

Notables

Louis E. Allen

Louis E. Allen arrived in Greenbush in the summer of 1952 to begin his service as Superintendent of Schools that fall. He served Greenbush well in this capacity for twenty-three years, until he retired at the end of the 1974-1975 school year.

He was fond of pointing out that he had been to Greenbush before his visit with the Board of Education; he and his high school basketball team had played basketball there when he was in high school during the 1920s, part of a train trip that took them to several of the towns in the area.

Louis E. Allen was born July 25, 1910, in Gonvick, Minnesota, not long after his parents (David and Gerda Allen, who had changed the family name from Andersson) had immigrated from Sweden. He grew up in Gonvick and was the valedictorian of the first class to graduate from Gonvick High School. He was active in athletics and in other school activities.

He began his college career at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where he had a scholarship; he transferred to River Falls State College in Wisconsin and earned his bachelor's degree from Bemidji State Teachers College. In the early 1940s, he earned his MA from the University of Minnesota after taking summer courses at the University of Colorado.

He began teaching in Gonvick in 1934, covering 7th and 8th grades and coaching. In 1936 he became principal but continued coaching and teaching as needed (later he would say that he had taught most of the classes a student could take). As a **coach**, he had the pleasure of seeing one of his players graduate from college and play basketball in the NBA. He also officiated high school football and basketball until he moved to Greenbush.

On June 5, 1938, he married Irene Simons, who was teaching in Gully, just six miles from Gonvick. In 1942, they moved to Mentor, Minnesota, as principal, with the promise that the following **year** he would be made superintendent. He remained in Mentor until contacted by the Greenbush Board of Education. Although it was somewhat unusual at the time, the necessities of the war years



Louis E. Allen
(photo courtesy of Irene Allen)

resulted in Irene being pressed into service in the Mentor Schools as a health and physical education teacher.

When he retired in 1975, he reflected on his years in Greenbush, noting that he had enjoyed all his **years** in education and felt that the years in Greenbush had been the best in his life. He did, however, regret that the **nature** of his job had, over the years, become more specialized and taken him farther and farther from the classroom and from the students that were his main reason for becoming an

educator in the first place.

At his retirement, the Board of Education presented him with a plaque reading: "Presented to Mr. Louis E. Allen, A Master Administrator, who with his leadership, diligence and expertise over the last twenty-three years has provided the Greenbush community with quality education." Many specific things, of course, contributed to his contribution to education in Greenbush, and he was proud of them all, large and small. However, several things stood out in his mind.

He was pleased, for example, that the Greenbush schools had managed to avoid many of the fads in education but had instead remained focused on the basic things in education, while still providing a broader education to help students meet their need and interests. One of his earliest concerns in Greenbush was that not all students had the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities because of the distances some of them had to travel by bus to and from school; he firmly believed that such activities were part of an education. One result was that he scheduled most such activities during the school day in a way that did not detract from the academic program of the school. He encouraged all students to explore and to participate in areas in which they were interested or talented. He attended as many of the school activities as he could, whether in Greenbush or out of town, and he even helped prepare meals for teams that had to travel.

He was also particularly pleased that the bond issues for two major expansions of the school passed on the first vote. He felt that this showed that the community had accepted him and trusted his explanations for the needs the school faced. The first of these added 35,000 square feet to the school at a cost of \$370,000 and added space for agriculture, industrial arts, home ec, and seven new elementary classrooms, as well as kitchen, cafeteria, and locker room space. The second project added a wrestling room, music rooms and two more elementary classrooms. He was pleased with what the additional space could provide for Greenbush students.

Another facet of his concern for total education led to Louis Allen's activities in the Minnesota State High School League as the representative from Region 8. He was on the Board of Directors of the League for eight years, including one year as Treasurer and two years as President. In March 2001, he was posthumously inducted into the Minnesota State High School League Hall of Fame. These statements from the program for the Induction Ceremony outline his involvement, his impact, and the respect others had for him and his work:

"If you could walk the road of Minnesota State High School League history, you would meet Louis E. Allen, Greenbush Superintendent of Schools at almost every turn.

"A teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent, he believed in young people and supported the League programs on their behalf so strongly that in Region 8 in the northwest corner of Minnesota, he became known as "Mr. Minnesota State High School League....A gentlemanly man and a born diplomat, he guided the League through the most troublesome of times in the late 1960s and early 70s.

"He spearheaded the formation of the First Congress of State High Schools. As chairman, he quelled the storms and brought agreement on changes that strengthened the League and restored public confidence, shaping the League as we know it today.

Howard Casmey, a close colleague, former Minnesota Commissioner of Education, and himself a member of the Hall of Fame, had this to say: "In northwest Minnesota, Region 8, Mr. Louis Allen was known as a man of honesty and integrity...! can think of no person more deserving of membership in the Hall of Fame."

As a result of his activities with the Minnesota League, he was elected to a six-year term on the Executive Board of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations, beginning in 1969, only the second person from Minnesota to hold this position; he represented not only Minnesota but also North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Idaho. He was also active in the Minnesota Association of School Administrators.

Although he was intensely involved in all aspects of education in Greenbush and in Minnesota, as well as nationally for a time, Louis Allen was also involved in his community. He assumed many of the jobs in the Chamber of Commerce, he was a member of the Lions Club, and he helped start the golf course in Greenbush, and supported Sheep Days, the village park, and Fourth of July celebrations with his efforts. He was especially involved with Bethel Lutheran Church, which he served in most of the ways possible over the years.

Louis Allen believed strongly in communication, and for many years wrote "The Schoolmaster's Corner" for the *Greenbush Tribune* and "Gleanings" for the *Bethelog*, the monthly newsletter for the church. His children also remember his many trips to visit people in all comers of the district to address concerns and to find out what people were thinking.



The Louis AUen family; L to R: Julie, Mary, Irene, Louis, David, Pat (Dave's wife). (photo courtesy of Irene Allen)

Irene Allen, of course, moved to Greenbush with her husband. She taught English and Physical Education in the Greenbush School until she retired in 1976. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Bemidji State Teacher's College in her hometown of Bemidji, and she later took other courses to enhance her credentials.

After they retired, the Allens continued to live in Greenbush, although they did spend winter months in Texas and Arizona. Louis Allen died in Grand Forks, North Dakota, just after Thanksgiving in 1992 and is buried in the Bethel Cemetery. Irene continues to live in the house they built in the early 1960s, just across the play-

ground from the school. Over the years, she has been active in the hospital guild, PTA, the garden club, Bethel Lutheran Church and the Bethel church women, and state and national teachers associations.

Former Greenbush Superintendent inducted into Hall of Fame

The Minnesota State High School League inducted Louis E. Allen, Superintendent of Greenbush Schools from 1952-1975, into the Minnesota State High School League Hall of Fame.

Mr. Allen and eight other inductees were honored at the 11th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Saint Paul River Center on March 22, 2001.

The award was received by his wife Irene, son David and daughters Julie and Mary.

of no person more deserving of membership in the Hall of Fame." Mr. Allen guided the League through the most troublesome of times in the late 60's and early '70's. He served eight years on the League's Board of Directors, a year as treasurer and two as Board President.

He spearheaded the formation of the First Congress of State High Schools. As chairman, he helped promote agreement on changes



Louis Allen, Greenbush Superintendent from 1952-1975

Their three children were all born in Bemidji, Minnesota, accompanied them to Greenbush, graduated from Greenbush High School, learned from them, and caught the passion for education from their parents.

David-actually L. David, named for his father and grandfather, graduated in 1958 as salutatorian, after participating in speech, drama (one acts and class plays), band, chorus, football, basketball, and track. He earned a BS in English and speech from Moorhead State (1961), an MA in American Studies from Bowling Green State University, Ohio (1964), and Ph.D. in English from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln (1975). The classroom portion of his career in education included stints in the Dassel (MN) Public Schools, Bowling Green State University, Wayne State College (Ne-

braska), the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, and the Nebraska State Penitentiary. During this time, he began writing professionally, developing a number of guides to American literary works and to science fiction for Cliff's Notes, a Lincoln publisher; among his publications are *Science Fiction: An Introduction* (Cliff's Notes, 1973); *Detective in Fiction* (Cliff's Notes, 1978); *Science Fiction Reader's Guide* (Centennial Press, Lincoln NE 1974); *No Mundo Da Ficcao Cientifica* (a translation of the previous work published by Summus Editorial LTD., Sao Paulo, Brazil); and *The Ballantine Teachers' Guide to Science Fiction* (Random House, New York: 1975).

In 1978, David moved to the Division of Continuing Studies at the University of Nebraska, where he put his continuing passion for education and growing interest in writing to work developing course materials in English, journalism, education, and psychology on both the high school and college levels for the Distance Education program. He continues as a teacher, working with students around the world who, for a variety of reasons, needed alternatives to help them move forward. When he began, the Nebraska program was involved in leading a transformation of materials for students at distance to provide a more substantial education for

them; when he retired in February 2000, the program was moving full-scale into online education. In between, he was recognized by the National University Continuing Education Association for both development of courses for distance students and for articles on various aspects of distance education; he also presented papers at many regional and national meetings of professional associations related to distance education.

Dave married Pat Anderson in Wendell, Minnesota, in 1962. They have a son (Colin) and a daughter (Siobham), both of whom live in the Lincoln area. Pat retired as a Library Media Specialist with the Lincoln Public Schools at the end of the 2001-2002 school year. In 2001, Pat received the Leola Bullock Award, for her work in multicultural education, from the Lincoln Public Schools Foundation.

In retirement, he is active in his church in Lincoln; he continues as Professor Emeritus at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, still working with distance education students in English; and he teaches classes for beginners at the Lincoln Duplicate Bridge Club. He is also trying to shift from a writer of educational materials to a writer of fiction, with three detective novels on the drawing boards.

Julie graduated from Greenbush High School, where she had been active in speech, plays and especially band, in 1961. It was at Concordia College that she had a chance to try her athletic skills, and she competed in volleyball, basketball, and track and field; she was also introduced to softball, which she played for a number of summers. She graduated from Concordia in 1965 with a teaching degree in English and physical education. Her teaching career, however, was entirely in physical education. She began teaching in New York Mills, spent a year in Glyndon, and in 1970, moved to Schaumburg, Illinois. In 1979, she returned to Minnesota and became a member of the faculty for the Bemidji Public Schools, where she spent the remainder of her teaching career. In 1982, she was a member of a team that wrote the physical education program for the Bemidji School District that was copyrighted and still in use. She retired in 2001 and hopes that she is remembered as a good teacher.

Mary graduated from Greenbush High School, where she, too, was active in plays, speech, and music activities, in 1963. Like her sister; Mary explored athletics at Concordia College, participating in volleyball, basketball, and track and field, briefly holding a national record in the 440 yard dash; she also played softball for a number of summers. She graduated from Concordia in 1966 and began teaching that fall at Henning. She earned her master's degree in physical education from the University of Arizona in Tucson in 1969 and returned to Minnesota to join the faculty at Concordia College. After several years, she decided she would prefer to teach in the public schools and took a position with the Walker Public Schools, where she spent the remainder of her career. She retired in 2001.

Concerned that young women in the Walker-Bemidji area did not have many athletic opportunities, particularly in gymnastics, Mary founded the Gym Bin in Bemidji in 1987, so that a facility would be available for club activities and instruction in gymnastics. The program has grown, so that a move was necessary in 1993 and the building was expanded several years after. The Bemidji Area Women in Sports recognized her work in providing opportunities for young women with an award in 1996. In retirement, she continues her work with the Gym Bin and in her church.

Submitted by L. David Allen

Miles Thomas "Tonli" Anderson was born on August 14, 1952, to Joe Gilmer "Joe D." and Dorothy Ann (Simpson) Anderson in Greenbush. He has 3 sisters: JoAnn Beebe of Florisan, Missouri (died April 2004), Susan McKay of Eden Prairie, Minnesota and his twin sister, Toni Donarski, from Greenbush. They grew up on the farm. Tomi and Toni were the first Greenbush twins to be born at the Greenbush hospital.

Tomi went to the Minnesota Braille and Sight Saving School in Faribault, Minnesota until he completed his sophomore year. While he was there he was a member of the 26-voice choir that appeared around the state. He attended Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls and graduated Class of 1971.

Tomi attended St. Cloud State University and was chosen by fellow students to speak at Commencement in 1975. He graduated with a BA major in political science and a minor in music.

Tomi married Linda Carpenter on July 20, 1976. They met at the National Federation of the Blind Convention in Chicago in 1975. She had attended Kansas State University for music education and received her BA. They have several things in common. They both like music, they are both committed to serving God, and they are both blind.

In 1976, Tomi served an internship in the office of Congressman Richard Nolan of Stearns County in Washington, D.C. In October of 1976, they decided to go into ministry. In 1977, Tomi entered Central Baptist Theological Seminary to become a minister. He transferred to Great Bend to Faith Bible College where Tomi and Linda both attended school and worked part-time. Linda also gave music lessons. After finishing a two-year program they became Full Gospel ministers.

They are also committed to the goals of the National Federation for the Blind. Linda is assisted in traveling with a seeing-eye dog and Tomi uses a cane. They believe with proper training, blindness can be reduced to the level of a mere physical nuisance.

In 1982 Tomi traveled to Zambia, Africa, where he taught travel and instilled a positive attitude in the Zambian people towards the blind. He traveled to Poland in 1996, and again taught travel. In 1997 both he and Linda returned to Poland to teach.

Tomi and Linda moved to Littleton, Colorado, in December 1987. Tom began working for the Colorado Center for the Blind teaching Braille and mobility when they opened in 1988. Linda sells Mary Kay cosmetics and they are both very active in their church, The Chapel at LaSalle.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke

Edward Braaten - Meritorious Service Award

In 1987 Trooper Edward Braaten was the only member of the flight section to ever receive the Meritorious Service Award from the Minnesota State Patrol. The award is reserved for those state troopers displaying unusual courage or risking their lives to diffuse a dangerous situation.

This award resulted from Edward's action in a shooting incident stemming from an elevated domestic situation involving a rural St. Peter man who fired more than 540 rounds at law enforcement officials. Braaten was requested for aerial surveillance. After circling the situation for nearly an hour in an attempt to terminate the situation, Braaten performed a dive to distract the man while troopers and deputies rushed in to disann him.



Edward Braaten of the Minnesota State Patrol flight division.

"I was suspecting to get hit when I made the dive. I was banking on it being a weak shot when he fired on me, but at the time I didn't realize he was shooting a 30-30," said Braaten. "It was really the only way to end the incident without returning fire."

Edward, a 1954 Greenbush graduate, was a highway patrolman from 1965 to 1992. Six and a half of those years were spent flying airplanes and checking for speeders. Ed still owns the farm where he grew up, the northwest quarter in Section 33 of Barto Township. He was the second child of Eva and Ole Braaten and has four siblings, Melvin, Jeanette, Mavis, and Duane. He and wife, Eldora (Gulke), live in St. Paul, Minnesota, and have two children, Gregory and Marge.

Edward pointed out that Greenbush has had more than its share of highway patrolmen. Troopers in addition to Edward are Harold Blazek, Russell Wicklund, and Joseph Ismil.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Red Lake Falls Gazette and Ed Braaten

Arthur M. Braun

Arthur Michael Braun, long-time Greenbush mayor and member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, was born on July 18, 1910, to William and Clara Braun of Belgrade, Minnesota. Later he moved with his family to Badger, Minnesota, where he attended school and grew up. He was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith.

Arthur Braun married Frances Kukowski in Greenbush on June 1, 1937. After living at St. Thomas, North Dakota, for a few years, the couple made their home in Greenbush, where he owned and operated Braun's Motor Service for many years.



Art and Frances Braun, in 1987 on their 50th wedding anniversary. (photo courtesy of Marie **Chrzanowski**)

Braun served as mayor for 16 years and served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1972 to 1978. He was also active in many other community affairs. He was a member of the Greenbush Fire Department and Greenbush Lions Club. A member of the

Blessed Sacrament Church, he served on the church council and was a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus.

The Braun's had three children: William, Arthur, and LuVerne (Walter).

Art Braun died at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis on January 7, 1989. His funeral was held at Blessed Sacrament Church in Greenbush, and he was buried at Blessed Sacrament Cemetery.

Submitted by: Eunice Korczak

Brazier Family

Walter and Dorothy Brazier lived out on the farm in Barnett Township. Walter's father came from France when he was eighteen with fifty cents in his pocket and knowing no English. His mother was born to a Norwegian family. Dorothy was a Dostal and her parents came from the Czech Republic and Poland.

Walter farmed, cut wood, and worked in mechanical maintenance for the railroad. He was very mechanically minded and could fix anything. He, like a lot of farmers, would do his own repair work. Sometimes he didn't have all the tools himself and had to go to the neighbors. When something needed fixing, or something was needed to make work easier, farmers found a way themselves, instead of hiring it done.

Dorothy taught school for a while and then stayed home to raise their six children: David, Delores, Glen, Vivian, Tom, and Dennis. She is very proud of her extended family.



Brazier kids (1962); **Back:** David and Delores; **Front:** Tom, Vivian, Dennis, and Glen. (photo submitted by Dorothy **Brazier**)

David is from the Keewatin, Minnesota area and has two children, Scott and Stacy. He lives north of Nashwauk on Buck Lake and works as supervisor in the electrical maintenance department of National Steel. He has been working for the same company (although the name has changed a few times) in the mining area of the Arrowhead for 37 years.

Several years ago, David and five partners took over the business of Tackle-Tamer Products, Inc. (also known as Mesaba Plastic), a plastic injection molding company. Since then he has bought out the company and is sole owner. He has about ten main customers he does business with.

Mesaba Plastic continues to make the original Tackle-Tamer tackle holder. They also make dog tag covers for the U.S. government. At one time they made a pharmaceutical product. One of his customers now is Central Boiler. They custom order vent caps, roof comers, and a lens cover for a light for their furnaces.

Delores is married to John W. Olson and lives in Thief River

Falls. They have two children, John and James. John is a carpenter and Delores worked at Arctic Cat in the sewing department, the Medicine Shoppe, and also at Digi-Key. She has since retired due to health reasons.

Glen and his wife, RoxAnne, live in Greenbush and have two children, Janet and Matt. Glen ran a motor service, car wash, and drive-in in Greenbush from 1973-1983. In 1980, he started National Transmission in Thief River Falls and Bemidji, Minnesota.

In 1992, he started building track conversions in his shops and called them Mattracks. He came up with the idea from a drawing his young son, Matt, had drawn. Mattracks is a conversion system that converts four-wheel drive vehicles from wheels to tracks in 30 minutes. They are as easy to change as changing a tire. It makes it possible to drive on hard surfaces along with sand, mud, snow, and swamps.

In 1994, he moved that manufacturing facility to Greenbush, on the block between the post office and the fire hall (where the former Braun Motors was located). The following year, he moved it to a 50,000 square foot building in Karlstad. At the time, he employed six people manufacturing and marketing the original rubber track conversion system. It was sold in the U.S. and Canada.



Karlstad Mattracks (photo by Mattracks)

In 2002, with 40 people on board, they launched the Lite Foot line of ATV (all-terrain vehicle) conversion systems. By 2004, Mattracks offered over 18 models and sold to over 45 international markets, with track systems on all seven continents! Since then they have been featured in major magazines like Popular Science and on television stations such as ABC, CBS, CNN, and the Discovery Channel. They have also been featured in movies.

Vivian is married to LeRoy Omdahl and lives in Greenbush. They both work at Polaris. They enjoy being with children and working in their yard and flower gardens. LeRoy is involved in the Greenbush Wrestling program. They are very involved at church and every weekend, that they can, they take Dennis and Terri's children.

Tom and his wife, Roxane have three children, Melissa, Jessica, and Trista. They live in Drayton, North Dakota. Tom began his company in 1989, called Brazier Racing Equipment, a dirt track racing supply store. They also followed the racing circuit with a custom trailer. They have since sold the business.

Tom is working as an instrument technician in the computer department of Crystal Sugar at Drayton. He has worked at the company ever since he was a teenager. He has been taking college courses continually over the years. Roxane works at Mattracks in Karlstad.

Dennis and his wife, Terri, have four children: Tyler, Bailey, Elliot, and Olivia. At first, Dennis farmed and did construction work. When his brother-in-law bought a wood stove in 1984, he thought he could improve on the design. He wanted to make it a more efficient and attractive outdoor wood furnace to heat the two homes and other buildings on the farm. He also wanted to do away with the mess and fire hazard associated with wood burning.

In 1985, he sold his first furnace. He continued to build them in

his shop for the next four years, selling locally. He formed a corporation in 1988, called Central Boiler, Inc. Demand increased, so Dennis and Terri needed to build a larger facility, adjacent to the farmstead on Highway 32, five miles south of Greenbush. The first 25,000 square foot building was constructed in 1991. In 1993, they doubled their size, building five different styles of furnaces.

By 1996, they had developed a gas log boiler. Due to demand, they began selling conventional fireplaces under the division of Central Fireplace, Inc. This division manufactures the most efficient direct-vent fireplace line available in the industry. The gas fireplace fits into a conventional fireplace, or is freestanding. They now make eight different styles.

Since the beginning, Central Boiler/Central Fireplace has evolved into a company that involves about 50 area welders that do piece-work and other contract laborers. It employs 140 people, has 330 furnace dealers around the U.S. and Canada, and 300 gas fireplace dealers. They also have sold to Bogota, Columbia, and the Ukraine, where they provide hot water to underdeveloped countries.

The year 2004 marked their 20th Anniversary. It was a record-breaking year. They shipped approximately the same number of furnaces in October 2004 as in the whole year in 1999. A \$1.4 million expansion was built and the plant is now 140,000 square feet.



Central Broiler (photo by Central Broiler)

They are known throughout the nation and Canada as the most efficient, high quality wood furnace on the market today. The furnaces are used for homes, businesses, factories, swimming pools, and dairy operations. Because of this and their extensive marketing efforts, many people have come to recognize the name of Greenbush, Minnesota. The work environment and labor force around Greenbush are more conducive to quality production and the Brazier family is able to live right next door to their factory.

The Brazier family has always been close and supportive of their



Walter and Dorothy Brazier family in February 1991. Back: Dennis, Glen, Tom, David. Front: Vivian, Dorothy, and Delores. (photo submitted by Dorothy Brazier)

peers. When the guys get together, they don't just talk about the weather. They have many things in common and talk about their products and companies. Whenever possible they help each other out.

The innovativeness of the Braziers and their products is nothing new to this area. Farmers have always strived to make do with what they have and create what they needed. Perhaps what is new is the drive to get their products patented, marketed, manufactured, and out to the public. The Braziers have gone above most people's initiative in that regard. It is also commendable that Glen and Dennis decided to keep their products in the Greenbush area and hire their friends and neighbors to keep the local economy strong. They're raising their kids and grandkids here, so we know they are interested in the future of our area.

Acknowledging the accomplishments of just one family and how they have grown, leads us to thinking about all the many families over the past one hundred years. That great pioneering spirit has made Greenbush a town to be proud of---for years past and years to come.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information from Dorothy Brazier, The Greenbush Tribune, David Brazier, the Mattracks website, Central Boiler Communications Department, Volts and Views a publication of Roseau Electric Cooperative, and the Roseau County History Book.

Thamar Emelia Dufwa

Thamar Emelia Dufwa (Millie), Ph.D., was a scholar, author and educator of considerable note.

'Born 16, 1885, in Norman County, Minnesota, to Sven and Torberg (Peterson) Dufwa, Thamar attended grade school at Shelly. The family moved to the Greenbush-Pelan area, where she grew to womanhood.

After attending Moorhead Normal School, she began teaching at Haug at seventeen years of age. As her experience and education grew, she taught at Greenbush, Crookston, and Grand Forks. In all, Dr. Dufwa was a teacher for 53 years, twenty-five of those years as a high school instructor.

In '1910, Miss T.E. Dufwa was a candidate and nominee for Roseau County Superintendent of Schools. At that time, she had eight years of experience teaching in Roseau County Schools.

Dr. Dufwa was an avid reader and a writer of varied subjects. Her published books were: *Atomic War and Survival*, *The Viking Laws and the Magna Carta*, and *Lincoln and Secession*. Another book was ready for publication at the time of her death. As a volunteer, Dr. Dufwa taught the Red Cross HOOle Nursing Course, which led to the writing of *Atomic War and Survival*.

Dr. Dufwa studied at Cornell University in New York, the University of Minnesota, and the University of North Dakota. As a result of these combined studies, she attained her Ph.D.' She spent a year as an exchange teacher in Norway, then toured Europe spending an extended time researching at the Bodleian Library at Oxford University in England for her second book, *The Viking Laws and the Magna Carta*. Published by Exposition-University Press, this study of the Northmen's cultural influence in and France looks beyond the popular notion of Viking barbarians and illuminates the fine system of law that influenced the development of the Magna Carta.

For *Lincoln and Secession*, Published by Pageant Press, Dr. Dufwa gathered a substantial collection of contemporary reports

illustrating the proceedings taking place all over the nation leading into the Civil War. Covered, also, are the assassination attempts on President Buchanan and Lincoln, the conferences attempting to save the Union, and interesting little-known sidelights.

Dr. Dufwa resided in various places over the years but she considered Greenbush her home. After retiring from teaching, Dr. Dufwa settled permanently in Greenbush. She was a very active member of the Minnesota Centennial Committee from Roseau County, and her knowledge of the past history and willingness to do research was invaluable.

Dr. Dufwa, a citizen of whom we can be proud, died on March 28, 1966, at the age of eighty. Funeral services were held at Pauli Lutheran Church, and she is buried in Pauli Cemetery.

Submitted by: Eunice Korczak from research done by Milt Sather.

Wynn Flaten

*"Two Roads Diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less travelled by
And that has made all the difference." Robert Frost*

The hero of this story died in December 1996. Born in western North Dakota, Brad Kibbel was a committed Christian, successful business executive, loving husband and father, and my friend. You might ask, "Why is a guy from North Dakota the hero in a story about Greenbush?" Well, because Brad asked a young man from Greenbush two questions that set the course of his life. The first questions gave wings, and the second, direction.

Rewind to the '60s, on the farm of Henry and Clara Flaten, south of Greenbush. Surrounded by Louis L'Amour westerns, history books, and volumes of World Book Encyclopedia, I was lost in visions of visiting Nepal and Tibet, in the Himalaya Mountains, and riding the steppes of Mongolia, churning the same dust as the hordes of Genghis Khan had hundreds of years before. My dreams were big, my expectations much more modest. Someday I wanted to travel outside the United States. But let's face it, Greenbush is not the most obvious jump-off point for any foreign destination other than Canada. Case in point, my brother Mike spent his entire life in the Greenbush area.

Fast forward to Concordia College in Moorhead. It is our sophomore year, another normal day, when suddenly Brad asks the first question, "Hey Wynn, do you want to study in Germany next year?" One phrase can change the course of history. A nonchalant "sure," and six months later we were on the plane to Heidelberg, Germany. Study was a pastime, seeing much of Europe was the result. At the age of twenty I returned to the U.S., having fulfilled more than my lifetime dream. And now I had wings.

Our senior year, the end of college was approaching. My plans for a career as a history teacher were unwisely abandoned in favor of a double major in political science and international relations, mediocre academic record, looming unemployment and a complete loss of what to do after graduating.

"Hey Wynn, do you want to teach English in Japan for two years?" Brad's second question. January 1975, I landed in Tokyo, teaching English under the auspices of the Japanese Lutheran Church, from 1975-77. Living in a city as the only foreigner, I felt at home. From this experience, a sense of direction emerged that has guided me for almost thirty years.

It would take four years for things to fall into place. Wanderlust struck in 1978, and I did a six-month motorcycle trip from Greenbush

to the west coast. In 1980, at a Bible School in Seattle, I met Tara Ruohoniemi, whose father had bundled his family off to Nepal in 1956, where he worked until his death in 1979. Tara and I were married in 1981, when we embarked on what would become a life of adventures overseas.

Most of the last twenty-two years has been spent living in Asia working in humanitarian aid and development. This was not something we consciously set out to do. In fact, these years were characterized by a lack of strategy, plan or even ambition. Rather, our destinations have been based mostly on places we felt God wanted us to go. As expected, they were unexpected.



Tara and Wynn Flaten

Well, maybe not Nepal. With Tara having grown up there and my lifelong interest, perhaps Nepal wasn't so surprising. From 1982-92, we worked with a Christian missionary agency where I had responsibilities in community health and later developing industrial companies in hydropower, rural electrification, wood based industries, and appropriate technology. The first years were spent in the mountains south of Mount Everest, followed by several years based in the capital of Kathmandu. We had a sabbatical break in 1986-87 to complete my Master's degree at the **University** of Southern California. It was during this time that our family also expanded. Jessica was born in Kathmandu in 1984, and I skipped graduation at USC in December 1987, to get back to Minnesota for the birth of our second daughter, Kelly.

After eleven years in Nepal, we needed a change. From 1993-96 we called Peshawar, Pakistan, home while I worked in Afghanistan as head of the British agency, Afghanaid. This was after the collapse of the communist government in Afghanistan, and local warlords ruled the country. Afghanistan became the world's largest producer of opium, used to make heroin. The subsequent chaos provided the opportunity for the Taliban to emerge, bringing law and order through crushing theocracy.

By 1996, local conservative society didn't seem the right place for our two blond daughters to thrive, and we moved on to perhaps our greatest adventure. I accepted an offer from the Aga Khan Foundation in Geneva Switzerland as management advisor to a local organization they had set up. We moved to Khorog, Tajikistan, part of the former Soviet Union, but literally a stone's throw across the Oxus River from Afghanistan. There was no market economy, as people hadn't yet learned to set up shop in the post-Soviet era. We were miles from the nearest shopping (a thirteen hour drive to Osh, Kyrgyzstan), and the only foreign family with children in the town. So while I went off to work every day, Tara home schooled our daughters in a tiny house situated in what is reputed to be the highest botanical garden in the world. Looking back, it was an extremely difficult time, yet we now see it as a time of growing

together as a family.

After two years, the isolation began to take its toll, and in 1998-99 we stayed in Minneapolis for the school year. It was perhaps one of the most unusual years for us, simply because it was so "normal". We had Christmas with family, enjoyed winter, and the girls attended a public school. Though I did some short term consulting, most of the time I just enjoyed not working.

As the school year ended, it was off to experience life in a tropical Asian mega-city, and we spent 1999-2003 in the sprawl and chaos of Manila, Philippines. Mountain peaks of yesteryear had been replaced by traffic jams, honking horns, and incredible pollution. Working as a consultant with World Vision, I traveled the Asia Pacific region to Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Malaysia, Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal), Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Indonesia. After years of dreaming, I was finally able to travel for work to Mongolia on five different occasions. While I spent my time in hotels and airports, the rest of the family focused on Faith Academy. Tara was a teacher, and the girls enjoyed four years of excellent education at this well-known Christian school.

When Jessica graduated from high school and entered Babson College in Boston, the rest of us also needed a change. So in July 2003, Tara, Kelly and I moved to Jakarta, Indonesia, another Asian megapolis with 2-3 times the entire population of Minnesota. I continue to work for World Vision, and Tara has a part time teaching involvement at Jakarta International School, where Kelly attends. We plan to be in Indonesia until Kelly graduates in 2006. And then? We expect it will be one more leg on the road less traveled, but we have no idea where that might be.

The life that started in Greenbush catapulted me to adventures in the Himalaya Mountains, and onward to mega cities in Asia. Through it all, God has given me experiences far beyond my wildest dreams. Yet I think more about Greenbush as the months and years pass by. I am beginning to see that the importance of Greenbush isn't what I left behind, but what I took with me.

Brad would understand. He travelled the world, lived and died in New York. But his ashes were scattered on the family farm in North Dakota. We do not have a choice where we start from, but we do have a choice where we go. And so it is with pleasure that I plan to be back like so many others, and say Happy Birthday Greenbush!

Wynn Flaten: November 2004, Jakarta, Indonesia

Sandra (Wicklund) Hyllengren

Sandra Hyllengren is the youngest of the ten children of Eric and Alma Wicklund. She graduated from Greenbush High School in 1963 and the University of North Dakota in 1966. While at UND, she was a member of Pi Beta Phi Sorority and was voted Queen Aurora (winter carnival queen) among the many activities she participated in. She taught English and speech in the Anoka-Hennepin school district and, at the same time, was a part of the "Edgewater Eight", a singing group in Minneapolis. She later became part of "What Four", a group that performed four times on the Johnny Carson Show and traveled the nation performing in night clubs. When her group broke up, she landed a job as Public Relations Director at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel and, later, the St. Regis Hotel in New York.

While at the St. Regis, she returned to Minneapolis and was introduced to Dr. David Hyllengren, a pediatric dentist/orthodon-

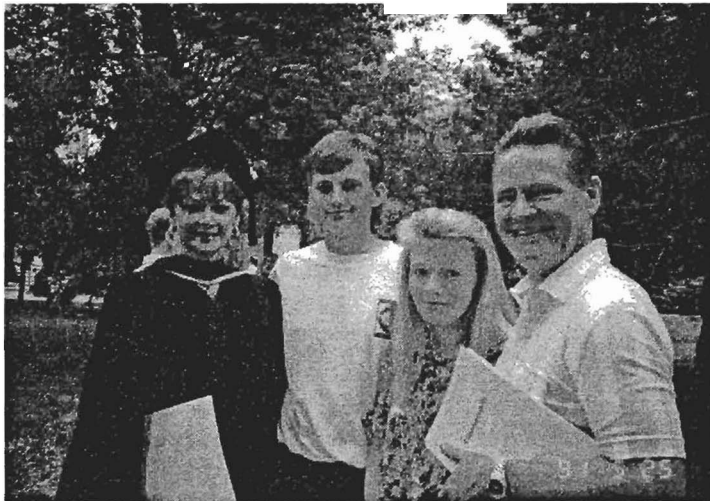


"What Four" musical group: Bill Ewald, JoAnn Johnson, Sandy Wicklund and Roger Berdahl. (photo courtesy of Sandra Hyllengren)

tist. After a bi-coastal relationship, they decided that getting married was cheaper than flying back and forth between New York and Minneapolis. They were married on December 16, 1972, by David's father, Reverend Wm. Hyllengren. They have two children, Eric and Britta. Both are graduates of Notre Dame University (kind of strange for the grandchildren of a Lutheran minister).

Eric has a masters' degree from Kellogg School of Management, and Britta recently graduated from Suffolk School of Law in Boston, MA. Eric and his wife, Janice, live in California, about two hours away from Palm Desert. He works at Amgen, a medical device company. Janice has her doctorate in physical therapy, and Britta works for a large law firm in Boston.

After working for several funeral homes singing services, Sandra decided that there must be more to life than death. She applied to law school on a \$50 bet that she would get in (she didn't think she would) and ended up doing her time at Hamline Law School. She graduated and then went to work for the State of Minnesota. After some agency work, she was recruited by Governor Arne Carlson as his Legislative Relations Director. That was an excellent experience but then came Governor Ventura. She decided to leave government service.



Sandra's graduation from Hamline: Sandra, Eric, Britta, and David. (photo courtesy of Sandra Hyllengren)

Today, David and Sandra live in Palm Desert, California, but still own their home in Minnesota. It's sitting right on the banks of the Mississippi. They spend their time at the gym, golfing, and getting involved in their church, Hope Lutheran. Sandra sings about once a month, and David listens and ushers when they're short.

Personal note: My memories of Greenbush are these: People cared about each other, cared about their little town; there was always a great community Christmas celebration for children and a wonderful Fourth of July parade. I marched in a number of them, right up there in the front row with the rest of the trombones!

A big hooray for small-town America
Submitted by Sandra (Wicklund) Hyllengren

G. Rodney Huggett

G. Rodney Huggett's father was Dick Huggett, "The Buttermaker," who was the manager of the Land O' Lakes Creamery in Greenbush from 1937 to 1947 and active in community affairs. After leaving Greenbush, the Huggetts moved to Roseau, where Dick managed the creamery.

G. Rodney Huggett attended grades one through five at the Greenbush School. He attended school in Roseau for five years and graduated from high school in Urbana, Illinois in 1961. He received his BS from Oklahoma State University, MS in physics from Harvard, and his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Rochester.

Rodney has worked for several companies developing laser-based devices. He is married and has lived in Seattle for over twenty years. He has a son who lives in Washington and a daughter who lives in Oregon. Rodney and his wife are avid SCUBA divers and travel extensively, particularly to dive sites around the world.

Submitted by: Eunice Korczak

Richard Huggett, Jr.

Richard Huggett, Jr. is the son of "Dick Huggett," who was the manager of the Land O' Lakes creamery in Greenbush from 1937 to 1947. During that time the creamery began handling whole milk for separation into cream and skim milk. The skim milk was sent to the milk-drying plant at Roseau. Dick Huggett was also known as "The Buttermaker."

Richard, Jr., attended the Greenbush School from 1937 to 1947, second grade through twelfth, skipping eighth grade.

After graduating as valedictorian of the class of '47, Richard attended and graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, again as valedictorian. He then attended Indiana University and obtained MS and Ph.D. degrees in physics.

Richard served on the faculty of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge for thirty-seven years and started a cosmic ray physics program that is active to this day. Now retired, Richard lives in the Seattle area. He has four children, three daughters in Wisconsin and a son in Louisiana. He had an early interest in birds at Greenbush, which was revived after retirement, so he spends a good deal of time birding. He has had a long-time interest in various types of dancing and enjoys trap shooting.

Submitted by: Eunice Korczak

Harold and Carol Johnson

In May 1913 Harold S. Johnson was announced by the Greenbush Tribune, as "another husky boy has been brought to the home of Harold J. and Sina Johnson in Hereim Township."

Education was highly valued in this family. Although living five miles from town, five of seven children graduated from Greenbush High School and Selma graduated from Grand Forks Central. Dinus was needed on the farm after 8th grade. In the 1920s and early 30s when most didn't graduate from eighth grade, this family attended college. Julius Theo, graduated from St. Olaf, Hilda Carolyn from UND, and Ruth from Moorhead State's two-year teaching program.

Roy was a third-year mechanical engineering student at NDSU when he "starved out." Money was hard to come by in the early 1930s and even working as dorm proctor for free room, and he

and Harold selling milk for \$0.08 a quart and cinnamon rolls for \$0.15 a half dozen to other students, he couldn't make ends meet.

Harold attended NDSU for a year and a half. He had a year's tuition saved that he used for his brother Roy's funeral expenses. Roy was killed by a train while driving milk truck in Iowa.



Harold and Carol Johnson originated the idea of a federal student loan program.

home to help Harold came milk, farm, and

raise strawber-merchially in Grand Forks. In 1937, he met and married Carol Keuhn, who with other area girls, picked the berries.

In addition to his life-work farming, Harold was organizer for Farmers Union

and fieldman for Central Exchange. Still, he regretted not finishing his engineering degree. In the 1950s he brought the idea of government loans for college students to Farmers Union locals throughout northwest Minnesota.

With this support, the idea was presented to United States Representative Coya Knutson, who introduced House Bill No. HR 11414. Through her efforts it was adopted as an amendment to the National Defense Education Act of 1958.

A letter from Congresswoman Coya Knutson reads:
Congress of the United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.
July 2, 1956
Mr. Harold Johnson
Greenbush, Minnesota
. Dear Harold:

I am enclosing several copies of the student loan bill and the press release which I sent out when I introduced the bill. It was your idea in the first place and I thank you for giving me the inspiration. It is a good bill and I hope it gets the recognition that it deserves when it reaches the House Floor.

I hope that the meeting on Saturday was satisfactory and I hope to see a lot of you people this year while I am out there campaigning.

With kind personal regard, I am,
Sincerely Yours,
Coya Knutson, M.C.

In another letter dated September 5, 1958, Coya wrote, "The President just signed the National Defense Education Act of 1958 (containing the student loan provision) into law so now eligible boys and girls will be able to get this federal assistance with their education. This will go into effect next June, 1959."

The passage of this bill and the fact that all five of their children, Myrna Sovde, Gerald (Jerry), Sharon Hanson, Bonnie Nordstrom,

and Janine Schneider graduated from college and became teachers is a source of pride to Harold and Carol at ages 91 and 85 in 2004

Submitted by Myrna Sovde

Robert Kammen. Former Greenbush Resident.
Author of 35 Published Books

Robert Kammen, author of a book nominated by Western Writers of America for Best Western Novel of the Year, grew up in Greenbush. In his words, "Growing up in Greenbush to the distinguished height of 5'9" afforded me the wonderful opportunity of gazing out from under the lower branches of pine trees at a town coming out of the Great Depression as the nation entered World War II." He observed people going off to military service and remembers the heartbreak and heroism of both those on the home front and those in uniform overseas. One memory, which obviously made a deep impression on the young Kammen, is of listening to a short-wave radio bringing him "the actual voices of the newscasters who were witnessing the landing at D-Day on the Normandy Coast."

After the war ended Kammen left for Crookston, where as a senior, he attended Crookston Ag College. In the early spring of 1949, he moved to Butte, Montana, and lived there until the Korean War started. He enlisted in the army and served overseas in that war.

Kammen is the distinguished writer of 35 published books and some movie scripts and TV treatments. Early in his career, he also wrote articles for a newspaper in Illinois. Later, he worked for the US Mail Service, ending his postal years as a postmaster in southwestern North Dakota.

His first book, *The Watcher*, published by Random House, was nominated by Western Writers of America for Best Western Novel of the Year. His next thirty-four books were published by Pinnacle, Kensington, Sunset Productions, and other publishing houses. Among the books that Kammen has written are detective thrillers, some children's books, and a fictional terrorist plot that predated the infamous 9/11 by several years. He coauthored a non-fiction historical book entitled *Soldiers Falling into Camp*, and for that effort, was adopted into the Crow Nation, a Native-American tribe.

He says that as a storyteller, though, his best award is simply that someone likes his books, and mentions letters received from people around the country thanking him for books that they not only read for themselves but can share with their children.

Asked how he got started writing, where he gets his ideas, and how he disciplines himself to write, Kammen says, "No writer can truly say where his ideas come from. It's one of life's great mysteries." But, he credits his start as a writer to hearing the wonderful Norwegian stories his family tells and by reading western books and watching western movies. Some of his ideas have sprung from reading or hearing about real events and from legends and stories told around the campfire.

Writing a set number of hours per day, depending on his current project, and disciplining himself to stick to his writing schedule is not difficult, except when the weather is good enough to play golf. "Of course, given Wyoming's climate, that's not as much of a problem as it would be down south," he says.

Primarily, Kammen writes western novels and says they are really the archetype for most other novels, because they contain all of the classic elements of action-adventure novels: rip-roaring action, hearty adventure, entertaining stories, plot twists, interesting

characters, and the opportunity to see wrongs righted.

It would seem his jobs and writing would have occupied all of Kammen's time, but amazingly, he has found the time for other pursuits, as well. Perhaps because of his early experience in Greenbush, watching the heartbreak and heroism of the World War II, Kammen became a staunch supporter of the U.S. military.

Early on, when he was still in Illinois during the Vietnam War, his newspaper articles on patriotism caught the eye of a Navy chaplain. The chaplain, on behalf of the 3rd Maine Division, wrote to Kammen requesting help to secure food and clothing for orphaned Vietnamese children. The 3rd Division was based out of Da Nang and engaged in daily combat with the North Vietnamese. Kammen went on TV with Chaplain Hansen's appeal, and thus began a five-year relief effort to Da Nang. The first year, one hundred tons of supplies were airlifted out of Illinois including food, clothing, blankets, school supplies, tents, eyeglasses, and more. About the same amount of supplies were airlifted to Da Nang each year for the next four years.

When the 22nd Marine Amphibious Force became involved in a peacekeeping mission to Beirut, Lebanon, there had been much adverse reporting by the news media. Kammen, now in North Dakota, became involved and was given phone access to General P.X. Kelly's Chief of Staff at the Pentagon office. His call requesting the roster of the 22nd Amphibious Force to start a letter-writing campaign from all of the school children in Hettinger County, North Dakota, to the Marines in Beirut prompted a Marine visit to the community two weeks later. A Marine Major, a Sergeant-Major, and ten Marine Sergeants spent three weeks visiting all of the county schools. The military men also spoke with adult groups and even took advantage of the pheasant hunting. During this visit, both high school and grade school children participated in the letter writing campaign to Marines in Beirut. Banners made by the school children and a video of the school board serenading the Marines were sent to Beirut. Sadly, the banners were on the building that was blown up in an act of terrorism that resulted in the tragic deaths of 245 Marines.

Kammen was living in Casper, Wyoming, during the Gulf War. With the help of the Air Force and the Marine Corps, the Casper community had 15,000 students writing to service people in the Gulf. During that time, Kammen went with a TV crew to Camp Pendleton, aboard a Marine Corps VIP jet. During his week there as a guest of the Corps, he was taken out to a Naval Station near San Diego to witness the return of a squadron of ships from the Middle East. One was the Aircraft Carrier, *Independence*.

Robert and his wife, Marlene, have three children, all college graduates. Jeff and his wife Kay and two daughters, Sarah and Jaime live in Victoria, Minnesota. Jerry lives in Wyoming. Suzanna Marie, her husband Todd, and three children, Justine, Derrick, and Zachary, live in California.

Currently, Robert Kammen lives in Casper, Wyoming, and is working on a projected twenty-book science-fiction series, of which he has completed the first seven manuscripts. He has made several visits to Greenbush over the years.

Rev. Nils J. Njus

Nils Johansson Njus was born August 3, 1875, in Leikanger, Midtre Sogn, Norway, the son of Johannes O. and Mette L. (Kvalen) Njus. His father was a shoemaker. He immigrated alone to the United States in 1891, when he was fifteen years old. He traded

making three cents a day picking potatoes in Norway, for eleven dollars a month doing farm work with Norwegian immigrants in Minnehaha County in South Dakota.

He decided the only way he was going to be able to make a living was to learn English, so he went to Lutheran Normal School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he graduated in 1898. After a period of teaching parochial school in Hills, Minnesota, he attended Hamline Theological Seminary from 1900-1903.

He was ordained in the Norwegian Synod on May 26, 1903. His first call was to be a home mission pastor for four small congregations in Roseau County. He took the train leaving St. Paul in the evening and arrived in Stephen at noon the next day. There he accepted a ride with another pastor who was leaving to move to Wisconsin. They rode on a two-seat platform buggy pulled by western horses on the 60-mile trip. They didn't have room for his baggage and household supplies so they were shipped to a store in Old Greenbush.

It was a swampy area, but it was hot so the road was passable. The countryside reminded him of the tableland in the mountains of Norway. The area was flat with short scrub trees and brush. It took until evening to reach Pelan, and the next day he arrived at Badger to meet the pastor he was to replace. They went on to Greenbush. There was a road of sorts, and the land had been cleared somewhat. There was nothing on the horizon to the west and north.

The Greenbush business district consisted of two stores, a blacksmith shop, and a printing shop. The newspaper's main income was from printing notices to prove up homesteads. The stagecoach was to bring his goods to be left at the store.

He went on and met a farmer who would sell him two partially trained broncos named Maude and Dandy for \$125. This price included the harness, and could be purchased on time. They left their horses there, took the new ones, and went on to the farm where they were to stay the night. It was dark by then, but they arrived and left their horses in the stable and went in the house. Everyone was sleeping so they made up the bed downstairs and slept soundly.

The evening of the next day they arrived at his predecessor's homestead. There was only a lamp, a stove, and a cot. They stayed overnight. The next day some ladies arrived to make ready for the Fourth of July celebration, which was to be held there.

Someone showed him the way back to Greenbush to get his belongings.



Ella Torgerson **weds** Nils Njus on Sept. 20, 1905. (Bethel archives photo)

He had not changed clothes since he left St. Paul, and also he needed his books and gown for the installation on Sunday. When he arrived, there was no suitcase so he traveled on to Badger where he found it. Then he had to travel back the 15 miles.

On July 5th he was installed at Poplar Grove where he served until 1908. On July 12th he was installed in Wannaska where he preached in schools until 1909. The way between Greenbush and Wannaska was to go around Badger. The roads were impassable

in the spring, so he would have to go around Roseau then or find his own way. He had many a hard trip in both winter and summer.

The first two years he preached in four different school houses in the Wannaska area: Gunderson, Wannaska, Hanson, and Grimstad. He would have to arrive early to start the fire and wait for people to come. He was on the road most of the time and had many hard trips on the roundabout road to get there. He would leave in the early morning, get to Wannaska to teach confirmation class in the afternoon, preach twice on Sunday, and sometimes stay for Ladies Aid on Monday.

During this time, Nils built his own house and bam and proved up a homestead of 160 acres southwest of Greenbush in Barto Township Section 35, and 40 acres in Section 26. He married Ellen Torgerson of Menomonie, Wisconsin on September 20, 1905, and brought his bride to his new homestead. She bore him two boys and four girls all at home without a doctor, except for the last child.

Rev. Njus also served Riverside at Wannaska from 1903-1909. Being that he preached at houses and schools, they didn't get a church built. Rev. Njus also taught school and catechism there four days a week for five weeks in a parochial setting. For all of this he was supposed to receive \$3.00 from each member per year, but many failed to do it.

Sometimes the travel was so hard he would have to stay overnight at people's houses along the way. Other times he didn't get time to pick up his mail for two weeks. Once he arrived at Wannaska just in time to preach a funeral service for someone. They had notified him by mail, and he hadn't picked it up yet!

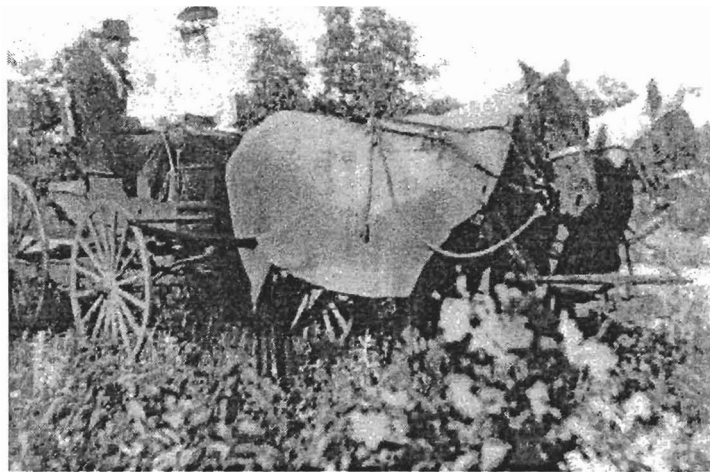


Ladies Aid at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Nils Njus. Ella is holding daughter Linka and Nils is holding Margaret, 1907. Note all the children in the photo. (Bethel archives photo)

Rev. Njus also preached at Sanders Hall in Old Greenbush and served at the new congregation of St. Olaf in Greenbush from 1904-1909. They built a church in 1905. He paid the shipping charges for the new pulpit. In the early days the minister also served as foreman of the church council. His salary was paid in two installments in May and November.

He served at Poplar Grove from 1904-1908. During that time plans were drawn up for a new church building. Construction began in 1910. Klondike was organized on December 5, 1907, and Rev. Njus preached in homes and at the school there.

He also preached at Zion in Barnett Township. Pine Grove in Malung hired him in 1908. They built a church and had Norwegian services.



Rev. and Mrs. Nils J. Njus and daughter Margaret near Greenbush in 1907. (Bethel archives photo)

He preached for Nannestad Lutheran before the church was built. He would arrive in his buggy or sleigh on Saturday afternoon and stay overnight at a parishioner's house. He established four churches and served as spiritual leader for as many as twelve congregations at one time. As other pastors left, he picked up their congregations. For a time he was the only ordained pastor in Roseau County. They called him the "traveling pastor." He served several congregations throughout the county. He was paid \$400 a year. Cash was hard to come by so he was often paid with meat and produce.

In 1909, they moved to Landa, North Dakota, where they lived for four years. From there they went to New London, Minnesota, where he served Norway Lake, South Lake Johanna, and Munson Lake churches for 40 years from 1913-1953. He would preach a sermon at one church on Sunday morning, one in the afternoon, and one in the evening for Luther League. These were always in Norwegian, until he gradually introduced English. In 1953, when he left, they had all been changed to English. He earned \$1,000 a year during World War I, and he also milked five cows during that time to support his family.

He also served as interim and visiting pastor at Our Redeemers and others in Benson, Minnesota. His last call was at age 86. He retired at 92 and preached his last sermon at 95. His wife died in 1976. Rev. Njus died in 1977 at the age of 102.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information from Bethel Achieves, The Minneapolis Tribune, the Benson paper, the Warren Sheaf, and reflections of Rev. N.J. Njus.

Milton and Irene (Johnson) Sather



Milt and Irene Sather 1991. (photo taken from Bethel Church archives)

This book is dedicated in part to our local historian, Milt Sather, whose research files and previously published articles have been an invaluable aid in the production of this book. It is, however, impossible to separate Milt from his wife Irene in writing of their truly awe-inspiring archives of historical and naturalist information. Every facet of the collection seems to derive from the couple working together. These are interests that seem to fascinate both equally. Both also have devoted con-

siderable time and energy to community service. So in this article, we wish to honor both Milt and Irene for everything they have done for the community, not just their assistance with this book.

Milt: Milton was born at Grafton, North Dakota, on March 30, 1923, to Walter and Alma (Odden) Sather. His siblings are Wallace, Donald, Wesley, and Gladys (Kauppi). He was baptized and confirmed at Grafton Lutheran Church, and he attended rural District 4, Grafton High, and Union Commercial College. Milt worked at Tri-State Labs in Grand Forks and J.C. Penney in Grafton and Roseau before coming to Greenbush.

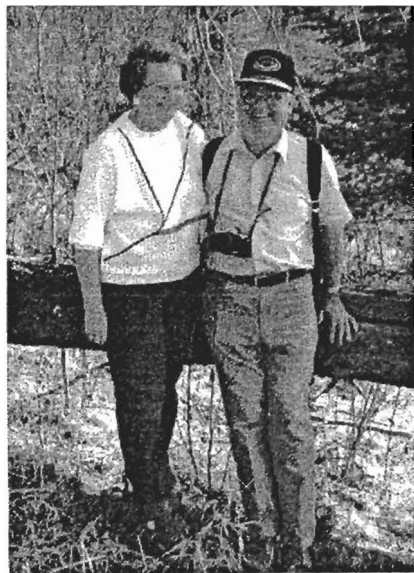
Irene: Irene Johnson was born at Roseau on February 3, 1925, to Ole and Agnes (Fugleberg) Johnson. She was baptized and confirmed at Moe Lutheran Church, and she attended Roseau School, graduating in 1943. Irene worked for Reinhart Bros. in Minneapolis, Citizens State Bank in Roseau, and Greenbush Agency in Greenbush.

Family: Milton and Irene were married at Moe Church in Roseau in 1954. Their son, Wayne, was born and baptized in Roseau and confirmed at Bethel in Greenbush. Bryan, their second son, was born in Greenbush and baptized and confirmed at Bethel.

Church and other interests: From 1959 until retirement, the couple owned and operated Sather's Clothing in Greenbush. During much of that time, Irene worked at the Greenbush Agency. Milt and Irene were active in their church; he served as financial secretary, wrote the Bethel Centennial Book, and founded the Bethel Church archives, while she was active in women's groups, holding offices as secretary and treasurer.

Interests pursued while the family was growing included family camping, active membership in Pelan Pioneer Park, outdoor photography, volunteerism, and researching family and county history.

Save the orchids: In the fall of 1989, Milt and Irene volunteered to help the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources in their joint effort to restore rare wildflowers and other natural plants that had been disturbed during a major highway reconstruction project. Irene and Milt, along with other volunteers, planted lady slippers and several other varieties of orchids and native plants along a five and one half mile stretch of Highway 11. So, Milt and Irene were supremely qualified as orchid guides when they later led Grand Forks Herald columnist and editor Mike Jacobs on an orchid expedition beginning



Sathers at Hayes Lake 1990.
(photo taken from Bethel Church archives)

with a stop at a railroad crossing in Greenbush and on to a bog in Beltrami State Forest. In addition to showing Jacobs the familiar Minnesota state flower, which is the showy lady slipper orchid, Milt and Irene introduced him to eight or ten other varieties of orchid in this area.

Save the Bluebirds: In the Roseau Times-Region of July 23, 1991, Milt was recognized for his volunteer efforts at Hayes Lake. He had donated twelve birdhouses for the bluebird trail located at Hayes Park. He

followed that up with checking and cleaning the houses, and also loaned the park a natural history library of one hundred forty-five books, a valuable tool for research and helping visitors identify plants and animals in the park.

The Roseau Times-Region again lauded Milt in the May 11, 1993, issue. He had built, distributed, and maintained fifty bluebird houses at Pelan Park. He checked and recorded the usage, the eggs, and the fledglings, as well as cleaning and repairing the houses. This was an important contribution to the Non-Game Wildlife Program and Bluebird Recovery Program. Milt said he and Irene spent about twenty-five hours a year on the project. He mentioned that he had also installed bluebird houses around cemeteries, saying, "They're ecumenical. They've accepted my boxes in Lutheran and Catholic cemeteries."

Lake and Stream Ecology: In 1997, Milt was commended and awarded a Certificate of Recognition for selflessly donating time and energy to the Roseau County Minnaqua Program, a lake and stream ecology and teaching program.

Cemetery Mapping: In June of 1998, Milt and Irene were honored for researching, documenting, and mapping Roseau County cemeteries and for their work in establishing the research department at the Roseau County Historical Society Museum. They were presented with a plaque that read, "Presented to Milt and Irene Sather in appreciation of your dedication for research and years of service." Through their cemetery mapping, Milt and Irene have paved the way for future generations of genealogists to research their antecedents.

Red River Valley Heritage Society Honors Milt: An article in the *Notables* section of the September, 1998, Grand Forks Herald tells how "Milt Sather of Greenbush, Minnesota, has served his community and the Valley as an organizer and leader, a naturalist, and a working historian. He has mapped rare wildflower sites along highways, built birdhouses and collected data on birds, charted cemeteries, held several offices for the Roseau County Historical Society, and authored articles on regional history. For his many years of service, he will be honored with the award for preservation of heritage." Every year, the Red River Valley Heritage Society honors people who have enhanced and preserved the Valley heritage.

Pelan Park and Pelan Ghost Town: Over the years, Milt has spent countless hours working with Pelan Park. In addition to years of service as treasurer, he coordinated the Pelan Park Dinner Theaters, a significant fund-raising activity. His interest in the park goes **hand-in-hand** with his interest in the ghost town of Pelan. He has become the unofficial historian of Pelan. The former town was located just over the river in Kittson County at The Crossing, the place on the ridge road where the river was forded. Pelan boomed for a time, then died when the railroads bypassed the town. Milt and Irene have a large collection of pictures and information about Pelan.

As of 2004, Milt has been an active member of the Roseau County Historical Society for twenty-eight years. He wasn't born a history buff, but in the mid-70s when he researched Pelan, he began to appreciate the past. Since then, he and Irene have devoted considerable time researching and cataloging the history of this area. Thousands of documents, pictures, newspaper clippings, photographs, books, and other historical items are cataloged and stored in their basement archives. Milt has participated in a number of historical projects over the years and has written many historical articles.

Senior Citizen o/the Year: For his accomplishments as natural-

ist and published historian, Milt was chosen Male Senior Citizen of the Year. When interviewed after receiving this honor, Milt offered some advice to the public: "Save everything for your children. Tell them what it was like when you were young and write it down. Keep journals and records. Identify photographs and, because color fades over time, take some black and white photos."

Milt and Irene delve into the past to benefit the future: Milt and Irene's efforts send a message. Share your past. Or dig out local history and share that. Write it for the future, for your children, and for the museum. Preserve your personal history, and you will help preserve the history of the area and times. This is not just their message but their personal aim. For this we honor them.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak: From information from the Roseau Country Historical Society Museum, The Greenbush Tribune, The Roseau Times-Region, and The Grand Forks Herald.

Tomi K. Sawyer

Tomi Sawyer graduated as an honor student with the class of 1972 from Greenbush Public School. Tomi was born and raised in Greenbush, and he lived on a small farm with his parents Robert and Geraldine who inherited it from his grandfather Albert Johnson. During his younger years, Tomi learned about farming as well as automobile mechanics from his father who owned Sawyer Motors in Greenbush. He enjoyed playing sports, ranging from baseball to bowling and billiards during that time, and he also was an avid hunter and fisherman with his father and brother-in-law Danny Foster. In school, Tomi was focused on his studies and was a member of the Tiger's wrestling team under Coach Doug Dahl as well as the high school band where he played first chair trombone for several years. Tomi became good friends with many of his classmates and other students, including particularly strong friendships with Michael Agre, Douglas Bergsnev, Robert Novacek and Chris Swanstrom during his high school years. The people who most impacted his education through encouragement was his sister Joyce (Foster) and her children John, Jacqueline, and Jamie. They were especially significant to his family life during the ten years before Tomi left Greenbush in 1972 to attend college.

Tomi received scholarships to attend Moorhead State University from 1972-1976. During his time at MSU, Tomi was actively involved in many campus activities, including positions of Student Advisor to undergraduate majors in chemistry and medicine, President of the Chemistry Club, President of the Residence Hall governing council, and a Resident Assistant to the Director. Tomi worked with three professors to conduct undergraduate research in chemistry and biology, and his first scientific publication came from studies he did with Dr. James Shaw. He graduated from Moorhead State University with Cum Laude honors and a Bachelors of Science (B.Sci.) degree in Chemistry. Tomi next went on to graduate school at the University of Arizona from 1976-1981. He worked with two worldclass professors, Dr. Victor Hruby (Chemistry) and Dr. Mac Hadley (Biology), and learned both chemistry and biology as part of his research. His scientific work led to the discovery of a breakthrough novel medicine now known as Melanotan, the first marketed drug developed from the University of Arizona. Tomi received top honors for his dissertation from the Department of Chemistry and was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree with Summa Cum Laude honors equivalent.

After being recruited by a number of institutions, including Merck Research, Hoffman LaRoche, the Salk Insititute, and the National

Institutes of Health, Tomi accepted a position as Scientist at the Upjohn Company (now Pfizer Global Research and Development) in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he was the youngest Ph.D. scientist to join the drug discovery division for many years. At the Upjohn Company, Tomi rose through the scientific ranks during 1981-1991 and had the largest research group of any Ph.D. scientist, which he credits to a tremendously supportive boss, Clark Smith. One of the highlights of Tomi's scientific work with the Upjohn Company was the discovery of a breakthrough novel drug (prototype) for the treatment of AIDS based on inhibiting an enzyme known as HIV protease. His group was the first in the world to report this discovery in the esteemed journal, *Science*, and Tom Brokaw, NBC Evening News, gave the first public announcement of this major achievement from the Upjohn Company in 1990. Tomi and two biochemistry scientist colleagues, Robert Heinrikson and Alfredo Tomaselli, received Upjohn's highest award for drug discovery for their contributions to this work.

In 1986, Tomi married Constance Gifford, who was born and raised in a small community known as Hanover-Horton. They met by way of Connie's brother, Eric, who also worked at the Upjohn Company and had become a friend of Tomi. Their two sons, Thomas and Jonathon were each born in Kalamazoo. Connie was a medical assistant working at a private medical practice in Jackson, Michigan, before they were married. Tomi marks the three greatest events in his life to be his marriage to Connie and the births of Thomas and Jonathon. Tomi feels very blessed with his family and the good works that they strive to accomplish. Through the years, beginning with Greenbush, each place where Tomi has lived has impacted his life by both events and people. Besides his family, some other very important individuals who have most influenced his scholarly quest are Mel Wang (science teacher at Greenbush High School), Dr. James Shaw (chemistry professor at Moorhead State University), Randall Johnson (best friend of all times from Moorhead State University), Dr. Victor Hruby (chemistry professor and Ph.D. mentor at the University of Arizona), Dr. Mac Hadley (Biology professor and Ph.D. mentor at the University of Arizona), Dr. Fahad Al-Obeidi (endeared friend and fellow graduate student at the University of Arizona, and himself being an extraordinarily accomplished scholar from a humble abode in his home country Iraq), and Dr. Henry Mosberg (endeared friend and medicinal chemistry professor at the University of Michigan who enabled Tomi's



Tomi and Constance Sawyer and boys, Thomas (16) and Jonathon (13).

first adjunct appointment as an Associate Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Michigan).

In 1991, Tomi and his family moved from Kalamazoo to Ann Arbor where he was recruited to Parke-Davis/Warner-Lambert Company (now Pfizer Global Research and Development), as he accepted a management position as a section director in the chemistry department. Tomi led a chemistry group that was the first dedicated drug design focused scientific team at Parke-Davis/

Warner-Lambert with a mission to successfully implement the use of technologically-advanced computational methods to make new drugs. Within one year, Tomi's group was the first to create a de novo designed (3D structure-based) drug for an enzyme target, known as Src, that was critical for both cancer and bone diseases. In fact, Src is distinguished in medical research as being the first discovered oncogene of its particular type (so-called-protein kinases) that is now the largest superclass drug targets determined from sequencing the human genome. In recognition of this and other work, Tomi received the Parke-Davis/Warner-Lambert President's Honorarium and gave a Distinguished Scientist's Lecture in 1994. In addition to his scientific work at Parke-Davis/Warner-Lambert, Tomi was an adjunct Associate Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Michigan where he co-organized courses and gave lectures to graduate students on special topics in drug discovery.

In 1997, Tomi and his family made a major transition to move from Michigan to Southborough, Massachusetts, a quaint New England village in the greater Boston-Cambridge metropolitan area. The driving force for this move was the recruitment of Tomi to join ARIAD Pharmaceuticals, a relatively new drug discovery company located near both MIT and Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tomi is currently Senior Vice-President of Drug Discovery and is a key scientific leader of several projects and technologies that are focused on breakthrough medicines for cancer. Highlights of his work at ARIAD include the first worldwide discoveries of drugs targeting the protein kinases Src (for cancer metastasis) and Bcr-Abl (for leukemia) that are particularly potent, effective resistance, and promising candidates for clinical investigation. This work includes the first worldwide discoveries of the 3D structures (X-ray crystallography) of key lead compounds complexed with the protein kinase Src. Tomi has spearheaded the creation of SMART drug design technology at ARIAD that is the engine of invention of a series of promising new molecules for cancer and related diseases. Tomi and his drug discovery team received Chairman's Milestone Awards for both Drug Achievement and Clinical Candidate Achievement in recognition of this pioneering work at ARIAD Pharmaceuticals. In addition to his scientific work at ARIAD Pharmaceuticals, Tomi is also adjunct Professor of Chemistry as well as Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Massachusetts, where he serves as an advisor to a Chemistry-Biology Interface Program, gives lectureships in drug design and is a mentor to many chemistry undergraduate students.

Beyond his academic and industrial career, Tomi has been actively engaged in a plethora of professional activities such as publishing, presenting at various scientific meetings, scientific advisory positions to technology companies, editorial advisory appointments of scientific journals, leadership positions of scientific societies, and inventorship of scientific patents. Tomi has published more than two-hundred scientific papers, including books, monographs and proceedings. Tomi has given more than one-hundred scientific lectures at national and international conferences as well as a plethora of university seminars and academic Tomi has been appointed to the scientific advisory boards of several companies, including Advanced ChemTech, Synergix Drug Design Company, and Synthematix. Tomi serves on the editorial advisory boards of numerous scientific journals including *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery*, *Trends in Pharmacological Sciences*, *Chemistry and Biology*, *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, *Current Organic Synthesis*, *Peptide Science*, *Expert Opinion on Investigational*

Drugs, and *Expert Opinion on Molecular Medicine*. He has served as a member of scientific grant advisory panels for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Medical Research Council. Tomi has held leadership positions in several scientific societies, including the American Chemical Society, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, and American Peptide Society. He is an inventor of more than fifty scientific patents and pending applications.

This year, 2004, Tomi was the invited commencement speaker at the Greenbush/Middle River High School graduation ceremony. He delivered an inspirational talk on the theme "For Knowledge, Passion for Life". A wonderful article was written by Collette Mooney for the *Greenbush Tribune* that highlighted the speech. Tomi acknowledges the significance of his education as first achieved with credits to Greenbush Public School and the teachers that provided him inspiration by way of their teaching and mentorship. Within the past year, Tomi has given a Keynote lecture at his alma mater, Moorhead State University, for its annual Student Academic Conference, and at the University of North Dakota, for its Frank Low Research Symposium. Of the many lectures that he has given, these were particularly significant as they provided an opportunity for Tomi to express his gratitude to his family for the many years of support and encouragement that his good works might make a difference in this world.

Through the years since having moved away from Greenbush, Tomi has actively participated in competitive sports, including soccer, tennis and running where he shared team or individual awards. He also coached youth soccer for several years while his son Thomas played. Tomi has always had a special yearning for motorcycles since driving as a young boy on his family's farm in Greenbush, and this year in celebration of his 50th birthday, he and a neighbor friend rented Harley-Davidson Fatboys for a ride through the Green Mountains of Vermont and parts of Massachusetts. This was a time to reflect on the good life and what is important. Tomi feels blessed in growing up in Greenbush and for his scholarly sojourn to attend Moorhead State University and the University of Arizona. He is proud of his two sons who are excellent students and are wonderful human beings. For the last two decades, Tomi credits his magnificent wife, Connie, for her steadfast good works to raise their children and to further support his quest for knowledge and a passion for life such that from his scientific endeavors may come breakthrough medicines to save lives.

Written by Tomi Sawyer as a special biography to give tribute to Greenbush in celebration of its centennial anniversary.

Snowmobile Hall of Fame Inductees

Five snowmobile racers from Greenbush have the honor to be inducted into the Snowmobile Hall of Fame. They include: Dave Thompson in 1988; Jim Bernat in 1991; Larry Colton in 1995; and Dave Wahl and Durmont Wahl in 2005.

The Hall of Fame operates a museum where displays honoring the Hall's many famous inductees can be viewed. This year was the 18th annual induction ceremony. It is located in St. Germain, Wisconsin, near Eagle River.

Jim Bernat

One of snowmobile racing's most durable and versatile performers, Jim Bernat, enjoyed a long and successful career in profes-

sional snowmobile competition, beginning as factory pro-racing emerged. Jim started working in the shop for Polaris in 1963. His first race was in Munising, Michigan, in 1967 where he won the cross country race. From then on he raced on weekends and worked in the shop during the week. In 1969, he ran a 372 Fuji in the Midnight Sun race in Alaska in -50 below temperatures. After the race, the engine was taken out and shipped back to Roseau for Jim to run the Winnipeg to St. Paul race. Unfortunately, mechanical problems took him out of the race.

Always identified with Polaris, Bernat's trademark at the race-track was a ready, friendly smile. A tough and talented competitor, "Smilin' Jim's" impressive race record includes wins at nearly every major racing event during his career of racing, including a win at the Hodag 50, plus wins in his favorite open class at Ironwood and Peterborough in the early 70s.

Bernat finished 3rd overall on 650's in Sno-Pro's first season in 1974, and scored the World's Championship on his 650 at Eagle River in 1975. A "big engine winner," Jim was always a threat on the 650s, winning his last major pro oval win in Super Mod III at Eagle River in 1977. Jim raced until the end of the professional factory racing team era at Polaris in 1978. Jim was inducted into the Snowmobile Hall of Fame on January 17, 1991.



Jim Bernat - Hall of Fame Inductee
(submitted by Jim Bernat)

High School and has three sisters and one brother: Veronica, John, Judy, and Marsha. Jim is married to Judy (Weiss). They have two grown children, Mark and Melissa. Jim continues to run the 440 acre home farm in Benwood.

Submitted by Karen Janousek with information from the Snowmobile Hall of Fame and Jim and Judy Bernat.

Larry Coltom

Larry Coltom was born to Conrad and Emma (Lee) Coltom in Strathcona, MN. He has two older brothers: Orrin and Milo. He graduated from Greenbush in 1962. He is married to Ruth (Roberts) and they have three children: Tammy, Larry Robert, and Troy.

Larry started working for Arctic Cat at the beginning in 1964,

building snowmobiles, approximately seven per year. He worked there for 18 months before entering the service for two years. He was stationed in Korea for 13 months.

When home on leave, his older brother, who was working for Arctic Cat, asked him to race one of the snowmobiles because he was having trouble hanging on. Larry raced that weekend and came out a winner. After being discharged from the service in 1967, he went back to Arctic Cat. On the bulletin board they were looking for race drivers and the rest is history.

One of a handful of professional snowmobile racing originals, Larry Coltom, emerged as a major racing talent just as factory snowmobile racing teams began to make their first impact on the sport in the late 1960s. A member of the fabled Team Arctic racing team from its inception in 1967 until his retirement from professional driving in 1980, Coltom exerted an unique and unmistakable influence on racing, both as a driver and as a master of set-up and tuning.



Team Arctic 1975: #11 Charlie Lofton, #22 Dave Thompson, and #33 Larry Coltom. (Coltom photos)

An acknowledged leader on the team when the Sno Pro era dawned in 1973, Coltom claimed a personal niche in the smaller engine sizes, resulting in the nickname "Mr. 340."

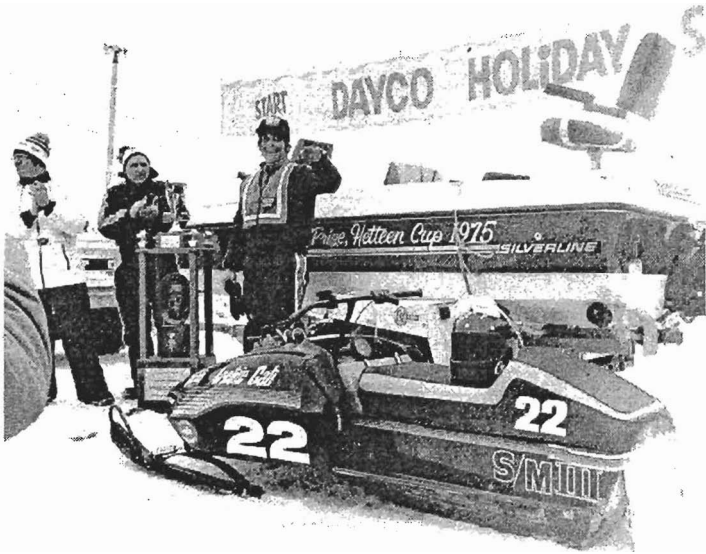


Larry Coltom racing. (Coltom photos)

In a career that spans a competition history beginning with the original Black Panthers of the 1960s and continuing to the famous Sno Pro racers of the late 1970s and the "Flying Tigers" of the early

After posting a remarkable rookie season championship at the Kawartha Cup competition in 1968, Coltom went on to become an Arctic Cat racing mainstay, competing and winning with the legendary Pumas, Formula IIs, original EXTs and King Kat racing sleds.

1980s, Coltom posted historic wins at all the major oval tracks including, Eagle River, The Hetteen Cup, and a Sno Pro High-Point Championship in 1976. Coltom ended his illustrious racing career with a comeback victory at the Muscle Machine Shootout at Alexandria in 1980.



Hetteen cup 1976; Flagman - Ted Otto; Edgar Hetteen, Larry Coltom. (Coltom photo)

He raced ovals and the 1-500 for over ten years. The highlight of his racing career was in 1975 when he won the Edgar Hetteen Cup along with a Bass boat and trailer at Alexandria, Minnesota.

After Arctic went bankrupt, he worked on high performance snowmobiles. In 1987, he went back to Arctic Cat in the Engineering Department. He continues testing clutches and drive systems, driving snowmobiles on a daily basis.

Larry was inducted into the Snowmobile Hall of Fame on January 19, 1995.

Submitted by Karen Janousek with information from Larry Coltom and the Snowmobile Hall of Fame.

Dave Thompson

Dave Thompson was born to Cambell and Olga (Kammen) Thompson. He attended Haug-Leo and graduated from Greenbush in 1960. Dave is second to the youngest in the family. Brothers and sisters include: Curtis, Donald, Shirley, and Junice.

Dave was married to Geraldine (Lavoy) and they have five children: Kevin, Chad, Lonnie, Kristi, and Bobbi. His present wife is Bev (Ammerman).

Dave started driving truck for Arctic Cat in 1967 and soon became a mechanic for the race team. It didn't take long before he was racing full time for Arctic Cat. His racing career lasted 11 years, racing cross-country and ovals all over the world, including Sweden and Finland. In



Dave Thompson with his Arctic Cat Sno Pro 340 in 1977.

the beginning cross-country races were held on Saturdays and the oval races on Sundays. Soon he was racing all ovals except for the 1-500, which he raced in for about eight years.



A true professional, Dave displayed a coolheaded style of racing and a friendly attitude that made him popular with drivers and fans alike. He sparked the team to the Bosch 40/40 win and the Manufacturer's Cup in 1973

The big win in 1973 and the biggest money win of Dave and enjoyed a Thompson's career came at the Milwaukee Pro-Am event when a great season in Thompson lapped the field to win the 510,000 Bosch 40/40. Most 1974, winning of the top competitors attempted the 40 lap race on 650s, but at Lake Tahoe, Dave wisely chose his trustiest 440 for the feature and it paid Y II off big! (courtesy o/Dave Thompson)

seriously injured at Eagle River in 1975, Dave came back the following year to place third in the World's Championship.



Dave Thompson invested his life savings, worked on the prints, did the certification testing, worked in engineering, filled-in on the line, ran the field test department, helped with the service manuals and... drove for the cameras at the magazines' 1984 new models events. (courtesy o/Dave Thompson)

Dave's most memorable win came in 1973 in Milwaukee, where 40 sleds raced 40 laps. While everyone else was racing 650cc and 800cc, Dave drove a 440cc, qualifying him last. He went on to win the race, along with \$10,000 and a car. An Arctic Cat racing mainstay right from the very early days of factory racing, Dave Thompson was a prime contributor to racing technology until his retirement in 1978.

After retiring from driving in 1978, he managed the factory team until it was discontinued in 1981, when Arctic Cat went bankrupt. In

1982, he was instrumental in the successful effort to return Arctic Cat to production along with other investors. They started with the production of 2,800 sleds and gradually increased production to bring Arctic Cat to where it is today.

Dave has worked in engineering for most of his years with the company and continues to enjoy his position as the manager of the Plastics and Styling Department.

Dave was inducted into the Snowmobile Hall of Fame on January 14, 1988.

Submitted by Karen Janousek with information from Dave Thompson and the Snowmobile Hall of Fame.

Dave and Durmont Wahl

Like many other American success stories, the Wahl Brothers' didn't begin in America. In fact, the Wahl brothers' story starts in Scandinavia - early in the 1900s.

Iver Hansen came over from Norway. After a short stop in Hayward, Wisconsin, he moved on to the north and to the west, settling near the farming community of Greenbush, Minnesota. Grandpa Hansen quickly found out that northern Minnesota had a few too many Hansens, so he changed his name to Wahl. The name is a reflection of the area of Norway Iver came from.

The newly named Mr. Wahl married and had a son named Erling. Erling married a local teacher named Helen Sonsteng. Together, as the second generation Wahl family, Erling and Helen settled in Soler Township and raised their family.

The farm was 320 acres and they raised mostly wheat and oats, as well as taking care of dairy cattle. Like so many other families the their main crop and the endeavor they most enjoyed was their children.

Together, Erling and Helen had five children - four boys and one girl. In order, they are Doug, Dennis, Durmont, Debby, and Dave.

The kids grew up doing farm work, but none of them liked it, nor did they feel they were cut out to always do such work. Their nature, they discovered, was to be welders and mechanics, which they liked a lot.

Erling was into welding and shop work, often staying up late after all the farm chores were done to tinker into the wee hours of the morning. He didn't have a garage to work in, so the chicken was converted into a shop. It's in this chicken coop that the Wahl family history begins to mold itself into the story of Wahl Brothers Racing. It's also where the story becomes a bit more like your typical American success story.

In the chicken coop, the Wahl brothers found the equivalent of one of the greatest of the American institutes of higher learning: the garage. The American garage, free of deadlines and corporate bureaucracy, but filled with the capacity to learn through experimenting by trial & error. The Wahl brothers garage had a distinct advantage over many others in the form of constant encouragement from family members, and a true passion for making things work.

The boys joined dad in the late night chicken coop experiments building all kinds of motorized inventions. Erling and Dennis built sno-planes, made from scratch with oak skis. They bent the oak with steam and added steel reinforcements. The sno-planes had plywood bodies, and they powered them with whatever they could find to make power. They started with Volkswagon engines and eventually built some with airplane engines.

Besides the farming and constant tinkering in the chicken coop,

Doug worked construction. Durmont worked for different farmers all over the area and sometimes outside the area.

There was one other big influence in those early days of the Wahl brothers: very close proximity to the Arctic Cat company in Thief River Falls, and Polaris up in Roseau. Like so many others in the area, the Wahls' lives were directly affected by the presence of these two companies.

Durmont and Dennis got their early start on being inside the snowmobile industry when they began working for Martin Johnson, a local subcontractor who was welding up suspensions for Polaris in the mid 1960s.

It was Durmont and Dennis first discovered the Wahl brothers' need for winter speed on snowmobiles. Both had Sno Jets, which they raced in every town they could, summer and winter. In the garage, Durmont and Dennis were free to dream up anything they could to make the blue racers go faster. Innovation came easy to them. They mounted carburetors on the crank cases, oxygen tanks on the handlebars. Whatever they thought of, they tried. Some things worked, some things did not. But they learned with every flip of a wrench and with every bead of weld.

Influences come from many places in a person's life, but few find a more perfect match with their opportunities than Durmont. Durmont grew up with welding and tools, design and fabrication. In the early 1960s, Durmont was fabricating parts for early Arctic Cat suspensions. None other than the great David Thompson of Team Arctic called and asked if Durmont would come and work in the Arctic Race Department. Of course, Durmont jumped at the chance.

Durmont's primary role at Arctic Cat during the early years was engines and chassis. A key tuner and set-up master was part of the famous teams that produced Arctic Cat Hall of Fame champions like Charlie Lofton, Larry Coltom, Dave Thompson, and Bob Elsner. Durmont was one of the storied speed wizards who kept the team sleds alive and always in the hunt throughout the Sno Pro oval track racing. Durmont stayed with the original Team Arctic all the way until they went out of business (temporarily) in August of 1981.

While the racing history of the Wahl Brothers started with Durmont and Dennis on the Sno Jets, the team took a big step forward when the youngest of the boys, 12 at the time, started racing sleds. If it is possible to be born to snowmobiling, then Dave Wahl is, someone whose life was destined to be one of triumph and success in the sport. Dave got his first taste of racing snowmobiles competing on the family's 340cc Arctic Cat Panther in the early 1970s. After a brief run at cross-country riding a John Deere 295 S, Dave found his true calling in oval racing driving his older brother Dennis' 1973 EXT 340, several Arctic Cat factory 250, and 440Z racers before branching off into his highly successful series of racing specials.

Establishing what would be long-lasting ties to Arctic Cat, Dave began his sled building career in the factory race shop where he created an IFS special that scored a Super Mod 440 win in its debut outing at the Sno Pro opener in 1978. Ready with another new sled in 1979-80, Dave qualified for the World's Championship for the first time. Innovation was always part of the game for Wahl, and his 1981 Special finished 2nd at the Derby, in a season that ended the young designer/driver in the top 20. The first ever Wahl race sled was built at the Arctic Cat factory in Thief River Falls. Dave was going to an area vocational tech institute to learn welding, and at night working on his first self-built race sled. At

that point, the sled was far enough along. Erling and Dave brought it back to Dennis' brand new 26'x40' shop - complete with a lathe, a mill and welder. Dennis had built the shop on his father's property. This building would become the place where it all started coming together for the Wahl brothers.

Dave and the first Wahl racing special emerged victorious in the 440 Master Circuit Sno Pro class. **SnoTrack** magazine would later report that Dave's win was a "shocker".

Taking the number 74 would thereafter be associated with the Wahl family. Dave and brother Durmont established Wahl Brothers Racing in 1981, beginning a dynasty that would produce hundreds of custom fabricated race sleds and a record number of competition titles including three World Championships and several high-point titles.



Durmont and Dave taking their victory lap. (photo submitted by Jill Wahl)

In 1986, Wahl brothers moved operations from Durmont's garage at his house into a vacated 50'x75' shop, just east of Greenbush, Minnesota.

Up until this time, Dave was racing the big classes himself. But Durmont's son, Terry, started running a 1992 Arctic Cat Jag in stock classes. Terry immediately showed talent as a driver. In the 1992-93 season, Terry built a sled himself and ran a 530 Rotax in the Mod 3 class, his first year of pro-racing.

In 1995-96 the Wahl Brothers, as a business, really started to blossom. First they moved into the current, larger, better equipped facility. Located just west of Greenbush, they expanded to a 50'x50' building. They published their first-ever catalog, printing and distributing less than 5,000 copies - but it made a significant impact on the business.

For the first time ever, they sold more of the non-Wahl Brothers' built parts, such as, studs, carburetor parts, air filters, gearing, chains, safety products, and more.

In 1996, the Wahl brothers winning ways continued as Dave joined a small group of two-time Eagle River World's Championship winners. Running a 440 Rotax in a Wahl Special Twin Tracker, Terry won the Boswell Super Sled series, by winning three of four races, and \$50,000 in prize money for doing so. At the time, this was a record of winnings in a single season.

In 1996, Dave, Terry, and Team Wahl dominated snowmobiling's big time races, winning most of the races in 1st and 2nd place. Dave and Terry finished 1st and 2nd in points to **make** 1996 one of their winningest years ever.

Dave joined an even smaller, more elite club in 1997. This time, Dave became a three time Eagle River Champion. To date, only

Dave and Jacques Villeneuve belong to this special elite club of racings finest. A win at the Derby in 1998 by Durmont's son, Terry, gave Wahls three championships three years in a row.

Prior to the 1999 season, the Wahls switched to Polaris Champ sleds. Dustin Wahl, Dave's son, started racing in 2000. Dustin started by entering just one race, with a borrowed sled. In 2001-02, he ran semi-pro, then during that same year moved to the pro classes,

Dave finally retired from racing in 2000. He jumped back from retirement one time in 2001 at Beausejour after Terry was injured, but has not raced since. Instead, Dave & Durmont's focus is on helping Team Wahl and all their customers be competitive, whether it is in oval racing, water skipping, drag racing on ice or grass, Sno-Cross or Enduros.

In 1999, the Wahls added another 50'x100' for more shop and warehouse space and in 2002, they added another 40'x60' that serves as the current Wahl race shop,

Today Wahl Brothers Racing is a privately owned company that employs eight people in the summer and up to twelve employees in the fall and winter. They sell parts to Canada, U.S., Sweden, Finland, Norway, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Indonesia, and many other countries.

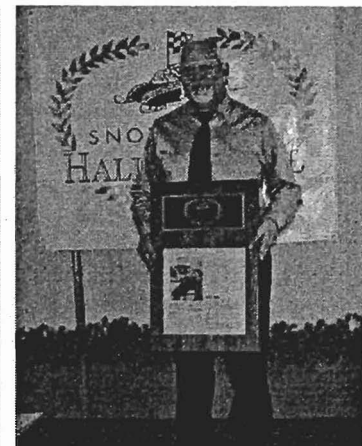
Wahl Brothers, along with other investors, also own the Greenbush Race Park: an oval dirt track that holds races on weekends throughout the summer. Wisconsin sprints and modifieds, NaPA pure stock, super stock, and street cars are just some of the racing action seen during the season. Specials throughout the summer include Outlaw Sprints and Late Models.

Dave is married to Jill (Anderson). Jill is a hair stylist at Hair Concepts in Greenbush. They have one son Dustin. Durmont is married to Dyann (Sellen). They have three sons: Jeff, Tracy, and Terry.

This is by no means the end of this tale. From their start in a chicken coop in northern Minnesota to the winners' circle and all points in between, the Wahl Brothers are all about performance and people - working hard to get you into the winners circle as well.



Durmont's Induction (photo courtesy of Larry Preston)



Dave Wahl being inducted into Hall of Fame. (photo courtesy of Larry Preston)

On January 13, 2005, Dave and Durmont were inducted into the Snowmobile Hall of Fame in St. Germain, Wisconsin. In a quote from Loren Anderson, president of the Hall of Fame, "Wahls are heroes in this sport."

Submitted and compiled by Karen Janousek with information from Larry Preston and the Snowmobile Hall of Fame. Photos by Larry Preston. Hall of Fame. and Jill Wahl.