



FOREWORD

October, 1995

A year or so after Mother's death, I brought her family history with me to Billings. It was my intention to have copies made for all the family members. I "toyed" with the idea of re-typing the whole thing because the original is typed on onion skin paper, and on some pages the type is quite light because the typewriter ribbon was well-used. After re-reading the story, I decided it would not be wise to re-type it--the "English teacher" in me would want to correct any typing or punctuation errors--and then it would no longer be just as Mother had done it.

Finally I decided to copy the history exactly as it was. Mother's last page deals with the events of 1988. Each one of you will have to add your own story of the last year of her life until her death on October 13, 1989. Blessed be her memory!

Dorothy

PRELUDE

During the fall of 1974 I visited Uncle Anton and Aunt Ellen and they filled me in on some early family history that should be included in this story.

In the year 1300 much of Norway was controlled by Catholic Priests. The people finally rebelled at this type of living and during a revolt the Priests were driven from the country. The land was given to the man living on it at that time and the farm automatically took the name of that man. Records in the Archives in Oslo, Norway show that the farm my father was born on was given the name Stomsvik at that time. It was handed down from generation to generation with the first opportunity to inherit the farm going to the eldest son.

My cousin, Steiner Stomsvik, who lives on the farm now in 1974, has a book tracing the family back to the 1300's, and during all this time there has always been a son to carry on the family name along with the inheritance of the farm. Cousin Steiner has a son who will carry on when he passes away. Uncle Anton says the book is very complete even giving an account of what he and my father did during their lives, and even listing the names of their children. Some day I hope I will be able to have the book translated into English so I can better appreciate my Norwegian inheritance.

FAMILY HISTORY
By Susie Stomsvik Redekopp

Much of this that I am going to write in this "My Story" is material that has been told to me by friends and relatives so some dates may not be accurate.

My father, Ole Stomsvik, was born in Ramsdalin, Norway, on the 3rd of July, 1874. The name comes from the fjord that the farm is situated on. His parents were Steiner Hatlvik Stomsvik and Anne Oldsdaughter Olsen. He had two sisters, Annie and Ellen, and two brothers, Olai and Anton. He was called Little Ole and as his brother was older, he was called Big Ole. His family were hard working people and accumulated a lot of property and cash. At the death of his father, as was the custom in Norway at that time, his oldest brother became "boss" of the land, and all the younger children worked for him without pay. At last my father rebelled at this. He wanted to go to medical school and study to become a doctor, but his mother would not help him financially. She had the money to help with but clung to the idea that an education was not important.

Finally my father left his home and started out on his own, doing whatever was available. The first money he made he used to buy his sister a sewing machine, then paid her expenses while she went to dressmaker's school. In this way she would be able to support herself and would not be tied to the farm; this meant a great deal to her. The first advance school he went to was called Nordmøre Vocational School. He finished his schooling here on March 10, 1895. After that he went to a Government Dairy School at Kne in the county of Northern Trondjem from January 2, 1889 until June 23, 1900. He worked as manager of the Aasen Dairy for two and a half years. Then resigned and started making plans to come to America. At one time he received the highest honor from the King of Sweden for topping all buttermakers in both Norway and Sweden. This medal is still in Clinton's possession.

At last he had the necessary money saved for the ship fare to come to America. He arrived here in 1903 with very little knowledge of the English language. On arriving in New York, he heard that there was quite a Norwegian settlement at Carrington, North Dakota. That was his first stop. He obtained a job working for farmers in the area. Then he heard that there were plans to build a creamery. After much talking he finally convinced the farmers, that he, just a poor "Norsky", was capable of planning, building, and running the creamery. He used his first savings to send for his brother Anton who was still on the family farm in Norway. His work in the creamery was successful, which led to his being asked to help build other creameries in the area. Then he decided to go to Agricultural School in Minnesota, passed the required state exam, and became a licensed buttermaker in Minn. His first supervision was the building of the creamery in Badger, and also the building of the one in Greenbush. Then he was asked to run the one in Badger. All during his life he did a lot of reading and certainly he was a self taught person. He had very little formal education in the English language as most of the courses he took in school were in relationship to buttermaking. He carried a little Norwegian-English dictionary with him and often referred to it, especially when writing. While at Badger, he once entered a buttermaking competition in Minneapolis, and came home with very high honors.

My mother, Enga Marie Skeie Kurz, was born on June 9, 1880, somewhere along the area around Sacramento, Calif. Her Mother - Grandma Kurz, was born in Trondjem, Norway of fisher folk, and came to the U. S. at the age of 20, lived in Wisc.

with her brothers who had come previously to the U. S. Their name was Peterson. Then she went to the West Coast, possibly Oregon, where she met Mr. Skeie. They were married and went to Sacramento where they worked on a dairy farm. They did not like this tho, so moved into town where he became a policeman for a few years. Three girls were born there, Enga, Kaja, who died, and a second Kaja. Then they moved back to Wisc. where he worked in logging camps and the family lived in a small log cabin. Suddenly the father disappeared, no one knew what had happened to him. One night a fire broke out in the cabin and Grandma and the two small girls escaped but they lost all their belongings. Grandma took the two small girls and moved to Northern Minn., where she finally got a divorce, as the husband had never come back, and it was necessary to clear her legal status. After several housekeeping jobs on farms, she began to work for John Kurz. Later they became married and the girls had a new father. They lived on the farm at Warren for 14 years. Because Grandma had rheumatism quite badly, they decided to keep the farm at Warren, but move to North Dakota where the air would be dryer. They found a farm near Esmond that they bought for \$27.00 delinquent taxes. To the family of girls were added later, Fred, George and Willie, who were tripletts, Arthur, Lillie, Daisy and Mae. Willie was in his early teens when he contracted T B. Later on Mae also contracted the disease. Walter passed away at the age of two from a stomach disorder. Mother and Aunt Kaja had wanted to become teachers, and so went back to Warren and passed the exams for their first teaching certificates. During this time Mae had become very ill so Mother went home to help in the care of her. After Mae's death Mother went to school again, this time as one of the Charter students at Concordia College in Moorehead, Minn. After a couple of teaching positions she accepted a position in Badger, Minn. It was here she met Ole Stomsvik and on Oct. 14, 1905, they were married.

The Aunts and Cousins tell many things about her. She was a very quiet femine person. Her small hands and feet, the envy of her sisters, were one factor in that she was never able to do very hard work. She was 5 feet seven inches tall. She was considered a very good teacher. Aunt Daisy lived with Mother and Dad for portions of two years and attended the Badger School. She was marked from the first as being Mrs. Stomsvik's neice. She tells of what a happy home it was to be in. There were many young people in the town, and because Mother had been a teacher there, and Dad being the buttermaker, they were well thought of, and part of all the activities. Mother had helped Dad in perfecting his grasp of the English language, and on July 12, 1909 he became a U.S. Citizen. The remainder of his life, it meant a great deal to him that he could call the U. S. his country. Dad loved hazel nuts, and there always was a bowl of them on the living room table. He also was very fond of lamb, and one of the farmers raised a special lamb for him each year, feeding it to Dad's specifications. He liked to hunt, and had a hunting dog called Fido who accompanied him. When they finally moved to Montana, Fido came along and finally died of old age. Dad made the remark at the time that it was like losing his best friend. I can remember the large stuffed owl that was one of his hunting trip mementoes. One of his proudest moments was when he gave Mother a new Persian Lamb Coat. At that time they were very fashionable. Mother had a bicycle that she was an expert at riding and had used it in going back and forth to teach. However, after she and Dad were married they had a horse and buggy in which they did all their traveling. Aunt Daisy tells of how spirited the horse was, and that many people thought the ladies should not drive him. During these years Dad was planning a trip back to Norway, and finally he was able to go.

Soon, tho' Dad began to be bothered with rheumatism, which bothered him

more or less the remainder of his life. He thought that the work in the creamery was to damp for him, and decided to seek a dryer climate and different occupation.

About this time land in Montana was being opened for homesteading. Dad made a trip out there to look over the land and brought back a carload of semi-wild horses to sell in Minn. After much discussion it was decided that the family would move to Montana and homestead. A friend, Bennie Sather who had gone to school to Mother as his teacher, decided to go to. They decided on land that was called the North Country, approximately 55 miles from Glasgow, where they had come to by train. Mother was not very happy about the move, because she was not very strong, and was somewhat fearful of the hardships of a new settler's life. The area was gradually being filed on and a small postoffice and general store was established and named Avondale. The family by now was larger; first Alda, born Mar. 5, 1908, twin boys born prematurely as a result of Mother falling through a opening in the hay mow while they were living in Badger, passed away, then Susie, born May 14, 1911, and Clinton born April 4, 1913. Mother's trip on the train was not easy with three small children. Dad and Bennie had come with the freight car of household possessions. Times were not easy the first few years. Neighbors were few and far between. But the land seemed rich, and there was a good supply of moisture, so for some years the yields were excellent.

Old friends from Badger also came and homesteaded in the Avondale Community. Melvin Haug and his wife Seneva, (Bennie Sather's sister) filed on a piece of land about two miles from our farm. They were close friends, and I can remember faintly in the winter time Dad and Mother would wrap us children up, put hot irons in the sleigh along with many blankets, and we would drive over to spend the afternoon with the Haug family. The settlers who were married and had children began to think about a school. As there were many young bachelors in the community, needless to say the teacher who came was assured that she would not remain single very long!

It was necessary to haul the grain to Glasgow in the early years as the railroad had not yet come to Scobey. This was a four day trip with horses, which meant that two nights were spent at what was called the "Halfway House", about halfway to Glasgow. Dad never liked spending the night there as he was very fastidious, and many times he would come back fearing that he had acquired lice in his hair. Then would come vigorous shampooing with kerosene and soap. This was about the first thing he would do when he came back from one of these trips. One time when he was gone a tornado passed through the community. We had a sod barn with a wooden roof, so Mother hustled the three children into one corner and she hung onto a rope that had been tied to the ceiling rafters. Later she learned that a heavy grindstone was on the top of the barn over the corner where we had been. The storm had been terrific. The Haug house had been picked up and moved some distance. Seneva had been baking bread in a coal range at the time. She was found latter sitting in a rocker holding her dead baby in her arms. It had been killed by a flying timber. There were many wild crocuses and sweet peas growing on the prairies and Mother taught us to make May baskets for the first of May.

Crops continued to be fairly good, war fever seemed to be rising in Europe, so Dad decided to make one more trip to Norway to see his Mother, who was getting old, and the rest of his family. Grandpa Kurz came out for awhile to stay with us bringing many precious, to us, things from the Aunts at Warren. After

a short visit in Norway Dad made reservations for his return trip on the ship, Lusitania. After reaching London he decided to get a haircut as his ship had been delayed. When he finally reached the docks, the ship had left without him so he had to take a later vessel. But this turned out to be very lucky for him. The Lusitania, a passenger ship of the Cunard Line, sank off the Coast of Ireland on May 7, 1915 after it had been torpedoed by a German Submarine. Of the 1,924 passengers aboard, 1,108 lost their lives, including 128 Americans. The sinking aroused great anger in the U. S. and later contributed to the entry of the U. S. into World War I.

Viola Genevieve was born on Jan. 1, 1915 but she did not live long as she contracted pneumonia. With a doctor 40 miles away, Dad had a sister of a neighbor who was a nurse come to help Mother with the Baby's care. But in spite of croup tents, and the ointment then popular, antiphlog-stine, she died. This was a bad blow to Mother.

In the summer of 1916, Aunt Daisy and Uncle Arthur were to have a double wedding at Warren. It was decided that Mother should take the children and go as it would be a good opportunity for her to see all her folks. I remember faintly the train ride, and now it seemed we never would get there. Finally we arrived and we children met our relatives. The kitchen in the house on the farm at Warren with its sink and pump with which you could pump water into a basin really made an impression, as did the dark panneling around the walls. Mother took us into town for a shopping trip. We girls were fitted with eyelet embroidered white dresses and Clinton with a similar white suit for the wedding. Alda and I had our hair in long curls, and Clinton also had four curls with one extra on the top of his head. Then Mother bought the two wedding gifts. She decided on a set of 1847 silver for each couple, and exceptionally nice gift in those days. Before the wedding on the day of the services we went to the photographer to have our pictures taken. I shall always regret that there wasn't one taken of Mother too. By this time Aunt Kaja's family had arrived so there was one picture taken of Grandpa Kurz and his first two grandsons, Clinton and Joseph. It seemed like a long service for little girls to sit through but Mother told us to be still just a little longer and there would be more folks to play with. She was talking about relatives from Arygle with cousins Clara and Alice. We stayed at Warren for a short time and then spent a few days at Maddock, N. Dak. visiting Aunt Kaja's family.

One cold wintry day in Feb. Dad took Alda and me over to spend the day at a neighbor's place, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson. They had no children of their own and had always made a fuss over us we liked to go there. When Dad came after us in the evening he had news, we had a new baby sister. Marjorie Estelle, born Feb. 25, 1917 was now the pet of the family.

Sometime during these years the building site had been moved a half mile further south in order to get better drinking water. Summer of 1917 came and as our house was getting crowded Dad thought we should have a new and larger house to live in. He wrote to Badger and arranged for two carpenter friends to come out to Avondale and build a new house for us. It was one of the larger houses in the area and had a furnace so even the upstairs was warm. Dad had a gas operated threshing outfit and did lots of outside threshing. Previous to this he had a gas operated "Avery" tractor that pulled a plow that had eight plow shears.

During these years he broke up a lot of sod for the neighbors. All the other farming was still done with horses. This was the "ground work" for many of the

farms that later were prosperous in the Avondale community. Although Dad had one of the first Model T Cars in the community, the grain was still being hauled by horses to Glasgow. One summer during this period of time there was a big Fourth of July celebration at Avondale. The few farmers who had cars were the center of attraction. That was the summer that brought excitement to our community! Senator Burton K. Wheeler, who was running for re-election, gave the main speech at the celebration using a wagon box for a grandstand!

With four children to care for Mother worked very hard. The pressure to raise large gardens and crops was great due to the war in Europe. As children we were not to conscious of the war, but I faintly remember at the public meetings in the schools, war songs such as "There's A Long Long Trail, Katie and Tipperary were sung. In the homes where there were pianoes lots of singing was done. In the spring Mother had a very bad accident. She had put a gallon of white syrup on the stove to get warm. Someone shoved the bucket to the hot part of the stove. When she saw it "dancing around" she took a knife to loosen the lid. The bucket exploded and hot syrup went everywhere. She lost all her hair and nearly went blind, but eventually Nature heals everything.

Alda and I went to summer school three months of the year. Most of the children had long distances to go, and with bad weather during the winter months, and having to help with the work at home during the summer, this was all we had for several years. Axell Pearson was working for us finishing up the harvest and Dad was threshing wheat down in the Larslan area. How well I remember the horseback rider who dashed by the school yelling, "Fire at Stomsvik's"! Alda and I started for home, me tagging along as fast as I could while crying. The neighbors had formed a bucket brigade in order to keep the fire from spreading further. Water was pumped out of the well as fast as it came in. Clinton, only a little fellow, had tried to lite a fire in the forge as he had seen the men do many times. When the coal would not start he had gone to the haystack. The dry hay soon caught fire and he gave it a kick up the stack. Soon two haystacks, two barns and some other buildings were in flames. Altho Axell made several attempts to get some horses out of the barn he was unable to do so due to the extreme heat. If Clinton hadn't rushed to the house and told Mother what he had done everything probably would have gone up in smoke as things were very dry and the wind was in the right direction. Neighbors spent the night watching the smoldering ruins in case there would be another flare up. Dad had seen the smoke in the afternoon and was sure it was at home. After dark he came, circled the smoldering ruins, and without stopping went back to his crew. This was a terrible loss. Insurance was unheard of at that time.

Nov. 1918--The Spanish Flu hit the Avondale community as it did everywhere else. We had heard how many people were sick, but Dad had some business in Opheim concerning the farm so that it was necessary for both ne and Mother be present at, so they both had to go. When they came back they told how several people in Opheim, including Dad's Banker's Wife had died. Dad and Mother had both worn masks but to no avail, and then Mother was pregnant too. First Dad got sick, then Mother. While Mother tried to keep things going when Dad was sick it was to much and she was soon down and developed pneumonia. All we children were sick too so Dad made up beds in the living room as it was to hard to tend us upstairs. As he was so weak he placed chairs throughout the downstairs to be used as rest stations. Bed Wilson came twice a day and did the chores but would not come in the house. It was impossible to get any help. Finally the Doctor came out from Opheim and when he saw how sick everyone was he managed to get a nurse. Mrs. Haug sent over sheets and towels, and food whenever it was possible. The baby was born prematurely, 7½ months. After naming her Elaine Marie, Dad arranged

for Mrs. Thompson to care for her. One night Dad woke Alda, Clinton and me, took us into Mother's room where Mother kissed us all, told us to be good children and passed away. The funeral was held in our living room, and as most of the neighbors had had flu by now, many came to the funeral preached by Rev. Rosolt, a personal friend of the family. Elaine lived only 16 days, and then she too passed away. No incubator, probably not the right kind of food and perhaps she too had the flu. Grandpa Kurz was the only one of the relatives able to come for the funeral and he spent a couple of months with us. Many many years later, Dad told me that the happiest time of his life had been the years he had spent with Mother, even tho' many of them were hard years.

After Mother's death and up until the time Mrs. Neumann and Lena came in the early fall of 1920 we had several housekeepers, namely Katherine Carrington, Mrs. Nickless, Mrs. Nigret and Jennie Hanson. Most of them were young and the job of the care of four motherless children could not have been easy. Dad had filed for the patent on the land he and Mother had homesteaded on --E $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 24, Township 34N, Range 42 E. On the 20th of Mar., 1919 he was given the final papers. If only Mother could have been there to share this with him.

With Mrs. Neumann's coming things began to be a lot easier as we all learned to love her, and could take any problem to her at any time. In spite of her German brogue and all the other little things, she did more for us than any one I can think of. Aunt Lillie had come to Montana about this time and took Alda back to Minn. with her as Alda wasn't very well. From the start Lena and I were a twosome and got along so well. How mean and onery we were to Alda, now I know it was all jealousy as we knew she would soon be leaving for Minn. We tried to get away by ourselves, and if Pony, our faithful old saddle horse, was available we would catch him, and riding double bareback, would take off! Aunt Lillie would punish us by sending us to the dark attic to cut buttons off old clothes. We had a fear of that dark attic, but we made lots of plans while up there!

During 1919 or 1920 Uncle Anton, Aunt Ellen and family moved from Conagen to Avondale. They spent some time living with us and later moved to the Moen place, a half mile west of us. They had a large family; Orville, Ernest, Evelyn, Alma and Milton. How much fun we had together! I remember meeting them half way -- at the creek -- for a couple hours play nearly every day. In one of the old trunks upstairs, all Elaine's baby clothes had been packed. Evelyn, Alma, Lena and I found they were a perfect fit for our dolls. But the problem, now to get them out of the house. We managed to open an upstairs window and everything was lovely until one day Aunt Ellen and Mrs. Neumann saw baby clothes sailing by the kitchen window! They soon put a stop to that!

After the big fire a new barn was needed. The neighbors came in and helped build a large straw barn. Posts were driven into the ground, then a roof was made of poles and rafters. The next step was to nail hog wire over the roof and sides. Flax straw was packed two feet thick around the entire structure including the roof. If it had not been for the ventilators in the roof it would have been a "sweat box". Five double stalls were on each side. What a warm cozy place it was to step into those cold mornings when we went out to chore! Lots of feed had to be hauled every day as there were twenty horses kept in the barn. Another smaller barn had been built for the cows, and one was used for a chicken coop. The walls of the straw barn were an ideal place for birds to nest, and at one time Lena, Clinton, Marjorie and I had 27 cats and kittens hidden there. Soon they made milking a very hard job, and one day Dad cleaned house!

Dad was very strict with us. One night in the late fall I had been sent after the cows. It was nearing dusk and I was afraid, so instead of looking further for them, I sat by a strawstack until dark and then went back to the house and told Dad I couldn't find them. He sensed something was wrong. The next morning he said I would have to go and find them. Altho Pony was in the barn he said I would have to walk. That was punishment for the night before episode. I stopped and got Alma to with me. We went south a couple of miles where we found them mixed in with a large bunch of cattle belonging to a Thornton family. We would have to try and get ours separated and home. As I started to run around one side of them to chase one of our old milk cows back, this big black cow took after me. I dropped flat on the ground for it seemed I had heard one of the hired men say if you played dead an animal wouldn't hurt you. All I could see was cattle legs milling around and hear their bellowing. I do not know now long I was on the ground, but soon I heard Alma crying and calling. She knew I was dead; and was afraid to go home! We went home without the cows. When Dad heard our story he sent Clinton out on horseback to finish the job we had started.

As I look back now I know I was always the coward among the other kids. When they would run to the edge of the barn to jump off, I would get as far as the edge and freeze. One year we had a very early thaw and the creeks started running the latter part of January. Then came a cold spell and they froze over. One afternoon Lena, Clinton, Marjorie and I had been following the creek for a long way. Finally we found a narrow place where we jumped across. Later on we had to again cross in order to get home. The others decided that since I was the heaviest I should go across first, if the ice didn't crack with me it would be safe for them. I was about half way across when I got scared and instead of staying on the ice, decided I would wade through what looked like shallow water. When I stepped off the ice I went completely under. Imagine walking home in freezing temperatures soaked to the skin. After getting a good scolding, Dad made me soak my feet in what then seemed like boiling hot mustard water, and made me go to bed. I came out of it without even a cold. Lena, Marjorie and I all had real long hair when we were going to country school. From some of the kids in school we managed to pick up head lice. When Dad found them, he washed our hair in kerosene, then tied a turkish towel around our heads and we went to bed. During the night the towels came off and all the kerosene soaked hair came down on our shoulders. The lice were gone but we had badly blistered necks, ears and shoulders for some time.

During my years in grade school I had several teachers. As I mentioned before we had only three months of school during the summer months. My early teachers were Inez Henry, Ethel Henry, Alma Sather and Minnie Hanson. Then in 1920-1921 Mrs. Claude Willis taught the first nine month term. From then on we had nine months of school every year with the following teachers: 1921-1922, Mrs. Frank Ruffcorn; 1922-1923, Lulu Akre; 1923-1924 Berril Fuller; 1924-1925 Jessie Cubitt and John Voldal, and in 1925-1926 we started going to Glasgow School and Roy Huber was my first teacher there.

It always was a treat when threshing time came, especially when it was time for them to thresh at home. By that time Dad had bought a steam engine, had a big separator and a cook car. The cook car followed the threshers--generally there were two cooks and a flunky who ran all the errands and saw that the cooks had coal, water, food etc. When they moved the outfit home, the cook car was always parked near the house. If we would wipe dishes and help peel the buckets of potatoes that were needed every day, we could eat in the cook car after the men were done.

That food always tasted better than any other. One fall we had a long rainy spell, right at the peak of the harvest season. It was always so hard to keep a crew of men working so Dad decided rather than to lay them off and try and get a new crew when the weather was again suitable, he would give them free board and room until they could again start to thresh. The cook car was moved home and parked near the back door. The men were all bedded down in the upstairs hall and the one extra bedroom. For six long weeks they spent their time there, playing cards day and night. Mrs. Neumann, Lena, Marjorie and I slept in one of the upstairs bedrooms, and at night we not only locked our doors, but also pushed the dresser and what chairs we had in front of it so we would be sure to hear if anyone tried to get in. However, all the men liked Mrs. Neumann so well they wouldn't have done anything to let her down, so all was well.

One year Dad had another terrible loss. The threshers were on the Paul Westburg place. The fireman, Dave Clausen, Aunt Ellen's brother, had been out the night before, and while the rest of the crew went to dinner he was to keep the fire going so there would be enough steam to start again right after dinner. He fell asleep and the fire got out of the firebox. One man had been using "broncs" for hauling bundles. They were tied to the rack with chains. When Dave tried to let them loose one of them kicked him, breaking his arm. The fire soon got away and the loss was tremendous. One three hundred sixty acre field of wheat was completely destroyed, and the "broncs" along with several other teams and racks were destroyed. Dav's hospital bill was immense. All this Dad had to make good. The real sad part of it all was that Dave's arm never did heal and later he developed walking scarlet fever and passed away.

Over the years Dad had many men working for us. Two I remember in particular. George Larson and Jimmy Tade. George thought so much of Marjorie, he always took her side when she was in trouble. Her hair was very long and curly. What a job Mrs. Neumann would have when she tried to comb it. But if George was in the house when this job had to be done, Marjorie wouldn't shed a tear, as George generally had some little thing for her, or a compliment etc. I was just a little girl then, but now I remember Jimmy Tade continually teasing me. If he saw me anywhere in the yard he would call, "Susie." When I would answer he would say, "Behave". During these years we milked quite a few cows. Clinton was only about five when he had to start. He never did a good job, and when the cows started to dry up, rather than Mrs. Neumann telling Dad that Clinton wasn't milking them dry, she would follow along and milk them over. We also had quite a few turkeys and I was deathly afraid of them when they were setting or had young ones. One day I was sent to the garden to get radishes for dinner. I did not know there was a turkey hen there with young ones. I started to run and she followed. I jumped over a small stock tank of water and ran for the back steps. When I got there the hired men were all laughing at me. How hurt I was, as I really had had a scare. As usual Mrs. Neumann was the one who came to my rescue. All the sixteen years she worked for Dad she helped fight our battles. We were all treated alike. If we needed someone to talk to no matter the time of the day or night she was ready to listen. Later on when we were older and went to dances etc., no matter when we got home, we'd wake her up and tell her all that happened.

We had one neighbor living northeast of us, George Peterson and his Mother. His mother was quite a person. Two incidents I remember in particular. Both of them, George and his Mother, liked cats so well, so generally had several around the house. George had gone to some sort of a carnival and had won some cupie dolls. They asked Marjorie to come and see them one afternoon planning to let her take her choice of the dolls. But Marjorie loved cats too, and instead of being interested

in the dolls, she played with the cats! As a result she came home without a doll. They had a real old mother cat who had had many litters of kittens. Mrs. Peterson decided it was about time she should go, so she held the cat in one arm on her lap and had a teaspoonful of strychnine in the other hand. She was ready to pour the strychnine in the cat's mouth when the cat sneezed. All the poison came up in Mrs. Peterson's face and mouth. She dropped the cat, grabbed a coat and came across the field as fast as she could to our house to get some milk as she knew she was going to die! When she ran in our door she was carrying her teeth in one hand and still had the spoon in the other. She was very lucky as she didn't even get sick, but the cat was dead when she got home. She always raised lots of turkeys too. Dad always said she got up at day break and herded them in his wheat fields. They had many very near battles--over this..

The year Berril Fuller taught our school was a very hard winter. She stayed at Henry Thompson's and walked the two and a half miles when the weather was nice enough. We, Marjorie, Clinton, Lena and I, cut across to the school--it was shorter this way altho we had a very poor trail to follow. Dad had been having so much trouble with abscesses that he was in the hospital in Opheim. One day in January we were the only children in school. Altho it had been nice in the morning when we left for school, by two in the afternoon we had a raging blizzard. Miss Fuller decided we should try and get home, she would go with us. She insisted we go around by the road so we'd have the fence to follow. The first half mile going east wasn't to bad, but the next mile we had to face the storm. None of us had very warm clothes. Poor Marjorie, she was so little and we practically drug her over the snow banks as she kept saying she could go no further. Just as it was getting dusk we saw the light from the kerosene lamp that Mrs. Neumann had put in the window, how beautiful a sight. We had rural telephones by that time so Miss Fuller called Thompsons telling them she would spend the night with us. By noon the next day the storm was over but it was very cold. Yet we all got out to do the chores including Mrs. Neumann and the teacher. The barns were practically drifted under as were the feed stacks. All the snow we shoveled that afternoon and the water we pumped! The next morning two of our neighbors, Ben Wilson and Charlie Young came over to help. It seemed we always had so much snow those years, and of course all feed was hauled with a team. After school and on Saturdays we helped Dad haul straw from stacks located out in the fields, yet all this was fun.

One year Dad traded a horse to Mrs. Heckner for a milk cow. The Sunday we were to go after the cow was a beautiful day. Dad, Lena and I were to go after her. We had a team hooked to a bob sled and led the extra horse. It was over ten miles to Heckners so was an all day affair. We had lunch at Heckners, loaded the cow in the sled and started for home. When we were about two miles from home Lena and I started to get cold. Dad told us to get out and walk. When we climbed over the sled box it slipped off the sled runners. The horses got away with the runners and started racing for home. Here we were, one cow, a sled box, Dad, Lena and me. Nothing to do but lead the cow home! When we were a short ways from home Marjorie and Clinton came driving the horses. They had got home before we did! Dad hurt his shoulder very badly when the box tipped over. He was bothered with this shoulder all his life. When he was a young man in Norway he and a friend were riding their bicycles down a narrow road. These bicycles had high wheels in the back and so were very hard to manage. They met two blind women coming down the road who were singing and playing musical instruments. Rather than nit them, they took the ditch and Dad's bicycle tipped over and he hurt his shoulder and back. He had been afraid to tell his folks about it for fear they would take the bicycle away from him. As a result he didn't have his back and shoulder taken care of.

The times were hard in 1925 and Dad could not see his way to hire any help

to out in the crop so Clinton and I stopped school the first part of April and helped. Dad had again been having trouble with his shoulders and more abscesses so was not able to lift his arms very high. Clinton and I soon learned to harness and take care of our own horses. I had three lead horses and four behind them on a three bottom plow, and worked in the field plowing every day until the crop was put in. Clinton was three years younger than me so couldn't handle as many horses. He did all kinds of work, raking and burning weeds, dragging, plowing with three horses, and even seeding when Dad wasn't feeling good enough. In spite of the fact that we didn't have very many warm clothes to wear and some days were miserable to work in, we never complained and were happy to not have to go to school. But the first of June we had to go to Highland School and make up the two months we had lost. What fun we had! We rode horseback, taking our lunch along, and picketed our horses out at school during the day. We did so much goofing around going to and from school. Every water hole had to be tested for depth. If it hadn't been for our faithful horses there might have been some tragedies. It was six miles from home to this school. Mrs. John Reilly was our teacher. This was a summer school starting about the first of June and generally closing in November or December.

In the 'twenties Dad started hauling the grain to Scobey. This was done by team. Two wagons, one hooked behind the other, and generally pulled by four to six horses. As a rule two of these outfits would go at the same time. We always had to pack big lunches for the men. They would start from home early in the morning, generally before daybreak, and try to get to the Skeine Place (about half way between home and Scobey) the first day. Then spend the night there, and on to Scobey the next day. Then they would rest the horses for a day, doing their buying and selling, and then spend two days driving home. It was something to look forward to when they came back as most of the winter's supply of food would be brought home then. One year Dad bought many sacks of apples. They were stored in the basement. It was surprising how many ways we would try to get to the basement without getting caught.

We had a good crop in 1925 and Dad decided that we should go to school in Glasgow. Alda had finished college by that time and she came from Minnesota to stay with us. Before school started, the threshing had started and Clinton was the straw monkey. His job was to haul the straw from the separator to the engine for fuel. He was driving two faithful horses, Pony and Fanny. One day they got frightened and started to run. He yelled, "Whoa," but didn't think they would stop, so he had himself braced. They came to a dead stop and he tumbled forward, falling from the rack and hitting his arm on the tongue of the wagon. The result was a double fracture of the wrist. Dad got Sam Paus to take him to Glasgow to the Dr. and I rode along to keep him company. They had anchored the broken arm to a flat board, tying the arm and board together with towels but the roads were very rough, and every time we hit a bump, he would scream with pain. I thought he was going to die every time he would close his eyes for just a minute. So Clinton started going to school with a bad handicap. The broken bones didn't heal and finally the Dr. decided they would have to operate and tie the bones together. As it was his right arm he wasn't able to do much for a long time.

That first year in Glasgow we lived in the Miller Apartments-- a low rent affair and nothing very fancy. Alda worked all that school year. First she had a job in a dress shop and then later on got a job as a stenographer for a lawyer. It was hard for us to adjust to town schools, so many kids in our grades etc., but I had a very good teacher, Mr. Roy Huber. Aunt Ellen took us all under her wing and did what she could for us. As she was a member of the Baptist Church, that is

where we went to Church and Sunday School that first year. Everyone was very good to us, and as a result we went to the Baptist Church all the years we went to school in Glasgow. Yet by spring we were so anxious to get back to the farm. Before school let out we all got chicken pox. None of us were very sick but we missed quite a bit of school. Clinton had one real bad pox on the top of his head that would not heal. We were back on the farm only a short time when he became very sick, running a high temperature, and being delirious part of the time. Then he started swelling from the infected pox down. Dad took him to Glasgow, and the Dr. found that he had erysipelas. Not much was known about the disease at the time except that it was very contagious, being spread by the germs getting into open sores. They put him in isolation in the County Hospital where he was for some time. Several times the Dr. gave up entirely, but at long last he was on the way to recovery, and by mid summer he was able to come back to the farm altho he wasn't able to do much. Alda had decided to go into nurses training so after Clinton was well she went back to Minneapolis.

The year I was a freshman in High School, Clinton, Marjorie and I again batched. We lived in a small two room house next to Frank Simmons. The house had no plumbing so we carried our water from Simmons'. What a deal that was on Saturdays when we tried to do the washing, ironing and scrubbing. The house was very cold, and at night when the coal range, all the heat we had, would burn low we would get so cold. Many were the nights we got up and put our coats on the beds to keep warm. Lots of mornings the water would be frozen in the bucket, and also lots of our food. That year I chummed around with Jonette Akre, Edna Chase and Marie Britzman. Dad had never let us girls cut our hair altho most of the other girls were wearing theirs short at the time. One night my girl friends decided they would cut mine off! As long as we were freshmen it would be a good initiation stunt. After I took one look at myself, I thought what will Dad say! I just knew I was in for big trouble. I wrote and told him all about it. A strange thing, the next time he came to town bringing supplies he never even mentioned it. He soon gave Marjorie permission to get hers cut too. The second year passed quickly in spite of all the little difficulties we had, and again we went to the farm for the summer.

The next year we again lived in the Miller Apartments. How good it was to at least have running water and electric lights after having had none the year before. When the wintry weather finally started to break a little all the kids in school started getting very uneasy. One afternoon Jonette and I decided we would just skip school that afternoon and hike out to the black bridge west of town. It wouldn't have been so bad but about a dozen high school boys (including Cousin Orville) also had the same idea. When the Principal checked the records at noon and saw all the absentees he knew what had happened. Not only that, afterwards we were told that from the upper windows in the high school the teachers had seen all those kids hiking west! The next day when we got back to school we were informed we had to make up all the work we had missed at home and then put in double time for the hours we had been absent helping the janitors. Jonette and I got the job of getting down on our knees with sandpaper and removing all the ink that had been spilled on the Study Hall floor. The following Sunday Jonette and I had another experience that could have proved fatal. Mr. Akre, Jonette's father, owned a small row boat. He had been out on a small pond with it a few times that spring although there still was lots of snow and ice on most of the small ponds. He told us we could take the boat but be sure not to drift with the current out of the small pond where it had been anchored. It was a beautiful spring day and we were so busy with all our gabbing we didn't realize what happened. We were on the Milk River and with the spring thaw, the river was very high and had lots of ice in it. I had never been in a boat before so didn't know anything about using an oar. Jonette soon learned that she could not row back to our starting place. We decided we'd just have to drift along with the current

until we could get close enough to the banks somewhere and try to get out of our mess. We knew we were in serious trouble but luckily did not panic. After what seemed like many hours, we heard voices along the bank and started calling for help. How happy we were to see Charles and Willard Walker come running down the bank! We finally got close enough to the shore so they were able to wade out in the deep water and somehow managed to pull the boat to the shore. How good it was to again have our feet on ground. We had drifted from the west side of Glasgow around the bend and were now south of the hospital. They told us how lucky we were then, there was an ice jam east of the hospital, and they had spent all day helping men from town try to break it up. We hiked back to town and found that Mr. Akre had gone to the farm so we had a problem on our hands -- how to get the boat back to town and what to do about school on Monday. We found a neighbor who said he would go with us Monday morning in his truck and help get the boat back. Then we wrote a letter to the school principal and sent it along with Clinton on Monday morning explaining our problems. Everything came out fine, we got the boat back, and when we went to school the next day no questions were asked. Mr. Garlough, the principal, just listened to our story, and told us maybe we had learned a good lesson. Needless to say that was the last of our boating experiences. Before the school year was over that spring the Milk River went over its' banks and the west end of Glasgow was flooded. The apartments where we lived were completely surrounded by water, and none of the children from that end were able to get to school for several days.

The next year Dad bought a small house on the northside in Glasgow where Clinton, Marjorie and I again batched. We had lots of problems again that year. Money was very short, so it seemed we got along on very little, including food, clothes and even fuel. Marjorie occasionally did baby sitting and the few cents she made went to buy needed things. In the early spring we had the measles. At that time the school made all the children stay home if there was a case of them in the family. As usual they drug out for sometime and we did get so far behind in school. I finally got so far behind in my typing that I didn't think I'd make my grade so Dad rented a typewriter from the Courier and it was put to good use. That summer was probably one of the hottest and driest ones we had. So many dust storms. There was very little to harvest, many farmers cut thistles for winter feed. Dad said that year we'd have to make other arrangements for school.

Clinton had already got a job on an oil rig, and decided to stay out of school that year and work. Marjorie would ride horseback to the Avondale School and finish the eighth grade. By then they had moved the school up closer to Avondale. She had many experiences that winter, and if hadn't been for the faithful Pony, there were many nights she might not have gotten home. I found a place to work for my board and room in Glasgow. Mr. and Mrs. Carrier lived across the street from the school. He had been a janitor there for many years, and over this period of time had always had time to stop and chat with us. They wanted someone to help with the housework and also some one for companionship. They were quite old by then, and although they had several grandchildren none of them lived near. They were very good to me, but I guess it was too good to last. Mr. Carrier got very sick in October and ended up a near invalid. He had to quit his job, and they had a full time lady come in and stay with them. Before the winter was over Mrs. Carrier passed away from a heart attack and he moved in with his daughter. I found another place to stay shortly before Christmas, Roy Russell's. They had three small children, and when I went there to stay they all had mumps. But I had had them on one side so thought I had nothing to worry about.

By Christmas there was lots of snow on the ground but I still planned to go

home for Christmas Vacation. I went to Nashua on the train, and then rode with the mail man to Larslan. (Clinton, Marjorie and I had gone home for vacation this way for the holidays the year before.) It was a long trip. We left Nashua at 6 A. M. in a covered sled pulled by two horses. There was a small stove in the sled, but you would burn your face and freeze your back, all at the same time. At times we would get out and walk, just to get the exercise. At noon we stopped at the Herb Bjorklund farm where we had dinner and exchanged horses. Several North Country students were on the sled too --- but they were students in Nashua. When we got to Larslan Mr. and Mrs. Less Gray were there to take all the Avondale students on to their homes. As vacation started coming to an end, the parents decided it would be cheaper to have some one take all the area students back to Nashua and Glasgow. Tom Thronson and Max Heckner were hired for the job. They built a frame over a bob sled, covering the tops and sides with canvas, built benches along the sides and also put in a small stove. We (about fifteen in all) left the Avondale Store about five in the morning and didn't get to Nashua until midnight. It was a long trip but we spent the time playing cards and games, singing, and as every one had packed big lunches, that too turned out to be more or less of a game. We spent the night in the Nashua Hotel and the next day went on to Glasgow. I hadn't been back in school more than a couple of days when I got the mumps on what I called "my good side". I missed all the mid year exams but when I was again back in school got to make them up. Russells's was a rather hard place to work. Mrs. Russell spent a lot of time playing cards so I tended the children a lot. Fern, a little six year old girl, had had polio as a baby so was partially crippled but she was a sweet little girl. James, a little rascal, was four, and Walter, the baby, was only a couple months old when I started working there. At last graduation time came! I had wanted to get a job in Glasgow for the summer but they were not available. All along I thought I might be lucky enough to get a job in the County Supt. of Schools' Office as I had helped out there during my Junior and Senior years in high school as part of my business course, but there was no opening there either.

So I went home and helped with what was to be done on the farm. In August Mrs. Carl Shellrud came and asked Dad if I could come and help them during harvest. They had a new baby in their house and she had had lots of complications afterwards. I helped cook for the hired men until harvest was over. The first part of September I got very sick. Dad took me to Glasgow, and I had surgery for a ruptured appendix. I was in the hospital for a long time. Clinton had decided to go back to school so he and Marjorie were again living in the little house on the north side. I stayed with them for a short time and then went back out to the farm.

In February Grandpa Kurz passed away, and Aunt Lillie wrote and asked me if I would come and help them for awhile as she had been poorly the past summer. So I left for Warren, Minnesota. I learned a lot that summer, and altho I was lonely much of the time, Uncle Fred and Aunt Lillie were very good to me. On Sundays when the hired men were gone, Uncle Fred and I would strip the 35 cows following the milking machines. They had several hired men then but they generally had Sundays off. But this was the type of work I had always done so didn't mind. The summer passed quickly and I decided I wanted to go to Dillon to college. Uncle Fred said he would help me some if I would do some part time work too. And then I hadn't spent any of the money I had made while working there, a dollar a day was the average pay at that time. The first of September I left Warren for home.

The second week in September Mildred and Kenneth Bondy and I started out for Dillon in a Model T Ford. That was one trip I will always remember. Paved roads practically unheard of in most places. It rained all the way to Dillon. There

were times when Mildred and I would get out and push as the Model T just could not get to the top of some of the "mountains," and after all none of us had ever been in the western part of the state so what were we expected to know about them. We had packed big baskets of food to take along, so did not stop in restaurants until that was eaten. The first night we got as far as Box Elder. It was raining so hard, and the roads were so bad we decided we had better stay there. But there was no hotel, motel, etc. Finally a man in the small restaurant said he had just moved his cook car into his back yard, and we could stay there free if we had our own bedding. We had some blankets along but it was a cold damp night. The next two nights we managed to stay in small motels.

At last we were settled in the Dorm. I got a job in the laundry of the dorm, washing the dish towels. I got up at four and had them all washed and hung up, and the laundry cleaned up by breakfast time, between 6:30 and 7:00 A. M. I was getting along real well when I got sick and the Dean sent me to the infirmary, when I didn't seem to improve she said I should go to the hospital for tests. They found I had a real serious attack of gall stones. I had missed three weeks of school by now and didn't seem to improve very fast so the Dr. decided I had better go home and see if I couldn't get well faster. I called Dad and told him I was coming to Miles City by train. He and Clinton met me there, and once again I was back at home on a very strict "Do and Don't Diet." By Christmas time I was feeling much better so sent my application in to Havre, thinking maybe it would be better for me to be a little closer to home. How happy I was when my application was accepted. I stayed in a private home, Mr. and Mrs. Starr Dickson. I followed my diet very closely and got along fine. But I had lost the fall quarter, so after finishing the Winter and Spring Quarters in Havre, it was on to summer school in Billings for the summer months. Anne Barstad and I did light housekeeping in a private home. We had twelve blocks to the Administration Building but we had all our classes in the morning. We went to the American Lutheran Church which was only a couple of blocks from where we stayed. Several of the girls who had been in college in Havre were also in Billings that summer and they also went to the American Lutheran Church. We had a very nice summer that year, the Church sponsored so many activities for the College Students so we got to see lots of the surrounding area, especially the picnic spots. Every Sunday after Church we would take a picnic lunch and drive for miles, seeing new country and finally stopping at a nice picnic spot where we would spend the remainder of the day. The Rev. and Mrs. Stoffel were both young and very interested in young people's activities. In the evening we generally stopped somewhere for services before returning to Billings.

Now the time was here to apply for a school. How happy I was when I finally had a signed contract to teach the Grandview School at Lustre. After I had signed the contract I had a letter from the Opheim Supt. saying there was an opening in the Roanwood School near Opheim, and also one north of Richland, as well as at the Highland School. I was sorry then that I had signed the other contract but it was too late then. In September my first year as a teacher began. I stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Jake Quiring, paying \$18.00 a month for board and room. I must add here that they were very good to me during the time I lived in their home. They had three children in school, Melvin, an eighth grader, Carrol, a second grader, and Betty, a first grader. Betty couldn't talk and English, so that was a real challenge as I couldn't talk or understand any German! I had all the grades with 27 pupils so was kept very busy. Occasionally we had small problems in school but all in all it was a happy year. My salary was only \$80.00 a month so by the end of the month it would be stretched rather thin. This was the year that I met Abe

and I think this is the place to go into some of his early history. Most of this information came from Nettie Thiesen, Abe's sister, so there may be some errors in it.

On asking Nettie how far back the ancestors had lived in Russia, she said that they probably had been there between two and three hundred years, and she was not able to give any more back history. Benjamin Redekopp was born Feb. 8, 1855. By his first marriage he had eight children. His wife died and on May 13, 1890 he was married to Susanna Kasper who was born December 9, 1870. Their children were Marie, Helen, Marie, Frank, Nettie, Jake, Elizabeth, Martha, John, Abe and Henry. Grandpa Redekopp was an ordained Mennonite Preacher in Russia. In 1913 the family decided to migrate to Canada. All the children were born in Kharkov, Russia with the exception of Henry who was born at the embarkation port in Bremen, Germany while the family were waiting sailing orders. This trip was started from Kharkov, Russia, in February 1913. Finally the family received their sailing orders, April 1913. The Jews at the port in Germany held Grandpa Redekopp back as they maintained he had Trucoma. With the last money he had, he managed to buy a first class ticket and reached Canada before the rest of the family, they came by slow immigrant boat. It was a period of worried waiting for him until his family finally reached there. They went to Herbert, Sask., Canada as some of the relatives had already settled there. It was some time in May before the family finally reached there.

Much land was opened for homesteading in the U. S. in 1915 and 1916. Some of the family came early and made the necessary arrangements and in November 1916 the entire family left for Montana, driving their horses and cattle. Nettie says she can remember her father telling the boys to try and buy feed for the stock along the way but -- if they couldn't buy it to take it anyway as they just had to get the stock across the line and into Montana. They located at Lustre, Montana. In the buggy coming to the United States were Grandma, Grandpa, Marie, who had made the trip before, and Abe and Henry. The rest of the family helped with the moving-- Frank on the first wagon, Elizabeth and John on the second, then Nettie, and finally Jake riding horseback driving the stock. They finally reached Lustre after a long trip. During the years the family worked hard, working for neighbors when not needed at home, and at last were on their own. Grandpa Redekopp died of Cancer in 1923. At the time I first met Abe, he, John and Henry were living at home with Grandma Redekopp.

I had met the Arnold Songsteng family at a party early that summer after getting home from school. One night after school I was busy correcting papers when there was a knock at the door. It was Walter Songsteng and Abe. They wanted me to go along to a dance at Larslan that week end. So began our friendship. As I mentioned before that first school year passed so quickly as I was busy and after I met Abe the monotony was cut as we did something most week ends when the weather was fit. That year I helped Clinton and Marjorie as much as I could as they were again batching in Glasgow. Then I bought the winter's coal and flour for Dad. I needed some more credits to renew my teacher's certificate so planned to go to summer school that summer.

After a short vacation spent at home I started getting ready to go to Billings for the summer session. Abe offered to take me. Going by car was a lot cheaper at that time then going by train. By the time we got to Great Falls we decided to get married.---We were married at the home of Abe's brother. The only ones present were Frank and Mary and Mary's two daughters. The date, June 9, 1933.

We spent a couple fun filled days in Great Falls, and then Abe took me on to Billings for college and he went on home.

That was quite a summer. I hadn't signed my contract for the coming school year so we kept our marriage a secret. Imagine my surprise when I read on the bulletin board one day that students could be asked to leave college "under those conditions". Everything worked out fine, altho a few times I really had a scare when I was called to the office for various reasons. It was a very hot summer in Billings that year and we had fourteen blocks to walk to classes. I had hurt my foot the previous spring pulling some tendons and breaking a couple of small bones. I had never given it time to heal. Quirings had taken me to Walls to have Aaron Wall look at it, and all he did was to bind it real tight, and told me to wear a soft slipper. When I went to see Dr. Allard at the Shriner's Hospital he put it in a cast for three weeks and that was the way I hobbled to school.

My roommate that year was Florence Hanson. I told her about being married (she was the only one in Billings who knew) and she told me she and Ernest Snow were going to be married as soon as school was out. When I wrote and told Abe we were trying to plan a trip through the Yellowstone Park as soon as school was out, he was all in favor of it. Now we had something to look forward to!! My funds were getting very low--I had one twenty dollar bill left to see me thru the rest of the session. One day it was just gone, and we found out later that a bunch of small boys had been playing in the basement that day, but I never did locate the money. I ended up having to write to Abe for money, a hard thing to do. Ernest and Florence were married in Columbus as we started on our way to the park. We had a nice wedding breakfast afterwards with Ernest and Abe having strawberry shortcake. We spent ten days in the park sight seeing and having a good time.

Needless to say our marriage caused a little static in both our homes, but I got my contract back for the Grandview School. Abe had some wheat that year, he had a piece of Indian Land leased. But at that time prices were very low so we didn't have a fortune to start out with. We got permission from the owner of the La Fon place to live there the first year. The house was in very poor condition but we papered the walls and ceiling with building paper, and then with linoleum on the floor in the large room we managed. There were two rooms in the house, when it got cold we just moved everything into the kitchen, the larger of the two, and managed to keep warm with the heat from a coal range we had bought for five dollars. Our fuel was piled outside in a pile on the west side of the house. I had two miles to school, and it was quite a bit shorter if I cut across the field. One day shortly before Christmas one of my pupils brought me a little puppy. He was only a few weeks old but was now ready for a new home. He was so fat his little legs would hardly carry him. That night I had to carry him all the way home as he wouldn't try to walk in the deep snow. Someone had given us a pair of ducks, and they had taken possession of the south porch for their winter home, there was no other place for them to be so we just piled up a few wooden boxes in an attempt to give them shelter. Not willing to share all this with the little puppy, he spent lots of time crying by the door. At last we weakened and he was allowed the privilege of being in the house. On the east side of the house there was cellar entrance, steps going from the ground level down to a door into the cellar. Early in the fall we had filled it up with straw in order to keep the house warmer. When the weather turned cold in the latter part of October, two skunks moved in thinking undoubtedly it a good place to hibernate for the winter. Only occasionally did they let us know they were there, and when spring came two old ones and four babies casually wandered across the road, into the field and were soon gone.

That winter I missed walking to school only two days and that was due to bad weather. One of my patrons came with a team of horses and a sled and picked me up in the morning and then took me home in the evening. At that time there was no janitor service for the schools so the first thing in the morning was to get the furnace fire going. Altho the furnace was banked with coal at the close of the school day, by the next morning the fire would be out and the school building would be very cold. Some mornings it seemed nearly impossible to get a fire started. On cold windy days the children often huddled around the floor register until noon. After school it was sweep and dust, make plans for the next day and finish up any other work that was to be done. I corrected all the papers at home in the evening.

Time got long for Abe as we had no stock to take care of. He would spend quite a bit of time at Bergman's. Then in February he and Henry went to work at Fort Peck Dam. They were there for about six weeks but it was far from a paying proposition. We now knew we were going to have a new baby in June so started making plans for that. When I told Mrs. Bergman, our closest neighbor, she was concerned about me being there alone. We worked out a system, if I never needed help in the evenings or night I was to place our kerosene lamp in the west window. She would check during the course of the evening and before she went to bed. Luckily I never needed to call on her. She was so good to me during the time I was alone. Would come down a couple of times a week bringing fresh bread, cookies, etc.

One cold night when I was alone I heard a lot of commotion outside and the puppy raised so much fuss, I decided I'd better check. I found several horses around the house but they weren't ready to give up the shelter they got from the cold east wind. Imagine my surprise when I got up the next morning and went out to get some coal to find a dead horse nearly on the top of my coal pile. How relieved I was when Mr. Quiring finally came and drug it away.

I resigned from my teaching joys the middle of April. Abe and Henry were at home now getting ready for spring seeding. We moved into a little one room house on Ortman's yard. There was barely room in it to put what furniture we had, a stove, a cupboard, a table and four chairs, the dresser and wash stand. A little lean too had been boarded off from one of his graneries. This was just large enough for the bed. Then above the bed, were shelves where we stored our clothes. The Indian Land that Abe had leased was near there. We had no machinery to farm with so Daddy helped his brother Jake put in his crop and that way we got ours put in too.

On the 7th of June, 1934, Darline was born in Wolf Point at the home of Mrs. Pete Funk. Wolf Point had no hospital at that time, but I am sure I would have had no better care in any hospital than I had staying with Mrs. Funk. How happy we were with Darline, she was soon being called Dolly. I think Alvin Wangrud, Lena's husband, was the one who first called her that. We had so little but she was a good baby and didn't demand much either. Abe's sister and husband, Nettie and Jake Thiesen, decided to take a short trip in August and asked us to stay there and do the chores. Abe got very sick and ended up having an appendicitis operation so I was alone there with Darline for several days. John and Henry were good about coming down to see that everything was alright.

That fall we moved to the Jake Stelzer place. He let us use the buildings, the garden spot and the pasture. The house was nothing fancy but we had more room than we ever had had before. We didn't have much furniture--Darline's bed was a big card box, and when it got real cold she slept with us. Those were the days of WPA and Abe worked some after he got over his operation. Grandma had given us two cows and we managed to buy a couple dozen chickens. When we had been living at Ortman's we had had a nice garden and I canned as much as I could. Then by helping them pick potatoes we got our winter's supply of them. Hazel Peterman, the Pleasant

View School Teacher, rented one room from us for \$6.00 a month, that plus the few extra eggs we had to sell was all the income we had that winter. Luckily no one got sick and soon the winter passed. Now the talk was seeding time. Abe could again help his brother Jake and that way get his seeding done but we had to buy seed. How happy we were when one day in the mail we had a letter from Clinton with a money order for \$180.00. By now he had a job in California and had saved enough to repay me for the help I had given him and Marjorie during their last two years of high school. Now we at least had seed to put in another crop.

In September I started teaching the Pleasant View School. I had 28 pupils with all grades. In the fall when Abe was busy we had a girl come and stay with Darline. In the spring we had Mrs. Neumann come and help, she was always the best. Along with teaching that year I took two courses by Correspondence from Dillon in order to renew my teacher's certificate. Needless to say it was a busy year, but I was happy to be again teaching. We bought our first car that winter, on payments. It was a Ford Coupe and what a thrill to have a nice car. We still had no machinery, and were still farming the Indian Land, so again Abe helped Jake. Crops hadn't been to good the year before, but I was teaching and once again Seed Loans were available as they had been when Abe first started to farm.

In the fall of 1936 we knew we would soon be having another baby so teaching was out. Irene Thompson was hired to teach the Pleasant View School. She boarded with us, and soon Darline learned to love her so. That fall Abe and Henry again tried a session working at Fort Peck but those sessions never proved profitable. They were just one big heartache! January was a long cold month with lots of snow. The first part of February we got Mrs. Neumann to come again and stay with us. In order to get to the Volt Road when my time came to go to town, Brother Jake came with his team and sled and they went through first breaking open the road. Then came back and again the sled went ahead of the car, pulling us through the bad places. Dorothy was born February 13, 1937 at the home of Mrs. Alberts. Still no hospital in Wolf Point. Everyone was real happy when we finally brought Dorothy home from the hospital, altho at first Darline still thought that Mother's lap was her exclusive property.

In March Irene decided to quit her school in order that she could take a summer school. I needed two months more teaching in order to renew my certificate. The County Supt., A. J. Wall, advised me to take it, so again we called on Mrs. Neumann. What a schedule Dorothy was on! As I was nursing her I had to go home at noon, so it had to be eats every four hours! Luckily we were only a half mile from school and my pupils were so good I didn't have to worry about them. I recall one incident that happened. Before Irene quit teaching the boys had started this tunnel project. Noon and recesses and any extra time before and after school were spent digging. I do not know how many feet they had dug under ground, when one day one of the parents came to school and put in a complaint! They were all afraid it would eventually cave in and some one would get hurt. It was hard for me to make the boys understand that it wasn't because I didn't trust them or had lost faith in them, that I had to ask them to stop, but due to the complaints. One noon when I came back a little early, the girls rushed to meet me. The boys were smoking in the boy's toilet! Smoking was definitely a "No No" in the Mennonite Community! When I rapped on the door, the boys were all hush, hush, so I opened the door to find the toilet filled with smoke. No one would admit as to where the tobacco originated from. That evening after school each boy wrote a letter to his folks telling of the prank. My follow up was to call the parents and see that the letters were delivered, and that was the end of my part in the episode. Years later, Calvin Redekopp, Abe's nephew, told me he had swiped a sack of Bull Durham from Abe. He said the boys had always wondered why I hadn't punished them

more severely at the time altho no punishment I could have given them would have been as severe to them as to have to deliver those letters to their folks.

After school was out we moved to the Schmidt place, located a half mile south of Grandma Redekopp. All of a sudden, Ferd Stelzer, who owned the place we had been living on, said we'd have to move so there was no choice. The Federal Land Bank was in the process of foreclosing on the land and he still had some hopes that maybe he could salvage it. The Schmidt place had a small two room house, a few other small buildings, plus a big barn. Those were the "dry years" and many people left looking for brighter pastures. In July, Thiesens, Abe's sister, decided they should go to Oregon and look things over. They asked me to stay with Karl and help do the chores as they were milking ten cows. In the evening I would put Dorothy to bed, take Darline along, and Karl and I would do the milking. (We tried to get all the chores done in the morning before the girls were up.) One night when I came in Dorothy was crying so hard, and when I picked her up I found her face all black and blue and her face all swollen. When I asked Karl what had happened he denied everything, but after listening to her cry so hard, he admitted that when he had brought in a pail of milk, she was fussing so he picked her up. On the way to the kitchen he hit her head against the door casing. How angry I was! A few days after we had gotten settled at home again, Darline came in and said she had pushed a rock up her nose. I tried to get her to blow her nose so it would come out but she just succeeded in getting it back farther. Dorothy was crying, and I was so shook up, I grabbed both the girls, put them in the car, and drove to Zerbes', Abe's sister. I told her what had happened and she set Darline on the hood of the car, reached in her hair and took out an old fashioned wire hairpin, and soon had the rock in her hand. That was one long remembered lesson for Darline.

When fall came Daddy got a job as night watchman at the Chevrolet garage in Wolf Point. We lived in a little two room house back of the garage. I carried the water from the garage. There were electric lights in the house but that was all. It was all made of bricks and was very cold and damp, so the girls were sick a lot of the time and I was house bound with them practically all the time. When Dorothy was a year old she tripped and fell -- she had a toy broom in her hand and the handle went into her mouth puncturing her tonsils. As a result she had a very serious case of thrush. For a couple of weeks it looked like we couldn't save her, but with Dr. Knapp coming to the house every day she finally got well. Then Darline got whooping cough and it wasn't long until Dorothy had it too. What a time we had! Dorothy was in such a weakened condition from the thrush that it took her a long time to get well. One cold morning I got up at five o'clock to start a fire in the coal range as the house had gotten so cold. Suddenly the door opened and in walked two of the tallest, most drunk men I had ever seen. I asked who they were and what they wanted. They told me their names were Deitrich and they wanted liquor! Talk about scared. I told them who I was and that I had nothing to give them. With that they left. Later we were told the house had been a bootleg joint selling liquor before we moved in. From then on I barricaded the door at night with chairs, and slipped several table knives between the door and the casing. At least I would hear any one who tried to get in!

How glad I was when the first of April finally came and we could move back to the farm. Back to the Ferd Stelzer place. We finally got the papers straightened out with the Federal Land Bank, and started making small payments on our own place. The time went by quickly, things were getting a little better, we started buying some machinery, and by this time had a few more cows. Abe never did like to milk cows, but I took over the job so we would have milk, cream and butter for our own use and the little extra cream we had we sold and that helped to buy groceries.

In the fall of 1938 Abe started working on a WPA project. One day the County Supt., Mr. Wall, stopped and asked if it would be at all possible for me to go up

to Thoeny for six weeks as the teacher they had for the school wouldn't be able to get there until then. Thoeny is about thirty miles northwest of Opheim, only a short way from the Canadian Border. On my first trip out there all I found was a long lonely road the entire way from Opheim. Only one farm house could be seen from the road. School was being held temporarily in an old house. One room was used for classes and the other for living quarters. Some of the patrons brought the bare necessities for me to get along with. The first night I had mice running everywhere, over my bed, across the table, and the next morning had several in my coal bucket. The first week Abe was alone with the girls, and as I had the car, they were a-foot! Lots of fun! On Friday night, after my first week of teaching I went around by Hinsdale and brought Mrs. Neumann home with me. Things were a little easier for Abe after that. That first Friday night when I got home Dorothy wouldn't have a thing to do with me. I was done teaching at Thoeny! But by the next morning everything was lovely. I know I didn't make any fortune while teaching there those six weeks but it did help with the immediate necessities. One week end it cost more to get me back there than I made all week. The weather had turned bad so Abe took me back on Sunday and we had snow, mud and rain all the way. After buying a new battery and a new tire my check was very thin. The winter was a long cold one that year, and it seemed we had to watch our pennies so carefully all the time. My sister, Marjorie, had started to work at Buttreys Clothing Store in Glasgow after she finished High School. She worked in the children's department so always got a first look at the new children's clothes. At least once a month she would send a package to the girls. They really loved their Auntie Marjorie, not especially for the things she sent them, but for being Auntie Marjorie. In May of that year I gave the seventh and eighth grade State Exams at Lustre and the twenty dollars went to buy shoes for the entire family.

Lots of people had left in the '30's due to the hard times. The Pleasant View School had closed at the end of the school term in 1937. In 1939 an old school house was moved down near Ungers and Ortman and renamed Pleasant View. I taught there the 1939 and 1940 year. The winter was quite mild and I drove nearly every day. As the girls were a little older now we tried to get along with as little extra help as possible. Week ends were real hectic with washing, ironing, baking and cleaning to be done. We had one winter accident--Abe was out feeding the cattle and the girls decided to play Blind Man Bluff. Darline tied a scarf around Dorothy's face and she was to find her. We had a big old fashioned heater in the living room, it had a hot fire burning in it, and Dorothy ran to close, rubbing her arm along it. She had a blister from her elbow nearly to her wrist. When Abe came it he bandaged it up with a clean white handkerchief. By the time I got home from school the blister had broke and the bandage stuck to her arm. By dropping warm water on the handkerchief with a teaspoon we finally got the bandage off, but it took a long time before her arm was all healed again. One other accident marred our year. Abe took the girls along to town and left them with Daisy Simenson while he went up town. Darline went with their children to the school playground to play. She didn't know much about swings -- was standing to close and got hit with the swing seat. As a result she had a big cut above her eye and had to have seven stitches taken.

A busy summer followed and again in 1940 and '41 I taught at Pleasant View. My first graders that year were Darline and Anna Jantz. It was rather hard for Darline as I always had to be stricter with her than with anyone else. Once more we tried to get along with as little extra help as possible, calling on Mrs. Neumann only when Abe was busy in the spring and fall. We had a good school year and nothing very exciting happened. That fall we knew we would have an increase in our family, and the girls were hoping for a baby brother.

September soon rolled around and the County Supt. again came out and asked if I'd start the Pleasant View School as again they had no teacher. After six weeks how happy I was when Bob Berg came to take over. He boarded with us until Christmas when he resigned to go into the army. Mrs. Henry Keucks finished the school year.

On March 31, 1942 Steven was born at the hospital in Wolf Point. How happy the girls were to have a baby brother. During the early years Darline and Dorothy had played together so well altho when anything naughty was done Darline managed to put the blame on Dorothy, the way of all sisters I imagine. One time Dorothy picked up Steven and held him in front of the dresser mirror "so he could see how big he was" and she dropped him on the floor. She cried harder than he. One other incident stands out in my mind. The girls were out playing and I was feeding Steven. Suddenly Darline rushed in saying, "I set the toilet on fire"!! Many buckets of water were carried before we were satisfied that the fire was completely out. That fall we had Nick Geisbrecht come and help Abe do some work on the house. The three small rooms on the east side of the house were made into two nice size bedrooms. Then we added on to the kitchen and built a new entry way. The best part of all was to get rid of the heavy trap door in the kitchen floor that had to be lifted up every time we needed something from the cellar. We also invested in a 32-Volt light plant so had electricity for lights, and also were able to put in a small pressure tank so we had running water to the kitchen. However, the wash water as well as the dish water still had to be carried out as we had no sewer. A pipe did lead from the kitchen sink, and during the summer months we could let the water out this way. Still no bathroom or toilet facilities. When the weather was cold it seemed a long way out to the "John". That year after harvest was over we turned our cattle loose in the fields as everyone else did. A Heindrichs family who lived east of us, had quite a few cattle including a big red holstien bull. For some reason he took a dislike to Abe, probably because Abe had chased him away from the buildings several times. One night when we were eating supper he came bellowing up to the door, and probably would have tried to get in the kitchen door if Abe hadn't used the rifle to pepper his rear a little. One other time the girls had gone to the toilet before we were to go to town. The bull came up and kept them there for some time--finally I was able to get into the car and drove over and picked them up. After that happened Abe went over and told Heindrichs they would have to take the bull up or he would put in a complaint. That was the end of our bull troubles.

In September 1942 Azell Anderson came to teach the Pleasant View School. She stayed with us and many were the "at home" clashes she had with Darline. She really spoiled Steven. Dorothy and LaVerne Unger were her first graders. Both Darline and Dorothy were to later say she was the one who taught them to appreciate poetry. That winter Abe had a serious session of sinus trouble and went to Glasgow to take a series of treatments. The morning after he left I got up to take Azell and the girls to school. I had Steve along and by the time we were a short way from home it was snowing and blizzarding. I didn't think I should take chances on going any further with Steve along so decided maybe Ernest Dick would help us. He went along to school, then took me home, saying he'd keep the car and go after them in the evening. During the day a terrible blizzard developed. I managed to get the cattle fed, fuel and water brought in and started to wait. By 6 P. M. Ernest hadn't arrived and I was real worried but there was nothing that I could do. The dog had managed to get in and stayed right by Steven, when I tried to put him out he crept further under the bed. In the end that was where he stayed all night. At 8 P. M. Ernest walked in. He had gone to school but the storm was so bad he left the girls and Azell at Ungers. He had finally managed to get the car as far as his place and then had walked over to let me know everything was alright. If the storm broke the next day he would try and get them home. It was a long night, but the next morning the sun was out and it was 35 below. I waited until Steve took his nap and then went out and fed the cattle and took care of the

chickens. The cattle had had no water that day or the day before, and as there was no wind, I pumped. How glad I was when Ernest came with a team and sled bringing Azell and the girls. Needless to say there was no school the rest of the week. We all were glad when Abe finally got home. For a couple of weeks he used the tractor with a sled behind to haul to school. The next year Azell stayed at Ortman's so she would be closer to school.

The fall of 1944 Hank Friesen started working for us. He and Abe did a lot of custom wheat hauling that fall and winter. Steve became his shadow--Hank always called him Stinky. That winter German measles made the rounds in the Lustre Community. It wasn't long before the girls both had them. We hoped Steve wouldn't get them but it wasn't many days before he was as sick as the girls. Abe had gone to Billings, and if it hadn't been for Hank being at our house I don't think I could have managed with three sick ones. Hank was Steve's comforter. Mrs Keucks was teaching our school as her husband was in the army.

In the fall of 1945 we bought a house in Wolf Point as Darline was now in the 7th grade and Dorothy in the 4th. The year went by quickly spending the school months in town and the summer ones on the farm. Week ends we went to town and how busy I was as there was so much yard work to be done in town besides having my big garden out on the farm and all the other things to do. I can't say those were to happy years for me. The girls both enjoyed school and made lots of friends. They were both taking piano lessons and did real well. Hank and Rose Friesen had got married early that fall and stayed at our place that winter taking care of the stock. One day that summer the girls, Steve and I decided to go to town. I got him ready first and he went out to play until the rest of us were ready. Suddenly I heard the big tractor running. I rushed out and found Steve sitting on the seat heading for the machine shed. Luckily, he ran into a big pile of rocks and killed the motor just before hitting the shed! And here I was, not even knowing how to start the tractor let alone stop it. From then on keys had to be taken out of tractors, cars and trucks as well as any other power driven vehicles.

During the school year of 1946-1947 Pete Schmidt and his wife lived on the farm at Lustre. The year again went by quickly--the girls getting involved in more school activities, as well as Sunday School, Church, Lutheran League etc. Steve had several boys, some older and some younger, living in our block, so had plenty of playmates. I had joined a sewing circle and also the Degree of Honor--both of which met once a month. I had many pleasant afternoons and evenings with this group of ladies. After school was out it was back to the farm.

Abe had hired John Heibert to work for us in the spring of 1947. We had bought some land north of Osewego where there was lots of work to be done. When fall came it was back to school in Wolf Point. John Heibert was going to winter the stock at Lustre. One day in early fall we drove up to Avondale to see Dad. We found him working on some machinery. He had been wanting to sell the farm but had no offers. On the way home we decided to buy the farm if he would sell to us. He wanted it on yearly payments on account of income tax purposes. He had a two year lease left on the McGonigal section and turned that over to us to. That deal, buying Dad's land with no down payment, and on a yearly basis, and then getting the lease besides was probably the biggest deal we ever made as we didn't have much money, and this way we got a good start. Then too, he did not reserve any of the mineral rights so we got them too. Later on when the land was sold to Zerbes Abe let them have some of the minerals, and I feel this was a mistake as they should have stayed in the family. After all Dad had spent more than forty of the best years of his life living there and trying to make it a home for my sisters, brother and me.

In the spring of 1947 we sold the farm at Lustre to Wilmer Heddig. That spring was really a busy one--we now had a long way to get at the farming operations at Avondale. I was needed there to cook for the men, and then the girls were in school in Wolf Point, so there were lots of trips back and forth. As soon as school was out we started working on the Oswego place. First a well was dug, and then there were fences to be built etc. The first little building was a house moved down from Avondale--it had been Ben Wilson's homestead shack. It had two small rooms in it and that was where we lived that first summer. A crew was hired to build a large garage and one end of it was made into living quarters. Irving Cole spent the first winter here taking care of the stock.

1948 was another busy year. Lots of work was done on the Oswego place, and then the Avondale place took lots of work too. Dad was still doing some farming so we always had his men to take care of too. That summer we knew we were going to have a new baby in the future so some of my activities were cut down. Aunt Lillie came from North Dakota and did the cooking at Avondale during combining. That helped me a lot as now I had only the two places, Wolf Point and Oswego to tend.

On January 26, 1949 Richard Duwane was born at the Deaconess Hospital in Glasgow. We were all so happy to have another little baby boy in the family. The girls were both real good about taking care of both Richard and Steve. Years earlier, Steve and the girls had had some disagreements and he made the remark that he surely wished he had a brother to help beat them up! Now his wishes were granted! Although it would be a long long time before Richard would be able to help him much. In 1949--1950 and again in 1950--1951 Nick Geisbrecht wintered at Oswego, taking care of the stock. He had been an old old friend of Daddy's. If it hadn't been for his drinking problems he would have been an ideal person to have for the job. When sober he was so good about helping with the housework, especially in the kitchen. And how good he was to the kids! That winter Richard was very sick for about a week; when Nick heard about it he walked most of the way to Oswego in order to get in and see him.

In May 1951 Darline graduated from the Wolf Point Highschool. She worked in the court house in Wolf Point for a couple of months but decided she wanted to try college at Missoula. We sold our house in Wolf Point and started building a new house on the farm north of Oswego. Steven started school in Oswego that fall; Dorothy stayed with Clarence Lee's in Wolf Point. We knew we would have a new baby in the spring--many tears were shed that winter over so many different things but somehow we managed. By the first of Dec. the weather had turned so bad the carpenters could no longer work on the house, so we wintered in the bachelor quarters. The snow was very deep and how cold it was--seemed the wind blew every day. What a long way it was out to the "jon". Back to the old days of carrying water in in a bucket and out in a bucket! When I washed, all the clothes had to be dried in our living quarters. Our road was blocked most of Feb. and March and Steven missed about 7 weeks of school. The snow plow would plow us out one day and the next day the road would be drifted shut again. At the end of the winter quarter Darline came home from Missoula as she decided college wasn't for her.

On March 25, 1952 Dallas Eugene was born on the stretcher at the Deaconess Hospital in Glasgow. We were lucky to have gotten that far with weather conditions as they were. Spring came so fast that year--when I went to the hospital we had trouble gettin in on account of the snow, and when I came home five days later the water and mud were our problems.

During the summer months we finally got a carpenter to come and again work on

on the house, but the work seemed to go very slowly. Darline helped at home, and in August left for Omaha, Nebraska to go to a special school. She finished her required course and the school found her a job at Wright Pattison Air Base in Dayton, Ohio. That fall Dorothy started driving to school in Wolf Point, driving until the weather got bad. Then she again stayed at Lee's. Steven was in school in Oswego. In November we finally moved into our new house. How nice it was to have a warm rug for the boys to play on. The winter passed by quickly in spite of the snow and cold. That spring we had a carpenter build a small house on the Charlie Young land up at Avondale and all the activities of farming up there were done from the building site. Dorothy and Steven spent a couple of sessions up there during the summer doing the summerfallowing. When combining time came Dorothy went up and did the cooking for them. Later on in the fall she and Abe hauled lots of the grain from up there to Oswego.

During this time we spent many hours working on our Oswego place. A big quonset had been built before we built the house but now we had need of more bins for the grain. John Redekopp and his boys built a large grainery and I did the painting while they did the carpenter work. Dorothy took over the house work so I tried to keep up with them. The boys soon had me labeled "scared cat" as I did not like the high ladders. Then we were gradually adding to our lawn, trees added to the shelter belt, and it seemed changes were always needed on the corrals.

In May 1954 Dorothy graduated from Wolf Point as Valedictorian. She was very busy that spring as she was involved in so many extra-curricular activities. Darline was happy with her work at the Wright Pattison Airbase. Summer passed by rapidly with Steven and Dorothy again helping on the north place. In September Dorothy left for St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Steven was now ready for Junior High School. We would take him as far as Oswego and then he rode from there to Wolf Point with Curtis Dassonville. Soon he was involved in Junior High Basketball. In October we got Paul and Fern Zerbe to stay here with the boys so we could go on a trip. Dale and Elsie McDermott went with us as far as Chicago. On the way we stopped to see Dorothy, she seemed like a little lonely girl when we saw her coming down the walk! From there we on to see Darline at Dayton and spent a few days with her before going to Cleveland, Ohio to see the World Series. On the way home we again visited Dorothy and also spent one night with Alda and Rudie in Minneapolis.

The summer of 1955 was a busy one for everybody. Clinton and Grace and girls came from California and spent a week with us. Dad came out from Glasgow too; and Tony and Marjorie also spent a few days with us. Harvest kept everyone very busy--we had a couple extra men--and Hank Friesen was a regular over the years always helping with combining, but by now he had become part of the family. That fall Dorothy transferred to Montana State University at Bozeman. Steve was again riding with Curtis to Wolf Point. Richard started the first grade in Oswego and Dallas was a lonely little boy wondering why he couldn't go to school too! We had quite a few cattle by now and Abe had lots of choreing to do. The winter was quite mild that year and our road didn't get too bad. In the spring we had lots of wet snow and rain about the time we started getting new calves. Lots of the new calves were brot to the house for "First Aid". We even experimented by putting them in the bath tub filled with warm water. I wouldn't have minded so much if we could have saved them but I don't remember any of them staying alive. Imagine carrying a dripping calf from the bathroom to the kitchen, where he was put on rugs and then rubbed with old blankets!

Shortly after school was out in the spring of 1956 Richard came down with the measles and was a very very sick boy. One afternoon when I took his temperature it was 105 degrees and his eyes were so glazy. I gave him a couple of aspirin and Abe rushed in to get the doctor. By the time Dr. Borge got out his temperature had gone

down and Dr. said the crisis had passed. He soon was on the way to being well again. Then Dr. advised giving Dallas a glomma globbin shot so he wouldn't get so sick. In a few days he started breaking out and soon was completely covered with the rash, but did not get sick like Richard had been. The first day of Stampede Abe took Dorothy, Steven and Richard to the performance but as Dallas still had the rash, he and I stayed home. The morning was very hot and muggy. By noon we had one of the worst summer storms I had ever seen, wind, rain and hail. At times we couldn't see the quonset. Dallas stood at the picture window clapping his hands and laughing as the rain and hail came down. If I had known where to go I would have gone, but I tried not to let Dallas know the seriousness of it. After the storm was over I went out to check the damage and found all the garden and flowers gone, the west side of the house was all pock marked from the hail, and the quonset doors were out in the shelter belt. We lost a lot of grain that year from the hail. About a week later Alda, Rudie, Kenneth and Elaine came from Minneapolis for a visit. They, as well as Dad, spent several days here and then went on to Havre. We all decided to spend a day in the Glacier Park. We left Dorothy and the three boys at home, drove to the park, and then went on to Olympia and Tacoma where we visited Uncle Anton and Aunt Ellen and also Cousin Orville and his family. Fall was soon here again with harvesting and all the preparations for winter. Darline was still working in Dayton, Dorothy in college in Bozeman, Steven in High School in Wolf Point, and Richard in Oswego, and Dallas still waiting for the time to come when he could go to school. The year went by quickly with lots of snow at times during the winter months so at times it would be a problem to get the boys to school. Steven would go to Tom and Mabel Cook's if he couldn't get home. Richard would go to Henry and Margie's in Oswego. Dad came out at Christmas time planning to stay for six weeks and then go on to Alda's. Our road was blocked much of the time and he was worried he wouldn't be able to leave when he wanted to, but luckily the road was finally plowed out. Richard ended up getting his first airplane ride when Jack Roberts picked him up in Oswego and flew him home after he had spent the week there.

What a busy summer we had in 1958. On the 8th of June Dorothy graduated from college in Bozeman with a B S degree in Secondary Education. She was fifth nigh in the class. We all went down for graduation exercises having Ben Redekopp come here and do the chores while we were gone. Our twenty-fifth anniversary was that June also, but was passed over due to all the other activities. Dorothy spent a lot of time making plans for her wedding in August. Then our biggest surprise of all came when Darline wrote and told us about her wedding--she and Claude Gates were married on the second of August. As their honeymoon they were going to come home for Dorothy's wedding as Darline was to be Dorothy's Matron of Honor. Many relatives came including Clinton, Grace and girls from California, Alda and Elaine from Minneapolis, Tony and Marjorie and their two new babies from Havre, and Dad. Then the last minute who should drive in but Aunt Lillie and Uncles George and Freddy. We really had a time finding places for everyone to sleep! The night before her wedding we had a lawn supper for all the relatives, members of the wedding party and friends--in all there were over fifty people here. On August 17, Dorothy and Jay Randall were married in the First Lutheran Church in Wolf Point. In spite of the fact that it was the hottest day we had had that summer so many people came to their wedding. After a honeymoon spent in the Glacier Park they moved to Belegrade, Montana where Dorothy taught in the Belegrade High School and Jay continued his studies at the College in Bozeman.

By now we had bought a car for Steven so he could drive back and forth to school. Richard was in school in Oswego and at long last Dallas was old enough to start too. How happy he was. In October we had Annie Neilsen come and stay with the boys so Abe and I could go to Great Falls and go through the clinic. Abe got a clean bill of health, but they found that I would have to come back and have a thyroidectomy. We spent a couple days with Dorothy and Jay in Belegrade and then came home and got things

ready so I could have my surgery done in November. Annie Neilsen again came and stayed with the boys. The weather got very bad while we were gone and by the time we came home our road was drifted shut, but the snow plow came and had opened it up. I wasn't to do any heavy lifting that winter, so it was more or less a lazy one for me. Dorothy and Jay came home and spent Christmas with us. Steven was now on the A squad basketball team in Wolf Point so we went to all the home games.

The summer of 1959 was the first summer we no longer had Dorothy at home to help with the many things we had taken for granted. It was definitely a man's world now! By now we had sold the Avondale land to the Zerbes and had gotten some land down here in exchange so at least we did not have the problem of going up there to farm. Occasionally we would need hired help, and whenever we did get Indians from Frazer to come out they always brought along their own lunch so I did not have to cook for them. Hank Friesen was still the standby when combining time came. Seemed Steven learned to run one when he was so young, and as soon as Richard was old enough he started helping with the trucks in the field. Luckily most of the combining would be over by the time school started in the fall. Shortly after school started in the fall we took Dallas to Great Falls to have a good check up before having his tonsils removed. It was then that we first learned that he had a heart murmur, the doctors thinking he probably was born with it. After he had his tonsils removed he was so much stronger and no longer had trouble with sore throat and colds. The Drs. had told us not to worry about the heart murmur-- he would have to be the judge as to what he could and could not do, and they thought by the time he reached his teens he would have outgrown it (which later on proved to be so and he was able to participate in sports when he was in high school). Again another winter of lots of snow, and although the boys did not miss much school, we did have times when we had trouble getting to Oswego.

In March of 1960 a 4-H Club was started in Oswego with Maxine Fladland, Berniece Tollefson and myself as leaders. Richard now started with a Baby Beef Project. In June four of our club members wanted to go to the Pines for a week. In order to go their club would have to send one leader along to help. I volunteered my services and in June I took four of our club members including Richard to camp. I served as house mother in a cabin with twenty two girls. What a time we all had! Richard had four years of 4-H having four Baby Beef Projects and ended up getting four blue ribbons. Dallas also had four years, starting a year later than Richard. He also carried Baby Beef, the last year having two calves. He got blue ribbons on both of them that year--an overall for him of four blue and one red ribbons. Fair time always came the first part of August and that was a bad time as we generally were about ready to start harvest. The first year Richard stayed in Glasgow with my Dad, but after that we rented a motel and I would stay in with them, driving home a couple of times to cook up food for the combiners etc.

In May of 1960 Steven graduated from High School in Wolf Point. Darline and Claude came home for graduation exercises and spent a couple of weeks. Jay was now in the National Guard for six months. Dorothy finished up her school term in Belegrade and then came home until Jay finished his Guard duty. She got a job working on the Campus at the College in Bozeman and Jay started working for the Highway Department. Steven started going to College at MSU going the 1960 fall and 1961 quarters.

We had two new additions to the family that summer. Julie Sue Randall was born June 8, 1961 and Susan Constance Gates was born on August 2, 1961. That fall Steve entered college at Northern Montana College in Havre. Richard and Dallas started going to school in Frazer. How nice it was to have the school bus pick them up at the gate in the morning and drop them off there at night! Once more we got Annie Neilsen to come and stay with the boys so Abe and I could go and see Darline, Claude and Susan. We took a southerly course that we had never traveled before stopping

in Cameron, Missouri to see one of my very close friends from high school days, Marie Britzman Pulliam. That fall Dorothy had a nervous break down and we had Julie here for several weeks until Dorothy was well again. I worried more about Julie then I had over any of my own children. It was bad enough to have Dorothy sick, let alone Julie too. After Christmas she was well again and Jay took his family home to Bozeman. Steven spent the winter months at home helping take care of the stock, and in the spring helped put in the crop. We had another basket ball player now as Richard was soon playing ball on the seventh and eighth grade team in Frazer, we went to all the home games and some of those away from home if the weather was suitable. That spring I started to do substitute work in the Frazer schools and filled in where ever I was needed during all the years the boys went to school there. I always enjoyed it as it was a good monotony break.

In May of 1962 Steve enlisted in the Army and had his basic training at Fort Ord, California. Then he was sent to Edmonds, Washington where he remained until he fulfilled his obligations to Uncle Sam. Jay was now having to spend only two weeks a year at summer camp for the guards so in June while he was gone Dorothy and Julie had two weeks with us. Later on Darline, Claude and Susan came and also spent two weeks.

Steven came home on furlough in May of 1963. Then came Richard's Eighth Grade Graduation in Frazer. In June I went to be with Dorothy while Jay again went to summer camp. Bruce Clark arrived on June 20th. What a happy little girl Julie was to have a baby brother!

Many things happened in 1964. Richard was confirmed in May. Randalls spent some time with us in June. Then Steve was discharged from the Army in Aug. In October Abe and I took a trip east, taking another southern route, and driving over the Skylark Parkway in Virginia on our way to Washington, D. C. We spent a few days there, then on to the World Fair in New York City, besides a conducted tour of the city, and going by boat out to the Statue of Liberty. On the way home we stopped at Niagarria Falls, spent a few days with Darline, visited Brother Jake and family, and stopped at Minneapolis to see Alda. We had been home only a few days when Dad passed away on November first at the Rest Home in Wolf Point where he had made his home since it had opened. Many relatives and friends came for the funeral.

Steve decided to try College again so he went back to MSU in Bozeman for the 1965 Winter Quarter, but at the end of the quarter decided either he wasn't college material or they had nothing for him. He helped with the farming that spring, summer and fall and in the late fall went back to Seattle and got a job in the shipyards. Both Richard and Dallas were busy with school in Frazer and the bus service was really appreciated. Again we were having lots of basketball, and along with Sunday School, Church and 4-H the time rapidly went by. With Steven gone and the other boys in school we needed help to put in the crop, so that spring had Nappy Freeman work for us.

On the 27th of April, 1966 Steve and Kathy Hicks were married in Edmonds, Washington and in July they came home and became "farmers" buying a trailer house and living in our yard. At last I had more than just "menfolks" around. We all soon learned to love Kathy. Dallas had graduated from the 8th grade in May--now we'd have two boys in Highschool and both playing basketball at the same time. On Sept. 6, 1966 Lesa Beth came to live at the Randall home. I spent a week with them, after Jay's Mother had been there a week helping.

More happenings in 1967. Richard graduated from Frazer Highschool in May, being Valedictorian of his class. Dallas was confirmed in May, and on July 10, 1967, Jeffrey David came to live with Steve and Kathy. How happy Kathy was to have

her precious baby. In October Abe was a delegate to an REA Convention at Salt Lake City. We took in the convention, visiting the Mormon Tabernacle and being fortunate enough to hear the famous choir broadcast. Also visited the Great Salt Lake while on a conducted tour. We spent a few days in both Reno and Las Vegas, and then went on to Los Angeles where we spent several days with Clinton and his family. While we were they took us to Knox Berry Farm, Disneyland and the Memorial Gardens in Glendale. On the way home we stopped in Bozeman to see Randalls and Richard who was now a Mechanical Engineer Student at MSU.

On February 24, 1968 Kimberly Kay arrived at the Claude Cates home. Now we have three granddaughters and two grandsons. In May I was delegate from our church to the Convention in Billings. Abe and I left a couple days early so we could by Bozeman and spend Mother's Day with Randalls and Richard. The Convention was very interesting and I felt I learned a lot by going. On June 9th, 1968 all our "kids" had open house in the Lutheran Church in Frazer for Abe and me on our 35th "Wedding Anniversary". What a happy occasion, with so many relatives and friends dropping in! In August Darline and Claude, Susan and Kimberly came home for a visit. Just before harvest I went with them to spend a couple of days at Randalls in Bozeman. Harvest caught up with us tho, so Kathy ended up having to cook for combiners.

Again in May of 1969 I was a delegate to the convention, this time it was held in Great Falls. The only ones we visited this time were the Marras in Havre. The big event of this year was purchasing a pontoon in partnership with Cliff Quam. We had several outings on Frazer Lake and at Fort Peck. In the latter part of June it was lent to the Bible Camp Association for use on the Missouri River. Dallas had gone on one of these week riverboat Bible Camping the year before and now that we were part owner of the pontoon, he was more anxious then ever to go. How he did enjoy those trips and I am sure he did get a lot out of them. In July our pontoon was anchored at the Williston Bridge over the Yellowstone River. A tornado went through that area and our pontoon was completely destroyed. However, the Bible Camping Association had full insurance coverage on it so we got a new pontoon, but it was so late in the season we got very little use out of it. Abe, Cliff, Loren Nichols and Richard had one excursion on Fort Peck Lake that could have been tragic as the weather was unsettled and the Lake rough, but after spending the night on an island in the Lake they got home safely. Randalls spent Stampede week with us and Bruce and Julie loved the Stampede. Again Abe was Delegate to the REA Convention in Reno. Once more after spending four days in Reno we drove to California for a visit at Clinton and Grace's. This time we came back by way of the Grand Canyon in Arizona and saw so much beautiful country. We stopped to see Richard and the Randalls in Bozeman, after several hours of very strenuous driving over glare ice roads from West Yellowstone. Dallas now a Senior in Highschool so it will be lots of basketball games. Once more at Christmas time we have Dorothy and Jay and Kiddies, Richard and Dallas and Henry, Marge and Greg for Christmas. Kathy and Steve and Jeff went to Edmonds, Washington to spend Christmas with her folks. We went to probably our last basketball tournament for some time in Sidney in March. We had gone to all of them after Richard was on the main team. Two times I went along as chaperone for the girls but it always involved so much work. This year Richard and Loren came from Bozeman as Richard figured that would be the last tournament that Frazer would be in that he would be very interested in.

The latter part of March Kathy had a sick spell and ended up in the hospital in Wolf Point so I had Jeff for several days. Then in May I was again delegate to the Church convention in Cody, Wyo. Dorothy wrote and suggested we bring Kathy and Jeff along and let them stay there while we went to the Convention, so we went by Bozeman, and I think it did help Kathy giving her a monotony break. Steve said he could hardly take it, being there alone altho Dallas was here at home.

In May Dallas graduated from High School in Frazer as Salutatorian of his class. Mrs. Wischman, Mrs. Buchanan and I hosted friends and relatives in the church

in Frazer for many friends and relatives. Then the week after school was out Dallas and members of the Senior Class went on a Senior trip to Seattle. This was a nice trip for Dallas although he was the only boy to go! Steve made a quick trip to Seattle on business--another experience when the train he was on had a wreck. Richard came home from college in June, and everyone got busy. Dallas helped with the hay hauling at Scott's, and Richard helped for a week at John Fedekopp's, and then got a job working for Randolph Construction in Wolf Point until combining started. Kathy made a quick trip to Seattle as her Grandfather passed away.

The first week in August Darline, Claude, Susan and Kimberly came from Dayton. Then Dorothy, Jay, Julie, Bruce and Lesa came from Helena so we had a real active week with six grandchildren here at one time. At first Jeff had a hard time accepting the fact that all the others were grandchildren too, but by the time everyone was ready to leave they were all playing nicely together, and when everyone had left he was a lonely little boy. There was lots of cooking etc., to be done when they were all here as we were combining at the time too. It was the first time for many years that our five had all been home at the same time. We had another good year in spite of the bad hail, wind and rain storm we had the latter part of June.

Soon September rolled around and the boys began to get ready for college. Dallas enrolled as a freshman and Richard as a senior at MSU in Bozeman. Dallas is now living in the same dormitory as Richard had previously been in, and Richard having a basement apartment. The first month they were both gone I was very lonely even tho Steve, Kathy and Jeff are living here in our yard. When Richard first left for college Dallas was still at home, and I could be involved in more of his school activities etc. In October Abe and I made a trip to Great Falls where he saw a doctor about his sciatic condition. We drove on to Helena to visit the Randalls for a few days. Jay is now working in the design department for the State Highway Commission.

Here I must back tract to July and mention the fact that my High School Class had their Fortieth Reunion, along with the classes of 1929 and 1931. Registration was in our old Home Economics Room at the high school. That evening a banquet was served at the Elk's Lodge in Glasgow. Twenty five members of my class of 1930 were there, and what a lot of fun it was seeing all our old class mates. On Sunday morning following the banquet a brunch was had at the Urs (Berneice Anderson) home. On that afternoon a picnic was held at Fort Peck. It was decided to have another reunion in five years with the hope that all those here would be able to come then, as well as the many who were not able to be here for this one.

Kathy and I started going to Ceramic Lessons at the Jack Robert's home in Wolf Point in October and are enjoying it so very much. Then Kathy and I also enrolled in the Bethel Bible Study in Frazer and find that very interesting. These extra two activities help to make the time go by very quickly.

Richard and Dallas both came home for a few days of vacation at Thanksgiving time, and then came home for Christmas vacation. The Randalls came from Helena for a week too. For Christmas we were happy to have Henry, Margie and Greg with us again. The vacation went by altogether to quickly with lots of eating, sleeping and being just plain lazy. Most of the days were sunny but crisp, and we had enough snow so there could be some tobaggoning and sliding on the hills-- and when everyone came in what rosy red cheeks everyone had. By January 1st of 1971 everything was real quiet again, as the boys were back in school and Randalls had all gone home too.

January of 1971 brought lots of cold weather and some snow. Randalls and Richard and Dallas had bad roads getting back to work and to school. With cold weather coming Steve was kept busy with chores etc.

The middle of January, Daddy and I decided to take a vacation and go south for awhile. Our first stop was at Havre where Marjorie suggested "Hawaii", something we hadn't thought very much about before. We had a coffee break with Dorothy and Lesa in Helena. Then had some bad driving through Montana and Idaho. Six days were spent in Las Vegas and it was good to finally leave there and drive on to L. A.

The first day we were at Clinton's we started checking into the possibility of getting on a plane for the Islands and found we could get reservations in four days. The second day in L. A. Clinton and Grace took us to the African Safari. The third day we spent at the beach on the Pacific Ocean. The fourth day Clinton and Bonnie took us to the Museum so Grace could get some rest as she had to go back to work.

Monday morning we boarded a 747 Jet taking a Pan American Flight to the Islands. It was a wonderful experience flying over the ocean above the clouds at such a terrific speed. The flight took a little over five hours. After getting settled in our room we went shopping for some much needed lighter clothing as the temperature was in the high eighties and the humidity was very high. The next week was a busy one--On Tuesday we took a boat trip to Pearl Harbor and in the evening went to a Lulu at the Outrigger Hotel on the beach at Waikiki where we had all the delicious island foods including roast pig and "poi". Wednesday was spent on an all day island tour and the evening spent on the patio of the hotel, watching the swimming, visiting and listening to the Hawaiian music. Thursday was hopping island day with a flight over all the islands, landing on two of them for tours and meals. Friday was spent at the zoo and the International Market. Saturday afternoon and evening at the Polynesian Cultural Center, going on tours, eating in a Cafeteria and taking in the entertainment put on by the native college students. Sunday morning we went to church services in a large non-denomination church and spent the afternoon and evening resting, reading and wandering around. Monday was spent at Paradise Park, at the beach, going sight seeing, and some more shopping. Tuesday was another day of sight-seeing, tours, and getting ready for our trip back to the mainland on Wednesday. The flying was perfect both ways, and All in All a lovely trip.

During the time we were in the islands L. A. had a terrible earthquake and how relieved we were to see Clinton when we stepped off the jet. Thurs. Grace took us out to see Judy as she was in college and we hadn't seen her before. Friday we started for home. Due to the earthquake we were forced to change our route and went north up to San Francisco and then across to Reno where we had dinner. A few more days of driving and we were in Bozeman where we spent the night after having supper with Richard. Dallas had gone to Billings as the college had a long week end. The next day we drove to Helena for dinner with Randalls, on to Great Falls and Havre where we had coffee with Marge, then home. How good it was to be back again and find everything in good order.

March, April and into May were busy months with calving and putting in the crop. In May I again was delegate to the church convention in Billings. We drove to Bozeman for Mother's Day supper with Richard and Dallas and on to Helena for the night, then home.

On June 6, 1971 Christine Dannette arrived to make her home with Steve, Kathy and Jeff. How happy everyone was to have a baby girl at their house, and soon

Jeff learned to love her so. Richard and Dallas came home from college, both anxious to get jobs for the summer. Finally they ended up hauling hay for Scotts and Richard worked some for Leo Zimmer. The Randalls spent a few days here in July, and it wasn't long before harvest was here again after a very hot summer.

The first part of September a raging fire nearly wiped out the town of Oswego. Many people lost their homes and possessions as well as lots of live-stock. At the same time a prairie fire burned many acres north and west of us. Both Richard and Dallas spent many hours helping fight the fires. It was a very eerie sight after dark to see the flames to the north and west and then to look south and see the town burning.

Both Richard and Dallas went back to college in September. The last part of September Daddy and I decided to go and see Darline and family. On the way we stopped and spent one night with Alda and Rudie in Minneapolis, and one night with Jake and Esther. Then on to Dayton. We had been there only a few hours when we got a long distance phone call from Dallas telling us he had a car wreck (luckily he didn't get hurt) and that he had decided to drop out of school and try to get a job. We spent four days with Cates before starting home taking a southern route through the states, coming up through Idaho and on to Bozeman. We spent the night there with Richard and Dallas--Dallas looking for a job and getting his car fixed. On to Helena, Great Falls and home.

Once more time is flying by so quickly with Betnel Studies, ceramics, church work and getting ready for the holidays. Richard and Dallas came home for the Thanksgiving vacation. Dallas now has a job, and is getting his car repaired.

Christmas time brings the Randalls here for a week, as well as Richard and Dallas. Henry, Marge and Greg were here for Christmas Day. Richard made a trip to Seattle looking into one of the Navy's programs as he knows Uncle Sam will have him after graduation. Dallas decided to go to California after the first of the year and try and get work. The weather is very bad in the western part of the state as the year 1971 comes to an end. Now to look forward to the New Year, hoping it will bring happiness to us all.

The first few weeks of January 1972 were cold with lots of wind and snow. Daddy is patiently waiting for our new car so we can leave. Finally the first week in February it came and we got ready to leave. The first day we drove to Havre and as we found no one at home at Marra's we drove on to Helena. Jay's birthday was on Sunday and everyone wanted us to stay over for birthday dinner, so we didn't leave until after noon and then drove as far as Idaho Falls for the night. Then on to Las Vegas for a couple of days.

Next on to Downey, California to see Clinton, Grace and family. We spent four days visiting with them and Dallas. He has a job at Dooley's Hardware in Long Beach. His boss gave him time off so he could be with us. Clinton took us all out to eat one evening, and Grace asked Dallas to come out and have steak another evening. One afternoon Clinton took us out to Santa Anna to visit Beth, Margie and Don Randall. We also stopped in San Clemette, Calif. to visit Arlie Foor. Then we went south to San Diego and across to Tucson, Arizona, up to Mesa where we visited John Wolds and Emma Knaap. We spent a night in Phoenix and Bennie Walters and his wife came out to the Motel to visit.

Then back to Las Vegas for two weeks. Daddy was delegate to a REA Convention but didn't spend too much time there. Ted and Mary Dalh were also in Las Vegas and we went out to eat together a couple of times at some real nice night clubs. They came back with us so we had company driving home. We made stops in Helena and Havre. As always it is good to be back home after being gone so long.

The spring college break brought no one home--Richard had two interviews. First he flew to Oklahoma for an interview with an oil company and then flew to Washington, D. C. for a Navy interview. He has been accepted for Officer's Candidate School.

April and May were busy months with calving, seeding, gardening, etc. Dallas came home in May--not too happy with California as a whole, but he had liked his job and did make good money. He had one experience which he undoubtedly will enjoy telling his children and grandchildren. In the middle of the night someone rapped on his door and when he opened it a stranger let loose with several shots. Luckily he had stepped to the right side when he opened the door or he would have had the full blast in his body. He managed to get the door shut and locked and ran into the bathroom and lay down in the bathtub. After several more shots through the door the culprit left. Dallas has "souvenirs" showing bullet holes. The man was never apprehended as far as he knows. But it was a big enough scare to have him move to another floor in the apartment building.

Richard graduated from MSU in Bozeman with his degree in Mechanical Engineering on the 10th of June. We drove to Helena the day before and had anniversary supper with Randalls and the next day they too went to Bozeman. The graduation exercises were very nice. That evening we took all the Randalls, Dallas, Richard and his girl friend, Arliss, out for dinner. The next day, homeward bound. The latter part of June Richard left for Newport, R. I. to go to Officer's Candidate School for six months. It proved to be a long lonely six months. Dallas again got a job at Jim Scott's as pay foreman. Kathy, Steve, Jeff and Christy had a two week vacation in June going out to see her mother and other family members in Seattle.

The last week in July Daddy and I drove to Minot and met the Cates who had flown from Dayton for a two weeks vacation. Randalls also came from Helena so it was a real busy time with lots of cooking to be done, canning starting, and lots of company. Jay was hoping he could help with harvest but it is going to be real late this year, so we managed with a variety of help and ended up having a good crop and good prices. Calf prices are better than we have ever had.

Dallas went back to college for which I am very glad. September and October going by very quickly. Kathy is having trouble with her back.

Finally the first of November the Dr. put her in the hospital in traction for ten days but improvement is slow. Jay's father passed away in November. Jay had spent a week with him and Dorothy and the children came for the funeral. Richard spent a short vacation at home, buying a new car while here. Then he left for six months more training at Mare Island Naval Base, Vallejo, California. While home he confided in me in "strict confidence" that he and Arliss would be getting married this coming summer!

Dallas brought his girl friend, Lynn, home for Thanksgiving and also brought the news that he was going to get her a diamond before Christmas, so it looks like two weddings in the future!

The first of December Daddy took Kathy to Billings where she had back surgery. Christie has been real good, and Steve is just so good with both Jeff and Christie. Jeff is in Kindergarten and I have Christie during the days. They all eat here and then Steve takes them home for the night. Kathy spent a week and a half in Billings and is on the way to quick recovery.

December brings plans for Christmas. Dallas came home at the end of the fall quarter and Randalls came a few days before Christmas. Christmas Day was busy with Henry, Marge, and Greg, Jay's Mother, Steve's family, Randalls, Dallas, Pop and me. We missed Richard, his first Christmas away from home, and also missed the Gates. Lots of cards and gifts. By New Year's Day Dallas had gone back to school, Randalls back to Helena, and we are back to a quiet house once again. Steve and Jeff have been so good about taking me along to basketball games so some of the empty feeling is gone. Then too, Kathy and Christie come over nearly every day for a little while.

All in all 1972 was a good year bringing many changes, but now thankful we should be that everyone is well and that Kathy is recovering so quickly. Now we shall look forward to a New Year, 1973!

1973

The New Year comes in wintry and cold, with quiet days at our house now that everyone has gone to their own homes. On the 15th of January Steve took Kathy back to Billings for a check up so we had Jeff and Christy for several days. Both are so good-- but the best news is that Kathy's operation was a complete success.

The last week in January we left for a short vacation. We had lunch with Marra's in Havre and then on to Helena where we spent the night with Randalls. The next day we drove to Bozeman, hoping to locate Dallas, but as he was in school, we left a note and then headed south. One night was spent in Pocatello, Idaho where we hadn't stopped before. Then on to Las Vegas for over three weeks. We took off three days driving to Downey, California to see Clinton, Grace and girls, but they always are so busy we didn't stay long but went back to Las Vegas for a couple of days. Then we drove to Reno where we spent the night before going to Vallejo, California to see Richard. We spent three days with him, but it rained most of the time we were there so we didn't get to see to many things, but did have a nice visit with him. On the way home we spent another night in Reno, and leisurely drove back to Helena where we again spent the night before driving on home. It always is good to get back home after being gone for so long.

In April Abe had a series of tests at the hospital in Wolf Point and then Dr. Borge sent him to the Clinic in Great Falls where they found he has angina pectoris. He now is on medication and has a long list of "do's and don't's" to live by.

In May we again went to Great Falls as I was delegate to the Church Convention and Abe checked with his Dr. at the Clinic. The Dr. is pushing for surgery but Abe isn't much interested at his age.

June was a busy month. Randalls came the first week, and then on the 8th Richard came home. June 10th was a big day for him as he and Arliss Oelkers

were married in the Lutheran Church in Culbertson. The bride was lovely, and the wedding was beautiful. Both Kathy and Dorothy helped with the reception. After a short honeymoon and an evening spent with us, Richard and Arliss went on to Idaho Falls, Idaho where he will be stationed for the next six months.

The summer goes by so quickly with gardening, harvest etc. all coming at about the same time. In spite of having a very dry and hot summer the wheat crop is very good.

August brings more happiness to our family. Dallas and Lynn Neills were married at the Soldier's Chapel near Bozeman by Pastor Mars on August 25th. Dorothy, Jay and family, Richard and Arliss and Abe and me all went to the wedding. Steve's would have enjoyed going too, but with all this wheat here on the ground it wasn't best for us to all be gone at the same time. Both Dallas and Lynn looked so happy, and the wedding and all was lovely. The Soldier's Chapel is so pretty and one could not wish for a nicer setting for a wedding. Dallas is going back to school and Lynn is going to try to find a job. After the wedding we drove to Helena as did Richard and Arliss where we had a lovely dinner at the Randalls. The next morning we all went to church except Abe. Afterwards he took us all out for dinner, a little more visiting and we were once again on our way home.

September and October go quickly by with wheat hauling, Steve planting winter wheat, and getting things lined up for winter. Steve took Kathy to Billings for another check up so I had Jeff and Christie for nearly a week. In November Abe bought a new truck and I went along to get the box and hoist at Great Falls. We had Sunday dinner with Marrás, spent two days in Great Falls and then went on to Columbia Falls to get a load of lumber. It was a long, cold rough trip and we were glad to get home. A very quiet Thanksgiving this year as no one came home, altho Steve's did come and have turkey with us.

Richard and Arliss got home the week before Christmas --then Randalls came on December 22 so we are having lots of activity. Christmas Day we had 18 here--Richard and Arliss, Randalls, Jay's Mother, Ev, Steve's family, Kathy's Mother, Jean from Edmonds, Wash., and Henry, Marge and Greg. Dorothy and Kathy are good help so things went smoothly and it was fun. Dallas and Lynn called Christmas Day, they were lonely but Lynn had only one day off so they couldn't come. We called Darline the day after Christmas--they too were lonely but just weren't able to come. Randall's left the Saturday after Christmas. Richard and Arliss won't be leaving till after the first of the year and then they will be going to Pearl Harbor for four years.

The last week in December is very very cold, and we have lots of snow--all the makings for a good blizzard. The year was a good one for farmers with wheat selling for over \$4.00 a bushel and the price of calves above the 50¢ mark-- the calves must go after the first of the year. Yet with conditions as they are in our country, prices of articles we buy nearly double of a year ago, the energy crisis, and all the political scandals we can only wonder what 1974 will hold for all. Yet we are happy that all are well, we have two new lovely members in our family and no one has any big problem. The Lord has been good to me, and whatever happens in the future is His Will!

How different Jan. starts from the way Dec. ends. Randalls back at home, Jeff back in school, Kathy's Mother back at her home, and Richard and Arliss leaving on Jan. 7th for San Francisco where they take a plane to Honolulu. The second week in Jan. must have set some kind of a record with temperatures some days down to 40 below.

Early in the fall of 1973, after all these years, we finally have a telephone. No one can take any credit for this as if the big loan had not been granted to Valley Telephone from Washington this would have been impossible. On the 12th of Jan. Richard and Arliss called from Honolulu telling of their safe arrival. Times like this make us feel the phone has paid for itself.

Jan. always seems such a long month--sort of a let down after the holidays. With such cold weather, this Jan. seems longer than ever. With a trucker's strike the calves did not get to Sidney until the latter part of Jan. After income taxes were taken care of and other odd ends put together we were ready to go south the first week in Feb. Traveling conditions were far from good but the first day we drove as far as Bozeman and spent the night with Lynn and Dallas. Then on south taking three days to reach Vegas. All we hear about here is the shortage of gas and the energy crisis. Our plans had been to go to Calif. and spend some time with Clinton and his family but when we called him he said the gas situation there was critical and he didn't know if he would be able to get us any. After three weeks in Vegas we started for home. We spent one night with Randalls and on calling Dallas found they wanted us to come around that way, so we spent one more night there and then on home.

March brought many things, new calves for Steve, farming getting started at the end of the month and everything tied in with living on the farm.

In May I was again church delegate to the church convention in Billings. I certainly had many happy memories as the convention was held in the American Lutheran Church and that was the church I attended the two happy summers I spent in Billings going to college. Dallas and Lynn came home over Memorial Day, how nice to have them again. They are all excited about the new home they have started on. In June the basement for Steve and Kathy's new house was dug so we will have lots of house building conversations this summer.

Randalls spent a happy week with us in July, and before we realized it harvest was here. Cates came for three weeks in Aug., they always come at such a busy time. They drove to Helena to be with Randalls a few days, and then Lynn and Dallas came for a couple of days as Dallas was part of a wedding in Frazer so Lynn got to meet the Cates too.

We had a couple of pleasant Sun. afternoons with Quams on the pontoon at Fort Peck. One afternoon I caught my first 13 inch fish and was as thrilled as I would have been if it had been the big one that got away! The last part of Sept. we took a short trip--spent a nite with Lynn and Dallas, a nite with the Randalls and then on to Spokane to see Expo 74 which was a disappointment. Then on out to Tumwater, Wash. to visit Uncle Anton, Aunt Ellen, Alma and Mitch, Orville and Dorothy, and also Bonnie. How I love to visit Uncle Anton and Aunt Ellen, so many happy things happened during my childhood that should be given credit to them for. We all had so little in material things but there was so much more they shared with us. Then a short stop in Conrad to have breakfast with Jim and Evelyn, lunch in Havre at Marras and on home.

The latter part of Oct. Steve's house finally was moved out. Some of the tension is gradually easing up. Abe and I went out to Whitefish and brought back a load of lumber. It always is a hard trip in the truck. By the middle of Nov. Steve's were settled in their new house. Kathy and Christy went to Edmonds and were gone 17 days. Jeff and Steve ate the evening meal with me and I did their laundry, otherwise Steve managed very well.

Dec. brings preparations for Christmas. Dorothy, Jay and family were the only ones who could come for the holidays and they were here for only a week. Christmas Eve was spent here with Dorothy's and Steve's. Christmas Day all were here again and we were joined by Henry, Marge, Greg and Ev.

Now the year 1974 is coming to an end. It has been a year of many tensions--not only personal but also national. Vice Pres. Agnew's resignation in disgrace, the appointment of Gerald Ford as Vice Pres. Then Pres. Nixon's resignation in connection with Watergate, Gerald Ford becomes Pres. and finally Nelson Rockefeller becomes Vice Pres. This is the first time in the history of our country that we have a Pres. and Vice Pres. not selected by the people. Wheat is selling at over five dollar a bushel but the cattle prices are down to over half what they were a year ago. The energy crisis is one of the main concerns of the country, plus the rising cost of living and then the unemployment situation is critical.

Richard and Arliss have spent the year in Honolulu. Richard had had two ninety day patrols out in the Pacific in his sub. He now is rated Lt. J. G. Arliss keeps busy taking advantage of things offered to the Officer's Wives at the Base, besides going to the U. Of Hawaii. She'll have her degree sometime in the summer of 1975. Hopefully we will get to visit them in Mar.

Let us hope that 1975 will bring a solution to some of the problems that are now facing us, that the threat of war in the Middle East will not come to pass and that we have a happier year than in 1974.

1975

January 1975--What a year this has turned out to be for me! Jan. came in like a lion with lots of snow, wind and cold weather. As usual we had income taxes to take care of, and by the last week in Jan. we were ready to start south. We drove through lots of snow before reaching Bozeman. We located Dallas and Lynn, took them out to eat and then drove down to see their new home. When we got to our motel it was raining and snowing. By Sat. A. M. winter had reached Bozeman and all roads out were closed so we went with Dallas and Lynn to the Winter Fair. Sun. still no roads were open so we killed time all day. Mon. A. M. we started south going through West Yellowstone where we had very bad driving.

We spent the night at Idaho Falls, Idaho. More snow and wind when we checked into our motel. A funny thing happened here. Abe checked my watch and thought it was quarter past six, and got me up so we could get started. We packed up, checked out, and thought we'd have some coffee before starting to drive. When we could find no open restaurant I checked my watch and found we had got up at 3:30 A. M. instead of 6:15 A. M. We drove over 50 miles before we could find a cup of coffee! With such an early start we got to Las Vegas that evening.

We spent nearly four weeks in Las Vegas. I don't think Abe would ever get tired of being there'. Then on to California to visit Clinton and Grace and to get acquainted with Bonnie's baby, Heidi. One day Clinton took us all to Busch Gardens where we had such a nice time.

Early in the morning of March 1st we boarded a 747 for Honolulu. Richard had gotten in from another patrol, beard and all! The night before we got there they had had their Christmas as Arliss had opened no cards or gifts. How good to see them again!! Sun. A. M. I went with them to Communion and Church at The Church of the Memorial Window, now known as the Pearl Harbor Lutheran Church. We spent four days with them. Some of the Highlights of our trip were; gathering pucua shells on the North Shore, eating dinner in the Oceania Floating Restaurant in Honolulu, seeing the Pearl Harbor Submarine Museum, visiting the Iolani Palace used by early Kings and Queens, eating at the Rainbow Bay Marina, resting at the Punch Bowl Cemetery Lookout, going through the Bishops's Museum, and many other interesting things. This time we saw a different part of the island as before all our sight seeing was set up through the agency in the hotel. What a lovely but full four day experience. Clinton met us at the L. A. air port and after spending a nite with them we started home, with of course one more night in Las Vegas. The only other visit was overnite with Randalls in Helena. Good to be home again!

Spring brings the usual busy season. In May Tony had heart surgery in Seattle, having four main bypasses taken care of. Marge stayed with him all the time--nearly four weeks and it was a very trying time for not only Tony and Marge but also for the girls. Now he is going through the long slow process of recovery..

In July Calvin Redekopp and family came through from the east and a family Pot Luck get together was held at Zerbe's. As Jeff had just got out of the hospital after a tonsilectomy none of Steve's were able to go. Otherwise all the relatives in the area plus some from Canada were here and there was much reminiscing.

The latter part of July Kudie, Alda's husband passed away as the result of a heart attack. We went to the funeral making a very short trip of it as it was time for harvest to start. Clinton managed to come as well as some of the other relatives.

Then in August harvest was ready and Randalls came. Both Jay and Bruce helped. Bruce getting his first truck driving lessons from Grandpa. It was another good harvest. After Randalls got back to Helena Jay was transferred by the Highway Department to Billings. After they had been there three weeks Abe and I went to see them. Even Julie Bruce and Lesa quickly made the adjustment and they all think they will be happy there.

The latter part of August Dallas stopped in to see us. He was on his way to Pittsburg to look into the possibility of going to a Computer Science Institute that he was interested in. After checking the one in Pittsburg out he was very disappointed. On the advise of the College in Bozeman he went on to Virginia Beach, Va. where he was enrolled in school. Lynn made the long drive by herself and Puff. Now she too has a job, and hopes to eventually get into the field of education.

Now comes the sadder part of the year 1975. Abe had been selected for jury duty so our plans for going to the World Series were cancelled. On Mon., Oct. 20, he drove to Glasgow and near the close of the session was chosen as the

21st person. He was to report for jury duty the following morning. He got home about 9P.M. and after I made him some lunch, we visisted awhile and made some plans for the new year. Then went to bed. We hadn't been in bed five minutes when he said "I love you. We better get to sleep so I can get up in the morning". His arms were around me when he went into this muscle spasam and started to gasp. I jumped out of bed and ran over to get Steve.. Steve tried Mouth to Mouth etc., but it was of no avail. I don't think it was five minutes from the time I realized something was wrong till he as gone. The doctor said he passed away from Coronary Thrombosis and Coronary Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease. Dr. tried to comfort me when he said I should be thankful it happened as it did as it was bound to come and would have happened regardless of where he was, even if he had been in the hospital at the time it would have been to no avail.

The funeral was October 25 in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Frazer and burial in the Greenwood Cemetery, in Wolf Point. How wonderful friends and relatives are at a time of loss--so many many cards, memorials, flowers, food and calls. Randalls got here Tues. afternoon, Darline and Claude on Wed., Richard and Arliss from Honolulu on Thurs. and Dallas and Lynn from Virginia Beach on Friday. Other relatives coming from a distance were Alda from Mpls., Marjorie and Crol Ann from Havre, and Clinton from Downey, Calif. Also Brother Jake from Mountain Lake, Minn., and Harold and Lillian Borstad from Tioga. The church was full for the funeral and so many stayed for the lunch furnished by the ALCW of St. Pauls, and in the evening many were here for supper. Sat. Randalls had to leave as did Dallas and Lynn. Richard and Arliss spent a week and Richard helped Steve work on the barn. For many days we had callers every day. Now we all know we have lots of adjustments to make. The Fri. afternoon Steve took Rich and Arliss to Culbertson he came home feeling very sick. After being nausated all day Sat. and Sat. nite Kathy took him to the Dr. and he ended up in the hospital. After three days of tests it was diagonized as acute gastritis. How good to have him back here again as both Kathy and I realized now helpless two women can be--we had to feed all the cattle, no small job.

Thankfully we were kept busy getting things ready for winter. Then in Nov. Steve got Lee to come and stay here and chore, and Steve and his family and me, went to Billings and spent Thanksgiving with Randalls. The roads and weather were bad but we had a nice time.

Dec. brings Christmas planning--not to much enthusiasm on my part but both Kathy and Dorothy urge me to go ahead as I had in other years. For Christmas it was just Randalls and Steve's. Christmas Day Henry and Marge and Ev joined us. The names Daddy and Grandpa came up many times, we all realize he will no longer be with us in person but surely in thought. Richard and Arliss, Dallas and Lynn, and Claude and Darline all called, they were lonely and knew I would be lonely too. How I do appreciate the telephone. And the cards this year, some from people I hadn't heard from for years, and even some from pupils I had the first year I taught school.

I must add a special note to this section of my story. How Steve came thru when I needed him more than any time before during his life. I know Daddy would have been proud of him, as he just took over and took care of every thing for me. And also Dorothy and Kathy, how they helped with the meals, being courteous to all in spite of their grief too, and the many little things they did. Then too a note of love for Jeff and Christy for the many times they come over because they think "Grandma is lonesome." I don't wish to short any of my five as I know you all would have done the same if you had been here, but Steve had worked with and done so many things with Daddy he knew how to go about it all.

I love each and everyone of you very much---Claude, Darline, Susan and Kim; Dorothy, Jay, Julie, Bruce and Lesa; Steve, Kathy, Jeff and Christy; Richard and Arliss; and Dallas and Lynn. I can only thank God for all of you. May He protect and keep you all. God has become personal to me now than ever before, and I turn to him for strength, comfort, and give thanks for everything I do.

May the year 1976 be a happier one for us all.

How differently 1976 comes in from other years--With an empty chair at my house everything is different and many lonely hours are spent in spite of doing some traveling and trying hard to keep occupied. How I do appreciate Kathy, Steve, Jeff and Christy and they have become more precious as times goes on. Yet I feel sure if any of my other children were here they would do the same. Sometimes I feel they need several gold stars for putting up with me, and lots of times when I take off for a few days I do it with the feeling they need that time for themselves.

New Year's Day was wintry and blustery but we had a delicious dinner with Henry and Marge and Greg and Kathy, Greg's wife. Most of January was cold and wintry but I could not leave until my income tax and other personal things were taken care of. Arliss spent a week here as she and Richard were being transferred back to Vallejo, and Arliss could not come with him on the Sub.

The first week in Feb. I took the train to Mpls., spent a few hours with Alda and then flew on to Dayton as Darline had fallen at work and broke her ankle, and was hospitalized. I stayed with them until she got out of the hospital and then flew to Virginia Beach where I had a nice week end with Dallas and Lynn. They are both so busy but Dallas did manage to take off a few days so he did get to show me a few things. We all spent one day at Williamsburg and really got in on the ground floor of all the Bicentennial Celebrations. Then back to Dayton for a couple of days, another week with Alda and I was on my way home. I was gone over a month but home surely looked good to me when I got back. And now good all of Steve's looked too....again another thanks.

In April I spent a week end in Havre with Lony and Marge. Tony is far from well and Marge thought it would help cut the monotony if I would come. April was a very busy month here with Steve handling everything by himself....the farming and calving and keeping everything running smoothly. I helped Kathy with her lawn, and one day we went to the nursery in Williston and got lots of shrubbery etc.

In May Alda and I took a bus trip to Holland, Michigan for tulip time. Although the trip lasted only five days I was gone a little over a week, and when I got home there were many things waiting to be done, planted the garden, the floweres, put turf builder on the lawn and finally we are busy with the watering as so far it has been very dry. The only thing that seems to want to grow is the creeeping jiny and Steve and I are at war with that continuously.

Kathy, Jeff and Christy plan to go to Seattle for a few days to see her relatives, but Steve says there is no way he can go now. Alda come out for a couple of weeks so I wouldn't be quite so alone. We went along with Ev to Billings for Julie's confirmation, and also drove to Havre for a week end. Alda wanted to see Tony as he isn't responding like he should.

Now Steve and I are alone for a week, and the electric storms are coming. Seems we have one every night. How glad we both were when Kathy, Jeff and Christy got back. It's all very frightening--electric storms, some rain, some hail, and the price of wheat dropping every day. Now at last the Federal Inheritance Tax is paid and what a relief that is. Claude, Darline and the girls came home in July as Darline's class was having its 25th Anniversary. They were here two weeks, and, as I had already painted the pump house, I put Claude to work on the trim on the garage and grainery.

Richard and Arliss and Randalls came the first week in August but harvest is late. Richard helped one week before he had to go back, and Randalls had to leave too, altho Bruce did stay one extra week to help. The crop turned out very good and we had to buy three new steel bins as there is no storage in W. P.

This seems to be my year for having problems as it seems I have gone to the Dr. more, had more tests taken, and taken more medication than during all the years Abe and I lived together. Loosing 31 lbs. was too much but after all the tests proved O. K., Dr. says it is all caused by nervous tension so we are working on that... After about a month it seems that I just have to get away for awhile.

So on Sept 23, Alda and I left Billings on an Ameripass Bus Trip. We traveled over 6000 miles in 30 days and found out we can do things together and enjoy them. Our first main stop was in Mesa, Ariz. where we made reservations for three months this coming winter. Hope we enjoy it. We made several side trips visiting Alda's relatives, stopped at the San Diego Zoo, four days with Clinton and Grace, four days with Richard and Arliss, a day with Cousin Alma, and then on to Vancouver, B. C. for a day. We got back to Billings, and Randalls on Oct. 22, and how glad I was to see Steve and his family there to meet me.

The rest of Oct. and Nov. went by very fast getting ready for winter. For Thanksgiving we had the John and Don Redekoops and their families here, otherwise I am sure it would have been a very lonely time.

The weather stays dry and cold. Randalls and Lynn and Dallas came the 23rd of Dec. It would have been so nice if they could have stayed longer but Dallas and Lynn had to leave on the 26th and Randalls on the 30th. Ev also was part of our Christmas for which we are happy. Henry and Marge sold their farm and are now living in Whitefish so they were another missing link this year.

Now all we are really worrying about is Tony. Three of the four bypasses leading to his heart have collapsed. Marge has had several bad scares. They plan a trip back to Seattle in Feb. to see if something more can be done.

Today is the last day of 1976--May we have no more sadness in the family this year. All we can do is pray that Tony will get the help he needs and the rest of us will stay well and happy--and that 1977 will bring more peace and contentment than we had in 1975 and 1976.

New Year's Day, 1978, comes in like a lion, with snow, wind and cold. Real lonesome here with Randalls and Lynn and Dallas gone. How thankful I am that Steve and Kathy and their family are living here and I can not give enough thanks to them and to God for all the things they do for me. On the 4th of Jan. I took the train to Minneapolis where Alda met me at the depot. We spent three busy days getting her business taken care of. On Sunday Kenneth and his family came from Rochester and out on a plane for Phoenix. We spent the night there

and the next day took the bus out to Mesa.

The first few days were busy days getting settled in our apartment. Everyone is very friendly and so willing to help in any way they can. We soon found we had bus service to help our transportation problem to up town Mesa. We registered at the activity center and during our stay spent one afternoon a week there playing cards--and also spent many evenings playing cards with people in the court. Alda had relatives in Phoenix (Rudie's neice) and they were very good to us taking us places. One trip in particular was very interesting when we went down to Nogales, Mexico and also visited a mine, then to Superstition Mountain and to so many other interesting places. Many Montana people were too. John and Ruby Bedekopp and Paul and Lou Koslosky were overly good to us. Ev Randall and her partner from Havre visited us many times and took us many places. The time went by quickly with reading, they have a lovely library, doing fancy work etc. We went on one tour going up to Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, Las Vegas, and back by way of Lake Havasu. We find we are very compatible in doing things we both enjoy. All too soon the end of March is approaching and we are heading home going by way of Minneapolis. I spent one day there before heading home. How good it is to be back, and to have Steve, Kathy, Jeff and Christy here. As time goes on I appreciate them more and love them dearly.

Steve is busy during April and May with calving and spring seeding. It's very very dry and at this time does not look very good. Kathy, Christy and I made a trip to Williston to the nursery for shrubs etc., and then it is garden planting time.

In June Ev and I drove to Billings and spent a few days with Dorothy and Jay and family. The latter part of June Kathy's father and his wife and her Uncle and Aunt came from Washington and spent nearly a week here with Steve's. We all went to Scooby for the Old Timer's Celebration--so nice of them to take me along. Then came Stampede. One night I kept Christy and Jeff so Steve and Kathy could go, and that was the night of the only electric storm we had all summer. Also in July I took the train out to Whitefish to see Henry and Marge. Greg was home for the week end too so I had a nice visit with them all.

One tragedy occurred in July when Otto Zerbe was killed when his plane crashed. A lot of relatives came for the funeral.

August is harvesting time as usual. Surprisingly we could not complain about the crop considering the amount of rain we had. But it is a hard combining season as the grain ripens so unevenly. Bruce came on the bus and Steve soon had him operating a combine. How quickly he does catch on! Then Jim Zimmer came out and helped, and Dorothy, Jay, Julie and Lesa were here for a week. The price of wheat is very low. Not much being sold.

Alda came the latter part of Sept. During the time she was here Steve and Kathy took a week's vacation going to the Black Hills so Alda and I had Jeff and Christy. When they got back Alda and I went to Havre to see Tony and Marge for a couple of days. Now the rains are coming. We are glad we are done harvesting and do appreciate getting the moisture.

Oct. quickly slips by with the time being spent trying to keep busy with hand work, besides cleaning up all the leaves and garden.

We had hoped to all be able to get together for Thanksgiving but it wasn't to be--Darline couldn't come, Lynn and Dallas were coming but her family was having a reunion on Thanksgiving Day and her sister was getting married the day after. Richard and Arliss are now free citizens after Richard got his discharge

from the Navy. Arliss's sister was getting married on Thanksgiving day in Culbertson. Both couples were getting into Billings the Sat. before Thanksgiving but had to leave on Tues. so I took the bus to Billings so I would get to see them. Sun. A. M. Dallas and Lynn picked me up and we went to Pastor Mar's church. Wed. Steve, Kathy, Jeff and Christy came for Thanksgiving with Randalls. Both Jeff and Christy weren't feeling very well so their vacation wasn't too happy a one. We started for home on Sat. but winter had already set in--so early--lots of snow in Billings and roads not very good. We got to Glendive by 2 and after driving five miles in a ground blizzard, Steve decided we better not try to go further so turned around and spent the night in Glendive. Richard and Arliss spent the following week here before going to Richland, Washington for a job interview with Westinghouse.

Two weeks before Christmas Don Redekopp passed away from a heart attack. Three deaths in the Redekopp families in less than two and a half years. Abe, Otto, and now Don. Not a very easy thing and this was very hard on the John Redekopp family.

Randalls and Richard and Arliss and Steve and Kathy and family all shared Christmas with me. How fortunate I am to have such a family. Richard and Arliss shared their vacation with Oelkers. We missed having Ev with us but she spent it with Suzanne and family. All too soon Randalls have to go, Richard and Arliss spent a few more days and then left as Richard has accepted the job with Westinghouse at Richland, Washington. And now things are so quiet, but Jeff and Christy and Steve and Kathy still with me!

The weather continues to be very bad. I am busy getting things taken care of. Had New Year's Day with Steve's. Again we must give thanks for the good things that happened during the year, and look forward to guidance in the coming year.

January 1, 1978! Lots of snow, cold and windy. The house is quiet today and I am busy getting things ready to leave. The morning of the 5th I am up at 5 as the train is to be in Wolf Point by 6:30. Then the phone rings and Steve tells me to go back to bed as the train will be at least six hours late. What a day--checking the depot every few hours to see if there have been any changes. Finally at 5 Steve takes me in and the train ends up being over 12 hours late, so I still had a long wait at the depot. Alda met me in Mpls. We spent several days there before leaving for Mesa as she had an eye infection the Dr. was trying to clear up before we could leave. During that time we made a trip down to Rochester to see Kenneth and family and also spent a couple of days visiting at Elaine's. When we left Mpls. it was 30 below and when we got to Mesa it was 70'. How good it felt! And it felt like coming home, back to Apt. No. 12. And we were happy with our change in furniture, so much more comfortable than what we had had before. Many of our old friends were back.

The first few days we were so busy, buying groceries, getting a phone and all the other things in getting settled. One of the first things we did was go to the Activity Center to see what they offered. We signed up for Bridge Lessons which we faithfully attended altho I need lots more lessons and lots of playing. During our three months we did so many interesting things. Took two Bus Tours, one out to Roosevelt Dam and another to the Paden Area north of Mesa. Dorothy and Doc. Heaken from Chicago took us along on lots of Tag-a-Longs so we got to see areas

we otherwise would have missed. Nathan and Lena Goodrich took us along on several drives. Then Cousins Jim and Evelyn Sanders from Conrad, Mont. were there for three weeks and we did lots of things with them. One of the most interesting was visiting the Mystery Castle and then the Tonto ruins. On Alda's birthday Jim invited us to go with them for dinner and wanted suggestions as to where to go. I remembered years back when Daddy and I had been in Phoenix we had eaten at the Big Apple, and now much fun we had had. In spite of the rain we drove and drove until we finally found it. Just like it had been before when we had been there, saw dust on the floors, everything very western and rustic. The waitresses all wore tight fitting western clothes and carried guns in their low slung holsters. While Jim and Evelyn were still there, Ethel and Harlan Helgeson, also cousins from North Dakota came and we were all together several times.

The night we ate at the Big Apple we had a little excitement. We had left early in the afternoon and so we did not draw the drapes. When we came back the first thing we noticed was that our screen window had been taken off. Someone had got in our apartment by crawling through the window and stole our TV. Nothing else was missing but we called the landlord and he came down -- we had it rented from him. He reported it to the police and a black policewoman came down and asked lots of questions etc. As far as we know it was never recovered, and we were happy Mr. Zufelt did not charge us for it. We were shook up, and afterwards were very sure the blinds were drawn when we left.

We also took a Bus trip to Downey, California and spent three days with Clinton and Grace and were treated royally. Jake and Esther Redekoop and son Dr. Jacob from Tuscon called one afternoon and asked us down so one day Jake and Helen Swatsky, our neighbors in the court who are very good friends of Jake and Esther, and Paul and Louella Koslosky took us to Old Tuscon where we saw the making of the movie "Go West Young Girl" with Karen Valentine as the star. Then on to Tuscon to visit Jake and Esther, and were invited to have dinner with John Voth and his wife. He is Louella's cousin. Another lovely day.

Paul and Louella, Aron and Ann Peters and Swatskys all were so good to us-- taking us to the rodeo, The Montana Day Picnic, and to the Easter Services put on by the Mormons and College Mormon Students on the grounds of the Mormon Cathedral. Words cannot describe the beauty of it--the singing, scenery etc. Then we had so many drives with them, going to lovely shopping centers etc. We were asked to Alda's niece and nephew's several days. We would take a bus out to Phoenix and Harold would take us home, Alda had her eye infection most of the time we were there so we had to make several trips to Phoenix to see a specialist. A record was set with all the rain they had, so many roads and bridges were washed out. When the end of March came we were getting homesick for our children and were ready to start home. Our flight was good, but we were two hours late getting into Mpls. Elaine had been at the airport to meet us with the two little boys but they got so restless she had to leave so we took a cab home. I spent one day in Mpls. and was ready to go home. How good to see Steve at the depot! And to see Kathy, Jeff and Christy makes me realize how much they all mean to me. I just thank God for all my blessings.

April brings the busy season--Steve getting busy with the farming-- it's very dry but he is going ahead with the seeding. Kathy and I are busy getting at the yards, gardens, flowers etc. We made one trip to Williston and one to a green house south of Wolf Point for shrubs. Harry Buchanan offered to paint the outside of my house if I was still interested. He did such a nice job, sanding nearly everything, replacing bent and loose nails and rebuilding some of the overhang that had rotted away.

Kathy hasn't been feeling too well--she had four trips to Regina to have dental work done. Then several trips to the Clinic in Billings so I have had Jeff and Christy but they are good company for me. The only thing I worry about is that they might get sick or it might rain while they are gone and I should have to do some driving. Kathy found out what she doesn't have, which is a relief, but she hasn't found out what she does have. Now Steve put her on an exercise program including walking, exercising and watching her diet. He has lost some weight and I think she does feel better.

In May it started to rain, just in time and we had lots. Steve worried about getting the safflower in but did meet the dead line. Ev and I made a trip to Randalls in May. It was a big day at Randalls! Bruce was confirmed, was Mother's Day and my Birthday. We are all busy it seems. The first week in June Uncle Anton, Jim and Evelyn and Bonnie visited. We enjoyed them so much, especially Uncle Anton, he is 96.

July brings more rain but no electric storms like in the past. We all went to the Stampede -- a little let down after seeing the one in Arizona. Darline, Claude, Susan and Kim came the middle of July and spent three weeks with us. I went with them to Billings for a few days. Arliss and Richard spent a couple of days with us as they had come to Harlem for Arliss' brother's wedding. Paul and Fern Zerbe had a pot luck picnic for all the Redekopp and Kin which was nice. Claude helped Steve clean corrals, and did some summerfallowing. Then Claude and Darline took Steve, Kathy and me to the Elks for dinner on their 20th Wedding Anniversary. The week after Cates left Randalls came for a week. Steve was glad as Bruce and Jay helped with the combining. They had to leave before he was done so he ended up with Jeff and Tim Zimmer helping. Kathy went with Randalls back to the Clinic in Billings so I had Christy and the Combiners. She is such a good girl and tries to help me. The crops are good but prices are low, and no box cars so I ended up having to buy two more steel bins.

Two more sur rises in Sept. Jake and Esther spent a nite with me and all Steve's had dinner with us. Then the following week Henry and Margie came and spent a nite and most of a day here. So nice to have them. Ben and Wanda also had a "Redekopp" only gathering after harvest. The latter part of September Kathy left for Seattle to visit her folks. She was gone 18 days but Steve was here and he is so good with Jeff and Christy. I made the main meal here and then Steve took them home for the nite and got them off to school in the morning. We were glad when Kathy got home.

Dallas and Lynn spent a couple of nites at home with us. They have moved to Billings. Lynn has a job teaching at the Vo-Technical School and Dallas is interested in getting a Nautilus Fitness Center started.

The last of Oct Orel Buchanan offered me to go along to Great Falls to teacher's Institute, but I said I'd rather go along as far as Havre and spend the four days with Tony and Margie. Tony is getting along pretty good, looks better after his last trip to Rochester, but still has lots of pain. Marge worries a lot about him.

Dallas finally found a building in Billings for his Center and made a quick trip home for paper work and I went back to Billings with him and spent four days at Randalls with Dallas and Lynn there quite a bit of the time. I came back by bus. Randall's News-- Jay got a promotion and will be Chief Divisional Engineer at Lewis-town starting the first week in Jan. The family will stay on in Billings till school is out. They are happy about the move and I am glad they are moving east

instead of west.

Thanksgiving was spent with Pat, Carol Jean, Jimmy, John, Ruby and Lee at Pat's house. She had a delicious dinner and we had a very good time.

Now Christmas time is here--and it seems I miss Abe more at this time but know it will always be this way. Randalls were home for four days, and Richard and Arliss spent Sat. nite and Sun. and Christmas Eve here. Then went on to culbertson to be with her folks. We had Christmas Eve Dinner here and also Christmas Day. But both Kathy and Dorothy and Arliss, too, are all such good helpers it isn't a big deal. Everyone was well remembered with gifts and I think I had more cards than ever before. Steve's are all so good about everything, but now that everyone is gone it is quiet. That's when Steve's are appreciated.

This is the last day of the year! I look back and wonder what good we did during the year? Only God has the answer for that.

Winter came so early, with snow the middle of Nov. and we have so much now, and now cold it is. The past week it has been below zero everyday. Last night it was 24 below at 4 P.M. I am getting my things ready to leave for Mesa. My hope is that they won't have as much snow and cold here as they did last year. Certainly 1978 is going out like a Lion, and again we can only hope and pray for strength and guidance in the coming year.

January 1, 1979. A new year, and we must stop and ponder over the things of the past and look toward the future. As I look at Jeff and then look at Steve I can but wonder "Is this my son and grandson?" How much has been accomplished since Abe passed away, I think he would have been happy with lots of the things that have been done, and probably unhappy with others. Here I must stop and again Give Thanks for all five of my children, their life partners and my grandchildren! How dear they all are to me, and how would I ever get along without them. God is Good!

My train to Mpls. was about six hours late getting into Wolf Point and didn't pick up any time before reaching Mpls. so Alda had a long wait, but now glad I was to see her. We spent the week end in Mpls, going out to Jim and Elaine's for dinner and in the afternoon Ken and Helen came in and took us back to Alda's. On Tues. Carrol Middaugh took us to the airport and we flew to Mesa. 20 below when we left Mpls. and 78 when we reached Mesa!

Seemed almost like coming home--lots of our former friends were already back and the first week we were so busy getting all the things we needed to again start housekeeping. I am happy to be here with Alda--she does so much for me in more ways than one. Lots of folks back from Montana. John and Ruby, Arron and Ann Peters, Paul and Louella Koslosky, Lena and Nathan Goodrich and the list can go on and on. And then of course Helen and Jake Swatsky who live in our court and are so very good to us. We had periods of rainy weather again but that doesn't dampen our going places. We again signed up for bridge lessons and found there was a couple in our court who loved to play bridge so spent many evenings playing with them.

Alda's relatives are so kind and like Montana people always including Alda in our activities. they include me--several lovely dinners in their homes and doing things together. Then we had the Montana Day Picnic and the German Heritage Picnic to go to and we always see so many folks at them. Oh yes, Lena and Nathan must not be forgotten either as they so often would come and take us places, eating out etc.

The Dial-A-Ride means so much to us to us as it is very inexpensive and we used it several times on Sundays to go and visit Emma Knapp and other friends.

In Feb. we went on a Conducted Tour down into Mexico. We had made friends with a couple of Jake and Esther's friends and they talked us into going on the tour. It was nice having someone along we knew. We were gone five days going south as far as Guaymas and then on to Magdalena and other places of interest. We did enjoy the trip but I don't think it is a trip I would care to go on again.

Later on in Feb. John and Ruby took us and Jake and Helen to Tucson to visit Jake and Esther and get acquainted with Dr. Jacob and his family. We were given the red carpet treatment with Jake doing the honors. Dr. Jacob's \$500,000 home really impressed us. The day after we got back Larry and Judy and family came to visit John and Ruby and we had them at our apartment for a meal. A few days later Clinton, Grace, Judy, Grace's brother and his wife, and Grace's sister Elsie came and they spent a week in the area and we did so many things together. Time flies by quickly as we can always find things to do. One afternoon we spent browsing in the Mormon Tabernacle--it is amazing the things they can do and another year I am going to do some researching on members of the family as my cousin in Norway wants to add it to his records that trace my ancestry back to 1300 A. D.

All too soon March comes to an end and we are on our way back home. I enjoy Mesa, and if things were possible would buy a trailer house so we would always have a place to go, but they are so very expensive and with all the upkeep I have on the farm I feel it is impossible. So many things coming up that I have to take care of and yet they are things that I cannot change.

Jim and Elaine and boys met us at the airbase and took us to Alda's. How good they are to Alda -- and Ken and Helen-- that is something else. Always taking her along places, calling her from Rochester every day and so many other little things. Ceuss maybe I am a little envious of her! I spent two days in Mpls. and then on home. Steve met me at the depot and it was good to be back home again and see Kathy, Jeff and Christy. Still snow here the first part of April after a very hard cold winter, but eventually Steve is at the farming, calving and all the many things he has to do. Finally it is time to get at the flowers, lawn, garden etc. Steve and I planted 9 rows of potatoes the length of the garden. More work ahead.

The second week in June Steve and Kathy went to an REA Convention in Kalispell so I had Jeff and Christy. As Christy was taking swimming lessons it meant a trip to town every day. Even picked up a speeding ticket right in Wolf Point. SHAME!

The last week in May Ev and I drove to Billings for Julie's graduation.. All so very nice. Jay got transferred to Miles City so the family will be moving as soon as they find a place to live. After graduation Richard had made reservations for me to fly from Billings to Spokane and then take another small plane from there to Pasco where they met me. I spent 5 lovely days with them. Arliss is a "Pearl". Cherry was in full swing so we picked 25 pounds and I brot them home so Kathy and I could do some canning.

The summer has been very hot and dry. We had only one electric storm and that broke down one of my big trees so I had Steve cut down a few more that were sickly. Randalls came for a few days in August but it was too early for any combining. Bruce did stay on a week and helped. Then I took him back to Miles City and found out I have regained my confidence in driving. Julie stayed in Billings as she has a job.

In spite of the drought we had a good garden, buckets and buckets of potatoes and a fair crop. Steve ran the combine, Jeff spotted the trucks, Kathy hauled wheat, and I cooked, canned, froze vegetables and took care of Christy 24 hours a day so we all were busy.

One evening Richard and Arliss called and informed me I was going to be Grandma again in Feb. or Mar. How happy they are and I am nappy for them too!

The first week in Sept. Tony and Marj met Clinton in Great Falls and after a day in Havre came here. The first time Tony had been here since Abe passed away so it was very hard for him. They went back on Mon. and Clinton stayed on. Tues. we went up to Avondale and visited Donavans, Zemliskas, and Winderls. Then went on into Richland to eat. Clinton did enjoy it as it has been many many years since he has been up there. On Wed. we met Alda in Wolf Point and spent the day resting and visiting. Thurs. we all visited John and Ruby and Paul and Lou Koslosky. On Fri. Lena and Nathan had us in Glasgow for a delicious dinner. Also there were Ethel and Hazen Flickenger and Lola Ruppel. We had all gone to Avondale school together so we had lots of nappy memories. On Mon. Clinton, Alda and I drove to Havre. We spent a day with Tony and Marge and then we all took Clinton to Great Falls where he took a plane for home. Alda and I spent two more days in Havre. Then Sun. she left for home. How glad I am that the four of us good spend the time together. Wish we were closer to each other. How I did appreciate all the little things Clinton did for me! things Abe use to do and now I try to do so many of them myself.

Dallas spent a week end with me the first part of Oct. So good to have him. We went over lots of paper work etc., and I think he really missed Daddy's presence more this time then ever before. Saw so much that hadn't been Daddy's way of doing things. I can do only so much of that type of work, but I had invested in a hedge clipper shortly before so d'd manage to have all the grass trimmed around the grainerie and outside buildings.

Then Steve and Kathy took off for a four day vacation to Billings etc. so I had Jeff and Christy. Rather hard to get up early enough to get them on the bus but we managed. Dallas and Lynn made another quick business trip home in Nov. Then we all went to Randalls in Miles City for Thanksgiving. How I wish they lived closer. And also Lynn and Dallas--they were at Randalls too. Their business is doing so well. Gib Nichols, my banker, had earlier told me what an intellectual person Lynn was and how he was impressed with the business knowledge she and Dallas had. Another "Pearl", Dallas. Hasn't changed his opinions much.

Christmas Time. A little different this year than previous. First Julie not being here as she couldn't get off work. Randall's came on Sun. and they and Steve's had Christmas Eve with me. Then Randalls spent Christmas Day with Jay's Mother in Wolf Point. Arliss and Richard had spent Christmas Eve with her folks in Culbertson so they came back for Christmas Day with Steve's and me. Both Randalls and Rich and Arliss left on Thurs. How things can change as families grow. But I am thankful they still want to come or it would be a very lonely Christmas for me.

In all this year's writing I haven't mentioned anything about Darline, Claude, Susan or Kim. This year they didn't manage a vacation but hope they will be able to come next year. Altho they don't write to often they call and keep me filled in on all their activities. Both Darline and Claude are busy and happy with their

jobs and are making very good salaries. Another year and Susan will be out of highschool, and she is seriously considering going to college. Kim is doing better in school than other years. Am able to understand everything she tells me on the phone now. Again must say --all-- Darline and Claude, Dorothy and Jay, Steve and Kathy, Richard and Arliss and Dallas and Lynn, you all are doing so well and I have nothing but love for all of you.

Now at times this past winter I have wondered if I'll spend another Christmas with my children or if I'll be with Abe. The blood pressure bit has me concerned as it does fluxuate so much over little things but the Doctor has me on my medication. She says maybe I am hypersensitive to blood pressure, says go to Mesa and leave your problems behind but check once a month.

However things do turn out, God has been good to me-- in spite of days that I feel sorry for myself and worry about little things. The Doctor says those are the things that cause the problems. But it was Abe's wish that this was to be my home as long as I wanted it and could take care of myself., or have some one with me.

In closing out 1979, I must say that we must all pray for peace in the East, and also for the hostages that have been held so long, and hope 1980 will bring a solution to many of our problems.

1980

The first day of 1980 was cold, windy and it was snowing. Everyone has gone back home, and I am getting ready to leave. The weather makes me anxious to get where it is warm so on the 3rd of Jan, Steve took me to Wolf Point and I left for Minneapolis. Alda met me at the depot and I spent most of the day relaxing. On Sunday we went to Elaine and Jim's for a late Christmas. Ken and family came from Rochester and we had a very nice time. Mon. and Tues. Alda finished up her last minute business. We had a couple good games of scrabble and spent one evening at Margarets playing Pennies. Wed. A. M. Alda's nephew took us to the airport. It was 30 below and snowing, but we had a good flight getting into Mesa around noon and the temperature was nearly 70 degrees.

The first few days in Mesa were busy getting settled, buying groceries etc. Lots of the former snowbirds are back in our court, we have the same apartment we had other years so it was like coming home! Lots of Montana people soon knew we were back, John and Ruby came for two months, and akk again were so very good to us, taking us places, getting in on Musical Concerts, going to various churches, invited out to different homes and of course going to the Horse Show, and The Montana Day Picnic. Lena and Nathan were at our apartment several times. Alda and I entertained twice--having Alda's relatives one evening for dinner and another night we had John and Ruby, Paul and Lou Koslosky and Jake and Helen Zwatsky for dinner. A case of bring your own silverware. Alda and I enrolled in a weaving class but before our projects were completed we decided that course wasn't for us. Kenneth spent an evening with us as he was in Tuscon on business for the company he works for. Alda was so glad to have him and we took him out for dinner. On March 12 Richard called and told me I had a new grandson. Hi name is Ryan Drew. How happy they are to have him and I am looking forward to seein him. In March Alda and I took the bus to L.A. and spent five days with Clinton and Grace and family. As usual we were treated like royalty. I think the highlight of the time there was the day we spent at Disney Land. The last couple of weeks in Mesa went by to fast--doesn't seem possible

that the three months are over. Alda and I enjoy doing the same things and she surely is a tonic for me as my blood pressure was normal all the time I was with her. What we wouldn't do without all the friends we have made during our four winters spent there--so many made through Abe's brother Jake from Mt. Lake, and then of course so many Mont. people. But on the last day of March Jake and Helen Z. took us to Phoenix to board the plane for Minneapolis. I must not forget to mention how good Alda's relatives are to us too. We were in their homes several times in Phoenix. Would take a bus over and then they would take us home afterwards. Went to several musical concerts with them. I stayed over two days in Minneapolis. Jim and Elaine and the boys had met us at the airport and Elaine wanted to take us out to a new shopping center before I came home. Alda and I took them to dinner and then to the shopping center. Someone said it had been called "The Millionaires Court"! The most beautiful and expensive shopping center I have ever been in. Needless to say we didn't spend much money!

Alda took me by cab to the depot on April 2nd and I was on my way home. Steve met me at the depot and how glad I was to see him! and Kathy, Jeff and Christy when I got home. Much as I enjoy the three months in Mesa, I always am glad to get back home.

April went by quickly--Steve busy with calving and getting the crop put in. It was very dry and quite discouraging to say the least, but Kathy and I out in our gardens, got the lawns and flowers started and now must do lots of watering. We wait patiently for the rains to come!

In May I went to see Richard, Arliss and Ryan taking the train from Wolf Point. I spent five days with them and had such a nice time. Ryan is such a sweet baby and so good. On Mother's Day we all went to church and then Rich and Arliss got a baby sitter for Ryan and Richard took Arliss and me to a beautiful supper club for dinner. All too soon the five days went by and it was homebound. I stopped off in Whitefish to see Henry and Marge for three days. Henry took us sight seeing to Kalispell, where we shopped, to Whitefish where we visited Carol (Friesen) and her family and on to see Kay Hawkins and family. Good to get home with family. Nothing exciting happened in June except that Steve broke his collar bone on a Honda accident and wasn't able to do much work for some time. No rain in June either. Reminds one of the 30's when everything was so very dry.

July was a very busy month. Kathy's Mother came for a visit and they all went to the Black Hills. I really don't like being alone but they were gone only five days. Randall's came for over the Fourth and Julie was along. The first time she has been able to come for so long. Cates also came for 3 weeks in July and August. We did lots of things while they were here, taking in the Stampede. Then during that time Abe's brother Jake passed away. A hard decision for me to make, go to the funeral or stay here with my family. In the end I finally decided my place was here. Cates took me along to Miles City to visit Randalls and Billings to see Dallas and Lynn. They are excited about the new baby they are to have in Dec. Kathy's Dad and his wife were here for a few days too but didn't like the mosquitoes so didn't stay so long. Claude helped Steve quite a bit and things were quiet when they left.

Harvest came early, still no rain. Steve ran the combine, Jeff spotted the trucks, Kathy hauled the wheat, and what a good job she is doing. Christy and I did the cooking and ran errands etc. The crop wasn't too bad considering the amount of moisture that we had. The latter part of Aug. I went with Lena and Nathan to Havre for Carol Ann's wedding. Very nice and I had the honor of pouring coffee at the reception, and afterwards helped Marge with the dinner they served to over 70 friends and relatives. Steve's still combining and now the rains are starting to come. Lots in Sept. and also in Oct. Ev and I made a

quick trip to Miles City to see Bruce play his first game of football for the season and later on Dorothy and Jay came to Glasgow to see him play and they spent the night here with me. I had Jeff and Christy five days while Steve and Kathy went to an REA Convention in Billings. They are fun to have now that they are getting older. Tony and Marge spent a week end here in October too. Christy and Jeff like them so much so we had a nice time. Tony got so very tired though. The wedding had been hard on him to start with and I don't think he was completely rested up when he was here. Kathy is still having trouble with her back. I think she does too much.

November came in cold and wet. Outside of going to Miles City for Thanksgiving the month slipped quickly by.

Now as Dec. comes our thoughts are of Christmas and the holidays with school and church activities etc. I am so thankful Steve, Kathy, Jeff and Christy include me in these or I would miss them. For some reason I have lost a lot of confidence in my driving, and don't care to drive after dark. They are good to me and I love them all. I couldn't be here if they were not here and as long as I can care for myself it is home. Income tax time too! and that does gripe me that I have to give so much to Uncle Sam when I think how hard Daddy and I worked to get where I am today, but guess that I should be thankful that I can pay it. Lots of oil activity in the area and I was lucky to get one fair lease. Will hold off with the rest altho I had an offer, but they wouldn't meet what I wanted so it can wait.

On Dec. 16 Dallas called and said I was Grandma again, "We have a baby boy who weighed in a 9 lbs and 9 ounces and we have named him Randy James." Now I am anxious to see him!

Christmas was different this year than ever before. Steve and family left for Seattle on Dec. 22 to spend Christmas with Kathy's relatives. Lynn and Dallas don't care to come with Randy so small and Richard and his family cannot come. But Randalls came Dec. 24th and we had our Christmas! Ev planned to share with us but was called to Portland due to the death of her brother, and Enga planned to come but had the flu. Randalls took me along when they went back on the 26th and Jay brot me back home on the 31st. Dorothy, Lesa and I drove to Billings one day to see the new baby and his family! and Julie. Randalls are so good, said they couldn't see me alone all those days.

Now tonight is the last day of the old year. What a year of extremes in weather. Christmas week started out at 35 below and ended up at 45 above. Lots of snow the first part of the week and today it is practically all gone. And a change in the White House too, with Ronald Reagan to soon be our new president. Wonder what changes we will see in our country..... Prices continue to climb. There is so much talk of a depression and hard times again. The hostages still not released, and there is so much turmoil in the east. It sometimes seems that another war will soon be in the making. All we can do is to pray that things will get better, the Lord willing.

Blessings to all my children and their families and thanks to one and all for what you have done for me in the past.

January 1, 1981

Sometimes I think I'm a loon to go on with this journal. I used to pretend I was keeping it for my children and grandchildren--in those days, twenty and more years ago, I still felt that everything I did must have some justification. Now I guess I have to admit that I keep it up for myself. It sets things in proportion again. What is interesting, after all, is the making of a self, and act of creation like any other; one that implies a certain amount of conscious work. Some teacher once told me that the world is a "vale of soul-making." So I probably will continue in the way I started, since Abe passed away it seems more of it concerns my activities over the years and those of my family.

What a cold wintry day Jan. 1st is! Snowing and blowing but how glad I am Steve and family are back. I am still fighting the flu but hope to soon have it whipped. On Jan. 3rd Steve took me to W. P. to board the train for Mpls. Alda met me as she always has at the depot. We spent four days there as Alda still had many things to do, and on Jan. 8th we left for Mesa by plane. How warm and green and lovely everything is here at this time of the year everything is. We were given a warm welcome at Spanish Palms. All the folks who were here other years are back so it seems much like coming to our second home.

Our three months are always such happy busy months. So good to have John and Ruby, Paul and Lou and Lena and Nathan among the many of our other friends again here. Highlights seem to be going to shopping malls, church, concerts, horse shows, rodeo, the Montana Day Picnic, playing cards, visiting etc. And of course lots of fancywork too! Then I won the use of the International Health Spa drawing that entitled 2 people the use of all the facilities for 2 weeks so Alda and I went. I felt like a new person after every session. We took the bus to Downey and spent a week with Clinton and family and had such a nice time. The latter part of Mar. we flew back to Mpls. We went with Helen's mother to Rochester for Paul's confirmation, spent a couple of more days in Mpls. and then on Home. It always is so good to get back home after the three months, but I am thankful my health, and Alda's has been good enough so we can go.

April is a busy month. Steve had most of his seeding done in Mar. but there are things to do. Rich, Arliss and Ryan spent four days here-- the weather not very cooperative with lots of wind and it is very dry. Ryan had lots of fun and everyone made a fuss over him. Rich took everyone to the Elks to eat one evening. One bit of unhappiness -- Arliss's grandmother passed away in Culbertson so they stayed over a few extra days.

With May here, it is time to get at the flowers, lawn, garden etc. Always lots of work but now I'd miss them if I didn't have them. Then the latter part of May I drove to Miles City for Bruce's graduation. What a handsome young man he is. He has a four year athletic scholarship to Bozeman so will have a free ride!

More unhappiness in June. Kathy's Grandmother passed away in Seattle. She and Steve went to the funeral but as school wasn't out Jeff and Christy stayed with me. The second week in June Alda, Elaine and her two boys came for 10 days. While they were here Tony and Marge had a couple of days with us, and Randalls were also here for a couple of days so there was lots of cooking etc. but fun! Still no rain! The latter part of June Dallas called and invited me to come to Billings for the Miss. Mont. Pageant. I didn't think I was capable to drive to Billings alone so just drove to Miles City and then Dorothy and Lesa went along from there. The pageant was marvelous and something that I'd never seen before. A lovely time!

Stampede comes in July. This year Christy rides in the parade and Jeff plays in the band. I went with them one day and to the carnival in the evening. Then on Sat. I drove to Tioga for Harold and Lillian Borstads' 40th anniversary. All their children were home, Aunt Daisy, Ethel and husband and Evy and husband besides lots of Harold's relatives. Am so glad I went. Now we are beginning to think about harvest. Have had some rain so there will be a harvest. Steve will again run combine, Jeff haul wheat with Kathy doing the unloading, and Christy and I will do the cooking and flunky work.

By the first week in Aug. harvest is about over. We took in the Glasgow Fair one evening so Christy could see what the 4-H requirements were. Then when Roosevelt Co. had their Fair she and Candance participated. Instead of going to the Fair Jeff and I went to Havre and spent from Wed. until Sat. with Tony and Marge. We went fishing two times but Tony was the only lucky one. Jeff was a little disappointed! He is a good traveling companion.

The first week in Sept. Dallas and Lynn called "help" so I spent a week with them taking care of Randy, doing the cooking etc., while they moved Nautilus to the new location. The club is going over so good. Randy is a honey! Then they came home for four days in Oct. We took in a few girl's basketball games etc. The weather was miserable but we did get the potatoes dug. Steve and Kathy took a week of vacation going to the Grand Tetons etc., so I had Jeff and Christy.

Nov. brot much needed moisture. Steve took me to Williston for minor surgery. Thanksgiving was spent with Randalls. We went to a basketball game and afterwards had the misfortune of slipping on the ice and cracked a rib. The Dr. says I will have to wear a belt for six weeks!

Christmas Time!! So many memories! Christmas will never be like it was when Abe was with me. It seems you feel the loneliness more then than at any time of the year. You always feel you are an extra but God must have had a reason for it that way. All Randalls except Julie who had to work, came on the 23 and Richards came on the 24th. Steves family all joined us for Christman Eve and Christmas Day. How thankful I am for all of them, they are so good to me. All to soon they leave for home. We all so enjoyed Ryan..

Now I am finishing this on Jan. 1, 1982. What a day--snowing, windy and this A. M. a chill factor of 65 degrees below zero. 1981 all in all not to bad a year. The state of the Nation is bad, prices for farmer's produce not enough to pay for production, but with the change in Washington maybe things will be different in 1982. At least we had no tragedies, deaths, etc., in the immediate family. Lots of things I wish were different and many days I am blue and discouraged with tears, but I must let God handle it as I am not able to make the needed changes alone. If Abe were still with me lots of things he would approve of and lots of things he would disapprove of. I will always feel he was so much better about keeping things under control than I.

God Bless One and All of my family! Pray for peace and much happiness in the future. I Love YOU ALL!

January 1982

January 1st comes in like a lion. It warmed up over night and now a sleety snow is falling. As the day wears on into evening the snowy sleet turns to cold rain and then more snow. With it comes a steady wind, and when I go out to do my chores it cuts through my clothes and seems to dive deep into my bones. Now I realize I dislike winters and know why! I am ready to go to Mesa. All the family have gone to their homes after a to short vacation. Only Steve and family are left here and I know how much I need them.

On January 3rd Steve takes me to Wolf Point and I leave for Minneapolis. As always Alda is there to meet me. We spend several days in Mpls. as Alda is getting her business taken care of. Had dinner at Jim and Elaine's one nite with Ken, Helen and family there, another dinner at Jim's folks, Canasta at Margarette's, Scrabble at Alda's and then off to Mesa.

Paul and Lou meet us in Phoenix and we all have lunch with John and Ruby and then on to our apartment. Home coming again and all the same people are back so we really get a welcome. How many good friends we do have there. Ruby's sister and husband are here and we six do many fun things together. Cousin Lillian and Harold bought a lovely place in Mesa and we spent a lot of time with them. Others there who helped make our three months so enjoyable included Lena and Nathan, Helen and Jake Swatsky, Jonette and Loran Good, she was my best friend during my high school days, and then we got to know Nathan's neice and she took us many places and spent time with us. From Glasgow came Helen Quiring (Abe's Neice), Liz Friesen, Delcie Schartner and Helen's friend from Canada. All the grand people helped make our three months fly quickly by. We try to play bridge once a week, and spend some time playing bridge or pinochle with Ernie Kacan, 89, who lives in our court. One day we spent with Helen and her friends at the horse races! Fun! Then in March Alda and I took the bus to Downey, Cal., and spent five days with Clinton and his family. What a pleasure to meet Bjorne Storset from Norway. Must add a bit about him. My Dad's sister Ellen was his Grandmother and his mother, Tirstien is my cousin. He and Judy will be married in July and live in Norway as he has three years of medical school left. All to soon our three months are up, back to Mpls. for a few days and I'm back in my own home by the first of April. When I get back to my own home it seems it just puts its arms around me--and I feel Abe's presence very much!

April and May are busy months here especially for Steve with calving, putting in the crop etc. And Kathy is busy with all Jeff and Christy's activities.

In June Dorothy came and she and I went to Havre for Mary Jo's wedding. We had such a nice time with Marras. Carol was there with Baby Stephen--such a good baby. Then two weeks later I drove to Miles City and Dorothy and I went on to Billings as Lynn and Dallas had bought tickets for the Miss. Montana pageant. That always is such a beautiful show.

July was Redekopp month! Darline, Claude, Susan and Kim came in time for the Stampede and spent three weeks with us. Then the second week in July Dorothy and Lesa came and they went along with Darline, Susan, Kim and me to Regina for a three day Redekopp reunion. 350 of us having a good time. One of my highlights was when Lesa made us all very proud when she sang at the Sun. morning gathering. Dorothy was her accompanist. Lesa has such a beautiful voice, I hope she does something with it. The day after we got back there was a "cousins' reunion" at Lustre with 85 attending. The day Gates left Lynn, Dallas and Randy came and stayed a week. And Julie spent from Fri. until Sun. here. I always am glad when the grandchildren still come home to the farm. Arliss and Ryan were here in Aug. too.

Now it is harvest time again. With all the rain we had in the spring coming when needed most, we harvested a good crop. Steve ran the combine and Jeff hauled all the wheat, now well he does! The summer went by quickly with so much going on. The garden, lawn and chickens kept me busy. My 1930 graduating class along with four other classes had a reunion in Glasgow in Aug. So many many people were there. Cousins Evelyn, Alma and Milton along with their spouses were some of the few I was so glad to see. Milton and Toots did stop for coffee on their way to Williston. There never is enough time at these affairs. Christy had Fair in August and she and Kathy spent three days in Culbertson. Steve, Jeff and I went down the day she showed Sundance. She won many ribbons.

On September 11 Diann Redekopp was married in Arlington, Va. John, Ruby, Pat, Carol Jean and Jimmy and I flew to Ohio, then drove with Fred, Joani and their boys. It was a beautiful trip throughout Pennsylvania Dutch Country and over the Apolachian Mountains. The wedding was beautiful. Pat, Carol, Jimmy and I stayed with Marlene Zerbe, Abe's nephew Otto's wife. She took us sight seeing and we especially enjoyed Washington D. C. at night. It was a wonderful occasion and I am so glad I was invited to go.

October is clean up month--leaves and more leaves to rake, garden to clean up, potatoes to dig etc. Jeff and Steve had a day in Billings to see a college basketball game, then Christy and Kathy were gone for five days to Billings to shop and take in Nile. Then Kathy and Steve took nearly a week off so Jeff and Christy were with me but they are no problem any more and are fun to have.

We spent Thanksgiving at Randalls in Miles City and Lynn, Dallas and Randy came too so it again was a fun time. One thing I did not mention before, Jay's mother Ev passed away in April after a brave fight with cancer. At all the family gatherings she is greatly missed. Jay got a promotion in April and now has 17 counties under his supervision. He generally gets in this area about every two weeks and comes out and spends the night with me. It's greatly appreciated!

Once again Christmas is at my house. Randalls came on the 23rd, Dallas and family on the 24th, and Richard and family on the 25th. There were 16 of us on Christmas Day including Lee Redekopp and of course Steve and family. We all received so many cards and lots of lovely gifts. All too soon it is time for everyone to go to their own homes. Now again now I do appreciate Steve and his family and all the good things they do for me.

I am happy with my family. Susan in in college taking up nursing. Kim doing very well her first year in Junior High, and Julie also going to college taking nursing and working part time. Bruce busy in college with football as top priority. Christie a very good sixth grader, Sundance or anything to do with animals her priority. Jeff getting better grades than ever before and basketball his top priority. Ryan and Randy growing like weeds and both are bright little boys. My two daughters and three sons and their spouses akk doing well and I dearly love them all.

The closer we get to the century's end the faster the years slip by -- or so it seems to me. 1982 has been good to me. Sure--I'm not growing younger, not as agile, nor pain free. I have more wrinkles, and I no longer lie on the floor to exercise. Also I find my brain is storing away more past and present information and the release valves must be on an extended strike as I have trouble getting instant recall as I need it, especially names. Everyone seems to be on a strike.

Mostly we don't want the past around. You have to be over 50 before you can stand to here all those family tales and by the time you might want to know, those

who wanted to tell and were not listened to are dead. As time goes by I am sure some of the things are a bit romanticized as the memories lengthen but those times were priceless and of course can never come back. But if we know who we are, and are happy with what has been our lot, then things can be beautiful!

Winter is here. Bitter winds are blowing the snow once again. It would be difficult to have Christmas without snow, even though it is very difficult at times.

As the year closes I have much to be thankful for; fairly good health, a warm home, good friends, a wonderful family and the peace of God. Now on Jan. 2 I will be leaving for Mpls. and Alda and I will again go on to Mesa. I am so thankful we are able to go.

May 1983 be a year of happiness and peace to all!

January 1, 1983

It seems that every year January brings a warning of what might be coming. Now today, Jan. 2, when Steve takes me to Wolf Point to board Amtrak, winter is really here with cold, wind and blowing snow. I spent four days with Alda in Mpls. before we left for our three months in Mesa. Such bad news before we left. Steve called me the first night I was there and said the news was not good. Henry Readekopp had passed away very suddenly. How much sympathy I have for Marge as I know what she will be going through. Will call her when I am settled. Lou and Paul met us at the Airport and after having lunch with John and Ruby it was on to Spanish Palms where we received a joyous welcome from our many friends. The weather is just lovely with flowers blooming, the grass so green and how the birds are singing. They too seem to be welcoming us! Quite a contrast to what we left in Mpls.

Time flies by quickly with so many things to do and our friends and relatives are so good to us. We spent a week in California with Clinton and Grace, what a lovely time. Mary Vibran has turned out to be such a good friend altho she is young enough to be my daughter. And I am so glad Lena and Nathan, Cousin Lillian and Harold, Paul and Lou and John and Ruby are there. They all can come up with interesting things to do. With all the Arts and Crafts, card playing, pot lucks, and mainly window shopping(?) in the lovely Malls things do not get boring. All too soon the three months are over and it is good to be back home. I'm always ready to go back by the first of April as it starts getting so hot. Then too, by that time I am lonesome for family.

All is well at the farm. Steve is always so busy during April and May with the farming and calving. Jeff and Christy are busy with school and their other activities. In April I drove to Miles City for Lesa's Musical Festival and had the misfortune of falling and fracturing my foot. What a nuisance that turned out to be as it took nearly two months for it to heal.

June is a quiet month. I always am glad when Jay stops and spends the night here when he is in the area. I did have one very pleasant week end. I drove to Miles City and then Jay and Dorothy took my car, drove on to Billings and dropped me off at Dallas' and they went on to a church convention in Great Falls as Dorothy was a delegate. Dallas and Lynn had tickets to the Miss Montana Pageant and that was lots of fun.

During Stampede Week in July we had a terrible storm. Over half of the trees in the shelter belt were damaged. Later in the fall Ben and Lee spent day and a half pulling out the stumps. Next year I hope we will be able to start some more. That was always Abe's pride and joy. Kathy's mother spent three weeks in July here too. And of course that is Wild Horse Stampede month. Christy rode in the parade and also took part in the barrel racing. Jeff played in the band. Lesa and Dorothy spent a couple of days with me too. I am so glad they still like to come.

In August Claude had heart surgery and was a very sick man. He had four by passes and made a remarkable recovery. In August Alda came too and what a busy time we had. Randalls spent a night with us on their way back from Regina where they had gone to observe their 25th wedding anniversary. Fair time in Culbertson for Christy too but we missed that as Alda and I drove to Havre and spent the night with Marras!! The next day Marge went along with us to Conrad where we had a cousin's get together at Jim Sanders. Home a day and then Alda and I drove to Tioga to spend the night at Borstads!! The next day Lillian, Alda and I drove to Minnewaukan where we had another cousins' reunion and visited Aunt Daisy. From there Alda went on to her home in Mols and Lillian and I came on home.

Kathy has done lots of doctoring and In October had back surgery in Billings. She is in a body cast and has lots of "do nots". Hopefully the operation will be successful as she has had lots of pain and gone through a lot. Marge Redekopp spent a few days here. She is more than a sister-in-law to me and I love her dearly. Julie had a few days off and came to rest and relax. I am so happy with them.

Thanksgiving comes again in Nov. and we went to Randalls. Dallas, Lynn and Randy came too and we had lots of fun together. Winter is coming. All the month of Dec, was so very cold with snow--I am ready for Mesa. We had another nice Christmas with only Randalls and Steve and family here. I had lots of telephone calls, cards and gifts.

If the year is to be summed up, I would have to say not so good. The few rains we had to help came to late so we had a short crop which of course meant little income from the farm. It has been a hard year and sometimes I do get discouraged with things. But with careful managing I will get along. Seems so often the ones you love the most can hurt you the most. When I hurt my back just before Christmas I surely thought that was it but hopefully nature will take care of that and God willing things will work out.

I often think my children are what I have made them. Sometimes I've been neglectful, other times loved to much and to hard, and all of you I've indulged and spoiled for the most part. Now as I've grown older and wiser(?) for the most part I've come to the conclusion that each of you are responsible for your own character. If character does determine a person's destiny, everbody creates their own heaven or hell. We are all the author of our own lives and live in what we have created. I feel now that I do not have to blame myself for your weaknesses and faults but look for the good you have created for yourselves.

God Bless You, one and all and may 1984 be good to you all.

1984 came in snowy, cold and windy like so many Montana New Years have in the past. Everyone has gone home, how quiet and lonely! As I look out, the snow banks look higher and the wind seems to blow harder! I am ready for Mesa.

Steve took me to Wolf Point and I left for Mpls. on Amtrak. We thought we had snow in Mont. but when I got to Mpls. on Tues. they were measuring it in feet. The first week in Jan. Alda was busy with paper work, we had a few games of pennies and scrabble with her neighbors. And Elaine and family were in several times. How great Phoenix looked to us Snowbirds, even from the air. Everything is green, the flowers blooming, and the oranges, lemons and grapefruit still on the trees. Paul and Lou met us at the plane as they have other years, and after having lunch with them and John and Ruby it was on to our apartment at Spanish Palms. How good to be back and what a welcome we did get!

We soon are back in our old routine--even with my back so bad I am enjoying every warm sunny day. Someone is always picking us up to go places and do things. We had two bonuses this year. Jim and Elaine surprised Alda by coming for her birthday and spending nearly a week. Then the last week we were there Alda's granddaughter Lora spent with us. She is a lovely girl. We also spent a week with Clinton and Grace and family in California. Lots of fun when we are there. With so many Montana people, plus Borstad's and Alda's relatives there is no time to get bored. The three months quickly pass and by the first of April I am back on the farm.. So good to be back in my own home.

It always seems April slips by so quickly. Steve is busy with spring planting, calving etc., and Katny has taken me along to lots of track meets. As in other years, we are waiting for the rain to come, and many days remind me of the 30's when the air is full of dust and sand, and now it does get into the house.

May brings some heart aches and big "hurts" but also lots of joy. The last week in May I drove to Miles City and spent a week with Randalls. Lesa graduated from high school and Julie from nurses' training. Dorothy and I drove to Billings and spent a few days with Dallas, Lynn, and Randy.

While there news arrived that Robyn Daile had arrived at the Richard Keuekopp home. All are nappy to have a little girl in the family. The latter part of June I took Amtrak to Kennewick and spent a week. All of Richard's came back when I did for Arliss's brother's wedding. Everyone wants Robyn!

Julie has a job in Wolf Point. She spent the first two weeks with me. I think she will make a very lovely nurse. She is looking for an apartment, and after finding one she still comes to the farm often. She is so mature now and lots of fun and companionship.

Now it is Sept. and we are still waiting for the rain that didn't come. Generally around Stampede time we have some but not this year. Christy was in the parade and barrel racing, more fun. Tony and Marge didn't get down so I drove up and spent several days with them.

Randalls moved to Glendive so we had Thanksgiving with them there. All their family were at home and us. The first week in Dec. Jay and Dorothy asked me to go along to Moorehead, Minn. for the Christmas Cantata. Lesa is a freshman there and sings in the freshman choir. It was wonderful.

Christmas Day and Christmas Eve here as more or less a tradition. Steve and family, all the Randalls, and Richard and family for Christmas Eve and then they spend Christmas Day with Arliss's family in Culbertson. Their two little ones help to make Christmas a nappy time. All to soon again, all are gone.

Now as I finish this on the last day of 1984. I must take inventory. In spite of the bad economic situation, lack of moisture, poor prices etc., I'm very thankful for everything the year has brought. Luckily there was no serious sickness, Kathy is slowly recovering from her back surgery, and Robyn is a healthy nappy baby. When Dallas and Lynn were home in June they told me I would be Grandma again in Feb., so I have that to look forward to. We have lots of snow and it is very cold! GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND KEEP YOU WELL AND HAPPY IN 1985!

1985

My house is lonely these days after everyone has left after a Happy Holiday Season. The weather is typical. On the 4th of Jan. I leave for Minneapolis. Again Alda has last minute things to do so a few days are spent there before we leave for Mesa. The three months we spend there are three months of relaxation and fun. We never seem to lack for things to do. The court is now filled with snow-birds who have been there before so it is like one big family. Always places to go, cards to play and lots of crafts. All to soon our time is up and by the first of April I am home again. On Feb. 1st Chrystal Marie arrived at Dallas and Lynn's. Randy had wanted a baby brother but now how he loves Chrystal.

April and May are the busy months and go by so quickly. La Vern Funk painted my house on the outside and that took care of a week, and a few days after Julie and I went to Billings to see Chrystal and the rest of the family. She is a little doll. Randy carries her all over and is very possessive of her. We stopped to see Randalls on the way home. Julie moved back with me in June, but she hopes only temporary as she wants an apartment. Jeff graduated from Wolf Point High in June and Randalls came for the exercises.

The big event of the year was when Mr. and Mrs. Beckman stopped and told me I was going to have an oil well drilled on my property. They were doing the surveying and pegging the spot. It was about a mile and a half from my building site. June was just so exciting. Richard and family came to go on a Canadian fishing trip. No drilling started yet, but they checked it all out and we hope they will soon get started. At last the derrick is up! The drilling is started and all the traffic! At night it looks like a little city. But after drilling to 6400 feet as planned, it is a dry hole!! Now all we have is the memories!

On the Fourth of July Jeff, Steve and I went for a drive (Kathy and Christy weren't interested) up to the Avondale area. Steve wanted Jeff to see where Grandpa Ole's farm was and the area where I had grown up. All the buildings are gone as are the fences, but we did eat the picnic lunch that Jeff had packed on land that had belonged to Grandpa Ole. Then we drove to Richland, Peerless and back home by way of Lustre. The following Sat. Jay, Dorothy and Bruce came and we drove to the Pines Youth Camp for a picnic.

It has been hot and dry all summer so we have a short and early harvest. By Fair Time in Culbertson the middle of August, harvest is complete. Lesa spent a

week end here in Aug. and then Bruce and Melanie came for a week end too. So much fun to have the grandchildren come and I think Jeff and Christy are always glad to see them too. Now in Sept. Christy is back in school, a freshman, and Jeff leaves for Eastern in Billings. How I'll miss them when they both are in school.

In Oct. I took Amtrak to Mpls., spent a couple days with Alda and then flew to Kettering, Ohio and spent a week with Claude, Darline and girls. That was a fun week as it had been 9 years since I was there. We did lots of fun things and lots of visiting. On the way back I spent a few more days with Alda.

I didn't mention before that Tony had heart surgery again in Seattle in May having all four bypasses redone. He has had a long hard struggle all summer but is gradually getting stronger. Finally the latter part of Oct. they both asked me to come so I went up on Amtrak. Marge and I did get to go to a concert to hear Peter Nero, a famous piano player. It has been hard on her too, they both get so depressed. I try to call them every Sunday.

Winter came so early--snow in Oct. that left but several inches came in Nov. and stayed. It caught everybody unprepared. We did manage to get to Glendive for Thanksgiving at Randalls. All their family were there, Dallas and family from Billings, and Jeff and a friend from Eastern. Dec. was so cold, a couple of weeks it didn't get above freezing. We must have at least a foot of snow on the level. Jeff spent lots of his vacation plowing snow in the yard.

Christmas was at my house as usual. Randalls, Steve's and Kathy's mother Jean were here for Christmas Eve, and then Richard and family got here in time for Christmas dinner. So many cards and lovely gifts. I sometimes wonder how many more Christmas's I'll be here! By the last Sun. in Dec. everyone has left. So quiet and lonesome. Julie is still staying with me but is on a short vacation.

Now on the 14th of Jan. I will go with Jeff when he goes back to Eastern and will fly from there to Phoenix. Alda decided she didn't want to go to Mesa again this winter so we gave up Spanish Palms. She never did give a definite reason. I didn't mention that Harold Borstad had passed away in April. He was my cousin Lillian's husband. When I went to the funeral Lillian said if Alda didn't want to go to Mesa for the three months she'd like to have me stay with her. I am so thankful for the offer, so she and I will be together. We always have been so compatible so I'm sure it will be great. Dallas is going to fly with me from Billings to see that I get there and then he will check out Health Clubs in the area.

All in all 1985 was another good year for me--health wise. After having a keratosis removed from below my eye, I think my eye problem is taken care of, and I checked out very good on my physical. Our grain crop was very short due to the dry weather but with our insurance and the gov't programs it wasn't too bad. The heat was hard on the flowers, lawn, garden etc. but the potato crop was the greatest. One thing I nearly forgot was the grasshoppers. In some areas they were terrible. They cleaned Steve's garden, stripped the leaves off the carragans and started working on the lawn. But with the cultivated strips around my garden they didn't find me.

Now these last days of 1985 are cold and wintry. May 1986 be a better year. May those of us who do have some problems pray that God will help in the solving of them. Let us all turn to him for more help and guidance.

The holidays are over, everyone has gone home, and on Jan. 4th, Jeff and I leave for Billings. Am glad I'm not doing the driving as there are lots of icy spots. I spend a few days with Lynn, Dallas and Randy and Chrystal and then Dallas and I leave for Mesa. I hate to admit it but I did need him along for my personal security as flying alone from Billings the first time had me snaky. He rented a car when we got to Phoenix and we drove to Lillian's. He spent nearly a week there and then went back to Billings.

How thankful I am that Lillian asked me to stay with her. It's entirely different than living with Alda. She has her own car so we can get around. Her home is in a nice area and everyone is very friendly. Have met lots of her friends and Harold's relatives, great people! After many many excuses as to why I couldn't get in the pool, with her encouraging I think I've conquered my fear of the water, and can get in where it comes to my shoulders. I also learned to ride a three wheel bike and we ride nearly every day. Have seen lots of my friends, gone to the Montana picnic, had a trip to Tuscon, Flagstaff and many other places in the area. I flew to Downey and had a very pleasant week with Clinton and Grace. Time flies by with lots of handiwork, scrabble, cards, etc.

Lillian and I drove home the last of March. We had quite a trip as we ran into a blizzard in Denver and had to spend two days and nights there. But we ended up where we were to be, Tioga. Steve came and got me and it was good to be back home again, altho I do enjoy those three months in Mesa.

The summer goes by quickly with lots of company. One big surprise was when my five children with their spouses and children came for Mother's Day and my 75th birthday. Only Claude, Susan and Kim were missing. Lots of early planning had been done and it was just great! How proud Abe would have been of his family. Besides the family, Bruce's girl friend Melanie, and a friend of Lesa's from Concordia, and Sue and Wayne joined us. Some of us went in for church and then we all went to the Sherman for brunch. The afternoon was spent out here at the farm and celebrating my birthday. All soon had to leave, but on the memories I always will have.

How often I give thanks for my "children and their spouses", I couldn't have done as well. And for my grandchildren; for all their energy, and curiosity, for their brave play and startling frankness; and then for their sudden sympathies. I have been so richly blessed. Must give special mention here to Julie. She has been so good to me--taking me along to Billings, Glendive, Williston etc. Places and things I wouldn't have been able to be doing by myself. Dorothy has been home several times during the summer, thanks Dorothy. I always look forward to Jay spending the night here when he is in the area. How I appreciate my grandchildren taking time from their busy schedules to come to the farm. Lesa and a friend for a week end, and Bruce and Melanie. Wish Susan, Kim, Ryan and Robyn were closer. Lynn, Dallas, Randy and Chrystal spent four days here in Sept., I don't get to see them often enough either. Jeff is now in college but was home during the summer and always was in and out doing lots of little things for me. Christy pops in almost every day and always has so many things to tell me. I love them all dearly and they have brought me lots of happiness.

Alda and Chris came for a week in Aug. and we had a nice visit. We drove to Havre for a few days. Tony and Marge are taking it one day at a time. They managed a week end here in Oct. and it was great for all.

Really nothing to numorus happened during tne year. With the lack of rain in this nocket we are in, and the thousands of hungry grasshoppers, crops were very short. But it seems farming has always been a next tear project.

My brotner Clinton had major surgery in July. A malignant tumor was found in his throaot and he had to have his voice box and windpipe removed, so now he cannot talk, and has an opening in his neck for a tube leading to the trachea. It has been a very trying time for them all. He is now using a "squakker" but is going to Whittier four times a week for therapy hoping he will learn to talk by using the esopnagus (which I don't quite understand). Alda and I hope to go and see them in March.

Sept. and Oct. go quickly by, and the main thing seems to be to get all the leaves cleaned up. I was lucky this year as Dallas and his family came and Dorothy came too. Then Steve and Christy helped and we soon had the job done. There still were lots of leaves left on the trees but I was able to handle them. Lillian spent a couple of nights with me on her way to and from Whitefish.

Thanksgiving was at Randalls in Glendive. I went with Steve and family. Dallas and his family came from Billings too. This has become more or less a family tradition. We always have such a good time, and Dorothy is such a good cook.

Then before we realized it Christmas was nere. I had an infection in my leg so had to stay off my feet quite a bit but everyone helped.. Kathy came over and decorated my tree and did lots of the baking. Thanks, Kathy! Then when Arliss and Dorothy got nere they helped. Thanks Arliss and Dorothy! It was a lovely Christmas with Randall's, Steve's and Richard's nere on Christmas Eve. Christmas morning Rich's left for Culbertson but the rest spent Christmas Day nere. I went with Dorothy, Lesa, Arliss and Christy to candlelight services in Wolf Point on Christmas Eve. The weatner has been just beautiful, can't remember wnen we have had a Christmas like this.

Now today on the 29th of Dec. every one has gone nome and it is lonely but I have things to do as on Jan. 3rd I go with Jeff to Billings when he goes back to college in Bozeman. I will spend a couple of days with Dallas and family and on Jan. 6th will fly to Phoenix. Am so glad Lillian asked me to stay with ner again.

Again we must all give thanks for our many blessings and hope that we stay well and happy. May 1987 be a good year.

1987

The year 1986 goes out with snow and cold weather, and that's tne way the new year comes in. Seems that is tne pattern for most Montana winters!

Always I want to know what is to hapoen. Sometimes I think I would like to have the wnhole of my life, from start to finish, laid out like a jig saw puzzle on the table, so that I would be prepared. But if I knew, what then? Far better that I just put my trust in God, and try to follow his guide lines.

Now back to the farm. Jeff got sick at the last so I had to call on Julie. How good and thoughtful she is. After a couple of days with Dallas and family I flew on to Phoenix. I spent the next three months with Lillian in Mesa. What a great person she is -- and her friends and relatives -- how good everone is. I was always included in all their activities. I flew to Downey and Alda came from Mpls. so we had 5 nice days with Clinton and Grace.. We never lack for things to do while there. All to soon it is

time to go home. I fly to Billings, take a bus to Glendive and Dorothy takes me home. It is good to be back home and sleep in my own bed. I see so many things I'd like to do, but it seems that is not to be. I started doing a little doctoring. How relieved I was when the leg and back pains were not caused by vertebrae degeneration causing pinched nerves and possible surgery. Now I am on arthritis medication and am limited as to what I can do. The Dr. says arthritis.

No gardening but I took care of the potatoes. Not being able to lift over twenty lbs., the lawn mowing could have been a problem but I had lots of mowers. Jeff and Christy were the main helpers. Then Kim, Lesa, Julie and Lynn all had a chance. And Dorothy spent three days helping with things I couldn't handle.

June brought Dallas and family for a few days. Then Rich and family came and everyone helped. In July Claude, Darline and Kim came for three weeks and I put them to work too. All the family were home at some time during the summer except Bruce and Susan and they both have jobs. Jay often stops for the night when he is in the area and does things time will permit. Julie comes out a lot from Wolf Point, she is just so good about everything. And she does use her telephone a lot.

Lesla had gone to France in Mar. What an experience! When she got back, Dorothy, Julie, Lesa and I went to Regina to shop. A fun trip. Steve and Kathy are very good to me and do so much. Steve is always busy with the farming. Kathy is kept busy with the family, keeping up their place, and is real good about mowing and clipping around the buildings.

Time goes by quickly. Lots of grasshoppers in the spring so Steve had to spray. The little rain we had was a life saver for the crops. Not a "biggy" but the potential was there. It was so much better than we've had for some years.

Life for me, as for everyone, has been a mixture of happiness and sadness, joy and sorrow. At times I feel I've been overwhelmed by problems and then find that the problems were caused by a wrong decision I had made. Then I must ask for forgiveness and pick up the pieces. That's when I remember what my Dad tried to teach us years ago--to snare, to say I'm sorry when I hurt someone, to hold hands and stick together. Why not start over?

Thanksgiving was again at Randall's in Miles City with a full house. Lesa, her roommate Camille and two Norwegian boys from Concordia, Jeff from Bozeman, Dallas and family from Billings, Steve, Kathy, Christy and me, and Julie came for a couple of hours but had to get back to work. As other years we had a very nice time.

Christmas was again here but a little different. Kathy and Christy had gone to be with Kathy's mother so were missed. Christmas Eve all of the Randalls, Rich and his family, and Steve and Jeff were here. Bruce wanted his last Christmas as a single man spent here. All the ladies went in for candlelight services. Christmas Day Rich's went to Culbertson, and about 3 P. M. Jay, Dorothy and Bruce left for Miles City. Lesa stayed to help take down Christmas Decorations. She and Jeff left for Miles City around noon, on the 26th, as rehearsal dinner was that evening. Steve and I left Mon. getting to Randalls in time for brunch. Bruce and Melanie were married that afternoon in the Lutheran Church. Afterwards there was a reception at the Veterans Club. The wedding was lovely and everyone was happy. The next day the gifts were opened at Randall's.

I spent a few days at Randall's and then Dorothy took me to Billings. After a few days with Dallas and family I am ready to go to Mesa. The weather turned cold and wintry. My family have been very good to me. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

1988

I had a nice non stop flight to Mesa. It was 75 when I got off the plane and had been 20 when I left Billings. The three months in Mesa are great and Lil and I have so much in common. I had more company this year than ever before, so many relatives and friends, as did Lil. We not only share the expenses but also the friends and relatives. Alda flew from Mpls. to Clinton and Grace's and I flew from Mesa for four great days together. All to soon it is time to go home. Dorothy came to Billings after me and after spending Easter with Jay and her, they took me home staying a few days to help me get organized. They have been so good about helping. They came again in May for my birthday and helped a few days. Steve and Kathy took us all to The All Season's Fish Fry at the Elks in Glasgow. Delicious!

Kathy spent thirty five days with her mother in Seattle as she's not a bit well. In Sept. her mother came to Mont. and now is at Nemont Manor in Glasgow. It seemed better this way. Jeff is working at the hospital in Wolf Point. Christy is "rodeoing" and Steve generally goes with her. Greg Redekopp spent four days with me while here for a class reunion. What a fine young man he is!

This year again practically no rain and the crop was very poor. Federal Crop Insurance allowed us two bushels an acre on barley, wheat did not average 10 bushels and some was even not cut. The oats was no better. When Alda came in Aug. she was surprised the way things looked. We made a trip to Havre to see Marras. Dorothy came and took us to Opheim and we found Mother's Grave, something Alda and I often talked of doing. Arliss, Robyn and Ryan and Dallas and family were here in Aug. too.

In Sept. I had to go to Billings to have a Kerato acan thoma removed. Julie took me to Miles City and then Dorothy went with me so I didn't have to be alone. The Dr. tho't he had everything taken care of but in Dec. I had to go back and had a Squamous Skin Cancer taken care of. This time they used Moh's Micrographic Surgery and it required 50 stitches. It is a form of skin cancer. The Dr. is confident he got it all. Again Dorothy came to my rescue, going with me and seeing that I got home.

Julie, Christy and I went to Randall's for Thanksgiving. Steve and Kathy did not want to leave Kathy's mother. Everyone understood. There were 16 of us there including Dallas and family, Bruce and Melanie, Jeff, Lesa and three friends from Concordia, Julie, Christy and me. Christy said the nicest Thanksgiving she ever had had. We all had a good time.

We did have a white Christmas. Rich and family came the Tues. before, Randalls on the 23rd, and Steve and family and Kathy's mother joined us for Christmas Eve and again Christmas Day. Arliss, Dorothy, Lesa and Julie took over the kitchen. Rich and family went to Culbertson for Christmas Day but came back the 26th for two more days. Randalls left on the 26th. It was another lovely Christmas.

Tonite is New Year's Eve. We have six inches of snow. Tomorrow I go with Jeff to Billings and then on to Mesa. Am so glad Lil asked me to come again.

As I sum up what I've written over the years I realize more and more that life is very much an on going business. Nothing is really ever solved or settled. We live from day to day, year to year making the best of it. That isn't a bad thing. On the contrary it can be very good. It also can be very frightening! There are going to be surprises along the way, and some of them won't be pleasant. Here again we have no choice but to live from day to day, year to year till our time on earth is over. MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU ALL!