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COON VALLEY
IN
PICTURES

* * FOREWORD * *

This little volume is a study of a minute unit of a great democracy. Unfortunately there exists no pictorial record of the very early Norwegian settlers of Coon Valley. Perhaps some day some one with imagination and artistic ability will reconstruct the life of these earliest pioneers graphically.

In the days of long ago (1850) the settlers went into the woods, cut down trees and shaped the logs into a house. A store, a church, a school and a blacksmithship were built with logs. Soon a dam was built on Coon Creek which furnished the water power for a stone grit mill which ground and sifted the grains into flour and feed.

To provide the necessities of life was a serious and severe struggle. The soil was fertile, but the land had to be cleared by grubbing. For a time, stream and forest furnished an abundance of fish and game. The Norwegians did not take so well to having only skins and pelts for clothes and bedding, so they raised sheep, sheared them, and carded, spun and wove the wool into cloth for clothes, bedding, etc. Perhaps local vegetation furnished the dyes used. Little cotton was used because it was so expensive.

They had a mighty source of power in the form of oxen. These were guided without reins by using four words: giddap, whoa, gee, and haw. An oxen trip to La Crosse (18 miles) over the primitive road was an event of three or four days. The principle vehicle was a home-made affair called a "kubberull." The wheels of this were four inch sections of the largest log available. The more prosperous settler had iron tires on the wheels. The bearings of the wheels and axle were, of course, of wood. Even with the slowly moving oxen and wheels lubricated with tallow or bear grease there was powerful squeaking.

The furniture was all made at home. To conserve space during the day time, a full-sized lower bed could be pushed under a higher bed. The mattresses were straw ticks. Deer skin thongs and later ropes woven on the bed frame supported the ticks. Each log house had several benches, a table, a cabinet and one or more "kubbestols." The latter was hewn out of a section of a log to give a seat and also back and arm rests. The privilege of sitting in these went to the senior members of the family.

Other home industries consisted of making tallow candles (the only source of artificial light for many years), moccasins, maple sirup, soap (from wood ashes and animal fat) and the curing of meat. By about 1870 they had iron stoves and stove pipes. We can imagine that the blacksmith was an important man in those days. The store supplied salt, sugar, tobacco, coffee, tea, gun powder, shot, essential hardware, medicines and other prime needs. These supplies were hauled by oxen from La Crosse.

Dances were held in the houses because the log barns did not have floors. Waltzes square dances, particularly the "spring" dance were popular. All guests could not take part in the "halling" because that required the ability to kick to the ceiling (about 7 feet).

There was not much law business in Coon Valley, and such as there was largely consisted in land title transactions at the county seat. Although Gund's brewery furnished refreshments for dances and weddings there were no brawls. This community of God-fearing people has been singularly free from murders, stabbings and scandals. Once there was a scare in Coon Valley because Jesse James had stayed over night at Prairie House, a tavern on the La Crosse road. The host slept well that night because Jesse did not identify himself until the next morning. The local justice of the peace had little official business. The pastor and teacher were respected as learned men. There was no family whose social standing towered over that of another. It was, and I believe still is, a small democratic unit like so many others from which grew the great United States.

The authors have done a commendable service to the present and future generations and to future historians in compiling this book, and it is most sincerely wished and hoped that it will be a most welcome addition to every home library in Coon Valley.
July 25, 1942.

JOSEPH M. LIEN,
Valparaiso University,
Valparaiso, Indiana

COON VALLEY • • • BEFORE 1900



A VIEW OF COON VALLEY TAKEN IN 1895

In this book we have tried to present an 'informal pictorial history' of the entire Coon Valley region during the latter half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. These pictures have been selected for their representation of life in Coon Valley during this time and for their clarity for reproduction in this form. It has been difficult to choose from the vast number of pictures we have collected, a characteristic few that would be of interest to those who have lived in this region. Our aim has been to present an accurate, truthful, and interesting picture of life in Coon Valley at this time, with a text designed to explain and interpret the pictures. We hope you will enjoy it.

• • • THE COON VALLEY ROLLER MILLS • • •



... The mill, in 1875. The Coon Valley Roller Mill was built in 1860 and water rights were granted that year. Henry Johnson was the first owner. In 1865 it was purchased by Schneider and Baker, who built a feed mill—besides the saw mill—in 1868. Schneider Brothers owned the mill until it was purchased in 1875 by Nels H. Neprud. At the time this picture was taken, Schneider Brothers' owned it. The industry included lumber sawing, flour and feed grinding, pearling barley, and carding wool. On this picture—left to right, JOE LOESSEL, JAKE JACOBSON, MR. SCHNEIDER, JOE JOHNSON, WENZEL SCHNEIDER, his son, FRANK SCHNEIDER, and the smaller children of the Schneider and Jacobson families.



This is the way the mill looked in 1897. In this picture, NORDAHL NEPRUD, KELLY NEPRUD, JOHN NEPRUD, TORGER JOHNSON, LEWIS LARSON, HANS HOFF, (on wagon), on rock.



... The mill, in the winter, of 1907.

• • and THE OLD CREAMERY • • • • •



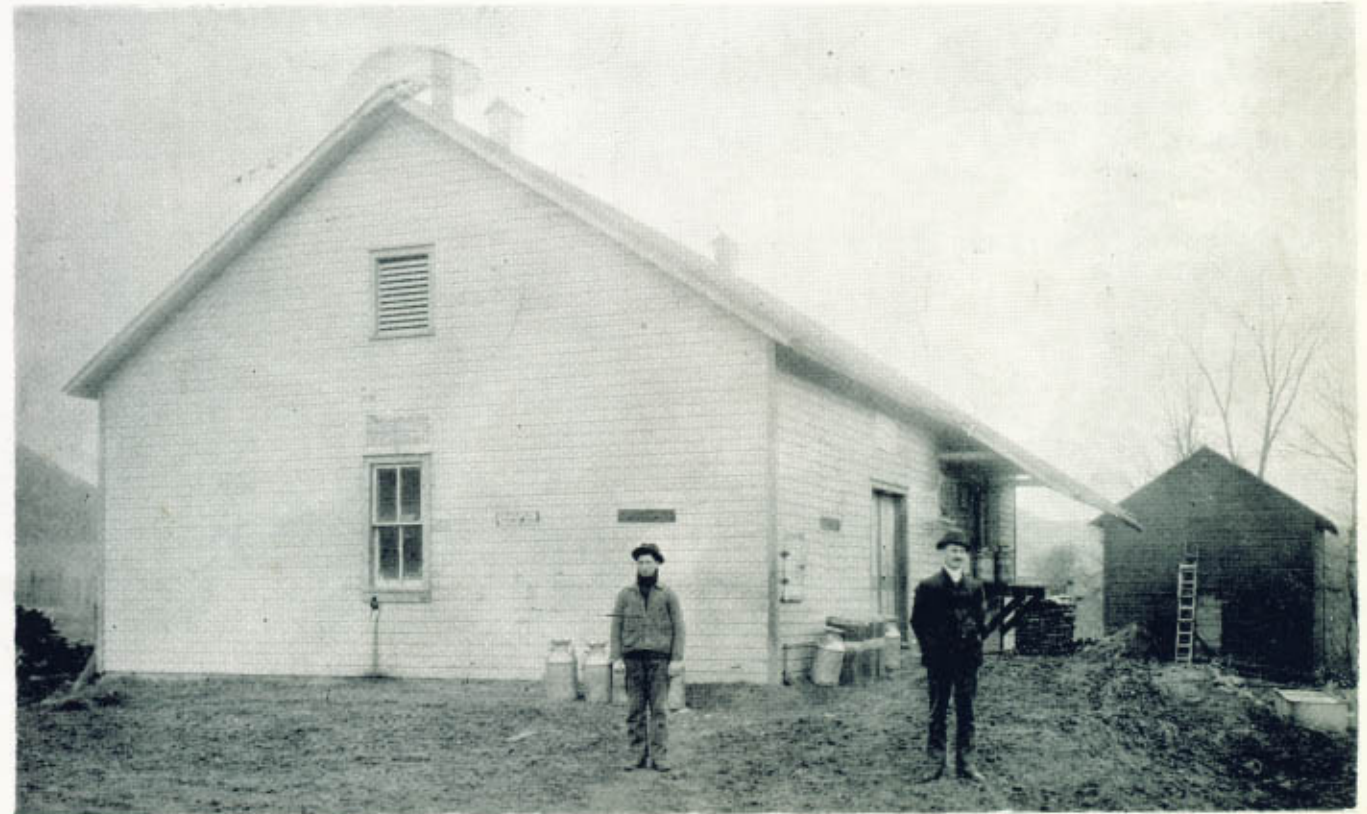
A view showing the mill in about 1900. On this picture are the following: GILBERT GALSTAD, (driving team), HANS HOFF, NORDAHL NEPRUD, MRS. NORDAHL NEPRUD, MALLA NEPRUD, MABLE NEPRUD, LEWIS LARSON, MRS. LEWIS LARSON, RUDELLA NEPRUD, ELMER NEPRUD, HELGA HOLMGREN (in front), KELLY NEPRUD, (on horse), OSTEN RULLAND, C. N. NEPRUD, NELS NEPRUD, CARL NEPRUD, (in surrey).



A scene of the mill in 1912 that shows the old creamery on the right

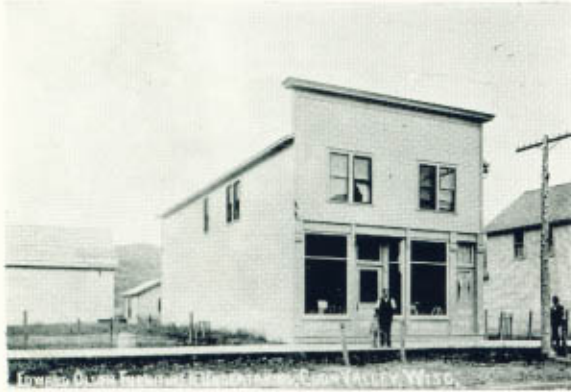


... The mill bridge and the dam as it looked in about 1907.



The COON VALLEY CREAMERY ... in about 1900. It was built in 1895 and began business in 1896.

DOWN "MAIN STREET"



(above) This is the way Ed Olson's furniture store looked on Main Street in 1906. Ed Olson and his son, Grant, are standing in front of the store. (Above, right) . . . a scene of the inside of the furniture store taken the same year, Ed Olson is standing in the background. (Right, below) "In the morning after the fire" was the title given this picture by photographer Davidson. Olson's store burned in 1910.



The picture above shows Thorson's photo shop as it was in 1906. Standing in front of the shop is Mrs. T. J. Thorson and her son, LaMont Thorson. Below, the studio as it looked inside when it was owned by T. Davidson. Mrs. Davidson is standing on the right.



One of the best places in town to stop in for a chat: the ol' barber shop! This picture was taken in the summer of 1909. Lewie Stuempges is in the first chair, being shaved by Fred Harrison, who owned the shop at that time. Kelly Neprud is the other barber—but we couldn't find out whom the other 'customer' was.



SEEING COON VALLEY'S FIRST STORES



This photograph was made from an old tintype of Mrs. Anna Neprud's. It is a picture of the "Valley People Store"—taken in about 1880.



This is the way the Coon Valley Bank looked inside in about 1906, when E. B. Knutson was the cashier. The first Board of Directors of the Coon Valley Bank consisted of the following: SIMON P. LIER, FRANK SCHAPER, DR. K. C. STORLIE, WENZEL KORN, L. O. BRYE, H. C. HJERLIED, E. B. KNUTSON.



Dr. Storlie had the first car, and also the first drug store in Coon Valley. The picture on the left, (above), shows Dr. Storlie in front of his store in 1906. The picture on the right shows the inside of the store that same year.



ANDREW BOTHNA'S store—in about 1880. From left to right, ANDREW ENGBRETSON, HELGE GULBRANDSON, JOHAN ENGBRETSON, OLE SLETTE, JR., JE-HANS GRAUPE, MRS. MARTHA ENGBRETSON, MISS MARY LARSEN.



This picture of the Coon Valley Hotel was taken sometime before 1917. The car parked out in front was one of the first cars ever to stop in Coon Valley, and it belonged to a travelling salesman.



MOILIEN & HALMRAST—the store was completed in 1905 and this picture was taken the following year.



This picture of the store was taken about 50 years ago. E. ALTON is the driver of the stage, TOBIAS LANGBLOFEN, HANS HOFF, (sitting); in back, from left to right: CLARENCE HOFF, WILLIAM H. HANSON, HANS HANSON, J. LIEN, TORKEL OFTE, CHRISTIAN HANSON, HENRY A. HANSON.

Hanson's store was built in 1869 and was razed in 1939. Hans Hanson operated the store from the time it was built until his death in 1935. He was postmaster for twenty years. The picture on the right shows Hans when he was 80 years old.



This picture of HANS HANSON in front of his store will bring back memories to almost everyone in and around Coon Valley. Remember how Hans used to take a square piece of paper and with a whisk of his fingers make it into a firm paper bag? And remember, when you were a kid, how good those licorice pipes and chocolate cigars looked bulging out of that hand-made wrapper? Remember how Hans used to chuckle as he allowed you to 'sample' several kinds of candy before you decided which to buy?



From 1905 until 1917, this store was known as "Moilien and Halmrast". It was built in 1905, and this picture was taken that same year—before its completion. From left to right, SETLES OFTE, (sitting on porch), MR. KANST, (demonstrator of Bemet ranges), MAGNUS HALMRAST, JOHN MOILIEN, MRS. MAGNUS HALMRAST, MORTON SLETTE, AASNE VEUM, MRS. JOHN MOILIEN, ADOLPH HAUGE, CARL AMUNDSON OLSTAD, TILLIE MOILIEN, T. J. MOILIEN.



COON VALLEY'S FIRST OFFICERS



The first officers in Coon Valley were elected September 5, 1907. They were: left to right, first row: T. J. MOILIEN, EDWARD OLSON, E. B. KNUTSON; Second row, MARCUS SATHER, OLE DUNNAM; in back, PETER RUNNIG, ANTON NELSON, DAVE STEVLINGSON, CARL ANDERSON, DR. KNUTE STÖRLIE, CALVERT DUNNUM.

Edward Olson was president, E. B. Knutson, clerk, and T. J. Moilien, treasurer.



THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH



(Above top) When Joe Fencl came to Coon Valley in 1892 he worked in this blacksmith shop for 15 years. It belonged to John Stuempges. This picture was taken in 1896. The gentleman on the extreme right is JOHN STUEMPGES. The other picture (directly above) is also of Stuempges' shop. From left to right, FRANK WEISHAUPT, JOE FENCL, MRS. JOHN STUEMPGES, JOHN STUEMPGES. (Also the horse that nodded 'yes' when asked if they were ready for the picture to be taken!) It was taken in 1892.



In the doorway of the old blacksmith shop: "SWEDE" JOHN-SON, GEORGE RONKEN, ANTON NORDSTROM.



This is the way the blacksmith shop looked when owned by Albert A. Thruene. From left to right, JOHN GRIMSRUD, CHESTER THRUENE, ALBERT THRUENE.



This picture was taken in 1906. Joe Fencl bought the shop in this picture from Albert Thruene in 1906—the year he was married, and he has been in the same building since then.

JOSEPH FENCL

Not only as the village blacksmith, but as one of Coon Valley's most loved and respected citizens, "Joe" Fencil has lived in Coon Valley since he came to America in 1892. He came over on the "Kaiser Wilhelm" from Vienna. 'Joe' Fencil was born near Pilsea, Czechoslovakia, November 12, 1869, and he went to Vienna at the age of 13 to learn his trade, as an apprentice blacksmith working in a factory for three years. "Then I got my diploma", 'Joe' chuckles as he recalls those days in Vienna in the gay '90's. "There wasn't any depression there THEN," he recalls. His brother Frank came over with him.

'Joe' Fencil worked at John Stuemppes' blacksmith shop (see page 8) for fifteen years after he came to Coon Valley. Then he rented a shop for

four years before he bought his own blacksmith shop. He has been the village blacksmith for 50 years. But that isn't all. He's been fire-chief for 25 years, and janitor of the Catholic church for 25 years. There are very few Catholic families living in this Norwegian Lutheran community. "Guess I was janitor 'cause there wasn't any one else to be it," 'Joe' modestly says. 'Joe' has been the drummer in the Coon Valley band for many years, and also served the village board.

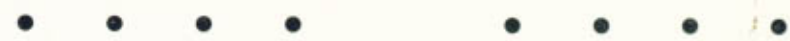
Joseph Fencil was married to Mary Sedevia, St. Joseph Ridge, in 1906—the same year he bought his blacksmith shop from Albert Thrune. They had four children, two of whom are living—Agnes and Frank.



The photo on the right was taken of Lars K. Brve in his home, in the year 1895. He built his house in 1857. The room shown in this picture was an addition built later, in 1868, and it still remains on the northwest corner of the house where Adolph C. Brye now lives. Built of logs, the original house built by Lars K. Brye measured 26 feet by 20 feet. Below is a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Lars K. Brye. Mr. Brye emigrated from Norway to America in 1849, and he died in 1915.



VIEWS OF THE VALLEY AND THE VILLAGE



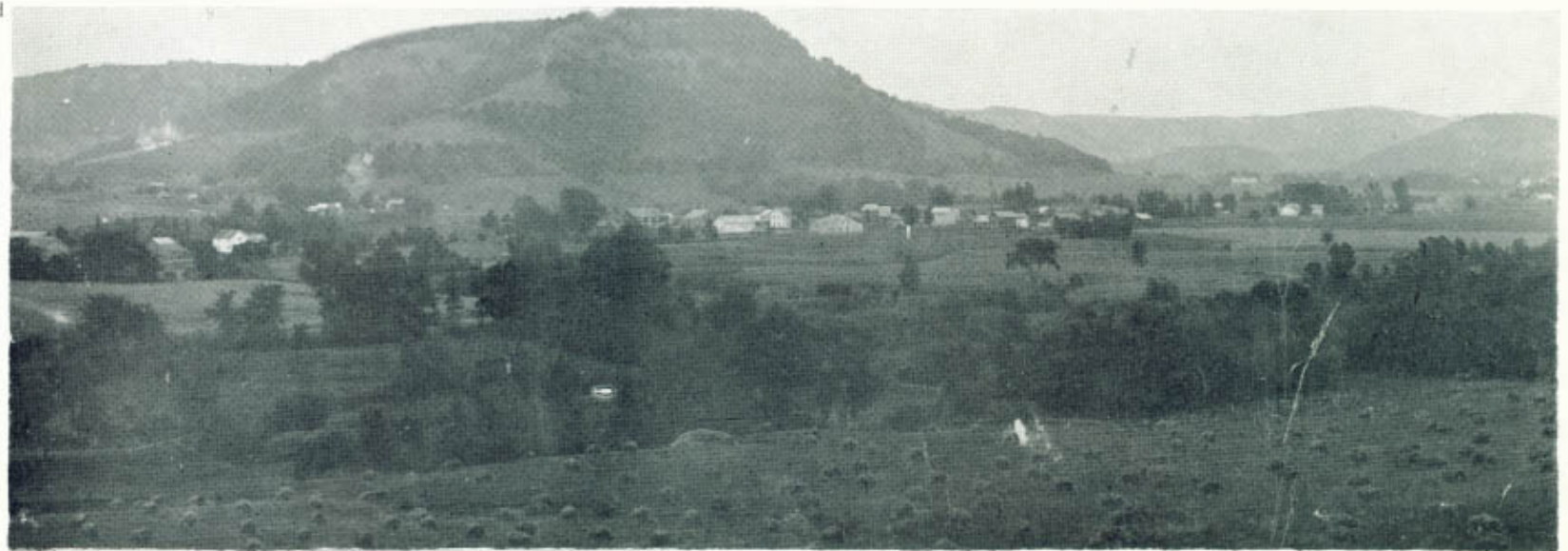
A scene of the valley as it was in about 1908.



This scene was taken in 1940—from a south-facing bluff above the Thrune farm.

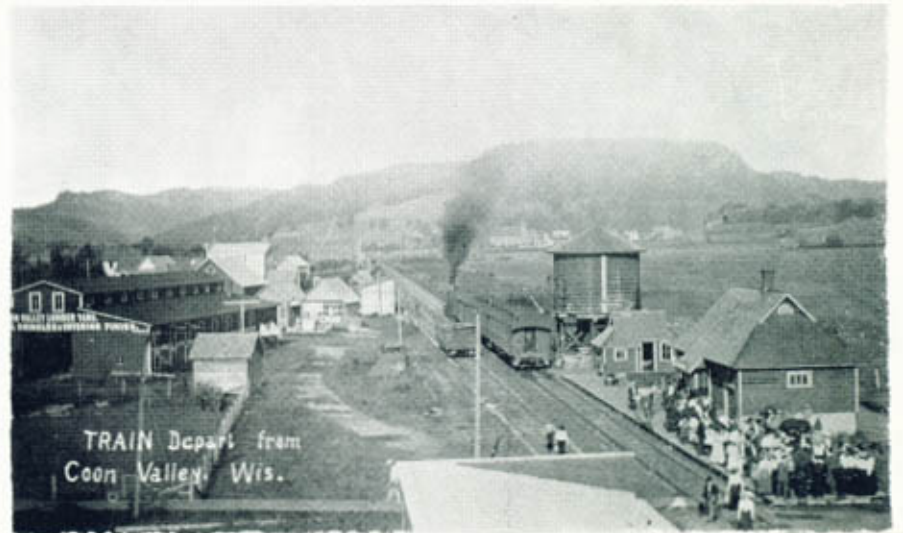
The Peter Moilien farm is on the right of this picture, which was taken in 1940 by Lloyd Thrune.

The valley in 1892.





A 'Birds-eye-view' of Coon Valley in 1908, showing the old Southeastern, (on left). (Below left), the station in 1912. The picture in the middle, (below), shows the famous Southeastern in action. (Below, right) "Main Street" was almost empty and the stores and houses seemed deserted when everyone hurried to the depot to see the Southeastern come in! This picture shows a crowd at the station in 1908.



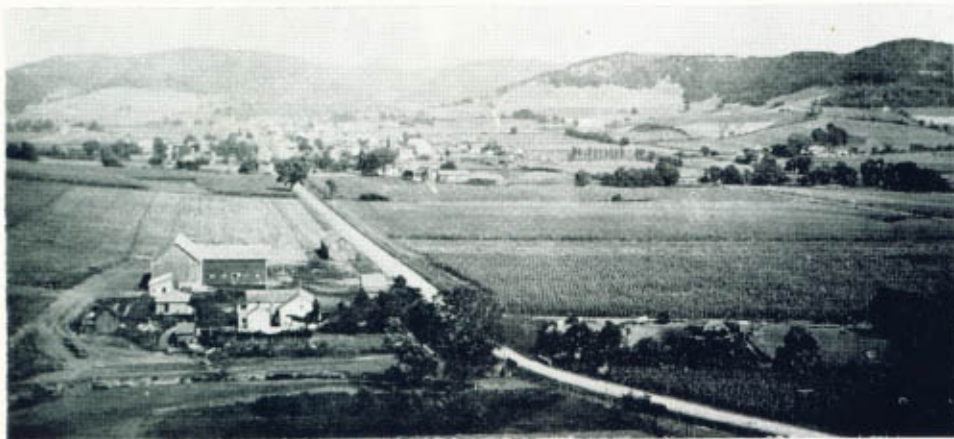
A view of Coon Valley in 1908.



The valley as it looks today.



The Coon Valley mill was still standing when this picture was taken in about 1920.



A picturesque part of highway No. 14, showing the L. O. Brye farm on the left . . . taken in 1912.

in January, 1908.



4th OF JULY . . . 1906



A 'winter-wonderland' that seems like fairyland, but it's really Coon Valley, Wisconsin. This was taken in 1910.



The village in the summertime—at the present time.



A colorful parade, races, fire-crackers, and the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Emily Stromstad were some of the high-lights of the big celebration in Coon Valley on July 4, 1906. It was that day the "State Ladies" marched in the parade, each one dressed in white, carrying a banner with the name of the state she represented. (As you know, there were only 45 states at that time, for Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico hadn't joined the Union).

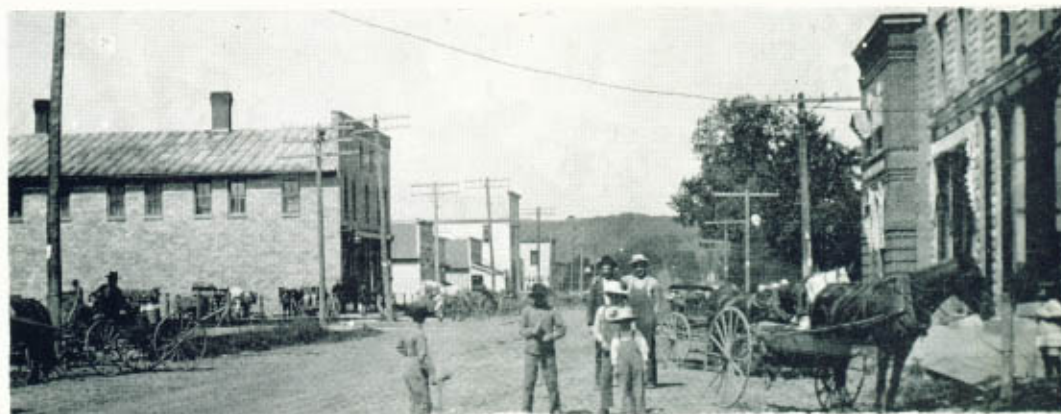
This was the day of the 'fat-men's race' — when Irishman McPheters won, although he came in **last**, because he was the first to touch the rope! It was the day of the dusty, noisy horse race right up Main Street, when Sempke's horse won the race with a dead gallop. Laura Strangstalien won the 'ladies' ball throwing contest! People thronged to the village from miles away, and in the evening there were fireworks.

The top picture shows part of the parade. John Moilien, Civil War veteran, is carrying the flag. The other picture (above) shows the "State Ladies" on parade.

"MAIN STREET"



A photograph by Davidson of Main Street in 1910.



Photographer Davidson took this picture in 1909 and gave it the title "A Busy Day in Coon Valley".



Another view . . . notice the board walk.



. . . showing the west side of Main Street.



A view of the village, showing the mill. Taken July 11, 1910.

UPPER COON VALLEY CHURCH



Dedication of the Church . . . July 20, 1877.



A view of the church, taken in about 1897.



In 1920 . . . a missionfest at the church.



Cleaning the church. This was taken in 1909. In front, left to right, MRS. NICK MIDTLIEN, MRS. GURINE MAURHAUGEN (NELSON), MRS. CARL NEPRUID, CARL NEPRUID, HANS BJORNSTAD, HANS NEPRUID, second row, MRS. AMUND AMBROSON, MRS. MARIE IHLE, MRS. CARL DAFFINRUID, third row, MRS. OLE OLSON, LENA BRENDUM, EDNA IVERSON, MARTIN OLSON, MRS. T. DAVIDSON, OLE BOSTAD, MRS. LAURITZ ERICKSON, back row, HELGA VOLD, MRS. HANS BAKKUM, MRS. JOHN SLOAN.

SEMI
CENTENNIAL
OCTOBER 8
1899



This picture was taken in 1899 at the time of the Norsk semi-centennial celebration at the Coon Valley church. The newspaper report at the time said there were over 600 waggon and about 4,000 people at the celebration. A speakers' stand was built by the side of the church. the program was as follows:

1. Welcome.....by Rev. H. Roalkvam
2. Music.....Viroqua Cornet Band
3. Oration.....Helge Larson
4. Song.....Normana choir of La Crosse
5. Music.....Viroqua Cornet Band
6. Talk: "Pioneers and our Inheritance" by Rasmus B. Anderson, Madison, Wisconsin. (Editor of "Amerika").

7. Song...Lower Coon Valley choir, directed by A. E. Anderson
8. Talk by Col. Butt of Viroqua. (On the Civil War).
9. Music.....Viroqua Cornet Band
10. Talk.....C. J. Smith, Viroqua
11. Song....."My Country 'Tis of Thee" by Normana choir of La Crosse
12. Talk.....Judge Mahoney, Viroqua
13. Music.....Viroqua Cornet Band
14. Song.....Normana choir
15. Talk.....Attorney Martin Bergh, La Crosse
16. Song.....Coon Valley choir
17. Music.....Viroqua Cornet Band
18. Talk.....closing the celebration, by Rev. H. Roalkvam

The newspaper 'reporter' covering the event was Mr. Kvelve, of the Norwegian newspaper "Amerika". The following account of the event is a translation of some of his story.

..... "I began my long journey to Coon Valley, where a large fest was to be held. Saturday, the 7th, I reached La Crosse, where I met many old friends. J. H. Koefod, schoolteacher and book-seller, Coon Valley, had come to La Crosse to meet me. At about 4 o'clock we began our journey to Coon Valley. We went rrough Mormon Coulee, over the ridge, and reached the village by 8 p.m. I stayed with him at his home. "50 yr fest" was the next day, Sunday the 8th. From all directions came the horse drawn vehicles. It was a beautiful day in every respect."



The picture on the left shows the church at the time of a Sangerfest in 1909. The above picture shows the same occasion. Notice the two flags—American above Norwegian.



A scene showing the church, school, cemetery and the old Southeastern from across the bridge on the east, in 1906. The sawing outfit in the foreground belonged to Weishaupt and Steumpges.



"The Easter parade" entering the church on Easter morning, 1908.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH



The picture above is of Father Theo. Fraling, taken in 1942. Father Fraling was the architect and constructor of the Catholic church in Coon Valley, and pastor there from 1910 until 1923. The congregation was organized in the fall of 1909 and there were about 20 families in it then. Joseph Fencil and Martin Thiele were elected trustees. The cornerstone was laid and blessed by Father Fraling on April 7, 1910. A sanctuary was added to the church by him in 1918. (The above picture was taken before the sanctuary was added). The picture on the left, (below), shows Father Fraling's Beagle hound sitting in his famous Sears car. Father Pinion is the present pastor of this church.



THE VILLAGE DOCTORS

DR. HERMANN J. A. KERSIECK practiced medicine in Ozaukee, Vernon and Grant counties for forty nine years. He was born in Blankenhagen, Germany, and was educated in the Friedrich Wilhelm University of Berlin, University of Leipzig, and the University of Munich. He received his Doctor's degree at the University of Freiburg in 1889. He was married to Marie Scheidet of Freiburg, Germany, and came to the United States in October, 1892. Dr. Kersieck died at the age of 77 years, in 1941.



Dr. A. A. SOLBERG and his daughter, Jean, in his Overland car, in 1916.



DR. A. A. SOLBERG, an ardent Republican, and a hunting and fishing enthusiast, was born in Trondhjem, Norway, 1884. He has studied at the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery, Sloan Clinic, Bloomington, Illinois, Chicago Policlinic and Hospital, and Fairview Hospital, Minneapolis. He is a member of the staff of the La Crosse hospital and served as president of the staff for three years. He has been the village doctor in Coon Valley since 1915.

SCHOOL DAYS

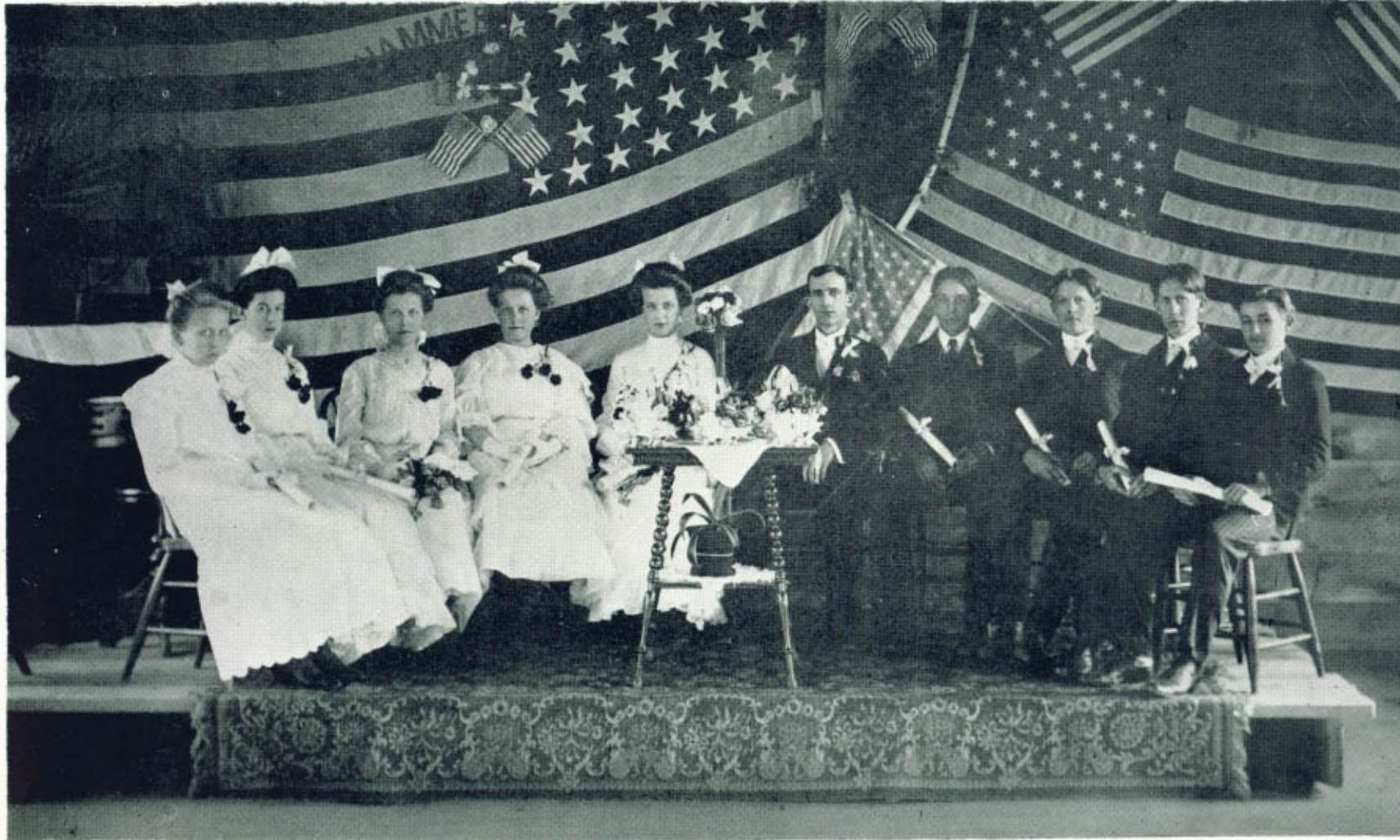


Tilla Thiege was the teacher when this picture was taken of the Coon Valley school in 1900-1901. From left to right in the front row, ALVIN LIEN, KELLY NEPRUD, SIGURD OLSON, SELMER LEE, ALTON RUNDAHL, ADOLPH STUEMPGES, OSCAR NORDSTROM, EDDIE STUEMPGES, CHRISTINE HANSON, IDA STUEMPGES, RUDELLA NEPRUD, NORA MIDTLIEN, IRENE IHLE, OLGA NEPRUD. In the second row, left to right, HEDWIN NORDSTROM, BENNIE IHLE, JOSEPH LISBAKKEN, NELS NORDSTROM, MINNIE NELSON, HILDA RUND AHL, HATTIE LIEN, SUSIE STUEMPGES, ALICE LEE, INGA MIDTLIEN, MINNIE NEPRUD, CARRIE HANSON, MALLA NEPRUD, AMANDA MIDTLIEN. Third row, SELMER LIER, PETER CHRISTIANSON THORSTAD, ADOLPH LEE, OLE ERICKSON, RUDOLPH LIER, TILLA THIEGE, ANNA NELSON, MALLA JOHNSON, MABEL NEPRUD.

In the spring of 1903 this picture was taken, when Ole L. Leum was the teacher. In the front row, left to right, MARTIN OLSON, ARTHUR LIEN, NORTON NEPRUD, LESTER MILLS, ELMER NEPRUD, WALTER STUEMPGES, ALF ANDERSON. In the second row, left to right, HELEN NEPRUD, IDA STUEMPGES, RUDELLA NEPRUD, LAURA NEPRUD, OLE LEUM, HELEN LARSEN, OLGA LIER, NORA MIDTLIEN, OLGA NEPRUD, FLORENCE HOLLAND, MALLA EVENSON (Bagstad), RAGNA EVENSON (Bagstad), HELGA HOLMGREN. Third row, left to right, HARRY MILLS, SIGURD OLSON, MORRIS LIER, JOSEPH VOLDEN, SELMER LEE, ALVIN LIEN, OSCAR NORDSTROM, EDDIE STUEMPGES, JOHN NELSON, ALTON RUNDAHL, NELS NORDSTROM, ADOLPH STUEMPGES. Fourth row, left to right, BENNIE LISBAKKEN, ALBERT AMUNDSON, MORRIS EVENSON (Bagstad), VICTOR ANDERSON, KELLY NEPRUD, HEDWIN NORDSTROM, MALLA NEPRUD, MINNIE NEPRUD, MINNIE NELSON, HATTIE LIEN, SUSIE STUEMPGES, AMELIA ANDERSON, AMANDA MIDTLIEN, JESSIE HALLAND. Back row, left to right, ADOLPH EVENSON (Bagstad), KNUT VILLAND, ADOLPH LEE, HENRY RUNDAHL, LEWIE STUEMPGES, JOSEPH LISBAKKEN, OLGA LIEN, INGA MIDTLIEN, ALICE LEE, ANNA NELSON, MABEL NEPRUD, HILDA RUNDAHL.



• • • • • AND GRADUATION • • • • •



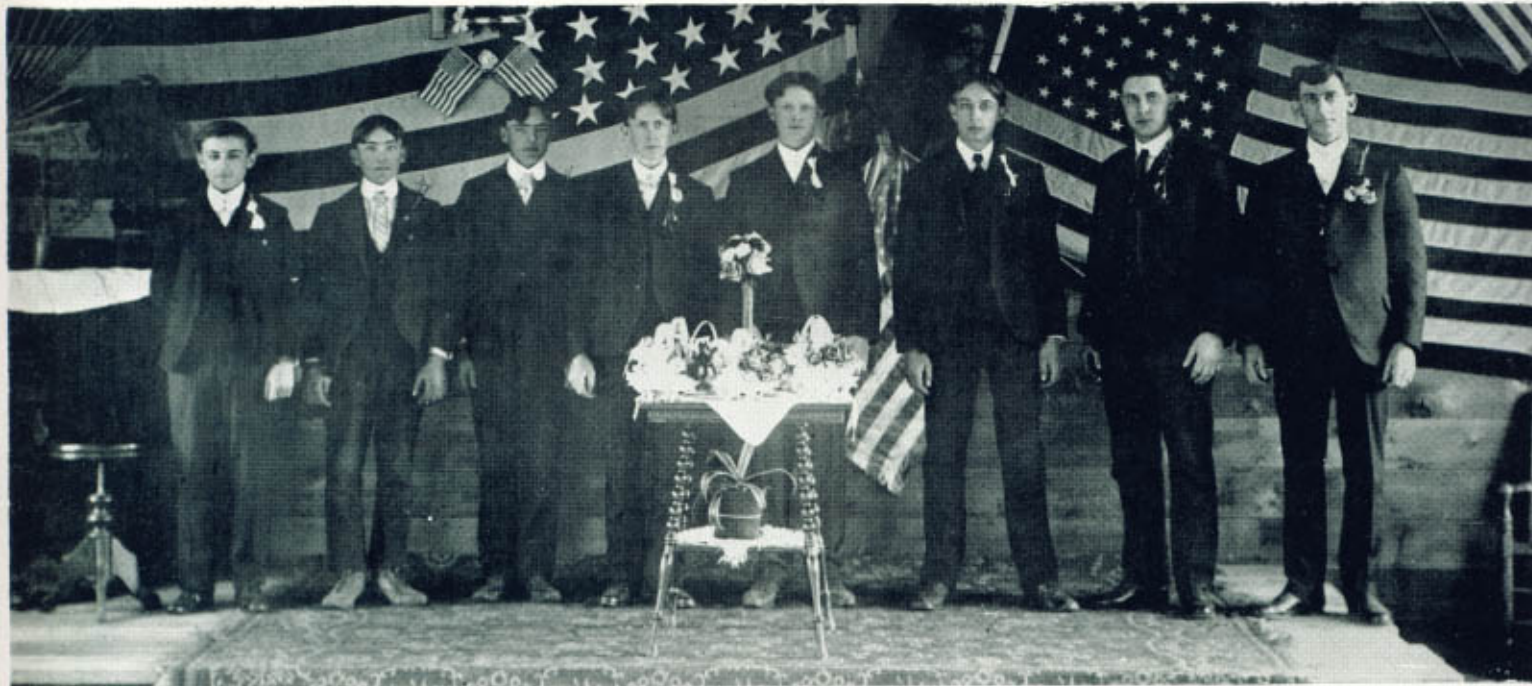
The class of 1904—left to right, MABEL NEPRUID, ROSANNA BRYE, ALICE LEE, HILDA RUNDAHL, INGA MIDTLIEN, OLE L. LEUM (teacher), ARTHUR IHLE, ADOLPH LEE, HENRY RUNDAHL, LEWIE STUEMPGES.

On side of picture:

The first eighth-grade graduation from a state graded school in Coon Valley took place on Friday evening, April 15, at eight o'clock in the Temperance Hall, when the class of '04 received their diplomas. The valedictorian ended her speech with . . . "And now, fellow scholars, the class of htis year will soon separate, probably never again to be united." . . . but the class had a reunion in 1928 and the picture below was taken at that time. The class is standing in the same order as when they received their diplomas—only Lewis Stuempges is absent.



GRADUATION IN 1904



On the left is a picture of the boys' chorus that sang at the 1904 commencement exercises, from left to right, LEWIE STUEMPGES, JOHN ERICKSON, EMIL ERICKSON, HENRY RUNDAHL, ADOLPH LEE, ARTHUR IHLE, TILMER MOLLIEN, DAN JEFFERS. Below is the program of the occasion.

PROGRAM.

INVOCATION	Rev. H. Roalkvam	ESSAY	By Their Fruit Ye Shall Know Them Hilda J. Rundahl
MUSIC	Band	VOCAL SOLO	E. Fremstad
SALUTATORY and ESSAY	What Makes the Sky Blue Mabel Neprud.	ORATION—Our Country	Arthur J. Ihle
SONG—This Letter Is for My Papa	School Girls	CLARINET SOLO	H. Bye
ORATION	Education as Related to Civic Prosperity Lewie Stuempges.	ORATION	The Decisive Battle of the Rebellion Inga N. Midtlien.
PIANO SOLO—Flower Song	Alma Neprud	VOCAL DUET	Gathering Flowers in May Inga Midtlien and Thea Mollien.
ORATION—Abraham Lincoln	Rosanna Brye	ORATION—Electricity	Henry J. Rundahl
VOCAL SOLO	Beside the Camp-fire, Idly Dreaming Alice Lee.	SONG	School
ORATION—Treason of Benedict Arnold	Adolph Lee	VALEDICTORY	Alice Lee
VOCAL DUET	O Tell Us Merry Birds Inga N. Midtlien and Rosanna Brye.	PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS	Supt. H. L. Gardner
		MALE QUARTET	Good Night Ladies
		BENEDICTION	
		MUSIC	Band

CLASS OF 1904.

Mabel Neprud,
Hilda J. Rundahl,
Rosanna Brye,
Inga N. Midtlien,
Alice Lee,
Lewie Stuempges,
Henry J. Rundahl,
Arthur J. Ihle,
Adolph Lee.

SCHOOL BOARD.

Mrs. Nordahl Neprud,
Lewie Larson,
Adolph Brye.
TEACHER—OLE L. LEUM.

MOTTO:—Hammer It Out.

CLASS COLORS:—Light Blue and White.



'Readin', 'Ritin', 'Rithmetic and pigtails! They'll all bring back memories of the old school room. This picture was taken in 1906, when Ole Leum was the teacher. The school board was visiting he daty the picture was taken. At the black-

board in front is ROSANNA BRYE. The others in front, from left to right, are: OLE LEUM, MRS. NORDAHL NEPRUD, LEWIS LARSON, ADOLPH C. BRYE.



In about 1909, Larry Showen and Florence Weber taught at the Coon Valley school. Taken at that time, this picture shows the following students: front row, left to right: HJELMER BJORNSTAD, WALTER HECHT, HARRIET THOMPSON, OLGA HOLMGREN, MARIE JOHNSON, MAUD ANDERSON, BJORGE, MILDRED OUTCELT, MARGARET SATHER, MARTHA KERKSEICK, IDA MOEN, AGNES STUEMPGES, HARRIET NEPRUD, STORLE, STORLIE, DOROTHY HECHT. Second row, left to right, MALLA OLSON, MARY URBANEK, LILLIAN URBANEK, MARGARET KERKSEICK, ANNA MOEN, LAURA BRYE, ELLEN IVERSON, ESTHER DAFFINRUD, MARTIN STEVLINGSON, BJORNSTAD, CLARENCE OLSTAD, JOHN BASGAARD, CARLTON BURKE, HUGO THOMPSON, JOHNSON, LLOYD JOHNSON. Standing, left to right, LAURA OLSON, MARIE BAGSTAD, EDNA IVERSON, STELLA LIEN, SOPHIA VOLDEN, GJERDA JACOBSON, DELLA ANDERSON, HULDA LIER, LILLIAN HAUGEN, MINERVA STORLIE, CORA RUNDAHL, LARRY SHOWEN (principal), ALVA OLSTAD, HAZEL CLARK, LENA ERICKSON, FLORENCE WEBER (teacher), IRENE MIDTLIEN, CLARA RESSET, MARIE KERKSEICK, LILLIAN NEPRUD, OVEDIA JOHNSON, AGNES NEPRUD, ALMA IVERSON, JOSIE BASGAARD, HELEN NEPRUD, CLIFFORD STORLIE, ALF DUNNUM, JAMES WINGE, WALTER STUEMPGES, TILFORD IVERSON, REUBEN MOEN, NORA MIDTLIEN, HENRY JOHNSON, JULIUS BJORNSTAD, ALF ANDERSON, EDWARD BAGSTAD, MARTIN OLSON, ORLANDO STEVLINGSON, MILNOR DAFFINRUD, OSCAR GILBERTSON, ELMER NELSON, INGMAN NELSON, KENNETH STORLIE, PERLIE HAUGEN, JOE URBANEK, ELMER HAUGEN, OSWALD LIEN, MELVIN IVERSON.





"Onward School" — taken in 1914 when Olga Olson was the teacher. Front row, left to right, THERESA LUCAS, ELMA MOILIEN, HERBERT LUCAS, ESTHER JOHNSON, GEORGE HAUGEN, ALTA BEEBE, OTTO BLYHOVDE, MARIE JOHNSON, MERTON BEEBE, LOUISE LUCAS, CLARA MOILIEN, MILTON KOKKEBY, second row, ALETTA OLSON, HULDA BLYHOVDE, ANNA KNUTSON, EDNA MOLIEN, HILDA MOILIEN, RUTH THRINE, OLGA OLSON, MYRTLE DAHLEN, LLOYD JOHNSON, PALMER OLSON, MABLE KNUTSON, RUBY THRINE, in back, left to right, JOEL KNUTSON, PAUL LUCAS, OTIS DAHLEN, ELMER HAUGEN, ESTHER BRYE, MABLE BLYHOVDE, CARL MOILIEN, JOHN KNUTSON, OLGA BLYHOVDE, EMMA KNUTSON, LILLIAN THRINE.



Inside the school — Olga Olson at her desk.

The first day of school. A day that everyone remembers. This picture shows Annie Knutson and Joel Knutson going to school in about 1915.



"At the Foothills" . . . graduation in about 1914, Olga Olson, teacher. Graduates, from left to right, ELMER HAUGEN, OLGA BLYHOVDE, EMMA KNUTSON.



This picture shows the 'upper room' of the Coon Valley school in 1912, when Nels Erickson was the teacher. Front row, left to right, LILLIAN NEPRUD, MARIE KERKSEICK, LENA ERICKSON, ALVA OLSTAD, STELLA LIEN, JOSIE BASGAARD, LAURA BRYE, MARGARET KERKSEICK, MARY URBANEK, GLADYS URBANEK, second row, INGMAN NELSON, JAMES WINGE, MELVIN IVERSON, KENNETH STORLE, CLIFFORD STORLIE, JULIUS BJORNSTAD, top row, ELMER HAUGEN, REUBEN MOEN, OSCAR ANDERSON, ORLANDO STEVLINGSON, NELS ERICKSON.

Inside the school when it was held at the old Temperance Hall — about 1910. Margaret Graves was the teacher. Some of those on the picture are, from left to right, OSWALD LIEN, ORA LIEN, GRANT THRUNE, JOHN BASGAARD, MARTHA KERKSEICK, OLAF BAGSTAD, ESTHER JOHNSON, STELLA LARSON, JERROLD MOILIEN, FRITZ KERKSEICK, LLOYD JOHNSON, EDNA MOEN, MAUD ANDERSON, ALICE BAGSTAD, LLOYD LARSON, CARLTON BURKE, OLGA HOLMGREN, in class, RAGNA OLSON, HARRIET THOMPSON, HARRIET NEPRUD, GRANT OLSON, MARIE JOHNSON, ELLA URBANEK.



the 'lower grades' — taken about 1914. Front row, left to right, OSWALD LIEN, ORLANDO BURKE, JERROLD MOILIEN, JOE MOEN, HERMAN DAFFINRUD, OLAF BAGSTAD, JULIUS LARSON, DAVID STEVLINGSON, HERMAN STUEMPGES, HELMER BJORNSTAD, WALTER HECHT, CALVERT LARSON, JOHN BASGAARD, GRANT THRUNE. Second row, left to right, HUGO THOMPSON, MAUD JAHR, MABEL VALUM, ALICE SOVDE, ALICE BAGSTAD, MYRTLE OLSTAD, MILDRED OUTCELT, GLADYS SOVDE, CORA STORLIE, MAE THRUNE, MARTHA KERKSEICK, MAUD ANDERSON, MABLE BJORNSTAD, ORA LIEN, ANDREW ERICKSON, third row, left to right, ELMOR ANDERSON, STELLA LARSON, WALTER STUEMPGES, CARLTON BURKE, PETER BJORNSTAD, L. LARSON, FRITZ KERKSEICK, CLARENCE OLSTAD, MARTIN STEVLINGSON, CLARENCE LARSON, LEIF NEPRUD, GRANT OLSON, ANNIE MOEN, MARGARET SATHER. Top row, left to right, ELLA URBANEK, HARRIET THOMPSON, EDNA MOEN, MILDRED STORLIE, HARRIET NEPRUD, ESTHER DAFFINRUD, OLGA HOLMGREN, ELLA IVERSON, HAZEL BJORGE, DOROTHY HECHT, AGNES STUEMPGES.



The picture below shows the funeral of MRS. GJERT SATHER in 1898. In front, on the left of the coffin, AGNES SATHER. First row, left to right, ANTON SATHER, NIKOLAI SATHER, HANS SATHER, JULIUS SATHER, BERNT SATHER, GJERT SATHER, MARCUS SATHER, CHRIS SATHER. Second row, left to right, MRS. ANTON SATHER, BERTHA STROMSTAD, MRS. HANS SATHER, MRS. NIKOLAI SATHER, MRS. HENRY HAUGEN, MRS. MELVIN BRYE, AMALIA BRYE, LOUIS SATHER, REV. AND MRS. ROALKVAM, EMMA GALSTAD, in back MRS. ANDREW GALSTAD, MRS. CARL NEPRUD, MRS. ADOLPH BRYE, ALMA NEPRUD, EDGAR SATHER, HENRY HAUGEN, PER BLYHOVDE, MRS. SIMON LIER, CHARLIE THRUNE, SETLES OFTE, I. H. KOEFOD, NORDAHL GALSTAD, ISAAC GALSTAD, SIGVART OLSON, ALICE SATHER, HANS NELSON, JOHAN GRIMSRUD, MRS. IVER MAURHAUGEN (NELSON), MRS. I. H. KOEFOD, HILMA LISBAKKEN, CHRISTIAN JAHR, JENS LIEN, MRS. SIGVART OLSON, OLE KARLSTAD, on extreme left, MRS. MARY FRANSEN.



The funeral procession of NELS H. NEPRUD, who died Nov. 20, in 1894 at the age of 66 years. This was the first hearse ever used at a funeral in Coon Valley, and it was from Viroqua. (Below) ED OLSON owned the first hearse in Coon Valley. This picture shows Olson's hearse at the time of Melvin Ekern's funeral. The driver was Charlie Thrune.





The Coon Valley Lumber Yard in 1906. From left to right, ALBERT SPELLUM, JOHN MOEN, KNUT LINDEVIG and his prize "greys."



This picture was taken in 1905 from left to right, ALBERT THRUNE, MAGNUS HALMRAST, LUDVIG SVEUM.

A group of girls — and one little boy — in winter. In front, JERROLD MOILIEN. In back, left to right, DORA ROALKVAM, ALICE LEE, ELMA SLOAN, SUZIE STUEMPGES, KAREN LEE, SARAH LEE, IDA RUNDAHL, THEA MOILIEN, IDA STUEMPGES.



THE CHAMPS



Meet the champion Coon Valley baseball team of 1904! In front, LEWIS STUEMPGES, ADOLPH LEE. In back, left to right, TOMMY HOLMGREN, CLARENCE HOFF, RUSSEL HOFF, MELVIN DUNNUM, SELMER IHLE, HENRY RUNDAHL, OLE LEUM, CHRIS HANSON. And they were really the **champs**. They played La Crosse, Bud, Stoddard, De Sota, Newton, Genoa, Chaseburg, Cashton, Westby, and Viroqua—and they most always were the winners. Adolph Lee was the pitcher, Lewie Stuempges, catcher, Selmer Ihle, manager, and Ole Leum umpire at the time this picture was taken. They played mostly on the hayfield at Charlie Anderson's farm, and they did a lot of practicing. They had a large number of 'fans' — for the whole town turned out to watch them play, and when they traveled by train or lumber waggon to play in other towns, their 'fans' usually went with them.

The Coon Valley 'Hunting Club' in about 1917. This picture was taken on Charlie Thruene's farm, where they usually met after they had been hunting, and the 'losers' had to treat the 'winners' — and the women prepared the feast. In the front row, from left to right, THORWALD DAVIDSON, HANS BJORNSTAD, OLIUS ROLE, ADOLPH LEE, HENRY NELSON, top row, left to right, ED IHLE, ANTON NELSON, CHARLIE THRUENE, T. J. MOILIEN, MAGNUS HALMREST, ALFRED VALUM.



THE BAND



This picture shows the Coon Valley band in 1909. In front, DAVID STEVLINGSON, second row, left to right, ANTON DAHLEN, JOE FENCL, LEWIE STUENPGES, third row, LOUIS BRYE, JERRY FENCL, ADOLPH GALSTAD, GILBERT GALSTAD, ARTHUR HANSON, top row, MELVIN DUNNUM, AXEL MOEN, GEORGE OWEN, ADOLPH HAUGE, HARVEY OWEN, JOHN STROMSTAD. (Below) And . . . 'as the band played on' this picture shows the band in action. The event is the Memorial day parade in 1909.



THE CHOIR

This picture of the Coon Valley choir was taken in 1913 when PETER NELSON was the leader. From left to right, front row, MRS. THORWALD DAVIDSON, RIKKA BRYE, PETER NELSON, TILLIE HOLE, AMANDA MIDLIEN. Second row, left to right, TILLIE MOILIEN, THEA MOILIEN, CARL MOEN, MILLIE ERICKSON, third row, CLARENCE MOEN, IDA KNUTSON, NELS NORDSTROM, ALICE LEE, JOSEPH VOLDEN.



IN 1910 HANS NEPRUD was the director of the Coon Valley choir. The picture on the left (above) shows the choir at that time. Front row, left to right, MILLIE ERICKSON, TILLIE MOILIEN, DORA ROALKVAM, ALICE LEE, THEA MOILIEN, MINNIE NEPRUD, second row, ROSANNA BRYE, SARAH LEE, AMANDA MIDTLIEN, HANS NEPRUD, ALMA SLOAN, MRS. T. DAVIDSON, SERENA MIDTLIEN, third row, NIKOLAI MIDTLIEN, L. O. BRYE, SETLES OFTE, A. GUBERUD, LAURITZ ERICKSON.

On the same day, the picture above (right) was taken when the choir had a surprise party on Hans Neprud, their leader. They presented Hans with a writing desk and chair. In this picture are the following, in back, left to right, MRS. T. DAVIDSON, HERMAN DAFFINRUD, CARL DAFFINRUD, LAURITZ ERICKSON, A. GUBERUD, AMUND AMBROSON, LAURA NEPRUD, HELEN NEPRUD, MALLA AMBROSON, CHRIS SATHER, NORA MIDTLIEN, C. A. NEPRUD, MRS. CARL DAFFINRUD, MRS. C. A. NEPRUD, NIKOLAI MIDTLIEN, MRS. BEN LARSON, MRS. HANS NEPRUD, MRS. CHRIS SATHER, MRS. LAURITZ ERICKSON, SETLES OFTE, JOHN STROMSTAD, L. O. BRYE, HANS NEPRUD, ALMA SLOAN, DORA ROALKVAM, MINNIE NEPRUD, SARAH LEE, MRS. LOUIS KNUTSON, ALICE LEE, AMANDA MIDTLIEN, SERENA MIDTLIEN, TILLIE KNUTSON, THEA MOILIEN. In front, left to right, ANDREW ERICKSON, AGNES NEPRUD, LILLIAN NEPRUD, LENA ERICKSON, LAURA BRYE, _____, HENRY BRYE, HARRIET NEPRUD, _____, NORTON NEPRUD, _____, LLOYD BRYE.



A picnic at Stoddard in 1907. From left to right, MRS. T. DAVIDSON, ANNA NEPRUD, SUSIE STUEMPGES, MRS. BETSY HAUGE, DORA ROALKVAM, MATHILDA MOILIEN, ALFRED HAUGE, MRS. E. B. KNUTSON, E. B. KNUTSON, T. J. MOILIEN, MRS. ADOLPH HAUGE, SARAH LEE, MRS. MAGNUS HALMRAST, MAGNUS L. HALMRAST, in front, MRS. T. J. MOILIEN, CLARICE MOILIEN, ADOLPH HAUGE, MRS. ALFRED BJOIN.

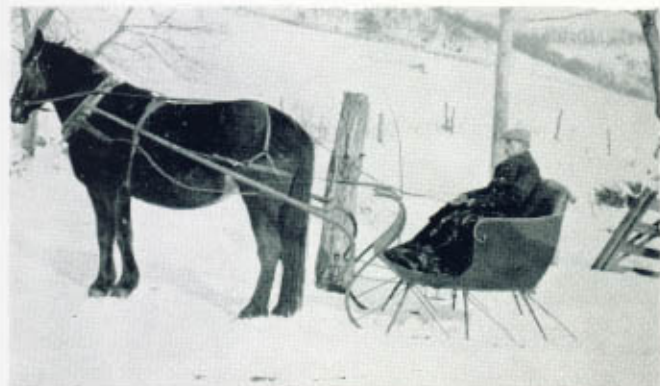


On the left (top) are two SINGLE BUGGIES. The picture was taken at the Carl and Haldor Hagen farm in 1914. The farm in the background is that of Ole Val-

um. In the first buggy is Nels Nordstrom, in the second, Alvin Lien. The girls were visiting the Hagen's and were from La Crosse. On the left, (below), is a CANOPY-TOP BUGGY. It was photographed in 1912, from left to right, Lloyd Johnson, Sever Johnson, Mrs. Johnson, Esther Johnson, Marie Johnson.



Do you recognize all the vehicles on this page? The picture at the top of the page (above) shows a SINGLE BUGGY with a team. It shows Nordahl Veum and his prize "blacks" in about 1916. Directly above, — a SURREY. This picture is of the Baglien sisters, Timber Coulee, 1912.



The picture on the left (above) shows a SINGLE CUTTER driven by Joseph Volden in 1912. On the right, a DOUBLE CUTTER in 1912. In the front seat, Mrs. C. A. Neprud, in back, Mabel Neprud.

THE COON VALLEY CHURCH ORCHESTRA - - -

This orchestra was organized in 1914, and at that time it consisted of four pieces: O. Moilien, violin, P. Stromstad, flute, J. Stromstad, cornet, Laura Neprud Veum, piano. The personnel of the orchestra grew, and changed, rapidly. In 1915, Rossing Glimmie, trombone, in 1916, Hans Neprud, cello, 1919, William Storandt, trombone (to replace Mr. Glimmie who moved from the village in 1917). In 1920, Professor H. H. Bye, La Crosse, joined the group as director, his son, Arthur, as clarinetist, and Lawrence Sandmark, drummer.

By 1922 Mr. Bye had developed a concert program. The orchestra then consisted of nine pieces two violins, clarinet, cornet, trombone, cello, string bass, piano, and drums. Regular rehearsals were held and the first concert of the Coon Valley Church Orchestra was on February 21, 1922. It was a great success and a repetition of the program was given in Chaseburg the following evening.

Lillian Neprud Evans assisted the orchestra at concerts and soon after became the regular pianist when Mrs. Veum moved from Coon Valley. She continued until 1938, when ill health forced her to discontinue as full-time pianist. Others who have been in the orchestra are as follows: A. Brye, Joseph Hylland, Selmer Lee, Hjalmer Halvorson, (Westby), Wayne Bergum, (Westby), Mrs. I. N. Knutson, Mrs. Helen Neprud Reitman (Red Wing, Minnesota), and Edith Eielson.

Joseph Linrud joined the orchestra in 1924, Rev. H. O. Bach, in 1929, also Chester Hegge, (Westby) and John Ophus. Of the original group, only three members remain, they are the violinist, cornetist, and the bass violinist. Oscar Moilien has been member-director and librarian since the beginning of the organization.



Since it began, the Coon Valley Church orchestra has appeared in almost every church in the Vernon circuit, and it has made more than 400 public appearances. Only classical and semi-classical music is played, and the present repertoire consists of about 225 standard orchestration.

This picture of the orchestra was taken recently, showing the group as it looks today. They are: Oscar Moilien, violin, Rev. H. O. Bach, flute, Chester Hegge, clarinet, John Stromstad, cornet, Joseph Linrud, saxophone, John Ophus, cello, Peter Stromstad, bass violin, Clarice Moilien, piano, Selmer Lee, drummer and bells.



1-Rev. Moe, 2-Theodore Jensen, 3-Randine Granskou, 4-Matthias Daffinrud, 5-Rev. Granskou, 6-Mrs. J. Granskou, 7-Mrs. M. Daffinrud, 8-Anna Jensen, 9-Ingeborg Jensen, 10-Clara Olson, 11-Carl Daffinrud, 12-Rev. Nodtvedt, 13-Setles Ofte, 14-Carl Baglien, 15-Theodore Olson, 16-Melvin Lisbakken, 17-Rev. John Midtlien, 18-Mrs. Sever Johnson, 19-Hilma Lisbakken, 20-Alma Lisbakken Dahl, 21-Josie Bjornstad Midtlien, 22-Mrs. Oscar Overson, 23-Mrs. Fred Jorgenson, 24-Mrs. George Sather, 25-Paula Baglien, 26-Mrs. Kari Baglien, 27-....., 28-Clara Haugen, 29-Mrs. Lars Borreson,

30-Mrs. Ingeborg Halvorson, 31-Sigri Johnson, 32-Mrs. Simmon Lier, 33-Mrs. Ole Nestingen, 34-Carrie Paulson, 35-Mrs. Kari Johnson, 36-Mrs. Haakon Hovde, 37-Mrs. Miles Walker, 38-Mrs. Lewis Larson, 39-Miss Marie Bothne, 40-....., 41-Anna Olstad, 42-Ole Gronfladen, 43-Joseph Bothne, 44-Rev. Jensen, 45-Hans Neprud, 46-Mrs. Jensen, 47-Olava Jensen, 48-....., 49-Frederick Paulson, 50-Joseph Basgaard, 51-Peder Johnson, 52-Mrs. Anne Bjornstad, 53-Mrs. Alvin Neprud, 54-Mrs. Carl N. Neprud, 55-Sigri Haugen, 56-Mrs. Martha Neprud, 57-Carl Haugen, 58-Adolph Brye, 59-Mrs.

Ole Strangstadlien, 60-....., 61-Anne Johnson, 62-Mrs. Ole Dahlen, 63-Lars Borreson, 64-Christopher Sveen, 65-Mrs. Mathia Berg, 66-....., 67-Nicoli Midtlien, 68-Mrs. Ole Bergum, 69-....., 70-Mrs. Hans Bakkum, 71-Johanne Lien, 72-Eric Thorstad, 73-....., 74-Hans Bakkum, 75-Carl N. Neprud, 76-Haakon Dahlen, 77-Carl A. Neprud, 78-Ole Olstad, 79-Anton Dahlen, 80-Mrs. Ole Running.



On the left is the wedding picture of Rev. Johannes Granskou and Elene Marie Daffinrud in 1890. The picture above was taken of them in 1937. (Below is a list of those on the wedding picture, numbered as in the picture).



Carl Daffinrud farm . . . taken in 1923.

The picture on the left (below) shows the Daffinrud farm as it looked in 1910, when the log barn was standing.



Sitting. OLEANIA DAFFINRUD, in back, left to right, ELENE (DAFFINRUD) GRANSKOLI, CARL DAFFINRUD, CLARA (DAFFINRUD) OLSON.



A picture of Rundahl Valley—taken in 1906.



A scene of the valley in 1907.



A threshing scene on the Nels Neprud farm, in about 1886.



The old Lee Farm, taken in about 1899. The little winding road is now highway 14.



Threshing in back of Andrew Bothne's store
in 1877.



The home of Hans Bjornstad,
taken in about 1892.



E. C. Anderson's house was about the first one in Coon Valley. This picture was taken in 1905—from left to right, CARL ANDERSON, ELNOR ANDERSON, ALF ANDERSON, JOHANNA ANDERSON, OSCAR ANDERSON.



A Rag-tie at Nordahl Neprud's home. Seated, left to right, Mrs. CARL DAFFINRUD, Mrs. ANNE BJORNSTAD, Mrs. ANTON SATHER, Mrs. NORDAHL NEPRUD and children, MALLA and KELLY, RUDELA and ELMER, Mrs. KNUT BRYE, Mrs. NICOLI MIDTLIEN, Mrs. AUGUST AMUNDSON, Mrs. OLIA JAHR, standing left to right, Mrs. IVER NELSON, Mrs. HANS HOFF, Mrs. CARL A. NEPRUD, Mrs. LEWIS BRYE, Mrs. SIMON LIER, Miss AMA MOEN, Mrs. ALMA LISBAKKEN DAHL, MINNIE JOHNSON, HULDA THRUNE, ANNA HOLE, TILLIE MOILIEN, Mrs. MALLA OPHUS MIDTLIEN, Mrs. CLARA BOLSTAD, Mrs. PETER ERICKSON, CHRISTINE GRIMSRUD, Mrs. HANS NEPRUD, Mrs. OLE LIEN, Mrs. ANTON DAHLEN, Mrs. ANNA NEPRUD, Mrs. SIMON LIER, Mrs. HANS HANSON, Mrs. ELSIE LARSON, NORDAHL NEPRUD, standing on porch, HULDA LIER and NORA MIDTLIEN, children standing in front.



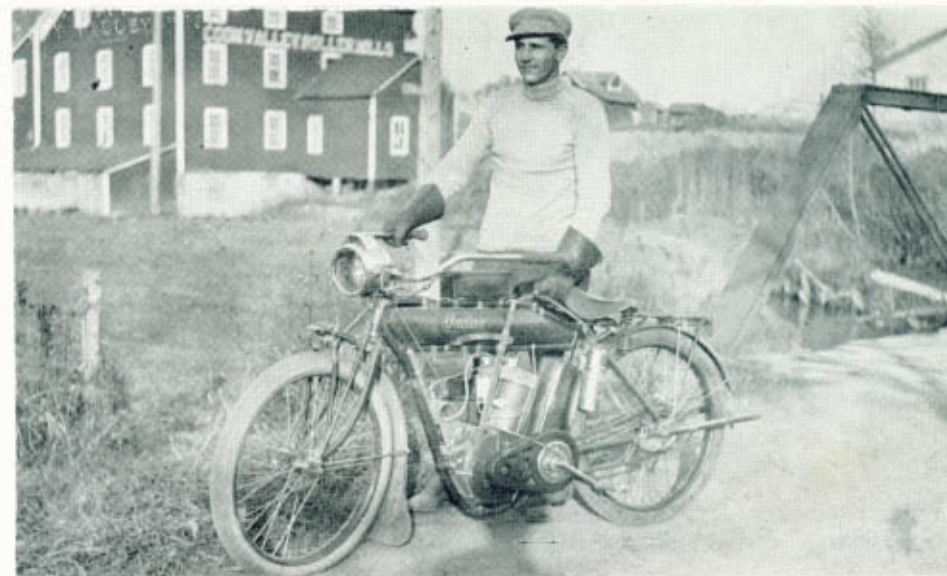
The Bluske Dance Orchestra—taken in 1910. From left to right, CHARLEY JERNANDER, JESSIE BLUSKE, PAUL BLUSKE, GUS GROSSKOPF.

When ROSANNA BRYE was married to LOUIS KNUTSON in 1910, the girls had a shower for her and this picture was taken at that time. From left to right, top row, CLARA RORGE, HATTIE NELSON, ALICE LEE, FLORENCE WEBER, SERENA MIDTLIEN, Mrs. ADA KNUTSON, HILMA LISBAKKEN, ROSANNA BRYE, OLGA LIEN, AGNES KERKSEICK, IDA RUNDAHL, ALMA SLOAN, MABLE NEPRUD, IDA KNUTSON, —an out-of-town-guest—, HATTIE LIEN, in second row, ESTHER BRYE. In front, TENA GUNDERSON, THEA MOILIEN, TILLIE HOLEY, EMILY STROMSTAD, MINNIE NEPRUD, ANNA NELSON, RAY JACOBSON.





The farm home of Ole J. Lien, taken in about 1877. This farm is now owned by Amund B. Olson.



PAUL BLUSKE on his motorcycle . . . the first in Coon Valley. This was taken in 1912.



In 1887 this picture was taken at the Rundahl farm. From left to right, IDA RUNDAHL, OBERT RUNDAHL, JARAN RUNDAHL, INGEBOG RUNDAHL, HENRY RUNDAHL.



Dr. Storlie and his car taken in 1912. Albert Thrune is also sitting in the car. "The doctor and his troubles" was the title given this picture by the photographer.



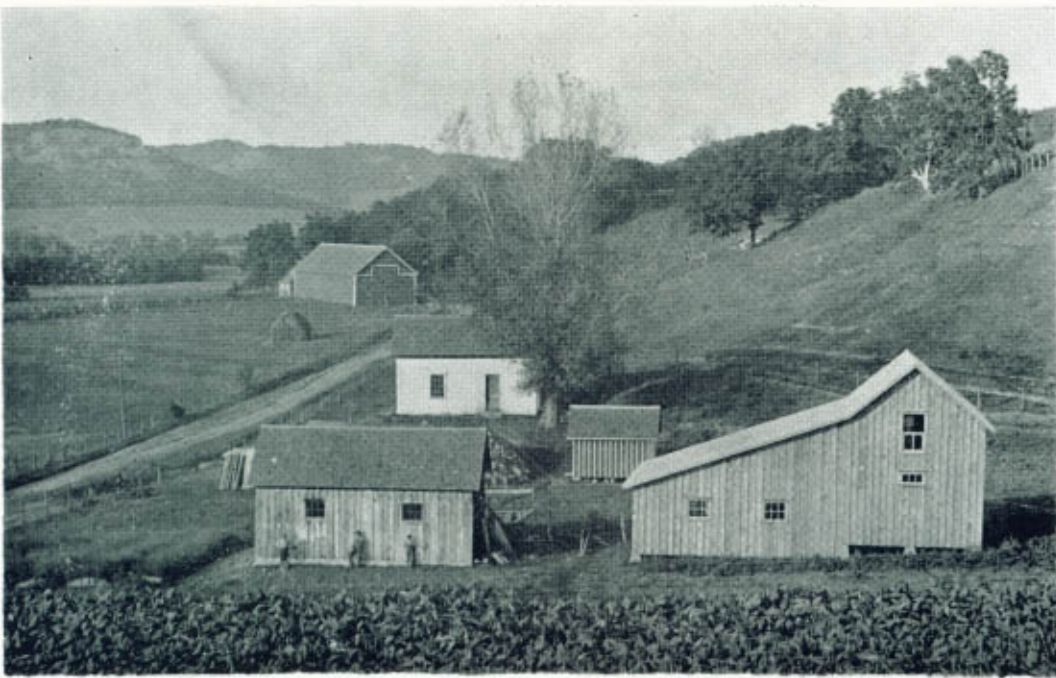
This picture was taken more than 60 years ago of the ANTON NELSON farm. Notice the old horse-power machine by the shed.



The CARL DAFFINRUD farm in 1906. From left to right, HEDWIN NORDSTRIM, OSCAR NORDSTROM, MILNOR DAFFINRUD, CARL DAFFINRUD, CLARA OLSON, ESTHER DAFFINRUD, CHRISTINE DAFFINRUD.

A group of 'Beau Brummels' in 1900. In front, left to right, LEWIS LARSON, ALBERT THRUNE, second row, left to right, LUCAS GRIMSRUD, NORDAHL NEPRUD, MATH. JAHR, top row left to right, WILLIE HANSON, ANTON NELSON, JOHN MIDTLIEN.





The OFTE home in 1912.



Taken by moonlight, this winter scene shows the old G. W. Thrune farm in 1922.



This picture is of the old HOVDE farm, taken in 1921. It was formerly owned by AMUND B. OLSON, and is now owned by INGAR NESTINGEN.



In 1915 . . . on the DAHLEN farm. Left to right, MILTON KOKKEBY, OTIS DAHLEN, ANTON DAHLEN, MELVIN DAHLEN, CLARA DAHLEN, MYRTLE DAHLEN, MARY DAHLEN, "Poppy" . . . the dog.



E. L. HALMRAST and his wagon of "W-A-T-O-S-A" Remedies, Extracts and Spices" was a familiar sight around Coon Valley in about 1910. His nickname was "DR. POOF"!



SEVER JOHNSON . . . mailcarrier in Coon Valley and known by everyone.



NORDAHL BERGUM and his 'favorite outfit' in 1909.

A bit of comedy—for variety's sake—because this picture certainly wasn't taken in a serious mood. The picture was posed on the day the jail was completed in 1909, by OLIUS JOHNSON (right)—the village marshal, EDWIN IHLE, ANTON NORDSTROM.





One of the biggest floods in the history of Coon Valley September 4, 1921.



ALBERT THRUNE and his family in 1914.



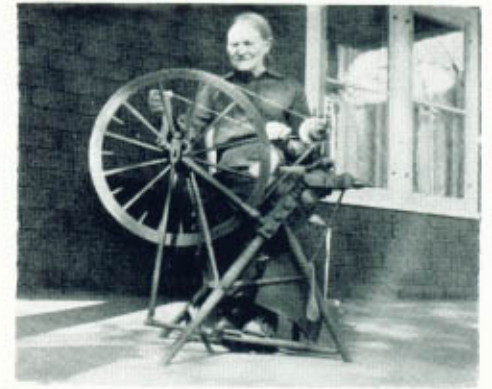
N. JOSEPH he was a great lover of horses. He came to Coon Valley for many years, selling clothing.

The 'sitting room' of Thrune's home in 1915.





This is perhaps the first house that was built in Coon Valley, as it looks today . . . 89 years old. It was built in 1853 by NELS SKOMSRUD, and over its threshold the first bride in Coon Valley was carried in that year, for Skomsrud's marriage to ELLENE MORTENS-DATTER in 1853 by a circuit pastor was the first in Coon Valley. Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Thrune lived in the house from 1890 until 1905. The picture below shows the house as it looked when purchased by Charlie Thrune in 1890 . . . a long, two-room house. Before 1890 there had been a 'lean-to' on one side. The same old peg stairway that was built in 1853 still remains. When the present Thrune home was built 38 years ago the frame part of the old house was torn down, and it remains on the Thrune property today . . . a lovely, historic old one-room cabin. This summer it is being used as a tourist cabin.



MRS. LISA STROMSTAD at the age of 75.



AMUND JOHNSON (SKIN-SIHAUGEN) in the forest in winter, many years ago.

FIRST WHITE CHILD . . .



MARY LISBAKKEN

Mary Lisbakken is now 90 years old. She was the first white child born in Coon Valley. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Helge Gulbrandson, the first white settlers in Coon Valley, who came in 1849. The picture on the left was taken when Mrs. Lisbakken was 83 years old. Below, is a picture of Helge Gulbrandson and his three daughters, Mary, Bertha and Pauline. Mary Gulbrandson was married in 1875 to Martinius Lisbakken, whose parents were also among the very first settlers. Mrs. Lisbakken remembers those early days in this territory, dealing with the Indians, spinning and weaving flax, and tanning hides.



This picture was taken from an old tintype of these early Coon Valley settlers. They are: Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Lisbakken, Mr. and Mrs. Per Lisbakken and their son, Mathias.

Not In Other Coon Valley Book . . .



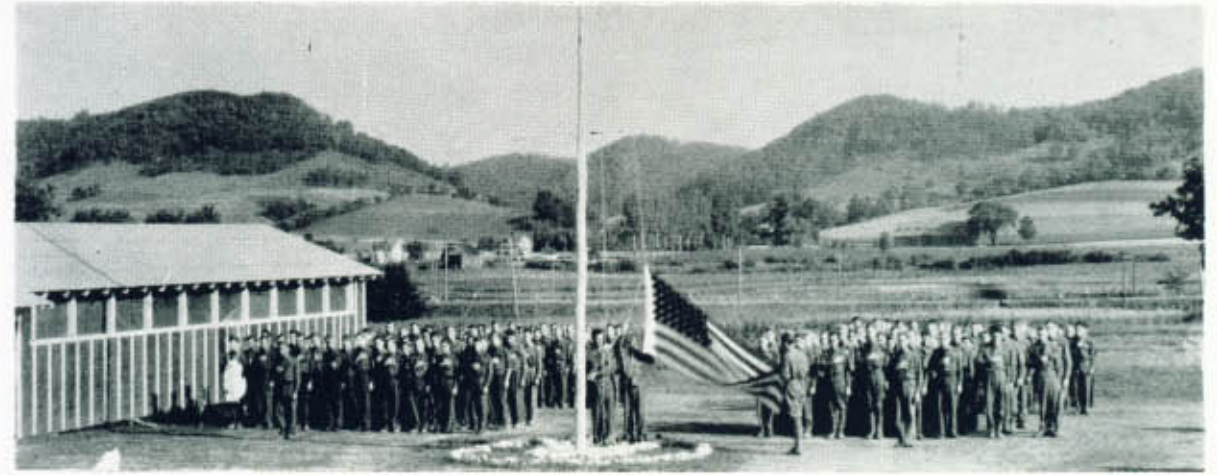
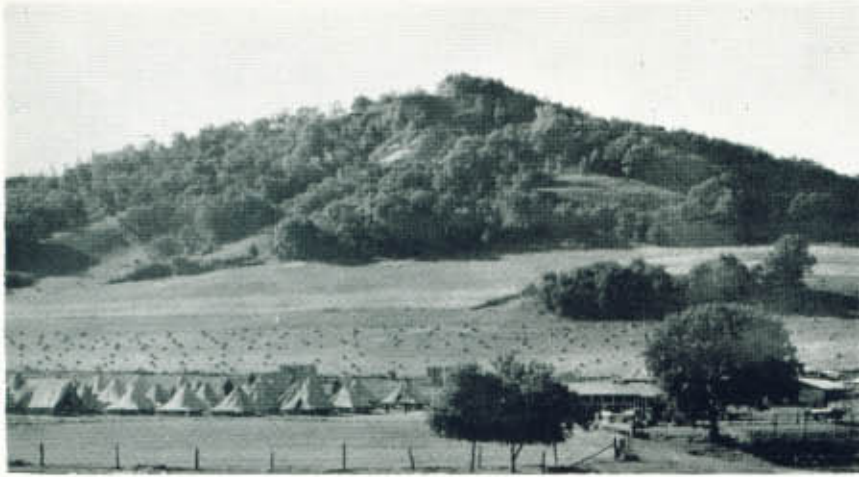
MARTIN KNUTSON HAGESTUEN was born at Nordre Fron, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway in 1838. He was married to RONNOG GRAUPE. They settled in Skogdalen, near Coon Valley. Mr. Knutson died in 1933.

MR. and MRS. IVER FRANSEN EKRE. Mr. Fransen was born in Heidol, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, in 1818. He emigrated to America in 1857 and settled in the town of Coon. In 1845 he married Mari Bjornstad. Mrs. Fransen died in 1904 and her husband in 1896.



MR. and MRS. NILS JOHNSON NESS. Mr. Nils Johnson Ness was born in Sweden in 1819 and emigrated to America in 1855 and settled in Coon Valley. He married Kari Torgerson from Norway, in 1831.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMP IN COON VALLEY



... written by JOHN J. SUND, Conservation Aide

The Soil Erosion Service, United States Department of the Interior, established Project No. 1 at Coon Valley Wisconsin, in the fall of 1933. Cooperative agreements were signed with farmers living within the boundaries of the Coon Creek watershed to set up demonstrations in controlling soil erosion, as the first of its kind anywhere. The work connected with these practices was carried out by the farmers and the C. W. A. and P. W. A. labor prior to the establishment of Civilian Conservation Corps camp company 1697-CCC. It was started in May, 1934, coming from Long Lake, Wisconsin, and the men lived in tents until October, 1934, when the camp buildings were ready. The site was located on the A. C. Brye farm just across the bridge, west from the village of Coon Valley.

This camp was occupied from 1934 until July, 1937, when the buildings were dismantled. During these three years several hundred boys from far and near were stationed at the camp, and Coon Valley became a well known spot on the map, as many visitors interested in the work being done, came from all parts of the United States and some from foreign countries.



The camp staff and Soil Erosion staff worked together on more than 400 of the 750 farms in the watershed. The following are a few of the men connected with the service: HEBERLIEN, QUISTGAARD, SCHIVEERS, HALL, ROBBINS, COHEE, CALKINS, REBER, FRY, DENSMORE, WALTERS, LAIDLAW, SMITH, KELIHER, KIMBALL, ALLEN, BALL, DYER, LEITH, DUPUIS, OSTHOFF, SNEIDER, and many others who received part of their training here were later transferred to other projects as the program expanded.

Some of the men from Coon Valley territory who were connected with this project were, NELS NORDSTROM, CY THOMPSON, HENRY STAKSTON, MERVIN HENLEY, SAM STROMSTAD, CHARLES THRUNE, IRVIN THRUNE, HOWARD ANDERSON, EINAR ANDERSON, ART KUESTER, PALMER OLSON, ED KOKKEBY, ALF OLSTAD, GRANT KARLSTAD, SYLVESTER KING, OSCAR MIDTLIEN, T. MOILIEN, HJALMER MATHISON, JOHN KRAABEL, ELMER NELSON, HENRY ELSON, CLAYTON VEUM, ARCHIE PAULSON, ED KERSKA, FRANK KOENEN, J. FRANSWORTH, ANTON NORDSTROM, GLEN NORDSTROM, JULIAN SUND, HENRY HOLD, C. GLENN, ROY STAFLSIEN, WOODROW THOMPSON, JOHN JACOBSON, HAROLD PETERSON, and others. The camp constructed soil saving devices such as crop inlets, diversion dikes, sod hump water, deflecting dams and tree planting on the steep denuded hillsides, also planting for stream bank and wild life protection.

Many will remember the nursery across from the church on the Adolph Lee Farm as a source for seedlings and trees to carry on this work, also the stream gauging station by the mill and the carrier in which the checkers rode across the stream to get his samples of the water, in testing for silt load or soil being carried to the Mississippi. In later years the service had its name changed to Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Some of the army personnel connected with the camp were: Lt. Dunwoody, Lt. Hofto, Lt. Seigel, Lt. Heidorn, Lt. Vedner, Captain Branch.

“Coon Valley” Is Known To Soil Conservation Service Employees and Cooperators In All Soil Conservation Districts---Shown In Black On This Map.

NOTE:—This page was left blank owing to the inability to get the cut of the map showing the location of Coon Valley Conservation Project. It is hope that in the near future it will be available so that you can paste same onto this page.

HEALING THE WOUNDS THAT MAN HAS MADE

By E. L. VINTON—Farm Forester, Vernon County Soil Conservation District

The history of agriculture in the Coon Valley community is, in general, similar to that of Wisconsin and all other states. The unique feature is that the Coon Valley community was the first to make a joint attempt to do something about it.

As in other parts of the United States, intensive cultivation and over-grazing cut through the protective cover of sod which nature had layed over prairie soils and broke up the accumulation of leaf mould and litter beneath the trees. This exposed the soil to the direct effect of rains, and erosion was the inevitable result.

In 1934, the Soil Erosion Service recognized the Coon Valley area as one of the first to be used for demonstrational and experimental purposes. Because of the interest and cooperation of the people in this area, the demonstrational work progressed rapidly and widely. Today all states have an interest in soil conserving practices, 42 states have soil conservation district laws, and the techniques developed in Coon Valley are used in all states in which there is comparable topography, soil types, and agricultural practices.

Some views that explain and show some of the work done in the Coon Valley project are presented on the following pages.

MAP INDICATING SOIL CONSERBATION DISTRICTS IN U. S. A.

RESULTS OF SOIL CONSERVATION—BEFORE AND AFTER

OLD TYPES OF AGRICULTURE—GENERAL AND TYPICAL VIEWS

IMPROBED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES—GENERAL, TYPICAL VIEWS



(Above) Left: Woodlot protected from fire and grazing, note the leaves and litter protecting the soil from the direct affects of rain and washing. Right: Woodlot grazing and occasionally burned, note the evidence of rock and the soil exposed to the direct affects of rain and washing.



(Above) Picture of William Koethe Estate, August 1939. Left: Woodlot grazed and subject to burning, note the soil exposed to the direct affects of rain and washing. Right: Woodlot protected from fire and grazing, note the complete protection afforded the soil and the excellent cover for all types of wildlife.



P. K. Moilien Farm. (Above) Two years after planting to black locust, winter view to show healing of a once serious gully.



Same farm . . . THREE years after planting to black locust - - summer view to show the dense foliage and protection it affords to soil and wildlife.



BEFORE

Lindrud Brothers' Farm. On left, brush creek dams prior to planting to black locust. (Sept. 1934). On right, taken four years later. The gully is no longer a problem.

. . . . AFTER



BEFORE

Charles Thomas Farm. On left, very active gully head. (April, 1939). On right, an immediate and permanent cure, a sod flume down which the water runs without cutting. (June, 1939).

. . . . AFTER



BEFORE

John Burbach Farm. On left, wire check dams in active gully. (Nov. 1943). On right, five months later, note the accumulation during the winter months.

. . . . AFTER





BEFORE . . . (Lester Mundstock Farm)

(Above) An active gully head in a pasture, July 1934. (Below) This cure effected by fencing only, Nov. 1938.

. . . . AFTER



BEFORE (Joe Hagen Farm)

(Above) This badly eroded stream bank was sloped prior to planting to willow. (May, 1937). (Below) Planted to willow and protected from grazing for two years. Note the protection against further erosion as well as the cover for all types of wildlife.

. . . . AFTER



BEFORE (Ingval Iverson Farm)

(Above) Badly eroded stream bank, November 1938. (Below) The effect of protection from grazing and planting to willow, note the complete check of erosion and the condition favorable to all types of wildlife.

. . . . AFTER



BEFORE (George Ronkin Farm)

(Left) (Left bank of stream grazed, right bank protected, in June, 19334. (Right) Both banks protected from fire and grazing, left bank planted to willow. (July, 1937).

. . . . AFTER





(Above) Over-grazed pasture results in cutting through the native sod and a serious loss of top soil.



(Above) A rock fan in this farm is the result of over-grazing and careless cultivation on the land above.



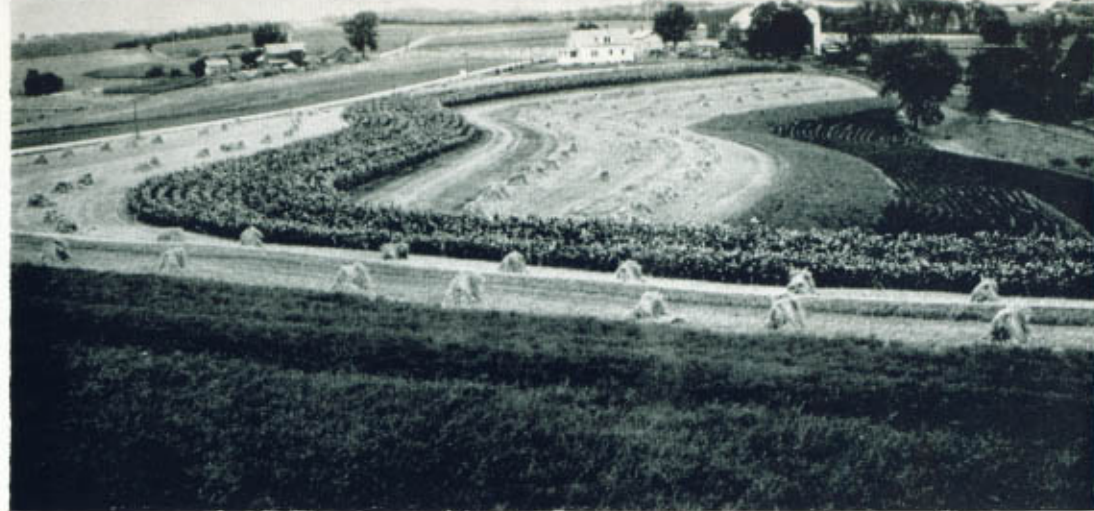
(Below) Cultivation up and down hills results in gully formation and a serious loss of top soil.



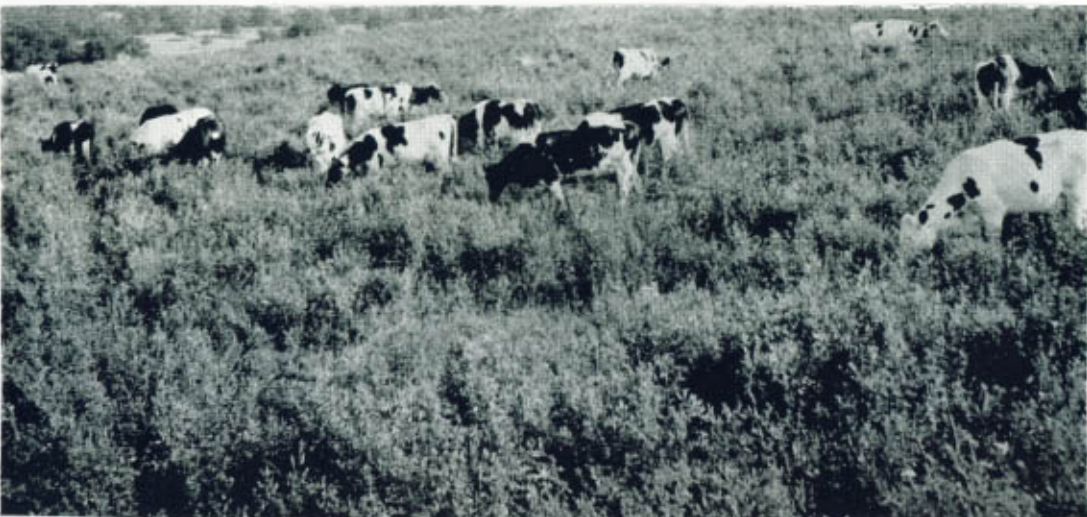
(Below) Excessive run-off from unprotected area above results in flood stage which causes serious cutting of stream banks, making the otherwise productive bottomlands of doubtful value.



(Above) Woodlands protected from fire and grazing: conserve water, save soil, harbor wildlife, and produce fuel, posts, and lumber for the farm.



(Above) Terraces and strip cropping conserve water and save soil on the Elmer Manske farm.



(Above) Results of pature renovation, "For Contented Cows." This kind of forage conserves water, saves soil, and greatly increasuses the dairy out-put.



(Above) Rock and brush dams to collect silt and control high waters resulting from careless practices on the land above.

TIMBER COULEE

1907-1908



THE CHURCH

Nestled snugly in the fertile, properous, timber-filled coulee, lending an air of stately solitude and peace to the little Norwegian community, the Timber Coulee Church has long been a center of both spiritual and social life. This picture of the church was taken in 1907.



THE SCHOOL

The crispy swish of calico, a lunchpail, and the old stove warmly waiting at the end of a long, wet trudge to school on a cold winter morning . . . these are some of the treasured never-to-be-forgotten memories of school days at Baglien School in Timber Coulee. This picture was taken in 1908, JESSIE FOWLER was the teacher. From left to right, MAGDALINE OLSON, HJELMER SLETTE, DELLA DAHLEN, PAUL LUNDE, LENA GRAUPE, JESSIE FOWLER, LUDVIG BERG, INGA GRAUPE, ARHIE LUNDE, IDA BERG.

In 1901, CARL JOTHEN taught at the Baglien school. (right). The two boys on the extreme left are: ARTHUR JOTHEN, ALVIN JOHNSON. On the extreme right, CARL BAKKEN, MELVIN P. DAHLEN, In the large center group, front, 1-r: MINNIE OVERHAGEN, IDA BERG, STELLA JOHNSON, ORVILLE LUNDE, OLGA OLSON, ARCHIE LUNDE, BELLA DAHLEN, SEVER HAUGEN, AMELIA PAULSON, PETER BAKKEN, JULIA SKAUG, HALDOR HAUGEN, JOHN LOMEN, SELMA PAULSON, ROSE LEE. Back row: HANNAH HAUGEN, JOSIE BAGLIEN, OLETTA DAHLEN, JOSIE RULLAND, JULIA JOHNSON, RUDOLPH JOTHEN, MELVIN T. DAHLEN,, CARL JOTHEN, HALFRED LUND, OLE KNUTSON, ADOLPH BAKKEN, MABEL LEE, EMMA DAHL, CHARLOTTE BAKKUM.



• • OIUM SCHOOL • • 1902

(Left) CLARA JOHNSON taught at the Oium School in 1902 when this picture was taken. Front row, left to right: HJALMER OIUM, PALMER JOTHEN, ADOLPH OIUM, ANTON LEUM, ABIN OVERHAGEN, INGA LUNDE, CLARA JOTHEN, MINNIE JOTHEN, ANNA OIUM, MINNIE OVERHAGEN. In the back row: MARTIN FRYDENLUND, INGVAL OIUM, HJALMER SLETTE, INVALID SONBAKKEN, EDWIN JOTHEN, HALFRED LUNDE, JOHN LOMEN, OSCAR MELBY, MOLLA OIUM, EMMA DAHL, SUSY OLSON, EMMA OLSON, JULIA OLSON, EMMA DAHLEN.



Above (left) is the way the Baglien farm looked in about 1886. The large house on the right was built in 1856 and is the present home of the Bagliens. The small house on the left was built in 1876. Below is a picture of KRAI BAGLIEN, who is now 92 years old, and has lived in the same lovely old farm since 1874. The Baglien home is noted for its great hospitality. (Shown above (right) is the old Baglien store, built in 1869 by Christopher Baglien. After a new store was built later, this one was moved back from the road and used as a milk skimming station, then as a tobacco stripping house (as when this picture was taken). From left to right on this picture: ELVIN NORBOE, MELVIN ENGUM, MINNIE BAGLIEN, OSCAR LARSON, JOHN BAGLIEN, JOSIE BAGLIEN, THORVAL OLSON, OLIVE LOMEN, MRS. CLARA LOMEN.

On the picture of the Baglien home, those standing behind the fence are, left to right: HANS LUNDE, HANS DAHLEN, AMUND LUNDE, OLE LUNDE. In front of the fence, left to right: CARL BAGLIEN, (goat), MRS. JOHN SLETTE, MRS. ANNA JOTHEN, POLLA BAGLIEN, MRS. KARI BAGLIEN, JOSIE BAGLIEN (in buggy), JOHN BAGLIEN, (holding MINNIE), CHRISTOPHER BAGLIEN.

TIMBER COULEE IN 1887



(Left) This picture was taken in 1887 at the home of HANS DAHLEN. From left to right, HALFRED DAHLEN, HANS DAHLEN, Jr., MRS. JULINE DAHLEN, (holding MELVIN), HANS DAHLEN, CAROLINE PETERSON (standing behind HANS DAHLEN), THORE DAHLEN, BERTHA DAHLEN, INGEBORG MYRSTUEN, and her children, ALICE and EMIL, EDWARD DAHLEN (standing in the back—by horses).

At Rulland's, in 1887. (Right)—this picture shows an interesting old fence. From left to right: MRS. ELI RULLAND, JOSIE RULLAND, ALFRED RULLAND, CLARA RULLAND, MRS. KNUT RULLAND, KNUT RULLAND, OSTEN RULLAND.





On the left, a picture of the VATLAND FARM in 1892. From left to right: ANTON VATLAND, MARTINIUS VATLAND, FRED PAULSON, IVER ONGSTAD, THOR VATLAND, JOHN VATLAND, MARIE VATLAND, HANS DAHLEN; HANS HANSON. BELOW, in 1912, in the foreground is the farm of P. RESSET, in the distance the farm of CARL and HALDOR HAGEN.



"FELLOWMAN" was his nick-name, but his real name was Amund Pederson Vekleenget. He came to Timber Coulee in the early '70s and worked at the Baglien Farm. "Fellowman" came from North Dakota where he had two sisters who wanted to look after him. Three times he was sent to North Dakota to them . . . but each time he walked back to Timber Coulee. He loved the coulee . . . he liked the prosperous, green valleys and the kind people living there. The picture on the left shows "Fellowman" feeding the goats on the Baglien farm. His queer manners and habits were due to a sun-stroke but he was a strong, loyal, hard-working man, and he had great love for nature and animals.

The wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Bekkum, 1-Anton Johnson, 2-Anton Torgerson, 3-John Torgerson, 4-Rudolph Bekkum, 5-Mrs. Rudolph Torgerson Bekkum, 6-Clara Slette, 7-Anna Bekkum, 8-Paula Torgerson, 9-Amund Johnson, 10-Ole Torgerson, 11-Elef Lokken, 12-Marit Colby, 13-....., 14.-Mari Oium, 15-....., 16-Anna Knutson, 17-....., 18-....., 19-....., 20-....., 21-Emma Oium, 22-Olga Lokken, 23-....., 24-....., 25-Anna Jothén, 26-Ragna Thronson, 27-Austin Sandbakken, 28-Anna Vatland, 29-Mabel Vatland, 30-Anna Bekkum, 31-....., 32-.....



33-Mathia Hauøen, 34-Mrs. John Slette, 36-Ella Berge, 37-Anna Haugen, 38-Josie Oium, 39-Olga Maurstad, 40-Bella Dahlen, 41-Aletta Dahlen, 42-Maria Sandsmark, 43-..... Sandsmark, 44-Ida Berge, 45-Anne Bakkum, 46-Julia Johnson, 47-....., 48-....., 49-....., 50-....., 51-....., 52-....., 53-Peter Maurstad, 54-..... Jothén, 55-....., 56-Melvin Morby, 57-Theodore Lokken, 58-....., 59-....., 60-Rudolph Jothén, 61-Christ Sanding, 62-Osten Rulland, 63-Eddie Maurstad, 64-Martinus Torgerson, 65-Invoid Sandbakken, 66-Anton Vatland, 67-Amund Olson, 68-Alfred Dahlen, 69-Joe Urbanek, 70-John Maurstad, 71-Paul Pederson, 72-Oscar Slette, 73-Louis Slette, 74-John Slette, 75-John Olstad, 76-Magnus Colby, 77-Ivan Haugen, 78-....., 79-Maria Lokken, 80-....., 81-....., 82-Josie Baglien, 83-Hans Engum, 84-Elias Storbakken, 85-....., 86-Mart Torgerson, 87-7Kari Baglien, 88-....., 89-Christian Hole, 90-Matt Skaug, 91-Ole Bakken, 92-Elvin Johnson, 93-Mathias Oium, 94-....., 95-Melvin Dahlen, 96-John Overhage, 97-Melvin T. Dahlen, 98-Haldor Engum, 99-..... Enbum, 100-Otto Overhagen, 101-Matinus Vatland, 102-Iver Bakken, 103-Tubias Torgerson, 104-....., 105-Anton Dahlen, 106-Sophia Dalhen, 107-Maria Sandsmark, 108-..... Sandsmark, 109-..... Sandsmark, 110-Minnie Knutson, 111-Amund Oium, 112-Anton Bekkum, 113-..... Bekkum, 114-John Bekkum, 115-John Galstad, 116-....., 117-Anton Storbakken, 118-Melvin Dahlen, 119-Tori Haugen, 120-....., 121-Clara Dahlen, 122-Karen Lokken, 123-Josie Rulland, 124-Clara Rulland, 125-Allie Rulland.

(NOTE:—Our apologies for any mistakes in these names—we've had a hard time getting them all!)



The THOR BAGSGAARD farm in 1877. This farm is now owned by Ole Solberg.



The SEVER MOEN farm, Timber Coulee. This picture was taken in 1918.

IN OIUMSDALEN



Like a tiny Norwegian village—in a colorful setting of hills and a rich, green valley—is the Old Oium Mill. The picture above was taken before 1900. The house on the extreme left was used then as the post-office and general store, the small building next to it was Iver Oium's store, and the house in the back (center) of the picture was the home of Iver Oium. His son, Iver Jr., lived in the building next to the mill. The picture on the right (below) shows the mill in about 1915, the Ole Dahlen farm in the distance.

The mill—which has rounded out more than a half century of service—was built by Iver Oium in 1891. An earlier mill on the same site was built by Mr. Oium in 1855, but was torn down later. At the busiest times the mill was going constantly day on night. Flour was ground for the people of the community, there was no commercial selling of it. As pay for grinding their flour, the miller took a toll—as for 8 pecks ground he would keep one peck as his fee for grinding. The present proprietor is Martinus Oium, son of Iver Oium who has worked in the mill since it was built.





This picture was taken in about 1888 at the home of HANS BEKKUM. From left to right: THORWALD BEKKUM, OLE LUNDE, AMUND LUNDE, MRS. HANS LUNDE, HANS BEKKUM (in chair), ADOLPH BEKKUM (behind chair).



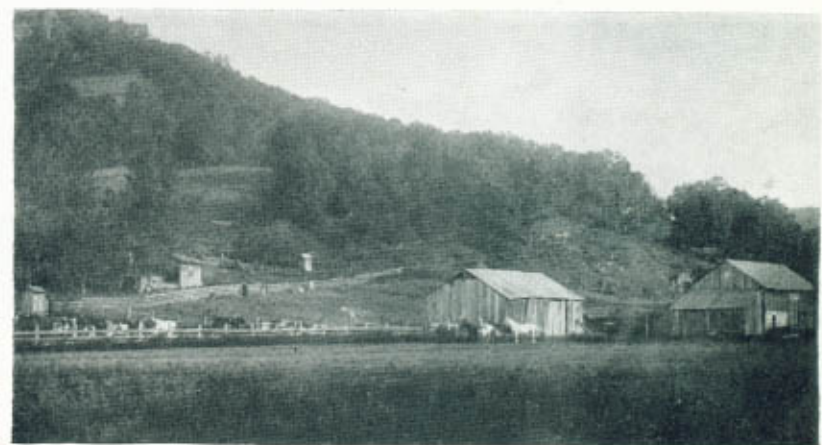
MR. and MRS. JOHN OILIM and family in front of their home. This picture was taken in 1892.



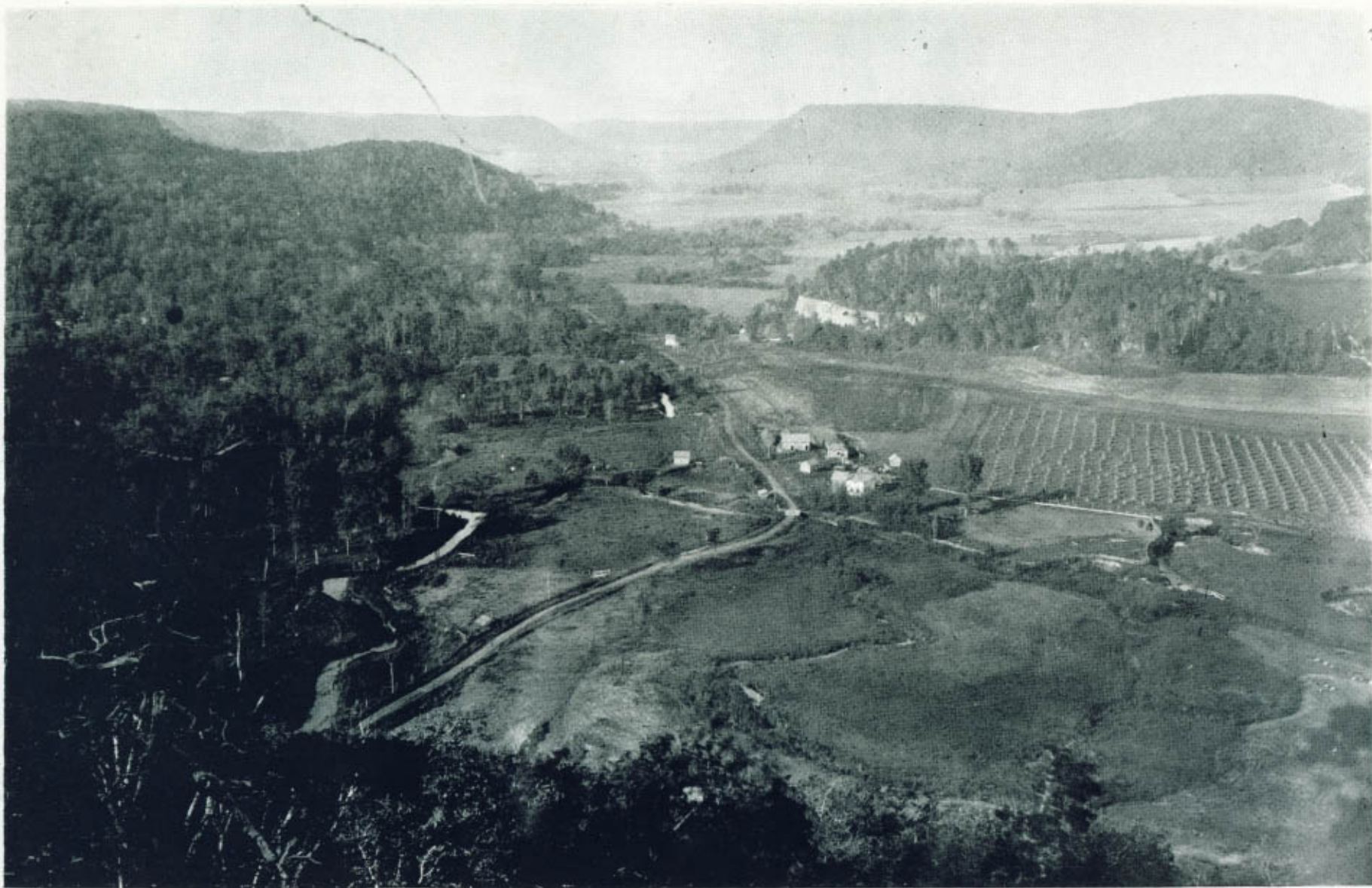
At the VATLAND Farm in about 1904. Front left to right: JOHN EVERSON, ANTON VATLAND, MATINUS VATLAND, MARIT SLOAN, MABEL VATLAND, MRS. ANTON VATLAND, GRANDMA VATLAND.



This picture was taken in 1904—left to right: ANDREW SOLBERG, MRS. ANDREW SOLBERG, MRS. TOBIAS IVERSON, ALMA IVERSON, EDNA IVERSON, MELVIN IVERSON, TOBIAS IVERSON.



In 1890 . . . from left to right at the fence: MRS. C. A. NEPRUD, MRS. JULIA MAURSTAD, with the horses, CARL NEPRUD, ALMA SATHER, (on horseback), JOHN SLETTE (behind horse). The old C. A. Neprud farm, now owned by Gus Becker.



This view was taken in 1891 from Holte hill . . . which was also known as "Rattlesnake Hill". It shows the intersection of Timber Coulee and Bohemian Coulee, with the village of Coon Valley in the distance. In the background is the old home now on the Carl and Haldor Hagen farm. The mound-like hill on the right is known as "Indian Hill".

SPRING VALLEY . . . SCHOOL



JOSEPH LIEN, who is now at Valparaiso University, was the teacher at Spring Valley School in 1902. The small picture (above) shows the school as it looked then, the picture on the right shows the students in school at that time. First row, left to right:—

MAGNA SMEBY, MARY STORBAKKEN, BERTHA BAGSTAD, CHRISTINA SAND-
 ING, EMIL HAUGEN, INGMAN RULLANDSHAUGEN, ED NESTINGEN, PETER
 PAULSON, HERMAN BAKKUM, ALBIN SMEBY,
 CHRIST SOLBERG, HARRY SMEBY, MELVIN LINDVIG, CHRISTOPHER SANDING,
 RUDOLP SOLBERG, ISAAC MOEN, TILMAR DAUVE, INGVALD TOMTEN, from
 left to right, second row: SELMA NESTINGEN, EVA TOMTINGEN, OTTO BAKKUM,
 CHRIS SKOGSTAD, PEARL HOLUM, MARTIN SKOGSTAD, HILMAR Lindvig, SEL-



MER BERGE, ORCAR BERGE, RUDOLPH BERGE, OLAF LARSON; third row: ANNA
 VEUM, CHARLOTTE BEKKUM, MOLLA DAUVE, ALVIN HALMRAST, HILDA LAR-
 SON, OLGA JOHNSON, BERTHA JOHNSON, SELMER BAGSTAD, CHRIS SANDING,
 HARRY STORBAKKEN; in back: ALMA NESTINGEN, SENA JORE, EMMA LINDVIG,
 JULIA HAUGEN, ALMA HAUGEN, ELIZABETH TOMTEN, MANDA BERGER,
 LAURA GRONFLATEN, ANNA HAUGEN, AMELIA JOHNSON, JONETTA TOMTEN,
 LEONORA TOMTINGEN, LIZZIE TOMTEN, ELLA MOEN. JOSEPH LIEN, teacher,
 in the doorway.



(Left)—The JENS NESTINGEN farm, in about 1892. On the white horse, EDDIE NESTINGEN, the others, from left to right are: JENS NESTINGEN, CYRINA ESTINGEN (holding JULIAN), at the table ALMA, SELMA, INGAR NESTINGEN.



AUGUST JORE and SINA LARSON. (Above).

CAMP TATE



A scene of the valley in winter—showing the 'Southeastern'.

"Ready for eats at Camp Tate" is the title written on this post card, taken in August 1910. From left to right: L. C. BOYLE, H. P. PROCTOR, J. H. TATE, "CAL" MORLEY, JOHN DEVLIN, MEL TWINING, HOWARD WILLIAMS, CLARK WILLIAMS, ANDREW HELGESON, LUCIUS FAVOR, TOM MORK, OTTO OTTESON, JOHN STOLL, CHARLES KUEBLER, FRED ECKHART, FRANK McINTOSH.



(Below) Wedding picture of Selme Barstad, June 1, 1910, showing the famous orchestra (also on right) MARTINIUS OIUM, PETER VATLAND, S. JACKSON, ANTON TOMTEN (Spielman)



Spring Valley School in 1909 . . . Andrew Gubberud, teacher. MAGNA BAKKUM, ALIDA STACKSTON, CLARA LINDEVIG, AGNES LARSON, PALMA HOLEN, SYLVIA NESTINGEN, ANNA LINDEVIG, TILLIE DUAVE, ALMA LOKKEN, BERTHA LARSON, OLGA DAUVE, MANDA THEIGE, TILLIE MONSHAUGEN, LILLIAN SMEBY, CHRISTENSE JACOBSON, CAROLINE VELUM. ADOLPH HAUGEN, EMMA SOLBERG, MABLE LINDEVIG, PALMER THEIGE, SELMA BEKKUM, ALMA MONSHAUGEN, ALRED BEKKUM, SELMER HAUGEN, MELVIN HAUGEN, ALF THEIGE, NORDAHL NILSON, HAROLD BAKKUM, INGAR NESTINGEN, HELMER SANDING, OSCAR HOLEN, MELVIN SOLBERG, OSCAR JACOBSON, KNUT JACOBSON, ALF DAUVE, JULIAN NESTINGEN, WALTER SMEBY, EDWIN BEKKUM, HENRY SOLBERG, CARL LINDEVIG, HANS DAUVE, TILFORD THEIGE, HJALMAR SANDING, MARTIN JACOBSON, EDGAR NILSON, EDDIE BAKKUM, JOSEPH LOKKEN.

MIDTRE COON VALLEY

SCHOOL



W. H. BROWN was the teacher in about 1902. From left to right in the first row: MELVIN HOLE, OSCAR LINRUD, JORDAHL EKERN, MAGNUS PETERSON, LAURICE HAGEN, BROWN, HULDA GULLORD. Back row, left to right: ART GURNVALD, ALBERT RUNNING, AUTHUR JOHNSON, OSCAR HAGEN, LIZZIE GULLORD, ALMA HAGEN, CLARA HOLE. EMMA HOLE, LOUISA MANSKI.



In about 1904, A. C. ANDERSON was the teacher in the Middle Coon Valley School. In the front row, left to right, ALMA KNUTSON, HILMA HANSON, MARTHA HAGEN, HULDA PETERSON, MARTIN LINRUD, ORA THOMPSON, MINNIE GRYTHE, HULDA GULLORD, JULIE HAGEN, HERBERT KNUTSON. Second row, left to right WILLIAM HOFF., HALFRED HAGEN, LAWRENCE EKERN, OSCAR HANSON, EDNA PETERSON, HELEN THOMPSON, AGNES PETERSON, ANNA LINRUD, LAURA HAGEN, MAGNUS PETERSON. Back row: MAGNUS OLSON, OSCAR GRYTHE, CLARENCE HOFF, HALMER HASLEY, OSCAR LINRUD, OLGA GULLORD, ALMA HASLEY, HENRY KNUTSON, AXEL HAGEN, LAURICE HAGEN.



In 1915, GUY SMITH taught at the Middle Coon School (above). Front row, left to right: MAURICE PETERSON, ADOLPH MANSKI, HELMER MIDTLIEN, HELMER HANSON, THEODORE MEHLUM, STANLEY PETERSON, JOSEPH LINRUD, PALMER MIDTLIEN, MORRIS HANSON, STELLA PETERSON, ESTHER EKERN, ALMA MIDTLIEN, GERTIE GILBERTSON. Second row: ELMER MEHLEM, CLARENCE, PETERSON, HENRY MANSKI, MAGNUS EKERN, INGA LINRUD, THERESA MANSKI, MIDNIE HANSON, ELNORA PETERSON, ALICE HAGEN, MABLE GILBERTSON, HELEN HAGEN. Third row: LLOYD MEHLUM, CLIFFORD HAGEN, OBERT EKERN, WILLIAM KOPPLIN, GUY SMITH, MARTHA MIDTLIEN, AGNES HANSON, MARTHA HAGEN.



(Above) The GULLORD home, in about 1889. From left to right: MRS. OLE GULLORD, EMIL GULLORD, CAROLINE RUDE, MRS. EMIL GULLORD, OLE GULLORD, OSWALD GULLORD. (Notice the old baby-buggy on the right).



MID'TRE COON VALLEY SANG-KOR 1914 (Left.) First row, left to right: ALMA GULLORD, ALMA HANSON, MARTHA LINRUD, EDNA PETERSON, HULDA PETERSON, MABLE GULLORD, HULDA GULLORD, MABLE HASLEY, ALMA HASLEY. Second row: LIZZIE GULLORD, ESTHER EILERTSON, CLAUDINE GULLORD, AGNES PETERSON, ANNA LINRUD, LAURA HAGEN, OLGA GULLORD, NELLIE KNUTSON, ALMA HANSON, RUTH EILERTSON. Back row: HENRY KNUTSON, HJALMER HANSON, GRANT JOHNSON, OLE THOMTE, LAUITZ HAGEN, CHRIS KNUTSON, RUDOLPH JOTHEN, CHRIS EKERN, MELVIN KNUTSON, PALMER BLYHOVDE, SAM RUNKEN.

SANGERFEST . . . 1904 . . .

Program of Sangerfest Coon Valley, Wisconsin, June 5, 1904.

PART I.

Guds Ord det er vort Arvegods..... Grand Chorus
 Invocation..... Rev. H. Roalkvam
 Herren Lever Store Bud..... Chorus
 Piano Trio..... "Fest March"
 The Misses Rud.
 Davids 117de Salme..... East Paint Creek Church Choir
 Duet..... "Farvel"
 Mr. and Mrs. Otto Hagen.
 Lad Sangens glade toner Klinge..... Chorus
 Piano Solo..... "Church Bells"
 Miss Anna Roalkvam.
 Ver velkommen..... Norden Choir
 Solo..... "Salvation"
 Miss Magdaline Rud.
 O Naadens Sol og Sede..... Chorus
 Solo..... "The Holy City"
 Otto Hagen.
 Davids 100 de Salme..... West Paint Creek Choir
 Alt det som aande har love Gud..... Chorus

PART II.

Himmel og Jord skal forga..... Male Chorus
 Solo..... "Sella dag jag tor bud"
 E. C. Dahl.
 Takker Herren..... Waukon Choir
 Ladies Sextette..... "Skabningens Lengsel"
 East Paint Creek Choir.
 Høilover vor Herre og Gud..... Chorus
 Piano Solo..... "Valse Arabesque"
 Miss Genette Rud.
 Trio..... "Lever du det nye livet"
 Miss Grimso, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Hagen.
 O Min Sjel ver stille for Gud..... Chorus
 Nogle Bemærkninger..... Rev. Roalkvam
 Kjerlighed til Nesten..... Norden Choir
 Ladies Sextette..... "O, Lyse Minder"
 Waukon Choir.
 Lov Herren min Sjel..... Chorus
 Piano Trio..... "See the Conquering Hero Comes"
 The Misses Rud.
 Sons of Zion..... East Paint Creek Choir
 Ladies Duett..... "Tak for stunden her"
 Saa vil vi nu sige hverandre farvel..... Grand Chorus
 Benediction and dismissal..... Rev. H. Roalkvam

Standard Print, Waukon.



The program of the Sangerfest held June 5, 1904, at the LINRUD farm, is shown at the left of the page, also a picture of the people there at that time.

(Right) The LINRUD home in 1897. From left to right: MRS. ELISA EILERTSON, "JUMBO", JOHN LINRUD, JOHN MIDTLIEN, in back: OSCAR LINRUD, OLE LINRUD, MARIA LINRUD, ANTON BRUDLOS.



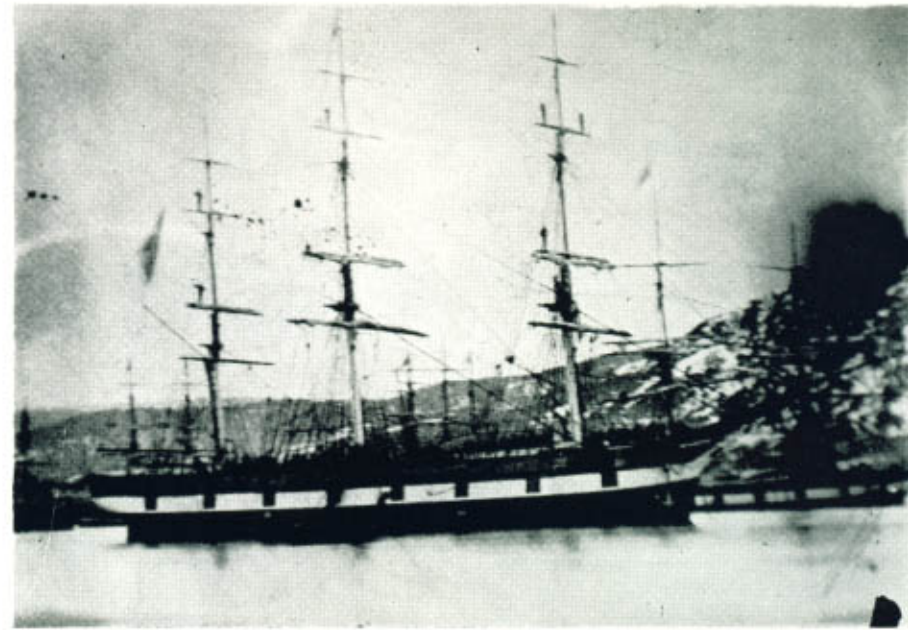
ESOFEA • • • in 1870 • • •



On the extreme left in this picture is the old home of Nels and Randi Ellingsrud. Nels is standing by the corner of the house, Randi Ellingsrud and Agnethe Rentz in the garden. Across the road (the building numbered 1) is the store operated at that time by A. K. Strand. The building next to the store (numbered 2) was then occupied by Michael and Agnethe Rentz, later moved to the hill near the schoolhouse. On the lower right side of the picture is the tannery operated by Rentz Brothers, and the Rentz's first barn. In the upper right side of the picture part of the old school house may be seen. When Ella Hunter taught at the Esofea School in about 1880, the district furnished no clock for the school and the teacher had no time-piece of her own. So Mrs. Agnethe Rentz, whose home was on the hill next to the school house, placed a white cloth in the window of her home when it was 9 o'clock, 10:30, 10:45, etc., so the teacher would know when to call recess, noon-hour and other school periods.

THE "HANNAH PARR"

MICHAEL RENTZ was born in Gausdal, Norway in 1846, and he came to America in 1868 on the "Hannah Parr"; (shown on the right). The journey across the stormy Atlantic in this ship took 22 weeks. Below are excerpts literally translated from an account of the journey written by Michael Rentz in Norwegian.



"On Easter Morning, the twelfth day of April, 1868, at four o'clock, anchor was raised, the sails were hoisted in "Kristiania Havn", and with a lusty "hurrah" the weather-beaten ship, "Hannah Parr", glided through the beautiful fjord. We had an uneventful voyage until the 28th day of April, when we were in the middle of the Atlantic ocean and we ran into a terrific hurricane which lasted over twenty-four hours. That night the foremast broke with a splintering crash, as well as part of the mainmast, and the rudder was damaged to the extent that it barely hung, and it swayed back and forth with the roll of the ship. We were then entirely at the mercy of the sea. When the storm subsided the next day we could peek out through the hatch door and see a terrifying scene. Everything which could be loosed had disappeared overboard, and the sails still remaining on the yard-arms were mere shreds. Everything was so damaged that the ship had to follow the wind.

After eight days of sailing we reached Irish waters, a pilot came on board and a tug-boat towed us 90 miles to the beautiful Shannon Bay and the city of Limerick, where the ship was placed in dock for repairs. The people of Limerick heartily welcomed us, and the better class of people vied with each other to bestow their hospitality upon us. After seven weeks in Ireland the ship had to be moved out of dock because of the tide, and it was towed to the mouth of the harbor, where the ship was anchored and we remained for 8 days to finish the repairs on the ship. Eventually we started again on our journey, but many of the young people on board desired to be helpful in hoisting the sail, and due to carelessness the main yard arm on the main mast was broken. Again the anchor was lowered. The patient temper of the captain finally broke and he was for a time not very sweet to either passengers or the crew. When these damages were repaired and we had again reached Atlantic waters, many of the passengers become very ill with scarlet fever. The heroic work of Dr. Nicolai Bruun got it under control with only two or three dead. We had, as I can remember, only 14 deaths on the whole voyage, mostly children.

Just after we left Ireland, the discovery was made that unwelcome guests had come aboard, and were very annoying and multiplied so rapidly that there must have been millions aboard.

Many of these 'guests' (gray-backs) came out alive with us into the States. We had as a whole good weather, but taking everything into consideration the voyage was hard and uncomfortable.

After about five weeks sailing we finally reached 'Grafton Isle'—a quarantine station where we remained for several days. There a tragedy occurred when one of our passengers drowned. We finally got through the quarantine and came to Quebec, where the ship anchored and we met with un-looked-for trouble. There had been recently passed a law that no one could land unless he had means to go to the States. Further trouble for the Captain as he had furnished many passengers with provisions ever since the stay in Ireland. Many took advantage of his free provisions and free ride. Days went by and no one was permitted to land. Finally a letter was smuggled ashore to the consul and eventually we all set ashore in pouring rain. The Captain accompanied us to Chicago, then the 'flock' separated. Several of us went then to Decorah, Iowa. The journey had taken us 22 weeks".

The parent of OLIANA DAFFINRUID came to America at the same time as Mr. Rentz, on the "Hannah Parr".



A View of Esofea in About 1910



(Above) Esofea School . . . in 1903. DELLA SEBION teacher. Left to right: ESTHER ENGEBRETSON, NORA JOHNSON, OLGA SKAUG, HATTIE THOMPSON, MABLE THOMPSON, ANNA GYLAND, ALMA SKAUG, NORA RENTZ, EMILY LARSON, RUTH ENGEBRETSON, ELLA RAMSTAD, EVA JOHNSON, ARTHUR JOHNSON, NORDAHL SKAUG, ALF SKOLOS, OLAF LARSON, TENNIE LARSON, STEPHEN GYLAND, on extreme right, NORTON ANDERSON.



The Esofea School . . . May, 1898. MATILDA RENTZ, teacher. Graduates of 1898: AMALIA RENTZ, OLGA RENTZ, ELLEN HANSON, ELLEN SKAALAND, LUDVIG FIELD, THEODORE JOHNSON.



The Rentz Home, and the Church, in about 1930

SOUTH RIDGE . . .



IVER O. NESSET was born at Tretten, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, in 1853, and he has lived on South Ridge, since 1881. He is the oldest living person on South Ridge today. This picture was taken on the day of his 80th birthday. Left to right, standing: George Nessel, Hjalmer Galstad, Tom Lund, Edwin Nessel, John Galstad, Andrew Hoff, Cornelius Sebion, Morris Galstad, Pete Holte, Thomas Johnson.



The EVEN BAGSTAD Farm in 1908. Even Bagstad, Nellie Bagstad, Adolph Bagstad, Morris Bagstad, Malla Solberg, Ragna Solberg, Edward Bagstad, Marie Hoff, Olaf Bagstad, Alice Cornell.



The THROND LINDVIG Family in about 1892. Left to right, top row: Annie Lindvig, Engemor Lindvig, Christafor Lindvig, Knut Lindvig, Thea Lindvig, Gurine Lindvig. Front row: Theodore Lindvig, Ola Lindvig, Aasne Lindvig, Thrond Lindvig, Christine Lindvig, Mrs. P. M. Johnson.



The 60th Anniversary of Thron and Christine Lindvig, January 5, 1905, at the old Lindvig farm. As numbered on the picture: 1-Thron O. Lindvig, 2-Christine Lindvig, 3-Ingebor Lindvig, 4-Aasne Lindvig, 5-Anne Lindvig, 6-Theahne Lindvig, 7-Ole Lindvig, 8-Knut Lindvig, 9-Theodore Lindvig, 10-Christopher Lindvig, 11-Gurine Lindvig, 12-Christ Stafslien, 13-Neri Olson, 14-Mrs. Neri Olson, 15-Lars Nelson, 16-Henry Lindvig, 17-Nordahl Veum, 18-Ole Anderson, 19-Carl Lindvig, 20-Ray Stafslie, 21-Mrs. Alfred Froiland, 22-Mrs. Knut Lindvig, 23-Mrs. Christ Lindvig, 24-Mrs. Arthur Strangstalien, 25-Caroline Veum, 26-Mrs. Christine Vansickle, 27-Mrs. Regina Swenson, 28-Mrs. Severt Ihle, 29-Mrs. Ole Anderson, 30-Thomas Johnson, 31-Clara Johnson, 32-Ole Monshaugen, 33-Ludvig Theige, 34-Mathias Theige, 35-Rev. H. Roalkvam, 36-I. N. Koefod, 37-John Nerison, 38-Mrs. John Nerison, 39-Mrs. Ole Lindvig, 40-Thron Lindvig, 41-Mrs. Christine Eggebraaten, 42-Otto Lee, 43-Rosine Lindvig, 44-..... Eggebraaten, 45-Sam Burns, 46-Mrs. Caroline Bakkestuen, 47-Mrs. Amund Anderson, 48-Mrs. Marit Bergum, 49-Mrs. Peter Pyuten, 50-Mrs. Ole Monshaugen, 51-Mrs. Alex Kvanlie, 52-Mrs. Emma Stendahl, 53-Mrs. Henry Rundahl, 54-John Jacobson, 55-Mrs. Art Brye, 56-Mrs. Mathias Theige, 57-Mrs. Ole Nerison, 58-Christian Slette, 59-Ole Nerison, 60-Mrs. Orlando Burke, 61-Ole Jacobson, 62-Christopher Nerison, 63-Olga Johnson, 74-Mrs. Henry Tronson, 75-Thomas Lindvig, 66-Mrs. Gulbran Solberg, 67-Mrs. Albert Kjestelson, 68-Johanes Johnson Kraaberstuen, 69-Gabreal Nedland, 70-Mrs. Adolph Bangstad, 71-Anton Nelson Maurhaugen, 72-Mathias Bakkestuen, 73-Thomas O. Lindvig, 74-Mrs. Olga Anderson, 75-Thames Lindvig, 76-....., 77-Mrs. H. Roalkvam.



On the way back from a picnic . . . 1898. From left to right: BENNIE VON RUDEN, BENNIE THEILE, MARTIN VON RUDEN, THEODORE LINDVIG, CARL MATHISON, ANTON MATHISON.



(Left) Mr. and Mrs. Christean Hoff and family in 1916. Seated from left to right: OSCAR HOFF, CHRISTEAN HOFF, MABEL HOFF, CARL HOFF, OBERT HOFF, THOMAS HOFF. Standing, left to right: PETER HOFF, HELMER HOFF, OLINE HOFF, INGVALD HOFF, JOHN HOFF, MAUDA HOFF, HAAKEN HOFF.



(Above) IVER NELSON (MAURHAUGEN), left, and KNUTE T. LINDVIG, right. Although this picture was taken recently, these are the same instruments played by these musicians at almost every large gathering of people in the early 1900's.



(Above) In 1911—First row: MABEL LIEN, C. J. STAFSLIEN, THORA LUNDE PALMER SLETTE, MRS. C. J. STAFSLIEN, JONETTE SLETTE, TENA NELSON. Standing, left to right: MAGNUS SLETTE, JULIA HANSON, AMANDA KRAABEL, FREDRICKA BAKKUM, LAURA SIMONSON, MATHILDA SLETTE, JULIUS SLETTE.



This picture was taken in 1888, the farm now owned by Carl Mathison. Left to right: NERI TWAIT, AMUND TWAIT, ANNA TWAIT, NERI OLSON, CLARA OLSON, BOARDI OLSON.



The Amund Lurhaugen Farm in 1902. From left to right: LIS-BETH LURHAUGEN, GUSTAV LURHAUGEN, ANDERS LURHAUGEN, AMUND LURHAUGEN, ANNE LURHAUGEN. The farm is now owned by Peter Hoff.



In about 1908 . . . left to right, front row: MRS. CLARENCE MOEN, MRS. OLE IHLE, GEORGE IHLE, OLE IHLE, ING-WAL IHLE. In back, SEVART IHLE, OSCAR IHLE, MRS. ANTON SVEEN, MRS. ALBIN SMEBY.



This picture was taken on the Johnson farm in 1892. From left to right: EMMA JOHNSON, MRS. P. M. JOHNSON, THOMAS JOHNSON, MARIE JOHNSON, CLARA JOHNSON, ANNIE LUND, on porch: ANDREW MATHISON.



The Town Board—Town of Coon—in about 1909. Seated, left to right NERI NERISON, HELGE LARSON, NICK KLOM-STIN, standing, left to right, CHRIST LINDVIG, CHRIST HOFF, ADOLPH C. BRYE.



In front, left to right: HAZEL DAVIDSON, LEAFY DAVIDSON, LOELLA LARSON, AMANDA BRENNUM, INGMAN BAKKESTUEN, HENRY ERICKSON, JERRY KRAABEL, GEORGE IHLE, SELMER STRANGSTALIEN, JOHN HOFF, OSCAR KRAABEL, PALMER KRAABEL, ALIDA IHLE, OLGA IHLE, GUNDA KRAABEL, second row: GUSTAV ANDERSON, THOMAS ODEGAARDEN, FRED JOHNSON, HANS NORDROM, DAFFA DAVIDSON, DANIEL DAVIDSON, third row, CARL HOFF, OSCAR IHLE, JOHN M. BAKKESTUEN, PETER NORDRUM, MILLIE LARSON (teacher), TILLIE LARSON, INGA IHLE, PALMA GUNDERSON, OSCAR ODEGAARDEN, LAURA STRANGLSTALIEN, CLARA BAKKESTUEN, GUNDA KRAABEL, OLGA NORDRUM, back row, CLARENCE DAVIDSON, JOHN HAGE, JOHN BAKKESTUEN, HENRY DAVIDSON, GENA HAGE, OLINA HOFF, NETTA NORDRUM, MELVIN JOHNSON, SIGVART IHLE.

NERISON SCHOOL . . .



Front row, left to right: INGA OLSON, STELLA BERGUST, MALLA KROKOM, JOSIE NESSET, ELISA ROLLE, BERGINE SAGMOEN, ELISA NESSET, NORDAHL STEEN, DAHL, NORDAHL SAGMOEN, LOUIS ROLLE, ALBIN JACOBSON, PALMER OLSON, ALBERT NESSET, JORDAHL EKERN, OLIVER NERISON. Second row, left to right: RIKKA NESSET, LENA KROKOM, CLARA NERISON, JOSIE JACOBSON, EMMA S'TEENDAHL, CLARA STANGSTADLIEN, ALMA JACOBSON, OLGA NERISON, ALMA RUNNING, ELLEN HANSON (teacher).



This picture was taken on the day of a school picnic at the Hans Davidson farm, in 1907. Standing, left to right, INGA IHLE, GARN HANSON, OLINA HOFF, seated, left to right, GENA HAGE, MANDA HOFF, REGINA ERICKSON.

NORTH RIDGE . . .



In the spring, just after seeding time in 1909 . . . the OPHUS FARM.

Back row, left to right: Amelia Gunderson, Mrs. Adolph Lee (holding Burton) Mrs. Oscar Moilien, Mrs. Louis Sather, Mrs. J. E. Stromstad, Mrs. M. Halmrast, Mrs. Hilda Berg, Mrs. Nordahl Moilien (holding Carol), Mrs. Henry Johnson, Rev. H. O. Bach, Mrs. Palmer Moilien, Mrs. Lepke, Mrs. John Bert, Mrs. Melvin Kalbakken, Mrs. Henry Rundahl, (a visitor), Mrs. N. Stenslien, Mrs. Carl Ambrosen, Mrs. Karn Berg, Mrs. William Strupp, Mrs. Peter Ophus, Mrs. John Galstad, Mrs. John Thompson, Mrs. T. Davidson. Second row: Mrs. S. Lee, Mrs. Ingeborg Thoreson, Mrs. Nels Jensen, Mrs. Ella Evans, Mrs. Lisa Stromstad, Mrs. Berta Stromstad, Mrs. H. Roalkvam, Mrs. H. O. Bach, Mrs. N. Sather, Mrs. Karen Moilien, Martine Moilien, Mrs. M. Brye, Mrs. Ella Johnson. Front row: Inga Ophus, Mrs. Hjalmer Mathison, Mrs. Maurice Galstad, Mrs. Helmer Midtlien, Martha Brye, Harland Mathison, Edna Stenslien, Emma Thoreson, Mrs. Art Bylhovde and Donald Blyhovde.



(Left) The North Ridge school in about 1906—before it was moved to where it now stands. Meta Lang was the teacher. Front row, left to right: Amalia Brye, Rudolph Bagstad, Cora Running, Thomas Johnson, Martha Eggle, Oscar Running, Anna Karlstad, Alvin Galstad, Minnie Carlstad, Clarence Brye, Inga Ophus, Arthur Egger, Nora Sather, Melvin Running, Elmer Berg, Elmer Haugen, Rosie Galstad Milnor Brye. Second row: Oscar Thompson, Arthur Bagstad, Joseph Hagen, Morrice Galstad, Ruth Brye, Martha Engelheart, Theolina Bagstad, Ella Moilien, Jens Moilien, Oliver Karlstad, Ida Stromstad, Gilbert Bagstad, Delia Stromstad, Axel Berg, Alma Thompson, Chester Hagen, Agnes Sather, Meta Land, John Berg, Oscar Berg, Perlie Haugen, Edwin Evans, School Board members, John Johnson, Nick Sather, Melvin Brye.

(Right) Bessie Ida Tucker was the teacher in 1910 when this picture of the North Ridge School was taken. Front row, left to right: Elmer Johnson, Laurence Johnson, Oscar Galstad, Rosie Galstad, Inga Ophus, Amalia Brye, Hilda Hagen, Nora Sather, Ruth Brye, Alice Johnson, Ella Karlstad, Louisa Brye, Cora Running. Second row: Thomas Johnson, Edwin Evans, Arthur Egger, Melvin Running, Ingvald Kraabel, Morris Thompson, Milnor Brye, Hjelmer Galstad, Oscar Ophus, Oscar Running. Third Row: Oscar Thompson, Johnny Berg, Elvin Galstad, Anna Karlstad, Ella Moilien, Bessie Ida Tucker (teacher), Martha Egger, Elma Berg, Clarence Brye, Morris Galstad, Joseph Hagen.





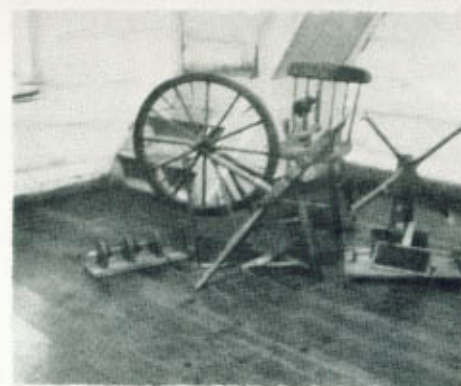
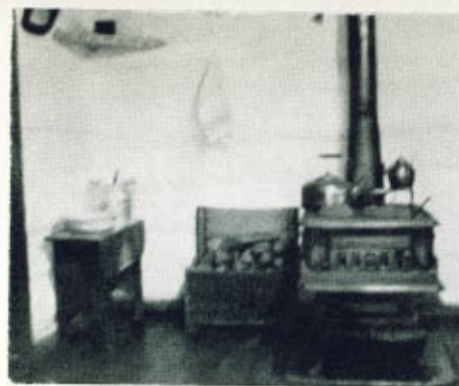
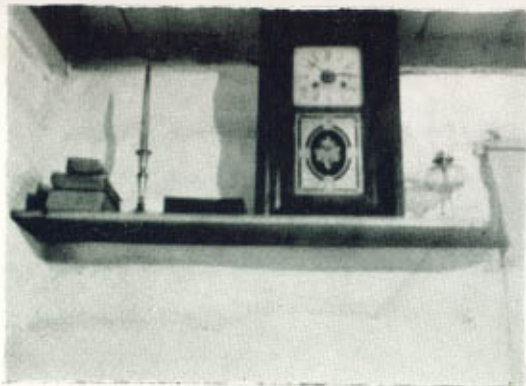
This picture was taken on the John Moilien farm in about 1891. From left to right: JOHN MOILIEN, MRS. JOHN MOILIEN (holding OSCAR MOILIEN), INGA MOILLIEN, JOSEPH MOILIEN, (back on step): OSWALD JORSTAD, MATILDA MOILIEN, MRS. ANNE SOLBERG (in chair), TILMER MOILIEN, PALMER MOILIEN, LEONARD JORSTAD.



Inside of the North Ridge School



Taken in 1907 of the Weishaupt Brothers and their threshing 'outfit' at the Willie Egger farm, now owned by Wm. Strupp. OTTO WEISHAUPT, on engine; on feed-platform, left to right, PETE EGGLE, H. E. MILLS, AUGUST WEISHAUPT, on water tank; WILLIE WEISHAUPT.



(Above) This picture was taken in about 1897 of the Ophus family. Seated: OLE J. OPHUS, INGEBORG OPHUS. In back, left to right MATHILDA OPHUS, PETER OPHUS, MALLA OPHUS.

AS IT LOOKED IN 1879 Although these pictures were taken recently, they are of the old Ophus home as it looked many years ago the same old furnishings, arranged the way they were then, in the same one-room house. The house was built by Ole Ophus in 1879. It still remains as it was then as part of the house now occupied by Peter Ophus, which was added on to the original home later.

The clock on the shelf was made by the New Haven Clock Company and purchased in 1873. It is still keeping accurate time when wound. It is a one-day clock, with no springs, and it keeps going by means of weights.

The spinning wheel was brought from Norway, and it was old when brought from there in the spring of 1871. The cards and spools were also brought from Norway.

The old table was made in America by Ole Ophus in about 1871, and the chairs were purchased in La Crosse that same year. The old fashioned stairway (shown in one of the pictures above is the same one that was built originally. Notice the irons on the stove, the stove itself, the Norwegian Bible and Hymn-book brought from Norway, the cupboard, the old candle-holder, and the home-made wash bench and wood box. Hanging above the stove but not showing in the pictures are a home-made scissors and a candle-mold.

Peter Ophus still has the box filled with wooden shoe-pegs and the old wooden lasts used by his father in repairing shoes many years ago. They were brought from Ringebo, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway.

