

Stromsburg, 1872-1972.

Centennial Book of
the Swede Capital
of Nebraska:

*dedicated to the pioneer men and women
of this Swedish settlement*



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STROMSBURG

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Centennial Book of The Swede Capital of Nebraska



*Dedicated to the pioneer men and women
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FORWORD

by

Alton "Mook" Wilhelms,

Editor, Stromsburg Headlight

It is a privilege for me to write the opening words of this book. I have been thrilled as I have witnessed and had a part in the putting together of this publication. The committee has endeavored to give this community as complete a history as possible in word and picture of yesteryear and today. The greatest of care has gone into its preparation, but there may be mistakes. If such occur, we hope that the persons involved will understand the possibility of such errors.

On the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Stromsburg, it is entirely fitting that the history of our town be brought up to date. To celebrate our Centennial in a proper manner we felt the need for a compact history of the past century. The Commercial Club commissioned the Woman's Civic Improvement Club to the task.

Many members of the Woman's Club assumed a particular field of responsibility and also enlisted others to help. I'm sure that the committee would have me say that to its chairman, Mrs. Donald Rystrom, belongs the most credit for having done the most work on this publication.

Many of the citizens of Stromsburg can trace their ancestry to Sweden. But then, so can the citizens of Oakland, Wausa, Gothenburg and Axtell. Be this as it may, the people of Stromsburg have laid claim, and rightfully so, to being the "Swede Capital of Nebraska". They have done so because they have taken more pride in their ethnic background. They have seen the advantages of being the "Swede Capital" and have advertised this fact from coast to coast with the hopes that it will attract visitors to this community.

Descendants of America's Swedish pioneers may well be proud of their heritage. But even more might those pioneers of a century ago be proud of their descendants in this "Swede Capital of Nebraska".



PREFACE



The Centennial year of Stromsburg serves as a plateau on which to pause momentarily to review the past and consider the needs for the future. The hope, aim and desire of the Woman's Civic Improvement Club in the compilation of this volume is for the citizens of Stromsburg to cherish the past and prepare to meet the challenge of the future.

The more we learn of our early history, the more we appreciate our heritage. We are under lasting obligation to the pioneers of this community for the social, economic and agricultural development that we now enjoy. We wish to pay tribute to the pioneer men and women by dedicating this centennial book to their memory.

We wish to express our appreciation to many people and sources for the contents of this book. Our thanks to dozens of club members and interested residents who have given much time and effort in providing accurate data and cherished old pictures for this book. It is sent out without any pride in authorship. It has been a labor of love on the part of many during these preparatory months. To all contributors we voice the sincere thanks of the community. We have drawn heavily from the "History of Stromsburg" compiled in 1931 by the late Chattie Coleman Westenius, and "Early Days in Polk County" by Mildred Newman Flodman. We are deeply indebted to these two individuals who compiled books before us which served as an inspiration for this centennial book. The Headlight office and our guest editor, Mook Wilhelms, have been absolutely indispensable as far as this publication is concerned. This has been a big assignment for all involved and may it challenge us to go forward to even greater achievements as co-workers in the Swede Capital of Nebraska.

This centennial book is an expensive book. It has cost thousands of dollars to produce. It is sent forth on its mission at half price due to the enthusiastic response of the commercial firms in Stromsburg, which are listed herein. They too, deserve our vote of consideration and gratitude.

As the events of yesteryears pass in review may hearts be filled with unspeakable gratitude to God for His mercies and for the goodly heritage that has fallen unto us through the heroism and consecration of the pioneers and their families.

May this publication be a treasure in your home and an inspiration point for a greater service in the second century. The past is prologue. The whole century just closing is but the preface to another chapter, a new development, a greater achievement. We have the faith to believe that what has been done is but the earnest of what we shall do.

Mrs. Donald Rystrom, President
 Woman's Civic Improvement Club

CHAPTER I

The Founders

Stromsburg in the Making

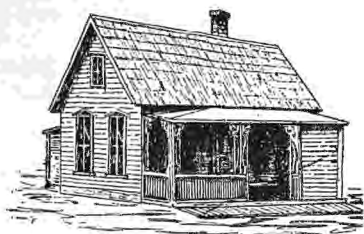
Founded June, 1872

In 1870, a party of men met at Galva, Illinois, to organize a colony with Nebraska as their goal. Among those men were Lewis Headstrom and Olof Netsell. The former was chosen for the trip to select a suitable site for the proposed colony. Lewis Headstrom had been planning to make a change of climate on account of failing health, so gladly accepted the mission.

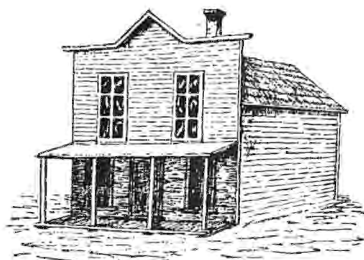
He stopped in Omaha and consulted with land companies and as a result of his inquiry, Polk County was decided upon as an ideal spot for the settlement. As he looked over the land, he saw as if in a vision, a town built on the banks of the Blue River. He returned with his report, with a determination to locate in the land of his dreams.

A townsite company was formed at Galva, with C. M. Sanders, president; Lewis Headstrom, secretary; O. Netsell, John Buckley and K. Nordling, trustees. The office was maintained at Galva until 1877, when it was removed to Stromsburg. After it was moved to Stromsburg, others joined the company and Charles Carlson was named chairman and J. P. Smith, secretary. The men who constituted the body and laid out the town of Stromsburg had planned wisely in selecting a site. In laying out the plan for the new town, a central block was set aside for a city park on the four sides of which the business houses were built. This park was set aside hoping that the court house would be located here, but when it was found that the location at Stromsburg had been defeated the town site company presented the park to the village in 1883.

Lewis Headstrom, wife and daughter came to Stromsburg in 1872, to make this their permanent home. The town had been laid out on paper, but no buildings had been erected, and it was Mr. Headstrom who drove the first stake, built the first dwelling and the first business building. The country surrounding the new town was sparsely settled by a few homesteaders whose homes consisted mostly of sod houses and dugouts.



FIRST HOME IN STROMSBURG



FIRST BUSINESS HOUSE

The early settlers had to encounter all kinds of hardships. Those who arrived in 1872, broke their land in 1873, preparatory to a crop in 1874, but that year the grasshoppers made their appearance and cleaned up the crops. Some tried to protect their gardens by covering them, but the grasshoppers ate the covers. This was discouraging and affected the people in town. Business that had been

none too good for lack of numbers of purchasers became worse for lack of money and the pioneers had a hard struggle. It took people of courage and determination to open up the new country, but they were not discouraged but struggled on until better days came.

Supplies had to be secured at Seward or Columbus, and with no roads, and using the trail that had been made by the first traveler, it was a wearysome journey. Sometimes the early settler had to make the journey on foot, trudging the long trail with a sack of supplies on his back. Among these very early settlers, those preceding the town, were: C. H. Morrill, J. P. Smith, A. P. Buckley, Nels F. Peterson, Thomas Record, Peter E. Moberg, H. C. Query, Jonas Backstrom, Peter Nelson, E. L. Marquis, Wm. T. Dodge, and others whose names we do not know.

As the little village of Stromsburg grew, and became known as a Swedish settlement, a number of Swedes who made their homes in Iowa and Illinois came to Polk County to take up homesteads. The word was carried across the sea to relatives and friends in Sweden and a number of emigrants left their native land coming directly to Polk County, and bought land or took up homesteads, as soon as they could become citizens of their adopted country, settling mostly west and north of the new town and the village of Stromsburg became their trading center.

The town received its name from its founder, using the last part of his name with "burg" added. The following from the records of an early historian, explains the naming of the town of Stromsburg: "It was in 1870, that Lewis Headstrom made his first trip to Nebraska; became enchanted with the climate and beautiful prairies of Polk County. He returned to Illinois and interested his friends which resulted in a colony being organized for locating and settlement in Polk County.

Mr. Headstrom was the moving spirit in the up-building of the town. It took men of energy and action, generous and far seeing to make dreams come true, and Mr. Headstrom was that man. He started the first store, became postmaster, when the income of the office was \$11.00 per annum and held it until the income reached \$1100.00. He was a member of the school board in the early days of its existence and when the settlement became a village served on the town board. When the village was made into a city of the second class he became the first mayor. He was interested in everything that was for the upbuilding of the town, and with his public spirited mind was a leader and supporter of every enterprise.

During the first four years the settlement had grown in numbers and in 1876 numbered 100 people. The following business firms were located here in the early 70's, some for a few months, others for longer periods: A. Burgstrom, merchant tailor; L. Headstrom, general merchant, real estate and insurance; Dr. E. C. Houston, associated with a drug store; Headstrom, Buckley & Company agents for farm machinery; the firm consisted of L. Headstrom, J. B. Buckley and C. H. Morrill; J. M. White, harness; N. Nordstrom, shoe shop; P. T. and A. P. Buckley, manufacturers of brooms and brushes; Smith & Dodge, farm implements. As time went on other business firms located here, many new concerns started up, many changes were made and the village grew and prospered, and in 1880, the population had reached 400.

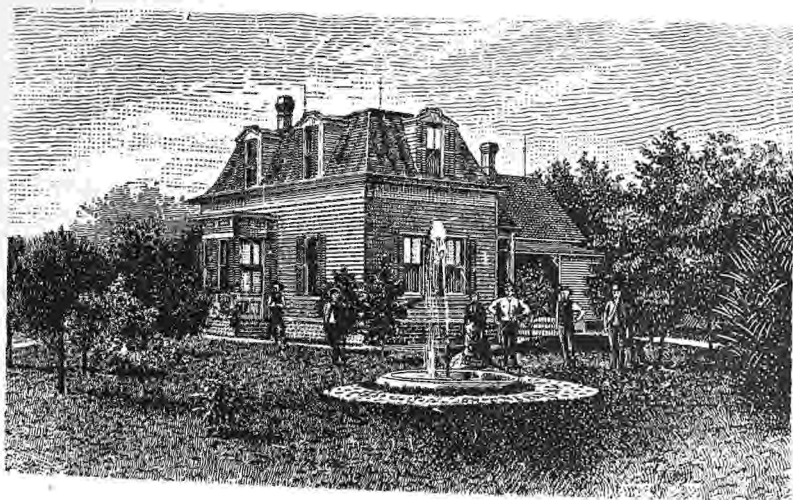
The first business house was built at the northwest corner of the square and stood for seventy years. The first dwelling was on the site of the present Fredrickson apartments, one block north of the square and was torn down in 1916, both were built by Lewis Headstrom, and the dwelling was his home while he lived in Stromsburg. Later on, buildings were erected on the west side of the square which became the prominent business section, and remained so until the fire of 1887, when that section of business houses was practically wiped out,

and business was shifted to the north and east sides of the square. The brick block built in the year of 1881, on the south side had been quickly taken up by business firms. After the fire all that was left on the west side was the old Windsor hotel, and for several years on that side, only the holes in the ground indicated its past activities.

During the first ten or eleven years the town was under the jurisdiction of the county. Taxes were levied by the county and its affairs looked after as any unincorporated village, until in August 1883, the town was incorporated into a village. Up until that time there were no records available and this history is written mostly from tradition. From the time of its incorporation the records are available and another story will follow.

The city park has been a monument to those who foresaw the future, and has been a great asset to the town. When the Park was laid out, L. Headstrom, C. H. Morrill, the Buckleys and J. P. Smith planted the trees, but in the dry years the young trees suffered and had to be replanted; this was done by the same men with the help of others. In later years shrubs and flowers have made the park very attractive. After the trees became large enough to create some shade, the Fourth of July celebrations, the "grand" political rallies, and many picnics of the olden days were held in the Park. These gatherings inside the old hitching rails, with teams hitched on all four sides, were great affairs, and brought large crowds to town, the majority bringing their basket dinners and everybody came early and stayed late. When the trees were small all such gatherings were held in the grove south of town on Prairie creek.

Stromsburg flourished from the beginning, as did most towns in the middle west, and soon it became the metropolis of the county. Good business houses, attractive homes, and a good class of people keep our little city on the map. Our town has a good water system, telephone, electricity, gas, and other modern improvements, splendid grade and high schools, good churches, far beyond the vision of the pioneer town builders.



The above picture is that of the Headstrom-Frawley home, after it had been remodeled. The original house, the first home built in Stromsburg,

was remodeled in 1880, and made into the structure above. This home was the social center in Stromsburg for many years.

CHAPTER II

The Village of Stromsburg

Incorporated August 27, 1883

The town had grown to number several hundred inhabitants and as the laws of Nebraska permitted the incorporation into a village after a community numbered two hundred or more, it was decided to incorporate and on August 27, 1883, a petition signed by fifty-six residents of the community was presented to the county commissioners of Polk county and the petition was granted. On that date, Stromsburg, that for eleven years and two months had been but a community, became a village.

A petition was presented to the commissioners, asking that A. L. Sprague, John Castile, H. Vogel, Geo. H. Butler, and W. A. Post be named the trustees, this petition was granted and those named therein became the first officers of the village. At the first meeting of the board A. L. Sprague was elected chairman, J. L. Johnson, village clerk; R. E. McConaughy, village treasurer; J. M. Green, marshal; H. Cutting, street commissioner and J. P. Smith, police judge. Up to the time Stromsburg was incorporated it was under the jurisdiction of the county, with only a constable and justice of the peace as precinct officers.

Immediately after the organization of the board, a petition was presented asking that \$200 bonds be voted for a jail, and \$200 for sidewalks. This petition was refused and the board borrowed the money and spent \$200 for sidewalks and built a jail west of the square, which burned down in 1890.

The first village election was held on April 1st, 1884. J. H. Coleman and H. Cutting acting as judges and H. D. Skelton and P. E. Mattison as clerks. The old board was re-elected with the exception that O. Headstrom was elected in place of George H. Butler, who had resigned.

The Village had its ups and down; but they were mostly "ups" because the early residents were enthusiastic and working together for the good of the town. They found plenty of amusements, because they knew how to create their own entertainment. And so the village grew and prospered and it was decided to make it into a city of the second class.

There were baseball teams and other sports. The "Lime Kiln Club" was a jolly bunch of young men full of pranks. One member was caught in the barber shop when half shaved, carried out and not allowed to return, and many other things of a like nature, all in good fun, but creating a lot of entertainment. In the early days an athletic club held forth over what is now the former Dodd's store on the north side. Hon. A. C. Shallenberger, ex-governor and congressman from Nebraska, was the champion boxer, and was also champion foot racer of the town. At that time he was clerking for L. M. Woods. There was also horse racing. Ed Rarey, the drayman, had a large bay horse that was often unhitched from the dray wagon and matched with some other racer. One day an old "sway back" appeared with a traveling outfit. The horse appeared to be unable to stand alone, let alone run a race. The "boys" at once got busy, put their money on the local horse, but the old swayback proved that he could run. Then a race track was made on the John Holmquist farm and many were the races run on that track.

The Lime Kiln Hall was built by a company of young men, headed by J. A. Frawley, where entertainments were held. There was a local Dramatic Club that put on home talent plays. The first Christmas tree the writer attended was held in the hall; that was in 1882. There was roller skating and dancing in the hall for those who liked that kind of entertainment.

CHAPTER III

One Hundred Years of Progress

City Administration

PAST AND PRESENT

By 1888 the Village of Stromsburg had grown to number more than 1000 people and so on March 13, 1888 a petition signed by 102 legal voters and taxpayers was presented to the village board asking that the town be made a second class city. This petition was accepted by the board and a committee appointed to lay out two wards - all property north of 4th Street to be in the First Ward and all property south of 4th Street to be in the Second Ward. And thus the Village of Stromsburg became the City of Stromsburg.

At the regular election held on April 2, 1888, the following officers were elected: Mayor - Lewis Headstrom, the founder of Stromsburg; Council - Alex Scott, O. Headstrom, A. L. Sprague, J. G. Green; City Clerk - J. B. Dey; Treasurer - R. E. McConaughy; Police Judge - W. F. Leach.

The building on the corner of 4th and Exchange Streets formerly housing the Free Baptist Church was purchased in 1917 to be used as the city office. In 1962 the office was moved to its present location on the south side of the square and named the City Utilities Office. In January, 1966, the building was purchased for \$4.00 from Mrs. Beulah Withrow, of Toledo, Ohio, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Buckley.

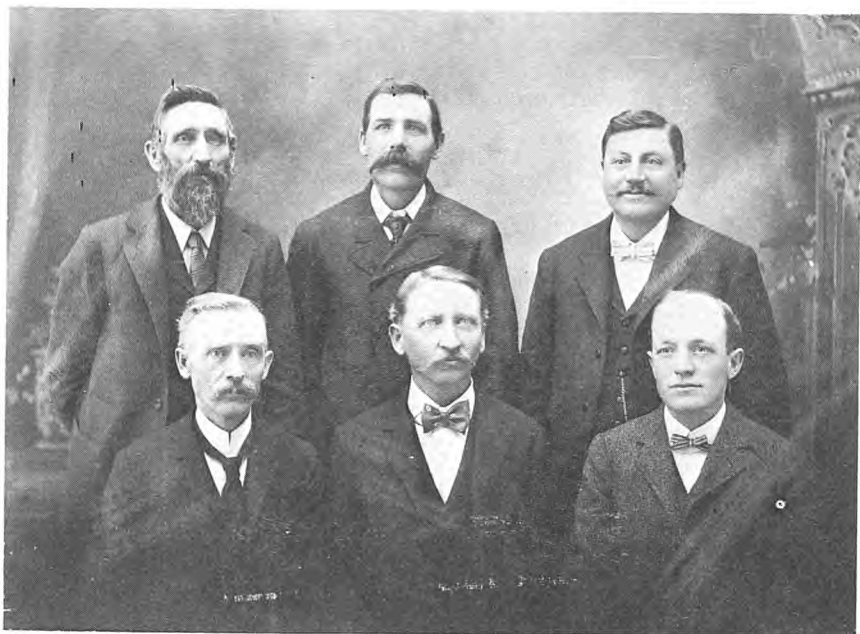
The present officers of the City are: Mayor - Don Nordberg; Councilmen - Jim Rosenquist, Wesley Fredrickson, Homer Cuddeford and Vance Teegerstrom; City Clerk - Carleton Anderson.



The present city council - standing: Wesley Fredrickson, Homer Cuddeford, James Rosenquist, Vance Teegerstrom. Seated on left, Carleton Anderson, city clerk and Mayor Don Nordberg.

Department Heads are: Gas - Ed Isakson; Electricity - Nelson Hamblin; Streets - Ralph Appleton; Water and Sewer - Morris Johnson.

Stromsburg is classified as a city and has a mayor-council type of government. The mayor and four councilmen were elected in 1970 to serve for four years. The city clerk is appointed to serve for an indefinite period of time. Stromsburg has two full time and one part-time uniformed policemen and one patrol car.



Early city council - standing: M. Underhill, P. O. Nordlund, Peter Lindburg. Seated: Alfred Anderson, John Tongue, Emil Anderson.

The following have served as mayors of Stromsburg in the order in which they were elected:

Lewis Headstrom (2 terms)
 Calmar McCune (2 terms)
 J. B. Buckley
 Calmar McCune
 J. B. Buckley
 J. H. Coleman (2 terms)
 J. D. Edwards
 J. W. Hart
 J. B. Buckley
 Alex Scott
 S. B. Samuelson
 John Tongue (3 terms)
 John Erickson

E. Lunner
 J. C. Malster
 E. P. Pike
 A. B. Hedbloom
 Victor Anderson
 Ira Banta
 Nathan Wilson
 Henry Hubert (3 terms)
 E. C. Nordlund
 W. A. Barnard
 John A. Johnson (2 terms)
 L. A. Erickson

John A. Johnson (2 terms - died near the end of the second term)
 A. C. Donelson (1 term - 1 year, 2 terms - 2 years)

R. L. Minnick (2 terms)
 E. Lunner
 J. W. Anderson (3 terms)
 R. L. Minnick (2 terms)
 R. E. Nelson (2 terms)
 R. L. Minnick (2 terms)

Edwin L. Anderson (3 terms)
 Clyde Ericson
 Herbert Olson
 Don Nordberg (3 terms)
 H. B. Branting
 Don Nordberg

In 1924 by state legislation the term of mayor became 2 years in length and in 1970 the office was extended to a four year term. A. C. Donelson was the first mayor to serve a 2 year term and Don Nordberg was elected to the first four year term in 1970.

Planning Commission

The Stromsburg Planning Commission was created in December, 1962 by the City Council.

A joint request by the Planning Commission and the City Council was made to the Extension Division, University of Nebraska in July, 1968 for the development of a Reconnaissance Report to qualify for federal assistance in a Comprehensive Planning program for Stromsburg. Previously, the commission was involved in planning for a low-rent housing project, which has been completed and is operating. Zoning ordinance and building code needs for Stromsburg are being studied and discussed by the Planning Commission with the City Council but no enacting ordinances have been adopted thus far. Stromsburg does not have a zoning ordinance. Building, electric, plumbing and housing codes exist for the city.

Present members of the Planning Commission are: Herb Olson, chairman, Stanton Moore, Albertus Larson, Warren Johnson, Alton Wilhelms, Vayden Anderson, C. G. Rudeen and Orville Dodds. Fred Lauerman serves as secretary.

Stromsburg Enterprises

Stromsburg has an industrial foundation - Stromsburg Enterprises, Inc. The amount of capitalization is \$10,000.00. The amount of capital stock paid in is \$2,145.00 and \$2,025.00 cash or negotiable securities are immediately available.

Of the 80 acres zoned for industry, 40 acres are now occupied. Some utilities are at the site, others can be made available.

The community has a favorable attitude toward industrial development and is interested in seeing the community prosper and grow.

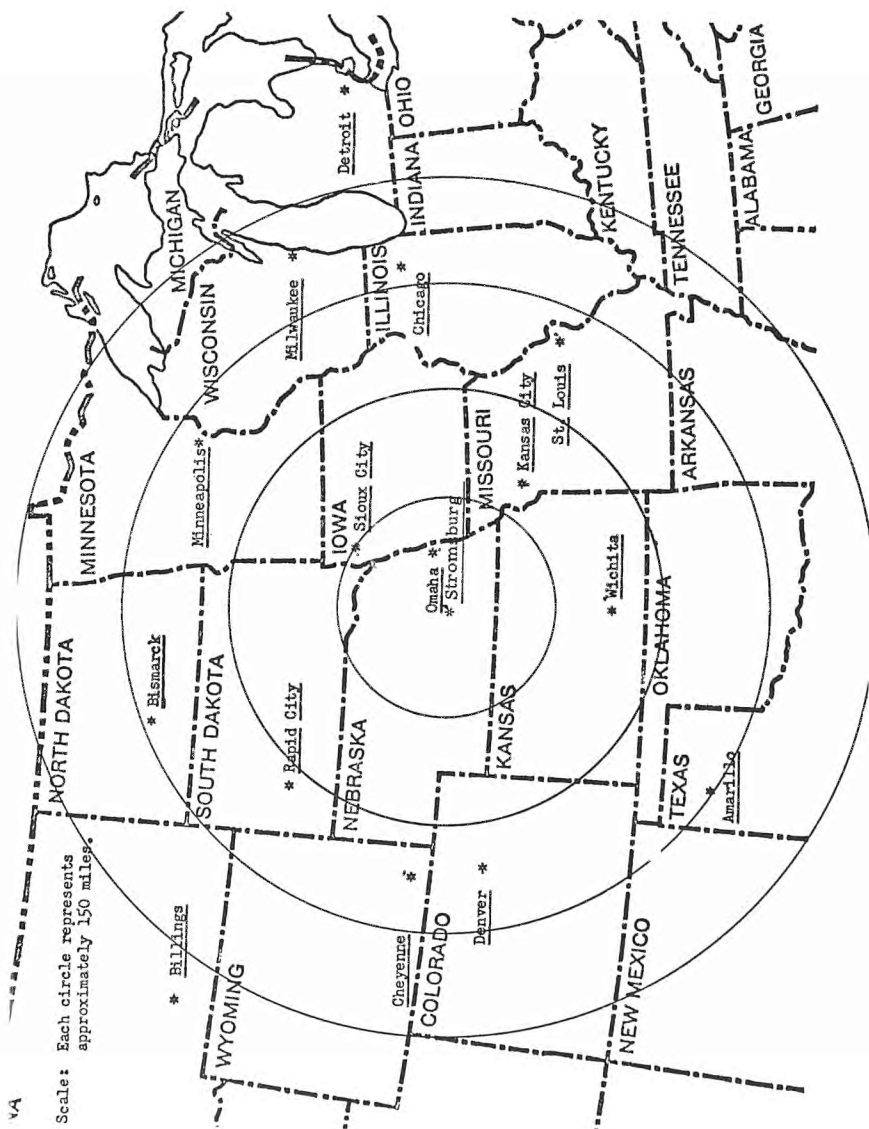
Officers of the original Industrial Corporation:

Name	Title	Business
Harold Beckman	President	Plumbing & Heating
Alton Wilhelms	Vice-President	Newspaper Publisher
M. A. Hartman	Secretary	Druggist
Warren Johnson	Treasurer	Banking
Leo V. Carlson	Board Member	Variety Store
Don Nordberg	Board Member	Servi-Soft
Herbert Olson	Board Member	Freezer-Locker
Carl Westring	Board Member	Feed Milling

Present board members of the Stromsburg Enterprises are: Orville Dodds, chairman, Don Nordberg, vice chairman, Carleton Anderson, secretary, Warren Johnson, Carl Westring, Albertus Larson, Paul Moore, Vayden Anderson and Deb Hartman.

Location

Stromsburg is located in East-Central Nebraska on Highway #81 in Polk County. Stromsburg is 100 miles from Omaha, 65 miles from Lincoln, and 50 miles from Grand Island, Nebraska.



Elevation and Topography

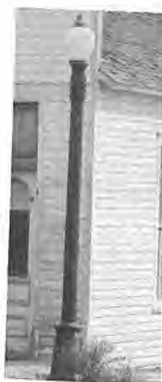
Stromsburg is 1,629 feet above sea level and lies in fairly level terrain. Stromsburg is bordered on the south by the Blue River.

Population (U. S. Census Figures)

Date	Stromsburg	Polk County
1930	1,320	10,092
1940	1,127	8,748
1950	1,231	8,044
1960	1,244	7,210
1970	1,240	6,035

STROMSBURG'S ELECTRIC SERVICE

In the days of the first electric lights in Stromsburg all social functions closed at about ten-thirty and everyone scrambled to get home before the lights went out. The first electric company agreed to furnish street lights from dusk to eleven o'clock, six nights in the week, and on Saturday nights until twelve.



Front of Bit of Sweden



Front of Jack & Jill



Front of Town & Country

On December 21, 1901 the Council granted to the Stromsburg Electric Light, Heat and Power Company a franchise to erect poles and string wire to furnish electric lights for the city, replacing the kerosene lamps that had served as street lights and Stromsburg took another step toward modern living.

Stromsburg was twelve years old when the first twelve street lamps were installed -- not electric but oil lamps! There were four around the square and the others located where most useful. Three years later in 1887 twelve more lamps were added.

In 1901, Frank Halden, Irvin Scott, J. A. Frawley, P. T. Buckley, J. B. Buckley, L. H. Headstrom, and H. D. Skelton each invested \$2000 and incorporated "Stromsburg Electric Light, Heat and Power Company" and were furnishing electricity by 1902.

In 1908, E. O. Jeffery purchased \$6000 interest and became manager, and in 1917, Public Service Company with headquarters in York, purchased the Stromsburg Company. Power plants at York and Osceola furnished power. At first the town had only 18 hour service and this was changed to 24 hour service.

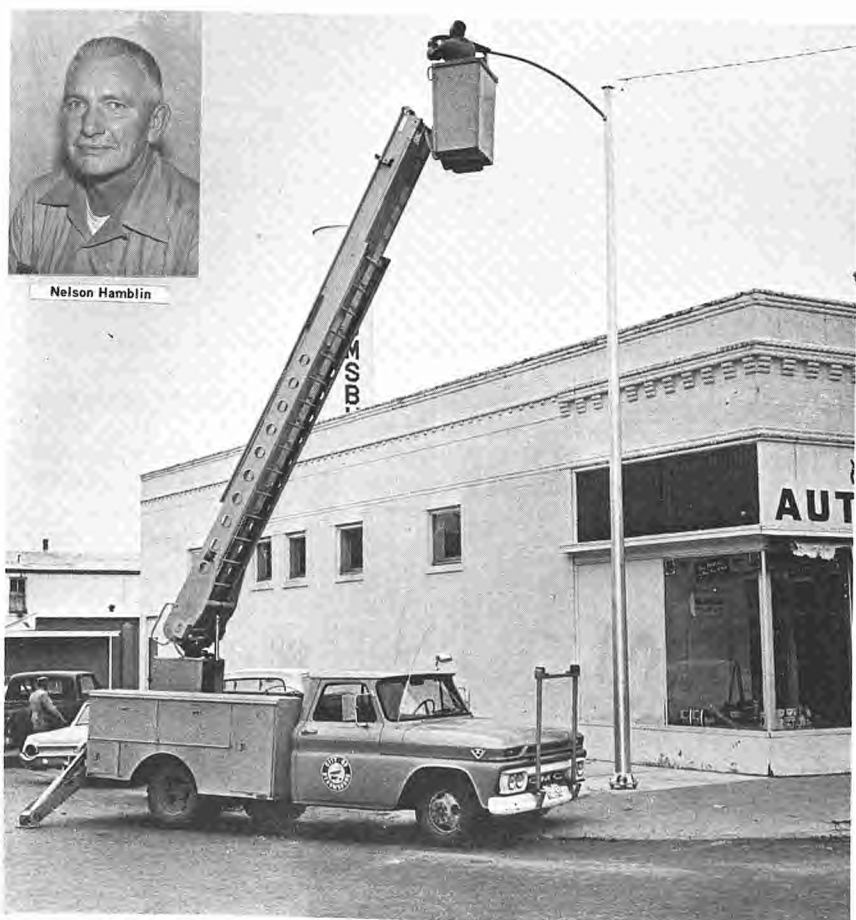
More and more homes were wired for electricity, and electric motors replaced gasoline motors. In 1924 the J. T. Stanton home installed the town's first electric range.

In 1922 the "Public Service Company" was sold to the "Nebraska Gas and Electric Company" which five years later was consolidated with the Iowa Company and given the name "Iowa-Nebraska Light and Power Company". In 1930 natural gas was piped in and the heating of homes was added.

In 1936 Stromsburg citizens voted 539 to 123 for taking over the city utilities. At that time they had a capacity of 150 KVA transformers in the substation which has been added to, until in 1972 the capacity was 2000 with an increase of 1500 more under construction.

In 1942 the city started buying power from the Polk County Rural Public Power District. At that time about 35,000 kilowatt hours were used a month. This amount has rapidly increased until at present around 500,000 kilowatt hours are used each month. Heating, and the growing use of electrical appliances of all kinds have become very common.

In 1965 a "light up" campaign was sponsored and pushed by the Woman's Club and the city approved plans for a two year street lighting improvement program, using mercury vapor type lights. The city council also approved two methods that could be used in purchasing yard lights at reduced prices and 24 gas and 34 electric yard lights were installed by 1966.



Through the years the electric rates have decreased. Three hundred kilowatts in the late thirties cost the consumer \$13.38. At present the cost would be \$8.75.

Mr. Nelson Hamblin, superintendent, assisted by Mr. Merlin Simpson, is in charge of Stromsburg's electric system. The G.M.C. ladder truck and the boom and digger truck are in constant use about town.

Stromsburg citizens are grateful for the excellent electric service.

FIRST BUSINESS BUILDING



First business building in Stromsburg. It was built in 1872 by Lewis Headstrom and has been remodeled several times. This picture was taken in 1928. Earl Burke was the owner of this Tire Shop and Elmer B. Johnson the helper. At one time the second floor was used for offices and dwelling purposes.



City Park, taken from west side of square previous to 1900.

PARK BANK BUILDING - 1884



In 1884 the Stromsburg Town Company deeded the corner to J. D. and Louis Haskell. It was deeded to the Park Bank in 1888. The Park Bank discontinued in 1897 and in 1906 Julia Haskell deeded the corner lot No. One in Block No. One, Original Town of Stromsburg to John A. Falk, who became the new owner.

The building has had many and no doubt more different type of businesses than we find anywhere: Jakie the Tailor in 1907, later Lou Israel, the tailor, Noreen, the tailor, a produce station, a radio service, electrician, filling station, cafe, a drive-in, a machine shop, and also at one time occupied for several years by Falk Insurance and Real Estate Office, later moving to the new office in the building on Lot 5 in Block 1. The old Bank Building cleared away in 1960 and gave way to the new Bit-of-Sweden Restaurant.



Electric light plant
and fire bell.

GAS COMPANY



Carleton Anderson (left), city clerk and Ed Isakson, gas superintendent in front of city building, remodeled in Swedish architecture in 1971.

On November 9, 1930, natural gas that had been piped into the city was turned on and the heating of homes was added to the other conveniences. By 1932 there were 24 homes heated with gas and gas had been piped into 125 homes in the city. There were 61 gas ranges and 22 water heaters. A. W. Bedell was the manager and F. F. Armond had charge of gas construction and installation for the Iowa-Nebraska Gas, Light and Power Co.

In the April, 1956 election the city voted to take over the gas distribution system in Stromsburg. A court injunction held up the actual distribution of gas until 1962.

STROMSBURG'S WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS

A well located on the northwest corner of the town square was Stromsburg's first water system. J. P. Smith, a dealer in windmills, gave a windmill for pumping water. A big tank was provided by the town. Except for the few individual wells, this well and windmill, with tank, were regarded as Stromsburg's water supply.

The village board was given a petition on July 16, 1886. The purpose of this petition was to ask for a special election, at which time the citizens of Stromsburg could vote on a \$5000 water bond issue. The election was held on August 3, 1886. However the bond issue was defeated.

A destructive fire in July of 1887 persuaded the citizens that fire protection was needed. They had seen much of the property on the west side of the square "go up in smoke".

As a result of this fire, the village board had another petition. This petition requested bonds for a water system, in the amount of \$12,000. At the special election on September 23, 1887, the issue was carried with a vote of 136. There was one "no" vote.



Morris Johnson, water and sewer superintendent



Pump House



Water Tower

For several weeks it was necessary that a legal notice appear in the Stromsburg Headlight. This advertised for construction bids for the water system. The village board requested that all bids were due on October 15, 1887.

The construction included a building for housing the engines and boilers; and also that wells and water mains would provide a flow of 400 gallons of water per minute. There would be other necessary equipment, fire hydrants and 500 feet of hose.

Charles Schroder of Columbus had the contract on October 31, 1887. However, construction was not begun until the following year, and then at a slow pace. Construction really began after the Nichol Furniture Store on the northwest corner of the square was burned. The construction work was completed and accepted by the village board on December 14, 1889. Water rents were taxed after October 1, 1899.

The first storage for water was the standpipe, which was constructed in 1889. It was two blocks north and a short distance west of the square. It had a capacity of 40,000 gallons. A brick "jacket" was added to the standpipe to keep the water from freezing, which had happened during the first winter.

In 1906, a spring election was held for a \$9000 water extension bond. The bond issue carried and a new standpipe with 82,000 to 83,000 gallon capacity was erected. This standpipe was located a block east of the east side of the square. The cost of the standpipe was \$4000.

In 1913 new wells were drilled near the standpipe. This was necessary because the former wells in the south part of town were inadequate. Now each residence within the city limits had water from the water system.

A new filtering system was installed in 1929, at a cost of \$10,000. This assured a supply of pure water at any time.

Water facilities in the city were expanded in the summer of 1968. A new 500 gallon per minute city well was drilled and a new pump installed with the latest of automatic controls for furnishing uniform pressure. In addition to the well and new machinery, a pump house was erected. Total cost \$7,840.

At the present time, 1972, Stromsburg has three wells, with an average depth near 220 feet. Two of these wells were drilled about ten years ago, and are near the standpipe. The third well, drilled about three years ago, is in the east part

of town, near the elementary school building. Each of these wells pumps 500 gallons of water per minute.

The standpipe, which was erected in 1906, still provides water storage for the city. It is 100 feet high, and has a capacity of 96,000 gallons of water.

Stromsburg has no tax levy for its water system. The rentals from water users are sufficient for the upkeep of the water supply.

With the growth of the city, city water and other conveniences, it was necessary to establish a sewer system. An ordinance was passed on August 10, 1919 granting the Stromsburg Sewer Co. a franchise to lay sewer pipes along the streets and alleys of the city. The company had been incorporated on August 1st the same year, with V. E. Wilson, president, and G. H. Presson, secretary-treasurer. Others interested were C. C. Clark, C. V. Nelson, Alex Scott and A. W. Anderson. These men were the incorporators and financed the proposition.

A special election on October 20, 1953 authorized the city to purchase the sewer system from the Stromsburg Sewer Co. for a consideration of \$24,000 and to build sewer extension and adequate sewage treatment at a cost of \$101,000.

A municipal sanitary sewerage system plant designed for 2,000 people was built in 1954.

Mr. Morris Johnson is the Water & Sewer Commissioner.

STROMSBURG MUNICIPAL AIRPORT



The original airport site was on the Lawrence Lind farm south of Stromsburg. In 1962 an airport was established northeast of town on the Roland Swanson farm at which time it went on all records as the Stromsburg Municipal Airport. Don Nordberg owned the first plane on the field and constructed the first

hanger, later the hanger was sold to Durward Rystrom who operated an aerial spraying service. This is still going.

There is a phone at the field, three gas pumps with 80 and 100 octane gasoline lubricating oil, etc. Lights for night flights are turned on when requested, snow is removed in the winter and the grass is kept mowed in the summer.

State and Federal maps list and describe the airport so there are a number of planes from all over the country stop here. The Airport is an important part of our community, the service is valuable and convenient. The tax rolls are enhanced by an investment of well over \$50,000 in planes and hangers.

Additions and improvements are planned for later this year.

AMBULANCE SERVICE



Verlin Gronlund, Police Chief with ambulance (left), Everett Loreman with police car. Picture taken in middle of square shows Swedish art on building.

The City took over ambulance service in February, 1968.

The Anderson Funeral Home of Stromsburg and Kepner-Roberts of Osceola notified the county that they would no longer provide ambulance service for area residents. They were forced to give up this needed service to the community because of minimum wage laws and government laws that made it impossible for private business to offer ambulance service in small communities.

The local Police Chief, through the cooperation of the local Fire Department, is in charge of the ambulance calls and is responsible for having first aid trained men available when a call for service comes in.

A coordinated system of radio contact between local police and firemen with civil defense and the Safety Patrol has also been worked out so that in time of grave emergency, severe accidents or major disaster, ambulances may be dispatched to locations throughout the county or area where needed.

CEMETERY

About the year 1875, the citizens of Stromsburg felt the need of a designated plot of ground for the burial of their loved ones. A public meeting was called and a board of Trustees chosen consisting of L. G. Berggren, L. Headstrom, Chas. Carlson, J. P. Smith, Charles Matson and John Dale.

The original grounds of about five acres was divided into two blocks with a driveway between them, the west block containing 100 lots and the east block, 180 lots. The purchase of an additional 4 acres in 1901 gave space for another 200 lots. In the year 1932 the east boundary was extended with another 5-acre purchase and that section is called the Morningside Addition. Six acres of land on the north edge of the cemetery was purchased in 1963 and added to the cemetery which now covers 20 acres.

In keeping with present day customs, Stromsburg people have always taken an active part in the care and development of the grounds and have given freely of their means and service. Today this beautiful cemetery is preserved and stands in silent tribute to the pioneers. Here this generation and many generations to come can visit this revered spot, and glean and dream much of the historic past.

The margin of the grounds and the driveways, lined with trees, add much to the general appearance. The dutch elm disease killed all the American elms in the late 1960's and they have been replaced with Pin Oak and other long lived trees. A flower garden and also Evergreens in the south part of the Morningside Addition is being planned for Stromsburg's Centennial year.

In the early days the old fashioned painted white picket fence adorned the roadside. The first Women's Club of Stromsburg accumulated a fund and donated the massive drive gate, walk gates and heavy iron posts. A few years later the wooden fence was replaced with a substantial woven wire fence. Stone pillars were constructed at the center entrance in 1958.



Cemetery Board - top row, from left: Wesley Ericson, Clyde Ericson, Stanton Moore, A. E. Rodine. Seated - Enoch Ekstrand, H. Christensen.

Memorial Day was officially observed in 1882, and was one of the biggest events of the year, and always was attended by a large crowd. The first years the graves in the cemeteries at Stromsburg, Cooper and Pleasant Home were decorated. The procession, more than a mile in length, made the rounds of the three cemeteries. A picnic dinner was taken along and everyone spent the day. In later years the gathering met in Stromsburg for the observance of the day and a committee was appointed to decorate the graves of the other cemeteries.

After Polk was built, the graves in the Stromsburg cemetery alone were decorated by the local Post. The old Veterans were growing old and their activities had lessened. After World War I the entire arrangements for Memorial Day were taken over by the American Legion.

The cement program platform and the Honor Roll Board was constructed in 1956. Shrubs around the platform were also planted at this time and a new storage building was built in the fall of 1956.

Many handsome and substantial monuments have been erected to mark the last resting place of the early residents of Stromsburg and vicinity. The names of the pioneer town builders and homesteaders can be found on the headstones, mellowed by years of rain and sunshine.

This cemetery is the only one in the county with the grave of a negro, that of Dr. George Flippin. There is also one old marker with the following inscription: Albert W., son of J. and L. Hillry was murdered December 14, 1876, age 14 years 2 days (supposedly by Indians). On the roster is the name of William Feters who lived to be the oldest Civil War Veteran in the county. He died May 19, 1947 at the age of 102 years and 6 months. One grave marks the resting place of one who was born in the eighteenth century, Helena Hedlund, born 1798 and died in 1886. The first grave in the cemetery was made in 1872 when a stranger who was printing a little paper in town was found dead in his office. His grave has been lost, but is presumably under the fence.

The Stromsburg cemetery is the last resting place of 29 soldiers of the Civil War, two soldiers of the Black Hawk Indian War, eight soldiers of the Spanish American War, 47 soldiers of World War I, and 18 soldiers of World War II.

Due credit should be given the members of the board of managers and officers who gave many years of service with little or no remuneration.

The membership of those who had charge of affairs is very limited, but the years of service some of them gave is worthy of note. J. P. Smith served over 40 years from the time of the organization, the last 30 years as secretary. A. C. Donelson served 38 years, the last 13 as president. Ira Banta served for 29 years and Alex Scott for 32 years.

The succeeding Trustees down through the years have served, unpaid and unheralded, but they finally got to the point where the multitude of duties and needs called for a broader spread of the responsibility.

In 1944 the City Council accepted on the part of the city the legal duties of a common ownership of the Stromsburg cemetery and appointed a cemetery board. But not until 1952 was a levy for expense of cemetery upkeep included in the city's annual budget.

At this time the Cemetery Board consisted of H. Christensen, president; Stanton Moore, secretary & treasurer; also A. E. Rodine, Leo V. Carlson, Wesley Ericson and Edwin L. Anderson, the latter disqualified when elected as mayor in 1953 and was replaced by Enoch Ekstrand. Leo V. Carlson passed away in 1970 and was replaced by Clyde Ericson.

Burials in the cemetery average over 30 per year. During Stromsburg's Centennial year there was an estimated 2,700 graves in the cemetery, over twice the population of the city itself.

Sextons for the Stromsburg Cemetery have included: Andrew Nyquist, Carl Nyquist, Leo Norman, LeRoy Nelson, Gerhard Gronlund and Fred Lauerman.

STROMSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

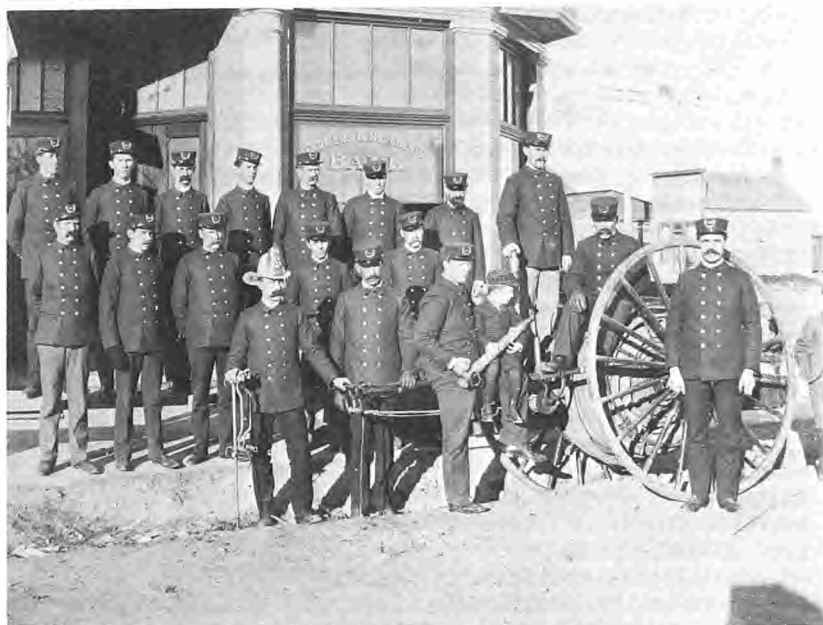
Fire! The ringing of the fire bell brought fear to the hearts of the early residents of Stromsburg. Every able bodied person grabbed a bucket and ran to help with the "bucket brigade" since that was the only way of getting a supply of water to the fires.

Stromsburg Fire Department was organized in 1888 by T. R. Ross, a volunteer fire company under the name of Stromsburg Hose Company No. 1 and having 25 members. As the early records of this organization have been lost it is impossible to complete the list of charter members, but we find that in 1893 the following were granted exemption certificates for having served five years: P. T. Buckley, Chas. Wicklund, L. H. Headstrom, Chas. A. Peterson, S. H. Parson, Alex Scott, C. C. Eroee, W. E. Nichol. W. V. Sharp, T. R. Ross, Wm. Williams, J. A. Frawley, Gust A. Peterson, and J. A. Westenius.

In September 1889 another company was organized and named Ross Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 with the following as charter members: A. J. Hillberg, F. W. Leach, C. A. Morrill, F. E. Haldin, John Hammond, E. D. Rarey, Peter Lindberg, W. I. Bartholomew, A. O. Carlson, A. A. Dohman, Chas. Lofland, J. G. Green, W. W. Murphy, Fred Smith, C. E. Swalley, Frank Donelson, A. M. Anderson, John Ostrom, Frank Osborne, P. A. Palm. Alfred Olson, Herbert Brake, Ed Thompson, Joseph Netsell.



Stromsburg's first motorized unit, 1924. Einer Swanson, chief at the wheel, A. C. Donelson, mayor, Earl Wright, secretary, J. Farbee, fireman.



Back row - 1 to r: 1. ? 2. ? 3. Jim Scott 4. ? 5. Ora Olson 6. ? John Carlson, Olof Wickburg. Second row - Pete Pike, S. P. Johnson, Alex Swan, Charles Eckblade, Lindgren, John Peterson. Front row - Chief Gust Peterson, Frank Buckley, Al Westenjus and son, Chas. Lambert.

On October 26, 1893 the members of the two companies formed a joint organization to be called the Stromsburg Fire Department.

These three organizations maintained separate organizations and held separate meetings until November 4, 1904 when a new constitution and by-laws were adopted and Stromsburg Hose Co. No. 1 and the Ross Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 were discontinued as separate organizations and the entire department functioned as a single organization.

The fire fighting apparatus furnished by the city for use of the department consisted of hand drawn hose carts and a hand drawn hook and ladder truck until May, 1924 when a special election was held and the city voted \$6000 in bonds for the purchase of motorized apparatus.

The City Council purchased a G.M.C. truck equipped with pumper, two 40 gallon chemical tanks; 1220 feet of fire hose and ladders. This truck was delivered to the city in September 1924 and this made Stromsburg's fire fighting equipment modern and as good as that of any town of its size in the State of Nebraska.

In March, 1928, the department reorganized into one company of 25 men in order to comply with the new state law which defined volunteer firemen as employees of the city while in line of duty and entitled to the benefits of the State Workman's Compensation Law.

In the early days a fire bell was used to call the firemen to the fire, and was also used for the call for their regular meeting each month. In 1917 a siren was installed on top of the water tower, later it was removed and placed on a tower by the fire station. In addition to the siren, six telephones in different homes and

businesses were hooked together for additional alarm.

From time to time the fire equipment was up-dated such as dry chemicals, fog nozzles, ladders, etc.

In 1941 a new fire truck was purchased with 120 gallon tank and up to date pumper, that could be used to pump from ponds, cisterns and tanks.

Firemen felt the need for a new fire station in 1943 as the city had torn down houses like the old Boostrom house and others built of brick, so the firemen decided they could clean this brick and reuse it in a new fire station which the firemen got permission to do. Every fireman got on the job and by 1945 they had the fire station built with some help from the city.



Rural Fire Board - from left: Elmer Richters, Ed E. Anderson, Harlan Toline, Allen H. Anderson, Clifford Youngland.

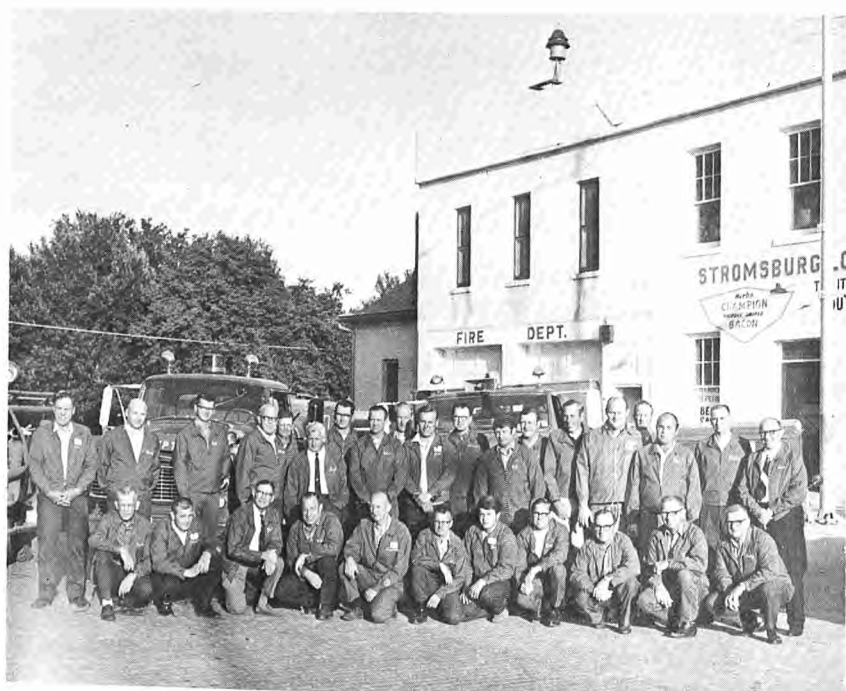
After self propelled combines and tractors came into general use on the farms, fire departments were called for help more often in the country. A move was made in 1946 to purchase an Army surplus pumper and engine. Stromsburg Fire Department soon purchased the unit, but needed a truck to mount it on and a tank. The fire department again got busy and learned what the farm community felt. A committee was selected. Elmer Richter and Ralph Nordberg were to head the committee. In a short time they had a truck with the unit and tank mounted and equipped as a rural fire truck. This apparatus stopped some bad fires. It could lift water from cisterns in great volume. After adding this new equipment, more men were needed so, the department was increased to thirty men.

From this rural fire truck, being one of the firsts in the state, came the organization of a Rural Fire District which in 1963 bought a new fire truck that



Today's equipment

Today's volunteer firemen



is manned by the Stromsburg Fire Department, stored at the Stromsburg fire station and used for protection in the city as well. In 1970 another up to date truck and equipment was added by the Rural District.

The Stromsburg Fire Department has been very efficient through the years. It has kept up on training and has attended regional training schools on modern methods of fire fighting.

The records are not too clear on the early fire chiefs. However, since 1920 the following men have been chief consecutively:

Ed Lauerman
Einer Swanson
Tom Farris
Harold Barber
H. B. Branting

Morris Johnson
Orval Gildersleve
Conrad Olson
Sterling Anderson
Roy Schneider

The present officers of the Stromsburg Fire Department are as follows:
President - Carl Westring; Vice President - Joseph Schinzel; Secretary-Treasurer - Delano Ahlquist; Chief - Roy Schneider; Assistant Chief - Merlin Simpson; Trustees - Lewis Lindburg, Wilbur Heins and Lawrence Lind.

PUBLIC LIBRARY



Nina Burke and Mildred Flodman

The Stromsburg Commercial Club, in the spring of 1916, began a study for securing a Carnegie Library. V. E. Wilson, E. Lunner and G. H. Presson were appointed to obtain information from the Carnegie Corporation.

The City of Stromsburg was allotted \$7500.00 for the erection of a library building providing that the city obtain a suitable plot and agree to maintain the library after it was built.

The Commercial Club, in the fall of 1916, purchased the ground from Irving Scott, which is one block north of the northeast corner of the square. The first meeting of the library board was held on June 2, 1917. The City Council had appointed the board members: F. W. Peterson, O. A. Rystrom, E. C. Nordlund, Irving Scott, G. H. Presson and E. Lunner. The board members elected E. Lunner, president and G. H. Presson secretary. During this board meeting, Grabe and Hellberg of Columbus were chosen to submit plans for the new library building. At the board meeting on July 7, 1917, the building contract was given to Mr. Edward Green of Seward. The sum would be \$6500.00.

In the Spring of 1918 the library was dedicated with the proper ceremonies. Rev. J. O. Backlund gave the dedicatory address.

Since 1918, many other books and large cash donations have been given by the Stromsburg Woman's Club, C. H. Morrill and many other individuals. Hundreds of books have been given for memorials of loved ones. The Stromsburg Library is very fortunate and pleased for the many books purchased as memorials. Recently it has received a sizeable gift of money from the estate of an early pioneer couple of this vicinity. This is to be used for books pertaining to pioneer type stories of the great plains area.

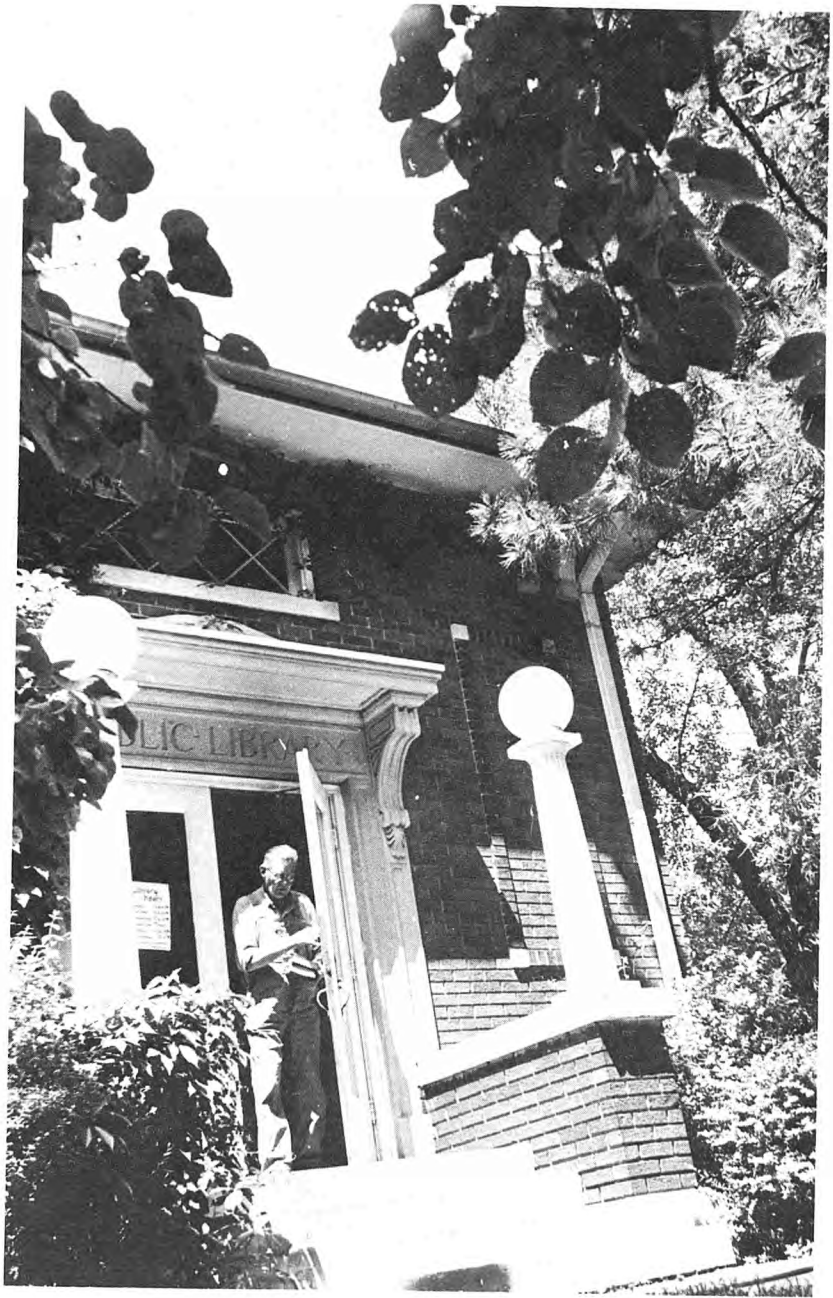
When Chattie Coleman Westenius wrote the "History of Stromsburg" there were approximately 4000 volumes in the library. At the present time there are more than twice that number.

The Woman's Club and the Book Club promoted the cataloging of the library. This was to be done with no expense to the library. A written request was made to the State Library Commission in Lincoln. Permission was given and cataloging was undertaken. It was completed in August 1964, having been undertaken in April of that year. The cataloging has made the proper placing and easier handling of books more efficient. Additional shelves have been installed for the increased number of books. Sloping shelves were installed for a more effective display of magazines. Tables, chairs and good lighting make book and magazine selection and reading more attractive and interesting.

The first librarian was Mrs. Alma Wright; others were Miss Bertha Green, Miss Marie Shaw (1920-1928). Miss Shaw is now Mrs. Otto Wegmann. Miss Svea Halden, (1928-1938), Miss Ruth Banta (1938-1940), Miss Alice Clifford (1940-1941), Mrs. Herb Olson (1941-1946), Mrs. Bertha Taylor (1946-1970) and Miss Nina Burke, 1970 to the present time. The members of the present library board are Mrs. Harold Beckman, chairman; Mrs. Curtis Flodman, secretary; Mrs. S. D. Evins, Mrs. Carleton Anderson and Rev. Robert Kronberg. Board meetings are held quarterly, at 9 A.M. in the library.

For the past two years the Stromsburg Public Library enjoys the services of the Pawnee Regional Library in Columbus, Nebraska. This library serves sixteen counties. If the book requested from Pawnee Regional Library is not available, it is requested from another library and mailed to the local library. This Pawnee Regional Library is one of several libraries in the state to offer this service. Such libraries are financed by the United States Government.

Mrs. Bertha Taylor, who was librarian for nearly thirty years, relinquished her duties in September, 1970. The present librarian is Miss Nina R. Burke. She is a graduate of Kearney State College, and has retired from a teaching career of many years.



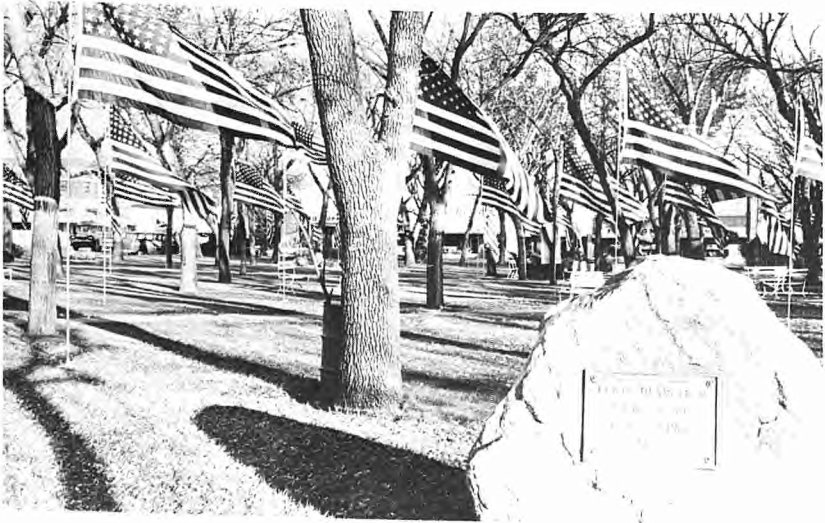
Stromsburg's Public Library

PARKS

The beautiful parks of Stromsburg, as they are enjoyed today, causes minds to go back to former years to learn the progress of these assets. Men and women



The old City Park

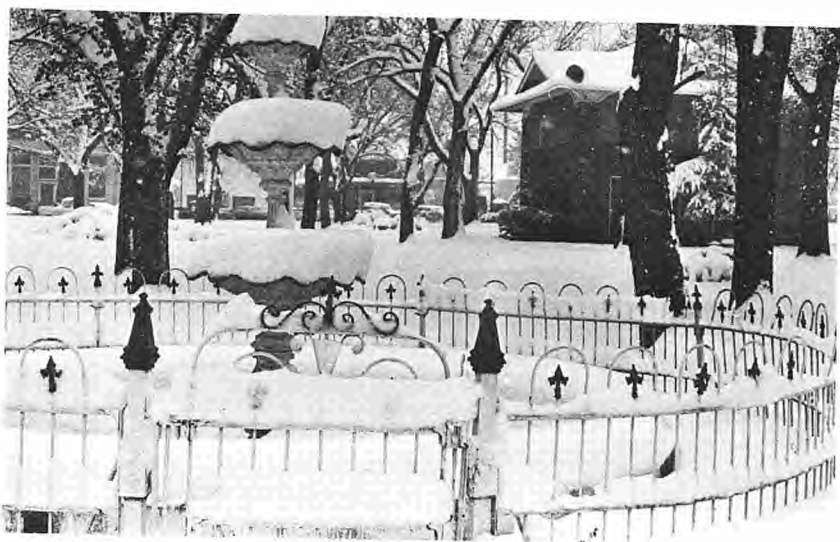


Today's City Park on Veteran's Day and Memorial Day

in the latter years of the 1800's had a dream - and were willing to give land, finances, and real work for the beginnings of these plans.

The City Park or the first park of Stromsburg, was developed with the business houses located on the four sides of a piece of land. This center section was given to the town by the owner, P. T. Buckley, to be developed for a public park. Cooperation of many may be the key word to major accomplishments. These names should be noted as prominent contributors - L. Headstrom, C. H. Morrill, the Buckleys and J. P. Smith.

After the ground was plowed, these men planted many trees in 1874. But dry weather that followed, made it necessary to replant the area. Discouragement did not stop the work because these same men with the help of others replanted trees. Grass was sown, and later as it grew more improvements were needed. Instead of putting up signs 'DO NOT WALK ON THE GRASS', men laid sidewalks in various directions.



The fountain after 12 inch snow



The band stand, north side



The band stand, south side

Many Fourth of July celebrations, political rallies and picnics were held in this park. In 1888, a band stand was erected in the center of this park for the use of the Stromsburg Band. A speaker of note was the late William Jennings Bryan. These gatherings inside the old hitching rails, with teams hitched on all four sides were great affairs. All came with basket dinners to be eaten in the park - they came early and stayed late.

Since 1966 on special holidays there is a beautiful sight, when 148 American flags are blowing in the breeze, as one for each veteran (who lost their lives in war) has been strategically placed all of the way across the park. And also as memorial, the ETERNAL FLAME is always burning. This is located on the west side of the park bordering the highway.



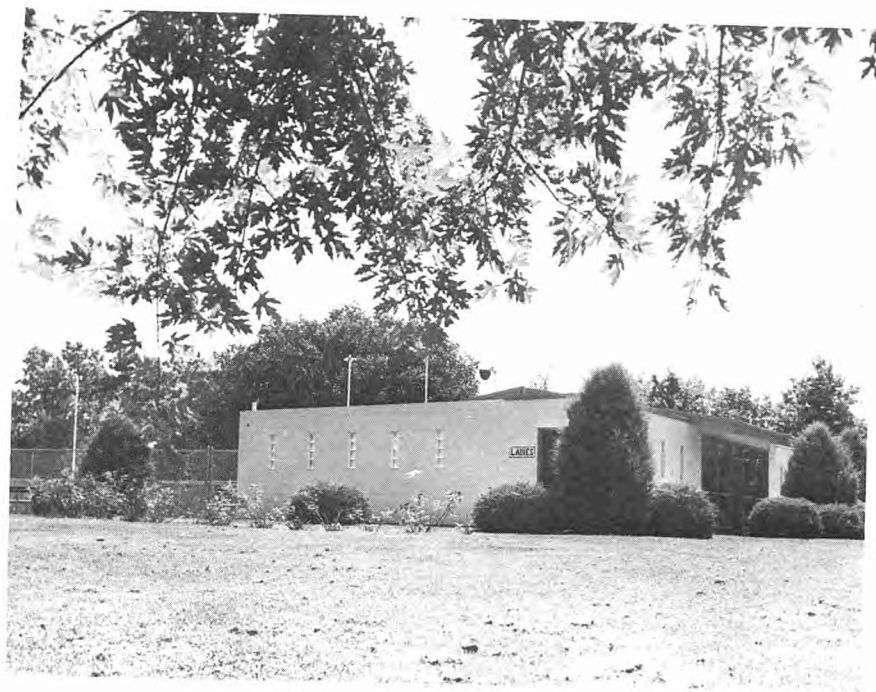
Buckley Park - 1917

In the early 1900's, people of Stromsburg had another dream. They wanted a bigger place to develop for recreation, this in addition to the city park. As any community project takes time, this venture took about two years to complete the deal with the owner of some acres south of town. In 1912 the City Council accepted the deed for a 15 acre plot of ground on the Prairie Creek from Mr. J. B. Buckley to be used as a public park and thus Buckley Park became a part of the City of Stromsburg. It is recognized today as an outstanding park in this central part of Nebraska.

Here too, work and planning were required. Brush was removed, drives located, and trees and flowers planted. Picnic tables and benches located near a number of picnic stoves are used a great deal during the summer months. Children enjoy the playground equipment designed for their age groups. There are now tennis courts, a swimming pool, and a baseball field along with basketball goals on the side of the tennis courts. All are much in demand and are used extensively, especially during the summer months. The swimming pool was built in 1955 for a cost of \$40,000.

The tennis courts were constructed as a memorial to H. Ray Anderson by his wife, Winnie. There were built in 1968.

There is a section in the north part of Buckley Park that provides tourists with campers and trailers with full camping facilities. These facilities are provided free to the tourists.



The swimming pool and bath house



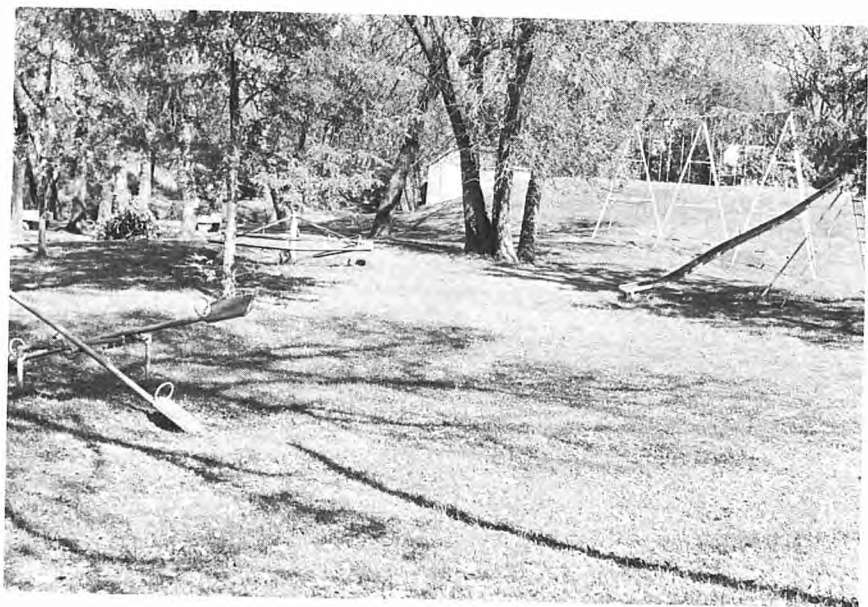
The new baseball scoreboard



The tennis courts



Pavillion - north side of Buckley Park



Playground equipment in Buckley Park



The bleachers behind home plate



Millstone at Buckley Park



Henning Carlson, Buckley Park caretaker



Now, the fulfillment of these two dreams, the City Park and Buckley Park, are appreciated and enjoyed by all community people and many visitors.

STREETS IN STROMSBURG



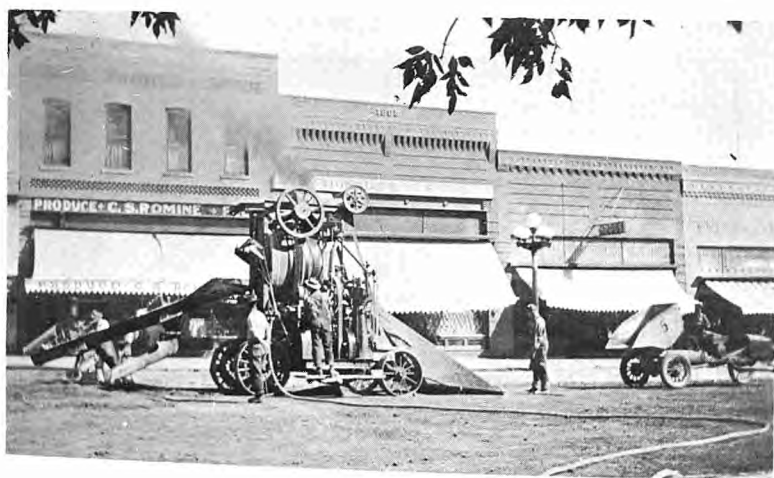
4th Street, between Wall and Ekeley Streets. House on right was home of Grandpa Johnburger, now home of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Ericson. The old college can be seen in the background.

In the earlier days of Stromsburg with dirt streets and old hitch racks around the square, most people had to make the best of it, sometimes the mud got a little deep.

During 1919 and completed May, 1920, twelve blocks of streets were put to grade and paved at a cost of \$105,353, the cost assessed against the property owner.



Men and equipment at work putting in brick paving in Stromsburg



In 1926 Gravel District No. 1 was laid out and the city began graveling streets and assessing the cost against the property owner. The graveling project was continued until 114 blocks of the city were graveled.

In 1961 the first curb and gutter district was created, which took in Fourth Street past the High School. Curb and gutter districts have been in order ever since approximately every other year and after this year 80% of our streets will be hard surfaced with oil and gravel armor coat. Stromsburg has 15 miles of streets and 85% have sidewalks.



The above scene pictures the north side of the square, taken from the west end of the street. This picture was taken when a meeting of the Farmers Co-operative Elevator Association was being held in Scott Hall. The North Side Cafe was owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rinterman in 1930 when this picture was taken.

The streets are maintained with modern equipment, street washer, sweeper, maintainer, power snow scoop, blade-mowers, packer and street oiling equipment.



Ralph Appleton, street superintendent, operating the street sweeper

In 1970 three alleys in the business section were paved with concrete and one with bituminous surface treatment.

Stromsburg with its well-rounded street improvement program, has made it attractive and provided dust control at a low cost.

In 1971 there was a considerable improvement made on many streets. Mr. Ralph Appleton is Street Commissioner for Stromsburg.

VIKING CENTER COMMUNITY BUILDING FOR YOUNG AND OLD

The American Legion of Stromsburg purchased two store buildings for \$3,000. The owners of these buildings lived out of town and the buildings had been vacant for several years. These two buildings were then given to the City to be used for a civic center. The city council offered the buildings to the Centennial Betterment Committee on February 9, 1965 asking to be allowed to approve plans for renovation work on the buildings before any funds were raised, and that 90% of cost be raised before beginning work on buildings. These things were accomplished and a local contractor was hired on August 8, 1966 to repair and rebuild the two buildings to accommodate large or small groups of any age. The cost of converting this property into usable condition was estimated at \$10,000 but this did not include labor on sheet rock, wall panelling, floor underlay, tile, door trim, kitchen cabinets or painting.

The Viking Center was the type of project which combined inter-related problems and interested different groups of people for a variety of reasons.

1. The American Legion wanted to protect their club rooms which are located on the second floor above the two buildings.

2. The Commercial Club and the City Dads were interested in the improvement of the appearance of the south side of the square.

3. Teenagers were interested in a place to gather after ball games and also a place to dance. (Only three dances a year are allowed in the high school building).

4. The Boy Scouts were using the basement of these two buildings as their meeting place and they needed a new entrance.

5. The Woman's Civic Improvement Club, U Go I Go Club, American Legion Auxiliary, Campfire Girls, Bluebirds, 4-H'ers and various county groups all had a stake in the need for a better meeting place.



THE VIKING CENTER
BEFORE
CONSTRUCTION

It took every fund raising gimmick in the book and some that weren't to raise the money to renovate the "vacant eyesore" but Stromsburg's long-awaited Viking Center was completed in time for the annual Swedish Festival in 1967.



The new look of the Viking Center on the south side of the square

SWEDE HAVEN



Stromsburg voters approved a Federal Housing Project at the April 1963 election. The 36 units completed are designated for Senior Citizens with limited income. An extension of the project is in the planning stage.

The approximate cost of \$400,000 was supplied to the city of Stromsburg through Public Housing Administration facilities on a 40 year loan basis.

Those eligible for entry to the project must be 65 years or older or those physically handicapped. The income allowed has been set by the Stromsburg Housing Authority and approved by the Public Housing Administration.

Swede Haven is located on Seventh Street and Ekeley Street and occupies about one full block. The project consists of one Community Building with a large room for social or business meetings, an administrative office, laundry area and maintenance space. The units available for rent consist of two 2 bedroom apartments, six efficiency apartments and twenty-eight 1 bedroom apartments. The units are supplied with an electric range and refrigerator for the tenants use. All utilities are paid by the Housing Authority and are included in the rent.

A Master TV system has been set up within the project and has been run to all units of the project at no extra cost to the tenants. All units have been wired for telephone service if the tenant desires a phone.

Mrs. Cecil Bennett assumed the position of Executive Director on October 1, 1965 and has continued since that date. On November 26, 1965 the first units were rented.

The present commissioners are: Willard Anderson, chairman; Jim Westring, vice-chairman; Albertus Larson, H. Christensen and Wilmer Anderson.



The Swede Haven commissioners, from left - Willard Anderson, chairman, Wilmer Anderson, James Westring, H. Christensen. Mrs. Bennett, Executive Director, in front.

Chapter IV

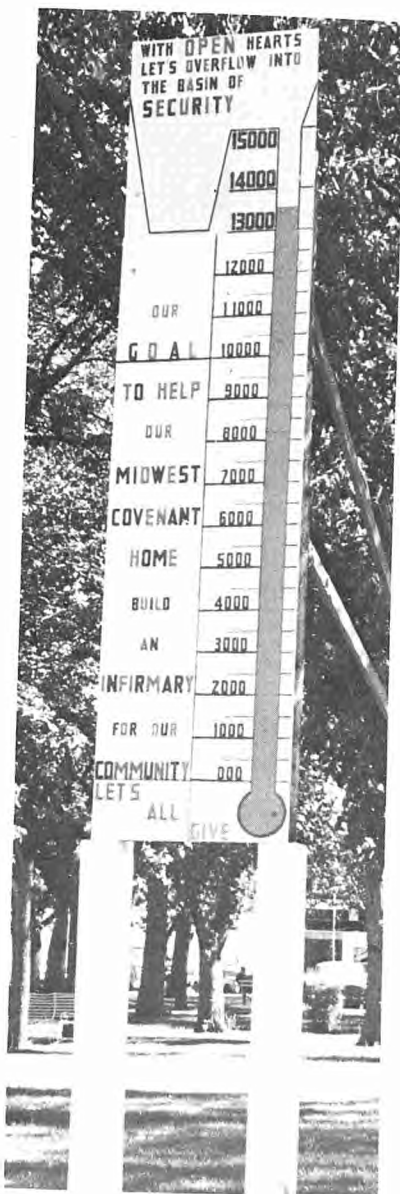
Midwest Covenant Home

Centennial Beneficiary

Midwest Covenant Home began its operation in a building that had quite a history. It was first used as a childrens home under the Lutheran Church, Augustana Synod. Later it was used as a home for the aged and after that as a hospital. During the summer of 1946 the Midwest Conference Superintendent of Covenant Churches, Rev. Gottfred Anderson paid a visit to Stromsburg, inquired about the possibility of finding a suitable building for a home for the aged. This resulted in making a tour of the then vacant three story building. It was found that the building together with ten acres of adjacent farm land, was for sale.

In dealing with the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Rex Nelson, it was learned that it was their desire to have the building operated as a home for the aged. The Nelsons were pleased with the Covenants desire. A committee from the conference board visited and toured the building and conferred with them, their price was \$2,800. A referral of the decision for this venture to the church of the conference resulted in a vote to purchase the property and open a home for the aged.

The committee then arranged for work to begin in making ready the building. Rev. Andrew Smithberg to be in charge until a board of directors was elected. In May of 1947 the first board of directors con-



Thermometer of first drive - (1963) took 3 years to get \$15,000. Second drive in 1970 produced \$25,000 in 2 months.

After the board was organized and consultations made with the State Department of Health Division of Hospitals, plans were formulated for opening the home on Oct. 1, 1947. Much work had to be done, since not only remodeling and repair of the building had to be accomplished, but also the purchase of equipment and supplies. Had it not been for the loyal support on the part of conference people, the goal could not have been reached. But because of the willingness of everyone to work and help, the aim was realized and the Home was ready for occupancy Oct. 1, 1947. On Oct. 14, the first resident, Miss Ellen Johnson of Wakefield, Nebr. arrived to make this her home for the next 20 years and more.



In 1955 a brick bungalow type residence was erected for the superintendent. Until that time the superintendent and matron lived in a couple of rooms in the Home. In 1950 the first enlargement of the Home itself was made, increasing the bed capacity to 56. The cost was about \$50,000 not counting much free labor. In 1963 construction began on a new unit, which cares for 24 residents. This unit also included a new kitchen and dining room, a fully equipped laundry, boiler room with heating and air conditioning equipment with capacity large enough to take care of the new addition that must be built to replace the older building.

The first superintendent and matron were the Rev. and Mrs. August Johnson who were serving the Covenant Church in Bristow, Nebraska. They in turn were followed by the Rev. and Mrs. Ragner Hammer, who served in this capacity for ten years. They in turn were followed by the Rev. and Mrs. Oskar Molinder who served a little over five years. It was during their stay that the latest addition was built at a cost of about \$300,000 raising the licensed capacity to 80. The former superintendent and matron, the Rev. and Mrs. Paul Backlund, were here since May 1, 1966. The new superintendent, the Rev. Morland Adell, took over his duties June 1st, 1971.

The purpose for establishing this Home was "to provide a home with a Christian atmosphere for the aged." We believe it has lived up to that purpose in the loving care and atmosphere provided for its residents. At present we have 68 in the Home. Many are bed patients.

Plans are proceeding for the construction of a new unit to replace the older building. A local fund drive has been started and contributed about 25,000 in cash and pledges. The estimated cost of the new wing will be about \$350,000. The present board members are: Ivar Larson, Omaha; Wilmer Anderson, Rev. Robert Kronberg, Mrs. Kenneth Hanson, Mrs. Sydney Hanson of Stromsburg; Rev. Elroy Anderson and Mr. Mervin Anderson, Waverly; Rev. Douglas Man-kell, Swedeburg and Mrs. Maurice Palmberg, Aurora, Nebraska:



Covenant Home Finance Drive Community Leaders

Standing, left to right—Wilmer Anderson, local finance chairman, Don Nordberg, Jim Rosenquist, Pastor Adell, Rev. Warren Swanson, Seated—Ivar Larson, chairman, board of directors, Mrs. Don Rystrom and Willis Davis.

Chapter V

Photo

Album



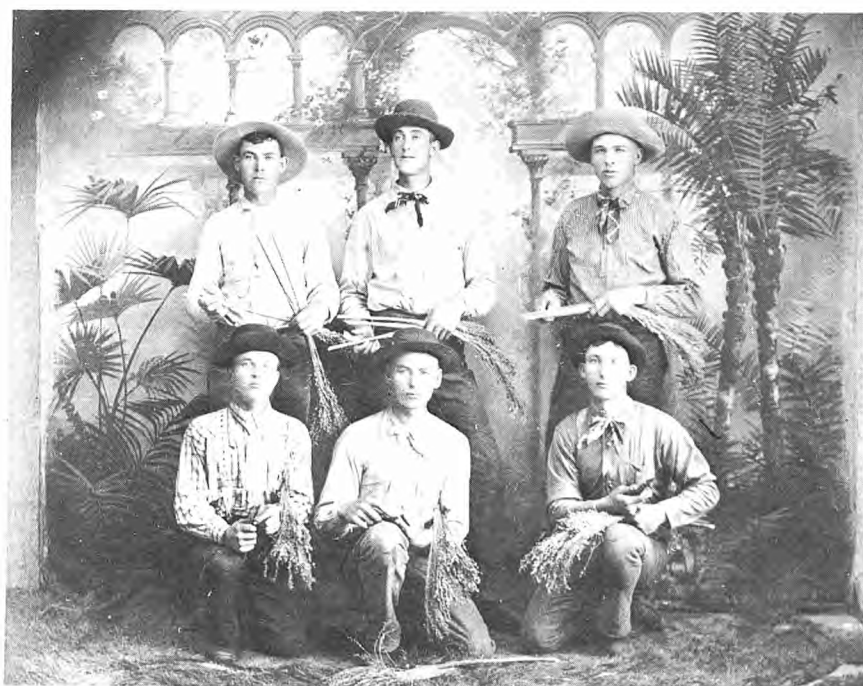
Guy Green's Nebraska Indians



X Louis Frawley
Football team 1901



The Womanless Wedding put on by Stromsburg men in September 1927.



Broomcorn Gang of 1890: O. W. Wickburg, Andrew Anderson, E. L. Hallquist, Swan Carlson, Fred Westeen, Peter. Lindholm.



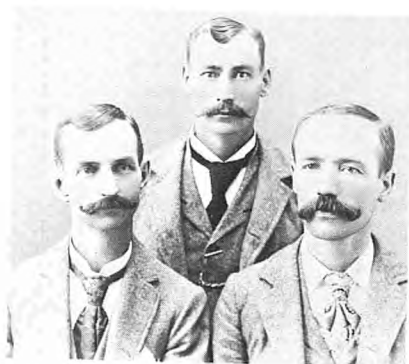
Ruby Anderson Rystrom 18th birthday - November 17, 1907.



Bottom row, 1 to r - Roy Dowers, Fred Green, Alvin Johnson, ?. Middle row - Floyd Green, Mose O'Bannion, Corbet, Walter Hillburg. Top row - Arthur Nuquist, Ray Smith, Fred Johnson (W. Fred).



**Dr. C. A. Anderson and
wife Lucinda**



Irvin Scott, Charlie Peterson, Frank Halden



**Stromsburg Depot - l to r: John Erickson, mayor, Maud Erickson Coffey,
Mrs. Albin Anderson, Mrs. John Erickson, Miss Fink the agent, Mabel Erick-
son Pearce, Zetta Buckley Nelson**



**Two popular young men in the 80's,
Alex Scott and John Frawley**



**Mr. E. E. Lunner, Martha Smith,
Fred Johnson**



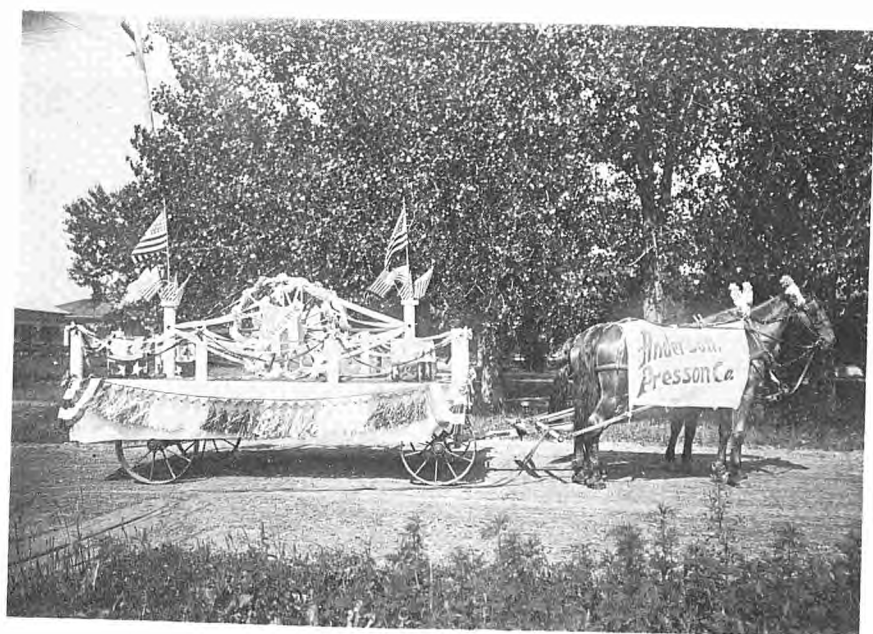
Ralph Erickson, Mark White, Roy Dowers, Best, the pitcher, George Shrike.
First three unknown, Pickering. Morris Olson, Pickering, Ray Headstrom.



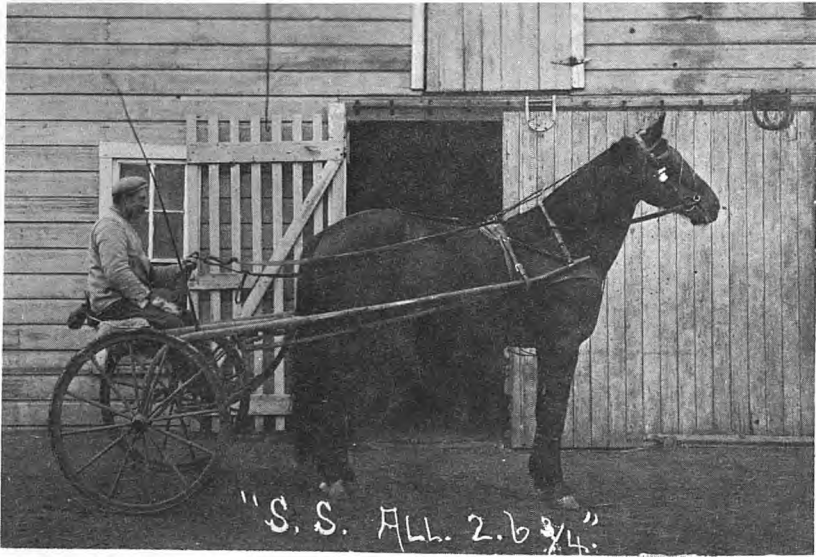
House and steam engine



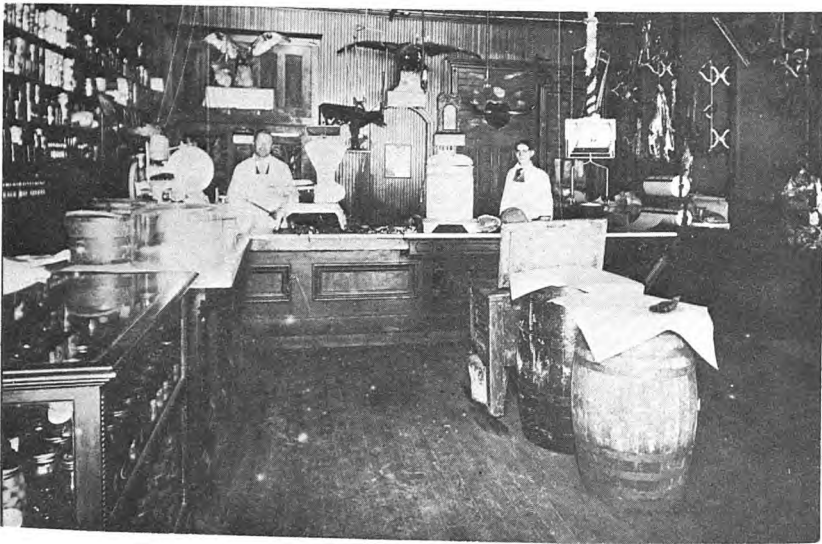
Typical parlor of 1906 - Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hubbard



Float of yesteryear



Mr. Povey's stallion



Henry Hubbert store east side of square



Sod house



Horse and buggy



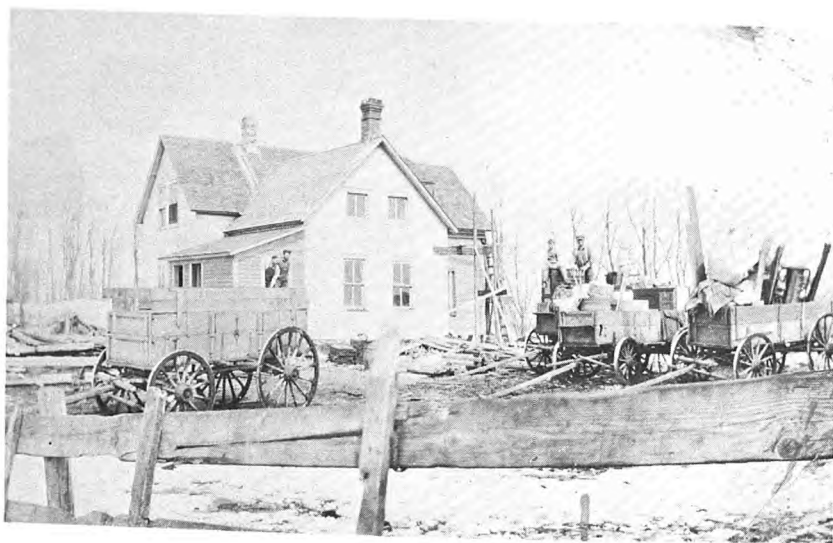
Threshing grain



Busy farming



Ryder House 1 block east of s.e. corner of square



Moving day



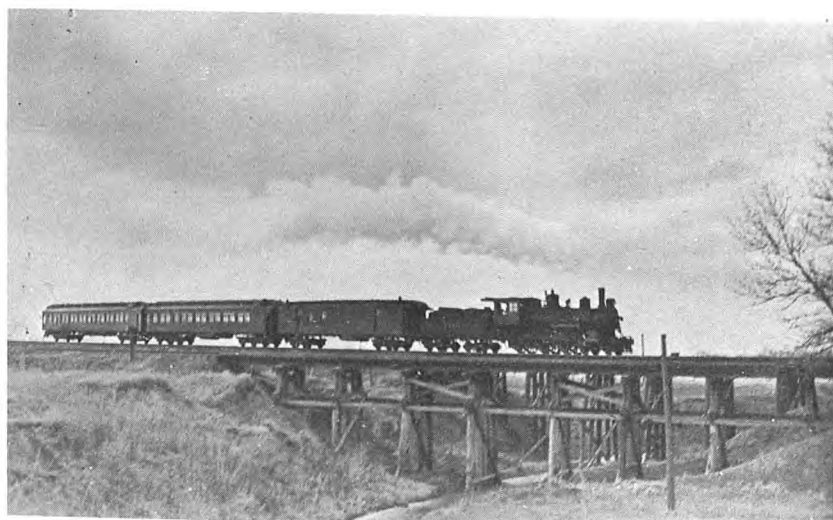
Interior of the old Lutheran Church in Stromsburg



Aerial view



Taken the day REA was turned on in this area



Train from Central City to Stromsburg and on to Lincoln

PIONEER FAMILIES

Myron and Margaret Barber

Myron F. Barber was among the very early settlers who preceded the town of Stromsburg. He was born at Hunter in Green County, New York, September 12, 1837. His grandfather fought in the American Revolution and lived to be one hundred and three years of age. Myron's father was nine years old when he heard the cannons at New Orleans in the war of 1812-15. He lived to be ninety-seven years of age. When Myron was three his parents moved from New York state to Silver Lake, Kosinsco County, Indiana. He fought in the Civil War from July 1861 to July 1864 with Company A, 20th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Myron and his three brothers, all being Civil War Veterans, came to homestead in this territory. Myron stayed, but his brothers chose to move further west.

Margaret Jane Nickell was born November 12, 1854 in Monroe County, West Virginia and moved with her parents to Pleasant Home Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska.



In June of 1872 Myron and Margaret were united in marriage. They resided in a dugout south of town on the south bank of the Blue River for five years, going through the privations and hardships endured by the early pioneers. The dugout was supplanted with a moderate frame house in which the family resided until they moved into a modern dwelling which was finished in the year 1916. This is now the home of Gary Anderson on Highway 81.

In the winter of 1871-72 Mr. Barber secured the preacher, a Rev. Streeter, to come and organize a class in Stromsburg. This was the beginning of the Methodist Church of Stromsburg. This meeting took place in the Thomas Record dugout and at this time Mr. Barber was elected class leader which position he held almost continuously for twelve years. There were twelve besides himself and his wife in the class. It was the leaders duty to keep in close touch with each member, to give council, to talk and pray over any defeat or trial, and to rejoice and give thanks over any victory. In this service he was able to assist

and encourage many to a deeper faith. Mrs. Barber was also active in church work and worked for the good of humanity. At Mr. Barber's death he was the last member who was continuously connected with the Stromsburg Methodist Church since its earliest beginning. Mr. Barber passed away on June 1, 1924 at the age of 86. Mrs. Barber passed away on November 30, 1926 at the age of 72.

To this couple nine children were born - five boys, Roy, Charles, George, Arda and Lester, and four girls, Jessie, Madge, Grace and Dorothy. Of this family, only four are still living, Jessie Mathews of Omaha, Nebraska; Grace Ericson of California; Lester of Beatrice, Nebraska and George of Stromsburg.



GEORGE L.
BARBER

George L. Barber, 95, at this writing is the oldest living resident born in Stromsburg. He was born August 10, 1876 in his parents dugout. He attended the Linne School until he was twelve when he left home and sent to work in a meat market. He was a meat cutter and butcher until he was 21 when he enlisted in the army. He served in Cuba with Company H. 3rd Nebraska unit during the Spanish American War. After returning from service, he again returned to the meat business in a partnership of Hubbert & Barber for approximately 20 years. He then went into the cattle feeding and real estate business. He was in the real estate business with several partners at different times, but in later years was alone as a real estate broker. George was active in real estate until the age of 90.

He was married to Alma Malinda Johnson on February 6, 1907. Two sons were born to this couple. In 1929 George and his two sons, Harold and Loren, established a gas and oil business which is Barber's Service.

George is the oldest living member of the United Methodist Church of Stromsburg, the last Spanish American War veteran of Polk County, and one of sixteen Spanish American War Veterans left in Nebraska. He is also a retired volunteer fireman and an honorary member of the Polk County Historical Society.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Record

On a June day in 1870 Thomas and Margaret Record who were my grandparents left their home in Clark County, Iowa to come to Nebraska. They had two covered wagons each drawn by a yoke of oxen and following were 14 head of cattle. A son Tucker, age 11, and a daughter, Elsen, age 14, walked and kept the cattle in line behind the wagons. They were three weeks on the road and crossed the Missouri river at Nebraska City.



In the fall of 1869 grandfather had come previously to Nebraska walking and catching rides as he could. He stopped in Lincoln and procured papers and maps which showed him what land was available for homestead, which was railroad land and which was school land.

His brother, William Record, and his family were living on their homestead which they came to in 1868. The land which is now owned by Mr. Bruce Anderson.

Grandfather said he realized he must locate near the Blue River so that water would be available for the family and cattle. He filed his homestead right on the farm that is now owned by Mr. Herbert Hanson. He returned to Iowa and brought back his family (as mentioned) in 1870 and when they arrived on their homestead grandfather said the first thing he did was remove the bottom from a wood barrel, took his spade and went to the river, dug a hole by the side of the bank and sunk the barrel down, then put some sand in the bottom of the barrel. The springs from the bank kept the barrel overflowing with clear cold water and as he said solved the drinking water problem. Then with his breaking plow and oxen broke a wide fire guard around a small area and burned off the dense prairie. He then moved his wagons on this spot and camped there until they got their dugout made.

After they got the digging done for the dugout they cut slabs of sod and enclosed the front, leaving one door and one window. When my grandparents came here they had no neighbors within 5 miles in any direction.

Uncle William told them when they came it had not rained for 16 months but grandfather said while they were trying to get their dugout made, it poured down for three days.

In the fall of 1870 a tribe of Indians came from the reservation to trap and hunt. They put their wigwams among the hills, some of them staked their ponies and some herded them on the prairie. Big John the chief could speak a little English, so grandfather could communicate with him. I asked grandfather if he was afraid of the Indians. He said he did everything he could to make friends with them and even a few times when they wanted him to eat with them, he sat down on the ground in the circle around the campfire with them. They roasted their muskrats on the hot coals and passed them from one to another to take a bite. Grandfather said he must have been a good pretender as they never seemed to notice he could not eat their food.

Grandfather said he did not dare let the family know he was frightened, but he said, we were out on the prairie far from anyone and if they got angry I did not know what might happen, so he said he spent many sleepless nights. When the weather got cold they went back to the reservation.

In the fall of 1870 a number of people came intending to locate here and among the first ones were Mr. C. H. Morrill and Mrs. J. P. Smith who came to grandfathers dugout to get acquainted and learn where the available land was.

The next year they and many others came, among some were W. H. Feters, Nathan Fellows, the Buckleys, Peter Moberg and Will Querys and others.

After Mr. Morrill came he hired grandfather to break many acres of sod for him. He used his breaking plow and oxen and got one dollar an acre.

Elsena Record did house work for Mrs. Morrill for several months and received one dollar a week.

Grandfather said I can't tell you what that money meant to us, as all we had were the animals I trapped. It was also a problem to get the hides to Columbus or Seward to sell.

The first meeting of some settlers to organize school district No. 10 was held in Grandfather Record's dugout.

Before there was a church built, people would come to grandfathers dugout many Sundays to have services. If no one else was available to conduct the meeting, grandfather would do so. Later grandfather became a familiar figure in the country on his big brown horse and saddle. He rode many miles each day over the county doing veterinary services for the farmers. That was where he acquired the name of "Uncle Tom" by which he was known by all his friends the remainder of his life.

The first baby born in Stromsburg was to a family by the name of White and Grandmother Record cared for the mother and babe.

When the Polk County Rural Public Power District energized the first 90 miles of its lines, the festivities were to be held at Swede Home on June 2, 1938. Mr. Enoch Ekstrand, then manager of the REA in Stromsburg, invited our mother Mrs. Elsen (Record) Austin to participate in the program, she being the oldest living resident in Polk County.

It was with much misgiving that the family realized she was planning to accept the honor as she had been in failing health for several months.

A floor lamp had been placed on the platform which was connected to the switch and when Mrs. Austin threw the switch the lamp immediately lighted showing to the gathered assembly that 150 farm homes had been lighted. Mrs. Austin returned to her home and bed, and one week later surrounded by her loved ones, passed away.

Our father Milo Austin came to York County from Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1873 and in 1875 married our mother Elsen (Record). They were the parents of eight children. My sister Ruth (Mrs. Gunnard Svensson) and I, Maggie (Mrs. Lewis Burg), are the only living members of that large family.

We have been proud to be the granddaughters and daughters of those early pioneers who had the faith and the courage to endure the many hardships of those early days.

I am very grateful to be here with my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to see and enjoy the bounty and the beauty of what is now Polk County. A vast change from the open prairie our pioneer parents came to, one hundred and two years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Headstrom

It is fitting that the man who founded the town of Stromsburg should have special mention, because in the history of Stromsburg his name stands out prominently. It was his unbounded faith in the future possibilities of this part of Nebraska, that prompted him to build and become the moving spirit in the founding of a new community on the western prairies.

As he entered into these new activities he became a leader among the men who came to populate the new town. His was an unselfish character and he was willing to sacrifice that he might attain the desired end, the up-building of Stromsburg. There were those who differed with him politically, religiously and on community questions, but his counsel was sought and relied on, for Lewis Headstrom lived up to the reputation that his word was as good as his bond.



Lewis Headstrom was born in Sweden and came to America in 1856, locating in Illinois. He married Miss Carrie Anderson in 1858, and one daughter was born to this union. The daughter was but a child when they located in Stromsburg. She grew to womanhood here and became the wife of J. A. Frawley, and the mother of three children.

Lewis Headstrom was instrumental in starting the first store in Stromsburg that supplied the early settlers with supplies. This store was located at the northwest corner of the square and was housed in the first building in Stromsburg. He was the first postmaster in Stromsburg to serve a full term, one other preceded him for only a few months. When the village became a city of the second

class, he was elected its first mayor. He served on the school board, was a member of the cemetery association, and in fact was in every activity that came up in the town.

After he sold out his interest in the general store he became interested in many other activities, among them, real estate and insurance. In the big fire on the west side in 1887, he lost much of his property. His health failed and he went south to spend the winter and recuperate. He died at San Antonio, Texas, March 25, 1892. His body was returned to Stromsburg and he sleeps in the cemetery adjoining the town that he founded.

From the words spoken in memory of Lewis Headstrom, by Hon. H. M. Marquis at the funeral service held in his honor, the following quotation is a deserved tribute to his character: "Strong in his love of justice, moved by an earnest and sincere love of right, his was a high and noble mind. In all my acquaintance with him, I heard from his lips no word ill spoken of his fellowmen. But in his great warm heart was room for all mankind, and men were brothers all to him. Within our hearts are written bright and fair, in letters which survive the ravages of time; he was our friend who loved his fellowmen. This was his creed and these his articles of faith. 'To speak a word of comfort in afflictions ear and make a sorrow stricken heart take hope and to carry with him thru this world his neighbors friendship and the love of honor.' Such men as these, when death does call are one and all sincerely missed."

In the annals of Stromsburg, the name of Lewis Headstrom will never die. The town bears his name in part, his influence will be passed on from generation to generation, and as the founder of Stromsburg he will live in memory as long as Stromsburg survives.

J. P. SMITH

J. P. Smith came to Polk County in March, 1871, in company with C. H. Morrill, from Iowa, where they had been neighbors. They had heard through a Mr. Phillips, who had traveled through parts of Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas, of the desirability of land along the Blue River and he directed them to Polk County.

They came by train to Columbus, and from that city walked to the home of James Query. While in this county they made their stopping place at the Query and Thomas Record homes, until they located the land of their choice. Wm. Query surveyed the land and when the work was completed they walked to Lincoln for the necessary filings at the Federal Land office. From Lincoln they returned to Iowa where they farmed that summer, and in the fall, Mr. Smith with his family left Iowa, for the Polk County farm.

As there were cows that would not follow the wagon, Mr. Smith claimed that he walked all the way and drove the cows, while his wife with two small children, the oldest three years of age, drove the team and cared for the children.

J. P. Smith was instrumental in forming the first school district in Stromsburg District No. 10, in February, 1872, and was director for the first sixteen years of the school's existence, seeing to it that the first school was built and that school was maintained, so that the children of the community could receive the proper schooling.

In the spring of 1873, he introduced farm machinery into Polk county in partnership with a Wm. Dodge. The firm was known as Smith & Dodge until 1878 when Mr. Dodge retired. The office was the second building on the north side of the square. In the early days every sale was made that was possible, for at best they were few enough.

At the rear of the office a machine shed had been built and there the first dances in Stromsburg were held. The children were wrapped in blankets and slept beside the wall while their parents tripped the light, fantastic toe. A. P. Buckley was the musician who furnished the music for these dances. Later a hall was built above the Carlson hardware store where dances were held.

Mr. Smith retired from the implement business in the early nineties, but was still active in business circles. He held the office of Justice of the Peace for sixteen years, and was secretary of the cemetery association from 1887 until his death in June, 1916.

He was early connected with the Polk County Agricultural Society and in 1882 purchased a life membership, the price at the time being \$5.00. At that time he was president of the society and Mr. Bittenbender was secretary. He attended the Fair every year until 1915, the year before his death, and as he had used the same card for thirty-three years, it was worn down to round corners.



Left to right, back row: Nellie Smith, Martha Smith, Mrs. Ray Smith, Ray Smith, Rosa Smith Creighton, Audrey Creighton Thorson, Hazel Creighton Belcher and son Gene, James Creighton, Maurine Creighton Jones, Fred L. Smith. Front row - J. P. Smith, Carol Creighton Nyberg, Maurice Creighton, Ivan Creighton, Adalne Shoemaker Smith (Mrs. J. P. Smith)

Mr. Smith's home was on the farm just east of Stromsburg and for many years he made the trip to and from the farm, morning, noon and night, and he became a familiar sight as he always drove one horse and for many years a cart, later a buggy took the place of the cart, but Park Smith will long be remembered by the citizens of Stromsburg. His daughter Martha still lives on the farm. She is one of few persons still on a father's homestead as of 1971.

C. H. MORRILL

In 1871, C. H. Morrill came to Polk County from Boone County, Iowa, with J. P. Smith and both took homesteads, Mr. Morrill locating on the banks of the Blue, and Mr. Smith east of what was afterward Stromsburg. They returned to Iowa and in 1873, Mr. Morrill drove six yoke of oxen overland to the little farm home he had prepared the year previous for the protection of his family upon their arrival. Several years were spent in the original home before it was enlarged, then as times and financial conditions would permit, additions were built to the old home.

For more than twenty years Mr. Morrill farmed the homestead and was an extensive stock raiser. In the year 1883, he became interested in banking in Stromsburg and Osceola.

As one of the early settlers, Charles H. Morrill was prominently identified in the growth and progress of this county and the state at large. His early experience as a farmer and stock raiser in Iowa was one of hardships and privations, and the future looked dark, but Charles Morrill was not a quitter and he managed



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES H. MORRILL AND FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1887. CHARLES A. MORRILL (STANDING), ARTHUR C. MORRILL (LEFT), EDGAR L. MORRILL (RIGHT), MINNIE MORRILL (WITH THE DOLL).

to keep his head above water in the face of adversity and was able to lay by a small sum after having paid his debts. In the fall of 1871, he purchased 160 acres of land in Polk County on the Blue River from the Union Pacific Railroad, and on his arrival in the spring of 1873, took up a homestead on land adjoining that which he had purchased the previous year, and during the summer broke one hundred acres of prairie. A home 16 x 16 was built on his claim in which was housed his family, consisting of five persons.



THE ORIGINAL HOMESTEAD OF CHARLES H. MORRILL, NEAR THE EDGE
OF STROMSBURG, NEBRASKA.

The first crop of wheat on the Morrill homestead in 1873, about twenty acres was cut with an old-fashioned cradle. In that year, with J. P. Smith, he opened up an agricultural implement store. Business was mostly done on credit, and as the early settlers were all poor, the firm found going difficult at times. Two years later Mr. Morrill sold his interest to Mr. Smith and became a partner of Lewis Headstrom and John B. Buckley in a general merchandise store,

the only store in Stromsburg at that time. In his book of reminiscences, Mr. Morrill gives a fine tribute to the Swedish settlers of this county: "Nearly all the early settlers in the western part of Polk County were Swedes. Nearly half of them had come without horses or oxen. They took homesteads and exchanged work with their neighbors for team work to break a few acres, and to haul sod for their houses and stables. These Swedish settlers were a very honest, industrious and hardworking people. Generally they had large families. With crop failures, it was often impossible for them to meet their obligations, but they never repudiated a debt. In all my transaction with Swedish people, in the sale of merchandise, and for many years in the banking business, I never lost one dollar by giving them credit."



MR. ARTHUR CURRIER MORRILL, MRS. MARGARET MARIE DE LASHMUTT MORRILL, AND THEIR CHILDREN, JULIA MINNIE MORRILL, AND ARTHUR DE LASHMUTT MORRILL, STROMSBURG, NEBRASKA. PHOTOGRAPHED 1916.

Charles H. Morrill was a civil war veteran having served as private in 11th New Hampshire Volunteers from 1862 to 1865. Just before entering in the army he had married Harriet Z. Currier of Nashua, N. H. His activities of an eventful life included private secretary to Governor Nance in 1881. He was connected with the Stromsburg Bank from 1885 to 1887, and was president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Stromsburg from 1890 to 1892; Regent State University and president Board of Regents from 1897 to 1901; Founder of Morrill Geological Yearly expedition from the University of Nebraska; Donor of the Morrill Hall at Lincoln, with its wonderful pre-historic and geological collections, an enduring monument to this public spirited Nebraska citizen. The town of Morrill and Morrill County were named in his honor.



MINNIE HARRIET MORRILL, STROMSBURG, NEBRASKA
1916

The Morrill Homestead is still in the family. The original house still stands that was built in 1873 and remodeled later. The log house, erected after his trip to Switzerland in 1898 is a unique building and is a story in itself.

Mr. Morrill published a book in 1918 "The Morrills and Reminiscences," that devoted a few chapters to early Nebraska, Polk County and Stromsburg.

BUCKLEY BROTHERS

Among the first settlers in this part of Polk County, and first business men in Stromsburg, were the four Buckley Brothers, nephews of Lewis Headstrom, founder of the city. They were Peter T., John B., Andrew P. and Frank W. Buckley. Peter T. and Andrew P. Buckley were the first of the four brothers to come west from their Illinois home. They arrived in this county in 1871, John came two years later and Frank Buckley did not arrive until 1878. The names of the Buckley Brothers are prominently connected with the upbuilding of Stromsburg. They came when the country was raw prairie and remained here until their death. The four brothers are buried in the Stromsburg cemetery, in one plot, each of the four lots cornering.



Parents of Buckley Brothers



Peter Buckley

Peter T. Buckley, the oldest of the four brothers, took a homestead north of town and purchased from the Union Pacific Railroad Company the land on which Stromsburg now stands.

The Townshite Company purchased a part of his railroad land for a town site. Mr. Buckley deeded to the town the land for the city park and donated land for the building sites of four churches. He first took up farming and when gold was found in the Black Hills, he went to Fort Robinson, where he remained for two years as a settler, returning to Stromsburg in 1877, he engaged in the furniture business, later bought and sold grain and livestock. In 1885, he was elected president of the Stromsburg Bank, a position he filled for twelve years, when he retired from active business. Peter Buckley married in 1880, Miss Tillie Ross, a native Nebraskan. Mrs. Buckley was the only woman in Stromsburg to

serve on the school board, a position she held for one term, acting as secretary of the board during her term of office. She was a charter member of the first Woman's Club here and in 1898, was appointed postmistress by President McKinley and served two terms. She died at Toledo, Ohio in 1929. Mr. Buckley died at Rock Springs, Wyoming, where the family was temporarily residing in 1910, both are buried in the Stromsburg cemetery. They left a son and daughter.



John and Christine Buckley



Andrew Buckley



Frank Buckley

John B. Buckley, the second brother, came to Stromsburg in 1873 and homesteaded eighty acres west of town. He owned a half interest in the first general store in Stromsburg, and was, at a later date, in the hardware business with his brother, Peter T. Buckley for several years. He also engaged in the grain business being the first grain dealer to ship a carload out of town, January 1, 1880, immediately after the railroad was completed.

He became cashier of the Stromsburg bank in 1884 and held the position until 1897, then succeeding his brother Peter T. to the presidency of the bank, a position he held until his death. He was one of the organizers of the first fire department, was mayor of the city for two terms, and in 1906 was elected to the state legislature on the Republican ticket. He married Miss Christine Widga and although they had no children of their own, at the death of his brother Frank's wife, he and Mrs. Buckley took the five year old twin daughters, Mary and Margaret, and reared them as their own. He passed away in 1913.

Andrew P. Buckley, the third brother, came to Polk County in 1871, besides his brother, Peter T. Buckley, six other men were in the party. They were Lars Engstrom, Andrew Larson, Jonas Swedeburg, Lewis Okerlund, Peter Nordburg and A. G. Jones. These were the first men to come here to make permanent homes. This was before the town of Stromsburg was located. Each of these men took an eighty acre homestead, all that was allowed except to those who had served this country as soldiers or sailors.

A one room sod house was built on the land of Peter T. Buckley and here the eight men ate their meals. For the first year or more Andrew served as cook for the family of eight homesteaders, and it was at that time that he became known as "Cook" Buckley, a name that stayed with him through life.

"Cook" Buckley had his hands full feeding a family of eight, and besides water had to be hauled two miles from a spring on the Blue River. At one time Lewis Headstrom, who was then colonization agent for the Union Pacific Railroad, and was instrumental in getting his nephews to locate in Polk County, dropped in on the Buckley homestead with a party of twenty-four home seekers. It was some task to feed and lodge the thirty-two men, but in the early days there was a will and a way, so all were taken care of. But Andrew got tired of the job of cooking and in the spring of 1873 he journeyed back to his old home in Illinois and when he returned had with him a real cook. He had married Miss Helen Shostrom, who came with him to the new country to share pioneer life.

In 1885 he purchased a broom making machine and set it up on his farm, to make use of odd moments of leisure. During these early years among his other duties, was that of barber for his neighbors. As the population increased, he found so much of his time required from his farm labor, that he decided to quit and put up a building on the north side of the square in Stromsburg; this was in the spring of 1876. The front part of the building was used for a barber shop and the rear for making brooms. The broom factory was the main business at hand, but when someone wanted a shave or a haircut, the brooms had to wait while he attended to his duties as a barber. A hired man looked after the farm until 1884. His business had increased to such an extent that he moved the family to town and rented the farm. In 1890 he sold his barber shop, the broom factory had ceased to exist some years before, and entered into the mercantile business with H. D. Skelton. After a year or two, Mr. Skelton sold his interest to Peter Lindburg and A. P. Shostrom. Mr. Buckley soon sold out and bought a restaurant and bakery on the northwest corner of the square. This he sold in 1894 and with his family moved to David City where he bought an interest in a wholesale produce business. In 1902 he returned to Stromsburg with his family and conducted a barber shop east of the Stromsburg Bank until 1910. In that year he bought a popcorn wagon, and Jack Saint was in business with him for a time. In 1915 he purchased an up-to-date popcorn wagon and continued until his health failed in 1924. His daughter Helen took charge of the wagon and continued until 1927 when she sold out. She then built the Bungalow shop and bought an electric machine and is still conducting the same at the southeast corner of the square. Mr. Buckley died in 1925 and Mrs. Buckley in 1927 leaving two sons and three daughters.

Frank W. Buckley, the youngest of the brothers, came to Stromsburg in 1878, was engaged in farming and later on, in the livestock business, and was also a grain dealer, buying and shipping grain and livestock. The last few years of his life he spent his time in stock feeding on his land adjoining Stromsburg on the southeast. He was a charter member of the fire department and was a member at the time of his death. He at one time served on the city council. He was married in 1887 to Miss Nellie Mangold, primary teacher in the Stromsburg schools, who died in 1892. Mr. Buckley died in 1926. They left three daughters and one son.

In the development of Stromsburg, the Buckley Brothers have been actively identified, particularly Peter T. and John B. The latter donated a large parcel of land to the city and the Buckley Park as it has been in our little city and a lasting monument to its big hearted donor. Later Mrs. Buckley donated another tract adjoining the park on the south, a valuable addition to the park.

THE SAMUEL J. JOHNSON FAMILY

Samuel J. Johnson was born in Srinhult Ostergotland, Sweden, June 24, 1843. He came to America with his parents in 1868. They settled in Illinois. He was married in 1870 to Christina Swenson and soon after that, he and his wife moved to Nebraska and settled on a farm 2 miles west and 2 miles north of Stromsburg. They purchased the farm from the Union Pacific Railroad.

They were the parents of one son, August C., and 4 daughters. Samuel moved to Stromsburg in 1903 and at that time August took over the farm.



Three generations - Samuel Johnson, seated front row, August C. Johnson, second row, Morris C. Johnson, smallest boy in center, Wallace Johnson, to left of Morris, Roy Johnson, to right of Morris.

August and his wife Lydia (Swanson) were the parents of 3 sons, Roy A., Wallace E., and Morris C. Lydia passed away while the boys were quite young. After finishing their schooling Roy and Wallace went to California to make their home. Morris stayed on the farm with his father and they farmed together until August's retirement in 1943.

Morris and his wife Marjorie rented the farm until 1956, at which time they purchased it, following the death of Morris's father.

They are still living on the home place and their two daughters, Maureen and Linda are the 4th generation of Johnson's to have lived on this farm.

The Morris C. Johnsons were recognized in 1971 as an Ak-Sar-Ben pioneer family, which award is presented to families who have had members residing on the same farm for 100 years or more.

THE CHARLES H. CARLSON FAMILY

Charles H. Carlson was born in Kalmer, Sweden in 1847. He received his education and grew to manhood in his native land. In 1868 he came to the United States and settled in Marshall County, Illinois. Here he remained until in 1871 when he came to Polk County, Nebraska and homesteaded on a farm one mile south of Swede Home. He kept bachelor's hall on his homestead, in a small frame house, 12 by 14 feet, which he built on his land. The first year he raised sod, corn and potatoes and the second year he raised a crop of eight acres of wheat. In 1874, he received a visit from the terrible pest, the grasshoppers, which took all of his crop. The first two years of his residence in Nebraska, he was compelled to work for others, to help him along financially.

In 1877, he was united in marriage to Miss Ida Anderson, who had come from Sweden in 1869, when she was eight years of age. The Andersons also had located in the Swede Home vicinity. Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Carlson were the parents of five children, August F., now residing at the Midwest Covenant Home in Stromsburg, Elmer C. and Mrs. Effie A. Jones, both now deceased, and Mrs. Lillie H. Toline and Mrs. Violet H. Anderson, who are both residing in the City of Stromsburg.



The Charles H. Carlson family - Back row, Effie Carlson Jones, August F. Carlson, Lillie H. Carlson Toline, Elmer C. Carlson. Front row, Charles H. Carlson, Violet M. H. Carlson Anderson, Ida Louise Anderson Carlson.

In 1882, they built a comfortable home, which was located near a grove and orchard which Mr. Carlson had planted. The family took great pride in the improvements and operation of the farm.

August Carlson, the eldest son of the Charles H. Carlsons, continued to farm the family homestead, and at the time of his moving to the Covenant Home,

he had the honor of having spent the longest number of years on the same land, of any one in Polk County.

August recalls some of his early experiences on his father's farm. When he first began plowing, he was so small that he couldn't lift the plow to turn the corners, but had to let the horse drag it. He also harrowed with a wooden tooth harrow, pulled by one horse. His parents first had an open well that they had dug by hand. A bucket on a pulley was used to get the water.

Later Peter Bergman came from Sweden and started making windmills, and the Carlsons purchased one of them.

He also recalls in the blizzard of 1888, how their neighbor, Pete Anderson, had seven head of cattle bunched together in the middle of the pasture and all of them froze to death. They were found after the storm with the snow and ice so coated on them, that they looked like statues.

The Charles H. Carlson family was very active in church and community affairs. Mr. Carlson was a charter member of the Swede Home Lutheran Church.

THE LINDBLADE FAMILY

Mr. Emmanuel Lindblade, one of the early pioneers of Polk County, came to Nebraska with his bride of two years and homesteaded on an acreage near Swede Home. His farm was in section 10, township 14, range 3.

Mr. Lindblade was born July 16, 1840 in Guttenburg, Sweden, where he grew to manhood, acquiring during his youth a fair education in his native tongue, and also a knowledge of the tailor's trade. He worked at this trade from the age of eleven years until coming to America in 1861. Landing in New York, he remained in that city for six months and then went to Buffalo, where he worked at his trade for about one year. The following three months were spent in Quebec, Canada and from there he moved to Henry, Marshall County, Illinois where he was employed as a tailor for two years. Here, in the year 1867, he met and married Miss Hannah Jensen, a native of Stockholm, Sweden. In 1869, they came to Nebraska living two years in Lincoln where he worked his trade and then they took up

residence and homesteaded in Polk County. Their first home was a small frame house, the lumber for which had to be hauled a distance of forty miles. Their nearest neighbors were nine miles away when they first located on the farm. In 1871, he broke 40 acres of the land and raised a good crop, but in 1874 the grasshoppers took everything. During their early years on the farm, Mr. Lindblade worked during the winter months in Lincoln as a tailor, while his wife maintained residence on the homestead. He found it necessary to make the trips



Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel
Lindblade

between Lincoln and his home on foot. Later he would work by day on the farm and do tailoring at night in order to support his family. Those early days were filled with many hardships and privations; even their water had to be hauled a distance of seven miles. Together, and with great determination, they overcame these obstacles, and in a few years prosperity began to crown their efforts. In 1880 they erected a new residence, and at that time they were owners of 360 acres, of which all but 40 acres had been broken for cultivation.

The Lindblades were blessed with a family of nine children, five girls and four boys: Alice A. (Ekstrom), Minnie C. (Nellson), Hilding J., Ellen H. (Greener) Ebra E. (Tilton), Joseph E., Arthur O. and Esther O. One son died in early childhood.

Mr. Lindblade retired in 1900, and moved with his family to Stromsburg. The home which they purchased at that time remained their home until the time of their death. Esther Lindblade, their youngest, is the only living child of the Emmanuel Lindblades, and she resides in this home in Stromsburg. Arthur O., the youngest son, was in the masonry business in Stromsburg for many years.

The family was members of the Lutheran Church at Swede Home while residing on the farm, and upon moving to Stromsburg, transferred their membership to the Salem Lutheran Church in Stromsburg. Mrs. Lindblade died in 1926, and a year later in 1927 Mr. Lindblade passed away at the age of 87. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1917.

After Mr. Lindblade's retirement, the homestead was farmed and later purchased by his son, Joseph, who spent his entire lifetime of 87 years on this farm. In 1919, the present farm home was erected. A son of Joseph Lindblade, LeRoy, is now the operator of the farm. Thus, for the past 100 years, since it was first homesteaded, this farm has remained within the same family and in three generations.

Many other grandchildren, great grandchildren, and also great great grandchildren of the Lindblade's, make their home today, in and about Stromsburg and the neighboring town of Osceola.

ANDERSON AND HOLMQUIST PIONEER FAMILIES

Charles (Charlie) Anderson, son of Anders Anderson and Christian Olson Anderson was born in Bjorsbo Berg socken Vestmanland, Sweden. He married Teckla Sophia Lundgren March 20, 1869. They left Sweden with their family on August 4, 1871 and located in Polk County, Nebraska. In the spring of 1872 they settled on a homestead six miles northwest of Stromsburg and endured the hardships of the early pioneers. Mr. Anderson walked to Lincoln and worked on the Burlington Railroad in the winter. With horse and wagon he went the thirty miles to Columbus for staple groceries. There was no bridge across the Platte River. If the water was high the groceries had to be carried over on their backs and reloaded to keep it from getting wet. Young trees for planting and older trees for burning were brought from Little's Island. He built the first sod house in Polk County on his farm. In 1909 he built a frame house in Stromsburg on the corner of Ninth and Exchange Streets, which is occupied today, 1971, by a daughter, Rebecca Anderson.

One of the younger sons, Albin, was in the hardware business with Ernest Ericson for many years before moving to Denver. Albin's son, James Anderson is a farmer east of Stromsburg, and his son James Jr. lives in Stromsburg working in the construction business.

The oldest son, Charles, was born in Sweden, came to this country at 11 1/2 years of age. After country school he studied in Bryant Normal and the Business College in Stromsburg. He taught in country schools to finance his education



Charles Anderson family - Charley, Charles (father), August, Rebecca, Joe, Emma, Teekla (mother), Sophia and Hilma

through Medical school at Iowa State University. He practiced his profession in Stromsburg from 1898 until his death in 1921 from an illness brought on by overwork during World War I and the epidemic of Poliomyelitis. He married Lucinda Holmquist in 1902.

Lucinda Holmquist is a granddaughter of pioneers who settled in Altona, Ill. in 1855 and came to Stromsburg, Nebraska in 1870. They came from Sweden. They homesteaded northeast of Stromsburg. Two children were born to Dr. C. A. Anderson and Lucinda Holmquist Anderson, Chauncey Leroy and Margaret. Both children still reside in Stromsburg. Margaret married Clement L. Anderson, two children were born to this union; Joseph Charles and Marion Kay. Margaret has devoted herself to teaching music both private and in the public schools.

Chauncey is a Physician and Surgeon, receiving his M. D. degree from the Uni. of Nebr. College of Medicine in Omaha in 1928. He has practiced his profession in Stromsburg, since 1929, furthering his education with graduate courses in Chicago and Omaha. He is still in full time practice. Chauncey married Marvelle J. Pielstick, R. N. in Oct. 1931. Four children were born to this union; Shirley Mae (Mrs. Willard Innskeep), Donna Lee, (Mrs. Johan Stohl) Gordon Leroy and Conwell H.

Two other grandchildren are still in business in Stromsburg. Sterling Anderson, son of Oscar Anderson and Ettie Rystrom Anderson. He is a partner in the Ericson Hardware Store. Leroy Nelson, son of Hilma Anderson and Oscar Nelson is a salesman making his home in Stromsburg.

ANDREW J. SWANSON

Andrew J. Swanson as a young man of twenty-two years of age, came to America from Smoland, Sweden. With no capital, he started out in a strange land to overcome the difficulties and obstacles in the path to prosperity.



In 1868 he emigrated to America and settled in Knox County, Illinois, where he worked for farmers until coming to Nebraska in 1871. After purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land in Polk County, he returned to Illinois and did not locate upon his homestead until the following year, having built thereon a little frame house, which was on Section 26, Township 14, Range 5.

In August of 1872, he married Anna M. Olson of Illinois and they began their domestic life in the little house he had erected and carried on housekeeping in true pioneer style.

After several prosperous years, he was now the owner of eight hundred acres of the best farming land to be found in the county. He rented the greatest portion of his land, but operated a tract of three hundred and twenty acres. Mr. Swanson built an excellent brick residence in 1885 and several other improvements. To this union was born twelve children. They are as follows: Hilda C., Anna Marie, Rose E., Emma J., Albert J., Edwin A., Gustaf V., Carl August, Ester, Allen Bernard, Elmer M. They were buried at the Swede Home Cemetery. Mrs. Swanson passed away very suddenly in 1896.

Albert J. Swanson was the eldest son, and his father wanted him to have the homestead place, so he bought the two hundred and forty acres from his father when he retired. Andrew Swanson passed away in 1928.

Albert J. Swanson was united in marriage with Martha B. Randolph on July 31, 1916 and to this union was born three daughters, Virginia, Phyllis and Elaine, and also one son, Max. Mr. Swanson had been a farmer and producer of livestock until health forced him to retire in 1948. His daughter, Virginia and husband, Homer E. Farley moved on the home place in October 1948. They have three daughters, Joyce, Judy and Debbie. Homer still farms the two hundred and

forty acres. They built a new home on the same location in 1965.

Albert Swanson passed away on May 20, 1963 and his wife, Martha passed away July 24, 1966.

NELS FREDRICK CARLSON

Nels Fredrick was born December 28, 1851, Doderhult, Kalmar Lan, Sweden. He was the son of Charles Nelson who was a farmer by occupation and died when Nels was only seven years old.

He grew to manhood and was educated in his native land and came to the United States in 1869. He first located in Varna, Marshall County, Illinois. He moved to Polk County, Nebraska with his mother and step-father, Carl Parson. They homesteaded on section 28, of township 14, range 3, and this land remained in the family for about 80 years. Mr. and Mrs. Carl S. F. Johnson are the present owners of this farm.

In March of 1872, before the town of Stromsburg, several families from Varna, Illinois settled in the Swede Home area. They were a part of the great "land" rush, and among the first to take advantage of the Homestead Act, signed by President Lincoln.

Life was hard on the bleak prairies in the seventies. The settlers were beset with all kinds of troubles. Low farm prices, drought, blizzards, grasshoppers, rain storms, prairie fires, wind, hail, starving Indians, cholera and other diseases, tested the spiritual qualities of this young settlement.



Nels Fredrick Carlson



Mary Peterson Carlson

The newly settled immigrants needed spiritual sustenance to face the future with vision, high idealism and unbounded faith. Their earthly possessions were humble indeed, but these people believed that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was for all people and for all conditions of life. The hand of God was on their deliberations, and they decided to build a Lutheran Church.

Many homesteaders gave up the struggle and went back to their homes in the east and others traveled on to Oregon and California. However, those who came from Sweden made the best of it because they knew there was no going back for them. They overcame the calamities and grew strong together.

N. F. Carlson labored incessantly on his farm to bring it to a high state of cultivation which it afterward attained under his well directed efforts, though the first few years of labor were in vain, and he did not raise a crop until 1877.

By 1877 the rains had returned and the scourge of grasshoppers disappeared. Now the homesteaders who had stuck it out had their reward for the 1880's were a period of great prosperity.

On August 8, 1890, Mr. Carlson was united in the bonds of matrimony to Miss Mary A. Peterson, daughter of Caroline and Peter Peterson. She was born April 2, 1873 in Altona, Knox County, Illinois and came to Polk County, Nebraska September 1873. Six children were born to bless this congenial union, who were named as follows: Edward, David, Reynold, Arthur, Edna and Mauritz.

In 1899 Mr. Nels Fredrick Carlson was one of the prominent agriculturists of Platte precinct. He was one of the first settlers of this region and had taken an active part in the development of the resources of the county. He served as trustee of the Swede Home Lutheran Church, director of Scandinavian Mutual Ins. Co., road overseer, and election judge. He took quite an interest in local political matters and held many minor offices. He was a staunch Republican and served as delegate to the county conventions of that party.

Mr. Carlson ran his farm according to the most improved and scientific methods which had been adopted in 1900. He did a general farming and stock raising business in which he was very successful. At this time his estate consisted of seven hundred and twenty acres of land, all of which was under cultivation with the exception of forty-five acres. Those acres were adorned with all the modern improvements necessary in the running of a well regulated farm. The place was further improved by a fine grove of trees and a small man-made lake used for fishing in the summer and ice skating in the winter. The old homestead was beginning to look a little more like a "bit of Sweden" with the passing of each year.

He added largely to his original homestead and purchased part of this from his step-father, Carl Parson, who outlived Mr. Carlson by two months. By the time of Mr. Carlsons death, he had amassed an estate of 1,535 acres of Polk County farm land for his heirs.

Many Swedish Lutheran immigrants rented land from Mr. Carlson upon their arrival from Sweden. All of these Swedes who came to Nebraska could read and write the Swedish language. These men and women possessed strong bodies, were industrious and of high moral character. They also conquered the hardships and many became land owners and have many descendents living in Polk County now.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Fredrick Carlson and their parents were all charter members and part of the loyal laity of the Swede Home Lutheran Church. Mr. Carlson died November 28, 1915 and his wife, Mary, died April 8, 1950. They are both buried in the Swede Home Cemetery.

The clock strikes a century since Mr. Carlson homesteaded in 1872 and also for Stromsburg the "Swede Capital of Nebraska".

THE HULTS

The desire to explore new places, see new things and work toward a brighter future must have been very strong in the 1860's in order to bring so many people to America to face the unknown hardships they knew must be waiting for them. Among those who came to America in 1863 were Mr. and Mrs. John P. Hult who came from Osjohult, Doderhult, Kalmar, Sweden to Marshall County, Illinois, and who in 1872 came to Polk County to the Swede Home community after the area being investigated and recommended by Peter Hult, Adolph Johnson, Chas. Fredrickson and Chas. Johnson.



John Peter Hult



Mrs. J. P. Hult

On October 20, 1878, a prairie fire started by a shot from an old muzzle loader, swept in from the south moving northwest of the Hult farm. In the afternoon the wind changed, blowing a gale and driving the fire southeast at the rate of three miles in two and one-half minutes through the foot high prairie grass. The flames burned fiercely over the east part of the farm burning all the machinery, trees, bushes, etc., but fortunately did not consume either the granery or house. N. P. Hult and his wife were at the church. They quickly returned home and found his aged parents, both over 70, trying to guard the property against the flames. The elder Hults were leaving and the fire was being controlled when the wind changed and drove it back again forcing N. P. Hult to run eastward into the burned area. His mother had become caught in a fence and he and his father both went to help her. All were badly burned. Mrs. Hult died 24 hours after the fire and Mr. Hult lived only thirty days. Both are buried in the Swede Home Cemetery. N. P. Hult was terribly burned about the face and hands and was never again able to straighten his fingers. A new eyelid for his right eye was formed from skin from his temple.

The fire had threatened the Swede Home church. At one time the flames completely surrounded the church but only the wooden steps leading to the church were burned. Few buildings were burned as they were mostly built of sod, but machinery and livestock burned.

A study of the Hult family history discloses persons described as having willing hands, industrious habits, and a determination to succeed. The records show wealth and poverty, prosperity and hardship, hope and despair. We read that they were happy in the land of their adoption and they began to accumulate stock and machinery.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Hult included Carl Johan, Swen August, Meri Skelott, Nels Peter, Olof, Matilda, and Emma. Carl Johan was never married; Meri Skelott (or Marie Charlota) became the wife of Peter J. Jones; Nels Peter homesteaded in Polk County, was married to Mrs. Ida Charlota Peterson, nee Chindgren and they were the parents of six children and later moved to Oregon; Olof married Hattie Anderson and after moving from his homestead, they lived for a time in Stromsburg with their three children; Matilda became the wife of J. A. Johnson and the mother of five children; Emma was married to Rev. Fredrick Peterson and they had six children.

Swen August Hult and his wife Matilda Hokenson Hult also homesteaded land in the Swede Home area. Mr. Hult died October 15, 1896, his death resulting from a fall. He was painting a building and fell from the scaffolding and in the fall struck one finger against a piece of brick, infection developed resulting in tetanus from which he died. He left a widow and six children: Nels Peter Ludwig, Minnie Constantia, Albert, Otelia, Jennie and Alma.

Ludwig Hult was married twice, his second wife being Anna Larson, and he with his family farmed southwest of Swede Home for many years and then moved to Stromsburg. Of his nine daughters, two are residents of Stromsburg, Mrs. Mildred Larson and Mrs. Evelyn Schwartz, both of whom are employed at the Midwest Covenant Home. Mrs. Schwartz has two sons.

Minnie Constantia married August Swanson and farmed northwest of Swede Home until they retired and moved into Osceola, Nebraska. Of their family, 6 children grew to maturity. A grandson, Wallace Sherwood, and his wife, Flora, live in Stromsburg where until recently they owned and operated the Jack & Jill Store. Wally and Flora have 2 married daughters.

Otelia and her husband, Alex Adelson and two sons farmed southwest of Swede Home near the Ludwig Hult farm. Oliver Adelson, the elder son, now owns and with his son LaVaughn, operates this same farm. Oliver's other son, Marland is a history teacher. Oliver also has 3 grandsons. The younger son, Lloyd, with his wife, lives on a neighboring farm originally owned by Swen August and then, in turn by Albert Hult and Alex Adelson. Lloyd and Irene have one daughter and four sons.

Jennie Hult married Frederick Peterson and they with their daughter, Svea, lived at Littleton, Colorado until moving to Seattle, Washington.

Alma Hult and Herbert Flodman were married and lived on the "home place" until they moved to Stromsburg in later years. They had two sons, both of whom died at an early age.

Albert Hult was married to Cecelia Adelson and farmed as a neighbor of his brother and his sister. They moved to Stromsburg in 1913 and he went into business there, including real estate and insurance. For a time he was in the implement business with Olof Johnson and he also sold automobiles.

Among his vivid memories were the contacts with the Indians and the prairie fire at which time he was 6 years old. Being a typical six year old, he followed his father to fight the fire and had to run to a plowed field to get away from the fire. He was found late that night by his father, leading a search party carrying lanterns.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hult had one child, Mrs. Lavelle Lamoree (Levina) and three grandchildren, two of whom live in or near Stromsburg. (Meredith) Mrs. Vernon Boden on a farm near Osceola, and Robert, in Stromsburg. Richard

lives in North Platte.

The Hults were members of the Lutheran Church in Sweden and from 1863 through 1971 in America have continued to be members of the Lutheran Church. The pioneer families were instrumental in establishing the Lutheran Church at Swede Home and the present day descendants are active members of their local churches.

THOMAS GREEN

Story by Mrs. Rebecca Green Myers

Thomas Green, his wife, and family of five children, of which I, Rebecca Green Myers am one, left Carroll County, Illinois, in covered wagons, the 22nd of May, 1872. We arrived in Lincoln, Nebraska on June 15. He left the family there for a few days while being taken to Polk county to be located. Returning after the family he took them to the homestead where they arrived the 2nd day of July. The homestead was of 80 acres lying on the east half of the NW quarter of Section 34, Township 13, Range 2, West.

Father had a carload of furniture and lumber brought as far as Lincoln and from there he hauled it to the homestead. The family in the meantime lived in the top box of the wagon with the covers on. There we lived until the house was up. We moved into the house around the 10th of October while the house was still without plaster. There we lived through the winter with green cottonwood sticks for fuel. How we ever got through the winter without freezing is a wonder, but fortunately we had an early spring.

When we arrived in July it was too late to do much breaking of the sod. However, father had the boys break up seven acres so we could have it ready in the spring for corn. Mother put out a large garden early in the spring and when the three day blizzard came the 13th of April 1873, it was up.

My father was selling organs and pianos and just before the storm, he started walking to Lincoln. He was caught by the storm while he was in the draws between Seward and Lincoln. He found and picked up an old sheepskin mitten, and by holding it over his face he was able to keep from being frozen. We didn't know a thing about him for nearly a week and it was some anxious time until we had news.

One of my brothers and a sister went to a neighbors, who lived two and a half miles away, for a church service in a sod house which stood on M. Stever's land two and a half miles south and four miles east of Stromsburg. They were caught by the blizzard there. A group had gathered and there was no food for them. There was a stove and enough fuel for them all to keep warm and no one suffered. They had to stay until Tuesday night. Mr. McGaw forced his way home sometime Tuesday and returned to the school with food and horses. He took the people home that afternoon.

Another of my brothers brought corn from the basement of our house and after tying a rope around himself and it to the side of the house was able to struggle to the barn with enough food to keep the livestock comfortable. If it hadn't been for the rope he never could have found his way to the barn and back again. We lost five cattle in the storm as they drifted ahead of the wind. It was an experience we never forgot.

In the summer when we came and also in the fall all the basins of that part of the country were full of water. The cattle and stock went there for drinking. Often there would be a number of antelope in with the cattle. When it became cold there was little water. We had to drive three miles with hogsheads to get drinking water. Father put down several wells before he had one that was good enough to use. For some time I had to help drive the cattle every day to the Blue River for water.

This was three and a half miles and it used to seem a very long way.

My brother Lester and I used to climb up on our soddy to look out on the bare prairies. We could see only the tops of three soddies though there were several neighbors. Some of these neighbors were a Mr. Berries, George Zau, Wm. Miller, L. K. McGaw and Fred Hodgkinson.

My father started Green's Chapel in 1892 because it was so far to any other church and he disliked to miss and he had to when the roads and weather were bad.

(Ed's note: Green's Chapel sold this land and moved the church in 1904. In 1959 the members joined the Methodist church in Stromsburg.)

I was the first music teacher in Polk County. In the summer of 1874 I gave lessons to Mrs. J. A. Frawley (nee Josie Headstrom), Helen Backlund, Lilly Morrill and Andrew Carlson. The lessons were all given on the organ.

The well to which we had to go for water was on the Shoemaker farm. Rebecca Green was married to William Henry Myers December 31, 1875 by Justice of the Peace J. P. Smith. They lived on the homestead south of the Green home.



**"Cherry Hill", home of the Greens
in Nebraska in the early '70's.**

Mrs. Rebecca Green Myers

Four children were born to the William Myers; Fred, Bert, Kitty and Neva. Fred married Amy Burke and they had six children. Enid, Lucile and Evan survive.

Bert married Emily Anderson. Edna Kreis is their child. Kitty married Gus Carlson. Mildred Carlson of Lincoln owns the Green farm. Neva married Dr. John Thompson. Lois Bartmees of Sheffield, Alabama survives.

JONAS SUNDBERG

Jonas Sundberg was born in Galesborgston, Orbratorpet Ockelbo, Sweden on April 17, 1853.

At the age of 16 he emigrated to America, arriving July 4, 1869. He located in Victoria, Illinois for a period of time.



Early picture of Jonas Sundberg homestead house

In the fall of 1872, he moved to Polk County and on September 25, 1875 he took out his Homestead. The home he built was small, but it was added to as his family grew until it became a substantial two story house.

He was married in March 1877 to Anna Naslund. Mrs. Sundberg died February 28, 1894, leaving him with a family of eight children, the baby only 7 months old. Tragedy struck again a year or so later when the children were playing a game involving their fathers gun, and one of the children was fatally injured. Again a year later or less, the baby died.

Jonas was a hard working man who met hardships as they came and conquered them. He walked the distance to and from Lincoln when the trip seemed necessary.

After working his homestead for 30 years he left it in the hands of his capable younger son and moved to Stromsburg. In 1910 he married Mrs. Edla Gustafson. They lived in their home in the northwest part of Stromsburg until his death on June 19, 1924.

Some of the descendants of Jonas Sundberg still remain in the area of Stromsburg but most of them have located their homes in other places.

Mrs. Nanie Sundberg of Stromsburg is a daughter-in-law of the Jonas Sundbergs and a grandson, Howard, lives on a farm northwest of town.

MR. & MRS. ANDREW OLOF SHOSTROM

Andrew Olof Shostrom came to Polk County, Nebraska in 1872, settling on a farm five miles west and one half mile north of Stromsburg, Nebraska. This was his home until his death in 1929. He was born in Hogobruk, Sweden in 1846 and came to America with his father, Olof Shostrom in 1857 settling first in Knox County, Illinois.

In 1867 at Kewanee, Illinois, Andrew Shostrom was married to Christina Ericson, also a native of Sweden. Their first home in Polk County was a small

sod shanty which they lived in during the severe Easter blizzard of 1873. They endured the hardships of the early pioneers - grasshoppers, drouth and hail years, and through hard work and effort accumulated 400 acres of good farm land. Mr. Shostrom was an excellent blacksmith, having a shop on his farm where he repaired wagons, sharpened plow shares and did blacksmithing work.

He also painted buggies and carriages in the conventional black color striped in red, green or yellow. He was considered a professional in the field of striping.

His deep interest in the need for education made him instrumental in the organization of School District No. 51 in his locality. The first school building was built in 1876 at a cost of \$130.00. He served as treasurer of the school board from the schools beginning until just a few years before his death.

Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Shostrom - Eleanora, Louisa, Estelle, Albin, Minnie, Edwin, Lillian, Helen, Ralph and an infant daughter all of whom are deceased. There are four grandchildren, Mrs. Maxine Giou of Indianapolis, Ind., Arthur Stutheit of Los Altos, Calif., Ralph and Ted Stutheit of Lincoln, Nebraska. Ted, a former Supt. of the Ft. Kearney State Historical Park is now with the State Park Commission at Lincoln, Nebraska.

MR. & MRS. PETER NORDBERG

Peter Nordberg was one of the very early pioneers among a party of home-seekers who came to make permanent homes in Polk County before there was a Strombsburg.

The information given in this article has been culled from his autobiography written several years before his demise.

He was born in the province of Gastrickland, Sweden, on December 26, 1841, and was reared in a good Christian home where he remained until he was 23 years of age.

When Peter was only 13 years old, his father emigrated to the New World, leaving behind his wife and four children. Being the only son, much of the



Peter Nordberg



Mrs. Peter (Karin) Nordberg

responsibility of caring for the farm fell upon him. Two hired men were kept to care for the stock and attend to the farming.

His father had settled in Wabash County, Minnesota, where in 1857 only three years after his arrival, he passed away. This sad news made impossible the plans of the family to leave Sweden, but Peter, having long yearned to go to America, set out even against the wishes of his mother and sisters.

Peter left Gafle for Stockholm traveled by boat to Goteborg, then to Hamburg, Germany, where he boarded a ship for New York, arriving September 4, 1864. Among his fellow passengers were a number whose destination was Oneida, Illinois, where he remained two years. He then made a trip to Wabash County, Minnesota to visit his father's grave, also to see an uncle who lived there.

Returning to Illinois he rented a farm, bought horses and equipment, and on October 28, 1868 married Karin Erickson. After living on a farm in Henry County, Illinois for three years he decided to join a party of homeseekers, westward bound, for Polk County, Nebraska. This was the spring of 1871.

The following spring, 1872, with stock, farming equipment and other possessions having been loaded into railroad cars, he left by train for Council Bluffs, Iowa. There they unloaded. Mr. Nordberg hitched his best horses to a wagon, loaded up his belongings and departed overland for Polk County, Nebraska. His wife and daughter, Amanda, 3 months old, had remained in Illinois.

His first home in Polk County was a 12 by 14 foot room built over a dugout on his homestead. To secure lumber for the construction he drove to Seward, going one day and returning the next. His wife and baby joined him on April 30, when he met them in Columbus. So a united family, they started housekeeping, counting themselves fortunate to have a home of their own.

Later more rooms were added as the family increased with the arrival of a daughter Minnie, and a son Arthur. Construction took time as material and supplies had to be hauled from Columbus or Seward. Mr. Nordberg also hauled lumber for the first store building in Stromsburg.

In 1882 he built a large 10 room house, a barn and other buildings and made the place an attractive home, with the planting of cedars, shade trees, a large orchard and berry bushes. He also bordered his land on the south with shade trees, and had brought hedge apples from Illinois when he first came and planted those seeds providing a border for his acres, making fine hedge fences.

The difficulties of pioneer life, even fear of Indians, were little by little overcome, and there developed about the Nordberg home a pleasant community.

The Nordberg family were members of the first church in Stromsburg, the Mission Church, now called the Covenant Church. There the family was active in Sunday School, choir and in all church activities. Amanda, later Mrs. P. A. Sundberg, served as organist for many years.

Mr. Nordberg had chosen his quarter section of land well for it adjoined what later became the town of Stromsburg. The farm also included 20 acres across the highway and as the town grew the southern part of this land sold as town lots, known as the Nordberg Addition.

Out of this Mr. L. Sandin secured a whole block and built a home for his family, as well as building numerous residences in town and country. On an adjoining block was the home of P. A. Sundberg, husband of Amanda Nordberg, who there reared a family of four sons and four daughters.

Mr. Nordberg also reserved a lot for himself, his wife and daughter, Minnie, where he built a commodious house in which they retired. This home was occupied later by a granddaughter, Violet Sundberg Anderson, until her death. At present it is the home of Rev. and Mrs. Oskar Molinder.

In 1902, Arthur and I, Selma Rydberg, were married and he took over the management of the farm. Here on the old homestead our three sons, Don, Frank

and Ralph were born and reared. They had the privileges of farm life together with the advantages of being near the Stromsburg School, the homestead being in District No. 10. They all graduated from Stromsburg High.

The two daughters of Peter and Karin Nordberg finished high school, Amanda with the third graduating class in 1889, and Minnie two years later in 1891.

Several grandchildren and great grandchildren of the pioneer Nordbergs are also members of the Stromsburg High School Alumni.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES FLODMAN

Charles Frederick Leopold Flodman was born in Millingstorp, Rok Parish, Ostergotland, Sweden, January 28, 1844. He came to America in 1868, lived in Illinois a few years. He came to Polk County in 1872 where he settled on a homestead in Swede Plain and helped build up this prosperous and respectable community. Nearly all the early settlers in the western part of Polk County were Swedes. All the houses were made of sod. Nearly half of them had come without horses or oxen. They took homestead and exchanged work with their neighbors for team work to break a few acres and to haul sod for their houses and stables.

In 1880 the Union Pacific in District 10 had already sold most of its land in the eastern and central part of the state, prices ranging from \$4 to \$7 per acre. Burlington lands in District 11 sold for 25 cents to \$10 an acre. Most of the land belonging to the Burlington was sold to settlers.

Charles Flodman had two brothers and three sisters namely Hugo Flodman of Polk County who settled 1/2 mile south of the Swede Plain church, Professor Julius Flodman of Wahoo, who was professor of Wahoo College for many years. Mrs. Gust Warner of Havelock, Nebr. also farmers, Hilda Flodman of Polk County and Mrs. Andrew Peterson of Omaha.

Hilma Josephine Widga came to America with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Widga in 1873. She had two sisters and three brothers, namely, Adel Widga, Charles Widga, Pete Widga, who settled east and south of Swede Plain. Her sisters were Sophia Widga and Christine Buckley, wife of John B. Buckley of Stromsburg. Her sister, Mrs. Buckley and she were employed in Lincoln for a short time before their marriage.

Hilma Josephine Widga was born in Osterhult Horn, Sochen Calmar Lan, Sweden May 15, 1856. She was married at Osceola, Nebraska to Charles Flodman August 4, 1874. When the Church work was started at Swede Plain in 1879 she joined with her husband and they both were charter members at their deaths. They had 11 children, 6 sons and 5 daughters, namely Axel Flodman, Ernest F., Herbert F., Hartwig F., Selma Norton, Olive Bennett, Rose Swanson, Viola Arnold and Agnes Flodman who died at 12 years of age besides two brothers who died in younger days. They also raised a granddaughter, Pearl Flodman Fusby, daughter of Axel as their very own, taking her at the early age of almost 1 year old when her mother passed away.

They farmed 320 acres and experienced the hardships of early pioneer life, including encounters with Indians who often camped on the banks of the Platte River. They also had to contend with the grasshoppers in 1880. One time the grasshoppers ate all the clothes off the line. Another incident was when the Indians came to the home when Mrs. Flodman was alone. She was making bread she got frightened and, of course, couldn't understand them so she handed them all the bread. She also hid her little boy under the bed when she saw them coming. Many a night she would knit stockings before going to bed.

In the early years when they lived in a sod house they used wooden crates for a table and chairs. The window openings were covered with gunny sacks. One

night after she went to bed she felt something warm and crawl at her feet. She threw the cover off and there was a large bull snake.



Mrs. Charles Flodman



**Charles Flodman and daughter
Viola Arnold**

Charles Flodman donated the land for what is now the Swede Plain cemetery. The Swede Plain Church stands on the land once owned by Mrs. Flodman and now is owned by their grandson Curtis Flodman of Stromsburg. The land is being farmed by a 4th generation by Wayland and Burdette Flodman. The home place was torn down some years ago, which was owned by Hartwig Flodman. After his parents deaths it was sold to Ilof Ostberg of Polk, Nebraska and is being farmed now. Viola Flodman Arnold owns one of the original 40 acres of land that her father Charles owned and is being farmed by Wayland and Burdette Flodman. Also the Flodman school house one mile west of the Swede Plain Church was finally torn down and turned into farm land.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Flodman moved to Stromsburg in 1904 with their three daughters, Olive, Rose, Viola, and Pearl, the granddaughter. There they built a new home on 3 acres that belonged to Mrs. Flodman which she had inherited from her folks (Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Widga). The house still stands, second house north of the new Free Mission Church. It was once owned by Chris Thesing and now is occupied and owned by Bernice Anderson. After Mr. Flodmans death Mrs. Flodman had a new home built one block north of the library, owned and occupied by her grandson, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Flodman. All their sons were prosperous farmers. Mr. and Mrs. Flodman were active members of the community, Mr. Flodman was president of the Scandinavian Mutual Insurance Co. for many years until his death and then his son Herbert Flodman replaced him and now his grandson, Curtis Flodman, is agent for the Scandinavian Insurance Company and has also served on the board and was secretary several years.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 5582

APPLICATION 14038

There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Lincoln, Nebraska, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Horace Willits has been established and duly consummated, in conformity of laws, Fifth North Eastern Section, Range Ten, West, in the District of Nebraska, subject to sale at Lincoln, Nebraska, containing one hundred and sixty acres.

88 according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General.

Now know ye, That there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said Horace Willits the tract of Land above described: To have and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Horace Willits and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, Rutherford B. Hayes, President of the United States of America, have caused these presents to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the fifth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, and of the United States the thirteenth and first.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

R B Hayes

By S S Cone, Secretary.

S H. Clark

Recorder at the General Land Office.

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NATHANIEL WILLITS

Nathaniel Willits came to America in 1786. He and his wife Sara made their home in Catawissa, Penn. Thomas, the eldest son, was born November 26, 1804. He married Margaret Kahler. They first lived in Dansville, Penn. where he was a hatter, by trade. In 1854 they moved to a farm near Aledo, Ill. They had a large family of 12 children.

Horace Willits, the 6th child of Thomas and Margaret Willits was born July 18, 1839. He enlisted in the U. S. Army and served in the infantry. There, Horace (Horse) was nicknamed "Pony" because he was the shortest man in Company G. He was known as "Pony Willits" for many years. He married Mary Elizabeth Sheriff on November 22, 1866. After the War he was eligible to homestead 160 acres in Nebraska. He looked over homestead sites in York and Polk counties in 1872, and decided on one located 12 miles from Stromsburg. In the spring of 1874 he brought his wife, two sons, (Grant and Glen), and one daughter (Edith) to their sod house. Later, a small frame house was built. Soon after they settled on their homestead they saw a herd of buffalo crossing the farm. Indians came to the sod house at different times asking for food, but seemed to have no intent of harm. They endured all the hardships typical of those early years -- in 1876 the grasshoppers came in great swarms, the blizzard of 1888, and the periods of drought. They dug a well using a large auger about 12 inches in diameter and four feet long. Two men walked around and around to wind the auger in the ground. They used a three-pole derrick with a pulley and a rope. A horse pulled the auger full of dirt to the surface. The well was cased with four by four timbers. Horace Willits had the U. S. Postoffice, called Thornton, in his home on the farm, from 1891 to 1895. The mail was carried by team and buggy from Stromsburg to Clarks and back to Stromsburg the same day.

H. LaClair Willits, sixth and youngest child of Horace and Mary Willits was born October 13, 1884 in Polk County, Nebraska and married Eva Inez Shank on November 29, 1906. To this union were born four daughters and two sons: Helen (Mrs. Reynold Peterson), Thelma (Mrs. Raymond D. Johnson), Gladys (Mrs. Walter Jones), Sara (Mrs. W. B. William), Louis and Ralph. Clair acquired the homestead after the death of his parents. It was his home for 79 years until his retirement to Stromsburg in 1963. Clair and Eva lived in Stromsburg until his passing on April 30, 1969. Their son, Ralph, is now the third generation owner of the homestead. The deed, sealed and signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes giving Horace Willits legal ownership of the land in 1877, is a cherished possession of the Willits family today.

Eight generations of the Willits family have lived in the United States. Five generations have lived in Polk County. There are seven descendants of Horace and Mary Willits now living in the city of Stromsburg; Marie Willits Vincent, granddaughter; Duane Peterson and Carole Johnson Schinzel, great grandchildren; and Melinda and Melah Peterson, and Noal and Kyla Schinzel, great great grandchildren.

NATHAN FELLOWS

Nathan Fellows was born in August 1834 in Jefferson County, Ohio. In August of 1861, Mr. Fellows joined the boys in blue as a private in Company F Forty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was discharged at Columbus, Ohio, July 1865. In 1872 Mr. Fellows came to Polk County, Nebraska and located his homestead on the southwest quarter of section 24, township 13, range 3. In March 1874 he was married to Miss Mary A. Steward. They had 5 children. Mary Catharine, William Isaac, S. James, H. Orange Upton and Raymond L. In 1874, Mr. Fellows raised five hundred bushels of wheat but the grasshoppers destroyed the corn

and oats. 1895 he owned and removed to the northwest quarter of the same section. He later owned 305 acres all under cultivation and well improved. This being one of the best farm lands in the locality. Mr. Fellows and family held membership in the United Brethren Church in which he served as steward and trustee. He and family took active part in the Sunday School. He was one of the most prominent members of the Grand Army Post at Stromsburg. He twice served as Commander and filled both offices. Mrs. Fellows served as president of the Womans Relief Corps. The Fellows family was one of prominence in the community where they resided. In their pleasant home they delighted to entertain their many friends. Mr. and Mrs. Fellows were member of the Republican party.



Nathan Fellows family - top row: Orange Upton Fellows, Raymond L. Fellows. Second row: James Homer Fellows, wife Helga, William Nelson and wife, Mary Katherine Fellows. Front row: William Isaac Fellows and wife Mae Fellows, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Fellows.

Mr. Fellows served several terms as school board member in school district 35. The homestead of Mr. Fellows is now farmed by Kenneth Hanson. The northwest quarter is farmed by his grandson, Lloyd Fellows. In later years Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Fellows moved to Stromsburg, became prominent members of the First Methodist Church where they gave a window when the new church building was built. Their son Homer, age 91, still lives in Stromsburg. Other members of the family living in Polk County are: grandson, Verlin Fellows, Mrs. Mary Lounsbury, Mrs. Eva Stoki and Miss Esther Fellows.

JONAS ADOLPH JOHNSON

Jonas Adolph Johnson left Ekeby, Linkoping County, Sweden, with a group of immigrants and came to America in 1868, settling first at Varna, Illinois. In March 1872, he came with a group of twenty eight persons to Polk County, Nebraska and settled in the Swede Home Community, northwest of Stromsburg. Here they made their homes and established the Swede Home Lutheran Church.

Mr. Johnson homesteaded a piece of property one-half mile west of Swede Home. In 1873 he was united in marriage to Mathilda Hult, whose parents and family were also among the first settlers in this area, having taken the quarter of land just north of that of Mr. Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Johnson were blessed with six children, two having passed away in early childhood. Those that remained were August, Adelia (Samuelson), Albert and Lydia (Swanson).



Jonas Adolph Johnson family - standing left to right: Adelia, Albert, Lydia and Johan August. Seated: Mathilda and Johan Adolph.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson moved to the southwest part of Stromsburg in 1912 and lived there until the death of Mr. Johnson in 1922. Mrs. Johnson then returned to the Swede Home Community to a new home she had built near that of her son August and family, until her death in 1930. Several grandchildren and great grandchildren still make their home in the Stromsburg and Swede Home Communities.

During the summer of 1883 Albinus Nance, John H. Mickey and C. H. Morrill organized the Osceola and Stromsburg banks.

PETER AND CAROLINA PETERSON

A desolate treeless area, with miles of waving prairie grass in Polk County, Nebraska became the farm home of Peter and Carolina Peterson in 1873.

Peter and Carolina were born in Vastergotland and Smoland, Sweden. Peter came to America in 1867, locating in Altona, Illinois; Carolina came one year later, arriving in 1868. They decided to move to Nebraska where land was cheaper and opportunities for making a living would be better. Peter arrived in Polk County in March, 1873, and about a month later he almost perished in the severe Easter snow storm of April 13th.



Peter Peterson



Caroline Nelson Peterson

During the spring and summer of 1873, Peter built a sod house and, comparatively speaking, it was a good one for those days. The wood for the floor was hauled from Columbus, a distance of 40 miles. Poles for the roof came from trees near the Platte River, a distance of 12 miles. The walls and ceiling were whitewashed. This small house was ready for his wife and their three children when they arrived in September. The furniture was very simple, some having been made by Peter. They had trunks which had been made before they left their homeland, and these held extra clothing, small tools, and some food for the six weeks journey across the Atlantic Ocean. Peter had a well dug a few months after he arrived in Polk County.

From Illinois, Peter brought two horses, a wagon, a plow, and an assortment of tools. The first year in Nebraska he raised a few calves, hogs and chickens, having purchased the stock from pioneers who had arrived in the County in 1871 and 1872. This provided food for the family. Flour, sugar, coffee and other necessities were available in Columbus. There was tall slew grass on their homestead, which was cut and tied in bundles and used for fuel. Cow chips, and later, corn cobs, were also used for fuel. Buffalo grass provided excellent feed for the livestock during spring and summer, and tall blue stem grass was cut and stacked for winter feed.

In 1875 Peter and Carolina built a five room frame house. Later a cellar was dug beneath the house, which was set with brick, with double brick walls.

When the Calvary Lutheran Church of Swede Home was organized, August 3, 1873, the family became charter members. Peter held various offices in the church. Both Peter and Carolina were well versed in the Scriptures and in the Lutheran doctrine. They were loyal supporters of their church and of the church's school, Luther College, Wahoo, Nebraska. Peter represented his church at national Augustana Conventions several times. The family enjoyed providing lodging for visiting ministers to the newly organized Swede Home Church.



Peter and Caroline Peterson's second house built in 1875. Left to right: Selma, Mary Caroline and Peter, Emil behind Peter and Sander in front. Others are unknown.

The five children, Emil, Emma, Mary, Sander and Selma had the privilege of attending Sunday School as early as 1880. They often walked three to five miles to attend parochial school.

The life of the pioneers was a hard and rugged one. Crops were completely destroyed by grasshoppers in 1874 and 1876. Prairie fires threatened their home and religious dissention threatened their church. Their strong faith in God and industrious persistence helped them prosper in spite of many difficulties. Indians were often seen in the vicinity. They were friendly and peaceable, and would walk, uninvited, into the house - sometimes staying for hours. A trap door in the kitchen ceiling, leading to the loft, would arouse their curiosity, but Carolina would deftly divert their attention to something else, thereby protecting the provisions of food that were stored there.

The homestead of 80 acres in Platte Precinct in Section 30, Township 14, Range 3, plus land purchased later, is this day being farmed by grandsons Gustav and Edgar Peterson.

Four of the children of Peter and Carolina, and their mates, Emma and Gustaf Chindgren, Mary and N. Fredrick Carlson, Sander and Hannah Peterson, Selma and John Carlson, purchased land in the Swede Home vicinity and there made their homes and raised their families. Emil passed away in 1893 at the age of 28 years.

In 1971 there are approximately 335 living descendants of Peter and Carolina Peterson now scattered in 16 states of the United States.

ANDREW C. DONELSON FAMILY

Andrew C. Donelson was born May 7, 1851 in Stora Bjormossen, in Dalarna, Sweden. He came to America when he was four years old. He and Margaret Elizia Samuelson were married December 20, 1873 at the Court House in Osceola by Judge William E. Loring. They homesteaded on a farm three miles west of Stromsburg and resided there for 35 years. They moved a mile and a half nearer Stromsburg and eight years later moved to town. Andrew served on the City Council and later became Mayor of the city. Andrew and Margaret were first cousins. Margaret was born January 11, 1855 in Stora Bjormossen, in Dalarna, Sweden. Her father was Samuel Samuelson. They joined the Methodist Church, March 9, 1891. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary December 20, 1923. Andrew died June 18, 1929 at the Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. Margaret died at Stromsburg, Nebraska, December 29, 1933. Both are buried at Stromsburg, Nebraska. Nine children were born to this union.



Left to right: Arthur, Lillie, Mrs. Donelson, Florence, Mr. Donelson, Clinton. Ernest and William in front row.

Florence, born April 14, 1877 and died December 23, 1962. She was married August 20, 1912 to Herman Frederick Haverland, born January 7, 1869 and died November 30, 1951. Both are buried at Stromsburg, Nebraska. They had three children. Agnes, Mrs. Nathan Clark, (deceased), Fredrick of St. Cloud, Minnesota and Mary Preece of Lincoln.

Clinton, born December 12, 1878 and died May 4, 1958. He was married September 6, 1905 to Della Deeds, born March 27, 1885 and died January 31, 1971. Both are buried at Stromsburg, Nebraska. They had three children. Francis and Zella of Stromsburg and Thelma (Mrs. Orlie Conkling) of Osceola, Nebraska.

Lillie, born September 28, 1880 and died June 13, 1964. She was married January 1, 1903 to Edward Widga, born January 12, 1879 and died November

19, 1954. Both are buried at Swede Plain Cemetery, Polk, Nebraska: They had four children. Lyle and Lloyd of Polk, Lester of Stromsburg and Leland of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Arthur, born November 23, 1884 and died April 9, 1966. He was married September 22, 1908 to Esther Anderson, born March 24, 1884 and died December 2, 1965 Both are buried at Stromsburg, Nebraska: They had five children. Harlen and Carol of Stromsburg, Raymond of Omaha and Ruby (Mrs. Edwin Lewis) of Osceola, Nebraska: One daughter, Mildred died at the age of two years.



Home of Britta Donelson - 107 East 7th Street in Stromsburg

William, born March 4, 1887 and died January 18, 1959. He was married December 16, 1914 to Elvie Myrberg, born October 13, 1887 and died May 23, 1951. Both are buried at Stromsburg, Nebraska: They had four children. Lucille (Mrs. Rodney Larsen) deceased, Dorothy (Mrs. C. Gordon Carlson) and Ralph of Stromsburg, Nebraska. One son died in infancy.

Ernest, born November 21, 1888. He was married January 14, 1914 to Mabel Johnson, born December 28, 1894 and died February 24, 1968. Mabel is buried at Stromsburg, Nebraska. One child, Vivian died at the age of nine years. Ernest is the only living member of this family and now resides at Swede Haven in Stromsburg, Nebraska.

Two sons and one daughter died in infancy.

PETER WIDGA

Peter Magnus Widga, son of Magnus and Sophia Widga was born in Lockensvenska, Socken Ostergotland, Sweden on June 22, 1851. He came to America when he was nineteen years of age, in the year of 1870, with his parents, two brothers and three sisters, namely: Adolph and Charles Widga, Hilma who married Chas. Flodman of Stromsburg, Christine, who married John Buckley and Anna Sophia, who married Carl Victor Johnson, also of Stromsburg.



The Peter Widga Homestead

They came to Galesburg, Illinois. Here, he worked for the Union Pacific railroad. In the year, 1873, they came to Polk County and Peter homesteaded 7 miles west of Stromsburg. He lived in a sod house at first. Later a house and other buildings were built. This was 1 mile east and 1/4 mile north of the present Swede Plain Church.



Left to right, back row: Ludwig of Stromsburg (deceased), Alvena (Mrs. Lawrence James) of York, Edward (deceased), Miss Maghild of Lincoln (retired R.N.) and Casper of Mt. Vernon, Washington (deceased). Front row: Peter and wife Helen.

On January 23, 1879, Peter was married to Helen Sara Anstrom, who was born December 9, 1859, in Annifors Helsingland Sweden. She came to America in the fall of 1876.

Eight children were born to this union. All of whom were born on the home-stead place. Three sons passed away in infancy.

Peter and his wife joined the Swede Plain Methodist Church on August 12, 1888. They lived on this farm for 24 years. They moved to Stromsburg in 1903 and they transferred their membership to the Methodist Church at Stromsburg. They spent 40 years of married life together when Helen passed away on June 9, 1919 at the age of 59 years. Peter passed away December 11, 1928. Both are buried in the Stromsburg cemetery.

A son Edward farmed the place when Peter and his wife moved to Stromsburg He and his family lived here until the year of 1942 when they retired and moved to Polk.

A grandson, Lloyd Widga, now owns and lives on this place. Part of the house and barn are still the original buildings. Additions and remodeling have been done to both buildings.

JAMIER EDMUND STEVENS

Jamier Edmund Stevens who came in 1873 in a covered wagon to Polk County, brought tree seeds and seedlings to be planted on the barren prairie.

He shared some of his precious trees with the new little town of Stromsburg and they were planted in the town park. With his wife, the former Julia Etta Sealey, he had come from LaMotte, Iowa as they had heard of the good soil and farming possibilities, and as a Civil War Veteran he was entitled to Homestead Rights.

Jamier Edmund was the father of William, Thede and Ed Stevens and Lula Stevens McClure. He had enlisted in the Civil War at age 18 as a substitute for



Mrs. Jamier E. Stevens,
mother of William, Thede,
Ed and Lula Stevens

he was determined to join the Army after his older brother, Jonas, was killed in service in 1862, and his father, Artimus Stevens had died in 1863 at the siege of Vicksburg. He brought with him to Nebraska the rifle musket he had been given at his honorable discharge.

After the filing fee of \$16 was paid in June 1873, the family had only \$7 left for supplies. Determined to live on the 160 acres for at least five years, as the law required to "claim" the land, a primitive soddy was constructed with brush and swale grass for the roof. Seven years later a second soddy with board roof, and floors, was built. This soddy even had a pole from the gable so the children could have a swing. Peach seeds, brought also from Iowa were planted. The land remained in the Stevens family for over 75 years. They bought their supplies at Stromsburg and were served by the Stromsburg Post Office.



Jamier Edmund Stevens soddy, second one he built. From left in picture: James T. Sealey, William Stevens, Mrs. Jamier Edmund Stevens and Theodore Stevens. Note the trees which grew from seeds he had brought from Iowa.

It was difficult to clear much sod land, so the patches of sod corn planting were small. Cornmeal mush and milk and cornbread, nicknamed Johnny Cake, often made up a meal for the early settlers. It was a treat to catch a prairie chicken or to shoot an antelope for meat.

Twenty five acres of land had been under tillage and things were improved, with green plantings everywhere, when the grasshoppers came in droves in 1874 devouring everything, even eating holes in the prized bed sheets brought from Iowa. They had been placed over choice garden plants.

In 1880, Mr. Stevens passed away and his faithful wife, only 30 years of age, was left to care for the home and family of five children. She was poor in material things but rich in loving neighborliness. For miles around Julie Stevens was known for coming to the aid of others by hitching up her two small mules to a wagon, leaving the oldest son, Will, in charge of the home, and going to help and comfort the sick and bereaved. She died in 1905.

William Stevens married Florence Peterson, a cousin of the Wesley Wilson family of Stromsburg. She was a school teacher and attended Bryant Normal

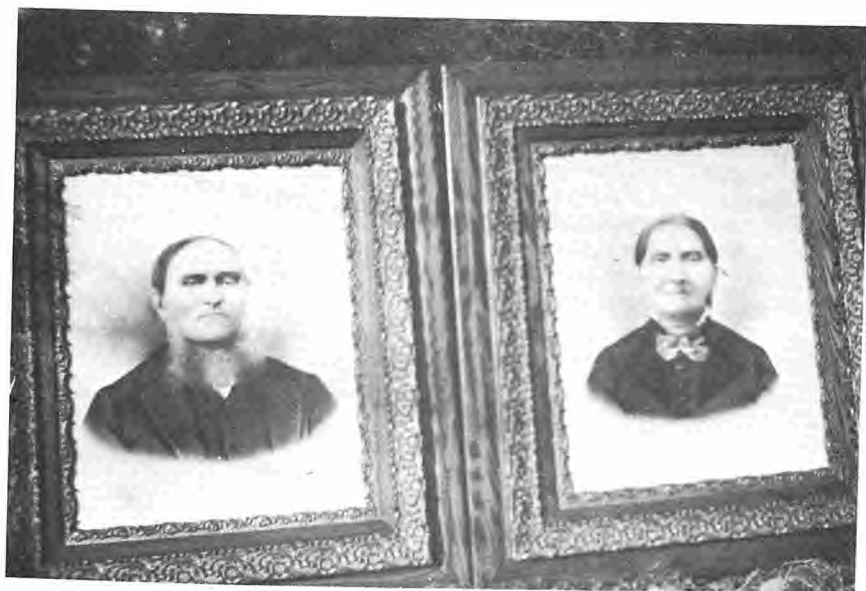
School at Stromsburg. Two of their children, Mrs. Irvin Anderson and Mrs. David Sundberg reside near Stromsburg.

Thede Stevens married Mable Putman. Edmund, Jr., married Signe Norman of Stromsburg. Lula married Joseph McClure, who had attended Stromsburg Bryant Normal School and was also an early day school teacher of Polk County.

FREDRICK FUSBY

Fredrick Fusby, born in Sweden as Fosberg, with his wife whose name in Sweden was Hedda Olson, and seven children ranging in age from 4 years to 20 years, homesteaded on Sec. 30, three and one-half miles southeast of Stromsburg, Nebraska in 1873.

Hattie and her first husband John Stark came to America from Sweden in 1852. Mrs. Stark and John first settled in Chicago, then Wisconsin and on to Iowa where a baby daughter and he both died. A son, John, and the mother survived the many hardships.



Fredrick and Hattie Fusby

In 1854, Hattie Stark married Fredrick Fusby at Rome, Iowa. While in Iowa they acquired some property and six children were born to them there. There was always talk of free and better land to the west in Nebraska, so in 1873 loading all their possessions in two covered wagons and driving some livestock they headed west ending up on a homestead just east of where Highway 81 and 66 cross. The trip from Henry County, Iowa to Nebraska took much planning and packing. Mr. Fusby and the boys knew how to farm but here in Polk county they first had to build a sod house, dig an open well and also a dugout for the livestock. They then began to break the prairie land, plant corn, rye and wheat. Herding sheep and cattle on the grassland was always done by one of the children.

Mr. Fusby acquired extra land by planting trees and getting a tree claim on section 14, which is still in the family. As soon as John was 21 he acquired land of his own in the S.E. corner of section 30.

John married Clara Johnson, a Swedish girl, in 1876. The same year his sister Matilda married another homesteader, William Baker. In 1879, Emma Fusby married August Rystrom, the son of another settler and in 1880 their son William married Carrie Hedstrom.

Year of 1880 prospects for a good crop never looked better. The Union Pacific railroad had sold all their land but occasionally someone who wanted to leave would resell for \$4.00 to \$7.00 per acre. The Burlington lands had been sold for 25¢ to \$10.00 per acre. But during July, chinch bugs attacked the wheat before it could be harvested. In August, dry weather set in and between the bugs and drought most of the corn was ruined.

The Fusbys learned the hard way as did the other Swedish settlers, that all the posters and advertisements they had read about the rich farmland in Polk County, Nebraska had many draw backs.

Everyone who stayed and endured the hardships of grasshoppers and drouths had to make every grain of seed count. Always trying to raise big gardens for their winter supplies. Sheep were raised, shorn, the wool carded, spun into yarn and knit into socks, stockings, mittens and scarfs. Pigs were raised, butchered, lard rendered, the pork put down in brine. Poultry was raised for eggs, used for roasting and the feathers used for feather ticks and pillows. Butter and cottage cheese were made every week.

In 1887 their youngest child Mary, now 18, married Lee Nels Hughes who had come to Polk County from Morgan County, Illinois as a child. Year of 1889, Henry Fusby married Louella Bennett.

In 1892 Fredrick Fusby died on his homestead but his wife and son, Alfred, continued to live there until Alfred married Minnie Thesing in 1895 and took over the farm. Mrs. Fusby then moved to Stromsburg where she lived in a little red brick house, continuing spinning yarn and knitting socks and always looking for visits from her children and grandchildren.



The Fredrick Fusby family - front row all brothers and sisters: Mary Hughes, Henry Fusby, Alf Fusby, Emma Rystrom, Will Fusby, Tilda Baker, John Fusby. Back row: Nels Hughes, Ella Fusby, Minnie Fusby, August Rystrom, Carrie Fusby, Bill Baker, Clara Fusby.

Hattie endured hardships in Sweden, Wisconsin, Iowa and homestead days in Polk County, but lived to see all her children married and living on good Polk County farms. The children had to face many hardships, also. She lived to be 91 years of age and what a book could have been written if someone 60 years ago had written her life history; but to her and women like her, who stood by their husbands through all kinds of trials and raised hard working Christian children we are greatly indebted.

The Fusby's hold a reunion the first Sunday of June every year in Buckley Park. A family record has been kept, first by Mrs. Alfred Fusby, then Minnie Burke and now by Ellen Wittgren. There are now over 360 descendants of this Pioneer family, many of them still living in Polk County and some still owning Fusby land.

WILLIAM BAKER

William Henry Baker was born in Triangle, New York, May 3, 1852, and with his parents brothers and sisters moved to Pennsylvania where he was raised in a Christian home and taught at an early age to work and save.

In 1873, at the age of 21 he came to Nebraska with other pioneers, headed west walking much of the way. At Nebraska City he left the group and headed on foot for Polk County where he homesteaded 80 acres 2 1/2 miles south of Stromsburg in sec. 24 (His great grandson, Ronald Baker now lives on this place).

Mr. Baker worked for Smiths, Morrills and other settlers. Eventually he had an ox, a horse and a breaking plough. He built a sod house and sod barn on his homestead and continued getting work wherever he could and breaking his own prairie between times. As Stromsburg, 2 1/2 miles north had only a postoffice and Headstroms meager store, William would put a sack of wheat over his shoulders and cut across the prairie to Seward, 37 miles to the southeast to trade for necessities. On these trips he passed the homestead of Fredrick Fusby, a Swedish family with many children who had moved in from Iowa. Many times as he passed Matilda, the oldest daughter, would be out hoeing the garden, herding cattle or hanging out clothes. At first he barely spoke and went on his way but he soon stopped to talk briefly and as his trips progressed he became acquainted with the entire family, one son was almost as old as Will and sometimes he was invited to a meal. Mr. Baker soon learned what excellent cooks the Swedish women were, and they say a way to a mans' heart is through his stomach, but I imagine Will also noticed how thrifty and how energetic the Swedish girls were. Anyway, a romance between he and Matilda soon blossomed and on August 29, 1876 they were married by Rev. C. A. Falk of the Mission Church in Stromsburg.

They started housekeeping in the little sod house with furniture made from wooden crates. He purchased a little wooden stove in which they burned buffalo and cow chips, corn stalks and what wood he could cut along the river. He had by this time purchased a wagon and a cradle (used to cut his wheat).

In 1877 a little girl was born in the sod house, she was named after his sister Minnie.

Times were extremely hard both physically and financially, but by this year he had a small load of corn to sell. It had been planted kernel at a time from a wooden box affair that held 1 gallon of seed. The strap went over the shoulder and as he walked along he would push down on the wooden lever, letting the seeds drop into the new ploughed furrow, with a kick of his foot the seed was covered. It was hoed by hand the first few years. There was very little machinery to be had and he would buy nothing until he could pay for it. When fall came the corn was picked, shelled by hand put into sacks, put into the wagon and hauled to Columbus where prices were better than at Seward. When he reached the Platte river which was fairly high at the time, he unhitched his horse, put two sacks of corn on the horse's back and he and the horse crossed over. He then placed the sacks on the north bank and returned for more, making as many trips as necessary to get the corn across, as he didn't want it to get wet or they wouldn't buy it. After getting all the corn across he could go back, hitch the horse with the ox that was still hooked to the wagon and they would pull the empty wagon across the Platte, then he would reload his sacks of corn and go on north

east until he came to the railroad bridge that crossed the Loup River. Here the Union Pacific had planked the bridge for the convenience of farmers to bring their grain to Columbus and get what supplies they needed. A guard stood on the bridge and if no trains were coming they would let the wagons across.

The process of returning with supplies especially with some coal was hazardous as many a wagon or team or both often mired down in the quick sand. It is said one man who lived by this crossing and had a big oxen team became rich by pulling out the immigrants whose covered wagons mired down and other early pioneers who had too heavy a load.

The trip to and from Columbus took two long days. Because of the drinking, gambling and high prices for rooms in Columbus he never stayed overnite but would get back across the Platte before dark and stay overnite with a family who lived in a dugout along the trail. Getting up at daylight the next morning he would continue his journey home.

In the meantime his wife would milk the cows, feed the poultry and pigs, do any other necessary farm work and anxiously await his return for she knew that only a few years before, Ted McMurty had been killed by Indians on his way to Columbus and a Baker relative who had gone by foot to Seward with a sack of wheat on his back to be made into flour had never returned. (To this day no one knows if the Indians killed him or if it grew dark and he fell into an open well).

In 1879 another daughter was born in the same little sod house. She was named Hattie after her grandmother Fusby.

The railroad reached Stromsburg that same year so now the farmers could ship grain and livestock much easier. Mr. Baker began to raise more cattle. Before a well was dug on the homestead the livestock was driven a mile west to the Blue river to drink and water was brought home from the springs to drink. At this time the Blue River was deep and clear with many good springs. Later Mr. Baker purchased a windmill from J. P. Smith who sold the first windmills in Stromsburg but the digging was a slow and tedious process.

By 1885 he had purchased railroad land across the road in Sec. 19, had a frame house built and a son Chester was born.

Most of his land was under cultivation but he still had little machinery. In July 1884 hot wind blew for 12 days. Most of the corn died, was cut for fodder and some burned for fuel. Wheat, oats and barley were pastured or cut to be used as hay for winter time. Gardens were kept watered so there would be some vegetables for winter.

Mr. Baker had a will and a way and on his land was determined to stay. As he had been thrifty and would never go in debt he survived the many hardships of grasshopper and droughts and blizzard where others gave up and let their land go back. In 1890 a daughter Myrtle was born and in 1893 a son, Morace.

1893 saw a financial panic all over the country which caused farm products to be so low it was useless to take them to market-freight rates were higher than the livestock or grain sold. Regardless of this, Bakers had food for themselves and livestock and Mr. Baker brought some more pretty cheap land during the coming years.

In the meantime he had been instrumental in getting Dist. 35 established and a school house built for he wanted his children to have a good education. All five of his children attended this school, Minnie, Hattie, Chester, Myrtle and Morace. After her graduation from Stromsburg high school Hattie taught in this school and years later her daughter Mildred taught here.

When the United Brethren church was started several miles southwest of his homestead, Mr. Baker always took his wife and children by wagon to church regularly, every Sunday. When the Eden Baptist church started in Stromsburg they joined there as it was much closer. He, his wife and all his children became

active members in the Eden Baptist Church. Minnie taught Sunday School there for over 50 years.



MR. AND MRS.
WILLIAM
BAKER

Around 1906 he purchased another 160 acres north of the homestead. He built a beautiful new house and barn.

His son Chester who married Della VanHoosen stayed on the original homestead and Chester lived there until his death in 1968.

Mr. Baker and his son Morace farmed the new place for many years but when Morace got married in 1921 Mr. and Mrs. Baker moved to Stromsburg but each morning he would get up early and go out to one of the farms to help one or the other of his sons. Over the years he acquired more land in Polk and York counties and at the time of his death in 1927 owned over 760 acres.

This is another story of how with faith and determination, a pioneer of Polk County made good for himself and his heirs. Much of the land he owned is still owned by Baker heirs.

JOHANNA YOUNGLUND

In the fall of 1868, Swan Rystrom and his daughter Hanna, then 16 years old, left the small farm of his wife's mother in Asa Soken Kronebergan, near Voksjo Sweden for America. They arrived in Chicago on November 8, 1868. Hanna remained in Chicago where she found employment for the winter. Swan Rystrom continued on to Kansas City, Missouri to find a job working for the railroad.

On June 9, 1869 Mrs. Rystrom and her six other children walked approximately fourteen miles to the nearest railroad at Landhult, where they went by rail to Smoland and on to Malmo where they boarded a freight sail boat to Copenhagen, Denmark. At Copenhagen they were transferred to another freight sail boat

which took them across the North Sea to Hull, and from there to Liverpool, England where they boarded a steamship which took them to Quebec, Canada. From Quebec they took the train to Chicago where they were met by Hanna and together they journeyed to Kansas City where they were met by Mr. Rystrom on July 4, 1869. After a few days there they made their home on a farm near Osborn, Missouri. Here they lived and worked for five years and mourned the loss of two daughters.

In 1874, Hanna and her father came to Seward, Nebraska where they were met by Andrew Younglund with whom Hanna had become acquainted while living in Missouri. They went directly to Osceola, Nebraska where they were married February 28, 1874. Their first home was a sod house on a farm three and one-half miles northwest of Stromsburg, which had been homesteaded by the groom the previous year.

The sod home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Younglund was blessed by the birth of four children, but death took the first born as a small infant. In 1879 a frame dwelling was erected to take the place of the old sod house. This was one of the largest homes in the area at that time. Later an addition was made to the house making it more convenient and comfortable for their large family. One more infant passed away, leaving five boys and six girls to grow to maturity. They were: Albert, Emma (Benzen), Will, Ida (Youngquist), Amanda (Youngquist), Emil, Hilma (Seaberg), Anton, Amelia (Carlson), Melvin and Minnie (Larson).



Johanna Katherine Rystrom Younglund family - back row, left to right: Will, Albert, Emma and Amanda. Front: Emil, Andrew (holding Amelia), Hilma, Hannah (holding Melvin) and Anton in front.

On April 1, 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Younglund moved to a home in the east part of Stromsburg where they resided for thirteen years. On September 13, 1920 they moved to a new home which they had built nearer to the heart of the city where they remained until Mr. Younglund passed away on August 3, 1925 and Mrs. Younglund on July 6, 1930. Many grandchildren and great grandchildren still make their home in this area.

AUGUST RYSTROM

It was at the age of twelve years that August Rystrom and other members of his family left Asa Soken, Kronbergland, Sweden, to come to the United States.

In 1868 his father, Swan Rystrom, and sister Hanna had left the same place to come to America to make their home. The following June, 1869, his mother (her maiden name being Maja Stina Pehrson) and the rest of the family left to join the husband and father in the United States.

They had to walk twenty-eight miles to the nearest railroad station after which they traveled by rail, freight, sail boat and steamship. They traveled by rail to Denmark, across the North Sea to Liverpool, England, to Quebec, Canada. From there they went by train to Chicago where they were met by Hanna. They continued on to Kansas City, Missouri, where Swan had located.

The following spring they moved to a small farm near Osborn, Missouri, where they raised corn, oats, potatoes and garden vegetables using horse drawn walking implements. The family lived there until the spring of 1875 when they came to Polk County. They purchased railroad land about five miles southeast of Stromsburg. The town at that time had a postoffice, store and blacksmith shop.



August Rystrom



Mrs. August Rystrom

Mrs. August Rystrom (Emma J. Fusby) was born in Rome, Iowa, November 29, 1862, where her parents had settled. Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Fusby, her parents, had come from Sweden in 1851 with other immigrants. In 1873, this family came to Polk County, Nebraska; and settled on a homestead also a few miles southeast of Stromsburg.



Farm home of Mr. and Mrs. August Rystrom and their family - about 1905.

August and Emma Rystrom were married February 7, 1879 and made their home on his farm in Polk County. They lived on the same farm continuously until they retired in 1920. At that time, they moved into a new home which they had built in Stromsburg.

They were blessed with eleven children: Oscar A., Walter D., Mabel L., Ettie P. (Anderson), Raymond W., F. Alvin, Lester H., Winnie A. (Anderson), Clayton A., and Laverna M. One daughter passed away in infancy.

They were privileged to celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary and observed fifty-five years of marriage. Mr. Rystrom passed away May 31, 1934 and his wife on September 16, 1946.

Their home farm and the home in town are still owned by members of their immediate family.

FRANK RYSTROM

The Rystrom home, located two and one half miles south and two miles east of Stromsburg, was a landmark in Polk County for almost a hundred years. True, it was not the same house, but there stood always the welcome gate to family and stranger alike. From 1875 when Frank's father, Swan, brought his family to the virgin soil of Nebraska to the time when the large family home of Frank was torn down in 1965, this had always been the Rystrom home.

Today the land remains in the ownership of Frank's sons, but time has moved all of the family from the Rystrom home that might have observed its Centennial in 1975. However, time cannot deny the descendants of Swan Rystrom the blessings that were bestowed upon them through the life and freedom extended to them because of Swan's move from Sweden to the abundant life in America.

Swan's youngest son, Frank, made his home on this land that his father had bought from the railroad at \$6.00 an acre, with an agreement that it was to be paid for in payments within twenty years. The youth of this year of 1972 would consider the cost per acre to be somewhat less than the price of a "night on the town". However, the Rystrom family did not find the need for recreation of that sort. As the day ended, the great need was for rest in order to meet the demands of the new day. And in this way they found the abundant life and taught those who followed the joys of perseverance in progress and education.

Frank married Anna Carolina Kinberg in 1889. To this union twelve children were born: Irvén, Annamae, Ruth, Carol, Wayne, Lilac, Frances, Kenneth, Luella, Pauline, Richard and Maxine.

The farm home was maintained beyond the years that the family was growing up. However, the parents also maintained a town house; first in Kearney, Nebraska for two and a half years, and later in Lincoln, Nebraska for sixteen years for the purpose of educating their children. In the summers they returned to the farm home.

In the hope that more people may realize the importance of diligence and consideration for others, there remains a Frank and Lena Rystrom Memorial Award at the Stromsburg High School for the further education and encouragement of some deserving student.

SCOTT - MARKER

Among the early settlers of Polk County were my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Marker. They came from Viroqua, Wisconsin in the fall of 1875. My mother, Hattie Marker, her father and mother and other women of the party came by train to Columbus. My uncles made the trip in covered wagons.

Although only eight years of age mother remembered the life of the early pioneers. She saw the change from those covered wagons to the automobile.

My grandfather did not take a homestead, but purchased a farm north of Osceola which was the family home for several years.

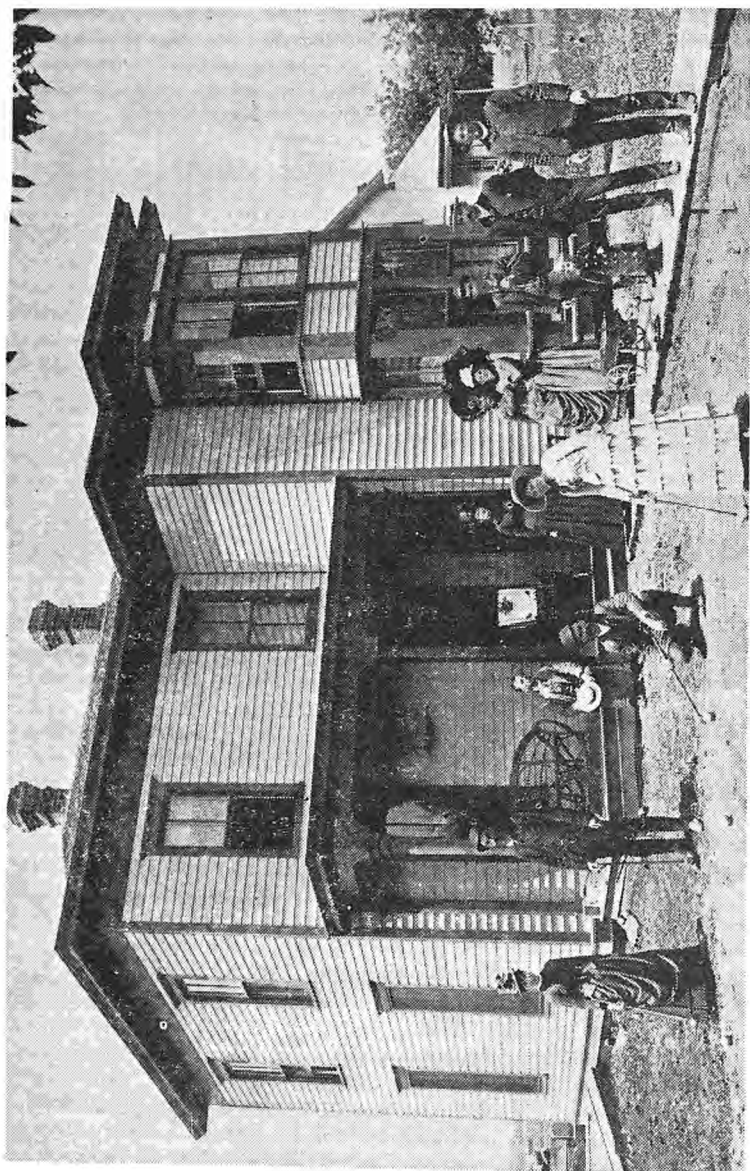
He homesteaded in Holt County in 1883 and he and my grandmother died there. After his death in 1886 mother returned to Polk County. She was teaching south of Shelby in the blizzard of 1888.

My father, Alex Scott, came to Stromsburg in 1885. He and John A. Frawley had been friends since childhood at Marengo, Iowa. My uncle, Irvin Scott, had been here several years working for Mr. Frawley. My father came to visit them and bought the implement business of Olaf Headstrom. In 1892 several business men organized the Blue River Lumber Company. My father was manager and later became sole owner.

Through his friendship with Mr. Frawley he soon became a friend of Mr. Louis Headstrom. In "Reminiscences" written by him for the dedication of Lewis Headstrom Marker he said, "I soon learned that Mr. Headstrom was the leading spirit for the advancement of Stromsburg and the welfare of the community." To his foresight and liberality we owe the extra ten feet in the width of Main Street now a part of Federal Highway No. 81.

"Industrial and retail activities of those days centered around the "Blacksmith" Olson and Boostrom brickyards, the farm implements and lumber yards.

"During the seven years that Mr. Headstrom was my neighbor I was in close touch with his every day life. It was my privilege to be a co-worker as councilman with him as the first Mayor of the city. Through all his public and private dealings I can recall no instance of his working for self interest or gain. In every case uppermost in his mind was the betterment of the other fellows."



Jennie Scott, Alex Scott, next two unknown, Mrs. Will Ferguson on porch, Mrs. Frank Buckley with mallet in hand, Jennie Irvin, Mrs. Harry Skelton, unknown, Dr. W. V. Sharp, Hayes Headstrom.

My father built our home in 1885. His aunt, Miss Jennie Irvin, came to make a home for him and my uncle Irvin Scott. Soon my aunt, Jennie Scott, came and was a teacher in the schools.

"Aunt Jen Irvin" as I have heard her affectionately spoken of "took in boarders" and many of the young people of the community boarded there.

It was to this "boarding house" that my mother came when she arrived in Stromsburg as a teacher in the fall of 1888.

On July 1, 1890 my parents were married. "Aunt Jen Irvin", Aunt Jennie Scott and Uncle Irvin moved into a house located where the library is now.



the Scott home

As my mother saw the change from oxen to the automobile, my father saw many changes in farm implements. The change from the walking cultivators to tractors and from threshing machines to combines.

I remember hearing about the Jenny Lind and Yankee Junior cultivators. In an old newspaper I found an advertisement for "The Little Yankee Sulky Plow" and "The New Departure" "The original and only genuine Tongueless cultivator."



The Scott business building

These he sold and binders and twine, the surrey with the fringe on top and later the automobile.

He also sold windmills, and a break down of a windmill for a farmer was a tragedy. Help must go as soon as possible and Frank Hardy was the man for that job. Other men who worked for my father during the years were Charley Lindgren John Pike; Dana Deeds and E. L. Hallquist. My brother, Wallace, and H. R. Anderson were both working in the business before dad sold to them in 1927.

The harvest time was a busy time at his office. A binder had to be put up so a farmer could have it the next day. If there was not time during the day it was done by night. Before electric lights, I can remember someone holding a lantern for the men to be able to work and farmers coming after we were all in bed and dad would go for repairs or twine. The farmer had probably worked in the field until dark and then came with horse and buggy.

We had our first automobile in the fall of 1908. It was a two cylinder Jackson. My father and my brother went to Omaha to get it. A salesman came with them as far as David City. But he would not work after six o'clock and Wallace, at the age of fourteen, drove home after dark.

Dad sold a few Jacksons and the slogan for that car was "No hill too steep, no sand too deep." About 1915 he came to be a Buick dealer and sold Buicks for several years.



Hattie M. Scott



Alex Scott

Mother and dad were active in the affairs of the community. He was an officer and on committees of many civic organizations. One was the Board of Education on which he served from 1889 to 1909. He was active in the Masonic Lodge and Order of the Eastern Star. He was Master of the Lodge and Patron of O. E. S. He was given a fifty year pin by both organizations.

Mother was a member of the Francis M. Ford Club. In the early years of electricity the lights were turned off at 11:00 p.m. When there was an evening meeting of the club or any party, a basket with some of the refreshments was

sent to John Carlson who had charge of the plant. Then he would keep the light on so the guests could get home and in bed without lighting a lamp.

When the club became the Woman's Club, of course, she was a member and also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the American Legion Auxiliary. First Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter established in 1905, four years later she became Grand Worthy Matron of the State of Nebraska. She served for many years as a member of the Board of the Masonic-Eastern Star Home in Fremont.

As my parents saw changes I saw some of the same ones, but I would like to mention another, when I was a child the "fire house" was across the street from our house where the Barber Service Station is now. A bell hung outside in a belfry and was rung in case of fire. The men would have to run with the hose cart. Before we had the motorized truck the hook and ladder was often pulled by a team or behind an automobile. Many times the men would have to run with it.

My mother passed away in 1940 and my father in 1945 and the house, built in 1885, in which they had been together for almost fifty years was sold. In this home my sister Marian (Mrs. Charles) Rippie, my brother Wallace and I, Helen Scott, were raised. In it were all the activities of a growing family, many parties reunions of old friends, impromptu affairs, planned meetings and in the latter years happy times with grandchildren. I am sure many friends as well as members of the family have memories of occasions there.

In 1894, an infant son, Wallace Marker, came to join an old pioneer family, Alex and Hattie Scott, and two sisters, Marian and Helen.

He grew up in the family home next to his father's lumber yard. Here, he and boyhood chums, some of them many of you will remember, Einar and Fred Swanson, the Maxwell boys, and others, spent many happy boyhood hours. Like boys of today, as they grew older, their interests gravitated toward automobiles and motorcycles, and their time was spent around the August Headstrom machine shop. Here, Wallace and Fred built an interesting vehicle described in the Headlight many years ago. These young men followed the automobile industry



Fred Swanson and Wallace Scott on motorsled

from the 1908 2 cylinder Jackson to the modern day eight cylinder air-conditioned automobile.

Wallace spent a year, 1911-12 at the Uni. of Nebraska and then came home to join his father, Alex, in his business of selling farm implements and lumber. In 1915 they also became the Buick Agency.

In 1918, Wallace enlisted as an ambulance driver. He served in France with Base Hospital Unit #49, returning home in 1919 and his former place in the family business. In 1922 he brought his Irish bride, Nelle Mae McGaffin, daughter of Hugh and Nelle McGaffin of Polk, Nebraska, home to Stromsburg.

In 1928, they moved from a small bungalow in the east part of town with their two small daughters, Nelle and Ann to the house at 5th & Exchange which would remain the family home.

This young couple, better known to their friends as "Babe and Scotty," spent many hours with others of their friends enjoying, improving and working in the affairs of the community.

During his lifetime, Mr. Scott served on the Cemetery Board as a volunteer fireman, Comm. of the American Legion, and was a member of the Masons and The Shrine. One of his favorite activities was the Park Board, as he greatly enjoyed young people and the out of doors.

Mrs. Scott was a member of the D.A.R., the Woman's Club and served many years on the Library Board. She also was Worthy Matron of the O.E.S. and served as Grand Organist and Grand Conductress of O.E.S. Grand Chapter. She also served on the board of the Eastern Star Home in Fremont, Nebraska and like her husband, always had time for young people. Some of their happiest hours in their later years were spent with their two grandsons, Scotty and Kirk Mengshol.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME AUGUST 17, 1922 STROMSBURG'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

By Mrs. Alexander Scott

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends of today and of the long ago. I cannot offer you the keys to the city, as is some times done on occasions like this, for we have none. Our gates are always open, the latch string is always out, and the hospitality of our citizens is as boundless as the prairies, as free as the air and sunshine.

But what pleasure is mine today to represent the citizens of Stromsburg and extend to you a welcome to our little city on the Blue.

Welcome to those who call Polk County home. Welcome to those who come from other counties to share the pleasures of this day. Welcome to those who once resided here, but who have wandered like truants, for riches and fame, but who have returned to celebrate this semi-centennial, to renew old friendships and greet comrades of long ago. We would honor the early settlers who are still here, and speak words of appreciation and reverence in the memory of the pioneers who have gone to their reward.

I would like to think the committee selected me for this place because I, too, am a pioneer. I was here during the covered wagon period depicted in the pageant this afternoon. I have seen the ox teams and lumber wagons supplanted by the horse and carriage and these, in turn, displaced by the luxurious motor vehicle. I have seen grasshoppers so thick they darkened the sun and devastated this beautiful country. I have seen drouth and hot winds burn up the crops in a day and leave the fields in July looking brown as November. And I have seen crops in such abundance that Polk County could almost have fed the state. I have seen the generous farmers of Nebraska give by the car load from their great abundance, to feed the starving multitudes of Europe. I have watched with the

keenest interest the marvelous development in this county for almost fifty years. I have seen the splendid men and women rise above discouragements, and triumph over difficulties with their faith still unshaken and their courage still supreme.

It is almost forty-seven years since I first called Polk County home. Forty-four years last 4th of July since I first saw Stromsburg.

I wonder how many are here today who will remember that occasion, who celebrated our Nation's birthday in Mr. Morrill's grove, just south and east of the Prairie Creek bridge, opposite what is now Buckley Park, in the shelter of the elm tree that still stands.

I wish I could paint a word picture of Polk County as I first saw it in 1875. Coming from the big timber of western Wisconsin there surely was a great contrast. I think I am safe in saying there wasn't a tree from the Platte to the Blue as high as my head.

Contrast the dugout, the soddy or the frail frame shack in which the early settlers dwelt with the comfortable modern homes of today. I was old enough, and I was here early enough to realize in a great measure the hardships, privations and sacrifices of the men and women who conquered this prairie state, planted the trees and by their toil and perseverance improved their farms and built the beautiful homes of today.

I am proud that I once lived in a prairie shack, out here where the west begins. I count it a great honor to have known those pioneers, to have called them friend and neighbor, to have been a guest in those humble homes where everyone was welcomed, where friend or stranger shared the best they had to give; where there was always plenty of floor room and everyone went away rested and refreshed, back in the days when we were all "so happy and so poor";

I have lived long enough to know
"There is no friend like the old friend
Whose pathway meets our own,
Whose morn and noon and evening
Have known what we have known."

In those days how truly we bore each others sorrows, and shared each others joys and formed friendships that will endure until we greet each other in that city not made with hands.

We are so glad you are with us today and every citizen of Stromsburg is on a committee to see that you have a good time.

In memory of the founders who had a vision of this city fifty years ago and whose fondest hopes have been more than realized in its development, I bid you welcome.

In memory of the pioneers who toiled and sacrificed that we might today enjoy the benefits of their early experiences -- in the name of the early settlers who still abide with us, I bid you welcome.

In the name of the city officials who labor constantly for the betterment of our town, who strive to keep it clean and wholesome, a fitting environment for the proper development of our youth; in the name of the first mayor and the last mayor, I welcome you.

Every man, woman and child, who calls Stromsburg home, extends to you cordial greetings and a hearty welcome.

We want you to enjoy the day to the fullest extent and we hope you will take with you to your homes very pleasant memories of this fiftieth anniversary.

IRVIN SCOTT

Irvin Scott came to Stromsburg before 1883, for at that time he was a legal voter and signed the petition for the community to become a village.

He was First Lieutenant of Company I of the National Guard called into service for a short time following the Battle of Wounded Knee.

In July 1890 his aunt, Miss Jennie Irwin, his sister Jennie and he moved into the house located where the library is now. It was about that time that his brother James joined them.

In 1892 his aunt died and his sister Jennie stopped teaching and made a home for her brothers. Other young people also boarded there.

He formed a partnership with C. A. Peterson in 1888 and changed partners so the firms were Scott, Peterson and Halden. Scott and Halden and Scott and Ericson. His brother Jim worked in the store with him through the years.



Irvin Scott



Jennie Scott

"Irv" Scott, as he was known in the community, retired from business in 1910. In 1912 he built the Scott Block, the lower floor being rented to Ericson Bros. and the upper floor was known as "Scott Hall", this hall was used for a community center for many years and was one of the biggest assets the town had at that time.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Scott, and sister Elizabeth, came to Stromsburg to make their home about 1905. Following the death of his father in 1909, his mother and sister Elizabeth joined the others in their home.

About 1915 a new home was built just west of the former one.

His mother passed away in 1918 and in 1919 the brothers and sisters moved to California.

They all came back for visits, but "Irv" came often and spent months with relatives and friends. All of the sisters and brothers passed away in California and are buried there.

THE FALK FAMILY

Rev. Charles A. Falk was the first called minister to serve the small organized Swedish group in Polk County and Stromsburg, known as the Mission Church now the Evangelical Covenant Church. Arriving in Polk County in the year 1876, having crossed the Missouri River on a ferry boat and then on by way of Columbus, Nebraska. He forded the Elkhorn and Platte rivers, since there were no bridges, in a lumber wagon with a piece of board as a seat, having been met by a friend and member of the congregation.

He was born May 25, 1847 in Framsteby, Vena parish, Kalmar province, Smoland, Sweden and was educated in the public schools of Sweden. In the year 1870 at the age of 23 he migrated to the United States and located at New Windsor, Illinois, and after a couple of years of manual labor in various parts of Iowa and Illinois, he enrolled in the Lutheran Theological Seminary and Anskari Synod School at Paxton and Knoxville, Illinois, which was later located in Rock Island. He was ordained as minister of the Gospel the 9th day of June 1877, in Little Indian, Cass County, Illinois.

During his many years of service as a minister in Nebraska and other parts of the United States, both with the Mission Church, now the Evangelical Covenant and later with the Evangelical Free Church of America, he labored under much hardship during many years of pioneering.

Rev. Falk was joined in matrimony to Miss Ida Carolina Johnson at Stromsburg February 16, 1878. Miss Johnson was born in Puketrop, Backaby, Smoland, Sweden, July 26, 1855. The Rev. and Mrs. Falk were the parents of two children; one daughter, who died in infancy and one son, John A. Falk, who still resides in Stromsburg.



Rev. C. A. Falk



Mrs. C. A. Falk

They helped to develop and promote the religious work and also were very active in the social and civic affairs of Stromsburg.

While serving the Mission Church, the Falks bought a farm one mile west of town, and under much difficulty, both physical and financial, they labored and built their home. They always called Stromsburg their home, and in later years retired to their city property.

John Alfred Falk was born in Osborn, Missouri April 14, 1885 and migrated to Polk County, Nebraska, arriving in Stromsburg at about the age of one year and a half.

"Now a near native and as the years went by I received my schooling and education in the Stromsburg schools, both grade and high school and later Boyle's Business College in Omaha.

"Lived on a farm a mile west of Stromsburg during a few of these school years, walking to and from school regardless of weather, rain or shine. An exception, I remember the blizzard of 1888, at the age of 3, father and mother made a visit to town in the afternoon and on the way home the wind commenced to blow; father picked me up and the blizzard hit just as we reached the kitchen door.

"Recall my many farm experiences, walking in the field when we plowed, walked when we harrowed, walked when we cultivated. This took care of the leg exercise during summer vacation. We had other exercise or recreation, 10 acres of hay to take care of: 1st, mow, 2nd rake; 3rd put in shock, 4th pitch on rack, 5th pitch into hay loft in barn, 6th pack it away in the loft. Corn picking time in the fall, frosty mornings, team of horses and a wagon, husking peg and wet cotton flannel gloves. How can you forget! Then the early morning chores, slopping the pigs and milking the cow.

"Remember the Indians, Gypsies and horse traders camping below us on the Prairie Creek banks. They were always up to something, beg, steal or skin you in some way.



Mr. and Mrs. John A. Falk

"Those were the days of no electricity, gas, bathrooms, etc., no Federal Aid; no food, unless you raised it yourself.

"Drew a number in the Rosebud Land lottery in 1912 which took my time until 1916 when we returned to Nebraska.

"Here is where my wife entered the picture.

"Anna May (Bramer) Falk was born June 25, 1894 on a farm near Harlan, Iowa, one of 14 children, where she attended a country school and later Teacher's College. Taught school for a short time in Iowa, after which she left Iowa for South Dakota to visit a sister and where she met her future husband, John A. Falk. Here she again devoted time to teaching which was very eventful and where she experienced many adventures in a new settlement teaching 13 pupils in a little one room school house at \$35.00 a month (later \$45.00), riding horseback to and from school to avoid wild cattle, rattle snakes and coyotes and the wintry blizzards when the saddle pony knew the way back home.

"Falk's were married at Sioux Falls, South Dakota December 17, 1913. They have 5 daughters: Helen Evangeline Carson, Ransomville, New York, born December 11, 1914; Dorothy Caroline Marie Larson, Stromsburg, Nebraska, born July 17, 1916; Dolores May Kessinger, Wichita, Kansas, born July 30, 1919; Ruth Joan Brown, Hampton, Virginia, born May 16, 1924 and Phyllis Darlene Rider, Eudora, Kansas, born July 5, 1926.

"Mrs. Falk was very active in Church and Sunday School. Sunday School Superintendent 19 years. She was president of the Polk County W.C.T.U. and local president for many years; state director of the Child Welfare department for 5 years and served as Democratic Party Committee Woman for many years.

"In 1970 and 1971 Mrs. Falk was nominated Merit Mother of Nebraska and was presented a corsage and certificate by the Governor.

"Returning from South Dakota we located at Saronville, Nebraska where I held the position of Cashier in the bank until 1920, when we located in Polk, Nebraska where I was with the Farmers State Bank having the position of Vice-President. In 1929 we moved to Stromsburg where now over 40 years I have been active in Insurance and Real Estate.

Through the years I have also been active in civic affairs and served as a city councilman for 24 years. Fifteen of these years I was president of the council, and have also served several times as acting mayor.

"I have been a longtime member of the Commercial Club, a charter member of the Sertoma, a member of the Polk County Historical Society and Treasurer of the Polk County Red Cross. Also served as Chairman of the Polk County Democratic Party for many years and other committees and boards, and was appointed Admiral of the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska by Gov. Ralph G. Brooks, January 25th, 1960".

The Falks are members of the Evangelical Free Church and have had a substantial part in the history of that church.

MR. AND MRS. MARTIN NEWCOMER

Martin Newcomer was the son of Joshua and Catharine Angle Newcomer. He was born December 12, 1839 near Hagerstown, Md. Here he spent his early life. On November 13, 1862 he was married to Kate Sophia Fox and they established their home on a farm near Hagerstown. Here Frank Buhrman, Charles Joshua, Carrie and Hattie (twins), Grace, Harry Angle, and Emma were born.

In 1877 Martin went to Nebraska to visit his brother-in-law Michael Hoffer and family who had moved there in 1872. Michael had taken out a homestead in 1872 (as he was a Civil War veteran) seven miles east and one mile south of



Martin and Kate Newcomer

Stromsburg. Martin liked the country and purchased the farm homesteaded by Henry J. Bonner who had received the homestead certificate No. 3649 from the U. S. Government on December 1, 1875 for the SW 1/4 of Sec. 6 Twp. 13 R 1. He returned to Hagerstown and the next spring the family moved to Nebraska and were met at the train in Waco by his brother-in-law.

During their first year in Nebraska they lost two children--Hattie, age 8 and Emma, age 2. Victor Allen was born November 9, 1879 and died June, 1970. The Newcomers lived on this farm until about 1908 when they moved to Osceola where they spent the remainder of their lives. In 1909 they sold their farm to Thelander Peterson and it is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carrol Peterson and family.

Martin's sister, Elizabeth, was hopelessly injured as a child of eight years by having her clothing ignited as she lay alone in the large living room of the old stone house where she fell asleep by the open fireplace. After her parent's death she was a ward of her brother Martin and his wife for more than thirty years. While returning from the 4th of July celebration at Osceola just one block east of the Gov. Mickey home (now the Historical Museum), a heavy rain washed a ditch in the road and the rear wheels of the spring wagon dropped in, throwing both Kate, Martin's wife, and sister Elizabeth out of the wagon and injuring them. They were cared for in the new Mickey home. Elizabeth died from the effects of this accident July 6, 1901.

The early history of the Newcomer family goes back to Switzerland in the year 1719. Peter was the father of Wolfgang, who came to America about this time. Christian Newcomer was organizer of the United Brethren Church. He was a Circuit Rider with Francis Asbury. During the years 1795-1830 he made many remarkable tours on horseback preaching in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Canada. In Switzerland, the name was Neukomm. When they came to America it was changed to Neukommet and later to Newcomer.

Frank, the oldest son of Martin and Kate, married Alice Davis, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. P. Davis. To this union were born three children. After

his wife's death in 1896 Frank moved to Oklahoma where he spent the remainder of his life.



From left: Dwight Newcomer, his mother, Rex Newcomer, Agnes Newcomer, Grandma (Kate) Newcomer, Martin Newcomer, Hattie Newcomer.

Charles married Julana Davis and to this union were born eight children-- Agnes, Dwight, Hattie and Harry (twins), Rex, Irene, Lynn and Lura. Harry died in infancy and Rex died at the age of 62. Dwight married Lillian Berck and to this union three children were born-- Maurice, Baldwin and Lloyd. They adopted a girl, Alice, who died in January 1963. Dwight has farmed and lived in Polk County all his life. Agnes is retired in Des Moines, Wash. Irene lives in Minneapolis, Minn. Lynn married Betty Jones and to this union were born two boys -- David and Charles. Lynn lives in Belleville, Michigan. Lura resides in Zanesville, Ohio.

Grace, the only daughter of Martin and Kate, married Tom Kreis and lived on a farm southeast of Stromsburg until they retired and moved to Stromsburg. To this union were born Mildred, Merle, Charles and Russel. Mildred married Tracy Nelson and they have lived in and around Stromsburg, farming before they retired. They have one son, Elmore, who lives in Denver, Colo. Merle, the second daughter of Grace and Tom, passed away August 14, 1967. She was married to Roy Anderson, who was raised on the York County boundary. They had one adopted boy, Maynard. Charles lives in Denver. Russel married Edna Meyers, both living on Polk County farms most of their lives. Russel and Edna have four sons -- Ralph, Lyle, Tom and Bob, and one daughter, Emilie. Of these children, Tom and Bob farm around Stromsburg.

Victor Newcomer married Maud Gray from Osceola. They were parents of three girls -- Helen, Irma and Margaret. Helen and Margaret live in Sunnyside, Washington and Irma and her husband, Glen Reichenbach, live in Pasadena, Calif.

JOHN HERMAN TWARLING

John Herman Twarling was born in 1857 in Sund Parish Linkoping, Sweden. He came to America at the age of eleven years with his father and older brother Charles. The mother and two sisters remained in Sweden until arrangements could be made to bring them to this country. In the meantime, however, the mother died and the sisters remained there.

With other Swedish colonists they first settled in the vicinity of Galesburg, Illinois. With the coming of the railroad through Nebraska and the ensuing activity the other brother Charles came to Polk County. It was upon his urging that Herman and his father came also and purchased railroad land in the Pleasant Prairie area southeast of Stromsburg.

Due to ill health Charles was forced to retire from farming at an early age. Herman, however, continued to farm with his three sons Arthur, Lawrence and Walter. At the time of his sudden death in 1922 he had become an extensive landowner in the same area in which he first settled.



Herman Twarling



Anna Nelsson Twarling

Herman was married to Anna Nelsson who had come to America at the age of 17 years with her foster parents. She was born in Gammalkil, Linkopings Lan, Sweden. Beside the three sons there were three daughters--Ellen Conkle, Esther Warner and Mabel Stanton. The family continued to spend most of their lives in the Stromsburg community.

Herman describes the blizzard of 1888 -- it was a beautiful morning that day. Shortly after noon it began to snow and a terrific wind came up. He thought it best to bring the cattle in from the pasture, so he started on horseback. Visibility soon became zero and it was bitter cold. The faithful horse finally brought them home safely but Herman was forced to spend the night in the barn. Many school children who braved the storm became lost and perished. Those who remained with their teachers at school were rescued the next day. Herman, himself, had no children of school age.

JOHN F. ANDERSON

John F. Anderson was born in Sweden July 11, 1848 and came to America in 1868 arriving in Altona, Illinois where he was employed for a time. He decided to go farther west and landed in Lincoln, Nebraska. There he was employed by the Burlington Railroad as fireman on a passenger train on a run between Lincoln and Brownville.



First home built by John F. Anderson on his homestead in the fall of 1878. In the picture are Mr. and Mrs. John F. Anderson and their sons, Ansel Edward and Fred Albin.



This house was built in the Nineties

In 1878 he came to Polk County, took up a homestead claim 5 miles northwest of Stromsburg. He built a small frame house on his homestead and on March 13, 1878 he was united in marriage to Mary C. Anderson of Lincoln. Mrs. Anderson was born in Sweden February 18, 1852 and came to America at the age of 17 years landing in Altona, Illinois where an aunt resided with whom she was to make her home. She found employment there and remained four years moving to Lincoln, Nebraska where she was employed in an attorneys home until her marriage. Then the Andersons took up their abode on the homestead here along with the rest of the pioneers. They endured hard labor, sacrifices and all the hardships that went with pioneer life.

The Andersons had three children, Ansel, Fred and Edna.

In 1907 they retired and moved to Stromsburg where they spent the rest of their days. Their son Fred, took over the farm and continued to reside there and farm until his death September 26, 1953 having lived on the homestead all his life.

Fred married Gertie Johnson of Osceola May 1, 1907. They had four children, Allen, Kenneth and Marian Krahling of Stromsburg and Althea King of El Monte, California.

John F., as he was familiarly known among his friends, passed away February 14, 1930. Mrs. Anderson passed away October 8, 1933. The daughter, Edna, resides in the old home where she cared for her parents in their declining years and her brother Ansel, who was an invalid the last three years of his life. He passed away December 10, 1949.

ANDREW C. CARLSON

Andrew Christian Carlson and his wife, Ida Johnburg Carlson came to the Stromsburg area in 1878 homesteading and farming west of town for many years.

Andrew Christian Carlson was born in Tunnersje Parish Holland's lan, Sweden, on February 5, 1851. He came to America on June 2, 1876 at the age of 25. He came first to Victoria, Illinois.

Mrs. Carlson, who was Ida Johnburg, came with her parents from the parish of Bellnas Halsingland, Sweden to Victoria, Illinois in 1870. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johas Johnburg, and her sisters were Mrs. Martha Headman, her twin; and Mrs. J. P. Nordeen. She had one brother Henry Johnburg.



The Carlsons were married in May, 1878, in Illinois and soon moved to the farm five miles west of Stromsburg. They became the parents of ten children, six boys and four girls, namely, Charles, Minnie (Mrs. Charles Berglund), Arthur, Hanna (Mrs. Fred Linstrom), Emma (Mrs. John Peterson), Fred, Albert, Eunice (Mrs. J. Earl Parker), Walter and Russell. Of these, four are still

living, Mrs. Eunice Parker of Arcadia, California; Russell Carlson of Yorba Linda, California; Fred Carlson of Chappell, Nebraska and Mrs. Emma Peterson of Stromsburg, Nebraska.

Mr. Carlson spent most of his life on the farm after which his sons maintained the farming of his land.

Mr. Carlson sent for his mother in Sweden in 1884. She later passed away in 1887. Mr. Carlson's half-brother, John Allison, came from Sweden in 1888. He worked on the railroad in Stromsburg where Andrew Carlson later helped him obtain a farm of his own. The Allison's had a large family, also, and the boys were farmers, taking over the operation after Mr. Allison retired.

The Carlsons, having been residents near and in Stromsburg all these years, still have several descendants living in the vicinity.

Mrs. Carlson passed away at the early age of 58, in December, 1917. Mr. Carlson moved into town in Stromsburg in his later years where he passed away on February 5, 1932 at the age of 81 years.

Carolyn Peterson's Grandma Berglund (Mrs. Charles A. Berglund) told her about some experiences with the local Indians. One of her favorite stories follows. As a small child of less than five years of age, I remember playing around the house while mother was busy in the kitchen. Suddenly we heard a knock at the door on this sunny summer afternoon. Being curious about the caller yet a little timid, I stayed just a little behind mother and remained half-hidden behind her long full skirt as she opened the door. My father, being a farmer, was in the field at this time. Slowly mother (Mrs. Andrew C. Carlson) opened the door to find a tall, bronze Indian Brave. He explained, in a fashion, that his family was hungry and needed food. Mother immediately disappeared from the doorway and returned with a large piece of meat that had been "salted down". She offered it to the Indian and he took it smiling gratefully. He then mounted his pony, tied the meat to one end of his lariat and held onto the other end of the lariat, dropped the meat to the ground, kicked the pony in the flank and sped away dragging the meat in the dirt behind him.

THE A. W. PETERSON AND P. O. NORDLUND FAMILIES

Mrs. E. C. Nordlund, a long-time resident of Stromsburg, is the only living child of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Peterson. Born Edith Olivia Peterson, on June 4, 1913, she married Elmer C. Nordlund, the son of another of the early families of Stromsburg, Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Nordlund.

Anders William Peterson was born on September 28, 1851 in Asbo Socken, Boxholm, Ostergotland, Sweden. He left Sweden at age eighteen and with his parents and five brothers and sisters settled in Henry County, Illinois on May 29, 1870. He was married to Clara Mathilda Landstrom in Varna, Illinois on September 3, 1876.

Miss Landstrom, who was born January 28, 1846 in Ekeby, Lindkopingslan, Sweden, as a young girl worked for a wealthy family in Ekeby. Her wages amounted to only a meager \$20 a year. While she lived there she learned the intricate art of weaving linens and dress goods, and she was allowed some of this material to make her own clothing. When her daily tasks were completed, she loved to read and study in the library of this home, so that she gained a fine knowledge of Swedish history. She continued this enthusiastic self-education all her life. Her devout Christian character and high ambitions were of great influence later upon her children.

Because the poorer people of Sweden had so little future in their native land, many decided to go to America. Miss Landstrom came alone to Chicago in

1872, and worked in the tailor shop belonging to her half-brother. One of the tedious hand sewing jobs assigned to her was the making of buttonholes for men's suits. For each buttonhole completed she received three cents. Her brother spoke only Swedish, but Miss Landstrom felt the need to become better acquainted with the customs and language of America, so she found work as a maid for a wealthy family in Chicago. She remained with them until her marriage.

During these same years, Mr. Peterson worked on the family farm, for the railroad, and for a tree nursery in the Varna area until he had saved enough money to enable him to buy railroad land at \$7.00 an acre in Polk County, Nebraska. He made one trip alone to Nebraska to make the necessary negotiations. It was two years after his marriage to Miss Landstrom that he took his young wife and infant daughter Clara by train to Columbus. From there they loaded their few possessions on a lumber wagon and on March 1, 1878, they arrived at their farm site. Here, northwest of Swede Home, Mr. Peterson broke the prairie sod and built a frontier home. When their next child was born, they were still living in the basement area, but soon after they were able to move into the first part of the house, a structure probably no larger than 18 x 20 feet. The children born to them in this prairie home were Petrus, Linda, Henry and Edith. It was when Edith was a small child that the second wing was added to their house, and the picture shows how it appeared in 1892.



Country home of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Peterson after addition in 1892. The original part of home was begun in 1878.

The Petersons were faithful members of the Lutheran Church in Swede Home, where Mr. Peterson served as a trustee for many years. On October 20, 1878, they were among those attending a funeral at the church when the horrible prairie fire broke out. (This funeral was for Emma Fredrickson, the baby sister of Alfreda Fredrickson, who later married Henry Peterson). The coffin had to be placed in a plowed field, and the men worked all night fighting the fire.

Mr. Peterson had a vital interest in the progress of their country school. It was the Petersons who provided board and room for the teacher, and Mr. Peterson also served as moderator for the school. An old cash book indicates that the teacher was paid thirty dollars a month. It was Miss Minnie Stewart who taught

\$33.25

State of Nebraska, Polk County.

Sept 28 1888



TREASURER OF SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 8 OF Polk COUNTY:

Pay to the order of Emma Hubbert
the sum of thirty-five Dollars
out of any money in your hands belonging to the Fund for Teaching

No. 91

Countersigned:

N. V. Anderson
State Journal Co., Lincoln, Neb. Moderator.

A. W. Peterson
Director.

Copy of check signed by A. W. Peterson on payment of teacher - School District No. 8.

School District No. 8 at the time of the blizzard of January 1888. On that day Clara and Petrus had gone to school as usual, and the morning seemed clear and mild. By early afternoon, however, the raging blizzard had developed. Mr. Peterson hitched his horses to a lumber wagon, drove to the school, and bundled all the children and the teacher beneath blankets in the wagon. By this time it had become impossible to see the road back to the farm. By being given a free rein, the horses managed instinctively to find the way back home. There the Petersons



The A. W. Peterson family - first row (left to right): Petrus, Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Peterson. Back row: Clara, Henry, Edith.

made beds on the floor and Mr. Peterson kept a fire going all through the night to keep everyone warm. The parents of the other children did not know of their fate until the storm had subsided. Imagine their great relief when they found them safe at the Petersons the next day!

The Petersons remained on their farm for thirty years. In 1908 they built a home in Stromsburg where Mrs. Peterson died on November 10, 1921, and Mr. Peterson on February 19, 1940.

The eldest daughter Clara, born in Varna, Illinois on January 23, 1878 was married to Albert A. Pierson on April 17, 1898. She was dedicated to her family and home and was a source of great encouragement to her children throughout her life. The Piersons were married for fifty-six years and lived their entire married life on a farm west of Stromsburg. Their children are Helen, Walter, Elsie, Clarence, Dr. Roy and Carl.

The second child, C. Petrus, was born on March 10, 1880. In conformity with Swedish-American farm family custom, he worked on his father's farm until after his twenty-first birthday. Then he enrolled at Luther Academy in Wahoo, Nebraska; where he completed his high school course in two years. He graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois in 1906 and from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1909. He married Vera Melquist on June 29, 1910 and they moved to Lincoln in September 1911 where Mrs. Peterson still resides. The contributions he made to the State of Nebraska during his lifetime were many and in recognition of these he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Augustana on the fortieth anniversary of his graduation, a Distinguished Service Award and Builder's Award from the University of Nebraska; and the Lincoln Kiwanis Club Distinguished Service Medal for 1958. He served in the Nebraska House of Representatives in 1915 and 1917 and in the Senate in 1919. He was General Counsel for the Bankers Life Insurance Company of Nebraska from 1919 until his retirement in 1955. He served in the Nebraska Unicameral in 1941, 1943, 1945 and 1947. He had deep concern about the conservation of water and land resources which occupied much of his time and energies during his later years. He was president of the National Reclamation Association for four terms. Because of his great artistry in public speaking, he was in demand for many engagements. He loved to sing Swedish folk songs, and delighted in anything pertaining to his Swedish heritage. Mr. Peterson died on August 12, 1965. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson's children are Breta Dow, Vera Mae Mitchell and Patricia Larson.

The third child, Linda Victoria, was born May 28, 1882. As she grew to young womanhood she was beloved by all who knew her. She had deep religious convictions and many talents, one of which was skillful sewing. She attended Luther Academy for one term. Her untimely death was in August of 1910 when she was twenty-eight years old.

The fourth child, Henry Nathaniel, was born on September 6, 1884. He attended Luther Academy and in 1906 married Alfreda Fredrickson. They lived on the farm where he was born, until their retirement to Stromsburg in 1946. He was a faithful member of the Swede Home Lutheran church and well known in his community for his sincerity and genuine friendliness. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson's children are Wilma, Margaret, Helen Gustafson, Allen and James. Helen and her husband Paul live on the family homestead. Mrs. Peterson now lives with her two unmarried daughters in Lincoln. Mr. Peterson died April 21, 1956.

The fifth and youngest child, Edith Olivia, was born on May 30, 1887. She has been a resident of Polk county all her life, and of Stromsburg for the past sixty-three years. She attended Luther Academy in Wahoo in 1905 and 1906. After she moved to Stromsburg with her parents in 1908 she worked as a part-time clerk at Lunner and Johnson, which at that time was a general variety

store. Unlike the "dime-store" of today, she recalls selling such lovely items as Haviland china, hand painted tea sets, sterling silver, silverplate ware and cut glass pieces. From 1909 to 1912 she worked at the Wilson-Castile Mercantile, another flourishing store of Stromsburg's early days, which was also called the "Daylight store". Ladies of that day were still making most of their apparel, and clerking in this store recalls memories of selling velvets, fine woollens, silks and laces for Sunday dresses; lawns, swisses and organdy for summer; and calico and gingham for everyday clothing.

On June 4, 1913 Edith was married to Elmer C. Nordlund and to this union were born three children: Vivian (Stephens), Maurine (Hintz) and Donald. In 1918 they moved into their new home across the street from her parents' home and Mrs. Nordlund still lives in this home. She has been a member of the Stromsburg Salem Lutheran church for sixty-three years, and has been active in its women's groups all of this time. She has also been a valuable member of Eastern Star, Garden Club and Women's Club, and has held many offices in these organizations. Her indomitable spirit and courage have endeared her to her family and to the community as well.

Peter Olaf Nordlund was born in Ockelbo, Gastrikland, Sweden on July 11, 1860. In the same village of Ockelbo on February 13, 1861, a young lady named Hannah Hedman was born. These two became acquainted as they grew up in Sweden, and planned how they might one day go to America, the land of promise. Mr. Nordlund came to America first, and settled in Galesburg, Illinois on April 8, 1882. Here he was able to find work in his trade of carpentry. Miss Hedman followed in 1883, arriving in Galesburg August 4 of that year. She found employment in the home of a wealthy Galesburg family. Their ultimate goal was to settle in Stromsburg where Miss Hedman had relatives.

Pioneers who came to Stromsburg in earlier years were able to get only as far as Columbus by rail. However, in December 1879 a spur line which ran from Valley to Stromsburg was completed by a company called the Omaha & Republican Valley Railroad (later sold to Union Pacific). It was on this spur that Mr. Nordlund had saved just enough money to complete his trip and on April 8, 1884 he arrived in Stromsburg. Here he found employment as a carpenter with Lewis Sandin, the father of Mrs. Ray Carlson (Elfie Sandin). Mr. and Mrs. Sandin, with their two eldest sons Axel and John, had come from Sweden with the early settlers. Through the ensuing years the partnership of Sandin and Nordlund built many homes, farm properties, and business structures in the Stromsburg and surrounding areas. Many of these still stand today as a testimony to their labors.

Miss Hedman came to Stromsburg in July 1884, and stayed with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hedman. Peter (or Per, as earliest records show his name to be) and Maria Hedman were the great grandparents of present residents of Stromsburg, the Misses Mildred, Myrtle and Maud Anderson. On December 26, 1884 in the Hedman home, the wedding ceremony of Peter Olaf Nordlund and Hannah Erika Hedman was performed by Rev. J. E. Nordling, pastor of the Swede Home Lutheran Church. The Hedmans shared their little home with the newly married couple until the spring of 1885. This home was located between the farms of the elder Hedman's sons, Jonas and Andrew. It is still standing on the farm now belonging to Dick Sundberg.

Mr. Nordlund bought a lot from Andrew Sundberg, a first cousin of Mrs. Nordlund's, for the site of their first home. This lot is located just north of the new Free Mission church, and the house is still there. While he was building, he and his wife lived in the upstairs room of the Louis Sandin home, and it was here that their first child was born. They moved into their new home in April 1886. The first structure was very small, but as his family grew, Mr. Nordlund

enlarged the main room, and added a "front room", a bedroom and a porch. It was after these additions were made that the picture was taken. Eight children were born to the Nordlunds: Maud, Elmer, Harry, Margaret, Julian, Brynolf, Theodore and Marian.



First home of Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Nordlund (after addition)

The first carpentry job Mr. Nordlund had was the A. P. Buckley house, and his final contract before retirement was the remodeling of the J. T. Stanton house. Nordlund and Sandin built many of the buildings around the Stromsburg square, including the framework for the First National Bank and the old Stromsburg Bank building. When they were building in rural areas, they stayed all through the week at their host farm where they were given free board and room. During the dry years when many people could not afford to build, Mr. Nordlund worked as a grocery clerk for A. W. Anderson for a very meager salary.

Mr. Nordlund was interested in the development of his community, and served on the school board and city council for many years. Both he and his wife were faithful members of the Salem Lutheran church, where he served as deacon, Sunday School teacher and superintendent. Mrs. Nordlund was a careful student of the Bible, and knew many scripture passages and hymns which were a constant source of comfort to her. She loved to do fancy work and crocheting with her friends, after which they would serve "kaffe & dopp".

Mr. and Mrs. Nordlund celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on December 26, 1934. In 1936 they moved into a new home just north of the Lutheran church. Here Mr. Nordlund passed away on July 16, 1938, and Mrs. Nordlund on March 28, 1944.

The eldest daughter, Maud, was born on September 21, 1885. In 1908 she was married to Adolph F. Carlson, who was also the child of a pioneer family. His father was the organist of the Swede Home Lutheran Church. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson lived on his parents farm just west of Stromsburg until their retirement to Stromsburg. Their children were Evelyn and Paul, both deceased, and Ruth (Mrs. Kermit Johnson). Mr. Carlson passed away at the Good Samaritan Home in Osceola on May 17, 1968 where Mrs. Carlson now resides.

The second child, Elmer C., was born on June 10, 1888, and lived his entire life in Stromsburg. He received his formal education at the Stromsburg public



The P. O. Nordlund family - first row (left to right): Mr. Nordlund, Marian, Theodore, Mrs. Nordlund. Back row: Maud, Julian, Elmer, Harry, Margaret.

schools and at Luther College, Wahoo, Nebraska. On June 4, 1913 he was married to Edith O. Peterson and three children were born to them: Vivian (Mrs. C. W. Stephens), Maurine (Mrs. F. Lee Hintz, Jr.), and Donald.

Elmer Nordlund began a career of fifty-one years of banking on June 1, 1907 when he was made stenographer and bookkeeper of the Stromsburg Bank. In 1914 he became cashier and in 1917, a director. He was elected president of the bank in January 1937 in which capacity he continued until his retirement in May 1958.

His unselfish services to the community were evidenced in varied ways. He was a member of the Board of Education during the planning and building of the high school and took active leadership in this program. He served as mayor, city treasurer, president and secretary of the Commercial Club. He was an organizer of the local chapter of the American Red Cross, and was the chairman of the Polk County Savings Bond Committee. His memberships included the city council, library board, and the park board of Stromsburg, and Ambassador in Nebraska Ak-Sar-Ben. He was active in the Masonic Lodge and held the 32nd degree in the Scottish Rite, K. C. C. H., and in the Order of the Eastern Star where he served as Worthy Patron for many years.

Mr. Nordlund was a lifetime member of the Salem Lutheran Church. For many years he taught the adult Sunday School class and was on the church board. His deep religious convictions found expression in all aspects of his everyday life. The integrity, quiet dignity and wisdom which Mr. Nordlund possessed made him respected and loved by his family, the community and all who knew him. Mr. Nordlund died on March 9, 1960.

The third child, Harry, was born on March 26, 1891. After attending Luther College, he was employed at the bank in McCool. In 1918 he married Miss Hannah

Mattson. They made their home in York, Nebraska where he was with the First National Bank for thirty-nine years, and a valuable citizen of his community. Their two sons are Dr. Harold and Kenneth. Mr. Nordlund died in June 1951 and Mrs. Nordlund on October 21, 1965.

The fourth child, Margaret, was born on February 23, 1894. She lived with her parents until 1923 when she went to Denver, Colorado. She was employed in that city until her retirement in 1958. Since that time she has maintained her own apartment at the Senior Homes of Colorado in Denver. Throughout her almost fifty years of residence in Denver she has enjoyed a wide circle of friends in her church and other contacts.

The fifth child, Julian Peter, was born on July 25, 1897. He graduated from Stromsburg High School with the class of 1915 after which he attended Chicago University where he earned his bachelor's degree and his graduate degree in law. He affiliated with the Capitol Life Insurance Company of Denver, Colorado where he served as general counsel until his retirement. He was married to Florette Luce, and they had one daughter Nancy (Mrs. Charles Smallhouse). He also taught a night class at the Denver University Law School for many years, and served as legal adviser for the Colorado Medical Society. In this latter capacity he received special recognition for his work in the legislative reform in Blue Cross and Blue Shield Medical Insurance of Colorado. Mr. Nordlund passed away on September 11, 1968.

The sixth child, Brynolf, was born in 1900 and died of pneumonia as a small child in 1901.

The seventh child, Theodore, was born in 1903. He attended Stromsburg high school where he was a popular young man, an honor student and the president of the senior class. While playing football in a game with Polk, he suffered a tragic accident and died a few days later in October 1920. Had he lived, he would have been included in the Class of 1921 which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary this year.

The eighth child, Marian, was born on May 28, 1906. She is well remembered by the people of Stromsburg since she taught in the grade school of this community after she attended Luther College and had taught country school. She earned her A. B. degree by attending summer school at the University of Colorado for several succeeding years. After her mother's death, she went to teach in the North Platte schools, and from there to Lincoln, Nebraska where, after sixteen years of teaching, she retired in June 1970. She presently is living in Lincoln.

The contribution and influences of these two families upon the community have been felt through the years. They, together with the other early families of Stromsburg, have left us a heritage of industry, integrity and righteous living.

JOHN A. FRAWLEY

Mr. John A. Frawley came to Stromsburg in 1879, from Wisner, Nebraska and as a registered pharmacist, he opened a drug store in the spring of that year. That fall his store was destroyed by fire and although almost penniless after the fire, he was a man that could not be daunted and he set out to repair his loss. Wholesale firms with whom he had business relations before coming to Stromsburg, carried him on credit until he could re-establish himself. He rebuilt and added a stock of general merchandise and from that time was never out of the mercantile business in Stromsburg until 1906 when he sold his drug store to W. A. Barnard.

He was married to Josephine Headstrom, the daughter of Lewis Headstrom, the founder of Stromsburg. The Frawleys were blessed with three children, two daughters, Grace and Josephine, and one son, Louis.

During his years in Stromsburg, he was involved in many different business enterprises. He was in the lumber business with C. E. Gunnell, with Frank Burch, manager. At one time he owned the Stromsburg News, and for a few months was its' Editor. He was the postmaster, succeeding his father-in-law, Lewis Headstrom; he was the leading spirit in the organization of the Lime Kiln Club in 1880. Mr. Frawley was a member of the stock company that built the opera house, a stock holder in the first electric light company, and was also instrumental in the building of the hotel. He had a dam built across a draw on his land on the west city line, and Frawley's lake was a great outing place in its day, boating in the summer and skating in the winter, until in a cloud burst the dam was washed out and never rebuilt. The fountain in the city park was erected mainly through his enterprise. He was a charter member of the first fire company, in fact was foremost in almost every enterprise that came up during his residence in Stromsburg.



John A. Frawley



Josephine Headstrom Frawley

Mr. Frawley had a state-wide reputation as a business man, and in 1900 he was elected as a director in the Western Fire Insurance Co. of Lincoln, of which he was one of the founders.

In 1906, Mr. Frawley disposed of most of his holdings in Stromsburg and went to Denver to live, his family having gone previously, to that city to make their home. He became interested in oil development in Kansas and held considerable holdings in that commodity. It was while looking after his interests in that state that he became ill and died, December 22, 1908.

In a tribute written of Mr. Frawley after his death, by R. E. McConaughy, one of the men who came to Stromsburg at the same time that Mr. Frawley located here, says in part: "A twenty-five years' biography of John A. Frawley's life spent in Stromsburg is really a history of the city, so closely identified and

allied was he with the business, social and industrial conditions."

Mr. and Mrs. Frawley are buried in our local Stromsburg Cemetery.

JOHN ALFRED GUSTAFSON

John Alfred Gustafson was born in Skarabro, Sweden in 1855, and his wife was born in Ramnas Vastmanland in 1859. They grew up in their native country and were married in Sweden. At the time of their migrating to America, their first child was 2 years of age. Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gustafson came to Clarks, Nebraska in 1879, direct from Sweden by ship and train. From the Clarks depot, they set out on foot, en route to the Swedish settlement. They walked, together with three other families, until they came to the home of the Mastin's. Here they were received like old friends and were given a good breakfast of milk, soda biscuits and butter. Mr. Mastin then drove them in his wagon to the Swedish settlement. After staying there about two weeks they went on to the Swede

Home community. At this time, Swede Home had one general store, operated by P. O. Chindgren, who also served as postmaster. There was the church and a blacksmith shop.

Jobs were not too easy to find, except what work could be found around the farms. In the spring, when word came that a railroad was being built into Genoa, John set out on foot to find a job there. At Silver Creek, he learned, from another man on his way back, that they had all the men they needed at Genoa. Eleven miles from home, tired and disappointed, John came upon the section men at the railroad in Silver Creek, eating their lunches. Much to his surprise, he found they could speak the Swedish language, and he was invited to share in their lunch. The section boss also gave him a job, and here he worked for ten months, receiving \$1.40 a day in wages. During these ten months, he would walk from Silver Creek to Swede Home to see his wife and family.

In 1881, John Gustafson decided to become a farmer, so in March of that year, they homesteaded on a farm 10 miles northwest of Stromsburg. He purchased his entire farming equipment from another farmer for \$200.00, and with hard work, they later had 120 acres of good Polk County land for their own. They lived on the farm for 35 years and then moved to Stromsburg. Here they spent many years enjoying their retirement until their death. Mr. Gustafson passed away in 1936, and his wife in 1939.



The Gustafsons were blessed with a family of 13 children. One daughter, Mrs. Elsie Burgeson, presently resides in Stromsburg, at Swede Haven. Her son, Clarence Burgeson, now living in Lincoln, was in the plumbing and heating business in Stromsburg for many years.

JOHN H. HEDBLOOM

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hedbloom came from Oakelbod, Sweden and settled in Bishop Hill, Illinois. Mrs. Hedbloom, formerly Christeen Headstrom, was a sister of Lewis Headstrom, the founder of Stromsburg.

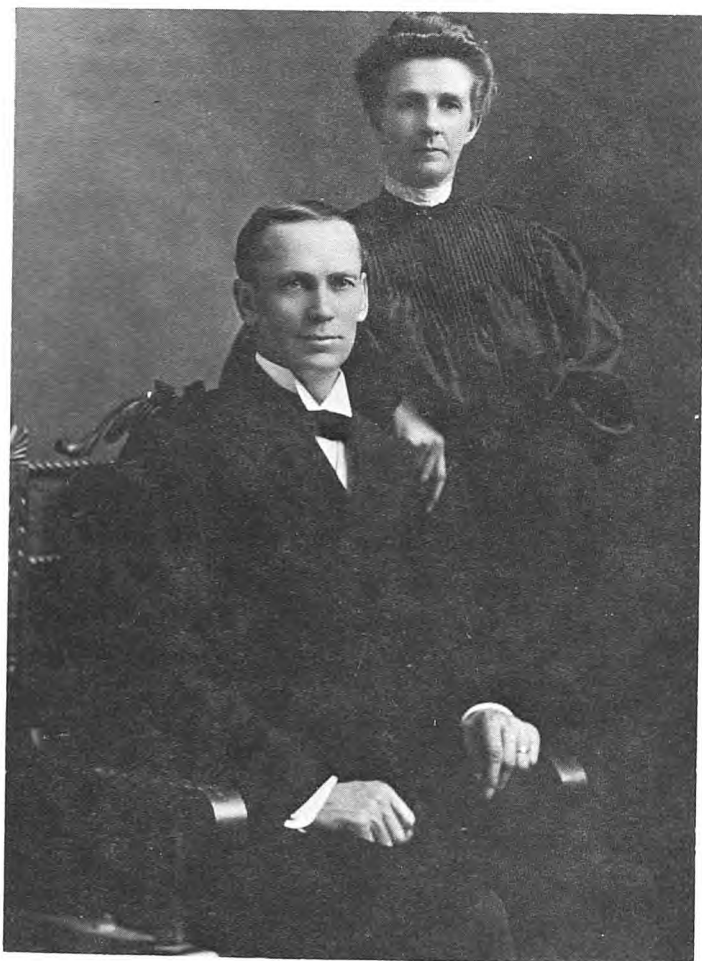


Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hedbloom

They came to Polk County in 1880 and lived on a farm two and a half miles north of Stromsburg. Mr. Hedbloom passed away in the year 1897 and Mrs. Hedbloom in 1921, at the age of 90 years.

The Hedblooms were blessed with four children, Christine, Hannah, John H. and Albert B. Christine was married to David B. Morgan. Hannah was the wife

of John Erickson; the Ericksons made their home in Stromsburg until 1910. While living in Stromsburg, Mr. Erickson was in the grain business and served as Mayor at one time. Their three daughters, Mable, Maud and Marie were all graduated from the Stromsburg High School.



Rev. and Mrs. John H. Hedbloom

John H. was an ordained minister and served as pastor of the Eden Baptist Church for 12 years. In 1912, Rev. Hedbloom, with his wife, Rose, and four children moved to Colorado. Their family consisted of two sons, Dewitt and Wilbert and two daughters, Josephine and Ruth. During his pastorate in Stromsburg, Rev. Hedbloom was influential in bringing about the union of the two Baptist churches in Stromsburg. He was a widely known and dearly loved pastor. In his later years, he served as an interim pastor at Polk, Nebraska, for a time.

Albert B. Hedbloom was married to Mary Lea Gaunt, and the article which follows tells of the prominent role this family played in the history of Stromsburg.

A. B. HEDBLOOM

Born in Henry County, Illinois, Albert B. Hedbloom came with his parents to reside on a farm two and one half miles northeast of Stromsburg during the year, 1880. He was a nephew of Lewis Headstrom, one of the founders of Stromsburg, and a cousin of the four Buckley Brothers, pioneer residents of Stromsburg. Because he had no middle name, he adopted the middle initial "B" and was always known and identified as A. B. Hedbloom. He became a resident and a business man here in 1888. He took an active part in the development of his town and community until the time of his death in 1931. He began his business career as cashier of the Park Bank in 1885. The succeeding twenty years, he was engaged in the grain business and for a time operated a merchantile store. In 1905, A. B. started a successful real estate agency which he continued until his death. His chief interest was to sell farm land and he also sold land in Colorado, Wyoming, western Nebraska and Minnesota.

He took a keen interest in the progress and betterment of Stromsburg. A. B. was one of the organizers and first officers of the Stromsburg Community Club in 1905, which is now known as the Stromsburg Commercial Club. He served as Mayor and was a member of the school board for a number of years, at which time he was influential in the building program for the first high school. In the late teens, he was one of the leaders in the movement to relocate the Polk County Seat in Stromsburg. He was a part of the effort to obtain a public library. He was a leader in patriotic programs during World War I. He spent many hours in the promotion of a good Summer Chautauqua circuit, together with the fall and winter entertainment program known as the Lecture Course. A. B. was an enthusiastic supporter of progress.

He belonged to the Republican Party and served as chairman of the Polk County Central Committee. He was twice a candidate for the State Legislature. He was a charter member and took an active part in the Eden Baptist Church. His main interests were his family and the welfare of his community and church.



A. B. Hedbloom



Mrs. A. B. Hedbloom

The marriage of Mary Lea Gaunt to A. B. Hedbloom took place June 21, 1893. Mrs. Hedbloom was a native of Iowa and came to Stromsburg to teach in the public schools in 1891.

She, too, was a leader in the development of the Stromsburg community, schools and churches. She was interested in youth welfare and spent countless hours assisting children with scholastic difficulties.

She served as president of the Women's Civic Improvement Club and organized and served as president of the Polk County Federation of Women's Clubs. She was Regent of Elijah Gove Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, and an active member of AR Chapter P.E.O. In 1940, she received special recognition as a charter member of Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs.

The Hedblooms had three children. Hazelle, now retired following a successful teaching career; Al, who is engaged in the real estate business and Marjorie, married to A. V. Kjelson, who was president of the First National Bank of Stromsburg for many years prior to his death. After the death of her husband, Marjorie has assumed the responsibilities as president of the bank. The Kjelsons have two children, one daughter, Sally, who is living in Omaha and in the teaching profession, and one son, Lee, living in Florida, but presently in Hawaii for one year on an educational assignment there. Lee has a Doctors' Degree in Music Education and is enjoying great success and prominence in this field.

MR. AND MRS.
CHARLEY
KNERR



Long time residents of the locality southwest of Stromsburg were Mr. and Mrs. Charley Knerr, who came here in 1880. They were both born in Jefferson County, Iowa, he on December 1, 1853 and she, the former Mary Louis Knago, on November 3, 1862. They came to Polk County, Nebraska soon after their marriage in Iowa on February 10, 1880 and made their home on a farm owned by Lewis Headstrom. Mr. Headstrom was the founder of Stromsburg. His daughter Mrs. J. A. Frawley later inherited the farm and it is still owned by her daughters Josephine Yantis and Grace Welch.

Three generations of the Knerr family lived on this farm Charley Knerr, his son Glenn and family and later Glenn's son Loyal and family. Later Charley Knerr purchased a farm further south where they lived until 1926 when they moved into Stromsburg.

They were industrious workers, tilling the soil and enduring the hardships of the early settlers. Five children were born to this union: Alonzo, Glenn and Floyd Knerr, Mrs. Eva Mae Herrmann and Mrs. Oklahona Ronne. All are deceased except Mrs. Ronne who resides in Baxter Springs, Kansas.

Mrs. Knerr died in 1927 and Mr. Knerr in 1935.



Mr. and Mrs. Charley Knerr on their farm

CAROLINE CHRISTINE "CARRIE" KNAGO

The parents of Carrie Knago, Julius and Louisa Knago came to Stromsburg in 1880 and lived in the house which was removed when the present Co-op building was built south of the southwest corner of the square.

She was born in Germanville, Iowa on September 20, 1860 and came to Stromsburg with her parents at the age of twenty. Possessing a natural talent for sewing, in as much as her grandmother had been an exclusive seamstress in Paris, she soon had an enterprising millinery and dressmaking business in Stromsburg. Her shop was located at the Woods building on the west side of the square. In 1887 this building was destroyed by fire and her establishment was a total loss. Later she moved to York and then to California where she worked for 18 years in a tailor shop.

In 1934 she returned to Stromsburg and following the death of her sister, Mrs. Charley Knerr, she helped care for her brother-in-law until his death. Miss Knago was a past Worthy Matron of the York Eastern Star Chapter and had her 50 year Eastern Star pin. She passed away in 1950, just a few months short of reaching her 90th birthday.

ANDREW BERGLUND

Brita Nelson was born December 25, 1831 in Torsaker, Gestrikland, Sweden. She was united in marriage to Andrew Weden in 1856. They had two children, a son Andrew, who died in Sweden and a daughter, Mrs. Andrew (Christine) Berglund. She was ninety years of age at the time of her death, at her daughter's home on April 4, 1922. Mrs. Weden was converted in Sweden and as soon as the Weden's came to Stromsburg to make their home, they united with the Swedish Mission Church of which she had been a true and faithful member until her death.



Andrew Berglund



Mrs. Brita Weden

Mr. Weden died a number of years before she did, and ever since his death she continued to reside in a little home near the square and she became well known to everybody. It is told how she would go to the train depot and meet people who were arriving from Sweden, especially from her home area over there, take them to her home for food and shelter until they were settled in their own home. She had a sunny disposition that made her numerous friends. She lived in very moderate circumstances, but she was always happy and contented; and friends and neighbors gave her many attentions that added happiness to her life. She often remarked "everybody is so good to me." As age came creeping on, her daughter wanted her mother to make her home with her, but it was only in November before she passed away that she became seriously ill, and consented to leave her little home where she had lived so many years. Since then she was tenderly cared for in her daughter's home until her death.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Berglund and family resided on a farm on Highway 81 near the Polk-York county line, now occupied by Deprez's. Their family consisted of four children, namely, Charles of Stromsburg, now deceased; Annie of York; Oscar of Schuyler, now deceased; and Betsey (Mrs. Gust Eklund) of Stromsburg. Mr. Berglund was "well known to our people as one of our active carpenters and respected by all." He built the white frame house in which they lived. Andrew Berglund died November 4, 1885 of malaria fever, acquired as he had to cross the icy waters of Prairie Creek in order to get to his work, building the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Randell, which is located three and a half miles west of the north edge of Stromsburg. He was one of six sons. P. O. Berglund was the only other brother to come to the U. S. Two of their brothers drowned in Sweden.

In 1887 Mrs. Andrew (Christine) Berglund married Andrew's brother Pehr O. Berglund. To this union four children were born, namely; Lillie of Illinois, now deceased; Walter of York, now deceased; and Henry (Hank) of York, also; and Roy of Long Beach, California. They resided on a farm in the same section as the former Berglund's (the farm was since torn down). In 1908 Mr. and Mrs. Berglund went to Sweden for a visit, but were very happy and content upon their return to the U. S. In 1920 they bought and moved to a 160 acre farm two miles north and two miles east of York where they were cared for in later years by their son Henry until their deaths. Christine passed away January 12, 1941 and P. O. passed away January 24, 1942.

Betsey Berglund was born March 23, 1886, to Mrs. Christine Berglund and the late Andrew Berglund who passed away Nov., 1885. She was born and raised

in Polk County. On August 19, 1907 she was married to Gust Eklund. Gust was born in Sweden on November 11, 1880; one of eight children. He started his four years of military service with Sweden's Army at the age of sixteen. He came to the United States when he was twenty-one years of age. They have spent their married life in the Polk, York and Stromsburg communities having lived in Stromsburg for the past fourteen years. They had eight children, namely: Carl who lives with and cares for his folks; Herman, now deceased; Iola, of near Gresham; Esther of Minnesota; Raymond of near Gresham; Vern of Bradshaw; Florence of York; and Anna who lives south of Utica. Their children came to help them celebrate their sixty-fourth wedding anniversary this August. Both Gust and Betsey enjoy relatively good health and look forward to the times Carl can take them to visit their children and their families.



P. O. Berglund family - Annie (Berglund) Nelson, Charlie Berglund, Oscar Berglund, Betsey (Berglund) Eklund, Lillie (Headley) Berglund, Henry Berglund.

Charles August Berglund was born to Andrew and Christine Berglund on December 12, 1879, in Torsaker, Gestrikland, Sweden. He came to the United States as a baby with his parents and maternal grandparents in 1880. He grew to manhood on the farm near the county line.

On October 16, 1901 Charles married Minnie Caroline Carlson, who was born February 5, 1883 to Andrew C. and Ida Carlson. She lived with her parents on a farm west of Stromsburg until her marriage.

Carolyn's Grandpa Charles Berglund's favorite story was about Buffalo Bill. When Grandpa was about twelve years old, in 1891, he would recall what a special event it was to go to town (Stromsburg) and see the "Wild West Circus", featuring Buffalo Bill Cody demonstrating his shooting skill with a rifle, as well as other features as, Wild Bill Hickock, and a mock battle with the Indians, and many others. Grandpa also told of how Buffalo Bill had hunted buffalo on the land that he bought and farmed years later.



Charley and Minnie (Carlson) Berglund

Charlie and Minnie had two sons and a daughter, namely: Chester Charles, born August 9, 1902; Harold Merwin, born January 13, 1906; and Neva Evelyn born March 5, 1913.

The first few years the Berglund's resided on a farm east of Stromsburg, then bought and moved to the 120 acre farm located three miles west and a half south of Stromsburg. They made this their home from 1916 to 1926, when they moved to and bought an 80 acre farm on the Blue River three miles west and two and a half south of Stromsburg. Here they remained until they passed away, Minnie on March 1, 1950 and Charlie on December 11, 1953.

Chester married Inez Fusby on February 10, 1926. They lived on his parents 120 acre farm west of Stromsburg. A son Kenneth Harland was born to them on November 9, 1926. Kenneth married Shirley Rae Du Chnni on April 2, 1948 in California. Kenneth and Shirley had one daughter, Terry, born January 10, 1949. Chester passed away December 24, 1927 of diabetic complications after an appendectomy.

Harold married Edith Anna Lindgren (born September 12, 1905 to John and Lena Lindgren who lived east of Stromsburg) on May 24, 1924. They had two daughters Velma Arlene, born March 29, 1925; and Carolyn Florine, born November 3, 1930. They lived with Edith's folks two miles south and three and three fourths miles east of Stromsburg until 1928. They then purchased the farm near Durant elevator, three miles west and one half south of Stromsburg and have lived there since.

Velma married Earl Wayne Carter, born April 4, 1921, of Osceola on August 12, 1946. They have three sons, Bruce Bradley, born May 29, 1947 of Roberts, Idaho; Merwin Earl, born September 11, 1950, with the Army in Vietnam; and Donald James, born July 23, 1955, living with his parents at Roberts, Idaho. Velma and Earl also have two daughters, Arlene Velma, born February 10, 1953 and living at home; and Suzann Madeline, born September 21, 1948. Suzann married Michael George Burns of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada on November 29, 1968. They have a daughter, Bonnie Jean, born September 27, 1969; and a son, Bradley Allen, born August 21, 1970.

Carolyn married Elton Willard Peterson (born June 30, 1923 to Everett Gilbert and Josephine Wilhelmina Peterson) August 25, 1948. They have two daughters, Barbara Lorraine, born July 20, 1952, a sophomore attending Bethel College at St. Paul, Minnesota, and Mavis Carolyn, born October 12, 1956, a sophomore at Stromsburg High School. They lived on the farm they later purchased from the late Emil Headman, located three and one fourth miles west of Stromsburg. In 1968 Elton and Carolyn moved to their present home located just three miles west of Stromsburg formerly owned by the Randell Brothers, Ray and Arthur.

Harold Berglund had been in failing health about a year before he passed away August 9, 1970.

Neva married Kenneth Knapp October 21, 1931. They had three sons, Kaye Dee, born August 12, 1932, who is an auditor living in California with his wife, Joyce and their four children. Dannie Douglas was born September 7, 1936. He is a Protestant minister, who lives in California also, with his wife Norma and their three children. And Dewey Charles who was born February 10, 1940, is a veterinarian living in California with his wife, Mary, and one son. Neva and Kenneth were legally separated and later Neva married Roman Truman Ballinger, on September 24, 1945, and he adopted Dannie and Dewey. Neva and Truman resided in California, first in Redlands, then in Yucaipa. April of 1969 they moved to their present home in Berryville, Arkansas.

JOHN WILSON

Mr. John Wilson came from Sweden in 1848 where he had been a piano-maker by trade. Prior to coming to Polk County in 1880, he was what is known as a "forty-niner" in the California gold fields about four years, and was a pioneer farmer in Iowa and Illinois for twenty-five years. Upon moving to Polk County in 1880, he farmed on an extensive scale in the southwestern part of the county, and was also a big cattle feeder.

Mr. Wilson moved to Stromsburg with his family in 1889, with the intentions of retiring but rather he became an active business man. In 1891, he purchased the controlling interest in the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Stromsburg, later to be known as the First National Bank. He assumed the presidency of this bank and installed his son, John Wesley, as another of the officers. In the following year, he purchased the remaining interest in the bank and his son, Victor, then but 19 years of age, was made assistant cashier. Father Wilson, as he was commonly known, while he knew little of the mechanics of banking, was an excellent judge of human nature and credit, and was the mainstay of the bank until he died in 1901.

Nathan, another son, entered the family business group in 1895, and for nearly twenty-five years thereafter the Wilson brothers, Wesley, Victor and Nathan, were very active and enterprising business men in the city of Stromsburg. Victor left Stromsburg in 1895 to study law and practiced his profession in Omaha and also in California. Returning to Stromsburg in 1906, he again associated with the First National Bank as its president and later practiced law in our city, as well. His initial move at this time was in getting the Union Pacific Railroad to change the locations of the towns of Polk and Hordville when the Central City extension was being built in 1906, and after doing so, he, together with his brothers and Calmar McCune, Jr., organized the City Improvement Company which bought the land where Polk and Hordville are located and platted, developed and sold the townsites. Immediately following, the syndicate organized the First National Bank of Polk and the Farmers State Bank of Hordville, and assisted with the banks for a number of years.



Mr. and Mrs. J. Wesley Wilson

Victor Wilson was also instrumental in the building of the Stromsburg sewer system; he served on the school board when the first high school was built, was president of the Commercial Club, and he served Polk County as its representative to the Legislature for one term. He was County Attorney for one term, and was active in the Democratic Party and served as a delegate to its state and national conventions on several occasions. In 1917 he moved to Lincoln to assume the office of railway commissioner to which he had been elected.

Wesley and Nathan Wilson were active in the business and social life of Stromsburg. They both served as president of the First National Bank; Wesley served from 1911 until his death in 1919, and Nathan from 1919 until 1925 when he moved to California. The two brothers also owned one of the leading general merchandise stores in Stromsburg for nearly twenty years. It was known as the Daylight Store, and was located in the Wilson Block. Wesley's death in 1919, was attributed, in part, to his overwork on behalf of the Liberty Loans subscriptions and for Red Cross contributions during the war.

Nathan Wilson was a very well known banker in the county, during his residence in Stromsburg due to his service as clerk and credit man at public sales on farms, and to his interest in livestock. He was very active in the Young Mens Christian Association for many years. He was a prohibitionist in politics.

One daughter of the John Wilsons, Emma, was the first wife of Mr. Victor Anderson, a prominent business man in Stromsburg for many years. They were the parents of four children, Clara, Edwin, Albert and Emma. Mrs. Emma (Wilson) Anderson passed away in 1903, when her daughter, Emma, was only two days old.

Mr. James Wilson, a son of the Wesley Wilsons, is now living on a farm near Polk, where he operates the Wilson Seed Farm.

JOHN A. MALM

Stromsburg was but a small village when John A. Malm came here in 1881. As a young man, he emigrated from Sweden, coming directly to the home of his sister, Mrs. Gust Falk. He resided in this city for almost 54 years.



Ruth Malm, Mr. John Malm and his wife Hannah, Edith Malm



The Malm home. Pictured are Mr. and Mrs. John Malm and Edith and Elmer Malm and dog in front.

He was united in marriage to Hannah Sundgren on November 2, 1885, who had come to this community in the year 1884. Three children were born to this home: Mrs. Ruth Deeds of Lincoln, Miss Edith Malm of this city, and Elmer Malm of Oakdale, who died in 1938.

While in his native Sweden he learned the carpentry and cabinet trade. During these many years of living here, he helped build many homes and farm buildings in the town and surrounding country. Mr. Malm was a skilled workman whose services were in demand. He was always fair and square in his dealings with his fellowmen and those who knew him spoke well of him and his work. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States, September 25, 1906.

CHATTIE COLEMAN WESTENIUS SWALLEY

Chattie Coleman came to Stromsburg, Nebraska in 1881, at the age of 10 years with her sister, Ada, and her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Skelton. Their father, J. H. Coleman and their uncle, Dr. Alex Coleman were already residents of Stromsburg. Chattie's mother had passed away when she was only 2 years of age, and she and her sister had made their home with their grandparents in Iowa, prior to coming to Stromsburg. They made their home for the next 5 years, on the Skelton farm southwest of Stromsburg, attending country school with the exception of a few months when they attended school in Stromsburg. Chattie attended with the class that graduated in 1889, quitting school in the eighth grade. In the fall of 1886, the Coleman girls accompanied the Skeltons to California where they spent the next two years. They then joined their father on a homestead in Colorado, remaining there for nearly three years. While in Colorado both girls added to their knowledge by securing a set of school books and without instructors, were able to pass the teachers examinations and both



Chattie
Coleman

taught school in the years of 1889 and 1890. In the spring of 1891, with their father they returned to Stromsburg to help care for his parents in their last days on earth. During that time, Chattie spent some time at the Bryant Normal University, secured a diploma from the Commercial and Business Administration department and nearly completed the Normal course.

In October, 1892, The Headlight was purchased by the Coleman family from I. D. Chamberlain. Three other papers were being printed in Stromsburg at that time so the competition was great. For the next 5 years the two girls conducted the printing of the paper. In 1897, Ada's health failed and she retired and was an invalid until her death in 1921.

After 1897 The Headlight was run by Chattie with the assistance of her foreman, J. A. Westenius whom she married on February 17, 1922. He then became the associate editor of The Headlight and associate owner. They continued the work together on this local paper until Mr. Westenius' death in 1942.

On January 24, 1948, Chattie Westenius was married to Charles Swalley. Mrs. Swalley was injured in an automobile accident in 1949 and she never recovered from her injuries. She passed away on February 27, 1951. She had completed 58 years as editor of The Headlight.

During her years in Stromsburg she organized the local chapter of the Red Cross, served as County Chairman for a number of years and as Chairman of the County Relief Committee. She served on the County Rehabilitation committee during President Roosevelt's administration. She organized the Stromsburg Garden Club in 1930 and was its president for many years.

She was an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution; a member of the Rob Morris Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. Chattie was a member of the Stromsburg Baptist Church.

In 1933, Chattie was elected director of the Stromsburg Bank and in 1937 was elected vice president and served in that capacity until her death.

In 1931 she gathered material and published a history of Stromsburg and from these files some of the details for this Centennial Book were secured.

In 1935 Mrs. Swalley had the distinction of being one of the 67 Nebraska women whose record was published in "Who's Who", a national publication, and in 1939 she was mentioned in the International Blue Book.

For many years Mrs. Swalley was the only woman member of the Stromsburg Commercial Club and she attended all the meetings. She was also a member of the Nebraska Press Association, National Editorial Association, and Press Women. For many years she never missed a meeting of the Nebraska Press Association and held office at one time turning down the presidency. She also attended several National Editorial Association meetings.

"Chattie", as she was best known to young and old alike, believed in her town and its people and was for the building up of the community and avoiding that which would tear it down.

HALDEN FAMILY

In the year 1881, a seventeen-year-old Scandinavian youth by the name of Frank E. Halden, arrived in Stromsburg. He was more fortunate than most Swedes for he could speak the English language, having learned it in his schooling. Upon his arrival he made friends and established a bachelor quarters for his home.



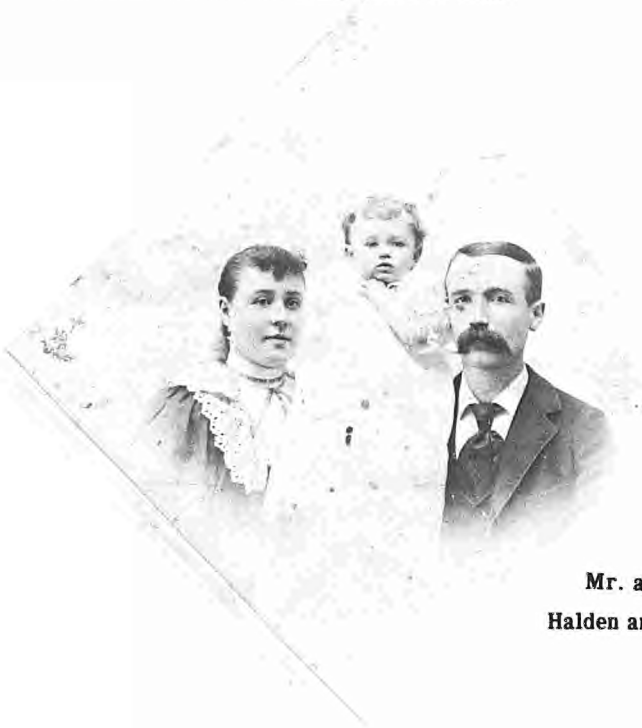
Frank Halden and his bicycle

Mr. Halden bought one of the first low wheel or "safety bicycles". He made a trip to Sweden and took his bicycle along. He wheeled through England and part of Scotland and after he had crossed the North Sea, traveled on his wheel through

Sweden. This was before pneumatic tires had come into use and he nearly wore out a set of solid tires on that trip. It was on this trip that he met a young lady by the name of Svea Lundgren, who later came to this country. They were married August 22, 1894.

Mr. Halden was interested in business and entered into partnership with Mr. Irvin Scott and Mr. Charles Peterson. Their store was on the north side of the square. After the death of Mr. Peterson, the other two partners bought the share of Mr. Peterson. Several years later Mr. Roy Ericson became a partner but this partnership was dissolved later on for Mr. Halden had other interests. He was one of the first citizens to bring electricity to Stromsburg. He and Mr. Hayes Headstrom and others had interests in this "Light Plant" which was such an improvement to Stromsburg.

Mr. Halden started the first concrete plant in Stromsburg. Concrete sidewalk blocks and imitation stone building blocks were included in the manufacture. Many of the first sidewalks in Stromsburg were made of these cement blocks. The big building now occupied by Palmberg Auto Supply, was made from these cement blocks which will last for many years to come.



Mr. and Mrs.
Halden and Betty

Mr. Frank E. Halden was born in 1864 and died in 1949 at the age of 85 years. Mrs. Halden died in 1970 at the age of 94. Their children are Mrs. Betty (Inez) Murdock, Peggy (Svea), Carl and Dewey Halden, all living at Atascadero, California.

JOHN SUNDBERG

By the record, the first owner of this land was John P. Headland, a homesteader. Homestead certificate number 10405 gave Mr. Headland the rights to these 80 acres -- this being dated May 20, 1882. Mr. Headland had previously become owner of the east 1/2 of the SW 1/2 of the section, this certificate being dated November 1, 1881.

A "green Swede" by the name of John (or Johan) Sundberg came along and bought the 160 acres described as the W 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 34, Township 14, Range 3, on October 7, 1882, for the immense sum of \$2,500. He paid his financial situation. His wife, Anna Kajsa, could not sign her name so she put her X on the document and now they owned land in the fabulous America. About the only improvement on the place was a disintegrating sod house. But they went to work to build a house and had it finished by Thanksgiving, hauling the lumber from Columbus. That winter they burned corn stalks to keep warm, and Sundberg determined that if he ever got out of debt he would return to Sweden. (He got out of debt eventually, but never returned to the land of his birth.)



Left to right: Visitor, John Sundberg, son John A., mother Margreta-Stina, wife Anna Kojas, son Albert, son David.

In Sweden, Sundberg had owned a farm, well equipped with buildings, stocked with cows and horses, and with good timber lands that brought in good income as lumber. Trees grew in abundance. In Polk County trees were conspicuous by their absence. Here, you burned corn stalks to keep from freezing to death! But on this farm you could plow all day without hitting a rock. The soil was rich and deep, and the crops were good, at least part of the time, if the grasshoppers did not destroy them.

The farm must have been slow in paying for itself. This writer once asked his grandfather if he knew Mr. Mahoney (not the real name). Grandpa answered

with something of a Swedish snort: "Know him! Oh yes. I paid him 20% interest on borrowed money!" But eventually Sundberg was able to build up a set of buildings on the west 80 and help his son, Albert, with a house and farm buildings on the east 80. Also, in due time (1900) he built a house in town to which he retired.

Sundberg raised three sons on this farm, David, John A., and Albert. They grew to maturity and manhood with a first-hand acquaintance with hard work. David married Hannah Gestrine and moved to his own farm. Uncle David is remembered as a deeply religious man with a melodic voice. I understand he had not always been so pious, but he had experienced a quite dramatic conversion as had many others of his time. This writer remembers a birthday celebration at Uncle David's home. The evening was not complete without a lengthy Bible reading and a time of prayer, everybody on their knees, and David leading the clan in prayer. John A. Sundberg married Anna Johnson in 1900 and settled on the farm, this account mainly covers. Albert Sundberg married Selma Gustafson and settled on the east half of the original John Sundberg 160 acres. Albert is remembered as sandy-haired, jolly and good-natured, and not above using a bit of snuff which commodity kept a number of Swedes from being killed off by the wild pace of America, no doubt. Albert and Selma raised three children, Dean, Alice (died 1969) and Ivan. David and Hannah had nine children: May (died 1952), Esther (Mrs. Gust Granberg), David (died 1967), Albin, John D., Anna, Lovina, Margaret and Hazel.

Grandpa Sundberg had a houseful when we all came in to his rather small home in Stromsburg to celebrate his birthday. But that being the time when children were to be seen and not heard, it was usually a quiet evening of conversation, plus coffee and cake.

John and Anna Sundberg began farming this place on their own in 1900. Five children were born to them on this farm: Ruth, Joseph, Reuben, Nathan and Carl. Joseph lived his whole life on the place, dying in November, 1970, in the house in which he was born some 67 years earlier. Ruth still makes her home on the home place. Reuben and Carl live on their own farms nearby, farming the home farm as well. Nathan serves the Covenant congregation of Buffalo, New York.



Sundberg
elevator

As John A. Sundberg enjoyed feeding cattle for market, he made considerable improvements on the place. One of the major ones was the building of the grain elevator, complete with wagon dump, in 1918. The writer remembers an observer of this building as it was being constructed, predicting that the elevator would not work. Most of the machinery for the elevator was made at the York Foundry, to John A.'s specifications, with the advice of some local engineer at the foundry, no doubt. The elevator has worked fine over 50 years, lifting thousands of bushels of grain and feed during that time. A new barn for livestock was built in the 20's, the old one being moved and renovated; other sheds and buildings have been built and dismantled through the years. Joseph and his brothers moved the District 51 school building 1 1/2 miles to the place to be used as a machinery repair shop.

John A. Sundberg was engaged in custom corn shelling with a sheller run by horse power, as a young man. Later, he was a thresherman running the separator pulled by steam rig. Being a cattle feeder meant that he bought cattle locally driving them home on horseback. The elevator meant that many farmers in the Swede Home area brought their corn to the Sundberg "Ranch" - wagons, and later trucks; from several farms could be seen coming to this place in a single day.

John A. Sundberg added to his holdings of land mainly south of the home place, from time to time. In the middle 20's he also bought the farms on which Reuben and Carl now live, mortgaging the home place to finance the purchase. Then disaster struck. John A. died in 1928 at an age of 53. With the stock market crash that year farm prices fell. Dry years were a burden too and hardships were plentiful. Joseph took practical leadership and the family worked hard to meet mortgage payments, taxes and sundry expenses. At times it was "touch and go", but the team pulled through, paid off the debts, installed irrigation wells with accompanying equipment and erected cribs and bins to meet the needs of modernized farming. This writer left for more schooling and the ministry in 1931, but the home "ranch" and its hard-working crew gave him strong financial support and backing throughout the period.

In his old age Grandfather John Sundberg came back to live on the farm, dividing his time between John's and Albert's places, one month at each place. He was blind now but managed to get along. He died at the age of 91 in the house he had built in 1882, having outlived his son, John, by some 7 years.

The land has fed well the generations who have lived on it. It has made it possible, by hard work, skill, devotion, and God's grace for the farm to add to its holding some five-fold. The "green Swedes" and their descendants have done right well.

(BJORK, BURK) BURKE FAMILY

Congratulations to each of you who are related to or are the descendants of those rugged citizens of the "Old Country" who had the vision and the courage to come to this part of the United States, a century ago, just after the Civil War, and who helped to build this town, county and country into "One Nation under God, indivisible with Liberty and Justice for all".

One cannot help wondering what they brought with them besides a great desire for a better way of life, a willingness to do hard physical labor to achieve their dreams; for an opportunity to be more prosperous to secure physical comfort, and to be free to follow their loyalty and faith in God, and the hope that they had chosen the right course in life. No one knows the sacrifices they made in leaving their native land, nor of the hardships they endured, with the little worldly goods they brought with which to establish their new homes in this land

of opportunity. We know only that they were first class citizens who have made this community proud of their achievements.

Overcoming the language barrier and other handicaps, they reared their children by example and teaching them to live uprightly.

Today, we charge all who are young and hold the fate of this nation in their hands, to follow the traditional family pattern of ideals, faith and achievements of our ancestors to the end; so that a century from now as we progress on our uncharted and unpredictable way, that the following generations will be proud of the achievements that have transpired during the 200 years that will have passed.

Many people have assisted in the building and growth of Polk County and especially the Stromsburg area, however, there are not many who carry the Burke name as do some of the other prominent family names of Stromsburg. Nevertheless, we will here show that they did their part in helping to establish this community.

Charles J. Bjork (1822) was one of six children of Fredrick (Lars) Bjork. When eighteen, Charles joined the Swedish Cavalry and served in it for twenty-six years. He married Mrs. Angeline (Jones) Peterson. To this union three sons, George (Sept. 24, 1844) John (July 31, 1848) and Charles Andros (May 5, 1851) were born. All were born in or near Bjork Socken, Jonkoping, Sweden. Charles J. and Angeline divorced and Charles later married Mrs. Louise Peterson, who had two daughters, Anna Charlotte (1854) and Tillie (1868). Anna Charlotte later became the wife of her step-brother, John.

Charles A. and John Bjork came to Bishop Hill, Illinois in 1868. Brother George remained in Sweden and married Clara Freeman, December 3, 1868. They came to Bishop Hill in March 1869. They all became citizens of the United States.



Charles A. Burke



Jennie Levina Carlson Burke

Charles A. married Jennie Levina Carlson, March 24, 1878. He worked hard and saved his money ever since he came to America. In 1882 he came to Stromsburg and on January 2, 1883 he bought from Frank Hodgkinson 160 acres of land

for \$1500 plus a \$1000 mortgage to the Scottish American Mortgage Company. (This farm is now owned by Raymond Burke and his mother, Mrs. Alvin Burke.)

Jennie the wife of Charles A. was the daughter of Johan Carlson and Eliza Hanson. Johan was one of the settlers in the locality of Cambridge Township 31 1/2 miles north of Bishop Hill, Illinois. He was born in 1818 in Smoland, Sweden and came to Illinois about 1850. He lived to be 87 years, 10 months and 5 days old. Johan and Eliza had 7 children, 3 died in infancy. Jennie, the oldest of the children was only about 12 when her mother died of a fever. Jennie's sister Mary Carlson Warner, relates the following: "It became Jennie's lot to do all the housework after the death of her mother. She did all the cooking and sewing for the family. Often her arms would ache from doing the washing on the board, and all of the hand sewing for the family and the back stitching of seams on the boys and the father's shirts and our dresses. How happy she was when she got a hand powered sewing machine. This machine had a hand crank on the wheel and was clamped to a table. Jennie was 10 years older than I, so I wasn't much help to her. However, she managed until father married Inga Lena Carlson, August 1876. Jennie then went to do housework for others at 50¢ a week until she was married. I must tell you of Grandma Headbloom and her four children, Christine, John, Hanna and Albert who lived on a farm about a half mile away. Grandma Headbloom who was the midwife at my birth, often told of how her son Albert, hung onto her skirt so that they dubbed him 'Charging a Christen'. When Albert was asked what his name was, he would reply, 'Albert Headloom Chringa Christen' which means 'Mammy's Pig'." Grandma Headbloom was related to the Headstroms and Buckleys who helped organize the town of Stromsburg. The above was written in 1936. Grandma Headbloom must have only been called Grandma, for we can find no proof that she was related to the Carlsons.

Charles A. and Jennie Burke built their house in the middle 1880's and in 1890 an addition to the west was built with the help of Jennie's brother, Franse August Carlson who came to live with them. Francis Oscar Burke, half brother of Charles, came to make his home with them in September, 1885. Young Oscar stepped on a nail and died of blood poisoning when only 13 years old. Sometime in the 1890's, Angelina, the mother of Charles A., John and George, came to visit the three sons and their families. She died in 1895 and is buried in Stromsburg.

Charles A. was an industrious and hard working man. He passed away in 1912 leaving Jennie with 10 of their 12 children. Jennie was always a busy and hard working woman with her sewing and patching. She kept her children busy also. She was determined that her children should have some high education or a college education.

1. William T., 1879. (md. Ada Shilder. chd.: William Jr., Margery, Virginia)
2. Amy L., 1880. (md. Fred Myers. chd.: Enid, Harold, Eathel, Lucile, Kenneth and Evan)
3. Stella J., 1882. (died 1892)
4. Nora I., 1884. (md William Benett. chd.: Cecil, Lowell) (snd md. Mickey Van Dorn).
5. George E., 1886. (md. Ethel Jenkinsen. cd.: Ernest, Viola, Marjory)
6. Nellie M., 1889. (Died 1892)
7. Lenna I., 1891. (md. Miles Stever. cd.: Walter, Leslie, Jennie, Ruby, Harry, Floyd, Fern, Charles, Barbara)
8. Cora V., 1893. (md. Maurice Colson. cd. Miriam)
9. Alvin R. (md. Vausta Shore, died 1918; md. Amelia Vera Marquis. cd. Laura, Raymond)
- 10 Elmina, 1897. (md. Dewitt Weber. cd. Marcie)

11. Elsie G., 1900. (md. Howard Haverland. cd. Edgar, Loren, Lois, Janet, Clair Willard)
12. Asa V., 1902. (Md. Bessie Nichols, died 1924; md. Violet Anderson. cd.: Janis; div. Violet, md. Bessie Carlson, died 1940, md. Edith Sramek)

John married his step sister, Anna Charlotte Peterson in 1871. They came to Stromsburg in 1894 and lived on a farm northeast of Stromsburg. To this union six children were born:



Emma (Burke) Wilson and A. T. Wilson on his 100th birthday celebration and their 69th anniversary in 1967.

1. Emma C.: 1872; (md. Allison T. Wilson; cd. Neva (Mrs. George Hollister), Jessie (Mrs. Floyd Hecht), John, Sarah, Walter, Woodrow) The Wilsons were honored in 1967 at Old Times Day in Osceola. Mr. Wilson was just a few days short of being 100 years old and Emma was 95. They had been married 69 years at that time. Emma celebrated her 99th birthday April 22, 1971. She lives at Curtis Nebraska where her daughter Jesse lives.
2. Walter Alvin, 1875; (md. Minnie Baker) They owned the farm now owned by Donald Baker.
3. Henry H.; 1800. (Died at age 3 months)
4. Alice May; 1884. (Died in Stromsburg in 1933)
5. John A.; 1886. (Died 1931) He had farmed the home place until his death.
6. Grace F.; 1894. (Died in 1966) Grace was the only one born in Nebraska. After completing school in Liberty School, she remained at home helping with the home work. In later years she cared for her brother, John, her mother and her sister, Alice May, during their illnesses. At the time of her death, Grace, was residing in Stromsburg.

George Burke and his wife, Clara Freeman, sailed for America on March 26, 1869. They settled at Bishop Hill in Henry County, Illinois where most of the Swedish were accommodated until they could establish themselves. Galva and Cambridge were the nearest towns.

In March 1893 they came to Polk County and made their home on a farm which they purchased, 3 miles east of Stromsburg. They moved into town early in 1903. Robert and his bride, June Moore, began their married life on this farm, living here until 1911 when they moved to a farm southeast of Stromsburg. Ed Burke bought the farm in 1911, thereby keeping this farm in the Burke family since its purchase by George Burke in 1903.

Ed and Jennie Burke lived there until they moved into Stromsburg in about 1915 to live with and to care for his father, George. Later, after 1933, Ed and Jennie returned to live on this farm home to be near their son, Earl and wife, Alice, who lived on an adjoining farm. Ed passed away in 1967 and Jennie still lives in the farm home, the same home that was there when George Burke lived there.



George and Clara Freeman Burke family - Robert, Fred, Ed, Charley, Mary. Front row: Carrie, George, Clara, Andy, Tillie.

The children of George and Clara Burke are:

1. Charles John, 1869. (md. Kate Murchison; cd. Clara, Mrs. Guy Fox; Margaret Mrs. Will Corn; Charlott, Mrs. Harvey Green.
2. Ana Marie, 1870. (Died at 11 months of age)
3. Gustav Edward (Ed), 1872. (md. Jennie O. Johnson; cd. Earl). Jennie was 93 on Feb. 28, 1971. Ed was 95 when he died in 1967.
4. Fredrick, 1874. (md. Alma Johnston; cd. Lawrence, Clarence) Fred died in March, 1959 and Alma in Nov. 1959.
5. Robert Alvin, 1876. (Died at 7 months)
6. Anna Marie (Mary), 1877. (md. Elmer Knerr; cd. Gladys, Mrs. Don Hatten. Mary died April 1960 and Elmer, March 1961.
7. Robert Emil, 1879. (md. June Moore. cd. Nina; George; Carol, Mrs. Walter Nelson; Mary, Mrs. Ernest Salchow; Clara, Mrs. Kenneth Johnson. Robert died

Feb. 2, 1965 and June died, May 17, 1969.

8. Caroline, 1881. (md. James Powell. cd. Pearl, Mrs. Earl Blakney; Opal, Mrs. Harold Swan.) James died Oct. 6, 1932; Carrie, October 8, 1946.

9. Matilda (Tillie), 1884. (md. Joe Fernquist. cd. Lillian, Mrs. Clarence Cellan; 2nd. md. Mrs. J. Nims). Ardis Ruth died in infancy, and Ardith Marie, Mrs. John Isaacs)

10. Andrew (Andy) 1866. (md. Grace Thompson. cd. Lawrence, Paul and Andy, who died Sept. 8, 1943)

11. Ezra, 1890 (died at 4 months)

Gustav Edward Burke and his older brother Charlie came to Nebraska in 1894 from Galva, Illinois, rented a quarter of land two miles east and a mile south of Stromsburg. They set up bachelors' quarters and started farming. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Burke, and other relatives were already settled in the community.

Ed was twenty-two years old at that time and little did he realize that the young neighbor girl, Jennie Johnson, would be his future bride. Jennie had come to Nebraska from Rankin, Illinois, with her parents, the Nels Peter Johnsons, and brothers and sisters in 1883 when she was only five years old. Their home place was 2 miles east and a half mile south of Stromsburg.

Jennie recalls vividly and with embarrassment yet the first time Ed came to call on her. She was seventeen then and was in everyday clothing, out helping feed the calves. Later when she was working in Omaha, Ed took the train to go to the Ak-Sar-Ben and, of course, to call on his sweetheart, Jennie. She packed up her clothing and returned to Stromsburg with him.



Family of Charles Andros Burke - Back row, left to right: George, Mrs. Dewitt (Elmina) Weber, William T., Mrs. Miles (Lennie) Stever, Mrs. Maurice (Cora) Colson, Alvin R. Front row: Mrs. Fred (Amy) Myers, Mrs. William Bennett, Mrs. Mickey (Nora) VanDorn, Asa V., Mrs. Howard (Elsie) Haverland, Jennie Levina Carlson Burke, the mother.

On December 30, 1896 Ed and Jennie were married at her parents' home with a large group of invited relatives and friends in attendance. They lived to celebrate their seventieth wedding anniversary.

Jennie has many memories of their long life together - the greatest of these was the joy in the birth of their son, Earl. One of the most frightening was the time their team of horses ran away and she dropped Earl off the back edge of the buggy and crawled over to safety herself.

They lived on various farms in the community before buying the home place from Ed's father in 1910. They lived in Stromsburg for about 24 years before 1937, when they returned to the country to help their son Earl get started farming.



Jennie
and Ed
Burke

Since Ed's death in 1967, Jennie now 93 in 1971, has lived alone in their farm home on the Blue River. Earl and his wife, Alice, live nearby. Jennie enjoys visits from neighbors and friends, and especially those from her grandson Ronald and his wife Marge and their children Eddie and Jennifer, and from granddaughter Linda and her husband Gary Burmood and children Jodi and Ronnie.

HENRY T. WESTRING

Henry Theodore Westring was born July 1, 1872 at Oneida, Ill. At age eleven in 1883 with his parents Peter (Per) and Brita Westring, he came to Polk County, Nebraska. They settled on a farm 1 mile north and 1 1/2 miles west of Stromsburg (now the Carl Sundberg farm).

He attended school in Dist. 50 with neighbors Frank A. and Victor Anderson. He was confirmed in Swede Home Church by Rev. Nordling in 1886.

Henry was united in marriage with Hannah Holm 1898 at Swede Home Church. (She had come to Polk County from Sweden in 1885. Her parents were Nils and Karna Holm)

Seven children were born to this union with four surviving, Lester and Carl of Stromsburg, Eugene of Genoa and Carita of Ralston, Nebraska.

Henry Westring was active in many community affairs. He served as a trustee on Church Board of Swede Home when the present church structure was built. He served on the School Board of Dist. 50 many years and was a Polk County Commissioner in the early 1920's, during which time the present Court House was built.

In addition to the regular or routine farming, he operated a steamdriven threshing machine for many farmers in the Swede Home and Stromsburg areas.

The farm was sold in 1926 and the family moved to Stromsburg. Henry died in 1936 and his wife, Hannah, in 1959.

LINDGREN FAMILY



Jonas and Bertha Lindgren

Jonas P. and Bertha (Johnson) Lindgren came over to America from Sweden in April, 1869. They homesteaded near Galva, Ill.; their son, John P. Lindgren was 6 months old at this time.

When John Lindgren was still very young, his family moved to Nebraska and settled on a farm west of Osceola. He was one of seven children. Emmanuel and John bought and lived on a farm southeast of Stromsburg. Two years later they were joined by their parents who resided with Emmanuel until their death in 1910.

John Lindgren married Helena Johnson in 1892, to this union three children were born. Florence, Mrs. LeRoy Iler, Lloyd Lindgren, Edith, Mrs. Harold Berglund. When John Lindgren's married they lived on Sweder's place west of Osceola.

John Lindgren's bought a farm southeast of Stromsburg at the same time Emmanuel did, on which they lived until their health no longer permitted.

Lloyd Lindgren's son Kermit still owns and operates 80 acres of the farm on which his great grandparents lived. Lloyd remembers his grandfather telling about incidents of moving here from Illinois.

Edith remembers when she, as a small girl, went with her father by horse and buggy and took one to four flour sacks of rag balls, neatly sewn and rolled,



John and Helena Lindgren

to her great aunt Lottie Nelsons' in town to have them woven into rugs. Edith's grandmother also knew how and wove rugs at times. Her great aunt Lottie lived on the place now owned by Duane Nielsens. Two rooms of her house are still a part of their home.

We children also remember the tramps, snus beggars and gypsies that roamed the country side.

JOHN H. ANDERSON

Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Anderson were early residents of the locality west of Stromsburg for 45 years. He was born in Sweden in 1855 and came to America in 1872, settling first at Galva, Illinois. In 1884 he came to Polk County, Nebraska working as a farm laborer on various farms near Stromsburg.

On January 6, 1890 he was married at Central City, Nebraska to Emma Josephine Peterson, daughter of Jonas and Christina Peterson. She was born in 1871 at Galva, Illinois and came with her parents to a farm west of Stromsburg in 1885. In this same locality Mr. and Mrs. Anderson established their own home, living here until 1936. They then retired from active farm life and moved to Stromsburg to spend their remaining years.

Diligent and energetic, they endured the hardships of pioneer life. Mr. Anderson was a large stock feeder and often told of hauling hay on a low flat sled to feed the cattle. Before her marriage Mrs. Anderson worked each fall in a sorghum mill which was located in East Pleasant Home Precinct. Most of the local young people of the community would help during sorghum making season. The work was culminated with a taffy-pull (using sorghum) which was enjoyed by all.

Mr. Anderson helped organize and was the president for many years of the Citizen's State Bank at Polk. He was a director of the First National Bank at Stromsburg for 25 years. He was a director of the school board in District 12 (Hardy District) for 12 years. Through his efforts and the work of others also,



Mr. and Mrs. John H. Anderson

the Durant Elevator was organized and he became an early director. They were members of the Farm Bureau and Farmer's Union Organizations.

They had seven children, five of whom now reside in Stromsburg. These five are Mrs. Nina Knerr, Mrs. Mildred Hultgren, Norris, Forrest and Irvin Anderson. Mrs. Lillian James lives at York, Nebraska and Reuben Anderson, their second son, is deceased.

J. A. ANDERSON

Andrew Anderson and his son, J. A. Anderson, opened the first jewelry store in Stromsburg in 1884. At first the store was operated only as a watch repair shop but it gradually grew until it was a good jewelry and music store, as well. The building in which they were located was a small frame on the second lot from the east corner of the north side of the square on the lot where the Wilson Block was later erected. For the next three years J. A. Anderson was associated with his father until the year of 1887, Andrew Anderson, with his family, moved to California and J. A. continued the business alone.

J. A. Anderson was united in marriage to Jennie Hanson, daughter of Peter and Britta Hanson. They had two sons, Milton and Wilbur. Milton, who although handicapped after a siege with polio when a young boy, maintained a radio repair shop in Stromsburg for many years, prior to his death a few years ago.

Wilbur Anderson makes Stromsburg his part time residence, having spent much of his life in Pennsylvania.

In the year of 1901, J. W. Wilson purchased the lot and building where Mr. Anderson was located, tore down the building and the Wilson Block was built.



J. A. Anderson



Mrs. J. A. Anderson

Mr. Anderson then purchased the lot and building to the west of his old location where he continued to transact business for the next fifteen years.

He sold his jewelry and watch repair store to E. E. Knerr in 1916 and later worked as watch repairman in the L. A. Erickson Jewelry Store for many years.

OLOF NETSELL

Olof Netsell was born in Alfta Socken, Helsingland, Sweden on March 22, 1840. He came to America and at first settled in Galva, Illinois. Here he was married to Matilda Josephine Wilson, in October of 1867.

The town of Stromsburg had its inception in the home of Olof Netsell at Galva, Illinois, when twelve men met to talk over the prospects of founding a new town on the Nebraska prairies. Among these men were Lewis Headstrom, Isaac Boostrom, Lewis Matson, P. G. Anderson, Olof Netsell and Messrs. Norlin, Sanders, Bergstrom and four others whose names were not recorded. These men made the plans and Lewis Headstrom was the one chosen to go west and select the site for the new town.

Mr. Headstrom and Mr. Netsell were in the furniture business together at the time and when Mr. Headstrom left for the west, the store was disposed of and Mr. Netsell clerked in the store of M. M. Ford, the father of Dyer Ford, who was an early business man of Stromsburg.

Mr. Netsell and his family remained in Galva until August of 1879, when they, too, emigrated to the new state, locating at Genoa where Mr. Netsell became the first postmaster of that town and opened and conducted the first general store, much of his business being conducted with the Pawnee Indians. He remained in that town for five years and came to Stromsburg in 1884, having sold his store.

He opened a grocery store in Stromsburg and in 1889 built a brick building on the south side. In the early nineties he took in a Mr. Wiard as a partner and added a stock of hardware. This partnership lasted a little over a year, when they sold out to Little Bros. While conducting this store he owned the first phonograph ever brought to Stromsburg. A charge of 10¢ was made to listen in with the ear tubes.

In 1898, he disposed of his property in Stromsburg and moved with his family to Omaha, where he was in business for three and a half years and then returned to Stromsburg once again.

During his life in Stromsburg he took an active part in civic affairs. During his first year in this town, he with L. Headstrom, was delegated as a committee to go to St. Paul, Minnesota to confer with the Baptists in regard to locating the Baptist Seminary in Stromsburg. Their mission was successful, resulting in an institution that was active for a number of years, until destroyed by fire. Mr. Netsell served on the city council for five years, and a member of the school board, as well.

Mr. Netsell passed away in Stromsburg in 1923, and his wife in 1931. They had one daughter, Mrs. E. A. Hatfield, and a son, Ford Netsell, who was a railway engineer on the Union Pacific.

JOHN L. OLSON



John Olson furniture store

Mr. Olson was born in 1870 and spent his early boyhood in Nekoma and Altona, Illinois. He migrated with his parents to Polk County, Nebraska in 1884. In a few years the family acquired the farm three and one half miles northeast of Stromsburg where he lived and worked during his young manhood. During the "dry years" he went to Illinois to do farm labor. He also worked in Denver with street construction crews.

About 1900, he was employed by the J. A. Olson implement firm where he put up windmills and delivered farm machinery throughout the county.

In 1902, he joined the John E. Peterson Furniture and Undertaking firm which was later acquired by Victor Anderson, a partnership was arranged some time later. This partnership was dissolved in 1916. Then he began his own business on the south side of the square. Later, he purchased the building on the northeast corner of the square, where he remained in the furniture and undertaking business until his retirement in 1954.

In 1903, he married Augusta M. Eckberg. Their family consisted of George L. Olson, Eva L. Olson, Marie Hutchens, Margaret Breach and Edna Hyland.

He was a member of the Eden (later Stromsburg) Baptist Church and participated in community affairs having served on the City Council and School Board for several years. He was clerk of the Modern Woodman well over forty years. Also a member of the Fire Department and Home Guard.

GUST A. ANDERSON

Mr. Gust A. Anderson, son of Claus Andrew Anderson and Fredrica Monson, was born in Tranas Saby Socken, Smaland, Sweden, August 29, 1852.

In the year 1876, he left Sweden and came to America and settled at Galva, Illinois, making his home there for about ten years.

In the year 1880, on February 26, he was united in marriage to Sophia Augusta Nelson. Mrs. Anderson was born in Falkoping, Sweden, October 7, 1861, and came to the United States in 1869 with her parents, settling in Toulon, Illinois.



Gust A. Anderson



Sophia Nelson Anderson

On the first of March in the year of 1886, they left Illinois and came to Nebraska, locating on a farm four and one-half miles east of Stromsburg. Here they endured many hardships common to the early settlers. They remained on this farm until the year 1917 when they moved to the city of Stromsburg.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were confirmed in the Lutheran Church in Sweden. In 1911 they both joined the former Green's Chapel Church which Mr. Anderson was instrumental in moving into their community.

After moving to Stromsburg they transferred their membership to the Methodist church in town and Mr. Anderson served as one of the trustees during the building of the present church. Both were always faithful and active members during their lifetime.

Into this most beautiful Christian home, twelve children were born, four of whom are living at the present time. Mrs. Irvén (Ruby) Rystrom and Mrs. Clyde (Myrtle) Hennings, of Stromsburg, also Walter and Elmer of California. Those deceased are three infants, Mrs. August (Della) Johnson, Mrs. Anton (Mabel) Carlson, Mrs. Bert (Emily) Myers, Miss Margaret Anderson and Morris Anderson.

Mrs. Gust Anderson passed away at the Lutheran Hospital at York, Nebraska on May 7, 1933 at the age of 71 years. Mr. Anderson died at the age of 85 on May 16, 1938.

Gust Anderson was the oldest of eight children. Two brothers, John H. Anderson and Frank O. Anderson and one sister, Mrs. Emma Westerdale were also early settlers in Polk County, Nebraska.

ANDREW J. SHIDNER

Andrew J. Shidner and family left Washington, Ill. in 1886 migrating to Stromsburg. Mr. Shidner owned a restaurant on the south side of the square next to Nickles Furniture Store from 1890 to 1900. He was also a member of Stromsburg Camp No. 528 Modern Woodman of America. Mrs. A. Shidner owned a fashionable millinery shop at the turn of the century.



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Shidner

CARL R. NORMAN

Carl R. Norman came to Stromsburg from Sweden in May 1886. At the time that he was living in Sweden, every young man had to serve in the army for five years, so they were taught some trade to help bolster their army pay. Mr. Norman taught blacksmithing, so when he came to Stromsburg he started a blacksmith shop near the stores of the town. He also bought several lots in the west part of town and built a home there. Mr. Norman loved flowers and in a few years he had made his place a show place with flowers and trees, and later he started a nursery business on his place.



Norman blacksmith shop

Some years later he sold his blacksmith shop and engaged in the poultry business. After learning that there was good money in poultry raising in the east, he sold his place and moved to Massachusetts to engage in the poultry business there. However, he did not like the east as well as Nebraska, so stayed there only a couple of years, then he returned to Stromsburg.

After his return he bought a lot in the east part of town and built a nice home on it. He later sold this home to Charlie Stromberg, and bought two lots near the depot, on which he built two nice houses, living in one himself and renting the other. He then went into the well drilling business, which he continued as long as his health would permit.

He raised three daughters, Signe Charlotte, Elsa Eulalia, Margaret Mathilde, all of whom became teachers after graduating from the Stromsburg high school; and one son, Charles Leo Norman.

Signe married J. Ed Stevens and lived for many years in Polk, Nebraska. Elsa married Laverne L. Holford and lives in Crystal Springs, Florida. Margaret married Henry Anderson and lived in Lincoln, Nebraska. After Henry's death she was bookkeeper at the Wilson Castile department store and later was postmistress for four years in Stromsburg. After her term as postmistress she moved to Florida near her sister's home and cared for her father who died and is buried in the Crystal Springs cemetery.



Norman home

Charlie Norman, after his return from the east, went to St. Paul, Minnesota where he was a street car conductor for some time, but later returned to Stromsburg and became a mail carrier, which he continued until his retirement a few years ago. He still resides in Stromsburg.



Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Norman at their 60th wedding anniversary

In 1909 Charles L. Norman was married to Bertha L. Borrows of Polk, Nebraska and to this union was born 12 children.

Margueritte who resides in Santa Barbara, California; Charlotte of Broken Bow, Nebraska; Carl, deceased; Dorothea of Boston, Mass.; Elsa of Omaha, Nebr.; Gladys of San Juan Capistrano, California; Leo of Stromsburg; Ruth of San Francisco, California; Blanche of San Jose, California; Marie of Denver, Colorado; David of Washington, D.C. and Van of Manassas, Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Norman have 19 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren of which one grandson and two great grandsons reside in Stromsburg at the present time.

JONAS PETERSON

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas P. Peterson were early residents of the Stromsburg locality. Mr. Peterson was born in Molila Socken, Kalmer lan, Sweden, November 17, 1841 and came to Bishop Hill, Illinois in 1867. Here he was married on January 4, 1871 to Christina Marie Nelson who was born in Nurlunda, Kalmer lan, Sweden on June 1, 1844. She came to Illinois in 1869.



Jonas P. Peterson



Mrs. Jonas P. Peterson

They farmed in Illinois for 15 years and in the spring of 1886 came by railroad to Polk County, Nebraska. They purchased a farm five miles west of Stromsburg and here was their home the rest of their lives. Mr. Peterson was an extensive farmer and enjoyed raising livestock, especially sheep. They carded the wool and made their own batts for quilts. Some of the eight grandchildren have each a quilt made from the wool which Mrs. Peterson had carded.

Four children were born to this union: Emma (Mrs. John H. Anderson); Hilda (Mrs. Ed Anderson) and Fred and John. With the exception of Hilda, all spent their lifetime in this vicinity.

Mrs. Peterson died in 1913 and Mr. Peterson in 1923.

JUSTUS JOHNSON

Justus Johnson was born February 14, 1867 in Tofteryl socken, Jonkoping lan, Sweden. He came to the United States as a young man of about 20 in 1887. He and a sister, Minnie, Mrs. Charles Danielson, settled in Stromsburg; they were joined by another sister, Lena, Mrs. John Lindgren, within the year. Justus was a farmer for several years before becoming a blacksmith in Stromsburg. Justus continued his work as a blacksmith until his death on January 13, 1952. His wife preceded him in death in 1950. A son Reuben, (better known as "Muck") who was born April 17, 1904, then took over the blacksmith shop until his death on January 5, 1953. Another son, Stanley, died September 16, 1941, while in training at the Army's Camp Roberts in California. Stanley was the first Polk County draftee to be taken by death, during World War II.



Mrs. Justus (Alma) Johnson

Justus Johnson

Justus and his wife, Alma had ten children in all. They were: Walter, Winnie, Wilford, Reuben, Helen and Evelyn (Mrs. Orvis Noyd) were twins, Harold and Stanley Morris and Paul died in infancy.

A. B. LIND

A. B. Lind was born in Sweden and came to this country when a very young man. He served as coachman for the John Deere family in Moline, Illinois for a time, later moving from Illinois to Kansas.

Mrs. Lind's birthplace was in Henry County, Illinois, but her early childhood and girlhood were spent in Saline County, Kansas where her parents proved up on a timber claim. Records disclose that events in her life in Kansas were much the same as pioneer life in Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Lind arrived in Stromsburg in 1888 from a year's residency in California, and made their home at the hospitable John Colson farm until Mr. Lind established a small shoe business in Stromsburg which netted small returns so he turned to the ice and dray business. He also maintained a livery barn where horses and buggies could be rented.

Mr. Lind was city engineer and a county commissioner, and in his later years engaged in the hay commission business.

The father and mother with their 11 children attended the Swedish Methodist Church and later the First Methodist Church. The Linds did much toward furthering the camp meetings held southwest of Stromsburg. Mr. Lind taught a Sunday School class and was on the church board. He was on a committee to persuade the Swedish Conference to allow the Stromsburg Swedish Church to disband as the young people were more interested in speaking English. So he, with others, helped



Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Lind

start the First Methodist Church in which English was used instead of Swedish. The small church was torn down and the site was deeded to the First Methodist Church.

In 1902, Mr. and Mrs. Lind and family moved to a small farm in the southeast edge of Stromsburg. A large frame house was built there. It is now the home of their daughter, Berniece, who is a registered nurse at the Covenant Home in Stromsburg. Three other children survive including William Lind of Laramie, Wyoming; Ben Lind of North Platte, Nebraska and Irene Crosby of Seal Beach, California. Another daughter, Margaret Scharman, who passed away in 1970, was a teacher in the Stromsburg Schools for many years.

In an article, written by Margaret Lind Scharman, a few years before her death, she tells something of their life in the early 1900's. In part, she writes, "Orchards on the land produced apples and cherries which were picked on shares by families, who sometimes spent the day picnicking there. Strawberries were sometimes sold by the bushel. An ice house was plentifully supplied each winter with ice packed in straw for summer use. Two cows and some horses grazed in the pasture. Milk was sold for 5¢ a quart with more than full measure. The winter season was an exciting and interesting time when young and old skated on the Blue River. Then came the ice harvest which ended with a feast for the harvest hands at the Lind home. In the summers the children waded with their friends in the clear shallow waters of the same Blue River at the foot of the low hills. The banks and pasture were covered with blue grass which made a perfect picnic setting. Violets and wild flowers abounded, and were gathered by the children in town for their May baskets. The Lind children have all been happy that their parents chose the town of Stromsburg in which to live. Grandchildren and great grandchildren coming here to visit, also share their sentiments."

Mr. Lind passed away in 1922. Mrs. Lind continued living in the family home, alert and interested in life about her, daily reading the newspapers and her Bible to within two days of her passing, in 1957.

JONAS ANDERSON

Jonas Anderson was born in Halsingland, Sweden, in 1870 and came to Stromsburg in 1888 to the home of his uncle, Lars Silen.



Andrew and Anna Hedman and their family, Emma, Edward and Mary in back and Alma

His wife, Mary, was born in Gastrickland, Sweden, in 1867 and came to Altona, Illinois when she was one year old. Her parents were Andrew and Anna Hedman. Her father was a tailor and got a job in an American town but her mother was like the lady in church at the beginning of this century when foreign languages were discouraged, and was asked if she didn't think that the Lord understood English. She replied, "Yes, I think He understands but I don't think He likes it". Mr. and Mrs. Hedman then came to Polk County when Mary was twelve years old and bought a farm west of town and settled in a Swedish community. The Hedman's oldest daughter, Emma Powell, was a dressmaker and had her own alteration and relining shop in Los Angeles. Mrs. Jonas Anderson was also engaged in dressmaking before her marriage to Jonas Anderson and after marriage she still did dressmaking for herself and her six daughters. A sister, Alma, also did dressmaking and Andrew Hedman's trade has been perpetuated down the generations. Mrs. Anderson's brother, Edward, farmed the original farm until he retired.

Jonas Anderson spent all his life after arriving in America, in Polk County with the exception of seven years farming near Fullerton, North Dakota, in 1907-1914 where he brought an unimproved farm and put up all new buildings.



Jonas and Mary Anderson and children Myrtle, Milton and Mildred

Jonas and Mary Anderson had seven children and all are living. There are ten grandchildren, one grandchild, Joan Westring, having died. There are twenty-four great grandchildren and four great, great, grandchildren living in eight states.

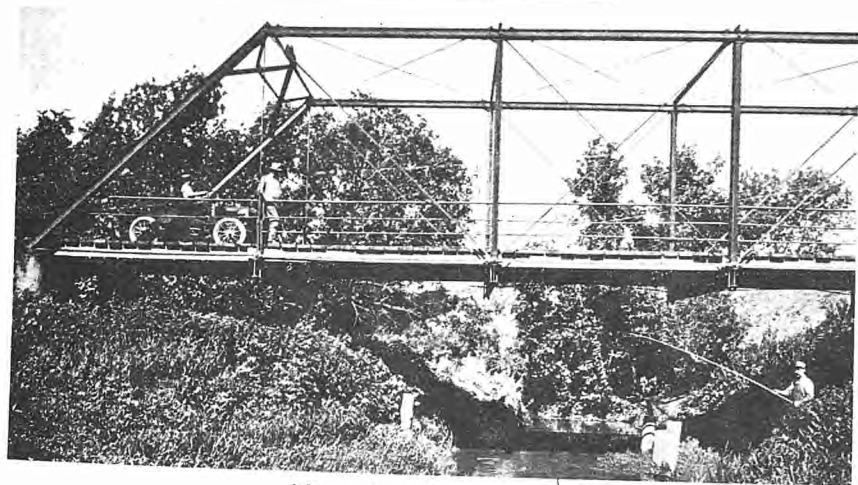
Milton Anderson worked with his father on the farm until they moved to Stromsburg in 1920, where they were engaged in the express and ice business. Milton later worked on the railroad until he retired. Jonas Anderson and Milton owned the building east of the Stromsburg Bank where they had their office (lately torn down) and Maud was the bookkeeper. She later worked in the Stromsburg Hospital, Covenant Home, and the hospital at Osceola.



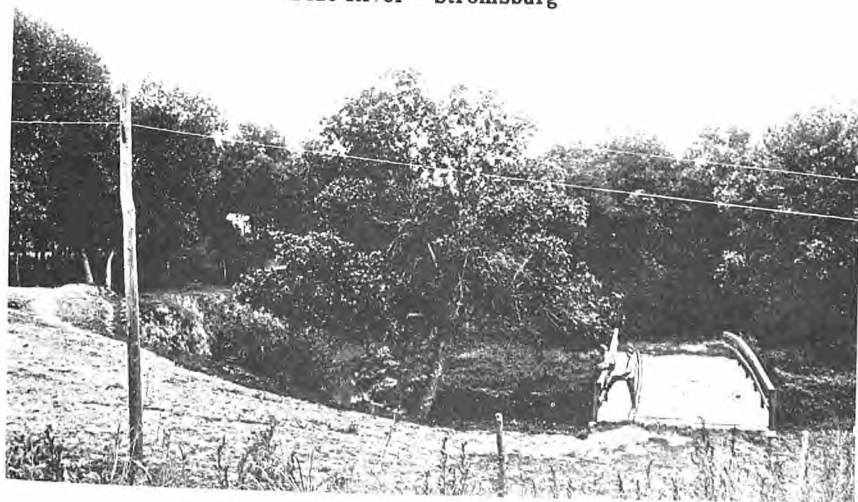
Vera, Maud, Violette, Mabel, Mildred, Myrtle and Milton

Milton married Violet Carlson and lives in Stromsburg. Mildred has been the homemaker and dressmaker while Myrtle taught school for forty-six years. Violette married Pastor Martin Lingwall of Denver, Colorado, and they have two married children. Vera is an anaesthetist in Denver. Mabel married Eugene Westring and lives in Genoa, Nebraska and their eight children live in six states.

Mrs. Anderson's grandfather did carpentering and cabinet work, traveling around with his tools in a wheelbarrow. In 1928 Jonas Anderson went to Sweden to visit his brother and four sisters and while there Mrs. Anderson (his wife) passed away in Stromsburg. There are three generations buried in our beautiful cemetery. Those still living in Stromsburg are: Milton, Mildred, Myrtle, Maud and the Jim Westring family--Jerry, Dana and Jill Westring being the sixth generation of the Peter and Maria Hedmans. Jonas Anderson later married Mrs. Eva Johnson.



Blue River - Stromsburg



Camp meeting grounds

Chapter VI

Out of the Past

MEMORIES OF A BYGONE ERA

Stromsburg has a fascinating history of bygone enterprises, buildings, and entertainments; each having played an important part in the development of our town but each giving way to progress and changing times.

The earliest known enterprise was that of **BROOMMAKING** -- The first broom making bench was brought to Stromsburg in 1873 by A. P. Buckley. It was first set up at his farm then brought to town in 1875 and put to use in the rear of his barbershop. The second broom factory was run by N. P. Peterson and Andrew Lutman, in connection with a furniture store, which started in 1891.

In April 1911, George Olson started broom making and in 1915 purchased a broom sewing machine that made four dozen brooms per hour. On December 6, 1916 fire destroyed his building but the machine was saved. He rebuilt and raised from 100 to 200 acres of broom corn yearly, and hired Joe Newman and later Svante Stenbeck as salesmen. Broom making and selling continued until 1942.

Another early business for over 30 years was **BRICKMAKING**. There were two brick yards, each employing nine or ten men. Practically all the foundations and dozens of homes in this area were made from brick which came from these factories as well as the many brick business buildings including the hotel and the three story Opera House which is now the Legion Hall and Viking Center.

The first **BRICKYARD** was started by Isaac Boostrom in 1882, three blocks southeast of the square. The second yard was started by John Olson in 1885. Brick from this kiln was used to build the Baptist Bible Seminary afterwards known as Bryant Normal and Business College. (See Chapter on Schools) For years 60,000 bricks could be dried at one time and they could sell all the bricks they could make. But during World War I the brick yards ended.

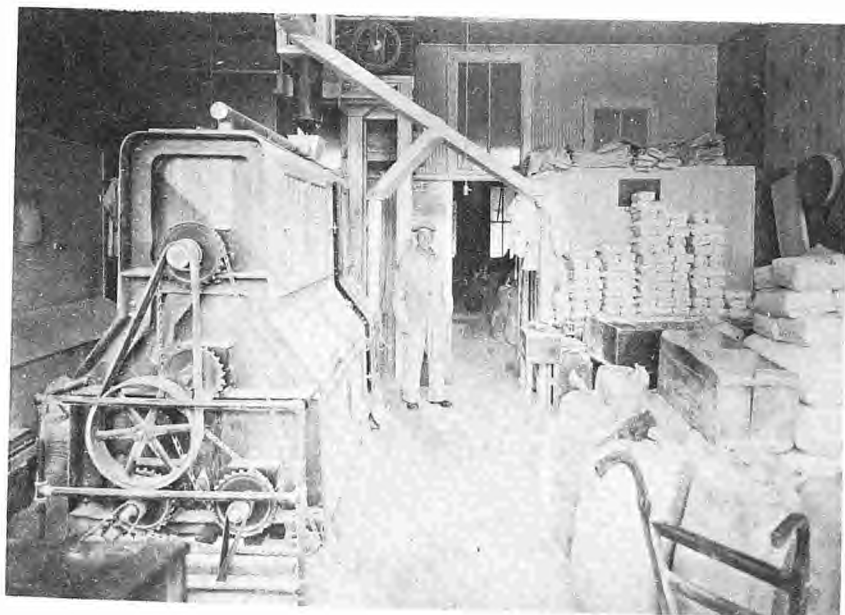
The **STROMSBURG OPERA HOUSE** built from bricks from the Stromsburg brick yards was erected in the early eighties and was at that time a great asset to the town as this provided the place for meetings of all kinds; road shows, medicine shows, dances, High School Commencement programs, political rallies and banquets. Home talent plays were frequent and always drew a packed house. After Scott's Hall and the new high school were built, meetings at the opera house declined. For a while the first floor was used for roller skating. Then it stood quite useless for many years until the American Legion remodeled upstairs and the community did the first floor over into our now popular Viking Center in 1966.



Stromsburg Flour Mill,
1 block north of
railroad tracks, and
1 block east
of present Highway 81.

In 1882 a ROLLER MILL FOR MAKING FLOUR was built in the south part of town near the railroad. For years there was such a demand it ran day and night. This was run by Thomas Brothers. The next owner was M. Underhill. Later it was leased to Gately Brothers. The next owner was a Mr. George. In later years rollers replaced the millstones and they ended up as tables in Buckley Park. Years later Frank Cherry bought the building and moved it east of town.

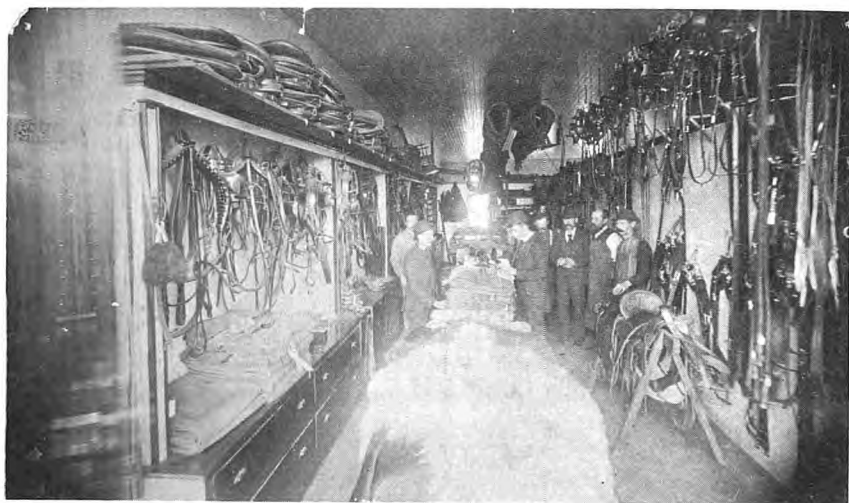
In the spring of 1893 C. P. Anderson and John Youngquist erected a CEREAL MILL on the north side of the tracks (near where Mobile bulk tanks are now located). Corn meal ground here was shipped as far away as Arkansas and Missouri. In 1898 Samuelson and Erickson bought half interest. Oatmeal machinery was installed and the first year 109,000 bushels of oats were purchased and rolled oats were shipped to California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho and Colorado. It continued to do a flourishing business until 1902 when larger mills froze out the concern. The building then became a grain elevator and was destroyed by fire in 1911.



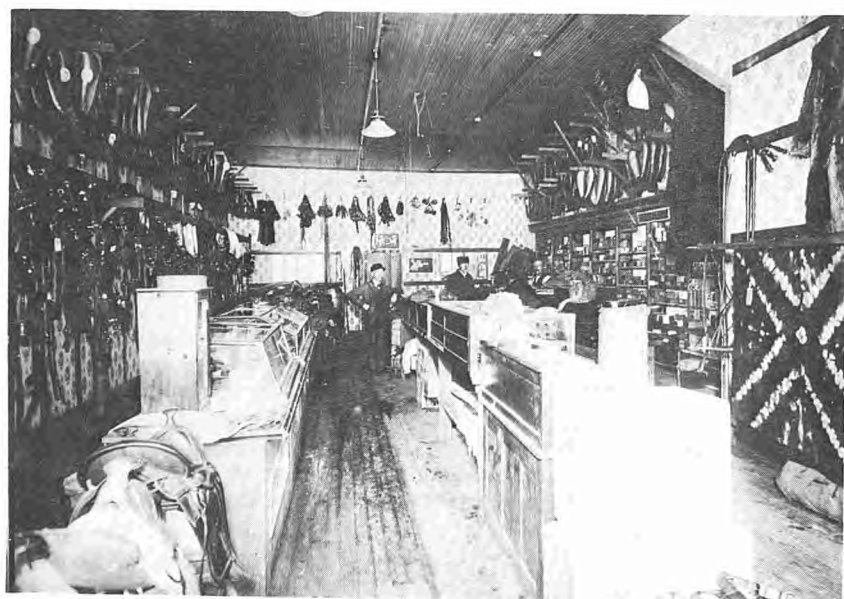
C. P. Anderson's mill, northwest corner of the square

Another MILLER in early days was A. V. Johnson. C. P. Anderson also owned a mill on the northwest corner of the square from 1903-1929 and later was run by his nephew, Dave Peterson, until the early 40's. This building still stands and is being used by Carl Westring for feed storage.

In the days of horses the HARNESS SHOPS did a flourishing business. As far as can be learned the first harness shop in Stromsburg was started in 1880 by Charles Nyquist. Later the firm became Nyquist and Reed. Later Reed took over and in 1889 sold to Carlson Company. S. V. Phipps from York started another harness shop in 1901 and ran it until 1907 when he sold to Lindberg and Lingwall. In 1908 Alfred Anderson and Hans Ostrom formed a partnership. Later, Mr. Ostrom took over and ran it until it closed in the hard times of the thirties.

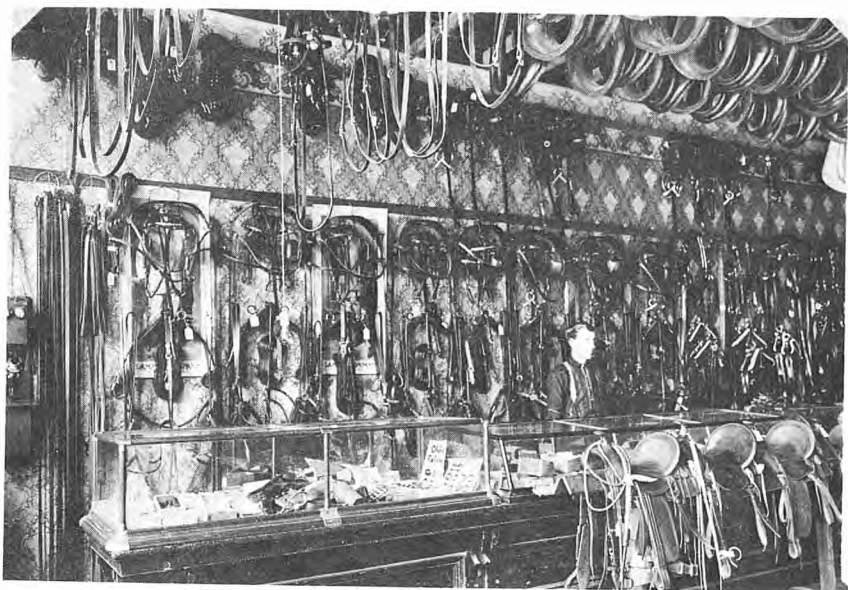


Anderson-Ostrom Harness Shop, south side of square



Anderson Harness Shop - 1915 - where Mother's Cafe is now

Before the coming of cars another thriving business of our town was LIVERY STABLES. Stromsburg had its share; the most prominent being run by Sanders Brothers from 1888 to 1898. They always kept good horses and buggies. Others in this business were: C. L. Burke, Willits and Gunnell, Saunders and Edwards, Frost, Pike and Graves, Pike and Son, and Comfort and Son. One of the old livery barns was torn down in the spring of 1950 to make room for the REA Office, and in 1971 what had been a livery barn at one time was torn down to make an addition to the Stromsburg Bank.



Emil Lindburg's Harness Shop



Livery stable owned by Mertin and Cad Hill. Torn down in 1971 for the Stromsburg Bank Drive-In

Along with horse and buggy days we must remember the STAGE COACH, owned by Peter Bergman which made daily trips from Stromsburg to Clarks from 1885 until 1890.

DRAYMEN were needed in the early days to haul freight from trains to the business places and trunks and baggage for salesmen who had trunk showings at the hotels. At one time there were as many as EIGHT TRAINS A DAY in and out of Stromsburg, making draying a good business.



Early livery stable, Chester Bennet in middle



Draywagons used to carry freight to and from each train

A huge water supply tank supplied water for the big steam engines. All hogs and cattle were driven to town and loaded in freight cars where they were shipped to Omaha or Chicago. Larson Brothers and Reece Newman and Jacobson often shipped entire train loads of cattle to Chicago. A big cattle yard and loading chute was located on the south side of the tracks and across north of the tracks was the large ROUND HOUSE where train engines could be turned around to go back to York. This was torn down in the early 1940's.

As far as is known the first man to set up a SHOE REPAIR SHOP in Stromsburg was Nels Nordstrom in 1874. Many persons had shoe lasts and did their own repairing. In 1911 C. P. Nelson had a shoe repair shop and also sold shoes but later discontinued shoe repairs and put in clothing. At one time Carl G.



Windmill and water tower used for the big steam engines

Anderson and Otto Anderson had a repair shop. Charles Lambert was in the shoe repair business over 33 years. For many years a bench known as the LIARS BENCH sat on the east side of Lamberts Shoe Shop. Here the older men congregated and told tall tales. On this same corner stood a huge cottonwood that was planted in 1873 but was cut down in 1962 after the fire on that corner. The last shoe repair shop in Stromsburg was located a little east of the Headlight Office and operated by Joe Newman.

In 1887 John Uhl put a dam on the Blue River built an ICE HOUSE, cut ice in winter, and started an ice delivery in summer. But very few residents had ice boxes at that time as meats were kept dried, salted, or smoked, butter was lowered into cisterns and milk came directly from cows twice a day. So ice was not much in demand. After several years and changes A. B. Lind built a red brick ice house in 1893 (torn down in 1970 to make room for new Co-op Oil Company). Mr. Lind continued his ice business and also ran a dray line until 1907 when he sold to John Shustrom who continued for thirteen years. In 1904 Gilbert Colson began selling ice from a dam built on his father's land south of Buckley Park and supplied farmers and ice dealers. The railroad track to York went on the west side of this ice dam and he loaded railroad cars with ice that was shipped



Ice making on the Blue - Lind, Shustrom, Walberg, Olson, Anderson, Swanson

to Benedict. Gilbert Colson was the last man to cut and sell ice around Stromsburg.

Back in 1887 a MILITIA COMPANY was organized in Stromsburg with J. H. Coleman Captain, C. C. Eroo, 1st Lieutenant and Irvin Scott, 2nd Lieutenant (His uniform is in County Museum). Due to Indian uprising in Western Nebraska the Stromsburg Militia was called to duty January 4, 1891 and went by train to Crawford. By the time they arrived the Indians had been subdued by the company but was not mustered out until 1897.

In 1886 the STROMSBURG MUTUAL BUILDING, LOAN and SAVINGS ASSOCIATION was organized. The businessmen of the town were the main promoters and as there was a need for such an organization the membership grew rapidly. Over 40 homes were improved or built from 1886-1896, when demands for loans did not justify continuation it went out of existence.



Headstrom's Motorcycle Shop, now part of Barber's Service building

In 1900 August Headstrom started a BICYCLE REPAIR SHOP. At that time every young man wanted a bicycle. There was a bicycle club that thought nothing of wheeling to Lincoln and back the same day, providing they didn't get caught in a rain storm. Bicycle races were one of the big sports of the day. When motorcycles came into use Mr. Headstrom repaired those. As years went by he purchased or made some of the best motors in town. His building was later bought by Harold and Loren Barber.

Prior to Headstrom's Machine shop this same building had been used by Andrew Sundberg for the MANUFACTURING OF THE SUNDBERG WINDMILL. The earliest settlers had to dig open wells and pull water up with buckets so the windmills were in great demand. J. P. Smith, salesman for windmills, had one placed in the street on northwest corner of the square where anyone could come and get water and a water supply tank was built by the city. This was Stromsburg's earliest and only water works for many years.

The earliest MILLINERY SHOP was opened in Stromsburg in 1887 by Mrs. L. H. Headstrom and her sister, Jennie Wilson. This was located on the northeast corner of the square about where the Headlight Office is now located. Hats were trimmed with lots of flowers, ribbons, feathers and laces.



J. A. Anderson Jewelry and Music Store - 1889

Dozens of milliners have been in Stromsburg, the last ones being Edna Ekeley and Inez Paine who had shops until the early 30's.

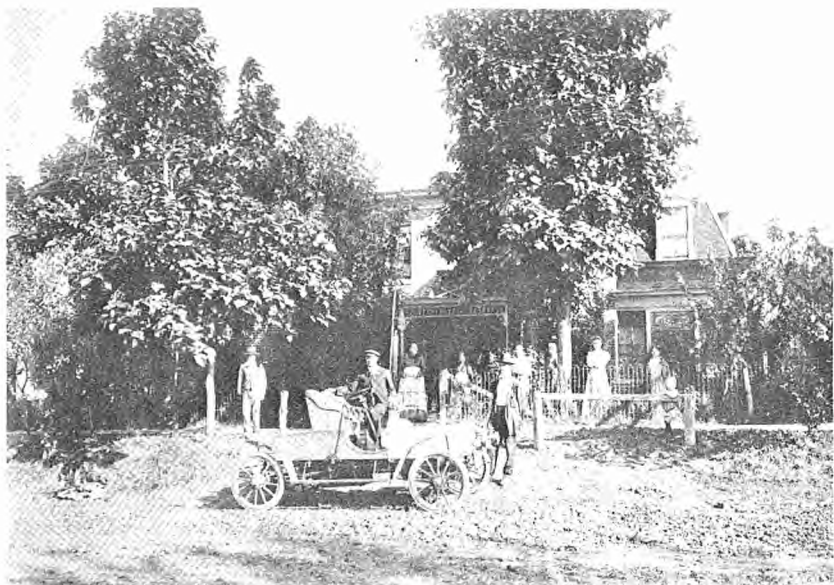
As far as can be determined, the first WATCH AND CLOCK REPAIR SHOP opened in Stromsburg in 1884 when Andrew Anderson and his son, J. A. Anderson opened a watch repair shop on the north side of the square. After Andrew moved to California his son continued in the business. When Wilson built his building in 1901 this building was torn down and he moved one door west about where Jack Stanton now has his office. He continued for another 32 years.

In 1915 E. E. Knerr came here from Shelby and started a jewelry and watch repair, later buying the J. A. Anderson shop. Mr. Knerr remained in business until 1927. Other jewelers have been: 1885, W. R. Marshal; 1886, Mr. Cedersstrom; Holger Hald, 1902-1903. L. A. Erickson did have a jewelry store and J. A. Anderson did much of his repair work.



Hospital built by Dr. George Flippin around 1910. Later Anderson Funeral Home, next Stromsburg Hospital and now Hahn's Apartments.

The first HOSPITAL in Stromsburg stood on what is now the southwest corner of the high school grounds. The building was first the residence of Olaf Headstrom, later purchased by Dr. Coleman as a residence and then sold to Dr. Charles Flippin who remodeled it and made it into a hospital. This was a red brick building made from Stromsburg bricks. In 1910 Dr. George Flippin built a large frame hospital across the street on the south. This building has been a hospital, a funeral home, again a hospital, and now Hahn's Apartment House. It was last used as a hospital by Dr. Anderson until 1960.



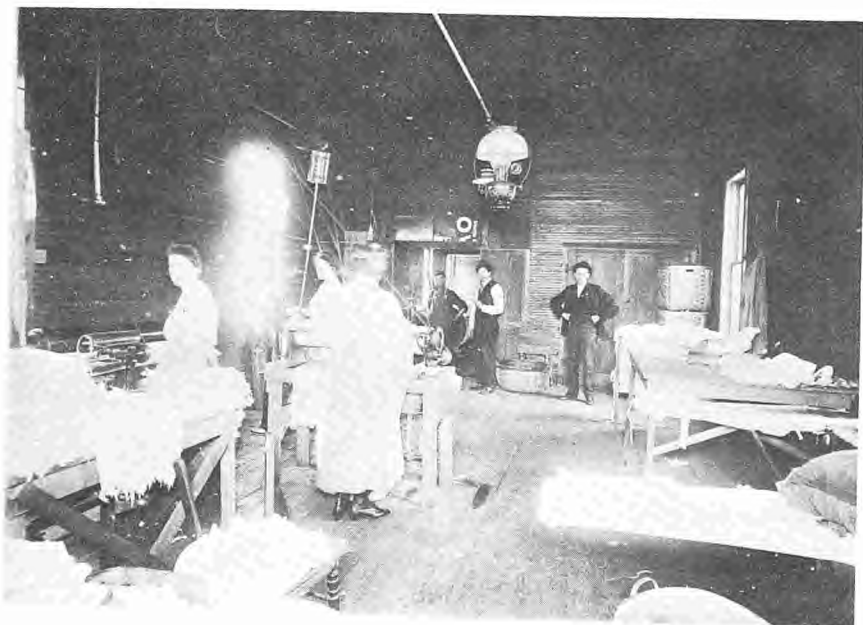
Dr. Flippin and first car in Stromsburg

Another building that has served many purposes is what is now the east half of the Covenant Home on the Cemetery Road. In 1909 the Nebraska Conference of the Lutheran Augustana Synod decided an ORPHAN'S HOME west of Omaha should be constructed and Stromsburg was chosen for the site. A contract for a three-story frame building was let to P. O. Nordlund at a cost of \$12,000. It was dedicated September 11, 1913, but it was soon found to be too expensive to run the Omaha Home and also this one so in 1926 it was sold to Dr. A. J. Edstrom who turned it into a hospital. In 1946 this 10 acres and buildings were sold to the Covenants who made it into a home for the aged.

**Lutheran Augustana
Orphans Home, 1913.
Later used as a
hospital by Dr.
Edstrom. Now east
wing of Midwest
Covenant Home.**



In 1890 Jo Wa Lee opened a CHINESE LAUNDRY on the north side of the square but the thrifty Swedish women preferred to do their own washings, even if on a board, so he soon went out of business. Six years later Yick Wah opened another laundry but he had no better business, so soon departed. Others who were here in the laundry business were Shaw and Dean in 1904, quitting after three months. Frank Van Dorn opened in 1909 but fared no better. About that time barbershops handled laundry for companies who picked it up.



Early day laundry, east side of square. Chester Bennett on right.

Somewhere around 1958 a LAUNDROMAT, the first of its kind, was put in on the south side of the square where Hartman's Drug Store had been. It was doing a good business but on March 5, 1962, it went up in flames, as did the adjoining clock and repair shop on the east side of it.

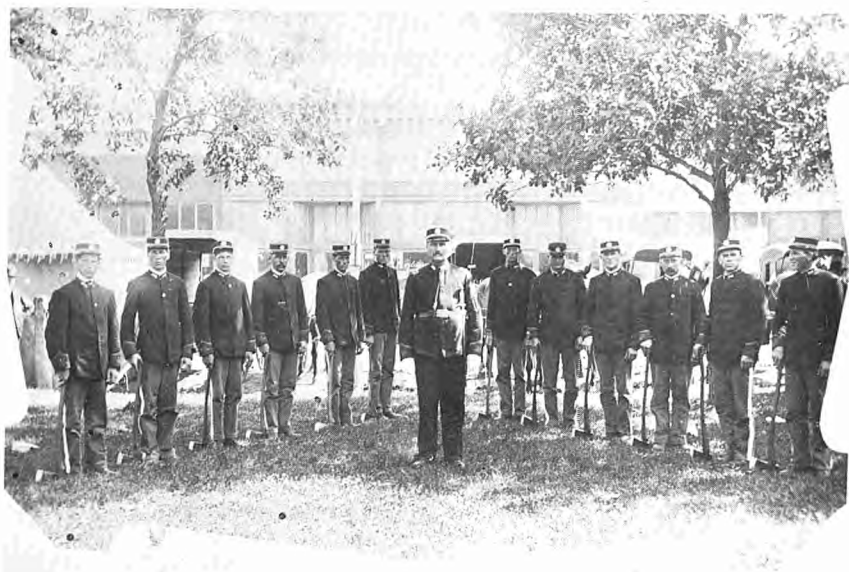
Swedish women liked to do their own baking so no bakery or confectionary was started until 1901 when A. T. Carlson put in a baker's oven in the rear of the first floor of the Opera House; added a soda fountain and other equipment that made it suitable for what was known as an EATING HOUSE and BAKERY. The names of Chihacik, Walker, J. A. Anderson, Inhelder, Albert Colson 1912, Shinkle 1915, Christys, R. M. Fitch, Rasche & Pickett, Johnson sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Westenius, Hempleman, Ted Johnsons were names of some of the bakers. The last and probably best known bakery was Shipferling's Bakery located just east of the present Headlight building. Shipferling had come from Germany and though they had language problems they baked the most delicious goodies and served good meals. Many a child flattened his nose against those bakery windows and looked at all the goodies and candies. This building still stands.

The STROMSBURG CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERY COMPANY was organized in January 1896 and did a flourishing business until 1903. In the meantime the South Platte Creamery opened a branch on the northwest corner of the square



South Side Bakery and Resturant, where Viking Center is now. Albert Colson on left.

but a fire did great damage to the building and equipment so they closed in 1902. After that time business was handled by produce dealers who bought and sold cream, eggs, and poultry. The earliest known produce dealers in Stromsburg



Modern Woodman of America - a prominent organization in 1888.

were Chidister and Hummell in the early 90's. Other dealers have been Nordberg Brothers, Gust A. Peterson and Morris J. Johnson, who had the last one. His building was torn down in 1957 to make room for Beckman's new plumbing shop.

Down through the years there have been many organizations that came and went. The LIME KILN CLUB flourished in late 70's and early 80's. The UNITED WORKMAN'S LODGE was organized in 1886 with a large membership. The STROMSBURG BOARD OF TRADE organized in 1887 and was quite an institution in furthering the growth of the town but disbanded in 1891. Modern Woodmen of America, a prominent organization was formed in 1888.

The KNIGHTS OF LABOR organized in the early 80's and membership reached on hundred at one time. There was the KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS in 1898, BEN HUR LODGE in 1898, the BUSINESS MEN'S FRATERNITY in 1889, but like the other organizations was short lived.



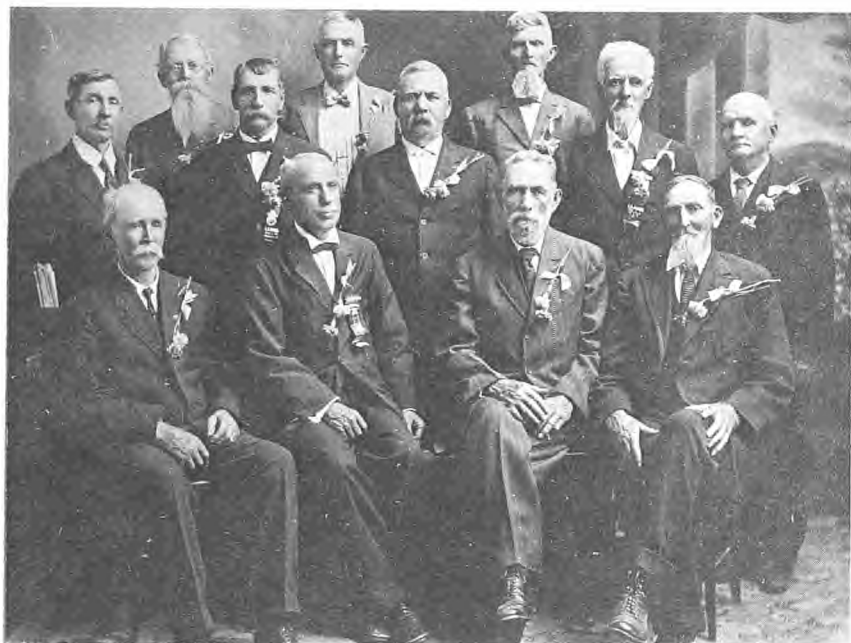
Bert Nicol on bicycle and John Ostbloom



Oil derrick south
west of town, 1913.

In 1891, when bicycle riding was at its height, Stromsburg had a BICYCLE CLUB that gained fame throughout the state. The members on a nice day thought nothing of wheeling to Lincoln and back the same day. In 1896 the DEGREE OF HONOR LODGE and another the KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF SECURITY. The INDEPENDENT ORDER of RED MEN was organized in 1906. The ROYAL HIGHLANDER was organized in 1900. The GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC was mustered in, on October 2, 1880, and had a large enrollment. As the years went by each year took its toll until the last member, William H. Feters, passed away May 19, 1947, at the age of 102 years and 6 months and is the oldest person buried in the Stromsburg Cemetery.

In 1905 a YMCA was started at the First Baptist Church. The Boostrom Building on the south side of the square was rented and athletics were promoted. The first BASKETBALL TEAM in Stromsburg was formed. Later,



G.A.R. Post 59 - top: J. D. Edwards, O. P. Saint, Nathan Fellows. Middle row: S. F. Comfort, W. H. Feters, J. H. Coleman, J. D. Darrow, O. Mathews. Bottom row: N. Stafford, C. H. Morrill, Milo Barber, J. H. Powell.

Gately Brothers promoted wrestling. Financial problems caused the YMCA to close in 1908. As far as we can learn Stromsburg's first GUN CLUB was started in 1903 and would flourish for a while, die out and reorganize. In 1929 the STROMSBURG RIFLE CLUB was started, but it, too is extinct.

During 1913 and part of 1914 big hopes and lots of excitement was in the air when an oil derrick was put up on the Colson farm near the railroad tracks and digging for oil began. Many persons invested goodly sums in the hopes of becoming rich but after much digging no oil was found, except one morning when oil was found on the water, probably the prank of some youngsters or someone who wanted more investors.

In 1960 another oil company put up an oil derrick on the John Sundberg farm about three miles west of town. For many weeks this caused great excitement and the public was again sure there was oil in them hills but eventually the equipment was taken down and down went the hopes of those who had visioned a big oil boom in our community.

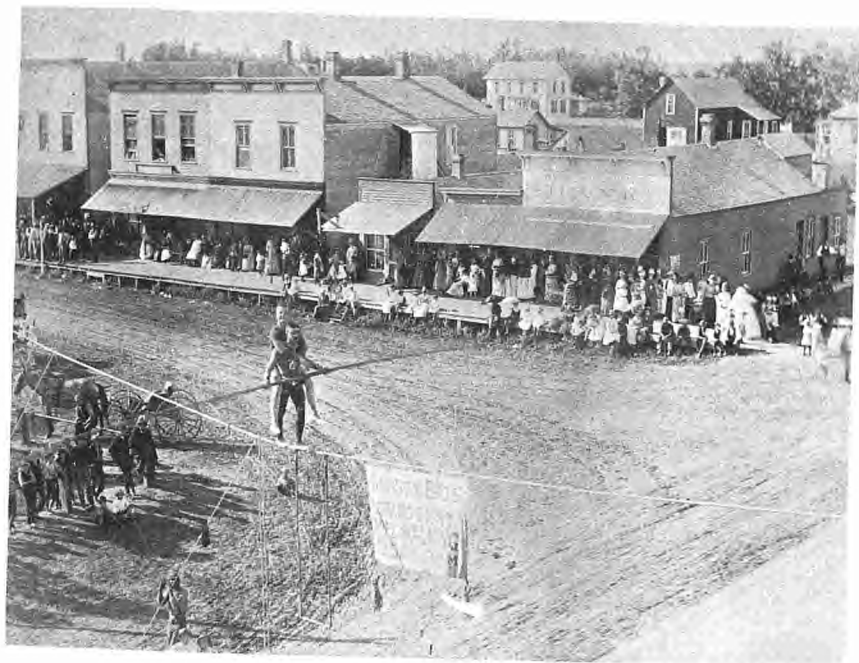
During the 20's the Ku Klux Klan, an organization which originated in the South moved north and Kalverns were formed from Coast to Coast with Polk County being no exception.

During these years the Klan exercised considerable political influence and sometimes feat. Many still remember the night several hundred in white robes and masks gathered a few miles south of Stromsburg burning crosses while holding their meeting. The roads were lined with curious onlookers.

In 1922 the STROMSBURG COUNTRY CLUB and GOLF CLUB was organized and 50 acres of land southeast of town was leased for five years and made into a golf course. By the time the lease ran out so had the membership and the golf

bug died. Many members decided they preferred sitting by a quiet stream fishing rather than chasing a little golf ball, after a hard day's work.

Gone too are the barns that housed a cow, a horse and buggy, or a team of horses and a carriage. These had haymows for storing hay. Remember too, the little shanties out behind every house, rich and poor, before plumbing and sewers were put in. And believe it or not, some were still in use in the late 40's. This chapter will probably bring back many more "Do you remembers" depending on how many years you have lived in Stromsburg, but regardless, we wish you many happy hours of reminiscences.



July 4, 1889, north side of square

Since the very first settlers in our community there have been a variety of celebrations. The earliest and the one celebrated the most number of years was **FOURTH OF JULY**. Pioneers came by foot, horseback or in wagons for an all day celebration. Uncle Billy Record, barefooted, would give patriotic and political speeches in a grove of trees near where the Bob Lamoree station is now located. Here, too a horse-drawn merry-go-round was a big attraction. In later years there were band concerts, water fights and balloon ascensions held uptown around the square but families still brought their own basket dinners. After the Buckley Park was opened, ball games, boxing, racing and picnics were held there. As the years went by and the depression and dust storms of the 30's came, these celebrations seemed to come to an end.

In early days a WHITE FRAME BANDSTAND was in the middle of the square and bands played for every occasion and every Saturday night. Lou Israel was a noted band leader for many years. (His band uniform is in the Polk County Museum).

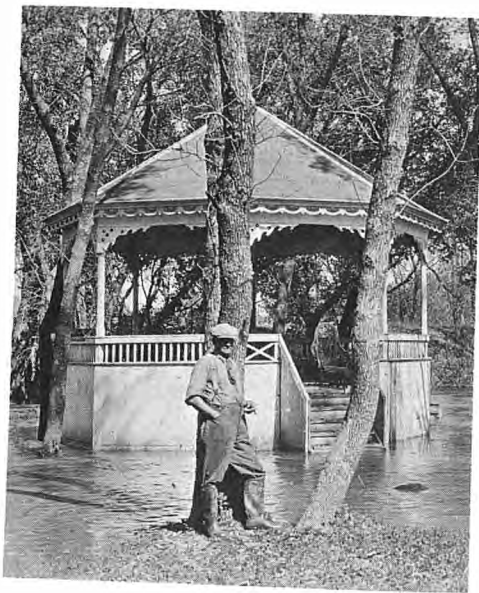
Another big event each summer was the **CAMP MEETING** conducted by the Swedish Methodists from 1902 until 1917 when the war came. The camp grounds



July 4, 1891, east and south side of square



were on the Blue River just across south of the present ball diamond in Buckley Park. These meetings were held in a large tent with meetings for the children in the mornings and for the adults in afternoons and evenings. The local minister would be in charge, assisted by ministers from other Swedish churches. Some people from a distance would put up their tents and stay while others came each day. A wooden dining hall was erected where meals could be cooked and shared.



White frame bandstand that stood in city square for over 40 years. Replaced by brick one in 1921. Moved to Buckley Park.



Camp meeting grounds

Another big attraction was CHAUTAUQUAS, a summer-time entertainment that each town looked forward to. These were held in a large tent set up on the school ground and lasted about two weeks. There were different Chautauqua Companies booked. Stromsburg booked the Redpath Horner Company. They provided some of the best entertainers in the nation. There were singers, magicians, bands, orchestras, pottery makers and noted speakers. Closing day a play by local children would be given. When radios came into use many of these prominent entertainers became radio entertainers and as people purchased radios the chautauquas died out in the early 20's.



Redpath Chaulauqua

STROMSBURG BANDS

The town without a band was out of luck in the early days with its old settler picnics, 4th of July celebrations, political rallies and other gatherings that formed a social tie of the people of town and country.

The first band in Stromsburg was founded under most favorable auspices, as an enthusiastic citizenship got together and bought a full set of silver-plated instruments and the first band was given the name of "Stromsburg Silver Cornet Band." After the band members had reached a certain degree of proficiency, uniforms were procured—wonderful creations, according to the standards of the day, with plumed caps, shoulder straps, corded bosoms. The leader of the band was one Mr. Pembleton and the personnel was composed of businessmen of town. But with the removal of some members and the leader the Silver Cornet Band ceased to be.

Later on another band was organized under the leadership of Elarth, a music dealer. He moved to York and the second band ceased to function. Soon afterwards the band was again re-organized and under the leadership of Charles A. Peterson took on new life and for a number of years was a leading factor in this community. Chas. Peterson was an enthusiastic band man and during his regime no discords ever occurred. His death in 1895 was of universal regret as he was an unusually popular man, and without his leadership the band ceased to function.

After a year or two a re-organization was affected with Emil Olson as leader, if we are not mistaken. This lasted for a long time, and again the band was re-organized, Alex Swanson and his brother Levi were leaders. Carl Nelson was another leader, but it is hard to keep track of the band situation. In 1907 Lou R. Israel, a tailor by trade and a good bandman was induced to come to Stromsburg. Under his leadership, Stromsburg had a very strong organization for a number of years.

At about 1912 there was a controversy among the band members and the band divided. The group that stayed with Lou Israel played their concert on Saturday evenings and the other band, under the direction of Mervin Johnson, played a concert on Wednesday evenings.

At about 1914-15 both bands appeared at the Ak-Sar-Ben in Omaha and the State Fair at Lincoln several days.

For a year or so there was no band organization. In later years the High School Band played and gave concerts in the park.

In the last few years there has been no band concerts in the park.

The last 40 or 50 years has brought about a great change in the life and activities of our community, especially our Saturday. It used to be that Saturday night was the big event of the week. Everybody looked forward to the weekend and the band concert. People drove in from far and near and even from other towns, coming in early so as to get a good parking place around the square so they could hear the band concert and those who did not care for the concerts would go to the movies and the stores were open and the town lit up until midnight.

The good roads and high-powered cars probably make the difference. If somebody in the country needs something in town they get into the car and are there in about 10 minutes and don't wait until Saturday night to do their shopping.

Saturday night anymore is very quiet. I guess this is progress but somehow we miss the fun and fan-fare of the old Saturday night.

ORGANIZATIONS, CLUBS AND LODGES OUT OF THE PAST

Lime Kiln Club

One of the first organizations on record, was that of the Lime Kiln Club, which flourished in the late seventies and early eighties. It was a social club of young businessmen in our town. The Lime Kiln Hall was built on the east side of the square in 1880, and for a number of years was the meeting place of the club and other social gatherings. Christmas Tree parties, dances, and roller skating were also held there and later there was a roller skating rink in that place. The Club of young men pulled off many stunts that could be repeated today. One young member decided to have his hair clipped, but when he studied his "phiz" in the mirror, he decided that his fellow members should look as bad as he. In those days, as now, people wanted to conform, and soon, nearly every young man in town appeared with a head as bald as a billiard ball. There was one who refused to lose his luxuriant locks, so a committee boldly carried him to "Cook" Buckley and ordered half of his head shaved, and dismissed him. He soon decided that it would improve his appearance to have the other half clipped. There were many such stunts pulled to create fun. The Lime Kiln Hall was built by a company headed by J. A. Frawley.

Magazine Club

Rev. Haskell started a magazine club of twenty members and he also served as president of this club. Each member paid \$5.00 and in this way they shared a large number of magazines which was an economic project.

Athletic Club

In the Seventies, the first Athletic Club met in a room upstairs, on the north side of the square. Later one was organized and the headquarters were in the building now occupied by the Carl Westring Mill. For several years this club gave some good entertainment as well as exhibitions of real athletics. Black eyes after boxing soon disappeared and discomforts forgotten, and the participants were ready for another bout. Hon. A. C. Shallenberger, ex-Governor of Nebraska, was the champion boxer and foot racer. At that time, he was a clerk in the Woods store in Stromsburg.

Knights of Labor

The Knights of Labor was organized in the early eighties and was active for a number of years having a membership of more than one hundred at one time, but was discontinued for some other labor agitation.

Grand Army of the Republic

The local G. A. R. Post mustered in October 2, 1880, with twenty-seven charter members. Captain John S. Wood of Omaha, organized the group consisting of: J. B. Dey, Wm. Bartholomew, C. C. Bennett, Dr. J. N. Shelton, Wm. Cherry, Milo Barber, Daniel Swalley, Eli Bennett, Wm. Bowlby, Thomas Klassy, Sam Woods, Harry Baker, C. F. Graves, John Hamilton, Nathan Fellows, J. L. Teeter, John S. Palmer, W. A. Biggs, Samuel Taylor, Amon Steever, H. Kisler, Joseph Kimball, A. Shoemaker, J. N. Shoemaker and Albert Ames.

Later veterans of the Civil War added their names to the roster. Among them were: J. H. Coleman, Perry McLaughlin, C. H. Morrill, W. H. Fethers, Myron Barber, E. Blender, J. D. Darrow, H. P. Cutting, James Doggett, J. D. Chamberlain, George Carr, S. P. Cypher, T. C. Diltz, Theodore Cowan, C. J. Doremus, James D. Edwards, C. A. Flippin, Julius M. Green, H. C. Graves, James Honness, N. H. Gallant, S. C. Cypher, Martin Thompson, James Green, Henry Lowe, Isaiah Lutz, Jacob Knerr, Christian Murray, John P. Miller, Wm. Oakes, Aker Nelson, Wm. Parker, John Post, C. G. Parker, S. C. Purdy, Horace Putnam, A. N. Stafford, John Slatter, Frank Thomas, Horace Willits, George Sealey, Wm. Harrier, O. Frost, H. H. Castor, J. C. Logue, I. D. Woods, John Hammond and Geo. T. Palmer.

When School District No. 10 was ready to erect the new two-story frame building (Linne), the one-story school building was moved to the lot east of the school grounds, and the G. A. R. rented it for a hall for their meetings. This lot belonged to C. H. Morrill, P. T. Buckley and Albinus Nance, who in 1885 deeded it to the G. A. R. Post 59. On June 15, 1910 the G. A. R. Post, with J. H. Coleman and W. H. Fethers, trustees, deeded the lot to R. L. Ericson who on July 22, 1925 deeded it to School District No. 10. From the time the Post was organized meetings were held in this hall, paying rent to the District. The school district rented a room for one of their grades. In the early days, dances and entertainments were held in the hall.

Memorial Day was officially observed in 1882. These observances, each year were attended by large crowds. The first years the graves in the cemeteries at Stromsburg, Cooper and Pleasant Home were decorated. The procession, more than a mile in length, made the rounds of the three cemeteries. A picnic dinner was taken along. In later years, the gathering met in Stromsburg and a committee was appointed to decorate the graves of the other cemeteries. After Polk was founded the local Post cared for their graves, for a time.

After World War I, the entire arrangement for Memorial Day was taken over by the American Legion. E. H. Fethers was the last Civil War veteran.

During all these years, to the present time, Memorial Day has been observed by presenting fine patriotic programs and reading the roll call of the departed veterans.

Stromsburg Mutual Building Loan and Savings Association

This home builders' organization was promoted and financed by public spirited men and women to encourage the attainment of the "American Home", the safeguard of American Liberties. At the time of incorporation in February, 1886, there was a rapid growth in farm development in the surrounding territory and a shortage of homes in town.

Each member in the association was limited to ten shares of \$100 each, payable in monthly installments of sixty cents per share. The businessmen were the main promoters and membership grew rapidly, as there was a dire

need. The nine board members served a term of three years. The four officers were elected annually. During the ten years of existence, the following served as presidents: Eric Johnson, W. A. Post, Dyer Ford, P. T. Buckley, B. S. Peck and Olof Netsell. Alex Scott was secretary during the entire ten years, with the exception of a few months. Over forty homes were improved or built during the ten years of its existence. The organization voluntarily went out of existence when the demands for loans did not justify the continuation of the business.

Independent Order of Good Templers

The Independent Order of Good Templers was organized December 21, 1886. There was a large membership and it flourished for five or six years and then discontinued.

United Workman Lodge

The United Workman Lodge was a prominent organization, both socially and fraternally. It was organized in 1886 and had a large membership but when the members grew older the insurance became so high that the members dropped out and only a few remained and the lodge ceased to function.

Stromsburg Board of Trade

The Stromsburg Board of Trade was organized in 1887. C. J. Lindstrom called the meeting. C. H. Morrill chaired the meeting and L. Headstrom was secretary. The Stromsburg Board of Trade was incorporated under the state law and was an institution furthering the growth of the town. It was in existence until 1891. The last meeting on record was called to elect delegates to a sugar beet meeting in Lincoln. In 1888, this organization published a brochure which listed the advantages of living in a community such as Stromsburg.

Some of the members who belonged to this organization included, C. H. Morrill, Dr. A. Coleman, L. V. Haskell, K. Ford, L. Headstrom, O. Netsell, J. A. Reed, John Haskell, E. E. Stanton, Alex Scott, J. H. Coleman, J. D. Edwards, I. D. Chamberlain, I. Boostrom, J. B. Buckley, J. A. Frawley, W. A. Post, John James, Danford Makeever, P. T. Buckley, J. G. Green, J. L. Johnson, W. E. Nichol and L. H. Headstrom.

A charter was granted to the Stromsburg Camp No. 528, M.W.A. on March 2, 1888 with the following officers: J. E. Peterson, Venerable Consul; J. H. Creighton, Advisor; W. B. Shultz, Clerk; Olof Headstrom, Banker; W. J. Saunders, Escort; James Dunn, Watchman; L. E. Stanton, Physician; and F. M. Burch, H. P. Cutting and Calmer McCune, Managers.

The social activities for the men which included banquets and funfests, caused the lodge to increase fast and as many as thirty new members were initiated at one time. Later, when so many other activities were pressing, the fraternal and beneficiary society continued some years, and only the beneficiary activities remained. The business part was left in the hands of the clerk and banker and there was only an occasional gathering of the camp members.

The membership, at one time reached two hundred and seventy-two. The rates had to be raised and the burden became excessive for those advanced in years and they dropped out. For a short time, those who had reached the age of seventy, could withdraw their money and a few did that. During the years the meetings were held in the Masonic Hall, the hall in the old Netsell building, and in the Boostrom Hall, all on the south side of the square.

The officers not before mentioned were: C. A. Peterson, John Tongue, J. W. Wilson, J. B. Pike, W. Bauman, E. Lunner, J. L. Olson, C. E. Burrett, E. P. Pike, B. S. Keck, A. B. Hedbloom, Ed Lauerman, L. Little, C. A. Morrill and Wm. Rickell. J. L. Olson was elected clerk in 1906 and served continuously, and E. C. Nordlund was elected banker in 1908 and served until this organization was disbanded. \$79,520 had been paid to beneficiaries.

Stromsburg Militia Company Nebraska National Guard

The Militia Company was organized in 1887 with J. H. Coleman, Captain, J. D. Edwards, 1st Lieutenant and Dr. L. E. Stanton, 2nd Lieutenant. In 1888, J. H. Coleman tendered his resignation as captain to take a homestead in Colorado and J. D. Edwards was moved up, with C. C. Eroo, 1st Lieutenant and Irvin Scott, 2nd Lieutenant. On January 4, 1891, the company received orders from the government to move by first train to York and from there to Crawford where troops were rushed to help quell the Indian uprising. Stromsburg was astir to see the boys off for duty. The sudden call from civil life to military service, with exaggerated reports of the cruel warfare of the Indians, was no small matter but a few days later the report came that the uprising was ended. C. C. Eroo was captain when the militia company left and when the company from Stromsburg arrived, the battle had been fought. This was the last uprising of the Indians.

Among the many other names mentioned are: James Creighton, W. F. Leach, D. Bartholomew, C. Chapman, H. Coon, D. Darrow, F. Fruide, George Harless, C. Johnson, C. Hedman, Victor Headman, Wm. Hedberg, John Hughes, Wm. Lind, Wm. McGee, J. Miller, H. Miller, A. Moore, Wm. Sanders, Ed Swalley, W. Swalley, Fred Smith and Alex Swan.

In 1898, a company was organized, after the other company was mustered out. D. D. Little was Captain. This company never became officially recognized. In April of the same year, a company was organized with B. B. Beer as Captain. This was the first company in the state to volunteer for actual service in the Spanish-American War. On June 28 of the same year, they were called to service and became Co. H. of the 3rd Nebraska. They went to camp in Florida and later got as far as Cuba but they were in no actual warfare. They were mustered out in May 1899. Among the many names on the roster were: N. S. Abolt, Victor Anderson, Roy Barber, George Barber, Ira Bartholomew, Chas. Burke, Albert Blohnrantz, R. E. Covey, B. A. Darrow, Gust Erickson, George Ludden, Claus Larson, H. A. Nordstrom, Clark Presson, Ray Smith, Andrew Sundberg, Dewey Shaw and Chas. Talbot. George Barber is still in Stromsburg at present at the Midwest Covenant Home.

Business Men's Fraternity

The Business Men's Fraternity was started in 1889 with C. H. Graves as its president. This Fraternity discontinued after a year or two.

Bicycle Club

In 1891, when bicycle riding was at its height, Stromsburg had a Bicycle Club that gained considerable fame throughout the state. It was nothing unusual for some of its members to take a jaunt to Lincoln on a "wheel". Both men and women took part on their "wheels" at several field days. The first bicycle that came to town was the front tall wheel and a small rear one. When the low wheel or "safety bicycle" as it was termed, appeared, several of the young men purchased tandems, and the girl rider was the envy of all other girls. If a bicycle built for four passed through town, it was an object of admiration. The first two "safety bicycles" in Stromsburg were purchased by Frank Halden and Ed Hatfield. Frank Halden took his bicycle along when making a trip to Sweden. He wheeled through England and part of Scotland, and after crossing the North Sea, he bicycled through Sweden. There were no pneumatic tires and Halden nearly wore out a set of solid tires on that trip.

Degree of Honor Lodge

The Degree of Honor Lodge, an auxiliary of the United Workman, was organized in 1896, and became a social as well as a protection organization. It flourished for nearly twenty years and for the next fifteen years many members

kept up the insurance part but when the rates were increased the lodge disbanded.

Knights and Ladies of Security

The Knights and Ladies of Security were organized in 1896 and gave up their charter within a few years because of increased rates. In the nineties, the social side of lodges was very prominent, but in later years, Woman's Club, P.E.O. and D. A. R., and a few others took over the social activities.

Knights of Pythias

The Knights of Pythias was organized in 1898 with D. D. Little heading the organization. It was very flourishing during its fifteen years of existence. This lodge purchased full regalia for its floor work. They held regular meetings, gave entertainments and held open house.

Ben Hur Lodge

The Ben Hur Lodge was organized in 1898 with J. H. Coleman at its head. This lodge functioned for a few years, carrying insurance and having the usual social features and later surrendered its charter.

Knights of the Macabees

In 1898, the Knights of the Macabees was organized with a large membership. After conducting meetings for a number of years, they ceased, but the members held their insurance and M. A. Makeever was the collector as long as he remained in Stromsburg.

Royal Highlanders

The Royal Highlanders was organized in 1900 and was short lived. The headquarters were in Aurora and the insurance was good while the company existed but it finally sold to some other company and the local lodge passed into the scrap heap.

The Royal Neighbor Camp

The wives of the Modern Woodman Lodge organized shortly after the men organized in order to share in their good times. The new society grew and flourished for a time but was short lived, because only wives and daughters of Woodmen could join and they had no insurance. After a few years, the charter was surrendered and records lost, containing the list of officers.

When the Royal Neighbor head camp added a clause for insurance, a new camp was organized. In 1901, Miss Rosetta Clark came to Stromsburg and started a new organization in 1902 with Miss Anna Little, oracle, Miss Alma Johnson, recorder and a membership of ten beneficial and twelve social members. The meetings were held in the Masonic Hall and the membership increased slowly until 1905 when Mrs. Kate Remington from Omaha came and succeeded in doubling the beneficiary membership. She repeated this in 1907.

When the M.W.A. moved into the Boostrom Hall, the Royal Neighbors moved there also, and for several years held their meetings there and helped with activities in both lodges. Those who have held the office of oracle not previously mentioned are: Mrs. E. P. Pike, Mrs. Eva Gromley and Mrs. Olive Vincent. During the last years of its existence the activities were confined to social meetings in the homes where business was transacted.

Gun and Rifle Clubs

As far as records are concerned, Stromsburg's first gun club was organized in September, 1903. John Tongue was chosen president; Dr. W. V. Sharp vice-president; O. R. Hibberling, secretary-treasurer, and Ira Banta, captain. During the fall they met each week and did much practicing, conducting contests and challenging other clubs. Other members of the club were: H. H. Inman, H. D. Skelton, J. W. Wilson, Pete Lindberg, N. Edberg, Ed Thompson, C. C. McCune and E. E. Stanton. This club flourished for a time and then was abandoned.

Several other clubs were organized as the years passed and they also were

disbanded. During the residence of the late Dr. George Flippin, there was usually a club in existence as he liked the sport and was the prime mover.

The next regular club was organized in 1912 with Emil Johnson and Dr. Minnick being the organizers. The members held matches with other clubs and often carried off the honors. This club disbanded during World War I.

The next club on record was organized in 1920 or 1921 when Dr. Minnick and Einer Swanson headed the enterprise. The main events were held in Colson's pasture and later on the golf grounds of the Stromsburg Country Club. This club was discontinued in 1924.

In 1929, ten members started the Stromsburg Rifle Club. It was affiliated with the National Rifle Association. The officers were: Dr. R. L. Minnick, captain; Kermit Hultgren, secretary and treasurer. The other members were C. J. Arnold, Forrest Anderson, Einer Swanson, Wallace Scott, Irvin Anderson, Elmer Carlson, Fred Peterson and Ernest Carlson.

The local club competed in five matches with the York N.R.A. during the winter of 1930 and 1931 and won four of them. In a rifle and pistol "open-door" match, sponsored by the N.R.A. of Omaha and Stromsburg, the Omaha Club won the laurels.

Young Men's Christian Association

In 1905 the Y.M.C.A. originated a Stromsburg Chapter in the First Baptist Church. Nathan Wilson presided at this meeting and was the chief promoter for this association. Fifty-nine signed up at this meeting. A committee canvassed the men of the city and at the second meeting they brought a list of forty-two who had agreed to give financial backing, as well as moral support. The Boostrom building was rented for a hall. A parlor and reading room was located in the front and a well equipped gym in the rear. The second floor provided a parlor and an auditorium. The directors were John Erickson, Isadore Olson, P. A. Sundberg, P. O. Nordlund, C. C. McCune, C. V. Nelson, Peter Rosene, A. B. Lind, George Olson, Eric Forslund, A. C. Anderson and Nathan Wilson. Eric Forslund was elected president, Nathan Wilson, secretary, C. V. Nelson, treasurer, John Erickson, first vice-president and August H. Anderson, second vice-president.

Large crowds attended the five day program in a big tent on the school grounds. The closing meeting on Sunday, August 25, was the dedicatory service held in the building.

The first winter that the Y.M.C.A. was in existence, a Redpath Lecture course was put on under its auspices and was the first ever held in Stromsburg and continued many years. Anderson Keller of Nelson, Nebraska was hired to be a secretary and physical director, but he remained only one year as he received a call to a larger community. C. H. Copley was then hired, but he too, only served one year.

That same year the Commercial Club was organized and held its meetings at the Y.M.C.A. The Cornet Band and other community activities were held in this auditorium.

Athletics were promoted and it was the Y.M.C.A. that sponsored the first basketball team in Stromsburg. Gately Bros., came to Stromsburg and being semi-professional wrestlers, they took an active part in the gym and promoted the sport of wrestling.

There was religious training and services held every Sunday afternoon at the "Y" as well. Bible study classes met in the evenings and, thus, this organization was a power for good in the community.

Financial problems caused the Y.M.C.A. to close in 1908. The lease to the building was given up and the Y.M.C.A. in Stromsburg was but a memory. Nathan Wilson was given much credit for its existence and the good work ac-

complished, and was known to have met some of the financial obligations of the club, personally.

Independent Order of Red Men

The Independent Order of Red Men was organized in 1906 and was prominent for six or seven years. The Lodge had purchased paraphernalia and street parades in Indian costumes were a familiar sight when any big affair was in progress. They held an annual ball each year.

B.U.G. Club

The B.U.G. Club was organized on October 19, 1906 at the home of Chattie Coleman. The club was organized for simply social reasons and was made up of girls employed around the square and a number of young women in the community. There were twenty charter members and the membership was held at this number, new members elected only when a vacancy occurred. The meetings were held on the second and fourth Monday evenings of the month through the months of September to May.

The president, Mrs. Chattie Coleman Westenius, was the only married member of the club, having been a member the allotted fifteen years before entering the state of matrimony. This was in accordance with the rule of the club which stated, "That any one having been a member for ten years becomes an honorary member; if a member for fifteen years, a member for life".

After World War I, the club members erected an honor roll for the soldiers who served, and placed it on the Nelson building. After a number of years the wind blew it down and it was never replaced.

When the club disbanded in the 1950's, one charter member, Martha Smith, was still active in the club.

Elijah Gove Chapter

Daughters of the American Revolution

The Chapter was organized in Stromsburg on February 16, 1914 at the Coleman home with Mrs. Charles Oliver Norton of Kearney, Past State Regent, as the organizer. There were eighteen present at the meeting and all became charter members, except one. The Charter was held open until twenty-six had proved their eligibility for charter membership. They were: Chattie Coleman Westenius Swalley, Cora Headstrom, Pearl Erickson, Ellah B. Green, Lois Matson, Maude Nuquist, Logarda Marquis, Vella Brigham, Mary Dawson, Zetta Buckley Nelson, Alice Lanham, Jennie Bailey, Minnie Toole, Clarissa Cox, Harriet Morrill, Mary E. Campbell, Leah Hedbloom, Ada Brown Piper, Maurine Walrath Schuman, Ada M. Coleman, Mary Buckley, Margaret Buckley, Harriet Herendeen, Minnie Morrill, Martha Smith and Nellie Smith.

The Chapter was named in memory of the paternal ancestor of Mrs. Chas. Oliver Norton of Kearney, who presented a gavel made from an oak beam, taken from the Washington mansion of Francis Scott Key. She, her son, Oliver Norton and her father Judge Elijah Gove of Watertown, South Dakota presented the Chapter a large American Flag.

During the first year, a marker was placed near the Platte River, marking the southern course of the great Oregon Trail. Then came the necessity of war work in World War I and the Chapter was rightly proud of the work of their group, such as Liberty Loans, the adoption of six French orphans, Red Cross contributions and work box for soldiers. Between the wars, the work was for patriotic education, flag protection and all things of historic interest. Flags were presented to the Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and a flag slide to the local moving picture theater. A copy of the flag code was sent to each teacher in Polk County, with a request that special instructions be given on correct use of the flag and the flag salute. Historical books were given to the library and an embossed copy of Washington's prayer was hung on the library wall. For a

number of years, flowers were furnished each Memorial Day to decorate the old soldiers graves until the American Legion took charge. Each year a contribution was made to some school, depending on contributions for support. Nine meetings were held each year. The programs were patriotic, historical and educational, with current events. The meetings were well attended and enjoyed socially.

The activities in World War II were the adoption of a Merchant Marine, sending him Christmas and birthday gifts and greetings; organizing a Junior American citizenship group in county schools with 575 members. They also donated money to the Red Cross, Blood Plasma fund and the U.S.O.

The Elijah Gove Chapter D.A.R. had 79 members on the roll during its existence in Stromsburg. They continued to take an active part in the community affairs after World Wars I and II. They continued their patriotic education and contributed money to the Mountain Schools in the south, and to the Indian School at St. Mary's in South Dakota.

Among those who served as regents were: Mrs. Chattie Coleman Westenius Swalley, Mrs. Cora Headstrom, Mrs. Leah Hedblom, Mrs. Pearl Ericson, Mrs. Marjorie Kjelson, Miss Martha Smith, Mrs. Clara Malster, Miss Mary Buckley, Mrs. Helen Isaacson, Mrs. Grace Thoren, Miss Margaret Buckley, Mrs. Zetta Nelson, Miss Hazelle Hedblom and Mrs. Catherine Berggren.

Other names in the Chapter were: Mrs. Minnie Burke, Mrs. Lois Westerdale, Mrs. Nelle Scott, Mrs. Lois Strong, Mrs. Amanda Horst, Mrs. Helen McCormick, Mrs. Eloise Ten Have, Miss Helen Scott, Miss Ethel Blake, Miss Mable Herenden, Mrs. A. S. Malocsay, Mrs. Gertrude Moore, Mrs. Benson, Rachel Herenden, Minnie Morrill, Mrs. H. M. McGaffin, Mrs. Alex Scott, Mrs. W. F. Kepner and Mrs. Albert Swanson.

In May, 1960 the Chapter voted unanimously to disband, although with reluctance. It became necessary since it no longer had on its membership roll, many younger members, and it became increasingly difficult for the older women to assume the responsibilities as officers of the Chapter. The National Board of Management gave its permission at their board meeting on October 12, 1960 in Washington, D. C. The local chapter had 12 resident and 7 non-resident members at that time. Martha Smith had served as State Regent and Nellie Smith served as Chapter treasurer, 44 of the 46 years of the Elijah Gove Chapter organization.

The Home Guard

During World War I, a company of Home Guards was organized in Stromsburg under the leadership of E. E. Stanton, Captain. The company was composed of business men and was organized under state military regulations, and was mustered out in January, 1919, but formed a Home Guard Company, not under military rule, to carry on for a time. This company was soon disbanded, but while in existence, regular drills were held and the organization reached a good grade of efficiency. Uniforms were purchased by the members and their drills made a fine appearance. John Ekeley, who was past seventy years of age was the oldest member.

Stromsburg Golf Club

In 1922, a golf club was organized. Fifty acres of land, two miles southeast of town belonging to Mrs. Rosene was leased for a period of five years. There were over forty members with \$10.00 dues per member and \$3.00 for junior members.

The grounds were put in shape and afternoons and evenings, when the merchants could take a time off from duties, there would be a representative group playing on the greens. However, the business man of the small town often finds his hours long and the effort to play after a days' grind behind counter or desk,

becomes tedious. The interest waned after three or four seasons and the lease was given up and the grounds reverted back to the pasture.

One set of officers who served consisted of Ira Banta, president; Earl Wright, secretary-treasurer; Ira Adams, Emil S. F. Johnson and Dr. Swift, directors. Th last year of the club we found only records of H. Christensen as president and Rex Nelson as secretary-treasurer.

The Ku Klux Klan

During the 20's the Ku Klux Klan, an organization which originated in the South, moved north and Klaverns were formed from coast to coast with Polk County being no exception. The Klan had some political influence. Many still remember the night in Stromsburg the several hundred people, in white robes and masks, gathered at the golf grounds south of Stromsburg, burning crosses while holding their meeting. The roads were lined with many curious onlookers.

The Isaak Walton League

On October 29, 1925, a representative of the Izaak Walton League came to Stromsburg and organized a chapter here. The purpose of the organization, which is nation wide, is the conservation of fish and game, and as many of the male portion of our citizenry were interested in fishing and hunting, the organization for a time was an enthusiastic one.

On November 19, 1925, a game supper was served to the members. The club had been divided into two teams and a certain number of points were given for certain effort, the losers to pay for the supper. They received ten points for each new member; each crow killed, 5 points; wild goose, 5 points; wild ducks, 5 points; squirrels, 2 points; johnny rabbits, 1 point and chicken hawks, 5 points. Chauncey Arnold and Einer Swanson were captains of the two teams. It seemed the boys had spent most of their energy on crows, for when the day of reckoning came, Einer's team had 432 pairs of crows feet to their credit, and while the other team had a pretty good sized pile of crow feet, it was not enough to win and the feed was paid for by the losing side.

At the close of this meeting the temporary organization was made permanent. Dr. R. L. Minnick was elected president, C. J. Arnold, vice president, Ira Banta, secretary-treasurer. There were 118 members in this club.

On February 4, 1926 a big fish dinner was served and at this time a gun club was sponsored. On March 20, the same year, another banquet was held and on March 30, a moving picture of fishing and hunting in Canada was shown at the Rialto Theatre. After a year or more the club closed as the state and national organizations required a fee of \$3.00 per member and that meant more than \$300.00 must be paid yearly to renew the charter. They felt a better use could be made of the money. When the charter was given up the \$98 in the treasury was used to purchase 119 bags of flour, which was sent to the grasshopper stricken counties in 1931.

There were no doubt other organizations that have come and gone, but the foregoing ones left their imprint on Stromsburg's history and these records were kept. There were local Dramatic Clubs that put on home talent plays and other clubs whose records were not located.

STORMS HAVE BEEN RARE

Regardless of the fact that in the early days, Nebraska was accredited with many storms, in all the years of the existence of the little city of Stromsburg, there has never been a tornado, flood, or windstorm that was accompanied by any serious consequences. We have mentioned three severe snow storms and tornadoes, and our attention has been called to a rain storm of unusual violence which occurred on June 14, 1866, and which we reproduce from the issue of the Headlight of that week.

This storm passed southward and eastward and it was considered to be the worst up to that time, nor do we remember of a worse storm since that time. "From four o'clock to seven in the evening, the lightning played, the streets were afloat, and the wind almost of hurricane proportions. In various parts of the county hail did much damage, chimney tops went down, trees were broken off, the Blue river went wild, preventing travel. Cellars filled with water and roads and grain suffered from the running water.

To go into detail is impossible. Osceola had a flood. It is generally believed that several persons saw a water spout, that burst west of that town, and when the storm ceased the flood came down Davis Creek, carrying away the depot and grain offices, moving houses, damaging bridges and drowning stock. A half mile of track went out and an engine and cars were ditched. The terrible force of the storm was shown by the moving of the track where the cars were standing, rails bent and broken. The estimated damage to the railroad was \$12,000.00.

An item from Osceola said that the water stood a foot deep on the second floor of the Osceola Mill, and other buildings on the bottom were flooded with fourteen inches of water on the floors. Warner Conner paddled in water waist deep to rescue a small girl from surging waters. There was hardly a bridge left near Osceola and great damage was done to grain.

Stromsburg fared better but was in enough of the storm to make it remembered by the early settlers, and the fact that it was impossible to cross the Blue and Prairie Creek was a great deal of importance.

THE EASTER STORM OF 1873

A history of Stromsburg would not be complete without a mention of the Easter storm in 1873. A description of which we give from an article published in The Headlight some years ago, written by Calmar McCune, who encountered its ravages.

Mr. McCune was making a trip to Omaha at the time and he describes his experience. As his own experience is what others encountered and is an accurate description of the storm we repeat from his article.

"On Sunday afternoon, April 13, 1873, I left the farm home of James Bell in Valley precinct for Columbus expecting to take the train there Monday morning for Omaha. The season was well advanced, the treeless prairies being covered with verdure. It was a balmy sunshiny spring day, as near ideal as ever Nebraska can produce.

As I left the hotel that evening to attend church, I noticed that the clouds were banking heavily in the northwest. There was a roll of distant thunder, a flash of lightning, and a series of gentle spring showers followed and it was raining when I went to bed at my hotel. Next morning when I looked out of my window on Nebraska Avenue I could not see half way across the street. The wind was blowing a gale, which drove large masses of large heavy snow flakes southward. Already where obstructions were met the high drifts were forming. This continued without cessation or diminution of either snow or wind all day Monday and until late Tuesday night. Wednesday about noon the snow plow came, followed by Monday's train, which I boarded for Omaha. As the train neared Fremont

I could see the green knolls peeping up through the snow and at Omaha the snow had disappeared. There they had had mainly rain instead of snow. I may say that the storm area was not over 200 miles wide with Clarks as about the center, the volume of storm gradually diminishing each way from that point. It should be born in mind that the farmers raised mainly spring wheat and oats. These grains had been sown several weeks before the storm and were all up, but the storm did not injure them in the least.

At the date of which I write, Columbus was the objective point of would be homesteaders and landseekers. The two hotels were then crowded by men who had come from the east to spy out the land of promise. I laugh yet as I think of the comments I listened to during the storm. The nature of the comments may be surmised when I say that every mother's son of them took the first train for the east. They had had enough of the great American Desert. On leaving Omaha a few days later, I went to Grand Island. At Gardner's Siding, between Columbus and Clarks, a creek passed under the track. This had filled bank high with snow which now melting, formed a lake. The track being bad the train ran so slowly that I had time to count fifty floating carcasses of cattle upon the surface of the water. There was probably more than double that number at this point where they were chilled and choked to death. This was the fate of many thousands of head of stock.

Nobody dared to venture out into that storm for no human being could face it and live. The great flakes driven by a fifty mile gale would soon plaster shut eyes, nose and mouth, in fact, so swift was the gale that no headway could be made against it. Occasionally a homesteader would fasten a rope, one end to the house, the other to his body and venture to his out buildings. It should be born in mind that then there were no hedges, shrubs, trees, fences or landmarks of any description. Even the sod houses and dugouts were miles apart, so that the case of the unfortunate lost in the snow was hopeless.

Every early pioneer can tell some harrowing tale concerning it. It only remains for me to say that the great Easter storm will go down in history as the greatest ever known within the boundaries of our own Nebraska. It brought loss and woes to many, but following it came the sunshine and the bountiful harvest. It tested the courage of the pioneers, but those who persevered unto the end have reaped ample reward. Our mother state can frown and her frown is pretentious, but she loves better to smile and when she does we all adore her."

THE BLIZZARD OF 1888

January 12, 1888

The second blizzard that swept Nebraska, which has gone down in history, was on January 12, 1888. This storm has been mentioned time and again and is known to almost every resident of Nebraska, but we feel that the history of Stromsburg will not be complete without a mention of the storm, as it visited this section in all its fury. The fact that only a few storms worth mentioning have occurred in all the years since this county was settled, proves that it is not a storm ridden county, by any means.

January 12, 1888, dawned bright and clear, and in the ordinary mind there was nothing to indicate that a storm was approaching. It was about two o'clock in the afternoon, when there was a decided fall in the temperature and an hour later a strong wind commenced to blow from the northwest, and in a few minutes the blizzard came in all its fury. School was dismissed and all the children in the Stromsburg Public school reached their homes in safety, a number being assisted home by their parents, who had become anxious. There were no casualties in this city or vicinity, but many persons who were unable to reach shelter, suffered more or less from the intense cold. It was almost impossible

to be outdoors, but if there were some who had to brave the storm, frozen hands, ears and feet were the result.

To face the wind was impossible as the frozen snow stung like needles, driven by the terrific wind. There were many people who were located on farms who could tell of hardships suffered in that storm, and it would make a long story and an interesting one.

One incident of the storm that we remember was that a liveryman, Willits, we believe, was to take a traveling salesman to Clarks. They started in the teeth of the storm, and after going a short distance from town discovered that they were lost. Proceeding slowly, the horses stopped at a straw stack. The livery man cut the horses loose from the rig and both men dug themselves into the stack opposite the wind. With robes taken from the rig they wrapped themselves up and remained until morning, cold but not in danger of freezing to death. When they crawled out in the sunlit morning, they found that they were only two or three rods from the home on the Buckley farm, a quarter mile north of town, and the horses had found shelter under a straw cowshed.

A small incident of the storm, a rather peculiar circumstance, was that which occurred to a man walking on the south side of the square. The wind caught his hat and carried it away. Next morning it was found plastered to the side of his boarding house, two blocks away.

In other parts of the state the storm was worse than in Polk county and the history of Miss Minnie Freeman, now Mrs. Penney of Fullerton, a cousin of a former Stromsburg resident, W. H. Baker, is known to many. She risked her own life to save the children in the school where she was teaching. The thermometer dropped to 30 below zero which was the reason for the storm's destructiveness.

The story of that Nebraska blizzard has been told and retold, and with its telling is mentioned the numerous deeds of heroism by men and women who risked their own lives that others might be saved. There are numerous fatalities over the State, and the country school teachers of that time won the encomium of grateful parents, for the saving of the lives of many of the children in their care.

The planting of trees has wrought a transformation in the boundless prairies of Nebraska and it is not likely that she will ever suffer from such a state wide blizzard as that of the one on January 12, 1888.

DESTRUCTIVE HAILSTORM AND TORNADO

In the August 4, 1927 edition of *The Headlight* we are told that "hail did damage to corn and wheat in shocks over a large area in Canada and Hackberry precincts last Saturday evening, July 30th.

The hail started north of Shelby reaching to Gresham. The storm made a jump then broke out in fury again near Utica and down to Seward. About eight miles east of Stromsburg the storm almost totally cleaned up the corn and several sections presented a scene of desolation, at one place even the leaves being stripped off the trees. A strip of land a mile wide near Gresham was completely hailed out. The clouds had looked threatening for sometime before the storm broke loose, and there was some apprehension of a tornado, wind accompanied the hail and blew things topsy turvy in the stricken territory, and we noticed on one mile a couple of hay racks which had been blown over and partly wrecked. At the John Lindgren farm, southeast of Stromsburg, a tornado touched the ground to take the roof of a corn crib and twist the windmill, as well as do other damage to buildings.

THE SNOW STORM and THE TRAGEDY OF THE STORM

This article was taken from a past publication of The Headlight.

On November 18, 1948 this part of Nebraska and the whole state and the state of Kansas took the brunt of the worst storm that has visited this community in years. The radio stated that ten inches had fallen at Stromsburg, and when we look at the big drifts, we are not surprised.

No mail was received from Thursday until Monday. Twenty-five telephone lines and three light circuits were affected.

The death of Myron and Emerald Johnson was one of the greatest shocks that had ever been experienced in Stromsburg. The two brothers had gone to Osceola and on their return were evidently confused and lost in the storm. They stopped at the home of Carl Allinder about 2:30 Friday morning to be directed to Stromsburg. When north of the substation east of town the car stalled, either from lack of gas, or other reasons. They got out of the car, walked north to the corner, then west, and when they came to a culvert, went into the field to escape the drifted snow. Emerald evidently became exhausted first, and Myron covered him, then went on hoping to reach safety, but went only a few feet when he too fell. They had taken their dog to a veterinarian at Osceola, and the dog stayed with Myron for some twenty hours, then went to the home of Walt Nelson and scratched at the door. This gave them a clue that they might be near. Searching parties had been out but when the dog showed up, Mr. Nelson called the brother, Morris, and the bodies were soon located. This was a heart breaking tragedy for the family. The family included the wife of Myron, the father and mother and two brothers.

The snows continued through December and on into January, when another nine inches fell on Stromsburg in the form of a "severe snow storm", to quote The Headlight.

TORNADO HITS FARM HOME

At 9:30 p.m. on July 9, 1955 destruction struck the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hughes. Mrs. Hughes relates the story as follows. "We were at a neighbors on an errand and upon returning home found branches over much of the road, and the electric wires were down. The top half of the barn was gone as well as the roof of the granary. The tornado also took the south half of the roof and the doors of the cow barn. Debris was strewn over the road to the north of the place. The tornado also took a spot of shingles from the roof of the house. Investigators attributed the safety of the house to an open window in the house." The farm is located three and a half miles west and two miles south of Stromsburg on Highway 66.

Other damage done in the neighborhood consisted of the loss of the barn on the place now owned by Albertus Larson, where C. C. Jenkins lived some years ago.

The tornado also took some out buildings on the M. F. Philips farm, a mile north of the Hughes', then occupied by the Vernon Knerr family.

EVERYTHING ON FARM ALL GONE; COUPLE ESCAPES

This is the caption found on page 8 of the Omaha World-Herald, Thursday, May 7, 1964. The article read as follows. "With all the destruction caused by the tornado Tuesday evening, this community (Stromsburg) was giving thanks afterwards that no lives were taken. There were injuries, however, but at this writing none of the injuries appear to be of the serious nature."

The tornado that "shook" this community was referred to as the "eggbeater"

because the destruction it left in its wake indicated that there were possibly two funnels traveling together but turning in opposite directions. Its course included Bradshaw, Benedict, Stromsburg and Rising City communities; and traveled in the general direction of southwest to northeast.

The following account of what happened on May 5, was given to Dean Terrill of the Omaha World Herald, by Irven Rystrom of Stromsburg.

"It took two months for Irven Rystrom to fix up the place and move in his new bride. The other day--51 years later--it took them about two seconds to move out.

"It was blacker than night and I had my arm around the missus," recalled the leather-tough farmer, 73. "Then in no time we could see light and it was gone."

The tornado was gone indeed, and with it the entire parklike farmstead. Gone the furniture, Ruby's flower beds, the town-proud bathroom, golden anniversary remembrances, even the smashed prayer plaque.

"The plaque had been on the kitchen wall near where we were standing," said Rystrom. "We didn't even think of going to the basement and it's good we didn't the way the house pulled away and things caved in."

Part of the kitchen wall is all of the once-neat house that stands today. Somehow that room had provided the storm's only protection--and that but partial. Mrs. Rystrom is still hospitalized with a leg fracture that may take a year to heal.

Does the devastation mean a move to town?

Sun-browned Irven Rystrom dodged the query like it was another twister thrown at him. What reply there was came in terms of the countryside around being farmed by his father and grandfather "as far back as the '70's."

His own sons, Max and Donald, are continuing the tradition. The latter lost machinery that was on his dad's place, five miles southeast of Stromsburg.

"It's just too soon to say about the future," was the Rystroms' final word for now. "I just know that nobody had things any better than we did here. . . ."

HEAVY RAIN CAUSES FLOODING

This, an article published in The Headlight, describes the torrential rain storm which caused much flooding in Stromsburg and surrounding towns, as well as other parts of Nebraska. It is said to be the worst ever to be recalled.

An extremely heavy rain fell here last Sunday night, June 4, 1967, and accompanied high winds which did some damage to the countryside. Most of the damage was to the newly planted milo crop. Reports of rainfall varied with the heaviest in the Swede Home area, where up to and a bit over four and a half inches of rain fell. The storm hit at about 11:30 p.m.

Both Prairie and Davis Creeks and the Blue River were running out of their banks on Monday. Residents of Stromsburg found the greater portion of Buckley Park submerged, with the water coming up to within a few feet of Highway 81. Many farmers found themselves completely cut off from town for days until the water receded, making roads and bridges visible once again.

Electricity was off for about two and a half hours. And the telephone company worked overtime correcting phone troubles brought on by the driving rain.

Osceola was divided into two parts, the north and the south, which was also caused by this rain storm that caused the creek to swell beyond its banks. It was about two days before the two parts of the town could enjoy normal travel back and forth.

"ALBINO" TORNADO HAD A BLACK HEART

This is the heading the Omaha World Herald chose to relate the story of the second tornado to strike our community within four years of each other. This

tornado left an eight mile path of destruction, and traveled, generally, from the northwest to the southeast. It struck on July 30, 1968.

"Area residents were describing it Wednesday as the 'albino' tornado. But Earl Johnson claims the twister that destroyed his farm and a power substation near Stromsburg had a heart as black as night.

Others saw it as ghostly white, "slowly chugging across the fields like a steam engine."

The tornado struck at about 6:15 p.m. At the power substation it toppled a 27-ton transformer worth 92 thousand dollars.

Earl Johnson and his wife, Sylvia, were injured by flying debris. Mr. Johnson suffered hip and back injuries when he was hit by a furnace and a water heater.



**The Albino
tornado**



Earl Johnson's



Norris Johnson's

Friends, neighbors and relatives gathered to help clean up at the Norris Johnson farm home after it had been completely destroyed also by the 'albino' tornado.

STROMSBURG FIRES

During all the years of its existence Stromsburg has had but one fire when more than one building was burned, and that was when the west side was swept away, on July 21, 1887. This fire destroyed every building but two on that side of the square; the old Windsor hotel that stood on the north end of the block, where the Sinclair Oil Station is now located, and a barber shop. At that time the main business of the town was centered on that side of the square. Money was not plentiful, and many lost all they had, but they soon were rebuilding.

The fire started in the rear of the L. M. Woods store and restaurant. It was about 2:00 a.m. when a small blaze was discovered, and the cry of fire brought out some of the citizens. This was the only alarm at that time, and the lack of water allowed the fire to gain headway. In a few minutes, the L. M. Woods building was a mass of flames.

There was no wind, but the fire spread in both directions from the Woods building. Before the fire had reached the Post & Headstrom store, everybody that could run or walk were lending a helping hand. The only buildings saved on the west side, was the Windsor Hotel and Axel Sundgren's barber shop. The barber shop was moved out of the reach of the fire by being turned over a couple of times. There was a space between the Windsor Hotel and the next building and several lines of bucket brigades managed to save the hotel.

Other businesses lost in the fire were, two dressmaking shops, Sanford McKeever's law office, L. P. Green's meat market, L. H. Headstrom office and the Post & Headstrom store.

The first fire in Stromsburg of which we have been able to learn, was that of F. F. Vogel's implement house and contents, destroyed in 1876.

The next fire was that of J. A. Frawley's store in 1879. It had just been opened in the spring of that year and sustained a complete loss that fall.

Early in June of 1888 fire destroyed the Nichol furniture stock and building located at the northwest corner, now Co-op Lumber corner. The big west side fire was instrumental in bonds being let for a water system and the second fire hastened the matter along.

After the city water had been established, a fire company was organized. Hose Company No. 1, and their first fire call was to extinguish a fire one block southwest of the city park, when the Chas. Bigg's barn was destroyed. Because of insufficient water pressure and length of hose the building could not be saved. This fire occurred on Febr. 27, 1889.

No more fires of importance occurred until June 30, 1893, when the Bell & McCune elevator was burned, and on May 31, 1896, the Omaha elevator burned down.

Fires that have occurred since the organization of the Fire Company, with loss sustained are as follows:

Sept. 21, 1893, John Hurd shoe store, Alfred Anderson harness shop. Loss

\$800.00 on shoe stock, \$500 on harness stock and \$350 on building.

March 10, 1894, Pressed Brick and Tile Co. thirty foot shed burned.

March 30, 1894, Brash lunch room, damage \$50.00

June 12, 1897, Andrew Shidner's barn, total loss.

April 15, 1898, Alfred Thoren's cow shed destroyed.

April 21, 1898, Bryant Normal University, loss \$12,000.

May 27, 1898, City Jail, at that time on the west side of square.

Dec. 25, 1898, Christmas tree at the Methodist Church caught fire, not much damage.

April 25, 1899, fire in rear of R. Gold's store, slight damage done, incendiary.

June 25, 1899, fire in roof of Stromsburg Brick Kiln, loss \$50.00

May 1, 1900, coal bin at water works, not much damage.

Jan. 1, 1900, at midnight, Eden Baptist church, from explosion in acetylene lighting plant, loss \$5,000.00
 Oct. 10, 1901, fire in J. A. Anderson's coal shed, slight damage.
 Feb. 17, 1902, N. E. Nelson's violin organ and piano mandolin attachments.
 Aug. 8, 1904, A. T. Carlson's store damage to shed in rear.
 The listings from here on are number of calls in each year and those that were of considerable damage:
 4 fires listed in 1909
 Sept. 12, 1909, A. B. Lind's residence, \$500.00 loss when lamp exploded.
 March 23, 1910, small barn at Chas. Bloomquist's, horse and building lost.
 Started from passing engine.
 May 23, 1910, Dr. George Flippin's barn, one block east of square, damaged, also barns on lots of C. J. Johnson and Wm. Fusby.
 Sept. 22, 1911, Foster elevator, fire set from engine on train. Lost both building and 30,000 bu. of grain.
 May 25, 1911, Stromsburg Brick Co., shed destroyed.
 4 fires in 1912
 April 15, 1912, John Ostbloom, stock ruined and building damaged.
 Dec. 1, 1914, small damage to Peter Olson residence.
 Aug. 18, 1916, store room in Park Hotel.
 Dec. 8, 1916, Olsen's broom factory completely destroyed.
 Nov. 28, 1917, barn of A. W. Hamilton, loss \$700.00.
 2 small fires in 1918
 2 calls listed in 1920.
 1 call listed in 1922, 1923, 1925.
 Nov. 22, 1926, barn and granary at Dr. Flippin chicken farm, loss \$1800.
 Dec. 25, 1926, at J. A. Anderson bakery, loss \$1500.
 1 call in 1927, 2 each in 1928 and 1929, 3 in 1930.
 Eric Nelson lost his life on May 29, 1930 when Farmer's Oil tank caught fire.
 Property loss, \$3,000.
 From 1930 to 1934, just slight damage until
 June 25, 1934, Mrs. G. Slusher home, cause unknown, damage \$1,500.
 Jan. 26, 1936, Ericson and Anderson Hardware, furnace \$7,600 damage.
 4 calls in 1936
 Nov. 21, 1936, Leonard Mentink, barn total loss.
 Jan. 2, 1937, H. J. Getty residence, total loss.
 Dec. 31, 1938, Farmer's Union building at Swede Home, complete loss.
 Dec. 19, 1939, Orphan Home Hospital barn burned down.
 7 calls in 1940
 Dec. 31, 1940, Dixie Headman residence, \$2,500 damage, call came too late.
 3 calls in 1941
 Evangelical Free Church building was totally destroyed by fire January 18, 1943.
 9 calls to 1948
 July 31, Mrs. Conkle hog house burned and 2 1/2 acres of wheat.
 June 8, 1948, Harlen Donelson farm home, \$2,500 damage.
 February, 1948, Johnson's Service Station, complete loss.
 15 calls to 1950 with car fires and roof fires from sparks the most prevalent.
 April 4, 1950, Don Fellows farm, hog house lost.
 April 6, 1950, Don Nordberg chicken house fire.
 April 22, 1950, C. D. Jacobson & son corn crib and corn by lightning.
 July 8, 1950, Harry Pierson dwelling, \$1,200 damage.
 Dec. 31, 1950, Arthur Carlson, \$3,000 damage when ash tray upset.
 There were 9 calls listed in 1950 including those listed above.

7 calls listed in 1951 with
 May 23, 1951, Standard Oil tanks, trucks and equipment loss \$12,000.
 4 calls in 1952 with little damage, another car fire.
 7 calls in 1953 with loss of shed on Carlson Fur Farm and vacant house on Harvey Pickerel place.
 5 calls in 1954.
 6 calls in 1955 with largest on
 Jan. 10, 1955, Florence Waller corn crib and machine loss, damage \$1,500.
 3 calls in 1956 with 1 big fire.
 Dec. 4, 1956, total loss of barn on Andrew Hanson's farm.
 5 calls in 1957 largest of which occurred
 Jan. 8, 1957, total loss of old sale ring at Mamco.
 4 calls in 1958.
 Aug. 17, 1958, Floyd Lindquist lost trailer, straw and cobs.
 Aug. 20, 1958, Everett Noyd, wash house complete loss.
 April 24, 1969, Mrs. Ernest Carlson barn total loss.
 Sept. 28, 1960, Overland Sand and Gravel building, complete loss.
 5 calls in 1961,
 Dean Hanson lost hog house and Lloyd Wittgren lost barn.
 10 calls in 1962.
 March 5, 1962, loss of Masonic Lodge, Laundromat, Jewelry store located on southeast corner of square.
 April 23, 1962, Nellie Smith suffered burns when weed fire burned down hog and chicken house.
 5 calls in 1963.
 Jan. 28, 1963, Cordel Lewis lost house and all contents.
 7 calls in 1964
 Shed burned and Con Olson's children lost their pony.
 7 calls in 1965.
 Jan. 8, 1965, Shop and warehouse, complete loss at Overland Sand and Gravel.
 14 calls in 1966, not much damage, one false alarm turned in.
 15 calls in 1967.
 Jan. 6, 1967, Orley Conkling lost barn and farm equipment.
 Nov. 15, 1967, false alarm turned in by child from grade school.
 14 calls turned in 1968.
 March 15, 1968, Gerald Engel lost barn.
 June 20, 1968, Louis Monson lost garage.
 August 30, 1968, Mrs. Duane Leu home, \$1,500 smoke and fire damage.
 12 calls in 1969.
 May 12, 1969, Les Graves lost garage.
 19 calls in 1970.
 July 25, 1970, Vern Kinnard, \$1133.00 loss of furniture from cigarette.
 17 calls in 1971.
 April 8, 1971, helped fight big fire in Osceola when east side of square burned.
 With the purchase of new equipment and with people asking for help sooner, there have been more calls but much less damage from fires in the recent years.

"Let the record be made of the men and things of today, lest they pass out of memory tomorrow and are lost. Then perpetuate them, not upon wood or stone that crumbles to dust, but chronicled in picture and in words that endure forever." Carlyle

CHAPTER VII

Schools 1872-1972

STROMSBURG SCHOOL HISTORY

School District No. 10 was organized Feb. 17, 1872. At the annual meeting in April 1872 a mill levy was established for building purposes. On August 12, a notice to builders called for bids for constructing a school house. The contract was let to Harry Baker on the first of September that same year for \$130. The district furnished the materials. The building itself was to be 20 x 26 feet.

The location was a thirty-six foot strip of ground just east of the present school building and a part of the site on which the Junior-Senior High School now stands. The lumber was purchased at Columbus at a total cost of \$443.58, and was hauled by team to Stromsburg. The seats and desks were brought from Lincoln by team.

A six month term of school began in September 1873. There were nine pupils. The subjects taught were orthography, reading, arithmetic, and grammar. In 1877 there were seven months of school. From 1877 to 1892 there had been only ten grades in the school system. The twelfth grade was added in the year 1893. Later, this building became the property of the G. A. R. This building was razed in 1916.



The Linne School was erected during the years of 1881 to 1892. The first school building was the south part of the small structure to the right, and was 20x26. Later, it became the property of the G.A.R., the W.R.C. added the north part. In 1881, the southwest two rooms of the Linne School and tower were built. In 1884, two rooms on the southeast were added, two more were added on the northwest part of the building in 1888 and in 1902, two rooms on the northeast. The building was torn down in 1929.

The Linne School was erected during the years 1881 to 1892. On May 3, 1881 a special election was held to vote bonds of \$1550.00 for a new school house. The bonds carried, 40 for and 7 against.

In 1881 the southwest two rooms of the Linne School and the tower were built. In 1884, two rooms on the southeast were added, two more rooms were added on the northwest part of the building in 1888, and in 1902 two rooms added on the northeast. The building was torn down in 1929. The school was given the name Linne in 1912, to honor one of the greatest Swedish naturalists of his time.

On June 6, 1910 a special election was held for the purpose of voting \$18,000.00 for the building of a new high school. The election carried by a vote of 170 for and 62 against. The Dr. Flippin property situated across the street west from the grade building was purchased for \$4,000.00 for the site of the new building. The building was erected during part of 1910 and the early months of 1911.



Built as a high school in 1910 - converted to a grade school in 1930

The Chas. L. Norman property just north of the high school building was purchased for \$3,500.00 on May 13, 1929. The buildings were torn down and the material sold at auction. The ground was later used as a playground when the old high school was used as the grade school building.



The Junior-Senior High building built in 1929-30



The first graduating class of Stromsburg High School (and Polk County), the Class of 1887. Back row, left to right: Emil Boostrom, Allie Morrill, Everett Lake, Guy Green, Andrew Nuquist. Front row: Minnie Uhl, Bertha Lowe, Julia Netsell, Sarah Johnson.



The Class of 1888 - Jennie Rydberg, William Nance, Ernest Haskell. Seated: Emily Nordstrom, Prof. Cooley, Rella LaRue.

During the summer vacation of 1930, the old high school was remodeled and redecorated, and converted to the use of the kindergarten and the first six grades.

On December 19, 1927 a special election was held to vote bonds of \$140,000.00 for a new Junior-Senior High School. The proposal lost by a decisive majority. However, an election held April 2, 1929 proposing a bond issue of \$100,000.00 for the same purpose carried. The vote was 155 for and 115 against.

The old Linne building was razed and the lumber sold, and the ground made ready for the new building. Construction began in September 1929, and completed in 1930. A fitting ceremony laying the corner stone took place March 27th 1930, the corner stone being inscribed "Dedicated to the Youth of Stromsburg and Community."



The class of 70 years ago, Class of 1902. Seated, left to right: Sadie Loudermilch, Prof. Grozier, Martha Smith, Hulda Lind. Second row: Sarah Willits, Mabelle Fritsch, Lillie Anderson Johnson, Floyd Moore, Anna Sweders Peterson. Back row: Lulu Holmquist Freeman, Anna Pike Wurtz.

From the early 1870's to 1954 the rural children attended rural schools, and have fond memories of the one-room frame building heated with a round oak stove. Water was carried from the nearest well, and stored in a stone jar. The rural teacher taught the 3 R's to eight grades with an enrollment of from 8 - 35 pupils. High Prairie (District 42) and Victor (District 30) were elementary and junior high schools, also District 6, a ten grade school, eight miles southwest of Stromsburg. Riverside school northwest of Stromsburg was a twelve grade school. The junior high classes were discontinued in the early 1940's. Later Victor (District 30), a two-room county school house was purchased and brought to the District 10 school grounds. This building housed the two first grades for six years.

In 1953 members of the surrounding rural districts were invited to discuss the problems of maintaining a quality school system without reorganization. The year 1954 twelve surrounding districts joined District 10, namely 12, 27, 30, 34, 29, 41, 47, 49, 51, 56, 32 and 70. Districts 25 and 50 joined in 1955. In 1958 a district of 110 square miles with an evaluation of \$7,972,032 was formed.

After the new grade building was completed in 1963, the two-room school building was sold. The old high school building was sold and razed. The ground is now used for junior and senior physical education classes.



Willow Hedge country school in 1923 (District 34) - back row, left to right: Anna Burg, Marjorie Rystrom, Lila Larson, Laverna Rystrom, Evangeline Youngquist, Lowell Bennett and Calmar Youngquist. Front row: Charles Cherry, Clifford Carlson, Albertus Larson, Dennis Rystrom, Marion Jacobson, Clayton Carlson, Max Rystrom, Harold Beckman Jr., Leo Larson, Clover Beckman, Marion Larson and Keith Kinberg.

In 1960 a bond proposal to raise \$469,000.00 for a new grade building and gymnasium carried. The elementary grade building which cost \$305,000.00 was built on the property south of the Midwest Covenant Home to the extreme south



Grade school built in 1962-63

part of the block. It was the first complete public school building in Nebraska with all electric heating and other facilities.

The gymnasium and physical education plant, which is an addition to the high school building cost \$164,000.00. It has a standard size floor, adequate dressing rooms, and seating space for 992. The dedication ceremony was held for the completed buildings, Sunday, April 21, 1963.

The era of the school lunch bucket or sack lunch took its place in school day memories, when in 1954 a school lunch program was started.

Stromsburg Public Schools, District 10, is classified as a Class "C" school by the Nebraska School Activities Association for the purpose of athletic and music competition, a class III school district by the State Board of Education. The district is accredited class "A" by the Nebraska Department of Education, and accredited by the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.

Stromsburg Public Schools now have a valuation of \$12,700,000 with 450 pupils in grades K-12.

Past superintendents of the Stromsburg Public Schools are L. D. Davidson, J. A. Welker, E. Clippinger, George W. Crozier, C. Leroy Cherry, E. A. Boostrom, A. J. Dunlap, O. B. Frazier, E. F. Monroe, W. E. Atkins, D. R. Arnold, J. A. Jimerson, E. A. Markwalder, H. F. Stone, R. B. Carey, Walter R. French and Elmer Corbit. Samuel D. Bell has been superintendent of the Stromsburg school system for the past five years. Principal Kolland L. Schilz joined the Stromsburg school staff in 1970.



Prof. L. Davidson



Supt. Walter French

Many fine organizations and clubs have served their school well in the past. Some of these are debating and dramatics clubs, literary societies, Christian organizations, homemaking and agricultural clubs, and musical and athletic organizations. Present organizations that have developed through the years and remained with the school are Y-Teens, F.H.A., Pep Club, S-Club, Student Council, and the Honor Society.



Supt. Elmer Corbit, upper left

Supt. Samuel Bell, upper right



Prin. Roland Schilz

Y-teens was formerly called "Girl Reserves" which was organized in 1931, as a junior branch of the Y.W.C.A. The title was changed to Y-Teens in the 1940's. The goal of the Y-Teens is to grow as a person, to grow in friendship with people of all races, religions and nationalities and to grow in the knowledge of God. Y-Teen president for the 1971-72 school year is Starlet Brockmeyer with Mrs. Bob Nordberg as sponsor.

The Future Homemakers of America grew out of the "Home Ec." club which was founded in Stromsburg in 1928. It took on its new title and organization in 1947. The FHA is a very active organization in the Stromsburg school today. Sue Strong is president for the 1971-72 year. Mrs. Edwin Mangelsen is their sponsor.

The Stromsburg High School Pep Club was formed in the year 1931 in response to a demand for organized support for the school's athletic activities. It is open to all girls in high school. As an organization it has always added color and enthusiasm to the school scene. The Stromsburg cheerleaders have received high ratings and recognition at the cheerleaders clinics the past several years. Varsity cheerleaders for 1971-72 are JoAnn Anderson, Nancy Johnson, Becky Mentink, Jeanette Larson and Lynette Larson. Pep Club president is Marcene Johnson and Mrs. Larry Lehn is their sponsor.

The letter club known as the "S" club was organized in 1953 in the athletic department with its aim "to supervise and regulate high school and intramural athletics and bolster the spirit of Stromsburg athletes". Requirements for admission into the club is to letter in any one of the five sports offered to boys at Stromsburg High School. 1971-72 president of the "S" club is Lauren Erickson Mr. Kurth DeLand is sponsor.

The Student Council was organized in 1927 with its aim "to serve as a medium between students and faculty". Lauren Erickson is president for the year 1971-72. Mr. Larry Lehn and Miss Billie Eden are Student Council sponsors.

The Stromsburg chapter of the National Honor Society is beginning its fifth year. Members are chosen for their character, scholastic ability, leadership qualities, and their service. 1971-72 president is Randy Tonniges. Mr. Jack Thorpe is the Honor Society's sponsor.

The school publishes a newspaper titled "The Viking". This years co-editors are Barbara Hartman and Susan Christensen. The school yearbook is also entitled "The Viking". The editor is Anita Johnson. Sponsors of the newspaper and yearbook are Mr. Mike Castle and Mr. Jerry Larson.

DEPARTMENTS OF STUDY

Stromsburg graduated its first class in 1887 upon the completion of a three year course. The high school expanded in 1894 to include the 12th grade and the school was then accredited by the University of Nebraska.

The early school curriculum was set up to encourage further study and to prepare students for advanced work in college. We find in the early curriculum such studies as natural philosophy, algebra, geometry and trigonometry, grammar with composition and orthography (or spelling as we know it today) and literature with its literary societies, and elocution. The last was required for each graduate was expected to give an oration as part of the Commencement program. Its science department offered botany, zoology, astronomy and physiology, but due to lack of room and laboratory facilities these were chiefly text book studies. Also listed in the studies were general, American and medieval history, civics and bookkeeping. This seems an impressive list, especially when one realizes that during many of those early years there was only one teacher in the high school. Over 50 years ago German, French, Swedish, Latin and Bible were taught.

Courses available to the high school student today are: English I, II, III, IV, Advanced Grammar, Speech, Spanish.

Algebra I, and II, Geometry, Trigonometry, General Mathematics I and II.

General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Homemaking I, II, and III.

Industrial Arts I, II, III, and IV.

World History, U. S. History and American Problems.

Typing I, Shorthand, Journalism, Office Practice, Bookkeeping, Business Law and Economics, Introduction to Business.

Jr. and Sr. High Band, Jr. and Sr. High Chorus, Girl's Glee

Physical Education, Driver's Education, Journalism.

Guidance.

Art I and II

Homemaking I, II, III.

In the past few years there have been many new additions and changes to the school program to present a broader educational program for our youth.

Some of the more recent improvements include: (1) vocational education, starting with Industrial Arts in 1968 and a Distributive Education program in 1971 which includes on-the-job training and vocational English and math; (2) a complete Art Department; (3) use of Educational Television for enriching the program at the elementary level; (4) participation in the Educational Service Unit programs which provide remedial reading, speech therapy, psychological and health services; (5) addition of the more creative - Project English - to the curriculum; (6) a complete centralized grade school library has been added, with the high school library being modernized as well; (7) departmentalization of the seventh and eighth grades by developing exploratory courses designed to complement future senior high courses, adding home economics, art, industrial arts, and foreign languages to the junior high; (8) departmentalizing grades four, five and six at the elementary school in 1970; (9) addition of organized physical education classes in grades three, four, five and six; and (10) making available adult education classes on an experimental basis.

School concepts change, but for the eighty-five years since its first graduating class, the fundamentals have remained the same; a balanced program which will give each child a sound education, together with health, moral and spiritual values as part of his training.

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

The beginnings of organized athletics in the Stromsburg High School seem to be unrecorded events. But it is apparent from histories of early graduates that the first sport to be engaged in was baseball.

The first football team was organized in the fall of 1910.

Stromsburg became a member of the Pla-Loup Conference in 1929 and this association continued until 1936 when the present Goldenrod Conference was formed.

The 1944 Vikings were the first to win the conference title when they were undefeated in conference play.

The team of 1946 was the first to play under the lights on the home field.

Stromsburg fielded its first undefeated team in the fall of 1962. This team and the team of 1963 were the last to win conference titles.

Football has become most popular with both the participants and the spectators

Basketball came into its own with the provision of an indoor gymnasium in 1910. Both boys' and girls' teams were organized and played out of town competition. The boys' team of 1968 was the last to represent the Vikings at the state.

The girls were not to be outdone and their teams of 1920 and 1921 went undefeated and gained state recognition for their prowess.

The new gymnasium in the building which was erected in 1929, provided much better facilities for both player and spectator and the gym was the scene of the annual county and conference tourneys for a number of years during the 1930's.

On December 14, 1962 the Vikings played and won their first game in the new \$169,000.00 gymnasium which was dedicated the following spring. This team went on to be state rated but lost in the district finals to Utica. They were also conference tournament champions. The 1965 team won a co-conference title.



Stroma's only undefeated football team in the history of the school

BACK ROW: Mr. John Osborn (assistant coach), Dennis Peterson, Gary Toline, Daryl Adelson, Monty Fredrickson, Greg Wilhelms, Jim Anderson, Richard Lamoree, Jim Carpenter, Gaylen Fredrickson, Nick Richters, Dennis Quick, David Anderson, Mr. Larry Cook (head coach). **MIDDLE ROW:** Calvin Stream, Charles Knerr, Gary Mentink, Steve Fredrickson, Rick Baker, Kent Lind, Dan Larson, Kenneth Hallquist, Bob Cockle, Mike Larson, Lynn Ray Anderson, Duane Doremus. **FRONT ROW:** James Lauerman (manager), Larry Donelson, Tom Nyffeler, Paul Johnson, Brian Baker, David Harrom, Steve Moore, Joe Bennett, Steve McBeth, James Pogue, Steve Johnson.

Track was introduced on an intramural basis during the 1920's and was a main feature of May Day festivals for many years. Invitational meets were attended in the early 30's. Poor track facilities here limited meets to out of town locations.

A new track and practice field north of the new grade school building which was completed in 1964, has added much to the interest in the sport and a large group of boys turn out for competition each spring. Conference titles were won in track in 1957, 1963 and 1966. Several trackmen have qualified for the state track meets.

Versatility in the athletic program has been developed in the past five years with the addition of wrestling, cross country, girls track and girls volleyball.

The 1970 wrestling team won a state runner-up trophy as four Vikings were in the finals. The 1971 wrestling team also brought home a runner-up trophy for the Vikings as they were but 1/2 point away from the championship.

Through the athletic department, the name "Vikings" was chosen as their insignia. The emblem has since been used to symbolize Stroma's High School.

Vikings are of Scandinavian origin. What better emblem could represent S.H.S.

The school colors are red and white, with the young Vikings borrowing the popular University of Nebraska slogan, "Go Big Red".

MUSIC

Stromsburg High School has always been known for encouraging musical ability and appreciation of good music. Through the eighty-five years of our school's history we have had thirty-three music teachers. During the early years a music class was held once a week. The first class to have an orchestra was the Class of 1903. It was actually called a Mandolin Club as each member played a mandolin. The first glee club was organized in 1907. The first operetta was presented in 1908 by the high school. During this time the senior classes composed their own class song. In 1915 the graduating class composed the song "I'm Glad I Go" which was the school song for many years.

In 1915, contrary to the custom of previous years, the vocal music of the high school was made elective during the first semester and high school credit was offered for it. As the years went by the glee clubs and orchestras came and went depending on the availability of music teachers and ability of the students. A girl's glee club was organized in 1922 and is still one of the most active organizations in our high school. The boy's glee club was also introduced at this time.

In the spring of 1940 the Stromsburg High School band and soloists, who won superior at the District Music Contest at Fullerton, made the trip to Kansas City, Missouri, to compete in the national contest. The band received an excellent rating at this national contest. In the spring of 1941 soloists and small groups of both band and orchestra went to the national contest at Topeka, Kansas.

Many of the graduates will remember the outstanding operettas presented



Stromsburg High School band with new band uniforms purchased in 1969

Front row, left to right: Joyce Widga, Susan Peterson, Greg Berggren, Bonnie Knerr. Second row: Janis Donelson, Barbara Peterson, Linda Larson, Kathy Parminter, Jackie Torell, Doug Anderson, Corwin Hengelfelt, Janet Swanson. Third row: Janice Widga, Janice Olson, Janet Olson, Kathy Krahling, Patty Warner, Norma Hahn, Jill Newcomer, Bob Berggren, Vincent Krol, David Johnson, Murry Peterson, Gary Simpson, Murray Fredrickson, Bradley Baker. Back row, seated: Paul Anderson, Marlin Youngquist. Standing: Davis Moore, Lowell Erickson, Kendra Carlson.



Front row, left to right: Sandy Anderson, Lynelle Fredrickson, Paulette Anderson, Judy Farley, Orpha Carlson. Second row: Tom Parminter, Gary Moore, Doug Wilhelms, Doug Holm, Lonnie Erickson, Carla Johnson, Peggy Pogue, Betsy Erickson. Third row: Ann Ellis, Lori Baker, Janet Simpson, Joe Gonnerman, Ryan Berggren, Jim Johnson, Denise Donelson, Elaine Sward, Charles Erickson, Dana Westring, John Larson, LuAnn Peterson, Timm Waller. Standing, Tom Lauerma, Joe Rystrom, Director Cecil Anderson, Randy Baker.

during their school days. Some outstanding musicals recently presented by the high school have been "Lil Abner", "Finian's Rainbow", and "Annie Get Your Gun".

For a number of years the Stromsburg band has attended the Harvest of Harmony in Grand Island and Band Day in Lincoln.

The music department is an important part of our school. Many students have been inspired by this training to make music an integral part of their lives in church choirs, community choruses and bands and some of our graduates have pursued a musical career.

CENTRAL BIBLE SEMINARY

Shortly after Christmas 1885, the Central Bible Seminary of the Swedish Baptist Church came to Stromsburg. The move of the seminary to Stromsburg was the result of a generous offer from the city of \$10,000 toward a building and forty acres of land donated by John Ekeley.

The seminary had originated in 1871 at the Baptist Theological Seminary of the University of Chicago as the Scandinavian Department. It separated to become an independent school in 1884 and was located in St. Paul, Minnesota. The offer from Stromsburg was gratefully accepted by the Swedish Baptists and the school moved. On February 27, 1886, the building was dedicated.

The property, however, was given conditionally. In case the school should discontinue its activities within ten years, the building and five acres of land would revert to the city.

The president of the school, Jonn Alexis Edgren, was a brilliant Bible Scholar and a world-renown linguist. He knew sixteen spoken and sixteen unspoken languages. He was one of the foremost authorities on Egyptology.



Central Bible Seminary, February 27, 1886-1888

In spite of a very promising beginning in Stromsburg, the school was located too far away from the main centers of Swedish population. The school moved from Stromsburg to reunite with the Baptist Union Theological Seminary in Chicago in the fall of 1888. The school is now known as the Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. It is a part of the Baptist General Conference.

One of the lots on which the seminary was located was donated to the Baptist General Conference and is being held for a suitable memorial. The location of the original property is at the southwest corner of Fourth and Seminary Streets.

The effort was made to donate the school to the State of Nebraska for a Normal school but the plan failed and for a year the building was empty.

On June 29, 1889, J. J. Bryant of Burlington Junction, Missouri came to Stromsburg and in September opened the Bryant Normal and Business University. The courses consisted of Normal Training, Business Administration Shorthand, Typing and six other courses, which would prepare a student for a third county certificate. Students furnished their own books.

Rooms cost 50 cents per week, board \$1.00 per week and tuition for a term of 10 weeks, \$10.00.

The ideals taught by the school were the highest. Good study habits, correct deportment and diligent application was the rule. All students were expected to attend some church service on Sunday. Students were not to attend parties on school nights. Attending dances was discouraged.

In the winter of 1892, Professor Bryant had planned to build a dormitory. He bought the school from the town for one dollar. The school continued until 1898 and then unfortunately it was destroyed by fire.

BRYANT NORMAL AND BUSINESS UNIVERSITY OPENED 1889

The effort was made to donate the school to the State of Nebraska for a Normal school but the plan failed and for a year the building was empty.



Bryant Normal and Business University - destroyed by fire April 21, 1898
Opened September 7, 1889

On June 29, 1880, J. J. Bryant of Burlington Junction, Missouri came to Stromsburg and in September opened the Bryant Normal and Business University. The courses consisted of Normal Training, Business Administration Shorthand, Typing and six other courses, which would prepare a student for a third county certificate. Students furnished their own books.

Rooms cost 50 cents per week, board \$1.00 per week and tuition for a term of 10 weeks, \$10.00.

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ALUMNI HISTORY

The Stromsburg High School Alumni Association was organized July 17, 1888 by the members of the first and second graduating classes. The meeting was held at the home of Rev. E. C. Haskell, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, whose son Ernest was a member of the class of 1888.

The first class consisted of nine members, Emil Boostrom, Guy Green, Andrew Nyquist, Bertha Lowe, Minnie Uhl, Sarah Johnson, Julia Netsell, Ollie Morrill and Everett Lake. The class of 1888 had four members, Emily Nordstrom, Jennie Rydberg, Ernest Haskell and William Nance. Of the first class to graduate, Emil Boostrom later became superintendent of Stromsburg Schools and Everett Lake became the governor of the State of Connecticut.

In April, 1889, a business meeting was called, a constitution adopted and arrangements were made for the first annual meeting.

The first meeting was a reception held at Boostrom's Hall for the class of 1889. Ten members and 230 guests were present. For the next few years banquets were held and as the membership grew, it became necessary to restrict the attendance to members, husbands and wives of members and the superintendent of schools. These banquets were held at Boostrom's Hall, Park Hotel, Shidner's Restaurant, Y.M.C.A. Hall, and the Masonic Hall. Later Scott's Hall was the scene for many of the Alumni banquets and receptions.

In 1922 a two day Homecoming affair was planned for the 35th year of the Stromsburg High School, with banquets at Scott's Hall and the Methodist Church, and a picnic the next day. The 50th year was observed in 1937 with an elaborate banquet in the present High School auditorium and a picnic the following day at Buckley Park. Over 400 were in attendance, including four members of the first graduation class.

In 1948 the annual reception was changed to an annual Alumni banquet and it is now one of the most active high school alumni associations in the state. It boasts of being the only association that has met 85 years without a break. This is considered to be a record which will not be broken for many years to come, and never, if the new members keep as much life in the association as other alumni members have.

Another two day celebration was observed in 1962 when S.H.S. Alumni gathered for the Diamond Anniversary at the High School Auditorium. Over 700 members, husbands and wives were on hand for the banquet, the parade and historical pageant. The 80th year was observed in 1967 in conjunction with the Nebraska Centennial with 510 members and friends attending the banquet at the New High School Auditorium. A check in the amount of \$850.00 was presented to the Stromsburg Schools in 1967 from the Alumni Association. This represented a major part of the cost of the new plate glass front entrance to the high school building.

The Alumni Association supports the educational system that continues to graduate young people from our schools, not only initiating new ideas but also by donations with financial help for many projects. We are proud to be an alumnus of a school maintaining such high standards, scholastically, in athletics, in the music department and in every department of the school. We are proud of the achievements of fellow alumni as they have distinguished themselves in all parts of the world and in many professions.

Our object is to cherish and promote feelings of friendship among the members of the Association and advance the interest of the Stromsburg Schools.

1972 marks the 85th Anniversary of the first graduating class of Stromsburg High School.



"A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations." Macaulay

CHAPTER VIII

A Century with the Churches

In word and picture this chapter tells the story of the birth of the churches by the Grace of God, and labors of consecrated men and women.

So we enter now the year of our Centennial Celebration with joyful thanksgiving to God for a century of blessings.



BAPTIST CHURCH - JULY 12, 1873

The first Baptist Church was built in 1876. As early as 1872 a group of Swedish Baptists from Illinois and Iowa came to Polk County to farm and build their homes. These men and women, who had left localities where they had the opportunity of churches, found the need of closer communication and often met in the sod houses for religious purposes.

Out of these meetings came that memorable day, July 12, 1873 when they banded together to form a Baptist Church. Fourteen charter members organized the First Baptist Church. The meeting to organize the church was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mattias Samuelson.

The first pastor of the congregation was C. Lundgren, a layman who was baptized and ordained. He served the new organization off and on until May 16, 1879.

The congregation grew and at the close of the first year had 27 members. At the close of Mr. Lundgren's charge it numbered nearly 100. A Sunday-school was organized in the spring of 1874 but was active only during the summer months. It was in 1882 that a permanent Sunday-school was started.



First
Baptist
Church

The first meeting house was constructed in 1876 at a cost of \$800.00 plus volunteer labor. The well situated lots had been donated by P. T. Buckley. A sewing Society was formed in 1876 and continued as such until it was reorganized into a Mission Circle and in 1922 changed its name to the Dorcas Society, which celebrated its 85th anniversary in 1961 and disbanded shortly thereafter.

The second pastor, A. F. Karlson, came from Sweden and assumed the pastorate in July 1880. Soon after his arrival he changed his name to A. F. Palm. During his charge the membership grew and the first parsonage was built.

Rev. Palm was succeeded by Rev. A. P. Ekman, who was pastor from December 1884 until November 1888. A new church was needed and built at a cost of \$8000. This building served the church well until the merger with the Eden Church and it was dismantled in 1952 to make way for the present structure.

This Baptist Church was served by various pastors from 1890 to 1906 when Rev. Carl A. Anderson took charge and remained until 1912. This was the longest term held by any pastor of that church. Other preachers came and went.

P. G. Nelson was in charge from October 1913 until March 1915. Rev. J. O. Backlund was next called and remained until 1918, when he became the associate editor of the *Standaret* and manager of the Publication Department of the General Conference. His ministry marked the period of transition from the Swedish language to the English, although the English had been used in the Sunday school classes.

The last pastor to serve the church was Linus Johnson from September 1929 until May 1, 1932. This proved to be the last pastorate of the First Baptist Church. The congregation felt the need of a new building with modern improvements. This desire came to pass with the merger of this church with the Eden Baptist Church. The new church was erected on the same lot where the former First Baptist Church stood.

American Baptist Church later Eden Baptist Church



Eden Baptist Church

Here the history of the American Baptist Church should be recounted before bringing the history of the Baptist work in Stromsburg up-to-date.

On August 22, 1895 a committee of English speaking Baptists met at the home of John Ekeley to invite delegates to Stromsburg from the First Baptist Church of York, Surprise, Shelby, Laclede and the First Baptist Church of Stromsburg to recognize the American Baptist Church, whose organization was contemplated.

This organization was completed on September 18, 1895 with nine charter members and was called the American Mission Baptist Church.

Rev. Bay of Laclede Church near Polk acted as chairman and pastor until March 9, 1896 when Rev. J. L. Hedbloom, a graduate of Moody Bible Institute became the first pastor, serving for a period of 12 years.

In 1898 the first church building, valued at \$2000 was erected on a lot purchased from Isaac Boostrom and the name was changed to Eden Baptist Church. All that year the congregation carried on in their new church but at a Watch Night meeting, New Year's Eve 1899, the church was destroyed by fire. An explosion of the heating plant caused the fire that completely destroyed the church. The pastor and janitor had a narrow escape and the congregation miraculously came out of the building without injury. The insurance was found to be worthless but the congregation of 41 members was not discouraged and the money was raised and a new and better building was erected on the site of the old during the fall of 1900. This was dedicated June 6, 1902. This building stood just south of the present High School building. The ground is now used as a parking lot.

Rev. Hedbloom resigned his pastorate in 1908. One hundred or more had been added to the church during his pastorate. Also during his ministry the Sunday-school was organized in 1896 and a primary department added in 1908. In 1897 at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Hedbloom, the Ladies Mission Circle was organized with nine charter members and grew to fifty-two members.

Various pastors served the church up to 1930. At the close of Rev. McKee's ministry in October 1930, the church was without a pastor until June 6, 1931 when Rev. F. R. Pitman took charge. He was the pastor during the merger negotiations rendering a fine ministry to both churches during this time. Pastor Pitman led the two churches in union services from November 1932 to March 1933. Rev. Victor Swanson, a returned missionary living in town, continued these united services from March 1933 to May 1933 when Rev. Judkins, Colporter missionary of the Nebraska Baptist Convention, served both churches.



Stromsburg Baptist Church

In October 1933 the final merger of the First Baptist and the Eden Baptist Church was consummated and the united church was called the Stromsburg Baptist Church. Various state and conference ministers and missionaries supplied the pulpit until a regular pastor was called.

The first pastor of the United Church was Rev. U. E. Hedberg. He assumed his work on March 4, 1934. His was the task of welding the two churches into a working unity and he did his work well, staying on until March 28, 1937.

Then came Rev. Gust E. Carlson laboring faithfully from 1937 to 1943. Rev. H. Edick A. Anderson served as interim pastor from 1943 to January 1944, after which Rev. Wilfred G. Holmberg came from Albert Lea, Minnesota to serve the church.

A new house of worship was completed on the site of the old First Baptist Church and dedicated to the Lord on November 8, 1953. This also marked the eightieth anniversary. Rev. Holmberg terminated eleven years of ministry in Stromsburg on January 30, 1950 and on June 6, 1955 was called to his eternal reward following an illness of a few months.

Rev. Winston Sherwick came to Stromsburg as interim pastor for a short time after which Rev. Earl H. Byleen began his ministry in Stromsburg on Sunday, January 29, 1956, coming here from Montclair, New Jersey.

Tuesday evening Family Night Services, started under Rev. Holmberg's ministry were expanded and the attendance and interest in bible study increased.

During Rev. Byleen's pastorate a new four-bedroom ranch style parsonage was built in 1959 and the old parsonage was torn down. He closed his work here in October 1960 and Rev. L. E. Peterson of Vergas, Minnesota, a retired Baptist minister, served as interim pastor for the next year after which Pastor Howard T. Olson accepted the call from the Stromsburg church.

Rev. Reynold Hamrin, present pastor, came to serve the church in 1965.

The pastoral leadership through the years has been augmented by competent lay leadership and organizations caring for various phases of the work.

This, briefly, is a review of Christian service through the Baptist work in Stromsburg.

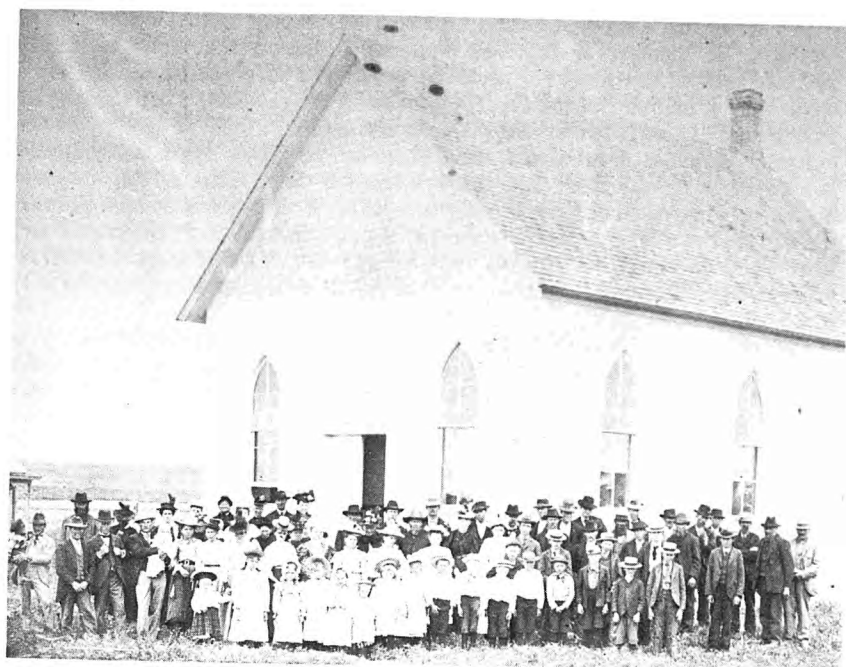
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SWEDE HOME

AUGUST 12, 1873

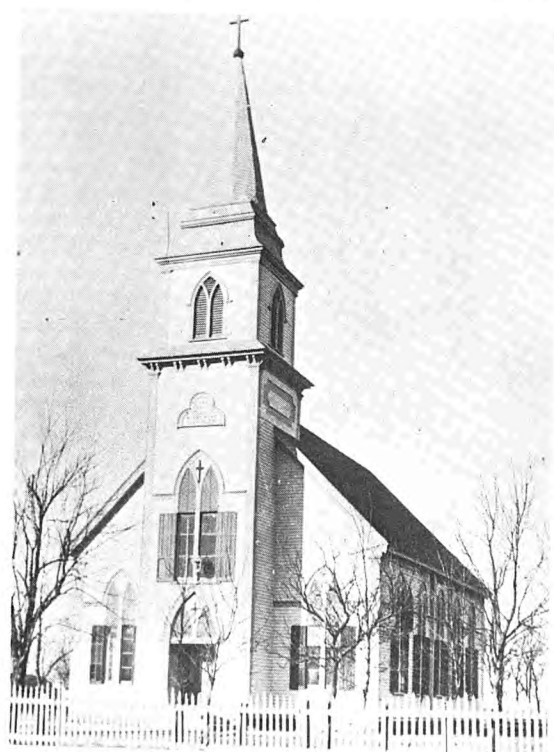
During the early to mid 19th century a religious revival swept over Sweden. It was this movement coupled with hard times and oppression by church and civil authorities which prompted hundreds of thousands of Swedes to leave their homeland in search of freedom and fortune in America. Most of these emigrants brought a staunch Lutheran faith with them to a new and lonely land.

It was of such a background and spirit that the original group of 28 settlers came from Varna, Illinois to establish the Swede Home community in March of 1872. They homesteaded or purchased railroad land on which they built sod houses or dugouts for protection against Nebraska's often violent weather. The prairie stretched unbroken and vast to the horizon in all directions.

This small band of spiritually minded people soon realized the need for a place in which to worship their God. First services were held in homes and in a small school house. On August 12, 1873, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Swede Home, Augustana Synod, was organized with 41 charter members. Pioneers John P. Hult, Carl Person, August Hult, N. Peter Hult, Peter Peterson, Carl Fredrickson, Nils Fredrick Carlson, Emanuel Lindeblade, Carl Appleton, Carl H. Carlson, Peter J. Anderson and their families were among the most active founders of the early congregation.



(above)
 Built in 1876
 first Calvary
 Lutheran Church
 of Swede Home



(left)
 Second Calvary
 Lutheran Church,
 built in 1882

The struggling congregation installed its first resident pastor, the Rev. Lars P. Ahlquist, on January 2, 1875. He was called and hired at an annual salary of \$300.00 and whatever grain could be donated. The young pastor and his wife lived with a member of the congregation until the parsonage was completed. In 1876 he confirmed the first class of nine members.

Pastor Ahlquist served until 1879 when he resigned. The congregation was then without a minister until 1880 when the Rev. Jonas E. Nordling, newly ordained, arrived to begin a 28 year pastorate. It was during Pastor Nordling's tenure that the congregation outgrew the original church building. A larger frame church complete with balcony and spire was built in 1882. The following year an addition to the parsonage was also made. A church bell was first hung in 1888.

Parochial instruction was given emphasis during this period of growth. Sunday school was started in 1880. Church school was held during the summer months in several neighboring school houses and in homes. Oscar A. Johnson was one of the early teachers. All services and religious instructions were in the Swedish language.



Present Calvary Lutheran Church, built in 1914

As the congregation grew, a third church edifice was built. The present double-spired, brick church and community landmark was built in 1914 at a cost of

about \$17,000.00. This was shortly after the Rev. Carl A. Sward began his remarkable 31 1/2 years of service at Swede Home. A large parsonage had been built in 1911 adjacent to the church for the family of Pastor Magni LeVander who was the first minister to introduce English at some evening services. Rev. LeVander resigned after two and one half years and again left the congregation without pastoral leadership until the arrival of Sward.

Members of the Swede Home community endured many hardships during the early years. Grasshoppers destroyed their first crops in 1874 and again in 1876. It is recorded that the pesky insects "chewed holes in the wooden handles of waiking plows". During these years near famine conditions existed. Many people contracted rickets due to improper diet. Some could scarcely walk as a result.

There were severe blizzards in 1873 and 1888 which took heavy toll of livestock.

Despite the early hardships, the depression years and the despair of extreme drought during the 1930's, Swede Home's congregation has survived and prospered. Many pastors have made contributions to the spiritual life of the community. Many descendants of the pioneers have brought fame to themselves and their birthplace. Many places outside the little community have gained from the strength of character which was developed through the Swede Home church and its members.

Pastors who have served the congregations are: Lars P. Ahlquist, 1875-1879; Jonas E. Nordling, 1880-1908; Magni LeVander, 1909-1912; Carl A. Sward, 1913-1944; Alfild E. Franzen, 1944-1951; Bernt G. Johnson, 1951-1955; Clifford M. Hadley, 1956-1962; Larry Casper, 1963-1966; Stanley W. Floth, 1966-1968; Russell O. Scholta, 1969-1970 and Milan Swasko, 1970 to the present.

Seven sons of the congregation have become ordained ministers in the Lutheran Church. They are: Carl Tolin, Carl Renhard, Herman Lind, Carl Sandahl, Oscar Johnson, Gustof E. Hemdohl and David Sward.

The Swede Home church, now known as Calvary Lutheran, is the mother church of three area churches: Salem Lutheran of Stromsburg, St. Paul Lutheran of Osceola and Fridhem Lutheran of Hordville. The Hordville church was given a gift of 40 acres of railroad land donated by the Swede Home congregation of 1879.

Among the many prominent children of the congregation, the following are perhaps the most outstanding: Harold LeVander, born in the Swede Home parsonage, grew to attain recognition as a public speaker, attorney, civic leader, educator, churchman and Governor of Minnesota. His brother, Theodore, serves as a respected professor at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

Dr. Carl F. Sandahl was another son of distinction. He became an excellent historian, author, orator and served on many college and institutional boards. C. Petrus Peterson, successful attorney, served for a number of years in the Nebraska legislature. Dr. Reuben Johnson, after study in Europe, became a noted teacher and school superintendent. Miss Berneice Sward, daughter of Rev. C. A. Sward, was recently honored with a Freedom Award in California where she has important library supervision responsibilities.

Another member who has served her church a lifetime at home is Miss Lillie Chindgren, now about to complete her 48th year as church organist. In addition she has taught piano and organ to many students and trained youth and senior choirs in vocal music.

An event of major import to the Swede Home community was the dedication of the Polk County Rural Power District which was held on the church grounds, June 2, 1938. Nebraska Governor Cochran spoke to an audience of 1500 people and impressed them with the change that electrical power would make to rural life. Petrus C. Nelson, long prominent in local church affairs, presided at the

ceremonies as first president of the district and prime mover in its organization. Another church member also prominent in rural electrification was Alex Adelson.

Prior to this day when power surged in over lines from a generating plant in Columbus, the church had maintained its own unique power source housed in a pit building in back of the church. Power was generated by a gasoline engine and stored in banks of batteries lining one wall of the plant. It served for many years.

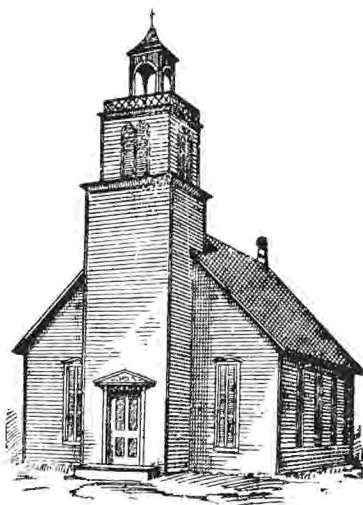
Recent improvements to the church property include the parsonage remodeling in 1956 and the addition of a Parish Hall in 1957. The pipe organ was rebuilt in 1967 at a cost of \$9,000 compared with original installation cost of \$4,500 in 1920. The present chancel furniture dates back to the second church in 1905 and was subsequently moved into the present sanctuary.

Now nearing its 100th year in 1973, Calvary Lutheran Church still stands strong! Its tall spires bids tired eyes look up and points the heavenward way. Its melodious bell boldly beckons a community to worship and solemnly tolls the passing of each member. By night, its lighted towers show parishioner and stranger alike that ... This is God's House ... where there's light and strength for all who will but enter in and believe in Him.

EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH - SPRING OF 1874

In the year of 1871 a few Swedish families settled in Polk County, Nebraska. Some of them were from Illinois and others came directly from Sweden. These settlers were all poor and most of them had a deep desire to hear the word of God. These conditions drew them closer together so they held prayer meetings and studied God's Word in their homes.

In the spring of 1874, it was decided to organize a congregation. A few who believed in God gathered in a small hall in Stromsburg and organized the Church. Those early pioneers were: Mr. and Mrs. John Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Sundberg, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Younglund, Mr. and Mrs. Lars Engstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Allison, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Samuelson, Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf Nelson and Mr. and Mrs. Nels Nordstrom.



OLD CHURCH

It was not long before they felt the need of their own place of worship. Hence, it was decided to build. The material for building the church was hauled by team from Seward, a distance of forty miles. After much effort and sacrifice the church was finally erected on a lot donated by Mr. John Buckley.

Not until 1876 did the church have a permanent minister, but occasionally visiting pastors preached the Gospel, one of them being A. N. Sweders. In July of 1876, Rev. Mr. C. A. Falk was called to take charge of the work. He served the church for five years. Other pioneer ministers were: Rev. M. C. A. Breggren, Rev. Mr. L. L. Frisk, Rev. Mr. E. M. Peterson, Rev. Mr. John Quist and Rev. Mr. F. O. Hultman.

With Rev. Hultman's coming, came also glorious times. He was an accomplished musician and soon the church could not hold the large number of people that came to the services. A new church was needed and in 1900 it was dedicated. Rev. Hultman closed a very successful period in the history of the church.



Rev. Mr. Andrew Johnson then took up the work and was followed by Rev. Mr. G. D. Hall in 1907. During his ministry a new parsonage was built and the front of the church remodeled giving more room to the choir. The work of the church progressed and large audiences gathered to hear this forceful servant of the Lord.

In September of 1911, Rev. Mr. Oscar Palmberg arrived to carry on the work and served faithfully until the summer of 1915 when Rev. Mr. Abel Anderson began his ministry here. He carried on a progressive work especially in the Sunday School and choir. A new basement was also finished during his service here.

In December of 1922, Rev. Mr. O. W. Nelson became the pastor of the church and served until February 1928. The outstanding event during his ministry was the celebration of the Fiftieth Year Jubilee in September 1924.

Rev. Fred Hall began his work the first Sunday in July, 1928, and served faithfully until August 1932. In 1929 the church became a member of the Evangelical Mission Covenant Church of America.

In May 1933, Rev. Mr. Simon Carlson began his ministry with us and the church celebrated its Sixtieth Anniversary. A most remarkable work had been accomplished under his leadership. The great drought and depression affected the work considerably, but under his leadership the church kept going forward. Daily Vacation Bible School was organized.



Remodeled
Covenant
Church

Rev. Mr. Ervil Gustafson began his ministry here in 1941. During his pastorate the church entertained the Midwest Ministerial Association and the Midwest Covenant Conference in their Annual Session together with celebrating the Seventieth Anniversary of the founding of the church. This was a great undertaking and required much planning. Pastor Gustafson recognized the importance of youth work very keenly and organized the Hi-League during his stay here.

Rev. Mr. George H. Schermer arrived in February of 1945-51. He helped to make the Midwest Covenant Home and Covenant Cedars Bible Camp a reality, also originated the Covenant Hour over KJSK and was director of the program, also celebrating 75th Anniversary of the church.

In 1951-57 Rev. Cecil Johnson became Pastor and working faithfully with the young people also gave much time and energy to work of the Conference.

Pastor John H. Carlson arrived in Stromsburg July of 1957-64. The Church celebrated the 90th Anniversary with former pastors present.

Pastor Gerald Rice began in 1965-1969, working faithfully. In the Fall of 1969 they celebrated 95 years of faithful service to our Lord and Master. Two of our former pastors, Rev. and Mrs. Cecil Johnson and Rev. and Mrs. John Carlson conducted services on Sunday.

Pastor Oskar Molinder took up the work after Pastor Rice, working faithfully in the service of God until our present Pastor Robert Kronberg arrived October 1970 as the Shepherd of the flock.

The Rev. Andrew Smithberg and the Rev. Elden Bergen served the church as Interim, along with others. Many sons and daughters have gone out from the Church into fields of service, among them the Rev. Nathan Sundberg and his wife, Evangeline Youngquist Sundberg, Julia Falk Bengstron, wife of the late Rev. Bethel Bengston. We praise and thank God for service rendered.

The Covenant Church is the oldest church in Stromsburg, and also the oldest of the Covenant Churches in Nebraska. We are looking forward to 1974 when the Church will celebrate its centennial.

May we ever press onward. There is work to be done and souls to win for God's Kingdom as we journey onward looking for the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - EARLY 80's

In the early 80's there came to Stromsburg from Illinois, two families, the Ford family and the Dr. Peck family. Mr. Ford and Mrs. Peck were brother and sister. Their father, M. M. Ford, who was a Presbyterian, wanted a church home for his son and daughter and their families. He was largely instrumental in organizing a Presbyterian church. He donated considerable money for the church expenses and loaned the church more money for the purchase of a building.

This building was purchased from the Swedish Baptist Congregation after their new church was ready for occupancy. It was a frame structure and had been built in 1876 on lots donated by P. T. Buckley.

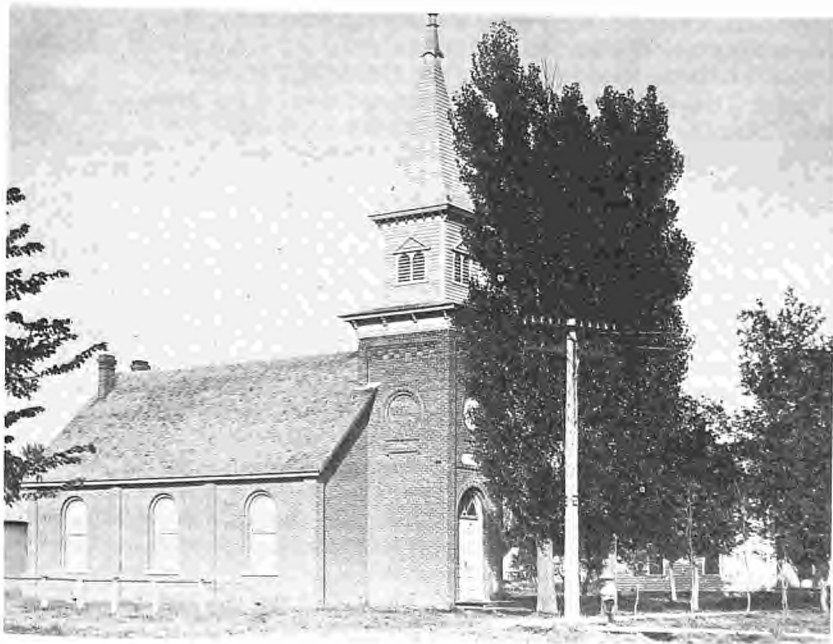
In 1891 the Presbyterian Church was disbanded, for the reason that so many members had moved away and there was not enough people left to keep up the expenses of the church.

This church had only one pastor, Rev. E. C. Haskel, who remained here during the life of the church. Mrs. J. G. Green, who was the last remaining charter member, spoke of his library as being one of the largest ever in Stromsburg.

Mrs. Green later joined the Eden Baptist Church and Mrs. H. F. Haverland, a member of a class of little girls taught by Mrs. Green, became a member of the First Methodist Church after the Presbyterian Church was disbanded.

SWEDISH METHODIST CHURCH - 1883

The Swedish Methodist Church in Stromsburg was built in 1883 during the pastorate of Rev. Simpson. This building stood on the site where the United Methodist Church now stands. The parsonage was built just east of the Church



Swedish Methodist Church

and served the present Methodist Church for a number of years. The Rev. Simpson and his bride, who had just arrived from Sweden, were the first occupants.

The work in Swede Plain was combined with the work in Stromsburg and for the most of the time one pastor served both churches, with his residence in Stromsburg.

In 1886, the Swede Plain congregation built their own church and for a number of years each church had its own pastor until 1911, when, during the pastorate of Rev. J. B. Anderson, arrangements were made with Swede Plain pastor to serve both churches. Services were held each second Sunday in the afternoon in Stromsburg.

The pastors who have served this charge are O. J. Swan, Olin Swanson, J. A. Gabrielson, John Jacobson, John Simpson and several others served the Stromsburg church while they were pastors at Swede Plain.

It was this church that sponsored the camp meetings that were held in the beautiful grove south of town. This camp meeting was a project of the Epworth Leagues of the Nebraska Districts of the Swedish Conference. The meetings were first held in a private grove in Saronville, but the beauty and suitableness of the location in Stromsburg appealed to them and the ground was purchased, a society organized, and incorporated.

The first meeting was held in 1902 and excellent religious work was carried on for the next fifteen years.

After the war came on in 1917, the camp meetings were discontinued in Stromsburg and the land was later sold.

The church building and parsonage passed into the hands of the First Methodist Church. The church was torn down and the new Methodist Church built on the lot where the old Swedish Methodist Church had formerly stood.

The Swedish Methodists held services in the new church for a while but the congregation dwindled. Many older members passing away, others moving from town and the only Swedish Methodists now in existence in this part of the country, at least, are in the Swede Plain Church which is still active.

Pastor Alvin Trucano, pastor of the Stromsburg United Methodist Church is now serving the church along with the Stromsburg charge.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 1884

As early as 1870, class meetings and prayer meetings were held by Methodists in the western part of Polk County. Rev. James Query, being the first resident preacher.

The first Methodist Pastor in Polk County was Rev. Worley, preaching in the Pleasant Home neighborhood. The nearest class meeting was organized in what was called the Glucher neighborhood southeast of Osceola. Former Governor Mickey belonged to this class, which was a forerunner of the Stromsburg United Methodist Church.

During the winter of 1871-72, revival meetings were held in the Keckley School house southeast of Osceola. A Rev. Streeter was asked to organize a class nearer Stromsburg, due to these meetings. This class meeting took place in Thomas Record's dugout, and Mr. M. F. Barber was elected class leader and held this position for twelve years.

After the first school house, the G. A. R. Hall was built and meetings were held there. Rev. D. C. Brannon was appointed to Stromsburg. He later sent for Mr. John Dey to do some carpenter work for him. After Rev. Brannon retired, Mr. Dey continued, as he was himself a local preacher.



First
Methodist
church to
be built

After the Swedish Methodist Church was built, on the site where the present building now stands, meetings were held. Pastors J. A. Larkin and Horace Campbell followed.

The First Methodist Church was built in 1884 at 415 E. 5th Street with Rev. Black as Pastor. The site was deeded by the town to the trustees of the church. This membership consisted of a little over 25 members. Building planks with no backrest, were first used, then the head of each family paid for enough chairs to seat the members of his own family. These chairs served until benches were purchased.

When Rev. Lincoln Lemon came, a parsonage was built. Under the leadership of C. S. Dudley, the tower of the church was completed and a bell was placed in it, but this had to be removed later due to the weakened tower.

When Rev. G. A. Hobson came, he built an additional room to the parsonage. Next was Rev. George M. Morey in 1890, beginning with a membership of thirty. He served for 600 dollars a year and parsonage. The congregation was well in attendance, since this was the only English speaking church in Stromsburg at that time.

The ministers who followed were L. L. Morrison, C. L. Hamilton and J. H. Presson, who preached sermon for John A. Fowler.

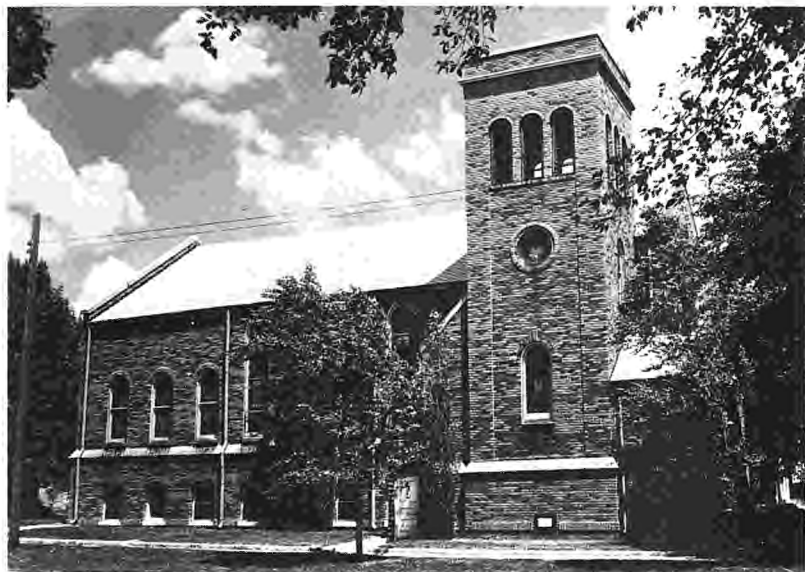
Rev. Presson served the church for 4 years. During this time the Social Union, later the Ladies Aid, now called W.S.C.S. (Womans Society of Christian Service) These organizations proved themselves as trustworthy financial backers of the church.

Those Pastors who followed were, Geo. Cobb, James Mailley, A. J. Armstrong, J. Fowler, H. M. Poston, L. K. McNeil and Geo. McClure. Rev. McClure resigned before he completed his second year. Rev. McCleery, of the Congrega-

tional Church filled his place until conference time. The church was held together by able Sunday-school superintendents until 1914, when Rev. E. O. Johnson came and stayed for one year.

When Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Custer came, Mrs. Custer organized a Womans Bible Class in the Sunday-school. However, at the end of their second year, Mrs. Custer died. Rev. Custer and his two sons laid her to rest in the Stromsburg Cemetery, just before leaving for his new appointment.

Then came Rev. L. R. Hosford, and in 1918 Rev. V. H. VanHorn moved here. In his second year there was a plan to build a new church. Also, at this time, Green's Chapel (a rural church) organized in 1885 which had previously been connected with Stromsburg, desired a full time pastor of their own.



Present Methodist Church

Since the Swedish Methodist's Congregation on this present site was dwindling their building was purchased by the members of the First Methodist Church with agreement to use it on Sunday afternoons.

On May 7, 1920 at 11:30 a.m. Nathan Fellows, then past 80 years of age, laid the first brick in the new church July 4, 1920 the cornerstone was laid. Dr. I. B. Schreckengast, of Wesleyan University gave the address and Mrs. H. F. Haverland gave the history of the church. A year later, on August 21, 1921, dedication services for the new \$40,000 First Methodist Episcopal Church was conducted. Fourteen pastors were present.

Many improvements, including the remodeling of the old kitchen, replacement of the old pipe organ with an electric one, chimes, gas heat, air conditioning, were added in later years.

Pastors serving since the erection of this present building were Milo W. Rose, R. W. Pruitt, Clarence Powell and E. C. Staley.

Rev. Homer B. Hix came in 1938 and during this stay the church observed its 55th anniversary on June 18, 1939. In 1941 the church shared a pastor with Osceola, due to a shortage of ministers. Rev. Laphorn would hold worship here at 10:00 a.m. and then return to Osceola for an 11:00 a.m. service. Then Rev. G. A. Randall came to the same parish and stayed nearly ten years.

A new parsonage was needed, since the old one was being rented out to another family here. The Rev. and Mrs. Randall were maintaining their own home in Osceola and were retiring. The church was now to have a resident pastor again and a parsonage would be provided.

The first to dwell in the new parsonage were Rev. and Mrs. G. C. Robberson, followed by E. C. Williams and then Rev. Lester Anderson. The Andersons served for nearly ten years.

Rev. Alvin Trucano is the present pastor of The United Methodist Church (as it is now called since the merger with the Evangelical United Brethren and the old Methodist Church).

The present church has 370 members. In June of 1971, Rev. Trucano took on the additional duties of serving Swede Plain Church (a rural church 8 miles west of Stromsburg) which has 90 members.

This church has a men's group, which serves an "Annual Wild Game Feed", a W.S.C.S. (Woman's Society of Christian Service) with several circles and two youth groups. Also a Charter Sunday school group called R. F. A. (Ready For Anything) which still meets at the church.

GREEN'S CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH - 1885

Green's Chapel Methodist Church, organized in 1885, was situated on land donated by a Mr. Thomas Green from whom the church had received its name "Green's Chapel." Eventually services were discontinued and the building was moved to a new location on the Perry Steever farm.

Sunday School had been conducted at the Liberty School for many years, but it now transferred all its help and enrollment to the Green's Chapel Church.

This Church was usually served as a joint with the Stromsburg Methodist Church. A minister from Stromsburg preached whenever possible. But about 1909 the congregation was growing so fast, it was decided to have a full time pastor.



Green's Chapel Church

It wasn't long until the congregation outgrew its present building so in 1912 it was remodeled, a basement and an addition added. Full time pastors were hired and all went well during the horse and buggy days - yes, until the 1940's and 1950's, when more and more people moved away, or passed on. Young people became absorbed into the town schools and activities, later uniting with the town Churches.

By 1959 the attendance had dropped so drastically, that the few remaining families voted to close its doors and merge with the First Methodist Church of Stromsburg.

The building this time was sold and torn down and the land restored to the original Steever estate, thus closing the chapter on one of Methodism's valuable assets which was a great spiritual inspiration to all its members and worshippers.

SWEDE PLAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 1876

Swede Plain United Methodist Church has been in existence as a congregation since 1876 and the story of its origin and continuance throughout the past 95 years reflects the true character, vision, courage and faith in God of the early pioneers and settlers in this part of Nebraska and the thorough indoctrination in their children and grandchildren of their determination, religion, faith and Christian spirit and the imprint of their lives upon others living in this community.

One of the most influential men in getting this church started was Charles O. Norton. It was in this frontier home that the Swede Plain Methodist Church came into being as a reality, because Mrs. Hurtig, mother of Mrs. Norton, wanted very much to hear a sermon by a Swedish Methodist minister and knowing that a Rev. Bjurstrom, from Illinois, had a brother-in-law living in Stromsburg and contacted him about a meeting. As the result a meeting was held at the Norton home on May 14, 1875 with Rev. Bjurstrom presiding. The first meetings were held in a little sod house south of where the church now stands and weather permitting in a grove on the Norton farm and led by John Linn who was stationed at Saronville, Nebr. As the meetings attendance increased they were changed to a rural school house where the church now stands. Regular meetings and church work began in 1877 with John Linn the first regular pastor. In 1878 O. J. Swan came from New Sweden, Iowa and served both Swede Plain and Stromsburg from his home at Saronville where he resided. For his services in preaching once a month he received \$60. per year or \$5 per service, his mode of travel was an open buggy drawn by a spotted pony.

Following Rev. Swan a young minister by the name of Olin Swenson served Swede Plain and West Hill and he was credited with giving the name of "Swede Plain" to the church.

In 1886-89 J. A. Gabrielson followed by J. B. Anderson served the church and during this time the church was built and the school house #65 was moved one mile west. The cost of the building was approximately 1500 dollars. The dedication had to be postponed for the lack of funds and was finally held in the late fall of 1887. A year or two later barns were erected on the church grounds to house the horses of worshippers as they attended services.

From 1890-1900 the ministers serving the church resided in Stromsburg preaching there in the forenoon and in the Swede Plain Church in the afternoons on Sundays. In 1901 the parsonage across the road from the church was built and Olaf Granberg was the first minister to live in it. This parsonage was dismantled in the year 1963. The Epworth League came into existence and received its charter on May 22, 1907.



Swede Plain Methodist Church

Camp meetings were held from 1905 through the 1920's. Between the year 1920 to 1921 the church was supplied by A. F. Anderson and Rev. Sahlen, acting District Superintendent. Following this for almost a year the doors of the church were closed on account of no ministers. This was very unsatisfactory and church members requested that a minister be assigned to the church at the next conference, their wish was granted at the conference and Elmer R. Peterson and his bride came and remained until 1927 when he transferred to the Nebraska Conference, and upon their leaving, brought fears to many. However, their fears were soon dispelled as in the spring of 1928 Rev. John Ekwall, a layman came one Sunday to fill the pulpit and was so well liked the congregation requested he be assigned their regular minister. In the fall of 1928 he was ordained and returned to Swede Plain.

On the 7th of September 1929 the church transferred from the Northwest Swedish Conference to the Nebraska Conference, and services which were previously conducted in Swedish were now changed to English.

Rev. John Ekwall moved in 1930 so in 1930-31 Rev. G. Irvin Friday filled the pulpit. 1931-1933 Rev. Frank Shacklock and 1933-1935 Rev. James Fowler. During these depression years from 1931 to 1935 it was difficult to maintain the church and meet the expenses of a resident minister and other necessities for worship with the result that in 1935 the Swede Plain and Polk Methodist churches were united into one charge with Rev. Pengelly living in Polk serving both churches.

In 1937 the 60th anniversary of the first organized congregation was duly observed with Rev. Albert Samuelson and Rev. Clarence Lind two of the churches members who had gone out to preach the gospel, conducting the services for that day. Besides the two mentioned above, there are Rev. Rudolph Samuelson and Rev. Everett Samuelson, both brothers of Rev. Albert Samuelson from the church entering the Lords work of Ministry, also Miss Winnie Gabrielson a missionary to India for many years.

In the following years 1939-1953 Rev. S. W. Longacre, Rev. A. C. Bates and Rev. Paul W. Walker were ministers of the church. Improvements were made consisting of installation of electric lights by lay members of the church, re-decorating the sanctuary and repair of the furnace, a new electric organ was purchased and paid for with solicitations and in 1950 a new piano.

From 1952-1960 the Rev. Milton O'Conner, Rev. W. C. Birmingham, Rev. Douglas Fraley, and the Rev. James Walton Lane were the ministers. Many improvements such as an outside opening was made directly into the basement in the west wall of church building and it was found that this wall was 14 inches in width reinforced with steel rods and wire. It was apparent that the early members of the church or the building committee not only built their lives on solid christian foundations but built their house of God upon a foundation that would withstand the evils of storm and deterioration and stand forever to glorify His Name.

In the year 1959-1960 the kitchen in the basement of the church was completely remodeled and modernized with new wall cupboards, stove and refrigerator. A new furnace, floor covering on the kitchen and entire basement floor. In 1962 the sanctuary was completely redecorated and new pews and new worship center was placed in the church. Exterior of the church was painted.

The next 10 years or from 1960 to 1970 Rev. O. A. Johnson, Rev. H. W. Jensen, Rev. W. C. Patten and Rev. Deryl Reed brought the spiritual messages each Sunday. In 1970 Swede Plain was asked to share their minister with the Stromsburg United Methodist Church instead of former Polk Church with Rev. Alvin Trucano as the minister. Again more improvements, such as a rest room in the church basement, a stoop outside the sanctuary doors, new platform railings in the sanctuary and carpeting in the church. Many of these improvements have been made by memorials left to the church.

The church has a very active Womens Society of Christian Service and a faithful choir.

The present membership of the Swede Plain United Methodist Church is about one hundred and it stays about the same from year to year. Some of the present members are sixth generation descendents of the early church members or related by marriage. This church is situated in the heart of a prosperous agricultural area of Nebraska and over the years the size of farms have increased but the membership has stayed about the same because a large number who have moved away and now reside in neighboring towns or even distant places, have retained their membership in the church and many of these still attend church services at Swede Plain. This vividly illustrates the loyalty of the people of this community to their church and is one of the reasons it has been able to carry on while other rural churches have ceased to exist. Irrigation is prominent in this community and plays a major role in furnishing income to the members from which to maintain the church and its requirements.

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH - 1888

Salem Lutheran Church was organized February 28, 1888, with thirty-two charter members, by Pastor G. Peters of York, who later alternated with Pastor O. A. Johnson of Hordville. Mission work was started in 1883 by Pastor M. Noyd while Stromsburg contended for Luther College. First church was dedicated in 1890, Chapel added in 1905; razed in 1955. Parsonages were built in 1894 and 1953-54. Present church was built in 1955-57. Dedicated on August 1, 1958, and debt free in 1963 on its 75th anniversary.



A small group met on February 28, 1888, in the Methodist Church under the leadership of Rev. G. Peters, then a pastor in York, Nebraska.

Rev. Peters preached to the group and used as his text First Peter, Chapter 2. Thirty-two persons signed as members. Those signing were: Peter T. Bergman family, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Isaacson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Otto Svenson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl V. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gustaf Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. John Linderoth, Helena Sophia Lundeen, Mrs. Ol. Bergman, Alfred Bjork, Louis F. Tidstrom, Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Johnson, E. S. Johnson, Emma Johnson, Clara Stal, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Peterson.

Jerry, Dana and Jill Westring are the only 6th generation members in 1972.

Before the organization of the Salem Lutheran Church of Stromsburg, most of the early residents of the Lutheran faith belonged to Swede Home. However, with the slow mode of transportation, and the often very difficult roads, and also



Salem Lutheran Church, today

with the gradual increase in population, it became apparent that a church needed to be established here.

At the second annual meeting of the congregation, a building committee was appointed to gather subscriptions for the building of a church, and these subscriptions totaled \$1,800. Construction of a church was completed November 9, 1890 for a total cost of \$3,000.

Pastors that have served Salem Lutheran are:

G. Peters & O. A. Johnson	-----	1888 - 1893
C. A. Lonnquist	-----	1893 - 1896
O. A. Johnson	-----	1896 - 1898
L. Hokenson	-----	1899 - 1904
C. A. Hemborg	-----	1904 - 1915
O. Cassling	-----	1916 - 1918
C. J. Franzen	-----	1919 - 1922
F. E. Sard	-----	1923 - 1928
Alfred E. Trued	-----	1928 - 1944
Thure Johnson	-----	1945 - 1952
William R. Conrad	-----	1954 - 1957
G. M. Christensen	-----	1958

A miracle of the prairies! That is how people are describing the new Salem Church of Stromsburg. And groups from far and near are visiting the new edifice to get pointers on how to build a beautiful stone church for less than \$150,000. It is one of the best equipped churches in Nebraska. It has an 18-stop pipe organ with chimes and is completely air-conditioned, with stained glass windows and carpet adding to its beauty. But the miracle lies not in the building itself, but in the fact that it was constructed during a time of drought and hard times by a congregation with a membership of 250 communicants.

Rev. William R. Conrad was gifted in the guidance and counseling in the planning and construction of the new building. The general contract went to the lowest bidder, Edsel Carlson, and Fred Boye, received the contract for the stone work. No volunteer labor was used.

The laying of the cornerstone and consecration of the new church on Sunday, March 3, 1957, climaxed a week of evangelism services. One of the guest missionaries, as well as speaker at the fellowship banquet and Sunday morning service was the Rev. Constantine Trued. He is the son of Salem's former pastor, Dr. Alfred Trued who was one of Augustana's pioneer missionaries to China.

In April of 1958 Salem was host to the Annual Nebraska Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church and Women's Missionary Society. Nearly 200 delegates were entertained in the various homes of the congregation and meals served at the church to delegates and other visitors.

Church organizations are Luther League, Junior Hi League, Lutheran Church Women and Lutheran Churchmen.

FREE BAPTIST CHURCH - 1891

Located at 4th and Exchange

The old city hall was first built and used as a church, namely the Free Baptist Church. The church was organized on the 8th of June 1891, where services were held for twenty-one years by the Free Baptists. The church was very active during its existence but many of the members moved away, others gathered to their reward. So, in time it was decided to give up the organization and the building was sold to the city in 1921 and remodeled into a City Hall. The building is now being used for the City Electrician's Headquarters.



The Free Baptist Church, later City Hall

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH - 1910

Records were considered of little importance to our founding fathers. Consequently, many interesting details of our early beginning are nowhere to be found. To rely on hearsay is not very reliable and may even prove tragic. We trust the information at our disposal is trustworthy and will prove interesting to coming generations, as well as to present readers.

The early dates indicate that the Free Church of Stromsburg is entering into its sixth decade of existence. Early names also indicate that our founding fathers were strictly of Scandinavian extraction. Such names as those spread on our early records as: Sundquist, Thoren, Berglund, Younglund, Shustrum, Peterson and Johnson; here may also be included such names as: Carlson, Larson, Lindquist and Leafgren.

On April 4, 1910 an informal gathering was held in the home of one of the interested families, Gust Sundquists. This seems to be the first date in the records. The purpose of the gathering was to organize a Free Church in Stromsburg. Mr. Alfred Thoren was chosen as the temporary chairman. He had working with him four other men, namely, C. G. Berglund, Andrew Younglund, John Shustrum and Lars Johnson. Upon this committee rested the responsibility of finding a suitable location where religious services could be held. The old Swedish Methodist Church was available and permission was granted to conduct Sunday School and devotional services on Sunday afternoons. This seems to be the inception of this church which has since functioned uninterruptedly.

Within the said month of April in the same year (April 13, 1910) an organization was effected, consisting of 29 charter members, all of which are now deceased. The legal name adopted was: "The Swedish Christian Free Mission Church of Stromsburg, Nebraska." Our pioneers were not at a loss of employing elaborate words and flowery phrases. As the Constitution was drawn up and accepted the organization was in readiness to operate. The following board was elected: Alfred Thoren, Chairman; Lars Larson, Vice Chairman; C. G. Berglund Secretary and Treasurer; and Albert E. Johns, Vice Secretary. In addition a

Board of Trustees and Deacons were elected. Erick Forslund holds the distinction of being the first Sunday School Superintendent. For several Sundays Rev. H. M. Kjenner was secured as minister of this swaddling organism.



Dedicated
June 3, 1945

Plans were immediately discussed as to a permanent sanctuary. A location was agreed upon, a lot was purchased for the price of \$2000, a subscription of \$1350 being raised at this meeting, and a church was built within a short space of time. This building served for many years. The first resident pastor was called and a salary of \$45 per month was promised. He was Rev. C. W. Nelson, then of Marathon, Iowa.

On December 31, 1910 the first Annual Business Meeting was held. The treasurer did not present a too glamorous report, inasmuch as there was a deficit of \$17.25 in the treasury. The Sunday School had fared better in that they could show a balance on hand of \$7.22 with 40 members enrolled. The church membership now stood at 43. It was not until in the fall of 1911 that the church building was completed and finally dedicated on January 29, 1912.

Rev. Albert W. Carlson, Rev. Fred Nelson and Rev. C. A. Leafgren each served respectively from 1912 to 1921. Rev. E. H. Lindquist served as pastor for almost 6 years. Being gifted as an evangelist, he was concerned about expansion throughout the state of Nebraska. To him goes the credit of beginning the Polk Bible Camp.

During the summer of 1927, Dr. Ernest Larson served as interim pastor until the coming of Rev. Erick Frohman, who continued until 1931. During the years 1931 to 1938 the church enjoyed the Bible teaching ministry of Rev. S. C. Theo. Ramsey. Again an interim pastor supplied the pulpit. He was missionary Paul Rosell, until the coming of Rev. Leonard Hagstrom. It was during the pastorate of Rev. Philip G. Thorn, who assumed the duties as pastor in the fall of 1942 that the church building was totally destroyed by fire. This occurred on the cold wintry morning of January 18, 1943. Because of the scarcity of available material during those years of World War II, the reconstruction was delayed and inferior materials had to be used. However, a new building was ready for dedication on June 3, 1945. The main speaker at the Dedicatory Services was Dr. E. A. Halleen, then President of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

Rev. W. J. Cahill began his ministry in Stromsburg in November, 1946. It was during his pastorate that "The Free Church Hour" was instituted; the radio broadcast over KJSK, Columbus, Nebraska, which is still functioning every

Sunday from 11 to 11:45. The old Swedish Constitution was translated and revised in 1954 when the incorporated name of the church was changed to "The Evangelical Free Church of Stromsburg, Nebraska."

Upon the completion of Rev. Cahill's ministry in July, 1956, Rev. Ralph de-Bourgh Larson was called and began his pastorate in October, 1956 serving until May, 1966. Various improvements were made during these years such as the purchasing of a new furnace and the installation of an air conditioner. Several new members were also received into the fellowship.

Rev. Dennis Johnson assumed the pastorate in August, 1966. In the meantime a new parsonage was being completed and after about a year he and his wife moved into this new and very modern home.

The church building being in ill repair and it was not thought to be feasible to spend the money that it was estimated needed for repairs, a building program was initiated in the spring of 1969. A committee was appointed to secure information concerning a new building and a possible location in April, 1969. The committee consisted of the Pastor, Chairman, Trustees, and two additional members. A new site was chosen at Ninth and Main in the north edge of the city. A beautiful new Sanctuary was constructed which was dedicated in November, 1970. A week of services were held when various former pastors ministered as well as the present President of the denomination, Dr. A. T. Olson. This was also commemorating twenty-five years of radio broadcasting over KJSK.

Rev. Dennis Johnson terminated his ministry in Stromsburg in March, 1971. As this is being written Rev. Russell O'Hara from Amery, Wisconsin, has accepted the call issued to him and plans to assume his duties as pastor in July, 1971.

Besides the main church organization, there are other subsidiary organizations ministering to spiritual needs locally as well as to the very extremities of the world. Among these may be mentioned the Bible School, the Women's Missionary Society, the Free Church Youth Fellowship, the Men's Fellowship, and the choir. These are all active contributing to the work of the main church.



The new Evangelical Free Church

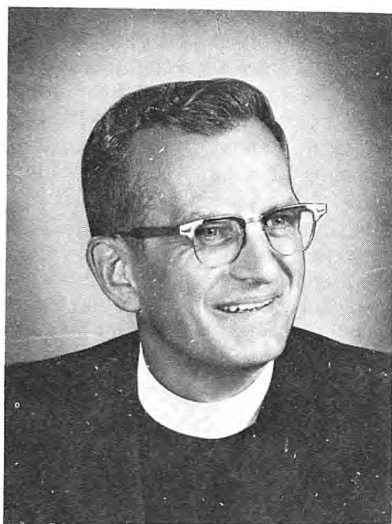
With the new location of the church with its ample facilities, it stands ready and equipped to minister and to be a blessing to the city and surrounding communities as opportunities arise. May its future history bear record of greater fruitfulness, all to the praise of the Lord Jesus Christ.

STROMSBURG MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION - 1955

For over 15 years, beginning in 1955, the Stromsburg Ministerial Association has served the community. Apart from the fellowship the clergy and their families have enjoyed, the group felt its real contribution in adapting to the needs of the town. The three committees -- youth representative, school liaison, and



Pastor Morland Adell



Pastor G. M. Christensen



Pastor Reynold Hamrin



Pastor Robert Kronberg

community betterment, are the thrust of the group's work.

The Ministerial Association is a member of the Commercial Club and offers its services there. Annually it provides the Lenten Week services, the combined Sunday evening services in August, and the Baccalaureate service at high school graduations. It places religious periodicals in the library, religious ads in The Headlight, and provides the church road directories in the entrance to the town. Daycamp work, marriage enrichment courses, and pre-marital courses are the type of union activities it occasionally sponsors.



Pastor Russell O'Hara



Pastor Milan Swasko



Pastor Alvin Trucano

Current officers are Pres., Rev. Alvin Trucano of the Methodist Church; and Sec'y - Treas., Rev. Milan Swasko of Calvary Lutheran Church in Swede Home. With the retired and active clergy, the roster now numbers fourteen. Rev. G. M. Christensen of Salem Lutheran carries the longest tenure in the group with 12 years of service.

CHAPTER IX

The Village Business Places

POSTAL SERVICE

The adventure of fording the Platte River in summer and crossing on the ice in winter, brought early settlers of Stromsburg, the long awaited letters from relatives in the east. Often the trip was made on foot and the delivery depended upon neighbors, doctors, or whomever would take a trip to Columbus. This volunteer journey on foot or horseback, brought the mail only as far as his home, then it was up to the individual to whom it was addressed to collect his mail. An occasional letter from relatives in the east, a legal document or an eastern newspaper would bring the only news of the outside world.

On November 11, 1872 Stromsburg was made a Fourth Class Post Office and James Calvin Smith was appointed the first Postmaster. The office was in his home and he served for just three months. Lewis Headstrom then received the appointment and served twelve years, the initial salary was \$11.00 per year. Mr. Headstrom moved the office to the back room of his General Store on the northwest corner of the square. Everyone called for his mail, since there were no patron boxes.



Post Office in the early 1900's

It is indefinite as to how the mail came into Stromsburg before the construction of the railroad in 1879. Probably Stromsburg was served by routes from York to Columbus one day and back the next. A buckboard-type vehicle carried passengers as well as mail and its arrival was the event of the day.

Records show the first money order was written August 2nd, 1880 and Stromsburg was spelled "Stromsburch". In 1885 J. A. Frawley was appointed Postmaster and moved the office to his drug store located about the center of the block on the east side of the square. The office was advanced to Third Class, lock boxes were installed and the Postmaster's salary became \$1000.00 per annum.



Ed Miller, Route 4 - 1902

J. D. Edwards was appointed Postmaster in 1889 and located the Post Office on the west side of the square. Three years later he moved it east of the square. Jay G. Green became Postmaster in 1894 and once again the post office returned to the east side of the square. With Mrs. Tillie C. Buckley's appointment in 1898, the office moved to the south side of the square.



Charley Norman in 1914



Immanuel Hallquist

Some of the smaller offices receiving mail from the Stromsburg office were Wayland, Pleasant Home, Thornton, Laclede, Swede Home and Beulah. These offices were discontinued after rural routes were established. The first mail on rural routes in Polk County was carried out of the Stromsburg office February 1, 1902 by S. J. Harless and C. B. Barber. A month later the position of rural carrier was placed under Civil Service and carriers were placed on three additional routes. Merton Hill was appointed carrier on Route #3, Ed Miller on Route #4, and William Oakes on Route #5. Only routes 1 served by Fred Lauerman, and 5 remain today, with Route #2 being absorbed in 1951, Route #3 in 1909, and Route #4 in 1935. Route #5, served by Leo A. Larson, is



Mail carriers 1972 - Fred Lauerman (left), route 1; Leo A. Larson, route 2

known today as Route #2. Each original route was approximately twenty-five miles long and was served by a small horse-drawn, enclosed wagon. The letters R.F.D. on the side of the wagon had to be interpreted to many of the patrons. The five carriers would leave the Post Office at 7:30 a.m. and in good weather were expected to return by mid-afternoon. Muddy roads and drifting snow frequently made it evening or even the next day before the route was completed. Four carriers serving long enough to experience the change from mud ruts to all-weather roads were Charles L. Norman, Wesley Ericson, Victor J. Anderson and Chester Underhill.

Wellington A. Post became Postmaster in January of 1906 and was followed by Benoni S. Keck in 1914. Considerable work was added to the office, including the selling of Thrift Stamps during the years of World War I. In 1920 Mrs. Margaret Anderson received her appointment and Mrs. Julia A. Presson followed Mrs. Anderson in 1924.

A permanent site in the Stromsburg Hotel building, was established in 1925. To meet the requirements of the Postal Department, substantial equipment was added, including parcel post scales, a hand-cancelling machine, and steel lock boxes.

Roy L. Ericson was appointed in 1928, followed by A. E. Rodine in 1934. While Mr. Rodine served his country during World War II, Clarence Burgason was Acting Postmaster. Albin E. Rodine returned to duty in 1945 and served until his retirement in 1965. During his tenure in office, a Post Office building was constructed and was used for the first time April 1, 1961. This long-



Present Post Office built in 1961

awaited building was the first structure erected in Stromsburg solely for postal service. The beautifully designed exterior adds much to the north side of the square, while the spacious interior provides the carriers and employees efficient space for the sorting and handling of incoming and outgoing mail. Senator Roman L. Hruska was the principal speaker for the dedication ceremony on June 10, 1961.



Postmaster

**Bob
Behrns**

Appointed for brief service as postmaster in 1965 was Lawrence Lind, followed by Carleton Anderson. The present office force is Postmaster Robert J. Behrns, appointed September 9, 1966; Arnold Ekstrand, Lawrence Lind and Phillip Waller. Substitute carriers serving now are Eldon Swanson, Route #1 and Clifford Bowman, Route #2.

NEWSPAPERS

A newspaper is a very important part of any community. The first newspaper in Polk County was established on June 25, 1873, in Stromsburg, and was named the Polk County News. It was published by W. B. Feree, a son-in-law of Calvin Smith, the first postmaster. The following year the Homesteader was started in Osceola and afterward became the Osceola Record. After six months, there was only a few people and very few business houses, so the paper ceased to exist and the equipment passed into the hands of the townsite company.

Early stories say that at the beginning of the town in 1872 an old gentleman came here with a job press and a few fonts of type and began publishing a small sheet more in the nature of a hand bill. He was believed to be living under an assumed name and shortly after his arrival was found dead in his upstairs office of the L. Headstrom store. It is also believed that the Stromsburg Cemetery was started to bury this man.

In 1880, seven years later a need was felt for a newspaper and S. C. Beach was secured by the townsite company as editor and the Stromsburg Republican was started. Mr. Beach soon purchased the plant. In 1882 it was sold to Calmar McCune who sold it in 1884 to Eric Johnson and C. J. Lindstrom. August 10,

1886 Johnson sold his interest to Lindstrom and he published the paper until 1889 when a mortgage foreclosure ended his career.

J. A. Frawley became the next owner and he leased the paper to S. C. Woodruff and he changed the name to the Stromsburg News. Mr. Woodruff married Libby Fitch in 1890 and together they published the paper until 1893. At that time they bought a paper in Tekamah and the News was left without an editor. J. A. Westenius, who had been foreman in the shop since 1886 became the editor. Together with Cap. McCoy they published the paper until Mr. McCoy became sick and later died. Mr. Westenius continued to publish the paper alone until February, 1895 when S. C. Woodruff came back to Stromsburg and for the second time became editor of the News. He remained until August, 1896 when he left and again the paper had no editor. Mr. Frawley, the owner took charge and edited the paper until December, 1896 when J. A. Loudermilch leased the plant and remained until June 4, 1903.

J. W. Wilson purchased the Newsplant from J. A. Frawley, and his brother-in-law C. C. McCune, son of a former editor of the paper had charge of its destiny until 1906, when he leased to his printer, H. H. Pease. Mr. Pease remained until April, 1907 then Phillip Lantz leased the plant and stayed for a year. Frank Robeck was the next leasee, but misfortune overtook him and he quit.

C. H. Wirth was the next to take charge but he remained only a few months. At this time the Douglas Brothers were editors of the Osceola Record and they leased the News in 1909, and Philip Douglas was in charge. Grant Douglas soon sub-leased his interest to Harry Landon and the firm became Douglas and Landon. In 1911, H. H. Pease returned and for a couple of years was editor. In 1913 the plant was sold to C. L. McCleary. This newspaper had been housed on the second floor of the old Stromsburg Bank Building, then in the back room of



The Leader office - south side square - tree on corner planted about 1878 by P. T. and Andrew Buckley

the J. L. Olson Furniture Store, in the basement of the Opera House, in the basement under the hotel, in the building just west of the Big Garage, in the Victor Anderson basement and finally in the old Ryder House. Mr. McCleary traded land for the old hotel building and had his office on the first floor and he lived upstairs. Here the paper was allowed to die on November 28, 1918 and The Headlight bought the equipment.

The third paper in Stromsburg and the only one still in existence was "The Headlight" which was established in May 14, 1885. A number of political enthusiasts put up \$25.00 each and some old equipment was purchased. I. D. Chamberlain started the paper as an organ of the Populist Party. He was aggressive and made a political success but a financial failure. In October, 1892, the Coleman family was persuaded to buy the paper. J. H. Coleman became publisher, Ada Coleman editor and Chattie Coleman learned the printer trade and to do all the things about a shop no one else wanted to do. In 1897, the health of J. H. and Ada M. failed and Chattie took charge and became editor and publisher. In February, 1922, she married J. A. Westenius, who had been in the shop for 25 years.



Inside Headlight about 1912 - on left J. A. Westenius, Minnie Carlson, Chattie (the editor), Anna Brodine Eckblade

During the 86 years of the papers existence it has occupied rooms on the second floor of the J. L. Olson Furniture, the C. P. Anderson building on the west side of the square, in the rear of the Olson Furniture building, the Halden building on the north side of the square, and the present location where it was moved in 1911 and the building purchased in 1913.

Following World War II Chattie Coleman Westenius took into the shop Kenneth Hollister, grandson of J. A. Westenius, who had helped in the shop before going into service. She had said she would leave him the paper on her death which she did when she died following an auto accident, March 1, 1951. Kenneth had charge of the paper until 1955 when he sold to Alton Wilhelms. He converted the paper to offset in 1970 and it is printed in York.

In October 1930, Ira W. Ready came to Stromsburg to be shop foreman and linotype operator and was a fixture until he retired in 1969 after 39 1/2 years spent in one newspaper office. He learned the trade in his fathers newspaper office "The Franklin Sentinel" where he started in 1920 and so spent 50 years of his life in the newspaper business.

Several other newspapers have been started in Stromsburg. The same year that "The Headlight" was started, December 19, 1885, C. E. Wenngren started the Folkets Van, a Swedish paper, but the subscription list was sold out after a few months to a Minneapolis publication. No office was maintained here.

Another Swedish paper was started by Mr. Lindstrom at that time, but its existence was short lived.

On December 17, 1891, Eric Johnson became editor of the Stromsburg Progress, owned by the Stromsburg Publication Company, Inc. This company was made up of the following men: S. B. Samuelson, W. O. Johnson, I. Boostrom and L. G. Berggren. The paper lasted until 1892 when it was moved to Clay Center.

The next paper here was the Sunbeam, moved up from York and June 1, 1892 was its first publication. It was a paper for children and the editors name was Woods. It lasted only a few months and was discontinued.

The last venture in the newspaper field in Stromsburg was that of the Stromsburg Journal. It was started on February 15, 1900. No one seems to remember the name of the editor but A. B. Hedbloom was the mortgagee. The



The Headlight building June 1971



The Headlight building August 1971

paper continued for 6 months and the editor quit. In October of the same year, The Headlight states, "Mrs. P. T. Buckley purchased the defunct Journal plant and moved it into the rear of the Postoffice". A. H. Berggren then became the owner and Harry Rood, the editor and publisher beginning January 1, 1901. Mr. Rood remained for 6 months and the office was moved into an ironclad building on the west side of the square and A. H. Berggren became publisher. He had charge until 1902 when A. L. Clark leased the plant and continued as editor until 1905. During the summer of 1904, Mr. Clark printed a daily paper. At that time a daily paper was considered quite the thing, but ambitious editors soon learned that daily papers in a small town were a moneylosing proposition. So after three months the publisher of the Journal was glad to go back to a weekly edition. Mr. Clark left in 1905 and J. B. Feree took charge and remained for a short time, but on April 25, 1907 the last issue was printed.

In 1960, The Headlight won sweepstakes honors among Nebraska weekly newspapers. It won first in Community Service and Service to Agriculture at the annual press convention. This was the first time a newspaper had been cited for winning top honors in both divisions in the same year. Again in 1962, The Headlight won top honors in Service to Agriculture and was cited as one of the top six weekly newspapers in that year as well as in 1960 among papers with circulation under 3,000 in the United States, for Service to Agriculture. Editor and Mrs. Wilhelms were honored at annual press conventions in Salt Lake City in 1960 and Los Angeles in 1962 for these accomplishments.

Editor Wilhelms has served in all the offices as well as being president of both the Nebraska Press Advertising Service and the Nebraska Press Association. He was president of the latter organization in 1971.

Recent employees of The Headlight have been Mrs. Ira Ready, Mrs. Carleton Anderson and Mrs. Bonnie Grady. Present employees are Mrs. Richard (Helen) Pogue, Mrs. Lavelle (Levina) Lamoree and Mrs. Marvin (Jeanette) Hengelfelt as well as the editor's wife, Ardis Wilhelms.



"Mook" and Ardis Wilhelms



Helen Pogue and Levina Lamoree

There have been other papers printed in Stromsburg, such as school papers, insurance papers, Farm Bureau papers, but no other regular weekly newspapers.

So in 1972, The Headlight, is still the weekly newspaper here with Alton Wilhelms as publisher and editor.

THE GENERAL STORE

Lewis Headstrom, the founder of our town, was instrumental in starting the first general store in the first business building in Stromsburg. This building was located on the northwest corner of the square, on the lot west of Reuel Sward, Appliance Sales and Service of 1972.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Woods opened a general store in this building in 1878. Four years later Mr. Woods formed a partnership with his father and they bought a lot on the west side of the square and built a store building with living rooms above to accommodate both families. L. M. Woods continued in business on the west side until his stock and building was destroyed in the fire of 1887.

Geo. Butler was the founder of another store in the seventies and sold to Headstrom & Co. in 1884. Those associated with Lewis Headstrom were J. A. Frawley and Dr. W. A. Post. After a short time J. A. Frawley sold his interest and the firm name became Post & Headstrom.

They were located in a building owned by Lewis Headstrom on the west side and this building was destroyed in the big fire of 1887. A unique way was used to save much of their stock. The long counters were turned over and filled with groceries and carried to a vacant building on the north side of the square. They continued to do business in this building for a few months, until the Ekeley building on the east side was completed in the fall of 1887.

Dr. Post sold his interest to Geo. O. Erickson and the firm name became Headstrom & Erickson. In 1893 Geo. O. Erickson sold his interest to L. H. Headstrom and on August 7, 1893, L. H. Headstrom and H. D. Skelton consolidated their stock. They continued in business in the Ekeley building until December 6, 1909, under the name of Headstrom and Skelton.

Although Andrew Nuquist was one of the original members of the Stromsburg Townsite Company, he did not come to Stromsburg until the summer of 1882, ten years after the town was organized. He opened the first exclusive grocery store in the first business building built by Lewis Headstrom in 1872. At that time the building was two stories, and the family occupied the upper floor. His specialty was fish - his herring was in great demand and the call for "sill" was not only from the people residing in Polk County, but from Scandinavians living in surrounding counties. After a few years he moved to the southeast corner of the square and added boots and shoes to his stock.

DRESSMAKERS

Very few, if any of the first pioneer women who came to Stromsburg and this vicinity in the 70's had sewing machines.

The only dresses they had for several years were those few they had packed in trunks in eastern states and brought in covered wagons. They had one or two good dresses they wore on Sunday, to funerals or to weddings and their everyday dresses were of dark calico.

Calico could be purchased at Columbus for 12 cents a yard but even thread and needles were precious in those days.

As years went by and Stromsburgs General store stocked some yardage and thread and sewing machines became available, the women, especially the young ladies blossomed out in new dresses at Christmas time and Fourth of July.

The first dressmakers would often go the homes of those who had sewing machines but even then much hand work was done.

Dainty buttonholes, yards of lace and dozens of buttons were done by hand, besides all the inside finishing of seams.

From 1885 to 1890 dressmakers advertising in Stromsburg papers were Mrs. C. A. Wickliff, Anna Wise, Mrs. Hartsell, Mrs. Hood and Miss Alice Linder.

In 1890 H. W. Perrin was advertising sewing machines and Mrs. Gray had a dressmaking shop.

During these years Miss Minnie Baker who had become known for her fine needlework and sewing, would go to various homes and sew. She was often employed by Mrs. August Rystrom where she would spend weeks, sewing petticoats, nightgowns, underthings, baby clothes and many dresses. She was often called on to make the elaborate wedding dresses of that era, which often took two or more weeks.

When catalog houses started to sell ready made dresses many began ordering them. Ready made dresses became so popular at one time that a homemade dress wasn't considered stylish. By 1915 Ladies Ready to Wear Shops were becoming quite popular and Stromsburg soon followed the trend.

During the 20's Helen Wickburg did dressmaking and for many years Bertha Rhoades who had her shop above the First National Bank, was kept busy, especially during the depression years when persons had much clothing made over. Selma Nordberg who was handy at such, worked with Mr. Noreen for many years, and at her home until 1969. Other dressmakers in late years have been Amanda Evins, Mildred Anderson, Mrs. George Reeb and Ida Shrum.

Today women and children have their closets overflowing with beautiful ready made clothes, but many ladies are again turning to the sewing of their own; a profitable hobby for those who enjoy it.

STROMSBURG CARPENTERS

When Stromsburg was laid out in 1872, there was no lumber to be had nearer than Columbus and Seward, and it is doubtful if in the very beginning, there were any carpenters. The pioneer built his own house, either a dugout, sod house or log cabin.

The building industry grew with the town up through the 1920's. Then the depression years of the 30's brought the building of new buildings almost to a complete halt. There was nothing but repair work, and a large percent of that was for loan companies on foreclosure property. Then World War II in the 40's brought an end to the depression, but due to the shortage of building material, that was being used for the war effort, the building industry continued to stand still.

After the war with a better economy and available material there was quite a building boom. During the early 50's there was up to 57 men in Stromsburg doing carpenter work for hire.

The Carpenter Contractors who hired men for any duration of time here were G. J. Thornton, L. Sandine, J. W. Lofgren, J. D. Edwards, J. C. Thornton, Frank Van Dorn, John Malm, J. H. Coleman, P. O. Nordlund, David Walline, Gust Johnson, Ernest Carlson, Edsel Carlson, Frank Anderson, Howell Cox, Frank Nordberg, Conrad Olson and Clay Brumbaugh. There have been many more who have worked full or part time as carpenters, either for the above contractors or by piece work.

PAINTERS

Stromsburg has always prided itself in keeping its homes in repair and attractive looking by the liberal use of paint, and in all the years of the existence of this little city most houses are painted as often as the need is apparent. The art of painting our homes in Stromsburg shows a great change and improvement from the traditional white to a vast variety of colors of many blends. As one

drives about the residential area there are many shades of greens, pinks, golds and browns with various color trims in combinations that are so appealing and satisfying to the eye that our attentions are drawn pleasingly.

To keep houses well-painted there are people who have taken to that trade as a means of livelihood, and have lent their skills in making Stromsburg a "City Beautiful". One cannot imagine today the patience and knowledge that our first painters must have had in order to stand with a wooden paddle and stir and mix to get the correct consistency so that the paint will spread smoothly and evenly. Today, by the use of electric shakers and mixers the task can be accomplished in such short time it saves hours of working time and tedious labor.

Dating back to the late 1870's and 1880's it was learned that Louis Provost was one of the first painters. He was followed by Adam & Randall and Cordell & Wogberg. Paper hanging was not common then so many walls were white-washed inside, and the housewife did her own work, but the hired painter did the outside if the man of the house was too busy.

Following the early pioneers were other painters. Namely: C. V. Johnson, John Weimer, Swanson Bros., Peter Wang, Olof Larson, Martin Lunner, A. Sward. Some were here for a few years then moved elsewhere. Other remained and followed their trade as long as their years permitted, then retired and remained residents of Stromsburg.

E. Lunner was a painter and decorator for a number of years, coming from Sweden where he learned his trade in 1884. He went into a business of his own in Stromsburg in the early 1900's but during that time occasionally took a turn at his first trade.

Some painters in the 1930's and on were F. O. Borgstrom, August Carlson, Conrad Carlson, Alex Carlson, Eli Larson. The late Ernest Vincent came in from the farm and hung paper, and did his share of painting.

Carl J. Lambert was very active in this trade for several years and continued until his death in 1956. Chas. Stanton, O. D. Graves, Ernest Carlson, Gideon Peterson were also well-known painters during these years followed by Fred Stoki, Gunnard Svenson, Adolph Forss and Carl Thelander.

In recent years many of our citizens who are regularly employed in their profession have found an interest in exterior painting as a hobby and a change which they enjoy during vacations. This is highly appreciated in Stromsburg especially where such help is limited and there is a trend towards encouraging residents to keep their homes and surroundings attractive. Some of these are Wesley Fredrickson, Max Quick, Francis Crowe, Gary Moore, Wayne Johnson, and Jim Christensen.

Stromsburg prides itself also of being the Swede Capital. Dana Westring and Jan Swanson, two 1971 high school graduates and who are now college students, have very artistically painted Swedish designs around the building in the city park, store fronts, and billboards around the ball park. It is hoped that more young people will take up this trade as a career as it is becoming more and more in demand. Much credit should be given to many property owners as they too, have displayed their talents and pride by painting their own homes.

BLACKSMITHS

In the settling of a new community of the west, the blacksmiths have played an important part. The year John Olson opened his shop in Stromsburg is not known, but we believe him to be the first village blacksmith. John Dale came to Stromsburg in 1874 and was a blacksmith with John Olson before he opened the first hardware store in town.

Sam Woods and his wife came to Stromsburg in the spring of 1878, and he opened a blacksmith shop north of the northwest corner of the square. Their son Frank went on the stage and made quite a name for himself in the theatrical world. Mrs. Woods died at his home on Long Island. Sam Woods went to the Klondike during the gold rush and died there.

In the early eighties, P. Gainer, and C. M. Pulver were in the blacksmith business in Stromsburg. Carl R. Norman came to town in 1886. He also had as his partner John Olson. They sold implements for a time, along with their blacksmithing. Mr. Norman retired and went to Florida to live with his daughter, and there passed away. He was the father of Charlie Norman who is still a resident of this city.

Between the years of 1885 and 1890, two more blacksmith shops are listed, the first one was operated by Frank R. Brigham, and the other by Sanders and Creighton. Wes Sanders and J. H. Creighton were located across the street from Cuddy's Blacksmith & Welding Shop of today.

Olof Wickberg came here in 1888, and was still in the blacksmith business in the 1930's. He was assisted by his son, Rolland Wickberg.

S. P. Johnson, J. Emil Johnson, Otto Johnson and a man by the name of Snow were smithies here for a number of years.

Between the years of 1890 and 1900 three shops advertised in the Headlight. They were C. M. Richmond, P. A. Stohl and Olson & Norman.

Justus Johnson conducted a shop formerly owned by Gust Nordstrom. His son, Reuben (Mooker) Johnson, Herb Kuntz, and Rolland (Rollie) Johnson were all in the blacksmith business in this building.

Homer Cuddeford and son Phillip obtained the shop from Rolland Johnson in 1958. The business has moved two doors east of the old location. At the present time, it serves the community under the name of Cuddy's Blacksmith & Welding.

STROMSBURG BRICKLAYERS AND MASONS

In the early days all houses were built of lumber and the only work for the brick layer was the laying of the foundation, and likewise to the plastering, so the early pioneer had to be a jack of all trades. If he was a mason by trade he must have had some other means of livelihood, because there was not enough work to keep a man busy.

The first bricklayer that located in Stromsburg was John Hernbloom, who came here in 1877. The town was at that time five years old and it was three years before the railroad came to Stromsburg and five years before a brick yard was started in the town. All brick had to be hauled from a distance, so lumber was still, perhaps, the leading building material.

P. A. Peterson and C. W. Carlson worked together, Webster and Bartholomew were another firm that laid brick in the early eighties. Oscar Carlson at one time did bricklaying.

A. J. Hillberg came to Stromsburg in 1884. Jim Martin, who lived in the Swede Home area was a prominent bricklayer and did much work in this county. He had three sons who followed in the same trade.

Others in Stromsburg who have followed this trade, some of the best known and who did perhaps more work than others were, August Rodine, Alfred Johnson, Johanson who was for a time associated with Mr. Berglund in the brick making business, George Campbell, A. J. Hillberg, Andrew Nyquist and Reuben Pearson and no doubt others whose names are not recalled.

Art Lindblade worked with his brother-in-law Hagen Nelson in 1926 in the masonry business until the time of his death, and then Art continued in the business for himself for many years. Harry Pierson also was in this line of business.



This was the first cement mixer in Stromsburg and one of the very first in the state according to Art Lindblade who was co-owner of the rig along with Alvin Johnson. That's Art on the right, troweling and Alvin on the left. Gust Sundquist is standing. The picture, taken in 1910, was taken at 2nd and Exchange St. The house shown in the picture is that of Nina Larson.

Following this line of business at the present time is Keith Colson, who in the beginning tended for both Art Lindblade and Harry Pierson. Keith started in this line of work in 1948.

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IMPLEMENT FIRMS OF THE PAST

The following implement firms were located in Stromsburg in the early 1870's, and on through the years, some for only a short time and others for a longer period.

In 1874 Smith and Dodge Implements and Buckley and Co. This firm consisted of L. Headstrom, J. B. Buckley and C. H. Morrill. In the early 1880's, F. F. Vogel, Gallant Implement, Lake Implement, John Uhl Implement, C. J. Harrison and Olaf Headstrom were in Stromsburg.

In the 1890's the implement dealers were Arthur P. Lindberg and C. H. Lindburg, Hallquist and Norman, J. A. Olson, and Frank Burgeson.

Since the 1900's the implement dealers have been O. J. Johnson, Alex Scott, Rystrom Co., Stromsburg Machinery Co., Jim Branting and Son, Elving Elmquist, and Stromsburg Implement, Inc.

The Branting Implement opened in 1924 at the southwest corner of the square with H. B. Branting, better known as "Jim", in charge. The building was owned by Andrew Shostrom and was added to as the business grew, until buildings covering two lots were in use. Also a platform covering another lot was used for machinery, this making a three lot frontage.

After the business had been conducted at this location for eight years it was decided that more room was needed. An opportunity arose to rent the Big Garage and convert it into an implement house instead of a garage and the move was made July 1, 1932.

After the second World War, in Jan. 1946, a new partnership was made when Kermit D. Branting arrived home from the armed services. The firm conducted the business as Jim Branting and Son. The business was expanded; irrigation equipment, farm seeds and fertilizer were added and the building was remodeled for expanded John Deere parts stock.

After 45 years in the farm implement business, H. B. "Jim" Branting sold his interest in the business to Albertus Larson in 1964. The name of the business was changed to Stromsburg Implement, Inc., with Mr. and Mrs. Albertus Larson and Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Branting as stockholders in the corporation.

In 1966 Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Branting sold their interest to Mr. and Mrs. Albertus Larson. The Stromsburg Implement, Inc. continued under the management of Albertus Larson until it discontinued in 1969.

HARDWARE STORES

The first hardware store in Stromsburg was located on the north side of the square and was operated by John Dale, who came to Stromsburg almost before there was a town, in 1874. He started in as a blacksmith with John Olson, but decided that the little town needed a hardware store, so bought a stock, had it hauled from Columbus and was ready to begin.

As business grew, he took in a partner, his brother-in-law, A. V. Carlson. When John Dale died in 1882, A. V. Carlson took his brother, Henry, in as partner. In 1888, Carlson Brothers dissolved partnership with A. V. Carlson again as sole owner. His next partner was Charles Lee. In 1892, an interest was sold to O. P. Jones. Then Edward Carlson bought out the firm. In 1895, he sold an interest to E. G. Sjovald who bought the store in 1900. In 1902, Edward Carlson and E. W. Olson bought the business. In 1904, Alfred Thoren started a hardware store three doors east of the northeast corner of the square and, for a time, Joe Jacobson was a member of the firm. He retired from the firm the next year and Henry Sundberg was a member of the firm until 1906.

In the meantime, in 1905, W. H. Green and Gust Ericson purchased the hardware store located on the north side of the square, from Carlson and Olson and continued in business for a year when they sold to Thoren & Co., and the stock was moved to the north side store.

In 1910, William Marquis and George M. Kreis became partners. In 1911, Mr. Marquis bought out Mr. Kreis and ran the business for the next eight years. In 1914, the old frame building which John Dale had erected was replaced by a modern brick building. In 1919, Baxter Nelson purchased the stock from Mr. Marquis, who retired from business. In 1920, C. W. Peterson bought it. In 1921, Lund and Hanson became owners until 1924 when J. W. Bailey purchased Mr. Hanson's interest. Lund and Bailey continued until 1929 when Mr. Bailey became sole owner, and he operated the store until he closed out the store and retired.

In the fall of 1881, J. G. Green started a hardware store on the east side of the square becoming the second hardware merchant in Stromsburg. He con-

tinued in business for eighteen years, and in 1898 he sold to John Wilson and Sons who continued the business with J. G. Green and J. L. Johnson in charge and O. P. Jones as tinner. Within a few months, Olson and Edberg bought the stock and Mr. Olson also bought the building.

In 1905, Ora Olson sold his interest and the building to Eric Ericson, who with his son, Ernest, ran the business, the firm becoming Ericson, Edberg and Ericson. At that time, a stock of furniture was added and housed in the corner building. In 1907 Mr. Edberg sold his interest to the Ericsons. Ericson and Son became the firm name, and they conducted the furniture and hardware store until 1913 when the furniture stock was sold to Victor Anderson. Another son, Melvin, joined the firm in 1905 and the sons ran the business until Melvin entered the World War. He retained his interest until 1924, although having moved to Colorado. Albin Anderson bought his interest, and the firm became Ericson and Anderson.



In 1930, the concrete building on the corner to the north was purchased and remodeled and the stock moved, but in 1935 the store was destroyed by fire. The building was remodeled and the firm continued until 1936 when Albin Anderson sold his interest and the firm became Ericson Cash Hardware. When Clyde Ericson joined the firm, it became one of the few three generation businesses in Stromsburg. In 1945, the firm constructed a new building and moved to their present location. At the death of Ernest Ericson, Clyde Ericson and Sterling Anderson formed a partnership in 1954.

NURSERIES

Stromsburg nursery and greenhouse business were started by N. Nordstrom, who came to Stromsburg in 1874. He was first employed as a clerk in the Lewis Headstrom store, then opened a shoe shop and nursery.

J. H. Swanson had a small nursery in the early eighties.

In the years of 1935 to 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Westenius built a greenhouse on the property now owned by John Ellis in the north edge of town. They did a good business of bedding plants, potted flowers, corsages and funeral work.

Mrs. Wesley Fredrickson opened a flower and gift shop June 20, 1958 in the basement of her home at 700 East 4th Street. A greenhouse is attached to the shop. She services funerals and weddings and also handles potted plants, bedding plants and gifts. Corsages and arrangements are made to order. She employs one to several girls in the busy season.

TAILORS AND DRY CLEANERS

A. Bergstrom was the first tailor in Stromsburg in the beginning of the town. He remained a few years, then went farther west. C. A. Lindbloom had a shop between the years of 1880-1890. John Halstead opened a shop in 1891, remained here for the next twelve years, leaving for Chicago in 1903. Olson, the tailor, ran a branch shop in Stromsburg with Jake Schuman in charge. This shop was opened in 1903 and operated for four years. L. R. Israel opened a shop in 1907. He was induced to come to Stromsburg on account of his musical ability, and for a number of years was a leader of an excellent band. John Anderson conducted a shop for a few years. Geo. Shrike opened a dry cleaning establishment in the years from 1911 to 1928. In 1931 he sold his equipment to Harry Lanham who operated the "Spick and Span" Shoppe.

Eli Larson at one time conducted a dry cleaning plant but only for a few months.

In the years to follow the dry cleaning was run by Noreen and also Tommie Anderson. Due to the death of Mr. Anderson, the plant was sold to Orville Dodds. In February 1969 Orville sold the dry cleaning to Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Cockle who are still operating the plant.

LUMBERYARDS IN STROMSBURG

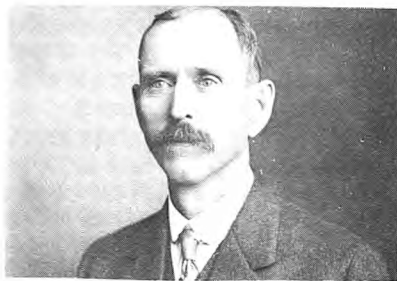
The first lumber yard was opened in 1880 by J. A. Frawley and C. E. Gunnell on the south side of the square. It was sold in 1885 to the Stromsburg Lumber Co. McConaughy and Bothwell started a yard east of the square which continued for a number of years. Mr. McConaughy sold to the Fred R. Grey Co. in 1889. Mr. McConaughy and Bothwell bought and sold houses and dealt in real estate. Fred R. Grey Co. started a yard in 1886 and sold to the Bradford Lumber Co. in 1890. One time depot agent Albert Nance started a yard in 1881 near the depot. This yard was moved to the present site of the Moore Lumber Co. in 1890. The Bradford Lumber Co. was sold in 1892.

In the early eighties the Stromsburg Lumber Co. was organized and all the above companies merged with it. The Stromsburg Lumber Co. sold to S. W.





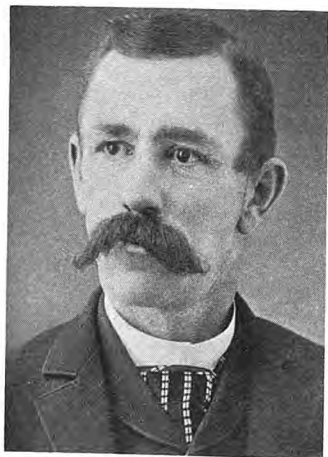
S. B. Samuelson building
A Stromsburg landmark



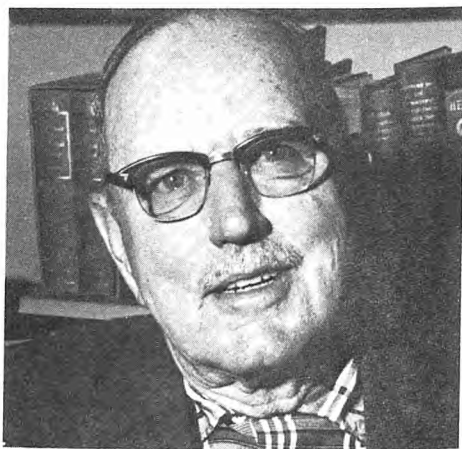
T. D. Hunsaker



Moore & Hunsaker building



Samuel I. Moore



Ray Hunsaker

Howell Co. in 1887 and this was sold to the Chicago Lumber Co. in 1891. J. W. Hart bought the business in 1894 specializing in ready-made corn cribs.



C. F. Moore
Stromsburg's
oldest
businessman

Hart sold to S. I. Moore and T. D. Hunsaker in 1900. Both came from Fennimore, Wisconsin and were brothers-in-law.

In 1920 Floyd Moore, son of S. I. Moore purchased his father's interest in the yard. Ray Hunsaker, son of T. D. Hunsaker acquired his father's interest and the two cousins, operated the business until 1946. In that year Ray Hunsaker sold his interest to Stanton Moore, son of Floyd Moore. In 1951 a new office was built and later a sales room added.



The present Moore Lumber Co. building

Floyd sold his interest to his son Paul in 1953 but is still active in the business and is Stromsburg's oldest businessman. Floyd was manager of the Moore and Hunsaker branch lumber yard in Polk 1909 to 1913.

The firm of Scott and Anderson of Stromsburg began with the purchase of the coal yard interest of E. P. Pike and John P. Carlson by Wallace Scott and H. Ray Anderson in 1922. The firm continued in business for the next thirty-seven years.

In 1927 the Scott and Anderson firm bought the lumber business of Alex Scott, father of Wallace, who retired from a business that was organized in 1892. The firm continued to operate both business organizations from the same office on the northwest corner of the square.

In the late 1930's the firm developed Overland Sand & Gravel Company, to which they devoted full time interests, thus discontinuing the coal and lumber business.



H. Ray Anderson



Wallace Scott

After the deaths of the two partners, the company was reorganized in 1959 when Mrs. Scott sold her interest to Mrs. Anderson and her son Vayden. A corporation was formed using the same name, Overland Sand & Gravel Co., and is located in the southwest part of town.

RESTAURANTS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT

Those in the restaurant business in the early days were: Hall & Dibble; H. W. Brash; Mrs. Andrew J. Shidner; Bert Miller; Wm. McIntosh; J. C. Logue; L. M. Woods; R. S. Robinson operated a dining hall; Chas. Knago a confectionery,



Shipferling's Restaurant and Bakery 1908-1946

restaurant and bakery. Those who ran boarding houses before 1900 were: Mrs. John Uhl; Jennie Scott; and E. G. Fritsch. The E. G. Fritsch boarding house and the L. M. Woods restaurant on the west side of the square were both burned down by the fire of 1887.

Many people were in the business of feeding the public and it is impossible to name them all. In the early 1900's the following are still remembered: Frank Fruide; Chas. A. Klassy; Guy Vogel; A. T. Carlson; Walter A. Anderson; W. F. Leach; Vogel & Johnson; Mrs. Lindsey; Clyde Courtney; Art Backlund; Carlson & Reed; Alvin Johnson; Peterson & Peterson; Neil Doremus; Geo. W. Robinson; Mrs. Saint; Chas. Jackson; Fred Hempleman; Orpheus Morris; and Lillian and Angeline Johnston.

John Shipferling opened a bakery and restaurant in 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Shipferling came to Stromsburg soon after they were married and raised their family here. Mr. Shipferling was an experienced baker from Germany and could bake delicious breads, pies, fancy rolls, cakes and Smorbakelsers. He went out of business in 1946, due to failing health, but the building still stands empty in 1972. Shipferling's Bakery, with those big windows and snowy lace curtains draped back for display, is very much a part of Stromsburg's history



Mother's Cafe 1908 - Oliver Rinterman, Reuel Sward and salesman, "Ma" and Tillie Rinterman behind counter

The North Side Cafe was started by Earl Steever in 1924 and was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rinterman of Franklin, Nebraska on Oct. 10, 1929. In 1933 the Rintermans moved to their present location on the east side of the square.

Mr. Rinterman passed away in 1948. The cafe was remodeled and "Ma" Rinterman continued in the cafe with her daughter Tillie until her health failed in 1968. "Ma" passed away in January of 1970, at the age of 81. Tillie and her husband Gil are still operating the same cafe, known as Mother's Cafe.

In 1972 Tillie Rinterman Gildersleve has a record of 43 years in the restaurant business in Stromsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Westenius opened a restaurant in 1926 in the building east of the Stromsburg Bank. Later they moved to the Southside bakery, which is the building now occupied by the Viking Center, and then to the Boostrom building one door west. From 1931 to 1936 they operated a cafe on the north side of the square, where Jack Stanton is now located. In the 1960's Mrs. Westenius owned and operated a bakery from her home. She is now retired and lives at Swede Haven.

The early 30's were difficult for those in the restaurant business because many people were hungry but not all could pay for their meals. The Red Cross allowed 15 cents for a dinner for a transient and there were many that passed through Stromsburg.

In 1929 Harold Baker opened a sandwich shop near Barber's Service Station. In the same year, Jim Cuda started his hamburger and root beer stand on the west side of the square. It was a trailer type stand and he and his wife would travel to many county fairs. Jim operated his hamburger and root beer stand for about thirty years. He is now retired and lives in Stromsburg at Swede Haven.

Ted Lambert opened a coffee shop at the southwest corner of the square in 1931 and in 1932 Lon Pitts opened a hamburger shop on the south side of Johnson's Service Station.



Todd's Cafe 1931-1944 - behind counter: Eva Johnson Herman, Beula Graves, Evelyn Hewitte, Arthurene Graves Underhill

Todd's Cafe was started in the year of 1931 on the south side of the square in the Boostrom building. After three years in this location they moved one door east into what is now the Viking Center. At this time there were seven eating places in Stromsburg. Hamburgers sold for five cents and a complete meal for thirty-five cents.

Todd and Beula Graves sold the cafe to Tom Austin in 1944. He ran it for three months and sold the business to Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Austin and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Burg. One year later this partnership was dissolved, and the Austins

continued to run the cafe for the following thirteen years. They sold the business to Rudy and Ruth Christensen. After two years it was auctioned to a Mrs. Scott, and in a short time the cafe was closed.

Mrs. Clyde Austin opened another cafe called the City Cafe and she sold this to Mrs. Laura Moorhead Rystrom in the spring of 1951. Mrs. Rystrom then leased the adjacent building and opened the Chat-N-Nibble drive-in. This cafe was located on the southwest corner of the square and is now the location of the Bit of Sweden Restaurant. After a short time Mrs. Rystrom leased the Chat-N-Nibble to Mrs. Ralph Linkswiler and she continued to operate the cafe until it was closed.

The Dairy Inn was built on Barber's Corner in 1954 by Harold and Loren Barber. They operated it for several years, along with their car sales and service business. It was sold to Dorothy Nordberg in 1960, and to Hal and Darlene Gordon, the present owners and operators, in 1963.

The C and M Bowling Lanes and the Hotel both serve meals at the present time.

In 1961 the land where the City Cafe was located was purchased by Albertus Larson from John Falk. The old building was torn down and the "Bit of Sweden" was built and is a very busy place at this time.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

The earliest photographers in Polk County and Stromsburg were those who traveled the country in a small box type buggy drawn by a team of horses. They would stop at the settlers homes and take pictures of the houses and occupants; often dogs, horses and other livestock were included in the picture.

Later the photographers would stay a few days in each town they came to, often taking pictures of business buildings, as well as individuals. All settlers who could afford it liked to have their pictures taken to send to relatives back east or to Sweden.

The first known photographer to set up shop in Stromsburg was Miss Hannah Palmgren who came here from Sweden. She opened a studio on the northeast corner of the square in 1881. She later married H. D. Skelton.

The next photographer was W. B. Shultz who located on the northeast corner of the square in 1885.

The early day pictures were tintypes. They were taken on prepared tintype and could not be retouched. Mr. Shultz later moved to the photograph gallery on the upper floor of the new Ekeley building and stayed until 1890 when he sold to C. J. Anderson. In 1895 he sold to W. E. Lee, who stayed but a short time. During the hard times of the 90's the picture business was poor, but in 1895 a Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Clark came to town with good equipment and opened a studio in the Ekeley building and survived the hard times. In 1906 the Clarks purchased a brick building that had been built in 1904 by Albert Peterson a photographer who came here from Wahoo. (This building was purchased by Jim Branting in 1945, torn down and is now the east wing of Dodds furniture store.)

Ed Newton from Arborville had one of the studios on wheels. He located near the southwest corner of the square and stayed about a year. In 1900 D. R. Lofland had a studio on the south side, then moved to York.

In 1913 E. H. Newton opened a studio in the Ekeley building but sold out in 1914 to C. E. Lunkley. He remained in business until his death in 1919. Brant and Carlson then took over the studio. Evidently business was poor for in a short time they sold to Likes and Mauvigne. They were here but a short time and Stromsburg was left with the one studio which had stood the test of time.



Hattie C. Clark



Dick Boardman



Elna Boardman

The Clark Studio which started in Stromsburg in November 1895 remained in business until 1937 when Hattie Clarks health and age caused her to quit after 42 years. With the exception of Chattie Westenius, Hattie Clark had the distinction of being in business longer than any other Stromsburg woman.

In looking over pictures turned in for our Centennial Book we see the name of the Clark Studio on the majority of pictures and many of you who read this book will recall having your baby picture, family picture or wedding picture taken at Clarks Studio.

After Hattie Clarks death, Stromsburg was without a photo shop until 1965 when Mr. and Mrs. Richard Boardman purchased Pearl Ericsons house, east of the high school and converted part of it into a studio. Both Mr. and Mrs. Boardman were kept busy and did beautiful work but in 1971 they decided to move to Colorado, so once again Stromsburg has no Photo Shop but perhaps here I should mention we do have a genuine Shutter Bug who generally has one of his six cameras with him. For the past seven years he has taken pictures of every interesting event in the community. Whether it's a parade, a church affair, a historical event, or just plain beauty of our county, Harry Youngland has the slides that tell the story.

Many of the pictures for this book were taken by Elna and Dick Boardman. They moved to Colorado before the Centennial Book was completed, therefore the remaining pictures were taken by Higgins Studio of York, Geraldine Rystrom and Mook Wilhelms.

MEAT MARKETS AND LOCKER

There is no record of a meat market in Stromsburg before the early 1880's. In the early days before ice was put up, meat was handled differently, fresh meat could be purchased only on certain days in the week.

J. J. Mintle was one of the early men in the business. Others to follow were Bartholomew, A. Larue, Brazee, Oscar Carlson, Ed. Rarey, De Shay, Lewis Backlund, A. P. Anderson, Stephenson and Jones, Gray Bros., John Burg, Albert and Henry Hubbert and J. A. Olson.

The next we find Kelly and Keck opened a shop in 1898. Then followed Slitt and Young, Sam and Hamilton Shoemaker, A. F. Nuegent, Blust and Taylor, O. P. Jones, W. B. Jones and Co., Geo. Barber, Karl Karlson, Weir, John Colson, Harris, Eli Larson, Ray Johnson and A. F. Nordstrom.

Henry Hubbert continued in the meat market business longer than any other person in Stromsburg. He began in 1901 and sold out in 1927.

In 1931 there were three Meat Markets in Stromsburg. Karl Karlson, Walter Cast and The Nordstrom Grocery Store.

For the past forty years each Grocery Store has had its own meat department. At the present time we have two Grocery Stores in Stromsburg. Jack and Jill and Economy Grocery each have a meat department in addition to groceries.

Frank Nordberg built the Stromsburg Locker in 1939. He owned and operated this business until December of 1955.

In January 1956 Herb Olson bought the Stromsburg Locker and is operating it at the present time. The Stromsburg Locker specializes in Locker retail and slaughtering and processing for the farmer. Beef Quarters and meat items are also sold for the home freezer.



BIRD'S EYE VIEW, Stromsburg, Neb.

Chapter X

Professional Men

STROMSBURG DRUGGISTS

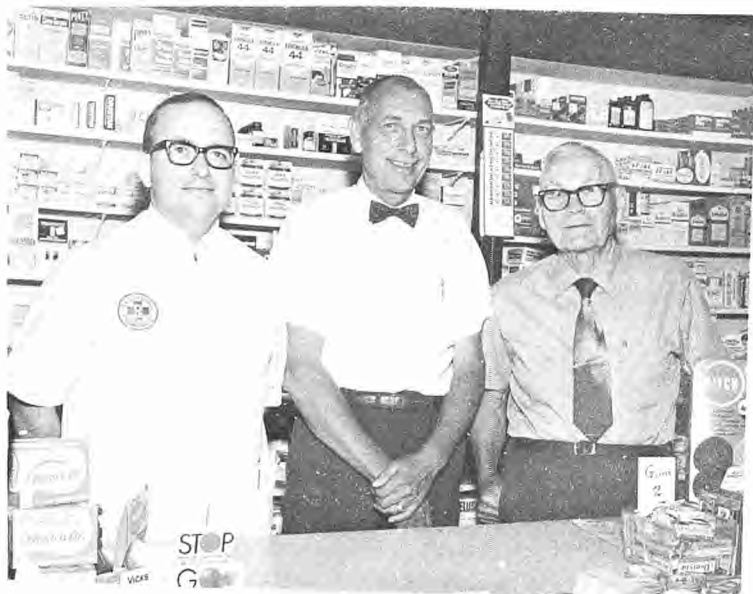
In the early days of Stromsburg, the drug business was usually a side line. The first stock of drugs was brought to Stromsburg in 1874 or 1875. A grocery store with a side line of drugs was opened at that time by D. C. Brannon. This store was located on the northeast corner of the "square". This store closed after a few years.

In the early 1880's, Johnson & Lewis opened a drug store on the north side of the square where the First National Bank is now located. They were in business for five or six years. In 1885, the Osborne Brothers opened a store on the south side of the square. After a few months, Frank Osborne sold out to his brother George. The G. S. Osborne drug store was the only pharmacy in Stromsburg until 1897. In 1892, George Osborne sold his business to one H. C. Graves who owned the drug store until he traded the stock for Idaho land in 1899.

In 1890, Johnson & Little opened the Park Pharmacy in the Park Hotel; later moving to the Boostrom building on the south side of the square. After a few years, they sold their stock to Scott & Halden, who in turn sold it to N. L. Nordstrom. This stock finally wound up in the Hultgren Drug Company. When Johnson & Little moved from their location in the Park Hotel, the pharmacy there was operated briefly by William Hubbert.

Ford Lantz came to Stromsburg in the early 1940's. He opened a Rexal Drug Store here, and remained in business until 1945.

In 1947, G. A. Hartman & Sons of Gresham put a Rexal Drug Store on the south side of the square. This business was operated by M. A. (Deb) Hartman



Willis Davis, Kenny and H. Christensen

in that location for ten years. At this time, they purchased a building on the east side of the square and relocated their store. Deb Hartman was in business in Stromsburg for twenty-two years.

J. A. Frawley (a registered pharmacist) moved to Stromsburg in 1879¹⁸⁷⁹, and established a general store which carried a line of drugs. Mr. Frawley, who was to become one of the town's most outstanding businessmen, located his store on the east side of the square. By 1890, J. A. Frawley had disposed of his general stock and was strictly a druggist. He sold the drug store on the east side in 1903 to J. B. Davis who operated it for about a year. On February 14, 1904, Davis sold to W. A. Barnard. Mr. Barnard remained in the same building until the Fall of 1914, when he moved his business into a new brick building which he had built. He remained in business in his new location for six years. He sold out to H. Christensen in April of 1920. Christensen Drug occupies this same building today. Kenneth Christensen joined his father in business in 1941. In January of 1971, Willis Davis joined Kenneth Christensen in the drug store. Mr. H. Christensen (80 years old) still assists them at the drug store, and is enjoying every minute of it.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Dr. A. Coleman was the first physician. 1877 to 1890

Dr. L. E. Stanton 1886-1900

Dr. Post - early 1880's - 1914 gone part of that time to Denver.

Dr. Welker practiced here a few years in the 1880's.

Dr. E. C. Houston, short time.

Dr. F. S. Owen, 1885-1891.

Dr. Frank McConoughy - 1885.

Dr. Cushman, 1890-1903.

Dr. A. Anderson several years in 1890's.

Dr. H. S. McGavren, 1890-1893.

Dr. Calkins, 1893-1895

Dr. R. C. Walker, 1893-1899.

Dr. W. W. Dean, 1895-1898.

Dr. Maister 1898 - 1900.

Dr. J. C. Malster, 1900

Dr. M. C. Martin, Dr. Huffman, Dr. Smith, Dr. Lilijendal, Dr. Van Dyke all located in the 1890's but stayed only a short time.

Dr. Lowell Little 1901-1903.

Dr. V. J. Vestling, 1910 stayed short time.

Dr. C. A. Anderson, 1891-1920. Grew up in Polk County. Had the first x-ray equipment in the county. Made his calls with horses and buggy. Later bought one of the first Fords in this area. He was health officer during the first poliomyelitis epidemic in this community. He read a paper concerning the epidemic before the state Medical Association which was published in Medical journals in this and other countries.

Dr. Neville, 1921 - 1927.

Dr. A. J. Edstrom followed Dr. Neville. Later opened his office in the building that had been an Orphans Home. Here he opened a hospital.

Dr. Johnson, short time.

Dr. Curtis, 1929 or 1930 to about 1932.

Dr. C. L. Anderson, son of the late Dr. C. A. Anderson graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical College in Omaha in 1928. Located in Stromsburg in 1929. In 1961 he built his own office building one block east of the square on 4th street. In 1939 he purchased the hospital building formerly oc-

cupied by Dr. Flippin and after additions and extensive remodeling he opened a 20 bed hospital. This was closed in 1960 when the county built the Memorial hospital in Osceola. Dr. Anderson continues in practice in 1972.

Dr. C. A. Flippin and Dr. Geo. Flippin, father and son, practiced here for a number of years. Dr. George Flippin passed away in Stromsburg in 1929. He owned the first car in Stromsburg.

Dr. W. Bloom practiced from July 1943 until 1949 when he left to specialize in chest surgery.

Dr. Scholnick, practiced from 1949 for a short time.

Dr. Hammond Dean came in November 1954 and occupied the new building constructed by the businessmen. He stayed only part of a year.

Dr. R. Y. Olson opened his office in 1963 and returned to California in 1965.

Other than the regular M.D.'s there have been several Chiropractors, Osteopaths, Magnetic Healers and Spiritualistic healers.

Doctors who were here before the day of the automobiles suffered many hardships. There were no all-weather roads and many times found it easier to lay down the fence and drive across the fields. Many of the early settlers were too poor to pay their doctor bills. Sometimes produce was given to compensate in a small way. There were no phones and mostly the calls for the doctor were made by a man riding horseback into town.

DENTISTS

Stromsburg has had very few dentists. In the early 80's Dr. Hartzel did some work here which was mostly extracting teeth. In the early days medical doctors also extracted teeth. Mrs. Coleman Westenius recalls in her "History of Stromsburg" about Dr. Coleman extracting two of her teeth with an old turnkey tooth drawer, which had been the property of a great-great-great-grandfather brought from Germany before the Revolutionary War. Dr. C. W. G. Dodge and A. C. Morrill each spent a few months here in 1899. Dr. Elmer of Osceola maintained an office in the Park Hotel two days each week in the 1880's.

Dr. R. C. Houston of Omaha opened a dentist's office on the south side of the square in 1900. He left in 1905. Dr. R. E. Whittaker came from Lincoln in 1905 and occupied rooms vacated by Dr. Houston. Dr. Houston had moved to the Wilson block on the north side of the square before he left.

Dr. R. L. Minnick bought out Dr. Whittaker in 1910. He practiced 61 years closing his office July 1st 1971. Dr. Minnick spent the last 40 years on first floor of the Victor Anderson building. He and Dr. C. L. Anderson had a joint reception room. Dr. Minnick served one term in the State Legislature. He was mayor of Stromsburg for five years 1927 to 1931. He served again as mayor 8 years. He has been a good progressive professional man. He is also a lover of the outdoors, spending much of his leisure in hunting, fishing, trap-shooting and gardening.

Dr. E. Parminster came to Stromsburg in 1952 and opened an office on the south side of the square. He later moved into a clinic building one block east of the square on 4th street. He is in full time practice at this writing in 1971.

Stromsburg has been very fortunate in their available dental care.

Dr. W. V. Sharp came from Kewanee, Ill. to Stromsburg in October 1885. He occupied three different suites of rooms on the south side of the square until 1913 when the Victor Anderson building on the north east corner of the square was completed. He took offices on the second floor facing both south and west. In 1919 his son, Dr. Vance graduated from University of Nebraska School of Dentistry and came to Stromsburg to be in partnership with his father, Dr. W. V. Sharp retired in 1935. He died in January 1941. He had practiced for 50 years.



Dr. W. V. Sharp
1885—1935
50 YEARS

Dr. Vance Sharp
1919—1972
52 YEARS

*Dentists in
Stromsburg*

100 years for Stromsburg

*and 86 years
of service under
the name of
Drs. Sharp*



50 years + 52 years = 102 years

Dr. Vance Sharp continued to practice in the same office, having served the community 52 years in 1971. This completes 86 years of service under the name of Drs. Sharp.

STROMSBURG ATTORNEYS

The first attorney to come to the little settlement of Stromsburg was J. W. Edgerton who was admitted to the bar in 1882 and moved here to open a Law Office. Lewis Headstrom was postmaster and furnished him an office room in the post office and appointed him deputy postmaster and befriended him in many ways. Mr. Edgerton drew the articles of incorporation for the first organization settlement of Stromsburg under a village government. One of the most interesting cases tried in Polk County was Milton W. Smith, a farmer north of Stromsburg for the murder of his wife on the 27th of November, 1884. Mr. Edgerton assisted M. A. Mills of Osceola in the defense. A coroner's jury charged him with murder on November 28, he was indicted by a grand jury March 20, 1885, his trial following immediately. He was hanged July 24, 1885.

Mr. Edgerton was early identified with reform politics. He was associated with the Knights of Labor, an organization that ante-dated the Populist party movement in Nebraska. He was one of the contributors to the fund establishing the Headlight. He had one daughter, Mrs. A. F. Nuquist, who lived out her life in Osceola. One son who moved to California.

Sanford Makeever came to Stromsburg in 1887 and remained four years. He sold to John Tongue in 1891.

E. E. Cushman, son of Dr. Cushman practiced law here a short time before moving to the west coast.

V. E. Wilson took up the study of law after having spent some time in the banking business.

M. M. Marquis practiced here for a short time in the eighties, moved to Osceola and from there to the west.

John Tongue who bought out Sanford Makeever's practice in 1891, served as city attorney, city clerk, and as Mayor of the city 1902 to 1905. He was elected county attorney for the year 1926 to 1928. He had studied very little law but was admitted to the bar through the friendship of a judge. He lived out his life in Polk county and died as the result of a car accident.

E. E. Stanton arrived in Stromsburg in August 1884 and formed a partnership with J. W. Edgerton. In 1887, the partnership was dissolved. Mr. Edgerton moved to South Omaha a short time later.

Mr. E. E. Stanton, after occupying several different offices, sold out to V. E. Wilson and moved to Chicago. After a year in Chicago he moved to Hood River, Oregon and lived on a fruit ranch and had an office in the city. There he held the office of county judge, including Juvenile Judge, and the chairmanship of County Commissioners. In 1917 he bought back the old business and equipment from V. E. Wilson, establishing his office in the Wilson Block. During his 52 years of law practice he served four terms as County Attorney of Polk County. He passed away in March of 1936.

J. T. Stanton, son of E. E. Stanton was born in Stromsburg. After graduation from high school he served two and one half years in the Marine Corps. He enrolled in the University of Nebraska Law School graduating in 1923 with the degree of Juris Doctor. He entered the practice of law as a partner with his father.

In 1942, he voluntarily entered the Marine Corps as a Captain, World War II being in progress. He was assigned to Camp Pendleton, California and later served in the Pacific Theater attached to the 3rd and 4th division. After several



**J. T.
Stanton**

months in the Pacific he was ordered to Philadelphia as Chief Legal Officer of the 5th Naval District. He served in that capacity until the fall of 1945, when he was promoted to Lieut. Colonel and released from the Marine Corps. He resumed the practice of law in Stromsburg continuing until this writing in 1971. He has served three terms as Polk County Attorney, many consecutive years as City Attorney for Stromsburg and Village Attorney for Polk and Shelby.

STROMSBURG VETERINARIANS

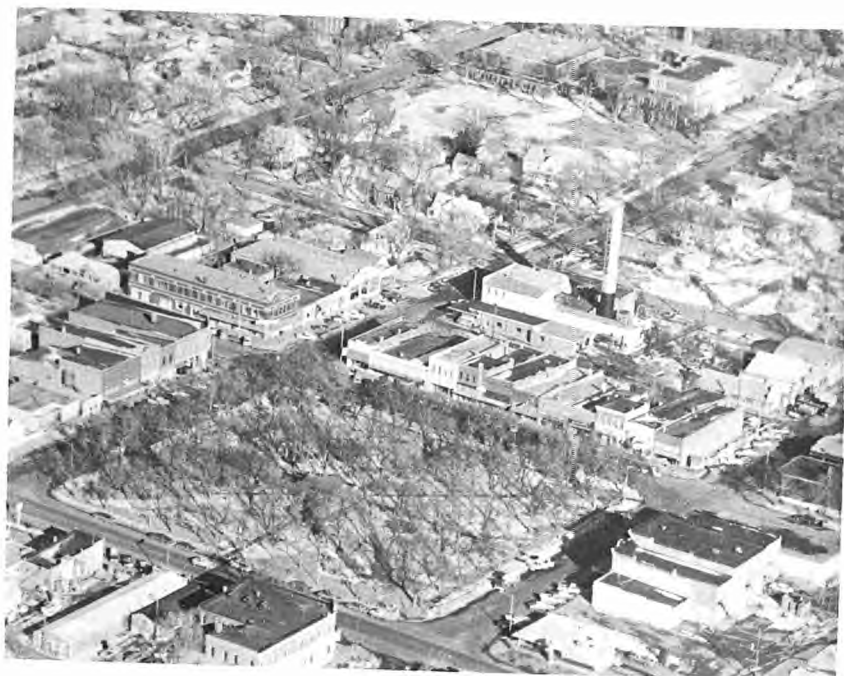
As far as we are able to learn from any records, Dr. J. S. Johnson was the first veterinarian to locate in Stromsburg. He came to this city in 1890 and practiced here for a short time.

Dr. Allard was the next to select Stromsburg as the place to practice his profession. He came in 1891 and remained here for about three years. He then moved to York and practiced there until his death some years later. After his departure, Dr. M. D. Strong, a young veterinarian graduate of the Kansas City Veterinarian College, came to town. He had his first business connected with the Hill Bros. Livery Stables. In 1912 he moved his business to a temporary place while he built an office on the corner lot he had purchased one block east of the southeast corner of the square. He later built a home on the south half of that lot. Dr. Strong built up a large practice, adding farming and stock-feeding to his list of activities. He was a substantial citizen of the community; served

on the city council and was a member of the school board when the present high school building was built. After practicing Veterinary Medicine for 45 years Dr. Strong retired in 1949, turning his business over to his son, Dr. K. D. Strong, who had just graduated from the college of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Dr. K. D. Strong has continued to practice in this community and like his father has added farming and the feeding of stock to his business interests.

Two other veterinarians located for a short time in this community: Dr. W. E. Norden who came in 1924 or 25 and remained for about two years, and Dr. Getty.

The late Dr. George Flippin of Stromsburg was one of the greatest football players ever developed in the middle west. Dr. Flippin was a member of the University of Nebraska grid squad during the years 1893 and 1894. These were the days when a football team was measured by its weight or man-power rather than its shiftiness. Flippin played in the backfield and was later shifted to a guard position. It was during the game with the University of Iowa played during a heavy snowstorm that he showed almost super-human ability as a football player.



Stromsburg, January 1971

Chapter XI

Banks

STROMSBURG BANK

Looking back through the records of the Stromsburg Bank since its organization in 1881, the prosperities and the economic hardships of the community are reflected clearly in the varying degrees of success of the bank.

Early in the year 1881, three pioneers, John H. Mickey, Albinus Nance and Charles H. Morrill saw the need of a financial institution to aid in the development of the part of Polk County surrounding Stromsburg. Manifesting their faith in Nebraska, and in this part of Polk County particularly, they established the Stromsburg Bank, which was opened for business on April 30, 1881, with a capital of \$8,000.00 and total deposits of \$502.51. The bank operated without a charter until February 15, 1883, when it was issued a charter by the State of Nebraska.

Of the three founders of the bank, two later became governors of Nebraska-- Albinus Nance and John H. Mickey. Also prominent in the history of the state is the name of Charles H. Morrill, who contributed much to Nebraska's advance.

The bank was originally located in the building directly across the street west of its present location, to which it moved in 1916.

J. P. Buckley and P. T. Buckley, two pioneers who played an important part in the early history of Polk County, became associated with the bank in September 1884, taking over the interests of Albinus Nance and John H. Mickey. The early settlers of Polk County depended on the business experience and advice of Charles H. Morrill, J. B. Buckley and P. T. Buckley. These men did much in helping to build Stromsburg in those early years.

During the first years of its existence the bank experienced all of the hardships of early pioneering days and was a vital factor in the development of Stromsburg and Polk County. The men who organized the bank and the men who operated it during those formative years were men of courage, men of vision, men who had faith in Nebraska and its future. They contributed generously of themselves and of their financial resources in the interests of the community.

The struggle of the new community and the new bank was made harder by the drought years of the 1880's with poor crops, or no crops at all. Early progress was hindered further by the market crash of 1893, with its resultant drain on national wealth. Perseverance was rewarded, however, and the community and the bank enjoyed the results of good crops and general prosperity for over a decade and the bank was firmly established.

Ira Banta became associated with the bank in 1894 as assistant cashier and on January 30, 1899 was elected cashier, and president on January 3, 1914. He took active charge of the bank until November 1936 when he retired, having completed 42 years of service.

Alex Scott became president of the bank on January 2, 1934 and served until January 2, 1937. He served as a director for 40 years, February 1902 through September 1942, when he retired. At that time his son Wallace Scott was elected as a director to take the place of his father and served until he passed away in November 1958.

E. C. Nordlund was employed as a stenographer and bookkeeper in 1907. He became assistant cashier in 1908, cashier in 1914, and director in 1917. He was elected president in 1937 and continued to serve in this capacity until 1958, totaling 51 years of loyal and faithful service to the bank and the community.

Congratulations Stromsburg

on your Centennial Year



Serving Stromsburg since 1881

STROMSBURG BANK

Warren E. Johnson was employed as assistant cashier in 1949 and in January 1951 was elected cashier, director in 1952, and in 1956 he was elected executive vice president. He has been managing officer of the bank since that time.

In May 1958, E. C. Nordlund, because of failing health, sold his interest in the Stromsburg Bank to Charles E. Moyer, who became president of the bank, and Dr. E. E. Bilon who became chairman of the board. February 1961 saw completion to the addition and complete remodeling of the bank. The street sides of the new building are of steel siding. About 1200 feet of floor space was added, including new and much larger modern vault room, and also new loan rooms providing complete privacy.

Laverna Rystrom was employed as bookkeeper and teller in 1935, became assistant cashier in 1935, and cashier in 1962. She continued to serve the bank until her retirement in 1969, having given 34 years of loyal service.

During the period of its existence there have been changing business conditions, there have been periods of prosperity, periods of panic, periods of war and inflation, followed by periods of depression and difficult times. Through all these changing conditions the bank has continued to serve the people of the community and has contributed much toward the development of Stromsburg and this community.

The development of irrigation in Polk County during the 1950's and 1960's has done much to improve the economy of the community. The bank's published statement in April, 1971, showed capital stock of \$90,000.00 and deposits of \$4,009,083.47.

In 1970 the bank purchased lots east of the present building. The old building was torn down and a parking lot was provided with a 25 foot flag pole erected in the new area. The new addition was so arranged that a drive-in window could be installed on the east side of the bank at a future date.

The community and the Stromsburg Bank have grown together and have profited by the experience of the past, and are looking forward to the future for which the past has been but a preparation.

The board of directors are: E. E. Bilon, chairman; E. A. Hedlund (served for 37 years); J. T. Stanton (served for 34 years); Charles E. Moyer; Warren E. Johnson; and James A. Rosenquist.

The officers and employees are: Charles E. Moyer, president; Warren E. Johnson, executive vice president; James A. Rosenquist, vice president; Mrs. Evelyn Olson, cashier; Mrs. Ruth Sward, assistant cashier; Mrs. Connie Klein, bookkeeper and teller; Mrs. Pauline Donelson, bookkeeper and teller; Mrs. Joan Marak, bookkeeper and teller.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

One of the oldest institutions in Stromsburg is the First National Bank, which came into existence in July, 1888. The bank was organized by Albert Nance, its first president, with J. L. Johnson as cashier. Mr. Nance sold his interest to C. H. Morrill in the fall of 1889, and later moved to Colorado where he became state treasurer.

J. L. Johnson remained as cashier and C. H. Morrill became president and Charles A. Morrill, assistant cashier. Charles A. Morrill likewise had wide business interests, and sold his interest in 1891 to John Wilson and his son J. Wesley Wilson, who became officers of the bank. J. Wesley began as assistant cashier but was promoted to cashier upon the resignation of J. L. Johnson in 1892. Victor E. Wilson entered the bank at this time as assistant cashier and later served as president for several years. Upon the death of John Wilson, in

FIRST NATIONAL BANK



Service since 1888



A. V. Kjelson

was honored in 1966 for his
fifty years in banking business



Marjorie Kjelson

President of First National Bank

October 1901, J. Wesley Wilson became president, with Victor Wilson, vice president and Nathan Wilson as cashier. For many years the bank was largely owned and operated by the Wilson family.

During 1906 the officers increased the capital stock in order to accommodate additional business produced through bank expansion in the new towns of Polk and Hordville. The capital stock was increased from \$30,000 to \$50,000 and the bank was converted into a National Bank, retaining the former officers. In 1901 the bank moved from the small frame building to the Wilson Block. About 15 years later the inside of the bank was remodeled and the Director's room was added.

In May of 1917, J. Wesley resigned as president of the bank and Nathan Wilson was elected. W. W. Vaught was an officer in the bank until the fall of 1919. At that time, A. V. Kjelson came to the bank as assistant cashier.

In November 1922, Nathan Wilson resigned as president and moved to California. At that time T. A. James assumed the duties of president, and A. V. Kjelson, vice president and cashier.

In 1942, upon the death of T. A. James, A. V. Kjelson became the president of the First National Bank and continued in that capacity until his death in February 1967, having contributed 48 years of banking service to the Stromsburg community.

Marjorie Kjelson assumed the duties of president shortly after the death of her husband and continues today in that capacity. Clarence Rudeen entered the employ of the bank in 1928 and during his 42 years of service, served as cashier, vice president and executive vice president. He retired in 1970.

Harland Fusby came to the First National in 1930, and has continued with the bank since that time with the exception of 2 years, 1940-41 when he was associated with the Bank of America in California. He is currently executive vice-president.

Bank officers are: President, Marjorie Kjelson; Vice President, Sally Kjelson; Executive Vice President, Harland Fusby; Cashiers, Hazel Vandegrift and Edna Stohl; Assistant Cashier, Agnes Sundberg.

The Board of Directors includes Marjorie Kjelson, Lee R. Kjelson, Sally Kjelson, Willard Adelson, Allen Anderson and Harland Fusby.

The First National has given continuous service to the community since 1888. Statement of Condition published April 1971 shows Capital of \$50,000 and Deposits of \$1,874,049.63.



East Side of Square, Stromsburg in 1972

Chapter XII

Insurance

SCANDINAVIAN MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF POLK COUNTY

Plans for the organization of this insurance company were laid by a group of men located in the northwest portion of the county, adjacent to Swede Home. The first meetings were held in 1886, when preliminary measures were taken and committees appointed. As this was preliminary work no books were opened and no permanent records made.

The first yearly meeting of the company was held in Stromsburg, March 26, 1887, at which time the constitution and by-laws were adopted. The name for the organization, The Scandinavian Mutual Insurance Company of Polk County, was decided upon and the following officers chosen for the ensuing year: president - L. G. Berggren; vice president - N. P. Monson; Secretary - J. P. Carlson; treasurer - J. L. Johnson; and directors, C. A. Allison, C. J. Lindstrom and G. A. Peterson.

By January 1891 the insurance in force was \$91,590.75 and forty years later in 1931 total insurance in force was \$4,858,155 not far from the \$5,000,000 mark. So the plans of the men who were at the head of the founding of the Scandinavian Mutual had worked out well and the company enjoyed a steady increase in its membership and its future was assured.

Until 1966 policies written by Scandinavian Mutual covered only damage by fire and lightning and the loss of animals from either of these sources. A one dollar membership fee was charged when the policy was written and an annual assessment made at the close of each year.

In 1966 Scandinavian Mutual Insurance Company changed to full coverage of fire, wind and multiple peril. The membership fee was dropped and a premium of \$3.10 per M charged for full coverage when the policy is written. From that time also, all Scandinavian policies written are backed by reinsurance by the Nebraska Farmers Mutual Reinsurance Association of Wahoo.

Recognition is here given to men who have served long tenure of office for the company, namely: P. O. Chindgren who served as secretary from 1890 until 1909 and P. O. Nordlund as secretary from 1910 to July 1938; Anton C. Anderson who served thirty three years as treasurer, 1913 to 1946; Herbert Flodman as president for 37 years, 1920 to 1957 and the present treasurer, Willard Anderson who was elected to that office in 1946.

Present officers of Scandinavian Mutual Insurance Company are: president - Myron Jones; vice president - Harlan Toline; secretary - Carleton Anderson; treasurer - Willard Anderson; and directors - Melburne Olson, Harold Anderson and Wallace Fredrickson. Curtis Flodman is agent for the company.



It was in these early days of the eighties, and even back into the seventies when the little hamlet on the prairie was growing and learning to stand alone, so to speak, that it was perhaps most active. Young men, full of pep and determination had come west to make their fortune, and there was something doing all the time. It was then that the town was striving and thriving. It had a large trade territory, reaching into York County on the south, to Hamilton County on the west, and Butler County on the east. On the north, Osceola, Clarks and Columbus were competing for a share of the trade.

Chapter XIII

Railroads and the Telephone

STROMSBURG RAILROADS



This picture is believed to have been taken in 1907. Pictured are, from left: brakeman McCoy, engineer Rider, fireman Mitchell, express messenger Morgan, mail clerk Catterson, conductor Marthas.

On November 18, 1876 the Omaha and Republic Valley Railroad Co. was organized and the railroad was built from Valley to Stromsburg, and on Dec. 22, 1879 the station at Stromsburg was opened for operation. This railroad was finally sold at a foreclosure sale to the Union Pacific RR Co., the present owners, and conveyed by special Master's Deed, dated October 4, 1898. The line was extended from Stromsburg to Central City in 1906, the first train going west in 1907, thus connecting the branch with main line both east and west.

The first depot built was of the "Cowshed" variety and was built farther west than the present one, near the street and on the opposite side of the tracks. The citizens demanded a new depot and this was built in 1903-04, and since then the present depot has been remodeled and enlarged.



The Stromsburg depot

The first agent at Stromsburg was Albert Nance, followed by Frank R. Fuller, Geo. Whitham, Chas. Clark, R. B. Beer, C. C. Clark, G. D. Neal, Bill Butler, A. A. Vybiral and R. D. Vandegrift who is the present agent.

Mr. J. B. Buckley, the first grain buyer in Stromsburg, shipped the first carload of grain on January 1, 1880.

THE TELEPHONE

The very first communication by telephone in Stromsburg began as far back as 1887. At that time Calmar McCune had a wire strung between his residence and the elevator. He then could keep in touch with business when he was at home. The next telephone connected the Park Hotel to the depot. Then the landlord E. F. Thompson could keep track of trains.

The first telephone service to come to Stromsburg came in 1896. The Nebraska Telephone Company was granted a franchise at that time and the first telephone was installed July 2 of that year. This telephone system was located in Frawley's Drug Store then on the west side in the hotel building. No telephone operator was needed as the employees of the drug store took care of the few calls.



Mrs. Presson, commercial manager - G. H. Presson, manager

When the drug store was moved to the east side, the telephone office was also moved. After a short time, B. J. Sigler was employed to look after the telephone, and the small switchboard was moved into the building now occupied by the Headlight Office. Mr. Sigler passed away, and his wife had charge until her death. In the meantime, in 1908, the telephone switchboard had been moved to the old A. P. Anderson house which stood on the site of the present P. W. Anderson home.

During this time a franchise was granted to the Golden Rod Telephone Company. They offered a much cheaper rate and they got most of the business. Most businesses kept two telephones, but finally all resident subscribers agreed to disconnect the Nebraska telephones. This was done on January 31, 1903.

In 1904 the Golden Rod Company sold to the Polk County Telephone Company which was a company made up of four men. These were E. E. Stanton, H. D. Skelton, A. F. Nuquist and O. E. Mickey. This company was incorporated with \$75,000.00 capital stock, and E. E. Stanton was the general manager. The of-



Operators and switchboard - from left - Glenna Cleland, Carolyn Oquist Ekstrand, Margaret Sundberg, Elfie Sandin Carlson, Agnes Renquist Sundberg.

office at this time was on the south side of the square above what is the City Office now. In October 1916, this company sold out to the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company. At that time the old magneto exchange was replaced by a common battery. This included a new switchboard, new central office equipment, and new telephones in town and in the country. Stromsburg then had 638 telephones on the exchange. Now in 1971 Stromsburg has 1,020 telephones, 259 colored sets and 39 farm lines.

The telephone office was located on the second floor of the First National Bank building from 1917 until 1951. The company employed six operators who worked on an eight hour shift. The rooms were small and the only air conditioning was a small fan. Before the dial system took over, many free services were offered by the operators to the public. One very important service was to receive fire calls and to turn on the fire siren.

In 1951 the traffic office of the Telephone Company was closed as the dial system went into use. The telephone office was moved to the basement rooms of the Stromsburg Bank where the dial equipment had been installed. Mayor Dr.



Mayor, Dr. Minnick placing first call over new automatic system. Manager Ralph Wait on left. Picture taken September 5, 1951.

Minnick placed the first call over the new system. On May 1st, 1966 the commercial office of the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company closed its doors in Stromsburg. Edith Mattson was employed by the Telephone Company in Stromsburg for forty-two years.



Edith Mattson, cashier, and L. C. "Smick" Williams, manager.

Since 1917 Stromsburg has had 10 managers, namely: G. H. Presson, T. E. Longdon, Walter Rabb, Sterling Nelson, Charlie Olson, Ralph Waite, L. C. Williams, L. A. Genrich, Robert Berggren and the present manager, John Brockmeyer.

**John Brockmeyer,
manager in 1972**



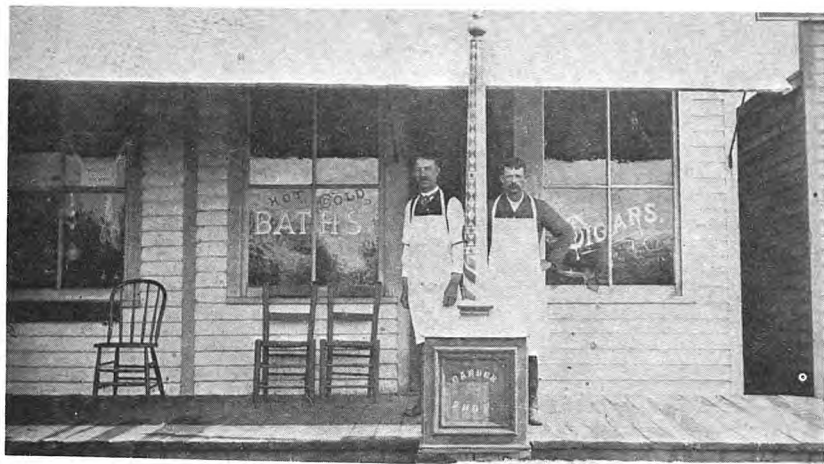
Much improvement and progress has been made in the last few years. You can now dial station to station long distance calls direct to telephone numbers which have seven numerals, or two letters and five numerals. You can call practically any telephone in the world from your own telephone.

The telephone directories are now sent out from Lincoln, Nebraska. These directories cover 52 towns in our area known as the Northern Section. These directories are sent out in the spring of each year.

Chapter XIV

Stromsburg — the City

STROMSBURG BARBERS

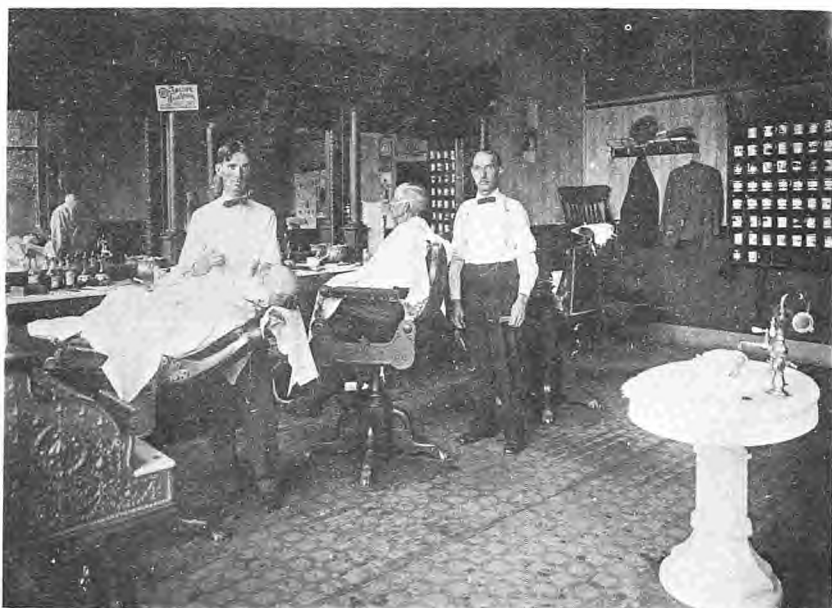


Andrew P. Buckley's barber shop on the north side of the square

Back in the 19th century people also needed haircuts. The first barber shop was located where the empty lot now is between the postoffice and Sward's Service on the north side of the square. Andrew P. Buckley was Stromsburg's first barber. He is the father of Edith and Helen Buckley. The Buckley sisters stated that their father was also called "Cook" Buckley because he was so often called upon to prepare the cooked meals for the early day homesteaders coming to Stromsburg.



Frank W. Carlson, father of Mrs. Wesley Ericson, a Stromsburg barber for forty-five years.



Andrew P. Buckley's barber shop where Stromsburg Bank now is. Mr. Buckley is on the right. Others are not identified.

These are the names of some of the barbers who have barbered in Stromsburg: Fred Green, Perry Carter, Jones Bros. (Moran and Chas.) Mannel Peterson, Herman Matson, R. L. Lockhart, Olive Rummel, Norman, C. E. Kidder, A. C. Phillips, Cliff Hill, F. G. Nelson, Zachary & Story, Smith & Rummel, John Wallin, Wm. Bruegman, D. A. Estep, Lloyd Lindburg, Sam Farabee, Frank Shoemaker, Dorsey Dudley, Sam Welch, Piatt, Sam Carroll, Dick Churchill, man called Annie Rooney, Glenn Tatro, C. B. McNurlin, Axel Sundgren, Chas. Jones, Lee Bathalmow, Cap Larson, Swede Beer Nelson, C. A. Green, Chas. Burke, J. B. Carlson, Frank Carlson, Frank Clifford, Carl Smith, O. V. Eschliman, Dan Evins.

Chauncey J. Arnold (Shorty) was born in Schuyler. He began his trade as a barber as a young boy, barbering in Shelton, Ravenna, Grand Island, Omaha, Lincoln, and various places. In 1913 he came to Stromsburg and was in business here about 37 years.

Joe Longsine opened the O. K. Barber Shop in March of 1957 and is still operating it. He owned and operated a barber shop in Oxford and was employed in Lincoln for a short time before moving with his wife to Stromsburg. One of the first customers to get a hair cut was Rev. Ralph Larson. Mr. Longsine has enjoyed a good business in this community.

The Hiway Barber Shop was opened in 1958 by Harry B. Edgerley of York, Nebraska for whom Joe E. Marsden worked and Frank Carlson during his apprenticeship. Joe E. Marsden purchased the Hiway Barber Shop in June 1959, which he has run and operated since. It has two barber chairs and he has had numerous apprentices who have served their apprenticeship under him and later went out and opened their own shops. Dennis Koltz - York, Bob Vrbka - Shelby, Don Tonniges - Gresham, Jerry Rhodes - Stromsburg, Linsey Darnell - Polk, Gaylord Ellison - York. Jerry Rhodes returned to the shop after two years in the service.

BEAUTY SHOPS

Mrs. Nellie Royce between 1910-1920.

Helen Wickberg Cuda 1924-1965.

Bernice McCormick, 1927.

Anna Blaine Kreger, 1924-1931. First paper curl, later taken over by Lucy Fuller.

Anna Burg Sisty, 1926-1940. Sold out to Helen Westring in 1940. She later sold to Velma Berglund Carter who continued until she moved away in 1950.

Jessie Norman, 1930 to 1936.

Lunette Larson in the 1930's.

Lorraine Richters 1938-1944.

Arthurine Graves Underhill, 1945-1948 with Mary Ann Moore working during 1947-1948. Arthurine sold out to Donna Ditmer.

Mrs. Marjorie Rudeen 1948-1953.

Rae Jeanne Oberg Marsden 1952-1962.

Ruth Keyes 1956-1962 with Nancy Obermier from 1960-1962.

Burg Beauty Shop 1961-1963 with Starlyn Lindquist

1963-1969 with Jane Rhodes

Gail Pierson, 1965-1966.

The present ones in the business are:

Anna Sisty, 1952.

Helen Fredrickson, 1956.

Dorothy Nordberg, 1966.

Carol Schinzel, 1967.

Linda Petersen, 1968.

Town & Country has had the following operators, 1969:

Jane Rhodes

Jeanette Peterson

Nancy Obermier

Ella Mae Johnson

Dorothy McCall

ERICKSON JEWELRY

The Erickson Jewelry store is one of the oldest business concerns in Stromsburg. In November, 1889, L. A. Erickson began his career as a Jeweler in Stromsburg, occupying a corner in the Andrew Nuquist grocery store. In about two years he moved to the old building on the present location, and in 1915, the old building was torn down and the present building was constructed.

The history of this store is the story of one man's ambitions and efforts. The business at first included only watch repairing, and the first year's receipts were \$187.75. As the business prospered in this line, gradually a small stock of watches, clocks, jewelry and silverware was added. Later other departments, namely, organs, pianos and sewing machines.

This store occupied a unique position in the early history of the community because it filled wants taken care of by no other concern, catering often to individual hobbies. One of these was amateur photography, in which Mr. Erickson was much interested. He was much in demand for taking pictures of family groups, reunions and special occasions. In the early nineties, he took the agency for Eastman Kodaks; which have interested thousands in the fascinating art of picture taking. He took the first birdseye view of Stromsburg from the old stand-pipe, and many other scenes of local interest, and had them made into the postcards which were the rage at that time. Some of these scenes were placed on small china vases and other souvenirs which also attained popularity. These he had made in Germany.

Another hobby was bicycles and bicycle riding, and early advertisements in The Headlight indicate that he sold Warwick bicycles.

Mr. Erickson studied optometry and for a long time was the only registered Optometrist in Stromsburg.

When the new industry, radio, arrived, the back part of the store was made into a workshop for radio experimenting. In this the two sons took equal interest and after Mr. Erickson's death in 1928, continued to carry on the radio branch of the business.

The business was conducted by Mrs. Erickson and sons, Willard and Clifford, with Mrs. Augusta Slusser in the sales department; A. Milton Anderson in charge of Radio; J. A. Anderson in charge of watch repairing.

Clifford Erickson graduated from Berkley, California Optometrist School and carried on the optometrist business in the store.

After Mrs. Erickson's death, Clifford was called into the military service and the store stock was sold. Willard Erickson moved to Colorado due to his health and later took up teaching duties there.

Willard Erickson decided to reopen the store in 1945. He hired Mrs. Hazel Carlson Johnson of Polk, to manage the store. The store was open half days, only. Mrs. Frank (Dorothy) Nordberg assisted in the reopening and helped at the store for some time.

In January 1948, the Jewelry Store stock was sold to Mrs. Hazel Carlson Johnson, the firm name remaining the same. Her husband, Clarence Johnson, bought the store building the same year. At this time clocks, silverware, watches china, giftware, as well as better jewelry were all in stock, the business being carried on as before. Mrs. Johnson had managed the store three years before purchasing it. Thus she has been connected with Erickson's Jewelry for over a quarter of a century.

When Clifford Erickson returned from the service he opened an Optometrist Office in York, Nebraska. He also had an office in the back of Erickson's Jewelry part time for several years.

Mrs. Johnson's daughter, Mrs. LaVaughn (Corinne) Adelson, has been actively associated with her mother in the business for the past several years.

Those employed were Mrs. Lee (Marge) Bolton, Mrs. Dean (Maizie) Bolton, Mrs. Evelyn Knerr, Mrs. Merwin (Pauline) Carlson, Mrs. James (Lillian) Robinson, Mrs. Arnold (Carolyn) Ekstrand, Mrs. Vance (Ramona) Teegerstrom, Mrs. Leo (Helen) Fagan and presently employed, Mrs. Fern Knight.

Paul Trainer, John McAllister and Dale Dake were watch repair men. Later the watch repair business was discontinued. Much of the jewelry repair and ring mounting work was sent out.

The trend of jewelry sales has changed in the last 25 years. One of the big items at graduation time was the buying of a watch by a parent (generally the senior's first watch). Many railroad watches were sold by the store. They were considered A-1 time pieces.

Many a Stromsburg young man purchased the diamond ring for his fiancée through Erickson Jewelry.

At the present time costume jewelry of all colors has sales predominance over the all "silver or gold" of by-gone days.

Styles of jewelry have changed, but the store still continues to try to supply the needs of the community.

PLUMBING IN STROMSBURG

Scott & Johnson was issued the first plumbing license in Stromsburg in 1889. Headstrom & Johnson were their predecessors, with the assistance of J. A. Oberg who was city engineer at that time. Later A. P. Lindberg was granted a license, followed by E. L. Hallquist.

J. A. Carlson who for a number of years had charge of the pumping plant, with Oscar Sandin opened a shop in the hotel building. Arnold Thoren became a helper, later joined by Olaf Brodine. This was the year 1907, two years before a sewer system was built.

The firm of Carlson & Sandin was later Carlson & Thoren when Oscar Sandin left the business to become a veterinarian locating elsewhere. Mr. Carlson after a few years relocated in Osceola, and Arnold Thoren continued the business a short time, then formed a partnership with Olaf Brodine, which lasted until 1912. Thoren sold his interest to Alex Swan and the firm became Brodine & Swan. Thoren moved to Osceola, and later to Iowa.

In 1913, Fred J. Nelson & Son opened a shop and for several years remained in the city.

Arnold Thoren returned to Stromsburg in 1926, opened a shop and in 1927 bought out Brodine & Swan, consolidating the two shops under the name of A. Thoren & Co. When Brodine's health failed he moved to a farm in Kansas, Alex Swan was employed elsewhere. Mr. Thoren continued in business until his death.

After World War II, Clarence Burgeson operated a plumbing and heating business for several years before moving to Lincoln.

Ericson Cash Hardware in 1936 added a plumbing business to the firm.

In 1948, Harold Beckman, Jr. opened a plumbing, heating and sheetmetal shop in the back part of the locker plant. In the year 1956 he purchased the lot west of the locker plant and built the building presently known as Beckman Plumbing & Heating.



Beckman Plumbing Cooling Heating and Electric

In 1884, twelve kerosene street lamps were placed about the square.

AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneering is a fascinating and large growing business and has been practiced in Stromsburg and vicinity for nearly a century. It is the only business that allows the purchaser to buy at his own price, at his own risk, no guarantees or returns, and still be completely satisfied. It aids in distributing property and settling estates fairly, plus adding humor and competitive buying.

Some early auctioneers of Stromsburg were H. C. Graves and Joe Kimball who formed a partnership and conducted sales in the late eighties. E. Hahn and Co. were early auctioneers from 1890-1900. H. D. Baker was another auctioneer serving around 1889 but was killed by a stroke of lightning. The Ingraham Bros. practiced in the early 1890's. E. P. Pike and Ingraham Bros. were partners for a short time. Then later J. A. Olson joined the Ingraham Bros. and were partners for a few years. This partnership dissolved and Mr. Olson continued alone for a time then formed a partnership with Mr. Pike. The Pike and Olson partnership was well-known for many years until Mr. Pike's death. After that, J. A. Olson continued alone and was the only auctioneer in Stromsburg for many years. He began in 1902, cried his first sale in Hamilton County making a great success of the venture for over fifty years.

In the meantime younger men became interested in auctioneering. They were encouraged to seek training. Frank Baker, son of the H. D. Bakers, graduated from Kansas City Auction College in 1921. He practiced auctioneering in Ansley, Nebraska and California. Later he moved to Stromsburg where he continued until his death in 1955. Clarence M. Austin, a graduate of 1927 from the same college in Kansas City cried his first farm sale near Stromsburg at the age of 21. From that time he has conducted many farm and household sales. Baker and Austin were together for a time.

Wallace Strong, a graduate of Reppert School of Auction, Decatur, Indiana, owned and operated the Stromsburg Livestock Auction Co. for a few years. He served as his own auctioneer of this business and conducted many other sales in this community. Later this enterprise was dissolved and Mr. Strong moved to Silver Creek, Nebraska.

Floyd Huebner operated the sale barn for a short time and was assisted by Clarence Austin. There were other auctioneers. Geo. Tilden, Kenneth Samuels, John Graham and Lee Davis. At this time, late 1971, Clarence Austin still conducts farm and household sales. Mr. Orville Dodds, a graduate of the Reisch Auction School of Mason City, Iowa in 1948 is the latest auctioneer and works with Clarence Austin in sale work.

HOTEL

The Hotel was built in 1899 and was known as "The Park" It was built by an enterprising group of citizens who wanted to see the town grow and knew that the best asset to a town was its Hotel.

The Park Hotel was the scene of a great activity and was filled to capacity for several years.

The Ed Thompsons were good hotel people and popular with their clientele. At one time they decided to go to York and for a few years ran a hotel in that city and during their absence the hotel changed hands a number of times. Mr. and Mrs. John Colson had charge for a time.

For some time the hotel stood vacant, until the citizens of the town realized that a good hotel was needed, formed a stock company and shares were sold to rebuild the Park Hotel.

The Hotel was rebuilt in 1922 and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Thompson returned to Stromsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Greppin followed the Ed Thompsons. Others who have managed the Hotel are: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Teague, Mr. and Mrs. Tully, Mr. and Mrs. Munchee, Mr. and Mrs. King, Marie Kingdom. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Olson managed the Hotel during World War II and were there for fifteen years. During this time the name was changed to the "Victory Hotel".

Mr. and Mrs. Keys followed the Olsons, then, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson, Mr. and Mrs. Garner, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnsen, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Flink and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Flink. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnsen are the present managers.



PARK HOTEL, Stromsburg, Neb.

VARIETY STORE

The beginning of the Variety Store was started in a small room on the east side of the square by E. Lunner in 1901. W. Fred Johnson joined Lunner in 1903



The store that has the right goods at the right prices and makes holiday goods a specialty - Lunner & Johnson, Stromsburg, Nebraska.

moving to the south side of the square. This firm moved in 1917 into a new and modern store building that had been erected by John Erickson on the east side of the square.

On January 1st, 1922 the stock and fixtures were sold to J. E. Parker, changing the name to "The Variety Store". In 1928 he sold to a Mr. Lewis who remained for more than a year and sold to a Mr. Hess, who in December of 1930 moved the stock and fixtures to his store in Iowa. Walter and Signe Samuelson purchased the store in July 1931, stocked and furnished it, continuing until January, 1937. Harold Smith took over and it was known as the Ben Franklin store.



Interior of Book & Variety Store before remodeling

In 1939 Leo V. Carlson purchased the store continuing for some time as a S & G store until he incorporated as Leo V. Carlson Variety. In 1956 he remodeled, and purchased the Christian Book Store material which had been in existence since 1951, and it was incorporated in the fall of 1956. After the death of Leo V. Carlson the store was sold in September 1970 to Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Clifton of Florissant, Missouri. Mr. Clifton passed away suddenly on New Years day 1971 in Florissant, Mo. Mrs. Clifton, the former Doris Knerr, is the present owner and manager.

HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN BOOK STORE

A business venture of a different nature was launched in Stromsburg on Saturday, February 9th, 1952 when the Christian Book Store opened its doors, in the room now occupied by Anna's Beauty Shop.

The thought of a Christian Book Store was first broached in the Stromsburg Ministerial Association, and was established under the direction of an advisory board composed of men from the five churches in Stromsburg, as well as from Swede Home and Green's Chapel. The members of the board included: John Falk, H. Ray Anderson, Aaron Carlson, Dr. Kenneth D. Strong, Clair Mc

Cormick, Dwight Newcomer, Herbert Flodman, Albertus Larson, Willard Anderson, Harry Youngland, C. F. Moore, Wm. Carpenter and Byron Torell. Rev. and Mrs. W. G. Holmberg operated the store with the necessary help.

This unique business venture received its working capital from contributions from interested people. It was entirely missionary in its objective, to provide by retail sales and mail orders, supplies that would further the work of the churches and the Sunday School. It featured Christian literature and gifts for children and adults, sacred music and records, mimeograph supplies and many kinds of Bibles.

In January 1955 Rev. and Mrs. Cecil Johnson began to operate the store and it was moved to the west side of the square.

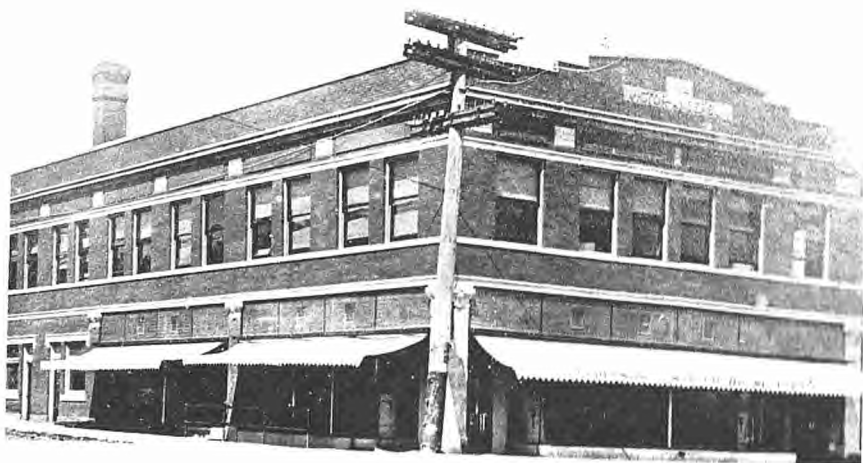
The Christian Book Store was purchased by Leo V. Carlson in the late fall of 1956, and moved into his variety store on the east side. The name was changed to the Christian Book and Variety Store.

THE VICTOR ANDERSON COMPANY

Mr. Victor Anderson arrived from Sweden in 1884 and located on a farm, when in 1903 he decided to quit farming and enter business. Learning that Victor Carlson wanted to sell his furniture store, the deal was made. Later that year he consolidated with J. E. Peterson and on September 1, 1903 the firm was named Peterson and Anderson. After a year and a half he purchased the stock of his partner and the former went to Clay Center, Kansas.

An embalming license was necessary so Mr. Anderson went to Chicago, Ill. where he took a course in the Carl Barnes School of Embalming, where he received his diploma and license. Mr. Anderson was first located in the Victor Carlson building where later the C. P. Nelson store was located for many years. He remained there for ten years. The new towns of Hordville and Polk had been started and he decided to open a branch store at Polk. A building 50 x 100 ft. was erected and stocked with hardware, furniture and undertaking supplies. John Sjoblom, I. T. Samuelson and Alfred Gahn were interested in the venture and the name of the firm was Victor Anderson & Co.

In 1912 a new, fireproof modern brick building was erected in Stromsburg and John L. Olson who had been employed in the store since 1903 bought an

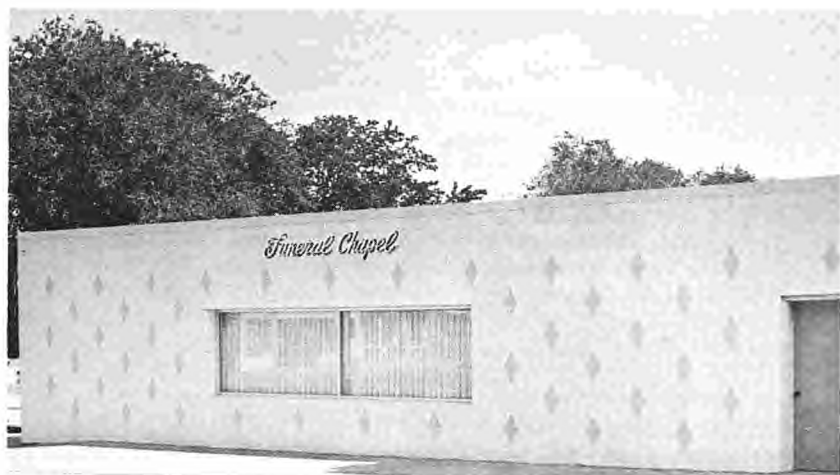


The Victor Anderson Block

interest in the business and it became the firm name of Anderson-Olson Co. The opening of the store in the new building was held on June 7, 1913. John L. Olson remained in the firm until 1916 when he withdrew to start a furniture business and become a funeral director on his own, locating on the south side of the square.

In 1930 Edwin L. Anderson, son of Victor Anderson, purchased an interest in the store and the firm became Victor Anderson and Son. The funeral chapel and show rooms were remodeled at this time.

In 1933 Edwin L. Anderson withdrew his interest in the firm and entered the mortuary business on his own. At that time, Mr. Clement L. Anderson became a partner in the business and the name was changed to Victor Anderson Co. Mr. Victor Anderson retired from business in 1946 after which Edwin L. Anderson became a partner of the firm with Clement L. Anderson until his death in 1949. Edwin L. Anderson continued in the operation of the business until 1960 when the business was sold to Orville Dodds and Robert Braasch who are in business at this time.



Funeral Chapel, built in 1963

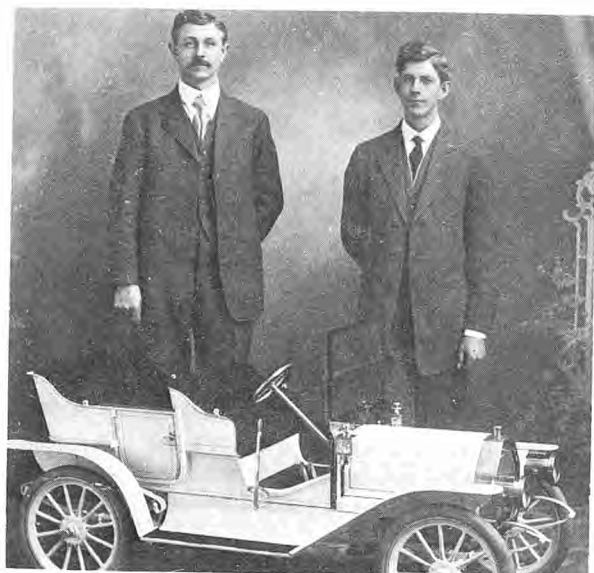
Mrs. Helen Fusby was employed by Edwin L. Anderson for 12 years and has been employed by Orville Dodds and Robert Braasch the past 11 years.

GARAGES AND FILLING STATIONS

Over seventy years ago a bicycle shop was opened in Stromsburg by Nels E. Swanson and his brother, Alex. They manufactured, repaired and sold bicycles.

In 1904 they built their first automobile and it was purchased by L. A. Erickson. Other cars were manufactured for Dr. C. A. Flippin, John Fillman, J. W. Wilson, Frank Halden and the Rystrom Co. The cars were roadster models with the exception of the Fillman machine which was a delivery type designed especially for Mr. Fillman's needs in distributing Watkins Products. The chassis and the bodies for the automobiles were manufactured and assembled here in Stromsburg. The cars were powered with two cylinder gas motors and propelled by means of a chain drive.

Did you know that the smallest gas motor automobile in the world was manufactured by the Swanson brothers in 1907? The car was four feet in length, two



A small perfect automobile built by Nels E. and Alex Swanson. It had 4 cylinders, each cylinder block cast separate. Weighed 140 lbs. Needle valve in carburetor was size of a hair. Car is renovated in Detroit, Mich.

feet high and had a tread of eighteen inches. It was propelled by a four cylinder gas motor and weighed one hundred forty pounds. The Swanson brothers built all of the parts in the engine and constructed the chassis and body. The seat cushions were blue velvet and the tires were donated by Firestone. (See picture)

In 1908, the Swanson Bros. Auto Co. sold an interest in the business to Arthur A. Johnson and they began to sell cars as well as make and repair them. They also took the agency for the Buick and the E.M.F.

In 1909, J. W. Wilson had the Big Garage erected and leased it to the firm so that they would have the needed floor space and the protection of a fire proof building.





The next year the Swanson Bros. sold out the business to the Stromsburg Auto Co. Alex Swanson went to Lincoln and Denver where he had employment until 1922, when he returned to Stromsburg and opened an auto repair shop in the north part of town. He is the pioneer in the auto repair business in Stromsburg.

The Stromsburg Auto Company continued business in the same place until 1913 when they sold to James Orander of Omaha. After that time numerous changes of ownership took place with each continuing under the name of the Big Garage until in 1928 when Emil S. F. Johnson purchased the auto firm and changed the name to the Johnson Motor Company.

Mr. Johnson began his business career in Stromsburg in 1920 when he left the farm to enter into the Insurance & Real Estate firm of Fillman & Johnson with offices in the Opera House building.

Mr. Johnson began selling Ford cars and opened a garage on third street, two doors east of the Stromsburg Bank. He also sold Cole 8 cars and Studebakers at this location.

In 1924 he accepted the agency for Chrysler cars and after moving to the Big Garage the Plymouth franchise was added to the business.

In a sales promotion contest sponsored by the Chrysler Corporation in 1928 Mr. Johnson placed first in sales among the Nebraska dealers and placed fourth among the 60,000 salesmen in the national contest receiving prizes valued at \$1,500.00.

In 1944 the Johnson Motor Co. was moved to its present location on the southeast corner of the square to the building known as the Nordberg building. The Nordberg Bros. had been in business on this corner for twenty years.

Early in 1946 two sons, Leslie, better known as Leck, and Ralph bought into the business and the name was changed to Johnson's Service. A fire destroyed the garage building and contents in 1948 and a new garage and display room were erected that same year.

The firm has continued to deal in Chrysler Sales and Service adding the Dodge line of cars and trucks in 1964. They claim the distinction of having the oldest continuing Chrysler agency in Nebraska.

Oscar A. Rystrom, another pioneer in the automobile business, started the Rystrom Implement Co. in 1905. It was known by that name until 1921, when it was incorporated and named "The Rystrom Company".

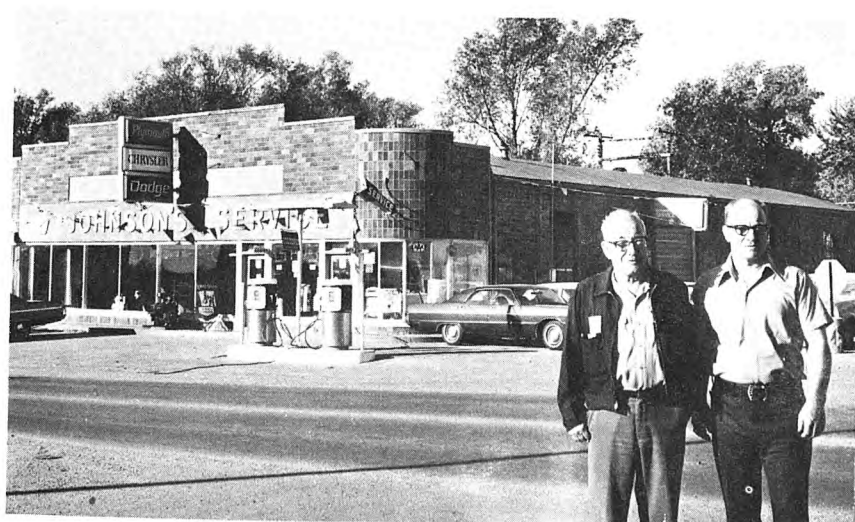
When the auto became quite popular in 1907 the company took the agency for the Reo Automobile. They accepted the agency for Ford cars in 1908 and continued in that line until 1919. The Dodge agency was added in 1908 and the Plymouth in 1919.

JOHNSON SERVICE

CHRYSLER

DODGE

PLYMOUTH



Forty-eight years of "courteous service"

When the railroad was extended to Polk in 1907, they started a branch office in that town and continued business there until 1923. In 1912 a branch house was started in York from which the Dodge and Plymouth cars were distributed to associate dealers at Shickley, Geneva, Milligan, Bradshaw, Polk and Stromsburg. Mr. Rystrom was in business thirty five years in York and Polk counties.

Another shop for auto repair work was opened by Ora Olson and Joe Granere in 1913. Several months later Mr. Olson sold to John Ostbloom. This shop was located in what is now Reuel Sward's business on the north side of the square. Einer and Fred Swanson purchased this business in 1914. The sign on the building read, "Swanson Bros. We repair Automobiles and Fix Fords". After several years in the business they closed shop and Fred took over the operation of the White Rose Filling Station north of the railroad tracks on Highway 81.



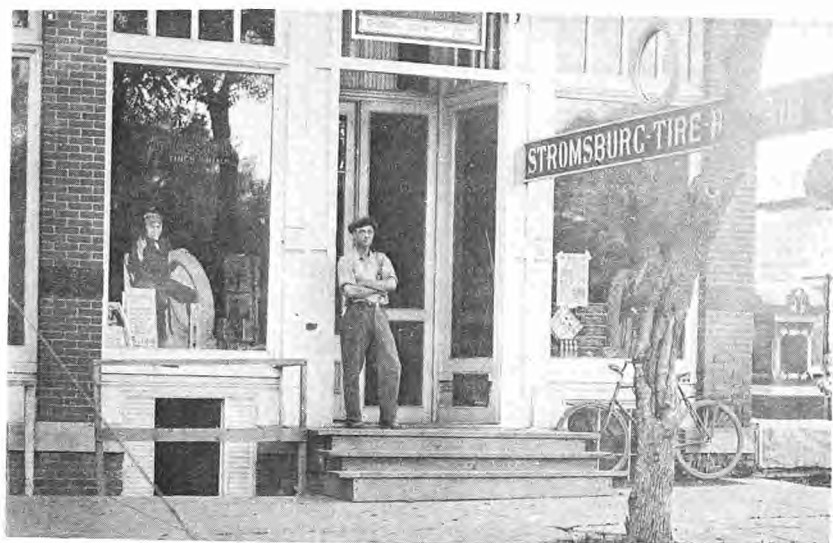
Einer Swanson, Chevrolet dealer, east of Stromsburg Bank, year 1925.

In 1920, Einer again opened an auto repair shop in a building east of the present Stromsburg Bank. He had the agency for Chevrolet cars and trucks and later added the Buick agency. He purchased a building on the west side of the square in 1925, and with his brother Fred, who rejoined the business, continued to sell automobiles. They also sold refrigerators, radios, tires, gas and oils and maintained an auto repair shop. As both brothers became interested in other businesses, Einer in bridge construction and Fred in the chicken hatching business and later operated Swanson's store, they closed their auto business. In 1931 they rented the building to Ivan M. Bengston who had a Ford agency and a repair shop.

The Burke Bros., Clarence and Lawrence who had begun an auto repair business on the north side in 1919, sold it to Tom Ferris in November of 1923. Mr. Ferris had been employed by John Anstrom at the Big Garage since 1917. He continued to operate a repair business in the building now occupied by Reuel Sward until 1932.

In 1935, Reuel Sward who had started an appliance business at the Swede Home Garage in 1931, moved to Stromsburg and entered into the Ford dealership with Ivan Bengston.

From 1937 until 1942 Reuel occupied space in the Branting building where he sold Frigidaire Appliances and was the authorized dealer for Chevrolets. After World War II he purchased his present building on the north side of the square from Lester Spelts and Sons where he continues to operate an appliance and repair service.



First tire shop in Stromsburg 1915-1923. Charlie Eckblade in front of the shop in the building where the old post office was located.

The Stromsburg Tire and Service Station was started by Zibe Osmun in 1919 east of the present Bit of Sweden. In 1923 he moved to the northeast corner of the square and in 1925 he sold the business to Morace Myrberg. During the two years in which Mr. Myrberg operated the shop, Earl Burke was an employee, and in 1927 he became the owner. In 1928 the establishment was affiliated with the National Tire and Battery stores and a line of storage batteries with charging equipment was added. In 1929 a gasoline and oil station was added and operated along with the other business.



Barber's Service in 1929



Alfred Collison in Battery Shop in late 20's. Was east of old milk plant.

With the popularity of the automobile, filling stations began to spring up around Stromsburg. The first to be built in 1919 was located north of the railroad tracks on Highway 81 by the National Refining Company. This is now the



Maud, Marie and Mabel, daughters of John Erickson

bulk fuel plant for Mobil Oil which was rebuilt in the fall of 1971. Harry Pierson started Mobil Oil in 1942 with tank wagon service. In 1944, Wallace Strong took this over for a short time. In 1946, Les Graves operated the tank wagon until his retirement in 1959. It was then taken over by Roger Erickson, who employed Steve Lindquist to operate the tank wagon in 1965, and added a fertilizer plant to the business. In 1966 he built a propane and fertilizer plant on the Rolland Johnson farm, southeast of Stromsburg. In 1967, Wallace Larson took over the Mobil tankwagon and purchased the fertilizer and propane plant from Roger Erickson. He opened an office on the south side of the square in 1969, then moved into the new office building in 1971 next to the Bit of Sweden Restaurant.

The second filling station was built in 1922 by Nathan Wilson and Earl Steever at the northeast corner of the square. They operated this until the next year when it was sold to Chas. S. F. Johnson and Ben Stromberg who called it the Park Filling Station. Johnson and Stromberg sold to the Sinclair Oil Company and on March 1, 1932 Earl Burke leased the station and moved his repair shop and other equipment to the new location. There were many changes of managers until it was taken over by C. C. Keyes in 1949. A new building was erected at this location in 1955 and Mr. Keyes continued to operate it until 1966; seventeen years in all. Mr. Keyes sold to the present operator, Lloyd Carmichael in 1966.



Early day car on dirt streets.

The third gas station was built in 1923 by Ben Stromberg and Emil S. F. Johnson. They ran the business together until 1926 when Frank Myrberg entered into partnership with Mr. Stromberg. This station was called, "The Little Station Around the Corner". The next year, 1927, the station was sold to the Farmer's Union Co-op Oil Ass'n, with Ben Stromberg and Myrberg as managers.

Barber's Service was opened for business on July 1, 1929 by George Barber and his two sons, Harold and Loren. They started with Standard Oil Products, changed to Phillips 66 for a short time and then to Skelly which has been the gas and oil products for 40 years.

A new building housing an office, with a grease pit outside, was built on the corner of 5th and Main. As they expanded, the adjoining building of P. O. Nordlund's carpenter shop was purchased and a new shop building was erected. Later, the buildings of S. P. and Justus Johnson's blacksmith shop were purchased and a second shop was added. August Headstroms machine shop was purchased and the showroom was built. A car lot next to the alley made this a front of one-half block.

The station was closed from 1942 until 1945 while Harold and Loren were overseas serving in the army during World War II.

In 1947 the Pontiac franchise was obtained and the GMC truck line was added in 1950. In 1959 the Studebaker-Lark franchise was added but this was dropped in 1961 when Pontiac came out with their small car, Tempest.

Across from the station, a used car lot was maintained until 1954 when Harold and Loren built the Dairy Queen and operated it for several years along with their car sales and service business. George resided to the west of the station, Loren to the north, thus making this the Barber Corner.

To accommodate their expanding business they added another show room and several warehouses when they purchased the Mamco Manufacturing Company at 1st and Main.

In 1932, two new gasoline stations were built. Coryells, at the corner, five blocks north of the square, on Sandin's corner, and another across from Buckley Park, by Robert Falk.

This service station on Highway 81 has changed hands several times. It was purchased by Jack Baker and his brother Vernon in 1945. The Baker Oil Company was operated by Jack Baker for twenty five years. He also had a Ford Dealership during this time.

In April of 1970, Lamoree and Carlson, Inc. purchased the Baker Oil Company and changed the name to Bob's Standard. It not only serves as a service station but contains the dispatch office of the Lamoree and Carlson trucking firm.



EAST SIDE OF SQUARE, Stromsburg, Neb.

STROMSBURG'S "POP CORN LADY"

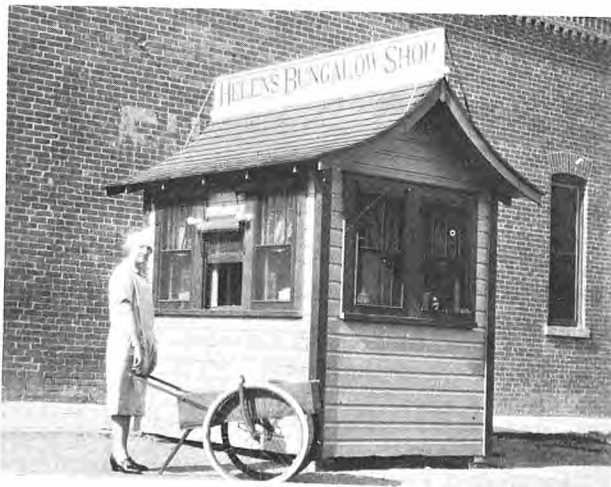
In 1915 Andrew P. Buckley had a popcorn wagon located on the southeast corner of the square where he sold popcorn and peanuts.



Andrew P. Buckley and his wagon

In 1924 his daughter Helen Buckley took over the business and has continued ever since. Not many places sell sacks of popcorn for a nickel as she does.

At the time Helen took over the business she still had the Cretros Wagon which her father and she hauled behind an auto to the various fairs. She sold this wagon in 1927 to a man in Seward and she heard it is still in that community to this day. She gave this wagon up as she started giving violin lessons, which she continued for 25 years.



"The Popcorn Lady"

Her present place of business is a more permanent type place. She had a little shop built which is six by eight feet with a door in the back and a window which opens in front for dispensing of her popcorn on the southeast corner of the square.

For years the youngsters and adults have looked forward to sacks of popcorn that Miss Helen Buckley, 77 years of age, still puts out as our Centennial Year book goes to press.

ELEVATOR IN STROMSBURG

In the early part of 1915 a group of farmers in the Stromsburg Community called a meeting for the purpose of trying to organize a farmer's elevator company. This first meeting was held at the Opera House with John Lanham acting as temporary chairman and Eric Forslund as temporary secretary. At this meeting a committee of seven was appointed to canvas the community and sell stock to raise money to either buy or build an elevator. This committee reported at a later meeting that \$8,125.00 worth of stock had been sold, and the committee was instructed to continue a canvas for more stock. At the later meeting another committee was appointed to draft the constitution and by-laws for the farmer's company. This committee consisted of the following: C. B. Knerr, Herman Twarling, O. C. Olson, G. W. Hollister and J. W. Anderson.

At a meeting held March 13, 1915 the proposed Articles of Incorporation were read and adopted.

The members of the first Elevator Board, as elected, were: C. B. Knerr, O. C. Olson, G. W. Hollister, Herman Twarling, T. W. Blacklund, Eric Forslund, and J. W. Anderson. The first officers being: C. B. Knerr, president; Eric Forslund, vice-president and J. W. Anderson, secretary-treasurer.

At a meeting held April 24, 1915, by the Board of Directors together with representatives from the J. B. Hord Elevator Company, a contract was signed whereby the farmers became owners of the former J. B. Hord Elevator at Stromsburg, Nebraska.

The company was organized and incorporated as a corporation, but later at a special meeting held April 27, 1918, the company decided to dissolve as a corporation and reorganize as a cooperative association, this going into effect May 1st, 1918.

J. A. Olson served as manager for the company until December 1, 1922, when he resigned and P. O. Andrew was elected to fill the vacancy as manager.

In the month of December, 1922, the Farmers Grain Association decided they would enter into the feed and flour business so purchased the warehouse from Mr. Olson which was later remodeled and built as an addition to the main elevator.

The elevator went into the coal business in the year of 1930, also handling sand, and cement, the same year. More building space and a grinder were installed.

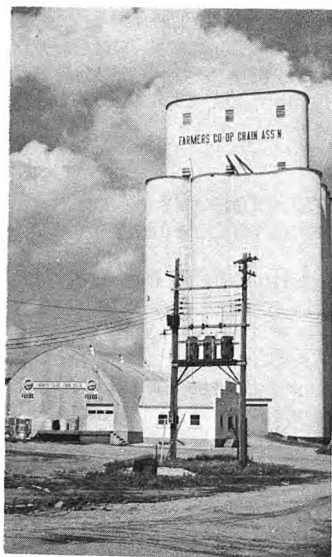
Since then the company has dropped the coal, sand, cement, and flour business and bulk fertilizer has been added.

A big concrete 349,000 bushel elevator was built in 1954 to handle the large quantity of grain, which the farmers were beginning to raise and sell.

More building and expanding was done in 1959, the new office and large feed warehouse was built, also a 1000-bushel grain dryer was installed.

In the year of 1963 another large building was built, the feed mill with a grinder, mixer, and roller installed.

A bulk fertilizer building was built in 1963. They started handling fertilizer at this time; since then, this building has been torn down, and in 1971, a new one was built.



***FARMERS
CO-OP
GRAIN
ASSOCIATION***

Salutes Stromsburg on their Centennial



The elevator now buys many bushels of milo, corn, wheat and soy beans, along with selling feeds, salt, chemicals and fertilizer. Donald R. Wiseman is the manager, coming to Stromsburg in March of 1972 to replace Mell Briant.

The five present board members are: DeVon Johnson, Carl Sundberg, David Jacobson, Brooke Berggren and Ralph Donelson.

OVERLAND SAND AND GRAVEL COMPANY OVERLAND READY-MIXED CONCRETE COMPANY

The firm had its origin in a partnership formed by H. Ray Anderson and Wallace M. Scott in 1922. The firm was called Scott and Anderson. They purchased the coal yard of E. P. Pike and John P. Carlson located east of the railway depot. The office was located at the northwest corner of the square, and shared office space with Alex Scott's lumber business. In 1927, Alex Scott sold the lumber business to Scott and Anderson. In 1933, Scott and Anderson became silent partners in a new business with Harold D. Johnson of Osceola. The firm was called Overland Sand and Gravel and was located in Osceola under Johnson's management. After a few years, Johnson sold his interest to the other two partners and the company was moved to Stromsburg.

In the earlier days of the company, road graveling jobs were scattered throughout the state. Gravel was produced as far east as Louisville, as far west as Gering, Niobrara to the north, and Bruning to the south.

The firm grew during World War II by furnishing materials to military construction projects in Nebraska. Among the major jobs were the Grand Island Air Base, the Kearney Air Base, and the Hastings Ammunition Dump. After World War II, highway construction became a major outlet for the company products.

Wallace Scott passed away in 1958 followed by H. Ray Anderson in 1959. At this time, Vayden Anderson became a partner with Mrs. H. Ray Anderson. The firm moved from the corner of 4th and Main and established temporary office headquarters at the present location at 22 Main Street. Overland Ready-Mixed Concrete Company was founded by this partnership. The first concrete was produced on Labor Day 1959 for Ray Nyffeler from whom the land was purchased for the company headquarters. The present office building was constructed in the fall of 1959. Incorporation of separate companies, the Overland Sand & Gravel Company with the Overland Ready-Mixed Concrete Company, was effected in the spring of 1960 with Vayden Anderson as president.

In 1960, a second ready mix plant was established at the company sand pit three miles south of Central City. Rail shipping facilities were established in 1961 at the Central City pit. Gravel was furnished to the Sherman Dam project and the Interstate 80 Highway job from this location. A two-way radio system was installed in 1960. The firm was one of the first sand and gravel companies in the state to use this means to improve customer service. In 1962, a third ready mix plant was established at Aurora.

In 1960 a quonset-type shop building was constructed. This was completely destroyed by fire in January 1965 along with many pieces of equipment. The present all-concrete tilt-up shop building was erected by the employees in late 1965.

An intensive safety program was instituted in 1968 with defensive driving courses being provided for the employees. A safety awards meeting is held annually for safety recognition. Overland Ready - Mixed Concrete Company was presented a first place national safety award in 1970.

Gravel production sites are located in the vicinity of Clarks, Silver Creek,



Vayden Anderson, president

Overland
Sand & Gravel
Co.

Since 1933



Overland
Ready Mixed
Concrete Co.

Since 1959



ORIGINAL OFFICE



PRESENT OFFICE

Shelby, Fullerton and Central City. Products produced by the Overland companies are precast concrete feed bunks, septic tanks, and sewer laterals as well as concrete, sand and gravel.

Recreation development of sand-pit lake areas has been a by product of the companies for many years. Public fishing has been permitted on company lakes, and several lakes have been restocked in recent years. Cabin and mobile home sites are being developed on lake frontage at several pit areas. A city mobile home park is being established on a company acreage at 6th and High Streets in Stromsburg.

Employees with over 20 years of service are Ronal Peterson and Gerald Quick, Osceola; Marvin Branting, Polk; and Roy Schneider, Stromsburg.

FARMERS UNION CO-OP OIL ASS'N., INC.

The Farmers Union Cooperative Oil Association, Incorporated was organized by the Farmers Union Educational and Co-operative State Union of Nebraska, with the local at Swede Home, Nebraska, on April 8, 1927. The Co-operative was formed for a general nature of business to handle farm products wholesale and retail for its members and patrons.

The first place of business was located in Stromsburg just north of the northwest side of the square. Soon after the organization similar businesses were purchased in Osceola and Polk, handling petroleum products and services. In the later years fertilizers were taken on together with propane and building material and the services that are related. During the sixties Rising City and Silver Creek Cooperatives were merged with them by acquisition.

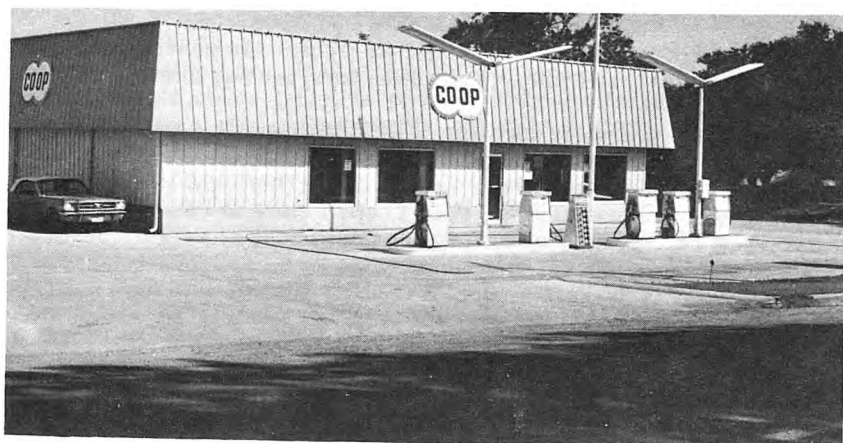
During the years the business increased from one tank wagon to, at the present, ten full time tank wagons and three part time. Also, with a start of two employees to approximately thirty-eight at the present.

The first building in Stromsburg was a small office and one pump for gas with no service bay. Then the station was remodeled to include three pumps and two service bays. In 1957 a completely new facility was erected with office and service room and was too crowded by 1970, when the new location was built two blocks south with a building 60' x 140' with office space, large service area including room for mechanics and a warehouse.

Mr. Kenneth Olson is manager at the present time.

In the middle 60's the Cooperative purchased the Scott property on the west side of the square across from the old station where they own and operate a Lumber Yard.

In 1879 to 1883, C. H. Morrill served as private secretary to the Nebraska Governor, A. Nance.



CO-OP OIL, INC.

is proud of Stromsburg . . . congratulations



JACK AND JILL - AND ITS PREDECESSORS

In 1929 the Food Center Inc. purchased the grocery store in Stromsburg from Russell Olson and Glen Lindburg (both local boys) and was located on the south side of the square.

Russell Olson was made manager in 1929 and served in this capacity until 1936 when Herbert Olson was transferred here from Polk. Prior to coming to Stromsburg as manager of Food Centers store, Herb and his wife Berniece (Bun) managed and operated the Food Centers store in Polk for a number of years. They were both born and raised in this vicinity so were not newcomers to this area. The store was then moved to the Victor Anderson building on the northeast corner of the square where it is still located. In 1943 Herb was called into the service and Wally Sherwood was promoted to manager.

Wally Sherwood began his career in grocery business in May, 1941, as a grocery clerk for Food Center Inc. and worked in that capacity for 2 1/2 years and was promoted to manager.

In 1954 he purchased the Stromsburg franchise from Food Center and took over the ownership of the Stromsburg store.

That year the interior of the store was completely remodeled and all new equipment was added in preparing the store for customers self-service. The store has since continued to operate under the name of Jack and Jill.

In June 1965 Wally purchased the Victor Anderson building which has housed the grocery store for more than 35 years. He also purchased and operated the Jack and Jill stores in York and Osceola.

After completing 29 years of across the counter dealing with their grocery customers, Wally and wife Flora sold out to Edward and Donna Anderson in February 1970. The Andersons are no strangers as they moved here in August of 1966 to manage the Farmers Co-op Elevator.



Nordstrom Grocery, east side of square - Nurdy on the left

Through the years grocery business has grown and undergone some big changes. During the 29 years Wally Sherwood was in grocery business he noted that the traffic pattern has changed. Farm trade is no longer a big Wednesday and Saturday night event. Today, farm wives shop as often as the city homemaker. The farm cream and egg trade played an important part in farmer grocery exchange, and is now a thing of the past.

Self service has brought about the commercial packaging of food products for greater eye appeal to the customer as she shops along the aisles of merchandise. The grocery clerk no longer spends hours sacking foods that have been shipped in bulk quantities, nor does he fill the grocery list handed to him by the shopper. Food trends have also changed. It is now frozen foods that replace some of the old time staple items on the shopper's list. It used to be charge and delivery but now mostly cash and carry.

The Jack and Jill (Food Center Inc.) is a large home-owned cooperative buying group and has many stores throughout Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota.



Roy Ericson Store, north side of square - from left, Roy Ericson, Charlie Holm, Gust Lambert, Annie Brown Kearney, Hattie Pearson, Nina Larson and (?) Hubbert.

ECONOMY SUPER MARKET

In October of 1939, Wilmer Anderson started the Economy Food Store. The original store was small and located on the north side of the square in the Frank Halden building. This is now the location of our new post office.

Food economy for Stromsburg since 1939





Economy Grocery - 1952

Business flourished and one year later the Economy was moved to the east side of the square. The business was located in the Ernest Ericson building, which now has been replaced by Ericson's Hardware Store. The years spent in this building were difficult. This was during World War II and businessmen found it hard to obtain merchandise. After five years of operating the business in this building, the Economy moved in August of 1945 to the present location. The building was purchased from Anton Anderson and had formerly been occupied by the Lantz Drug Store. Shortly after moving to this site on the square, Wilmer Anderson remodeled the building, installed coolers and added fresh meats to the business.

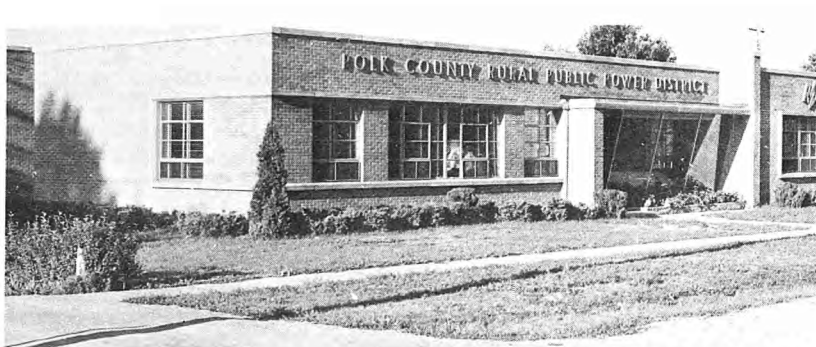
Through the years there have been great changes in the grocery store business. The Economy, under the management of Wilmer Anderson, has tried to stay abreast and move ahead with the times. While located in this building the Economy has been remodeled two different times. The first was in 1958 and the latter in 1964. It was during the latter remodeling that the adjoining building formerly occupied by Lund's Grocery was purchased from A. V. Kjelson and John Peterson. The remodeling of these two buildings enlarged the store to twice its former size. All new fixtures and air conditioning were installed, as well as new and up to date refrigeration and a larger and better equipped meat department. These improvements have helped to make the Economy Super Market a convenient and pleasant place to shop.

After 31 years, Mr. Anderson is semi-retiring and his son-in-law Marvin Wadell will be managing the business. Melvin Wieseman will continue his active part in the store. He has been employed at the Economy for 20 years and has been a great assistance to Wilmer Anderson.

POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

The electric service which we all accept today as a way of life, was not available to most farms and ranches in the early 1930's. Even the smaller communities had no electric service unless they generated their own. In the spring of 1935, the Council of the Swede Home Church, appointed Petrus C. Nelson and Alex Adelson as a committee to see if enough people in Polk County would be interested in organizing a Public Power District. A meeting was held in the Swede Home Church parlors, May 6, 1935, and as a result, a district was organized. Petrus Nelson was elected president of the new district and Agvall S. Torell was elected secretary. Swede Home was chosen as the place of business for the district. Nine directors were elected to the Board, one from each Precinct as follows: Petrus C. Nelson, Maurice G. Lindburg, C. B. Knerr, Victor Thelander, George H. Bond, William Kosch, Albert Schulz, Fred Cockson and Adolph Grossnicklaus. Mr. Grossnicklaus resigned later in 1935 and Bruce Pickett was appointed in his place. Nellie G. Benson replaced Mr. Pickett in 1937. Mr. Knerr also resigned and August E. Anderson took his place. Mr. C. A. Sorensen was engaged as attorney for the district, and Mr. H. H. Henningson as engineer. A loan, in the amount of \$367,500 was approved by the Rural Electrification Administration in October 1936, for the construction of the first lines. In April 1937, Sandberg & Johnston Construction Company was awarded a contract to build the lines. Mr. G. E. Ekstrand was employed as Project Superintendent, and in June 1938 the energization of the lines was celebrated. Mrs. Milo Austin had the honor of closing the switch which started the electric energy flowing in the lines. The City of Stromsburg connected to the lines of the new district in November 1941. The present headquarters building was dedicated in December 1950. The office had been located in the lower rooms of the Stromsburg Bank Building since April 1937. Mr. Lindburg is the only director from the

Best wishes to Stromsburg from



Willard Anderson, manager

original board, still serving the district. He has served as its president since January 1943. The present manager, Willard L. Anderson, was hired as book-keeper in July 1942, became acting manager in February 1943, and was approved as general manager about two years later. The district is presently serving one thousand, nine hundred and twenty customers from six distribution substations, and is still adding new users. The district has borrowed more than two and one half million dollars for construction of lines, buildings and the purchase of equipment. Total indebtedness is now less than one million dollars. A board of seven directors, and a staff of eleven employees now serve the district. The following men are serving as officers and directors: M. G. Lindburg, president; Eugene R. Kosch, vice president; Myron W. Jones, treasurer; Raymond R. Bond; Robert E. Oberg; Clinton P. Colby; and Louis R. Scow. Mr. M. A. Mills, Jr. is attorney and secretary to the board. We are proud to have been a part of this progressive community for the past thirty-six years.

ELECTRICIANS

In 1935 the City of Stromsburg bought the Electric distribution system from Iowa Nebr. Light and Power Co. Nearly all homes were wired for electricity and the distribution system was growing constantly to serve the need of the city, and it continues to grow to this day.

C. M. Bennett, Curtis Johnson and Clair McCormick were among the early city employees maintaining the light system. They were followed by Tom Williams, Carl Burkeman, Arnold Peterson, Duane Swanson and Nelson Hamblin who is the present city maintenance man.

In 1938 the Polk County REA system was ready for use and lights were turned on at a special celebration at Swede Home. For the first time many farm families had lights and refrigerators and many other conveniences that were only available in the city before.

With the coming of REA several new electrical businesses were started to fill the need of the area for new appliances and wiring for the homes and farm buildings. Among these were James & Beckman who in the early days of REA wired many farms for electricity. The principles were Paul James and Harold Beckman. Their employees at that time were Carl Burkeman, Lloyd Knerr and Leo Norman.

Bosserman Electric for a short time was operating an appliance and wiring business.

Ericson and Anderson Hardware was an early appliance dealer and later Clyde Ericson was engaged in wiring.

At the start of World War II the production of appliances and wiring went to the military. Many persons who were in this business were either working in defense plants or were in military service.

After the war, Clair McCormick returned to Stromsburg to operate an electrical wiring business and is still engaged in that business at the present time.

Harold Beckman built a new business place and started a plumbing, heating and electric business and continues to operate at the present time.

Ericson Hardware has continued through the years and at present is providing electrical service for their appliances.

Sward Service serves the area with electric service for refrigerators and other appliances.

Burg Refrigeration operates an appliance sales and service business.

Eldon Swanson began business as partner of the Swanson's Store, a family operation where an appliance and electric wiring business was conducted for 22 years. After selling the store in 1967, a new business of electrical wiring was started and continues to be known as Swanson Electric.

HAZEL'S APPAREL SHOPPE

The year of 1971 marked the Silver Anniversary of Hazel's Apparel Shoppe. It was in 1946 that Mrs. Hazel Carlson Johnson, of Polk, started a store selling ladies apparel. At that time she was manager of Erickson's Jewelry. The store was divided so that she could rent the north half which housed the feminine attire.

Not having much capital, she borrowed funds from the Stromsburg Bank and started with \$1,000.00. As the store prospered the money made was reinvested and stock was built up.

Mrs. Lester (Julia) Spelts started with her in the accessory division (scarfs, purses, gloves, etc) and continued as a co-partner for about a year. She then sold her interest in the business to Mrs. Johnson.

During this quarter century of selling dresses, slacks, sweaters, lingerie, etc. as well as children's clothing, Mrs. Johnson has seen a definite change of fashions.

In 1946 hats were high fashion, at the present time the hat business is almost nil, due to the bouffant hair styles and the wearing of wigs. Many long hours were spent in by gone days in "retrimming hats" for Stromsburg ladies not able to afford a new one, they brought their hats to Hazel to restyle, putting on veils, ribbon, flowers or even feathers. She sometimes worked until the wee hours to finish a hat for a special occasion.

The era of sequins and bead trim on dresses is past, although this was a popular type for a "Sunday" dress 25 years ago.

Leather purses were a big seller in former days, but now purses of plastic or synthetic materials are the bigger sellers.

Sport clothes continue as one of the main sellers. Scarves were popular years ago and are now back in style.

Due to eye surgery and failing health, Mrs. Johnson has not been able to take care of the duties at the store since 1962. Her daughter, Mrs. LaVaughn (Corinne) Adelson has managed it since then.

Mrs. Fern Knight who is presently employed has been associated as sales lady with the business for almost 26 years.

BOWLING LANES

At one time there were two bowling lanes in the basement of the recreation parlor owned by Geo. Shrike. The recreation parlor was located in the Opera House block which is now the east half of the Viking Center. The basement is now the greatly appreciated weekly meeting place of twenty-one Boy Scouts, who are active in many community activities.

The bowling alley of today was built in 1950 by Todd Graves and Frank Nordberg. They owned and operated the bowling lanes for several years, then Frank Nordberg sold his interest to Todd Graves. It was then known as Todd's Bowling Lanes and he continued to operate it with the help of his wife Beulah.

It was sold in 1961 to Dick and Lucille Boyd and they operated it for several years, and Terry Bouska for two years.

After being closed for some time, the Boyds sold the bowling lanes to Clay and Margie Holmes in August of 1971. It is now known as the C and M Bowling Lanes and they are enjoying a good business in our Centennial year of 1972.

SERVISOFT SOFT WATER CO., INC.

A Servisoft franchise was obtained and business started in Stromsburg by Ralph and Don Nordberg in 1954.

The business is now owned by Frank and Bob Nordberg. Dennis Jasper was employed by the company in 1964 as exchange tank route man.

The business specializes in softener exchange tank service, rental automatic softeners, sales and service of home-owned water conditioning equipment. The area served out of Stromsburg includes the counties of Polk, York, Hamilton, Merrick, Nance, Boone, Platte, Madison and Butler.

JOE'S BODY SHOP

Hal Gordon built the shop in 1957 and operated the shop for ten years. He sold it to Joe Schinzel in 1966. It was opened for business by Joe in 1967 and is known as Joe's Body Shop.

STROMSBURG LAUNDROMAT

In 1960 the Laundromat opened in the Hartman building on the south side of the square. It was owned by a man from Omaha. The building and equipment burned in 1962.

In 1963 the Hotel Laundromat was opened and managed by Ted Garner. In December 1964 Don Nordberg purchased the Hotel Laundromat and the name was changed to The Stromsburg Laundromat. Don Nordberg is the present owner and manager of the Stromsburg Laundromat which is located on the west side of the square.



PALMBERG AUTO SUPPLY OF STROMSBURG

The firm opened in June of 1961 with Edwin Palmberg, Elmer Palmberg, Maurice Palmberg and Robert Person as partners in the organization. In 1969 Edwin Palmberg sold his interest in the firm to the three remaining partners and the partnership was incorporated. In 1971 Elmer Palmberg announced the sale of his interest to Harry Christensen, who had managed the business since the opening date. The firm again became a partnership, Palmberg Auto Supply.

KREIS DRYWALL

April 25, 1963, Thomas L. Kreis and family moved to Stromsburg, Nebraska from Orlando, Florida where he was employed by Cather & Sons Drywall Company. He moved on to his mother's farm southeast of Stromsburg, where he was engaged in farming. The late part of 1963, he started what is known as Kreis Drywall. He worked out of the farm place doing only a few small jobs. In 1964 he hired men and with the office located on the farm. In October 1968, he moved the business to Stromsburg, 212 East Third Street, known as the Old Milk Plant. The business grew so he has had as many as 20 men on the payroll. Tom still farms his mother's place along with the business. He moved to Stromsburg residency November 23, 1970 located at 515 East Second Street.

Tom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Kreis. He was born and raised in Stromsburg. He graduated from the Stromsburg High School in 1953 and then served in the Army, stationed in Texas.

He has owned and operated Kreis Drywall here in Stromsburg for eight years.





Larson Propane & Fertilizer, building completed in 1972

KA-WAN CERAMICS

Stromsburg's newest business opened its doors November 1, 1971. Principals involved in the new fascinating business of ceramics are Kay Johnson (Mrs. Bill) and Wanda Peterson (Mrs. Doug).





The Gary Hullinger family would like to pay special tribute to those pioneers who so devotedly gave of themselves and their talents in establishing the rich inheritance we share today, Stromsburg.

The revolutionary spirit which characterizes 1970's poses a threat to many of these established orders. It seems that the main issue today appears to be whether man will choose to recycle society or self-destruct.

It is our prayer that we may be pioneers in restoring those principles that made our country a great nation. Congratulations to the Swede Capital of Nebraska on their Centennial 1872-1972.

Chapter XV

Clubs and Organizations in 1972

STROMSBURG LODGE #126

On October 15, 1883, members of the Masonic Order residing in Stromsburg met and took steps toward organizing a Masonic Lodge in Stromsburg.

A dispensation was received from the Grand Lodge, January 18, 1884, after which time the Lodge met regularly. Stromsburg Lodge was numbered #126 and was given a Charter on August 22, 1884.

Stromsburg Lodge #126 had the honor of being one of the few lodges in the state to receive a certificate of proficiency in its work. During the World War II the lodge had the distinction of sending a greater percentage of its membership into service than any other lodge in the state.

Over a period of time the membership of the lodge has constantly been growing. Many of the members have passed away, but younger men have taken up the work earnestly and effectively thus increasing the outlook for the future of the Lodge.

The Masonic Temple was located on the south side of the square and was destroyed by fire March 5, 1962. Very little was saved from the fire. Thereafter Rob Morris Chapter #192, O.E.S. and the Lodge met regularly in a city building.

The brethren began to make plans for a new Masonic Temple and in October of 1962 began construction at the site of the old Lodge Hall. The Masons built most of the new Lodge through volunteer work. The shell of the building was erected by Frank Nordberg and anything else that could be done by the Masons was done through their donations of hours of work.

Finally, October 12, 1964, the new Masonic Temple was dedicated by special ceremonies with the assistance of Grand Lodge Officers. Since that time, the activity at the Lodge has increased constantly. Stromsburg Lodge #126 is still one of the most active lodges in the State of Nebraska in relation to its size. Many degrees have been conferred on petitioners raising the present member enrollment to 151.

STROMSBURG WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

The Union was organized on March 5, 1889 at the Eden Baptist Church with 37 members. In 1899, the Union was re-organized. Eight departments of work are carried on at present: Christian Outreach, Citizenship, Education, Home Protection, Legislation, Projection Methods, Public Relations and Social Service. Meetings are held twelve times a year.

In 1899, the Ministers, W.C.T.U. and County Commissioners met to protest a road house being opened in South Stromsburg and ball games played on Sunday. A few years later the Union was mainly responsible for saloons being voted out. Bible reading was promoted and prayer in the public schools in 1916. A Loyal Temperance Council was organized in 1933 with 35 members with Mrs. Earl Burke as leader. Two thousand temperance leaflets were distributed before election. Flowers are sent to sick and shutins each year in the month of June; letters and petitions are sent to senators and representatives opposing bills favoring liquor, also protesting morals in the military camps.

The following have served as Chairman since 1889: Mrs. A. M. Hobson, Mrs. John Erickson, Mrs. C. A. Anderson, Mrs. H. F. Haverland, Mrs. W. A. Burke, Mrs. John A. Falk, Miss Anna Freeman, Mrs. Albertus Larson, Mrs. Rolland Swanson, Mrs. Evelyn Schwartz.

Mrs. H. F. Haverland served five years as County President. Mrs. John A. Falk served as State Welfare Director for five years and County President for six years.

WOMAN'S CIVIC IMPROVEMENT CLUB 1894-1972

The Woman's Club was organized as the outgrowth of a circular letter received by the postmaster at Stromsburg. The substance of the letter was as follows: A movement is being forwarded in Nebraska for the organization of Woman's Clubs. These clubs were to be educational. A woman of good character was eligible, with no discrimination shown, as the purpose of the clubs was to elevate women.

The Stromsburg Woman's Club, with twelve charter members, was organized on Thanksgiving Day, 1894, under the inspiration of Miss Julia S. Haskell. She was known as the founder and first president. She devoted much time to this movement until she moved to Wakefield, Nebraska. In 1898 she returned to Stromsburg and established the Frances M. Ford Dept. for Special Study, serving as leader for the next four years.

A few hours old, the club received an invitation to a convention in Omaha on the 10th and 11th of December to organize a State Federation, auxiliary to the General Federation. The Omaha Woman's Club, with Mrs. Frances M. Ford as president, was the active agent in the initiation of the State Federation. The Stromsburg Club sent delegates to the meeting but were not authorized to join the Federation.

At the first anniversary celebration, the guest of honor was Mrs. Elis W. Peattie, a well-known writer of Omaha, who was instrumental in the formation of the State Federation. Gentlemen were invited to this anniversary meeting and gave their approval and cordial cooperation.

In the autumn of 1896, Mrs. J. A. Frawley was elected president. English history was chosen for study. Husbands and guests were invited to an open meeting once a month. A program consisting of current topics was proposed for these meetings, the first given on Thanksgiving evening, November 26th, which was also the organization's second anniversary. Miss Farebrother, the editor of the Omaha Woman's Weekly, was the guest speaker on this occasion.

Mrs. N. S. Clark was elected president in 1897 and also served as first president of District 4 in 1907-07. Active members during 1897 were:

Mrs. J. G. Green
Mrs. M. A. McKeever
Mrs. P. T. Buckley
Mrs. A. B. Hedbloom
Mrs. Alexander Scott
Miss Louise Thompson
Mrs. Otto Johnson
Mrs. L. B. Swaynie
Mrs. H. D. Skelton
Miss Mollie Hall

Mrs. B. C. Nichol
Miss Ada M. Coleman
Miss Jennie Scott
Mrs. Calmar McCune
Miss Stella Willits
Mrs. W. E. Nichol
Mrs. Dana Little
Miss Margaret McCune
Mrs. N. S. Clark
Mrs. H. W. Brash

Mrs. J. A. Frawley
Mrs. L. H. Headstrom
Mrs. C. C. Eroe
Mrs. L. V. Haskell
Miss Nellie C. Smith
Mrs. A. P. Lindburg
Miss Chattie Coleman
Mrs. Albert Little
Mrs. C. A. Morrill
Mrs. E. F. Thompson

Honorary members were:
Mrs. L. H. Headstrom

Mrs. J. H. Presson

Corresponding members were:

Mrs. E. A. Hatfield, Kansas City, Mo.

Miss Grace Culbertson, Omaha, Neb.

Mrs. George Whitlock, Chariton, Iowa

Miss Ina Graham, Des Moines, Iowa

Mrs. W. A. Post, Denver, Colo.

Miss Julia S. Haskell, Wakefield, Neb.

Miss Sonora Cornell, Boston, Mass.

Mrs. H. Seebers, Brighton, Iowa

Mrs. W. M. Ladd, Omaha, Neb.

The meetings were held in the homes, in alphabetical order, on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Members were required to register and pay \$1.00 annual dues on the first Saturday in September or their membership would be dropped. Article 6 in the by-laws stated: "A department of special study may be established at any time by only five members; each department shall elect its own leader." The material used for study was written by professors at the University of Nebraska and published in the North-Western Monthly. This was followed by the creation of an "Outside Educational Forces Department" in the North-Western Monthly with Mrs. Frances M. Ford as editor.

The purpose of the Stromsburg club was to promote interest in literary work and assist in the mutual improvement of its members; to secure more artistic surroundings for school children and to give them acquaintance with good pictures; to improve sanitary conditions in Stromsburg and beautify streets and parks; and to foster public libraries and aid educational progress through books. (What would the women of the 1890's and the turn of the century feel if they could visit the Woman's Civic Improvement Club of today? Would they feel completely at home with us?)

A Federation Library was of great advantage to the club members because they did not have access to a public library. The well-chosen books were sent out on the traveling-library plan, circulating from club to club as soon as read.

Records of the period between 1898 and 1917 cannot be found. We have a compiled list of names who we assume served as presidents of the club. They are: Mrs. H. D. Skelton, Mrs. P. T. Buckley, Mrs. J. H. Presson, Mrs. A. C. Morrill, Mrs. L. A. Ericson, Mrs. J. G. Green and Mrs. M. A. McKeever. It is hoped that someone will find yearbooks in the near future so all president's names can be recorded in the history of the club.

From items published in The Headlight, the following facts are known about the club. A literary society for young people was organized at the home of Mrs. H. D. Skelton. Miss Julia McCune was elected president; Ira Banta, vice president; and Nathan Wilson, secretary.

On May 1, 1913, Professor Edwin H. Barbour's stereopticon lecture on the "City Beautiful" was attended by a large enthusiastic audience. The club assumed such an interest in this great movement that the name of the club was changed to the Woman's Civic Improvement Club.

In 1914 the Club opened a library to the public. One hundred chosen books had been collected besides a number of children's books. A fee of fifty cents was charged for six months use of a book.

In the spring of 1916 there was agitation for securing a Carnegie Library. The city was allotted \$7,500 for the erection of the building. It was completed in 1918 and the club gave five hundred dollars to the Public Library.

Additional projects of the club through the early years were: gates at the cemetery, ten benches for the city park, a furnished rest room in the park and for several years the members did the cleaning; playground equipment, and smaller gifts to other worthy projects

From 1917 to 1925 the club still had roll call with the executive board deciding who could be accepted as members. Sixteen meetings each year were held either at Scott Hall or the member's homes. They were sewing garments for Red Cross, selling Red Cross Seals and buying Liberty Bonds. During these years the club grew from 26 to 83 members and the presidents were: Mrs. Harvey Wright, Mrs. W. A. Barnard, Mrs. Fred W. Johnson, Mrs. Tom James, Mrs. Frank Clifford, Mrs. A. B. Hedbloom and Mrs. Irvin H. Swift. The first "Reception for Teachers" was held October 10, 1924.

On February 19, 1925 the first meeting to perfect a county organization was held in Stromsburg. Mrs. A. B. Hedbloom was elected the first president of the Polk County Federation. The organization was to unite the clubs throughout the county for the purpose of mutual benefit, and for the promotion of their common interest in education, philanthropy, public welfare, moral values, civics and fine arts.

All federated and unfederated clubs in the county were welcome to join and the following were on the roll: Green's Chapel; Woman's Civic Improvement Club; Woman's Culture Club of Osceola; Polk Faithful Workers; Polk Mother's Club; Shelby Woman's Club; Wesley Chapel; and the U Go I Go Club of Stromsburg. The Polk County Federation joined the Butler County Federation in 1956 and continued as an inter-county federation for ten years. In 1966 the Stromsburg club was the only federated club in Polk and Butler Counties and our purpose for federation was reviewed by Mrs. C. F. Moore on May 12, 1964--the club's 70th anniversary luncheon. Mrs. Moore said, "Our Federation brings us broader contacts and view points, provides avenues for worthwhile service, affords stimulation and growth, trains leadership, helps mold public opinion, promotes friendship, understanding, and good will. A member of the General Federation is a link in the chain of members that circle the globe. We need the Federation and the Federation needs us."

Sentiment seemed in favor of a departmental club in 1926. Ten general meetings were held on the fourth Friday, 2:45 p.m., at Scott Hall. The Art Craft Department met Tuesday afternoon, 2:00 p.m., at homes of members. The Drama Department met the second and fourth Monday evenings at 7:15 at homes of members. The Home Economics Department met the second Friday at 3:00 p.m. and the fourth Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the high school. The Bible Study Department met the first and third Monday evenings at 7:30 in the Library.

Miss Vivian Sard was music director of the club in 1926-27. The club put on a pageant in connection with the May Festival which featured the history of Stromsburg. Mesdames Scott, Morrill and Westenius were appointed to assist Miss Sard with pageant material.

Each department had a leader, chairman, and secretary. The departmental club was discontinued in 1932-33 and membership dropped to 57 members with one meeting a month from September through May.

Teachers were named associate members of the club in 1928 and wives of ministers were made honorary members in 1929.

Presidents of the club from 1926 to 1933 were: Mesdames J. A. Jimerson, Emil Boostrom, A. V. Kjelson, M. D. Strong, R. L. Minnick, E. E. Stanton, and H. H. Weaver. The quality of an organization is determined by its leadership. The club history was published in Chattie Coleman Westenius' book in 1931 and it stated, "More than three decades have passed since the first president presided so graciously over the first club of twenty members, and much advancement has been made; today the president presides over a company of more than one hundred women who are alert, capable, and progressive; and able to cope with the questions of the day".

A Junior Club was organized in 1934 with Mrs. Wallace Scott and Mrs. R. E.

Nelson as advisors. Mrs. J. G. Green was given an honorary life membership and she presented the club with the gavel which had been presented to the original club in 1897. Mesdames R. B. Carey and H. H. Weaver served as presidents of the club at that time.

The Community Club, now the Commercial Club, was asked to help sponsor the reception for the teachers in 1936. The annual reception in honor of the teachers and the ministers of the community continues today as an outstanding social event.

The American Home was the program theme for the year of 1936-37 when Mrs. S. D. Evins was president of the club. The Home Life Department was created in 1924 by the General Federation and it began a campaign for better equipped homes. These efforts contributed greatly toward raising the level of homemaking efficiency and helped to bring about the recognition of home-making as an occupation by the United States Bureau of the Census.

"Our Youth" was the program theme for the year of 1937-38 and they have been a loving concern of the club from the very time of organization to the present day. The Fine Arts program includes many interesting phases of living and is open to all students, including kindergarten through senior high, as well as to all club members. An educational scholarship is given each year to a senior in the local high school.

The club members were singing, "Nebraska, My Native Land" and were showing a real interest in legislation. According to records the Nebraska Home Economic Association was organized as an "associated" organization of NFWC. Now a wealth of material goes from the College of Home Extension and County Agents of most Nebraska counties for local use. The local club helped the county agent organize the first project club in Stromsburg.

"Educational Achievement" was the program theme during the presidency of Mrs. Frank Nordberg, in 1938-39. Members have never ceased their activities in the cause of education and have been known as the local PTA. A quick glance into the past year books of the club tells the desire of education for all. It also gives the satisfaction of seeing a number of specific reforms and improvements in the public school materialize.

Mesdames Arthur D. Morrill and Stanton Moore used "Civic Improvement" as the program theme for the years when they served as presidents. The quality of an organization is determined by its leadership. The history of the Woman's Club is a mosaic of stories of club presidents who labored to accomplish some project or purpose for the betterment of their community.

On February 23, 1940, the club enjoyed an old fashioned "Golden Jubilee" dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of NFWC. The honored guest was the late Mrs. A. F. Nuquist, past president of NFWC. The guest speaker on November 13, 1942 was Mrs. S. D. Evins of Stromsburg who was serving as NFWC president of District 4.

Mrs. A. B. Hedbloom was given an honorary membership in the club in 1942 and Mrs. S. D. Evins in 1972.

"Service for Victory" was the theme during the reign of Mesdames Clair McCormick, Clyde Ericson and R. E. Nelson who served as presidents during the second World War. The clubwomen promoted victory gardens, took part in Red Cross services and provided cookies, gifts and old magazines for soldier boys. The club held several patriotic meetings and each club meeting was opened with the flag salute.

Mrs. H. B. Branting and Mrs. C. A. Slusser were the club presidents following the war. The club continued to hold interesting meetings and sponsor the March of Dimes but very little was done toward civic improvement. In February of 1949, when the "Build a Better Community Contest" was announced, all agreed that the

club should enter. The club members considered the need for more recreation for youth and adults and took action. They organized the Cub and Boy Scout troops, three 4-H Clubs, and rendered active assistance and encouragement to the F.F.A. and Y-Teen organizations of the community. They also sponsored summer recreation classes, a hobby show, a Gay Nineties Musicales and Old Time Box Social for all ages. The club definitely justified its existence with the clean-up, its rat eradication project, and arrangements for garbage pickup for proper disposal--a service the community had not previously enjoyed. The contest chairman was Mrs. Max Quick and the club president, Mrs. Walter French.

The following year of 1950-51 was under the leadership of Mrs. Arnold Detmer and twelve members were on the executive board. The membership of 132 clubwomen was the largest in the history of the club.

Until one reads the past records, one can't realize the hundreds of things this club has accomplished and what interesting and worthwhile programs have taken place since that Thanksgiving Day in 1894.

The club moved their general place of meeting from Scott Hall to the high school in 1942 and later to the grade school building. The three annual events appreciated by the club members were: the reception for ministers and teachers, a Christmas party with husbands as guests, and the May luncheon. Those serving as presidents of the club following Mrs. Detmer were: Mesdames Max Quick, and Wesley Fredrickson.

In 1954 the basement of the library was fixed up to serve as club rooms and members met there until 1964. Those serving as presidents in this location were Mesdames Ross Speece, Wilbur Olson, and Lavelle Lamoree. The Book Club was organized some time during the three year presidency of Mrs. Speece. The Christmas party for husbands was changed to an afternoon Christmas program during the four years Mrs. Wilbur Olson served as president. During Mrs. Lavelle Lamoree's term of office the Woman's Club became co-sponsors of the Swedish Festival with the Commercial Club.

In 1963 the Commercial Club became co-sponsors with us on the Community Improvement Program and in enumerating the achievements, the club recognizes its interdependence upon other civic-minded individuals and organizations whose support has helped to make many of these accomplishments possible. Swedish costumes were promoted in 1963 when Mrs. John Ellis was president of the Club. The gigantic task of cataloging the books in the city library was completed in 1964 by volunteers under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Walter French. The cost of this improvement project was about \$500 and this money was earned by the first public smorgasbord held in Stromsburg during the Swedish Festival under the chairmanship of Mrs. Donald Rystrom, president of the club. The Community Chorus with 65 voices was promoted all four years that Mrs. Rystrom served as president.

The club donated \$500 of the profit received from the sale of the Woman's Club cookbook "Food Favorites of the Swede Capital" to the Viking Center building fund. Co-chairmen of the cookbook committee were Mrs. Stanton Moore and Mrs. Lavelle Lamoree. The club also furnished the Viking Center with a refrigerator, piano, 60 chairs, dishes, silverware, a podium and snack sets.

Many of you recall the trip to the Wayne West T. V. program, the tour of Stuhrs Museum, and also the Swede Capital bus rides to many places of interest.

Mrs. Paul Swanson served the club as president for four years after Mrs. Rystrom's first term of office. Her community cafe during the Swedish Festival will be repeated during the Centennial celebration of Stromsburg in 1972 with the Covenant Home as beneficiary.

In 1972 the club collected \$250 to aid the building program of the All Faith's Chapel at the Geneva Training School. They also provided leadership for the fund-





WOMAN'S CLUB
Broadcasters Recognition Award



Geraldine Rystrom 1965-1966



Phyllis Yungdahl 1968-1969



Marlyce Christensen 1970-1972



Helen Fusby 1967-1968



Carol Ellis 1969-1970



Stromsburg's Woman's Civic Improvement Club's past presidents, back row: Mesdames M. D. Strong, S. D. Evins, A. V. Kjelson, Clyde Ericson, H. B. Branting, John Ellis, Stanton Moore.

Front row: Mesdames Clair McCormick, Paul Swanson, Donald Rystrom, Wesley Fredrickson and R. E. Nelson. Picture was taken at Diamond Jubilee banquet in October, 1970.

drive for building a new care unit at the Midwest Covenant Home. Mrs. Donald Rystrom served as chairman for the door to door canvas and \$40,000 was received for this purpose by February 1, 1972. Another \$10,000 is needed and hoped to be raised by the proceeds of the Centennial celebration of Stromsburg. Compiling a **History of Stromsburg** book and the production of the pageant are the two largest contributions of the club and should raise one-half of the needed funds.

The club has entered the Community Improvement Program, co-sponsored by GFWC and Sears-Roebuck Foundation with their many projects listed under "Environment in Focus". Mrs. Warren Johnson has served as C I P chairman and if money is won from this contest it will be used for a museum.

We recognized and point with pride to the rich heritage that is ours; we are eager to bestow honor on those who have been responsible for past achievements; at the same time we must definitely realize that what has gone before is merely a preface to the entire story. The future is in the hands of a new departmental club under the leadership of Mrs. Gary Hullinger during 1972-73.

The club celebrated its 75th anniversary with a Diamond Jubilee banquet in October of 1970. The club has grown in size, influence, and respect so that every club woman may be proud of her membership and may we all "Cherish the Past and Challenge the Future". November 27, 1994 will mark the beginning of the Centennial year for the Woman's Civic Improvement Club.

ROB MORRIS CHAPTER #192

At the turn of the century many of the members of the Stromsburg Masonic Lodge #126 A:F: & A:M: felt it was time for a new organization in Stromsburg, thus, the Order of the Eastern Star was organized.

Rob Morris Chapter #192, Order of the Eastern Star, was instituted in Stromsburg on March 13, 1904. The new Chapter, named for the founder of the Eastern Star, held its first initiation on April 17, 1905, with exemplification by Osceola Chapter #24. Rob Morris Chapter received its regular charter June 8, 1905.

The new organization enjoyed steady growth, and began a tradition of worthy charitable endeavor on a local, state and national level, which compounded with high spiritual and fraternal aims, resulted in a genuine enrichment in the life of its membership and the Stromsburg community.

Rob Morris Chapter continued to grow in function and in membership for many years. The conditions of the Depression of the 1930's caused fraternal organizations everywhere to falter. The local Eastern Star Chapter weakened, but finally stabilized and continued to grow. In 1951 several members were lost when the neighboring town of Polk formed its own Eastern Star Chapter. Rob Morris Chapter of Stromsburg rallied again, however, as it continued with worthwhile projects and increased membership.

The Rob Morris Chapter room has been the scene of many interesting activities, both philanthropic and social, over the years. From its inception through the present, the Chapter has supported all regional, state and national projects of the Order of the Eastern Star, including the Orphanage maintained at Fremont and the Childrens Hospital maintained at Pusan, Korea. Various local projects have also been the recipients of Eastern Star attention. Social highlights have included numerous receptions, anniversaries, special programs and visitations of the Grand Chapter Family, co-hosted by the Osceola and Polk Eastern Star Chapters. Most notable in recent years has been the 50th Anniversary Celebration, observed June 16, 1955. Also notable in the history of Rob Morris Chapter, has been the honor of inclusion in Nebraska Grand Chapter activities, of many of their members.

Fire destroyed the building housing the Masonic Temple and the Eastern Star Chapter Room on March 5, 1962. All furnishings of the Lodge and the Chapter were a total loss. Following the fire Rob Morris Chapter met regularly in another city building and held its special meetings in the chapter room of a neighboring Chapter.

Plans by the Masonic Lodge for a new home soon took shape. Construction started on the old site in October, 1962. The new Masonic Temple and Eastern Star Chapter Room were dedicated October 12, 1964.

The Rob Morris Chapter of the 1970's, with a present membership of 108, has maintained the high standards of the Order of the Eastern Star, and has continued to enhance the Stromsburg community spiritually and socially.

STROMSBURG COMMERCIAL CLUB

The Stromsburg Commercial Club is an organization of businessmen whose purpose is to promote civic improvement and community betterment. Its governing body is a Board of Directors. Members of the 1971 Board of Directors are: president - Edward L. Anderson, vice president - Willis Davis, Phil Cuddeford, Wallace Larson, Tom Kreis and Gary Anderson. James Westring, immediate past president, is an ex-officio member. Carleton Anderson serves as the executive secretary of the Club.

The Commercial Club was organized on May 30, 1905 in the Y.M.C.A. rooms of the Boostrom building on the south side of the square. Serving as the first officers were: president - J. W. Wilson, vice president - A. B. Hedbloom, treasurer - Ira Banta, secretary - Dr. W. A. Post. Members on the Board of Directors were: L. H. Headstrom, Alex Scott, John Tongue, John Erickson, A. T. Carlson and G. H. Presson.

In 1919 the name was changed to the Community Service Association and continued as such until 1925 when the name was changed to the Stromsburg Community Club and membership was open to men of the community who were not businessmen of the town. Since then, the name has reverted back to the Commercial Club and membership limited to business and professional men and women of the city.

One of the early projects of the Commercial Club was to confer with the county commissioners relative to improving the county roads leading into town. The Club was also instrumental in getting a street sprinkler to help control the dust problem in the city.

In 1909 the Commercial Club through substantial pledges was instrumental in getting the Lutheran Orphanage to locate here and in 1910 promoted the building of the new high school building. Also in 1910 the Club sponsored the first of several annual Farmers Institutes and Corn Shows to be held in the city.

As early as 1908 the Club recommended that the city council mark the names of the city streets at each corner and effect an ordinance to place numbers on each house and place of business in the city. This project was completed some 50 years later.

In 1912 Mr. J. B. Buckley offered to donate 15 acres of land on the Prairie Creek to the City of Stromsburg if the Commercial Club would raise \$3000 for improvements of this tract of land for a public park. The Club accepted the challenge and raised the money and the land was deeded to the city and named Buckley Park. Buckley Park throughout the years has been a continuing project of the Commercial Club. Its additions of a swimming pool, camping area, recreation area with its football field, baseball diamond, tennis courts, picnic facilities and playground equipment have all been promotions of the businessmen to make Beautiful Buckley Park a favorite not only of the home folks but with the travelers for picnicking and overnight camping.





The latest project for Buckley Park is a Tree Fund to replace the many American Elms killed by the recent spread of Dutch Elm disease throughout Nebraska.

Other activities of the Club in the earlier days of its 67 years of existence are: the promoting of World War Liberty Bond Drives, Saving Stamp sales, the organizing of the Stromsburg Home Guard Co., arrangements for the weekly Band Concerts in the summer months, the securing of a Carnegie Library building in 1916, paving and graveling of the city streets and co-operating with the Fire Department in the securing of better fire fighting equipment.

In 1953, to promote the City of Stromsburg and its Swedish heritage, the Commercial Club sponsored its first Swedish Mid-Summer Festival with a one day celebration. The Festival met with the approval of the community and so it has been continued as an annual event. Each year the festival grows with the addition of new features and now runs for a stand of two days and three nights with a full program of parades, programs, contests, bar-b-que, smorgasbord and a midway of games and rides to please both the young and the old. A committee appointed by the executive board of the Commercial Club plans and carries out the festival program.

The Federal Housing project for families of low income and the drive for funds to enlarge the Midwest Covenant Home are results of Commercial Club endeavors as is the new look around the square with new store fronts, the Swedish motifs, and the Viking Center, a community hall to be used by group gatherings and youth activities.

Annual projects of the Club set up under standing committees are: The Swede Capital Bus - offering transportation for groups for out of town trips; The Farmers Merchant Banquet committee - a thank you gesture by the merchants to the farmers of the surrounding community for their patronage; Easter Egg Hunt; Youth Activities; Welcome committee; and the Betterment Committee.

The Betterment Committee meets throughout the year to promote the betterment of the city in many phases of clean-up, fix up and in general make Stromsburg a better place to live. This committee, recently placed under the joint sponsorship of the Commercial Club and the Woman's Civic Improvement Club, through its civic spirit has kept Stromsburg a strong contender for honors in the Nebraska Community Betterment program.

The members of the Commercial Club, now numbering 72, meet monthly for a supper meeting to discuss the problems and plans for the future of Stromsburg the Swede Capital of Nebraska.

CHAPTER AR, P.E.O.

Chapter AR, P.E.O. was organized in Stromsburg, May 22, 1906 at the home of Mrs. L. H. Headstrom. The charter members were Mrs. Nellie Barnard, Mrs. Ada Sharp, Mrs. Cora Headstrom, Mrs. Tillie Buckley, Mrs. Matilda Netsell, Mrs. Minnie Clark and Mrs. Hannah Skelton.

The P.E.O. Sisterhood is one of the oldest philanthropic organizations for women in America, and supports an Educational Loan Fund and Cottey College, a junior college for women located in Nevada, Missouri.

Meetings are the first and third Monday of the month at members' homes.

BOY SCOUTS

Boy Scout Patrol No. 5 was first organized in Stromsburg in the spring of 1911 by Rev. McClure of the Methodist Church. Rev. McClure also acted as Scoutmaster. Members were W. James Marquis, president, L. Vance Sharp, secretary, Dewit Weber, treasurer, Dewey Halden, Lawrence Kemmer, Allen Wilson and Harold Hemborg. This patrol was fully equipped with uniforms, first aid, camp equipment and patrol tent.

After a change of pastorate in the Methodist Church, the group was bereft of a leader and this promising initial Boy Scout project waned and was discontinued the following year due to the uncertainty of leadership and lack of interest in the community.

Rev. Van Horn of the Methodist Church championed the cause sometime prior to 1920. A Mr. Clements had charge of the local Scouts from Jan. 1923 until Aug. 1925. After which Mr. Slosson took charge of the work.

In the spring of 1929 Rev. McKee of the Eden Baptist Church entered the work. The spring of 1930 Rev. McKee was made Scoutmaster, Willard Jeffrey, Junior Assistant and Max Shrike, Senior Patrol Leader.

Upon the resignation of Rev. McKee from the pastorate of the Eden Church, G. D. Neal was made Scoutmaster with Edwin L. Anderson assistant Scoutmaster. Jeffery and Shrike held their same positions.

The deep appreciation of the parents furnished a certain background for the efforts of the Scouts officers in their determination to press on in this most worthy cause.

The year 1932 a Boy Scout Troop was sponsored by the American Legion but this organization must have fallen by the wayside again for lack of leadership and interest as no records could be found on the Boy Scout organization.

Since such an organization was long overdue, through the urgency of the Woman's Club, the Commercial Club undertook the sponsorship and Boy Scout Troop 241 was organized in 1949 with Leslie E. (Leck) Johnson chosen as Scoutmaster, Kenneth Strong and W. W. Johnston as assistants. The first troop started out with 16 boys who were able to pass their tenderfoot tests.

This same year in June 1949, with the coming of Sherman Ferrell to Stromsburg, he being very much interested in Scouting, was instrumental in organizing Cub Scout packs for boys age 8-12.

The Woman's Civic Improvement Club acting as sponsors, Cub Scout Pack No. 241 was organized with Sherman Ferrell as Cubmaster. The Woman's Club appointed Jack Stanton, Bob Behrns and Arnold Detmer to serve on the pack as committeemen. Den Dads were R. M. Stauber, Cecil Bennett and Albin Ostrom. Thus with these two new Troop Organizations Boy Scouting became a reality.

Space will not permit the naming of all the leaders and committeemen who have done so much to keep the Scouting program going. We are sorry for this because anyone that has helped with the Scouting program deserves a vote of thanks. While it is not an easy task, it is rewarding.

It is believed that Clair McCormick served in the Scouting program the longest period of time. He served on the advisory Council several years. After which he was Scoutmaster and Post Advisor for the Explorers for a period of 20 years. For these years of service he received the Lester Piper award and received his commission in the Great Navy of Nebraska. Some time later he received the "Service to Mankind" award from the Sertoma Club. Although "Mac" as he was called enjoyed working and planning with the young boys, he felt it was taking more time than he was able to take from his work. So, regretfully, he turned over the duties to Dale Lucas and Harold Anderson who carried on for a short while. Also Verlin Gronlund acted as Scoutmaster for a time.

Harry Christensen is present Scoutmaster and doing a commendable job. It



Clair McCormick (left) receiving the Service to Mankind Award for 20 years in Scouting. With him are Mrs. McCormick and Rev. Lester Anderson, pastor of the Methodist Church at the time.



Harry Christensen
present Scoutmaster

is hoped that this leadership can last for many years. Harry Christensen received the honor of serving as Swedish Festival King in 1970.

The present troop consists of 21 boys meeting weekly in the basement of the Viking Center.

The local troop is active in many community activities including "Good Turn for Goodwill Industries", selling honey to help the mentally retarded and assisting the American Legion in the display of the flags on Memorial Day and Veterans Day each year. The Boy Scouts serve as "Clean Up Crew" for the annual barbecue at the Polk County Fair and also assist the Stromsburg Commercial Club at the Chicken Barbecue held at the Swedish Festival each year. The Scouts are often asked to present the flag ceremony for various organizations.

The troop raises money for troop activities by holding an annual pancake feed, delivering telephone books in Stromsburg and selling watermelon at the Swedish Festival.

Our troop is an active outdoor troop having earned the National Camping Award for the past three consecutive years. The troop is active in the Sunrise District by attending and helping with the program at the District round-tables and camping events. The boys have attended long term camp at the Cornhusker Scout Reservation near Humboldt, Nebraska for the past two years. Individual boys have attended Leadership Training Camp also held at Humboldt. Our present Scoutmaster and 3 scouts are members of the Order of the Arrow, a society of honor campers.

Local camping events are held near the Platte River. Recently the troop has purchased canoes which are used and very much enjoyed on many trips down the Platte River each year.

Boys who have been active in the scout program this past year are: Gordon Mooney, Stanley Christensen, Roger Olson, Tim Teegerstrom, Jim Christensen, Don Simpson, Rodney Hengelfelt, Ricky Brazda, Bill Peetzke, Steve Oquist, Jeff Johns, Scott Larson, Michael Rystrom, Michael Anderson, Matthew Shalla, Jim Bell, Richard and Robert Strong, Jason Moore, Jay Marsden and Duane Hablitzel. Patrol leaders in the troop are Jim Christensen, Don Simpson and Michael Anderson. Jim Bell is the Troop Scribe, Roger Olson the Quartermaster, Stanley Christensen, Librarian, and Michael Anderson is the Bugler.

NO NAME CLUB

The No Name Club was organized in the fall of 1913. Since no one had a better suggestion for naming this club it became known as the No Name Club. Twelve members held their first meeting at the home of Mrs. Elin Burkman, west of Stromsburg. All twelve ladies had families with small children. These youngsters were brought along to the meetings which were held on the second Thursday afternoon of each month. Those were the horse and buggy days and some traveled eight or ten miles to attend.

Each hostess decided the work for the afternoon and the ladies came prepared to help. It might be mending overalls, darning socks, quilting, typing comforters, patching garments, or sewing carpet rags. One member recalls spending the afternoon popping corn and making popcorn balls. During the summer there was always a family picnic or a breakfast at Buckley Park. A special annual affair was entertaining the husbands at a Christmas party. This social club had many good times together.

In 1963 the club observed its 50th anniversary with a dinner at the Bit of Sweden Cafe in Stromsburg. Charter members attending this special event were: Erika Headman (now deceased), Elin Burkman, Maude Carlson and Emma Peterson.

Since the club originated with 12 members they have tried to maintain a membership of a dozen. However, at the present time there are only nine members. These are: Anna Appleton, Mrs. Esther Hultquist, Mrs. Nina Knerr, Mrs. Ruth Nielsen, Mrs. Nellie Olson, Mrs. Lillian Ogden, Mrs. Emma Peterson, Mrs. Ida Shrum and Mrs. Julia Vincent.

There have been many members in the 58 years of the club's existence who have enjoyed the fine fellowship of this group. They have always donated to worthy causes and helped in times of need.

PRISCILLA CLUB

The Priscilla Club was organized November 5, 1913 at the home of Mrs. O. A. Rystrom. The twelve charter members were Mrs. V. J. Anderson, Mrs. F. A. Anderson, Mrs. N. O. Freeman, Mrs. C. D. Jacobson, Mrs. R. L. Minnick, Mrs. W. D. Rystrom, Mrs. W. A. Burke, Mrs. F. W. Carlson, Mrs. Otto Johnson, Mrs. J. W. Lanham, Mrs. Arthur Nordberg and Mrs. O. A. Rystrom.

Membership is limited to twelve and they meet the second Thursday of each month.

The club observed its fiftieth anniversary in November, 1963.

THE LOYAL NEIGHBORS CLUB

In 1914, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Youngquist built their new home. (Mr. and Mrs. Willis Waller live there now). After they moved in and were settled, Mrs. Youngquist invited the closest neighbors to an afternoon of fellowship.

The ladies had an enjoyable afternoon and as they were going home one of the ladies wondered why couldn't they meet again. So the next meeting they met at the home of Mrs. Frank Anderson. Then later when they met at Mrs. Frank Burgesons home, they decided to start a club with only 12 members. Mrs. Alex Youngquist was the first chairman. They called themselves the Loyal Neighbors club, and decided to meet once a month and took turns entertaining. They visited or did needle work, tied quilts, or quilted or sewed rags for rugs. Some made potholders or whatever the hostess had for them to do.

Being in the twenties or thirties, they walked to the different homes if the distance wasn't too far or they came in horse and buggy. In one instance the driver was in the seat as the horse started, and in the rush of stopping it, the horse got excited and started running away, tipping over the buggy, but not much damage was done. Then when cars were used for transportation, the men had to take the women, some learned to drive the cars in time and when gas rationing came along, 2 or 3 dropped out, of the early members, and some members moved. At one time there were as many members in town as on the farm.

As years moved by, some families moved away and younger ones moved in and now the membership is dwindling. The only ones left of the original members are Mrs. Elsie Burgeson and Mrs. Emil Younglund.

The charter members during the first years were as follows: Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mrs. Henry Westring, Mrs. Andrew Myrberg, Mrs. Olaf Anderson,



Mrs. Pete Sundberg, Mrs. Harry Sundberg, Mrs. Maurice Sundberg, Mrs. Olaf Anderson, Mrs. Emil Younglund, Mrs. John A. Sundberg, Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mrs. Frank Burgeson, Mrs. Albert Sundberg.

Mrs. Pete Sundberg, Mrs. Albert Sundberg, Mrs. Emil Youngland, Mrs. Harry Sundberg, Mrs. John A. Sundberg, Mrs. Alex Youngquist, Mrs. David Gustafson, Mrs. Abner Myrberg, Mrs. Maurice Sundberg and Mrs. C. F. Johnson.

In the mid-fifties, when Dist. 50 was still open, there would be often as many as 10 children that would come after school and the hostess would usually feed them hot dogs and a big sack of potato chips. They would come from the families of Richard Sundberg, Morris Johnson, Rudy Randell and Carl Sundberg.

Down through the years, many who have lived in the neighborhood, have belonged to the LN club. Then as they moved away, they left the club. Although several still remain, at present there are 9 active members.

LAF-A-LOT KENSINGTON

One afternoon in 1916 the five following ladies met and organized a club: Inez Halden Murdock, Ruth Peterson Christiansen, Alma Johnson Dale, Lillie Anderson Johnson and Theodosia Fulton.

This was to be a social club where members could bring handwork and visit. No programs are given.

At the second meeting Mrs. Josephine Hunsaker was invited to join the club and from this number the membership grew to twelve.

Later it was decided the club should have a name and it was then that the Laf-A-Lot Kensington came into existence.

The two special events of the year are a picnic in the park and a Christmas party with husbands as guests.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross in Stromsburg was organized May 11, 1917, at Scott Hall. The call for the organization was made by Chattie Coleman, then Regent of the local D. A. R. Chapter.

The officers elected were E. C. Nordlund, president; Chattie Coleman, secretary; Mary Buckley, treasurer; J. W. Wilson, Ira Banta, Mrs. Robert Larson, vice presidents; Mrs. Alex Scott, chairman of the membership committee.

All during the war the chapter was very active, at one time numbering one thousand members. Classes were organized for war work. Mrs. O. A. Rystrom had charge of surgical dressings, Mrs. A. C. Morrill had charge of hospital garments and Mrs. E. E. Stanton of knittings. The work accomplished was worthy of note and box after box of supplies were shipped out of Stromsburg.

The Red Cross in Stromsburg was most active during war time. Since the second World War the Red Cross has been involved in the blood program, service to military families and disaster fund drives.

In more recent years the Red Cross has combined local chapters to form a county chapter. It is now known as the American Red Cross, Polk County Chapter.

The Bloodmobile in Stromsburg has been sponsored by the Woman's Civic Improvement Club since 1967, with Mrs. Stanton Moore and Mrs. Leo Larson serving as co-chairmen.

The other major functions at this time are: Water Safety, Service to Military Families, and the Disaster Program.

Jim Westring is county chairman and John Falk is serving as treasurer in Stromsburg's Centennial year.

DEVELOPMENT OF FARM BUREAU ORGANIZATION BRINGS 4-H TO POLK COUNTY

The County Farm Bureau Organizational meeting met at Osceola February 16, 1918 when a group of farmers petitioned the Board of County Commissioners to appropriate funds to carry on Extension work in co-operation with the University of Nebraska and the United States Department of Agriculture. This work was carried on as a wartime means to aid greater production of farm commodities. Upon the close of the war, the more aggressive farmers wished to continue the program, thus the Farm Bureau received regular support from 1920 on.

The organizational meeting consisted of a talk, "Seed Corn Testing Work" given by Mr. Lynn Shelton who had been assisting in the installing of a seed testing plant in Seward. Constitution was adopted, officers and board of directors elected, and a committee formed to go to the County Agent Leaders office at Lincoln and select a County Agent for Polk County. Mr. Lynn Shelton was the man selected for the first County Agent serving from 1918 until 1923.

In the yearly report of 1919, Mr. Shelton shows that a major county and community project was organized, "Boys and Girls Club Work", in which 186 enrolled in one or more projects. Six clubs were organized and four clubs became permanent. The major projects of club work were Pig, Calf, Corn, Garden, Poultry, Canning, and Sewing Clubs. Thus, the 4-H motto, "To Make the Best Better" was born. Later on that year, the Polk County Agriculture Society met and provisions were made that the Fair Board plan a fair. A Board of Managers was elected and a date was set for September 28 through October 1, 1919. Today the fair grounds are located just south of Osceola and the highlight of the year centers around the 4-H exhibits. Many new facilities and programs have maintained a constant increase in fair participation.

By the year 1922, the Boys & Girls Club had expanded to the point of exhibits, demonstrations, and judging. Exhibits in sewing and pig clubs were taken to the State Fair at Lincoln. Three demonstration teams and one livestock judging team were entered for competition. On June 14, 1922, 10,000 people attended the County Fair grounds for a full days program. Twenty 4-H clubs were rep-



Ansel Fredrickson and Ivan Sundberg

resented or attended. Individual breeders clubs were organized: Duroc-Jersey Poland-China, Hampshire Breeders; Purebred Shorthorn, Dairy Calf, one Beef Club, and several Sewing Clubs later that year.

A Polk County girl was awarded a prize trip to the Second Annual Boys & Girls Club Congress in 1924. A cooking club demonstration team won first place at the State Fair and was declared State Champions. This team was sent to represent Nebraska at the Inter-State Fair held at Sioux City and Miss Elvera Brown was declared Champion Girl of Polk County.

A "Hog Sanitation" demonstration given by Ansel Fredrickson and Ivan Sundberg of Stromsburg took the State Championship and made an excellent showing for Nebraska at the Inter-State Fair at Sioux City in 1925. A judging team composed of Ivan, Ansel and Harold Johnson of Stromsburg competed in the non-collegiate stock judging contest in Chicago taking second honors out of twenty-two states and an individual tie for third place by Ivan and Ansel. Each received a \$100 scholarship toward a college education.

Homer Ingalls, Shelby, fed and showed the Champion Shorthorn Baby Beef at the Nebraska State Fair in 1926.

In 1927 an entry building was provided for Extension exhibits at the fair grounds and new booths were built for projects for boys and girls club work and womens' club work.

The first annual Ak-Sar-Ben show was held in 1928 when Polk County 4-H members exhibited five baby beeves and Robert Lee won the coveted award of exhibiting the first Grand Champion Heifer at the largest national Junior Show in Omaha.

In 1938, a new 4-H Club Committee was organized under the direction of County Agent Howard Peterson and in co-operation with the Farm Bureau. The committee was made up of one member per precinct. Officers were: Gordon Fredrickson, Arthur Deeter and Mrs. Rex Brigham. Their goal was to encourage 4-H club enrollment by securing leaders and organizing clubs.

The first 4-H Livestock Sale was held in connection with the 1939 County Fair and the last one held in 1970.

A Junior Fair Board was organized in 1940 to assist the Senior Fair Board and County Agent in planning and carrying out the County Fair. The blue, red, and white ribbons were initiated in 1946. However, in 1956 the 4-H Council changed to the Danish System of presenting purple, blue, red and white ribbons as rewards for 4-H projects completed.

Raymond Schott, Osceola, exhibited his Grand Champion Pig Litter at the Ak-Sar-Ben Junior Livestock Show, Omaha, in 1942. The Judging and Demonstration Teams composed of Glen Buchta and Alan Deeter won first place at the State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben that same year.

Miss Beverly Wieseman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wieseman of Osceola, established a first as she was the first Polk County 4-H member to enter a National Livestock Show in 4-H or Open Class in 1961. She entered her Guernsey Senior Yearling in the National Junior Guernsey Show at National Dairy Congress, Waterloo, Iowa. 1963 was the year. Then in 1965, Beverly received Junior Champion of the Nebraska Guernsey Show at the State Fair. Beverly was the first Polk County 4-H member to win a gold medal in dairy showmanship at Ak-Sar-Ben.

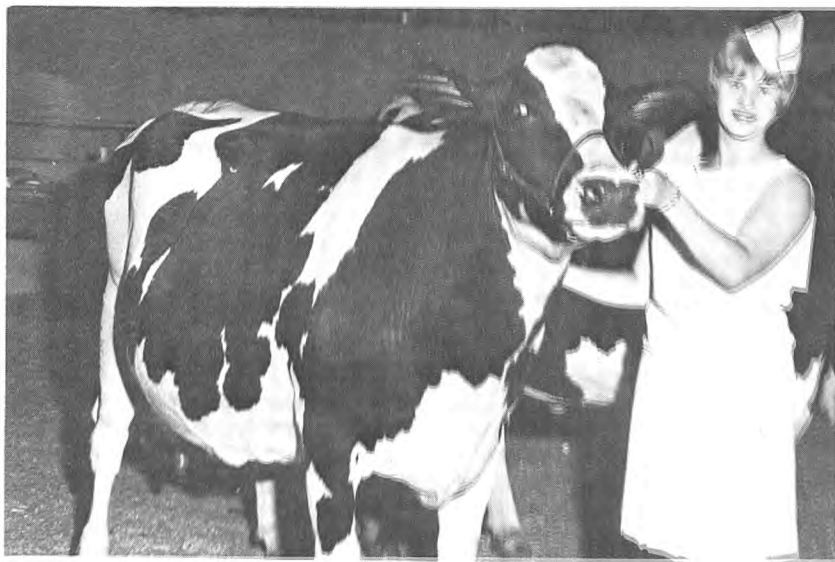
The Pleasant Homemakers 4-H Club twice received the National Freedom's Foundation Award for their citizenship activities and were presented the George Washington Medal of Honor. Other national honors earned by the club were in health, safety and recreation. They merited Ak-Sar-Ben's Good Neighbor Award as well as many state and county medals.



Mrs. Irvin Anderson receiving the National 4-H News Award

Mrs. Irvin Anderson received the National 4-H News award at the State Fair at Lincoln. Leslie Troeger of Chicago, editor of the National 4-H News made the presentation. Mrs. Anderson was one of six leaders in the U. S. to be thus honored for 4-H Club work.

Penny Swanson exhibited the Grand Champion Holstein cow at the Nebraska State Fair in 1964 and 1966. Penny Swanson received the "Nebraska Holstein



Penny and her grand champion cow

Girl" award in 1965. Her brother, Lionel, received the "Nebraska Holstein Boy" award in 1959. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Paul Swanson of Stromsburg.

The year 1968 proved profitable for Randy, Tony and Lester Lee Hullinger, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hullinger of Stromsburg, newcomers to Polk County from Mitchellville, Iowa, when they won the title of Reserve Champion Angus at the International Livestock Exposition, Chicago. Later on, they received the trophy of the Reserve Grand Champion Steer at the Southwestern Livestock Exposition in Phoenix, Arizona.

Randy, 13 years old, received a thrill of his lifetime when he won the unprecedented double victory of exhibiting the Grand Champion Steer, "King Charley", a smoke-colored 1,115 lb. Charolais-Angus crossbred and the Grand Champion heifer, "Peaches", a 940 lb. Angus at the Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Show. This was the first time in the history of the 42-year-old Ak-Sar-Ben Show that a 4-H exhibitor had shown both the grand Champion Steer and Grand Champion Heifer. "King Charley" brought \$5.00 per lb. and was bought by Ross Lorello, Ross Steak House, Omaha. "Peaches" set a new sales record price at \$2.55 per lb. and was bought by Tony Fucinaro, Anthony's Steak House, Omaha. Mr. Fucinaro donated "Peaches" to the Nebraska's Husker Football Team, Lincoln. Randy's winnings netted over \$9,000.



Grand champion steer shown by the Hullingers - extreme left is Tony, fourth from right is Randy with Mrs. Hullinger, Gary Hullinger and Lester.

In November of 1969, the Hullinger Brothers exhibited a Hereford-Angus Crossbred Steer at the International Livestock Exposition and received the Reserve Grand Champion Steer Award.

At the Nebraska State Fair of 1970, Tony, 12 years old, captured the Champion Angus plaque with a Red Angus Steer, "Topper". Randy received the Reserve Grand Champion Heifer with a Charolais-Angus Crossbred.

Again in 1970 Randy returned to Ak-Sar-Ben to win the Grand Champion Steer with "Big-Time Charlie", a Charolais-Angus Crossbred weighing 1,285 lbs. This was the first time in twenty-nine years that an exhibitor had won the championship two years straight. Mr. Caniglia, Mr. "C" Steak House, Omaha paid \$6.35 per lb., the third highest price in the history of the show. Randy received a \$1,000 check from the American Charolais Association thus netting over \$9,000. Tony powered his way for another major win with "Miss Diamond", a 1,050 lb. Charolais-Angus Heifer, as he received the Reserve Grand Champion Heifer at Ak-Sar-Ben. Tony received 75¢ per lb.

The Hullinger Brothers exhibited a crossbred steer at the Sioux Falls Empire Show, Sioux Falls, South Dakota and won the Grand Champion Steer in January, 1970.



Tony and his grand champion lamb

1971 brought more winners for Tony as he exhibited the Champion Hampshire Breeding Ewe at the Nebraska State Fair. Tony, also, won Reserve Grand Champion Heifer at the State Fair with a Charolais-Angus Crossbred.

Tony's exhibit at Ak-Sar-Ben won him the coveted honor of Grand Champion Heifer, "Princess Steak" a Charolais-Angus, 945 lbs. Tony Fucinaro, Anthony's Steak House, Omaha paid \$2.55 lb. and donated her to the Number 1, Nebraska Football team training table. Randy received a gold belt buckle for being a finalist in the "Sheep Showmanship" contest at Ak-Sar-Ben.

The IFYE program stands for International Farm Youth Exchange. This program has been under the direction of the State and National 4-H program and has done much to promote friendship among countries.

Natalie Hahn, daughter of Mrs. Dwight Burney, was the first 4-H member of Polk County chosen by the National 4-H Foundation to be an IFYE student. Miss Hahn graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1967 and spent the summer as a member of Senator Roman Hruska's staff in Washington, D. C. She left September 15, 1967 for New Zealand to spend 6 months with ten different host fam-

ilies. Miss Hahn was very active in her 10 years of 4-H work and in various organizations at the University.

Polk County has entertained IFYE's from Finland, Israel, Nepal, India, France, and Korea. The host families have been the Rupert Carlsons and Henry Bureshs, both of Osceola and the Paul Swansons and Raymond Burkes of Stromsburg.

A special 4-H Leader's Recognition Banquet is held in the fall each year in appreciation of the 4-H leaders work for youth. This is sponsored by the bankers representing Stromsburg, Osceola, Shelby and Polk. Leadership medals are given for varying years of service. Those receiving medals for ten or more years and still leading a club to date are: Paul Monson, Osceola, 31 years; Allen Anderson, Osceola, 22 years; Mrs. Harry Kreis, Stromsburg, 22 years; Mrs. Irvn Anderson, Stromsburg, 21 years; Mr. Paul Swanson, Stromsburg, 20 years; Mrs. Dwight Burney, Polk, 20 years; Robert Tooker, Silver Creek, 19 years; Mrs. Rolland Swanson, Stromsburg, 16 years; Mrs. Gerhardt Lux, Osceola, 15 years; Rupert Carlson, Osceola, 15 years.



The Viking Ship in 1970 constructed by the Stromsburg 4-H clubs

The Polk County 4-H Achievement program is an annual event which recognizes outstanding 4-H achievement. Various awards are presented including state and county medals. The Polk County Farm Bureau Organization presents bronze 3-year, silver 5-year and gold, 10-year membership pins to 4-H boys and girls. A gold Junior Leadership Pin is presented each first-year Junior Leader, compliments of the Farm Bureau since 1956.

The first to pioneer the 4-H King and Queen honors at the 1958 Polk County Fair were Darwin Anderson and Avis Waller; 1959 - Lionel Swanson and Doris Swanson; 1960 - Glenn Dobberstein and Linda McKeag; 1961 - Ted Gleim and Natalie Hahn; 1962 - Chris Carlson and Beverly Wieseman; 1963 - Lynn Ray Anderson and Sherrill Erickson; 1964 - Dennis Widga and Dianne Lux; 1965 -

Charles Erickson and Anne Dunn; 1966 - none; 1967 - Roger Carlson and Katherine Lux; 1968 - Loren Oberg and Connie Stromberg; 1969 - (No King) and Lynn Walford; 1970 - Bruce Treffer and Anne Lux; 1971 - Andy Kresha and Jan Swanson.

4-H enrollment at its peak was 1966 when 33 clubs experienced an additional growth with 284 girls and 173 boys totaling 457 4-H members. Present enrollment, 1971, according to County Agent, Lynn Jones, is 178 girls and 123 boys making a total of 301 4-H members enrolled in 32 clubs.

The following is a list of Extension and Home Agents and the years they served:

1918 - 1922 Lynn Shelton	1947 - 1956 Margaret Crosby
1923 - 1927 W. B. Adair	1952 - 1955 Kenneth Schmidt
1927 - 1937 F. B. Kelly	1959 - 1959 Marilyn Evans
1938 - 1940 Howard Peterson	1955 - 1966 Gary B. Garey
1940 - 1940 Paul S. Schneider	1961 - 1961 Frank Wiese
1940 - 1943 Ray Crouise	1961 - 1965 Shirley (Cox) Huggler
1943 - 1944 Philip Sutton	1966 - 1967 Glenn H. Krohn
1943 - 1944 Kathryn Hilmer	1967 - 1970 Kenneth Lynn Kreig
1944 - 1947 Eva J. Bute	1970 - 1971 Lynn Jones
1944 - 1952 J. C. Throckmorton	

Area Agronomist - Duane Kantor - August 15, 1965 including 1971

Area Home Economist - Jane Munson, Freddie Lee Nickles and Mrs. Judy Hofeidt - 1971

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 132

On December 4, 1919 George H. Lake called a meeting of the World War Veterans in this part of Polk County to consider the organization of a Legion Post in Stromsburg, resulting in the organization that evening of the Stromsburg Post No. 132.

Membership was open to all men with honorable records in the military service, either at home or abroad. It would be an organization composed of young men from all walks of life, men of all religious faiths, men standing together in peace as they had stood together in war. Working toward the end of making America a better place in which to live as well as the ideal nation for all the world to follow and admire.

Records show the following officers were elected for 1920:

Commander, Ralph Erickson; Adjutant, C. T. Moline.

Charter members were:

George Lake	Clarence Hageline	R. C. Draper
D. R. Arnold	Lloyd Wright	Carl Rosenlof
Alex Swan	Frank D. Myrberg	Ralph E. Erickson
Clyde Peterson	John T. Stanton	Albert W. Anderson
Winfred E. Holm	Samuel Welch	Raymond Peterson

One of the first considerations of the American Legion is the perpetuation of the memory of those comrades who made the supreme sacrifice in response to their country's call. Though their voices were silenced by death, they must live on in the hearts of the people, as a magnificent example of the last full measure of devotion. Their graves must be properly and suitably marked, proper and fitting honors given them, and all things must be done to impress upon all

people that the country for which these men died must be handed down to coming generations with its honor unstained. The Legion has secured and installed bronze markers and headstones for veterans buried in the Stromsburg cemetery. They have been responsible for the carrying out the Memorial and Armistice Day programs, and seeing that the days were properly observed. In 1964 a Court of Honor, consisting of 148 American flags, was established in the City Park. These flags are flown on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. The flags used are the ones presented to the next of kin at the grave side of a departed Veteran. In 1969, the American Legion's 50th Anniversary, the Eternal Flame Monument was erected in the City Park in honor of all Veterans of all wars.



**Max Quick, Sterling Anderson, Larry Dobson and Les Graves
At the dedication of the Eternal Flame**

Another aim of the Stromsburg Post has been community service. The Post secured eleven acres west of Buckley Park which was turned over to the city to be used for athletic purposes. The trees around the athletic area were planted by the Post and kept alive during the drought of the 30's by hauling water in a horse drawn sprinkler.

A Drum and Bugle Corps was organized in the early 30's and was active for several years. J. O. Payne was music instructor; L. V. Sharp, drum instructor and A. E. Rodine, Drum Major. They participated in State Competition, appeared at County Fairs and various exhibitions in the state.

Each year the Stromsburg Post sponsors and finances an extensive baseball program, the American Legion Oratorical Contest, Government Day and sending

a high school junior to Boy's State. They also give an annual scholarship to a high school senior.



Legion car used in numerous parades about the state

Shortly after World War II a social club was established and has been in operation since that time. The Legion was instrumental in purchasing the two stores under the Legion Club which were given to the City for the renovating and building of the present Viking Center.

Stromsburg Post No. 132 of the American Legion has always stood high in the Nebraska Department and has established an enviable position in the American Legion.

The following list of men have served as Commander and Adjutant:

1920 Ralph E. Erickson, Commander	1933 R. L. Anderson
Carl T. Moline, Adjutant	L. O. Graves
1921 R. A. Freeman	1934 G. E. Ekstrand
& 22 R. L. Anderson	L. O. Graves
1923 W. W. Scott	1935 J. T. Stanton
R. L. Anderson	John W. Bailey
1924 J. V. Altberg	1936 Wesley Ericson
R. L. Anderson	Ivan Bengston
1925 H. R. Anderson	1937 Alvin Westenius
R. L. Anderson	R. L. Anderson
1926 A. E. Rodine	1938 Otto A. Wegmann
R. L. Anderson	Raymond Rystrom
1927 G. E. Ekstrand	1930 R. L. Anderson
to 29 R. L. Anderson	- 45 John Bailey
1930 Ernest Carlson	1946 A. E. Rodine
& 31 G. E. Ekstrand	Arnold E. Ekstrand
1932 John W. Bailey	1947 L. R. Price
Carl Christensen	R. K. Nelson

1948 Donald Rystrom Kermit D. Branting	1961 Deb Hartman Bob Anderson
1949 Edsel Carlson Harold Beckman, Jr.	1962 Ray Nyffeler Bob Anderson
1950 Floyd Huebner Harvey Sundberg	1963 Bob Anderson Vayden Anderson
1951 F. D. Myrberg Eldon Swanson	1964 Harry Hahn David Jacobson
1952 Rex Ilgenfritz Fred Lauerman	1965 Vayden Anderson Ray Nyffeler
1953 Orval Gildersleve Ross Speece	1966 David Jacobson Roger Jackson
1954 Fred J. Lauerman Wesley Ericson	1967 Roger Jackson Max Quick
1955 Leo N. Fagan Sterling O. Anderson	1968 Loal Genrich Orville Dodds
1956 Richard Nelson Raymond Nyffeler	1969 Orville Dodds Robert Baker
1957 Conrad Olson Brooke Berggren	1970 Max Quick Robert Behrns
1958 Brooke Berggren Carol Donelson	1971 Robert Baker Jerry Rhodes
1959 Dr. E. T. Parminter Leo Larson	1972 Robert Behrns Rodney Myers (Benedict)
1960 Leo A. Larson Carol Donelson	

GOOD WILL CLUB

This club started as a birthday club in school district 64 in 1921. They met at the home of the member having a birthday, with a carry-in lunch. Children were welcome. The school children came after school to enjoy the lunch. The birthday club was changed to the Good Will Club and met on the last Wednesday of the month.

There are two charter members living on this our fiftieth anniversary, Mrs. Arthur W. (Edna) Anderson and Mrs. Isadore Olson.

The dues were 25¢ a year for many years but are now \$1.00. The club has made many donations to worthy causes: The Midwest Covenant Home, The Good Samaritan Home, The Good Fellows Christmas Club, The Heart Fund, Easter Seal Camp and to the Buckley Park tree fund when so many trees were lost from the Dutch Elm Disease in 1970 and 71.

There are 17 members with the following officers: President, Mrs. Wayne (Lorraine) Anderson; Vice President, Mrs. Carl (Hazel) Allinder; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Walter (Ruth) Wicklund.

U GO I GO CLUB

The U-Go-I-Go Club was organized on October 6, 1922. The first officers were Mrs. Maude Pierson, president, Mrs. Ray Phillips, vice president and Mrs. Maude Lafler, secretary-treasurer. There were 14 members at the first meeting of neighbor ladies living southwest of Stromsburg. This Club has maintained a membership of approximately 25-35 members throughout the years.

The U-Go-I-Go Club ladies have traditionally held an annual family picnic in the summer and a family get together dinner and program in the winter. They also take an active part in community affairs by donations to many worthwhile causes.

It is also traditional to honor all members on their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a dinner and program in their honor.

At one of the first meetings of the group, the name of the club was voted on from several suggestions of names submitted.

The name chosen was submitted by Mrs. Emil Peterson.

The Club also has a song which was written by Mrs. Chester Baker to the tune of "Marching Thru Georgia".

CLUB SONG

We're the U-Go-I-Go ladies
We are a jolly bunch
We sure enjoy our meetings
And we sure enjoy the lunch
We're glad to have our names enrolled
If each one will take the lunch
And to each member will be loyal.

Chorus:

Hurrah! Hurrah! for the U-Go-I-Go Club
We each know how to cook and mend and scrub
It's a little recreation when we all
Desert the tub for an afternoon together.

2nd verse

A model wife we try to be
So for our hubbies sake:
We'll try to make the biscuits
Like his Mother used to make.
And if we fail once in awhile
It's simply a mistake.
Experience is an excellent teacher.

Repeat Chorus.

The 14 charter members were the following group of ladies: Mrs. Leroy Anderson, Mrs. Lester Graves, Mrs. Charles Knerr, Mrs. George Larson, Mrs. Herman Larson, Mrs. Ralph Lafler, Mrs. Fred Pierson, Mrs. Emil Peterson, Mrs. Vaughn Powell, Mrs. Mary Farrell, Mrs. Ray Phillips, Mrs. Walter Twarling, Mrs. Clarence Vincent, Mrs. Ernest Vincent.

JIGGS KENSINGTON

In September of 1923 a group of five close friends, all making their home here, decided to meet regularly on the first Thursday of each month and called themselves, The Jiggs Kensington. The first meeting was at the home of Mrs. Wesley Ericson with Mrs. J. T. Stanton, Mrs. A. V. Kjelson, Mrs. H. R. Anderson, and Mrs. Wallace Scott (now deceased) as the members of the group.

During the winter months of the first few years, the husbands joined them for an evening pot luck dinner and social time. All gatherings have been informal and much enjoyed. This original group has continued to make its home here.

Later, other friends were invited to join--the membership never limited.

Several twenty-fifth wedding anniversaries have been celebrated with a dinner and a gift as a reminder of the special occasion. One fiftieth wedding anniversary was celebrated two years ago.

The Jiggs Kensington continues to meet regularly for social enjoyment and community interest.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

On January 26, 1927, in Scott's Hall, a group of women met to become the Stromsburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit 132. The first officers were:

President - - - - - Mrs. Mary Laurie
 Vice President - - - - Mrs. Thomas Longdon
 Secretary - - - - - Mrs. Raymond Peterson
 Treasurer - - - - - Mrs. Earl Steever
 Historian - - - - - Mrs. T. H. Graves

Charter Members:

Mrs. Ray Anderson	Mrs. Jennie Graves
Mrs. R. L. Minnick	Mrs. Todd Graves
Mrs. Viola Arnold	Mrs. Lester Graves
Mrs. Morace Baker	Mrs. Ernest Headman
Mrs. J. W. Bailey	Mrs. Ray Hunsaker
Mrs. John Colson	Mrs. A. J. Hillberg
Miss Lillie Chindgren	Mrs. Mary Laurie
Mrs. Enoch Ekstrand	Mrs. Thomas Longdon
Mrs. Wesley Ericson	Mrs. Raymond Peterson
Mrs. G. N. Ekstrand	Mrs. Hazel Rhoades
Mrs. Sam Ferabee	Mrs. Alex Scott
Mrs. Wallace Scott	Mrs. Ethel Westenius
Mrs. J. T. Stanton	Mrs. Fred Williams

Throughout the years, membership has increased from twenty six to seventy nine, including fifteen junior members. Eligible for membership are wives, mothers, daughters, sisters and granddaughters of American Legion members or of deceased members of active military service and women in war service.

The national program of the American Legion Auxiliary includes: Child Welfare, Rehabilitation, Americanism, Education and Scholarship, Civil Defense, Savings Bonds, Legislative Program, Poppy Day, Girls State, Little Red School House (nurses scholarship).

In addition to participating in the national program, the local unit also supports the following community and Department projects: Veterans Hospital Gift Shop, Yanks who Gave, holiday food baskets, poppy wreaths, Americanism essay contest, scholarship for a Stromsburg girl, County Government Day, and library books.

The activities of Auxiliary have been numerous: original sponsor of Girl Scouts and Heart Fund, visitation and entertainment at Veterans Hospital, cards and gifts for Stromsburg men in service, sewing items for Veterans Hospital, and collecting clothing for local needy. During World War II and the Korean Conflict sweaters were knitted for servicemen and Korean orphans. In 1942, the unit placed in the city park an honor roll board of men serving their country.

Since 1942, the unit has sent a representative to Girls State, the first being Nelle Scott. In 1961, Jane Widen was one of the ten National Americanism Essay Contest winners. She was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Department offices have been filled by two local members. Mrs. J. T. Stanton has served as Chaplain and chairman of Education and Scholarship, Child Welfare, and Americanism. Mrs. Milton Johnson, Jr., has served as chairman of Junior Activities, Child Welfare and has been a counselor at Girls State.

Each monthly meeting opens with a patriotic ritual and prayer. Following the business meeting, a presentation relating to the national program of the month is given. With the continuous emphasis on the welfare of the hospitalized veteran and his family, the remainder of the time is devoted to actual handwork needed for this program.

The American Legion Auxiliary continues to serve in order to maintain the tradition of progress, patriotism, and prudence so vital to ourselves, our community, and our country.



PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY STROMSBURG UNIT 132

This group picture of the past presidents of Stromsburg American Legion Auxiliary was taken April 5, 1971 at a recognition program honoring these ladies for their years of service to the Unit and to the community of Stromsburg. Each was presented a past president's pin by the Unit.

Front Row: Mrs. Les (Bertha) Graves, Mrs. I. E. (Elmie) Steever, Mrs. Wesley (Mildred) Ericson, Mrs. R. (Eva) Nelson, Mrs. J. T. (Mabel) Stanton and Mrs. H. R. (Winnie) Anderson. Back Row: Unit President, Mrs. Don (Ruth Ann) Peterson, District #7 President Mrs. Ernie (Marge) Swanson of Ceresco, Mrs. Leo (Ethel) Larson, Mrs. Ray (Josephine) Hunsaker, Mrs. A. V. (Marjorie) Kjelson, Mrs. Harold (Avis) Beckman, Mrs. Milton (Trudy) Johnson, Jr., Mrs. Alton (Ardis) Wilhelms, Mrs. Don (Clarice) Baker, Mrs. Wesley (Irene) Fredrickson, Mrs. Fred (Laura) Lauerman and Mrs. Mervin (Josephine) Rystrom. Not pictured were Mrs. E. T. (Betty) Parminter, Mrs. Jim (May) Branting, Mrs. S. D. (Billie) Evins and Mrs. Ira (Olive) Ready.

Unit officers serving during the Centennial Year are: President, Mrs. Milton Johnson, Jr.; Secretary, Mrs. Tom Gonnerman; Treasurer, Mrs. Harry Kreis.

HAPPY HOUR CIRCLE

The Happy Hour Circle was organized October 10, 1927 at the home of Mrs. C. D. Jacobson. The membership began as a circle of neighbors and friends within school district #34.

Through the years, various types of handwork have kept the members busy at their monthly meetings. Childrens homes and veterans hospitals have benefited from the many quilts and lap robes which the group made during World War II.

In the forty-four years since organization there have been thirty ladies who have been members at one time or another. Three members who belonged to the circle for the most number of years are: Mrs. Walter Rystrom, Mrs. Lester Rystrom and Mrs. Irven Rystrom. Officers for 1972 are Mrs. David Jacobson as president and Mrs. Rolland Johnson as secretary-treasurer.

As the years pass by, it is still good to take time to visit regularly with our neighbors. Friendships magnify and grow sweeter through the years.

THE GARDEN CLUB

On June 23, 1930, at the home of Mrs. J. A. Westenius, a group met to organize a garden club. The following joined that evening: Mrs. J. A. Westenius, Pres., Mrs. R. J. Hunsaker, Vice President, Ruth Banta, Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Raymond Rystrom, Mrs. E. E. Stanton, Mrs. Chris Thesing, Mrs. J. C. Malster, Mrs. J. T. Stanton, Miss Iva Kreis, Mrs. Ira Banta, Mrs. G. W. Hollister, Mrs. Rebecca Myers, Mrs. Addie Standing, Mrs. George E. Olson, Mrs. C. T. Moline, Mrs. R. L. Minnick, Mrs. J. W. Bailey, Mrs. G. E. Ekstrand, Mrs. Earl Steever, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Nordlund, Mr. Earl Wright, Sr., J. C. Malster, E. E. Lunner, Mr. J. A. Westenius. Those joining later that same year were considered charter members: Mrs. Gladys Record, Mrs. H. R. Anderson, Mrs. Russel L. Carlson, Mrs. A. H. Anderson, Miss Allegra Johnson, Mrs. L. V. Sharp, Misses Edna and Mabel Ekeley, Miss Marie Larson, Miss Anna Watts, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Jacobson, Mrs. Fred Swanson, Mrs. A. C. Morrill, Mrs. Ira W. Ready, Mrs. M. Van Dorn, Mrs. Victor Anderson, Edwin L. Anderson, Mrs. Glen Knerr, Mrs. E. E. Lunner, Miss Irene Lind, Mrs. Amy Myers, A. C. Morrill and Mrs. C. F. Moore.

On April 6th, 1970 the Club met at the Viking Center in observance of its 40th anniversary, Mrs. Phillip Waller was hostess. Former members of the Club were invited guests. Four charter members were recognized at the meeting: Mrs. E. C. Nordlund, Mrs. Earl Steever, Mrs. H. Ray Anderson and Miss Allegra Johnson.

Besides the many studies and projects, they have promoted flower shows at the Swedish Festival. They have had a float and taken part in parades in eight towns and won prizes.

Officers for 1971: Ruth Wicklund, President; Ida Shrum, Vice President; 2nd Vice President, Grace Johnson; Violet Anderson, Secretary; Grace Moberg, Treasurer.

GOOD LUCK CLUB

The Good Luck Club was organized at the home of Mrs. Claude Brown in August, 1935, with 12 members present. Members decided to meet as a social club once each month with 5¢ dues for a courtesy fund.

Present members are: Mrs. Francis Donelson, Mrs. Walter Hughes, Miss Helen Johnson, Mrs. Nina Knerr, Mrs. Celia Peterson, Mrs. Elsie Peterson, Mrs. Bud Stanton, Mrs. Budd Vincent and Mrs. Julia Vincent. Mrs. Francis Donelson and Mrs. Julia Vincent are charter members.

THE N.N.N. CLUB

The N.N.N. Club was organized in 1936 at the home of Mrs. Eric Carlson. The eight charter members were Mrs. Milton Anderson, Mrs. Karl Karlson, Mrs. Ben Stromberg, Mrs. Pete Lindholm, Mrs. Helmer Elfors, Mildred and Maud Anderson and Mrs. Eric Carlson.

Election of officers is held every two years with Mrs. Eric Carlson serving as the first president and Mrs. Elner Ahlquist during Stromsburg's Centennial year. The club meets the last Thursday of the month in the home of one of its twelve members.

A Christmas gift is given to some worthy cause each year, by the Club.

MARCH OF DIMES

History of Progress

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis incorporated was organized January 3, 1938. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, himself a polio victim, stated the aims: "to lead, direct and unify" the fight against polio.

The Polk County chapter was organized in the year 1938 with Mrs. Karl Thelen of Shelby as chairman; Leo V. Carlson, Stromsburg, secretary; T. A. Reece, Osceola, treasurer. In 1939, Carleton Anderson replaced T. A. Reece as treasurer and has continuously served in this capacity since that date.

When Mrs. Karl Thelen moved to California she was replaced by Mrs. Edith Heilman as county chairman and director of the annual fund-drive. Mrs. Heilman was replaced by Mr. Dewey Sigler as director and Mrs. Dewey Sigler as chairman. Mrs. Donald (Geraldine) Rystrom is now the Polk County chairman and director; Mrs. Wilbur Olson, secretary; Carleton Anderson, treasurer; Starlet Brockmeyer, teen chairman; Mrs. Willis Wills, Shelby; Rev. Paul Konig, Osceola; Mrs. Paul Strand, Polk, board members.

The National Foundation - March of Dimes marked two milestones during 1968: the 30th anniversary of its founding as a voluntary disease-fighting organization - and the 10th anniversary of its entry into the field of birth defects. The National Foundation, in keeping with this observance, sent a representative to Stromsburg to recognize the Stromsburg Woman's Club for having served as a March of Dimes leader throughout these years, and Carleton Anderson for over a quarter of a century of service.

With one great victory - the conquest of polio - achieved, the uniquely successful March of Dimes partnership of scientists and laymen is now moving rapidly and effectively against an even greater destroyer of health and human life, "Birth Defects".

POLLYANNA CLUB

Ten friends met in 1938 and had such an enjoyable afternoon they decided to organize into a club. Two charter members, Mrs. Frank Nordberg and Mrs. Forrest Berggren, are still active members of the club. The name of the other members are as follows: Mrs. Ed E. Anderson, Mrs. Todd Graves, Mrs. Horace McKeag, Mrs. Don Nordberg, Mrs. Elmer Richters, Mrs. Herbert Olson and Mrs. Maxine Williams.

The club meets once a month for a social time at the home of one of the club members. Two elected officers guide the affairs of the club. Mrs. Forrest Berggren and Mrs. Todd Graves will serve as officers of the club until the spring of 1972.

FRIENDLY FAMILIES CLUB

The Friendly Families Club was organized in October 1939, at the home of Mrs. R. L. Smith on a Tuesday afternoon.

Charter members were: Mrs. R. L. Smith, Mrs. Louise Doremus, Mrs. Norris Anderson and Mrs. Francis Doremus.

The purpose of the club is extension work, giving lessons at our meetings that will help us with our housework. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month in members' homes. The members (twelve) are as follows: Mrs. Norris Anderson, Mrs. Francis Doremus, Mrs. Gilbert Anderson, Mrs. Morris Nielsen, Mrs. Robert Oberg, Mrs. Roy Carlson, Mrs. Clarence Nielsen, Mrs. Calmar Johnson, Mrs. Lloyd Wittgren, Mrs. Elwyn Yungdahl, Mrs. Edwin Doremus and Mrs. Mervin Rystrom.

Special projects are helping with Spring Tea, Achievement Day, Tasting Tea, and the County Fair. We also bring food to the Covenant Home or put on a program for the home.

Special events are the annual Thanksgiving luncheon and the Valentine card party for husbands in February. The club also helps celebrate the twenty-fifth and fiftieth wedding anniversaries of members.

STROMSBURG PROJECT CLUB

The Stromsburg Project Club was organized in 1940. The eight members starting the club were: Lois Strong, Mildred Strong, serving as the first president of the Club, Josephine Olson, Seima Erickson, Winona Nelson, Amy Anderson, Corlyss McBeth, Lucile Johnson. Amy Anderson and Winona Nelson are still members.

The Club meets the third Thursday of every month in the different homes and is chartered through the Agriculture Extension Service.

TOWN AND COUNTRY KENSINGTON

One spring day in 1943, a group of about eight young women met at the home of Mrs. Mildred Strong for the purpose of organizing a club and to enjoy a social afternoon. They decided to meet the first Friday of each month. Sometime later the meeting date was changed to the second Friday. The membership grew to twelve and they have maintained such membership through the years.

In 1965, the group chose to be named, Town and Country Kensington, and a president was selected.

A social afternoon is still enjoyed amidst the knitting, embroidering and possibly someone mending or hemming.

Each December a dinner party is planned including husbands of the members. In recent years, rather than a gift exchange, a donation from the club has been presented to a needy project.

Presently there are five active charter members, namely: Mmes. Amy Anderson, Helen McCormick, Josephine Olson, Eleanor Peterson and Mildred Strong. Other present members include: Mmes. Josephine Branting, Marilyn Fredrickson, Irene Johnson, Annette Lindburg, Orpha Moore, Mildred Peterson and Geraldine Rystrom. Annette Lindburg is serving as president until August, 1972.

THE SEVENTH AVENUE CLUB

The Seventh Avenue Club was organized on April 19, 1949, when twelve neighbor ladies were invited to the home of Mrs. Ernest Carlson to spend the afternoon. They enjoyed the afternoon so much that they decided the same twelve should get together the third Tuesday afternoon each month, which they have now done for twenty-two years. The majority lived on Seventh Street so they chose the name, Seventh Avenue Club.

The club has lost two members by death: Goldie Ostrom and Martha Swanson. Some others dropped out and have been replaced by new members. Seven of the original twelve are still members, Violet Anderson, Mildred Henkel Flodman, Eva Stoki, Esther Baker, Josephine Stromberg, Florence Steele and Hilma Walters.

They celebrated their twentieth anniversary in April 1969 by having a one o'clock luncheon and inviting all past members.

A picture of the charter members:



From left: Lucile Boyd, Goldie Ostrom, Eva Stoki, Josephine Stromberg, Edna Carlson, Violet Anderson, Esther Baker, Hilma Walters, Martha Swanson, Florence Steele, Mildred Flodman and Ruth Sward.

COOKIE DUSTERS PROJECT CLUB

In the spring of 1950, Mrs. Orley Conkling invited a group of neighbors and friends to her home to hear the Polk County Home Agent, Miss Margaret Crosby. She spoke of the help given by the University of Nebraska Extension Division to homemakers throughout the state by providing lessons on new products and techniques as they become available through research.

Twelve women from this group met in June of that year at the home of Mrs. Marvin Hengelfelt and officially organized a club. They called themselves O.N.C. (Our Neighborhood Club). Mrs. John D. Sundberg served the group as president the first year with Mrs. Wm. Carpenter as vice-president and Mrs. Marvin Hengelfelt, secretary and treasurer.

The twelve charter members were: Mrs. Orley Conkling, Mrs. Carl W. Anderson, Mrs. Harold Wilson, Mrs. Frank Westerdale, Mrs. Arnie Johnson, Mrs. Louie Hengelfelt, Mrs. John Seymour, Mrs. Archie Steffen, Mrs. Pat Myers and the three officers.

As the membership changed over the years it was decided a different name should be given to the group, thus the name 'Cookie Dusters' was chosen in mid 1960.

THE SWEDISH CLUB

The Club was organized about 1950 at the home of Mrs. Edna Carlson, with ten members. Four charter members are still with us. We meet once a month in our homes. We give a small donation at each meeting, using the money at Christmas time for some needy cause such as families here in town, the Covenant Home and new trees in Buckley Park. In December we each bring food and enjoy a smorgasbord.

SWEDE HOME PROJECT CLUB

The Swede Home Project Club was organized on April 6, 1951, at the home of Mrs. Philip Waller in Swede Home. The first officers were: Mrs. Victor Krol-president; Mrs. Edgar Peterson-vice president; Mrs. Myron Larson-secretary; Mrs. Harold W. Johnson-news reporter. Fifteen members were in the club the first year but now the club has 16 members. The club meets the first Friday of each month. It has always taken the Home Extension lessons, gone on tours, and had annual parties.

Mrs. Vernon Peterson of Stromsburg, Mrs. Myron Jones and Mrs. Wes Peterson of Osceola have been in the club ever since it started. Mrs. Edgar Peterson is a charter member also and has been a member except for the 9 years they were in California.

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

The Polk County unit of the American Cancer Society was organized at the Stromsburg Library, February 3, 1958. Officers elected were Mrs. Clay Brumbaugh, president; Mrs. Glen Babcock, Polk, vice president; Mrs. Irvin Anderson, secretary; Miss LaVerna Rystrom, treasurer; Mrs. Martin Jones, Crusade chairman; and Mrs. Harland Fusby, memorial chairman. Since that time, volunteers from every town in the county have served as officers.

The American Cancer Society is a voluntary association of people united in the determination to conquer cancer. Its aim is to save lives by educating the public and supporting facilities for detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Each year the month of April is set aside for an educational and fund raising crusade.

Over a hundred Polk County volunteers conduct the house to house crusade. We consistently rank near the top of the counties in the state in per capita giving.

Present officers are Mrs. Raymond Lindblade, Osceola, who has served as crusade chairman since 1964. Mrs. John Sundberg, Stromsburg, has served as co-chairman since 1958. Mrs. Gerhardt Lux, Osceola, publicity and education chairman and Mrs. Don Hayes, Osceola, memorial chairman.

POLK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Polk County Historical Society was organized July 22, 1960, when nine (9) persons from around the County interested in the preservation of Polk County history, pioneer stories, and relics of the past, met at the REA building in Stromsburg, Nebraska.

Officers elected were:

President	Grace Hahn, Polk, Nebraska
Vice President	John Falk, Stromsburg, Nebraska
Secretary	Mildred Flodman, Stromsburg, Nebraska
Treasurer	Delmar McFadden, Osceola, Nebraska

It was decided the organization should be known as The Polk County Historical Society, with two main aims in view - that of collecting and preserving pioneer stories and early County history, and getting a museum started.



**Bill Anderson and
Mildred Flodman
on Bill's 90th birthday**

Interest and membership grew rapidly. Mrs. Irvin Anderson and Mrs. Curtis Flodman drew up the Constitution and By-Laws which have been the guide line for over twelve years.

The society meets every third Thursday night each month, with the present membership being 65 paid members, and 36 Honorary Members (those past 90 years of age) who receive a Certificate on their 90th birthday.

The two aims set twelve years ago have been accomplished. After 4 1/2 years of research, interviewing and collecting materials, Mildred Newman Flodman compiled a 460 page book *Early Days in Polk County*, which was sold by members in 1967 as their project for Nebraska's Centennial Year. All money from sales now goes into the Museum Fund.

In 1961, Mildred Flodman and Martin Roberts placed a display cupboard in the lobby of the Courthouse. It was soon full of relics of the past.

In May, 1963, a building given for use by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ryan (one block South of the Courthouse) was opened for a Museum. This created much interest in preserving relics of the past, and was soon overflowing.

In March, 1967, the County Commissioners leased the old Mickey Mansion East across from the County Hospital to the Society, with Mildred Flodman as Chairman. Other Board members are Allegra Johnson, Martin Jones and Philip Nyberg.

The 17 rooms were redecorated, filled and opened for dedication on May 28, 1967. In 1969 a garage on the land was converted into Grandpa's Shop (it is now overflowing). A rural school was purchased, moved in, redecorated and dedicated on May 30, 1971. The Society is in the process of moving to the grounds a hundred year old log house from the Nellie Benson Homestead. They are reserving a spot to place a country church, and hope that during 1972 celebration a sod house can be built.

The Society has taken twelve tours to historical points of interest, and hold a banquet each September, when election of officers takes place.

The Society started Old Times Day on September 17, 1964, when they had a program in the Muse Theater in Osceola, and also honored all over 90 years of age. Windows in the stores were decorated with historical items. Mrs. Delmar McFadden was in charge of the Museum for the day, and Mildred Flodman and Philip Nyberg had charge of the program, and the Osceola Chamber of Commerce helped pay for the advertising. Next year the Society set the date for June 1. This has now become an annual celebration.

Another project now kept up by the Society is an Obituary File which is kept in Mr. Nyberg's office. A Memorial Book listing all memorials to the Society is also kept, and these funds are used to purchase items for the museum. Over

6000 items have now been donated, cataloged, tagged, and put in an appropriate room.

The Museum is open each Sunday afternoon from 2:00 until 4:30 through June, July, August and September, with members giving freely of their time to act as guides. The free will offering helps defray utility and yard expenses.

The present officers of the Historical Society are:

President	Mildred Flodman
Vice President	Enoch Ekstrand
Secretary	Dwight Newcomer
Treasurer	Philip Nyberg

Five of the nine persons who attended the first meeting are still active members - Albert Ryan, Allegra Johnson, Mrs. Irvin Anderson, Mildred Flodman and John Falk.

POLK COUNTY BARRACKS NO. 2651, VWWI, U.S.A., INC.

Polk County Barracks No. 2651, Veterans of World War I, U.S.A., Inc., was granted a charter July 21st, 1961 with the following charter members: Victor J. Altberg, Carl W. Anderson, Norris N. Anderson, Martin R. Anderson, Hubert F. Alt, Oswald Alt, Lawrence Akerman, John W. Bailey, Morace Baker, George Blaine, Guy F. Ball, Fred Bernt, Otto Bernt, Harry C. Brazee, Ernest M. Carlson, Carl Cederberg, Sander Chindgren, Elmer R. Dahlin, G. E. Ekstrand, Axel H. Erickson, Joseph E. Ehn, Wesley Ericson, Walter R. French, Sr., Lester Graves, Irvin Gestrine, Hjalmer Gustafson, Elmer Hanquist, Julius P. Herrmann, Verner Johanson, Oscar A. Johnson, Wallace A. Kinney, Luther G. Kreis, Elmer W. Kilgore, Joe J. Longsine, Joseph E. W. Larson, John Malek, Otto B. Nelson, Edward E. Oberg, Carl R. Peterson, Delmer McFadden, Albin E. Rodine, Ray A. Randall, Clarence Rodine, Thomas A. Reece, Lester A. Rystrom, Vance L. Sharp, Mrs. Lois Strong, Fred D. Stoki, Oscar A. Sundberg, Bennard C. Stromberg, Ben Schmoker, Victor P. Sterup, Albert L. Timm, Conrad C. Timm, Henry F. Thelander, Fred T. White, Melchor Widga, Alvin Westenius, Ernest M. Wasserman, Otto A. Wegmann, Benjamin Zedicher. 61 members from all over Polk County.

John W. Bailey was elected the first Commander and at the present time, Albin E. Rodine is Commander of the Barracks. During these ten years the barracks have been holding their regular monthly meetings in the Viking Center in Stromsburg, the third Monday of each month. The meetings have been well attended by the members. Through the years, the Barracks has sponsored three state-wide picnics in Buckley Park: in 1964, 1965 and 1967. In 1967 the picnic was almost flooded out, but the turn out was good in spite of the heavy rains. The Barracks also participated in various civic projects such as assisting with the remodeling of the Viking Community Center; painted the Pavilion in Buckley Park; transplanted a large number of lilac bushes in the Stromsburg Cemetery, assisted the American Legion in the laying out of the American Flag Honor Court in the City Square; provided and installed the large flag pole at the Covenant Home, and also participated at funeral services of departed comrades of World War I.

Since the granting of the charter to the Polk County Barracks, eighteen of the Charter Members have passed away.

THE FLYING CLUB

In August 1964, the Flying Club, Inc. of Stromsburg was organized with Gerald Tonniges president, Dr. Jim Carson vice-president, Don Nordberg secretary-treasurer and Earl Wieseman the fourth director. The Club purchased a 1956 Cessna 172 which is still operated by the Club. The Club built a new hangar for this plane. The next year Gerald Tonniges and Dr. Jim Carson sold their interest and Burdette Flodman bought into the Club.

March 17, 1969 new interest developed so it was decided to expand, Verlin Gronlund was elected president, Clifford Huffman vice-president, Don Nordberg secretary-treasurer and new members Durward Rystrom, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Toline, Dennis Johnson, Rags Carlson and Allen Larson were added to the Club. Later Lee Nicolas from Shelby and Keith Miller, Victor Mangelsen and Jerry Peterson all of Osceola joined the club. The Club purchased the shares of Earl Wieseman who wished to withdraw in February, 1971.

On March 28, 1971 the Club voted to buy a 1968 Cherokee 180 and to also build another hangar.

BAND MOTHERS

On May 17, 1965, thirty-nine parents met in the Stromsburg High School to organize for the purpose of raising funds to finance some badly needed new instruments. Dennis Anderson was the instrumental instructor and Mrs. Ralph Johnson was elected the first president.

Money raising projects were discussed and one suggestion was to have a stand at the Swedish Festival, selling barbecue, pop, pie and coffee. This was, and still is, the means of earning money. \$508.22 was made the first year. Some years a concession was held at the football games also.

A new piccolo, oboe, bassoon, two concert snares, and a set of tympani were purchased with the Band Parents providing \$400.00 toward these instruments. The American Legion and the Smorgasbord Committee have contributed to the Band Parents projects.

In 1966 the name of the organization was changed to Band Mothers. The following year this group voted to purchase new band uniforms, costing approximately \$100.00 a uniform. These arrived November 18, 1967. The Band Mothers had raised \$750.00 toward the uniforms and later paid \$1000.00 more toward the initial cost. In 1970 more uniforms were purchased as the band membership increased. A drum majors uniform and a \$225.00 tape recorder were the next purchases, followed by the making of a Band Banner. In 1970 and 1971 majorettes and drum majors were sent to Clinic. The Band Mothers have assumed responsibility for the cleaning, altering, checking in and out of the new uniforms and providing Swedish Costumes for summer parades.

This organization of service continues to provide encouragement and financial help for our High School Band.

KRAZY KAMPERS CLUB

A Krazy Kampers Klub was organized in the fall of 1966. Twenty five units joined in for a weekend of fun. They will meet as a group three times each summer.

THE ARCHERY CLUB

The Archery Club was organized February 8, 1968. The Stromsburg Archery Club meets above the city hall. They have enjoyed several outdoor shoots.

STROMSBURG BOOSTER CLUB

The Booster Club was organized in the fall of 1969. The group meets each Monday during the school year for noon lunch. High School coaches keep the members up to date on different athletic activities including football, cross country, girls volleyball, basketball, wrestling and track.



Back row, from left: Peter Anderson, Mark Rosenquist, Steve Nordberg, Kevin Allison, Brian Falk, Jim Bell, Scott Dahlin. Middle row: Kent Boardman, Danny Teegerstrom, Kurt Swanson, Ricky Brazda, Earl Bush, David Wolfe, Allen Strong. Bottom row: Steve Tonniges, Scott Bailey, Dennis Olson, Eddie Boden, Mike Rystrom, Billy Peetzke.

One of the first projects of the club was to help raise money to purchase an electric football and baseball scoreboard at Buckley Park. The Club purchased uniforms and equipment and supervise the Midget Football program for boys in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades. The boys are divided into teams and two games are played each Sunday afternoon during the Fall of the year. The Boosters purchased basketballs for the grade school teams and each year sponsor a free throw contest for boys. Another annual project provides funds for several high school juniors to attend the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Camp in Estes Park, Colorado.

SWINGIN' SWEDES

Stromsburg, "Swede Capital of Nebraska", has a new square dance club. The Swingin' Swedes organized after ten enjoyable lessons, given by Ted and Eleanor Vogt of Staplehurst. The sponsors of the club were LaVern and Ray Burke, Ruth and Don Peterson and Jean and Gene Tonniges.

Twenty-five adults and nineteen children made up the graduating class of square dancers on April 21, 1970. They each received diplomas from Ted Vogt and red graduation hats with tassels made for the occasion. This night marked



First officers of the Swingin' Swedes - from left: Don Baker, Clarice Baker, Joyce Lucas, Dale Lucas, Joy Anderson, Vayden Anderson.

the end of a dream, and the beginning of a reality, to organize a square dance club in Stromsburg.

The first officers were: Joyce and Dale Lucas, presidents; Clarice and Donald Baker, vice presidents; Joy and Vayden Anderson, secretary-treasurer.

When Ted Vogt was confronted with the lament of some Swingin' Swedes that "We don't know how to do any of the Swedish dances", his response was just what his friends would expect. "By Yimminy, I'll bring my Flicka and we'll show you how to do the Hambo".

The Hambo, a form of pop music as simple and irresistible as the polka, is Swedish, both in origin and popularity. It is as synonymous with the Swedes as Smorgasbord. Five couples dressed in Swedish costumes, performed on KOLN-TV. morning show to advertise the 1971 Swedish Festival. The club's float, which had action, color and music, won first place in the Swedish Festival parade. They also accepted an invitation to put on a program on Swedish American Day, July 27, at Brandeis Store in Lincoln.

The Swingin' Swedes organized in May 1970 and are members of the Nebraska Square and Round Dance Association. The club had another graduating class since then and now have a total of 71 members.

The officers of the club until May 1972 are: Geraldine and Donald Rystrom, presidents; Sharon and Cal Wagner, vice-presidents; Carol and Glenn Petersen, secretary-treasurer.

The Swingin' Swedes will continue the Swedish Folk Dance lessons at 7:30 p.m. and good and lively old American Square Dancing at 8:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The Swedes are hospitable, energetic, healthy and happy folks and the welcome mat is always out, so come and swing with the Swedes.

Chapter XVI

The Swedish Festival

In June of 1972, Stromsburg will celebrate its twentieth consecutive Swedish Festival. The first Festival was held June 24, 1953 when Stromsburg invited everyone in east central Nebraska to join in the celebration.

This first celebration was called the Swedish Midsummer Festival and featured athletic contests for boys and girls, free coffee at all the cafes and a street carnival. Free entertainment was provided by the Commercial Club.

In 1954, the Festival was extended to three days and the format was much the same. In 1955, Swedish flags, made by A. Noreen, local tailor, were flown from each corner of the square. Free entertainment in the square was again provided but in this year, for two nights.

The program began to expand a bit in 1956 with a band concert, pot of silver drawing, professional entertainment, the addition of the W. A. Thomas Shows and dancing. Nearly the same program was enjoyed in 1957 but this year the first lunch stand appeared, operated by the Salem Lutheran Luther League.

Nothing new was added in 1958 but in 1959 it was a two day affair and free carnival rides for children under eight were promoted by the Commercial Club. Then in 1960, adults could buy 9 rides for \$1.00 and it was during this decade that the Swedish Festival began to grow in activities, in favor with people from across the state, and gained much publicity, not only statewide, but nationally.



The first parade was added in 1961 and has been a part of the Festival since. A children's parade was held on Friday afternoon and a float parade on Saturday afternoon.

It was noted that crowds began to get much larger and that more food was needed to satisfy the growing numbers. Food stands, featuring the sale of Swedish food, and others including home made ice cream, watermelon and snack counters began to show up.

The expanded program of 1961 included a home talent program, window displays of arts and crafts, antiques, old time pictures and flowers. The Home Talent show was a historical pageant, depicting the history of Stromsburg.



By now, Swedish costumes were beginning to show and were being urged editorially by The Headlight. The title of Stromsburg "The Swede Capital" was adopted by the Commercial Club upon the suggestion of The Headlight editor, Alton Wilhelms.



Smorgasbord, which was popular long ago throughout all Sweden when good friends gathered together at country parties bringing with them a variety of foods, the kind depending upon the natural resources, personal preference and seasonal factors. This food was served from a long table from which guests filled their plate several times.

As the Smorgasbord is said to be a "Labor of Love", such has been the task of preparing the Smorgasbord for each annual Swedish Festival. It has been presented with the gracious word of all Scandinavian hospitality . . . "Var sa god" . . . be so kind.



Levina Lamoree, lower left facing camera sideways and Lavelle Lamoree, extreme lower right, host the smorgasbord, she serves as chairman.

The format of the program for the two day event remained quite the same during the next ten years except that a chicken barbecue and the popular smorgasbord were introduced. Too, a king and queen were crowned in 1962, an attraction still remaining on the Friday night program. This king and queen are



Don Nordberg, Laura Lauerman - 1962



Walter French, Enoch Ekstrand, Mrs. French, Margaret Anderson - 1963-1964



Irene Fredrickson, Leck Johnson
1965



Geraldine Rystrom, Dr. Anderson
1966



Mae Branting, Helen Fusby, Carleton Anderson, Rev. Anderson - 1967-1968



Carolyn Ekstrand, Herb Olson - 1969



Doris Kreis, Harry Christensen - 1970



Betty and
Warren Johnson

1971

official city representatives to other communities and many times, take part in parades and activities in other towns and cities across the state.

In 1962, Don Nordberg was crowned king and Laura (Mrs. Fred) Lauerman the queen. They were followed as the royal pair in this order: 1963, Mr. and Mrs. Walter French; 1964, Enoch Ekstrand and Margaret (Mrs. Clement) Anderson; 1965, Leslie Johnson and Irene (Mrs. Wesley) Fredrickson; 1966, Dr. C. L. Anderson and Geraldine (Mrs. Don) Rystrom; 1967, Rev. Lester Anderson and Mae (Mrs. H. B.) Branting; 1968, Carleton Anderson and Helen (Mrs. Harland) Fusby; 1969, Herb Olson and Carolyn (Mrs. Arnold) Ekstrand; 1970, Harry Christensen and Doris (Mrs. Harry) Kreis; 1971, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Johnson.



Fern Rose of York being made an Honorary Swede. Senator Maurice Kremer on left, Orville Dodds, master of ceremonies, on right.

In 1966 a \$100 plate smorgasbord was promoted to gain funds for the new Viking Center. The Festival enjoyed the use of the Viking Center in 1967 as it celebrated Nebraska's Centennial.

It is not unusual for Stromsburg "The Swede Capital" of Nebraska to serve as host to up to 5,000 people during this annual two day event. The Stromsburg Commercial Club along with the excellent support of the Stromsburg Woman's Civic Club are the sponsors.



Mr. and Mrs. John Falk driving the team of oxen, June, 1967 Swedish Festival parade. Covered wagon was made by the Free Church young people.



The winning float entry in 1971 Swedish Festival parade - Wanda and Wendy Wilhelms up front with the editor being scrubbed by his wife Ardis.

CENTENNIAL BOOK CONTRIBUTORS

Al Hedbloom Real Estate
American Legion Auxiliary
American Legion Post 132
Anna's Beauty Shop

Barber's Service, Harold and Loren
Beckman Plumbing & Heating, Harold and Tim Beckman
Bit of Sweden Restaurant, Dorothy and Berts Larson
Bob's Standard Service, Robert Lamoree
Book and Variety Store, Doris Clifton
Burg Refrigeration, Don Burg

C & M Lanes, Clay and Margie Holmes
Christensen Drug
Clarence M. Austin, Auctioneer
Conrad Olson, Carpenter and Building Construction
Cuddy's Blacksmith and Welding, Phil and Homer Cuddeford

Dairy Inn, Hal and Darlene Gordon
Dorothy's Beauty Salon, Dorothy Nordberg
Dr. C. L. Anderson, M.D.
Dr. E. T. Parminter, Dentist
Dr. K. D. Strong, Veterinarian and Stockman
Dr. R. L. Minnick, Dentist
Dr. Vance Sharp, Dentist
Durant Grain and Fertilizer Co., Ralph Gerdes, Manager

Economy Food Store, Marvin Wadell and Wilmer Anderson
Edsel C. Carlson, Carpenter-Contractor
Ericson Cash Hardware, 71 years of service

Farmers Co-op Grain Association
Farmers Co-op Lumber
Farmers Co-op Oil, Inc.
First National Bank
Frank Lauerman, Tuscon, Arizona
Frank Nordberg, Contractor

Gary Hullinger
Grain Products Company, Douglas L. Peterson

Hazel's Apparel Shop
Headlight
Hiway Barber Shop, Joe Marsden
Hiway Beauty Shop, Helen Fredrickson
H. J. Fusby, Hartford Insurance

Irene's Flower Shop, Irene Fredrickson
Ivan Hastings, Plumbing, Heating, General Maintenance

Jack & Jill, Ed and Donna Anderson
Joe's Body & Paint, Joe Schinzel

John A. Falk
Johnson, Moyer & Rosenquist Insurance Agency
Johnson Service, Ralph and Leck
J. T. Stanton, Attorney

Ka-Wan Ceramics, Kay Johnson and Wanda Peterson
Kreis Drywall, Tom Kreis, owner
Kuni Shipferling Holtgrewe, Lincoln, Nebraska

Larson, Mr. and Mrs. Albertus
Larson Propane & Fertilizer, Mobil Oil Distributor, Wallace Larson
Lloyd's Sinclair Service, Lloyd Carmichael

Mac's Electric, Clair McCormick
McBride Transport Service, Galen McBride, Manager
Midwest Covenant Home
Mildred Flodman, "Early Days in Polk County", 460 pages
Moore Lumber Co., Floyd, Stanton, and Paul
Mother's Cafe, Orval and Tillie Gildersleve

Overland Ready Mix Concrete Company
Overland Sand & Gravel Company, Vayden Anderson

Palmberg Auto Supply
Pogue Construction, Dick Pogue
Polk County Rural Public Power District

Reuel Sward, Appliance Sales and Service

Servisoft Soft Water Company, Bob Nordberg
Scandinavian Mutual Insurance Co., Curtis Flodman, Agent
Smorgasbord 1971
Stan's Bar, Stanley Ostransky
State Farm Insurance, Paul Robinson
Stromsburg Arch & Building Company, Clay Brumbaugh
Stromsburg Bank
Stromsburg Cleaners, Lyle and Nina Cockle
Stromsburg Hotel and Cafe, Harry and Flora Johnsen
Stromsburg Laundromat, Don Nordberg
Stromsburg Locker, Herb Olson
Swanson's Electric, Eldon Swanson
Swede's Bar, Marion M. Jacobson
Swede Capital Aviation, Durward Rystrom

Town & Country Beauty Salon
Town & Country Department Store, Jim and Elaine Westring

Victor Anderson Co., Bob Braasch and Orville Dodds

Wesley Michener, Mechanic
Woman's Civic Improvement Club

Yungdahl Excavating, Clark Yungdahl

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THE HEADLIGHT STROMSBURG, NEBRASKA

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1972 -

Founder's heirs attend Centennial

Among the visitors attending the Swedish Festival and Stromsburg's Centennial last weekend were Mrs. Grace Frawley Welsh, Mrs. Josephine Frawley Yantis, the latter's husband, Judge A. L. Yantis and their daughter, Mrs. E. C. Eberspacher, all of Shelbyville, Illinois.

Mrs. Welsh and Mrs. Yantis are daughters of former residents, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Frawley, and grand daughters of Louis Headstrom, founder and builder of the first store and dwelling in Stromsburg.

Judge Yantis was one of the speakers at the dedication of the village marker at the northwest corner of the public square.

In complimenting Stromsburg on its record of the years, Judge Yantis said that "great credit is due to its having a newspaper of the caliber of The Headlight, under the direction and leadership of Chattie Coleman Westenius, who was recognized in newspaper circles throughout Nebraska. Ever ready to boost a just cause, she was equally prompt in expressing disapproval of that which she thought might be detrimental to Stromsburg. The Headlight can be proud of its heritage."

LOCALS

Saturday morning coffee guests of Helen Buckley were Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Yantis and daughter, Jo and Mrs. Grace Welch of Shelbyville, Illinois.