

History of Rolla, North Dakota Finnish Settlement

Towner country and Surrounding Area,
Rolla, North Dakota

Historical data compiled and written by
Waino E. Kontio.

Other text by descendants of the early settlers.

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The original book, in Finnish, has photos, but due to the poor quality in scanning old pictures, are omitted from this English version. Some spelling may also appear to be incorrect in this 46 page document, but it is typed exactly as was in the original book.

Preface

This book tells about the Finnish pioneers, their work, their living conditions and the many difficulties they encountered and had to win. The purpose of the book is to perpetuate for future generations information about their lives and work, above all in the hope that the information will be included in the history of North Dakota, thereby becoming a part of American history.

The author of the Finnish History has lived since childhood amongst these Finnish pioneer people, and has made memoranda about their activities and work. He is Waino Kontio, born in Oulu, Finland, on July 7, 1887. His father was Engelbert Kontio, born in Haapavesi, Finland, and his mother Maria Josephina (ne Kurrika) was born in Oulu, Finland, on April 27, 1867. Engelbert Kontio was a musician, and played in the Oulu battalion band, but he was transferred to Petersburg, Russia and disappeared while there. Later it was reported that he had died. Waino Kontio came to America with his mother in March 1896, to Lake Norden, South Dakota, where his mother married a second time, and this time to Matti Tuhkanen in March, 1897. They moved to Rolla, North Dakota the same year.

During the first years that they were living in Rolla, Waino Kontio's mother asked him to make notes about the locality and its pioneers, their lives and activities in Rolla, and the surrounding area.

Dr. K. Koski

Teachers of Finnish origin

Alma Pointi, Hilja Viik, Edward Simonson, Lulu Pikkarainen, Hilda Kinnunen, Jenny Juusola, Vieno Kakala, Vilvo Kakela, Veera Koski, Emmi Harju, Emma Matson, Olga Tuhkanen, Helga Sormula, Anna Pederson, Lela Martin, Llaila Martin, Pearl Martin, Anna Pantsari, Viola Efraimson, Lusilia Kinnunen, Norma Juntunen, Ellen Vuari, Lilia Vuori, Hellen Falls, Elsa Jussero and Rudolph Ryyth.

Finnish-American Sport Activities

Ten miles east of Rolla is the Mt. View school district which is in the middle of the Finnish community. The young men of the village participated in sports, gymnastic, discus, etc., and wrestling in barns since neither skiing nor sledding was possible. Dakota terrain is not good for skiing. In 1913 they formed a baseball team under the name of Mt. View. They had many games and interest was great. The games were played on the Henry Juntunen farm.

In the call of duty in the armed forces, these Finnish kinsfolk gave their lives fighting under the American flag: Melvin Sarkilahti, Harvin Henrickson and Eino Falls.

Finnish Businessmen in Rolla

Henry Juntunen & Sons, gasoline station and garage.

Peter Johnson & Sons, farm equipment sales

Peter and Jake Juntunen, automobile station.

Edwin Juntunen, clothing and food store.

Walfrid Juntunen, garage business.

Toivo Valikainen, radio and TV store.

Theodore Johnson, gasoline station.

Delores Bryant, beauty parlor.

William Halonen, farm equipment dealer.

The 'Elaman Kavut' (Springtime of Life) publication, which was published by the North Dakota Christian Young People's League almost fifty years ago, tells us of the early history of Rolla, North Dakota. In the publication we read:

"In North Dakota's Rolette and Towner counties, which are close to the Manitoba, Canada border, live about 350 or 400 Finnish farmers, children included."

The first Finnish settlers, namely John Jussero and family, as well as Matti Juusola and his family, arrived from Rockport Massachusetts. From South Dakota at about the same time came John Houvinen

An organized community began to grow in Rolla among the Finnish people in 1901. On July 21 of that year, the Evangelical Lutheran Independent Congregation was formed. At the organizational meeting the chairman was Rev. I.J.H. Warmanen, who at that time was pastor of the Finnish National Church in Calumet, Michigan. At this meeting the following officials were elected. Abel Pyykonen, John Lehtola, P.A. Johnson, Mikko Hattu, Paavo Parvialinen, John Huovinen, Matti Kinnunen, Joonas Niemi and Frans Anderson.

On Jan. 8, 1902, the Towner County Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Congregation was founded and legalized. Its founders were: Henry Simonson, John Wilson, Paul Jurmu, Matti Kakela, Jacob Tapanila, Sakari Hinkavaara, Jacob Maunu, John Honkala, Edwar Amuni and Frank Anderson. Henry Simonson was appointed as the first pastor, who took care of the congregation until 1908. He was followed by Matti Kakela, who attended until 1912. The present pastor is Matt Koski. The congregation has its own small church and also a cemetery intended for all Finnish people living in the community. A meeting hall was constructed in the community in 1904 for the Finnish people for their programs and activities on behalf of moral rectitude. This building, which has also been called the "Community Hall", was also used for the services of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church. In the winter of 1915 there arose quite a heated dispute on the right to the use of the hall. The socialist element with their well know tactics attempted to use rude and immoral programs in the hall. The church people living in the community rose up against the attempts, and with new rules and regulations were able to rule out the use of the hall by the socialists and other similar groups. The general rule became that no program with the intention of offending the church would be allowed in any manner or form.

In March, 1912, the first attempt to form a Christian Young People's Society was made. The writer of the article organized the first meeting where the foundation for such a young people's society was laid. It was intended in the

beginning to have the society work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church, but at successive meetings the great number of migrant workers who had joined endeavored to form an organization independent of the church. Jalmari Aalto, who was elected president, compiled the by-laws for the society. As an example to what purpose the organization was founded, namely, to attend to the Christian and moral up-bringing of young people, herewith is presented the first article:

“The purpose of the Towner County Finnish Independent Young People’s Society is to operate at the highest cultural level, to awake the Finnish people of the community, especially the young people, to uphold moral principles and patriotic interests as well as to combat against intoxicants and their profligate results.”

As can be seen by the excerpt, no certain standard was fixed. Of course a higher cultural level was mentioned, but controversial is the question of what is meant by “higher cultural standard.” The purpose of the organization was also very vague.

This type of attitude naturally did not satisfy many. This writer and many of the local residents demanded that the organization be returned to the level that was originally decided. A vote was finally taken on the issue and those supporting the independent and free stand won by two votes. But this meant a virtual death sentence for the organization because young people of the area immediately resigned and the society disbanded.

On June 14, 1914, a meeting of young people was again held at the hall. It was opened by Waldemar Hjelt, who in a short speech suggested that a young people’s league be founded. The proposal was accepted by those present. This writer was named the president of the organization and W. Hjelt secretary. Following the singing of song no. 30 from the Sunday School Song Book. (Pyhakoululaulukirja). I spoke to the group on the meaning of a young people’s group and the importance of its work, pointing out that a group founded on Christian principles leads the youth to all good endeavors. A group however that has no Christian precepts, that has no high and noble ideals or purposes, and that functions only as an amusement source is harmful not only to the entire community, but also to the young people themselves. These were the two alternatives the meeting was faced with. The question of uniting the group to the Finnish Lutheran Church aroused some difference of opinion, for there were those who understood that in so doing, the group would intend only to bring up young people as future members of the church. It was noted, though, that under the church’s care the group could better remain a Christian organization. To the attention of the group was also brought the fact that in several areas young people’s societies had failed even though they had been founded on a Christian basis. Some had changed into groups completely contrary to Christian teaching,

even into actual hotbeds of corruption. Also present were those supporting independent Christian youth groups in general. A vote was taken on the matter and those supporting the formation of a group under the church's guidance won. Thus was founded the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation's Young People's League which got the name "Aavikon Ruusu" (Rose of the Plains). The by-laws of the Brocket Young People's League were adopted and accepted for the "Aavikon Ruusu"

The first officers of the League were: Miss Edla Juntunen, president; Waldemar Hjelt, vice-president; Miss Lilja Hill, secretary; Edward Marttiini, assistant secretary; Ivar Pyykkonen, treasurer; and Miss Emma Kinnunen, recording treasurer.

At the present time there are about fifty members in the League. They are active in the work of the group and work for the good of the League. The present board of "Aavikon Ruusu" are; President Edla Juntunen; Emma Kinnunen; orderly Joosep Nelson. On the program committee are Edla Juntunen, Emma Kinnunen and Dasperi Pyykkonen. Servant Amalia Johnson. N.M.W.

Towner County Finns

The first Finns came to North Dakota's Towner County in the year 1896 and traveled to the northern part of the county into Mt. View township, only ten miles from the Canadian border. Cando was the county seat. Rolla was named after the county to which it belonged, namely Rolette. Because Rolla was near the Towner County border, the community of about 500 soon became the business center and post office for the Finnish pioneers.

The first Finnish homesteaders that came to farm northern Towner County in 1896 were John Palmi, John A. Huovinen, Peter A. Johnson, Matti Juusola, John Jussero, Matti Kakela, Iisakki Keltto, Kaapo Hemminki, Peter Juuso, Jaakko Kermppainen, August Hietala, Matti Maki, William Koski, John Tenkkunen, Nels Ryyananen and Paul Juntunen. All of these are family men. Each man laid claim on 160 acres of Federal owned prairie homestead land. These were the lands on which a homesteader could get a five year claim for \$16.00, provided that he work the claim according to a government law requiring the clearing of the land and construction of buildings. At the end of five years the farmer would then rightfully own the land.

In the spring of 1897 more Finns arrived with their families: Paul Jurmu, Henry Simonson (Simontaival), Peter Point, Joseph Jurmu, Iisakki Niva, Olli Wuonala, Mikko Kumara or Hatt, Antti Hokka, Haakko Maunu, Daniel Mursu, John Honkala, John Mickaelson, Joonas Niemi, Harry Janson or Plukkula, John Mattson, Gideon Mustonen, Edward Anunti, Iisakki Hamari, Viktor Nirva, Sakari Honkavaara, Kalle Honkavaara, and John Wilson or Kivisto.

The first job facing the homesteaders was building sod houses for themselves and shelters for their animals. This sod was plowed primarily from the lowlands or near the marshes where it grew the thickest. From the strips of sod were cut the sections, usually about 26 inches in length, and, after being piled in a buckboard wagon, these were hauled by horse-team to the construction site. Each layer of sod was immediately smoothed over after being laid. The layers were stacked until the desired height was reached and then the crossbeam was raised. Sections of tarpaper were nailed to this for roofing, a layer of hay was spread on the tarpaper, and finally the hay was covered with a layer of sod. The house was now water resistant, and ready for occupancy.

When the house had been built, the next big job was clearing the fields. This toilsome job was hampered much by the large number of rocks that were dug up. For this, the farmers carried a steel bar on their plows so that while their horse or ox team rested, the men went to twist and dig out the rocks. When these had been cleared from the fields, and the plowing had been finished, began the sowing of the wheat, barley and flax.

The Finns working in the fields would often see Indian women and children out on the prairie picking herbs. These herbs grew in the prairie soil in great numbers, and the Indians made money by selling them to the drug stores in Rolla and Cando. The Indians were peaceful folk, who got along very well with the Finnish Pioneers.

One problem almost constantly vexed the early settler - lack of water. Of course there was plenty of water in the marshes, but it wasn't suitable for drinking or cooking purposes. Of the wells that were dug, most contained water in only very meager quantities, this being due to the shallow depth. In these parts of Towner County the water was deep within the earth and it would have been necessary to dig 200 to 400 feet before striking suitable drinking water. During all seasons the live stock were watered with the bitter tasting swamp water. In winter, holes were chopped in the ice and four or five barrels, after being filled, were hauled with a sleigh to the barn. The pioneers used melted snow for cooking and drinking. Natural springs were located in some fortunate areas. On one occasion, a settler named Jaakko Kemppainen, while seeking a suitable well site, was walking along a ditch that crossed his land. After a distance, he came to solitary bramble bush growing on the ditch embankment. Deciding that moisture was present, Kemppainen began to dig and after shoveling up about four feet of dirt, crystal clear spring water spouted up from the hole. Thus was formed a spring well that almost the entire settlement used for many years.

The summer of 1897 was hot and dry, and subsequently the wheat and potato crops failed. In October of the same year from Lake Norden, South Dakota, arrived Matti Kinnunen, Matti Tuhkanen, Harry Juntunen and family, livari

Pyykonen, Edward Niska, Oskari Berg, Iksakki Pirhonen and Pastor F.E. Ohte. Sod home and barns were hurriedly built for the newcomers and their livestock.

During the winter of 1898 arrived more Finnish settlers: Daniel Mykkala, Simon Tavajarvi, Oskari Anderson, Karl Huovinen and Heikki Palsy or Sakrison. To the West of Rolla lay Turtle Mountain Chippewa Indian Reservation and the forest covered Turtle Mountains itself. Because of the large variety of trees growing in the thick forests, the early pioneers began to use the area for their various timber needs - lumber, firewood, fence posts, etc. Its distance from the settlement was about twenty two miles.

Pastor Ohte held his first service in the home of Peter A. Johnson in November, 1897. Thereafter meetings were held every Sunday and continued until March, but Pastor Ohte complained that support was small. Quite a few pioneers belonged to the Apostolic Lutheran Church. Henry Simonson (Simontaival) held meetings every Sunday. Apostolic Lutheran preacher Antti Raketti often came from Lakota, North Dakota, to hold services. In December 1898, Pastor Kustaa Salberg of the Seamen's Mission arrived for a brief stay in Rolla. Many came to listen to this evangelist who conducted a worship service and also several devotional meetings during his visit. The settlers were glad to get the religious literature that he sold and distributed. Cold and snowy were the winters of 1897-98. So severe was the weather that at times it was dangerous to go out to do chores unless one had a guide rope between the house and the barn

The life of the early pioneers wasn't all drudgery, for they very often visited each other. On Saturday nights friends often gathered at farms that had saunas, and enjoyed bathing and talking.

Among the newspapers that came to the early pioneers were the "Uusi Kotimaa", "Amerikan Sanomat" and the "Amerikan Uutiset". These were read by the light of the oil lamps.

With the coming of spring, 1898, the pioneers started plowing the prairie for their wheat and flax crops. The summer turned out to be extremely hot and dry, so the wheat was ruined by the dryness, the flax by frost, and the poor grass crop caused great difficulty in sustaining the livestock through the winter. As it turned out, the flax straw preserved part of the settlers' livestock until spring. Part of the men went to seek work elsewhere. Some worked on railroads, others in Minnesota lumber camps and even went to mine in Nevada. The miners returned home however, in time for the spring field chores.

Toward the end of 1896, more country men arrived, namely, Matti Karvonen and Ida Leppa. In 1899 came Peter Hanson, John Lehtola (Rikkilehto) and family, Aldrick Fall (Koski) and family, Abel Pyykkonen, Robert Mattson, Jaakko Tappanilla, Jaakko Hill, Antti Maki and family, Peter Hiltunen (Erickson), Frank

Anderson and son Frank, Iisakki Berg and family, Henry Koski and Robert Kyro. Mr. Kyro was a lay preacher who held devotional meetings, taught Sunday School, and baptized children. After working for a year among the settlers, he returned home to Finland.

The first Midsummer Festival was celebrated in June, 1897, on the John Huovinen farm. At this festival two pioneer couples were wedded: John Huovinen to Katri Juntunen, and Iisakki Keltto to Iida Leppa. A unique summer house had been built for this occasion and in it was held the wedding dinner. Following the dinner, Pastor Ohte gave a sermon and this was followed by a program that included singing, poetry recitations, musical selections, and sports of different kinds. All of the settlement was present at this occasion.

The year 1900 saw the arrival of more Finnish newcomers to Rolla. John Juntunen, Sakari Juntunen, Iisakki Keranen, Abraham Savaloja and William Berg, Henry Samuelson and family, Israel Juntunen, Israel Marttiini, Paul Parviainen, Peter Ankaara (Johnson) and family, John Koski, Peter Juntunen, Levi Korpi (Salmonson), Henry P. Juntunen, Sophia Tolvonen, Jaakko Juntunen, Henry Hendrickson, Lauri Hendrickson, Henry Moilanen, Andrew Huovinen, Karl Lambert, Peter Lambert, Lassi Karinen, Anti Hendrickson, Kristina Moilanen and Paavo Parviainen.

In 1901 came Matt Koski and his family, and in 1902 arrived Joseph Carlson (Luukkonen) and family from Alexandria, Minnesota. From Calumet, Michigan, came Henry Tikkala, and Magnus Hjelt. Other arrivals were Iisakki Sarkilahti, Arne Hanson, Kaapo Heikkila, Peter Henrikson, William Reinholm and Leena Kemila and family. Miss Ida Aho came from Finland. Herman Saukkola and family arrived in 1903. From Minnesota came Carl Anttila and his family.

The wheat crops of 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902 were extremely abundant and averaged 30-40 an acre. The oats, barley, flax and grass crops also grew plentifully. As the pioneers grew more prosperous, they bought extra horses and cattle, and more machines. The first threshing machine was purchased in 1900 by John Wilson (Kivisto) at a cost of \$200. In following years others also bought threshers - Iivari Pyykonen, Henry Hendrickson and Viktor Nirva joined together to buy one in 1902. Also did John Jussero, Henry Koski and Matti Juusola in 1903.

In June of 1901 Pastor J.H. Warmanen from Calumet, Michigan, arrived in Rolla and founded an independent Evangelical Lutheran congregation whose first officers were: Abel Pyykonen, John Lehtola, P.A. Johnson, John Huovinen, Paavo Parviainen, Mikko Hatt and Matti Kinnunen. Pastor Warmanen conducted confirmation classes and stayed a brief time in Rolla.

Threshing Begins

The busiest month of the year was undoubtedly September and threshing time. Threshing operations proceeding at full speed, usually continuing for 25 to 30 days, since the custom was to thresh also at several neighboring farmsteads. An example of the busy routine was the livari Pyykonen farm in 1902. The work day began in the early morning hours, before dawn, when the horses were fed and harnessed. Fourteen men, mostly Minnesota lumberjack that had come from Duluth to Rolla, had been hired, their wages being \$2.00 a day plus three meals. After breakfast was served in the "Chuckwagon" cookhouse, the work began. Twenty-four horses were paired into twelve teams and were hitched to a wagon topped with a rack on to which the gathered sheaves were thrown. A thirty horsepower steam engine pulled the threshing machine into the field. The machine had a forty inch cylinder into which the unbound sheaves were thrown and was powered by a large belt running between it and the steam engine. Pyykonen's son had charge of the engine, which required two men to operate it; one to feed the straw into the firebox and to check the steam pressure; and the other to haul in water from the marshes for the engine's enormous thirst. Peter Johnson had charge of the thresher. Twelve wagons, each with a team of men to unbind the sheaves, were constantly driving their loads to the thresher. From it, the grain was driven to the granary with three wagons, each with a 75-80 bushel capacity.

At around 9 o'clock the girls from the cookhouse came on horseback with coffee and lunch. All the work stopped while the men enjoyed their coffee break and snack, very tasty after the early morning's hard work. As the work resumed, the field usually began to clear after about twelve wagon loads of sheaves had been driven to the thresher. By noon, 600 bushels had been threshed. After dinner, the men worked until nightfall, by this time having threshed 1300 bushels. The tired workers ate supper in the cookhouse and then gladly retired to their tents.

A Hard Winter

Winter 1901 was stormy and snowy. Due to the severe weather, the settlers frequently ran out of firewood, but were hindered from making woodcutting trips to Turtle Mountain. Often a storm would cause the woodcutters to wander off the road. Although lost for a while, they always eventually found their way home.

On one particular evening two neighbors - Matti Tuhkanen and Israel Juntunen - met and, because of a lack of firewood, decided to make the 22 mile trip out to Turtle Mountain in the morning. They felt assured of suitable weather by the sunset's beautiful reddish glow. By leaving early before sunrise they

reached their destination by afternoon, then travelled through the forest to the home of a Norwegian settler who sold firewood off his land. While inquiring and discussing terms, Tuhkanen and Juntunen defrosted their frozen lunches on a stove and cooked coffee. After eating and drinking, they rode into the forest, cut and trimmed two loads of aspens, birches and oaks, piled the loads into their sleigh and finally made their way back to the Norwegian's cabin. While they had been gone, other woodcutters had arrived. Since some were Finns from Towner County, supper was spent in joking and story telling. The Norwegian's brother-in-law, who was visiting America, and his sister, and who was a distinguished violinist in Europe, offered to play a few selections to pass the time. All gladly listened as he played folk songs and classical melodies, for this was quite a rare pleasure. Everyone marveled at this violin technique, especially when he imitated the songs of the nightingale, lark and cuckoo. Finally after the "concert", while everyone was drinking their coffee, the violinist joined into the conversation and related many amusing stories and tales. At last everyone retired and the enjoyable evening came to an end. The next morning, after eating breakfast and feeding the horses, Tuhkanen and Juntunen left for home. Although the day had dawned bright and clear, nevertheless, while the men were driving home, the sky clouded over. They stopped in Rolla to buy needed foodstuffs - flour, coffee, salt, beans, etc. - and after leaving, were but a short way from town when a stiff northwest wind began to blow and dark, ominous snow clouds loomed in the north. The wind soon began to carry flakes of snow with it and the snowfall gradually increased in intensity until nothing was visible except a wall of whiteness in front of the sleigh. The road disappeared and shortly, the men realized they were lost. There was nothing to do but drive on. Suddenly the sleigh collided with a dark object almost in their path. When the two went out to investigate, they found it to be a small deserted shack or shelter containing a small stove and firewood. They emptied their sleigh of supplies, then drive it to the wind sheltered side of he small shack. After feeding the horses, they built a fire in the stove and both ate their supper. They made straw beds for themselves and slept in the shelter while the storm raged outside. At frequent intervals during the night one of them would go out to check the horses. When morning came, only the high snow drifts were left as reminders of the storm. The two men noticed that they had wandered south of the road for about a mile. Naturally the worried families were overjoyed when the fathers returned home.

During one week of January, 1901, it once stormed for three consecutive days. On his farm, Oskar Anderson noticed that his hay was almost gone, and decided to get some at the first opportunity from his hay stack, located about half a mile from the farm. The next morning the wind had subsided and at 9 o'clock Anderson told his wife that now he has going while he still had the chance. After

yoking the oxen to the sleigh, he was off. A short time later he returned with the hay load, did his chores, and went into the house for coffee. His wife Anna reminded him of the mail that had to be picked up from the Rock Lake post office eight miles away. (In those days the mail was brought on horseback to Rock Lake from Perth, which was on the Great Northern Railroad). When he seemed a bit reluctant to go, she went out to the barn, hitched up the horses to the sleigh, and started out by herself. After getting the mail and resting a bit, she started on the return trip home. Along the way she noticed that the horse was exhausted from pulling the sleigh through the snow drifts, so at frequent intervals she rested the animal. With home only four miles away, she decided to stop in the the Heikki P. Juntunen farm to visit the family, and at the same time, to give the horse a chance to rest. As she was leaving, the Juntunen's warned her about the threatening appearance of the sky, but Mrs. Anderson insisted that she could make it home before any snowstorm, although it was already snowing. Her sleigh didn't get very far before the wind whipped the snow into such fury that it was impossible to see anything. Driving on, she tried to shield herself from the biting wind with a woolen blanket. Unexpectedly the horse stopped; a few feet away stood a haystack. She jumped from the sleigh, removed the horse's reins, tied it to the sleigh, then ran over to the haystack and managed to tug loose some of the hay. This she put in the sleigh, hoping that it would give her some protection from the cold. She crawled under it, but at intervals it was necessary to get up and walk around to keep warm. Somehow the night passed, and by morning the storm had calmed. When Mrs. Anderson opened her eyes and looked around, there only 300 feet away stood a farmhouse. When she began to shout and wave her scarf, the farmer came out to investigate. Hitching up the horse to the sleigh, he brought her to the house, where she was carried into a warm bed. The farmer's wife rubbed her numb feet with snow, made tea and gave here medicines to quell the fever. All that day she lay in bed and was nursed. On the following day she was well enough to travel, and the kind farmer took her home. Needless to say, Mr. Anderson and the children were overcome with joy to see her home again.

A Pastor Arrives in Towner County

In August, 1901, Pastor Hjelt of the National Evangelical Lutheran Church arrived in Towner County from Calumet, Michigan to hold services. He was asked by the settlers to stay and take care of the local independent Lutheran congregation. To this he agreed, because he no doubt saw the great need for a permanent pastor in the area. Pastor Hjelt held weekly worship services, and conducted Sunday School and confirmation classes. By the Finns at this time were begun many common endeavors. Among other activities, many box lunch

and coffee socials were held on behalf of the new church. Pastor Hjelt, Peter A. Johnson, John Huovinen and Henry Juntunen founded a "Discussion and Fellowship Club" that had many activities such as practicing better speech, reciting poetry, reading, singing etc. The group met every Sunday afternoon, and attracted many young people. The building of a library was proposed and adopted as a project of the group. The first committee meeting was held in the home of Iivari Pyykkonen on November 12, 1901. Founding committee members were Henry Juntunen, Oskar Hjelt, John Huovinen, Peter Johnson, Abel Pyykkonen, Matti Kinnunen, Karppo Hemminki and Paavo Parviainen. Discussed at this meeting were the problems involved in founding a library, and several men were elected to begin collecting funds for it. A second meeting was held at Matti Maki's home on November 24. Two additional committee members were chosen. Jaakko Hill and Matti Juusola. The group also decided to hold an "Evening Social" on behalf of the library at the Peter Hanson home. This was held on December 7, and was a big success. One of the evening's attractions was the box lunch auction, where box lunches were auctioned off to the highest bidder. Another attraction was the fishing booth, where the participant paid 10 cents to fish for small knik-knaks from behind a curtain. Pastor Hjelt talked about the need for a library, Mrs. Maria Tuhkanen recited a poem and several ladies sang. The total receipts for the evening were \$18.30.

At the club's third meeting held in Peter Johnson's home, on December 11, 1901, it was decided to begin collecting individual collections. When these donations had been gathered together with the "Evening Social" receipts, they totaled \$60.00. Pastor Hjelt and Peter Johnson sent in an order for \$60.00 worth of books to the "Uusi Kotimaa" office in New York Mills, Minnesota. Pastor Hjelt donated three extensive volumes to the library. These were: "The History of the Church in Finland", "Finnish History", and "Church History". Peter Johnson was chosen as librarian, a position which he held for many years. There was a great demand for the books, because many people participated in this library. Since 1901, new volumes have been frequently added, so that today the library contains over 400 books.

A Drama Club Is Founded

The "Drama Club" was started by men and women of the "Discussion and Fellowship Club". Enthusiasm kindled when a painter named Aaro Hukari from Frederick, South Dakota, painted a backdrop scene for Rolla's rural actors. This backdrop pictured a lake and a sauna in a forest setting, and was used by the "Drama Club" for the first time in 1902 when they presented Kaarlo Halme's three part play, "At the Sauna". A large audience attended the play, presented at Frank Lawrence's new roomy home. Actors in this play were, Magnus Hjelt, John Koski,

Kasper Pyykkonen, Hanna Pulkka, Emma Pyykkonen, John Lehtola, Jennie Pyykkonen and Amanda Anttonen.

Reports of a great famine began to arrive from Finland, and also came calls for aid. Frosts in northern Finland had completely wiped out the harvests on two successive years. The Finns of Towner County held an evening social at the Johnson School for the famine stricken. The evening's proceeds, which amounted to \$90.00 were sent to the distressed in Finland.

The Apostolic Lutheran Church Is Founded

The Towner County Apostolic Lutheran Church was founded on the Henry Simonson farm on March 15, 1899. Members joining the congregation were, Henry Simonson, Iisakki Nivu, Jaakko Tapanila, Paul Jurmu, John Wilson, Matti Kakela, John Honkala, John Michaelson, Heikki Kellokoski, Jaakko Maunu, Daniel Mursu, A. Falls, Heikki Ivanof, John Juntunen, Edvard Anunti, Sakari Honkavaara, Frans Anderson, Matti Koskis and Joseph Jurmu and their families. Henry Simonson was chosen as lay preacher to conduct devotional meetings. In 1900, Henry Simonson gave an acre of his land for the construction of a church, and Daniel Mursu donated an acre of his land near the church for a cemetery..

On January 8, 1908, the church was incorporated. When Henry Simonson moved to Canada that year, Matti Kakela took his place and tended the congregation for several years. From Michigan came Matti Koski, who took the pastoral duties of the congregation for a few years. But, when he moved away, the job was again left to Matti Kakela, who tended it faithfully until his death in 1939. Lay preacher Otto Herrala then came to serve the congregation.

Construction of a Town Hall

As time went by, and the number of young people grew, the need for a town hall began to be realized. Individual homes had become too small and impractical for meetings and social events. The "Discussion and Fellowship Club" had often discussed the need for a hall, and the possibilities of building one, but no definite action had been taken. At its December 29 meeting however, a motion to begin construction on a hall was made and seconded. When Kaapo Hemminki promised an acre of his land as a hall site, a committee comprised of Henry Juntunen, John Koski, Kaapo Menninki, John Huovinen and Peter Johnson was elected to draft by-laws for the hall. At the group's second meeting on January 5, 1905, a finance committee of five was chosen: John Koski, Henry Moilanen, John Huovinen, Magnus Hjelt and Peter Johnson. The committee arranged an evening social at Henry Juntunen's farm on February 22. The event was attended by many and proved to be very successful. The committee met in March to decide

on specifications for the building. It was decided to build it 24 feet wide and 40 feet long. The construction cost estimate was \$375.00. John Koski, Henry Juntunen and Peter Johnson were elected to a building committee. Jaakko Kempainen, Henry Moilanen, Magnus Hjelt and Peter Johnson, who were chosen as a finance committee, went to collect from town and country residents. They were quite successful in their efforts, for soon over \$400.00 was in the treasury.

Construction began in 1905, and was completed in March, 1906. Henry Juntunen bought from Kaapo Hemminki the land on which the hall stood, then turned over the deed to the Board of Trustees. The use of the hall was free to any sports events, plays, socials, meeting etc., but only on the condition that any proceeds from its use would be used in the interests of the Finnish people. In addition to using it on Sunday, the "Independent Lutheran Church" at all times had first rights to the hall's use. At that time the congregation did not have their own church building.

New Arrivals in Rolla

In 1905, more Finns arrived in Rolla to begin farming. From Michigan came John and Henry Halonen and their families. Katri Toivonen came from Finland. At about this time, life in the area began to liven up a bit from the daily routine schedule. Several new railroad tracks were laid. New stores were built. Grain exchanges were formed. Armourdale, a small business center located in the midst of the Finnish settlement, had two grain exchanges, an elevator and a blacksmith shop, Viktor Nirva made and repaired tools for the farmers. The Soo Line Railroad went through Armourdale, while the Great Northern went by way of Hansboro and Rock Lake. Both of these were busy communities, where especially the lumber yards did good business since more and more homes were being built.

The Christian Young People's League

On Jun 14, 1914, a Christian young people's league was formed through the efforts of Pastor N.W. Westerback. The league, named, "The Prairie Rose" "Aaavikon Ruusu", was affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran congregation, and worked on a Christian foundation. Its first officers were: Miss Edla Juntunen; President, Walter Hjelt; Vice President, Lillian Hill; Secretary, Edward Marttiini; Assisstant Secretary, Iivari Pyykkonen; Treasurer and Emma Kinnunen Auditor. For many years the league worked successfully in guiding the youth according to Christian principles.

More Newcomers

As time went by, new settlers kept arriving. In 1909 arrived Thomas Kurtti, Henry Mattson, Sakari Walikainen, John Huovila, Arvid Kaleva, Ernest Ryyth, Andrew Sormula, Mikko Tuomala, Matti Walteri, Matti Saari and Otto Pikkarainen. Finns who came to Towner County between the years 1911-1922 were: Albert Pantsari, Otto Herrala, Edward Hendrickson, August Hendrickson, Herman Heinonen, Matti Wuorinen and family, John Kangas, Kustaa Lleino, Olli Johnson, Andrew Johnson and Toivo Hemminki. The Finnish Settlement took on a splendid, almost stately look: new beautiful homes were built, cars began to appear, Picturesque park settings surrounded the homes, while golden grains waved magnificently in the fields.

Second generation Finns who began farming independently in 1928 were, Henry and Richard Mickelson, Charlie Juntunen, Sepulon Keranen, Wm. Tuomala, Jalmari Juntunen, Robert Carlson, and in 1929: Jalmari Nurmi and Paul Sormula, Edwin Sormula and Jalmart Laaksonen. The following are those who started farming independently after 1930: Nels Johson, Westeri Maki, Leo Johnson, Elmer Johnson, Iisakki Savaloja, Frank Savaloja, Richard Jussero, Yrjo Juntunen, Henry Carlson, Hannes Halonen, Teotori Halonen, Alfred Hererala, Wesley Juntunen, Andrew Harrala, Karl Parviainen, Paul Parvviainen, Wilfred Juntunen, Einar Juntunen, Ray Eino Efraimson, John Byykonen, Wesley Pyykkonen, Ernest Johnson, Einar Kinnunen, Alfred Kinnunen, Karl Tuhkanen, Alfred Tuhkanen, John Berg, Arne Huovinen, Hannes Huovinen, Alvin Huovinen, Felicks Pillarainen, Herbert Moilanen, Raymond Kaleva, Ed Kurtti, Rudolph Michelson, Bernard Michelson, Arne Waltari. Verna Kallinen, William Tuhkanen, Walter Kallinen, clarence Berg, Arvid Kurtti, Hanna Johnson, Jacob Hendrickson, Karl Michaelson, Heikki Herrala, Robert Tuomala, Arne Saari, Wesley Raasakka, William Walikainen, Edwin Kaleva, Karl Marttiini, Adrian Keranen, Willard Hendrickson, Vincent Handrickson, William Juusola, Severi Ekholm, Hugo Mattson, Eli Mattson, Eino Kakela, Erlund Kakela, Niilo Kakela, Robert Mattson, Every Mattson, Arne Falk, John Kakela, Walfred Halonen, Oskar Halonen, Raymond Halonen and Wesley Kakela. When these second generation farmers took over, the old 160 acre farms all disappeared, as they were absorbed into the 640 and 1280 acre farms. Methods and machines also changed. Now there tractors capable of pulling four plows at a time, and plowing 25-30 acres in 10 hours. There were machines sowing 60-70 acres a day. Combines threshing thousands of bushels per day. Times had changed.

Rolla's Businessmen

Finnish businessmen came into Rolla in 1920 when Henry Juntunen bought the garage and gas station and later sold it to Jacob and Peter Juntunen. In 1936, Ed Juntunen purchased a large grocery and dry goods store, which he successfully operates and owns. Herman Saukkola managed Rolla's public saunas for many years, until in 1941 he sold the business to John Huovinen, who also was in charge of the Finnish Library.

William Halonen started a large implement store in 1931, selling all types of farm equipment - plows, tractors, combines etc. For twenty five years he operated this large dealership.

Other Finnish businessmen in Rolla are Walfred Juntunen who operates a garage and gas station, Delores Bryant, beauty parlor, Theodore Johnson, gasoline station and Toivo Valikainen, who manages a radio service.

Over in rock Lake, Hannes Tuhkanen operated a garage and gas station between 1925-30. Irene Kinnunen still owns a large grocery and clothing store.

Ladies of Kaleva Organize

The Rolla Tuulikki Chapter of the Ladies of Kallevla was organized on August 7, 1948, in the home of Fanny Michaelson by Ida Harso from the Kyylikki Chapter in Ironwood, Michigan, Lydia Ibbotson and Minnie P. Make of the Kanerva Chapter in Ely, Minn., and Fanny Michaelson also of the Kyylikki Chapter. Also present at this organizational meeting was Maria Seppanen of the Etalatlar Chapter.

The meeting was opened by Lydia Ibbotson, and among other preliminary business, it was decided to begin 1st Degree work at 7 o'clock that evening. At that evening's meeting, twelve members were initiated into the 1st Degree: Mrs. Anna Sarkilahti, Mrs. Senia Halonen, Miss Hilda Juntunen, Mrs. Velma Michelson, Mrs. Selma Laaksonen, Mrs. Stella Halonen. Mrs. Leena Johnson, Mrs. Anna Hemminki, Mrs. Emma Carlson, Mrs. Madge Mattson and Mrs. Mayme Pikkarainen. After comments by the new members on their degree work, the founder of the Rolla Tuulikki Chapter spoke. The next day was held the second meeting, where eleven members were initiated into the 2nd Degree. These were Ethel Koski, Mrs. Ann Sarkilahti, Miss Hilda Juntunen, Mrs. Mayme Pikkarainen, Mrs. Emma Carlson, Mrs. Madge Mattson, Mrs. Leena Johnson, Mrs. Senia Halonen, Mrs. Selma Laaksonen, Mrs. Stella Halonen and Mrs. Velma Michelson. After the degree work, followed the elections and installation of officers. Mrs. Anna Sarkilahti was elected Elder, Mrs. Mayme Pikkarainen as Matron, Junior Matron Velma Michelson. Priestess Ethel Koski, Secretary Emma Carlson, Treasurer Hilda Juntunen, Guard Stella Halonen and Guide Senia

Halonen. Mrs. Sarkkilahti and Mrs. Pikkarainen succeeded the temporary officers, Mrs. Ibbotson and Mrs. Maki. Under discussion came the duties of the new members and the responsibilities of the two Trustees, Leena Johnson and Madge Mattson. Membership fees amounted to \$60. After closing the unfinished business and after reading the list of fixtures, which the founders had drawn up, the meeting ended. On behalf of the meeting (signed) Mayme Pikkarainen, matron.

The Ladles of Kaleva have been active ever since 1948, and have often held their meetings in Mrs. Fanny Michaelson's home. The membership in 1956 was seven.

Recent Church Activities

Pastor Toivo Miettinen left the Mr. View and Rock Lake congregation in 1954. In May of that year, seminarian Harold Kallio came to serve the congregations for the summer months until returning to the seminary for the fall semester. Pastor, Edwin Corts accepted a call, and in November arrived to serve the congregations. He was a very enthusiastic and able minister. Mt. View Lutheran congregation has a hundred communicant members. Worship services are held in two languages, but confirmation and Sunday School only in English. Mrs. Mamie Kaleva is the Sunday School instructor.

Apostolic Lutheran Activities

Presently, the Apostolic Lutherans have a new spacious church in Rolla. The congregation does not have its own minister, but is frequently served by visiting ministers, foremost among them, Peter Nordstrom, George Wilson and John Paana. The congregation has twenty members. On the Church Board are, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Michelson, Wayne Raisanen, August Hendrickson, William Tuomala and the Chairman, Jalmari Juntunen.

The Historical Society

The Rolla N.D. Towner County Historical Society began to function in 1954, It was organized by Dr. K. Koski, who came from Iron River, Mich., to practice in Rolla, and who interested the Finns into organizing the society. Among the first members were, John Huovinen, Matti Raasakka, Ernest Ryytti, Charles Juntunen, Robert Carlson and Jalmari Nurmi. The society's objective was to collect historical facts and information on the period of time dating back to 1896 when the the first Finnish settlers arrived. When the society decided to build a memorial monument for the Finnish pioneers, interest in the group and its projects began to grow.

Its founding meeting was held July 30, 1954, at the Towner County Mt. View school. The first officers of the group were elected, Matti Raasakka becoming the Chairman; Ernest Ryytti the Vice Chairman; Mrs. Ernest Ryytti the secretary; Mrs. Kaisa Juntunen the assistant secretary; and Charles Juntunen the Treasurer. At this meeting, thirty new members joined. By-laws were drafted and the group took the official name, "The Rolla North Dakota Finnish Historical Society". Meetings were to be held once a month and at each meeting something special would be presented - singing, recitations, poetry etc. In Rolla, meetings were held in the Henry Juntunen, Adolph Halonen, Iisakki Sarkilahti and Olli Johnson homes, while out in the country they were held at the Ernest Ryytti, Charles Juntunen, Matti Vuori, Jalmer Nurminen, Robert Carlson and Matti Raasakka homes. Often the memorial monument came under discussion. It was resolved that this memorial would be unveiled during a pioneer day celebration, and that this celebration would be held on July 8, 1956. It was also decided to celebrate Finnish Independence at the same time.

A fund raising dinner was held by the society's women folk on April 1, 1955, at the Rolla city hall. Many people attended and the total proceeds were \$135.

At one meeting arose the question of where the monument would be located. The society's Board of Directors went to confer with Theodore Leonard and Amalia Johnson, who were descendants of Peter A. Johnson, who had promised to give an acre of land for that purpose. This land that the Johnsons donated is in Mt. View Township 162, North Range 68, Section 11, Southeast quarter, and is situated on the north side of highway 5, seven and a half miles east of Rolla. The society then ordered the \$440 granite monument and it was placed in its lot on June 28, 1956.

The Historical Society now has eighty members. Honorary members are pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. John Huovinen and Mr. Henry Juntunen. Mrs. Kate Juntunen, an honorary member, passed away on October 31, 1955. A younger member of the society, Jalmari Nurmi, passed away on December 15, 1955, as also did one of the group's most enthusiastic members, Adolph Halonen, on June 28, 1956.

The memorial unveiling and dedication took place on Sunday, July 8, 1956. That Sunday morning the weather appeared cloudy and dreary, but toward midday, a strong wind came up, the clouds disappeared, and before long the sun shone brightly. Around ten o'clock, cars loaded with people began to arrive at the dedication site. As ceremonies began, two flag carriers, Wesley Raasakka and Andrew Herrala, placed the American and Finnish flags at the foot of the monument. After the memorial was unveiled by honorary society members John Huovinen and Henry Juntunen, the bugler, stepped beside the monument and played the signals. At 11 o'clock began the dedication service, which was

officiated with a dignified ceremony by Pastor Gorts and the members of the Historical Society. Pastor Gorts spoke a memorable sermon in both languages, and led the people in prayer and thanksgiving. He consecrated the memory of the pioneers' great achievements, and dedicated the memorial to commemorate these accomplishments to future generations. Then followed the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" and the "Maamme Laulu", and the service came to an end with the buglers closing signals.

The festivities then moved to the spacious high school auditorium where a banquet dinner was served to the large crowd. The afternoon program began with band selections. William Halonen, Chairman of the Pioneer Day Committee, delivered a welcoming speech in both languages, after which Rolla's mayor greeted the audience and spoke words of admiration for the people who had remembered their forebears with a memorial. A second speaker, Rolla's lawyer, John A. Stormon, spoke in English about the great contribution that the Finns had given to the development of America, not only in North Dakota, but also elsewhere. He mentioned the first Finnish immigrants that arrived in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey between the years 1638-45, and who cleared the wilderness for farming. Mr. Stormon spoke with noticeable respect of the Finnish people and their achievements. The Finnish address was delivered by Henry Moilanen of Virginia, Minnesota. Another Minnesotan, Alfred Keturi, brought greetings from Eveleth. The leading member of the society, and a member also of the Pioneer Day Committee, Dr. K. Koski spoke a fitting Finnish address. Following this, the original pioneers who were present in the audience were introduced: Mr. and Mrs. John Huovinen, who are still in good health and now reside in Rolla; Maria Juusola, who came with her husband Matti to Towner County in 1896. Mr. Juusola passed away in 1942, but she is still very alert and spirited, and now resides in Rock Lake; Henry Juntunen, who came with his wife Kate in 1897. He now lives with his daughter Hilda and son Viktor in Rolla. Mrs. Juntunen died in 1955; Miina Kinnunen, who came with her husband Matti in 1897. Mr. Kinnunen died quite a few years ago, but she is still in good health and lives with her daughter, Irene and son Einar in Rock Lake.

The musical portion of the program featured quite a variety of music; selections by the Rolla band; marches and other beautiful melodies played on the accordion by Helen Saari; trombone selections by Charles Juntunen; Evelyn Kallinen's mastery of the piano-accordion; Shirley Carlson's piano solos, Finlandia; Rudolph Valtari's accordion selections; the Kulkuri Waltz and other familiar pieces played by John, Alfred and James Juntunen on the mandolin and guitar; Susan Rosscup's and Charles Juntunen's piano-horn duet.

William Halonen gave the closing remarks, expressing thanks to both those who had participated in the program, and to people who had come in large

numbers to this commemoration celebration. Afterwards, coffee and refreshments were served, and at 5 o'clock in the afternoon this special Pioneer Day Celebration came to an end.

Notes on Preparations for the Memorial

After the monument had been obtained, the landscaping of the surrounding area began. The soil had been prepared for planting in the spring of 1956 and grass was sown into the loose soil. On one June evening, the men of the Historical Society came and planted pine trees, American elms and box elders in the lot.

On July 12, a meeting of the society was held at the home of Matti Raasakka, and under discussion came the possibility of publishing a book, telling of the life and work of the Towner County pioneers. At this same meeting, it was decided to continue the work of the society. Two subsequent meetings were held in Rock Lake - one on August 9 at Karl Marttiini's home. In addition to the business meeting, singing and recitations were presented and coffee was served.

Finnish Cooperatives

Towner County Finns first started cooperatives in 1917. One of the first of these was a grain elevator and storage built in Armourdale. Recently this has been enlarged so that now it can store 50,000 bushels. In the same building is a fanning mill that cleans out the seed for sowing. In the fall, the cooperative buys and handles large quantities of wheat that are sent to many countries across the world. One man is in charge of the elevator throughout the year.

The Co-op has seventy members. On its Board of Directors are, Wesley Juntunen, Arvid Kurtti, Robert Carlson, Wilfred Juntunen and Elmer Johnson.

Rolla's Mt. View Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

"For as the rain and snow, come down from heaven and return not, but make the earth flower and bud that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater, so also shall My Word that goes forth from My Mouth: it shall not return void, but it shall accomplish that for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:10,11."

So also was God's Word sown in people's ears on the Dakota prairies, where in spite of conjugal inactivity, this Word was cherished and preserved. Over the past sixty years, God's Word has been sown here by Pastors, Warmanen, Hjelt, Huuskonen, Ovaskainen, Anttila, Westerback, Haakana, Wilen, Wilenius, M.P. Miettinen, Sr, Lampela, T. Miettinen Jr. and presently E.V. Gorts. The first pastors that came here had great hopes of making a living off this barren prairie

soil, and subsequent years proved that the soil was rich, to the extent that today Rolla and the surrounding area is considered the Breadbasket of the World.

On July 21, 1901, a large group of Finns gathered at a meeting called by Pator Warmanen for the purpose of founding an Evangelical Lutheran congregation. Thus was formed the Towner County Evangelical Lutheran Church. As first officers were chosen, Able Pyykkonen, President; John Lehtola, Vice-President; Peter Johnson, Secretary; Paul Parvey; John Huovinen; Matti Kinnunen and Johas Niemi, Church Council members; Sakari Juntunen, and Frank Anderson, Deacons. Although during the first year enough money was collected for a church building, nevertheless, the worship services were held in homes, at schools and at the town hall. The need to bring up children in the knowledge of God's Word was felt during these years, and therefore, Pastor Ovaskainen began the Sunday School class in 1905. In the 1906 annual meeting, the necessity of having a permanent, local pastor was discussed. The following year, Partor Anttila arrived and served the congregation until his death. The Women's League, which is still active, was organized while N.W. Westerback was pastor. The first officers of the League were Edla Juntunen, President; Hilja Week, Secretary; Mrs. John Huovinen, Treasurer; Lily Hill, Financial Secretary; and Mrs. Henry Hendrickson, Custodian.

The current officers are, Mrs. Mamie Kaleva, President; Miss Amalia Johnson, Vice-President; Miss Jennie Eframson, Secretary; and Mrs. Old Johnson, Treasurer.

This Independent Lutheran congregation joined the National Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1919, and in 1922, Pastor Haakana arrived to serve as permanent pastor. Interest in the Sunday School had slackened when Pastor Westerback left, but now it again revived. The question of building church came up, but this time with the result that construction began in the spring of 1926. Lars Akneberg, a Norwegian businessman in Perth, N.D., donated an acre of land for the church site. Construction ended in October, and in the same month the new House of Worship was dedicated.

While he was minister, Pastor Haakana also founded a choir. However, he soon was forced to resign because of poor health. While the congregation was without a pastor, Magnus Hjelt was chosen as lay preacher. In the fall of 1932, Pastor M.P. Miettinen accepted the call by the church. Again the work of educating the youth in God's Word was stressed. Summer School was conducted by Pastor Miettinen and Mrs. Mannie Miettinen. The Young Peoples's League was also "Pepped up". Their meetings and doings were held in the evenings.

In 1936, Mr. Lars Akneberg gave two adjacent acres of land to the congregation for a cemetery. The first member buried in it was Mrs. Anna Johnson, wife of Peter A. Johnson.

When Finland was fighting Russia in the Winter War of 1939, the Mt. View Lutheran congregation felt a need and obligation to aid the war stricken through the Red Cross. For this purpose was chosen a special committee comprised of Pastor Miettinen, John Huovinen, Alfred Efraimson, Henry Koski, Magnus Hjelt and Iivari Pyykkonen.

After Pastor Miettinen passed away in February, 1940, Pastor Wilen began ministering to the congregation once a month. Summer School was conducted by visiting seminarians.

In March, 1945, Eugene Lampela came to serve as pastor. A parsonage was purchased in Rock Lake. In September, 1945, the Rock Lake English speaking Lutheran congregation asked to join the National Evangelical Lutheran Church. This it did in 1946. In that same year, when Pastor Lampela left, his place was taken by Pastor Toivo Miettinen. At the 1949 annual meeting it was decided to remodel the church and put in electric wiring. All of the work was done on a voluntary basis by the men of the congregation. When Pastor Miettinen left in May, 1954, Seminarian Harold Kallio tended the church for the summer months. After accepting the congregation's call, Pastor Edwin Cortis arrived on November 7, 1954.

The majority of the members of the Rolla and Towner County Mt. View Lutheran Church are farmers from the rural areas. However, part of the members do live in Rolla and Rock Lake. The church is situated between the two towns, ten miles from each.

Rolla and Area

It might also be mentioned that in this area are grown large fields of Durum wheat, from which spaghetti and macaroni are made. Ninety per cent of America's Durum wheat is grown in north central North Dakota. Even the name Towner has been given to one type of Durum wheat, widely grown in Towner County. Rolla, which is ten miles from the Canadian border, has a population of approximately 1,400, but today only a small percentage of this is Finnish. Denominations that have churches in Rolla are, the Presbyterian, Catholic, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, American Lutheran Church, Methodist, Assembly of God and Apostolic Lutheran.

The Jewel Bearing Factory, where jewels and precision instruments are manufactured, is located in Rolla, and is the only one of its kind in North America. Miss Mavis Nurmi is employed there as a bookkeeper. A large percentage of the

workers are Indians from the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation, located a few miles west of Rolla.

Looking at the Achievements of the Finns

As we now look back 10 years and examine the life of the Finnish People in Towner County, and as we view their strivings and struggles, we wonder at the many hardships and experiences they went through. Yet, they overcame all these hardships. The fruits of the labor and sacrifice are now being enjoyed by each succeeding generation who today have all modern conveniences. All of the old generation will soon be at rest. Of the original pioneers, only six are alive today. John Huominen, Henry Juntunen, Joseph Carlson, Abraham Savaloja, Henry Hendrickson and Livi Hendrickson. The work started by the pioneers is being carried into the future young generation of today.

First Finns in Towner County

The first Finnish settlers, Matti Juusola, John Jussero, Paul Juntunen and John Luuko, arrived in Towner County on April 1, 1896. Because it rained every day, these men had to spend their first week in the town of Rolla. Gust Fagerlund, one of the pioneers in Rolette county had been surveying land over in Towner County, and took the four Finns out to select their homesteads. Later, they made a trip to Cando to file their homesteads. All of their supplies - ox team, wagon gears and box, hand plow, picks, shovel and axes - were purchased from Rolla. While the men were building the first sod house on the Matti Juusola claim, the wagon box served as their first shelter. The second house was constructed on the John Jussero claim and the third one on the Juntunen claim. John Luuko, however left the country and never returned.

Mrs. John Jussero and daughter Lempi, Mrs Matti Juusola and daughter Emilia from Rockport, Mass., John Palmi and Paavo Ruotsalainen from Worchester, Mass., came here on May 10, 1896. By this time each of the three men had a sod house on their claims. The people from Massachusetts arrived here through the assistance of a land agent whose name, unfortunately is unknown.

They had come by boat from Buffalo, N.Y., to Duluth, Minn., and from there to Churches Ferry, N.D., where they stayed overnight, the next day arriving in Rolla. Although a railway did run from Devils Lake to the Canadian border, service was available only three days a week.

When the women arrived in Rolla, it had been planned the John Jussero would walk to town and meet them, then have them stay in Rolla overnight until Juusola would come the next day with wagon to pick them up. But no! These

women were so anxious and determined to see their new homes, that they persuaded Jussero, and started out on foot, even though there was no road of any kind, just a few wagon trails going through lowlands where water was waist high. In one instance, when they came to a water swollen coulee, Mr. Palmi carried Mrs. Juusola and year old Emilia across. then to top it all, they soon lost track of the trail, and just wandered around for a time. They eventually wandered back onto the trail, and soon afterwards arrived at the sod houses. By this time it was dark. Not even the oil lamps in the house were lit. The men had run out of oil.

Cando was the county seat for Towner County at that time.

John Pallmi began advertising these homestead lands in a weekly Finnish newspaper published in Minnesota, and people gradually started moving in.

John Huovinen, alive yet today, arrived in Towner County in the fall of 1896. That year, by Thanksgiving time there was so much snow that the sod houses were completely covered. Only visible were the smoke stacks with the smoke drifting up from them.

Fuel wood had to be hauled from the Turtle Mountains, no easy chore, first because of the distance, and then because every so often the Indians would come and demand the loads be emptied since the wood was taken from their land. The timid unloaded and were left empty handed, but a few would take off on a run and keep theirs.

One time Juusola and Jussero got as far as the edge of town with their loads, when an Indian stepped into the middle of the trail and forced them to stop. Naturally he claimed that the wood was taken from his land, but this time Matti and Jussi jumped down from their sleigh and gave the horses a whack with their whips, then drove the Indian off the road also with their whip. This time they brought their wood home.

Another time, they had gotten their loads east of Rolla, when one of the loads unplied. Because it was getting dark, they decided to leave the loads and go home on horseback. Returning in the morning, they discovered that the wood had disappeared, but were able to trace the tracks to Rolla, where they found their wood.

All wood had to be hauled after the snow came, and the ground froze so that sleighs could travel in the lowlands.

Peter Johnson came in the spring of 1897, and Tuhkanen, Kinnunen and Pykonens came in the fall.

Every time a Finnish new comer arrived, Mrs. Juusola was so thrilled that she said it was like being given a new cow.

In the fall of 1897, the Juusola's first child to born in North Dakota, died at the age of two months. The only way Mrs. Juusola could get word of this to her

husband was to leave her daughters with Mrs. Jussero, and to walk from the farm, seven miles east of Rolla, to west of St. John where her husband worked at that time.

Five of the Juusola's twelve children were born in the sod house. The lumber house was built in 1905, and is still being used today.

The above mentioned farmsteads are seven miles east of Rolla, and the town was and has been the trade center.

John Jussero and Matti Juusola both lived on their homesteads until their deaths. When Juusola passed away in 1942, his son William took over the old home place.

This story has been told by Mrs. Juusola, 83 years young, with a cheerful gleam in her eyes. She spends the winters with her daughters in Chicago, but comes back every summer to North Dakota.

Adolph Halonen Family

Adolph Halonen was born in Finland, July 3, 1881, in Paltaniemi, Oulun Laani. He and his wife Margaret, nee Pelkonen, were united in marriage on Oct. 23, 1909, in Bisbee, Arizona. They arrived in Rolla in June, 1910, from the Copper Country with a two month old son, Walfred. In the fall of the same year, they rented a farm and started farming. It was difficult to get started since means were very meager, and it was necessary to purchase the machinery, livestock and other supplies on credit. It is remembered how the farmer who sold them a cow came over to see how it was behaving. He wanted to see how the city slicker was able to milk the cow. In reply, Mr. Halonen said that he had no trouble. The farmer smiled and said that they had always had trouble milking, because the cow kicked a lot. The animal evidently liked the new surroundings.

Separators were not known in those days. All milk was separated by hand, the cream churned and butter traded for supplies at the store. The income was not sufficient for the entire year, but the merchants in those days extended credit. It was very convenient and boldly done. If credit would not have been extended, livelihood would have been very difficult. The good Lord provided and blessed the pioneers' work and they progressed. At times provisions were scarce and often the pioneers remembered Paavo Saarijarvi in Finland who, as legend has it, always remembered that even though the good Lord gives us trials, he does not forsake, and also, that diligence pays in the end.

As the years went by, the Halonen family bought their own farm, which has been their home and where they raised six children, three boys and three girls. The youngest, Raymond, is farming the old home farm, and Walfrid and Oscar own homes close by, both in Towner County. The three daughters are all married, and are: Vieno, Mrs. Arne Walteri and family, who live in their country home close

to Rolla: Evelyn, Mrs. Neuman Sanford and family live in Sequim, Washington: and Olivia, Mrs William Wallace and family who live in Seattle, Washington.

Adolph Halonen passed away on September 8, 1956. He was born on July 3, 1881. He and his wife made a trip to Finland in 1956 and returned home with death arriving only a month and a half later.

The family remembers their departed father with respect as a good father and a kindly neighbor.

John Juntunen

Mr. and Mrs. John Juntunen were one of the early pioneer couples who moved to Towner County at the beginning of the 20th century. They both were born in Finland, but came to the United States at the age of nine with their parents. Both families settled in the northern Michigan, where the mines were in operation and the fathers were employed for as few years. Not satisfied with this type of employment, the Dakotas being settled at this time, lured them west. John Juntunen first moved to South Dakota with his parents, Zachary and Mary Juntunen in 1891. After three years, he went back to Michigan and married Hilda Koponen. The young couple lived in Michigan until 1900, when they moved to North Dakota and filed on a homestead three miles southwest of Rock Lake. Their first project was to build a sod house to live in, and break a few acres of land with oxen to raise food stuffs and a little grain. John's parents had, in the meantime, moved here and given them a cow for their milk and butter. They kept adding a few acres of land each year, and in 1908, they bought the farm with buildings seven miles west of Rock Lake, which has been the family home since.

These pioneers had a lot of courage and faith in this country, and in North Dakota. In the days before our modern mode of living, TV and radio, telephones, automobiles, electricity, were unknown then. John had to haul wood from the Turtle Mountains to a wood burner for heat. These people were hardy folks. Hospitals were unheard of, as was a visit to a doctor. Large families were the custom and the wives didn't stop working, except maybe for a week, when a new baby was born. Mid-wives delivered the babies, and if the wife wasn't up and around in a few days, it was unusual.

The people were very friendly and neighborly. They helped each other with chores like butchering, and quilting bees. They didn't have much recreation except for visiting, and community and church gatherings.

These pioneers were very strong in their religious beliefs, and that was one reason for the strong faith in everything they did. Another characteristic of these pioneers was that their word was as good as their bond. All business was done on a credit basis, but you never heard of anybody trying to beat a debt.

The home in the early times was an institution, and the mother, in most cases, was the manager of everything, except the father was still the boss. The family usually had a couple of sheep which were sheared. The wool was carded and spun into wool. In the evenings, while the family would sit around visiting and telling stories, one would be carding wool, the mother usually spinning, and the older daughters knitting and sewing. In those days you didn't throw away a pair of overalls as long as they could be held together with patches. The days were long - usually the household would wake up with a cup of coffee around 5 or 6 o'clock.

To John and Hilda Juntunen were born twelve children, including one set of twins, and twenty eight grandchildren and twenty nine great-grandchildren.

Children of John and Hilda Juntunen

Hjalmer, Perth North Dakota, now living on the home farm, is married to Ailie Tapanila. They have three children. Alfred, John and Jim.

Selma, deceased, 1926,

Elma, deceased, 1951, married to John Kakela. They have 8 children, Wilfred, Wesley, Lillian, Rudy, Harvey, Adeline, Hilda and Marvin.

Hilma, San Francisco, California, married to Alfred Peterson, now deceased, in 1939. They have three children, Verna, Beatrice and Adeline. Hilma is now remarried to Lloyd Berendseu.

Wallace, now deceased, 1940.

Walfred, married Alma Juntunen, they live at Rolla, North IDakota, and three children, Robert, Leona and Rosalie.

Edwin, Rolla, North Dakota, is married to Gweneth Guenther. They have two children, Charles and Roger.

Twins: Alma, Rolla, North Dakota, married Theodore Jukkala, deceased in 1952. They have one child, Gerald. Hilda, Rolla, North Dakota, married Ernest Mattson, deceased in 1954. They have three children, Kathleen, Sandra and Theodore.

Martha, Rock Lake, North Dakota, married Eina Efraimson. They have one child, Jane.

Niilo, Rolla, North Dakota, married Hazel Engstrom. They have two children, Connie and Russell.

Hazel, Bottineau, North Dakota, married Howard Boltz. They have two children, Jim and Joan.

John Juntunen was a very staunch citizen. He was loved and honored by his neighbors and friends. He held many offices and played a big part in the social and political life of his community. The family was his pride and joy. The home, as

in those days, is still the strongest institution in this country. Keeping abreast with progress, he had developed his farm into one he was very proud of. He saw and used the automobile and power machinery. He passed away June 17th 1935, at the farm home after a short illness.

After the father of the family was gone, Hilda Juntunen decided to move to Rolla, which was now the trading center of the community. Some of the children had already moved to Rolla. In the latter years of her life, crops had been good and she was very comfortably settled in her own home. Her health was bad for the last few years and kept her from fully enjoying her life's twilight years. Her hard work in the early days and raising a large family had taken its toll of her health. She passed away in her sleep on May 10th, 1967. In the Rolla Community Hospital.

Time marches on, and now as we write about the history of our loved and respected parents and honored pioneers, we resolve with determination and hope that in our space age we can bring forth our children as well as they did, and cling to the faith that they had in Christianity, honesty and the future of our country.

In memory of my parents. _ Edwin T Juntunen.

John Jussero

John Oscar Jussero was born at Iso-Kyro, Vaasan Laani, Finland on October 8, 1869, and came to the United States in 1888 at the age of 19. He made his home first at Rock Port, Massachusetts. while there, he became acquainted with Miss Ann Liisa Riihimaki, and they were married on September 17, 1892. She, incidentally, was also born in Iso-Kyro on January 1, 1871, and came to this country at the age of 20. the young couple made their home in Rock Port until the spring of 1896, when John Jussero, along with Matti Juusola, left for North Dakota. Homesteading six miles east of Rolla, they prepared the homes for their families who arrived two months later. The weather was stormy and nasty when the women and children arrived. They were met at the station by Mr. Palmi, who informed them that, unfortunately, the trip to their homes had to be made on foot, because no other transportation was available. The going was rugged, for in addition to cold weather, it was necessary to wade knee deep through snow, slush and mud while carrying the children and their belongings.

The first home was a one room sod house to which an anteroom, also of sod, was later built.

Four Jussero children were born here, namely Hilda, Hilja, Elsa and one boy, John Oscar Jr., who died when the house was struck by lightning.

A new six room, wood home was built in 1903 by Mat Juusola and John Jussero. Children born in this house were Richard, John, Ellen and Elma.

Cordwood was used for heating the house, but had to be hauled from the Turtle Mountains by sleigh and team, and this trip often took from three to seven days. During this time, the chores were up to the women folk. In winter, water had to be melted from snow, both for household use and for livestock.

This marriage had lasted for 46 years, when on June 30, 1938, John Jussero succumbed to cancer of the liver. This was soon followed by the death of his wife on June 25, 1941. Cause of death was diabetes and heart attack. Since then, one daughter has passed away, Mrs Hilda Leino on August 11, 1956.

Up to date, there are 18 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Ida Aho-Juntunen

Ida Aho, daughter of Maunu Aho, was born in Reisjarvi, Finland on August 24, 1887, and came to this country in 1902 at 15 years of age. She settled first in the Rolla community, making her home with her aunt, Mrs. Isaac Kelto at the farm which is now the home of the Reno Juntunen family.

On her arrival in Rolla, she was snowbound in town for three days - quite an ordeal for her, because she couldn't understand or speak a word of English, and there were no Finnish people in Rolla to help her out.

She worked at various homes until her marriage to Peter I. Juntunen on February 20, 1905, at Cando, N.D. Mr. Juntunen was born in Finland, coming to this country with his parents at the age of six months and was the son of Zachari and Maria Juntunen. Although he had a homestead near Perth, they did not live there.

Their first child John was born at Perth, but later passed away in Canada, where the Juntunens had moved to in the year 1907 to file a homestead. In Canada, three children were born - Toivo, William and Nester. Toivo died there while he was yet a child. They lived in Canada for seven years, before returning to the United States and buying a farm. After returning from Canada, they had three children, namely, Vieno, Walfed and Edwin.

Mr. and Mrs Juntunen lived on the farm for seven years, then moved to Perth in 1919, where Mr. Juntunen, his brother Jacob and Mat Koski bought a general store, which they operated for a few years. After disposing of it, Peter and Jacob Juntunen purchased a garage in Rolla, which they operated for several years. Mr. Juntunen and his family returned to their farm home in 1929, where they made their home until Mr. Juntunen's death on December 25, 1930. Mrs Juntunen remarried twice - first to Tapani Koponen who passed away in Detroit, Michigan. She later married Charlie Johnson, who also passed away shortly. Mrs. Juntunen is presently making her home at Rolla, N.D. at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Heino Herrala

John Huovinen

Mr. and Mrs. John Huovinen, Rolla, North Dakota, pioneer residents, were among those that first took up homestead land. John was born in Ii Province in northern Finland on January 23, 1871. He arrived in the United States in 1889, and settled in Estellene, South Dakota, living with his parents for seven years. In 1896 he moved to Rolla, North Dakota, where he started to farm a 160 acre homestead under the Homestead Act. The farm did not cost him much, only \$16.00 for the entire plot.

He was married to Kaisa Juntunen on June 24, 1899, and they were happily married for 60 years. Mrs. Huovinen was born in Puolanka, Finland, on June 24, 1877, and came to the United States when she was three years old to Michigan, from where the family came to Estelene and later to Rolla, North Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Huovinen lived on the farm for 42 years. They have seen difficulties as well as enjoyed success, cloudy days as well as bright days. They moved to live in the city of Rolla in 1841, and left the farm to their children to take care of. To them were born 12 children, seven boys and five girls, of which two girls and one boy have died.

Mr. and Mrs. Huovinen have been members of the Nations Evangelical Lutheran Church, and always were very active in church work and other community activities.

Mr. Huovinen was paralyzed and was sick about four months. He passed away at the Rolla Community Hospital on December 8, 1959, and was buried in the Mt. View cemetery on December 10, 1959.

Mrs. Huovinen has been in good health and is living with her son Oscar, taking care of his household.

Matti Kinnunen

Matti Kinnunen was born in Suomusalmi, Finland, and spent his younger days at his home place, where he taught in the home schools that were held in the province. In 1894 he decided to migrate to the United States, and arrived at Poinset, S.D., or the present day Lake Norden, where he went to work as a farm laborer. In 1895, he went to work on the Abel Pyykkonen farm and did well. Being a young man in his prime, he came to know Pyykkomen's daughter Milna, and their acquaintance led to their marriage on June 12, 1897. He worked on the Pyykkonen farm all summer, but on hearing the farms were being developed in Towner County, N.D., and that several families from the Lake Norden area were moving up there, and taking homestead tracts, Matti also left with his family on October 11, 1897. They rented a railroad car in Watertown S.D., for their cows, horses and farming supplies. A hired man stayed behind in the freight car to tend

them. Kinnunen, with his family rode by train to Rolla, where they arrived on a dark October evening. At the depot, they were met by Kaapo Hemminki, another newcomer, who promised to take them to their destination on his wagon. They drove in the dark of night about ten miles, and finally arrived at John Huovinen's sod home. The Kinnunen family spent the winter with the Huovinen's. With the coming of spring, Matti began to look for a homestead of his own. He traveled to Cando, N.D., the county seat, and filed a claim for 160 acres. In addition to five years residence, the claims's stipulations required opening 30 acres of land and constructing buildings on the tract. The cost was \$16.00. In the official papers, Kinnunen's land was located in Armourdale Township 162, North Range 67, Section 160 acres west side section 30. In the spring of 1898, Kinnunen built his sod home and barn. He opened the fields and planted crops of flax, barley and potatoes, but the summer was very hot and dry, resulting in poor yields. A feed shortage for the cattle also resulted, and they had to be fed barley straw, and frost bitten flax, mixed with what little hay there was. This ordeal did not frighten the newcomer, but instead he worked all the more. 1899 was a good year, with good crops, giving new life and incentive to the new settlers. Several good years followed, enabling Matti Kinnunen to enlarge his land with the purchase of several 160 acre tracts, so that soon he owned 800 acres in all.

Matti was a very energetic man. He was one of the first founders of the Evangelical Lutheran Independent Congregation, which was founded when Pastor Warmanen came to Towner County. When a Sunday school was started to instruct children in the Christian way of life, Matti Kinnunen was its teacher.

He raised a large family and continued farming until 1961, when he bought a home in Rock Lake, N.D., and moved there with his wife to spend the latter years of their life. Their daughter, Irene, followed and lived with them. She later bought a grocery and clothing store, which she has operated with good success. Kinnunen's sons stayed on the farm, and are farming the old home place.

Matti Kinnunen died on March 31, 1953. Left mourning him were his wife, six boys and five daughters, and one adopted daughter Lulu S. Kroderus.

The boys are Einar and Alfred who are farming; Karl Kinnunen, Rock Lake; Emil Kinnunen, electrician in Richmond, California; Elmer Kinnunen, who is a public accountant; and Wilton Kinnunen, Portland, Oregon.

The daughters are Hilda Kinnunen; Mrs. Henry Knuutti (Lulu), Rock Lake; Mrs. George McDonald (Ellen), Fairview, Montana; Mrs. Henry Held (Lucilla), Bisbee, North Dakota; Mrs. Ronkainen (Lillian), Bovey, Minnesota; and Irene Kinnunen, Rock Lake.

Miina Kinnunen, the mother of the large family, is currently living in Rock Lake, and is in good condition. She was born in Lake Norden, South Dakota, in 1881. She has been a lifelong member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Peter A. Johnson

Mr. Peter A. Johnson (Finnish name Rousu), was the son of Peter and Maria Helena Rousu, and was born on March 15, 1872, on Tornio, Finland. In 1880, he moved to Norway with his parents, from where, four years later, they emigrated to Fitchburg, Mass. However, in 1889 they moved again, this time to Castlewood, S.D., and it was here that Peter Johnson married Anna Bieta Huovinen in 1892. She had been born in 1866, in Ii province, Finland. To them were born seven children of which four died while yet young. The three children still living are two sons, Theodore and Leonard, and one daughter, Amalia. Mrs. Johnson died on October 2, 1936, at the age of 69. Peter Johnson passed away at the age of 79 on May 7, 1951

The Johnsons came to North Dakota with their son Leonard, and with Peter's mother. Their first two children and Mr. Rousu passed away in South Dakota.

In 1897, he worked his first quarter of land through the land grant program, and later owned several sections, which are now located in three townships, namely, Mt. View, Armourdale and Howell.

When the National Evangelical Lutheran congregation was founded, they enthusiastically took part in it.

Wanting to see Florida, Mr. Johnson visited there in 1912. Amelia and Theodore spent the winter of 1917-1918 on the West Coast visiting in Reedley, California, and Astoria, Oregon, but no place seemed as good as home, and in the spring they returned to the famous "Breadbasket of the World".

In 1928, he purchased the International Harvester dealership, and also the Standard Oil station in the town of Rolla. With his two sons, he operated these until 1945.

Life for the early pioneers surely wasn't easy. Coming here with their families, they were usually quite empty handed, both financially and otherwise. Perhaps the energy of youth was a major driving force behind their efforts, enabling them to build sod homes for themselves and sod shelters for the few animals they had brought, giving them the initiative to plow the fields with their crude hand plows, when the farmers simply had to walk behind his team of animals, thus walking many, many miles in a single day. It's extremely hard for us today even to adequately imagine what the pioneers saw and experienced. Nevertheless, they were satisfied and happy, knowing that the Lord would bless their efforts.

Peter Johnson's children donated the site on which the Finnish Pioneer Memorial now stands as a reminder of these courageous early settlers, almost all of whom have gone to their eternal rest. Long may we remember them.

Isaac Niva

Isaac Niva came to Rolla from Red Lodge, Montana, in the spring of 1887, and filed for a homestead in Mt. View township. He was born in Karunki, Sweden. He came to Michigan from where he moved to Butte, Montana, where he married Kristiina Ylisuutari, who was born in Tyranava, Finland. Both passed away some 40 years ago.

Here is Niva's own description of the early pioneer days: "When we came to North Dakota, the firewood was still in the mountains. We lived underground and ate hay". (Most likely he meant that they lived in sod huts, and the hay was taken to Rolla and sold for food). The first beast of burden being oxen, Niva often recalled an amusing incident that once happened to him. He was busy plowing the field with a hand plow one hot summer day. The oxen evidently thought the work too hot and tiresome, for they suddenly veered from their course and headed toward a nearby watery march. Niva could do nothing to stop the animals as they stepped into the march to cool off. Sitting on the edge of the march, he tried vainly to coax the animals to come out. They took their own time about it though, and when finally they did, he quickly hitched them up to his wagon and drove to Rolla, where he exchanged them for a team of horses.

The writer of this article came to Rolla on June 28, 1911. At that time there were only three sod houses in which Finnish people were living, and these belonged to Jack Michaelson, Jack Johnson and Matt Karvonen.

Matt and Kristiina Karvonen were born in Polanka, Finland and lived in Pikton Township on living rights. They both died here and are buried in the Apostolic Lutheran cemetery.

In the beginning when they came to this area, they suffered many hardships with adverse weather conditions. In some cases it may seem that stories of these conditions are not true. However, I have experienced difficulties on two occasions, and could not have survived without a dog and horse. The winter of 1916 was the most difficult as far as I can remember from my experiences. There was much snow and extremely cold weather. A man and two horses froze to death between Hansboro and Sarles. One and a half miles West of Hansboro, two men also succumbed. I then lived two and a half miles West of Elsbery station. On one particularly beautiful morning, I set out to fetch the mail. Arriving at the post office, I noticed a storm beginning in the northwest. Although I tried hard to hurry home, the storm caught up with me about a mile from home. The snow flew so thick that a person could hardly see a yard ahead. The situation would have been hopeless if my dog hadn't of run in front and led the way home by barking. Many thoughts crossed my mind at the time, particularly, how did the dog sense where home was, and why didn't it leave us?

A second experience of mine happened on Christmas Eve (I've forgotten the year). It had snowed for a day and a night, and after a clear spell, I went after water from a mile away. It was blowing from the northwest, and as the heavy snowfall began, it became increasingly difficult to see the horse ahead. All I could do was to stop to loosen the animals reins and allow it to lead me home. Many people were left in Rolla at the time, for it was impossible to leave town. Now its different, since roads have been built to farmhouses, and driving is done with automobiles and everything is convenient. M.R.

Kaapo Hemming (Hemminki)

Kaapo Hemminki was born in Nurmo, Vaasan Laani, Finland, in 1872. At the age of 19, he came to the states and found work in South Dakota, Nevada and several other places including Canada. Then in 1896, while still a single man, he came to Rolla and took a homestead on the land where the Finnish Hall is now located. He sold this land to Henry Juntunen, and made a trip to Cuba and several other places. Upon returning, he bought a farm from John Honkala - land which is still part of the family farm. In 1908, Liisa Ristila came to Rolla and married Kaapo Himminki. She also was born in Nurmo, Vaasan Laani in 1879. Three children were born to them. Toivo, who is now farming the family farm; Erie, who is Mrs Oscar Halone and they also farm in this area; Arno, the youngest died in June, 1918, the year of widespread influenza. Hemming died May 17, 1928. In 1930, Mrs. Hemming married John Kangas, and he died in 1944. Mrs. Kangas has made her home in the town of Rolla for the past several years.

Peter A Junso

Peter A. Junso filed on a government land claim of 160 acres in April, 1897, then proceeded to build a sod house and plow 30 acres of prairie land. He went back to South Dakota and married Hannah Hanson, but returned to North Dakota with his wife in late fall for threshing and harvest. He broke 40 more acres of prairie soil in 1898, and famed some wheat and flax. A baby daughter, Anna, was born to the couple on June 5, 1898. In February 1899, he deeded the homestead to Peter A Johnson and paid the Federal government \$200 for it, because he didn't live on it the full five years before proving it up, which was the government rule, the idea being that the homestead would be a permanent home. This all took place between 1897 and 98. He is presently 83 year old (young).

His daughter Ann, Mrs. Henry Sprucelake, now resides in Lake Norden, South Dakota.

Henry Juntunen

Henry Juntunen was born in Puolanka, Finland, on November 25, 1871, and when he was 14, came with his mother, Maria Juntunen, to Michigan, where his father Israel Juntunen, had come a year before. They lived there for one year and then moved to South Dakota.

Katy Juntunen (Bykonen), the daughter of Aapeli and Anna Bykonen, was born in Suomusalmi, Finland, on May 16, 1873. When seven years of age, she came with her parents to Michigan and later to South Dakota, where she married Henry Juntunen on August 20, 1892. They farmed in South Dakota for six years during which time four children were born to them, Kalli, Sophia, Etna, Ainer and Arvi, who was three months old when the family moved to North Dakota (Towner County), where they had filed for a homestead.

When they came to Rolla, North Dakota, they lived for a while in Maria Johnson's small house while the father, with the help of Oscar Berg, built a large sod house, where the family lived for five years. Two children were born at that time, Emma on December 8, 1899, and Hilda on April 21, 1901.

Life in the sod house was pleasant. Both parents told of how they were young and interested in their work, and how life looked promising. The boys grew as the years went by, and began learning to work. Kalle was so small that he had to place a box beside a horse to put on the harnesses. Edla Maria was a very fat, blue eyed girl with heavy hair. She enjoyed singing, and usually rocked in a rocking chair and sang. (Finnish song, "Riemu raikukoon, laulu kaikukoon"). Ainar was expert at using a hammer and drove nails into the walls of the sod house.

One morning, an Arabian peddler came to our sod house carrying his wares on his back. He came in and began to show his combs, needles, thread, materials and mouth harps, in which small boys were so fascinated by at the time. To the bedroom door came a little boy dressed only in his shirt. Mother told him to go back, we have a peddler here. The boy did not heed, and the peddler said, "That's all right, that's all right, that is a boy".

During the sod house era, there was no regular congregation. Many pastors came from different denominations, and all were welcome guests. We sang and had services where peace and understanding was the theme. In a certain home, the pastor asked for a night's lodging, but there was only one bed, and they had no other bedding either. Finally, it was decided that the head of the household sleep in the middle of the bed with the pastor on one side and his wife on the other, and the night went well.

In the spring of 1912, work was started on a wooden house, which was completed before the fall came, and we moved in. Hilma Seraphine was born in this house on January 28, 1903.

In 1904, the Finnish Hall was constructed, and father gave a parcel of land for the hall. Schools were also started, so that the school age children could go to school.

In 1906, our father's folks, Israel and Maria Juntunen came to live with us in the same garden where a small building was bought for them. We children went over very often to visit with them. Israel (Ukki), was a fat, thick bearded, jolly man. With his boots on, he sat and joked. His wife Maria Juntunen (Ammi), was slender, but a hard worker. She prepared the wool and spun it into yarn which was knit into stockings. She had a small bag in which was 10 horns and a knife for cupping. In this way she helped the mother of the family. She was great at smoking a pipe, and smoked regular tobacco.

Arvi Hendrick died of brain fever in 1907, and Sophie died of tuberculosis in 1908. Two weeks after her death, a little girl was born on May 19, 1908, and was named Alma Helen. She was very welcome to our family for Hilma, the youngest, was six years old.

On November 6, 1909, a boy, Victor David was born.

The years rolled by, and more land was bought. Now there is 640 acres from which a lot of grain was taken.

In 1913, the house was enlarged for there were some ten people in the family. At this time, the library, with about 300 or 400 books, was moved to our home, and father took care of it for over 20 years.

In the fall of 1916, grandfather died at the age of 75 years. He was born in Puolanka, Finland. In the same fall we bought our first car, a Buick, which we drove, and it was a pleasure to drive since we were only used to horses.

Wilfred Roland, the youngest of our children, was born on September 10, 1915. Vikki was seven years old at the time would not have liked a baby in the house. He threatened to throw the baby into the garden if it came. But, after it did come, and was a small boy, he decided that a boy was all right, but it would have been different had it been a girl. Out into the garden it would have gone!

Edla Maria was married in November, 1918, to Ernest Ryyth, and they moved to live in Painsdale, Michigan.

Kalle was united in marriage with Olga Carlson on June 26, 1919. Father rented the farm to them and bought a house in Rolla, where he and mother moved, and lived for nine years. They went to the West Coast six different times, and during this time, three of their children were married; Ainar was married to Hilma Anderson, Alma to Walfred Juntunen and Emma to Robert Carlson.

Grandmother, father's mother Maria Juntunen, passed away at 70 years of age, on February 18, 1921. She was born in Puolanka, Finland in 1850.

In 1833, we purchased a small farm nine miles from Rolla, and we moved on the farm again where we lived for 11 years during which time Hilma went to

Detroit, Michigan, and married Arthur Heikkinen, on December 26, 1836. Wilfred was married to Elizabeth Savaloja on December 17, 1935.

In this farm home we celebrated our parent's golden wedding anniversary on August 20, 1942. An appropriate program was arranged with the anniversary message rendered by Rev. W.W. Wilen, and the folks reminisced about pioneer days.

In 1943, Mr. Juntunen rented the farm to Wilfred, and again bought a home in Rolla where the folks moved. Now there were no more children at home but Hilda and Victor.

In 1945, our family was confronted with a year of sorrow, for death claimed two dear relatives - the wife of Kalle, Olga Juntunen, who died in September, and sister Edla Maria Ryyth in December. With love we cherish their memories.

Six years later, Charlie went to Finland, where he met Kaisa Waisanen at Iisalmi. They were united in marriage on July 22, 1951. Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Juntunen came back the same year. They reside in Rolla.

Mother's and Father's life in Rolla in the midst of friends and relatives was quiet and beautiful. They were happy and satisfied. They belonged to the National Lutheran congregation from the very beginning, and loved the congregation and temperance work, and taught us children the good things of life for which we are grateful. Katy Juntunen passed away on October 31, 1955, and Henry Juntunen two years later on January 9, 1958. (Henry and Katy Juntunen's children)

Jacob Tapanila

Jacob Tapanila was born March 14, 1856, at Karsamaki, Oulun Laane, Finland. He came to the United States in 1890, first to Michigan, and then to Ely, Minnesota. During this time, he made two trips back to Finland. He came to North Dakota and filed a homestead in Mt. View township, Towner County in 1898, where he lived the rest of his life. He died April 17, 1929, and is buried in the old Finnish Cemetery, Mt. View township.

Children of Jacob and Cecilia Tapanila:

Jacob Jr. was born July 1, 1882, in Finland. Married to Jennie Nordholm. Living at Dunblane, Sask., Canada.

Matt was born January 11, 1885, in Finland. Married to Emma Simonson. Moved to Canada to homestead. Both are deceased.

Saima Caroline was born February 8, 1887, in Finland. Married to John Halone, both deceased. Parents of William, Ted and John Halone. She died February 19, 1947. Buried in old Finnish cemetery, Mt. View Township.

Minnie Emilia was born May 25, 1902, Mt. View Township, Perth, N.D. Married to William John Tuomala on July 16, 1923. William Tuomala was born November

19, 1896, at Ely, Minn. Came to North Dakota from Ely, April 39, 1910. Children of William and Minnie Tuomala: William John, born Jan. 18, 1925; Arthur Raymond, born Feb. 2, 1927; Jean Cecelia, born May 11, 1934; Ernest Michael, born May 22, 1936; Reino Robert, born Feb. 26, 1938; Wilfred Theodore, born Feb 16, 1940; Marvin Arnold, born Jun 13, 1941. Arthur R. Tuomala and Lillian Yliniemi were married Jan. 31, 1953, at Chicago, Ill. Lillian Mary Ann Yliniemi was born Dec. 1, 1931. They have two children, Michael Arthur, born Aug 15, 1954, and Deborah Lynn, born September 21, 1955. Ernest Michael Tuomala and Marian Adele Parvey were married October 12, 1957.

Anna and Henry Koski

Henry Koski came to the United States from Limanka, O.L., Finland in 1896 to Cokato, Minnesota. He worked in the forests near Cokato until he earned enough money for his fiancée's passage from Finland to the United States. She came to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she was employed as a dishwasher at the Hennepin Hotel. They moved to Belt, Montana, and were married there in 1898. Mr Koski worked in the mines in Montana. He had filed for land in North Dakota, and planned to move to Rolla in 1899, and acquired a homestead in Towner County. He wrote his wife instructing her to sell all furniture they had in Montana, and to move to Rolla. She came with her small daughter Elvira, and lived in a sod house. The floors were made of wide lumber, and it was necessary to go on your hands and knees to keep them clean. The walls were whitewashed as no paint was available in those days. The barn was also built of sod. Limestone was used to whitewash the walls.

Firewood was all from the woods on Turtle Mountain, and it was necessary to leave early in the morning to travel the many miles after firewood. As soon as the railroad came to Rolla, coal was available.

It was necessary to dig a well with a shovel and make the walls of lumber and in a circle. Water was found at a low level, and since there were no iceboxes in those days in the country, the well was used for that purpose with a bucket lowered into the cool well where milk was usually kept.

Money was scarce, and horses were bought through the bank on a loan basis, with compensation for the funds. It was a tedious task to pay the loans and took a long time to pay.

Koski's name in Finland was Ruonakoski. In applying for citizenship papers, he left off the beginning of Ruoma. The family belonged to the Finnish National Evangelical Lutheran church, and were among the founding members of the church. They were always ready to serve and take care of the pastor, as there was no parsonage for him. The farmers took turns in getting the pastor and

attending to his welfare. Mrs. Koski belonged to the women's group, and was one of its founders.

The Koskis have had 12 children of which six daughters are living. Mrs. Koski passed away on September 3, 1941, when she was 70 years old. She was born in Lumijoki, Finland. Mr. Koski passed away seven years later. He retired from farming in 1943, when his only son died. He rented the farm to his son-in-law, Ole Johnson, and moved to Rolla to live with his daughter Edla, and lived there until his death. He was 76 years old when he passed away on October 20, 1948.

The second generation is following the footsteps of their parents. May the pioneer folks who have toiled to open the land for cultivation rest in peace.

The daughters who are living are: Mrs Charles Johnson (Elvira), the oldest; Mrs. Ole Johnson, (Maria Aliina); Mrs. Manel Perex (Elizabeth, Betty); Mrs. Eugene Tucker (Vera); Ethel Koski; Mrs Walter Kangas (Martha).

Otto Herrala

Otto Henry Herrala was born October 30, 1878, at Oulais, Oulun Laani, Finland. He came to America in 1900. Married in 1901 at Redridge, Michigan to Lydia Alina Koski (born Dec. 20, 1886, at Atlantic Mine Michigan). Died May 13, 1936. Buried in Finnish Lutheran cemetery North of Perth, N.D.

Living children of Otto and Lydia Herrala (2 died at birth):

Anna Helena Herrala, was born July 28, 1903, at Redridge, Michigan. Married July 8, 1926, at Cando, N.D. by Judge Brooke to Edward Wayne Neva, born Nov. 30, 1902 (Son of Isaac and Cristeena Neva). Five children were born to this union: Inez Marian Neva, born March 25, 1927, at Perth, N.D.; Evelyn Rosalyn Neva, born at Hansboro, N.D., Sept. 12, 1929, married March 6, 1954 to Theron Horn of Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Two children of Evelyn and Theron Horn are: Theron Robert Jr., born Oct 5, 1955, and Susan Kay Horn, born Oct. 1956) Ronald Wayne Neva, born June 4, 1934, at Perth, N.D.; Helen Lydia Neva, born Feb. 27, 1937, at Perth, N.D., Fred Roy Neva, born Feb. 26, 1949, at Perth N.D.

Henry Helmer Herrala, born Nov. 21, 1904, at Redridge, Michigan. Married Nov. 19, 1935, at Rolla, N.D., to Hilda Katherine Pahkama, born March 7, 1907, in Wisconsin (Daughter of Jacob and May Pahkama).

Heino Mathew Herrala, born April 14, 1906. Married Dec. 21, 1929, at Perth, N.D., by Rev. Matt Kakela to Vieno Juntunen, born Feb 1, 1913, at Perth, N.D. daughter of Peter S. Juntunen and Ida M. Aho. Two children of Heino and Vieno Herrala; Claudia Joyce, born Oct. 12, 1945, Rolla, N.D., and Bonita Marie, born Oct 4, 1948, at Rolla, N.D.

Melma Esther Herrala, born April 24, 1908. Married July 11, 1928, at Rolla, N.D., by Judge Coughlan to Herman Leo Doucette, born August 17, 1908, son of Wm. Doucette and Virginia Goupille, One child of Melma and Herman

Doucette, Robert Doucette, born Dec. 10, 1930, at Cando, N.D. Married March 25, 1955, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Shirley Tedlock, of Wichita, Kansas. Two children of Robert and Shirley Doucette; Steven Robert Doucette, born in 1957, and Suzanne Doucette, born in 1958.

Alfred Edwin Herrala, born Jan. 13, 1910. Married Oct. 17, 1928, at Cando, N.D., by Judge Brooke to Goldie Hendrickson, (Born April 11, 1911), of Hansboro, N.D., daughter of August Hendrickson and May Jurmu. One child of Alfred and Goldie Herrala, Floyd Duane Herrala, born April 27, 1930, at Hansboro, married Sept 13, 1953 by Rev. Anderson (At Rolla) to Aileen Fagerlund, daughter of Olive Edward Fagerlund and Rosie Emelia Disrud. One child of Duane and Aileen Herrala, Brett Russell Herrala, born May 23, 1955.

Otto Arnold Herrala, born Sept 7, 1912. Married on Dec. 22, 1946, at Chula Vista, Calif., to Dorothy Reve Williams, born Oct. 21, 1913, at Kansas City, Kansas. One Child of Otto and Dorothy Herrala; Reve Arlene Herrala, born April 2, 1948.

Aune Amelia Herrala, born August 20, 1913, at Perth, N.D. Married March 25, 1936, at Highland Park, Mich. to Eugene Axel Anderson, born Aug. 21, 1911, in Michigan, son of Jacob Anderson and Hilma Kluger. Three children of Aune and Eugene Anderson: Glenda Ellen Anderson, born Sept 27, 1939, at Highland Park, Mich.; Lenida Jean Anderson, born Sept 7, 1944, At Highland Park, Mich.; Russell Eugene Anderson, born May 7, 1947, at Highland Park, Mich.

Edna Eleanor Herrala, born Dec 1, 1915, at Perth, N.D. Married at Perth on July 12, 1933 by Rev. Matt Kakela to Wm. Hoyhtya, born Dec. 14, 1908, son of Andrew Hoyhtya and Teckla Niemonen (Johnson). Four children of Edna and Wm. Hoyhtya: Helen Edna Lydia Hoyhtya, born Jan. 16, 1935, at Baudette, Minn., married to Richard Gailfus of Rolla, N.D. at Rolla, Sept. 3, 1955, by Rev Loren Spaulding; James William Hoyhtya, born June 10, 1942, at Rolla, N.D.; Linda Mae Hoyhtya, born May 7, 1944, at Rolla, N.D.; Judith Gail Hoyhtya, born July 30, 1945 at Rolla, N.D.

Senia Lydia Herrala, was born on December 27, 1918, in Perth, North Dakota. Married on Nov. 27, 1935, in Cando, N.D., to John Halone who was born on Nov. 16, 1910, son of John and Saima Halonen. Two children of John and Senia Halone: John David Halone, born December 22, 1942, at Rolla, North Dakota; Terrance Keith Halone, born November 11, 1947, at Rolla, North Dakota.

Andrew David Herrala, born July 25, 1921, at Perth, N.D. Married Nov. 23, 1943, in Mt. View Township by Rev. Otto Herrala, to Eileen Eleanor Juntunen, born July 5, 1921, daughter of Charles Juntunen and Olga Carlson. One child of David and Eileen Herrala, Randal David Herrala, born Aug. 2, 1952, at Rolla, N.D.

Bessie Marian Herrala, born Jan. 27, 1924, at Perth, N.D., married Nov 6, 1941, at Perth N.D, by Rev. Otto Herrala, to Reno Delvin Juntunen, born July 22, 1922 (In Mt. View Township), son of Charles Juntunen and Olga Carlson. Four children of Marian and Reno Juntunen: Carole Jean Juntunen, born October 16, 1942, at Rolla, N.D.; Marlene Marie Juntunen, born Jan. 15, 1944, at Rolla, N.D.; Loraine Marian Juntunen, born May 21, 1946, at Rolla, N.D.; Barbara Janelle Juntunen, born Sept 23, 1950, at Rolla, N.D.

Otto Henry Herrala, married second time on Dec. 9, 1950, by Rev. Adolf North, at Minneapolis, Minn., to Mrs. Lydia Raisanen (nee Aho), born April 2, 1890, daughter of Maunu and Sophia Aho. Mrs. Lydia Raisanen was a widow of Elias Raisanen. Lydia Raisanen died April 16, 1956, at Minneapolis, Minn., and is buried in the Finnish Lutheran Cemetery, North of Perth.

Otto Herrala Sr. has been a minister of the Apostolic Lutheran Church for many years.

Albert Pantsari

Mr. Albet Pantsari, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Pantsari of Sebeka, Minn., was born July 16, 1899 in Otter Tail County, Minnesota. He came to North Dakota as a young man in the year of 1817. Mrs. Albert Pantsari (Edna), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Iver Bykonen, was born Nov. 28, 1903, in Mt. View Township, Towner County. They were married on October 22, 1921, and lived one year in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, moving back to Rock Lake, N.D., in 1924, where they farmed until 1944. They purchased a home in Rock Lake, and are living there at present, while renting their farm to their son-in-law, Severi Eckholm.

Mr. and Mrs. Pantsari had seven children, six daughters, and one son. One daughter Agnes died in infancy. Their oldest daughter, Mrs. Severi Eckholm (Hazel) died April 1, 1954. The children still living are: Mrs. Francis Hunt (Anna) of Rolette, N.D.; Mrs. George Lewis (Shirley) of Walford, N.D.; Mrs. Orlando Dunhani (Edith), Walford, N.D.; Harold Pantsari, Fort Hood, Texas, in armed forces; Ellen Mae Pantsari of Rock Lake is attending Minot State Teacher's College.

Mr. and Mrs. Pantsari have been active lifetime members of the Mt. View Lutheran Church. Mr. Pantsari is employed by the state highway department, which job he has had since 1937.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carlson

Mrs and Mrs Joseph Carlson came to Rolla, N.D., in May 1902, to a farm east of the town of Rolla.

Joseph Carlson was born in Kuusamo, Finland, on October 13, 1862, and came to Alexandria, Minn., from Finland in 1880. His wife, Josephine Julin, was born in Alexandria, Minnesota, on August 10, 1869. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Julin, were the first settlers in Holmes City, Minn. Mrs Carlson often remembered how during her childhood the Indians came to beg for food from her home.

Joseph and Josephine were married on April 7, 1888, in Alexandria, Minnesota, and founded their home in Holmes City, Minnesota. They moved to Carbonado, Wash., in 1891, and lived there for three years. Joseph worked in the mines in Carbonado, but the work was such that they decided to return to Minnesota in 1894. They once again settled in Holmes City, Minn., but for some reason did not feel at home there, so they decided to go to Rolla, North Dakota, when they had the opportunity to buy a homestead place in the grain country. They moved to Rolla in the spring of 1902 to the farm where Henry and his family are living. They had two boys and two girls when they came: John, Robert, Rose and Olga. Henry was born to them in Dakota, and two boys passed away when they were small.

When they came they had only a small home, a sod house. They had a lot to do, but funds were meager. Year after year they added more buildings. First they built a small barn, then a new house to live in, and later a very large barn, and all the buildings still are standing on the farm.

After a few years, Joseph bought a steam operated threshing machine, and he was considered to be a big thresher. Threshing lasted many weeks in the pioneer days, often until the snow began to fall. It was necessary to employ over 29 men at harvest time. It was also customary to thresh for neighbors. Carlson's sons: John, Robert and Henry were helpers for their dad, and the daughters: Rose and Olga were cooks.

Trips to town were seldom made because the trip was long, and it was necessary to make the trip by horse.

In the fall of 1922, they decided to leave farming for their son John, and move to town to live in Rolla, where they have lived since then.

They have had their share of sorrow also, for their daughter Olga died in 1945. Mrs Carlson passed away in November, 1955, at the age of 86 years.

Rose has lived with her father in Rolla. Joseph is 95 years of age, and is the oldest resident in the Rolla country. He went to Seattle, Washington, with his daughter to spend the winter with John and his family, who live there. The Carlsons have always been members of the Apostolic Lutheran Church.

Ernest Ryyth

Ernest Ryyth was born in Iisalmi, Finland, at Lapininniemi, on April 25, 1892. He came to Hancock, Michigan in 1910, and worked the first few years as a miner a mile underground. The work was very hot so far down, and no shirt was needed at work. However, he decided to look over other areas of the United States, and stopped in North Dakota on his travels in 1913. Because he was a farmer's son from Finland, the black soil of Dakota looked good to him. He was married in 1918 to Edla M. Juntunen. They started to farm on rented property on the agreement that the renter received half of all grain. A good crop came the first year, but the day before the grain was to be cut, a hailstorm laid the crop to the ground, which made it impossible to harvest. The family had several cows, and it was possible to survive the winter with them. They also had one son, Rudolph T., who was born in Palmsdale, Michigan, in 1920. In 1922, the family moved to Elsber, North Dakota, and rented a farm. Here were born Arvo W., Ray W., Dellmer M. and June D. Ryyth. The first winter on the rented farm was very cold, with lots of snow. Deep wells also froze, and snow storms always lasted for several days at a time. It was difficult to get drinking water for the cattle, and at times it was necessary to melt the well at night. Patience was almost at an end, and Ryyth thought that if he could get money to move away from Dakota, he would do so. However, with Finnish "Sisu", the family labored on and borrowed money to get machinery. Horse drawn machines which were being used at the time were not expensive. After renting other people's farms for 25 years, the Ryyths bought their own farm in 1943, comprising of 320 acres. Mrs. Ryyth became ill, and died of cancer on December 6, 1945. On October 23, 1946, he was united in marriage to his cousin Anna A. Toppinen in New York, N.Y. She was from Iisalmi, Finland, as was he.

Mr. Ryyth says in conclusion, that North Dakota has many sunny days, and the air is no better elsewhere. Here are born healthy and vigorous people. The winds are powerful at times, but we never have Florida hurricanes.

Matti Kakela

Matti Kakela was born at Laihia, V. I. Finland, March 4, 1866. He came from Finland to the United States in 1889 to Calumet, Michigan, and moved to Red Lodge, Montana in 1888. There he was united in Marriage to Liisa Josephine Latvala in 1893. Mrs Kakela was born in Ylistaro, V. I. Finland on December 11, 1869, and had come to the United States in 1890 to Ohio, and from there to Montana. They moved to Rolla, and took a homestead in 1897.

There are four boys and five daughters in the family, with one daughter having passed away as an infant.

Matt Kakela passed away on April 29, 1939. Mrs. Kakela passed away on March 10, 1951.

The Kakelas were members of the Apostolic ;Lutheran church, and Mr. Kakela was lay preacher of the church for many years.

John Mattson (Matkaselka)

John Mattson, Finnish name Matkaselka, was born in Oulainen, Oulun laani, Finland, on July 8, 1871. He came to the U.S.A. in the summer of 1891 to Minnesota. His wife Hilda Mattson (Waara) was born on July 20, 1877, in Pajala, Norbotten, Sweden. She came to the U.S. in June 1892, to New York Mills, Minnesota. They were married in Ely, Minnesota in July 1896. they came to Rolla, North Dakota in March 1898, and lived on a farm with living rights. To them were born 12 children, 8 boys and 4 girls, of which 10 are living. One daughter died in infancy, and one boy in adulthood. Mrs. Mattson died on May 30, 1935. John Mattson died January 25, 1955. They succeeded in their farming efforts, and left their children twelve and a half quarters of land.

Both of the deceased are buried in the Apostolic Lutheran Cemetery in Mr. View Township. M.R.

Iver Bykonen

Mr. and Mrs. Iver Bykonen are among the early pioneers and residents of Mount View Township, Towner County. Iver Bykonen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Abel Bykonen, was born Oct. 28, 1878, at Suomusallmi, Finland. He came to this country at the age of two years with his parents. They lived four years in Hancock, Mich., moving to Estelline, South Dakota, and from there to Rolla where they settled down to farm.

Mrs. Iver Bykonen (Anna), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Parvey, was born Sept 17, 1875, in Oulun Laani, Finland, and came to this country with her parents at the age of three. They lived in Marquette, Michigan, and South Dakota before coming to Towner County in 1900. On april 7, 1901, she was united in marriage to Iver Bykonen. All their married life was spent on their farm until 1942, when they purchased a home in Rolla, and lived there.

Ive Bykonen passed away March 13, 1951, at the age of 73 years. Mrs. Iver Bykonen died July 29, 1953. Mr. and Mrs. Bykonen were lifelong members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mount View. Mr. Bykonen was a president for 15 years, and a treasurer of the Brotherhood several years. Mrs. Bykonen was a treasurer of the Ladies Aid for 25 years, and devoted to helping others and living a Christian life.

Mr. and Mrs. Iver Bykonen raised a family of six children: Fred Bykonen, Auburn, Wash.; Mrs. Fred Pantsari (Anna), Minneapolis, Minn.; John and Wesley Bykonen of Rolla, N.D. One daughter and two sons preceded their parents in death. They have 31 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

The Bykonen homestead has had the fourth generation with the young sons of Wesley and John Bykonen now taking an active part in farming.