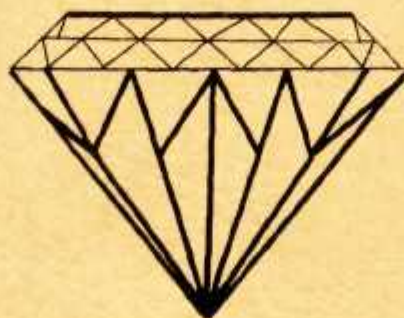


Noonan Diamond Jubilee

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1906 -



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Noonan, North Dakota
July 3-4-5, 1981

A Special Word of Thanks

On behalf of all of us, we wish to thank everyone who helped in any way to make this Noonan Jubilee possible, and to everyone who came to help us celebrate this great anniversary.

It is fitting that we should remember, honor, and appreciate those brave people before us who dared to pioneer the wilds of the prairies and endure its hardships, so that we can enjoy this great land of ours. It is up to us now to carry on and continue to strive to improve our way of life, as they did.

We hope your visit at Noonan during the 75th anniversary was a happy time. I personally wish to convey my thanks for your patience, as you read and reminisce about Noonan's long-ago time.

Thank you, too, to everyone who loaned me pictures, and to all others — including my husband — who assisted and gave me moral support.

Olga Rait



Greetings from Mayor
Donna (Wissbrod) Lagein



A general view of Noonan
as it looked on December
26, 1906, when it all began
on the wind-swept prairies.



The Golden Rule
was the first business
building in our new
town of Noonan.

Noonan Was Born in 1906

It is three quarters of a century since the community of Noonan originated so it is fitting that we observe the 75-year Jubilee by compiling this book and some of the historic happenings during that time. Noonan still has a heart throb after all that time.

After much research, personal interviews and letters, we present our "story" of Noonan, and herewith apologize for any errors or omissions. We ask your indulgence as you read; there may even seem to be inaccuracies and incoherence. We have 'borrowed' from many sources and spent many nostalgic hours researching the "olden days." It was with trepidation that I finally agreed to make an attempt to write the following—

Noonan was born in 1906 with the coming of the Great Northern Railroad. It was in that year that Mrs. Carrie Everson, a widow who lived with her four sons and one daughter in a three-room sod shack—which was considered big at that time, consented to sell some of her homestead for a townsite. Note—Many of the homestead 'shacks' included a framework, and upon breaking up some prairie sod with a plow, the homesteaders would pile the sod alongside the house up to the roof which was tarpaper-covered and packed with sod. The interior was perhaps "papered" with newspapers.

Mrs. Everson, it was said, received for her 160 acres from the Great Northern, equivalent to \$4600, a pretty good price. It was supposed there might be coal under the land.



Maria Ringdahl
(About 1913)

Today Mr. and Mrs. Fred Heuer (Ruth Wilson Mellum) live on the spot where Mrs. Carrie Everson lived in the original house. In fact, her shack is part of their house. The Roy Klevens lived there before Heuers, and Oscar Lindstroms before Klevens. Ruth, 82, came to Noonan with her parents in 1912 from Nebraska. Also coming with the family was brother Edgar. He too lives in



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Joyce

Noonan. Maria Ringdahl came from Norway with her family in 1907 at the age of 15. Mrs. Tom Joyce (Evelyn Brady) came with her family from Iowa in 1906 at the age of 8. Her husband came from Minnesota somewhat later as did Fred Heuer, and they now live in Noonan, having moved from their farm nearby. Mrs. Anna (Kostek) Burner also moved to Noonan from their farm home near the Canadian border. She is 86. So,—time passes on; not many of the "old timers" left. Now, our generation becomes the "old timers!"

Back to early Noonan — the Great Northern had just begun laying a roadbed for its tracks, completed for use a year later, when it put its Noonan lots up for sale.

Just two years earlier the Soo Line Railroad had built its trackage a short distance north, and Kermit had started out as a flourishing community early in 1906, only a couple miles from Noonan. The Great Northern was eager to get Noonan going before Kermit became too strong.

To boost Noonan, the Great Northern made a standing offer to anyone who would start a business, and to businessmen of Kermit, that they would be willing to move their buildings to Noonan and furnish a lot without any expense to the owner. A battle between the two towns erupted.

Noonan boomed as businessmen moved their buildings from Kermit to the new townsite, and Kermit never recovered. But it did put up a fight, and when Kermit's general store was left between towns overnight while being moved to Noonan, it was burned down, the victim of a conspiracy of several angry Kermit men. (The Kermit newspaper reported on March 6, 1908, that there was a dirty scandal blaming Kermit for the building that accidentally burned down on its way to Noonan. "Hello! Have you been arrested yet?" was a common greeting when friends met in Kermit those days.) There was a \$700 reward offered for information on the Hoisington Mercantile Co. building, signed by 25 citizens of Noonan and vicinity.

Kermit was dealt a final death blow by the discovery of coal at Noonan which brought more and more customers to the new town, leaving its predecessor to become an abandoned memory.

Businesses which moved to Noonan from Kermit included the First International Bank whose cashier was Albert H. Makee, Rolf Reite's Drug Store, Ole Christensen's newspaper (the Republican—later changed to the Noonan Miner) and Langworthy Lumber Company.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Heuer



Emil Ringdahl

Pictures showing metamorphosis of Noonan









Patrick Noonan Was City's Founder

Noonan got its name from the Patrick Noonan family of nine sons and three daughters, many of whom settled on homesteads in that vicinity and did a lot of farming in the area. My research shows that Mr. Noonan Sr. became the first mayor of Noonan and was later to be appointed the first Treasurer of Divide County in 1910. Bill Vadnais was the first mayor of Kermit and the first County Auditor. The first Commissioners of the newly-divided county were Chas. Perry, Albert Makee and Mac Colgan. E. M. Truax was elected County Commissioner from our district in 1912.

Noonan was nicknamed the "White City" because all the buildings were painted white or were constructed of white pressed brick.

J. J. (Julius) Gits of Portal started the first business block in Noonan with a general store called the Golden Rule, and he became the biggest booster for the new community.

Gits, who had grown up in Belgium, convinced relatives and friends living in Minnesota, also originally from Belgium, to come out to the new little town of Noonan, and even made a trip to Belgium to persuade other relatives and friends to come. Those who came from Minnesota were his brothers Art (Blanche VandeWalle, who now owns the farm originally homesteaded by Wm. Noonan just west of Noonan, is a daughter) and Joseph, the Darras and Minne families, Alois Lagein, Alidor Devriendt, Morris and Jerome Dhuyvetter, Alidor Verlinde, all a sort of "advance guard" of a colony of Belgians who would locate in the Noonan country if they liked it here. Others came later.

Coming from Belgium in stages from 1913 to 1916 were Mr. and Mrs. Victor VandeWalle and their children: Jules, Mary, Julia (Mrs. Leo Rindel), Clemence and Lea (Mrs. Leslie Kimball).

After Gits started the Golden Rule Store, C. L. Rouse erected Noonan's second general store, but it was soon destroyed by a fire. Rouse then bought the general store from Bill Hoisington of Kermit, and that was the building destroyed by arson while it was being moved to Noonan. But Rouse persisted and erected a brick store shortly afterward, called the Mercantile Company.

Some of the first business places included the first implement store operated by Henry Nelson, who later became Divide County's first sheriff; the hotel operated by Henry Kotschevar and the Gumtote Hotel in which Will Paul lost his life when it burned; the first light plant, run by Nordman and Trenne, and two blacksmith shops owned by a Mr. Cornwall and Mr. Pat Noonan Jr. (later owned by Thorvald Hoiby who continued the business till about 1960—since closed).

Noonan's boom years were 1916 to 1930, and during that period a variety of businesses came and went, some burning down in fires that took a toll on the Main Street businesses two or three times over.

But in the early years the businesses included three banks, three eating places, four or five grocery stores, a couple of pool halls, a tailor shop, millinery (hat) shop, dress shop, drug store, dry goods supply, coal mine offices, two implement and hardware dealers, two lumber yards, a doctor's office, dentist's office, barber shops, shoe repair and harness shops, a chicken hatchery (built by the Light Bros. and managed by Bud Ormsby; it was destroyed by fire after only a few years), two dray businesses, a couple of blacksmith shops, a creamery and light plant. There were even a city laundry and Harry Ceglowski's bakery and lunch counter, north of Feeney's Pool Hall. (Bread was automatically wrapped in waxed paper!) Alfred Simonson started the first show house, was the first rural mail carrier and had a feed store. Ole Wick had a dray service.

Churches which were organized in the first years included the Noonan Methodist, St. Luke's Catholic, Bethlehem Lutheran and the Assembly of God. Lutherans held services in homes, Knoph's Store and in the Methodist Church in the English and Norse languages. Church services were also conducted in the homes or school houses out in the rural communities. Prairie Chapel, 1908, was the first church in the township—southeast of town; only the cemetery remains since the Chapel was moved to Noonan and became a part of the Methodist Church there. Rural Lutherans north of town joined congregations in Noonan or Crosby.



THE PATRICK NOONAN FAMILY . . . Noonan's founder, Patrick Noonan Sr., is shown seated right with his wife, Cathrine. The family photo was taken at their 60th anniversary wedding celebration in 1927. Seated left is son Michael. The other children, standing left to right, are Clement, Patrick Jr., John, Evelyn, James, Andrew, Kathryn, Thomas, Peter, Mary and William.

Founder Married 60 Years

(Reprinted from Crosby
Journal January 15, 1928)

A distinction that does not occur to many towns was fittingly observed in Crosby on Saturday, January 7th, when Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Noonan, Sr., celebrated their Diamond or sixtieth wedding anniversary. This auspicious occasion was observed by a family reunion at their home in which eight of their children and several of the grandchildren participated.

In an interview with Mr. Noonan on Monday, he informed The Journal editor that it does not seem so very long ago, since that cold wintry day when they drove to a neighboring town, procured the license and pronounced the words that united them in wedlock. Sixty years is quite a space of time, he admitted, but they were happy years, and he added, "we are just as happy today as we ever have been in our life."

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Noonan were united in marriage at Lyndon, Wis., on the 7th day of January, 1868, and for five years afterward, they resided on their farm near Warner, Wis. In 1873, they moved to Chester, Ia., where they engaged in farming for thirty-five years. In 1908, they moved to what is now Divide County, and resided near Noonan, which town is named after the family. At that place Mr. Noonan acted as general manager of the Noonan Bros., Lignite coal mine, near that city. In 1910, Mr. Noonan acted as general manager of the Noonan Bros., Lignite coal mine, near that city. In 1910, Mr. Noonan was appointed as the first county treasurer of Divide County, which was organized that fall, and they moved to Crosby and have since made their home here.

During his residence in Crosby, Mr. Noonan has held several positions of trust, besides being the first county treasurer, he also served for several years as city justice of the peace and United States Commissioner and in each instance conducted the affairs of his office in a dignified and efficient manner.

Mr. and Mrs. Noonan became the parents of twelve children, all of whom are living, as follows: William, Andrew, Michael, Clement and Mrs. W. A. Chalcroft, all of Crosby; Patrick Jr., Ben and James of Noonan; Peter of Glendive, Mont.; John of Hanna, Alta.; Mrs. S. P. Howe, of Estherville, Ia., and Mrs. A. L. Larson of Sebeka, Minn. All of the children, with the exception of the last four named were present at the reunion on Saturday evening. In addition to the above named children, Mr. and Mrs. Noonan have thirty-

seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Noonan was eighty years old on the 22nd day of last November and Mrs. Noonan was 78 in August. Both are hale and hearty, and enjoying the best of health, and apparently still have several years of matrimonial bliss ahead of them.

The Journal is proud to be numbered among their large circle of friends, who join in extending hearty congratulations to this venerable couple, and also best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

Coal Boosted Noonan

Noonan enjoyed its biggest population in the decade of the 1920's with the help of the coal industry. The early homesteaders in Divide County used to get fuel by digging from outcroppings, often checking around gopher holes for signs of the substance. The eastern one-third of the county contained much lignite coal within easy reach.

The pioneer in commercial mining was the late Elmer Truax, Sr. and around 1908, he opened an underground mine a half-mile east of Noonan. A spur of railroad was built to connect with the Great Northern branch line for shipping purposes. Between 1910 and 1925 several small mines opened in the Noonan area: Hought Coal, Noonan Bros. Coal (became Light Bros. Mine), Tandberg Coal, Kimball Coal, Evanson's Mine became the Lorbeski Mine, Logelin Coal (his adv.—the square deal mine), Daugherty Coal, Parker Mine, Hagen's (Evan and John) Mine, Woodbeck's Mine and Blank's Mine. Much of the coal from these mines was hauled to railroad tracks where it was shoveled by hand into box cars. The rest supplied the local area.

By the early 1930s, most of the underground mines in the Noonan area had ceased to operate. Underground mining had become too expensive, and other means had to be found to produce the coal. One company tried strip mining with horses, but the unprofitable venture was discontinued after a few years. Light's underground mine did not close till the middle 40s.

Meanwhile, the Truax Coal Company, which had started as an underground mine, moved from Noonan to Columbus and went into open mining, ending up as a large national corporation with mines in Illinois, investments and mines in Pennsylvania and in Velva, N.D. Truax went into partnership with Traer and, at one time, operated eleven strip mines in the U. S. and Canada. It is now Consolidated Coal Company.



Marius Johnson's Homestead shack, one of the earliest farms, located north of the Halgrim Braathen farm

Noonan and Kermit Had Intense Rivalry

From the Jubilee Edition of the Divide County Journal July 15, 1954.

In writing some history of Noonan, no story would be complete without mentioning Kermit, now a ghost town but once a prosperous community on the Soo and just about two miles from Noonan, on the Great Northern.

The writer of this article (which I am quoting) is probably very familiar with the situation at Kermit for he lived there during the time when its fight for existence was most bitter.

Kermit started out as a flourishing community in the summer of 1906, and at one time or another they had three banks, four lumber yards, four general stores, three hardware stores, two drug stores, two hotels with dining rooms, and a couple of restaurants, two pool halls, two livery and feed stables, millinery store, two newspapers, although the second one did not move in until the first had moved to Noonan.

There were three elevators, a couple of blacksmith shops, two meat markets, barber shop, and various other small concerns, but for the life of us, we cannot recall how many "blind pigs" there were. They probably numbered something like a dozen.

With the sale of the lots on the townsite of Noonan, which was held in 1907, J. J. Gits of Portal started the erection of the first business block for a general store, on the corner just across the street from the present postoffice. Soon the First International Bank moved over from Kermit, Rolf Reite's drug store, the Kermit Republican, and other places followed suit.

Then the battle was on. The Great Northern had a standing offer to businessmen of Kermit that they would move their business houses to Noonan and furnish a lot without any expense to the owner. With this sort of a proposition, every now and then, someone would sell out or move, so Kermit was gradually dwindling down and Noonan was growing.

One of the exciting episodes of this struggle between Kermit and Noonan was the destruction of the Bill Hoisington building by fire about a quarter of a mile east of Kermit. This, if our memory serves us correctly, occurred in the spring or fall of 1908, we cannot be sure.

Shortly after Noonan began growing, C. L. Rouse erected a building just south of the Gits Store, which became the town's second general store. However, before long it was destroyed by fire and the people of Kermit felt jubilant, as it was the first set-back Noonan had had.

However, a short time later, Mr. Rouse purchased the general store property of Bill Hoisington in Kermit, probably the second best building in the town, and made preparations to have it moved to Noonan. In due course of time, Shorty Bell, who was the big housemover at that time, pulled into Kermit, jacked the building up, hooked a big steam threshing engine to it and started for Noonan.

They had reached a point, about a quarter of a mile east of Kermit, when night overtook them, so they laid up for the night, leaving a watchman in charge.

This was too much for the Kermit people to bear, so a meeting was hurriedly called and the gathering place was in one of the "pigs." Everyone who entered was carefully screened and sworn to secrecy.

After some discussion and a few draughts from the cup that cheers, someone suggested "burning the damned thing up." The suggestion met with the general approval of all present. But who was to do the job?

Lots were drawn and as each man was eliminated, they

breathed a sigh of relief, but in the end, someone had to be stuck. To this very day, the secret has been well kept, for nobody outside of those who participated in the meeting knows for sure who did the job.

Shortly after midnight a couple of fellows came driving by and stopped to chat with the watchman. It was a chilly night, so they offered the man something to warm him up. He took a good husky drink of the squirrel whiskey, popular at the time, and then they had another, and another, and so on until the watchman was taken care of.

Then two other fellows crept along the ditch on the north side of the Soo track, each carrying a milk can filled with kerosene. When they reached the right point, they stealthily crossed the track and entered the building.

They threw the coal oil around the interior, applied the match and beat it back to Kermit as fast as they could following the same route by which they came.

In a few minutes, the flames were leaping skyward and the vow made by Kermit people that the Hoisington building would never reach Noonan was fulfilled.

But the end was not yet. Such things usually call for an investigation by the officers of the law, and as soon as day broke, the tracks leading to and from the building were easily discernable in the light snow which had been falling at the time; The officers had no trouble following them, and they led directly to the back door of one of the hardware stores in Kermit.

Later the hardware merchant was taken into custody and a preliminary hearing was held at Noonan, States Attorney Van. R. Brown of Williams County prosecuted, and Justice of the Peace Parker of rural Noonan acted as the presiding magistrate. The entire male population of Kermit attended the hearing and most of them had bulging pockets, as though they were carrying six-shooters.

There were some "tough eggs" in Kermit in those days, and apparently the Justice noticed them for after hearing the testimony of several witnesses, he promptly dismissed the case on the grounds of insufficient evidence, although some of it appeared quite convincing, even though circumstantial.

But many of those who still remember this case will swear several of the influential citizens of Noonan were allowed to live out their allotted span of life only because Judge Parker ruled the way he did. On the other hand, there are those who believe Kermit was only bluffing and that the whole act was put on just to intimidate the Judge. Whichever way it was, this ended the case.

While this for a time put a stop to the moving of buildings from Kermit to Noonan, it did not prevent the ultimate passing of the town, for a series of fires completed the work. The big one took almost a solid block on the west side of Main Street, and the town never did recover from this blow.

And strange as it may seem, the blaze that cleaned out this block of business houses had its origin in the hardware store of the man who was held for a time in connection with the burning of the Hoisington building.

While we have been writing this story of Divide County's two ghost towns, we had almost forgotten the place known as Paulson Siding, which was a Great Northern town about 7 or 8 miles east of Crosby.

It never got to the incorporation stage, but at one time there was a store, lumber yard, an elevator, a blacksmith shop, a depot, a postoffice and possibly more, but it did not survive and passed out of existence many years ago.

Truax mine views



Early Noonan mining scenes



Historical Gleanings from Old Newspapers

There was large advertisement promoting NOONAN—Past, Present and Future! A good live North Dakota town.

A news story promoting Noonan (reprinted from a Fergus Falls newspaper) reported wheat yielding 40 bu. per acre, grass being very nutritious, horses and cattle in good condition running at large on the prairie. As for the coal mining industry, as many as 30 box-car loads were being loaded in one day, the coal layer being about 30 or 40 feet below the surface.

Besides news stories and advertising of the business places, the Noonan Republican ran serials (fiction), household helps—such as how to preserve meats and other foods (no refrigeration in those days!), adv. for Calumet baking powder, Majestic ranges, Lydia Pinkham's vegetable compound, Kuriko, grape nuts and post toasties corn flakes, and Sloan's liniment as well as Freezone corn remover. Gits & Co. advertised a spring line of Royal Worcester corsets and Smyrna rugs. There were real live news features, state and national. Also agricultural news—no 6 o'clock and 10 o'clock news on radio or TV then!

There was fear of financial destruction caused by using mail order houses (Sears and Wards, for example) instead of patronizing the merchants of our town who pay taxes here, etc.

As early as September 1905, it was reported the Noonan flax averaged 16 bu. per acre. John Noonan threshed 1700 bu. of wheat on his place last week which averaged 24 bu. per acre.

In the May 1907 issue of one of the old papers, Kermit had become an incorporated village. It was to include the Noonan townsites. Litigation would follow, as citizens of Noonan would rather go out of existence as a town than be forcibly swallowed up by Kermit. The postoffice would be in Noonan—one for both towns.

The citizens of Kermit alleged that the only claim the people of Noonan had to the postoffice was the fact that the town was named after a man who was the father of nine boys. On the other hand the people of Noonan charged that the people of Kermit named their town after one of the President's (Roosevelt) sons, "thinking that by doing so they would gain some influence in this postoffice matter."

The St. Anthony & Dakota elevator was the first elevator in Noonan, being built in the fall of 1907 with Ben Dunford, Mgr.

In July 1908, the Kermit Grain and Merc. Co. came into being and Louie Miller Sr. had the distinction of marketing the first 1908 grain to that elevator. His prize was a year's subscription to the Kermit newspaper. The Kermit grain market about 1911, listed No. 1 Northern wheat at 97¢, No. 2 Northern—86¢, and flax—\$2.43. North Dakota was the top wheat producer. Kermit occupied the enviable position of being second as a wheat shipping station on the Soo system west of Minneapolis. Wimbledon was first (1909).

In 1909, the Noonan markets were No. 1 Northern wheat—\$1.01, No. 2 Northern—96¢, durum—\$1.00, oats—50¢, flax—\$1.70, butter—25¢, eggs—20¢.

D. R. Miller's Meat Market was advertising a good supply of fresh and smoked meats, sausage, oysters and fish. Everything neat and clean.

R. C. Dunford advertised as contractor and builder, painter and paper hanger. In 1909, street lamps burning kerosene, were erected in Kermit. There was weed spraying even in those days (mustard, kinghead, etc.) under supervision of NDAC. A Dr. Wheelock (graduate of the University of Kentucky) served Kermit. Dr. Jenssen, physician and surgeon, of Columbus (graduate of the University of Christiania, Norway and of the University of New York) served the area professionally, in an itinerant manner. Dr. Blake Lancaster, M.D., advertised as physician in charge of the new Crosby Hospital, and Miss Emma Thompson was the matron.

Knute Stokke, in the spring of 1910, purchased from Johnson Brothers a fine new two-seated surrey (don't know if it had a fringe on the top!) for their family use.

Albert Makee was agent for Dakota and Great Northern Townsite Company. J. J. Gits was president of the Commercial Club and was corresponding with a Minnesota friend of his who was figuring on starting a flour mill in Noonan, with the cheap coal and abundance of water in the great wheat country.

Mr. and Mrs. Hilbert Nelson—the first young married couple in Noonan (March 1907). Miss Daisy Truax taught the



Ledahl Brothers Livery Stable — a very important business in the early days of Noonan.

Case School north of town in 1906. (In the early 40s, she had a small restaurant where Eleanor Benzon lives.)

Noonan had an attorney, F. A. Leonard, who dealt in law, lands, loans and final proofs (homesteads). B. M. Pierce was Justice of the Peace and Notary Public who became Judge of Probate at Crosby. Ward Lee came from Kenmare to replace him in the First International Bank. Pete Noonan, proprietor of the city barber shop announced his shop would be closed Sunday afternoons.

Well-broken oxen were advertised for sale. The city livery stable and dray business was owned by Ledahl Brothers and later sold to Ben Wissbrod.

That the Great Northern in 1911 was doing all in their power to keep this branch open that winter was quite evident as they had over 60 snow shovelers and work train, together with a snow plow working the past week. The passenger (Perry's Nickel Plated), while not running on schedule time, was making its trips every day where the Soo Line branch from Flaxton to Ambrose had not made a trip for a whole week.

Miss Emelia Hanson was ready to do all kinds of sewing and dressmaking. She was located in the Ringdahl building. Minnie Haugen would manage the millinery department in Gits' Store. Kotschevar resigned from the bank to manage the hotel and Mutual Telephone Company. A Mr. P. R. Gould took 'views' of the town and countryside. Louis Nelson was the photographer and did beautiful work for many years. Many of the pictures in this book were his photography.

Pat Noonan Sr. in 1911 obtained Lot 6 in Block 9 in Noonan, from the Dakota & Great Northern Townsite Co. Pat Noonan Jr. obtained Lot 5 in Block 10.

Pat Noonan Jr. did blacksmithing of all kinds, horseshoeing, plow work, wagon and buggy repairing.

In December 1910, it was mentioned that Knute Stokke had commenced the ice harvest at Long Creek and was hauling to Noonan. After the experience of the previous summer's scarcity of ice in the area, this was a good thing to do.

H. J. Kotschevar was postmaster with Mrs. J. V. Davidson, the assistant. At the time of Street Commissioner Gits, lots of new sidewalks were laid. P. F. Noonan took over management of the Noonan Coal Co. Coal sold for \$1.50 per ton.

Lou Gits was home from the state university. Charles Rouse returned from Faribault, Minn., where Charles Jr. would attend the military academy, and Pauline would attend school at Red Wing. She later attended LaSalle Seminary near Boston.

The postoffice was moved to Rouse's Store. The building formerly occupied by the postoffice would be fitted up and used for the telephone exchange. Now, Charles Rouse was the postmaster, with Mrs. R. C. Dunford as the assistant. Letters uncalled for were advertised.

The worst storm in Divide County history occurred in August 1911: a cyclone that swept lengthwise through the heart of the county, cutting a wide swathe, and leaving three dead, many seriously injured, and scores of buildings totally destroyed. On the Truax farm north of Kermit and Noonan, William Taquin was instantly killed and another farm hand died of injuries sometime later. Another farm employee in the Noonan area, Clarence Brevik, was killed. The Truax farm is now owned and operated by Orrin Lien.

Nettie Scamon (Mrs. Nate Loucks) attended Normal School at Valley City. Fred Johnson was operating the Travelers Hotel in 1912.

Pete Johnson was a well-digger and did blacksmithing in 1911.

Oscar Lindstrom managed the Erickson-Helleckson Lumber Co., (which bought out Rogers Lumber Co.) before starting the International Harvester and Implement agency. He also dealt in furs and hardware—was a cattle buyer and shipper, as well as a general repair man in town. Oscar was a talented auctioneer and his services were much in demand. He was the mayor of Noonan, member of the school board and manager of the baseball team at the time of his election to the state legislature. Sometime later, Adolph Holte became a partner in the hardware store, which was across the street from the lumber yard. The Lindstroms left Noonan for Seattle perhaps in the late 30s.

Mrs. Nellie Buckley, trained nurse, advertised for confinement cases, a specialty.

"For a nice cool drink, try an egg lemonade at Begin's Pool Hall," the advertisement said. Bowler and Feeney of Ambrose purchased the pool room from Alex Begin, according to the Feb. 8, 1912, issue of the paper. It was called the Arcade.

The first Mrs. C. L. Rouse (Nellie) died at St. Paul in 1912 and her funeral was at Pine Island, Minn. Mr. Rouse remarried (Nellie Anderson of Cooperstown, N.D.) on Sept. 28, 1916.

Young Lou Gits homesteaded at Makoti when land in the Indian Reservation area was opened up for homesteading.

W. F. Rhodes was employed at Palen's tonsorial parlor. He later, in 1915, had his own shop. (He was the leading Democrat in this neck of the woods). Jim Mellum was a barber in Rhodes' Shop and returned after the war to work



Ice Harvesting. Large blocks of ice gathered in winter, and stored away in barns, would provide summer refrigeration

there. He, also, later had his own shop—once in the postoffice building north of the hotel and, still later, in the annex.

In the fall of 1912, the Commercial Club of Noonan was bidding for the county seat and pledged \$15,000 to build the court house in Noonan, but soon dropped out of the race.

"Kid" Trailer was stealing horses here and in Canada.

The village dads decided it was unlawful to drive or ride on the streets of the village of Noonan at a speed greater than 12 miles per hour. The fine—not less than \$10 and not more than \$20. Sale of snuff and cigarettes was a violation of the law.

November 1912 two men held up the First National Bank, covered Ward Lee (who was working that evening) with a revolver, and helped themselves to \$1100. Ole Peterson interrupted the burglars when he made quite a disturbance at the door, wanting to be admitted to the bank, thus causing them to leave hastily. Both men were captured soon after and the money recovered.

Early 1914, Mr. Rouse bought the Woodman Hall at Kermit to move to Noonan.

In the spring of 1914, some area people went to Dauntless, Alta., possibly to invest in lots. It was a new townsite—natural gas country.

"The Oasis Farm" was the name G. J. Brown recorded with the Register of Deeds. In May 1915, Mr. Brown was known as the alfalfa king, according to the Dakota Farmer (a farm magazine), and practiced soil conservation on his farm south of town. Albert Dhuyvetters live on this farm now.

Nordman and Trenne, with cooperation of citizens of Noonan, installed a light plant. An important epoch in the history of the White City happened when the lights were turned on at 2:45 p.m. in early 1914.

In 1914, a big supply water tank was erected by Mike and Otto Glasoe which served the city for many years.

Jules VandeWalle received painful burns when a gasoline

engine exploded at the town well. He had arrived from Belgium with J. J. Gits when he returned to the U.S. in 1914.

Miss Margaret Noonan of the 8th grade had been ably substituting at the Noonan School for Miss Rosella Johnson who was ill. (1914)

The Noonan Supply took orders for cut flowers—in 1914!

In 1915, Charlie Rouse and clerks were mourning the death of Polly the parrot.

Dr. Sholberg, dentist from Minot, made professional calls to Noonan as did Dr. Simms of Columbus. Dr. Merritt came from Kenmare to fit glasses.

Moving pictures at the Grand Theatre in 1914.

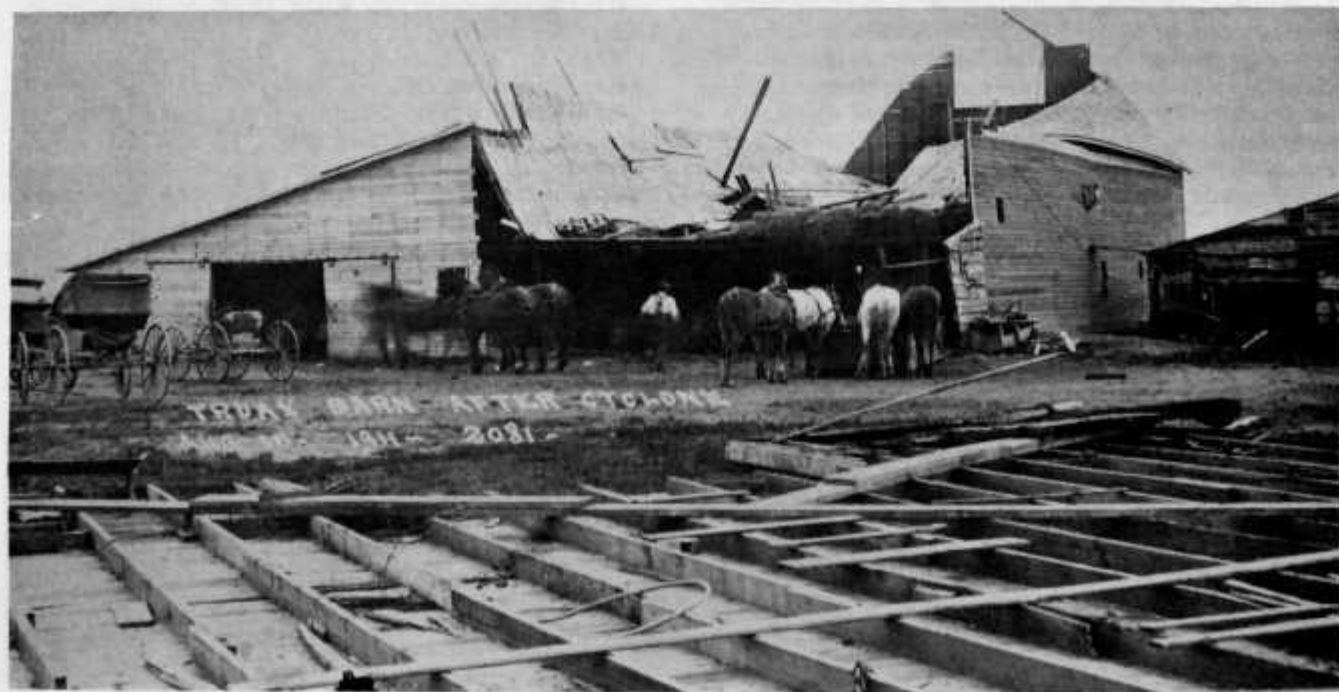
In 1917, a deal was closed whereby J. J. Gits became the owner of the Palen Rooming House and Barber Shop, known as the Annex.

In early 1919, Pete McLeod had an advertisement: cleaning, pressing and repairing; suits made to measure; fit guaranteed. He operated his shop for many years, as did Rose Egilson (later, Mrs. Dea Light) who had a millinery shop. Many ladies wore hats that she had designed and made.

Mrs. E. M. and Mrs. F. P. Truax represented Noonan as delegates to the state convention of North Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs in 1915.

Otto Gottenberg of Crosby was mentioned in a 1915 paper as a first class plumber and tinner who hired out to the firm of Baukol & Ronnie. I remember him later, in the 1920s, when he worked in Anderson's Bank and ran the movies at the Grand Theatre. Mrs. Fred (Ida) Herringer played the piano during the silent movies. I'm sure Betty (Wick) Larson also played the piano at times (movies every Tuesday and Saturday night).

A. H. Anderson's house and also the Walt Truax house were built in 1916. In March 1915, the Charles Rouse home was destroyed by fire. It was replaced, and Dr. Smiths later lived there for many years. It has since been the home of the



A damaging tornado, or cyclone as they called them years ago, destroyed a barn on the Truax farm in 1909.

George Kosteks and Mrs. Clara Kostek still lives there.

In 1916, Amund Amundstad bought the interests of O'Neill at the Travelers Cafe and advertised 21 full meals for \$6.50.

Nick Dalebout family (from Holland) bought the Pete Jensen farm just north of town (Engelkes lived there later), and a 35-acre lot across the track for truck farming. His son, Marinus, lives at the Noonan Good Samaritan Center. Also, in 1916, Fred Stapf advertised "genuine ludefisk for the Nor-sk and sour krout for the Dutch" at his meat market.

Jacob Ringdahl operated a harness and shoe repair shop at Knoph's Hardware. There was also Gebus the harness man, who lost one shop by fire and reestablished in the Farmers State Bank building. Tom Lysaker later had his shoe repair and harness shop in that building. (Mrs. Lysaker, his widow, is now a resident of the Good Samaritan Center at Noonan.) Lysakers came in November of 1927 and remained till June 1942.

Charles Rouse was one of the best known masons in this part of the country. He was chosen delegate by Kem Temple to Shriners, Grand Imperial Council at Indianapolis.

There was a stockholders meeting and construction began on the Noonan Creamery. The Divide County Creamery Ass'n. (since April 1916) sold the property to Messrs. Thompson and Fredrickson of Minneapolis. It became the White City Creamery and Produce Co. in the spring of 1919. In the fall of 1920, it burned, at a loss of \$25,000. A light plant took over at the site. Huso and Kately were managers.

Newly organized White City band in the spring of 1919.

In 1914, Winters Brothers had a meat market and ice house; C. J. Winter was the proprietor of the Royal Meat Market.

In February 1914, a former Noonan man was in serious trouble with the law in a nearby town for illegal cohabitation.

In late 1914 and early 1915, building of Zion Church was being planned. A. H. Ledahl contributed land for it. There was a membership of 17 families, with Ed Melby, E. O. Peterson and M. M. Glasoe as trustees; E. H. Haugen, treasurer; and Nick Tanberg, secretary. The building committee was composed of A. S. Holte, M. M. Glasoe and I. M. Myra. O. E. Long had been appointed to solicit contributions.

Work began on the new postoffice building, on the lot just north of the Travelers Hotel. It was covered with steel siding (1915). About the next year, it became a third class postoffice; the postmaster would now receive a salary instead of cancellations as his salary.



Fred Long and Harold Truax about 1915.

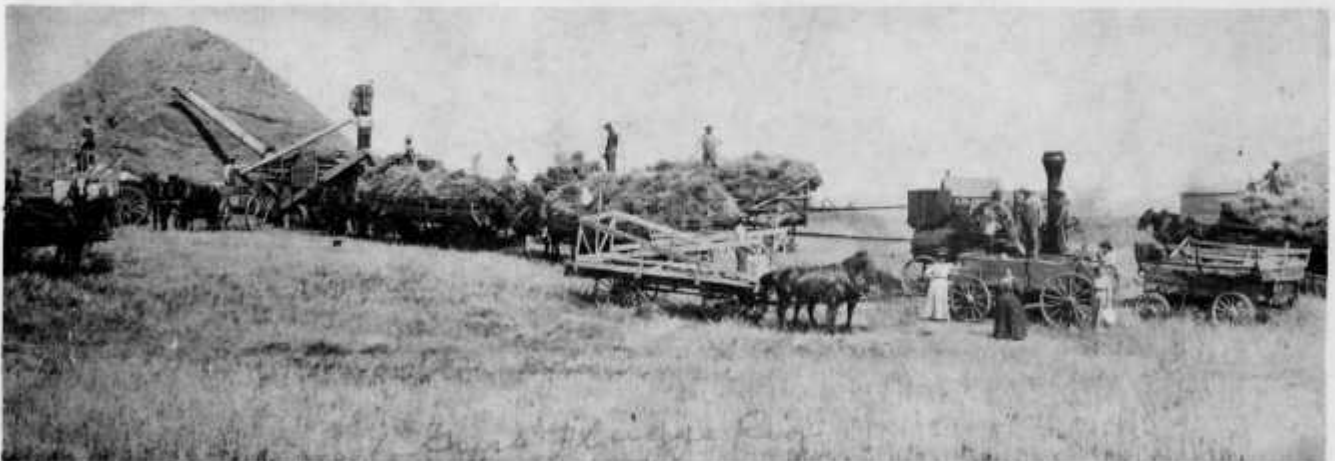
There were a number of proprietors of the Travelers Hotel: Kolschevar, Fred Johnson, Frank Makee, Joe LaFlame, Amundstads, Babcocks were managing it at the time we moved to town from the farm in 1922, and the Amundstads managed it for many years again after Babcocks.

In early 1915 the editor of the Miner was complaining that his printer went "off on the booze," leaving the publisher "in the soup." It was enough to try the patience of Job.

About 1916, J. S. Rouse, D. D. of Lincoln, Neb., was an over-Sunday visitor with his brother and sister, Mrs. Palen. He filled the pulpit in the local church Sunday evening and Monday delivered a lecture on "War and Prophecy" at the Opera House.

April 1918—Noonan Juniors Put on Circus.

The Noonan schools, under the direction of Superintendent Schultz, gave a bonafide circus with parade, fat ladies, tents, cowboys, wild animals, and all, which was literally a "howling" success from start to finish. To quote the Noonan Miner: "The above stunt realized the Junior Red Cross the handsome income of over \$200 to the good, besides more fun, frolic and foolishness than a barrel of red monkeys could have pro-



The Flugge and Aitner threshing outfit was one of the typically large outfits that were common in early days.

duced by Barnum and Bailey's world famous circus."

In 1919, Noonan Electric Co. had a "switchboard" and advertised soldering and tinwork, a specialty. C. M. Erickson, manager.

Blanche Gits (VandeWalle), along with Richard Truax and Harold Trotter (he was later my sixth grade teacher at Noonan), were the Crosby High Debating Team in 1922. They had won on the affirmative from many towns in the state, and won the state championship, debating Mayville at the University of North Dakota May 20 of that year. Mrs. McIlraith was their coach. (note—Noonan students had to complete their high school work away from their homes; Noonan did not have a full high school curriculum.)

"Mr. and Mrs. Leo Focke and family arrived in Noonan from Porter, Minn., last Monday and will make their future home on the Rouse homestead north of town" (found in the Feb. 7, 1929, issue of the Miner). This was the night the Charlie Rouse Store burned, but they were unaware of the whole thing—had been so exhausted after their long journey that, once they obtained rooms at the Hotel, they slept right through it all.

Also, in the same year, the vocational civics class went out to Light's Mine to study the occupation of mining—even went down into the mine shaft in the 'bucket.' "All the pupils behaved very well under the threat of having to write a 2,000 word theme," according to Bruce Lee.

Ernest Erickson was tired of the hard work in school, so he was going to start farming.

The William Feeney Hudson sedan burned on the highway near Flaxton while on the way home from Minot. (I believe this was when the Campfire girls had camped at Roosevelt Park in that city for the weekend, and Feeneys had furnished a car for some of us girls.) A blowout in the loose gravel caused the car to turn over and it caught fire. It had been occupied by W. E. Bowler, Mrs. William Feeney, Helen Hemingson, Della Vadnais and Ruth Goltz.

Editor Herringer was betting—age and avoirdupois vs.

youth and speed for basketball supremacy of the White City. The Noonan Miner was pulling for the high school and was ready to bet A. H. Anderson the print shop vs. his bank that his team would have easy sledding against the ancient and fast slipping opponents.

Noonan girls basketball team won the Border League Tournament (Noonan's very first tourney) April 1931. Players were Ruth Goltz, Berneice Stokke, Della Vadnais, Alice Goltz, Hazel Melby, Helen Sorenson, Clara Haugstad, Lenora Lien and Kathryn Larson. Defeated Lignite with a score of 29 to 28.

Margaret Knoph Halbakken and Alma Wick Brenno were often called upon to render vocal solos over the years. Both girls had beautiful voices.

Cigarettes became legal in the 1924 election; they were 'bootlegged' prior to that. Snuff about the same time.

Selling of alcohol beverages was illegal from about 1912 until the election of 1932, when prohibition was repealed. This put many privately owned distilleries out of business! It was legal to sell liquor in Canada, so "beer shacks" sprang up in many places along the border, on the Canadian side, where thirsty U.S. residents went.

During World War II, many of the necessary commodities such as tires and gasoline, coffee and sugar were rationed. There were many hard-to-get items, such as some clothing and nylon hose. We had to go to the ration office at least once every three months to obtain our coupon ration books. Soap and cigarettes were not rationed, but there were only limited quantities available, so if you were a preferred customer, your retail merchant often made sure to supply you. This was in the years of 1941 to 1945, and before that, we had experienced the 'dirty thirties'—the 'dust bowl' days—when nothing grew, except Russian thistles, for lack of rain. So there were no crops and no money. Somehow, we survived. There was some government assistance. But many became discouraged and left to seek better times elsewhere. Meantime, better times again returned and the drought was broken. With the



A MOTLEY BRUNCH FROM EARLY NOONAN . . . Names of some of the fellows on this picture are William Martinson (Bill the Bum, at far right), Oliver Olson, Redie the Rick, Peter Jenson, Clyde (white shirt) and Dea Light (behind Clyde) Tex, Fred Long, Dad Shirley, Carl Ledahl, Henry Nelson, Bill Begin, Ole Christensen, Pete, John and Tom Noonan (in back row without a cap).

rains, improved varieties of grains and improved farming methods, there have been abundant crops. This prosperity reflects into the towns and businesses.

In this era, we are experiencing inflation to a great degree, and complaining about the high cost of living and high interest rates, which have been as high as 21½% for a short time.

In September 1968, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kotchian, their son and his fiancée, accompanied by North Dakota's long-time U.S. Senator Milt Young, were guests at the George Rait home, from which they visited Kermit where Mr. Kotchian was born in 1914, the son of an early-day banker. At the time of their visit, Mr. Kotchian was president of Lockheed at Burbank, Calif.; the big project then was the L-1011 aircraft.

They came to Minot by Lockheed Jet Star where Paul Ingwolson and Gary Hanisch of Crosby met them and brought them to Crosby. They were also flown back to Minot by Ingwolson and Hanisch. The people of Crosby entertained the group that evening.

Did you know that Senator Young's cousins are the Noonan Zimmermans? He told us that, as was common in those days, he had slept in many of our area barns, when he shipped his threshing rig here and threshed in these parts long ago.

In the November 3, 1976, issue of The Journal, Noonan High School won District Tournament honors; literally blew the Divide County team off the floor to grab the championship of District 26, by a 51-32 score in Columbus. The paper said "Donna Wallin was unstoppable. The Champs also played an outstanding defensive game, but it was their offensive play that really sparked."

In October 1977, Evald Forsgrens celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They were given an open house at Bethlehem church.

Forsgrens came from McGregor in 1936 and Evald was the rural mail carrier (south route) for 41 years, until his retirement. They (Evald and Lena) are still very active in our community.

Our own Gerald Vandewalle (youngest son of Blanche and the late Jules Vandewalle) was appointed by then Governor Arthur Link in July 1978 to serve on the North Dakota Supreme Court, filling an unexpired term. He has since been elected (November 1978) to that office, a ten-year term. Jerry was born and raised in Noonan where, with cousin James Kimball, he helps operate the home farm. He had twenty years experience in the Attorney General's office, the latter part of that time under now Governor Allen Olson. At the time of Jerry's appointment, he was Chief Deputy Attorney General.



Mr. and Mrs. Evald Forsgren



Tom Lysaker in his harness and shoe repair shop.

Recreation

In July 1910, the people were planning to spend the 4th at various places where celebrations were to be held. Ambrose would likely attract the largest crowd, by reason of the excursion train that would be run to that city that day. A party was being planned to go to Long Creek to camp Sunday and the day following the 4th.

During warm weather days, there would be a general exodus to Long Creek where the "warm and weary" could enjoy a plunge in the many fine swimmin' holes up there. It was to Wood End across the border in Canada.

Clubs planned dances and socials, such as masquerade, shadow and box, new barns were built so there would then be a barn dance, newlyweds were entertained and the guests danced till the wee hours or even "daylight." The Soil Tillers Alliance of Mentor Township gave a big dance, and there was the Bachelors Club and the El Placer Club (in the 30s). Music was often furnished by the Palen Sisters (Charles Rouse's nieces) and perhaps assisted by a Miss Johnson. Matt Hole, early-day homesteader, also played for dances. He was a very accomplished violinist and played classical as well as popular music. The Inquisitive Club held a Leap Year Ball at the Opera House, with supper at the Travelers Hotel, and music was furnished by the Palen-Lipke orchestra. Palen's Orchestra from Noonan played for the dance in the beautiful new court room when, On February 20, 1918, a big housewarming party was held at the new Divide County Court House.

The Ladies' Gymnasium Club went skiing and coasting.

There was a big ski tournament held at the Ole Hagen farm in 1911. Will Scamons entertained at a dancing party (40 couples); Dee Feeney and Charles Rouse walked off with the honors in the barn dance contest.

Mrs. A. H. Makee gave a formal luncheon with covers spread for 13. The flower were jonquils and the color scheme was carried out in the decorations. The hostess was gowned in cream satin trimmed with Irish lace. The affair was listed as very unique.

Noonan had its second annual tennis tournament in August that year! Vaudeville shows came to town and Remedy companies put on entertainments. Gollmar Brothers Circus was in the area in the summer of '15.

Noonan boasted a billiard parlor. The Royal Neighbors Lodge was active in 1911. The third annual Harvest Festival was held in 1910. Wrestling matches were a popular entertainment, as were Sunday baseball games. Clyde Light was an early-day pitcher. The first baseball park in Noonan was founded by Fred Johnson and Bill Feeney Sr. No bleachers or any place to sit except on bumpers! Duck hunting followed after the baseball season ended.

Sousa's Band was to appear in Minot in 1919.

In 1912, the Red Cross Hot Springs Remedy Company had an entertainment at the Opera House. There were three prizes: Baby Wick received the silver set, most popular baby in town; Miss K. V. Peterson—"handsome" sugar bowl and a dozen spoons, the most popular young lady; and John Bowler



NOONAN BASKETBALL TEAM CIRCA 1929 . . . left to right, front row: Bruce Lee, Bert Melby, Oliver Baukol. Back row: Eddie Melby, Robert Almy, Mr. Kraus, Linder Ledahl, Earl Goltz.

had a walk-away for being the homeliest man with the biggest feet in the state, for which he received a gold watch.

In 1913, there was a new piano at the hall, and a basket social was held to help pay for it. A moving picture house was perhaps a new project. The businessmen of Noonan welcomed Talkies to the city in February 1930.

In the summer of 1919, A. L. Anderson erected a bowery on the south side of his ice cream parlor (south of Brorby's Bar). He had a "swell" electric piano and it was going to cost a nickel for a dance at Andy's Pavilion. (Andy had a jewelry store in connection with the ice cream parlor.)

There was a bowling alley in 1914, run by William Zimmerman. Later, he built a pool hall just south of the Annex, which must have been Ed Glasso's pool hall that I remember. Herb Anseth once operated a pool hall in the old bank building north of the hotel.

In the late 40s till early 60s, the Noonan Miner Dam (built south of town, perhaps by W.P.A. and other public works projects) provided a swimming pool and picnic area. It was a very popular recreation spot and many youngsters as well as adults enjoyed that facility for many years.

Noonan Border Lanes

In 1960 a group of local people formed a corporation to build the Noonan Border Lanes, and Spooner Lumber was given the contract to build. The stockholders then were: Kenneth Fagerland, George Kostek, Louie Spooner, Orville Johnson, Ted Johnson, Henry Brodal, Willie Brodal, Norman Fagerbakke, Edgar Sandberg, A. C. Matson, Andrew Kostek, Leo Verlinde, Gilmer Raymo, Clarence Spooner, Robert Wissbrod and Henry Verlinde.

The officers were: George Kostek-president, Kenneth Fagerland-vice-president, and Almer Matson-secretary-treasurer.

They started with four lanes, then added two more lanes the following year. Sanctioned league bowling started the fall of 1961, with league bowling every night except Saturday and Sunday.

After George Kostek's death, Norman Fagerbakke became president and, at present, still holds that office.

Contributed by Clara Kostek



Dean Johnson (son of Fred) with a bag of Mallards.

Boy's Sports

Noonan's football and basketball teams were top contenders in district and conference play from 1965 to 1980. One of the smallest schools, yet in their early stages captured football conference championships in 1966, 67, 68, 70. In 1978 we were *unscored upon*, until the final battle with Ray, when defeated in three overtimes by two points. We took many basketball trophies home in Oil Basin play and also Burke County tourneys. Some of the years were 1972, 1976, 1978, 1979 for top honors. In 1978 we lost in the regionals to New Town, the state titleist. Some of the outstanding male basketball and football athletes came from such families as the Baker, Burner, Christianson, Dhuyvetter, Espeseth, Fagerbakke, Fagerland, Lukach, Rosenquist, Smithberg, Spooner and Wissbrod.

—Contributed by Maxine Smithberg



OUT AT THE BALL PARK . . . in the Model-T Ford Days. Wonder who's at first base??

Prairie Chapel — Methodist Church

In 1908 the Prairie Chapel was built on the land given by Ben Wissbrod on his homestead in Coalfield Township. Gust Flugge, Herman Altner, Zimmermans, Forest Kimball were some of the promoters. All of the neighbors helped either by donations or labor. It was built west of where the cemetery is and was a one-room frame structure with clear glass windows. Because it was the first church in the area, it was used by all religious denominations. The Chapel was also used as a community center because it was the biggest building in the area. One year the school used it for its Christmas program. Mrs. Baltz Zimmerman organized the first Sunday School.

The first minister was Rev. George Tennant. One of the ministers, Rev. E. A. Williams, left the ministry while serving here and joined the army, going to Russia during World War I, where he died.

In the spring of 1922, the boards of the Prairie Chapel and the Noonan Methodist Church voted to unite; the Prairie Chapel was to be moved into town and joined onto the Noonan church. In the spring of 1922 the Chapel was loaded on four wagons with 16 to 20 horses pulling the wagons and moved in to Noonan. (Richard Huwe was in charge of the moving.) It was set on the foundation where the back part of the Noonan Methodist Church is now standing. Work was nearly finished when both church and parsonage burned to the ground on the morning of October 7, 1922. A. R. Jones was the minister at this time.

The Noonan Methodist Church now standing was built and declared debt free one year later.

Rev. John Ellington started active work on the Noonan Methodist Church in early 1908. S. W. Cornwall as superintendent organized the first Sunday School. The Ladies Aid was organized with Mrs. C. L. Rouse as president.

April 1, 1909, a meeting was called for discussion on building a new church. Till then, they had been meeting at the Town Hall. It was decided to build and plans were decided on: a building 24 ft. by 36 ft., with a steeple of 8 ft. by 8 ft. by 40 ft. high. It was built during the summer of 1909 and dedicated

Sept. 9, 1909, with C. E. Vermilya, district superintendent presiding.

When Rev. Browning came with his wife and child, people started thinking about a parsonage. Until then the ministers had been staying in Columbus. A board consisting of A. H. Makee, Otto Huwe, P. A. Paulson and J. Joos voted to buy two lots directly north of the church for a parsonage. The building was erected in early spring and ready for use in the fall.

During the two years that the church was without a resident pastor, 1919-1921, the Lutherans used the church while their church was being built.

In 1965, the Noonan Methodist Church, due to declining population in the rural towns, could not alone support a pastor, and became a yoke parish of the Crosby Presbyterian Church. In the fall of 1969, Rev. Paul Sanchez filled the pulpit on Sundays and, for a time, alternated church services with the Columbus Methodist Church, also with a small membership. For some time now, the Noonan Methodist Church has ceased to be active.



Noonan Methodist Church



St. Luke's Catholic Church

In 1906, Catholic services were held in Kermit in any available building with Father O'Sullivan officiating. In 1908, a church was built in Kermit, named St. Finnbarr. Father O'Sullivan continued to serve this mission coming up from Bowbells. The completed building cost about \$3500.

The first communion class in the new church was May 1910, and confirmation was held in August of the same year. From this class still living in Noonan is Mrs. Tom (Evelyn) Joyce. Sometime in 1914, after a disastrous fire destroyed many of the business places in Kermit, plans were made for moving St. Finnbarr's to Noonan. Its name was changed to St. Lucas (then to St. Luke's). Two lots on Main Street were obtained from Albert Makee. Father Wagner, who took care of this area and came to say Mass here, hired Joe Kane of Kenmare to move the building to Noonan in November 1914, and after much trouble, was set on a foundation where the parking lot for the church is now. The whole transaction reportedly cost approximately \$1800. Years later, a small dug out was made so a hot air furnace could be installed.

The first baptism recorded at St. Luke's after the church was moved was that of Viola Margaretha Assindrup, born Jun 21, 1914. The first communion class held at St. Luke's was May 17, 1917, by Father Wagner. Leo Rindel was a member of this class.

Many priests came to Noonan, but it was not until 1936 that St. Luke's had its first resident priest. This was Father Wingerling who stayed only a little over a year. Succeeding

him was Father Francis McKanna. Noonan was his first parish and he remained here till 1951. During his stay at Noonan, a large house (Jim Hought's rural home) was purchased and moved to the lot south of the church, which still serves as St. Luke's rectory. Father John Lukach, a native son, was ordained June 7, 1948, and offered his first Mass in St. Luke's Church at Noonan. Special ceremonies were followed by a banquet given by the parish at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church parlors, offered for use by that church, as the Catholic church had no basement at that time. Then, in 1950, the church was remodeled, a new sacristy added, a choir room built on the north side of the church and a basement excavated. The church was then put on a high foundation and a new entrance was added. The balcony inside was taken out and the confessional put at the back of the seating area. The altar is now covered with drapery.

Father John Kuhn came to be the parish priest in 1951, and it was during this time that the basement was completed and transformed with knotty pine into St. Luke's Pine Diner. A beautiful outdoor crucifixion group was erected on the St. Luke's cemetery west of town.

The Santa Maria Council Number 5275 of the Knights of Columbus was formed. In October of 1961, Darlene Jacobs of St. Luke's parish joined the Maryknoll Sisters and when she left to teach in a mission in Tanzania, Africa, the parish gave her a farewell party.

Bishop Hacker came to Noonan for the special occasion of St. Luke's golden jubilee in 1964. Father John Pfeifer is presently the resident priest.



St. Luke's Catholic Church

Assembly of God

In July 1918, Otto Huwe and Clarence Benson invited Rev. and Mrs. Reckley to come to Noonan to conduct services in the old town hall. Rev. and Mrs. Reckley were both ministers, who, when the church was organized in October of that year, served as pastors. The trustee board was J. T. Peters, Ed Doty, Otto Huwe, Ernie Bowman, D. R. Miller, Albert Peterson, and Henry Greenvold.

In the summer of 1919 a small combined parsonage and church was built at the coal mines just a little southeast of Noonan. The church was out at the mines for a little over a year, and was then moved into Noonan to its present location. Niels Nielson donated a house from the farm, and it was moved into Noonan for a parsonage. In 1930 the church was remodeled and in 1953 the parsonage was remodeled.

In 1934 a church cemetery was plotted out just east of town. The present pastor is Rev. Bill Glover.



Assembly of God Church

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

The first church service in the city of Noonan was held in 1906 by Reverend Samuel Peterson, who traveled between here and Flaxton to hold these services, in the home of a parishioner, Theodore Thon.

Early in 1907, Pastor Ylvisaker came to Crosby and served Noonan on an itinerant basis, followed by Rev. Rosholt. Rev. Arnt Vaaler was the first resident pastor at Noonan.

In the fall of 1919, work was begun on building a church. An epoch in the history of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Noonan was reached Sunday, August 8, 1920, when the fine new church edifice (estimated cost \$15,000), which had just been completed, was dedicated and the cornerstone laid. Martin Hanson was the first baby to be baptized in the church that day.

Rev. I. D. Ylvisaker, of Fargo, President of the Lutheran organization of North Dakota, was in charge of the ceremonies, which were exceedingly impressive. People from all parts of the counties of Divide and Burke were present and it was estimated that at least 500 were here to help celebrate the occasion. At noon the ladies aid served a very tasty free luncheon and at three o'clock the installation of the new pastor, Rev. G. W. Tolo, took place. This ceremony was also in charge of Rev. Ylvisaker. Rev. Tolo made a very favorable impression with his maiden sermon, and the call at Noonan was to be congratulated on securing the services of this splendid young clergyman. It was a great day for the members of the Bethlehem congregation, one that would be

long remembered by all, for it saw the realization of their dreams of years—the opening and dedication of a church home all their own.

Mr. P. C. Knoph was the first organist, as well as the first Sunday School superintendent, followed by A. H. Anderson who served for the next 30 years until he moved away. Mrs. Penna Barden has now been serving in that capacity for a number of years. Betty Wick (Mrs. Elvin Larson) became the church organist and choir director along with her sister Viola. Presently, organists are Mrs. Bob Priebe and Mrs. Charles Wissbrod.

Rev. K. O. Waage pastored in Noonan during the depression years, from 1927 until his death in 1953.

It was a great day for Bethlehem congregation when, at a special service November 28, 1943, the church debt was wiped out and George Gerde applied the match that burned the mortgage.

In late 1955, a fire broke out and almost destroyed the church. Since the reconstruction, a Sunday School unit north of the church has been added and since that, the parsonage and pastor's study above the Sunday School unit.

During Rev. Parkhurst's 9-year pastorate, which ended in 1967, the parish completed a \$31,000 building program which included a new \$22,000 parsonage and a \$9,000 classroom and pastor's study addition.

Presently, Pastor Karen Rossing is serving Bethlehem and Zion congregations.



An early photo of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Noonan

Noonan Postoffice established March 22, 1907

The Noonan Post Office was established March 22, 1907.

The first post office was located in Charles L. Rouse's Mercantile Co. Store, located at the corner where the Farmers State Bank Station is now located. Some of the first postmasters were Charles Rouse, Henry Kotschevar, Frank Makee. In the 1920s, Ed Bowler was the postmaster and, at that time, the postoffice was moved across the street to the building now occupied by the Town & Country Bar. Arthur Reite was postmaster in the early 1930s. In 1936, Florence Makee Ronholdt became postmistress, a position she held for 27 years. She retired October 12, 1963. In 1936, the postoffice was moved to its present location. When Florence retired, Elsie Barden was named acting postmistress. In August 1964, Elsie was officially named postmistress. Elsie retired August 26, 1977. Shirley Burner became postmistress February 25, 1978.

Working as clerks through the years have been Alma Wick Brenno, Petra Gerde Lanning, Edna Rossow Reite (deceased), Lea VandeWalle Kimball, Lois Bird Nordman (deceased), Esther Joraanstad Stakston, Henry Makee (deceased), Dorothy Jessen (deceased), Warren Fagerland, Sharon Melby Johnson Thingvold, Minnie Melby Johnson (deceased), Lucille Fenster Gausvik Anseth, Ruth Ely Makee (deceased), Ellavon Svendsen Weber, Shirley Thompson Burner, Barbara Gausvik Spooner.

During the years, the bulk of the mail came in on the Soo Line to Kermit. There were mail messengers who often waited hours for the mail to arrive in Kermit to be hauled to the Noonan Post Office. They were Bill and Lloyd Thompson,

Jules Focke, Edgar Dennis.

The rural route was started in 1912. Some of the first carriers were Alfred Simonson, Ray Alberts (deceased). Evald Forsgren was the south route carrier for 41 years. When Evald retired from the south route, Larry Zimmerman became the carrier. Homer Wilson was the north route carrier for 47 years plus two years as substitute. Some of the substitutes were Mrs. Homer Wilson, George Rait, Mrs. Ray Alberts (deceased), Orrin Lien, Bob Wissbrod, Charles Wissbrod, Rueben Zimmerman (deceased), Ted Johnson (deceased), Hank Makee (deceased), and Shirley Burner.

In July 1971, the United States Postal Service came into being. In 1973, the routes were consolidated, so Larry Zimmerman transferred to Berthold, with Homer taking care of both routes. Larry was in Noonan 10 years, starting in 1963. We now have a Star Route (consisting of both the north and south routes), carried by Joanne Loucks and her husband Barry, who were the successful bidders for the job.

Shirley Burner started as Clerk in 1969 and was appointed postmistress February 25, 1978.

Barbara Spooner has worked as clerk since 1971. She also has worked in Portal, Columbus, and Crosby.

Changes that have taken place, include the Zip Code Program, Sectional Center Concepts, Star Route Trucks hauling the mail. Also, rural routes going to contracts, ours being served by Joanne T. Loucks, who started April 23, 1977.

A new post office at Noonan is being planned for this fall.

Written by Shirley Burner

Additions by Olga Rait

History of Noonan Miner Dates Back to 1911

The Noonan Miner was the first newspaper Cal Andrist owned. It was in the fall of 1911, after he had spent four years working on newspapers in Larson, Kermit and Ambrose, that businessmen from Noonan asked Andrist to take over the Miner December 26, 1912 (the last issue of the Republican; it became the Noonan Miner in the January 2, 1913, issue) because they felt they needed a better newspaper than they were getting. Because they liked Andrist's work, the three helped Andrist to buy the property in 1912, and he operated in Noonan until 1921—except for an interruption during World War I when he joined the army to help fight the Kaiser, during which time Charles Fenske was the editor.



Cal Andrist

Cal had served 15 months in France and again took up the Miner, which he still owned, till he left for Crosby to operate the Divide County Journal there.

Herb Andrist, newsman and musician, was in charge in 1923. The Noonan Miner then occupied the place now known as Donna's Cafe, just north of the garage. December 20, 1923, saw a new man at the helm, one Fred Herringer of Crookston, Minn. From that time until his death in 1954, Fred saw the Miner through "thick and thin." (Its thickness varied through the years.)

He was a great baseball fan. His rousing 'buy in Noonan'

editorials are still timely. Fred was the editor, Milo Stakston was in charge of the linotype machine and Mrs. Herringer solicited news and sold advertising space. A booster edition was published in 1930, celebrating the city's silver anniversary, and it was about that time that Mr. Herringer moved the Noonan Miner across the street to just south of the present Kostek's Market, owned by Andy's son Arlin.

Vernon Wick was also a linotype operator at the Miner.

After Mr. Herringer's death, the paper was published by Del Gibbs, former publisher of the Farmers Press at Crosby, for a little over a year. The type was set at the Journal office, but the paper was run off on the old machine in the Miner office.

At this time, the paper was purchased and published by George Stakston, Harold Joraanstad and Almer Matson with Mrs. Vernon Barden (Elsie) editing the news and writing a column from "way back when." Mrs. Pat Focke and Miss Sharon Johnson wrote articles and editorials.

The Noonan Miner was sold to the Journal in about 1957. It is now but a memory. It began and grew with the town and could "hold its own" with any local paper in a small town. As happened so often, there came a time when it was no longer a profitable business and had to be discontinued.

In 1929, the Miner cooperated in publishing a 'cute' little high school newspaper known as the Noon-N-Nite Exhaust. (Lyle Wold was responsible for the name.) This has continued over the years, since, printed on a copy machine in the school office.

Noonan Community Hospital and Good Samaritan Center

Dr. J. A. Smith was the resident doctor and Clara Ethan (later, Mrs. Julian Ness) was the matron at the new Community Hospital. Nurse Ellen Aird had assisted the doctor before that.

When Dr. Smith first came to Noonan to locate here, from Ellendale, N.D., in early 1912, he had his residence and office at the Travelers Hotel. In 1914, another brick structure was to be erected as soon as the new school would be completed, on the site of the Old Noonan Meat Market, between the Security State Bank and Gits' Cash Store (his second store). It was to be owned by E. M. Truax of the Truax Coal Company and Dr. Smith, each of whom would have office rooms in the building. Some years later, Dr. Smith built a small office just south of the Security State Bank. It was later to be a dentist's office. I remember a Dr. Olson and Dr. Carlson. (It is now used as a residence)

When the new hospital came into being, Dr. Smith had his office there. In the mid-forties, he left Noonan and became associated with the Minot Clinic as an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist. Dr. Porter of the Crosby Clinic came to the Noonan Hospital on a part-time basis to serve our community. Lena Spooner Berg was the head nurse for a time and Mrs. Earl (Thelma) Stakston was the head nurse until the hospital ceased to function. When Dr. Porter left, the hospital was closed shortly after.

During an interval, some people had apartments in the hospital and, about 1956, Mr. Ihme, who managed the Retirement Home at Ambrose, also managed the old hospital as a Retirement Home, with only a few residents, (Idella Shefstad Burau worked there then) till it was turned over to the Good Samaritan Society and an addition was added in 1957. There was another addition (18-bed) in 1965. Gerda Drew was the matron for many years and Marilyn Tande is the present manager.

The last addition to the Home was the dining room and kitchen in the late 1970s at which time the old hospital was removed because of Health Department regulations. At this time the Good Samaritan Home has a resident capacity of 36, who are provided basic care.



Dr. J. A. Smith, Noonan's much beloved physician



The original hospital building, which also served as the Good Samaritan Center for many years in Noonan.

Noonan Got Memorial Hall, but Only After a Long Fight

District Judge George H. Moellring of Williston had the last say in Crosby and Noonan's battle over the site of a World War Memorial Hall. Judge Moellring upheld the opinion of the board of County Commissioners, who had designated Noonan as the site, in a resolution passed May 28, 1928.

Several Crosby men had instituted a suit to prohibit the building being constructed in Noonan, contrary to action of the county commissioners, who voted in favor of Noonan. Carl Schultz, first district, and C. H. Wolters of the third district, had voted in favor of the move, and H. H. Lohmeyer, second district, had dissented.

In registering their complaint, Crosby said (1) Determination of the commissioners to locate the hall at Noonan was the result of prejudice, (2) Erection of the hall at Noonan was against the wishes of the majority in the county, (3) Private donations offered by Noonan citizens served as a bribe, and (4) the structure authorized by the board is not a suitable memorial and not such as is contemplated by the statute.

Moellring in upholding the commissioners' decision pointed out that the law gave the board the right to make decisions on the kind of memorial and the location, without approval by popular vote. He further stated that the law in question specifically invites the donation of private fund in unlimited amounts. Thus a bitter fight ended, and plans went ahead for construction of the hall in Noonan which today serves as a focal point for scores of functions every year. It was just one of many big political battles old timers in Divide County still talk about, but it raised a lot of excitement and color before the squabble ended in a victory for the people of Noonan.

Carl Schultz was the champion for Noonan; some people thought the War Memorial belonged at the County Seat. It was decided to have a Hall Board consisting of the county commissioner of the district as chairman, one member of the American Legion Post and one member from the Noonan City Council. Bill Nordman was awarded the contract to build

the World War Memorial Hall, still in use today. His bid was \$20,850, the lowest of seven. Upon completion, a big dance was held by way of a grand opening. There was a 5-piece orchestra.

On May 15, 1930, formal dedication services were held for the new Memorial Hall and the Community Hospital.

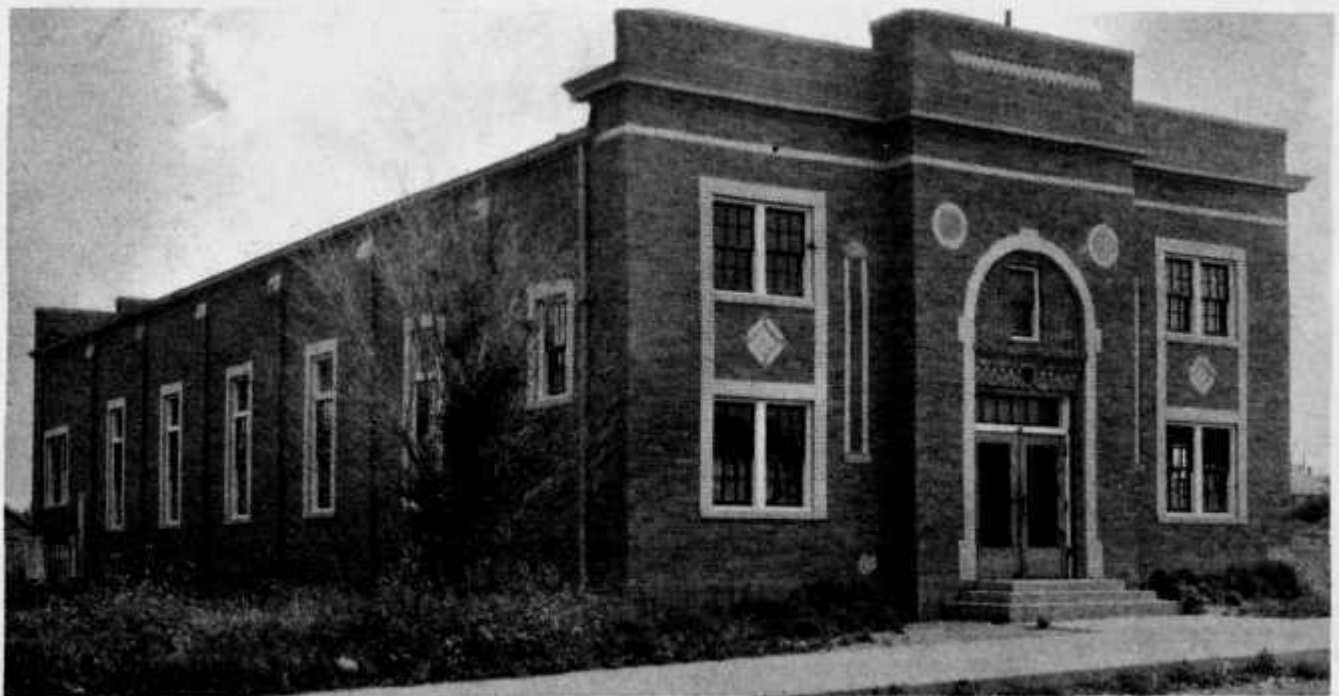
Invocation, Rev. Zeller; History of the World War Memorial, Carl Schultz; Address of Welcome, Harris Baukol; Saxophone solo, Joe Davis; Vocal solo, Lou Gits; Talk, E. J. McIlraith, states attorney; Dedication oration, Dr. Gullickson of Minot; Violin solo "Memories," Miss Viola Wick; Audience sang America; Benediction, Rev. Waage.

The Traveler's Hotel

In the January 10, 1910, edition of the Noonan paper, it describes the Travelers Hotel as a \$15,000 brick structure having electric lights, steam heat and phones in each room. (?) The landlord was Mr. Kotschevar (banker).

There would be a special train from Crosby to Noonan in the evening of the grand opening. About 150 people attended; there was a four-piece orchestra. The banquet menu was great, with cut glass and beautifully garnished dishes. Toastmaster was George Cudhie.

The following toasts were presented: "Why We Are Here"—Mr. and Mrs. Pat Noonan Sr.; "It Is Always Fair Weather"—Charles Jacobson, Crosby; "The Area of Anastasia, E'Pluribus, Nox Vomica"—Dr. Lancaster; "The English Speaking Race"—Mr. Ellis, Minot; "On the Road with the Big Prune"—John Allen, Minot; "A Ten Years' Reminiscence"—Rolf Reite; "The Preacher and the Bear"—Rev. Dawson, Noonan, M.E. Church pastor; "To Her! The Queen of Destiny"—Sam Clark, Minot; "The Star in Our Flag"—Secretary of State Blaisdell, Bismarck.



Noonan's Memorial Hall has been a vital community center for movies, meetings, dances, and sports over the years.

Some of Noonan's Earliest Stores

The Golden Rule Store was the first store in Noonan—built by J. J. Gits in 1906. It actually became a general store in 1908. In early 1913, it became the Noonan Supply Co., incorporated by J. J. and Lou Gits, A. H. and Frank Makee, Fred Johnson and Lawrence Belzer.

In 1913, Rolf Reite purchased the interest of J. J. Gits in the Noonan Supply and moved his stock of drugs there from his store (it had been moved from Kermit by Shorty Bell, and is perhaps the oldest building still standing in Noonan,—now Brorby's Bar—on the corner across the street from the postoffice. (Mr. Reite had attended the Illinois College of Pharmacy.) Dan Nelson, Mrs. Reite's brother-in-law, managed Reite's Noonan Supply Drug Store for many years until Albert Crum became the owner.

Mr. Reite later became the owner of the Noonan Supply Co. and subsequently sold half interest to his nephew Arthur Reite, who was its proprietor at the time of the \$40,000. fire loss when it, the Crum Pharmacy (located first door to the north) and Feeney's Liquor Store (just north of Crum's and had recently been leased to M. B. Kortgard) were completely destroyed July 27, 1943, and Art (he was the city mayor at the time) lost his life due to burns he received.

* * * * *

Chas. L. Rouse came from Wisconsin and was an early-day homesteader in Mentor Township. He built his store just south, across the street from the Gits Store. His large mercantile establishment burned to the ground in January 1908. (the Republican Office just south of the store caught fire but was saved) This was a severe blow to the town and the Kermit people were elated.

Rouse bought the Hoisington Building which burned on the way from Kermit to Noonan. Undaunted, Charlie built a new

brick block where the first store had been. This store and contents was destroyed by fire in early 1929 (estimated loss—\$25,000, partially covered by insurance). It was a large one-story building of brick and wood construction and nearly covered two 25x140 ft. business lots.

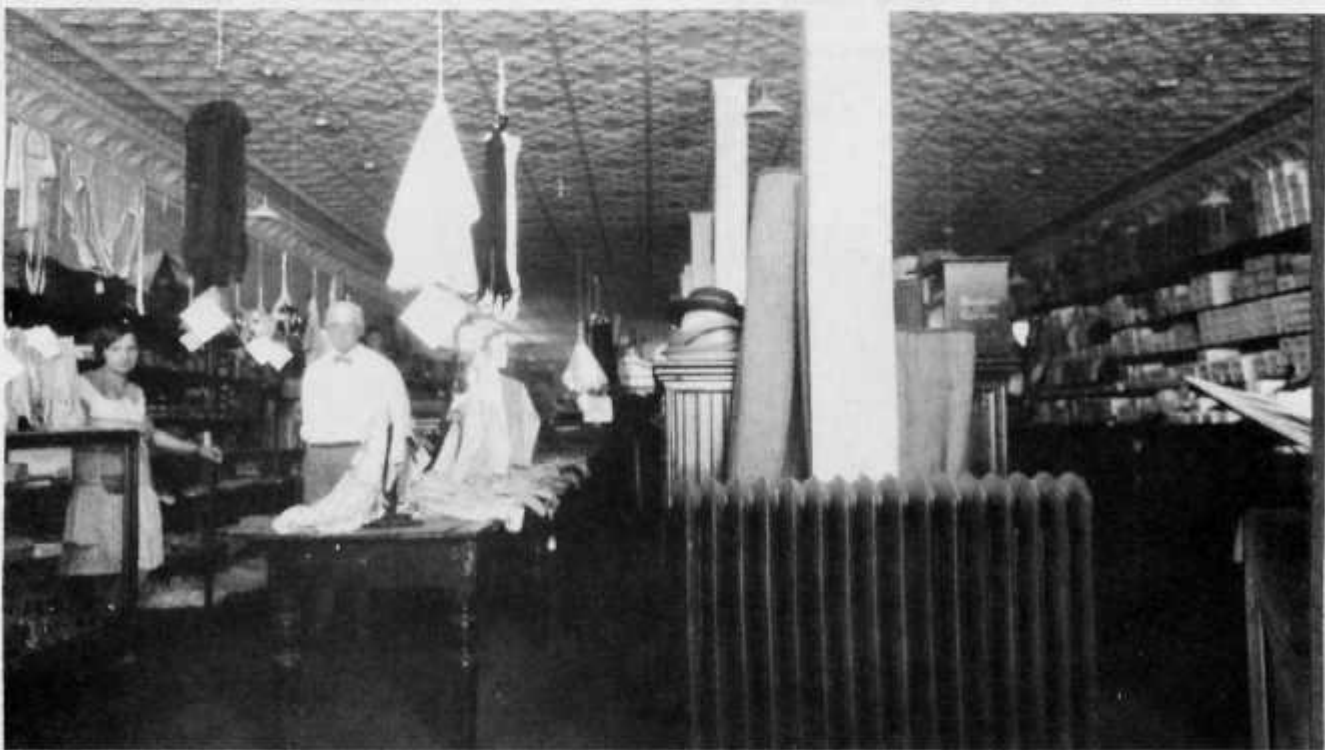
It was a spectacular and intense fire; the Noonan fire dep't (equipped with only a small chemical fire-fighting outfit) did excellent work and succeeded in keeping the fire confined to one building, and saved the warehouse at the rear.

The Rouses left Noonan to make their home in California where they had a chicken farm. Charlie died in 1943 at Arcadia, California.

When Gits sold the first Noonan store, he built a second



Mayor Noonan—the city's first mayor—is shown in this photograph taken after the laying of the cornerstone for the new Traveler's Hotel in 1909.



The Charlie Rouse store became an early Noonan fixture, but only after devastating fires destroyed two other buildings

store just south of where Miller's Meat Market stood. He went into the real estate business and the store was purchased by Harris Baukol and his wife's brother, M. O. Ronnie. They enlarged their store, divided by an archway, and included hardware.

* * * * *

In March 1907,—the Knoph postoffice, west of town, became a thing of the past. A new store building had just been completed in Noonan. Undertaking goods and embalming was a specialty at Knoph Hardware. Fire destroyed the Ludvig Knoph Hardware Store in 1913, and threatened the Miner Bldg. P. C. Knoph later started a hardware store of his own—in the Travelers Hotel.

* * * * *

After a fire in the Trenne Mercantile, when the entire business district was threatened, he sold out to Fred Johnson, who incorporated (1916). This store burned about 1920.

Fred Stapf who came from Flaxton bought the Royal Meat Market of C. J. Winter in 1916. He later (1919) bought the Syndicate Block,—for his meat market. Fred later became associated with A.L. Stakston in the Home Trading Company.

H. P. Jensen operated a grocery and cream station north of Donna's Cafe for some years, sold to Walt (Bud) Truax, who later moved the store across the street to Paul Rossow's Hardware Store building (formerly Tandberg Implement—IHC). Bud sold the store to Arlin Kostek in the mid-70's and he is the present owner. Bud retired and lives at Polson, Montana.

Crum Pharmacy operated for a time in the Light Building on the east side of Main Street (once a cafe run by Mrs. Gorder, then Hank Haugejordsen and last by Eleanora Dunford).

Virgil Roness had a store for awhile in the H. P. Jensen store building—sundries and a soda fountain. Everyone enjoyed Virgil's ice cream specialties; I'm sure everyone enjoyed his personality too.

Bernie and Linder Ledahl operated a grocery store (Lucille Fenster clerked there) in what is now Donna's Cafe. John Nelsons, Everett Johnsons, Almer Matsons and Fred

Pommiers were later owners before it became Melby's Cafe (Marlys and Lowell), followed by Irene Bohlman, Judy and Mike Fichtner and now operated by Mrs. Virgil (Donna) Fagerland.

For a short time, Fern and Everett Johnson had a small clothing store in the old Erickson-Helleckson Lumber Co.

Florence Melby Makee had a small ladies' wear store in the middle of the block, north of the brick garage. It was later owned by Mrs. 'Shorty' Johnson and her daughter Edna.

Cream was purchased by local agents and shipped to the larger creameries in Minot and elsewhere. Some of these agents were Ed Melby, Mrs. Fred Dissell, Mrs. Joe Hanson and H. P. Jensen. Farmers also shipped large cans of cream directly from the railroad station.



The Noonan Supply Company was a sturdy structure on the west side of Noonan's Main Street.



The old Knoph Postoffice and Store . . . Ludvig and Jennie Knoph were the owners. It was located about two miles west of Noonan on Highway 5, west of VandeWalle's farm. Ludvig is shown leaning against the building, and Mrs. Knoph is in doorway.

Stakston Store Was Leading Market Place for Many Years

The Stakston Company existed for a time as an empty brick building on the main street of a once prosperous mining town in northwest North Dakota. It is an excellent example of how a growing town in North Dakota can dwindle away.

In the early days of Noonan, what was later known as the Stakston Company was called the Home Trading Company. It was started as a partnership between Fred Stapf and A. L. Stakston.

Fred Stapf came to the United States from Germany and after spending some time in Canada, ended up in Noonan, North Dakota where he opened a small meat market in 1915.

Fred was not one of the pioneers of Noonan but he had the optimism of the best of them. He had come from Germany as a boy and worked at a business in Milwaukee. Still a boy, he decided to go West and grow with the country. He opened a business in Flaxton, North Dakota, but decided to homestead in Canada. After spending some time in Canada, the opportunities of this region drew him back to Noonan.

At this time, A. L. Stakston was working as a clerk for Rolf Reite who was the owner of the Noonan Supply Company. A.L. was an ambitious young man who had moved to Noonan from Tioga. He and his brother had come to Tioga from Minot to open a grocery business. From Tioga, the business was moved to Plentywood, but they weren't pleased in this city so they returned to Tioga. When Noonan began to boom with opening of the mines, A. L. headed there to work.

In 1921 A. L. Stakston resigned from Noonan Supply, which at this time handled hardware, groceries, dry goods, and funeral supplies, but no meats, and along with Fred Stapf, opened a meat and grocery store called the Home Trading Company. At this time, most grocery stores were operated separately and this was one of the first stores in this region to combine meats and groceries.

In 1923 their business prospered like many others did at this time and they outgrew their original wood frame structure. They had to find a new location. They sold their old store building to Louis Nelson and it was remodeled and became Nelson's Studio of photography. They then purchas-

ed additional space on the same corner and constructed the brick structure that still stood in Noonan till a few short years ago.

With Mr. Stapf handling the meat end of the business and Mr. Stakston handling the groceries, funeral supplies, and dry goods department they enjoyed a lucrative business. They had one of the finest stores in northwestern North Dakota and boasted of having the best kept and up-to-date store to be found in the state.

Mr. Stakston was a licensed undertaker and they operated an undertaking business as a side line to the main store. They had one of the first motor hearses in western North Dakota.

In January of 1934, during the depression, Mr. Stakston was suffering from tuberculosis and had to leave Noonan for the state hospital in San Haven. The store was then operated by Mr. Stapf and George and Earl, Mr. Stakston's sons. Because of disagreements while A. L. was in the hospital, they decided to dissolve the partnership. Mr. Stapf took over the Home Trading Company and the funeral business became Mr. Stakston's.

Early in 1935 the Home Trading Company failed and was closed. When Mr. Stakston returned to Noonan that fall from the hospital, he and his son George formed a partnership and bought the store again. It then became known as the Stakston Company.

They operated the store and the Stakston Funeral Home through the remaining depression and war years. In 1948 Earl Stakston took over the funeral business which he has continued to operate in Noonan, Crosby and Columbus until about a year ago. He had built a beautiful, new mortuary in Crosby and had been managing all the funerals from there for some time. He sold the funeral home and has retired about a year ago. It is now known as the Stakston-Martin Funeral Home and has a modern chapel.

The Stakston Company continued to operate in Noonan even as the city began to dwindle in the late 50's but finally closed down in 1962 when A. L. Stakston retired and George Stakston moved out to the west coast. Fjeld's Market (operated by Clayton Fjelds) and then Mickey Schultz had a grocery store for a few years in the fine building.

This business, along with others in Noonan, helped create a city in the middle of a vast prairie region.

—From a school paper by Charles Stakston, with minor editing.



OLD SETTLER'S DAY 1940 . . . standing (l to r) are Rev. Cannon, Methodist pastor, Floyd Altner, Herman Altner, Milo Stakston, Alice Stakston, Betty (wick) Larson, A. L. Stakston, Malin Stakston, and George Stakston.



The Stakston Store

Noonan Farmers Telephone Is Still Going Strong

Beginning with equipment bought from Mutual Telephone Company of Noonan on September 20, 1916, the Noonan Farmers Telephone came into existence. The equipment purchased included the outside plant and a central office consisting of a 85 line switchboard made by Dean Electric Company, which was delivered to Mutual Telephone Co. on December 24, 1909.

Members of the first board were: W. L. Peterson, President; Grant Case, Secretary; Neils Neilson, Treasurer; and Mr. Devries and Mr. Wallin served as directors. Records show that the first share of stock was sold to W. L. Peterson on November 4, 1916. On March 3, 1918, land was bought from Eivind Tanberg, buildings were then moved onto the lot and it is still the present site for the central office.

During the first 10 years of Noonan Farmers Telephone existence it had several managers and employees. Mr. Thomas was hired as the first manager on March 23, 1920. On July 20, 1920, Phil Coultier was hired as manager and Miss Gladys Olson was hired as bookkeeper. Mrs. Carl Larson was given the chief operator's job on September 8, 1921. November 21, 1921 was the date that Mr. Alfred Hamerd was hired as manager. On October 31, 1922, Gladys Olson was hired as chief operator. Oscar Evenson was hired as manager on March 29, 1924. On January 24, 1925, Mrs. P. F. Noonan was hired as chief operator.

The major topics of discussion in the official minutes of the first ten years were the building of new farm lines and the financial situation of the Noonan Farmers Telephone Co. P. O. Gerde was hired as manager sometime prior to October 15, 1927 (the minutes do not give an exact date). Arthur P. Clemens was hired as manager on November 8, 1927. His employment lasted for the next 54 years. In March of 1929 Art Clemens took on the job of chief operator.

On September 24, 1927, a special stockholders meeting was held to discuss selling Noonan Farmers Telephone to C. G. Hilliard for \$12,900 in cash. The vote was 71 in favor of selling

and 16 against. The minutes do not tell exactly what happened but the sale did not take place, apparently Mr. Hilliard did not have the necessary cash.

In order to help keep the company solvent Art Clemens' monthly salary was cut from \$200 to \$150 on June 18, 1931. In 1934 the monthly phone rent was reduced to \$1 from \$4.00. Also in 1934, the minutes make the first mention of depositing money in the Bank of North Dakota.

In 1936, Art Clemens' salary was raised to \$175.00 a month. The board also decided to put water and sewer into the central office building. On April 24, 1936, with the closing of the 1st International Bank of Noonan deposits were made with the Farmers State Bank of Crosby.

In 1943 Art Clemens along with a group of men started digging a basement under the house. They used a slip pulled by Jules VandeWalle's team of horses. One day during the work, Art Clemens caught his hand on a nail and hurt it quite badly when the horses would not stop. The team of horses were fired and Jules VandeWalle's 1942 H tractor was used to finish the job. Art bought this tractor and it is still in use today.

Frank Lukach was elected to the board of directors in 1948 and has served continuously since that year. Farmers Co-op Elevator loaned Noonan Farmers Telephone money in July of 1949 to buy underground cable to replace all the overhead cable in the town of Noonan. F. P. Kimball, who was president of the board, loaned Noonan Farmers Telephone \$303.21 to pay the existing bills. The minutes show that in 1951 the board voted to assess each stockholder \$40 in order to pay off loans. On March 12, 1952, the board voted to purchase poles from Montana-Dakota Utilities. These poles were in a line running east out of Crosby to Larson. In April of 1952 Noonan Farmers Telephone offered to sell to Mutual Aid; they did not accept the offer. On July 15, 1953, the stockholders voted to go to a dial system. After obtaining a loan of \$20,000 at a 4% interest rate a switchboard was ordered in 1955. Also in this



Staff and management of Staff and Stakston Store shown in a photo taken in 1925.

year the Catholic diocese donated a 25x25 foot piece of ground for the construction of a dial house. Clarence Spooner was awarded the contract for construction of the dial house. The cutover to dial was made February 15, 1956. In July of 1964 direct dial (EAS) service started between Crosby and Noonan.

In 1954 C. J. Haarstad appraised Noonan Farmers Telephone value at \$31,513.66.

On April 29, 1967, the stockholders voted to build a new house. Larry Clemens was hired as manager in 1971. Long distance direct dial was put into service in April of 1972. In

September of 1972 a new switchboard was ordered; this board has a capacity for 300 lines with 250 equipped and 100 equipped for touch-tone.

In February of 1977 the Catholic diocese again donated a 25x25 foot piece of land, this time for an addition to the dial house. Louis Spooner was given the contract for construction.

A new inventory taken in 1978 totaled \$326,673.81. At present all lines are private except in three instances where someone moved in. All the cable is 100% buried except for 2½ miles of overhead.

Written by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Clemens

Farmers Coop Elevator Formed 72 Years Ago

The Farmers Elevator was organized in 1909. There is very little information available on its operations during its early years as records have been lost or destroyed.

Art Damschen was either the first or one of the first managers. It was reorganized as a cooperative in 1919 and received its corporate charter on May 15, 1919. The patrons received shares of stock in place of dividends and as the elevator prospered the shares were redeemed until each patron held one share of stock.

The 1920's were quite successful as far as the elevator was concerned. Then the 1930's were drouth years and poor crops resulted in a small volume of grain handling. They were able to operate by handling feed and supplies. In at least one year, more grain was shipped in than out.

In the 1940's there were crops again and more grain to handle. In 1947 they purchased the elevator to the east and moved it up to the main house. In 1959 and 60 they built an annex with a capacity of 90,000 bushels. In 1976 and 1977 they rebuilt the driveway and installed a new scale and remodeled the office.

The present board of directors are Glen Spooner, Roger Johnson, Greg Jacobs, Butch Nelson and Bud Witty. The elevator has had over seventy years of successful operation due to the loyal patronage of farmers in the surrounding community.

Written by Vernon Tanberg

In the June 26th, 1908 issue of the Noonan Miner, the Farmers Elevator at Noonan was being built. In 1916 the new manager was Mr. C. O. Larson who came from Ambrose. In the spring of 1919, a meeting was held to erect a new elevator to replace the present one for \$30,000. Capacity of 40,000 bushels. It was ready to take in grain in August that year.

Later managers were Guy Almy (his first year, the stockholders divided a profit of \$24,000 though the farmers in the vicinity had only harvested less than an average crop), Bob Klammer, Elmer Swanson, Clarence Jacobson, Val Schwindt, Orville Berve, Leonard Gilbertson, Bob Burner and presently Arden Eide.

By Olga Rait



An early photo of Noonan Farmers Coop Elevator.



Wagons of grain wait in line to unload their grain at Noonan in fall of 1911.

Noonan Has Had Three Banks Which Have Closed

The First International Bank was moved over from Kermit and was in business in 1909 (it was steam heated), with Jacob Leuthold Jr. as president, J. J. Kotschevar as vice president and Albert Makee as cashier. In December 1916, the bank put an illuminated clock on its building. This was to be in appreciation for the good will and business favors of the area patrons, and would take the place of the calendars and novelties given in the past. Chimes would ring out on the quarter, half, three-quarter and on the hour—16 strokes. I remember the big stuffed pelican adorning the top of the cage at the Makee Bank, ever since 1913. The bank was closed by President Roosevelt's bank holiday for a brief time, and reopened for a few years. It was the last Noonan bank to close its operation in 1936.



First International Bank of Noonan

The Security State Bank of Noonan, located south of the Rouse Store, was operating in 1910, with A. H. Anderson serving as cashier. After this bank closed in the early 1930's, Mr. Anderson had an insurance agency, and also did some legal work, such as deeds, etc.

The planned moving of the Pioneer State Bank of Kermit to Noonan about 1909 did not materialize. The First State Bank purchased the building and the two banks would be consolidated under the name First State Bank of Kermit. So ended another chapter in the Noonan-Kermit townsie squabble.

The First State Bank later moved to Noonan after all, and was called the Farmers State Bank (located north of the Traveler's Hotel). A. C. Hess was cashier. It was the first of three banks to close.

Farmers State Bank Station

After the Security State Bank closed in 1931, A. H. Anderson opened an insurance office in the remodeled portion of the Rouse Store which remained after the fire.

The Federal Land Bank, District Office, operated by Sophus Jessen, Harold Robinson, and Herman Meuwissen Sr., continued in this location from about 1936 to 1945.

Then A. C. Matson and Gerald Doughty opened a money exchange and insurance agency there. Harold Joraanstad bought out Doughty, but later on he became a Baukol-Noonan employee and officer. Sometime later the coal company transferred him to Minot.

Since 1966 it has been a bank station of Farmers State Bank of Crosby. Gordon Wallin is present manager, assisted by Annie Tanberg Kjos.

Fay Makee also operated an insurance business.



First International Bank of Noonan was located where the postoffice now stands. Shown in this early photo of the bank interior are (left to right) Harris Johnson, Ward Lee, and Alice Olson. Alice later became Mrs. Bud Truax.



An early Noonan photo; school in foreground, which is now the Greaves house. Otto Huwes home at left. Old Methodist church at right.



These two schools served Noonan for many years, before the new structure was built in the 1950's



Noonan's present, modern public school building

History of Noonan School System

The first school house was only a one-room building, so a large building was built in 1910. The first school house has since served as dwellings for the Elmer Truaxes, Rolf Reites, Clyde Lights, Les Munsons, Harold Joraanstads, and presently the Greaves family. A new school was needed; a school election was held to decide whether to issue bonds of \$7500 to build a new schoolhouse. The vote was 95-55 in favor. In September 1914, Coalfield Public School opened. There were four teachers and included eight grades and one year of high school work. First grade was in the Lutheran church basement. The building had been erected by Heath and Bird, contractors from Wildrose. It was made of the famous Den-high white pressed brick matching the several other brick buildings to perfection. It had steam heat and a modern ventilating system. The school officers were A. H. Makee, president; John Wallin and Bill Nordman, trustees; and F. P. Kimball, clerk.

The old high school building served the Noonan community from the fall of 1928 until the new school building opened in the fall of 1955. It was a frame building, built in Kermit in 1910 to serve as a school for Kermit. There was a controversy about moving the building and high school classes were held in the basement of the Methodist church in the meantime. In the summer of 1927, it was decided to set up a special high school district to end the fight between Noonan and Kermit. The state legislature gave its approval and the special school district No. 41 was formed to include parts of Mentor District No. 11, Coalfield District No. 16 and Brown District No. 40.

The moving of the Kermit school was done by Richard and Herman Huwe. When crossing fields, they used horses and a winch; it was slow going. On the highway they used a 30-60 Rumley oil-pull. They moved the building to the south end of town and it faced north, just to the east of the old grade school building. The auditorium in the basement was pretty small for a gymnasium, so the Memorial Hall served as a gym, and

the basketball games, plays and proms were held there. Mr. William Kraus was the first superintendent in 1928 and remained four years. A tunnel joined the high school and grade buildings. In this tunnel was located the furnace. Ironically, the fire siren for the whole community was located in the belfry of the high school.

When the new school was opened in 1955, the classes from the old grade and high school moved into the new quarters. The old school building was torn down and much of the lumber of the frame building was salvaged.

From 1955 until the Divide County school re-districting in the early 1960s, Noonan's grade school policy was one where grades were overlapped. For a time, Mrs. Auran taught her sixth grade class in the Methodist church basement, for lack of the classrooms in the new school.

The Noon-N-Nite Exhaust, so named by Lyle Wold in 1929, is still the name of the school paper. The Noonan Miner cooperated at that time and was responsible for its publishing. It was edited by the students of the high school and supported by the local business places. It was a unique little newspaper then.

Spurning bargaining pleas (and after much soul-searching), the Divide County School District board voted to close Noonan High School at the end of this school term by a vote of 6 to 3, after a special session February 24, 1981.

Soon after, there was a move for Noonan and six townships to secede (after 20 years, when the Divide County School District was reorganized) from the district, and annex to the Columbus School District in Burke County. After much research and publicity, the plan was abandoned when a large opposing group protested, and it was admitted the annexation group did not muster the necessary 66% of signatures on their petitions. It remains then, to put aside differences and go about one's business with complete objectivity and no animosity.



EARLY NOONAN GRADE SCHOOL SCENE . . . These were 5th and 6th graders about 1921 or 1922. First row (l to r): Virden Wilson, Farrel Salvesson, Ellen Reite. Second row: Ralph Jones, Hertha Brandt, Ellen Schultz, William McKibbin, Helen Noonan, and Elsie Paige. Third row: Teles Gits, Alice Gebus, George Tyson, Ethel Truax, Delmer Miller. Standing: Orville Wick, Herbert Kimball, Milo Stakston, Nora Doty, Rachel Vadnais, Ethel Brostrom, Bernice Ledahl, and Beatrice Noonan.



ABOVE: Memorial Service held at the Methodist Church for Rolland Light, who was missing in action on Wake Island during World War II.



Gold Star Sons from Noonan...



LEFT: Memorial Service held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church for three Noonan men who lost their lives in the service of their country in World War II. Left to right, they are Ingval Hermanson, Wayne Erickson, and Alton Dalager.



Loren Witty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Witty and a Noonan High School graduate, enlisted in the Marines in 1952. While training in jet fighter planes, he was killed, along with 4 other airmen, in a collision of two Marine Corps Jets over the Mojave Desert in California April 27, 1956.



Company C Organized at Noonan

Company C was housed in the County Fair Pavilion in Crosby, under the direction of Captain Charles Rouse Jr. Later they had an encampment where they occupied tents.

In the August 24, 1917, Divide County Journal, the Opera House in Noonan was beautifully decorated with flags, a profusion of flowers and the national colors for the occasion when Company C was entertained by the citizens of Noonan and given a five-course chicken banquet, prepared by the women of the town and served by the young ladies. J. J. Gits was the toastmaster and there was dancing in the evening.

Company C also got a "shot in the arm" when Major Wheelon of Minot stopped by Noonan on his way to Crosby to administer "shots" as required by the War Department.

In the Aug. 31, 1917, edition, a complete Roll Call of Company C was listed, the names of the "Boys who are going after the Kaiser's goat" from Divide County. The names I

recognized from our area were: Charles L. Rouse, Captain; William A. Chalcraft, 1st Lt.; Ray Alberts, Cal Andrist, Oscar Carlson, Ray and William Damschen, Elmer and Gust Fenster, Louis J. Gits, Samuel Hall, Ira Holesapple, Jonas Johnson, Orvill Knoph, Dan and James Lumsden, William Martinson, Forrest R. Nulph, Martin Paulson, Matt Ring, Irl Rouse, Jules VandeWalle, Fritz Wallin and Henry Stenerson.

"Pity the Kaiser when Company C gets over there if they fight like they play football."

William Perry Makee was killed while fighting with the American forces in France during the late days of World War I and Crosby's American Legion Post was named in his honor. James Lumsden also made the supreme sacrifice, and Noonan's Legion Post was named for him.

Harold Tripp—the first Noonan boy to enter the Service after war was declared by the U.S. (the first World War)

William Martinson — a Proud Hero from Noonan

I would be remiss if I did not relate the story of this man—From the Jan. 23, 1930, issue of the Noonan Miner, I first found the announcement of his death which included the following: "Bill" as he was known to his many friends in this community was a character around Noonan for a good number of years. He himself was his only known real enemy; considerably handicapped by his only enemy "booze." "Bill" was one of the first to answer his country's call from this locality and enlisted in the U.S. Army in July 1917 and served overseas until the finish.

From the Divide County Journal—Aug. 23, 1918. Headline: Noonan Soldier Leads Squad, Wm. Martinson

Corporal William Martinson has made a name for himself as champion wire stretcher. An item appeared in the Fargo Forum that is of more than passing interest to people of this city which refers to the record of putting up barbed wire entanglements which Corp. William Martinson and his squad has established. They now call him "Hard Boiled Bill," but before the war in civil life, he was known as "Billy the Bum."

The story follows: "They call him Hard Boiled Bill, everybody in camp knows him as Bill, writes Private R. E. Damschen of Noonan, of his chum, in France, B. William Martinson of Noonan, whose squad has established the record for putting up barbed wire entanglements.

He had his squad out last week putting on a demonstration for the school, "officers and all," writes Private Damschen. "Bill" and his men put up 50 yards of wire in 10 minutes and 22 seconds—the best record ever made. There are 12 wires to put on, about 45 staples to screw in, and the wire has to be put on so the Hun can't get thru."

THE PASSING OF "BARB WIRE BILL"—Divide County Journal, Jan. 17, 1930.

Shortly before Christmas, the editor of this paper received a letter from William Martinson, a former resident of this county and an ex-service man who went to the World War with old Company C. At that time, Bill was confined in the U.S. Veterans Hospital at Fort Harrison, Mont., where he was receiving treatment. We published his letter and our readers will remember that Bill was lonesome and wanted to hear from people in this vicinity and also requested that we send him an occasional copy of The Journal. We complied



Company C . . . Organized at Noonan in World War I

with his request, and The Journal has been sent to him regularly since that time. He died there January 13, 1930, probably past 50 years of age.

As a youngster, he lived in Minneapolis. Cal knew him at Noonan about 1909 or 1910. He was a brick mason by trade, and a might good one too (he also did carpentry and evidence of his work still remains in our community in 1981), and in the winter time, he used to work as a miner in the lignite mines near Noonan.

When the U.S. entered the World War, it was decided to organize a company of soldiers in Divide County with headquarters at Crosby in July 1917. Officers would start recruiting volunteers for Company C. Right out front was "Old Bill" even though he was well past the draft age. The medical officer came to Crosby to give members physical examinations. He made the remark that Bill's teeth were in bad shape and that, in all probability, he would not be able to pass him for the service. Bill promptly said something like this: "Hell, man, I'm not going over there to eat the Germans; I'm going over to lick them." Needless to say, the medical officer overlooked whatever was wrong with Bill's teeth. He came to be known as "Barbed Wire Bill" and made hundreds of demonstrations for observations of officers and "non-coms" who took special training at the First Corps Schools.

Art and Kate Clemens

June 3, 1970 (Divide County Journal)

A Noonan couple, Mr. and Mrs. Art Clemens, who between them have devoted nearly a century of service to their God, their country and their community through the American Legion and Auxiliary, were specially honored at Memorial Day services at Noonan.

Mrs. Jules VandeWalle read the tribute to Mrs. Clemens—a lifetime member of the Auxiliary—she had organized the Noonan unit and served as charter president. She was also presented a lifetime membership.

Ray Schultz made the presentation to Art who was the organizer of the Noonan Legion Post. Mrs. Evald Forsgren and Mrs. Fred Heuer (first treasurer) were also honored as charter members.

In early 1981, Evald Forsgren, Eric Brandt and Irl Rouse were honored for their fifty years of membership.



Mr. and Mrs. Art Clemens

Service Stations Serving Noonan

Henry Staflin came from Makoti, lived in the Palen residence, assisted in the grain business and in the restaurant business before managing the Erickson-Helleckson Lumber Co., after which he built the Standard Service Station at the north end of the hotel block. It later was owned as a Texaco Station by Emmett Gausvik and Roy Kleven who enlarged it. Emmett sold out to Louis Darras. Clayton Fjeld was the next proprietor, then Jerome Raymo and now "Chet" Nygaard operates it as a Mobil Station. He also had the Wissbrod (North Star) station which is no longer in operation. Emmett had previously leased the Westland Service on the corner where Rouse's Store once stood. Hank McKibben ran it after Emmett, followed by Willie Peterson. Stanley Thompson was the operator before Gausvik and George Kostek before Stanley.

Bill Benzon operated his barber shop for several years in this building before it became a residence. Palmer Gerde then occupied the building as a residence and an electrical repair shop. Edgar Dennis lives there now.

Noonan Area Legislators

Oscar Lindstrom, Republican, served in the North Dakota House of Representatives—the 13th session—in 1913, and "ran" for the Senate where he served two sessions and a special session in January 1918. It was interesting to note that he was an avid promoter of Women's suffrage.

Fred Johnson's son Warren was a page during the session when Oscar Lindstrom was a legislator. During this time, he met James W. Foley, the North Dakota poet, and was given an autographed book of his poems. His sister, Margaretmary Harris was about six years old, but remembers that he was wearing a cast as a result of falling down the Capitol steps and suffering a broken arm.

George Brown was a member of the House of Representatives in the 1917 session and the Special session in 1918.

Robert Rait, of Kermit at that time, was a member of the House of Representatives for two sessions, 1937 through 1940. He was a Non-Partisan Leaguer.

George Rait, Democrat, was a member of the North Dakota Senate, first as a member of the 40th district (Burke and Divide) in 1965 and the special session held that summer, then representing District 2 (after reapportionment—Divide and most of Williams County) continually through 1980. The last few years a few townships of Burke County were added to District 2.

After Ben Wissbrod had managed his livery barn and dray service for some years, and the automobile became the accepted mode of travel, he went to work for Standard Oil Co. Four years later, in 1924, Ben, Harris Baukol and Eivind Tanberg started the Farmers Oil Co., a bulk plant, in competition with Standard Oil. They added the North Star Service Station for retail sales and service. Ben bought out his partners and was the Mobil dealer in Noonan until his retirement in 1957, when son Robert became the manager till 1969. Dale Brorby took care of the service station part of the business for a time, while Bob had the bulk service. Joe Dhuyvetter managed the Mobil Service Station in 1964. "Chet" Nygaard then bought the station, but it is now closed.

The Farmers Union maintained a small service station for a short time just north of the old annex. Its manager was a Mr. Foster. Donald (Bud) Wallin's Body Shop was the remodeled Farmers' Union Station. After Bud left, it was operated for a short time by a Mr. Manigold and the building now stands in disrepair.



One of the few old business buildings still in use, this structure served as a hardware store at the time the picture was taken, but now is the Kostek's Food Market.

Baukol-Noonan . . . Foremost Industry in Community

Baukol-Noonan Lignite, Inc. became a North Dakota corporation in 1930. It had 30 shareholders and a capital structure of \$160,000. Harris Baukol, the founder, had access to some good quality lignite coal deposits near Noonan. The name Baukol-Noonan naturally followed. The mining property included the Hought Coal Mine property and land adjoining. The first coal was shipped in December 1930. They had a 6-yd. steam stripping shovel, a 2½-yd. electric loading shovel and the tippie had a 100-car per day capacity.

Mr. Baukol continued as president and director; L. L. Munson of Pittsburg, Kansas, vice-president and treasurer, in charge of operations; Neil Cothrein, also of Pittsburg, Kansas, a director and secretary; Bill Vadnais, office manager; and A. M. and F. M. Baukol were in charge of sales.

Baukol-Noonan Inc. was born in 1949, when a group of North Dakota businessmen purchased the outstanding shares of Baukol-Noonan Lignite Inc. Their new North Dakota company was incorporated in 1949. All of the capital stock was sold to North Dakota residents.

Robert Rovelstad's association with the company began in 1949 as office manager and company counsel. He was elected secretary-treasurer in 1950 and president in 1952. During his term of office, the company progressed from the smallest of the North Dakota mining companies to a point where the concern's mine at Center was listed as the 12th largest coal producer in the United States in 1978.

The mining operation was moved in 1963 to the Larson area. In 1967, a new mine was opened near Center. Only two men are needed to operate the big dragline; the original steam shovel purchased in 1929 required a crew of seven. After the overburden is stripped, the coal is loaded in 120-ton trucks. Mr. Ledahl could have housed several of his horse-drawn wagons (which were first used) in one of these giants.

The company's diversification program over the 28-year period include entering the lightweight aggregate business and the patenting of a lignite-based fertilizer. An aggregate

plant at which lightweight building material was made from the hitherto unused clay deposits, was built at Noonan in 1955 and a Mandan plant was purchased in 1960. This operation helped provide year-round employment for a greater number of the miners. Both plants operated until about 1975, by which time a major mine-mouth lignite mine was successfully operating at Center.

The mine was expanded in 1977 to supply two adjacent electric generating plants, Minnkota and Square Butte.

The patented fertilizer, derived from leonardite, is not being marketed, but is being used in the company's mined land reclamation.

Ace Mud Co. manufactures drilling mud for oil wells by using leonardite, flax straw and other mixtures to form this drilling mud, which forms a temporary casing while oil wells are being drilled.

Another innovation initiated during the '50s was the environmental program. The mine hills were already seeded with grasses and legumes. Trees and shrubs were planted to establish a wildlife habitat, an Arbor Day project.

Although the two mines produce large quantities of coal, they no longer leave the banks of soil material known to Divide County residents as "mine hills." The present environmental program provides for returning the surface to a "rolling topography" much like the original terrain. The top soil is saved and replaced, then further enriched by fertilizers and extensive seeding before making it tillable again. So, one may notice a changing landscape.

All of the company's approximately 185 employees have been recruited in the state. All of the stock was sold to North Dakotans. Rovelstad has retired after 28 years, but remains a director. Larry Rutherford is now the executive manager and Harold Joraastad, the office manager at the Minot office; an office is still maintained in Noonan in the old Security State Bank building, with Duane Dihle and Mrs. Edith Haarstad in charge.



BAUKOL NOONAN SUPERINTENDENTS AND OFFICE STAFFERS . . . This photo taken in the 1950's shows a number of key Baukol-Noonan personnel from that period. Back row (l to r): Elmer Gausvik, Ed Sandberg, Bob Rovelstad. Front row: Alvin Dihle, Harold Joraastad, Nellie Peterson, and Harris Baukol.



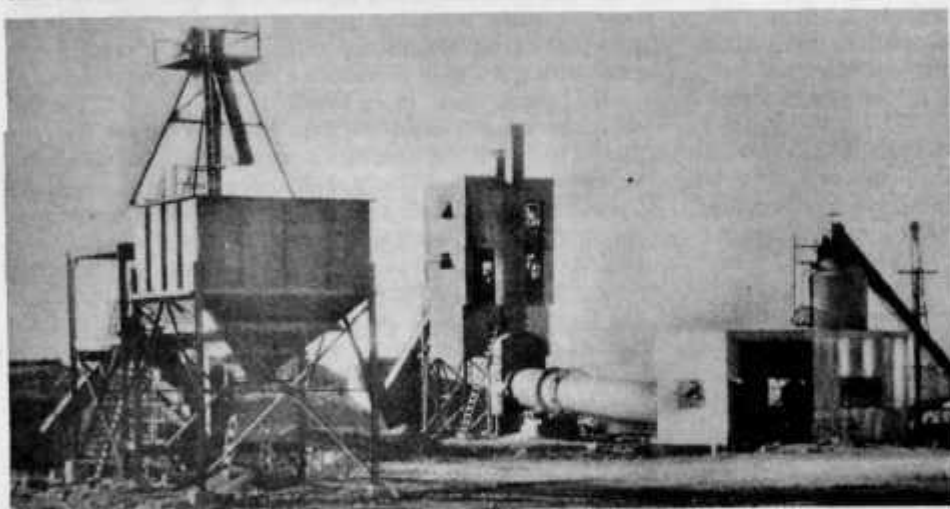
Familiar scenes and faces from Noonan mine . . .

TOP LEFT: Harris Baukol, company founder.

CENTER: The company aggregate plant at Noonan.

LOWER LEFT: A steam shovel in operation.

LOWER RIGHT: Bob Rovelstad, Company President for many years.



Electric Lights

As before mentioned, Nordman and Trenne, with cooperation of citizens of Noonan, installed a light plant. A petition was granted for a 10-year franchise. An important epoch in the history of the White City happened when the lights were turned on at 2:45 p.m. in early 1914.

At one time about 1919, for supplemental power—Ole Iversen (a farmer and thresher) came to the rescue with his Mogul threshing engine, using it to supply power to the electric generator. This was emergency service while the new power plant was being built, north of the present Joe Kostek residence. (Lights were turned off at least by midnight, and if the engine happened to stop, the town might be in the dark for a day or two.)

This plant continued to furnish electricity for the city till Huso and Kately built the power plant where the old creamery had acquired from the Ole P. Hansons, Mrs. Hanson's homestead. Much later, the Hansons received free electric lights for some time, in exchange for the light plant's use of a piece of their property.

Huso and Kately decided to move their light plants at Noonan and Crosby to the Truax Mine south of Columbus where they established an electric generating plant which burned lignite coal "slack," a waste product at the mine. At some time in the mid-1920s, this plant became a part of what is now Montana-Dakota Utilities.

In a REMEMBER WHEN column of the Noonan Miner, our attention was called to Noonan's well-illuminated streets. The Commercial Club committee, composed of Harris Baukol, J. J. Gits and William Nordman got action on this; lighting up of old ones, new ones and repaired ones took place. It seemed only fair that the taxpayer pay the bill.

The first street lights of Noonan were replaced with the White Way lights during the time when George Kostek was Noonan's mayor.

Transportation

When the trains lost their mail contracts for daily delivery, that service was provided by truck transportation through a bidding process.

At about the same time that the trains discontinued daily passenger service on both branch lines (Soo and Great Northern), they became mixed trains, running about three times a week. There was a passenger coach included on the freight trains. This type of service continued for perhaps ten years, and was a very cumbersome method of travel. For lack of patronage, then, passenger service was completely discontinued on the rails.

Various bus service schedules have been used in the area over the years. Daily service between Minot and Crosby was in effect for about fifty years by a number of companies and individuals, but now we have bus service three days a week, so we are still very much dependent on the automobile for transportation.

Noonan Port of Entry

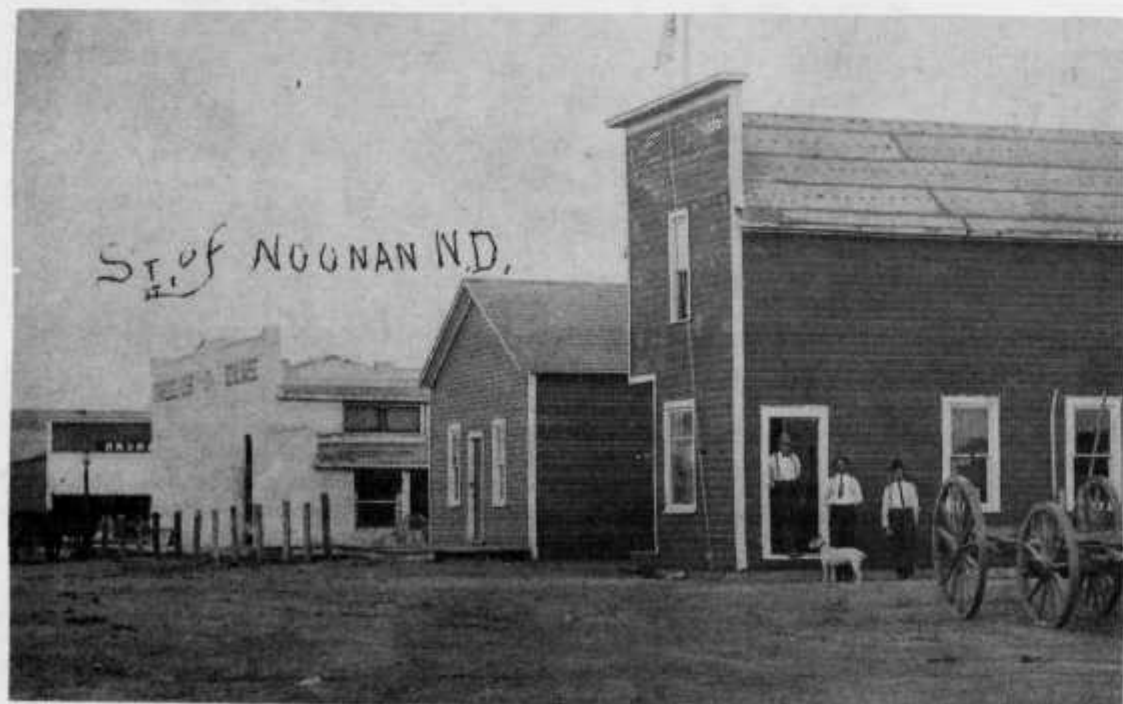
The Noonan Port of Entry was established in the mid-twenties with a small office, occupying two or three locations while in Noonan. The first immigration officer was Max Andrewjeski in Noonan, and the Customs officer was in Crosby, a Mr. Roberts.

In the mid-1930s, after Highway 40 was constructed, the Customs Office was built at the U.S.-Canadian border, with living quarters provided for one Customs and one Immigration officer and families.

Since that time, new housing facilities and also a new office building have been built. The Port is open daily from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Everyone crossing the Border must report at the United States and the Canadian Customs. Near the Custom House is an airstrip which provides for small entering and departure planes to be checked through.



AN EARLY DAY STRIP MINING OUTFIT . . . Art Ledahl's men and equipment are shown in this 1925 strip mining photo taken four miles east of Noonan. The small boy is Art's son, Stanley. Driving the four lead horses is Bill Heuer. Others in the photo are Orville Kjos, Adolph Benson, Orville Wick, Carl Ledahl, Leonard Ledahl, Hank McKibben, Fritz Wallin, Carl Berg, Roy Birch, Lennie McKee, Willis Gottenberg, Jim Lee, and Patrick Noonan.



AN EARLY NOONAN STREET SCENE . . . At far left, across main street, is a drug store which now houses Brorby Bar. Also visible in foreground are Rouse's Store and Erickson-Helleckson Lumber Co.



Baukol Noonan Mine about 1950



DeVries, Roe, and Company Threshing Outfit in 1911

Spooner Lumber Co.

William Nordman moved to Noonan from the old homestead in 1910 to operate an implement business purchased from Howard Osborne. A partnership was formed with Martin Trenne (brother of Mrs. Nordman) from 1911 to 1913. A large machine shed was built and they got the Ford agency in addition to farm machinery, bob sleighs and the International Harvester dealership. Then was started the William Nordman Company, when he bought the Langworthy Lumber Company in 1914, as it was being moved from Kermit to Noonan, and purchased the business share of Trenne and it became a lumber and implement company. He operated an open yard until 1936 when the present building was built. Before this, all he had was a small building for his office (later to become the Noonan Miner office) and some open sheds. Most of the lumber was stored in the sheds, but some of the more expensive lumber was stored in part of the office.

Nordman did contract construction work and built public buildings in and around Noonan, as well as many private homes. Jim Fraley was an associate in the business for awhile.

On November 1, 1943, the Nordman Lumber and Implement business was

sold to Louie and Gladys Spooner, and the name became the Spooner Lumber Company. Louie operated the yard alone, with his wife as secretary, until 1946 when he went into partnership with his brother-in-law, Oscar Berg of Minneapolis. In 1946, they purchased the business of Erickson-Helleckson Lumber Company, making only one lumber yard in the city of Noonan. In the fall of 1949, the Spooner and Berg partnership was dissolved and it became again the Spooner Lumber Company. In 1950 Louie Spooner started contract construc-



Mr. and Mrs. Louis Spooner

tion and many new homes were built throughout the area. Public buildings constructed included an addition to the Good Samaritan Center, the Noonan Bowling Lanes, and the building of the Baukol-Noonan Mine Shop when it was relocated at Larson, N.D. He also built the Lutheran parsonage at Noonan. Many small buildings and remodeling was continually being done around the community.

After 25 years of managing the Spooner Lumber Company, Louie Spooner closed his business in 1968 and retired. Not being able to sell the yard to any interested persons, Louie on January 5, 1971, donated the building and lot to the City of Noonan to be used for city and community projects.

Noonan Taverns

Fagerland Brothers had a bar known as the Alley Cat in the vacated Erickson-Helleckson Lumber Yard. When they sold their bar to "Frenchy" Gardner, Kenny established a bar in the old barbershop-postoffice building, previously Staffin's Bar, and for a while, a tasty-freeze was operated next door to the bar. Fagerland's Bar became Howard's (Melby) Bar. After the fire there, the Melbys who had bought the hotel, continued their bar in the hotel. Donna and Robert Lagein acquired the bar from the Melbys and later sold it to the Harlan Kosteks, who are presently operating it.

Ben and Leon Dunford bought the Sweet Shop from Marie Bowler in 1935 and established a bar. They sold the business to "Frenchy" Gardner in 1941 when Leon was in the armed forces.

After Bill Feeney's "hitch" in the service, he purchased that bar from Gardner and operated it till his health failed. It was closed for a time and is now operated by Marlyn Brorby. (This was Noonan's first drug store, owned by Rolf Reite.)

Art Holte opened a liquor store (bottle shop) in the Annex, and he later moved it to the old Farmers State Bank building. He had a large collection of Indian arrowheads which he proudly displayed in his shop. Bill Feeney Jr. also had such a collection in his place of business.



Looking north on Noonan's Main Street, Spooner Lumber Company is in the left foreground of this photo.



Rev. Fr. Kuhn (right) is shown when he accepted the Noonan Lions Charter from Peter Carey of Fargo in 1954

Noonan Lions Club

The Noonan Lions Club is the oldest service organization in Noonan. The club was organized March 9, 1954. The first President was Rev. J. H. Kuhn. First Vice President was Charles Wissbrod; Second Vice President was H. F. Meuwissen; Third Vice President was Homer Wilson. Orville Berve was Secretary; A. C. Matson was Treasurer; Louis Nelson was Tail Twister and George Kostek was the first Lion Tamer.

Thirty-four Noonan men officially banded into a Lions service club May 4, 1954. The club was sponsored by the Bowbells Lions Club. They received their charter from Peter Carey, District Governor of the Lions, at that time.

The primary purpose of the Lions Club is helping the blind.

Old, unused eyeglasses are gathered and sent to a central distribution point and given to needy people.

Other things done locally are city clean-up, birthday calendar and a pancake dinner. They also assist the city and other local organizations in their projects.

Present officers are: President, Oral Sillerud; First Vice President, Alton Lund; Second Vice President, Henry Brodal; Third Vice President, Harlen Kostek. The Secretary is Arden Elde and the Treasurer is Ed Ringdahl. Tail Twister is Les Priebe and the Lion Tamer is Jay Espeseth. Presently there are 16 Lions in the club. Jay Espeseth was recently appointed to be Zone Chairman of District 5 NW. Bob Priebe is historian of the club.

Written by Maxine Priebe



These are the men who made up the loading crew for Baukol Noonan in March, 1936

Consolidation of Soo Line and the Great Northern

The abandonment of the Soo Line track from west of Flaxton to Crosby was made possible in 1960 by an agreement between the Soo Line and the Great Northern railroads. Since it seemed to be a duplication for the two trains both running on tracks only a mile apart, they decided the Soo Line trains would run over the Great Northern tracks to Crosby where they again would continue on their own tracks from Crosby west.



Matt and Lena Klier

present manager is Richard Bohlman who succeeded the only other manager, Tony Rivers.

The name of the Great Northern Railroad was changed to the Burlington Northern. There is now no resident agent at the Noonan Depot; all service is taken care of via telephones and the train crew. The last agent was Lyle Christianson who was the agent for a number of years. He was a sports-minded citizen and the Noonan people named the baseball diamond Christianson Field in his honor. Agents have come and gone, but the agent with the longest tenure that I can recall was Matt Klier who ably served the Noonan community from 1926 to 1941. He and his wife Lena also took an active part in the community.

Since Kermit was no longer then receiving rail service, the Soo Line made an agreement with the owners (local farmers) of the elevator there, to pay them a certain amount to move it to Noonan. It was decided rather, however, to build a new building in Noonan, which is known as the Noonan Grain Company. The



Noonan's new city hall and later the Grand Theatre



Digging out from the unforgettable snow storm that lasted from March 13 to March 17, 1943.



A Mentor Township gang — taken at the Primary Election March 19, 1912

Noonan Senior Citizens

In October 1974 Mrs. Carolyn Nenow of Williston, project director for Senior Citizens, contacted Pastor Carl Wilfred of Noonan Bethlehem Lutheran Church to call together some senior citizens to see if there would be enough interest in Noonan to start a Senior Citizens Club.

October 22, 1974—14 senior citizens met with Carolyn Nenow and Pastor Carl: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Joyce, Mr. and Mr. Roy Fenster, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Tanberg, Mr. and Mrs. Rueben Fredrickson, Mr. and Mrs. Halgrim Braathen, Mrs. Vera Johnson, Mrs. Orville Johnson, Mrs. Lucille Anseth, and Joe Kostek. There seemed to be enough interest so a meeting was held at the Memorial Hall November 12, 1974. Twenty-five interested citizens met and a meeting was held Dec. 10, 1974, at the Hall to elect officers and make future plans. Vernon Tanberg was elected president; Margaret Fredrickson, vice president; Marie Braathen, secretary; and Lucille Anseth, treasurer. Program and serving committees were appointed and meetings were to be held twice a month: a business and a social. Later, a dinner or supper would be held every month, besides the annual Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and an outside picnic.

Meetings were held at the Memorial Hall until March 14, 1975, when meetings were held at the Fire Hall. It had been paneled and painted up, with most of the work having been done by Joe Kostek. We had 18 members then. We had membership dues, a few money-making projects, lunch money and memorials so we bought chairs, tables and other necessities.

On January 9, 1976, we got our charter of incorporation and our by-laws written, so we received a portion of the county levy for senior citizens, as well as a few grants and donations, so plans were made for getting our own Center. A board of directors was elected: Margaret Fredrickson, Tom Joyce, Vernon Tanberg, Ethel Focke, Joe Kostek and Marie Braathen.

Earl Stakston offered the Stakston Funeral Home to us for a Center, and April 23, 1976, it was decided to accept the building. Plans then began for remodeling with some volunteer work and some hired labor.

The first meeting was held at the new Center August 24, 1978. More equipment was added, with memorials, dues, grants, etc. Open House was held July 29, 1979, to which many members of Senior Citizen Clubs from neighboring towns came.

Our activities include playing cards, bingo, films and speakers. The County Nurse comes regularly for blood

pressure check-ups. Get-well cards are sent to all senior citizens in the community; also sympathy cards to the bereaved. The women enjoy getting together to make quilts and these are sold. Often guests, including pastors, have been invited to our suppers and dinners.

Vernon Tanberg has been our president since our club started. Others who have held offices are Ethel Focke, Joe Kostek, Lea Kimball, Elsa Johnson, Evelyn Fredrickson, Lucille Anseth, Marie Braathen and Margaret Fredrickson.

At the present time, we have 39 members. The present officers are Vernon Tanberg, president; Lucille Anseth, vice president; Marie Braathen, secretary; and Elsa Johnson, treasurer. Board of directors are Ethel Focke, Lea Kimball, Elsa Johnson, Joe Kostek, Vernon Tanberg, Lucille Anseth and Marie Braathen.

By Marie Braathen

Noonan Gun Club

The Noonan Gun Club indoor range was built in the fall of 1958 by the members of the Senior Gun Club, with most of the material, labor and money being donated. The Club is affiliated with the National Rifle Association (NRA) of Washington, D.C. The Junior Club took first place in the state match in 1965. Several members have qualified for the highest rating, Distinguished Expert, given by the NRA.

The instructor is Evald Forsgren since the beginning of the Junior Club. Its success would not perhaps have been accomplished without the leadership and interest of Mr. Forsgren.

For awhile in the summers, persons interested in trap shooting, met and tried their skill at the "trap shoot" east of town, but this seems to have been discontinued.

City Improvements

When the horse-and-buggy era was passing out of the picture and automobiles were the coming mode of transportation, it became apparent that a better road system was necessary. Highway No. 5, between Noonan and Crosby, was one of the first projects in this region to be built. It was built entirely by horse machinery and was just a dirt surface. A few years later, gravel was added, which lasted until the late thirties, when the highway was rebuilt and surfaced with asphalt. Again, in the middle 1970s this road was rebuilt, the right-of-way widened, the ditches streamlined and seeded to grass, and the highway resurfaced with improved asphalt.

* * * * *

The city streets and water system needed improving. When the Federal Government work programs were brought into being by the F.D.R. Administration in 1932, one of the first projects was the graveling of Noonan's main streets. At first, there were some wooden sidewalks which were replaced with cement walks. Along with that, the water and sewer system was installed in about the middle thirties.



Noonan Senior Citizens Center

Blacksmiths Were Vital Part of Early Noonan

Blacksmithing was a big business in the early days, and Pat Noonan Jr. had one of the first two blacksmith shops in Noonan about 1906 or '07. Years later, it was sold to Thorvald Hoiby who continued general blacksmith work until his health failed in the late 1950s. His shop is now owned by John Fagerland, but is not being used.

Mr. Cornwall was the owner of the other shop which became the Higgins' Brothers garage in the early 20s.

Also in the early 1920s, the Frank Rossow family moved to Noonan and Mr. Rossow started a blacksmith shop near the old city well and wooden water tower. Frank and his sons ran the shop until Frank died in 1942. Frank's was the last business in the building. The blacksmith shop was the main source of farm machinery repair, sharpening of plow lays, horseshoeing and, as the newer techniques developed, acetylene and arc welding services were added.

A tribute could go to Frank Rossow as he was one of the first agricultural repair men to master the art of acetylene welding; the break he welded was stronger in the weld than it was at that point originally.

Harry Rhodes had a blacksmith shop for a few years in the late 40s, just west of the Baukol-Noonan Mine Office.

* * * * *

A large advertisement appeared in the Noonan Miner, Booster Edition (1930):

We Repair Anything
But a Broken Heart
ROSSOW and SONS
Service in
Radios, Electric Appliances
Motors, Phonographs
General Blacksmithing
and oxyact welding

NOTE:

Actually, in those long-ago days, if one needed service on an automobile, one went to the blacksmith shop; that was the only place that had any tools. Auto mechanics was not as sophisticated as is working on the modern cars of today.

Some general repair and auto mechanics was done by the Higgins Brothers, Lloyd Thompson, Olaf Anderson and Henry Skarphol. No doubt there were others whom I cannot now recall.

B & B Hardware

B and B Hardware, owned by Jerome Brorby, was first an early-day garage. It was 45' by 60' and fireproof, just south of the new Miner office (Donna's Cafe). M. P. Trenne (Mrs. Nordman's brother) in late 1914 had it built of white pressed brick by the builders of the new school just after it was completed.

In May 1915, F. P. Truax became the owner of the Noonan Garage from Mr. Trenne. He sold it to a Mr. Nulph of Wyndmere, N.D. The next owner I found was A. O. Howe, followed by Elvin Larson, Harris Baukol and Orville Tryhus (he had been teaching 7th and 8th grades at Noonan School) who was later joined by George Kostek—forming a partnership. After this Tryhus & Kostek also added an implement business. (International Harvester machinery and Chrysler & Plymouth autos.)

It was during the Tryhus-Kostek ownership that the building was enlarged to the north.

Marlyn Brorby bought the business from Kostek (Tryhus had died and it became an estate which Kostek managed for some time), and it is now owned by Marlyn's son Jerome who operates it as a hardware store and repair shop.



Pat Noonan's Blacksmith Shop was a busy place in the early days. It later became Hoiby's Blacksmith Shop.

Oil . . . A New Era for the Great Northwest

First part from the Jubilee Edition of The Divide County Journal July 15, 1954.

Today, 75 years after the settling of Divide County, the Williston basin area is looking to a vast new industry in oil development. Since the first discovery of oil near Tioga in April of 1951 on the Clarence Iverson No. 1, drilled by Amerada Petroleum Corp., oil has been found in many places throughout the basin.

Divide County's first wildcat oil venture got into gear back in the fall of 1926, when scores of citizens invested for stock in the Northwest Oil Company. The corporation incorporated for \$100,000, and a contract was let to Clarence Proise of Kevin, Mont., to drill their well which was located a short distance north of Noonan. So enthused was the area that a big celebration was held at Noonan when the rig spudded in November 14, 1926. Directors and members of the advisory board of the Northwest Oil Company were Charles L. Rouse, Noonan, president; James E. Hought, Noonan, vice-president; William Nordman, Noonan, treasurer; Eivind Tanberg, Noonan, secretary; Arthur Kately, Crosby; Albert H. Makee, Noonan; Gustav Flugge, Noonan; Fred Christen-tot, Roundup, Mont.; A. H. Anderson, Noonan; F. A. Keup, Columbus; H. P. Altner, Noonan; A. F. Kimball, Noonan; Nels Gausvik, Noonan; and G. A. Bodmer, Kenmare.

The contractor had a modern day rig 85 feet high, which could drill to a depth of 4,000 feet, should it be necessary. The outfit was enclosed so the crew could work through the winter. The drilling locaiton, in legal terms, was NW¹/₄ of Section 27 in Mentor Township.

There were, of course, the usual "doubting Thomases." A group of Noonan businessmen asked the Kiwanis Club of Crosby to make a thorough investigation of the Northwest Oil Co., and its activities, in February of 1927. Appointed to that committee were C. J. Clark, George P. Homnes and Calvin L. Andrist. This group gave a most favorable report, after a thorough investigation, concluding, "The committee feels that it can say without hesitation that the organizers of this company have proceeded in the utmost good faith, and their

sole and only purpose is to discover whether or not an oil field exists in this territory."

In the early spring of 1927, the well was abandoned and moved to another site nearby, where a depth of 1600 feet had been reached. Cost of drilling to the depth desired would have been about \$54,000, according to estimates. Practically all of the businessmen of Noonan were backing the project, but even so, only about \$25,000 was raised by the spring of 1927.

The company finally ran out of money when drilling was still far short of the level of present production in the Williston Basin.

After the oil discovery at Tioga, interest increased again in Divide County, the first venture being Baukol-Noonan's exploration well which was abandoned as a dry hole at about 7,000 ft. The next was Halgrim Braathen's well which was a producer for about three years and was shut down because of dwindling production.

The Don Smithberg well was the second oil producer in the Noonan area and is still in production after 24 years. This was the beginning of the oil field south and west of Noonan where several wells have been producing for the last 15 years or more. These wells are producing oil but some of them are marginal producers. When these wells were drilled, crude oil was worth two to four dollars per 42-gallon barrel. Now the oil price is in the neighborhood of thirty to thirty-five dollars per barrel which makes it more inducive to pump these wells. In the fall of '80, oil was discovered at the Oscar Svangstu well north and west of Noonan. This well, after one year of testing, is producing about 40 barrels of oil a day, and 240 barrels of salt water.

The price of crude oil and the discoveries of new fields in the Williston Basin has led to considerable leasing activities throughout this area in the last couple of years. A number of exploration wells have been drilled in eastern Divide County in the last 30 years.

Beauty Shops

The first beauty shop in Noonan that I remember was one operated by Hertha Brandt Logelin. Others who had shops were Hennie Olson Blouin (Hjalmer's daughter) whose shop was in Mellum's Barber Shop, Ruth Wilson Mann (her shop was on the north end of Main St.), Marie Brablec from South Heart, N.D., on Main St., Mrs. Pete Herland who operated her shop in her home just north of the George Kostek residence, and Dorothy Fenster Ronholdt who also had a shop in her home, but earlier in Pete McLeod's building and later in Florence Makee's dress shop.

We've not had a beauty shop in Noonan for many years—the last one perhaps in the early 60s, when Dorothy's health failed.

P.S.—Miss Essie Makee had a very good advertisement in one of the old newspapers, stating that she was now prepared to take care of all needs in the line of hair dressing. "Va Per Marcel," permanent waving without electricity—forerunner of the machine-less perm, we presume.

Then I was reminded that Mrs. William Feeney Sr. took a course in hair dressing and marcel waving in the middle 1920s. She had a shop in her home.



The first oil well drilled in Divide County was near Noonan, way back in 1927, but it was a dry hole. However, there is now a great deal of oil production west and south of Noonan.

Population Decline Began in 1930's

The population of the bustling little city declined in the 1930s with the depression. In the 40s, many people moved "out West" to work in factories supplying war needs, some leaving permanently and others planning to return after things picked up a bit.



Ben Wissbrod

(In 1973 on 90th birthday) Oliver Olson's (the first dray man) Dray Line. George Gerde owned and operated the dray line in 1908. When the automobile became the accepted mode of travel, Ben went to work for Standard Oil Co., and later managed his North Star Mobil Service Station until his retirement in 1957. Ben and his wife (Carrie Siggerud, who had worked in Rouse's store before their marriage) moved to Seattle. Some years after his wife's death, he came back to the 'old home town' and lives with his daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lagein. Donna is presently the mayor of Noonan.

Noonan's population never again reached its former peak, but the city has remained, a tribute to the brotherhood of community living.

The oldest Noonan pioneer settler living at the time of this writing is 98-year-old Ben Wissbrod who came from Otter-tail County, Minn., and filed on a homestead in 1902 in Coalfield Township. In 1911, he purchased the livery stable from Ledahls and added dray service a few years later when he bought out

Albert Makee was an early-day mayor, as was Bill Nordman. Mayors since 1939 were: Harris Baukol, Arthur Reite whose death occurred a few months after he was elected, Henry Stafflin, Albert Crum, Everett Johnson, George Kostek, Robert Wissbrod, George Kostek (again—altogether about 20 years), Lowell Melby, Walt Truax Jr., Marlyn Brorby and now, Donna Lagein, who was elected to the post in 1976, becoming the city's first woman mayor and the first woman mayor in Divide County.



George Kostek
Mayor for 20 Years

Some of the early pioneers—most of them homesteaders—that I can think of, perhaps not mentioned before, were: George and Pete Brown, A. H. Anderson, A. O. Amundstad, Mr. and Mrs. George Gerde, Pete Larsens from Denmark, A. C. Hess, Forest, Albert and Ben Kimball and their father George Kimball, Mr. and Mrs. Niels Nielson, built a beautiful farm house and a round barn with a silo in the center, Mr. and Mrs. (Lena) Herman Paul, Wm. Nordmans, John and Jonas Olson and their sisters—Hilma (Mrs. George Wilson), Ida, Anna and Vicki (Mrs. Irl Rouse), Henry Nordman, Ed Shirley, Wm. Scamon, Dr. J. A. Smith, Dan Rice, Mr. and Mrs. (Jennie) L. B. Sorenson, Ole Petersons.

An early map of Noonan



Karen (Hovdlien) Standal
Her homestead just south of Noonan townsite, where the school is located.



Walt "Bud" Truax
A prominent long-time former mayor and businessman in Noonan community.

Ralph and Joseph Spooner, Nickola Tanberg, Louis Nelson Sr., Eric Peterson, George Wilson, Mrs. Ida Wells Norseen, Walter Rhodes, Edward and Emil Krecklau, Mike Rindel, Charles Brady, Edward Dahlke, Nels Gausviks, Johnsons—Hjalmer, Rudolph and Minnie (Hjalmer and Rudolph furnished music for lots of dances in the neighbors' homes), Mr. and Mrs. (Thora) Anton Johnson, Caroline Jensen, Emil Johnson, Petra Larson, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Case, Clyde and Dea Light (from Iowa) The Hagen family (John and Evan mined coal; Helga is 79 and lives in Good Samaritan Center), Mr. and Mrs. Ole Hagen (Therese Lande), Mr. and Mrs. (Anne Ringdahl, whose homestead adjoined Noonan on the east), Ole P. Hanson, Mr. and Mrs. (Julia Swensrud) Louie Miller, Jim Houghts (Jim made final proof on his homestead in 1908 and, shortly thereafter, he and Sophie who lived in Minnesota were married. They had a coal mine and farmed until 1935, when they sold their mine and farm property to Harris Baukol, the founder of Baukol-Noonan Lignite, Inc., and moved to Monroe, Ore. They were the parents of ten children). Hunters, John Wallin and his sister, Carl Nylander (he developed a fine stock farm),



Mrs. Ole P. Hanson
(Anne Ringdahl)

Many bachelors bought bread from some of the women who would bake for them. They said it was better than cake.

Perry Smithbergs, Jake Kakes, Mike Glasoes, Geo. McKibben, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Taylor (Julia Ramsdell), Adolph Holtes (the only surviving member of that family is the youngest daughter, Borghild, who is a resident of the Noonan Good Samaritan Home), the Otto Huwe family from South Dakota, Feeneys, Melbys, and Mrs. Matt Standal (Karen Hovdlien whose homestead joins Noonan city on the south where the school is now).



Mr. and Mrs. Louis Nelson Sr. (Emma Ledahl)



AN EARLY DAY NOONAN FAMILY . . . Mr. and Mrs. Alidor Verlinde and their four sons — Joe, Henry, Charles, and Leo.

Reminiscing on Early Day Noonan

By Mrs. Pat Focke

Taken from Noonan Miner July 5, 1956

One bright warm day in the late fall of 1906, a buggy containing three men drove into the middle of a quarter section field in northeast Williams County where quite a crowd of people had gathered. "This must be the place alright," said the driver, a medium sized man with a red mustache. "Sure, it is," said one of the others, a round-faced fat man. "Let's tie the team to that wagon over there. I think they are going to start." As soon as the horses were tied, the three walked over to the crowd which seemed to center around a man who appeared to be making a speech of some kind. "Now gentlemen," he was saying, "I have a plat of the town lots here and as advertised by the Great Northern Townsite Company, the sale will start at once. This will, no doubt, be one of the best towns on this line, owing to the fact that there is known to be a great amount of lignite coal in the very near vicinity and I would advise all those who contemplate purchasing lots to do so today and get their pick of the best ones. Now I have the plat right here. This is main street, running north and south. The streets are good and wide. Each lot has a 25-foot frontage and a depth of 140 feet. Now who wants the first one? After a moment of tense silence the fat round-faced man pushed through the crowd and, after a quick glance at the plat, replied: "I'll take this south corner lot and the one next to it on the north, on the west side of main street." "Sold," said the townsite agent, "and what is your name, please?" "J. J. Gits, of Portal, N.D.," said the fat man. "I'll take the corner lot right across the street, on the east side," demanded the man with the big red mustache. "O.K.," said the townsite agent, "and what is your name, please?" "A. H. Makee," was the reply. "And I guess I'll take the corner lot kitty-corner from Mr. Gits in the next block south, that's a good one, don't you think so, Bert, what do you say, J. J.?" said the youngest of the three, a small man weighing about 135 pounds. "Looks good to me, Rolf, just as good as any," was the answer of the other two. And so went the sale until its

close. The crowd getting into their wagons and buggies or "forking a bronc," soon dispersed, leaving only a newly broken field whose first crop was to be the thriving little city of Noonan, N.D.

Although the steel had not reached Noonan and was not expected until the next fall, building operations commenced at once. Mr. Gits soon had a building 18x30 erected, and freighting out a stock of goods from his store at Portal. W. E. Belzer and his two sons, carpenters, built a small shack, and that was the extent of building that year.

Then came the winter of the big snow, the Soo Line which had built out as far as Ambrose, was completely snowed in. Mail was hauled from Portal by stage and driven by Mike Mayer. Everything in the line of provisions, had to be freighted by team a distance of 40 miles, taking, at the very least, three days on the road. That was a winter of hardships that the old settlers will never forget. But spring came, and with it came the early pioneers, building homes and business places. Kermit to the northwest of us was then a thriving little city, boasting three banks, four lumber yards, four general stores, two hardware stores, two hotels, a newspaper, a feed and livery barn, restaurants and pool halls galore, to say nothing of the number of "blind pigs." Those who had purchased lots at Noonan were undaunted, however, for realizing the wealth of coal which underlay it and what it would mean as an asset to a town and community, commenced preparations for a town that would soon out rival the city to the northwest.

That summer came the steel and with it came lumber for the depot and our first elevator, built by the St. Anthony & Dakota Elevator Co. At that time, the only postoffice in town was a cigar box on the side of the desk in Mr. Gits' Store, which was taken care of by his son, Louis. The mail was brought over from Kermit once a day by whoever happened to go to that city. One warm day in June, a man wearing a full-sized mustache, a brown derby and red tie, came into the store and asked where the postoffice was. Young Gits, being



The Adolph Holte family: Adolph, Borg, Arthur and Mrs. Holte. Alma and Margaret are in front.



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Hagen (Theresa Lande)

busy tying up a half pound of tea and a yeast cake for Carl Schultz, pointed to the cigar box. The stranger went over, took out all the letters, ran through them, took out two or three, put back the balance and left the store. As soon as they could do so without fear of being caught, Henry Nelson, the hotel keeper and Oliver Olson, the drayman, rushed over to the box and through the remaining letters, and they solved the mystery. "By Gorry," hollered Oliver, he has taken all those letters for the St. Anthony & Dakota Elevator Co., and those for B. F. Dunford, too.

On the night of the third of July, Noonan had its first set back in the form of a tornado, that started some time in the early part of the night. After the wind had subsided and the people dared stick their heads out of doors, it was found that the big new store building which Belzer had just completed for C. L. Rouse was blown flat. Fortunately, the stock had not been unpacked and the only damage done was to the building. Lumber from the Meyer Lumber Co. was strewn all over town and the house that was then occupied by Henry Nelson was blown off its blocking, pinning their dog underneath. Kermit suffered some damage also, injuring Art Stanton, postmaster and O. O. Christenson, editor of the paper.

In the early fall, we got our first passenger and mail train. Noonan was designated a postoffice, with H. J. Kotschevar, postmaster. Rouse's store had been rebuilt, with a large warehouse in the rear, employing Orrie Hanson and Art Irving, as clerks. A. H. Makee had moved his bank building over from Kermit, with Brick Pierce installed as assistant cashier. Rolf Reite had also moved his drug store over and O. O. Christenson had followed with his paper, The Republican. Henry Nelson and Art Wells had their hotel running at full blast. Emil Runle was shaving and cutting hair in the pool hall operated by Everson Brothers (Oscar and Albert). The Meyer Lumber Co. had erected sheds, fence and office and was being run by Cal Meyers. Nels Uglum's livery and feed barn had been completed. Knoph Brothers (P. C. and L. A. O.) were installed in their new building with a complete stock of hardware and harness, with Oscar Bjelland clerking for them. Pat Noonan had moved his blacksmith shop over from Kermit and was shoeing horses as only Pat could. School was being held in the house formerly occupied by Henry Nelson. Miss Gussie Beagle of Kermit was the teacher. Church services were being held at Knoph's Store. Noonan was not booming but just growing steadily.

The townsite company at that time offered a residence lot

to the first baby to be born in the little town of Noonan. The deed was made out to Lendel Kotschevar, a son born to Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Kotschevar.

Noonan's first fire occurred some time in July or August of that year some time between eight and nine o'clock. A bunch of the boys were hanging around the J. J. Gits Store where the postoffice was then located in their new 40-foot addition, waiting for "Perry's Nickle Plated" to bring in the evening mail (it got in at 8:30 then) when someone hollered "fire, the livery barn is on fire." All made a wild dash for the barn, hoping, at least, to save Bert Makee's fast trotting mare, Maude. The fire had started in the hay loft and when the boys got to the barn, the smoke was so thick it was next to impossible to get any of the horses out, but Brick Pierce, who was a great lover of the horse, rushed in and cut the strap and brought her out safely. Fortunately her stall was at the front of the barn and she was the only horse saved. Seven or eight horses were burned, however. One team belonging to the telephone company that was stringing long distance wire through Noonan and the balance belonged to Will Rouse. That was just a start, it seemed, and since then, Noonan had had more than her share of disastrous fires. In looking up the street today, there remains but one of the old buildings that has withstood the ravages of the fire demon, Rolf Reite's old drug store, now Bowler's confectionary and postoffice.

The following year, Noonan's sporting blood was aroused and a baseball team was organized, a list was circulated for funds to hire a battery and buy suits. That year Noonan appeared on the field with bright red suits with green stockings and caps. Brick Pierce was elected manager and had hired Clyde Light, of Kenmare Ball Club to do the hurling and Andy Noonan, living on a farm at Kermit, was on the receiving end. First base was held down by Orrie Hanson, second by Charlie Haldeman, third by Henry Kotschevar, short by Jack Mauer, while Al Runkle, Lou Gits and Jim Davidson gathered in the high ones. In those days when the team went to Estevan to play the Canadians, it was a two-day trip in a lumber wagon. They won their share of games and, most years, a little more.

That summer a school was erected and equipped for the fall term. This building was later sold to E. M. Truax and remodeled into a dwelling, it having become too small for the fast growing attendance.



The Methodist church was finished and the ladies were busy working hard to have it furnished with pews and an organ. The name of the first pastor has slipped the writer's mind, but the second was a young man of 19 years, Rev. Frank Dawson, who served both Noonan and Columbus, making the Sunday trips on a bicycle.

While we are reminiscing, a very kindly thought comes to our mind, of one who was the father of Noonan's largest industry. E. M. Truax Sr., "Dad" as he was familiarly called by those who knew him, had opened an entry into a hill on the west side of the coulee and with the aid of a couple of miners and an old white horse, was serving the community with the coal that made Noonan famous. "Dad" could be seen every evening coming down the road from the mine to town for his mail, sometimes walking but, most generally, riding a bicycle. He was a great booster for Noonan and, at all times, was more than willing to give his advice and assistance.

Noonan's first community undertaking was the building of a town hall. As per usual, a list was circulated and enough to buy the lumber was soon pledged, the G. N. townsite company donating the lot. Plans were drawn and the contractors interviewed. It was then found that in order to build the hall, a timber 12x12 inches and 40 feet long was needed for the roof support. This was ordered and as soon as it arrived, work commenced. Everyone that had a hammer came to help, and in a few days, it was completed and mighty proud we were of it, too. We had been holding dances in the Knoph store, but their need of the room forced us to build. Our orchestra at that time, consisted of three pieces. Earnest Parker, clarinet, Mrs. Parker, harp and Matt Hole, violin. For the opening dance, however, we thought to spread ourselves, and a four-piece orchestra was engaged from Minot. Needless to say, it was a grand success.

Then, wonders upon wonders!! The First International Bank got an automobile, a four cylinder Buick of the Runabout type with a jumper seat on behind. It had no side doors or top, so those who were fortunate enough to get a ride, just had to hang on. The boys in the bank were very generous with the car, giving anyone who desired, a ride. However, there were a few of the old timers who just couldn't

be persuaded to get into the danged contraption. The auto bug had done its work, however, and the next season C. L. Rouse purchased a Case touring car, B. M. Ledahl an I.H.C. touring and "Dad" Truax, a motorcycle.

The spring of 1908 was destined to see Noonan's first brick building. C. L. Rouse's Store had been mysteriously destroyed by fire, the large warehouse in the rear being the only thing that was saved. Mr. Rouse conducted a temporary store in that until the new one was ready.

The First International Bank and J. J. Gits realized that they would need larger quarters and decided to build also. A white sand brick was decided upon for the building material, and soon the bricklayers were busy with the erection of the buildings and our little main street started to take on a real citified appearance.

That fall Noonan had its first harvest festival. A balloon ascension & parachute drop was advertised. Also, an address by Hon. John Burke, then governor of our great state. Since that time, Noonan has always sponsored something of that nature each year, either a harvest festival or an Old Settlers' Day.

To some of Noonan's later day citizens, the naming of our town may be somewhat of a mystery. Two years prior to the starting of Noonan, there immigrated to this country from Estherville, Iowa, a Patrick Noonan, his wife, nine sons and three daughters, most all of them filing on claims, and as the townsite company two years later was searching for a suitable name for their town, Noonan was suggested to them. Mr. Noonan was approached on the subject, and he readily gave his consent. Hence, the name of Noonan.

Noonan's biggest scoop in the way of a harvest festival came on September 11, 1918, when it advertised an air ship flight as a headliner for the day's entertainment. Arrangements were made to have "Lucky Bob" St. Henry (a North Dakota product) make the flight, but on his flight at a fair in the eastern part of the state, he had failed to clear the fair grounds fence, and consequently cancelled his engagement. The amusement committee got busy on the wire and located a flier who would make three separate and distinct flights for \$1,000.00; no flight, no money. Out came the list



and he was wired to come. More advertising was gotten out and a special train was chartered to come from Minot, for it was to be and was the first aeroplane to fly in North Dakota.

The evening before the event, a bunch of crates were unloaded from the express car and a fellow introducing himself as Cromwell Dixon made the announcement that he was the fellow that was going to fly the machine the next day.

The day dawned bright and clear, and by noon, the city was overflowing with people anxious to witness the big street parade. A band was keeping the air filled with music while street sports were participated in by young and old, speeches by able speakers were eagerly listened to, carnival acts were sandwiched in to keep the crowd amused till the big event. The merchants had offered special Harvest Day bargains which kept the stores filled to overflowing. One merchant selling a solid carload of grapes, five baskets for a dollar; and, incidentally, one "blind pigger" sold a solid carload of beer (and is still out of jail).

Seven o'clock came and with it, the whirl of the aeroplane motor! Everyone rushed to the ballground, the storekeepers locked up shop and, as the cry rang through the air "she's off, there she goes," Cromwell Dixon, 19-year-old aviator, left the ground in his ship for the first aeroplane flight to be made from North Dakota soil.

His first flight was one of distance, starting in the direction of Kermit he was soon out of sight, then he was coming back.

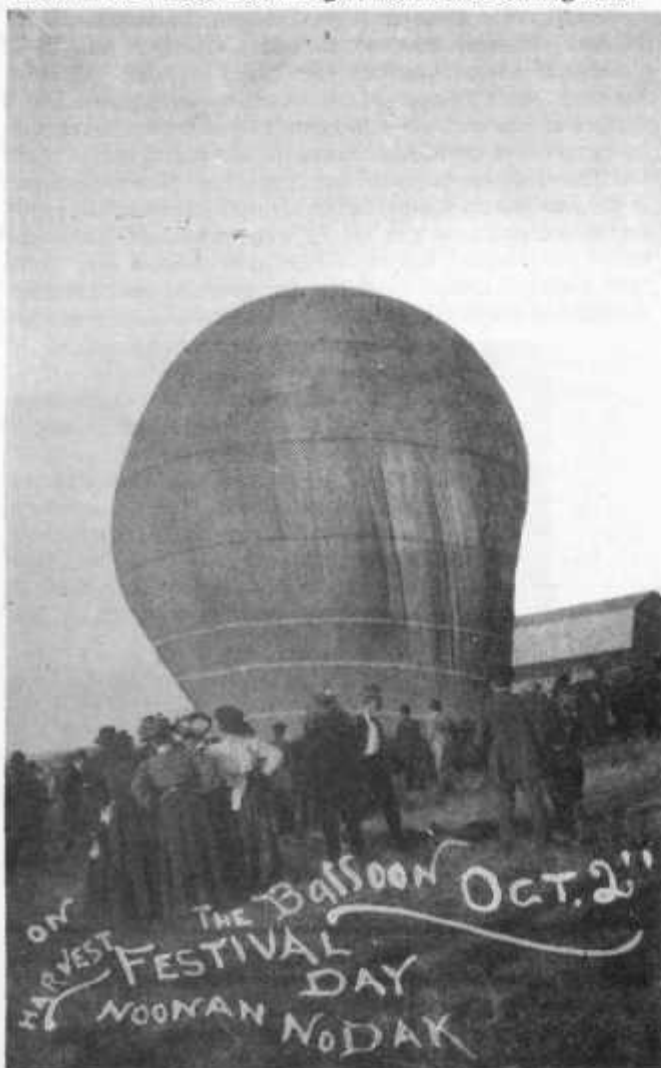
Now he was lighting with the gracefulness of a bird. His second flight was similar to the first only in the other direction. His third and last was one of altitude. Up, up he went, circling first one way and now the other but always a bit higher up. Soon he was a mere speck, but the distant hum of the motor told the crowd that he was still climbing. What was that? His motor had stopped. Was he going to fall—was he falling now? Everyone was holding their breath. Down, down he came, first a bit to the right, then to the left, now a spiral but always down, down. The crowd could see him working the controls. Now he was right above them. Was he going to hit that house? The excitement was tense. But Dixon brought his plane into one last glide and among sighs of relief, settled down as a tired bird, in the very spot from which he had taken off. Smiling, he alighted and walked over to the crowd.

This lad later was the first aviator to cross the Rockies in a plane and, shortly after that, he ended his career in a crash in Oregon.

This ship differed very much from the type of machine used today. The aviator sitting in a little seat out in front of the engine with only the steering wheel to hold him in the seat.

After the excitement, the crowd went down town to witness the grand display of fireworks and to dance to their hearts content at a mammoth bowery that Ward Lee and Lou Gits had erected for the occasion.

Since that time on, our little city has had its ups and downs, characteristics of all growing towns. The writer has tried to recall just a few of the early happenings that might be of interest to the reader. Later developments and incidents of interest will be found in other columns of this publication.



A. H. Ledahl

An Early Day History of Noonan

By Mrs. June (Forsgren) Thompson

Taken from Noonan Miner June 28, 1956

The earliest Noonan paper on file at the State Historical Society in Bismarck is dated Jan. 6, 1909, and is called the Noonan Republican. The title column indicates that it was entered at the U.S. Post Office as second class mail in 1907, and that it was one of four official Williams County papers. The other three official papers were the Williston Herald, the Ray Pioneer and The Ambrose Tribune. O. O. Christianson was the editor.

Christianson carried on a spirited battle of wits and ink with Cal Andrist who at the time edited the Kermit News. The owner and publisher of the Kermit News was listed as V. F. Snyder who lived either in rural Noonan or rural Kermit depending on what paper you read.

The headline story of the Jan. 6 paper is concerned with a mine accident. George Aiken, who was in charge of the Noonan Coal Mine, had tangled with some machinery and had to go to Columbus to have his wounds dressed.

In the same issue, Ralph Dunford, the postmaster, was also paying doctor bills. He had blood poisoning on his face. Mrs. Dunford acted as postmistress while Kate Noonan presided at the wicket.

There is only that one 1909 issue on file. The next paper in the great bound volume is dated Jan. 4, 1910, and burbles

about the scheduled grand opening of the new Traveler's Hotel that Mr. Kotschevar had built. We will return to that later.

The Kermit News papers on file at the museum in Bismarck are more complete. There is a whole year of 1909 weekly readers, edited and published by V. F. Snyder with the help of Andrist.

The January 1 issue states that Henry Altner visited Fergus Falls, that horses which were left to stand more than two hours in the wintry streets of Kermit would be picked up and their care charged to the owner, that William Vadnais was the cashier at the First State Bank of Kermit, and that N. L. Nelson officiated at the Pioneer State Bank of the same city.

Toward the end of the month a disastrous fire swept through an entire block of frame buildings in Kermit taking a toll of eight buildings and counting \$25,000 worth of damage. Fortunately there was no loss of life, but otherwise the damage was almost complete. The first class mail was spirited out of the postoffice just in time, and the type cases, files, and books were saved from the News office. Snyder wrote a vivid and overwhelming account of this fire in the January 29 issue, listing the buildings lost as follows: C. H. Manhart's Hardware Store; D. R. Miller's West Market (owner, Fred Andrist); McCormick and Farmer's Store; Millinery Store; Home of Mr. and Mrs. Croff; B. A. Langlie's Hotel and Cafe; Hedrick's General Store; Ole Hagen's Building (News Office, Post Office, and Wollan's Hardware).

In a subsequent issue of the Kermit News Snyder has cause to regret his eloquent journalism. Headlines proclaim, "It Is Not True That Kermit Has Been Wiped Out." The front page is devoted almost solely to minimizing what was destroyed and magnifying what was left. "The businesses and buildings which yet remain," announces the editor indignantly, "will form a nucleus around which one of the biggest and best towns in the state of North Dakota will be built. Other papers in the



Nels Gausvik and Ole P. Hanson



Joe Spooner and Charlie Rouse

county greatly exaggerate the damage which has been done to our prosperous and flourishing city. We still have: two banks; one general store; one restaurant; a pool hall; a barber shop; a blacksmith shop; two livery and feed barns; a feed mill; a school building; two dray and transfer barns; a lumber yard; the Soo depot; three elevators; several private homes and many small buildings."

Of the people who had owned the burned buildings, only Mr. Manhart did not intend to rebuild immediately. B. A. Langlie was already working on plans for a new hotel.

Looking ahead to a summer paper we find that Langlie did indeed have an excavation dug for a hotel but for some unstated reason he changed his mind, sold the lot and moved out west. He was a second cousin of Mrs. Evald Forsgren and was also the father of the present Governor Arthur Langlie of the state of Washington.

After the fire, Cal Andrist started helping Snyder with the Kermit News and soon was doing most of the work on the paper. In February he wrote a facetious article about his father losing an infected toe. It is not clear from the write-up whether a doctor amputated or whether Fred Andrist himself "placed the pegged toe on the meat block and consigned it to the dog scraps." This is quoted directly.

Later on in the spring of 1909 story about a Noonan man, John Gerkey, who was overcome by gas while digging a well at the Jacob Kakes farm southeast of Noonan. He was a professional well digger. His assistant (unnamed) rode to town on horseback and summoned help. A. H. Makee and J. J. Gits pulled him out with ropes and hooks but "his life was extinct."

In March: "Cal Andrist put on his good clothes on Wednesday and went over to Noonan to help Miss Sadie Belzer get out the Republican." Editor Christianson was out of town. "Nothing worked smoothly," complained Cal, "except the printing press."

In Kermit in April: Mr. and Mrs. Nate Loucks Moved into rooms in a bank building, and Mrs. Loucks went to Crosby to take teacher's examinations. Also Tollef Braatlien and Miss Norman were married.

During the summer Andy Noonan built a barn at Kermit and construction was started on a new Catholic church, under the supervision of Father O'Sullivan.



Goldie Truax

The Grand Openings Of Two Important Hotels

The Traveler's Hotel of Noonan was built in late 1909. The publicity intimates that it was financed by several Noonan businessmen, although one Mr. Kotschevar appears to have been the heaviest investor. Mr. Kotschevar was the vice president of the 1st International Bank of Noonan. The president was a Mr. Jacob Leuthold and Albert H. Makee the cashier.

Mr. Kotschevar and his staff planned a grand opening for the hotel and scheduled it for January 17. The press build-up given this affair reminds one of Monaco. No reader in his right mind would have missed it if he were physically and financially able to attend.

By the middle of January the Republican was feverish with excitement as it described the wonders that were to be. No run-of-the-mill dinner dance was being contemplated. There was to be a reception from 7 to 8:30, a ball at the Opera House from 8:30 to midnight, and a sumptuous banquet of eight courses would be served from midnight to 3. The inference was that you could, if you wanted to, go home.

The great day finally arrived and the one hundred and fifty souls who had parted with five dollar bills, were received at the hotel, went dancing (at the Opera House if you read the Noonan paper, at the Hall if you read the Kermit paper) and at midnight they all returned to the Traveler's Hotel to sit down to the following extravagant menu:

Blue Points on the Half Shell		
Celery	Olives	Cucumbers
Consomme' en Tasse		
Cheese Straws		
Planked Superior White Fish Maitre d' Hotel		
Pomme Saratoga	Berncastle Doctor	
Stuffed Spring Turkey	Cranberry Sauce	
Mashed Potatoes	Petite Pois	
Philadelphia Squab, en Gelee		
Eau de Lyon		
Pomme Parisienne	Tomato Surprise	
Salad a la Kotschevar		
Neopolitan Ice Cream	Assorted Cakes	
Cafe Noir	Havanas	



Alan Spooner and Edith (Spooner) Fagerbakke in Grade School Days

Early in the evening the train came in from the east bringing distinguished guests from Minot and Bismarck as well as assorted passengers from Flaxton, Larson, Lignite, and Columbus. The train went on to Crosby, turned around and then made a special trip back to Noonan where it disgorged a horde of merry makers from the western cities. Mr. George Cudhie of Crosby was the toastmaster at the banquet. Other speakers from Crosby were Dr. Lancaster and Charles Jacobson. Three gentlemen from Minot responded to the toastmaster: Mr. Ellis, Sam Clark, and John Allen. In a place of honor was the Secretary of State, Blaisdell, from Bismarck. Additional toasts were given by Patrick Noonan, Rolf Reite, and Reverend Dawson, all of Noonan. (Rev. Dawson was the new Methodist minister who also operated a confectionery store and had a brand new wife.)

"All of the responses," gushed the report, "abounded in wit and eloquence to a marked degree."

The ladies are not mentioned in this account but it can be assumed that they were all there in their most elegant attire. They wore, no doubt, softly tailored wools or brocaded satins, possibly in dark maroon or muted blue. Dresses were trimmed with buttons, beads, embroidery and/or fur, and all of the hems swept the wooden floors. The ladies without exception wore their hair piled high on top of their heads and wore buttoned shoes. While they daintily loaded Squab en Gelee on their blue rimmed plates.

The special train returned to Crosby at 6 in the morning (note to H.S. seniors: show this to your dads).

A week later the new Pioneer Hotel at Kermit made headlines in both papers with only a slightly less spectacular grand opening than the one at Noonan. D. C. Casey was the proprietor. He provided, states the Kermit News, a reception, ball and banquet for over 80 people ("almost 80 people")



Lena and Goldie Truax

depreciates the Noonan Republican) with a more reasonable cover charge of \$3.00 per person. The twenty item banquet menu was a generous one but lacked the imagination and sophistication of Kotschevar's. The four entrees were:

MENU

Oyster Stew	Queen Olives
Celery en branch	
Roast Beef with catsup	
Roast pork with Apple Sauce	
Broiled Tongue with tomato sauce	
Roast Turkey	Cranberry Jelly
Pickled beets	Sweet Pickles
Mashed potatoes	Baked Beans
Potato Salad	
Vanilla Ice Cream	Assorted Cakes
Fruit	Mixed Nuts
Apple and Mince Pie	
Bread	Park House Rolls
Coffee	

The banquet, as was the custom, was served at the stroke of 12 midnight. It was presided over by William Vadnais of Kermit as toastmaster. He said, "This is by far the best hotel on the branch or anywhere else north or west of Kenmare with the possible exception of Flaxton."

Mr. Kotschevar, owner of the new Traveler's Hotel at Noonan was a guest speaker but the News declined to quote what he said.

There were 12 sleeping rooms to rent to the traveling public in the Pioneer Hotel, in addition to the cafe, kitchen, and owner's living quarters.

In February of 1910 there was a tragic hotel fire in Noonan. One man lost his life and 20 people were left homeless. The Great Northern Hotel burst into flames at 3 a.m. after a kerosene stove exploded in a bedroom. The entire building and two others which flanked it were reduced to ashes in two hours. William F. Paul first escaped in his nightclothes just like everyone else, and then made the fatal mistake of going back for some forgotten item. The frame structure collapsed from two sides and thoroughly cremated him. Other buildings destroyed were Mrs. Will Rouse's millinery and Bill Begin's Pool Hall.

Noonan in 1910

The following facts were gleaned from papers published in Noonan in 1910:

William Nordman, dealer in Fords and farm machinery, commenced erection of a 25x50 machine shed and purchased



Jim Kimball, Grade 4



Janet and Joyce Melby
(3rd and 4th Grade)

a fine new Oliver typewriter from O. O. Christianson. (Even a casual reader soon realizes that said Christianson wrote the news as well as sold typewriters.)

Advertisements show that Rolf Reite was the druggist, Pat Noonan had a blacksmith shop, Pete Noonan was the barber, Oscar Lindstrom sold farm machinery and lumber, and Ledahl Brothers operated a livery stable. Henry Bye of McGregor solicited business in an ad, too. He was an auctioneer.

The dentist came from Crosby one day every two weeks and plied his trade in the restaurant of the new hotel. (Please, not at meal time!)

A horse thief, by name unfamiliar to this reporter, was brought before Judge Pierce at Noonan. He was found guilty and ordered to leave the community.

Art Ledahl shot a huge wolf just south of town.

Paddington sent a whole column of news every week. Paddington, apparently was a community formerly called Fortier. (Ask some old timer—this reporter is really confused.)

Paul Schultz, in an informative ad, stated that he operated his Star Mail Route three times a week between Paddington and Kermit via Noonan. His stage also transported passengers and freight.

A baby girl was born to the Knute Fagerland's in January 1910.

At the risk of revealing another lady's age, it must be reported that Maude Feeney had a party on her ninth birthday in February 1910. In the same issue Dee Feeney was still pleading for some word as to the whereabouts of his black pig, the one with the little white stripe between the eyes. "Finders," said the announcement with grave formality, "will confer a favor by notifying owner."

In the paper which headlined Mark Twain's death from a heart attack, Hans Melgaard married Miss Petrina Berg. And George Gerde helped Carl Schultz haul rock for buildings in town.

A citizen's committee was organized to discuss dividing Williams County. Some members were T. G. Austinson and G. H. Bratland from Ambrose, George Cudhie and G. P. Homnes from Stady, member-at-large. The doings of this committee were reported at great length and in many issues throughout the winter and spring of 1910.

One of their decisions was to run a contest and offer a prize of \$5 for the most appropriate name for the new county to be. A Mr. Gilmore of Williston won the prize with the name "Divide." Nine good reasons for choosing this name were listed by the committee (one referring to the Continental Divide). Other names receiving serious consideration were Fertile, Dakota, and Northwest.

The election fight between Crosby, Kermit and Noonan for the privilege of being the seat of the new county is only hinted at in these papers. The papers dated from October to December 10 are missing from the files. We searched in vain for editorials and political comments concerning that legendary controversy.

In July 1910 the work of erecting the new Lutheran church commenced. Until it was completed Rev. Ylvisaker of Crosby conducted Norwegian language services in the schoolhouse.

An article was reprinted in the Republican, from a Kindred, N.D., newspaper. It tells of a farewell party given for one of their public spirited young men who was leaving Kindred to make his home at Noonan. Anton H. Anderson was his name.

Here is an illuminating tidbit lifted verbatim from a summer number of the Noonan paper: "They are telling a good one on the sheriff's office. It seems the bailiff went out to levy on the contents of a house. The inventory began: One dining table-oak. One set of six chairs. One sideboard. Two bottle of whiskey—full. Then the word full was struck out and replaced by the word empty. The inventory went on in a straggled hand that lurched diagonally across the page until it closed with: One revolving door mat."

Noonan in 1911-1912-1913

A census count published in February of 1911 shows that the population of Noonan, N.D., was 153, and of Divide County 6015.

The name of a Dr. Smith shows up in 1911 papers—but that Dr. Smith was a veterinarian. The other Dr. Smith, the one who delivered most of us "under-forty-kids" came to Noonan in 1912 and established his office in the new hotel. He lived there, too. In April 1913, he bought a Ford Runabout (from Bill Nordman?) and ceased to be a horse and buggy doctor.

Noonan first sought to be known as the "White City" in 1912.

The name of the Noonan Republican was changed to the Noonan Miner on Jan. 1, 1913. The paper was then published by Cal Andrist.

There were three (yes, 3) weekly newspapers at Bowbells in 1913. One of them was published by O. O. Christianson. The population of Bowbells at that time was 112.

Oscar Lindstrom spent January and February in Bismarck in 1913. He was a member of the state legislature which was then in session. His wife accompanied him.

On January 13, in 1913, a 14-pound boy was born at M. Glascoe's, reported Dr. Smith.

In the spring of 1913 a big barn and wind mill were destroyed by a storm at the Nels Gausvik farm.

Advertisements for '13 reveal that Louie Nelson was photographing Noonan people from Monday to Friday, and Lignite folks on Saturdays. And the fellows played pool at Bowler and Feeney's "Arcade" where they also could buy candy, soft drinks and tobacco.



1904 Homestead shack of Bjellands (grandparents) with P. C. Knophs (parents) of Margaret Knoph Halbakken. Mr. Knoph with spade. Note the rain barrel, stove pipe, and clothes line — all pioneer necessities.



NOONAN SCHOOL GIRLS . . . Taken about 1945 this group includes: Front row, (l to r), Dorothy Kimball, Joan Spooner, Kathlyn Kjos, Yvette and Yvonne Meyer, Joyce Melby. Back row: Donna Wissbrod, Sharon Melby, Marilyn Kleven, and Gail Glasso.



Sonny Kostek



Earl Roness & Martin Hanson

Noonan Family Album



Robert Burner and Steve Lukach



Ethel May & Agnes Roness



Oscar Lindstrom children: Jean, Donald and Mary in front; Douglas standing behind.



**Deanna Johnson
(Mrs. Charles Dhuyvetter)**



BROWN SCHOOL CHILDREN: Front row (l to r), Joe Dhuyvetter, Mary Margaret Joyce, Charles Dhuyvetter, Elizabeth Joyce, Orvin Hought. Back row: Elmer Minne, Irene and George Dhuyvetter.



John Lumsden, Charles Dhuyvetter, Henry Dhuyvetter



**Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kostek
Maxine and Harlan (Sonny)**



Jim Mellum and Grandson



**Mr. and Mrs. Leon (Mina) Dunford
and Nancy — about 1957**



**Lorraine Kostek
Priebe**



**DRESS-UP TIME IN 1929 . . . Dorothy Anderson, Junette Light, Lenora Baukol,
Ruth Baukol, Ellen Anderson, and Kathryn Anderson.**



Fourth of July Picnic . . . This photo taken along Long Creek on the Canadian side has several people the editor can identify, but others we can't. Back row (l to r): ?, Mrs. Jacob Ringdahl, ?, Emelia Hanson, Mrs. Ole Hanson, ?, Ole Hanson, Jacob Ringdahl, Christ Anderson, Lars Dalager, Sophus Dalager, ??; Front row: ?, Anna Ringdahl, ? Maria Ringdahl, Mrs. Christ Anderson, ? Mr. and Mrs. Pete Jensen and son, ??.



William L. Kraus, first superintendent of Noonan High School during the years 1928-33.



Mrs. Gust (Bertha) Flugge



Orville Tryhus, Noonan principal and teacher for many years, and later a Noonan businessman.



Mrs. Dea (Rose Egilson) Light is in the center. She may well have designed the fancy hats in the photo.



John and Hattie Wallin
This wedding picture was taken October 22, 1921



Choosing Church Vocations . . .

Noonan has five of its sons in the ministry. At right is John Lukach Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Lukach Sr., ordained in June, 1948. At left is Rev. Dale Fagerland, son of the Harris Fagerlands, and his family. They are in the Assemblies of God mission field at Upper Volta, West Africa.

Lester Haarstad, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Haarstad, is an Assemblies of God pastor at Lyle, Washington, and the Greaves twins, Tom and Ted, also serve the Assemblies of God — Tom at Correctionville, Iowa, and Ted at Vinton, Iowa. Their mother, Rose Greaves, still lives at Noonan. John Bakers are their grandparents.

Darlene Jacobs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hank Jacobs, is a Maryknoll Sister.

James Glasoe, who lived in Noonan as a child, became a Lutheran minister and is now living in New Hope, Minn. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Almer Glasoe and grandson of the Mike Glasoes.





ANOTHER QUEEN . . . In October, 1978, Sarah Dhuyvetter was crowned Miss North Dakota Hard Red Spring Wheat Queen in a pageant at Williston, which gave her the opportunity to participate in the Miss North Dakota Pageant in the summer of 1979 at Bismarck. Sarah is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dhuyvetter. In the pageant at Williston Sarah sang "Tomorrow." Sarah is now married and lives in Williston.



AT THE ERICK PEDERSON FARM . . . (l to r): Vickie and Irl Rouse, Mrs. Erick Pederson, Elsie Des Jardins, and Erick Pederson.



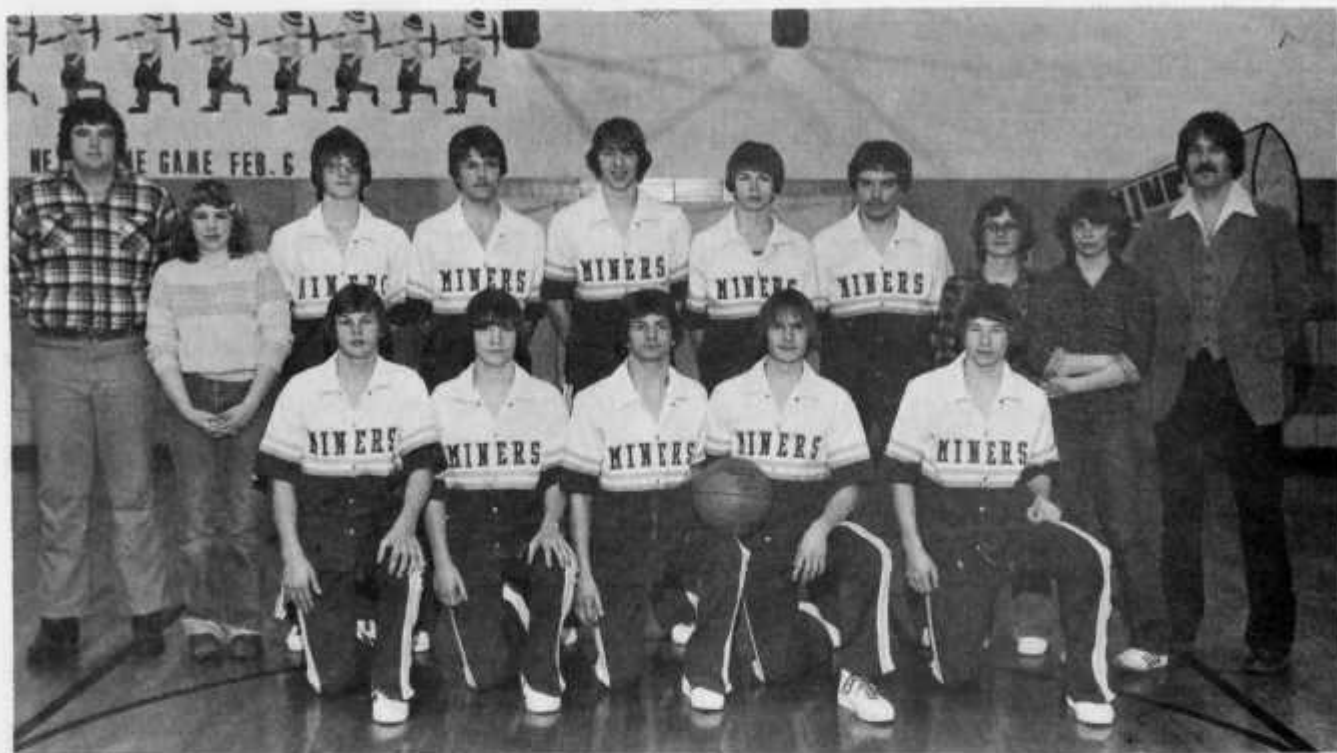
MISS NORTHWEST OF 1956 . . . Darla Gay Witty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Witty, was sponsored by Rossow Studio of Noonan and, for her talent entry, sang "Embraceable You" at the Air Daze celebration in Crosby. Mary Ann Gibbs of Crosby, Miss North Dakota, placed the Miss Northwest crown on Miss Witty. She is now married and lives at Great Falls, Montana.



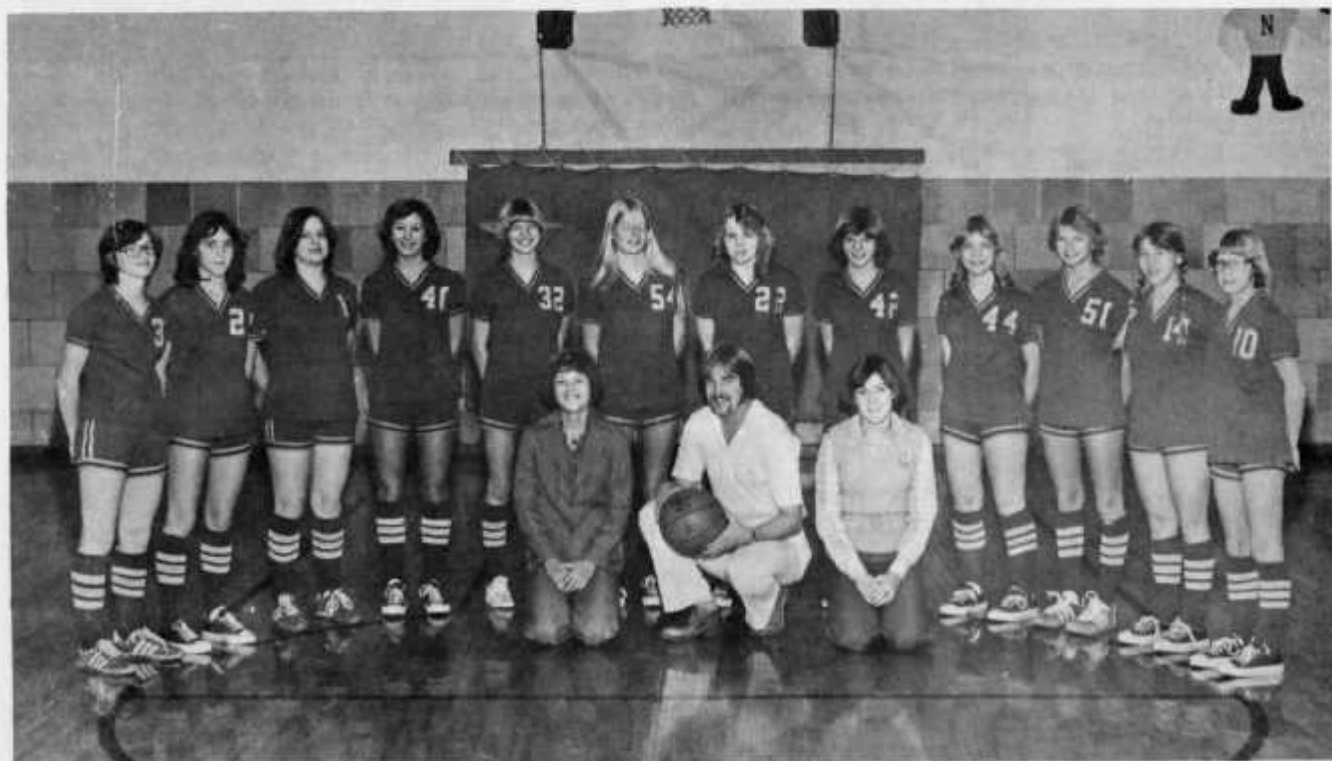
Dan Rice on 91st Birthday



Mr. and Mrs. Joe (Anna Kostek) Burner



BOYS BASKETBALL 1980-81 . . . Back row (l to r): Assistant Coach Greg Jacobs, Statistician Sherri Evenson, Greg Ellison, Rodger Fenster, Wade Spooner, Garth Glasoe, Rob Dhuyvetter, Statisticians Jan Ellison and Lori Bohlman, Coach Lonnie Lowe. **Front row:** Scott Hanson, Steve Ellison, Steve Dhuyvetter, Kevin Priebe, and Loren Wissbrod.



GIRLS BASKETBALL 1979-80 . . . Standing (l to r): Jan Ellison, Lisa Kostek, Patti Roness, Shayla Spooner, Denise Dhuyvetter, Karen Larson, Sherri Evenson, Donna Greaves, Terri Ellison, Joy Glasoe, Beth Baker, and Wendy Priebe. **Kneeling:** Statistician Cari Priebe, Coach Lonnie Lowe, and Statistician Vonni Kostek.

Noonan's jubilee only one week away

(Reprinted from Noonan Miner June 28, 1956)

Final plans have now been completed for Noonan's Golden Jubilee, and it promises to be the biggest and best celebration ever put on in Noonan.

The celebration will officially get under way at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, July 6, with a gigantic parade which will be led by the Crosby and Noonan High School bands. Prizes for first, second, and third place will be awarded to the winning floats. Youngsters are encouraged to enter their decorated doll buggies, trikes, bikes, etc., and each youngster entered will receive a souvenir marking the anniversary.

The Crosby High School Band will give a concert at 2:30 p.m. which will be followed by an address by Mr. Wallace Warner, Democratic nominee for governor.

At 4 p.m. Wildrose will be pitted against Noonan in a ball game that should prove to be one of the outstanding non-league games of the year. For those who are not baseball minded, "Jalopy" starring the Bowery Boys will be playing at the Memorial Theatre. Your Golden Jubilee Button will be your ticket of admission.

Noonan's High School Band will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. which will be followed by the Ken Hibbert show. This show will feature Ken Hibbert, former Broadway star, and Miss Northwest in person of Miss Darla Gay Witty. There will be other fine numbers.

Rounding off the day will be the Golden Jubilee Ball with the music of the Little German Band. This is the only event in the entire two day celebration to which admission besides the Jubilee Button will be charged.

Bob and Doris Rindt, outstanding North Dakota entertainers will present several acts throughout the afternoon as well as The Ken Hibbert show in the evening.

Saturday, July 7, festivities will begin at 1:30 with a band

concert by the Noonan High School Band after which Mr. John Davis, Republican candidate for governor, will deliver an address.

At 3:00 the "Cannonball" Taylor show with an all star cast of 20 outstanding performers will be presented. This show features the world's only square dance on roller skates, and among the entertainers are Mirth and Mac, Inky, Winky and Blinky, and Barbara Bennett.

Another band concert by Noonan's band will be presented at 7:30 and immediately following this will be the second "Cannonball" Taylor Show.

A street dance to the music of the Barden Band will wind up the celebration day on Saturday evening.

The Whirlwind Carnival with rides for everyone and entertainment for young and old will be on the Midway for both days.

Registration of the old timers will be taken on both days, and all those who settled here fifty years ago or longer will be awarded complimentary ribbons, and given a place of honor at the festivities.

We hope that you will plan to come to Noonan for these two days. We know you will have a good time, meet a lot of old friends, and make many new ones. Remember your Golden Jubilee Button will admit you to all the events of the celebration with the exception of the Golden Jubilee Ball.

See you in Noonan on July 6 and 7.

At the 50th Jubilee, the Lions Club created considerable excitement when they held Kangaroo Court. Mayor Kostek had issued a proclamation about raising a beard, and Chief of Police Louie Munson, with the aid of numerous enthusiastic Lions, was out rounding up the violators, who spent some time locked up in the "klink!"



NOONAN GOLDEN JUBILEE - 1956

A Successful Diamond Jubilee Celebration

By Olga Rait

It was NOONAN's week!—the Jubilee began Friday evening when residents and former residents of the Noonan community gathered to celebrate its 75th birthday.

Activities began when the celebration was to have been kicked off with hot air balloon rides that evening, sponsored by the Farmers Co-op Elevator. Due to the winds, this did not come off well.

Registration (\$5/person over 18) took place Friday evening at the Fire Hall, as did the selling of souvenirs. There was registration again on Saturday at the School, along with souvenir sales, Jubilee book orders and an art and craft display by local artists.

A church service was held Friday evening at the Assembly of God Church, and Catholic Mass at St. Luke's at 4 p.m. Saturday.

The Jubilee parade began at 1:30 p.m. from the School. It was one that our community can well be proud of for its originality and quality of participation. There were 116 entries.

Other activities Saturday included a fun frolic sponsored by the Noonan Saddle Club: Seven teams participated in the wild cow-milking contest won by Jon, Bruce and Paul Verlinde's team. Lynn Svangstu (age 9 and under) and Todd Dalzell (age 10 to 14 group) caught greased pigs and were awarded the pigs they caught or \$20.

Rev. and Mrs. Knabe of Ambrose entertained the children, and adults too, I might add, with their clown act.

At 7:30 Saturday evening, a variety show was presented at the School, with Bob Brandt as M.C. Among the numbers were a courtroom scene and song by the Noonan Senior Citizens, a "body" act by I don't know who (which was hilarious and received a standing ovation!), a humorous



DELIVERING WATER BY STONEBOAT . . .
Ole Wick was riding this stone boat entry in the Diamond Jubilee Parade.

vocal solo by Vera Johnson Myhre, Miss Piggy and Kermit the Frog appeared boisterously through the audience and Dervin Wallin accompanying himself on his electric guitar sang several songs. (Later that evening, Dervin played for a street dance down town.) The variety show was followed by a dance at 10 p.m. and a fireworks display at dusk.

Andy Kostek and Penna and Hurley Barden played for the Friday evening dance, and Golden Country played for the dance Saturday evening at the Memorial Hall.

Sunday morning, a continental breakfast was served at Bethlehem Lutheran Church from 9:45 to 10:45 to begin the final day's events.

A community church service was scheduled for 11 a.m. at the School. It was a very nice service, with Pastor Karen, Father Pfeifer and Pastor and Mrs. Glover in charge.

A potluck picnic was ably served at 1 p.m. in the Park to all



NOONAN FARMERS TELEPHONE CO. FLOAT . . . Mrs. Art Clemens (Kate) was at the old telephone switchboard in this Diamond Jubilee float. Also pictured is Doug Clemens, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Clemens, shown climbing the pole; and the little girls enjoying refreshments are Maggie, Doug's sister, and their little cousin.



Lee Svangstu is getting ready for the big parade.

registered guests, by the Noonan Lions Club members assisted by Columbus Lions. The delicious barbequed beef was furnished by the Farmers Co-op Elevator and the buns and baked beans were furnished by the Noonan Farmers Telephone Co. Coffee, soft drinks, silverware and plates were also furnished. Area people brought salads and other foods to add to the menu.

Activities planned for Sunday included the showing of slides, street games and softball games. It was real fun watching the "kids" scramble to search for coins in a large pile of straw near the picnic in the park.

REFLECTIONS

A memorable and happy weekend, though the weather was extremely hot the whole time (even reaching 105 degrees),—but bright and sunny. People came from far and wide: Florida, Washington, Oregon, Wisconsin and even Norway. It was so good to see Esther Tandberg Glimme again after so many years; her family left the U.S. in 1946, after World War II, to make their home at Voss, Norway. The Noonan family was well represented with 18 of that family's descendants coming to help celebrate the Jubilee and founding of Noonan city: Marguerite Noonan Lampron, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Noonan, Mary Noonan Tufts, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Noonan, Margery Noonan Hullett, Mr. and Mrs. James Noonan and their family.

The 1981 Jubilee was an opportunity for everyone to meet and be together one more time. NOSTALGIA



REMINISCING AT THE JUBILEE . . . Ruth Goltz Magee, Sallie Munson Dannenberg, Lenore Baukol Rovelstad, Olga Hanson Rait, and Martin Hanson.



Kate Clemens and Ruth Heuer exchange old memories.



REMEMBER? . . . The freckled, red-haired Jacobson twins donned boxing gloves at age 3 for a Noonan Old Settler's Day long ago. Here is one of them, Odello, happily back for the Jubilee.



Jordan Krecklau, representing Noonan Saddle Club, drove this wagon in the parade.



(LEFT): Martin Hanson and Fred Dissell enjoy a visit following the delicious Diamond Jubilee beef barbecue.



(RIGHT): Another jubilee attraction was the kids games and contests held in the city park. Here kids search for coins in a pile of straw following the barbecue on Sunday.



(LEFT): A group of old friends visit at the jubilee. Left to right, they are Martin Hanson, Charles Wissbrod, Olga Rait, Vernon Gochanour, Margaret Verlinde, Gloria (Rude) Gochanour, Elaine (Rude) Johnson, Orland Johnson, and Donald Wissbrod.

Noonan Put Together a Grand Weekend for Diamond Jubilee

(Reprinted from Divide County Journal)

The weekend belonged to Noonan.

The diamond jubilee celebration in Noonan came about through a community effort, and more than 1,000 guests benefited for a weekend of fun and memories. Although there was no advance registration, more than 1,000 people registered during the three-day affair.

The jubilee parade Saturday afternoon, that featured 116 entries and 30 horses of the Noonan Saddle Club, and the variety show in the school's gymnasium that evening drew the largest crowds even though temperatures approached 100 degrees.

The guests also had the opportunity to dance Friday and Saturday evenings, with dances in the Memorial Hall. The dance Saturday night spilled over into main street and the music continued to 5:30 a.m.

More than 1,000 people were served barbecued beef at the picnic Sunday afternoon. The Noonan Lions Club served the picnic and the beef, more than 600 pounds of it, which was furnished by the Noonan Farmers Co-op Elevator.

Several families created reunions with the jubilee and when activities weren't scheduled, friends gathered to recall old memories.

The American Legion operated the lunch stand and members were in charge of the cleanup operation. The local ministers were in charge of the community church services. The Willing Workers Homemakers organized the parade, and the Prairie Friends Homemakers organized the dances.

The fireworks display Saturday night was under the supervision of local fire department, and several individuals aided in the variety show, the sale of souvenirs and the scenery for the variety show.

Some of those helping with the sale of souvenirs were Des Verlinde, Deanna Dhuyvetter and Iola Rosenquist. Rosenquist also helped with the variety show plans, along with Janice Schultz, Myrtle Nygaard and Maxine Priebe. Des Verlinde and Carol Lund also painted the scenery for the variety show.

But more than anything it was the work of the community. Arden Eide, manager of the Farmers Co-Op Elevator, said, "There's so much that went into it (the jubilee). It's just impossible to say who helped without forgetting someone." He added, "Even the farmers were leaving their field work to come in and help out."

Another comment around Noonan early this week is one of disbelief that everything went well. It did.

And as the community looks back on the grand celebration, they will be able to say, "We did it."



Elvin Larson rode shotgun as Miles Swenson of Columbus drove this wagon in the jubilee parade. Also in the wagon are Ben Wissbrod, 98, Noonan's oldest resident, Fern and Everett Johnson, Harry Rhodes, and Gerhard Granrud.

Kermit Ain't No More

(Reprinted from Williston Herald, July 5, 1981)

Who would ever have thought that the tiny, peaceful little community of Noonan, 75 years old this year and celebrating its Diamond Jubilee this July 3-5, had its beginnings at the expense of a neighboring community?

The town of Kermit had been started by the Soo Line Railroad in early 1906. Located just two miles northwest of where Noonan still is, it flourished early, with three lumber yards, three banks, several drug stores, general stores, restaurants, two pool halls, and several "blind pigs," establishments that sold liquor in the days when North Dakota was a dry state.

"Kermit was such a thriving town," said Mrs. Evelyn Joyce of Noonan. She had moved to the area from Iowa in 1906 with her family when she was just eight years old.

"They even had stickers that said 'Watch Kermit grow,'" Evelyn said. "Noonan wasn't started then; and then it started and there was always a little enmity."

The Great Northern Railroad bought some land for a town from Mrs. Carrie Everson, one of the original homesteaders in the area, in 1906.

"Noonan didn't amount to anything before that time, when the railroad came in," said George Rait of Noonan. His father had started homesteading the land in 1902 that George still lives on, and where he was born in an 8x10 sod shack. "And then they started killing Kermit off."

And "killing Kermit off" was just exactly what the GNRR had in mind. Knowing that two towns could not survive in such close proximity, they made a standing offer to all Kermit businessmen: anyone wishing to move to Noonan would be offered a lot for their business, all buildings would be moved from Kermit to Noonan—and all this would be free of charge.

A general exodus began, and an intense rivalry developed between the two communities.

There were businesses in Noonan besides the ones that had moved, of course. J. J. Gits, a man who had emigrated to Portal from Belgium, opened the first general store in Noonan, and soon became its biggest promoter. He also convinced several friends and relatives living in Minnesota and Belgium that Noonan was the place to be, and soon it was a thriving community in its own right.

Some of the businesses trying to move from Kermit never made it—they were burned en route. And since it was still the day where visible six-shooters were a common sight, there weren't any thorough investigations, arrests or convictions.

Then, there were several fires in Kermit, with a major fire in 1910 destroying everything but a few buildings.

"Some said it was started by someone who wanted to get rid of Kermit, but I don't believe it," Evelyn said. "I think it was just gab."

That fire was the final deathblow to Kermit. "A lot of people moved away, thinking pastures were greener somewhere else, thinking they'd move back. But they never did," said Olga Rait, a lifelong resident of Noonan who is currently researching and compiling a booklet on Noonan history, and whose parents were also homesteaders.

The rivalry continued between residents of the townships until Kermit vanished completely. Nothing is left now but an abandoned grain elevator.

But Noonan, which had been named after the first mayor, Patrick Noonan and his family of 12 children, all early homesteaders, kept growing.

"Noonan had the coal mines," George said, explaining that coal had been discovered to be so abundant in the area that people could dig it out of holes in the banks of the coulee, or

from gopher holes.

"It was the lifeblood of the community, along with agriculture and the railroad, because homesteaders could always get a job mining or hauling and shoveling the coal," he said.

"There were a whole slew of coal mines," Olga said. "Everybody had a coal mine, it seemed like."

But more complex mining procedures became necessary as the mining underground became too expensive, and huge mining companies soon became important community employers.

Elmer Truax Sr. started the Truax mines, which eventually became Consolidated Coal, a nationwide coalmining firm. And Harris Baukol started the Baukol Noonan Lignite, Inc., which is still in operation.

"Noonan hit its peak in the late '20s," George said. "Through the drought, the stock market crash and the Depression, the town lost a lot of people."

Most of the people in Noonan realize that, although they're still on the map with a population of 278 according to the 1980 census, there isn't much to keep young people in the area anymore. There used to be four schools; this year, the graduating class of 1981 was the last, as the high school closed its doors.

"We're kind of at a standstill and going backwards," said Donna Lagein, mayor of Noonan and daughter of one of the oldest living residents of Noonan, 98-year-old Ben Wissbrod. "But what little town isn't? We have a nice community here."

And memories of some "wild days" and busier times in Noonan still prevail. As the festivities of the Jubilee progressed over the weekend—from hot air balloon rides, to old slide shows, and the sale of souvenirs—memories flowed freely.

Like, how the very first airplane flight in North Dakota took place in Noonan in 1911. "It was a funny looking thing," George said. "They shipped it in here in boxes and put it together right here. The guy did OK, but he did crash later in Oregon."

And how Noonan was right in the heart of bootlegging country during the Prohibition. "Beer shacks" just over the border were so common that sometimes "It would look like a County Fair," George said. "The thirsty people would park just across the line on the U.S. side, and walk over to drink as much as they could. And maybe to bring a bottle back," George said.

And sometimes, more than just a bottle. George told a story about how some people with high-powered Buicks would go up into Canada and come back loaded with whisky.

Once, a sheriff in "little Model-T roadster must have gotten a hot tip and started chasing them," George said. "Some firearms were used, and he shot a hole in the Buick. They turned around and shot a hole in the radiator."

"Pretty soon both cars stopped—one was out of gas, and the other was boiling over, and it ended in a foot race," he laughed.

But as wild as that gets, there is that old story Tom Joyce heard about how Noonan and Kermit's first cemetery got its start.

It seems that there wasn't a graveyard—so some of the clientele in a blind pig saloon killed a man to start one. Trouble was, they didn't know his name, so they couldn't put up a marker, and eventually they lost track of the grave.

"That's an old story, by God, and it's been around so long it must be true," Tom said. "But they still haven't found the grave. They just know it's north of the old Soo Line tracks," Tom said.

List of Registrants at Diamond Jubilee Celebration in 1981

Lucille Anseth, Noonan, ND
 Art Haga, Noonan, ND
 Louie & Gladys Spooner, Noonan, ND
 Florence Osborne, California
 Charles Osborne, California
 Ray & Irene Fenster, Auburn, Wash.
 Elsie Barden, Minot
 Marinus Dalebout, Noonan
 Richard Dalebout, Noonan
 Martha Belgard, Noonan
 Carlton, Charla & Nicole Manyhorses, Noonan
 Charles and Adelle Wissbrod, Noonan
 Jeff Wissbrod, Noonan
 Loren Wissbrod, Noonan

Brent Wissbrod, Noonan
 Orland Johnson, Denver, Colorado
 Elaine Johnson, Denver, Colorado
 Bill Kraus and Ruth, St. Petersburg, Florida
 Judi Johnson Jones, California
 Brent Jones, California
 Brad Jones, California
 Lyle Huwe, Center, ND
 Lillie Huwe, Center, ND
 Daniel Noonan, Wisconsin
 Mrs. Noonan, Wisconsin
 Dwight & LeAnn Moses & children, Noonan
 Lucille Nelson, Washington



A LARGE PIONEER NOONAN FAMILY . . . The Mike Glasoe Family is pictured above. Left to right in front are Agnes, Olaf, Mother Emma, Raymond, Father Michael, and Lester. Back row: Lillian, Edna, Edgar, Almer, Elvera, Laura and Arnold.

Royal Nelson, Washington
 Richard & Evelyn Moss, Gary & Leslie, Center
 Mabel Johnson, California
 Al Ellison, Washington
 Rose Ellison, Washington
 Teri Knapp, Williston
 Mike Hennessy, Williston
 Father John, Noonan
 Marlyn Evenson, Noonan
 Sally Evenson, Noonan
 Marlyn Evenson Jr., Noonan
 Sherry Evenson, Noonan
 Dick Score, Williston
 Jennifer Score, Williston
 Gladys Nielson Burd, Rockford, Ill.
 Ray Burd, Rockford, Ill.
 Grandall, Lignite
 Pastor Karen Rossing, Noonan
 Tim & Monica Christianson & Amy, Williston
 Curtiss Anderson, Williston
 Betty Anderson, Williston
 Harry Rhodes, Williston
 Bud & Mabel Wallin, Canada
 Charles & Margaret Verlinde, Noonan
 Mary Kay Golden, Highlands, Calif.
 Gordan, Nathan & Beth Golden, Highlands, Calif.
 Paul Verlinde, Noonan

Walter Kruger, Oak Park, Minn.
 Hattie Kruger, Oak Park, Minn.
 Leonard Gilbertson, Columbus
 Ina May Gilbertson, Columbus
 Bob Miller & wife, Crosby
 Clayton, Dorene Callison, Lisa, Grant, Garnet & Garrett,
 Canada
 Jack & Darlene (Rysgaard) Watson, Kelly & Cary,
 Washington
 Bennie & Eleanor Hahn, Amy & Lara, Fargo
 Dean Hahn, Fargo
 Bobette Hahn, Fargo
 Brad Oachs, Fargo
 Leslie Oachs, Fargo
 Gene & Dianne Johnson, Sandra, Scott, Becky &
 Sonja, Noonan
 Greg Hanson, Noonan
 Ruth Case Farnand Smith, Portland, Ore.
 Myrtle (Case) Huwe, Portland, Ore.
 Jodi Boyko, Alberta, Can.
 Kelli Boyko, Alberta, Can.
 Richard, Boyko, Alberta, Can.
 Derek Boyko, Alberta, Can.
 Daryl Boyko, Alberta, Can.
 Olaf Hagen, Noonan
 Duane & Wendy Anseth, Scott & Eva, Montana
 Glen Anseth, Garrison



Ben Dunford, manager of St. Anthony's Line Elevator, the first grain elevator in Noonan

Sharon Anseth, Garrison
 Casey & Erin, Garrison
 Hal Wanser, Seattle
 Violet Wanser, Seattle
 Mary Jo Dhuyvetter, Noonan
 Alfred Rysgaard, Noonan
 Judi Rysgaard, Noonan
 Hollie Rysgaard, Noonan
 George Myhre, Noonan
 Vera Myhre, Noonan
 Arlene Bliss, Colorado
 Gil Bliss, Colorado
 Jody Dalebout, Kansas
 Jerry Dalebout, Kansas
 Kari Dalebout, Kansas
 Jerome Dalebout, Kansas
 Laura Dalebout, Kansas
 Carl Loomis, Los Angeles, Calif.
 Ernest Nelson, Washington
 Marlene Nelson, Washington
 Marcy Gochanour, Montana
 Jean Bratlien, Noonan
 Scott Hansen, Noonan
 Paul & Elaine Carlson, Maxbass, ND
 Orrin & Alyda Lien, Noonan
 Peggy Lien, Noonan
 Jean Jacobson, Seattle, Wash.

Adelle Jacobson, Seattle, Wash.
 Barry & Carrie Berger, Center
 Andy Kostek, Noonan
 Lonnie Miller, Noonan
 Gay Miller, Noonan
 Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fenster, Noonan, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Allen Gochanour, Seattle, Wash.
 Ada Gochanour, Crosby, ND
 Joe Steffins, Noonan, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Allen Usslim, Mina, SD
 Jack E. Milward, 109 Holiday Lane, Packwood, Wash.
 James Smithberg, Williston, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Larry Roness, Newcastle, Wyo.
 Mr. and Mrs. Perry Smithberg, Crosby, ND
 Allen Rhodes, Phoenix, Ariz.
 Cindy Rhodes Koll, Concord, Calif.
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lagein and Jim, Noonan ND
 Bob and Lorraine Priebe, Noonan, ND
 Deb Priebe, Noonan, ND
 Tim Priebe, Noonan, ND
 Wendy Priebe, Noonan, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Dave Tanberg, Minot, ND
 J. Huwe, 11079 Ogden St., Northglana, Colo.
 Joe and Barb Killmer, Minot, ND
 Myron and Fern Wallin, Crosby, ND
 Gordon and Thelma Wallin, Noonan, ND
 Donna Wallin, Noonan, ND



Elmer Truax, Sr., and his daughter, Miss Daisy

Diane Fatzinger, Minot, ND
 Gordon and Donna Wallace, Minot, ND
 George and Alyce Killmer, Minot, ND
 Jim and Sharon Woods, Minot, ND
 Connie, Wally, and Angie Hickman, Sioux Falls, SD
 Val and Arden Eide, Noonan, ND
 Don and Carmen Fricke, Minot, ND
 Bruce and Barb Nybakken, Minot, ND
 Earl Hassler, Illinois
 Mr. and Mrs. Dick Haug, Noonan, ND
 Darrell and Karen Hornstein, Williston, ND
 Orvin and Kay Njos, Williston, ND
 Darrel and Donna Spooner, Helena, Mont.
 Ray and Shirley Dhuyvetter, Hillsboro, Ore.
 Henry and Eileen Dhuyvetter, 15801 Greyoaks St.,
 Westminster, Calif.
 Louis and Shirley Nelson, 4725 S. 295 Pl., Auburn,
 Wash.
 Bob and Darlene Rindel, Noonan, ND
 Michael and Liz Rindel, Noonan, ND
 Joyce Burlingame, 2315 N. 192 Rd., Seattle, Wash.
 Ed and Aurora Sandberg, Noonan, ND
 Curt and Patty Lund, Crosby, ND
 Doug and Cindy Smith, #7 Rolling Hills Rt. 6, Minot, ND
 Gene and Becky Tande, 801 Walter, Bismarck, ND
 Jim and June Thompson, 510 Broadway, Bismarck, ND
 Les and Maxine Priebe, Noonan, ND
 Cari Priebe, Noonan, ND

Kevin Priebe, Noonan, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Neale Spooner, 1920 Hafor Dr., Iowa
 City, Iowa
 Mr. and Mrs. Roger Johnson, Noonan, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Rod Roness, Box 101C RR2, Williston, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Erling Larson, Karen and Conrad,
 Noonan, ND
 Don and Muriel Anseth, Box 806 YRS, Harden, Mont.
 Robert and Ann Brandt, Crosby, ND
 Gordon and Ruth Quinn, Temple City, Calif.
 Warren and Esther Johnson, San Gabriel, Calif.
 Harry and Charlotte (Wissbrod) Peterson, Rt. #1 Box
 354, Oroville, Wash. 98844
 Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Thorson, Battle View, ND
 Bruce and Sarah Haugen, Williston, ND
 Martin O. Hanson, 225 Wegener Dr., Breckenridge,
 Minn.
 Coralee Steffins, 5705 225th SW, Mountlake Terrace,
 Wash.
 Neva Healey, 1229 River Road, Eugene, Ore. 97404
 Shayla Spooner, Grand Forks, ND
 Arlan and Kathy Heuer, Noonan, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Rhodes, 6449 W. Oregon Ave.,
 Glendale, Calif. 85301
 Lillian McKibben, Crosby, ND
 Jay and Sarah Espeseth, Noonan, ND
 Oral Sillerud, Wildrose, ND
 Arlan and Sherrald Kostek, Noonan, ND
 John Verlinde, Noonan, ND



Early day plowing at the Ole Hanson farm

Barry and Patti Eide, Noonan, ND
 Luella Lukach, Noonan, ND
 Doreen Lies
 LaVerne Malling
 Mark Anderson, Williston, ND
 Lavina Haarstad, Noonan, ND
 Orville Dihle
 Jerome and Betty Raymo, Noonan, ND
 Dolly Everson, Williston, ND
 Lydia Huwe, Noonan, ND
 Laurence Huwe, Noonan, ND
 Joe and Teresa Dhuyvetter, Noonan, ND
 Ann Marie Dhuyvetter, Noonan, ND
 Bruce and Kim Jacobson, Tioga, ND
 Kim Hanson
 Mearle and Alyce Smithberg
 Marlin and Selma Brorby, Noonan, ND
 Marion Miller, Noonan, ND
 Craig and Brenda McDonald, Estevan, Sask., Canada
 Tom Hickman, Columbus, ND
 Paul Joraanstad
 Dave Baker
 Kalmer Watterud, Columbus, ND
 Glen and Evelyn Johnson, Noonan, ND
 Clayton and Lois Lindahl, Noonan, ND
 Richard and Alice Johnson
 Mike and Susan Bley
 Harlan and Rose Wilhelm

Harold and Merle Stokke, Grandin, ND
 Norman and Winnifred Iverson
 James and Jules Lukach
 John and Macine Lukach
 Melvin and Irma Stokke, Noonan, ND
 Oral and Evelyn Kimball
 Daryl and Darlene Lindsey, Crosby, ND
 David Fenster, Center, ND
 Duane and Kristi Spooner
 Jerry and Janice Lokken
 Rubbena (Knutson) Berosik, Crosby, ND
 Delores Lund and James, Noonan, ND
 Verlis Glasoe (Carr)
 Gloria J. Glasoe Turner
 Wallace and Sadie Tanberg
 Ethel Haarstad, Noonan, ND
 Sallie Munson Dannenberg
 Lowell and Marlys Melby
 Harold and Loretta Joraanstad, Minot, ND
 Sylven and Mildred Nylander, Malta, Mont.
 Norman and Anne Staflin
 Armand Haugstad
 Mrs. Delores Bugare (Baukol), Rugby, ND
 Mrs. Joyce B. Welch (Baukol), Littleton, Colo.
 Roland Zimmerman, Gyldon, Minn.
 LaVern and Gail Shefstad, Bowbells, ND
 Ron and Georgia Fagerland, Center, ND
 Melody Fagerland, Crosby, ND



Karen Fagerland, Deer Lodge, Mont.
 Harris and Ellen Fagerland, Crosby, ND
 Lowell and Joy Barden, Milwaukee, Wis.
 Dave and Kathy Fagerland, Noonan, ND
 Orville and Luella Fagerland, Everett, Wash.
 Alida Kostek, Noonan, ND
 Gordon and Leone Sletmoe, Fargo, ND
 Milo and Alice Stakston, West Fargo, ND
 Joy Verlinde, Noonan, ND
 Joe and Dorothy Verlinde, Noonan, ND
 Wilfred Usher, Kennan, Wis.
 Larry and Marietta Clemens, Noonan, ND
 Kate Clemens, Milnor, ND
 Trygve and Mabel Lee, Everett, Wash.
 Esther Gochanour, Noonan, ND
 Ruth Goltz Magee, Long Beach, Calif.
 Warren and Loretta Fagerland, Rapid City, SD
 Cory and Debbie Mills, Riverdale, ND
 June Swenson, Bowbells, ND
 Mrs. G. J. Brown, Bowbells, ND
 Larry and Neola Cross, Milnor, ND
 Esther Glimme, Norway
 Larry and Carmen Fenster, Montana
 Edwin and Tillie Ringdahl, Noonan, ND
 Maria Ringdahl, Noonan, ND
 Julie Fjeld, Noonan, ND
 Joe and Emma Kostek, Noonan, ND
 Don and Rhody Wissbrod, Renton, Wash.

Lyle and Alma Steffins, Plentywood, Mont.
 Vernon and Gloria Gochanour, Seattle, Wash.
 Cindy Gochanour, Seattle, Wash.
 George and Esther Stakston, Seattle, Wash.
 Duane and Myrna Dihle, Crosby, ND
 Laura Raszler, Beulah, ND
 Henry and Helen Sorenson, Renton, Wash.
 Fred and Avis Dissell, Center, ND
 Les and Sandy Anseth, Coleharbor, ND
 Clarence and Jennie Spooner, Noonan, ND
 Urbanie Dhuyvetter, Los Angeles, Calif.
 Annie Meyers, Noonan, ND
 Richard and Rhoda Meyers, Noonan, ND
 Roxanna Wright Meyers, Everett, Wash.
 Curt and Bertha Walter, Culver City, Calif.
 John and Harriet Nelson, Bottineau, ND
 Sid and Sylvia Welter, Des Moines, Iowa
 Robert and Pat Fenster, Noonan, ND
 Virgil and Elna Gochanour, Anaconda, Mont.
 Milo and Alice Dihle, Columbus, ND
 Calvin and Arlene Schmidtke, Noonan, ND
 Sheila Schmidtke, Noonan, ND
 Rick and Paulette Wissbrod, Stanton, ND
 Floyd and Debi Fredrickson, Noonan, ND
 Dorothy Williams
 Ethel Dihle Lee, Mount Vernon, Wash.
 Brian and Geri Pearson, Fort St. John, Sask.



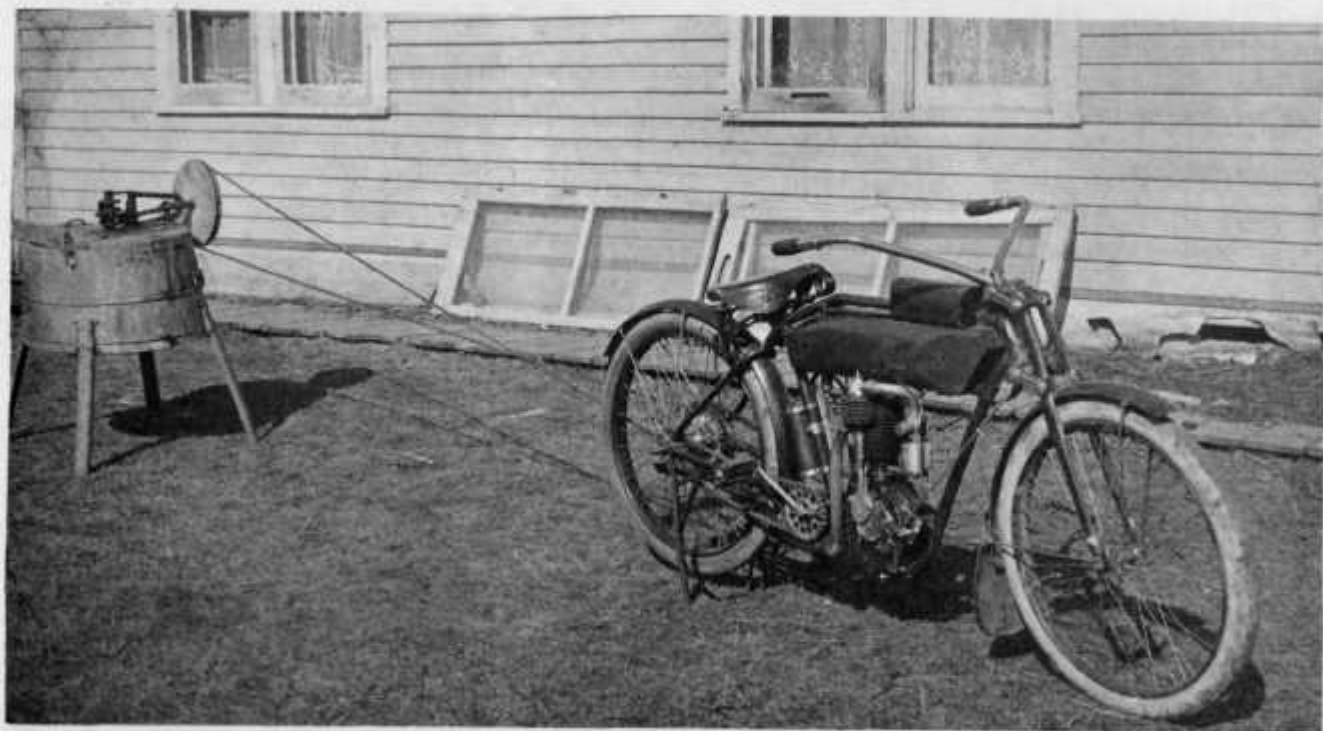
A Noonan street scene of more recent vintage shows the east side of main street

Burnell and JoAnn Rosenquist, Grafton, Va.
 Landis and Marge Rosenquist, Arvada, Colo.
 Galen Rosenquist, Noonan, ND
 Laurie Glasoe, Wildrose, ND
 Perry and Iola Rosenquist, Noonan, ND
 Lance and Helen Barden, Fargo, ND
 Robert and Donna Lagein, Noonan, ND
 Ben Wissbrod, Noonan, ND
 Lois Laherty, Seattle, Wash.
 Jerome and Clarice Brorby, Noonan, ND
 Roland and Agnes Zimmerman, Noonan, ND
 Bill and Judi Joyce, Noonan, ND
 Norval and Marvaine Gochanour, Columbus, ND
 Orrison and Adelaide Borstad, Minot, ND
 Dale and Barbara Ellison, Noonan, ND
 Erwin and Janice Hanson, McGregor, ND
 Guy and Marilyn (Barden) Feland, Minot, ND
 John and Christine Baker, Noonan, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Wallin, Tioga, ND
 Donita Kirsch, Jamestown, ND
 Anna Lysaker, Wildrose, ND
 Margaret Hanson, Noonan, ND
 Fred and Diane Osvold, Crosby, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Orland Rysgaard and Glen, Milwaukee, Wis.
 Mr. and Mrs. Don Smithberg, Noonan, ND
 Vernon Brandt, Noonan, ND
 Vernon and Margaret Tanberg, Noonan, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stewart, Williston, ND



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS . . . Taught by Olga Hanson in 1936, this group includes Eugene Lee, Donna Borstad, Lucille Sorboen, Esther Tandberg, Elsie Hoversten, and Delmer Lien.

Mr. and Mrs. Gearl Fenster, Center, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Steffins, Aberdeen, SD
 Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Brodal, Minot, ND
 Loretta & Dick Cavanough (Lagein), Newbury Park, Calif.
 Bob and Helene Sanderson, Munich, ND
 Boyd and Donna Gochanour, Lakeetna, Alaska
 Mr. and Mrs. Roger Bilstad & family, Rawlins, Wyo.
 Janis Hagen & family, Lignite, ND
 John Krecklau, Crosby, ND
 Jim, Janet, Michael and Holly Fagerland, Center, ND



INGENUITY . . . There's always a solution for every problem

Butch Roness, Georgetown, Colo.
 Meridith, Maxine, Sharla & Shelli Dahlke, Center, ND
 Gary Smithberg, Williston, ND
 Ruth and Fred Heuer, Noonan, ND
 Neal and Deloris Morrical, Marysville, Wash.
 Marian (Rude) James, Charles & Diana, Issaquah, Wash.
 Louise Rude, Seattle, Wash.
 Pearl Taylor, Noonan, ND
 Carl and Chrystal (Taylor) Applegren, Rockford, Ill.
 Elvin Larson, Williston, ND
 Beverly Mortensen, Williston, ND
 Stuart Grove, Hugoton, Kansas
 Rhoda, Mardy, Bud Albertson, Havre, Mont.
 Art and Alice Rysgaard, Noonan, ND
 Dale, Crystal and Liza Ronholdt, Minot, ND
 Jules Focke, Crosby, ND
 Walt Truax, Polson, Mont.
 Eula Baker, Noonan, ND
 Helen Crum Sommeress, Sioux City, Iowa
 Esther (Erickson) Amsberry, Wheelock, ND
 Gertrude (Melcher) Anderson, Epping, ND
 Emelia Gerde Austin, Ogden, Utah
 Jim Noonan, Mandan, ND
 Margery Noonan Hullett, Coulee, Dam, Wash.
 Vern and Gerda Drew, Noonan, ND
 Alvin and Lila Westlie, Crosby, ND
 Jorden, Lorraine, Jamie & Matt Krecklau, Noonan, ND
 Glen, Barbara and Wade Dean Spooner, Noonan, ND
 Earl and Thelma Stakston, Crosby, ND
 Clara Kostek, Noonan, ND
 Irene and Alvin Dihle, Everett, Wash.
 Stella Raymo, Noonan, ND
 Milton Fenster, Wildrose, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard Nielsen, Columbus, ND
 Bill and Dorothy (Nielsen) Appelgren, Mike and Tina, Rockford, Ill.
 Ed and Sherryle Peterson & Brian, Columbus, ND



READY FOR SKATING . . . (l to r): Essie Makee, Myretta Johnson, Margaret Mary Johnson Harris.

Sandra Morrison and children, Noonan, ND (Kenne-
 wick, Wash.)
 Ken and Cathy Haarstad, Rolla, ND
 Henry and Donna Brodal, Noonan, ND
 Ida Evenson, Noonan, ND
 Margaret Devriendt Larsen, Hillsboro, Ore.
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard Melby, Underwood, ND
 Emil Engelke, California
 Gary Spooner, Williston, ND
 Marcy Holm, Tioga, ND
 Keith Lindsey, Crosby, ND
 Gary Riveland, Thornton, Colo.
 Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Verlinde, Noonan, ND



Norman and Edith Fagerbakke, Noonan, ND
 Olaf and Elvira Lokken, McGregor, ND
 Elsa Johnson, Noonan, ND
 Ruth Wick, Seattle, Wash.
 Leonard and Marie Raymo, Bottineau, ND
 Alvin and Mary Svangstu, Crosby, ND
 George and Marie Cooper (Williams) San Francisco, Calif.
 Harvey L. Evans (Lou Kjos), Salt Lake City, Utah
 Mr. and Mrs. Orville Kjos, Noonan, ND
 Keith and Becky Wilson, Sheri, Kristi, Angela, Anaconda, Mont.
 George and Olga Rait, Noonan, ND
 Dave and Pat Vanacker, Paul & Chad, Agoura, Calif.
 Albert Fagerland, Brian, Karen, Julie, Alicia Bryson, Junction City, Ore.
 Orell Fagerland, Junction City, Ore.
 Duane and Mary Hagen & Jeremy, Center, ND
 Adelaide Brodal, Noonan, ND
 Sanda and Bud Haagenon (Dixon) Scott, Ryan, Tim, Williston, ND
 Myrna Richards (Dixon) Todd, James & Mona Adams, Williston, ND
 Carol Enner (Dixon) Lowell and Sara, Ray, ND
 Clifford and Esther Dixon, Epping, ND
 Thelma, Allen and Troy Karlberg, Center, ND
 Everett Noonan, Crossfield, Canada
 Janet Noonan, Crossfield, Canada
 Marguerite Lampron (Noonan), Calgary, Canada



A PRIZE NOONAN HOME . . . This home built for Otto Huwe and first occupied late in 1913 has been since occupied by Harris Baukols, Harlan Kosteks, and presently by Arnold Eides.

Mary (Noonan) Tufts, Surrey BC, Canada
 Vern and Clarice Saeman & Brian, Kent, Wash.
 Rose and Jerry Henrickson & family, Bismarck, ND
 Fern and Everett Johnson, Duvall, Wash.
 Deloris and Gene Burner & Lisa, Minot, ND
 Gloria Burner, Minot, ND
 Beth Burner, Minot, ND
 Duane and Susan Evenson, Gillette, Wyo.
 Robert and Jane Glasoe, Ray, Jared & Ray, Nashua, Mont.
 Leonard and Sheryl Glasoe & Valerie, Great Falls, Mont.



A SUMMER OUTING AT FISH LAKE (LAKE KENOSSEE) . . . Pictured l to r: Bill Feeney, Les Munson, unidentified, Mrs. Feeney, Mrs. Munson, Mrs. Bert Makee, unidentified, Mrs. Dea Light (Rose Egilson) and Bert Makee.

Alan and Ethel Spooner & Todd, Noonan, ND
 Scott and Laurel Burner, Minot, ND
 Rev. Bill and Melody Glover, William and Robert,
 Noonan, ND
 Mark and Marian Ellison, Glendive, Mont.
 Joy Glasoe, Wildrose, ND
 Sherri Ellison, Noonan, ND
 Ray Glasoe, Noonan, ND
 Robbie Dhuyvetter, Noonan, ND
 Arden Glasoe, Williston, ND
 Randy and Deanne Hysjulien, Amy & Brent, Surrey, ND
 Marie Braathen, Noonan, ND
 Carol Hatlelid Brodal, Larson, ND
 Sigurd Brodal, Larson, ND
 Bob and Ellen Wissbrod, Noonan, ND
 Chet and Myrtle Nygaard & Kyle, Noonan, ND
 Calmer and Tillie Overlee
 Frank and Grayce Lukach, Noonan, ND
 Dale and David Zimmerman, Noonan, ND
 Bob and Margaret (Lukach) Sagaser, McGregor, ND
 Bob and Shirley Burner, Noonan, ND
 Bob and Evelyn Ellison & children, Noonan, ND
 Mark and Mary Ellison, Glendive, Mont.
 Ann and Caspar Glaser, Glendive, Mont.
 Duane and Connie Barden, Center, ND
 Hurley Barden, Noonan, ND
 Dwight Barden
 Jim and Mary Froehlich, Columbus, ND



THREE SETS OF TWINS . . . Margaret (Schammel) Verlinde had three sets of double trouble one year in her fifth and sixth grade class. They were (l to r) Dean and Dale Brorby, Yvonne and Yvette Meyer, Larry and Lowell Barden

Charlie and Deanna Dhuyvetter & Steve, Noonan, ND
 Ron Burner and Karen, Minot, ND
 Jim and Linda Kimball, Noonan, ND
 Wilma and Paul Nygaard, Kenmare, ND
 Karla Kraft, Noonan, ND
 AltaMay Smithberg Hansen, Visalia, Calif.
 Pearl Smithberg Cox, San Marcus, Calif.
 Arthur Smithberg, Vista, Calif.
 Don and Gail Dalzell & family, Walhalla, ND
 Lynn and Jewell Hysjulien, Noonan, ND



A RIDE IN AN OLD TIN LIZZIE . . . Mrs. Fred (Ollie) Truax, a sister of Rose Light, and Daisy Truax in the front seat, and Goldie, Bud, and Lena Truax in the rear seat.

H. M. and Blanche Johnson Ericksrud, Lakota, ND
 Leonard J. Lukach, Sioux Falls, SD
 Debbie Wilhelon, Escondido, Calif.
 Emma and Bill Heuer, Noonan, ND
 Althea and Loren Riley, Yuma, Colo.
 Blanche VandeWalle
 Jerry VandeWalle
 Lucille Hennessy, Williston, ND
 Randy Burner, LaCrosse, Wis.
 Jayne Schlich, LaCrescent, Minn.
 Donna Heskin, Norwich, ND
 Orval and Norma Peterson & Kelly, Plentywood, Mont.
 Judy and Bernie Walters, Kevin & Russell, Lignite, ND
 Helen Logelin, Noonan, ND
 Leo and Sandie Logelin, Shawn & Shannon, Columbus, ND
 Ellen Glasoe
 Margeriete Williamson
 Brenda Hanson
 Brian Miller
 Jennifer Mills
 Sara Miller
 Dean and Lois Tveter & Family
 Clarence and Marian Pommier, Lignite, ND
 Larry, Robin and Claudia Nordman
 David Verlinde, Noonan, ND
 Leo F. and Julia Rindel, Noonan, ND
 Vicki, Don, Cami, Amber Weber, Minot, ND
 Chuck and Marilyn Hanson, Mike & Scott, Noonan, ND



Bill and Grace Feeney

Stan and Judy McKibben, Sara & Amy, Crosby, ND
 Debbie and Gene Ripplinger & Heather, Minot, ND
 Dean and Renee and Jason Wissbrod
 Francis and Susan Cannon
 Terry Espeseth
 Willis Robinson
 Sandra, Dan, Andy Arron Gilbertson



FIRST HOME OF ROBERT RAIT FAMILY . . . This is the Robert Rait homestead shack built in 1908-09. It is the place where George was born. Pictured are the parents, George, and a cousin, William Powney, in the foreground.

Emline Loucks, Noonan, ND
 Laura Fenster, Noonan, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Alton Lund, Noonan, ND
 Mitch Roness, Newcastle, Wyo.
 Pat Phillippe Glasoe, Wildrose, ND
 George and Marian Windfaldet, Crosby, ND
 Bob and Lenore Rovelstad, Minot, ND
 Clara Fenster, Noonan, ND
 Ron Smithberg
 Larry Evenson and family, Seattle, Wash.
 Peggy and Keith Horntvedt, Great Falls, Mont.
 Cindy and Doug Smith & family, Minot, ND
 Dan and Dorothy Lukach, Minot, ND
 Arnold and Margaret Nordman, Noonan, ND
 David and Misty Smithberg, Alamo, ND
 Jan Schultz, Noonan, ND
 Aaron Schultz, Noonan, ND
 Tony and Robert (Rindel) Misslin, Paulsbo, Wash.
 Mr. and Mrs. Odell Zimmer, Kenmare, ND
 Cecilia Laturnus, Cottage Grove, Minn.
 Skip Espeseth, Lignite, ND
 Freda Larson, Noonan, ND
 Albert and Mary Lou Dhuyvetter, Denise, John, Gerald,
 and Kevin, Noonan, ND

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dhuyvetter
 Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Fenster, Rodger & Gary, Wild-
 rose, ND
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mehlhoff and Jeffrey
 Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Fenster
 Maynard Fenster
 Marlow, Shirley, Shane and Kristin Shefstad
 Tom and Beryl Kimball McLean, Plentywood, Mont.
 Rodney G. Giel
 Mr. and Mrs. David Johnson
 Mr. and Mrs. Joe Greaves
 Mr. and Mrs. Randy Ulmer
 Norma Neilsen Wickman
 Sherry Baker
 Neil Espeseth
 Cathryn Bakewell
 Wilbur, Darleen Aiken
 Ray, Barb, Susan, Kristi & Michael Skor
 Albert and Debbie Spooner
 Almer Roness, Bowbells, ND
 Lester and Corinne Anderson, Crosby, ND
 Arne Espeseth Jr.
 Greg Bratlien, Noonan, ND
 Margaret Fredrickson, Minot, ND



Girls basketball team in 1929 . . . Front row (l to r): Anna Devries, Ruth Goltz, Minnie Fenster. Back row: Neva Hought, Edna Rossow, Luella Light, Mr. Kraus, Wyletta Case, Lillian Krecklau, and Mabel Fenster.

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