

Rural Life

Townships Included In This Section

	R-44-W	R-43-W	R-42-W	R-41-W
T-164-N				
T-163-N	Blooming Valley	101		
T-162-N	Juneberry	Soler	Moose	
T-161-N	Polonia	Barto	Skagen	
T-160-N	Dewey	Hereim	Barnett	
T-159-N	Lind	Deer	Huss	Poplar Grove
	R-44-W	R-43-W	R-42-W	R-41-W

Township Organization

When Roseau County was set up by proclamation of Gov. Knute Nelson only seven townships had been organized as functional local government units. These were Dieter, Jadis, Malung, Moose, Ross, Spruce, and Stafford. These townships formed nuclei of the settlements in 1895 and 1896.

The law governing organization of townships provided "that not less than 25 freeholders who are qualified voters of a Congressional township may petition the county board to be organized as a town. (Woinen had no voting rights except for county superintendent of schools in those days.) "The county board shall give 30 days notice of hearing on such petition and post such notice in territory to be organized. The first town meeting in each new town shall be held within 20 days after it is organized at a time and place designated by the county board - ten days posted notice thereof to be given."

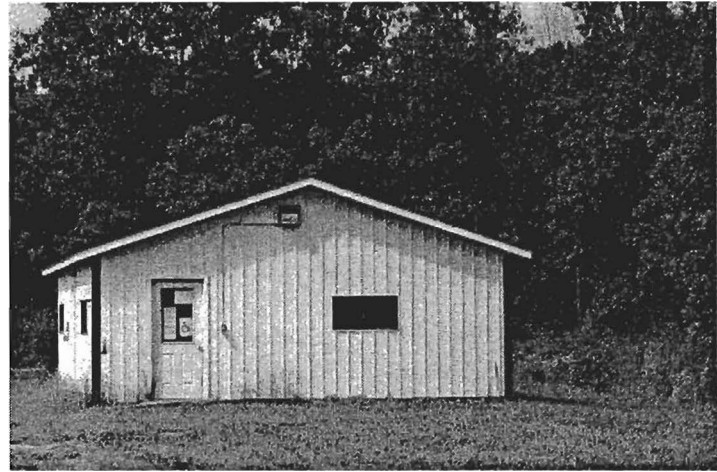
Information from Roseau County Museum.

Non-incorporated Municipalities

Filling in a need to the outlying settlements from the incorporated villages were inland stores and usually the post office department maintained by postal service at these centers. Many of these centers have been discontinued following the advent of all-weather roads and the automobile. Among those places where both mail and commercial goods were handled were: Swift, on the eN.R., east of Warroad, Longworth, west of Warroad, Winner, Penturen, Skime, River, Pencer, Wannaska, Casperson, Ross, Pinecreek, Benwood, Haug, Leo, and Duxby.

Barnett Township

Barnett Township was organized on November 2, 1901. It was known for a short time as Wittak Township and eventually renamed



Townhall in Section 21 of Barnett Township. (photo by Myrna Sovde)

after Myron Barnett an early homesteader in the township.

The first township officers were: F. G. Kacer, chairman; D. F. Vacura and Cornelius Heier, supervisors; A. R. Watson, clerk; J. Svir, assessor; Clinton Buffum and William Clifford, justices; and Mike Foldesi and Louis Kaml, constables. Some of these family names are still in the township.

The township's first farms were diversified with dairy and beef cattle, poultry, hogs and grains. Many dairy farms later operated in the township. They are now gone but there are still grain farms and some beef and horses. Many families that do not farm, but prefer living in the country, also reside in Barnett Township.

The present governing board of the township includes: John Shimpa, Mike Walsh, Verlyn Kaml and Joyce Shimpa.

Churches and Cemeteries

At one time two Lutheran churches existed in the township. Zion Lutheran Church merged with United Free in 1972. Only the cemetery remains. Faith Lutheran Church, organized through the merging of Nannestad and Klondike, is the only active church in Barnett Township. Located in Section 25, it is at the junction of County Road 22 and County Road 3.

The township has two cemeteries. United Free Lutheran Zion Cemetery is at the location of the former Zion Church, Section 29, along County Road 22.

Along County Road 4, east of Greenbush six and one-half miles, one can find the Barnett National Cemetery, or CESLO-S-N-HRBITOV, as written in large letters on the decorative metal sign. It is more commonly known in the community as the Bohemian or Czech Cemetery. It was founded in 1902 in Section 2 on three acres donated by Martin Svoboda, grandfather to James Svoboda, Jr. This cemetery was not associated with a church, but was a neighborhood cemetery in a community primarily consisting of Czechoslovakians. Family names of early burials include: Vacura, Svoboda,



Barnett National Cemetery in Barnett township Section 2. (photo by Myrna Sovde)

Hlucny, Vana, Seidel, Kudrna, Stehlik, Linert, Marsh, Tyc, Zrust, Ratkovec, Svir, Penas, and McFarlane. As the **community** integrated with neighbors, other names began to appear on headstones, but are descendants of the early families.* *Source: Fern Svoboda*

Schools

Barnett Township has been the location of six different schools: District 23, Section 2, Stoffel/Washington School; District 34, Section 7; District 61N, Section 20 and 61S, Bialke-Nelson-Brazier School in Section 29; District 88, Section 25, Klectzen School; District 54, located in Section 35. As the schools consolidated and closed, the students began attending either Greenbush or Badger.

Awards

Clean Farm Award winners were: Mark & Lori Foldesi and Emil & Marian Foldesi - 1993; Dale & Shellie Mekash- 1994. King Agassiz were Keith & Eileen Kilen - 1986; Agassiz Leaders were Mark & Lori Foldesi - 2000; and Dale & Shellie Mekash - 2004. Farmers and Homemakers Award winners were: Theodore & Irene Smith - 1960; Jerry & Irene Svir - 1990.

Century Farms in Barnett are Ludvig Kaml - 1892 - (now owned by Verlyn Kaml); Robert E. Nelson Farm - was homesteaded by Tom Nelson in 1902; and Fern Svoboda, widow of James, Jr., whose farm **was** homesteaded in 1900 by Martin and his wife Anna. Martin's mother, who was also Anna, squatted on the land in 1894, before her son Martin came to America.

Barto Township

Barto Township was organized July 8, 1895, and was named after the first settler in the area, John Barto. Peter Kukowski was among the organizers of Barto Township and served as the clerk. He held several offices over the years. He homesteaded in 1895.

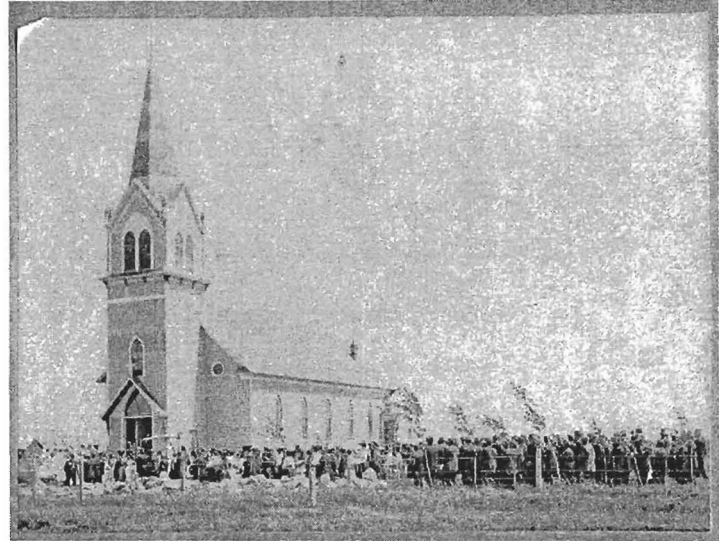
Other board members were: J. D. Brink and Charles Christianson, justices; Nike Barto, chairman; Joe Mekash and Leopold Novak, supervisors; Axel Lieberg, treasurer; and P. Y. Johnson, assessor. Joseph Mekash, another homesteader, was township treasurer for 11 years. Others mentioned in old records were Ole Thompson, T. J. Kulas, Ole Metvedt, Axel Lieberg, Daniel Riegh, John Smrstik, I. G. Bronk, P. J. Johnson, Henry Halvorson, John Zabrocki, Joseph Bruski, O. E. Haug, George Kelly, Henry Blazek, Chas. Novacek, Joseph Dolney, and Sam Darst.

Part of the platted townsite of Old Greenbush was in Barto Township in the northeast corner of SE 1/4 of Section 36 and in Section 31 of Skagen. Two Rivers runs through the southeast corner of the

SE 1/4 of Section 36 as does the railroad track.

Present board members are: Neal Novacek, Terry Erickson, Brad Blawat, supervisors; Ken Chruszch, clerk; and James G. Efta, treasurer.

Churches



The old Leo Church that burned down.

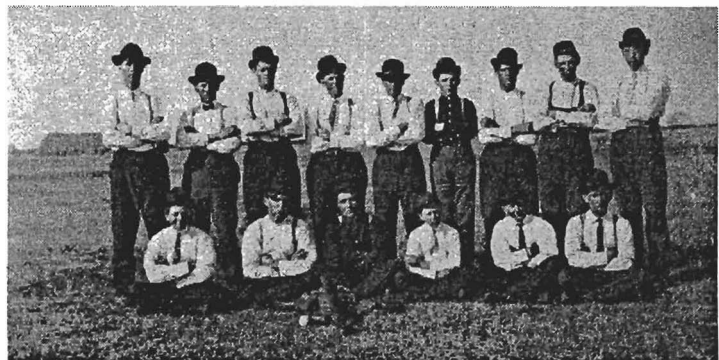
St. Aloysius Catholic Church was organized in 1898, in the area known as Leo, located in western Barto Township. The first Mass was celebrated in the home of Anton Kukowski in 1897. In 1898, the church was built on ten acres of land donated by John Kaszubowski. The church closed in 1998 although special services are held throughout the year. A cemetery adjoins the church.

The Hvidso Scandinavian Evangelistic Lutheran Congregation was organized November 15, 1895, by a group of early settlers living along the sandridge east of present day Greenbush. Without ever erecting a church building, the congregation met in homes until it was dissolved in 1904. A small cemetery, called Hvidso Cemetery or Pioneer Haven, located two miles east of Greenbush on Highway 11, remains.

Bethania Church congregation records date back to 1895. They met in homes until 1901, when a church was built in Section 13. In the early 1930s, they purchased the former Methodist Church building in Greenbush. By 1972, Bethania along with Pauli and Zion, merged to become United Free Lutheran Church. The original Bethania Cemetery is located in Section 13.

Schools

Schools in Barto Township were: District 1, called the North School, Barto School, or IB was located in Section 24. Another



Leo Baseball team -1915 (photo courtesy of Elizabeth P. Wojciechowski)

District 1 school, called Ridge School, was located in Skagen and operated concurrently with #1 in Barto. District 15, Smrstik School, was located in Section 5. Early District 16 schools were located in Section 1 before 1910, District 16, Section 2, Haug School, 1910 to 1951, and District 16 located in Soler, but apparently operating concurrently with Haug in Barto. District 16/679 Haug-Leo was located in Section 15 on the Haug Road. (Stengrims bought the school building.) District 7, Metvedt School, was located in Section 34. District 13 was located in Section 30.

Post Office

On May 20, 1897, Peter Y. Johnson was appointed the first postmaster for Leo Post Office. It was located one mile east of Leo. Johnson was postmaster until September 28, 1908, when John A. Stanislawski was appointed. He served until December 9, 1913, when August Goroski took over. The post office was discontinued on June 15, 1915.

A. P. Kukowski operated the first general store in Barto Township on his farm and later built a store at Leo. The Leo Store, which later housed the post office, was built by A. P. Kukowski directly across the road from St. Aloysius. He later sold it to Stanislawski. Many people operated the store including: Kukowski, Stanislawski, Goroski, and Lorbiecki. In the late 1920s, the store was open on Sundays under Steve Wojciechowski's management and sold candy after services at St. Aloysius. At one time, dances were held in the hall above the store and post office. In the early 1930s the store was closed.

Retired couples in the area built homes by the post office, store and church so Leo was like a tiny town.

Awards

Clean Farm Award Winners in Barto over the years were Ben & Viola Christianson- 1961; Floyd & Alice Blawat, Jr.- 1979; Steve & Sandy Harder- 1998. Farmers and Homemakers Award winners were: Ben & Viola Christianson- 1951; and Conley & Alpha Darst in 1974.

Century Farms listed are: Anton and Elizabeth Kukowski- 1897- now owned by John Leonard Kukowski; Joe Pulczynski- 1896- now owned by Edward Pulczynski.

Blooming Valley Township

Blooming Valley Township was organized April 3, 1908. Serving as first officers were: Martin Olson, chainnan; Hans Halvorson and Lars Larson, supervisors; N. M. Nelson, treasurer; Oscar Norland, assessor; and Dan Rankin, clerk.

Post Offices

In 1910, a post office was started at Oak Point, in the northwest corner of the county, in Section 6. Emma Poirer was the first post mistress. It was discontinued in September of 1942. Another post office called Noracres, Section 33, was established on February 25, 1924, and discontinued in 1936. The first postmaster was Mr. Axel Norland.

Cemeteries

There were two cemeteries in the township of Blooming Valley. The Egeland/Egelund/Englund Church cemetery is located in Section 33. Some of the names include: Johannes Grimsrud, 1832-1906; Karin Borman, 1858-1921; Sarah Anderson, 1861-1937; and

Gilbert Anderson, 1855-1916. The Mandville Family Private Cemetery was established in 1908 in Section 7.

Schools

In 1908, School District 92, Oak Point School, Section 32, hired Carrie Hermanson as the teacher. Family names were: Johnson, Lindahl, Lind, Reese, Erickson, Edbom, Leader, Olson and Oaks. In 1909, School District 91, Section 20, had Frank Wodzowoda as clerk. Family names were: Holgremson, Anderson, Peterson, Rankin, Easnsau, Noodge, Dakin, and Rodman.

Information taken from Roseau County Heritage Book and Museum and Loyd Melby.

Deer Township

Deer Township was organized as Tordenskjold, which was changed to Deer on December 17, 1900. At one time, Deer Township was a favorite hunting ground with many deer roaming the area. The first officers were: Theodore Larson, chairman; Sander S. Rue and Anlund Pederson, supervisors; Nils Tovson, assessor; Ole K. Christianson, treasurer; Syver G. Haugtvedt, clerk; Iver O. Anderson, constable.

The town of Strathcona is located in Deer Township. Strathcona celebrated its centennial in 2004.

Board members at present include: Alvin Bertilrud, Thomas Hoverson, and Greg Hamness as supervisors; Edsel Anderson, clerk; and Marlo Nelson, treasurer.

Churches and Cemeteries

Poplar Grove Lutheran Church, located in Section 13, was established in 1900 with eight members present. In 1924, Poplar Grove joined the Middle River Parish but was dissolved in 1958. In 1963, Poplar Grove joined with AFLC.

Evangelical GustafVasa Lutheran Church was organized in 1908 in the Village of Strathcona. In 1928, English began to be preached more than Swedish. It became a part of a parish with First Lutheran Church of Thief River Falls and services were held once or twice a month. In 1945, the church was destroyed by fire, and another building was purchased and remodeled with the name changing to Calvary Lutheran. It dissolved in 1957 due to declining membership. The parishioners joined Gustav Adolph.

Gustav Adolph Lutheran Church, ELCA, was organized in 1906. In 1912, the church building was constructed. The Norwegian language was used for many years.

In 1962, the church was destroyed by fire. The congregation purchased and remodeled the Strathcona School. Dedication was in 1963.

West Poplar Grove Congregation was organized in 1907. A church was never built, but they had a cemetery known as the Haugtvedt Cemetery located in Section 17.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Ladies Aid began in 1916 and met for over 20 years, meeting in homes, tents, and stores with lay pastors providing worship services when available. In October 1934, a church purchased in North Dakota was taken down, moved, and erected as Grace Evangelical in Strathcona. Rev. A. D. Hartmark served as pastor.

Greenwood Cemetery located in Section 35, on the north edge of Strathcona, was established in 1908. East Bethlehem Cemetery or Haugtvedt is located in Section 17 and Poplar Grove Cemetery is located in Section 13.

Three unmarked graves are in two different locations on one section in Deer Township. The location is known only by the landowner who is farming over the graves.

Post Office

Herb Post Office established on February 15, 1901, was located in Section 30. The first postmaster was Peter Johnson. The second postmaster, Carl T. Stahlberg, served from July 8, 1910, until July 31, 1911. Then Laura Johnson, daughter of the first postmaster, took over the reins as postmistress. She dispensed the mail from a small post office building her father had built on the northeast corner of his land. On March 18, 1913, Syver E. Haugtvedt became postmaster and used his home in Section 8 as the post office. Herb Post Office was discontinued June 15, 1915.

Schools

Schools in Deer Township included: District 57, Strathcona School in Section 35, consolidated with Greenbush in 1962; District 68 Winjum School opened in 1903 in Section 11, now used as Deer Townhall; District 50, Herb opened in 1901 in Section 30; District 60, Gavick School in Section 8 was organized in 1902.

The first classes for District 60 were held in the Otto Foss home. Otto Foss donated land and a small school was built in 1903. It was called the Gavick School and, by some, the Oak Grove School. Some of the teachers were Eunice Noreen, Julia Listug (Arneson), Gladys Erickson (Gjovick), and several others. District 60 consolidated with Greenbush in 1947. The school building was used as a home on the Robert Burkel farm.

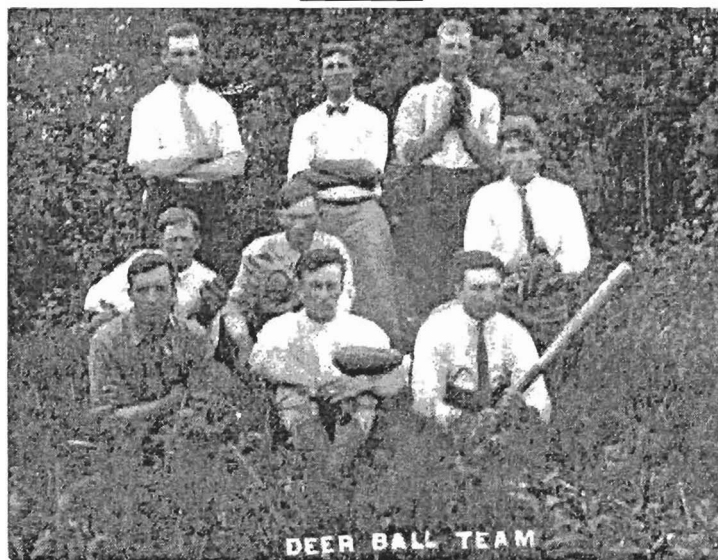
Strathcona School was rebuilt in the 1930s with WPA funds.

Awards

Township Farmers and Homemakers Award was presented to Albert and Annie Anderson in 1941.

Century Farms in Deer Township include: Ingvald Borreson farm, homesteaded by Arne Borreson in 1902; Andrew Anderson farm homesteaded in 1898 and now owned by Toni Anderson Donarski.

Ball Teams



Early Ball Team of Deer Township.

(photo courtesy of Carmen Sather and Donovan Foss)

Many young men formed ball teams. The ball games provided entertainment for spectators as well as players. Teams played ball in fields or pastures and sometimes brought tools to engage in

"warm-up exercises," which included cutting the grass on the playing field before the game began! Some games, such as those at the Haug Store, began to be played on a fairly regular schedule and drew a number of spectators.

The following is part of "Recollections" written by Gilman Bertilrud of Deer Township shortly before his death in 1981. (See also Gulbrand "Gilbert" and Hilda Bertilrud history.)

Recollections

Selvin (brother) remembers that one day while walking home after school (District 60) across Foss' muddy plowed field, the suction held his shoes in the mud and he arrived home with no shoes! At this point of muddiness, we would have to walk to school the long way around on the road, and really, the muddy road was not much better than the field!

There was always some kind of mischief going on during recess time, and I guess I did my share. I was gifted in making things, and sling shots were my main interest at one time after having found a market for this product. All the boys were interested and for 25¢ each, I went into production. Old Model T inner tubes were plentiful for making the band and old leather shoes for the pouch. Red willow yokes made dandy flexible yokes. Soon there were enough in use to organize contests and Rolland Gjovik was always the champion. It did not take long for these weapons to become a problem for the teacher, and one by one they would be confiscated and filed away in her desk drawer. For each one the teacher gained, it was to my advantage to sell one to replace it!

My career in manufacturing ended one spring when I decided to build a masterpiece. The back bunk on the bobsled was 6 feet wide and had two 3-foot stakes which was just what I needed for a yoke. With a full Model T inner tube on each side and a grain sack for a pouch, it should send a 10-pound rock quite a distance. When this monstrosity was completed and ready for testing, the disappointment came unexpectedly. With a 10-pound rock in the pouch and a hard pull almost ready to release, the stake on one side came out of its hole in the bunk and knocked me out cold. It caught me on the side of my head and I think I have had side effects from that experience ever since as I still get "kooky" ideas!

A favorite "toy" made for free back then by the youngsters was a whistle, which, with the aid of a pocketknife, was made from a short piece of a twig from a willow tree. The bark would be loosened in one round piece on part of it and slipped off the center wood, certain notches made, the bark replaced, and we could then make whistling sounds- guess we thought we were quite some pipers!

When I was 15 years old, my cousin, Clara Bertilrud, was married to Toralf Boe of Duluth. Cigars were passed out freely. I managed to get two "contraband cigars." One for myself and one for my brother, Selvin, then 9 years old. I guess I thought I was quite a man at that age and couldn't wait to try them out. Dad was painting the Malung schoolhouse at the time, and we boys had been assigned the job of shocking a field of barley. On the way to this field was a com field, which made a perfect place in which to try out this new experience. Not much shocking was done that day because Selvin got violently sick. I did not feel so good, either, but managed to get him back to the house where Mother gave him tender loving care. She was not fooled and could tell by the smell what we had been up to. I do not think Dad ever found out as he was gone for several days on the job, and by the time he got home, the field of barley was standing in shocks.

Back in the 1930s, I remember that the Model T Ford was the common car on the road. Dad had one which was cut off with a pickup box on the back.

On the morning of December 11, 1931, it was about 30° below. The folks were planning to dress turkeys that day and Dad had a fire going on in the coal-burning brooder stove in the brooder house. He was preparing to make a trip to town first and had his own way of starting the Model T. He would drain out the oil into a pail when he shut down. The next time he was going to town he would put the pail on the kitchen wood-burning stove to warm up the oil and pour it back in the car, along with boiling water into the radiator.

Mother was carrying in an armful of wood from the woodpile. Clarice was sitting on a chair holding Selvin, then 6 months old, in front of the open oven on the stove. Dad came in and took the teakettle of hot water to put in the radiator of the car and looked at the oil. It apparently did not seem hot enough yet. He got half ways to the car shed when the oil boiled over and burst into flames. Clarice jumped back holding Selvin and we both ran to the door and screamed. At the same time I grabbed my brand new sheepskin lined jacket which was so very precious to me. Dad dropped the tea kettle and came running back to the house and grabbed a horse robe from the next room and threw it over the stove. This smothered the fire and after the excitement was over we all settled down.

A short time later Dad and I stepped outside. Fire was coming out the roof. It had gone between the walls behind the stove and on up to the attic. We immediately saw that there was no chance to save this two room log house built so many years before by Great Uncle Jon (Byhre). The folks sent us kids out to the brooder house which was warmed up by this time. I still remember seeing the in flames and Dad running to the chicken coop to grab a post sledge to knock out a window in the bedroom. He and Mother removed a few things from the kitchen through the door, mainly a wardrobe which held our good clothes. Then he handed things out through the bedroom window to Mother to take away. She told us later that she was in a panic and was gasping for breath. Dad made his last effort to save something and got out the window just as the ceiling collapsed behind him. All this happened in a short period of ten minutes. Very little was saved.

The arranged to put together our brooder house and one borrowed from John Berger to make living quarters for the rest of that winter.

Dad was interested in Leghorn chickens and at the time had a hen house 70 feet long with up to 400 layers- all hatched out at home in two incubators in the house.

I remember the County Fair being one of the highlights of the year and going there with the folks in our Model T. The folks would sit in front and we three kids would sit in the box in back.

Another highlight was making a trip to Thief River Falls to sell the cockerels. Dad had built coops that fit on the box on the Model T, as well as for a full load on the trailer. Clarice and I to look forward to these trips so we could get to the big "city" and look up at the tall buildings! It was so thrilling to drive up the ramp at Land O'Lakes to unload those chickens in that huge building. Then we shopped at Montgomery Ward which at that time had three floors. Everything seemed so big back then.

Also along with memories of the early days. I shall never forget the trips to Greenbush in the Model T. This particular time I was with Clarice and Dad. We stopped at Einar Johnson's Standard to fill on gas. Clarice was wondering what those things were under the dash so I showed her. They were the coils for ignition. We took

off every nut we could find and Dad and Einar had a heck of a time to get things back together so the car could run again. While Dad was doing some shopping, we were on the sidewalk and along came Uncle Mikkel Bertilrud. He asked us if we had had any ice cream that day and I said we had not. He handed me a coin and said to go have some. I said, "But this is 25¢, ice cream is only a nickel." He said, "Oh, well, go buy some candy, too." Art Anderson was working at the store at the time and I probably got more than I ordered.

When Dad was young, he had a Hemeltonion gelding. A horse trader had him and he was not too desirable. In those days, a horse was for plowing, and this was just a race horse. Dad fell in love with him and bought him for a \$10.00 gold coin. He was no good in harness and worthless, but he sure could run. The highlight in those days were the horse races on the 4th of July and the County Fair. Dad and his race horse would win every time so he quit so someone else would have a chance. He was quite sure that horse was half thoroughbred.

Going over to the Bertilrud side of our family, I would like to add that when Uncle Syver Bertilrud was County Auditor he sold both deer licenses and marriage licenses. An immigrant who could not speak or read English came in to buy a license. It was just before deer hunting season and Syver assumed that he wanted a hunting license. The fellow paid the fee, and later presented the license to the minister at his wedding. It was with dismay when he found out it was not honored and had to go back to Syver to have a legal marriage license made out.

Along with memories of the past, I remember Mikkel telling about his commercial fishing at Roseau Lake, which is now drained and owned by Gust Kveen. It is now productive in Junegrass. He would be at the lake all day at 30° below and never froze his fingers; he would take off his mittens and bait his hooks in the sub-zero weather. He would haul his catches to Stephen by wagon or sled and horses. Stephen at that time was the central railroad point to all points in any direction.

With respect to our pioneer men and women I dedicate this article on what I can remember.

Written by Gilman Bertilrud, 1981. Submitted by Donovan Foss. Minor editing by Myrna Sovde.

Dewey Township

In the late 1890s, Kittson County extended from the Red River on the west to Roosevelt on the east. It was decided to split it into two counties, so the east half became Roseau County. Dewey Township, in Roseau County, was platted about 1898. It was organized as Two Rivers in March of 1899 but the name was changed the following July in honor of Admiral Dewey following his naval victory in Manila Bay.

The first township officers were: Gilbert Alme, chairman; Otto Anderson and Syver Hetland, supervisors; Iver Alme, clerk; C. L. Hagen and Gilbert Alme, justices; Hans Hagen, treasurer; John Turner and Syver Broten, constables; Peter Salmond, assessor. These board members probably were paid fifty cents per meeting as bills were recorded for \$1.50 to 2.50.

Ellert Hanson was clerk in 1903 until March 19, 1946. H. Holen was treasurer from the start of Dewey Township until 1926. His son Hans was treasurer from 1926 until 1975, followed by Arlan Dalager and Russ Anderson. Township assessors have been Julius Johnson, George Arhus, Helge Lillemon, Art Anderson, Sr., Helmer Johnson, and Larry Stenberg.

Township board officers from the beginning to the present are as follows: Iver Alme, Ellert Hanson, Tron Hennanson, George Burkel, H. A. Kruger, Nils Dallager, Tennes Eeg, A. H. Berg, Hans Hagen, Helge Lillemon, Martin Mickelson, C. W. Wade, Knute Anderson, Henry Stenberg, John Scheldorf, A. P. Brandvold, Wm. Nelson, Sr., Roy Anderson, Art Stenberg, John Olson, Clarence Melby, M. C. Kirkeide, Erling Nesteby, Barney Anderson, Don Melby, Ed Mooney, Ron Jacobson, David Gustafson, Wayne Juhl, Lambert Schires, Arne Clark, and Mark Melby.

An interesting note: In 1912, the township built a bridge across Two Rivers for only \$812.00.

Schools

There were six school districts in Dewey Township.

District 59, Mickelson School, was located in Section 35, just north of the Dewey/Lind township line. The members of the first school board were: Jacob Hermanson, Mr. Sjostrom, and Lars Dallager. The children in District 59 went to school in a bachelor's log cabin on the same quarter until the schoolhouse was built. The log cabin belonged to Pat Fee, a squatter with a stud horse. He was never home.

Brandvold or Pauli School, District 101, started in 1913 and was located in Section 29 just west of the Pauli Cemetery. In recent times it has been called the Pelan School, but it never was named that. Arley Brandvold and Garvin Anderson were two of the last pupils in 1926 when it closed. The Greenbush Band used it for band practice in the 1930s. In 1938 at band practice, they stopped and gathered around Benard Anderson's new 38 Ford with a radio and listened to Joe Lewis beat Max Schmeling for the World Boxing Championship. The school was also used for 4-H meetings and other doings. (The real Pelan School was located at the site of old Pelan town.)

District 25 was located in Section 10. The building had windows on both sides. The first board members in 1899 were: Ellert Hanson, Asle Asleson, and Helge Lillemon.

District 72, the Bolek School, formed in 1903 in Section 8, was a half mile west of the Joe Mooney farm.

District 74, in Section 23 was located just north of the intersection of Highway 11 and County Road 23.

Churches

The Pauli Church congregation was organized in Dewey Township about 1899. (No written records of the organizing meeting have survived.) Worship services were held in homes until a church building was completed in 1905. Pauli was an active little church until 1972, when it merged with Bethania and Zion to become the United Free Church in Greenbush. The Pauli Church building was sold and moved across Highway 11 to the Pelan Pioneer Park site. In 2004, one hundred years after the beginning of the Pauli Church construction, the Pelan Park Board organized a Pauli centennial celebration.

Dewey Ladies Aid was organized August 3, 1898. After the Pauli congregation was established, the name was changed to Pauli Ladies Aid, which for many years served a very popular annual Lutefisk supper with all the trimmings.

Cemeteries

Pauli Cemetery is located about eight miles west of Greenbush, across Highway 11 from Pelan Pioneer Park, at the original site of the Pauli Lutheran Church.

Pelan Pioneer Park

Dewey Township boasts a lovely little park located about eight miles west of Greenbush along Highway 11. According to legend, the location of the park was the site of a great Indian battle, thus the original name of Pelan Battleground Park. The grounds were obtained in 1937 by the Greenbush Community Band and developed without government funds. In later years, the park board acquired several historical buildings including the Pauli church, a country store, a country school, a trapper's cabin, and a blacksmith shop. Renamed the Pelan Pioneer Park, it has had a long and varied history, including periods of extreme neglect, but through the efforts of dedicated people, it rebounds and survives. Currently, the Pelan Pioneer Park is in good repair and well-maintained, a lovely place near Greenbush for a hike, a family outing, or a solitary afternoon.

Town Hall

The Dewey Town Hall is the former Sogn School, moved in from Lind Township. The town hall never has been the site of a school.

Awards

Farmers and Homemakers Award winners: Clarence & Glendora Melby- 1955; William & Maybelle Wilson- 1977; Wayne & Lindell Juhl- 1980; Bob & Carol Melby- 2001.

Clean Fann winners were: Barry & Karen Eeg- 1980; Byron & Carolyn Eeg-1987; Wilson Fanns-1989. King Agassiz from Dewey were: Wayne & Lindell Juhl- 1961; and Agassiz Leaders were Gary & Vickie Wilson- 1996.

Century Farm was homesteaded by Tennes Eeg in 1895 and now owned by Gamer Barry Eeg.

Submitted by Art and Helen Anderson at the request of the Dewey Town Board and Roseau County Museum.

Dewey Township Memories

There are many motives which impel people to leave an old established settlement and go into a new territory to brave pioneer life where all the institutions of civilized life have to be initiated, built, and paid for by the settlers who homesteaded there.

There were the persons who had not established a home anywhere nor did they have any families to support. They were free to file on a homestead, sell or remain there, they were under no obligations to anyone. The majority of that class of people that came to Dewey township remained, built a home, and raised a family. Those who did not wish to remain, built a house according to the minimum specifications by the government, made a clearing, seeded a few acres for a field, made a pasture, and claimed it as their home. By paying \$1.25 per acre in two years such a person could get a legal title to the land. By remaining there for five years a legal title could be secured without any further payment. The land could then be sold and often was sold. The buyers were people who had used their homestead rights, and speculators, and often banks bought land hoping to make some gain on the investment. A few homesteaders would borrow as much money as it was possible to get by giving the homestead as security, never intending to come back but let the lender take the homestead forfeited for the loan.

There were also those who wished to leave their professions and begin life in different surroundings. There were those who had failed in the older settlement and wished to get a new start. There were many different nationalities, but when new settlers came in, each seemed to find his own group and settled among his own

people.

There was the lure of the 160 acres of free land to be had for the living on it and improving it as a home. The time was not too far removed since many of these settlers had come from some European country where the peasants did not have the opportunity to own land. Here the land was free for the asking for it and living on it. Many a man felt intensely wealthy when he secured the title to such a large tract of land.

Whatever the motive was, the majority of the people who homesteaded there saw in their mind only the finished product - a prosperous farm in a civilized and well built community. Few realized the struggles which would lie ahead of them, or between the filing on the homestead and the finished farm.

There had been some white squatters living along Roseau River some time before 1890. The land to the east of the Red River of the North was a hunter's paradise. Fur trading with the Chippewa Indians could be a profitable business, and the stillness of the forests was inviting to many who would like to get away from the rush and turmoil of everyday life somewhere else.

What we call Roseau County today, was then, the eastern part of Kittson County and the county seat was Hallock, Minnesota. In 1895 the eastern part of Kittson County was separated from the county and called Roseau County, a name that had been given to the river by La Varendrye [sic] in 1732. Before the separation the mail for the eastern part of the county had come by train to Hallock and then taken by team to the post offices farther east.

After separation the mail came to Stephen by train and then by stagecoach to post offices farther east. Hans T. Olson had been the post master for residents along the Two River when the mail came

Hallock. Now he had to move the post office from his homestead to a place along the new route. He chose a place where the Two River cuts through the sandridge and was called the Crossing. The new mail route had one great advantage over the Hallock route. When it left the Stephen prairie and entered the wooded area of the new country it came to a sandridge which it followed all the way until two miles from Roseau. The sandridge was a high elevation of nearly pure sand and formed an excellent highway for the mail route, the early settlers, and had been used by the Indians before the coming of the white men. The sandridge had been formed as one of the beaches of the receding Lake Agassiz (Agassiz) in ancient times, and its importance to the settlement of Roseau County can never be overestimated.

Because of the abundance of wild land and plenty of water, a man named Pelan tried to start a cattle ranch near the Crossing. The short summers, the long and extremely cold winters that necessitated the housing and feeding of the cattle for at least eight months out of the year made ranching unsuccessful in that area. However the rancher left his name to the place which was later called Pelan instead of the Crossing. It was there that Hans T. Olson had a small store in connection with the post office. Hans T. Olson was also a blacksmith and a wheel-wright. He found abundant work as the wagons of the settlers rolled by and the plow shares of the pioneers on the rocky soil often had to be sharpened. Peter Lofgren came from Stephen and opened a large general store. Nels Olson had a smaller store, and Andrew Olson opened a _____ and also owned and managed the stage coach line between Stephen and Roseau.

The stage coach carried the mail and also passengers. It was by four horses or two teams, and in the spring when the Stephen prairie was wet and muddy six horses or three teams had to be used. Wild bronchos (broncos) from Montana were imported as a supply

of power for moving the stage coaches. The coach left Stephen at noon and would arrive at Pelan at night. Another coach would leave Roseau at noon and arrive at Pelan in the evening. Pelan was the stop for the night. The Roseau coach would then go on to Stephen and the Stephen coach would go to Roseau. Pelan became a booming town with much activity. It became the trading center for a very large area including Dewey Township.

Late in the fall of 1896, seven men came looking for homesteads that they each had filed on in the Crookston land office. They came from Norman County in Minnesota. Six of them were single men and one was a married man who had left his family in the old home until he could build a house on his homestead. The time was too late in the fall to build seven log huts, so they built one log hut and all seven men camped in the one log hut all winter. They became famous for their patience and endurance and for living in harmony in such small quarters all winter. During the winter each one busied himself cutting logs for his new home on his own homestead, built his own home when the weather permitted, and later in the summer left for the harvest fields farther south in the state. These men were Tennes Eeg, Syvert Hetland, Gust Lindahl, John Skogstad, Syvert Skogstad, John Tox, and Lars John Tox.

In the fall they returned. Lars John Tox brought his wife and child, Hetland brought his bride, some years later Tennes Eeg married and raised a family, Syvert Skogstad sold his homestead and went to Montana where he married and settled down. The rest of them never married, but John Skogstad's sister, Ida, came and kept house for him.

A large group of settlers also came from Hatton, North Dakota, each one bringing in families. There were Ellert Hanson, Soren Tandberg, Andrew Berg, the two Tangen boys, Asle Asleson, Reier Myra, Embret (Englebert) Myran, Helge Lillemon, and Theodore Pederson. From southern Minnesota came Lars Dallager and shortly after that his three sons, Nels, Harold, and Christopher filed on homesteads. Halvor Johnson was also one of the first settlers, later came his brothers Martin and Chris. (Johnsons lived in town of Polonia but belonged to Dewey activities. After the Spanish American War ended, came Sven Dufwa with his family. Nels Dallager was also a veteran of the same war. When Dewey township was organized Sven Dufwa proposed the name of Dewey for the township in honor of the Hero of Manila, and so it was named Dewey.

Later other settlers streamed in. Jacob Mikkelson [sic] with his mother and brother came. The three Sogn brothers and three Sogn sisters all filed on land. Christian Sogn had filed on a homestead in Soler township which he sold and bought land in Dewey to be near the Sogn family. Christian Sogn was a musician and had been a bandleader before coming to Dewey township. Two brothers, Ivar and Gilbert Alme were also among the first settlers. They did not remain there very long. Ivar wanted better soil than what Dewey offered. Gilbert was a sailor and went back to the sea. Their sister, Mrs. Lysne with her daughter, Mrs. Pederson, came at the same time but did not remain here.

Soon after that came Amund Snare, Julius Johnson, Evan Erickson, Knut Anderson, Henry Stenberg, and John Turner who lived in the old Half-Way-House. He did not farm but freighted for the merchants all along the way. Thorvald Olson and John Thompson were single men who soon left after getting titles to their claim.

The majority of the homesteaders had come from grain producing areas in Minnesota and North Dakota and planned to carry on the same type of farming in their new location. Conditions in Dewey township were different when they arrived there. There was no

drainage except the natural flow of the water, and there seemed to be incessant rains. The ground was always wet and cold. The soil was a light sandy loam that did not produce like the Red River Valley farms. After a prairie fire the land looked like it was dotted with flocks of sheep, only it was not sheep but white rocks that had to be removed before any farming could be done. Many disappointments and heart-aches had to be **endured** until the farming methods were changed to cattle and clovers.

On either side of the ridge was a peat bog that seemed like a bottomless pit. But there were enough stones to fill the pit if there were men and energy enough to survive the task. Schools had to be organized and for many years a farm house or an abandoned log hut served as a school building. Churches had to be built. Construction was a slow process but the work was never abandoned or laid down until the task was finished.

Trade was chiefly by barter. Butter and eggs were exchanged for groceries. Some money was an absolute necessity and in order to get some of the precious metal men took teams and went out to Dakota during the threshing season. A man and team was paid \$5.00 per day which was considered exceptionally good pay. The season lasted somewhere between sixteen to twenty days.

Stephen was the nearest railroad center. It was a distance of 35 miles from Pelan. Transportation was by the stage coach or by a team and wagon if grain was to be sold or a load of lumber brought back. It was not uncommon for men, and even women, to walk to Stephen to save the stage coach fare if the journey would include train fare from there to some other destination.

Life was simple but wholesome. There were no juvenile problems. Entertainment was usually by some Young People groups consisting of programs and songs, or some church convention. Baseball was forbidden on Sundays and the other weekdays were for work.

These early pioneers, both men and women, were truly giants in physical strength and endurance. Their morals and ideals were high, there was never a compromise tolerated on that which was right or wrong. They have left to us an enduring heritage.

Written by Dr. Thamar (Millie) Dufwa, Pelan, MN.

Memories of Dewey/Lind Circle



Dewey/Lind "Hospital" Circle - 1st row: Susie (Burkel) Schires, Agnes (Brandvold) Nero, Mabel (Myran) Anderson, Ruth (Westerberg) Eeg, Grace (Sogn) Rowley, Opal Stenberg; 2nd row: Hattie Kirkeide, Cora (Mrs. B.A. Hanson), Lena Sogn, Karen (Carrie **Sogn**) DaUager, Irene (Wilson) Melby; Back: arms folded Marie (Mrs. Mansvil) Snare, unknown, Mabel (DaUager) Sovde, Alma Anderson, Mabel (Bertilrud) Anderson; Standing: Mrs. Bezik Hanson; *(photo courtesy of Ruth Eeg)*

This group of ladies belonged to the "Dewey Circle." At the time the hospital was being built, there were different groups to help raise funds that would be given to the hospital. Most of these ladies were from Dewey Township, therefore the name they used. It was interesting to see the different ways they worked and still had fun! They put on several talent shows, and served lunch at different gatherings. Their largest fundraiser was when each member was given a quilt block. They charged 25 cents to get their name embroidered on the block, thus raising \$300. When one of the names was picked out of the hat, the winner was stated as a Mrs. Gust who was awarded the quilt.

Submitted by Ruth (Westerberg) Eeg.

Pelan Battleground Park- Pelan Pioneer Park



Pelan Park Picnic Shelter 2004 *(photo by Myrna Sovde)*

Pelan Battleground Park is eight miles west of Greenbush on Highway 11. The site, near the location of Midway Tavern in stage-coach days, lies just two miles east of the former Village of Pelan. Years ago, the Village of Pelan served as the halfway point for farmers hauling grain from north of Greenbush to Stephen via horse-drawn wagons. There the farmers rested themselves and the horses overnight at the Halfway House Hotel-- the travelers from the west pausing there before crossing the river. In its glory days, the village of Pelan expected to become the metropolis of northwestern Minnesota, but the railroads passed them by, one to the east and one to the west and Pelan became a "ghost town." The town is gone, but the park inherited the name of Pelan.

East of Pelan Battleground Park were three Indian mounds very visible to early settlers, but now are less defined. Because of the mounds, the settlers referred to Sand Ridge as Mound Ridge. There are many legends associated with the mounds. Some people said they were remnants of battle entrenchments erected by the Sioux and Chippewa during their century of battles. Some said the mounds were the tumuli of ancient Indian people who lived there on the shores of old Lake Agassiz, to which they attributed the two Indian skeletons and other artifacts that were discovered there.

Mikinock, a Chippewa who lived in Roseau County when the first settlers came here, related one of the Indian legends concerning these mounds. He said they were the remains of sod wigwams built by a party of white people whose boat was shipwrecked in a storm. According to the legend, the event occurred when the waters of Lake Agassiz still were to the north of the ridge. (Mikinock's Legend appears elsewhere in this book.)

One of the many stories about the Pelan Park site concerns an event that occurred only about 150 years ago (around 1857) and is

more history than legend. At one time, the Sioux occupied all of forested Minnesota. It was their territory. The Chippewa, however, had obtained guns from the French and proceeded to drive the Sioux from Minnesota to the prairies of the Dakotas. Because of this, the Sioux hated the Chippewa and during the next 100 years or so frequently returned to do battle with them over the rich fields and excellent fishing and hunting grounds. According to the Chippewa, the last great battle between the Sioux and Chippewa took place at the site of Pelan Battleground Park. After a two-day battle, the Sioux fled, leaving their dead and wounded behind. This battle was one of the fiercest and bloodiest Indian battles, in terms of the number engaged, ever known to have taken place between the Sioux and Chippewa. In ensuing years, the Warroad Indians made several trips to the battleground to celebrate their ancient victory, one of which was recorded in the Roseau Region newspaper in the early 1890s.



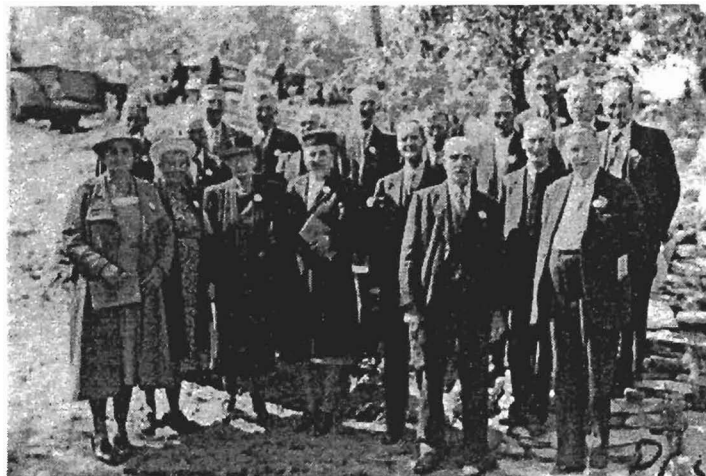
Greenbush Community Band at Pelan Park - Front: Oscar Peterson, Leslie Klegstad, Oscar Tangen, Kermit Stenmoe, Hans Haug, Helmer Johnson, Harry Berger; Back: Henry Hess, Orville Anderson, Bert A. Anderson, Edwin Anderson, Art **Stenberg**, Myrtle Stenberg, Ole Svegdahl, Alma Anderson, Bert C. Anderson, Andrew Alme, Benard Anderson, Art Anderson, Sr., John Sheldorf. (photo courtesy of Bev & Roy Holm and Art Anderson, Jr.)

The Greenbush Community Band obtained the site of Pelan Battleground Park in 1937 and, without outside financial help, created a lovely park. The next year, 1938, the Greenbush Community Band sponsored a Chippewa Victory Pow Wow celebration, featuring Chief Missy-Way-Ge-Schick and twenty-five persons from Lake of the Woods Chippewa Band. Kee-Wa-Tin, a champion Chippewa dancer from Red Lake Falls, also performed. In addition to the pow wow, there was a full program of music, a pageant, and ballgames. The **Greenbush** Tribune of August 25, 1938, reported the crowd numbered over 10,000 people. Quoting the Tribune, "The Greenbush Band has set a record with this celebration that will probably stand for many a day among the records of Greenbush. The parking space on the south side of the road is about a half mile long, and when that was full, the space on the north side of the road was filled, besides the ditches on both sides of the road. The parade of cars was a show in itself."

A significant effort to designate the Pelan Park as a state park was reported in the Greenbush Tribune in November of 1938. In the spring, the Roseau County Board had set aside the land with a recommendation that it be used for a park. Mike Holm and Louis Enstrom approached the legislators and the State Department of Parks, and "the citizens of this community are wholeheartedly for this project," the Tribune reported.

The effort failed, but in April of 1939, the Greenbush Community Band approached the County Board proposing that the tax-forfeited tract be designated for park use. Roseau County took title to the land and delegated the operation and maintenance of the park

to the Greenbush Band. A beautiful picnic grove was cleared of brush, a bandstand and platform was built, and a swimming pool nearly 200 feet long was dug out of the South Branch of Two Rivers. The Greenbush Farm Bureau and the Roseau County Farm Bureau donated toward the development of the park, but the Greenbush Band financed most of the work through fund raising events, many held at the park itself.



Celebrating at the Old Settlers of 1890 Event at Pelan park. (photo courtesy of Roseau County Historical Society)

The 1939 event celebrated the early settlers. A concert and program, including Governor Harold Stassen decorating the 50-year pioneers, was presented. At this time the "Pelan Old Timers" association was organized, with over 150 old settlers from Roseau and Kittson Counties registering. A large crowd turned out in spite of threatening weather. The next year's Pelan Park souvenir booklet reported a crowd of about 12,000 had attended. If so, they had already surpassed the 1938 record the Tribune had predicted would "probably stand for many a day among the records of Greenbush."



Old Settlers Picnic at Pelan Park September 1, 1940 (photo courtesy of Roseau County Historical Society)

In 1940, with the cooperation of Albert Anderson, a county commissioner from Greenbush, a parking lot was graded out and a ball diamond established. The annual celebration that year featured local talent performing *Wannaska and Waunda*, an original opera written and composed by Roseau County citizens. The cast included Alyce Holstrom, Burton Hanson, and Arne Thompson in lead roles. In supporting roles were: Charles Anderson, June Berntsen, Arlene Bizek, Warren Darst, Lillian Hagen, Clifford Heltne, Lorraine Holter, Victor Kalinoski, Pauline Kotchevar, Helen Lindell, Everette Lund, Marion Madison, Bobby Mattson, Paul Mattson, Raymond Mattson, Frank McGrath, Alice Paulson, Doris Reese, Marie Rinowski, Dorothy Roche, Lucille Roche, Charles Snare, Eleanor Solom, and Thelma Solom. The director was Mrs. Hans Haug assisted by Mrs. H. Holte. The accompanist was Myrtle Kotchevar and Wayne Sanders was in charge of properties. In addition to the opera, the old settlers were again honored.

Art Anderson recalled that during these early years of the Pelan



Old Settlers' Picnic at Pelan Park
(photo courtesy of Roseau County Historical Society)

Park the band always had a concession stand selling pop, candy, ice cream, watermelon, and other treats. "Most of it sold for a nickel, so we kids could stretch a quarter all afternoon," he said.

The sponsoring organization, The Greenbush Community Band, "fell apart" near the beginning of World War II. As a result, Pelan Battleground Park was largely neglected, and apparently there were no more public park events for several years.

It wasn't until 1976 that a Minnesota non-profit corporation was formed to oversee the park, now called Pelan Pioneer Park, Inc. They officially took responsibility for the park in January of 1977. The first board members were: Ruth Anderson, Carl Brandvold, Ruth Eeg, I. S. Folland, Leonard Klegstad, Kenneth Langaas, Milton Sather, and Einar Sjoval. In ensuing years, several buildings were acquired and moved to the park or built on site: Pauli Lutheran Church from across the highway, Soo Line Depot from Karlstad, a blacksmith shop, one-room schoolhouse, store, and trapper's cabin.



The Soo Line Depot moved from Karlstad has served as backdrop for many theatrical productions. (photo by Myrna Sovde)

In 1976, local talent staged a repeat of the opera *Wannaska and Waunda*, thirty-six years after the original performance. In 1978, performers from Hallingdal, Norway, provided the program. A Heritage Art Festival was held the following year. The annual celebration in 1980 featured a Minneapolis theater group and an outdoor pig roast, perhaps the first outdoor "dinner theater" presented at Pelan Park.

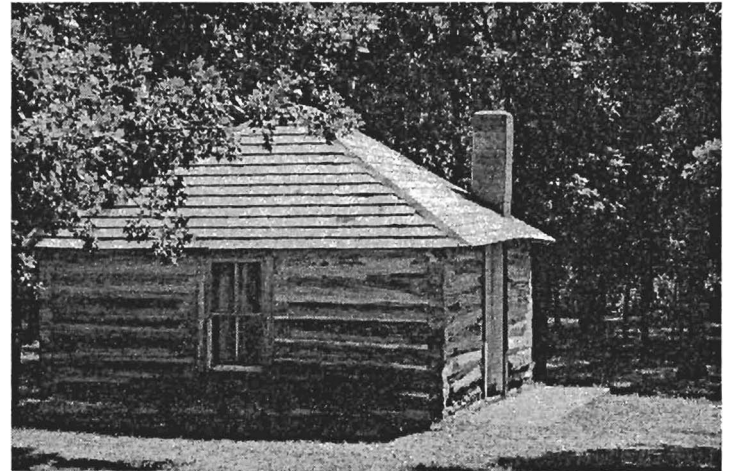
A two-day Summer Festival in 1983 was followed in 1984 by what seems to be the first appearance of "The Pelan Players." This group of local talent presented *How the West Was Fun*. In 1985, at another outdoor "dinner theater." The Pelan Players performed in *Goodbye to the Clown*.

In 1986, the Players ambitiously performed two evenings of *Huckleberry Finn* with a turkey dinner. Then followed several years of Pelan Player's plays. Some were dinner theaters, and some were presented at other locations. The plays included: *The Face on the Barroom Floor* in 1987; *Harvey* in 1988; *Showdown at the Rainbow Ranch* in 1990; *Tom Sawyer* in 1991; *I'm a Family Crisis* in

1992; *Fools* in 1993; *Little Luncheonette of Terror* in 1994; and *The Great Ice Cream Scheme* in 1997.

For many years, Phyllis Evans, usually acting as director, was a key member of the Pelan Park Players, the acting group that staged the plays. Members of the cast and support team were various talented local residents. The Pelan Park Board took responsibility for the meals.

Many of the board members aged and passed away and public events at the park were discontinued. Although basic maintenance of the grounds continued, many of the buildings fell into disrepair. Through these years, however, corporate records were kept and corporate status was maintained.



Trapper's Cabin. (photo 2004 by Myrna Sovde)

When, in 2000, other Greenbush organizations voiced concern and suggested taking Pelan Park under their umbrella, a number of citizens met to explore the possibility of keeping the park under the control of the park board. Since the terms of all offices of the board were either unfilled or expired, a new board was formed. The property remained the responsibility of the park board. Then in 2003, when the offices of that board's terms had expired, another new board was elected. The positions on this board were filled by: Milton Sather, Jeff Pieterick, David Hanson, Tamara Nelson, Patty Fugleberg, Russell Kappes, Bob Nelson, and E. Kenneth Johnson.

This proactive board decided to repair and renovate the park and bring it back into community use. Because its roof was deteriorating rapidly and beginning to affect the interior, the first item on their agenda was to re-shingle the Pauli Church. The Sentence to Service Crew was available to do the work, and with their help, the roof of the church was repaired in 2003. The crew also reshingled the country school and the general store and repaired and reroofed the picnic shelter.

The year 2004 was an ambitious year for the Pelan Park Board. The Pauli Church centennial celebration was planned for August of 2004, so the completion of the church renovations and addressing the safety of the depot platform were primary that season. A grant had been obtained from Valspar through the Northwestern Minnesota Foundation's Picture it Painted program for paint for both the exterior and interior of the church, and it was completed inside and out in time for the celebration. The depot platform, which was deemed a danger, was removed. The trapper's cabin and the blacksmith shop were reroofed.

The centennial celebration of the Pauli Church building was held at Pauli in the park on a lovely day in mid-August of 2004. The festivities included a turkey dinner served outdoors under tent tops, ecumenical worship services in English and Norwegian by Pastor



Pauli Lutheran Church at Pelan Park. (photo 2004 by Myrna Sovde)

Hennansen in the Pauli Lutheran Church, special music groups both indoors and out, and a hymn-sing in the church. Additional activities included games for children, wagon rides drawn by miniature horses from the Ray Christianson fann, and slide shows about the "ghost town" of Pelan. The park buildings were open for self-touring, with the exception of the depot building, not yet repaired and deemed unsafe for public use. As well as being open for tours, the park's "Country Store" was open for business, selling mostly treats for children and commemorative items. Root beer floats were available from a park booth and other snacks available from a commercial snack trailer. The park board considered the day a great success.

The park board plans to continue its efforts to improve Pelan Pioneer Park. For the fall of 2004 and summer of 2005, the principal target of concern is the Soo Depot building. After addressing the necessary structural repairs, future plans for the depot include a presentable room, including a kitchenette and electric lighting, to be available for gatherings and receptions. Two smaller areas in the depot are under consideration for historical displays.

With this active and aggressive group, we can expect to see the results of other plans and ideas before long. But for now, through the efforts, time, and generous donations of many private individuals and businesses, our community can again use and be proud of the lovely Pelan Pioneer Park, which was established by the Greenbush Community Band nearly 70 years ago.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak.

(A significant portion at the beginning of this article is based on an article published in *The 1940 Roseau County Historical Booklet* sponsored by the Greenbush Community Band.)

Hereim Township

Hereim Township was organized on May 31, 1900. The City of Greenbush is located in Section 10 Hereim Township. The township got its name from a pioneer settler named Ole Hereim. Ole died in 1931 and is buried in the Bethel Cemetery, Hereim Township.

The first officers were Peter Rindero chainnan; Aanie Hartel and Peter Lanegraff supervisors; Ole Hereim clerk; A. S. Lanegraff treasurer; Folke Severson and Peter Cook justices; Carl Hereim and Lars Christopherson constables. At a meeting a few days later the office of chainnan was declared vacant and Peter Cook was named chainnan. The 2004 board members were: Ellis Waage chainnan;

Jim Dvergsten and Ricky Lorenson supervisors; Bruce Anderson clerk; and Peter Stauffenecker, Jr. treasurer.

Present day Hereim officers have family ties with fonner officers to carry on the tradition of serving on the township. The Waage, Stauffenecker, and Anderson names continue to serve today. Three generations of Andersons have served as Hereim clerks: Joseph O. Anderson, served from 1961-62; Kennis Anderson from 1962-1974; and Bruce Anderson, 1991 to the present day. Thanks go to Ellis Waage who was appointed chainnan in 1967 and is still serving after 37 years. Other long standing township officers were Gilmer Berger, who served 36 years from 1944 to 1980, and Tommy Pederson, 42 years from 1939 to 1981. The Hereim Townhall is located in Section 16 along Highway 11 across from the Bethel Cemetery.



Election 1980. Myrna Sovde, voter, Tommy Pederson, Ellis Waage, and Gilmer Berger, election judges. (Kerstin Svensson photo)

The population of Hereim Township is larger than neighboring townships due to its proximity to Greenbush. Several families live in homes on small acreages within a few miles of town.

Submitted by Carol Anderson



Hereim Township election judges 2004 - Lila Anderson, Shirley Pederson, Myrna Sovde and Lee Walski.

Churches and Cemeteries

Although three churches, Bethel, Blessed Sacrament, and United Free, are in Hereim Township now, eight churches existed in the township at different times. Moland began in 1897 and St. Olaf

began in 1904. They merged in 1925 to form Bethel Lutheran. A small Bethania congregation existed in south Hereim from 1900 to 1906. The Methodist Church was founded in 1904, but ceased to exist in the early 1930s. Bethania Free congregation moved from Barto Township into Greenbush in the 1930s when they purchased the Methodist's building. The first Blessed Sacrament church was built in 1914. United Free congregation began in 1972 as a merger of Bethania Free, and rural churches, Pauli and Zion.

Cemeteries located in Hereim are: Bethel Lutheran Cemetery in Section 16; Blessed Sacrament Catholic Cemetery also in Section 16; United Free Lutheran Church/Bethania in Section 2. Local people know of the existence of Indian graves in Section 19 of Hereim Township.

Post Office

Dock Post Office located in Hereim township, Section 34, was established on April 19, 1901. The first postmaster was Ole K. Dock. It was discontinued on November 15, 1905. For many years it was the home of Eddie and Pauline Anderson and later Arnold and Pearl Anderson.

The Greenbush Post Office originated in Old Greenbush in Skagen township with Fidelia Hedges as postmistress. The Post Office moved to Hereim township, Section 10, along with Old Greenbush businesses. The postmaster was Olaf Hildahl.

Schools

Hereim had two schools within its township lines: Greenbush School, District 66, became #678 and presently #2683 in Section 10; and School District 40, Dock School, Section 34, consolidated with Greenbush in 1949.

Awards

Clean Farm winners include: Orin & Joan Green 1975; Ellis & Darlene Waage and U. Otto & Carol Waage 1988. King Agassiz winners have included Bernard & Andrea Nelson 1971; Orin & Joan Green 1976; and Pete & Natalie Stauffenecker 1991. Fanner and Homemakers Award winners are: Orin & Joan Green- 1984; U. Otto & Carol Waage and Ellis & Darlene Waage 1993.

Town of Hereim - How It Got Its Name

A man from Hayfield, Dodge County, Minnesota, by the name of Ole Hereim came to Roseau County with his four sons, John, Erik, Carl, and Ole, Jr. They all filed on a quarter section of land, all close together, and that's the site where Greenbush is now located. The township was organized and named in his honor.

Ole, Jr. became the first town clerk and held that office for many years. In the year of 1899, Carl Heltne, also of Dodge County, came to visit the Hereims. Mrs. Ole, Jr. was his sister. He also took a homestead and has lived there ever since. He became the first assessor and in 1901 made the first assessment. The only way to get to all the homesteaders was to travel by foot. He received the "liberal" amount of fourteen dollars for his work.

As the population grew, they saw it necessary to organize a school. They built a one-room school building in a beautiful evergreen thicket on the ridge where Mrs. Anna Borgen now has her home (the present Menvil Borgen homesite).

In a few years the trees died out. A new school building was erected on the site where Dr. Klefstad's clinic is located. The old building was sold and moved into town for a living house.

The district was called District 66 and in a few more years this new building became too small and a third building was constructed. The second building was then sold to Dr. Button who fixed it up for a hospital and was one of the first hospitals in the county.

Leona Thompson, a young girl from Badger was our first teacher. She had a little pony that she rode around to visit all the homes in the district. She said it is very important to know the parents and the different homes the children come from.

In 1904, the creamery was organized and was built on the site where Bob Wollin's machine shop now stands (1963). Andrew Benson from Dodge County, was the first butter maker and Christian Dahl, Carl Heltne, Ole Hereim, Jr. and Toljus Lundevall were on the first creamery board.

Church services were held in the homes with Pastor Nils Njus, who, in 1904, organized this congregation now called Bethel. In 1905, it was decided to build a church. The congregation consisted of eight members, but it was not long before the congregation grew and our church was completed.

The roads soon improved, thanks to the Poll Tax Law. Every man was called to donate three days work on the road for free. But everybody was interested in getting better roads so they spent a lot of time improving them.

Information attributed to Mrs. Carl (Carrie Williamson) Heltne, written before 1963. was found in Roseau County Museum Archives.



Annual Neighborhood Birthday Party - Back row: Charlie Johnson, Caroline Green, Eva Braaten, Eddie Braaten, Louise Anderson, Clara Johnson, Ole Braaten, Ole Green, Richard Johnson, Nels Anderson, Pete Hornseth, Tom Metvedt, Ole Metvedt. Middle row: Norman Johnson, Clayton Kjos, Arnold Johnson. Front row: Melvin Braaten. (photo submitted by Irene Ratkovec)

Huss Township

Huss Township (159N Range 42W) is located along the Roseau-Marshall County Line, two miles east of Strathcona, MN. It is believed that the first settlers came to Huss Township about 1900. Among the early settlers were the Lorensen, Hagstrom, Hamberg, Miller, Bjerk, Maresh, Harnness, Christopherson, Gjovik, Hanson, Eystad, Gilbertson, Wiskow, Selstad, Kvale, Johnson, Wahlin, Tangen, Amundson, and Netterland families.

Huss Township was organized on May 20, 1905, with 29 voters at the first election. Huss was named after the great Bohemian religious reformer, Jan Hus, who lived from 1369-1415. The first officers were Lewis Christopherson clerk; Theo Gilbertson and Lewis Christopherson justices; Chris Eystad chairman; Jack Wahlin and Chris Eystad supervisors; John Tangen treasurer; and Zak



Huss Townhall (photo submitted by Avis Wiskow and Myrna Sovde)

Hamberg assessor. The township was divided into quarters and a road commissioner was appointed for each quarter to oversee the building of roads.

The present town board consists of: Douglas Bentow, Brian Berge, and Richard Lorenson supervisors; Debra Wiskow clerk; Avis Wiskow treasurer and assessor.

Dennis Wiskow has a tractor repair shop on his farm in Section 4. The township has several gravel ridges and there are many gravel pits used by construction companies. Huss Township has a population of 149 persons as of 2000 Census with 87 registered voters.

Post Offices

Huss Post Office was established April 17, 1903, in Section 7 on Lewis Christopherson's land. Christopherson became the first postmaster. This post office was discontinued in 1919. A post office was also established at Olaf Gordon's home in Section 15. Gordon was postmaster.

Churches and Cemeteries

Huss Township never had a church but the west branch of the Norwegian Ladies Aid was started at the Henry Bjerk farm in Section 14 on May 2, 1905. This branch later merged with the Benwood Ladies Aid in Poplar Grove Township where the Klondike Church and Cemetery were established in Section 8 on December 5, 1907.

Lorenson Cemetery was established in Section 22 of Huss Township in 1916. Loren Lorenson donated the land for the cemetery at the time of his wife's death.



Lorenson Family Cemetery on County Road 6. (Myrna Sovde photo)

Schools

There were four schools established in Huss Township: The Hagstrom School, District 75, NW 1/4 Section 29 started in 1903 and consolidated with Strathcona in 1949; The Flaten School, District 99, in the SW 1/4 Section 8; the Lorenson School, District 83, located first in the SE 1/4 Section 15, and later moved to northwest corner of Section 26, started in 1905 and consolidated with Grasslake District 90 JT; and the Gordon School, District 8, in the northeast corner of Section 15, is now the site of Huss Townhall, although not the same building. Other earlier schools met in the homes, granaries, or any available building until the main schools were established.

All Huss Township schools closed in the late 1940s. The students at the Lorenson School then went to the Grass Lake School in Poplar Grove Township. Hagstrom School students went to Strathcona, and those at the Gordon and Flaten Schools went to Greenbush.

The Lorenson School building is still standing in Section 26. The Gordon School was quite a large building and was moved to Greenbush to be used for classes until the Greenbush School was enlarged. Several other school buildings were moved to Greenbush and later sold and used for shops, homes, or granaries.

Throughout the years the town board usually met at the home of the clerk for their regular meetings and would rotate between the schoolhouses for the primary and general elections. Huss did not have a town hall until 1956, when they purchased a school building for \$400 from Joe Duray in Barnett Township and moved it to the northeast corner of Section 15. This building is still in use. Electricity was installed in 1974 and electric heat was added in 1985.

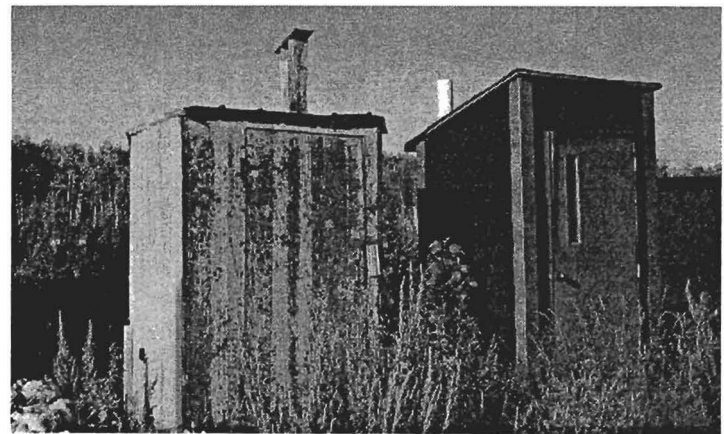
Northland Threshing Bee

The Northland Threshing Bee is located in Section 10. It was started in 1965 by members of the Wiskow Family in order to preserve the tools and methods of pioneer farming. It soon became a non-profit corporation registered with the State of Minnesota and is tax exempt by the IRS. Membership is open to all who wish to help in the principles of the organization. There are presently 50-60 members from a large area who participate in the yearly show. A large crowd visits the show each year to view the pioneer farming demonstrations and the Pioneer Village. Several old buildings have been donated and restored.

Awards

The following farms in Huss have reached Century Farm status; Lorens Lorenson- Section 22, now owned by Randy Lorenson; Eivend Berge- Section 6, now owned by Brian Berge; Fred Wiskow- Section 11, now owned by Lucy Wiskow; and Edward Vacura- Section 10, now owned by Ervin Vacura.

Huss Township submitted by Avis Wiskow.



Is this HIS and HERS? Huss Township 2004

Family Life On the Homestead- Growing Up in Huss Township (Section 14)

I was the ninth of twelve children born to Marit and Henry Bjerk (born December 9, 1907). My Dad and Mother disapproved of boy and girlfriends until the girls were eighteen and the boys were twenty-one years old, but they heartily approved of girls learning to sew, cook, clean, and do well in school. And also to look and act nice and courteous. Dad, especially, was critical of our manners



Old water pump
(picture courtesy of Carmen Majer)



Sawmill
(picture courtesy of Carmen Majer)



SawmiU
(picture courtesy of Carmen Majer)

and behavior, although he never said so to us, but he did so to my mother.

Ida, my sister, used to read love stories to us-- out loud in the evening. Not the kind of love stories we have now, but nice ones. Sometimes we were all in tears, the stories were so sad. Ida wasn't home much, which she preferred since we were such a large family. My mother often sent the oldest ones to help the neighbors and friends who needed help. That way we earned a little money and also learned to cook, sew, clean, and take care of children. We also could have boyfriends! Just so Dad didn't find out! He was quite stern.

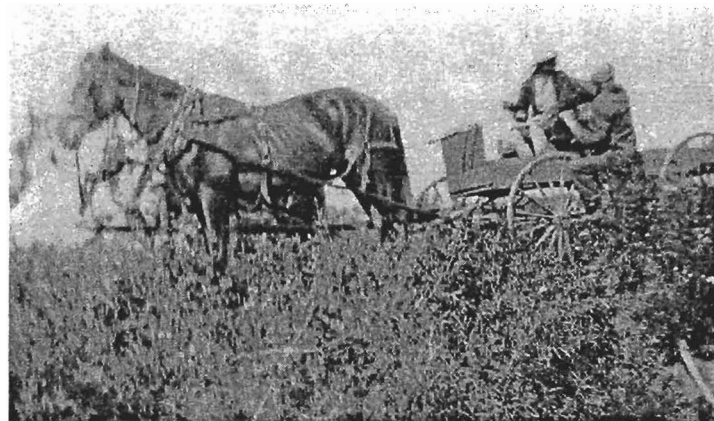
The Henry Bjerk family all grew up in Huss Township, Roseau County, in a three-room log house that Dad built when he filed for the land and "proved it up." By the time the older boys were grown up, we had outgrown the old log house, so the boys, Richard and Oscar with Arthur tagging along, cut enough logs and sawed them into lumber to build a very nice house and tore down the old eyesore. They built a saw mill and cut down enough extra logs to saw into lumber to exchange at the lumberyard for such supplies as nails, roofing, cement, etc.

I had married by the time the house was built. It took the boys almost two years to build (it). Before they started on the house, though, they cut logs for the barn on the farm. The barn was built of squared logs measuring about 8 x 8. Those logs were then stacked with cement or tar between them for walls. It was unbelievable what they accomplished on that place. Besides all that, they built a couple of barns for others.

The country was still quite wild in those days. I can remember seeing bear, wolves, and lynx. We could hear the wolves howling in the winter evenings. Strangely, there weren't that many deer and

moose, and Dad wasn't a hunter anyway. If the wild animals walked right up to him, he didn't mind taking a shot at them, though. At one time, being hungry for fresh meat, he took the old gun along to the field. As he came to the end of a row, he realized that there were two animals behind a big hazelnut bush nearby. He could only see the heads of them. Well, he thought they were moose, but he wasn't too sure. They looked like they could be a team of mules! Moose were almost unheard of around there at that time, so he lowered his gun, then raised it, but finally decided they were mules. The darn things took off and he realized he had missed a good shot right in front of him.

Occasionally the family had mutton or deer meat, but in the summer meat was scarce. Mother spotted a prairie chicken up in a tree in our backyard and she loaded the gun, took aim, and got it-- first shot. She had never held a gun before. She sure was kidded about that. We had chicken dinner that evening. There weren't very strict laws about hunting in those days. The "lawmen" were few and far between.



Horsedrawn wagon (picture courtesy of Korczak Collection)

My father and Uncle Carl usually went fishing every spring as soon as the ice went out of the Roseau River. They hitched up Dad's horses to the lumber wagon, packed their nets and equipment and lunch. They left early in the morning, fished all day and camped that night. They usually came home during the night, hopefully with a wagonbox half full of fish. We kids, even the smallest of us, had to clean and scale the fish that were to be canned. The fish that were smoked were not scaled, only cleaned. The fish have an airbag next to their spine that helps them float. We used these as balloons, and we tied them on sticks to wave around. They didn't hold the air very long though. The fish, when smoked, were delicious, but they didn't last long enough.

The lakes and rivers were clean and pure in those days, and there weren't that many people. After all, we didn't have good roads, and we had no automobiles. Horses were for work.

Some years there seemed to be a sickness among the wild animals, and they were not safe to eat. We often found dead deer and rabbits that had sores all over their bodies. The prairie chickens, ducks, geese, quail, and partridge were almost gone. Much of the disease, or sickness, may have been because someone was putting out strychnine baits. The deer, moose, even our cows, could possibly eat the grass where the baits had lain. The poison stayed in the soil, where the grass grew, for years. The wolves found and ate the dead and poisoned animals, and then the wolves and small meat-eating animals would die. The wolves would be skinned and the hides sold by the people who put out poison baits. At one time, there were a lot of wolves around and they were a problem, be-

cause they had been known to travel in packs and attack children coming home from school at four o'clock in the afternoon, when it was already dark outside. They killed sheep, newborn calves, deer, and chickens.

I remember times when we had droughts and the rivers and lakes were almost dry. So, sometimes when the textbooks said "the rivers were teeming with fish and the woods full of deer," it wasn't always true. There were years when the rivers and swamps were filled to overflowing, but we also had years when we had no rain, and there was year after year of crop failures. This happened twice that I can remember.

It got so bad that Dad, who loved to smoke his pipe, didn't dare to light it because twice a spark from his pipe started a fire that was hard for him to put out. After a few years of drought, the soil was dry and cracked and we had dust storms. The air was filled with dust and whatever grass grew became covered with dust. The cattle ate the grass, even the roots, and sometimes their meat couldn't be eaten because the animals had been eating too much dust. So herds of cattle were butchered, canned, and given (as welfare) back to the farmers. This was during the "Great Depression."

The cotton farmers were also suffering, so the cotton was bought up by the government and made into material. That material sold in the catalog for as little as two and three cents a yard.

After the rains came, the farmers could borrow money for seed and fertilizer. It took almost the rest of their lives to pay it back and many of them didn't bother to try. Instead, they left the farms, machinery and all. But later, when war clouds were forming, the crops were good and the price for grain high, many came back again, and farmers who stayed on the farm bought more land while it was cheap.

Suddenly farming was good and people went into it, and borrowed-up to their ears. Not at all the way my father farmed. He farmed with mules and secondhand machinery, which he repaired himself. He never borrowed money, so he owed no one, except when he bought that big team of mules, which had been used in a coal mine down in Illinois. Later he bought a small team of mules, but he never farmed with a tractor. By that time, he was in his seventies and had a little trouble with his balance, and also he couldn't see or hear very well. Mother hoped (their son) Selmer and Ethel would take over the farm, so it was a surprise when he sold the farm to Norman Erickson.

Submitted by Carmen Majer Sather. Written by Pearl Clarice Bjerk circa 1995.

Juneberry Township



Juneberry mailman George Sandahl 1951
(photo by Delores (Melby) Wojciechowski)

Juneberry Township, Township 162 Range 44, is named for a small tree variously called Juneberry, service berry, or shad bush and is commonly found throughout Minnesota. Juneberry is now consid-

ered unorganized. Their bills are paid through the county and elections are held in Soler Township.

Post Offices

Juneberry Post Office was established on March 7, 1905, in Section 7. The first postmaster was Herman J. Grimsrud, followed by Lars T. Berget on April 22, 1907, and acted as postmaster until March 2, 1923. At that time George Lendstrom became acting postmaster until the office was closed on April 30, 1923.

Schools

Schools in Juneberry were District 73 in Section 20 and Johnson, District U17, located in Section 8. Some students of District 73 attended classes in homes; classes were also held in the Egelund Church. District 73 became U17 when the township became unorganized. U17 was first located in Section 8 and later moved to Section 20. Some students of this school can remember attending classes in the woodshed until the schoolhouse was ready for occupancy.

Ella Efshen, Marie Tomalla, and Gladys Palm were some of the early teachers. Mrs. Elene Frislie was the last teacher in this school before it consolidated. Some family names of students attending this school were: Dokken, Johnson, Pearson, Lindstrom, Switzenberg, Skyberg, Sikorski, Hanson, and Melby. The school was standing on the Henry Sikorski farm until recently.

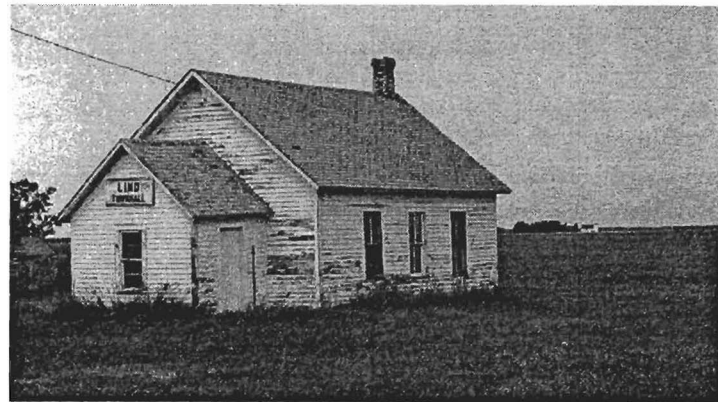
Information taken from Roseau County Heritage Book & Museum.

Lind Township

Lind Township was organized on January 3, 1900. First officers voted in were Axel Wahl, chairman; O. K. Olson, and Alfred Lindgren, supervisors; L. P. Norby, clerk; J. A. R. Lindgren, treasurer; Alfred Anderson, assessor; Jens Pederson and L. P. Norby, justices; and Gotfred Hagen and Charles Knutson, constables.

Lind is the most southwestern township and is named in honor of John Lind, the 14th governor of this state.

Board members now include: Leonard Veer, chairman; Neil Gustafson and Merlin Alme, supervisors; Janie Lindgren, clerk; and Barry Kirkeide, treasurer.



Lind TownhaU Section 11 formerly Svegdahl School. Bethlehem Church is in the background. (Myrna Sovde photo)

Churches and Cemeteries

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is located in Section 10 in Lind Township along County Road 23. Organized in 1901, services were held in Carrie Sogn's log home and later in the Svegdahl schoolhouse. In 1910, they purchased and moved the Swedish Mission Church of Pelan to use as a church. Bethlehem closed in 1999.



Bethlehem Sunday School in 1960: Front row: Lynn Hagen, Dale Foss, Avis Anderson, Jon Foss, Connie Wolff, Noreen Svegdahl, Dorothy Anderson. Behind front row: Lila Roisland, Sheryl Hagen, Toni Anderson. Third row: Leslie Alme, Allen Anderson, Dean Wolff, Susan Anderson, Rose Anderson, Effie Berger. Fourth row: Duane Berger, David Foss, Unknown. Fifth row: Merlyn Alme, Curtis Wolff, LouAnn Brown, Rosie Roisland. Back row: Christine Svegdahl, JoAnn Anderson, Darlene Berger, Wesley Langaas, Anice Brown, Unknown and Unknown. (Noreen Lorensen photo)

Schools

There were five school districts in Lind which included: District 110, Section 8, the Sogn School; District 33, Section 11, Svegdahl School; District 26, Section 23 & 26; District 45, Section 29; and District 45 N, Section 7.

Awards

Lind Township Clean Farm award winners were Arlan and Bridget "Dee" Dalager in 1992.

Moose Township

Moose Township was named for its formerly frequent moose activity and is one of a few English words formed with a slight change from the Algonquin languages. Moose Township was organized February 14, 1892, as a part of Kittson County. First officers were Andrew Hallick, chairman; E. A. Johnson and Jonas Johnson, supervisors; Hans Erickson, clerk; Andrew Gordon, treasurer; Andrew I. Johnson, assessor; Hans Erickson and A. S. Houkon, justices; and Henry Hallick and Otto Carlson, constables. The current township officers are: Harvey Melby chairman; Kevin Randall vice chairman; Curtis Hukee supervisor; Jim Christianson clerk; Evan Foster treasurer. The township meets in the Roselund Hall.

Churches and Cemeteries

Moose Township has one church, Roselund Lutheran, which also has a cemetery. The church and cemetery are located in Section 14. The congregation was organized December 8, 1890, and continues today. Building of the church began in 1899 with donated lumber. On May 5, 1901, Pastor Sundal conducted the first worship service in the new building. The parish hall was built in 1941. When Immanuel Church of Duxby closed, seven families joined Roselund. The original steepled bell tower was replaced by the present bell tower and front in 1958.

Post Office

There was a post office named Lolita. The first postmaster was Andrew O. Gordon. He continued as postmaster from May 28, 1895 to January 25, 1900. Henry Hallick was appointed and served until the post office discontinued May 15, 1902.

Schools

At one time there were four schools in Moose. School District 14, located in Section 26, was known as the Tauer School. Records show the first year to be 1897-1898 with Mrs. T. G. Hegstad as the teacher. In the fall of 1941, the school closed and the students went

to Badger School. Part of the schoolhouse is now a part of the George Rasmusson house.

School District 29, located in Section 9, was known as the "Sunnyside" or the Jonas Johnson School. It is possible that the school started around 1900. Some of the teachers were A. O. Gordon, Ella Hegstad, Barbara Rankin, Emily Nelson, Nellie M. Glen, Luverne Lerum, Cora Hanson, Mabel Hanson, and Lois V. Freeman. It closed in 1934.

School District 38S located in Section 29, was known as the Andrew Jenson School. The school was also used as a place for neighbor gatherings, school picnics, and basket socials, clubs, and gospel meetings. Teachers were Alma H. Lochrem, Henry Sunderlund, Gena Medhus (spring term), Olava Christianson Vertie Eric^kson an^do' scar Sther.



Possibly Mabel Hanson, teacher in Moose Township. (Noreen Lorensen photo)

The old school building was moved to John McDermaid farm now owned by Jim Christianson.

School District 38N, located at the Nels Nelson farm in Section 11, began in 1895. The first teacher was Mabel Ford. She was paid \$30 per month and had 35 to 40 students. The building was moved 1/2 mile south and remained on the Nelson farm until it consolidated with Badger. On December 21, 1948, a vote for consolidation with Badger was held with 38 yes and 14 no votes. Reasons for consolidation included strengthening the school center for a better educational program and making it possible for all youngsters, no matter where they lived, to attend high school. Some of the school board members were Ole Ingolfslund, August Anderson, Jalmer Wellen, Otto Mickelson, L. L. Johnson, Nels Nelson, Julius Nelson, Chester Rude, and John Nelson.

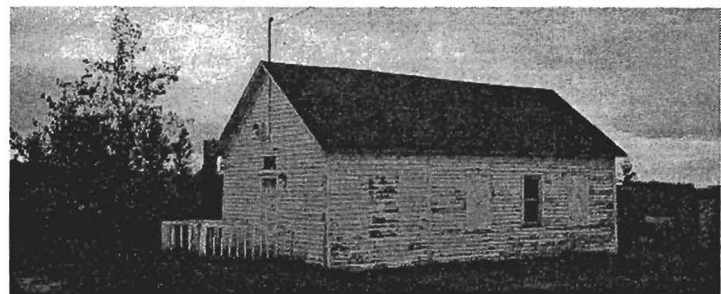
Awards

Clean Farm winners in Moose have included: Floyd & Ruby Haugen 1981 and Curtis & Mayonne Hukee 1997. Farmer and Homemaker Award: Lloyd & Norma Frosaker 1987.

A Century Farm was homesteaded in 1891 by Julius Nelson. Nelson ownership continued through his son, John J. Nelson. It is now owned by Daryl and Lisa Wicklund. The August Forsman farm was homesteaded in 1889 and is now owned by Kenneth and Greta Wierschke. The Curtis & Mayonne Hukee farm was purchased in 1902 by John Hukee.

Polonia Township

Polonia Township was organized on March 8, 1899. The name



Polonia Townhall in 2004. (Annethea Novacek photo)

of "Polonia" was selected as an honor to the many Polish settlers in that area, who had arrived from Poland during that time.

The first officers were: Joseph Stanislawski, chairman; John Pulczynski and Andrew Pelowski, supervisors; John Stanislawski, treasurer; John Stanislawski, assessor; and H. A. Johnson, clerk. Joseph Stanislawski was elected clerk in 1902 and served for 25 years.

Present members of the township board are: Luke Novacek, chairman; Virgil Gryskiewicz, clerk and treasurer; Dale Kuznia and Dale Novacek, supervisors; and Pat Gryskiewicz, secretary.



Photo of the township board members are: Pat and Virgil Gryskiewicz, Luke Novacek, Gerald Gonshorowski (who passed away in 2004) and Dale Kuznia. (Virgil Gryskiewicz photo)

Schools

At one time there were four schools in Polonia. All that remains is one schoolhouse, which is now the town hall. The four schools were located in the four corners of the township, more-or-less.

District 31, Section 26 was organized about the year 1900. It was the first district to be organized. One of the first teachers was Miss Anna Listug of Roseau. She received \$30.00 a month salary, and then paid \$10.00 a month for room and board.

A farmer by the name of Cota lived across the road from the schoolhouse and on August 20, 1913, a cyclone swept through the farmer's buildings and the schoolhouse. Fortunately, school was not in session.

School opened up in the fall of 1913 in the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Lorbiecki. School was held in their living room, with Miss Laura Kelly as teacher. A new school was built in 1914, in the same location as the first one. It continued for the next 33 years, when it consolidated with Greenbush in 1947. The schoolhouse was moved to town and used for a shop room.

Another school was located in Section 29. The school district was organized in 1911, but the number is unknown. After two short terms, the school building was destroyed by the 1913 cyclone. The district joined with District 31.

District 58, located in Section 11, opened in 1902. Miss Rankin was the teacher, and about 30 pupils were enrolled. This district consolidated with Haug District in 1947. The schoolhouse is a landmark, and was purchased by the Township of Polonia as a town hall.

The fourth school district, District 94, is located in section 17. It was organized in 1913 for families located in the northwest part of the township. Families of Louie Larson, Strand, McGrath and Hokanson lived in this district. About 17 students were enrolled, with Mr. Helmer Johnson as their first teacher. With the abundance of rains, the land was subject to floods and the families moved out. The schoolhouse, after standing empty, was eventually bought by

the Nick Kalinowski family and moved to Section 28. It later became a home for the Andrew Kalinowski family.

Awards

Polonia Township Farmer Homemaker Award winners were: Andrew & Mary Kalinowski 1964.

The Edward Pulczynski farm is a Century Farm which was homesteaded in 1896 by his grandpa, Joe Pulczynski, Sr.

Poplar Grove Township

Poplar Grove Township was organized July 21, 1904. The first town board officers were M. N. Gullickson, chairman; Wm. Puttbrese and John Modahl, supervisors; F. C. Knepper, clerk; Anton Quashinski, treasurer; W. Allvordon, assessor; F. C. Knepper and S. A. Sherman, justices; and Hans Tangen and Harry Christopherson, constables.

The present township officers are: William Schafer, clerk; Joe Gust, treasurer; Tony Gust, Wesley Pesek, and Mark Zak, supervisors.

The Poplar Grove Town Hall is located at the former site of the Grasslake School in Section 32. When the school burned in 1952 two schools were moved in. After the district consolidated with Greenbush, one building became the town hall.

Around 1920, Poplar Grove was a thriving township with two stores, two post offices, a flour mill, two churches, three schools and a Czechslovakian lodge. Improved transportation caused the decline of Poplar Grove businesses.

Andrew Lang owned and operated the first Benwood store. One source said the store was first on the Emil Benson farm, but agreed that later Mr. Lang located it in Section 3 on the John Modahl property. The startup year is unknown. The store had drygoods and was a cream station as well as housing the post office. In 1918 John Modahl bought the store and stock, operating it until around 1930, when he sold to the Gulseth Brothers.

Homolka, located in Section 31, was named for Anton Homolka. Homolka had a flour mill, saw mill, dance hall, and a post office. Anton built the flour mill to do custom grinding.

Post Offices

The Benwood Post Office started on December 16, 1904, in Section 3. Anna Fitzgerald was the first postmaster. The post office continued to serve the area until February 14, 1925.

A post office was said to have been located in Section 24. The start up date was January 19, 1901, with John Kovers as the first postmaster. The post office that began in 1901 couldn't have been called Homolka since the Homolka family didn't come to Poplar Grove Township until 1905. Also Section 24 is over five miles from the location in Section 31 called Homolka. Though early families may have tried to homestead Section 24, none were ever able to acquire ownership according to information from the Roseau County Registrar's Office. Since no one has had a deed, proof of occupancy is unavailable. Several sections in that area including Section 24 have been designated as state swamp land since before 1913.

Later, in 1905, when the post office was located in the Homolka home, John Boldyzar, Anton Homolka's stepson, was postmaster and the Homolka girls, Rose, Agnes, and Emma helped sort the mail. Since John wasn't born until about 1900, someone else had to have been postmaster at Homolka before John was old enough.

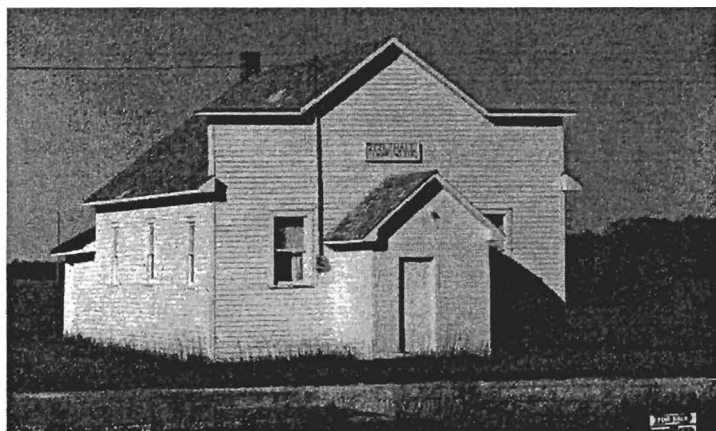
This post office was discontinued February 28, 1925.

In the early years, mail and freight were hauled from Strathcona to Benwood and Homolka once a week, then twice and later three times a week. With the closing of the small post offices in 1925, carriers from Strathcona began serving the area.

Lodge Boleslav Jablonsky #219 Strathcona Z. C. B. J.

(The initials mean, "Western Czechoslovak
Brotherly Association.")

Lodge 219 was organized July 1914, as part of a national organization with its headquarters in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The purpose of forming the local lodge was to obtain reasonably priced life insurance, and to have social gatherings where Czechs could visit in their own language. The early meetings were held in members' homes, until the hall was built in 1916. It was built on one acre of land purchased from Lambert Kruta. (The hall was, and still is, referred to as, "Kruta Hall.") Members donated much of the labor, and it was finished as funds were available. After meetings, there was lunch, visiting, and also dancing. Many wedding dances and Fourth of July celebrations were held in the hall, with fun for young and old.



ZCJB Lodge or Kruta Hall 2004. (Myrna Sovde photo)

Some of the charter members were Joseph Odvarka, Joseph Navratil, John Raichl, Louis Kellar, Lambert Kruta, and Anton Hodik. After research, and with help from the Historical Society, the lodge hall was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in September of 2002. Lodge #219 is still active, with over 170 members, holding community and youth activities, and donating to many charities. The organization is now known as, "Western Fraternal Life Association," and membership is open to all nationalities.

Lodge portion submitted by Frances Forst.

Schools

District 87, established in 1907, was located in Section 1. In 1947, District 87 consolidated with Wannaska. The Benwood School, District 77, was first located in Section 10. In 1910 a new school was built three-fourths of a mile south in Section 9 and was called Northwood School. Grasslake School in Section 32 was District 56 when it started in 1904. With consolidations, it became #105, #90 Joint, and #677, but it was always located in the same place. See School Section.

Churches

St. Joseph Catholic Church, often called the Benwood Church, is located in the southeast corner of Section 21. At the present time

services are held once a month. Klondike Lutheran Church is located in Section 8, but it ceased operating in 1958 when the congregation merged with Nannestad to become Faith Lutheran.

Cemeteries

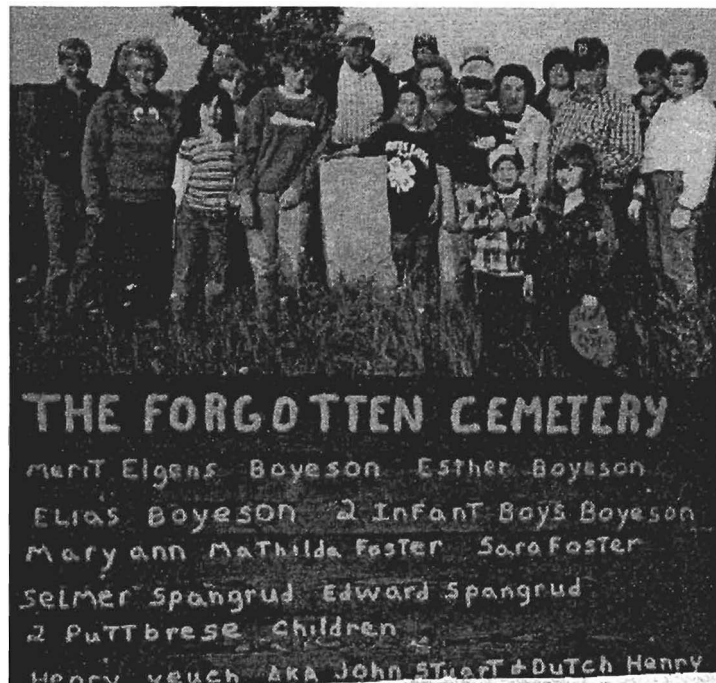
Poplar Grove is a sparsely settled township with four cemeteries: St. Joseph Church, Klondike Church, Gust National Cemetery and the "Forgotten Cemetery."

Forgotten Cemetery

A burial place lies in the middle of a forty acre area in Section 16 of Poplar Grove Township. In records of the Roseau County Historical Society it was listed as Puttbrese Farm Cemetery. In the Roseau County Heritage Book it was named the Forgotten Cemetery.

Join Hands Day is a national day of service that specifically targets and develops relationships between young people and adults through neighborhood volunteering. WFLA Lodge 219 members decided to work with members of the 4-H clubs.

It was decided that our project would be to clean up and to research this cemetery. After finding information about the graves at the Historical Society, we decided to have a sign made and placed at the site.



Join Hands Day at Forgotten Cemetery.

(photos courtesy of Frances Forst and edited by Karen Janousek)

Years ago an oak grove grew by the graves. Today a lone oak tree and some bushes are all that remain. For some reason, the previous land owner plowed up the site and damaged the only tombstone. The present land owner is Albert Gust.

The one large tombstone lists mother, Merit Boyeson 6-5-1852 to 5-4-1904, Esther "Astrid" 2-25-1885 to 3-24-1908, Elias 4-30-1892 to 4-1-1913. Those in unmarked graves are: two infant Boyeson boys (no dates); two children of Tom Foster, infant Mary Ann Mathilda Foster born 11-16-1906, and infant Sara Ida Foster born 7-5-1909. Others in unmarked graves are: Selmer Spangrud and Edward Spangrud, Jr. (no dates); Henry Yeuch aka John Stuart! Dutch Henry, date of death 12-31-1905, buried by the township April 1906; one child Puttbrese (no dates), and second child, Hel-

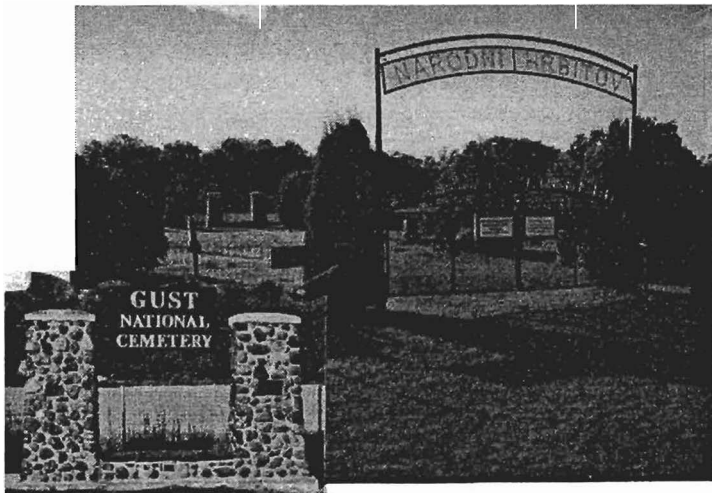
ena Puttbrese, date of death 3-18-1907. A Puttbrese family member said Helena had been moved to Klondike Cemetery, but no markers were found there.

Forgotten Cemetery portion submitted by Frances Forst.

Gust National Cemetery

The Gust National Cemetery started near Benwood in 1904 when a child of Joe and Katie Gust passed away and was buried in a corner of their land in Section 20. When others wanted to bury their kin in this cemetery, the community paid the sum of \$1 to Mr. Gust for an acre of land to make it legal and to officially make it a cemetery. This was several years before the Catholic church started in Benwood.

Many old timers are buried there as well as Stephen, son of Joe and Katie Gust, who died in World War I, and other soldiers. Burials continue at the present time.



Gust National Cemetery (photos by Joe Gust and edited by Myrna Sovde)

Cemetery upkeep is donated by those with family members buried there. New entrance gates in memory of John and Frank Pesek and other family members were given recently. A monument in memory of Joe and Katie Gust by their descendants was added in 2004. The stone monument with the name of the cemetery is located in the back of the cemetery, but is shown enlarged in the bottom left hand corner of the photograph.

Gust Cemetery portion submitted by Joy Gust.

Poplar Grove Township compiled and edited by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Joy Gust, Frances Forst, Charmaine Lorenson, Betty Erickson, Heritage Book, and Roseau Co. Registrar's Office.

Skagen Township

Skagen Township was organized March 14, 1899, and named in honor of Albert O. Skagen. Skagen hailed from a Danish seaport of that name and he was chairman of the county **commissioners**. First officers were J. S. Sunderland, chairman; George Kaasa and Ole Peterson, supervisors; A. G. Loken, clerk; John Hegstad, treasurer; George Stokes, assessor; H. W. Simmons and C. H. Smith, justices and John Hegstad and Charles Mitchell, constables.

Old, old Greenbush was not a platted town **and** was located in Section 29. Old Greenbush, half the town, was platted in Skagen in the northeast corner of SW 1/4 of Section 31, and in Section 36 of Barto.

T.T. Lanegrat and Son had a stock of agricultural tools and equipment on their farm. They moved their business to Old Greenbush

after Olaf Hildahl built his store. The Great Northern Railway bisects Skagen as do Two Rivers and Highway 11. Badger Creek runs through the northeast corner of Skagen and the city of Badger is also in the northeast quadrant.



Skagen Town Hall located on County Road 2. (photo courtesy of Karen Janousek)

The 2004-05 township board consists of: Nolan Kjos, Cliff Hamann, and Dwight Lange, supervisors; Karen Andol, clerk; and George Foster, treasurer.

Post Office

The first Greenbush Post Office was in Skagen Township, established on September 15, 1892. It was located in the Hedges' home, about one mile east of Pioneer Haven Cemetery. Fidelia Hedges was postmaster until December 1899 when the postal service was moved to Hildahl's store in Old Greenbush.

Cemeteries

There are three cemeteries in Skagen: Badger City Cemetery, Section 14; St. Mary's Catholic, Section 13, Swedish Cemetery, Section 1; and one Indian grave.

Schools

Schools located in Skagen Township included: District 1 South located in the northeast corner of Section 31, between the Great Northern Railway and the present Highway 11. Teachers' records for the school go back to 1896. At that time, Mrs. Frank L. Hedges was the teacher. Families on the roster included Lanegraff, Hedges, Dahl, Rein, Dieter, Peterson, Suby, Funden, Riegle, Lunden and Hobbs.

At one time, a District 4 North operated but was closed due to lack of pupils.

District 8, located in Section 9, has been known as the Skagen Town Hall for many years. School records of 1898 name Grace McNutt as the teacher. Families enrolled in 1898 included Erickson, Evenson, Haugen, Olson, Peterson, Skallerud, Hedlund, Johnson, another Peterson, and Nelson.

* Badger School District #676 is also in Skagen Township. Previously in the early 1900s it was known as School District #42. Badger School District is made up of original school districts #6, #14, #18, #17, #23, #29, #30, #35, #38, #42, #43, #48, #54, #67, #88, and part of #1, #8, #683 and #677.

Awards

Farmers and Homemakers Award winners: Andy & Oline Erickson 1957; Sheldon & Helen Erickson 1999. Century Farm owners are Joel & Lisa Erickson whose farm was homesteaded in 1901 by Andrew Erickson, and the Frank & Corrine Dostal farm homesteaded in 1899 by Frank & Frances Dostal.

Town of Skagen

Town of Skagen was organized in the early 1890s (1899) and was given its name after a member on the county board of Roseau County.

Town of Skagen had an attractive layout with all its green meadows and groves of poplar, oak, and evergreen trees. The land sloping to the northwest, was a sign of sufficient drainage.

About this time, all government land was open for new settlers according to Homestead Law. Any person eligible was entitled to 160 acres of land to provide themselves with a home of their own. As soon as this news got known, people flocked from North Dakota and Red River Valley mostly. All were anxious to pick their claim and file to get the first paper (preliminary title).

In the spring of 1894 all the land was filed upon. With some money, friendly cooperation, and exchanging work when necessary, all had neat and well kept homes at the end of the summer. In a considerable short time, there were horses, oxen, cattle, and necessary machinery. Land had been turned into farms and were producing various small grains.

About 1904 the railroad was built into the community, destination Greenbush. With the railroad came elevators which were very much appreciated especially offering a cash market for our grain.

Town of Skagen has from the early days been outstanding in breeding high producing milk cows. Soon creameries were built, one in Badger and one in Greenbush. They later became co-operatives. These creameries were modern and equipped with first class machinery.

The roads became one of our most important problems at this time. Although the township had a prominent efficient board of supervisors, there was very little money in the fund for roads. The only resource was the Poll Tax, which was paid by day labor in the various districts in the towns.

The first road work was done in 1895 clearing right of ways and many doing extra road work on spare time for their own benefit.

The Village of Badger appropriated a sum of money for roads and the homesteaders receiving their title on the claim became taxpayers and more money became available and soon the township was fairly well situated.

The town board deserves worthy thanks for its consideration and good service. As the traffic increased, more and better roads were in demand throughout the state. Road laws were passed and soon the state had a road system established. Through that system the township was provided with state and county aid roads. Side roads were designated by the county board and constructed and maintained under the county commissioner's supervision.

I recall when the first state aid road was built in the township. The problem came up where to find gravel for resurfacing. Upon close investigation, suitable gravel was found in our own township, three miles southwest from Badger. The gravel pit held out for many years until the gravel haulers struck water and now it's a great attraction for both young and old in the community as a swimming pool, and a recreation center also.

Although the pioneers had many problems, the future for our children was not forgotten. School districts were organized; classes were held as early as 1895. Districts without schoolhouses held classes in private homes, but with a school fund, voluntary contributions, and good management, buildings were soon available. The time came when higher education was demanded and after all these many years the districts consolidated with other districts which were most (more) convenient.

The early pioneers came from homes and communities where church going was the accepted practice, and before 1900 Badger had churches of all denominations, which still gives its members freedom for worship.

At present it is a great pleasure to recall memories from the pioneer days and our neighborly friendly visits. Communities had their picnic and other interesting gatherings where ministers were often visitors and local choirs took part in the programs.

Written by Andrew O. Erickson. Roseau County Museum files.

Soler Township

In the late 1890s, settlers from Norway came to this area and settled the area about eight miles north of Greenbush. On January 7, 1896, Soler Township was organized and named after a community in Norway from which many of the settlers came. First officers included: Theo E. Haug, clerk; Matt Barto and O. B. Rossing, justices; Thos. Kelly, chairman; B. O. Christianson and Matt Barto, supervisors; I. Kolberg, treasurer; E. Nelson, assessor; and I. Holley and O. B. Holm constables. Thirty-three votes were cast at the first election.

The present governing board of Soler includes: Don Christianson, treasurer; Brede Christianson, clerk; Ernest Janousek, chairman; and Don Brekke and Robert Novacek, supervisors. Brekke and Don Christianson are third generation township officers, while Brede Christianson is a fourth generation township officer.

Churches and Cemeteries

Two churches were organized in the township: Oiland Free Lutheran, which is still going strong and the Midland Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran which closed in the early 1920s. Oiland has a cemetery and although the Midland Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church building is gone, a cemetery remains, now called the Haug Cemetery.

Post Office

Haug Post Office was established January 22, 1897, in Section 27. The first postmaster was Theodore Haug. Lorentz Hegstad became postmaster in 1905 when he and his wife, Regina, built the Haug Store and the post office became part of it. Hegstad was postmaster for 25 years. The store became a family business for the Hegstads. They sold groceries, hardware and jewelry and eventually added a filling station and a telephone central office. In 1931, the post office discontinued service only to reopen in the fall of 1932 after petitions asked for its reinstatement. Later, a star mail route and a rural route were started. Hector and Gladys Graff bought the store in 1944. They included the buying and selling of cream and eggs. When the store burned in 1956, Graff bought the Odd



Carl Throngard's garage in Soler Township. It was located across the road east of the Haug Store in Section 26. Carl did repair work and welding in his garage. Carl was married to Alice Hudson, Gladys Graff's sister.

Fellows Hall in Badger and moved it to Haug. The store reopened in 1957. Their son, Gerald, bought it in 1980. On June 30, 1990, Gerald and his wife, Donna, decided to close the business.

Schools

Three schools in the township were: District 22, Section 11, the Kelly School also known as the Island Home School; District 9/U19, Section 20, the Thompson or Fairview School; and District 16, Section 34, the Haug North School. Apparently, it operated concurrently with the Haug School in Barto.

District 22 (Kelly School), Island Home School, was organized in 1898, in section 11 on Peder Olson's farm. Classes were conducted in the one room homestead cabin belonging to Mr. Olson. The students were the older children of the early settlers, most of them in their middle or late teens. Teachers included Jalmer Wellen, I. D. Webb, George & Henry Sunderland, Carolyn Stokes, and James Larson. Family names of attendees were Melby, Danielson, Hanson, Rollis, Kelly, Wahl, Kotrba, and Erickson.

District 9 (Thompson School) was located in Section 20. Lizzie Ranklen taught the fall term in 1913, and Maggie A. Ranklen taught the spring term of 1914. Other teachers were Laura Olson, Janet Harkin, Jeanne Glen, Ida Olson, and Betsy M. Legvold. Anna C. Olson taught from 1935 till the school closed in 1938. Some students transferred to District 22 and the others attended the Smrstik School. Names of students attending the Thompson School included: Roberts, Thompson, Blazek, Novak, Erickson, Sodnak, Emery, Sanders and Miksatko.

Awards

There are two century farms in Soler Township. The John Blazek farm in Section 14 became a century farm in 1994. It is now owned by grandson, Ernest Janousek. The Brede Christianson farm in Section 35 became a century farm in 2001. It is now owned by grandson, Don Christianson.

Roseau County Fair Clean Farm winners were: Rudy & Myrtle Christianson in 1973 and Don & Sharon Christianson in 1995. King Agassiz from Soler were Ray & Lillian Christianson in 1982. Rudy & Myrtle Christianson were also given the Farmers and Homemakers award in 1969.

Soler Fire of 1910

It was hot and dry in northern Minnesota during the summer of 1910. Although the area farmers knew the drought could mean economic disaster, undoubtedly, no one expected it would bring personal disaster. Feeding their cattle through the upcoming winter was their primary concern.

The limited hay the farmers were able to gather from the stunted fields would not provide enough winter feed for their livestock so, although it would be inferior feed, they went north to the bog near the Roseau River and made swamp grass hay. Poor as it was, it was precious; it would help avert a disastrous winter. The hay was left stacked near the river. Come winter, it would be hauled out with horses and bobsled racks.

The drought continued. In the bog, peat fires smoldered. The precious swamp hay needed for the winter survival of the animals was threatened. With teams and wagons, farmers returned to the haying site and camped on the banks of the Roseau River to be available to protect their hay stacks. Among these farmers were Edor Hagen, 19, and Tom Kelly, 47. Also camping there were Julius

Graff and his wife's brother, Carl Hellickson.

In early October, Edor and Tom left on foot to obtain more supplies. As they were walking back the next day, the smoke thickened turning the sun red. High winds began to blow.

Then it came racing across Blooming Valley Township-- a roaring inferno preceded by rolling smoke. Frightened, the two men began running and became separated in the smoke and fire.

The raging fire burned through quickly, apparently without seriously injuring the men initially. But it left them with hot, burning boots and moss continuing to bum beneath their feet. In addition, heavy smoke blinded them, and peat that had been smoldering all summer had left dangerous burnout holes lined with several inches of glowing coals.

Edor stumbled into one of these holes, burning his clothing and body. Picking himself up, he continued on but fell at least two more times. He was desperate and frightened. He knew if he fell again, he'd probably not be able to rise and go on.

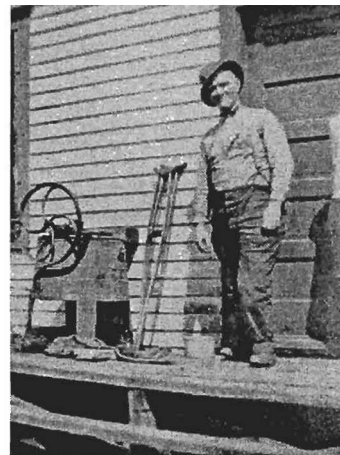
Julius Graff and Carl Hellickson could hear Edor's screams from where they were on the riverbank. They spotted him and sprang into action. Jumping into the river, they soaked boots and pants and ran to rescue Edor. Carrying him out, Julius and Carl left him at the riverside in the care of other men while they again soaked their clothing in the river and went in search of Tom.

Tom was wearing knee-high, heavy leather boots that were burning slowly and literally cooking his feet and legs. Julius and Carl could hear him groaning. They found him and carried him to the river.

The victims were taken to their farms on wagons lined with hay to soften the painful ride. Both men suffered through lengthy recoveries. Edor's toes were amputated and much skin grafting was required on his seared body. He eventually walked haltingly. Tom's cooked legs were amputated and he was fitted with artificial limbs of cork. He walked with crutches.

But they lived; their lives had been saved by the quick and courageous actions of Julius and Carl.

Based on family legend and an article written by Rudy Billberg appearing in County or Roseau Centennial published by the Roseau County Historical Society. The Billberg article was based on information provided by Clara Hagen Halverson, Lillian Kelly Nelson, and Hector Graff.



Tom Kelly survived the Soler fire of 1910. (photo courtesy of Bev and Roy Holm)

Submitted by Eunice Korczak, Julius Graff's Granddaughter.

Annual Meeting of Township Officers Held in Greenbush

Roseau County Township Officers Association held its annual meeting June 30, 1945, at Greenbush with Peter Strandberg of Stafford at the chair and Aug Thorkelson of Palmville as secretary.

The Pauli Ladies Aid served the banquet preceding the meeting, and Aug Thorkelson served as toastmaster of the event. I. M. Roche, mayor of Greenbush, welcomed the group after which Senator Eric Friberg spoke for a few minutes. A program of other speakers included Jacob Trangsrud, former association secretary.

The musical portion of the program apparently was a hit. Mr. Peterson presented a piano selection or two; Ed Johnson from Roseau, accompanied by Mrs. Art Stenberg, sang *Home on the Range*; and Judith Anderson on the accordin with Edwin Anderson on a carpenter's saw* played a trio of numbers, and then were cajoled into two encore numbers, *Johan paa Snippen* and *Nikolina*.

Mr. Thorkelson then pointed out the need to preserve local government and asked everyone to think in the context of the times about what they could contribute toward lasting peace. The program closed with the audience participating in *America* and *America the Beautiful*.

The business session followed which included a recap of the accomplishments of the association in the previous six years and the election of a new board. Elected were Peter Strandberg, Stafford, President; William Wilson, Greenbush, Vice President; Albert Brandt, Malung, Secretary-Treasurer; Carl N. Carlson, Badger; and Norman Wahlstrom, Salol.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Source: Roseau County Times-Region, July 5, 1945.

**Note: Yes, some people actually could coax lovely music from a carpenter's saw. See Edwin Anderson in Pioneer History Section.*

Township information compiled by Karen Janousek with information from the Roseau County Heritage Book, Footsteps in Education, Minnesota State Fair Century Fann Program, Roseau County Extension Office, Red River Valley Fanner and Homemaker Award Program, Roseau Times-Region and many township residents.

Also see the individual churches and schools in the Church and School Sections for more detailed information.

Got Lost in the Woods

Considerable excitement was produced in the village on Monday evening when it was reported that Mrs. Ole Hereim Sr. had been lost in the woods west of town. She had gone after the cows as was her want, and in some manner got turned around in the woods and lost her way.

Not-showing up after some time, her folks became alarmed and called on the citizens to help search for her. She had wandered through the woods and brush for two or three hours and finally came out near Mr. Wold's home.

A large number of our people turned out to help search, and one portion of the searching party came nearly getting lost themselves. After being led thither and yon for some time by one or two of our prominent citizens, the party finally found the opening but not until after many struggles with the jungle and brush.

We never realized before that so near our peaceful little village there was timber enough for anyone to get lost in, but we believe it now. The width of the timber is not more than a half or three quarters of a mile, but it extends for miles southwest, and the growth is so thick that you can not see so very far in any direction.

It is not much wonder that we do not get any severe wind storms here in the village, as that timber would stop most any old thing. We are glad the lost one is found and that the **searchers** all got back safe and sound.

Reprinted from The Greenbush Tribune, August 5, 1910

Memories by Elizabeth Wojciechowski

In years gone by fanners traded their products for groceries. A story told by a fellow who lived in the area as a boy, was that his older brothers took eggs from their chicken house and had him walk to Leo Store to trade them for chewing tobacco. When he returned he made his brothers share the tobacco or he'd tell the folks. He lived to be 96 years old and still liked his chewing tobacco.

Another story is about a fellow in Barto Township who made moonshine. The law enforcement was coming to check this out but a neighbor warned him, so he hid the bottles of moonshine in his rain barrel. He never did get caught.

When I was a young girl, an Indian family from Warroad camped in our area and picked snakeroot. They would come to our house and ask for food. My mother gave them meat and eggs and they gave her baskets they had woven. I still have one of the baskets. Many people picked snakeroot for extra money. One of the merchants in Greenbush purchased the snakeroot. It had a medicinal value and was sent away for that purpose.

Years ago, bam dances were popular. Alex and I enjoyed going to them. We would laugh when we came home because when the car lights hit the chicken house, the roosters started to crow thinking the sun was up.

Submitted by Elizabeth Wojciechowski.

A Sure Enough Wild West Adventure in Barto in 1920

Several citizens of Barto became concerned over a "crazy man" and called Constable Aas to come and get him before he did any harm, and Sheriff Rice was called to come and take care of him.

When the sheriff finally arrived he found the man with Constable Aas, enjoying himself immensely over what he considered a real, sure enough wild-west adventure.

It seems the young man was a University of Minnesota student who was out selling books to raise some money for the school term - and was hoping to get some adventure at the same time. The young fellow avowed he sure was getting that!

He had been traveling on foot through the country, taking orders for books, and he'd taken short cuts through fields. On the evening in question he had asked to stay over night at a farmhouse in Barto which was all right. But then some visitors appeared near dark to stay overnight. The young man felt there would be no room for him, so he struck out for a wheat field, piled up some bundles into a canopy, tied a handkerchief over his face to keep off the chaff, crawled in, and went to sleep. The folks decided his actions could mean only one thing - the young fellow was crazy. He'd no idea he'd disturbed anyone until Constable Aas awoke him.

It didn't take long to establish that he was level-headed and a student selling books.

The young man declared he now had plenty of material to write a real book.

Condensed by Eunice Korczak from an article that appeared in the Greenbush Tribune of August 27, 1920.



Camilla (Mrs. Ove Anderson) hauling wood. (submitted by Jane Lorenson)