance. Sometimes the errand list called for shoes, overalls, yard goods, sewing supplies, all of which was available at the store. The list completed, it would sometimes be charged until after harvest. This was possible in those days as the merchant could also charge to the wholesaler. Many farmers would "lay in" a winter supply of flour (500 to 1,000 lbs.) trading wheat for flour at the mills in Carson, Glen Ullin or Mandan, or some would order a winter's supply of groceries from Sears Roebuck, Montgomery Ward or the M.W. Savage Co., which would come by freight.

- Halloween was a time for shenanigans and outhouses were usually the target. One year a group of young men and the town constable hauled one of the "houses" out to Lovers Cliff. The next year the same outhouse loomed up on top of Hyde's office building! There were times — like the morning after

Halloween — that it was impossible to drive through Main Street as it was filled with machinery, barrels and all kinds of junk.

- Riding horses into local bars has always been a dare, especially at shipping time. Someone rode a horse into the Hurley Bar and the horse went through the floor. There was a cellar under the building which made getting the horse out quite a problem. The rider was fined \$15.00.

- The Farmers Union Hall, which was located across the street from the Farmers Elevator, was the scene of many activities. There were dances, movies, programs and religious services and before there was an auditorium at school, all school programs, plays and commencement exercises were held there. The school children and teachers would walk down to the hall to practice for the programs as the school had no piano. The hall was filled to capacity many times.

- In the days of silent movies, Tom Mix and other favorites were shown at the hall. The audience would become very impatient during the changing of reels. Frank Walker, the barber, was a good violinist and also beat the bass drum with his foot; he and a piano accompanist, usually Mrs. Carl Hill, would furnish music for the show.

- Medicine shows came along periodically and were held either in the hall or a tent. The barkers would sell cure-all medicines during intermission of the variety show and a dance usually followed. At one such performance, a very goodlooking lad of 18 years was featured - Lawrence Welk!

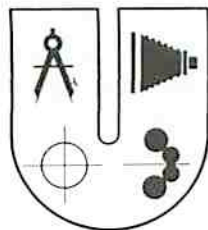
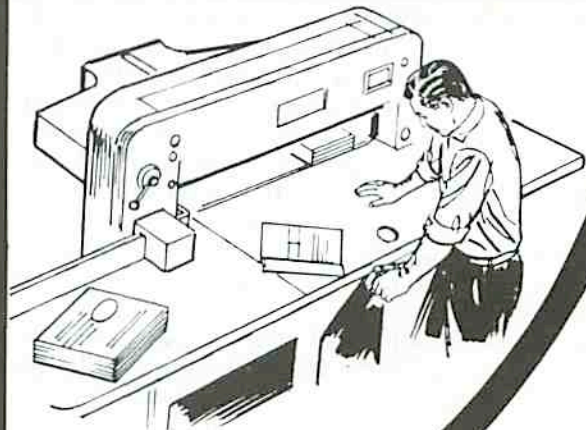
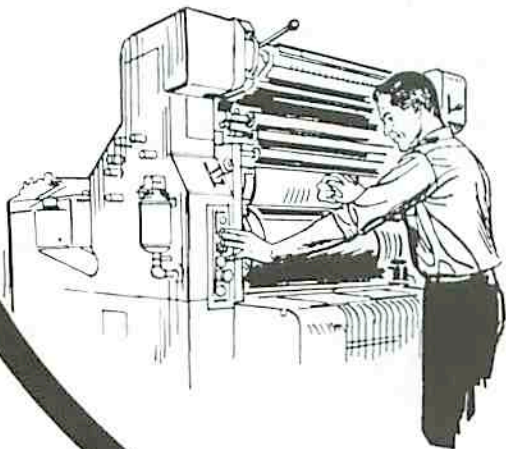
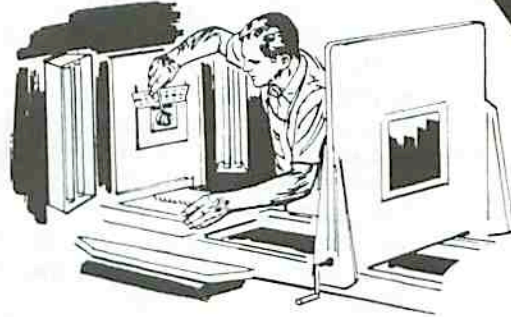
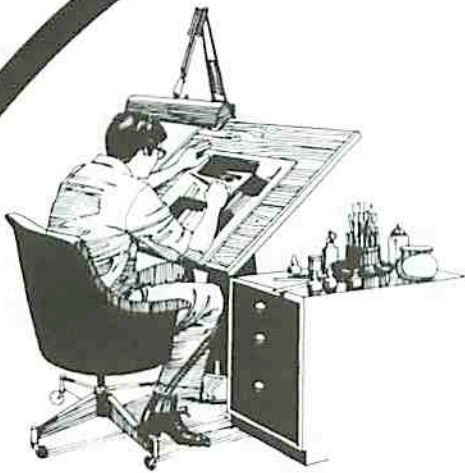
We hope this memory section has been interesting reading for you. We cannot vouch for the authenticity of many of the stories, but the intent was to add a little spice to the book. Maybe we should all sit down and write interesting happenings of our younger years for the next generation to appreciate. We've been reflecting on the "good old days," but few of us would trade the luxuries of today for the conditions of yesteryear.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We wish to thank everyone who helped make this book possible. We appreciated the cooperation of those who provided family histories, organization histories, pictures and interesting stories. We thank those who helped with the typing and art work and also those who solicited for the ads. A special thank you to the many business firms, organizations and individuals who bought advertising to help finance the book.

We also appreciate the help we received from the staff at United Printing. They were all very accommodating and cooperative.

Almont Jubilee History Book Committee



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