

Pleasant Dale
Nebraska

Centennial History Book
1882-1982

PLEASANT DALE, NEBRASKA

**A
CENTURY OF PROGRESS**

1882-1982



We, the Centennial Book Committee, are grateful to all of the people of the Pleasant Dale area and former Pleasant Dale residents who so diligently searched through their treasured pictures and loaned them to us to be used in this book so they may be enjoyed by us and our descendants.

Thank you to the many people of the area whom we interviewed, as we tried to learn as much as possible about Pleasant Dale in its earlier years.

We are indebted to the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Blue Valley Blade.

We have endeavored to be as factual as possible. In some instances where dates, names, or places differed, we used what seemed to be most nearly accurate. We know there will be mistakes and omissions for which we apologize.

Because of many lengthy family histories and our limited space, it was necessary to delete some material. If some families are not mentioned, it was not intentional. We did not hear from many families who were contacted.



Back Row: Gary Blattert, Vernon Lemmert, Viola Mitchell, Lori Ficke, Wayne Ficke, Dorothy Ficke, Dale Nobbman. Seated: Mary Ann Robertus, Joanne Lostroh, Doris Lostroh.

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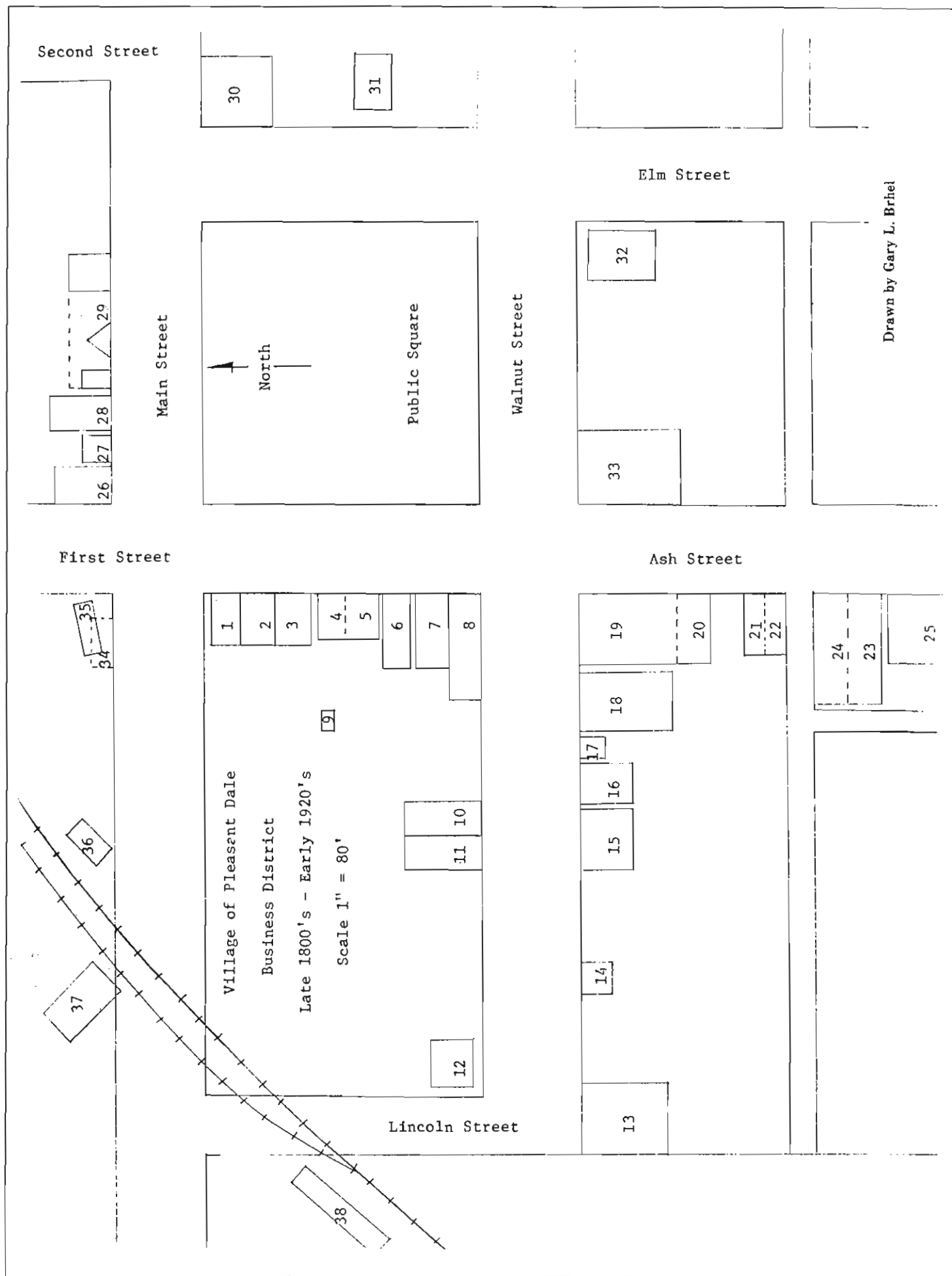
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Drawn by Gary L. Brhel

Map Directory

1. LYNCH BUILDING

Built: Sept. 1883
Location: Lot 1
Size: 20' x 36'
Torn Down: 1977
Businesses in building:
Jim Lynch Grocery 1883
Post Office 1883-1914
J.W. Dillenbeck Drug Store
Frank Ingersoll Drug Store 1904
E.J. Newton Hardware
Frank Ingersoll Drug 1910-1914
C.A. McGowan Drug 1914-1917
F.C. Alley Drug Jan. 1917-May 1919
J.W. Dillenbeck Confectionery 1919-1920
Alfred Muesborn and Collie Borchers Garage 1920-1923
Dan Hershberger Garage 1923-1925
Sam Pennington Garage 1930-1942
Jake E. Frazier Garage 1955-1965
Vernon Sharp Garage 1965-1977

2. CLARK BUILDING

Built: July 1907
Location: Lot 2
Moved: May 1922
Building moved to the back of the W.S. Dunten home No. 31.
Businesses in building:
Dr. Clark's Office 1907-1910
Dr. Sandusky's Office 1910-1919

3. BANK BUILDING

Built: 1901
Location: Lot 3
Building still in use
Businesses in building:
Bank 1901-1932
Long time bankers:
A.F. Ackerman & Wm. Chamberlain
Hugo Spence Barber Shop 1932
W.B. Stolz Credit Corporation
N.E. Bishop Post Office 1940-1946
Neil Stahn Cafe 1958
Neil Stahn Tavern 1962-1963
James Ward Tavern 1963-1965
Neil Stahn Tavern 1965-1971
Tom Kapke Tavern 1971-1975
Keller Tavern 1975-1978
Rudy Nieman Tavern 1978-Present

4-5. CREAMERY BUILDING

Built: May 1896
Moved to Main St. March 1903
Location: Lots 4 & 5
Burned: April 1932
Businesses in building:
Pleasant Dale Creamery Association 1896-1903
Divided in two parts 1903
Ernest Oswald Barber Shop 1903 (north room)
Shrine Restaurant 1903 (south room)
Dr. Andrus Office 1906
Charley Raddatz Barber Shop
E.R. Nelson Barber Shop 1911
Thim Barber Shop 1912
Tom Clark Ice Cream Parlor 1911-1913
Ernest Oswald Jewelry 1914

6. KISER BUILDING

Built: 1887
Location: Lot 6
Burned: April 1932
Businesses in building:
Bill Kiser Pool Hall 1887
Lew Wallace Grocery 1910-1912
Bill Kiser Pool Hall 1912
Tom Clark Ice Cream Parlor 1913
Clyde Skinner Barber Shop 1924-1925
Fred Clouse Barber 1925-1929
Archie Gemmell Barber 1929-1930
Fred Clouse Barber 1930-1931
Hugo Spence Barber 1931-1932

7. LANDIS BUILDING

Built: 1880's
Location: Lot 7
Burned: April 1932
Businesses in building:
Elam H. Landis Grocery
Joe Pearson Grocery 1897
C. Reuch Shoe Repair 1897
Otto Kullman Pool Hall
Charles Sternberg Pool Hall 1910-1912
Lew Wallace Grocery 1912-1914
Joe Kisiski Meat Market May 1914-Jan. 1918

Wm. Rocksein Grocery 1918
Fred Shaw Grocery 1918-1920
Tom Best Pool Hall

8. FICKE BUILDING

Built: Nov. 1890 by John Ficke
Location: Lot 8
Size: 30' x 60'
Burned: April 1932
Businesses in building:
W. Scott Dunten General Merchandise
Frank Smiley Grocery
J.W. Dillenbeck Grocery
Fred Shaw Grocery Apr. 1926-1932

9. JAIL BUILDING

Built: June 1906
Moved in the late 1940's to George Stern's lot. Torn apart and the lumber used in a garage addition.

10. MCGILL BUILDING

Built: 1913
Location: Lot 9
Torn Down: Spring 1929
Lumber reused by Fred Schmersal
Businesses in building:
John E. McGill Saloon

11. SALOON BUILDING

Built: ?
Location: Lot 10
Moved behind Cynthia Best's house.
Businesses in building:
B.S. Brown Saloon 1906
James Charvat Saloon 1912
Wm. Suska Saloon 1916

12. ORIGINAL CREAMERY BUILDING SITE

Built: May 1896
Opened June 1896
Moved to Main St. March 1903

13. LIVERY STABLE

Built: July 1903
Location: Lot 1
Size: 48' x 80'
Built by N.E. Bishop
Torn down and lumber used in barn on Amer Burd farm.

14. PERKINS HOUSE

Location: Lot 3

15. LAYMON'S MILLINERY

Location: Lot 5
Business started: May 10, 1903
Business ended: Oct. 1922
Torn Down: Jan. 1930

16. MINCHOW BLACKSMITH SHOP

Built: Turn of the Century
Location: Lot 6
Moved to Minchow farm
Businesses in building:
John Minchow Blacksmith
Wheeler & Nichols Blacksmith 1916

17. THOMAS HARNESS SHOP

Built: Sept. 1890
Location: Lot 6
Burned Down: Nov. 1929
Businesses in building:
Frank Thomas Harness Shop and Shoe Repair

18. SALOON BUILDING

Built: 1890's
Location: Lot 7
Burned: Nov. 1928
Businesses in building:
A.D. Culp Saloon 1896-1901
Robert J. Fraas Saloon 1901-1903
Herman Busboom Saloon 1903
P. Lloyd Mapes Saloon
Tom Best Pool Hall

19. UTHE BUILDING

Built: Probably 1880's
Location: Lot 8
Torn down: 1981
Businesses in building:
Chris Uthe Grocery
Ward C. Pyle Grocery Nov. 1922-Sept. 1925
Chris Uthe Grocery
Frank Thomas Shoe Repair June 1930-
Fred O. Shaw Grocery 1932-1943

Frank Fontaine Tavern Feb. 1947-7
George Yank Tavern
Mrs. Mackovic Tavern
Hank Bri Tavern
Fred Luckey Tavern
Les and Millie Ficke Tavern
Meyers Radio and TV Repair
Vernon Sharp Garage
Albert Showen Bug House

20. UTHE BUILDING, SOUTH PART

Ernest Uthe Lumber Yard 1898
Chris Uthe Grocery
Chris Uthe Post Office 1914-1940
Russell Yank Garage
Russell Endicott Garage
Earl Kilday Garage
Raymond Stern Garage

21. BRANDT BUILDING, NORTH PART

Built: Aug. 1903
Location: Lot 8
Burned: Dec. 21, 1910
Rebuilt: 1911 by David Brandt
Businesses in building:
Dan Brandt Ice Cream Parlor before fire.
After fire: A.B. Dunten Ice Cream Parlor 1911
Dan Brandt Card Shop 1912
Card shop closed in March under court order.

22. BRANDT BUILDING, SOUTH PART

Oxley Meat Market before fire.
After fire: Oxley Meat Market 1911
A.C. Gump Meat Market 1911-1912
Wm. Chapelow & Frank Smith Meat Market 1912-1913
Arthur Gump & C.T. Tracy Meat Market 1913
Joe Kisiski Meat Market 1913-1914
Dan Brandt Pool Hall
Steve Hill Pool Hall
J.W. Dillenbeck Grocery 1915-1919
Fred O. Shaw Grocery Sept. 1920-1926

23. PATTERSON BUILDING

Built: Aug. 1903 by R.J. Fraas
Location: Lot 9 & 10
Size: 50' x 80'
Burned: Dec. 21, 1910
Businesses in building:
R.J. Fraas Implement Co. 1903-1906
Wm. Patterson Furniture Store 1906-1910

24. KISER BUILDING #2

Built: May 1913 by Bill Kiser
Location: Lot 9
Torn Down: about 1950
Lumber reused by Arthur and Vernon Piening
Businesses in building:
Bill Kiser Pool Hall 1913-1914
Bill Kiser Skating Rink 1914-1915
Steve Hill Pool Hall 1915
Schamp Implement Co. 1917
Community Hall

25. FRAME SCHOOL BUILDING

Built: 1890
Location: Lot 12
Moved from original site in 1916 by Carl Viets

26. MERRILL BUILDING

Built: Probably 1890's
Location: Lot 7
Still in use
Businesses in building:
J.H. Merrill Hardware Feb. 1898-1909
E.J. Newton Hardware 1910-1921
Schamp Implement Co.
W.C. Pyle Grocery Sept. 1925-Aug. 1950
Kenneth Timme Grocery Aug. 1950-May 1976
Will James Grocery May 1976-Present

27. OXLEY BUILDING

Location: Lot 8
Torn Down: Feb. 1964
Lumber from building used in present day grocery store.
Businesses in building:
Charles H. Oxley Grocery & Hardware

28. BILL BUILDING

Built: Turn of the Century
Location: Lot 9
Built by C.C. Bill

Torn Down: Fall 1963
Lumber from building used in present day grocery store
Businesses in building:
Second Story: Community Hall
First Floor:
Charley & Orr Bill Blacksmith 1902-1912
Wm. Chapelow Blacksmith 1912
Claus Borchers Garage 1921-1922
Thomas and Berg Garage 1928
Norman Sipp Garage Mar. 1928-
Gus Lebsock Tavern 1939
Harry Johnson's Tavern 1939-1946
Alex Kropp Tavern 1946-1948
George Allen Tavern 1948-1952
Kruger's Tavern 1952-
Madson Tavern

29. LUMBERYARD

Built: Turn of the Century
Rebuilt: Feb. 1921
Location: Lots 10, 11, 12, & 13
Businesses in building:
Arthur R. Rogers Lumber Co. 1903-1911
Pauley Lumber Co. 1911-1913
Wm. C. Neumann Lumber Co. May 1913-Nov. 1921
John. H. VonSteen Lumber Co. Nov. 1921-July 1927
B.W. McLucas Lumber Co.
A.G. Scheele Lumber Co.
Leland Austen Lumber Co. Apr. 1953-Sept. 1979
Wesley Reil Lumber Co. Sept. 1979-Present

30. HOTEL BUILDING

Built: 1902
Location: Lots 1 & 2
Torn Down: 1969
Businesses in building:
Park Hotel 1902-1904
Wallace Hotel 1904-1914
Post Office 1948-1965

31. DUNTEN HOUSE

Clark Building (Bldg. #2) moved behind this house in 1922. Still there as garage.

32. CYNTHIA BEST HOUSE

House original telephone office.
Saloon building (Bldg. #11) moved behind this house. Still there.

33. ORIGINAL METHODIST CHURCH SITE

Built: Sept. 1883
Location: Lots 7 & 8
Torn Down: 1923

34. GAMMEL BUILDING

Built: Apr. 1921 by George Gammel
Moved to Grover in late 1960's
Businesses in building:
George Gammel Blacksmith

35. RAILROAD SECTION HOUSE

Built: by Railroad
Moved up to Main St. by O.B. McIlnay for use as business house. In July 1912 moved to Stern lot for use as house. Still in use.
Businesses in building:
O.B. McIlnay Flour, Feed, and Seed 1912-1913
Clarence Copies Flour, Feed, Seed, and Grocery 1913-1915
Lacey Burd Grocery 1915-1916

36. RAILROAD DEPOT

Built: Nov. 1879
Torn Down: July 1907

37. LOWERY ELEVATOR

Built: Nov. 1883
Size: 40' x 50'
Original elevator operator: Tom W. Lowery
Torn Down: Early 1900's by Louis Finke
Lumber and stones used for buildings

38. CORN CRIBS

300' long
Built: Dec. 1879

Dale Nobbman and
Joanne Lostroh



Looking at Early Pleasant Dale From the Northwest



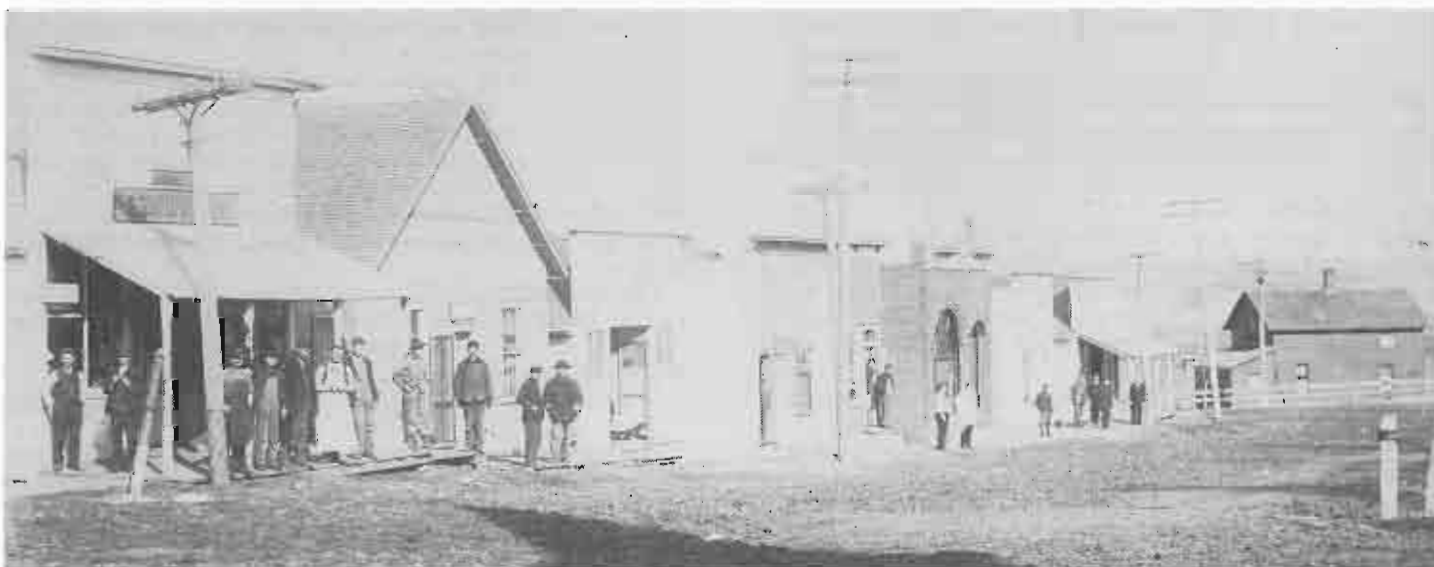
Looking at Early Pleasant Dale From the Southwest



Looking at Early Pleasant Dale From the West



Looking at Early Pleasant Dale From the West (Large Corncrib belonging to railroad in foreground)



West Side of Ash Street in Early Pleasant Dale (from Southeast)



North Side of Main Street in Early 1900's

History of Pleasant Dale

PLEASANT DALE PRAIRIES

The first settlers who came to the Pleasant Dale area found a rich prairie vegetation. In the spring, lavender mats of blooming ground plum or buffalo peas showed up against the greening hillsides. The upright spikes of the prairie ragwort, their tops covered with clusters of bright yellow blossoms, looked like punctuation marks over the emerging bluestem. Lower to the ground and partly hidden under the grass, the purple blossoms of prairie violets and the star shaped white flowers of wild strawberries and blue eyed grass hurried to produce seed before being shaded by the surrounding vegetation.

In late June, the butterfly milkweed with its reddish orange blossoms looked like mounds of flames in the lower lying prairies, while on the hillsides and ridges, the purple prairie clover blossoms nodded in the hot summer breeze. This clover along with the leadplant, wild indigo with its creamy white blossoms, and scurfspea or wild alfalfa, and many other prairie legumes, added nitrogen along with organic matter for the thousands of years that the prairie developed.

In early fall, the big bluestem topped with its "turkey foot" seed head would be waving in the wind along with the silvery plumes of indian grass. The stems of these grasses were tall enough on the bottom land that a man on horseback could reach out on each side and tie the tops of the grass into a knot above the saddle.

At that time of year, the leaves of the big and little bluestem would start turning color. Willa Cather in her book *My Antonia* tells of this, "The red of the grass made all the great prairie the color of winestains—and there was so much motion to it, the whole country seemed somehow to be running."

Then came the settler's plow, slicing into the prairie sod, the plowshare making a muffled popping sound as it cut the tough roots of the leadplant, giving it the name "prairie shoestring."

This prairie is all but gone now, having been converted to fertile cropland which has supported several generations. There still are a number of small native prairies in the Pleasant Dale area, which are used mostly for hay production. Since the prairie was such an important part of our heritage, we should try to preserve what is left of it. Scientists are just beginning to understand what fascinating storehouses of biological and ecological information our natural prairies are.

In 1981, a number of us who are concerned about preserving our prairie heritage, had Governor Thone sign a proclamation declaring last October 18-25 as "Nebraska Prairie Appreciation Week." Among the activities was the distribution of a considerable amount of prairie literature to schools throughout the state.

The Prairie Plains Resource Institute of Aurora, Nebraska, was organized several years ago as a non-profit organization by people who are interested in permanently preserving native prairie in each county to serve as historic landmarks, outdoor education classrooms, scientific research sites and

sanctuaries for prairie plants and wildlife.

The Pleasant Dale Centennial would be an ideal time for farmers who own fields of good prairie to have a record made of them. If you will let me know, I will send you a prairie inventory form to fill out, as well as additional prairie literature.

Ernest Rousek

NAMING PLEASANT DALE, AND DESCRIPTIONS OF IT

The following are taken from various sources.

Perkey's Names of Nebraska Locations, by Elton a. Perkey.

In 1871 Captain J.H. Culver of the United States Army is credited with suggesting the name Pleasant Dale because of the beautiful valley in which it is located.

Nebraska State Journal, July 22, 1879

Thomas Best suggested the town be named Bestville instead of Pleasant Dale.

Blue Valley Blade, November 1879

There is nothing like enterprise, and Pleasant Dale is fast becoming an enterprising town.

History of Seward County, Nebraska by W.W. Cox 1888

James Iler, a spiritualist and an Evangelist of that creed, was one of the first settlers on Middle Creek in I precinct. He established a post office on his land in the early seventies, near what is now Pleasant Dale. Mr. Iler wanted to call the town "Spiritdale", but the local people would have none of this, and so the very appropriate name of "Pleasant Dale" was chosen.

Pleasant Dale, while not pretentious, but modest, is fitly named. She is the "gem" of that beautiful valley, is constantly growing, and day by day becomes more beautiful.

History of Seward County, Nebraska by W.W. Cox 1905

"I precinct is located in town 10, range 4, east of the 6th P.M.

The western part of this precinct is on the great plain between the Blue river and the Middle creek breaks, where are many splendid farms; but the greater part of the precinct is rolling hills with plenty of running streams and many excellent springs. There are many stony points. The little valleys are exceedingly fertile and are well improved; the lands are largely occupied by a very thrifty class of Germans, and they have become independent, nearly all having pleasant homes. The lands are well adapted to dairying and poultry raising. Many groves of native timber adorn the valleys.

In the beautiful little valley of Middle Creek in the southern part of I township stands the village that is so properly named. This valley was beautiful when a wilderness, when the herds that grazed and fattened on the luxuriant meadows in their native wildness were the elk, antelope and buffalo, and the only sign of human habitation was the curling smoke of the distant wigwam. Thus we have seen it in 1862. How much more beautiful is it now since the hand of civilized man has transformed it and made it to blossom out in all its present grandeur. It is all checked up into farms of transcendent wealth with hundreds of tasty dwellings surrounded



Looking at Early Pleasant Dale From the Southeast

with groves and orchards, splendid meadows and great stretches of waving fields of corn. Oh! how it gladdens the heart of the old pioneer as he stands upon an eminence and beholds the transformation wrought in forty-two years. Now instead of the whoop of the wild man in the chase may be seen the thousands of cattle grazing peacefully on the hills, while the screeching of the iron horse with his thundering tread is rushing up and down the valleys drawing in his great train innumerable blessings to mankind."

General History of Seward County, Nebraska by John H. Waterman

Village of Pleasant Dale. This is one of the most correctly named villages in Seward County. Its location upon the brow of one of the hills forming the narrow vale of Middle Creek, gives it a pleasing view of the attractive scenery up and down the valley.

Joanne Lostroh



Charles Raddatz Barber Shop on Right

POST OFFICE

The first Post Office in Pleasant Dale was established February 13, 1871 in a dugout on the side of Danker Hill, about a half mile northeast of the village. There is still an impression in the ground where the dugout was located. James Iler, one of Pleasant Dale's first settlers, was the first postmaster.

James Lynch built a new drug store in town in 1883 and the Post Office was moved from the country into his building. Chris Uthe became the postmaster in 1914 and he moved the office into his building. Then, in September of 1923, he moved the office into the bank building. He moved the office back to his building in September of 1925, where it remained till the 1940's. In the 1940's the post office was located back in the bank building while Nelson E. Bishop was postmaster. Myrtle Haist became post mistress in 1948, and the post office was moved to and remained in the Haist house until 1965. At that time Kenneth Timme became the postmaster and the office was moved to a separate room in his grocery store building, which is its current location.

The following is a complete list of postmasters and their dates of service:

James Iler	February 13, 1871
Nathan B. Newton	December 20, 1878
James Lynch	May 1, 1882
William Lynch	February 27, 1886
Thomas A. Blackburn	May 23, 1887
Elan H. Landis	May 26, 1888
Ezra J. Newton	May 25, 1898
Frank H. Ingersoll	January 10, 1906
Chris Uthe	August 21, 1914
Nelson E. Bishop	July 17, 1940
Myrtle Haist	June 30, 1948
Ruth Eleanor Shaw	June 30, 1963
Ella M. Hejny	July 3, 1963



Nelson Bishop, Postmaster
Earnest Haist, Mail Hauler
Clayton Rivers, Mail Man 1944

Kenneth D. Timme August 13, 1965

Rural Free Delivery, (R.F.D.) began in 1902. T.J. (Jay) Wells was the first rural carrier and he delivered mail to the north of town. He was a one-armed man who delivered mail with a gray horse and a two wheel cart. In March of 1916 he received a new mail wagon from his postal patrons for 10 years of service on route one. Mr. Wells moved to California in September of 1924.

Charles T. Gray began mail delivery on a south route (Route 2) in 1904. Mr. Gray also delivered by horse and buggy. His horses' names were Jim and Tony, and he kept them at the Walt Best place. Charles Gray died in October of 1923 from injuries received in an auto accident. He was a Pleasant Dale resident for 40 years.

The following is a complete list of rural carriers with their approximate dates of service:

Jay Wells	1902-1915	Route 1
Charles T. Gray	1904-1914	Route 2
W.L. (Lew) Wallace	1915-1917	Route 1
Percy Peterson	1914-1919	Route 2
Norman Sipp	1918-1932	Route 1 then Route 2
Arthur Schoenberg	1919-1920	Route 1
Albert Slothower	1920-1930	Route 1
Joe Boshart	1930-1932	
Clayton Rivers	1932-1963	Combined Route
Glenn Weeks	1963-1964	Full-time Substitute
Richard Hejny	1964-1979	Combined Route
Lee Austen	1979-Present	Combined Route

Dale Nobbman

RAILROAD

In 1864 a steam wagon road was opened through the valley containing the present day village of Pleasant Dale.

Negotiations were opened with the managers of the Atchison and Nebraska railroad people, who proposed a line from Atchison, Kansas, to Lincoln and Columbus, Nebraska, via Middle Creek, Milford, Seward, etc. to Columbus.

A proposition in favor of the A & N Co. was submitted under the corporate name of Lincoln and Northwestern.

The A & N Railroad Co. existed only a few months, until it was absorbed into the L & N railroad.

On September 8, 1879, tracklaying began at Lincoln by the L & N railroad. It was completed to Emerald on September 18, Pleasant Dale on September 29, Milford on October 13 and on to Columbus on May 18, 1880.

No portion of the line constructed under the charter granted to the L & N Co. was operated by it. The L & N railroad was operated from completion in 1879 until July 1880 by Burlington and Missouri River Railroad under lease. The railroad was then operated from 1880 until 1908 by Chicago, Burl-

ington, and Quincy, as assignee under the B & M Railroad Co. After 1908, it was operated by C B & Q as owner by deed. On March 3, 1970, the C B & Q became Burlington Northern.

In 1910 a branch line from Lincoln to Denton, Crete, etc. was constructed.

Under authority of Nebraska laws and said resolution dated May 12, 1906, a portion of the above line, extending from a point 2 miles west of Milford to a point near Lincoln (Cushman Junction) was entirely relocated and reconstructed. The total mileage rebuilt was 21.18 miles. The work was commenced June 1, 1906, and the line was completed and placed in operation November 27, 1907. This relocated line was moved approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ miles south of the original line.

The following paragraphs were taken from the Blue Valley Blade at the Nebraska State Historical Society:

July 1907—Louis Finke is shipping 2 to 4 cars of hogs weekly from his stockyards at Pleasant Dale. He paid over \$12,000 last month for stock.

December 1907—Question of new depot site at Pleasant Dale seems to be clearing. The new stockyards are being completed near the new depot site at Pleasant Dale.

December 1907—The general belief is that terms will be made between all parties interested where by the company will open the road to the section line, where it will be up to Pleasant Dale to buy a road through Walt Best's land to meet it.

January 1908—A petition was circulated at Pleasant Dale for the purpose of obtaining land for a road between Pleasant Dale and the new depot site.

March 1908—New elevator at Pleasant Dale was completed.

The following taken from "History of Seward County" book:

April 29, 1897—Bad train wreck near Pleasant Dale.

February 9, 1899—Dead body of a tramp was found near the railroad at Pleasant Dale. Booze bottle was found laying nearby. The coroner thought the tramp froze to death.

The original railroad entered Seward County from the east to west direction. It entered one mile south of Highway 6 near the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Burd. It ran parallel to the county road and crossed Middle Creek northeast of Pleasant Dale, near the site of the original post office. The railroad crossed land owned by Cobe and Mary VanAndel, and crossed Highway 103 just north of Pleasant Dale. The road followed the north edge of Pleasant Dale, where at that time were stockyards, coal bins, the elevator, scales, the depot, and the section house.

Mr. Cobe VanAndel said he could remember the train unhooking some of the cars when the engine wheels were slipping. The engine would take part of the train to Milford, leave it there, and return for the remaining cars.

The railroad continued west, southwest approximately between the present day ball diamond and the county shed. It

then crossed land owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dwaine Pekarek, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Turek (formerly George VanAndel farm), and into P precinct.

It then passed just south of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Essex, across land owned by Mrs. Laura Ficke, Mr. and Mrs. Lumir Havlat, and on to Milford.

Many remains of the road can still be seen today on these properties.

The first diesel locomotives were used in 1952. However, the steamers were used until 1957 when they were retired for good. The small "putt-putt" cars were retired in 1960.

In 1968 the last passenger train ran on the Pleasant Dale line.

A modern diesel weighs approximately 400,000 pounds, where a steam locomotive and tender fully loaded could weigh up to 1,000,000 pounds. Today's diesels are cleaner and cheaper to operate, but the steamers were superior when it came to power.

In 1981 Burlington Northern employed between 3000 and 3500 people in the Lincoln region.

BN owns between 30,000 and 35,000 miles of track nationwide and 3,000 in Nebraska.

Between January 1, 1981, and November 30, 1981, BN operated 4,785 loaded coal trains, consisting of 110 cars per train. The coal and train together weigh approximately 14,000 tons each. 2,190 regular freight trains also ran this line.

In 1981 there were 335 unit grain trains of 54 cars each through Pleasant Dale en route to the west coast.

The preceding information was obtained from the following:

'History of Seward County' by W.W. Cox

'Blue Valley Blade' located at the Nebraska State Historical Society

Corporate history of Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad Co.

Mr. Larry Ficke of Lincoln, Nebraska

Mr. L.L. Ribensdorf

Local citizens of Pleasant Dale and surrounding area.

Wayne Ficke

RAIL TRAVEL

A new depot was erected on the farm of Thomas Best in November 1879, (a few months later this land was bought by John H. Merrill), north of Pleasant Dale. This gave the people of the area a form of transportation to and from distant places, and surprisingly enough they did travel to distant places.

We read in the Blue Valley Blade that our local residents, the Henry Oxley family, moved to Washington state and back to Pleasant Dale the following year traveling by rail. Mr. Thomas Best went on a two month trip to New York state in 1882. Mrs. N.B. Newton and Mrs. S.F. Brown went on a visit to eastern United States in 1880. J.D. Brown and Thos. Bailey went to Chicago with 13 loads of fat cattle in 1883.

The train was also in demand by people moving here from the eastern United States and Canada. They used the railroad car in which to load all of their belongings, then they proceeded to Pleasant Dale, with cattle at one end of the car and household goods in the other end.



Working on the Overhead Railroad Bridge



Depot North of Town



Pleasant Dale Depot South of Town (South Side of Depot)

Local trains were in demand for residents to travel to Lincoln for a twice-a-year shopping spree in the city. Eileen Burd told that her mother, Mrs. Henry Oxley, rode in the hack to the depot and then rode the train to Lincoln to shop. She took along 2 large empty suitcases for carrying her purchases home. The train returned to Pleasant Dale at 7:09 P.M. She again rode in the hack back to her home in Pleasant Dale. The hack was the taxi of that period of time. It was a big-top buggy, until 1916, when it was an enclosed bus.

Mildred Shaw Nobbman returned by train from a shopping trip in Lincoln where she had purchased a black velvet hat with red cherries in the front and streamers in the back. Ed Brown was the hack driver, and the road from the depot was rough. The passengers sat in seats on the edge of the hack, which was open, with a top like a surrey. Before Mildred got to Pleasant Dale with her new hat, the streamers broke off her hat from the rough ride.

Not everyone used the service of the hack. Amy Merrill tells that her father, A.M. Fougerson, would drive her mother, Amy Fougerson, to the depot in their buggy, at 9:45 A.M., where she would board the train with her 2 suitcases, for a shopping trip to Lincoln. He would return at 7:09 P.M. to meet the train. Sometimes they drove the team and buggy or spring wagon to Lincoln, where they put the team in a livery stable while they shopped.

The dray wagon was the forerunner of our present day semi-trucks, which delivered supplies to stores in Pleasant Dale. The dray wagon was a large horse-drawn wagon used to haul merchandise from the depot south of Pleasant Dale into town. It was unloaded at the north end of the Chris Uthe



Section Workers: Glenn Oxley, Ira Woodward, George Zimmer, Bill Zimmer 1935



Uthe Building in Background (Lorene and James Pyle)

Building at the corner of Ash and Walnut. There was a large slab of concrete onto which the goods were unloaded from the dray wagon.

Another train was a 4 or 5 car local train which stopped each day, and cream was sent to Lincoln on this train by some of the farmers in the neighborhood.

A one car train went from Lincoln as far west as Broken Bow, Nebraska each day, and stopped at every town along the way. It was called "The Stub" or "The Bug" by some people, and it had many other nick names.

In later years, some local youngsters who had never had a reason to ride on a train, found it a real treat to board the train at the Lincoln depot and ride to Pleasant Dale to be met by their parents.

Joanne Lostroh

BETHLEHEM CHURCH FROM 1899 TO 1982

Before the organization of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, our people were served by the church of Middle Creek which was started in 1870. Our first communion service was held in Pleasant Dale in 1896 by Rev. J.M. Muisch of St. Paul's church, 5½ miles southwest of Milford.

On the 18th of January, 1899, Bethlehem Lutheran Church was organized. The charter members were Henry Viets, Marten Paschka, John Ficke, H.F. Ficke, E.J. Uthe, Marten Kullman, H.H. Behmerwahld, John Baumbach, and Fritz Radatz. The congregation was served by Reverend Seesko from 1899 to 1902.

In 1900 it was decided to build a church on the lot west of the house that would soon become our first parsonage. Because of the church's position on the lodge question, the owner would not sell, so the church was located 1 mile west and ½ mile north of town.

Rev. Seesko accepted a call in March 1902, and Rev. C.H. Becker once again became our vacancy pastor. He served us until October 1902 when Rev. E.K. Klawitter became our pastor.

In 1909 the church was moved to town. The first confirmation took place in Ruby. Pastor Klawitter served the congregation until 1917.

In September of 1917 Pastor W. Oetting became our first



First Pleasant Dale Lutheran Ladies Aid

resident pastor. The Ladies Aid and Sunday School were organized at this time. In 1922, half of the services were conducted in German, and half in English. By 1928, only one service a month was conducted in German. In 1937 German was used for communion service only. Pastor Oetting left in 1919.

The Reverend Dubbe of Ruby filled the vacancy until August of 1920 when the Reverend Marquardt became our pastor. Services during the vacancy were held on Sunday afternoons.

In 1921 two lots were purchased from Mr. W. Best and a new church was built. The old church was then sold to the town. Dedication of the new church was October 1921. During 1924, a partial basement and 2 rooms were added to the parsonage.



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Built in 1921**



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1946**

April 1929 found us once again with a new pastor, the Reverend W. Brommer, who served us until 1938. In 1930 the congregation joined the Missouri Synod. Reverend Brommer served the congregation from 1939 until 1943, during which time the church debts were cancelled by the use of God's Acre Plan.

The Reverend E.A. Fredrich served Bethlehem Lutheran Church from 1943 until 1946, during which time funds were raised to purchase a two-manual Hammond organ, which is used today in our church. The organ was dedicated in January of 1947.

Reverend Falkenroth served from November 1946 until June of 1957, when he retired from the ministry on the date which marked the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

The Reverend M.P. Vogt served our people from April 1958 through March of 1962. During this time the office equipment was moved into the mothers' room, and several storage cabinets were placed throughout the church. The Reverend David Wallschleager served during our long vacancy from 1962 until 1964.

In 1963 a dual parish was formed between Malcolm and Pleasant Dale. The Reverend Richard Hoffman was called to serve the two congregations. Reverend Hoffman was installed on June 28, 1964 and served until March 1970.

In 1965 an educational wing and telephones were added to the church, and a tape recorder was purchased through a memorial fund. In 1968, paneling was used to make moveable walls for Sunday school rooms, but this proved unsatisfactory, and in 1972 the paneling was used to panel the basement of the church.

The Reverend Gary Weier was installed in August of 1970. In December, the church purchased the 2 lots adjoining the church property to the south from Mr. William Eilers. It was decided in October 1972 to build a new parsonage and in June of 1973 the pastor and his family moved into their new home



Annual Lutheran Ham Supper 1981

on the south edge of town.

The fall of 1973 found a much needed face-lift going on to both the inside and outside of the church. Stained glass windows were added to the church in 1974, purchased through several memorial funds. During 1977 dry wall and paneling were added to the church proper, and fresh paint to the inside and outside of the church as well. The church was also insulated at this time. In 1979 a new roof was put on the church. Pastor Weier left us in 1977, leaving us once again without a pastor. The Reverend Nivin Crowthers, Reverend Fred Worthmann and Reverend M. Matuschka helped us through another vacancy, which lasted some eighteen months.

The Reverend Jerry Riggert became our pastor in June 1978 and is with us at this time. Three new ceiling fans were installed during July of 1981; a gift from the Harold Deinert family. The fall of 1981 found the church once again receiving improvements. New metal siding was put on the church eliminating the task of repainting every few years.

In 1917, the Sunday School consisted of three departments, primary, junior, and senior. Classes were taught in German prior to this year when English was begun. By 1927 attendance had increased to the point where 3 more classes were begun. Weekday school is given 1 day a week for 2 hours, in order that the children can have at least 3 hours of Bible study a week.

During the summer we have a week of vacation Bible school following the dismissal of public school. In 1978 we joined with the Methodist congregation of Pleasant Dale to bring a more rewarding and in depth meaning to the program. In 1981 we had an enrollment of 69 children from throughout the community.

Our Ladies Aid was organized in April of 1918 and has well



Pleasant Dale Lutheran Church Today

served the needs of the church and surrounding community. These ladies give countless hours of time and energy by visiting the shutins, working at farm sales, helping families through times of grief, and raising money for church projects through church suppers and many other services not mentioned. The membership in 1955 was 44 and today it stands at 23.

Church Statistics 1899-1981

Baptisms	318
Confirmation	292
Marriages	78
Deaths	82

Dorothy Ficke

PLEASANT DALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On a Sunday afternoon in 1871, Mr. and Mrs. John VanAndel and their family, who lived where the District 45 schoolhouse stands (which is one mile west of the Pleasant Dale Cemetery), and who were the proud owners of the second frame house to be built between Milford and Lincoln, welcomed into their three-room home a group of neighbors who had banded together and formed a Sunday School. People came from all directions, some on horseback, entire families in lumber wagons, and probably some on foot. A circuit rider, a Mr. Snowden, had organized this and many other Sunday Schools over the country. All members who could do so gave from one to two dollars each, and this money was used to buy the first song books and Sunday School supplies. Stephen Brown was Superintendent. There was no musical instrument, and so whoever was best able led the singing.

This was how the Pleasant Dale Methodist Church began. People from a radius of 3 miles came and formed the nucleus of what was to become the church of later years. The group was known as the Union Sunday School.

In 1872 the Sunday School was moved to the farm of Stephen Brown, where a log cabin fitted with log benches was used. In 1873 they moved again to the schoolhouse known as the Pleasant Dale School, located on the northeast corner of the Henry Danker farm where the Pleasant Dale black-top Spur 103 meets Highway 6.

At about this same time, Sunday School and occasional preaching services were held in the District 38 school house, which is known as the Burd School, about 3½ miles northeast of Pleasant Dale. All of these meetings were of no special denomination.

The year 1883 was an important year in the history of the church. It was then that the first church was built in the one-year-old village of Pleasant Dale, Nebraska. The leading men in the church work at that time were William Brummell, Charles Gray, Alex Burd, M.S. Oxley, William Castor, and Thomas Best. Mr. Best gave lots for the building. The location was across the street south from the southwest corner of the village park. The church faced to the north and was a very



First Methodist Church in Pleasant Dale 1883

cold spot in the winter.

The name of the first pastor, as it appeared on a name quilt made by the Ladies Aid as a money-making project for the church, was G.M. Couffer. For a donation, a person could embroider his name on the quilt, which had in its center an outline of the new church. Forty dollars and 400 names were collected. The first organist was Mrs. Lulu Mason Pearson.

For many years, Pleasant Dale and Milford were considered one charge, and the pastor lived in Milford. Pleasant Dale paid about ⅓ of his salary of \$200, and had afternoon services only. A few years later, while repairs were being made, services were again held in the school house.

In 1895 Enoch Holland was the new minister. The Sunday School enrollment was 137, and the average attendance was 85. The mode of family transportation then was by lumber wagon. The Reverend Holland had a horse and buggy. Statistics show that during that year there were 100 members, one local preacher, Mr. Joseph Merrill, and 20 baptisms. The minister's salary was \$300.

In 1901, 30 years after the church began, seven neighboring churches held large revival meetings. The records show that Pleasant Dale gained the largest number of converts that year. Membership increased to 103, and there were 27 baptisms.

The year 1902 marked another milestone in the growth of the church. It was during that year that the first parsonage was built. It was located in the east part of Pleasant Dale on a lot given for that purpose by Mr. and Mrs. John H. Merrill. It was constructed at a cost of \$800, and was entirely paid for when completed. Later, an adjoining half lot was given for parsonage use by Mr. and Mrs. N.E. Bishop.

In 1911 the minister was a Wesleyan student, Wesley Wagner. Records show that during this year some improvements were made on the church building, and pews were obtained to replace the chairs used previously. The pews were bought second hand from a country church east of Lin-



Home of John VanAndel, Sr. 1871

Second Frame House Between Milford and Lincoln

Location of First Methodist Sunday School



Interior of First Methodist Church 1883

coln, and were hauled by teams and hayracks by Clarence Bishop and Willis Cady. The single trip to get the pews took 3 days.

From 1920 to 1923 was a period of unrest among the more progressive members. They wanted a new church or the old one remodeled. Many plans were suggested, and it was finally discovered that \$1000 could be obtained from the Methodist Church Conference for a new building. A subscription paper was circulated and people were quite enthusiastic and liberal with their pledges. Soon the new church was in progress. Thinking that a new location a short distance from the business district would be more suitable, the present location at 200 Main Street was chosen and obtained from Mrs. Belle Merrill.

The cornerstone of the new church was laid in August of 1923. The Reverend W.M. Parker was pastor. Dr. Clemens, the district superintendent, had charge of the services. Sealed in a glass jar in the cornerstone were the names of all people who had contributed in any way to the new church, the names of all members on the roll, the names of the official church board, the names of the building committee (Dr. J.C. Wilson, F.O. Shaw, and A.M. Fougerson), and the name of the pastor. Also sealed in the cornerstone were that day's newspaper, a church Discipline, and a Bible.

The contract for the new church was given to Harry Oxley, and work progressed rapidly. By the first week in November, the building was completed, and on November 11, 1923, the dedication services were held. The church was debt free. Dr. Clemens spoke at the morning service, a basket dinner was held at noon, and in the afternoon, there was a service in



Making Steps and Sidewalk to New Church 1923



Cars in Front of Methodist Church 1923

charge of the Reverend W.L. Philley, a former pastor, with music by a male quartet from Wesleyan University. The completed church cost \$5817.30. The colored glass windows were donated by individuals whose names appear on them.

The small walnut table which had served as the pulpit in the old church was replaced by a new pulpit made and presented to the church by Ernest Nelson, a barber in Pleasant Dale.

From 1930 to 1932, the Rev. E.E. Horner was pastor. Rev. Don Littrell was pastor in 1936 and 1937, and the Rev. Merton Cox served the church in 1941.

During 1942 and 1943, the church was served by the Rev. Faye Gemmell, a former Pleasant Dale boy, who is the son of Faye and Iva (Ficke) Gemmell. Faye was a Wesleyan student, and after completing his schooling in Lincoln, he went on to Theological School at Boston University.

From 1944 through 1949, the church was served by the Rev. Harry McClellan, of Lincoln. The parsonage had not been used for some time, because of the lack of full-time pastors, and so it was sold in 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. Bert Hand.

In 1951 another Wesleyan student, the Rev. Donald Hickman, served the church. After his graduation in Lincoln, he and his bride were married in the Pleasant Dale Methodist church, the first church he served. He then returned to his home in Boston, where he continued his education.

In 1952, another Wesleyan student, the Rev. Dale Ellsworth served the church. He was still pastor in the autumn of 1953 when plans were made to observe the 30th anniversary of the present church building. The pews which had arrived on hayracks in 1911 were refinished, after having the old varnish removed. This project, started by 4 ladies of the church, was to include only the revarnishing of the pews, but it was decided to remove old varnish, sand the pews, and then revarnish, and as a result, the whole congregation helped. Later, the sanctuary floor was sanded and refinished, the basement repainted, and an extension was built onto the northeast corner of the church. This housed another stairway from the sanctuary to the basement, and it would eventually house the restrooms in the basement.

The anniversary was celebrated on Sunday, November 15, 1953 with morning and afternoon services and a basket dinner at noon. Among the guest attending were the Rev. and Mrs. Otto Quaife, who told that they still had a quilt designed with an outline of the new church in the center. It had been made



Methodist Church, 1937. Back Row: Byron Bishop, Wilmer Bishop, Chester Shaw, Jack Merrill, _____, Neal Weeks. Second Row: Glen VanAndel, Ivan Haist, Fred Ficke, Erma Kapke, Irene Stolz Weeks. Third Row: Dwight Bishop, Mabel Bishop, Amy Merrill, Ida Ficke, Mildred Nobbman, John VanAndel, Wiston Merrill, Carl Weeks, Harry Nobbman, Ray Allen, Arthur Merrill. Fourth Row: Ed Bishop, Lucy VanAndel, Belle Merrill, Elaine Merrill, Ethel Shaw. Fifth Row: Emma Bishop, Emma Shaw, Bob Shaw, Mrs. Lee Boyer, Pearl Allen, Charles Pool. Sixth Row: _____, Gerald Allen, Keith Haist, Myrtle Haist, Myrna Ficke, Blanche Shaw, Jessie Pool, Helen Bundy, Carol Shaw, Ralph Kapke, Esther Best, Bernadine Bishop. Seventh Row: Joanne Merrill, Jeanne Merrill, Helen Merrill, Milton Haist. Front Row: Julia Lee Merrill, Rev. Lee Boyer, Van Shaw, Fred Shaw.

and presented to them in 1928.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, 1956, a beautiful altar, which had been made by Mr. and Mrs. Neal Weeks, was dedicated. The altar is inscribed with the words, "Holy, Holy, Holy".

In March, 1956, maroon colored choir robes with white collars were made for the nineteen-voice choir by some of the members of the Women's Society of Christian Service. The choir director for a number of years has been Mrs. Alice Frazier. At that same time, nine folding tables with iron legs and masonite tops were made for the basement.

The church was served in 1957 and 1958 by the Rev. Edward F. Kezar. During his pastorate, the basement kitchen was completely remodeled, with running water, hot water heater, and refrigerator included.

In 1965 the Rev. Elmer Shaw was the minister. In 1965, the Pleasant Dale church became part of the Greater Lincoln Parish with Malcolm and Denton churches, with Rev. Leslie E. Lewis the pastor. A decision to buy the Blanche Shaw home for a parsonage was made in that year. Two gifts made it possible. The Conference donated \$2000, and Nelson Bishop willed two bonds of \$1000 each. The restrooms in the north addition were completed because of a new town ordinance. The parsonage was completely redecorated by volunteer help. A loud speaker system was installed in the church.

A highlight during Rev. Lewis' ministry was his piloting a plane and taking the youth group for a ride over Pleasant Dale and Malcolm.

In 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren Church united

with the Methodist Church, the new name being United Methodist Church. Rev. J. Oliver Davidson, a former Evangelical United Brethren pastor, was appointed to Pleasant Dale in 1968.



Taking Varnish off Methodist Church Pews 1953



Refinishing Pews in Methodist Church 1953



Building New Addition to Methodist Church 1961



Annual Methodist Turkey Supper 1981



Methodist Church Today

Rev. Hal Smith came in June, 1971, and began immediately to help make plans for the church centennial. It was held on November 14, 1971, with special services, the dedication of a granite plaque, the dedication of centennial memorials which were a register desk, two pulpit chairs, and a new pulpit. A former pastor, Rev. Edward Kezar, preached the centennial sermon, followed by a basket dinner. In the afternoon, the service included the church history, showing pictures, music by the church choir and women's sextette, reading of letters from former pastors and members, and showing the church's centennial plate. At 3:30 P.M. the centennial cake was cut.

Rev. Daniel Gangler was the first resident pastor since 1968, and the first pastor of the three-point charge at Pleasant Dale, Malcolm, and Denton, which was named the Conestoga Parish. He started mailing weekly church bulletins to members and friends of the church.

The Rev. Douglas Slaughter arrived in 1978. During that year the church was insulated and rewired, and a new duplicating machine was purchased by Conestoga Parish.

Rev. Susan P. Davies, the first lady minister, and her family moved into the parsonage in June, 1980. This was a new experience for the congregation, and quite new to the Conference, also.

Joanne Lostroh

SCHOOL DISTRICT 21

The district was organized in 1870 by George B. France, county superintendent at the time. The district comprised 20 sections of land in the northeast corner of I precinct. The school house itself was a sod house on the Stephen Brown homestead located on the southwest corner of the present junction of Highway 6 and Spur 103. The school was referred to then as the Happel School named after the George Happels who lived 1/2 mile west of the junction.

On April 9, 1870, a school meeting was held at the house of M. Steinhilber. At this meeting J.T. Priest was elected moderator, W.A. Higgins elected treasurer and J.A. Raymer director. The teacher that first year of 1870-71 was J. Lafler.

In 1873 a frame house was built at the same site in which to hold District 21 school. There were 15 pupils and the teacher was May H. Frisbee, who taught two terms at \$25 a month. The following school term was taught by Mary E. Skorey, who had 19 pupils.

Charles Gray, who became a long time Pleasant Dale resident, was the teacher in 1879, and in 1880 the tax levy was ten mills.

When the school district was further divided in 1888, the school was moved to town. Belle Carruthers, who later became Mrs. J.H. Merrill, taught that first school term with the school located in town.



First Pleasant Dale School Built in 1890

In 1890 a new two story frame school house was built. That building was located just east of the present standing brick building, now an apartment house, but which served as a school from 1915 to 1976. The new frame school had a capacity of 125 students. W.S. (Scott) Dunten was director of the school board at this time and E.E. Blackman was the teacher. Blackman also was the associate editor of the new local newspaper weekly at the time, the Pleasant Dale Quiz. Blackman began the 1890-91 term with a school enrollment of 23 pupils. The school tax levy was 15 mills. Katie Iler taught the next 2 school terms.

This frame building was moved to the west side of town in 1916, and remodeled into a residence after the new brick school was built. The house again has been remodeled and still is in use today.

The first eighth grade graduating class was the class of 1899.

In 1902 a high school was begun, when \$250 was raised by subscription from generous citizens, because the 25 mill limit on tax at the time was insufficient to carry on the school. Henry Oxley, Syrenus VanAnDel and E.J. Newton were the school board members at the time. Total enrollment was around 90. F.H. Blacker was the principal who was paid \$50 a month and later \$60 a month.

The 1903-04 school term was the first term made 9 months long. Enrollment was 88 with F.H. Blacker the teacher. Blacker taught the school through 1918.



Looking at Back of New Brick School Nearing Completion 1915; Old Frame School at Right (east)



Front of New Brick School Nearing Completion 1915

May 19, 1905 was the date of the first high school graduating ceremony, which was held in the Methodist Church. The first high school tenth grade graduates from Pleasant Dale High School were Blanche VanAnDel, Grace Dunten and Mary Best. The class sermon was given by Rev. H.G. Claycomb and the class motto was "Upward and Onward".

Work began on a new brick school building in September 1915. Construction was delayed for awhile until the train carloads of brick arrived. Thus a dedication ceremony planned for late December was rescheduled for January 6, 7, and 8 of 1916. E.M. Pollard gave the opening address at the ceremony.



Pleasant Dale Primary Grades 1909 In Front of Frame School



Pleasant Dale School About 1922.



Pleasant Dale School Grades 1-12, 1931, Back Row: Art Schiff, Floyd Bishop, Paul Shaw, Earl Lohmeier, Viola Dankers, Selma Schildt, Harold Sieck, Leonard Rapp, Wm. Baumbach, Noal VanAnel. 4th Row: Bethel Stahn, teacher, La Verna Lohmeier, Mildred Gilbert, Lueda Dankers, Ella Pohlman, Bethel Bailey, Ailene Allen, Bernice VanAnel, Marian Daffer, Carmen Gemmell, Helen Bundy, Coral Gemmell, Hazel Best, H.E. Warren, Supt., Lela Horton, teacher, Ada Wolfe, teacher. 3rd Row: Florence Kapke, _____ Wheeler, _____, Ruth Brommer, Doris Oxley, Maxine Gemmell, _____, Leah Sipp, Norma Jean Sipp, _____ Wheeler, Clara Schildt, Almeda Wheeler, _____, Alverna Gammel, Velma Dankers, Vada Muesborn, La Verne Muesborn, Dorothy Crist, Eva Woodward, Esther Best, Bernadine Bishop, Dorothy Van Anel. 2nd Row: Neola Bills (?), _____, Wilmer Bishop, Homer Brown, Henry Gammel, Harry Daifer, Delbert Allen, DeWayne Sipp, Vernon Piening, Chester Shaw, Glen VanAnel, Jack Merrill, Byron Bishop. 1st Row: Gene Gemmell, Harry Lessing, Norman Gammel, _____, _____, _____, Jack Dawson, Walter VanAnel, Faye Best, _____, Wendell Sipp, Harold Stueck, _____, Dwight Bishop, Billy Brommer, _____, _____, Martin Schildt.



Pleasant Dale School Children.



Interior of Brick School Classroom 1946



Pleasant Dale School.

Other speakers included Prof. Pugsley, Miss Scott from the State Farm, State School Superintendent Thomas, County Superintendent Brokaw and a Mr. McKelvie. January 10, 1916 was the first day for school in the new brick building. The building housed a twelve grade school through the year 1956. The last high school graduates from Pleasant Dale were Neil Berg, Ellen Ficke, Wayne Ficke, Harold Lohmeier, and Steve Oxley. The superintendent was Edward Rowley.

In 1959 District 21 voted to merge with Milford. The board members at the time were Elmer Dankers as moderator, Eugene Berg as treasurer and Edward Lebsock as secretary.

The grade school which consolidated with Milford in 1960-61 continued to operate in the brick building until 1976, at which time it was renovated into an apartment building.

A new school building was erected southeast of the old school, and it is the current grade school for 6 grades of elementary students.

Dale V. Nobbman

PLEASANT DALE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

1905 (10th grade)

Blanche VanAndel
Grace Duntun
Mary Best

1906 (Class gave clock to school)

Ethel Merrill
Ella Sipp
June Dauwalter
Nola Wells

1907

?

1908

?

1909

none

1910

John VanAndel
Ray Allen

1911

Lucy Merrill
Albert Utte
Claude Kiser

1912

Shirley Best
Clarence Wells

1913

Homer Oxley
Arthur Merrill

1914

Ralph Gemmell
Fred Zimmer

1915

Gertrude Oxley
Norman Sipp
Maurice Oxley

1916

none

1917

Clarence Burd
Clara Burd
Tressa Wells
Maude Bills
Selma Neuman
Ida VanAndel

1918

Eileen Oxley
Verge Pool
Elizabeth Finke

1919

none

1920

Cynthia Brown
Evelyn Sipp
Hulda Finke
Laura Finke
Anna Bottrell
Fern Stern
Bethel Stahn
Arthur Bottrell

1921

Wiston Merrill
Amy Fougeron
Walter Bottrell
Matilda Dunker
Ethel Gemmell
Albert Mueller

1922 (11th grade)

Wiston Merrill
Amy Fougeron
Walter Bottrell
Matilda Dunker
Ethel Gemmell
Albert Mueller

1923 (11th grade)

Glenn Oxley
Herman Aldag
Ella Daffer
Lucy Daffer

1924 (12th grade)

Glenn Oxley
Herman Aldag

1925

Lana Piening
Emma Deinert

1926

Lorene Pyle
Donald Exley
Elsie Sterns

1927

Erma Shaw
Hardy Peterson

1928

Clara Berg
Lois Weeks

Nellie Baumbach
Mildred Shaw
Lucille Zimmer

1929

Helen Exley
Helen Ludden

1930

Ervin Sieck
Lawrence Berg
Gladys Minchow

1931

Clara Utte
Lenora Dunker

1932

James Pyle
Gerald Daffer
Gilbert Daffer

1933

Opal Weeks
Carol Shaw

1934

Bernice Woodward
Carl Weeks
Ruth Ludden

1935

Lueda Dankers
Paul Shaw

1936

Hazel Best
Bethel Bailey
Floyd Bishop

1937

Aylene Allen
Bernice VanAndel
Ella Pohlman

1938

Helen Bundy
Noal VanAndel

1939

Marion Daffer
LaVerna Lohmeier
Laura Leger

1940

William Baumbach
Glenn Weeks
Arthur Schiff

1941

Viola Dankers
1934

1942

William Kapke
Leonard Rapp
Mildred Gilbert

1943

Ivan Haist
LaVerne Lindner
Alice Allen

1944

Raymond Stern
Marie Borchers
Viola Borchers

1945

Lloyd Kemper
Mary Shaw
Duane Andersen

1946

Harry Daffer
Adeline Klug
DeWayne Sipp

1947

Arvilla Dankers
Florence Kapke
Alvin Klug

1948

Leonard Nohavee

1937

Chester Shaw
Faye Best
William Stern
Bernard Stern
Donald Kapke
Richard Pickel
Alverna Gammel
Marion Piening
Korleen Allen
Annie Lostroh
Velma Dankers
Deloris Lindner
Marjorie Shaw
Milton Haist
Byron Bishop
Wilmer Bishop
Chester Baumbach
Don Bills
Henry Gammel

1938

Neal Weeks
Irene Borchers
Dorothy VanAndel
LeRoy Deden
Glen VanAndel
Bernadine Bishop
Russell Pickel
Esther Best
Dwight Bishop

1939

Virginia Giles
Myrna Sieck
Evelyn Tichy
Kenneth Klug
Letty Stern
Leona Allen
Wendell Sipp
John Merrill
Doris Oxley
Harold Stueck
Ruth Allen
Rachel Allen

1940

Edward Pennington
Betty Stern
Adeline Pennington
Walter VanAndel
Keith Haist
Dorothy Stern
Earl Borchers
Robert Melichar
Helen Veleba
Harry Lesoing
Leah Sipp
Richard VanAndel

1941

Neva Kapke
Marie Busboom
Emily Patak
Heed Tillman
Gerald Allen
Robert Pickel

1942

Marvin Breithaupt
Landis Borchers
Helen Becker
Robert Nohavec

1943

Viola Cejka
Lyle Stern
Jeanne Merrill
Charles Cejka
Helen Pickel

1944

Ralph Burd
Donald Borgmann

Phyllis Sipp

1945

Betty Becker
Vera Burd
Myrna Ficke
Helen Merrill

1946

Eugene Fougeron
Evelyn Viets
Phyllis Pennington
Paul Borgmann

1947

Norma Viets
Violet Borgmann
Dale Ficke
Dale Niewedde
Joanne Merrill
Jeanette Minchow

1948

Barbara Johnson
Pauline Berg
Vona Jane Stueck
Delmar Borchers

1949

Eugene Melichar
Kenneth Ficke
Carol Baade
Mervin Sipp
June Pennington

1950

Velda Borchers
June Lohmeier
Bonnie Stern
Donna Clark
Irene Fougeron

1951

Beverly Vaverka
Doris Minchow
Don Carlson
Doris Lohmeier
Loren Stueck
Glenn Allen
Shirley Clark
Patricia Johnson
Paul Berg

1952

Julia Lee Merrill
Beverly Bottrell Wehrs
Donna Berg
Ruth Busboom
Ivan Vagts
Stanley Yank

1953

Lavina Kraus
Delores Clark
William Borgmann
Arlene Luebbe
Rita Soucie
Mary Burianek

1954

Mary Zimmer
Alice Deinert
MaryAnn Vagts

1955

Charlene Fougeron
Donald Masek
Shirley Bottrell
Louis Burianek
Gary Yank

1956

Neil Berg
Ellen Ficke
Wayne Ficke
Harold Lohmeier
Stephen Oxley

by Doris Lostroh

MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

After the high school closed in Pleasant Dale in 1956, the students went to Milford to attend high school. There was no bus service for several years after it closed and the students had to find their own transportation to school. Most of them drove their own cars or rode with friends. Then, in 1964, a bus route was started in Pleasant Dale. There are 2 buses which pick up all of the children, and then one bus takes the Jr.-Sr. high school students to Milford, and the other takes the grade school students to Pleasant Dale.

The first bus drivers were Mr. and Mrs. Gene Berg and Alfred Bade, all from Pleasant Dale. Since then, there have been many bus drivers. Gary Holloway is presently driving the bus.

There have been many good times and lots of interesting experiences on the bus rides and sometimes a few bad experiences. Many times the buses have either broken down or gotten stuck in the mud or snow, but there were always some good-hearted farmers around to give them some help.

Brenda Minchow



Milford School Bus

NEW PLEASANT DALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In January of 1975 the children and teachers at the Pleasant Dale School moved into a new building. The open-classroom structure did not divide the school into classrooms as used in the traditional school buildings. The area of teaching uses portable dividers between classes. The school at this time had grades kindergarten through 6. Kindergarten was taught by Mrs. Mary Jennings, grades 1 and 2 by Miss Linda Voecks, grades 3 and 4 by Mrs. Linda Boeshart, grades 5 and 6 by Mr. David Anderson, and Remedial Reading by Mrs. Elaine Johnson.

Third and 4th grades have since been taught by Mrs. Lena Urbon and Mrs. Merri Morris. The present 3rd and 4th grade teacher is Mrs. Marge Tauriella.

The 5th and 6th grades have since been taught by Mr. Gene Steinmeyer. The present 5th and 6th grade teacher is Mrs. LeAnne Nordquist.

The school has had an average attendance of 70 children per year. The attendance for the 1981-82 school year was 55 children. This year, 1981-82, the kindergarten children were bused to Milford to attend kindergarten there. Mrs. Jennings became the morning kindergarten teacher and Mrs. Johnson



New Pleasant Dale Elementary School 1975

July 1883

"William Bramwall don't believe in new-fangled harvestors."

became the afternoon kindergarten teacher at Milford.

During the 1975-76 school year, the teachers organized activities for each month to celebrate the nation's bicentennial. Children may remember the "Happy Birthday Party" to celebrate their country's birthday when they had a chance to see a model of the Liberty Bell. Mrs. Ann Schweitzer visited them to relate her experiences in a one-room school house. The "Heritage Dinner" may be remembered by many. Each family brought a dish that was a traditional recipe of their family. Many cultures and heritages were represented.

The community has enjoyed the annual Christmas programs at the school. Also, the community has supported the Pleasant Dale School carnivals started in 1979. This fund raising project has provided extra equipment and instructional material.

Using the money from one of the carnivals, a reading loft designed by Gary Brhel was built in the library area. This loft was dedicated in the memory of Kent Michaelis, who had been a student at the Pleasant Dale school. The students have used this area in which to relax with a favorite book.

The school gymnasium has been available to the community. Girl Scouts, church activities, volleyball and other events have been scheduled in the gym.

Elaine Johnson

DISTRICT 38—LANCASTER COUNTY

It was in 1870 that A. N. Burd donated a portion of his land in order that the Burd schoolhouse could be built, two miles east of Pleasant Dale, now known as District #38. In 1872 church services were also held in the schoolhouse.

The family of A. N. Burd all attended this school. They were Myrtle, Amer, Omar, Elmer and Lacey.

Amer Burd married Emma Schnoor, and their family, Clarence and Clara (twins) and Russell attended this same school.

Russell Burd married Eileen Oxley, and their son Ralph and daughter Vera (Ficke) also attended this school for 8 years.

The next generation was Ralph Burd who married Marie Oehm, and their family, Beverly, Deborah, and Duane, all graduated from the eighth grade.

Now the fifth generation of Burds are attending. Duane married Ruth Wilson and their son, Aaron Burd, is now in kindergarten. Another son, Andy, now two years old, will be the next Burd to attend the Burd school, District #38.

A. N. Burd was the first director of the district, an office he held until 1880. Through the years the Burd family continued to serve the school. A. A. Burd was elected treasurer in 1915. Russell R. Burd was moderator in 1934 and Ralph Burd was moderator in 1957. Each served several years in those positions.

The original District 38 school building burned on December 6, 1981, while this article was being prepared for the Centennial book.



Burd School District 38.

DISTRICT 38 BURNS

On December 6, 1981, at approximately 7 A.M., Mr. Ron Piening was doing chores. It was a very clear, cool, nice morning. As he was "choring" he noticed a glow to the east of his farm. After realizing what the glow was, he called emergency phone number 911, and reported that School District #38 was on fire.

The call was relayed by Lincoln Fire Department to the Pleasant Dale Fire Department via their "plectrons". Within a very few minutes 4 fire engines and approximately 35 to 40 firemen were on the scene.

The building was engulfed in flames. However, the fire department managed to save the 4 walls and some of the interior contents.

The Fire Chief, Mr. Ron VanAndel, immediately, upon notice of the fire, notified the State Fire Marshall's office. A Deputy Marshall was at the scene to investigate the cause of the fire. Television Channel #6 was on hand to get news coverage.

At approximately 10:00 A.M. the fire department returned to the fire barn to clean hoses, trucks, etc., and enjoy coffee, rolls and sausage served by fellow firemen.

The loss of District #38 was indeed a loss of a landmark for many families living in Pleasant Dale and the surrounding area. Many families had as many as 3 generations attend this school.

A Fireman



District 38 Burns 1981.

DISTRICT 101 WEST-LANCASTER COUNTY

The school District 101, Lancaster County, was developed in approximately 1870. Due to the long east and west boundary line of the district, the district was split and made into two units: 101 in 1870, and 101 West in 1880. The school was located 2 miles west of the present school in the northeast corner of section 7 township 9 range 5. The parcel of land was acquired from the Frank Dauwalter family for 1 dollar. The school building was built by Willis Cady and Standish Rapp and was ready for the first semester of school that fall.

The first two teachers were Lena Reeth and Carrie Wrench. There were many teachers during the time the school was open. The last teacher was Miss Ruth Jones. The school was closed in 1941.

Most of the pupils who graduated from 101 West continued their education at the high school in Pleasant Dale, which is now closed. When the district was closed, the area was split many ways - children went to Emerald, Denton, Milford, Crete, and two county districts, 38 and 69.

The old school house was sold at auction in the early 1950's. It was bought and torn down by William Johnson. The land sat idle for many years. In 1979, Leo Martens bought the land



District 101 West 1931

and the idle land became part of the original farm again. Leo is the present owner of the farm.

I was one of the fortunate ones who had the chance to start my education in one of the (then so many) one-room school houses. The school had only one teacher for all eight grades. I graduated in 1929. I guess the most remembered thing was the spanking I got in one of my first years at school. My teacher, Kitty Wilson, now Kitty Martin of North Platte, made the remark years later, "I think it hurt me more than it did you."

Glenn Weeks

SCHOOL DISTRICT 17

District 17 was organized June 15, 1874, with George B. France as Seward County Superintendent. The first school was a dugout. Districts were numbered in the order they were formed so District 17 was one of the earliest in this area. It was made up of Sections 33 and 34 in I precinct and sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15 and part of 16 in P precinct. It was called "Branch School". In 1899 the southern sections became District 95 leaving Sections 33, 34, 3 and 4 as District 17.

"Cox History of 1888" states there were 26 school districts in the county in January of 1881 and that District 17 received \$62.28 apportionments and the director of the district was M. N. Reeves. In April 1883 the school was painted with 2 coats of paint and the shutters were painted green. Thomas Bishop was the director and it was decided to have 7 months of school.

Nelson E. Bishop related that he sat in District 17 and watched the Indians stroll by. He was 11 years old and a student of District 17 during the 1888 blizzard. All students survived that storm.

John Ficke was director in 1895 and the levy was 5½ mills. They had 183 days of school and paid 4 different teachers a total of \$292.39 salary for the year. Expenses were: \$18.25, school repair and fuel; \$25.75, school materials; and \$62.02, all other purposes. Some names of early families in addition to those previously named were: R. H. Woodward, Carleton Mason, James Kiser. Later families were the Chris, Henry and Frank Fickes, George VanAndel, Wm. Chapelow, Randolph Stahn, Wiston Merrill, Lumir Havlat, and Lou Burianek.

The school teacher in 1942-43 was Reva Stahn. In the spring of 1943 she was asked by District 21 to finish teaching that school term as Myrtle Cornell had resigned when she was married, so District 17 closed in the spring of 1943 and remained closed for 4 full school terms. It reopened in the fall of 1947, and continued having school until it burned the morning of March 2, 1957, at 12:50 A.M. There was no chance of saving it when the Pleasant Dale firemen arrived. The children then attended District 21 in Pleasant Dale.

District 17 in its entirety was merged with Milford District by petition February 25, 1960.

Joanne Lostroh



District 17 Students 1940. Back: Larry Ficke, Joanne Merrill, Bernadine Bishop (teacher), Helen Merrill, Dale Ficke. Front: Sylvia Rychesky, Julia Lee Merrill.



District 17 Schoolhouse 1947



Interior of District 17 1947

SCHOOL DISTRICT 76

District 76 was 5 miles south of Pleasant Dale. It formally became a school district on June 20, 1874. George B. France was County Superintendent at that time. All 8 grades were taught there. At one time there was a barn on the premises for students who rode or drove horses to school. Helen Kubes and Tom Daniel were childhood sweethearts there.

Over the years many district members served on the school board, among them Fred Prochaska, Lou Vaverka, Tom Daniel, Ervin Daniel, Lou Burianek, and Will Daniel.

Some of the graduates of District 76 who went on to attend Pleasant Dale High were: Arnold Daniel, Laura Daniel, Beverly Vaverka (Ficke), Maryan Burianek (Allen), and LaVina



District 76 Schoolhouse 1938

Kraus (Vagts).

Ruth Suellwold Borchers, LaVina Kraus Vagts, Beverly Bottrell Wehrs, Julia Lee Merrill Melichar and Alma Daniel Stern were some of the local girls who taught in District 76.

The district was dissolved and annexed to Crete in June 1962.

Several times it was brought to a vote to move the school house more to the center of the district, but it never made it. The school house was finally moved from its moorings in 1981 to its final resting place on Lumir Novak's farm. The school house is gone, but the district will remain.

Alma Stern

DISTRICT 65 SCHOOL

Seward County District 65 school was established June 18, 1874, 2 miles south of Pleasant Dale. This school provided an eighth grade education to several generations of families in the district. The school closed in 1962 and consolidated with District 5 of Milford, Nebraska.

Some of the early board members were Fred Minchow, George Bell, Charles Stern, Emil Melichar, Anton Melichar, Norman Clark and Ardell Minchow.

Some of the local teachers were Lucy (Merrill) Van Andel, Ida (Van Andel) Ficke, Myrtle (Dunten) Haist, Pearl (Hocking) Rosekrans, Doris (Oxley) Lostroh, Helen (Merrill) Busboom, Julia Lee (Merrill) Melichar.

The old school building was purchased by Bob Melichar and is on his farm south of Pleasant Dale.

Ardell Minchow



District 65 Schoolhouse 1943



Interior of District 65 1954

SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

School District No. 64 was organized in 1875. The school house was built by Mr. Bruedegam and cost \$300. The first term was 3 months.

In 1877 they had 2 months of summer school beginning May 1 to July 1. Winter school lasted from September 1 to November 1.

For the next 22 years, 7 or 8 months of school were held each year on the same order with summer and winter terms, usually with a different teacher for each season.



Old District 64 Schoolhouse.

In 1909 the school started having 9 month terms. The lowest number of pupils was 4, and the highest 47 in 1912-1913.

In 1915 it was decided to build a new school house and also have high school. Ben H. Hughes drew plans for the new school house. It was built by Harry R. Oxley for a contract price of \$1600.

In 1916 the old school house was sold to Fred Ihde, who moved it to his place. Water for the school was carried from Ihde's until a well was dug in 1916 by Jay Gemmell. The school was often referred to as the "Ihde school". Later it was given the name of "Sunny Slope" by Earl E. Church, the teacher in 1917, who, along with his wife, also taught the 9th grade with the other 8 grades. At that time he also built a swing, slide, and teeter-totter for the children.

The district had bought 1 acre of land from Andrew Schultz for \$10. In 1927 the district bought half an acre from Ed Runge for \$100.



Interior of District 64 1948

In 1922 they voted to hire 2 teachers for the following year and have high school. The high school teacher taught 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th grades, and had 16 pupils. There was also high school in 1924, with 2 teachers again.

In 1929 they dug a partial basement, and a coal furnace was



District 64 Schoolhouse 1977



District 64 Being Moved to Goehner 1978.

installed by E. Miller and L. Ficke of Milford. Later, an oil burning furnace was installed.

In 1939 electricity was installed. A new merry-go-round and swing were put in. Officers usually served from 1 to 3 three-year terms, but Elmer Ihde served 13 terms as Director, or Secretary as they later called it, until the school closed in 1976. It was the last public country school to close in Seward County.

The school house was sold to the Seward County Historical Society and moved to Goehner.

Edna Ihde

SCHOOL DISTRICT 45

School began in 1887 according to some long ago articles. The first records to be found were for 1889-1890, and District 45 was organized to be remembered as the "Pool" school.

Thirty-eight pupils were enrolled, with Charles Gray as teacher. He resided on Dankers' place northwest of Pleasant Dale. Mr. Gray found his way home during the 1888 blizzard



Old District 45 Schoolhouse 1906.



District 45

by following a fence. Records of 1887 listed 12 settlers as residing in the vicinity.

In the year 1902 Elisha Pool took the job as director of the school board, and served until the year 1952.

The new school was built by Harry Oxley in 1917, and the old school was moved to the Adolph Ficke place where it still stands. Some say they were glad those walls couldn't talk. Alice Anderson may have been the teacher when the new school session began.

Adolph Ficke and Albert Thomas remembered that once in a while rabbit hunting made them a little late back after recesses. Box suppers were held in the earlier years and the school programs were always looked forward to.

Consolidation found the school closing at the end of 1959 and 1960. Students in the final year were the Vernon and Glenn Johnson children, Lockhorn children, Marge and Ken Fougerson, Verlyn Luebbe, Clint Thomas, Eleanor Eggerling, and Janet Ficke. The last teacher was Berniece Lyons.

Kenneth Ficke

SCHOOL DISTRICT 95

In the early part of 1916, A. J. Dedic and Alvah White gathered signatures from all the district members to have a school built on land sold to the district by Thomas Patak, Sr.

I was 11 years old when District 95 first opened in September 1916, and like many of the 16 students, I had to walk through fields, etc., to school. Hazel Taylor was the first teacher.

Then in 1960, when there were so few children attending,



District 95 Schoolhouse Today

the school was closed, and parents took their children to Pleasant Dale for 2 years.

Later, the district was annexed to Milford and students were bused to school.

Emily Dedic Novak

FIRST ELEVATOR—NORTH OF PLEASANT DALE

The earliest record of buying grain comes from the Blue Valley Blade of February, 1883, where it made mention that Mr. E. J. Newton was buying corn for R. W. Lowrey of Lincoln, and was receiving as high as 1,000 bushels a day. A month later Mr. J. Lynch, the storekeeper, was buying grain for Kendall & Smith of Lincoln, so there were 2 grain buyers



Finke Home and Stone Cattle Shed

at that time.

November, 1883, Mr. Pardoe of Ulysses was building a 40 x 50 foot elevator, apparently for T. W. Lowrey, who continued in business until May, 1891, when he retired but still owned the elevator. In October, 1891, he sold the elevator to George Lowrey. The railroad was moved south of Pleasant Dale, and the last train on the north side of town was on Saturday the 18th of April, 1908. It was tearing out the long curve used to get on the main road west. This ended the elevator. It was bought by Louie Finke, who tore it down and used the lumber to make some of the sheds on his farm just west of town. He also used the limestones from the demolished elevator to build a large stone shed for his cattle. The stone building is still standing.

This old elevator sat on the north side of the track about where Helen VanAndel's driveway is now. John VanAndel told me that one blind mare was the horse power for the elevator, and when she died they put in a gas engine to elevate the grain up into the elevator. They had no hoist for the wagon, so when it emptied it came down with a "bang". The exhaust from the gas engine was where the horses had to walk. The horses did not like it, and some were afraid. Stockyards were by the railroad, northeast of the old elevator.

In May, 1896, E. J. Newton was running the elevator north of town, and at that time he lived on what later was the Arthur Merrill farm north of Pleasant Dale. There were a couple of trees in the pasture on what was then the J. H. Merrill farm, and as he walked home across the field one night at 8:20 P.M., he walked under these trees. Someone up in the tree dropped a sack of dirt on him, knocked him out, and then robbed him of \$200 of elevator money and his silver watch.

When Cobe VanAndel was a child he went with his father when they hauled 50 bushels of corn in a wagon to the old elevator. He was a young boy when they tore it down.

In the mid-1940's, when Melvin Lostroh was farming for Arthur Merrill, he was plowing a field deeper than it had been plowed previously, and he plowed up some oats. He inquired where these oats came from. Arthur said that that spot was where the old elevator had been located, so the oats apparently had been buried there for over thirty-five years.

Joanne Lostroh



First Elevator North of Pleasant Dale 1883.



First Telephone Office (Home of Cynthia Best)



Telephone Switchboard Moved to This House, 1937



Listening on the Party Line, 1950

PLEASANT DALE TELEPHONE OPERATORS

The first mention we have of the telephone is in August 1883 when a large gang of men were putting up a telephone line through the Dale, from Omaha. They ran west of Pleasant Dale about 2 miles and branched off to Crete and Milford. We do have information on the telegraph as early as October 1879. Men were at work putting up the telegraph line along the Lincoln & Northwestern Railroad. Mr. Han was the agent at Pleasant Dale and in November telegrams could be sent from the depot on short notice. In May 1883, Miss Lulu Mason was learning telegraphy with the operator, R.A. Wall. In April 1906 the Blue Valley Blade wrote that the Pleasant Dale Telephone Company had begun, absorbed by Farmers Telephone Company and Jay Wells and family were switch board operators in Pleasant Dale. The next notation was April 1910 when it mentioned that someone rolled a telephone spool, dumping the buggy of Fred Shaw. Then in January 1911, Willis Cady was president of Pleasant Dale Telephone Company, and there was \$3.75 assessment on each telephone.

The following article appeared in a Lincoln newspaper in December of 1912. "The railway commission on Friday morning heard the protest of Pleasant Dale people against the discontinuance of 4 telephones at the place connected with the Lincoln exchange, over the medium of a farm line. These phones were installed a number of years ago. The Lincoln company claims the service is practically toll line service. It contends that the patrons should get connection with Lincoln through the local exchange at Pleasant Dale, and should pay the toll charges for it. Those appearing in resistance to the taking out of the telephones were William Sandusky, a physician; A.F. Ackerman, a banker; Chris Uthe, a merchant. They declared that the discontinuance of the phones would deprive them of communication with families in the territory surrounding Pleasant Dale."

An item in the Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph employee's publication of April 18, 1913, says "Telephone force at Pleasant Dale is quarantined with the small pox." In the county newspaper January 1914, it mentioned the Pleasant Dale Telephone Company annual meeting was held, with Willis Cady re-elected president, in January 1919 Willis Cady was president of Farmers Mutual Telephone Company.

The telephone office was in the home of Mrs. Cynthia Best, which was located south of the southeast corner of the village park, from at least 1910 to 1932, when she retired. Shirley Best resigned as telephone operator in May of 1918 and Laura Thomas became operator according to Blue Valley Blade. When Mrs. Cynthia Best retired, Mrs. Luella (Shaw) Kinney became the chief operator.

Another item in the LT&T publication states; "On December 31, 1937, the manual exchange at Pleasant Dale was moved to a new location where a new switchboard was



The Last Use of the Manual Telephone Switchboard, 1957. Florence Lebsock at Switchboard.

cut into service. A Western Electric magneto board displaced the old Dean Electric board which was installed many years ago in the home of the former chief operator-cashier, Mrs. C.C. Best. Mrs. Best retired from service about five years ago.

The new board was installed in the residence property of Mr. Fred Shaw, who made extensive alterations to accommodate the equipment and provide suitable living quarters. The new office is located 1 block north and 1 block east of the former office, on Main Street. Date of the cutover coincided with the departure of Mrs. Luella Kinney who resigned. Mrs. Hulda Kapke, of Pleasant Dale, is the new chief operator-cashier."

Following Hulda Kapke, Bethel Bailey became chief operator in about 1943. Eva Kemper moved into the telephone office with her family, and was chief operator from 1949 to 1952.

Information again from LT&T reports, "Effective November 1, 1948, the Plant and Commercial responsibilities of the Pleasant Dale exchange were transferred from the Seward Area in the Eastern District to the Central District. Subscribers' card records, collection records and directory compilation records have been transferred from Seward to Lincoln and plant maintenance will be handled from Lincoln. Pleasant Dale is located just across the line in Seward County and is the only exchange in the Central District outside of Lancaster County. Subscribers in Pleasant Dale have been listed for some time in the Lincoln Directory, however, and have calling privileges to and from Lincoln and near-by exchanges."

Peg Lane became telephone operator about 1952, and in April 1954 Alice Johnston and her husband moved into the telephone office house, where Alice was chief operator until her sudden death September 24, 1957. Olive Goin took over for about a 2½ month period, and then dial phones came to Pleasant Dale.

Again from LT&T: "Dial telephones began to turn at Pleasant Dale on December 3, 1957, shortly after 10 A.M. As the \$24,000 exchange improvement project terminated with the cutover, Mayor Leland B. Austen placed the first call over the new system to K.L. Lawson, general commercial superintendent in Lincoln. (Incidentally Lee Austen was charged for this call!!) The new system includes provision for full selective ringing on rural lines where subscribers will hear only their own rings and not those for other parties on the line as before. The dial switching equipment was installed in a new building located across the street from the former central office. Calls to Lincoln over area service line will be timed automatically. After five minutes a constant tone will be heard to discourage long conversations. With this conversion 95% of the company's 125 exchanges are dial operated."

"In early October 1977 Pleasant Dale exchange was provided "one & four-party" service, which means that one-party service was made available to those that wanted it and no customer was on a line with more than four parties."

Some of the assistant telephone operators through the years when the switch board was operated manually were Hazel Best, Clara Uthe, Luella Brandt, Millie Brown, Shirley Best, Ethel Best, Neva Kapke, Bethel Bailey, Florence Kapke, Doris Oxley, Loretta Ann Kemper, Shirley Bishop, and Florence Lebsock. Doris Oxley said she was paid 10¢ per hour when she worked at the switch board at night. They paid more during the daytime hours.

A telephone number in those years such as 1631, meant your ring was three long rings and one short ring. This was rung by Central in the telephone office, and each operator rang it just a little bit differently. You could also call your neighbors on your line by cranking out the long and short rings!! Emergency calls only, were to be made during the night hours. Party lines had as many as 7 to 10 parties, and one long ring from "Central" on your line meant for everybody to listen, as it was an emergency or an announcement of interest to everyone. Farmers' telephone lines were always in need of repair, especially the farther away from



Leland Austen Placing First Dialed Telephone Call, 1957

Pleasant Dale you happened to live. There were just local farmers to do the repair work.

John VanAndel was the last president of the Pleasant Dale Telephone Company. There were about 40 phones on the Pleasant Dale farmers line, and he said it was hard to keep up the lines without any special equipment. They used ladders against the poles to reach the telephone wires.

When some area received dial party lines, you still heard everybody's phone ring. You never had to wonder who was listening because they were all listening each time the phone rang. Many of these people mentioned how they missed listening to the neighbors' conversations when private lines arrived. "Rubbering on the party line" was a common practice, and almost a necessity in order to get the line the minute the other party hung up. There was a period of time when a clip had to be pushed in order to be on the line. This way people listened to the other parties so they knew when the line was free. When the phone company removed this clip, you were on the line immediately. One person related his embarrassment when he was "rubbering on the party line". He heard that his neighbor's daughter had just become engaged—quickly he relayed this information to his wife, but at this point he realized the clip button had been removed from his phone and so the party talking knew that he had been listening in.

Joanne Lostroh

COMMENTS ON TELEPHONE

The Pleasant Dale vicinity had what was called the Pleasant Dale Telephone Company. It was operated by stock holders. To obtain a telephone, you bought stock in the company. You paid yearly dues, probably less than you would pay in one month now. The phone was a box on the wall with bells and a crank. There was a switch board in town with many party lines. These lines generally had about 6 to 8 patrons on one line. To call another party on your line, you merely rang the last two numbers of their number. When calling on other lines, you rang 1 long ring and "Central" would answer. The operator would plug you to the other line. If there were not too many receivers down with people listening, you could hear your party. If not, the message would be relayed by the operator. When you heard a long ring, everybody would listen. The operator would come on the line and give the message. There probably would be a sale cancellation or maybe a car of potatoes or apples on the track or maybe a car load of coal. You could get these things right from the rail road track. In later years the equipment was either sold or given to the Lincoln Telephone Company.

Walter Thomas

CEMETERY TREES

The two trees in this picture are in the Pleasant Dale Cemetery today. They could be about 100 years old. They were strong to have endured droughts and tornadoes through the many years.

W. S. (Scott) Dunten planted them when horseback was a popular way to travel. In that manner he carried the two little trees to the cemetery and planted them. In like manner he carried water to them to be sure they would live and grow.

Mr. Dunten was a merchant in Pleasant Dale, having gone into business in 1882. Whether the trees were planted before that date, or later, is not known. Because he cared, they are a part of our heritage today and years to come. Thank you Mr. Dunten.

Erma Kapke



Cemetery Trees

THE PLEASANT DALE RURAL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

A certificate of organization for the Pleasant Dale Cemetery was drawn on November 30, 1885, at the Pleasant Dale School House with more than 5 persons present. Joe A. Miller became clerk with Thomas Best, Thomas Dobson, and W. S. Dunten elected to be trustees.

Land was purchased by deed on October 21, 1887, in the amount of about one acre for \$1.00 from Neilsen and Minnie Christensen, to be known as the Pleasant Dale Cemetery.

The earliest tombstone to be found is inscribed in the name of Emily and Joyce Raymer, who died in 1872. Other early graves are Rose Little Leger, 1878, and then burials in 1879, 1880, 1881 and continuing in each year afterward.

The first addition to the cemetery was from Wm. and Henrietta Tyler on January 12, 1920. The second addition was from August and Minnie Lohmeier on May 27, 1958, and the third from John and Leone Lohmeier on March 26, 1981. Each addition was in the amount of about 1/2 acre.

The cemetery district is an area of 42 square miles commencing at the cemetery, 2 miles east to the Lancaster County line, then 2 miles north, 6 miles west, 7 miles south, 6 miles east and 5 miles north.

The following men named have served on the cemetery board from the first minutes recorded on April 18, 1903, to the present time: W. S. Dunten, Walter Best, John Koller, Charles Kahle, T. J. Wells, Willis Cady, Chris Ficke, Henry Oxley, Scott Dunten, Harry Oxley, Fred O. Shaw, August Lohmeier, Adolph Ficke, Albert Thomas, Art Piening, John VanAndel, Earl Mitchell, Edward Lebsock, Dale Ficke, Rex Riley, Roger Thomas, Dean Minchow and Ron VanAndel.

The American Legion Post 354 of Pleasant Dale set the flag pole, and the cemetery set aside four lots for free interment



Looking Toward Pleasant Dale Cemetery from West 1981.



Entrance to Pleasant Dale Cemetery 1982.

for veterans. The large memorial stone was purchased and set by Nelson (Ed) Bishop, dedicated to and honoring all veterans of all wars.

The cemetery has graves of 8 veterans of the Civil War, 2 from the Spanish American War, 6 from World War I, and 5 from World War II. These graves are attended to each Memorial Day by the American Legion Post 354 of Pleasant Dale and the Pleasant Dale American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

Edward Lebsock, Secretary-Treasurer

INDIAN GRAVES

Early Days in Seward County Nebraska, by Wm. H. Smith, contained an article written by Nelson E. Bishop, which read as follows: "We were frequently visited by Indians who would approach the house with their stealthy tread, and often times one would be seen standing in the kitchen unannounced. Great beggars, Mr. Indian always wanted 2 things, tobacco and meat. Mrs. Indian usually had a sick papoose and was greatly in need of sugar and flour."

"In the very northwest corner of the southeast quarter of Section 3, in P precinct, 1 or more Indians are buried. As a boy I witnessed them camp on this spot. The squaws carried the wood from the timber close by, the property of C. D. Ficke at the present time (1937). I have sat in the school house in District No. 17 and watched the Indians stroll by. I think they belonged to the tribe of Otoes. As they journeyed from the Bellevue reservation to the West Blue River on a hunting trip, some would walk, and some would ride on ponies. They also arranged 2 poles, 1 on each side of the pony, fastened together just underneath the neck, and over the back of the pony. The other ends of the poles would drag on the ground. On these poles blankets, hides, etc., were piled, and on the

blankets, a big lazy buck would ride, smoking his pipe. His squaw would walk ahead, carrying the papoose and leading the pony."

These graves are 1/4 mile south of where District 17 stood and then 1/4 mile east to the dead-end road. This would be north of the railroad bridge. It is 1/2 mile north of the Roger Thomas farm.

Joanne Lostroh

BLIZZARD OF 1888

The blizzard of January 12, 1888, started about 3 P.M. George and Louie, the 2 oldest children of Henry and Christina (Naderhoff) Lostroh were attending parochial school at Zion Lutheran Church. The minister decided it was getting pretty stormy and dismissed school a little early. Mr. Hindricks, who lived on the Fred Mueller farm, had gone for his children with a team of mules and a wagon. Of course, George and Louie Lostroh rode along with him as they would be driving right past their home. The wind blew so hard that the visibility from the blowing snow was near zero, and the mules lost their way. Henry Lostroh left his wife, 2 daughters, and 1 son at home during the blizzard so he could go to the school to get his sons. As he was looking for them he happened to hear the children crying in the wagon. They all then found their way to the John Busboom home which was 1/2 mile north of the church, and they stayed there all night. The next morning Henry Lostroh found his way home by the top of the fence posts that were just visible. When he arrived home he found his daughter, Dora, so sick with the croup that her mother thought she might die.

Belle Carruthers was teaching the Vance School on January 12, 1888, when they had the now-famous "Blizzard of '88". Her father, John Carruthers, took her to school in the morning. The weather was warm with big, beautiful snow flakes coming down. Around noon, the wind changed to the north and blew very hard, drifting the snow. Belle Carruthers had the older boys tie ropes to themselves and around the other students and her; then they all headed south to get to the Vance home, which was about 1/4 mile from the school. They were very lucky, they did not get lost and lose their lives as many students did. They were safe from the storm. The next morning the temperature was -26° Fahrenheit.

January 12, 1888, the blizzard struck while the teacher and children of Happel School, which was then located at the corner of Highway 6 and Highway 103, were at school. Ella Lynch, the teacher, tied the children together and got them to the Bill Danker farm, which is now the Elmer Danker farm. They were all safe from the storm.

Joanne Lostroh



North Side of Main Street in Early Days



Northwest Corner of Pleasant Dale 1942



Looking Across Park Toward Uthe Building 1942



J.H. Merrill Farmstead About 1890

DOCTORS

The first mention of a doctor in the Pleasant Dale area is an article in the newspaper telling of a German man living one mile south of Pleasant Dale, who froze his feet so badly that Dr. Lockhart said his toes would probably have to be amputated. This man could not speak English. This was in February 1883.

In 1890, a Dr. Morgan was reported living in the Hotel on the corner of Main and Elm, (later known as the Haist house). In 1892 Dr. Rust located east of Pleasant Dale.

Dr. William K. Louhridge commenced his practice at Pleasant Dale on May 11, 1894 at the age of 20, immediately after graduation from medical school. After 6 years he went to Milford in 1900 and established a hospital there.

Dr. Frederick Moore Andrus graduated from Medical College with honors in 1900. He came to Pleasant Dale March 25, 1900. He built the house where Joseph Clumpney lives now, and he had his office in his home. In April 1903, Dr. Andrus was making arrangements to build a hospital, and a year later he had moved his office from his home to the west end of the F.H. Ingersoll drug store (Pennington's garage). His hospital was erected in the spring of 1905, and we hear that the hospital was a very cold building in the winter. In June 1906, Dr. Andrus again moved his office, this time to the Koller Building which was in the middle of the same block as his previous office.

For a period of time Pleasant Dale had more than one doctor. Dr. Andrus was still practicing and in July 1907 Dr. C.F. Clark located in town. He, his wife and children, Harry, Earl, and Virginia, lived in what later was the Fred Shaw home which was destroyed by fire. Dr. Clark immediately built a doctor's office located between the bank building and the drug store just north of the bank.

In March of 1908 Dr. Andrus was still in Pleasant Dale and he was driving a one cylinder Cadillac. After leaving Pleasant Dale he became an important surgeon in Lincoln.

Dr. Bernard I. Mills, a single man, graduated from Lincoln Medical College in 1908 and was in Pleasant Dale in April 1909. In April 1910, Dr. Rust left town at the age of 82 years. At this same time Dr. C.F. Clark sold out to Dr. William Sandusky, who had graduated from Creighton in 1910 and came directly to Pleasant Dale to set up practice. Dr. Andrus had moved to Lincoln and his hospital was left empty. In August 1910, Mrs. C.H. (Lena) Oxley rented the former hospital and it became a hotel. Dr. Sandusky lived in this hotel and so did Miss Anderson, a school teacher at District 21. She quit teaching mid-term and they were married and lived in the Dora Allen house on the corner of Pine and Ash for some time, then moved to a newly built home on the corner of Pine and Elm, where Jerry and Marilyn Allen reside now. Dr. Sandusky seems to be the doctor remembered by most people. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lostroh, who lived near Denton, needed a doctor during a snow storm when their daughter was born, and neighbors went to Pleasant Dale and brought Dr. Sandusky by horseback to give medical assistance to his patient.

Ernest Shaw drove for Dr. Sandusky, both horses and cars. Dr. Sandusky was the doctor for the Milford Industrial Home which is now a Rest Home east of Milford. Many times Ernest would drive the doctor there at night and after Doc had examined his patient he would say, "Shaw, put the team away as we will be here all night." The matron would lock Ernest in a room for the night where he slept until the new baby was born, and then he would drive the doctor back to Pleasant Dale. Dr. Sandusky moved to Seward in February of 1919, after practicing 8 years in Pleasant Dale. Many people continued being his patients and drove to Seward to his office.

Dr. G.E. Holyama came in May of 1919 and only stayed for two weeks. In the same year he was followed by Dr. Harry Matheny, who lived in the south half of what we remember as the Hotel or Haist house. He had his office there for a time. He also lived in the house on the corner of Pine and Ash, known for many years as the Sam Pennington home.

Neighbors of Ernest and Ethel Shaw also rode horseback to Pleasant Dale to get a doctor. Doctor Harry Matheny was taken to the Shaw farm, in a December snow storm, for the birth of Chester Shaw. Dr. Matheny left Pleasant Dale April, 1921. In October 1921, Dr. Williams located in Pleasant Dale, and five months later, in March 1922, he left town.

In May 1922, the doctor's office building used by both Dr. Clark and Sandusky was bought by Scott Dunten and used as a garage behind his house. (This is at the present Lloyd Woebbecke home.)

The town's last doctor, Jeremiah C. Wilson, came in May 1922. He had his office on the east side of the square in the former Wallace Hotel and also in his home (which is presently the Wesley Reil home) just west of the United Methodist Church. Doc Wilson moved from Pleasant Dale in the early 1930's.

Joanne Lostroh

HOTEL

Pleasant Dale news column in the Blue Valley Blade states that in July 1890, Enoch Martin rented Dr. Morgan's place and fitted it up for a hotel; the name of the hotel was Pleasant Dale House, and Enoch Martin was proprietor. We do not know where this hotel was located. The Price Hotel was in Pleasant Dale in 1896, owned by A. Price, but we do not know where it was located.

From the 1905 edition of W.W. Cox History it says that a hotel was erected in Pleasant Dale in 1902. A notation from the Blade in July 1903 called attention to the Park Hotel in town. Then, in 1904, George McIlnay sold the Park Hotel to Lew Wallace. His wife, Sophie Mueller Wallace, ran the hotel. The location of this hotel is on the corner of Main and Elm. Lew Wallace drove a wagon to the depot to bring people to the hotel.

At one time Mrs. Ingersoll ran a hotel at this location and Mary Viets worked for her. Mary Viets said that many people stayed at that hotel.

Ivan Haist said that prior to his parents' moving into the house, Doctor Wilson was living in the north part of the house.

This house for many years was known as the Haist house and now is the location of Lee Austen's 4-plex apartment building.

Joanne Lostroh



Hotel at Corner of Main and Elm 1902

THE KNIGHTS OF THE MACCABEES

The Knights of the Maccabees was organized in Pleasant Dale on March 24, 1894. The principal object of the K.O.T.M. was to unite in fraternal fellowship all white men, within certain age limits, who were socially, physically, mentally, and morally acceptable and qualified under their laws. Their duties were to properly care for the sick, relieve the distressed and provide for the widows, orphans, and dependents of their members.

Each organization throughout the county was known by "tent" names. This tent was known as Dale Tent No. 49. They held their meetings, or reviews as they were called, on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 8:30 P.M. from April 1 to October 1, and at 7:30 P.M. from October 1 to April 1. The Sir Knight Commander had the power to call a special review at any time he felt it necessary. The initiation fee for new members was \$5 with annual dues of \$2. The annual dues were paid quarterly in advance on the first day of January, April, July, and October. Special assessments could be made at any time, but they were not to exceed the sum of \$2 on each member in any one year, or 23 cents in any one month.

If any member was in arrears for non-payment of his dues of special assessments for more than 30 days, he was suspended. A member who was in arrears with his dues could be reinstated by paying a \$1 fine for each month or fraction of a month he was delinquent. This fine could be waived if the member could give satisfactory reasons for neglect of payment and it was agreed upon by a majority of the members. Any member who engaged in "spirituous of malt liquors" had to forfeit his membership with the tent, and any person who engaged in the sale of "spirituous of malt liquors" was not eligible for membership.

The Finance Keeper and Record Keeper had to make out and deliver "good and sufficient" bonds in the sum of \$300 before they could be installed into their offices. Failure to present such bond vacated that office.

The auditing committee was made up of 3 members in good standing. It was their duty to examine quarterly all account books and records and to make a written report at the first review in each quarter. All bills had to be submitted to the auditing committee and approved by them before payment was made. The term of office was 6 months with elections in December and June.

Any member in good standing who became disabled by sickness or injury from his usual vocation was entitled to receive from the funds of the tent \$3 per week for up to ten weeks. This money was to be paid on the order of the visiting committee. It was also the duty of the visiting committee to visit any member who was sick or disabled or whose family was in distress. They were to see that watchers were in attendance each night if needed and had the power to assess a 50 cent fine upon any member who refused to attend as a watcher when called upon.

This organization was in existence until approximately 1929.

Roger and Diane Thomas

PLEASANT DALE CREAMERY ASSOCIATION

In 1896 the farmers in the area were talking of building a creamery, so officers were elected with E.H. Landis the secretary and W.S. Dunten elected treasurer. Other officers were D. Dankers, J. Green, C.F. Nobbman, E. Pool, and J. Koller. Mr. E.J. Newton built the creamery in that same year. It cost \$2500. By May of 1897 the creamery was in business, with a capacity of 7,000 pounds of milk per day. In October 1898 McNay took over the creamery for Chris Uthe.

John VanAndel was a very small boy when he rode with his dad, Syrenus, to deliver milk to the creamery. The milk was hauled in 8 gallon cans, and after emptying them, each can was cleaned thoroughly with the use of live steam. Butter and cheese were made there and the creamery was run by Art Gump. It was located in the same location where Chris Uthe's



Looking at West Side of Square

ice house was in later years—across the road north of the livery barn. The creamery did not stay in business very long, probably because there was no refrigeration to keep the butter and cheese cold.

In March, 1903, the Pleasant Dale Creamery building was moved to the west side of the square to be made into a restaurant. Ed Merrill bought part of the old creamery building and equipped it for a barber shop for Ernest Oswald.

Joanne Lostroh

SEWARD COUNTY'S GOLD RUSH

from EARLY DAYS IN SEWARD COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By Wm. H. Smith - 1937

"Gold is where you find it." "All that glitters is not gold."

Nebraska is not a gold bearing state. It has no mineral laws. But it had a madly seething "Gold Rush" in the 1890's. Interested and disinterested people came from far and near, and this is the story:

The Last Homestead

In far off New York state a little family talked things over and decided to come west. J.S. Dillenbeck with an invalid wife and 2 small children, boarded an immigrant train with Lincoln, Nebraska as its destination. It was in that city that he fell in with a promoter and finally landed in Milford, and the next year filed on a homestead—the last one taken in Seward County, 3 miles east of town.¹ It was on this small piece of land that my story is founded.

Gold and Silver

As time moved on improvements were made, and more buildings were needed and built. In excavating for a bank-barn for cattle protection, a new kind of earth was spaded into, a different strata—so different that it attracted attention—and upon closer examination my father placed some of it in his handkerchief and carried it to the house. Mother was ironing with a hot "coke" fire and suggested putting a little dirt on the coals to see what it would do. A small stream of metal soon began to flow into the ash pan. It looked like silver. Of course we were all excited wondering what to do about it, but it was finally decided to have it assayed, and three bags were sent to Minges & Co., at Denver. When the results came back they were stunning. 96, 87, and 54 was what the paper read. We sent the silver flow from the cook stove to the state university and the report was gold and silver.

The Rush Was On (1895)

In the meantime the news leaked out that gold had been discovered in Seward county. The newspapers grabbed for it. The railroad took it up, for did it not own the road-bed that was laid on this gold bearing gravel 1½ miles to the north of the original find? This gave voice to the newspaper head lines, "The streets of Lincoln ballasted with gold," they having been filled with gravel from the railroad right of way.

It did not take long for news to get abroad in those days, and in a very short time our "quiet home on the farm" was swarming with all kinds of learned men, trying to solve the problem of how to get at this wonderful find. Geologists and engineers alike applied their knowledge but could not tell how to save an iron coated flour gold, such as they had all agreed it

was.

A cyanide process was tried, but it was not successful. A smelter was bought, but it was too expensive to operate. Yes, we ran considerable gold.

We then built sluice boxes and tried washing it, but the quick silver would not successfully catch the iron coated gold. Innumerable different things were tried, but not successful, although some gold was saved which is now in the possession of different people. The writer has a button of gold and silver, about the size of a marble, which was baked out in a crucible on the farm.

As a last try, a Professor Bartlett came from Des Moines, and his way was artesian water, which he concluded, could be found in the mosaic rock formation. He thought that at about 800 feet the flow would be hit. These wells were to be located on the high lands just to the west of the homestead, the water to flow down Middle Creek. This was a mighty big undertaking, but a company was formed, and as I remember, there were 8 members, all land owners. The washing was to begin somewhere near the old stone house on the Courtright farm.²

The Field Abandoned

This gigantic project was never finished. Different things



Dillenbeck Gold Mine 1895



Dillenbeck Gold Mine 1895



Sightseers at Dillenbeck Gold Mine 1895

happened and money was hard to raise. Everyone seemed afraid the other fellow was getting the best of the deal, and no one would sell a foot of land to promoters. Professor Bartlett grew weary of working without salary (we gave him board and lodging). He was willing to wait for his real pay until the gold could be washed away. He finally went back to his home, telling us he would return whenever we wanted him, but he passed away, still strong in the belief that water was the way to mine our gold.

The railroad was very enterprising. Long sight-seeing trains were run from as far east as Chicago. People overran the land between the track and our farm. Great crowds came stomping over the hills, carrying all kinds of containers to carry away gold. They were a mad mob, but quiet. There were tons, I dare say, of rocks and earth carried away to Chicago and places enroute. The worst thing about these excursions was that there was no place for them to eat, plenty of water but no food. We fed them at the house as long as we had food, then had to turn the rest away. But they did not go unrewarded. There went with them pieces of the house, barn, or corn cribs, or whatever they fancied as souvenirs. I have no doubt that there are some of our pictures even now to be seen in homes far away. How romantic it then seemed—how sordid now.³

Many years have passed since this "gold rush" but in some future generation there will be a man who is wise enough to work out a way by which this wonderful deposit may be mined and saved.

In the meantime let this vast and wealthy deposit peacefully and quietly repose in "Mother Earth".

(by Lydia Dillenbeck Barnes)

¹(which was 3/4 mile west of the present day railroad underpass)

²This stone house stood on the site of the present home of Lumir Havlat. This was previously owned by Dr. Z.A. Norton.

³The mine was still being worked in 1899.

LUMBER YARDS

The Blue Valley Blade said in March of 1880, "Mr. Merrill is building a large and commodious dwelling about 40 rods north of the depot." Where the lumber was acquired is not mentioned. In April, 1883, an item said, "James Wilson sold his 80 acre farm to Mr. Stone, who is hauling lumber for a new house", and in June of the same year, another item said, "Mr. Oxley is going to build a new house and has ordered his lumber from Chicago". Plans for a local lumber yard materialized sometime in the early 1890's, because there were "received 13 cars of lumber by rail road, and also 15 cars of coal". In 1898, Ernest Uthe was "putting in a new lumber yard".

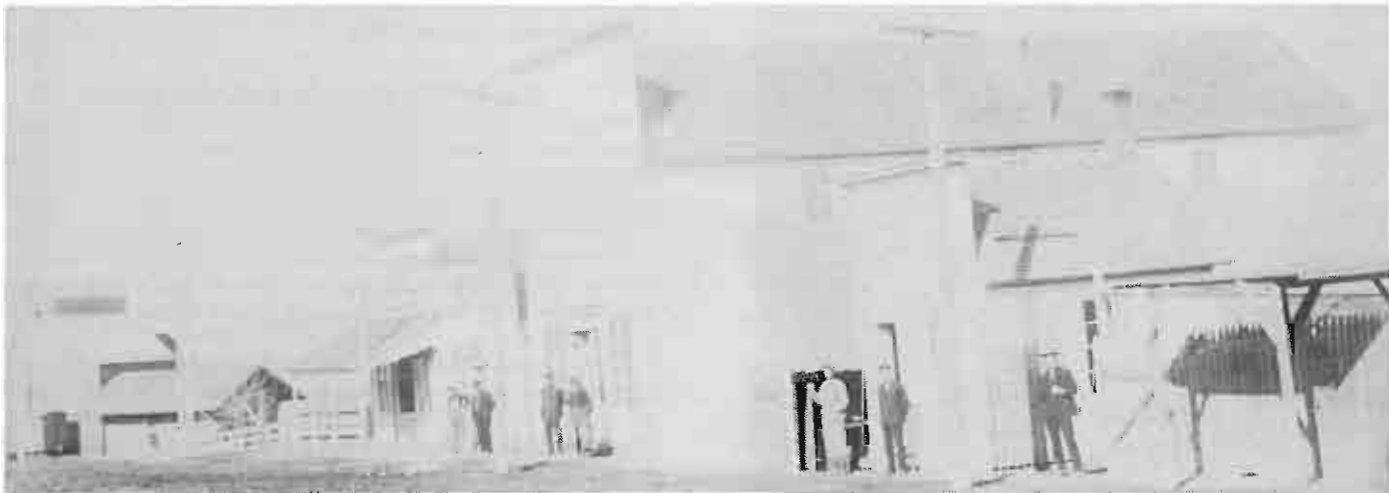
After 1900 there was a thriving lumber business. In March of 1903 the Blue Valley Blade reported "lots of building going on since incorporation", and in April of 1906 it mentioned the Rogers Lumber Company in Pleasant Dale. It was still there in 1910 with William H. Troyer as manager.

The Pauley Lumber Company is mentioned in 1911. In March of 1912, a news item said, "Uthe gets back into lumber business after 3 years absence, and with 7 years experience."

Whether or not it was in the same location is not known, but in 1913 the W.C. Neuman Lumber Yard was in business with Rollie E. Miller as manager. This was sold in 1920, and the VonSteen Lumber Company began business with Claude Saum as manager. In February, 1921, a news item reported that someone was tearing down sheds at the lumber yard, and had bought more land on which to rebuild the sheds and build a new office building. In 1924, C.O. Bishop bought the truck and oil business from the VonSteen Lumber Company.

In 1929, A.G. Scheele came to Pleasant Dale and began his lumber business, the Pleasant Dale Lumber Company. Lumber, oil, kerosene, gasoline (from the gas pump in front of the building), cement, sand, coal, hardware, and even some housewares were sold. There was a tank truck to make gasoline deliveries to the farms in the area.

In April of 1953, Leland Austen took Mr. Scheele's place, and continued with almost the same kind of merchandise,



North side of Main Street in early 1900's.

with the addition of diesel fuel. During the 1960's the office and storage building west of the office were remodeled. In 1967 the whole front was redone, and the new sign, Pleasant Dale Lumber and Oil put in place across the top.

After 26 years in the business, Lee sold it, in 1979, to Wesley Reil Jr., who is the present owner.

Doris Lostroh



Carleton Bishop's Tank Truck Late 1920's



Pleasant Dale Lumber Yard about 1950



Interior of Austen Lumber Yard 1966



Pleasant Dale Lumber Yard 1967

FUNERALS

In the early days of Pleasant Dale, times of bereavement were observed in a different manner than today. Large black ribbon bows were placed on front doors of homes where there had been a death in the family. The bodies were often embalmed right in the homes, and from that time until the day of the funeral, several men would sit up each night with the corpse, usually in the front parlor.

The funeral services were sometimes held at home, and sometimes at the church. A later custom was to have services at both places.

My mother tells of walking from her home, with a neighbor, to the Camden cemetery for a burial service because there was not room for them to ride in the family buggy.

Mourners always dressed in black, a custom which dates back to very early times. In one of the Blue Valley Blade issues of 1879, an advertisement said, "Mourning Dresses may be purchased. They are partly made and can be ready in 24 hours."

Graves were dug by hand by neighbors and friends selected by the family of the deceased. After the burial service, the same men who dug the grave also closed it.

Doris Lostroh



Horse-drawn Hearse 1905

MAJOR FIRES IN PLEASANT DALE

Pleasant Dale has a long history of fires, which, sadly, has resulted in the destruction of a large number of the buildings which were erected during the town's boom building years around the turn of the century. If one lets his mind wander, one wonders what Pleasant Dale might be like today without fire in its history. We can be thankful, though, that there have been no major fires in the town in recent years, and no loss of life, but fire has been in Pleasant Dale's history almost since the beginning.

In late April of 1880 the J.R. Burd store, the first store built in town, burned to the ground during the night. Mr. Burd lived ½ mile from his store, and thus did not discover that his store had burned until he went to work the next morning. The contents were valued at between \$800 and \$1000. The building was valued at \$150 to \$200.

The only other pre-1900 major fire occurred in May of 1897



Patterson Store 1906

when the Henry Oxley house burned down.

The most devastating fire to strike a business house in town occurred December 21, 1910, making a blue Christmas for William Patterson, when the huge 50'x80' Patterson Furniture store burned to the ground, along with the Brandt building across the alley to the north, which housed the Oxley meat market. The Patterson store was a spectacular store for its time, stocked full of furniture and other merchandise. The store had a full basement under the length of the building.

The Patterson store fire started in the basement around the furnace area. Damage was estimated at \$15,000 to \$20,000. The building loss was between \$2,000 and \$3,000, and it was insured for \$12,000.

The Brandt building was rebuilt, but the Patterson store was not rebuilt. So ended the short history of perhaps Pleasant Dale's grandest building.

One interesting story connected with the fire concerned the saving of the contents of the Oxley meat market. Everything in the building was saved, including the walk-in ice cooler. The amazing part of the story is that 8 men pushed the cooler into the street, and the next day 4 horses couldn't budge it!

An interesting bit of fire history that never came to be occurred on December 23, 1916. On that date someone tried to burn the Nebraska-Iowa grain elevator south of town, but the attempt failed.

Another close call occurred when a stack of boxes caught fire in the corner of one room of the Elgin McLain house, which was next to the Methodist church at its original location south of the park. Quick action put out the fire which was blamed on "mice playing with matches", but if the house had burned, the church would have surely burned also.

In March of 1921, sparks from a passing train ignited the railroad bridge south of town. It burned, and thus hindered traffic from the south until the bridge was rebuilt.

In February of 1924, the barber shop and living quarters of Clyde Skinner burned to the ground. Afterwards, Mr. Skinner resumed his barber business in the downtown business district.

Two other fires during the 1920's resulted in the total loss of the E.J. Newton house, and the destruction of the Fred Shaw home in the fall of 1927.

Fire struck again in November of 1928 when the pool hall and equipment belonging to P. Lloyd Mapes burned to the ground. This was the old saloon building which stood just west of the Chris Uthe store. The cause of the fire was unknown.

A year later, around 12:30 on the night of November 21, 1929, the F.C. Thomas harness and shoe repair shop burned to the ground. About six months later, Mr. Thomas opened a shoe repair shop in the Uthe building.

Contrary to a popular belief, the Laymon house and millinery store did not burn in these fires, but was torn down a short time later in January of 1930. Also, the Minchow blacksmith shop did not burn, but was moved to the Minchow



Patterson Store 1906

farm.

The last in a series of fires, and the last major fire that Pleasant Dale has had, occurred early in the morning of April 11, 1932. It was a sad climax to the fires which had destroyed half the business houses in town. It was the most destructive fire in terms of business houses lost to fire. The fire took a toll of 4 long-time business places. It started in the rear of the pool hall and spread to the adjoining buildings, destroying all the frame buildings northward to the bank (today's tavern). The bank was saved only because it was built of brick. Businesses lost in the fire included the Tom H. Best Pool Hall in a building owned by F.H. Blacker, the Fred O. Shaw Grocery Store in the Henry Ficke building, and the Hugo Spence Barber Shop in a building owned by Fred Clouse. Also lost was the old Kiser building. It is felt, but not proven, that the depression may have been the cause for the starting of the fire. Pleasant Dale's early-day fire fighting equipment, a two-wheel hose cart, was lost in the fire, as it was always stored between the Ficke and Blacker buildings.

Shortly after the 1932 fire, the village built 4 large cisterns for the purpose of storing water that could be used for fire fighting. The only cistern still in use is the one in the village park south of the well house. It is used for overflow from the well system. The others were located in various parts of the village. One on the northwest corner of the present Community Building was destroyed in 1972, with the building of the Community Fire Station. One was located behind the grocery store, and had since been filled in for safety reasons, as was the one behind the Methodist Church. These cisterns supplied the fire department with water up until 1968, when the water system was installed in the village.

Dale Nobbman

FIRST STATE BANK

Location: Pleasant Dale, Seward County, Nebraska

Name of Bank: First State Bank

Charter No. 655

Date issued: February 15, 1902

Opened for business ?

Articles of incorporation filed: February 15, 1902

Date expire: November 22, 1950

Capital stock authorized \$10,000.

Par value per share \$100.00

Number of Directors specified: five

Officers and Directors on opening date:

J.H. Merrill—President and Director

T.H. Bishop—Vice President and Director

A.F. Ackerman—Cashier and Director

H.K. Frantz—Director

E. Berlet—Director

Opening statement:

Capital stock: \$8,000.00

Important Changes

Date: June 6, 1917—Capital Stock was increased from

\$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00

Department approval June 25, 1917

May 16, 1919—Authorized Capital Stock increased to

\$50,000.00. Paid up Capital Stock increased from \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00. Department approval June 6, 1919.

RECEIVERSHIP—Closed August 17, 1931,

Receiver appointed August 31, 1931.

LIVERY STABLE

The first mention we have of the livery stable was March 1903, when the Blue Valley Blade wrote that Ed Bishop was the liveryman, and just a few months later in July 1903, Mr. Bishop had laid the foundation for his new livery barn which would be 48x80 feet.

In September 1907 the newspaper stated that Randolph Stahn, the liveryman, had ordered a fine hack in anticipation of a mail contract and passenger business upon completion of the new railroad south of Pleasant Dale.

In March 1910 we read that Art Gump was the owner of the livery and hack line, and at this time Tom Clark sold the dray line to Art Gump. Joseph Perkins purchased the little house, by the livery barn, in August 1914.

J.H. Castle was the owner of the hack line to the depot and the dray line to the village in July 1916. In 1916, Mr. Castle purchased an enclosed bus for the hack line, which was appreciated by the passengers.

Some other people working for the hack and dray line were Ed Brown, Ed Brandt, John Oxley and John E. McGill.

The livery stable built by Ed Bishop was torn down by Amer Burd. He built a big barn on his farm northeast of Pleasant Dale, using the lumber from the livery stable for part of the necessary lumber. This barn still stands on the Vernon Piening farm (where his son Ronald Piening and family live at the present time).

Joanne Lostroh



N.E. Bishop in Front of His Livery Stable in Pleasant Dale

SIDEWALKS

"The board walks of Pleasant Dale" were the early day sidewalks. In front of Chris Uthe's house was a brick side walk, but Ida Ficke remembers that all other homes had board walks.

The Blue Valley Blade made mention in March 1903 that cement sidewalks were being laid by Zimmer, and a few months later it mentioned A.B. Dunten as well as George Zimmer Sr. were laying cement sidewalks. By September of 1903 George Zimmer Sr. had laid over 6,000 feet of sidewalks.

The last mention of sidewalks was in 1915, when Pleasant Dale had 2 miles of cement sidewalks.

Many years later, in the 1940's, the brick sidewalk previously mentioned in front of the Chris Uthe home, was still being used and in very good condition.

Joanne Lostroh

WELL DRILLING

Information from the Blue Valley Blade tells us that a well was dug in the Pleasant Dale city park before 1893. Then, in November of 1905, the businessmen of Pleasant Dale erected a windmill over the town pump, and a huge high pressure tank was built, and pipes and hose were bought and laid for the protection of Pleasant Dale in case of a fire.

In September 1913, the city park well went dry, which was the first time it had gone dry since it was dug before 1893. Jay A. Gemmell was a well man in the area at that time, and he received the contract to sink a new well in the city park. This well was dug in October of 1913.

Jay A. Gemmell sold his well business to A.J. Weaver in January 1919.

Many business places, churches and some homes carried their water each day from the city park well. The water had to be pumped by a hand pump, and then carried in pails to their home or business, trying not to spill too much of the water out of the pail onto themselves.

In the 1920's many of the people living in Pleasant Dale had windmills in their back yards. Looking at old pictures we notice each home with a windmill, instead of an antenna for television as we see in 1982. Even the livery stable had a windmill through the roof.

All of the water used in homes in early days was carried from the outside pumps or windmills, so many people in the 1920's and 1930's made concrete cisterns and caught the water which ran off their roofs and stored it in the cisterns. The water was pumped out of the cistern with a small hand pump. This water was used for the laundry on Monday mornings, and also for Saturday night baths.

We do not know when the first trees were planted in the city park, but another notation in the paper in April 1919, said the dead trees of the little park were being dug out and filled in with others of a different variety. People of the town were glad to see the interest taken by the town board in keeping up the appearance of the village.

Joanne Lostroh

THE JAIL

In the Pleasant Dale Quiz of July 1890 it mentioned that Pleasant Dale had a vigilante committee membership of over fifty persons. In June 1906 the Blue Valley Blade reported that "another man was shot at the railroad grading camp near Pleasant Dale." At this same time a horse was stolen at Friend, Nebraska and passed through Pleasant Dale. H.E. Oxley, Frank Smiley and Isma Bowker pursued and caught the man. It became obvious that law enforcement was necessary in the Pleasant Dale area.

In June 1906 a jail was being erected in Pleasant Dale and Mr. Wheeler was the town marshall. The jail was made out of 2x6's set flat wise, one on top of the other, and was a very small building with only two separate cells. It was located west of the bank building and it faced to the east with an iron door. It was just completed when its first occupant arrived in June of 1906.

"A. Hobo" was put in the jail for stealing rings from C.H. Oxley and then selling the rings. He was held a short time and then given a few minutes to leave town. Drunks were also put in the jail, so no doubt it was used quite often when the new railroad was built south of Pleasant Dale.

At the Council Meeting at Pleasant Dale in July 1907, Henry Oxley was appointed city marshall at a salary of \$50 a month, John Koller was appointed road overseer, and Chris Uthe was appointed police judge.

The following month the first case was brought before Police Judge Uthe. It was a drunk, and it netted the town a good day's work under the watchful eye of Street Commissioner Koller.

In the 1920's the jail was upset on Halloween with about 30 "goblins" prying it up with telephone poles. Then these "goblins" stood on the poles for leverage. It had always been

said that the jail could not be upset.

Some of the citizens enforcing the law in addition to Mr. Wheeler and Henry Oxley were: A.M. Fougeron, J.E. Frazier, Dan Allen, Leonard Allen, Vic Kahler, Bill Kapke, Lloyd Woebbecke, Gary Yank, Glen VanAndel and Pat Kuhn.

The jail was torn down in the late 1940's.

Joanne Lostroh



A.M. Fougeron's Badge

BANK ROBBERY

On October 20, 1903 shortly before 4 A.M., the Pleasant Dale bank safe was blown open with nitroglycerine, and \$3,500 was stolen. Supposedly, three men gained entrance to the bank through the front door with a skeleton key, picked open the vault door, drilled a hole in the safe for the nitro and blew the safe.

The explosion was said to jar nearly every house in Pleasant Dale. The town people were awakened by the blast, and rushed out in time to see the getaway buggy going down the street. The rushing citizens cut across a field in time to fire a dozen shots with shotguns or pistols after the fleeing buggy.

It turned out the shots were fired at the wrong buggy. Instead of the robbers, it was actually the George Mundhenke family. Later the family was found to be shaken but unharmed. The buggy had bullet holes in it from the shots fired.

A \$500 reward was offered by the Nebraska Bankers Association for the capture of the robbers because the small town banks in the region had been plagued with robberies during this period. The N.B.A. had just a week earlier established a new policy for issuing rewards for bank robbers, and this was the first robbery in which they had had an opportunity to put it into action.

Dale Nobbman

THOMAS HARNESS SHOP

Frank Thomas grew up on his father's homestead, 3½ miles north of Pleasant Dale. He was injured by a bull while he was riding on a horse, and, as a result, he was left with a stiff, bent knee, which hindered his farming. He decided to go into the harness business, and he learned the trade in Staplehurst, Nebraska.

He married Sophie Nieman, and they had 2 children, Ed and Laura. They made their home in Pleasant Dale, where Mr. Thomas started to make hand-made harness. He also sold Harphen Bros. harness, fly nets, horse collars, sweat pads, deer hair pads, Hanford Balsam, and K and K Cure Cut Lini-

ment. He sold shoes for men, and he mended shoes, harness, and saddles. He had an oiling tank, and made most of the harness in winter when his son Ed helped. He also hired help sometimes.

After his shop burned, November 21, 1929, he worked in a pool hall for a few years. Then he went to live with his son. He passed away in 1943.

Albert H. Thomas

JOHN C. MINCHOW BLACKSMITH SHOP

John C. Minchow built a blacksmith shop west and south of the square, at about the turn of the century. He operated it for many years, later moving it to the Minchow family farm west of town. The farm had been purchased in 1872 from the railroad.

John did all of his work with homemade hand tools and a hand operated forge. He shod many horses. He also was the local self-taught veterinarian.

Some of John's blacksmith equipment became the property of Harry Oxley when the Oxleys purchased the Minchow farm, and it has now been given to Vernon Lostroh.

Ardell Minchow acquired his uncle John Minchow's Model T Ford coupe, and in the back of it he found some of John's veterinary equipment. The car is still in running condition.

Ardell Minchow



John Minchow at His Blacksmith Shop



John Minchow's Model T Ford Driven by Ardell Minchow in Recent Fourth of July Parade

BLACKSMITH SHOPS

In the Blue Valley Blade, April 1883, it was written that Pleasant Dale needed a blacksmith. In Pleasant Dale Quiz, in July 1890, it mentioned that George Donnelson was a blacksmith in town. In May 1891 George Happel and Link McLain opened a blacksmith shop. In August 1891, August Vanderroof took over the Donnelson blacksmith shop. About this same period of time August Naderhoff was a blacksmith in Pleasant Dale.

In February of 1898, Tom H. Bishop erected a blacksmith



Early Blacksmith Shop

shop on the north side of Main street to be occupied by Jack Castelow.

John Minchow was the blacksmith in September 1903.

In May 1910, Charles Oxley was fixing up the building west of the post office (corner of Main and Ash), to use it as a blacksmith, carpenter, wagon and paint shop. The name of the firm was Minchow and Oxley, but it only remained in business a very short time.

In August 1910, the blacksmiths were C.C. and Orr Bills, located on the north side of the city park.

In November 1911, Charles Heninger, a blacksmith left town.

William Chapelow bought the C.C. Bills blacksmith shop in January 1912.

In April 1916, Charles Wheeler and Thomas Nichols purchased the blacksmith shop formerly occupied by John Minchow.

In April 1921, George Gammel, assisted by his father, Peter Gammel, built his blacksmith shop.

NEBRASKA—IOWA GRAIN COMPANY

The December 1907 issue of Blue Valley Blade informed us that "the new stock yards are being completed, near the new depot site by the railroad, which is still under construction."

In order to get to the new depot and elevator sites, a road was needed and caused much concern. It appeared that the railroad company was to open the road to the section line, where it would be up to Pleasant Dale to buy a road through Walter Best's land as soon as possible to meet it. A petition was then circulated for the purpose of condemning the land for a road between Pleasant Dale and the new depot and elevator sites.

In January 1908, the Blade wrote that Mr. Wright of Omaha was in Pleasant Dale looking for an elevator site on the new railroad line. One site was selected, and a contract was let to C.A. Clark of Omaha, for a concrete foundation. After the foundation was made, a contract was let for a large modern elevator which was made of wood and then painted red.

At this time there was not a road running straight south from Pleasant Dale to the elevator and depot, nor was there a road running straight west from Chalk Hill to meet the present road to the elevator. The previous road to the elevator and depot sites followed along the railroad from the present railroad bridge, past the railroad livestock yard and then to the elevator site. Passengers on the first train south of Pleasant Dale were let off at the railroad bridge because there wasn't a depot or a road to the building site. John VanAndel was a passenger on that first passenger train, November 28, 1907, as he returned from attending the wedding of Lacey Burd in Lincoln.

By March 1908, the new elevator at Pleasant Dale was finished and the new depot also. When the road which runs straight north from the elevator was made, it had an underground passage for Bailey's cattle to get from pastures



This sandstone house belonged to Thomas Bailey Sr. before 1911, and it stood near the elevator, where the old Bernard Stern house stands now. The stone house was torn down, but the stone basement still exists under the frame house.

on each side of the road. This was located about where Bernard Stern lives now. Roads were not graveled at that time, and when slippery it was hard for a team to pull a load of grain up that raised area to get to the elevator.

This was a privately owned elevator and it was run by a Mr. Peterson. Tom Bailey also ran the elevator. The elevator sat on almost the exact spot where the present new concrete Farmers Co-Op elevator stands today.

In December 1916, someone tried to set fire to the Nebraska-Iowa Grain elevator. This elevator did not remain in business very long. Farmers Co-Op was built in 1916 and for a time there were two elevators separated by an alley or driveway. The first elevator stood empty for a short time. It burned in the mid-twenties.

Joanne Lostroh



Threshing with a Steam Engine

HOSPITAL-HOTEL

When Dr. Frederick M. Andrus left Pleasant Dale, his hospital was left vacant. In 1910, Mrs. C.H. Oxley (Lena) rented the Dr. Andrus hospital building and began running a hotel in the building. Mrs. Lena Oxley was still the owner during the years 1913-1915, when Helene Viets worked there prior to her marriage to James Sipp. Helene said that she did



Dr. Andrus's Hospital 1905



Old Hospital Building in 1954



Remodeled Hospital Building, Home of Vances 1957

cooking and waiting on tables, and that many people came there to eat, including salesmen who were in the village on business. They had local boarders some of whom were school teachers.

The hack brought people to the hotel, and there was a stable behind the hotel for their horses.

Ida Ficke mentioned that her teacher, Miss Anderson, lived at the hotel and so did Dr. William Sandusky. Miss Anderson quit teaching mid-year and she and Dr. Sandusky were married.

This house was later known as the Brown house, after the Ed Browns purchased it in October 1916. It is now the remodeled home of Joseph and Hazel Vance.

Joanne Lostroh

ELECTRICITY

In July 1912 arc (gas) lights were being installed along the main street business district of Pleasant Dale with 1,000 candle power, but in 1913 the lights were removed.

At the town board meeting in January 1916, a contract was let for building the electric light line to the Blue River Power Company. Neuman Lumber Company supplied the poles and the work was completed in 25 days at a total cost to the town of \$1,392.

Frank Ficke was ready to wire houses, and within a month four business places were wired, as well as two residences. The switch board for the lights was placed in the Town Hall. By March all of the poles were in place, and late one Saturday evening in July of 1916, the streets and residences of Pleasant Dale had electric lights.

The following information is from Nebraska Public Power District. "Pleasant Dale line was built in 1916 at a total cost of \$7,898.44. The line extended from Milford to Pleasant Dale. It was at that time energized at 2200 volts. They used 351 poles at a cost of \$1,262.14, and it appears that the tallest pole was 35 feet. They used 383 crossarms at a cost of \$171.52. The records show that a total of 128,600 feet of copper wire was used at a cost of \$3,024.60. They used 7 two (2) KVA transformers at \$45.00 each, and these transformers today would serve one residence that was not total electric. This would be for their needs other than electric heat. They show total labor of \$766.15, and engineering and miscellaneous expenses of \$1,183.10. This was the Blue River Power Company and they had their generating units on dams in the Blue River. They had one on the north edge of Milford."

Joanne Lostroh

PUTTING UP ICE

In January 1916 W.S. Dunten had an ice house. The ice was cut from Fred Mueller's pond. There was also an ice house located 1 block west of the corner of Walnut and Ash, across the street north of where the livery stable had been, and it belonged to Chris Uthe. This ice house was used in the 1930's by Arthur Merrill, John VanAndel, and Wiston Merrill to store ice which was cut from farm ponds during the bitter cold winter weather to be used the following summer. The men would be up at the crack of dawn to cut ice and would have to quit by mid-morning if the weather warmed up too much. They would mark off the pond into squares, and then with a special ice saw 4½ to 5 ft. long with special teeth, they would cut out one chunk of ice at a time, put it on the wagon pulled by 2 horses, continue cutting ice until they had a load, then haul the ice to various ice houses in the area. The ice house about 10x12 was dug 20 feet deep and cemented, then lined with a layer of straw on the bottom and straw all the way around the inside. Ice was stacked in the ice house, and when full it was covered with more straw for insulation to keep it from melting. Fred Mueller's pond 3 miles north of Pleasant Dale was one of the first ponds used for cutting ice and there were many different groups of farmers putting up ice and hauling it to various ice houses. Some of these farmers north of Pleasant Dale were Fred Mueller, A.M. Fougerson, Charles

Fougeron, Ted Mueller, Henry Piening, Frank Klug, and Frank Kapke. I asked if anyone ever fell in. I was told, "Yes, a young boy fell in and had to go to the neighbor's house and get his clothes dried." I was also told that while my father, Wiston Merrill, was putting up ice, he slipped into the ice water, so he sat down, took off his shoes and socks, wrung out the ice water, and then put the cold, wet socks on again and went back to work cutting ice. I remember my parents stopping at the ice house mentioned earlier, on Sundays after church to pick up a chunk of ice to take home and put in their "ice box", which was the only way to keep food cold before refrigerators. The ice box had a drain pan for the melting ice and if you forgot to empty the pan in time, of course it ran on the floor. John VanAndel purchased this ice house in 1940 and moved it to his farm 1/2 mile north of Pleasant Dale and used it for a car garage.

The saloon, which was west of the Chris Uthe building, and which was built by Robert Fraas, had a big ice house—they pulled the ice up with a block and tackle. It was a tall building, much different from other ice houses in the area.

Joanne Lostroh

FARMERS COOPERATIVE GRAIN COMPANY

During the week of August 2, 1916, work was begun on the Farmers elevator. When it was completed, it had a capacity of 17,000 bushels, and it was finished by October 1916. It was a wooden structure covered with tin. It was located across the alley, or driveway, from the Nebraska-Iowa Grain Company elevator. Chester Shaw remembers riding with his father, Ernest, on a box wagon to sell grain at the elevator. Russell Burd told of driving a team and wagon loaded with grain through this elevator.

In 1916, when the elevator was built, the board members were A.M. Fougeron, Amer Burd, George Bill, and Rufus Bishop.

When the present concrete elevator was completed in 1963, Elmer Dankers said he dumped the first load of grain in it.

Men who were managers of the elevator were, Mr. Moore, John Bailey (in the late 1920's), Sam Allen (in the 1930's), Isma Bowker (in the mid 1930's), Alden McFadden (1935 to 1942), Chester Shaw (1942-1944), C.J. Mueller (1944 to 1948), John Bill (1948 to 1964), Dave Barker (1964 to 1974), and Lyle Johnson, who came in September of 1974 and is the present manager.

Lyle Johnson described the recently acquired dust control equipment, and also a computer type tester, which checks moisture, temperature, and test weight of grain in approximately fifteen seconds. It is printed by the computer onto a tape.

With the rail freight rate being so high, the elevator has

gone almost entirely to trucking for hauling grain in the past eighteen months. This seems ironic, since the elevator was built purposely to be located on the new railroad line.

Charles Fougeron tells that Milford is three hundred feet higher than Pleasant Dale, and on the old railroad track north of town, a second engine was needed to pull the train up the long grade from Pleasant Dale to Milford.

Joanne Lostroh



Former Home of Elevator Managers 1982



Road South of Pleasant Dale 1982



First Farmers Co-op Elevator South of Pleasant Dale Built in 1916 (lower right)



Looking South Toward Pleasant Dale Farmers Co-op Elevator 1982



Pleasant Dale Farmers Co-op Elevator From Southeast 1982

FRED SHAW GROCERY STORE

Fred O. Shaw decided to leave the farm in September of 1918 and put to work some business education he had received at the Lincoln Business College. He purchased the grocery and general store business from William Rocksein. This business was operated in a building on the west side of the square last remembered as the Tom Best Pool Hall.

In September of 1920 he moved his business into the Brandt building south of Chris Uthe's store, and stayed there for 6 years. He then bought out the stock of groceries from Win Dillenbeck in 1926, and moved into the Henry Ficke building built in 1890 by John Ficke, and which stood where the Legion Hall now stands. W.S. Dunten and Frank Smiley operated general store businesses in this building prior to Winfield Dillenbeck. The building and contents burned early in the morning on April 11, 1932, along with the pool hall and barber shop, the result of a fire which started in the rear of the pool hall.

About 3 months later, Fred and Blanche Shaw started up business again in the Chris Uthe building and conducted business there until 1943, when Fred Shaw retired because of failing health. Fred and Blanche were in the grocery business in Pleasant Dale for 25 years.

The following is a recollection by Blanche Shaw of her and Fred's days in the grocery business. She says that the operation of a grocery store during that period was very different from methods of the present day. Fred hauled his groceries from Lincoln with his own truck. The most difficult place on the road was the Danker hill, famous for being so steep. Many times he unloaded some of the load at the foot of the hill and then went up the hill, unloaded some goods, backed down the hill, picked up what he had left, and went on up the hill to pick up what he had left there.

The store was heated with a coal and wood stove with chairs around it so customers could be comfortable. Crackers and cookies came in metal boxes about 15 inches square. There was a rack which held about a dozen boxes. The cookies or crackers were weighed and put in pound bags, and when Fred and Blanche were not busy waiting on customers, they sacked the sugar in 25 cent, 50 cent, and \$1.00 packages. Dried prunes, peaches, and apricots came in wooden boxes and were sacked in 1 and 2 pound paper bags during any spare moments. Saturday nights were busy times. Farmers brought eggs by the 30 dozen containers and all had to be candled. They also brought cream which had to be weighed, tested, and emptied into Fairmont Creamery cans. The farmers' cans were washed by the tester, Fred. Vinegar came in barrels and was pumped into containers which customers brought. Coffee

came in the whole grain and was ground in their big grinder unless customers had their own small grinders. Ice was hauled from Crete for the big walk-in refrigerator.

Dale V. Nobbman

CARPENTER WORK—HARRY OXLEY

Harry began working with his uncle, William Oxley, when he was 16 years old, and it was his job to do the work that required the most climbing. At that time, a day of work began at daylight and ended at dark, and his wages were 75 cents a day. All work was done with hand tools, and he learned to file his own saws.

The carpenters sometimes stayed at the place where they were working until the weekend, when they went home, often on foot.

One of the first of his own housebuilding jobs was a large, two-story house for A.M. Fougerson, north of Pleasant Dale. The basement was dug using horses to move most of the dirt.

Concrete work was done by hand, mixing the sand, cement and water in a "mud box" by working it from end to end of the box with special hoes that had 2 large holes to assist the mixing process. When properly mixed, the concrete was loaded into a wheelbarrow and taken to where it was needed. Later, a gas powered mixer was used, with the sand being shoveled into the revolving drum through a screen to keep out the large stones.

When cars came into use, garages were needed, and he built those in addition to houses and farm buildings.

Through the years, Harry built houses in an area bounded by Milford, Crete, Lincoln, and Garland. He built the Pleasant Dale Methodist church in 1923, and the Zion Lutheran church, northeast of Pleasant Dale, in 1928. He built two schools, District 45 and District 64, both north of Pleasant Dale. The District 64 building now stands in Goehner as part of the Seward County Museum.

When electricity came into use, Harry also wired many buildings.

For many years, his helper was Fred Piening, a retired farmer. Lloyd Woebbecke worked with him for about a year.

At this time, Harry recalls at least 40 new houses that he built, plus many remodeling jobs. The last new house he built was for the Louis Lostrohs, in 1964, when he was 76 years old.

Doris Lostroh

HOUSE BUILDING IN 1919

Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Fougerson planned to build a new farm home. With the help of Harry Oxley, contractor and carpenter, work was started on April 1, 1919.

The basement was dug by using a team of 3 horses on a fresno scraper and 2 horses on a slip.

Mr. Fougerson and his son, Charlie, and Wilbur Riddle, the hired man, worked with the horses, and Harry and John Oxley loaded the scrapers.

The basement measured 32x32 feet, and 6½ feet deep. It took 5½ days to finish the digging. All dirt was hauled away and put around the outbuildings. Cement blocks were used to wall up the basement. It took 1500 blocks. These were hauled from a railroad car which was left on a siding track beside the Pleasant Dale railroad. All were hauled by using teams of horses hitched to wagons. Twenty-four loads of sand were used, and this was hauled from the Robert Pickel sand pit, 8 loads of shipped-in sand were used for plastering. Cement was bought from the Pleasant Dale Lumber Company, William Neuman, owner. All cement was mixed by hand.

All of the lumber was hauled from Neuman's Lumber Yard for the house.

Three carpenters worked all summer on building the house. They were Harry Oxley, John Oxley, and Ed Thomas. Mr. Henry Oxley, father of Harry and John, did a lot of the finish work. There were no electric saws at that time, so all the sawing of the lumber was hand labor.

Mrs. Fougerson furnished the noon meal for all the



Horses Used for Digging Fougeron's Basement



Fougeron House Being Built 1919

carpenters.

The Fougeron family moved into the new house and made it their home on September 1, 1919. The house had running water, a bathroom, and a furnace, very rare for farm homes in that period of time.

Amy Fougeron and Wiston Merrill were married in this house on June 10, 1925. Charlie and Maye (Spohn) Fougeron have spent their entire married life living in this house. They were married September 1, 1926.

Amy Merrill and Charles Fougeron

AUGUST SCHILDT'S CORNSHELLING

August Schildt's cornshelling career started back in 1917, when the wheat froze out and everyone had a very good corn crop. He and his brothers had a threshing machine and a 6-hole Joliet cornsheller, which they sold to August in 1918. His days would begin at dawn, when he would leave home with horses pulling the sheller and also a 9-horse kerosene engine that they used to run the sheller. They would shell corn all day long and stop soon enough in the afternoon so they could all get home by dark.

In 1922, August bought a '55 Hart Par tractor to run the sheller. (Glen Ficken has restored this tractor as an antique). By that time, August had traded for a 6-hole Appleton sheller which he purchased new. He later traded for an Ottawa cylinder sheller.



August Schildt's Cornsheller 1918

In 1942 August traded for a big Minneapolis B-2 sheller (which we still have stored in our quonset). This sheller made shelling corn much faster, because it had a larger capacity. August and the B-2 had business within 12 square miles from home. August had customers as far away as the reformatory near Lincoln, Emerald, Pleasant Dale, Milford, Garland, Ruby, and Seward.

August's next sheller was a 1200 Minneapolis, which is still in use today, although most of the customers have changed to planting milo and beans because of dry years, making shelling corn almost a thing of the past.

Larry Schildt

KU-KLUX KLAN

A Ku-Klux-Klan in Pleasant Dale? Yes indeed. They held their meetings in the upstairs hall on the north side of the park. Some men today, when young boys, remember. They located themselves on the roof to the west and watched the masked and robed men hold their meetings. The boys were very careful not to be caught peeking. This was probably in the early 1920's. An article in the Blue Valley Blade noted an October, 1924 Ku-Klux-Klan meeting in Pleasant Dale.

Erma Kapke

ROADS, PAST AND PRESENT

Back in the early 1900's all roads were dirt roads. They were traveled by horse and buggy, and our grain was hauled to town by grain wagons pulled by horses.

One of the difficult hills was the hill at the elevator, and also the Danker's hill. Danker's Hill was a sand hill located 1/2 mile south of the present Highway 6 on the road going to Pleasant Dale. (this hill has since been cut down by the W.P.A.). If you had too big a load or a balky horse, it would be difficult to get up this hill.

When the automobile came into use, the DLD was graded from Emerald to Milford in 1921, and graveled in 1924, although it mired down into the mud when we had a wet spring. (DLD stood for Detroit, Lincoln and Denver, which is now known as Highway 6).

This highway was paved with concrete from the county line in 1931 to the Milford Interchange. It was resurfaced with asphalt in 1952. The hardsurfacing was completed in 1953.



Main Street 1942



Seward County Maintainer at Pleasant Dale 1982

The Interstate Highway has also contributed to Pleasant Dale. This highway was completed to Beaver Crossing in 1965. It was open from Pleasant Dale to Lincoln or to Omaha in 1962. There was quite a bit of controversy over building this highway through the middle of the sections through this area. The federal and state governments didn't care to pay any more than they absolutely had to for the land, and some of the land went into condemnation. The Evanses' home had to be moved, and they moved it to the north side of the Interstate. It was later sold, and is now a gas station.

This highway has been a real boon to Pleasant Dale, and Pleasant Dale has grown since the interstate system came into being.

In 1973 state Highway 103 was declared a state highway. This came about with some citizens from Crete and Pleasant Dale visiting with the Highway Commission in 1972 and making it known that they wanted this to be a state highway. The speaker did visit with the State Senator at that time, Senator Epke, requesting that this be a state highway, and he suggested that several people come to a hearing and that it could be very possible that it could become such. This was done, and we now have Highway 103 as a state highway. It is now being prepared for paving and it will be a heavy truck highway because of the industries that have been established in Crete, such as the Alpo dog food plant, the Formfit plant, the Farmland hog plant, and several others.

Pleasant Dale is very fortunate to have access to 3 major highway systems, and access to the Burlington Railroad which will continue on even though it was moved from the village of Pleasant Dale to the south. Eventually there could be freight coming down this railroad, and if there is ever industry established in the Pleasant Dale vicinity this could be very beneficial.

There is talk about a gasohol plant east of Pleasant Dale. These facilities, if they come about, will be because of the highway systems that are here and the railroad system that is existing at the present time.

There is a lot of inconvenience when a new highway is being built, but after it is all said and done it is soon forgotten and the highway then is appreciated by all.

Pleasant Dale will be very fortunate because of Highway 103.

Harold Sieck

REMINISCING ABOUT ROADS

By March 1912, the roads in Pleasant Dale vicinity had been worked for 40 years, the Blue Valley Blade relates. Another article in May 1920 says that a force of men were working on grading the old D.L.D. road.

Chet Shaw remembers the following while highway 6 was being paved. Fill sand was hauled from the Vernon Piening

and Robert Pickel farms. Sand and cement were shipped in bulk to Pleasant Dale on the railroad. Black men worked in the rail cars wheeling sand and cement from each end of the rail car to the center to a conveyor which loaded it into a dump truck. The dump truck then hauled the sand and cement to the paving site where the mixer was located. Then it was mixed with water. The concrete was hand troweled by men. There were rough road gang fights, but no liquor was served in Pleasant Dale at this time.

I have been told that people rented out rooms in their homes to families who worked on the road gang. Wiston and Amy Merrill rented their upstairs to 2 families, Charles and Maye Fougeron had 2 men living in their home, and Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Fougeron also had 1 man living in their home, as did many others of the community. Consequently, children of these families attended Pleasant Dale school and are on school pictures. Some of these children can not be identified today.

During the summer when highway 6 was being paved, the dump trucks hauling sand from the railroad to the paving site would drive through Pleasant Dale, back and forth, day after day. Some of the children of the village took advantage of the situation and had lemonade stands. Business was good on hot days.

Highway 103, just on the east edge of Pleasant Dale, which is graded and ready for paving in 1982, was a dirt road in 1926. Grading was started from Pleasant Dale to the D.L.D. in September of 1926, the Blue Valley Blade reports, and by fall of 1927 it was graded and also graveled.

Joanne Lostroh

SEWARD COUNTY ROAD MAINTENANCE

Seward county roads were maintained by each precinct including part of highway 6. This road was taken over by the state in about 1920. It was maintained with a F.W.D. World War Army truck and a monstrosity called a Stocker Grader. Each precinct had a board of 3 men. One man was called road boss. He maintained culverts, pot holes, etc. Farmers were hired to drag roads. They were furnished an 8 ft. drag, and later a 10 ft. one. Most men had 3 or 4 miles to take care of, and they got \$1 a mile. Roads generally were maintained after every rain. It took the biggest part of a day. I precinct had a large tractor and grader at one time, in 1928 or 1929, but it was not too successful. The county took over some roads, 25 or 30 miles in I and P precinct. The first operator was A.C. Berg. They furnished him with a 1224 Hart Parr Tractor on solid rubber wheels, and a grader called a Whippet. In about 1930 John Vagts took over. Things went about the same with the graders. One of the first new graders was a 3 cylinder model. Then came the models with cabs, one with a kerosene heater and a smoke stack out the top. In about 1949, by vote of the people, the county took over all roads. Then mail routes were graveled. The gravel was furnished by grants from the U.S. government. Roads had to be graded and culverts had to be widened out. Many improvements have been made since then. In the winter time, when snow drifted, most roads had



Chalk Hill Road Being Graded in the 1920's



Graders on Road Between Highway 6 and Pleasant Dale 1926



Road West of Pleasant Dale Scooped Open by Hand; Wiston Merrill and His Three Daughters 1936



Preparing Highway 103 for Paving Looking North Toward Pleasant Dale 1981



Bridge Over Railroad 1982

lots of brush and trees, and when snow got rather deep, the farmers had to see their own way out, mostly with a 14 scoop shovel. In later years, with better equipment, snow plowing improved. Most roads are open within one day and part of a night. Most operators had around 65 miles to care for. Most motor grader operators spent many a stormy night on rescue missions, wrecker service, and the like. My last grader was a Cadillac of graders with everything hydraulic, and touch control. I precinct has had only 3 operators, including the present one, in 55 years. P precinct had many short term ones. During my 16 years I made many friends and I enjoyed every minute of it. May God Bless you all.

Walt Thomas

GAMMEL BLACKSMITH SHOP

George Gammel was born April 11, 1891, in Pleasant Dale, Nebraska. He was the son of Peter Gammel, a blacksmith of Grover, Nebraska, and married the daughter of a blacksmith, J.J. (Jake) Schweitzer of Milford, Nebraska.

George and his father built and opened the blacksmith shop in 1921. It was located in the northwest corner of town, opposite the city park, across the street from Sam Pennington's garage, and next door to Pyle's grocery store.

Blacksmithing was a varied profession, including hammering and grinding of plow shares, lister lays, cultivator shovels and grader blades, sharpening hoes, shovels, axes, sickles, knives, disc blades, and other sharp edged tools.

Many horses were shod and corrective shoeing was done for the lame animals.

In the wood working department he repaired wagon wheels, buggy wheels, made new axles, bolsters, and so forth,



Henry and George Gammel in Front of George's Blacksmith Shop 1943



Interior of George Gammel's Blacksmith Shop 1943

for wagons.

George was known as the best plow sharpener around. He could make almost any part for the farm machinery from a stock piece of iron. He would weld broken mower sickle bars in the forge so that the sections would match the rivet holes. In fact, he could fix almost anything that was brought to him.

He made his living in the blacksmith shop until about 1955, when he moved to Lincoln and went to work for the Bruning Company. He still opened his shop on weekends when he was needed.

After his death on June 11, 1964, the blacksmith shop was sold and the building was moved to Grover, Nebraska, near Milford. It has since been demolished.

Henry Gammel and Alverna Riley

WARD C. PYLE'S GROCERY STORE

In the fall of 1922 Ward C. Pyle purchased a grocery and general merchandise business from Mr. Chris Uthe, and in November of that year moved to Pleasant Dale from Lincoln with his wife, Ella, and 2 children, Lorene and James.

The Uthe building was located on the southwest corner across from the town square. The south end of the building contained the local post office which Mr. Uthe continued to operate, and the north end housed the store.

A short time later Mr. Pyle purchased a building on the northwest corner of the square from Mrs. E.J. Newton and moved his business to this location.

He then purchased a building adjoining the grocery store on the east, using it for storage, cream testing, and egg candling.

The picture of the building shows that it had been a hardware store and undertaking business. At the time of purchase, an old casket was still stored in the building.

In the late thirties, his son, James, joined him in the business, and together they established grocery routes in the surrounding areas, picking up cream, eggs, and homemade butter from customers and trading for groceries. They equipped their old Ford truck with shelves on the sides to carry extra supplies. Many times the truck became mired in the mud and had to be pulled out with a team of horses from the nearest farm.

During the depression years they built a freezer and locker plant behind the store using an old garage and insulating it with sawdust. This plant is still in use.

In 1929 the family moved into a home one block east of the



W.C. Pyle Delivery Truck



Pyle's Store 1925

store, purchasing it from Dr. Wilson. Late on the night of September 8, 1931, Mrs. Pyle awoke to hear a truck passing the house. Looking out the window she recognized the store truck. Mr. Pyle and James gave chase and caught 3 burglars who had robbed the store and were transferring the loot to their car east of town. After this incident, they rigged up a homemade burglar alarm in the store connected to a bell at home. It worked very effectively a number of times in later years. Mr. Pyle retired and sold the business to Kenneth Timme in 1950.

Lorene Pyle Minchow

HALF-WAY GARAGE

Fred and Lee Sothan came from Hallam in about 1923 and leased 1 acre in the northwest corner of the Ezra Pool farm along the D.L.D. (Detroit, Lincoln, Denver) route. This was also half way between Milford and Emerald and half way between Seward, Crete, and Lincoln.

Sothans built a garage and small house, and sold pop, candy, ice cream, and occasionally a sandwich when someone wanted one.

This was a cold corner in the wintertime, and people had a lot of frozen radiators in those days. Half-way Garage was quite a hangout for the young folks north of town.

Deciding to get away from a cold north entrance, Sothans relocated 1/2 mile west of their original location on the north side of the highway, on the Ray Beach farm, which gave them a nice view and the south entrance.

There were more Model T cars than anything else then. If a nice, big fancy car came along, they were thought to be a politician or someone "higher up".

Sothans had 3 sons, and continued running the garage until around 1933. The last family to live there were the Diels.

They continued to sell gasoline for a while before leaving in the latter 1930's. Buildings were done away with, but it is believed that Roy Mook moved some of the buildings.

Kenneth Ficke

GRAIN HANDLING AND THE ELEVATOR FROM THE EARLY 1920's

My first recollection of grain handling was the grain binder, with 4 horses pulling it. Then men shocked the bundles of grain. The generation before me tell how custom threshing rigs used to go through the country to separate the grain from the straw, crossing creeks and rivers of shallow water and, hopefully, rock bottoms, as there were not many bridges that would hold up the "heavy rigs". Later a few farmers would go together and buy a rig and thresh for the farmers who had shares in it. South of town was a thresher powered by a steam engine. As a boy I enjoyed watching the "big" outfit. Fred Minchow was separator man and Jay Gemmell ran the engine. Ardell Minchow was the first water hauler I remember. He would take this large tank on wheels (pulled by a horse) to a creek or stock tank and pump the tank full, to return to the steam engine. North of town was a thresher pulled by a cross motor Case tractor. Many days the help had a long noon hour because sometimes the engine wouldn't start. Charles Pool and George VanAndel operated this company outfit. As the grain was threshed it was either put in the bin or taken to the elevator, which was built around 1910. The elevator was equipped with a floor that had 2 planks anchored in the middle so that when the wagon was to be emptied, a lever was pulled and the wagon suddenly tipped back. Horses that were not used to this sometimes reared up and were terrified. The small office and scale house stood to the west of the elevator with a hitching rack on two sides. East of this elevator were many cattle pens down on ground level and then a long chute up to the railroad. This was used as a loading place for people who drove cattle to the railroad and shipped to packers. It also was used for the railroad to unload cattle that had come from the west and needed feed and water, as they could be left in the cars only so many hours before they needed water and feed. The water was pumped from a windmill south of the track into a large elevated tank, and then run by gravity down into troughs for the cattle to drink. Then the cattle were reloaded for the rest of the trip. The last use I remember of the stock yards (pens) was when President Roosevelt came to power with his NRA (National Recovery Act). At this time the powers in Washington figured by reducing cattle numbers it would bring the price up for farmers. Farmers were asked to bring a few of their cattle to these collection points to be shot. They were then taken across the tracks and buried. No one could use the meat because that would defeat the purpose, although there were a great many hungry people in our community. A few years after this, the stockyards were torn down.



Horse Drawn Binder



Steam Engine Pulling Threshing Machine

The old Farmers Elevator, as it was called then, handled machinery, oil, greases, twine, and repairs. The first manager I remember was John Bailey to be followed by Sam Allen. The elevator went broke in the depression.

Farmers reorganized the elevator in the late thirties to be called Farmers Co-op Grain Co. and operated as a Co-op thereafter, handling the same commodities. A small feed grinding and mixing business was also set up. Alden McFadden was manager from 1938-1940. Board members at that time were Ed Bishop, Adolph Brhel, Wiston Merrill and Ardell Minchow. They stayed on the board then for many years working very diligently. Many board members served after this, but it seemed as though Wiston Merrill was secretary for many years. After McFadden quit, Chet Shaw was manager in 1942 and 1943. By this time, the harvest changed. In the mid 1930's a few large combines came into being. The first in this area to own one was Bill Chapelow, then Charles Fougerson and Wiston Merrill. An onslaught of small combines followed. Prior to this, the wheat was delivered to the elevator from a few combines, and then the threshing crews would start. It was an orderly process. Then when the number of combines increased, the rush at the elevator was far greater. Also as corn came in to the elevator, it was a gradual business, as the corn had been dried in cribs before shelling. Until the later 1940's we had no moisture testers, so when a load came in, the manager put his hand in the grain and tried to determine if it was dry enough. Sometimes the customer agreed, but generally not.

Mr. C.J. Mueller became manager April 1, 1944 and managed the elevator for a few years. N.E. Bishop was farsighted enough to try to get the elevator to put up storage on the site so we could take in grain for storage and also keep our grain close to home. In 1958 the first flat storage building was put up. The following year another was added. In December, 1947, John Bill was manager. We handled more grain, and the storage was paid for by Government storage payments. In the early 1960's, everyone knew the old set-up was not enough. At



Threshers Eating Lunch

Barn Dances

In the 1890's barn dances were a very important part of the pioneer families' lives. This was before there were radios, television, and movie theaters, so the social gatherings were for the entire family and close to home. Families piled into the spring wagon or buggy, pulled by a team of horses or mules, covered up with heavy blankets in the winter and headed to the neighbor's farm for an evening of fun. The musicians were self-taught by listening to the older ones playing musical instruments at the dances and practicing on these instruments at home, hoping some day to play for the dances. The small children played and danced until they fell asleep and then slept in the corner until the dance ended. Many weddings were followed by a big gathering of relatives and friends enjoying a barn dance with lots of good food.

In the early 1900's they had dances about every two weeks in the "Klintworth Barn", located two miles west of the Lancaster-Seward County line on Highway 34. We heard about a pony keg which was hidden in the ditch near the barn but was "found" by someone else before the owner went to get it. Godfrey Lindner was in charge of finding a place and time for the dance. The band members were Chris Borchers playing violin, Hank Borchers playing the guitar and saxophone, and Arthur Lostroh playing violin, guitar, and banjo. They rarely got paid for playing, but sometimes they received \$3 each and charged the dancers 50¢ per couple. After one of these dances, the driver of the spring wagon lost the back seat on the way home and didn't realize it was gone until the



Epworth Assembly about 1905

the annual meeting it was decided to build a new elevator. Many patrons invested money in it, even borrowed from banks so they could help with the new building. In 1963 the new elevator was built. Some of the old board members were still on and some new ones added. When the elevator was built, the board members were: Ardell Minchow, president, Russell Burd, vice president, Wiston Merrill, secretary-treasurer, Chet Shaw, and Bill Patak. John Bill retired in March, 1964 and Dave Barker from Milford was the new manager until retirement in September 1974. Lyle Johnson was hired then, and is still the manager. Two new grain tubes were added in 1978 to make a more workable unit than ever before. A storage building was put up in 1978 to house fertilizers, chemicals, and other farmer supplies. It has become a great monument to our efforts, loyalty, and willingness to see this kind of business in our community.

Chester Shaw

AUGUST SCHILDT'S TRUCKING

August Schildt's trucking venture started in 1927, when he bought a C-25 Buick. He made the car into a truck and put racks on it and hauled calves and hogs to College View sale barn. He could haul 4 or 5 calves or hogs at one time. August charged about \$1.50-\$2 a load and could buy gas for 10 cents a gallon.

In 1932, August bought a 1928 Chevy truck which had a 9 gallon gas tank, and he could go to Omaha and back on one tank of gas. Cattle and hogs sold as cheap as 4 cents a pound back then.

In 1942, August bought a 1939 Chevy truck, and in 1946 he purchased a 1945 Chevy. Leslie went into business with his father when he purchased this truck. August traded the Chevy for a brand new Diamond T in 1948. This truck is still running today.

In 1953, Leslie bought a 1949 Diamond T. Larry started driving and getting into the business about this time.

In 1960, Schildt Brothers bought a 1950 International tandem, which was able to haul up to 500 bushels of grain. This was the time the government corn was called in. In 1960, Schildt Brothers had 125 people for whom they trucked and shelled.

The only other truck that Schildt Brothers had is a 1947 Diamond T cabover purchased in 1961. It has served very well and is still doing most of the hauling jobs for Larry and his boys today. Although the business was sold in 1965, there is still plenty of work for these faithful old trucks.

Larry Schildt



The Marching Band of the Early Teens As They Marched Past the Home of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Newton in Pleasant Dale.

next morning. Dances were also held in the John Mueller, August Lostroh, and Bill Borgmann barns.

Many families did not have pianos in their homes. The young people of the community gathered in the home where there happened to be a piano and practiced their music in the parlor.



These are Pleasant Dale girls wearing their Easter bonnets purchased at Mrs. Layman's hat shop in Pleasant Dale. They are: Eileen Oxley (Burd), Lizzie Finke (Minchow), Helen Kisiski, Hulda Finke (Mueller), Ova Gump, Evelyn Sipp (Johnson), Laura Finke. All are holding a little Easter chick. Approximately 1910-1912.

Hulda Mueller



In early days, before engraved wedding invitations, the invitation to guests was delivered in person by a young man riding on a horse. At each home where he issued an invitation, they accepted by tying a ribbon on the horse or on the rider's hat. In this picture is Fred Mueller with his horse, both wearing the ribbons from the accepting guests.

Elsie Mueller Ficke

Pleasant Dale Hall

In 1910 the "Orr Dance Hall" in Pleasant Dale was mentioned in the Blue Valley Blade. This hall was located on the north side of the square on Main Street. The downstairs housed various businesses and the upstairs, which was the dance hall, was reached by using the outside steps on the west side of the building. There was a stage at the north end with dressing rooms on each side of the stage. This hall was sold and then was referred to as the "Will Chapelow Hall" in the paper in 1912.

Some of the activities held there were boys' basketball and

girls' basketball. This was in the late "teens". School plays, Lodge meetings, Methodist Church suppers, all types of entertainment including Medicine Shows were held there. Eileen Burd recalls children running errands for the Medicine Shows in order to obtain a free ticket to the show. Bottles of "stuff" were sold at these shows. There was even a Ku-Klux-Klan meeting held there at one time, and in 1913 they had wrestling matches. But most of all, it is probably remembered by many as a place where social dances were held. Maye Fougerson laughed about the time she and Minnie Ficke attended a costume party as a couple. Maye was the lady and Minnie dressed as a man. In those days only men had to pay admission to a dance, and Minnie's costume was so good that she had to pay to dance that night. They danced all evening and won first prize for the best costumes. Chris and Emma Borchers and their children were one of the groups which played for dancing there. The upstairs of this building was condemned as being unsafe in the 20's and was no longer used.



Daisies in "Grandmother's Garden" School Program. Daisies: Doris Oxley, Maxine Gemmell, Leah Sipp, Clara Schildt.



May Queen in "Grandmother's Garden" Program in Pleasant Dale Park 193_. Queen: Vera Sexton. Train Bearer: Norma Sipp.



Winding Maypole in Pleasant Dale Park in "Grandmother's Garden" (Bandstand in Background)

Very early entertainment was debating, and in November 1879, the Pleasant Dale Debating Society was re-organized and in a flourishing condition. The most attractive and amusing feature was a paper of which James Iler was editor. It was full of wit and humor. In March of 1880, speeches were given by James Iler, Mr. R.H. Woodward, Mr. Leger, Mr. Thomas Dobson, and Miss Jennie Dobson. Songs were by Messrs. Gray and Houch.

In April 1883 "The Good Templars" gave a free concert.



Making Home-made Ice Cream



Quilting in 1951 at Home of Joanne Lostroh. Front Row: Ethel Shaw, Amy Merrill, Margaret Bottrell, Mrs. Pyle, Elaine Merrill, Helen VanAndel and Janice VanAndel and Dora Allen. Second Row: Helen Zimmer, Marge Hill, Bethel Bailey, Amy Fougeron, Velma Lubben and Lynn Lubben, Lydia Oxley, Jessie Pool. Back Row: Neta Weeks, Helen Busboom and Wayne Busboom, Reva Stahn, Mildred Nohbman, Irene Weeks and Edna Rapp.

August 28 and 29 of 1913 was the First Annual Pleasant Dale Picnic. This entertainment involved the entire community with a parade, baseball, races, colored quartet, merry-go-round, music, platform dance, wild steer riding, trick roping and riding, pony express race around the square, old time ox team, and a midway. The picnic was a success—one of the best times shown in Pleasant Dale. Frank Thomas won first

prize for his float of horses, saddles, bridles, and trappings. The parade was directed by Clyde Gannon.

In January of 1916 a Country Club was organized, and in May 1920 Earl Church began putting on movie picture shows each week. August of 1916 the 4th Annual Picnic was held.

October 1880 Mr. Louis Legar began a course on astrology at the Pleasant Dale School.



Men's Club Pancake Breakfast



Men's Club Christmas Party in Fire Barn 1981



Water Fight Between Pleasant Dale Firemen on July 4



Dunking Pool on 4th of July in Pleasant Dale Park

Band

Another type of entertainment was started in March 1903 when Guy B. Wise tried to start up a brass band, and by April the band was fully organized with 23 members.

In April 1912, Mr. Downey and 20 boys began a brass band. There was so much enthusiasm that in July of that year a bandstand was erected. It was finished the week of July 11, and a couple of weeks later a gas lamp was added to the bandstand. W.A. Downey was still the instructor in September 1913, when a girls band was begun. Mr. Downey was station agent, and he was transferred, so H.C. Westcott became the band director.

Several band members about 1915 were Harry Oxley, who played cornet, Norman Sipp, who played the trombone, and Rev. Catlett.

Some of the school orchestra members in the middle thirties who played in the band stand in the city park for concerts on Saturday nights were: Chester Shaw, Esther Best, Jack Merrill, Bernadine Bishop, Dwight Bishop, Byron Bishop, DeWayne Sipp, Wilmer Bishop, Adeline Pennington, Viola Borchers and Alvin Klug.

Joanne Lostroh



Garden Tractor Pull on July 4, 1981



Boutique in Fire Barn 1981



Men's Club Christmas Party 1981



Men's Club Party for Children in Fire Barn.

COMMUNITY HALL

After the Patterson building burned it was rebuilt to one-half of its original size. The site was also used by the Shamp Implement Company, which was run by Willis Cady. Later, Bill Kiser ran a skating rink there. Eileen Burd tells that when she was a young girl, she, her sister Gertie, and the two Kiser daughters, Dolly and Lucy, were allowed to skate free if they came at 6:30 to attract others to come in and spend the evening skating. Elizabeth Minchow said when she was growing up in the Pleasant Dale area, it cost 15¢ to skate and they could not skate very often because it was too expensive.

At a later date, the building belonged to Franklin Stern. The town obtained it from him, and, still later, School District 21 obtained it from the town.



Senior Class Play in Community Hall 1946



Pleasant Dale High School Commencement, Community Hall 1946

July 1918—A dance at the Opera House last Saturday night drew a fair sized crowd.



Community Hall Interior 1947

By this time, the building was remodeled by Harry Oxley and other local men. A stage was built at the west end. It had 3 doors and 1 window, and the school plays which were given there made good use of each. For outdoor scenes, there was standing scenery of trees, made of tin and painted by Ward Pyle. The stage curtains were dark green, and were made by the ladies of the community, including Mable Bishop, Ella Pyle, and Lydia Oxley. The curtains were opened and closed by the person watching through a peephole in the south wall. A large, coal burning stove stood in the northwest corner of the main floor. In winter, the people sitting closest to the stove might be too warm, while the people in the back of the room were too cool. A piano stood in the southwest corner. Backstage, on the north side, was an exit with outdoor steps to the ground. The main floor was filled with wood benches with backrests, also made by the men, to accommodate the large audiences, and there were wood folding chairs to be set where possible for the extra people. Even then, there were always people standing, too. In the "kitchen" cupboard in the southeast corner, there were dishes and tin cups, used whenever food was served. There were homemade, wood folding tables.

Besides the school plays, many other events were held in the Community Hall. Graduation exercises were held there each year, as well as dances, occasional movies, elevator meetings, and a few parties for boys who were leaving for military service.

In time, the building needed repair, but it was not considered worth the price it would cost, and so it was condemned and offered for sale at some time near 1950. Vernon Piening bought it, and he, his brother Arthur, and Adolph Ficke divided the lumber when they tore it down. Art tells that it contained some good 2X10's and 2X12's. They also reused the drop siding when they built hog houses from the lumber.

Doris Lostroh

FREE MOVIES

Many forms of entertainment that our grandparents enjoyed years ago as children might seem several steps below the boredom state to today's children.

The advancement of our technology in the areas of transportation and communication have gradually put a halt to the old ways and founded the road for the new wave of entertainment. The increasing popularity of automobiles was to provide new experiences and entertainment. People were to spend much more time in the nearest town and less time with family activities.

A form of entertainment that became popular in the 1940's and 1950 was the free movies. Store owners and merchants in participating towns sponsored the movies, usually once a week, as an attraction to bring people into the community to shop.

The popular free movies in Pleasant Dale were shown by Everett C. Petsch, of Pleasant Dale. Petsch was contacted by a private film company to show campaign films for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Re-Election Campaign before 1940. Petsch traveled all over Nebraska showing these films, until the firm that he represented went bankrupt. In an effort to be

compensated for wages and expenses by the bankrupt firm, Petsch kept the films and equipment. At a later date, the equipment went for a sheriff's sale, at which time Everett purchased it and went into business for himself.

Memories still exist of some of the other activities that were popular in the past. Ice skating on the pond near the Otto Becker farm, or sled riding that occurred south of town on the country roads summed up the wintertime fun. In addition to home entertainment, such as sewing and reading, barn dances and school "Fun Nights" provided the missing links in the total entertainment.

Ron Petsch

METHODIST CHURCH CHOIR HISTORY

There were several singers when the church was first organized in 1871, up until 1883. The first choir was organized in 1882, and the first organist was Mrs. Lulu Pearson. Membership grew and a new church was built in the fall of 1923. The choir sang at the beginning and at the end of the services for the dedication.

There have been numerous choirs from the beginning of the church — there are some months when the choir does not sing — but there have been many talented groups led by dedicated people. Mildred Nobbman worked with different groups and was always inspired to keep music out front. Mable Bishop worked with the boys in the church for several years. There were octettes, quartettes, sextettes, and a band. Blanche Shaw was pianist for most of the years from the beginning of the church.



Pleasant Dale Methodist Centennial Church Choir 1971

We became involved in the choir in the early fifties. We had a membership of 15 to 20 most of the time. We did not sing in the summer months, but we did have special music.

We bought a popcorn machine in 1954 as a money making project, and we sold popcorn at the free movies in the park. At first business was slow, but it picked up fast when the people found that the profits were for the church. With our first money we bought the material for robes. We designed the robes and the W.S.C.S. and members of the choir made them.

The first churches had pump organs. Then in later years they used the piano. We purchased the first electronic organ in 1956, and a few years later, bought a better one with money from the popcorn machine and the congregation. We had choir concerts, bake sales, and rummage sales to help with the project. The singers and the organist gave the money they received from weddings and funerals to the music committee for music and supplies for the choir.

From 1954-1962 we had a concert every year plus extra special music at Christmas and Easter. Alice Frazier was the director. She gave her time and talents freely, organized a girls' sextette, members of the choir also.

In 1956-57 we had Fourth of July celebrations with entertainment, choral singing, and variety programs. We thought 250 people was a large crowd.

Over the years we have had several choir directors, and still have special music most of the time. In 1978, Malcolm, Denton, and Pleasant Dale churches were combined at Christmas and Easter. We were here and performed at all 3 services. Alice Frazier directed and I played. This has been a yearly thing since then.

Since the Davies family has been here, David is working with the choir. It seems like there is always a person who is dedicated to carrying on in song for the glory of God and the growth of the church.

Mrs. Glenn Weeks

SERVICEMEN DRAFTED FROM PLEASANT DALE

Civil War Veterans in
Pleasant Dale Cemetery

A. B. Dunten
James Iler
Franklin Stern
Almon Ensign
Charles White
John Berg
John H. Lohmeier
John Koller
W. S. Dunten

World War I

Charles H. Daffer
Terrill E. Daffer
Carl Ficken
Faye H. Gemmell
Karl L. Haines
Arthur E. Heidtbrink
Edward F. Kapke
Arthur W. Merrill
Frank L. Osborn
John W. Oxley
Louis J. Sieck
William Stueck
William Thomas
Edward H. Thomas
Fred J. Veleba
Fred J. Ficke
Ralph B. Gemmell
Claude Kiser
Lorenz A. Moeller
Harry R. Oxley
William C. Smiley
Clarence W. Wells

World War II

Richard G. VanAndel
Marvin Breithaupt
Harold Stueck
Eugene Stueck
Charles Cejka
Ralph D. Burd
Vernon L. Piening
Lester H. Ficke
Ervin A. Sieck
Walter A. Brose
Theodore E. Tucker
Vernon A. Porter
Harold R. Fox
Raymond J. Schildt
Donald V. Tucker
William G. Baumbach

Noal J. VanAndel
Homer Brown
Ivan Haist
Byron Bishop
Bernard Stern
Raymond A. Stern
Glen H. VanAndel
Jack Merrill
Dwight Bishop
Faye Best
Keith Haist
Leonard Allen
Milo Bishop
Paul V. Shaw
Heed Tillman
Harry Lesoing
Gerald Allen
Elmer G. Schmersal
Earl J. Borchers
Kenneth W. Klug
Herbert D. Schmersal
Benjamin F. Stern
Clarence W. Kapke
Adolph Burianek
Leonard F. Christjeaner
Billie H. Kapke
Edward L. Hejny
Lorenz C. Lindner
John J. Vagts
William Luebbe
Frank E. Robotham
Clemens J. Keller
Melvin A. Schildt
Leonard V. Kraus
Albert B. Priess
Donald R. Allen
Eugene H. Ficken
Richard J. Hejny
Phillip E. Hunche
Lee Krieser
Earl Robotham
LeRoy O. Deden
Charles D. Mook
Edward Kodejs
Robert F. Novak
Edward Havlat
Gene W. Gemmell
Lelan J. Sipp
Laurence W. Finke
Milton R. Stehlik
Ralph E. Brown
Kenneth L. Freye
Richard J. Henry
Harold A. Krieser
Charles E. Morrow
Loren G. Stueck
Donald J. Mook

(Names taken from gravestones,
Seward County Courthouse records,
and Pleasant Dale church
records.)

Viola Mitchell

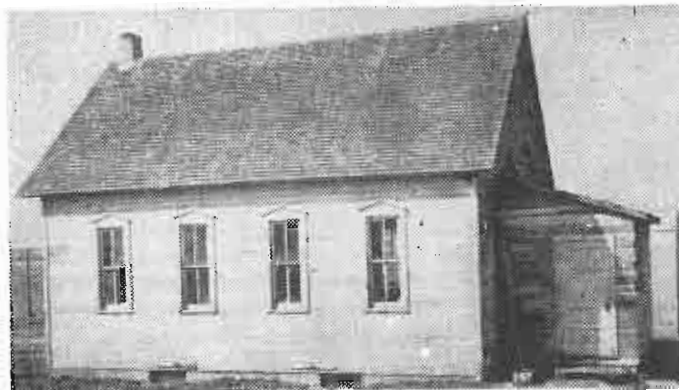


Veterans in their Uniforms From World War I, World War II
and Korean War. Ralph Burd, Russell Burd, Larry Ficke.

PLEASANT DALE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion was first formed in France, just after World War I. The Pleasant Dale American Legion was organized in February of 1948. A group of World War I veterans, who were members of other posts, decided that we should have a post of our own, and they asked the returned veterans of World War II to join them in requesting a local post for Pleasant Dale.

A meeting was held with the county and district commanders, and we were granted a temporary charter with 21 members signed up. By the end of the year, we had a total of 29 members.



Lutheran Church to Town Hall to Legion Hall

We met at various meeting places until we acquired our own post home, a building that had been a church in 1885, and which stood about 1 1/2 miles northwest of town. It was moved to town at about the turn of the century, and later became a township and village hall. The post acquired the building in December of 1952, as a gift from the village if it were moved by a certain time. With a lot of hard work and volunteer labor, the building was moved to its present location. A great deal more free time and labor was spent remodeling and repairing it.

In 1964, a kitchen and indoor plumbing were added.

In the fall of 1962, the American Legion spearheaded a drive to raise funds to put lights on the ball diamond directly behind our building. It was later turned into a community project and the funds were raised. We had the ball diamond lighted for the 1963 ball season.

Since our post was organized, we have equalled or exceeded each preceding year's membership 34 times, until now, we have a total of 102 members.

The post has had only 3 post adjutants and the present one has served for 30 years. He is Earl Mitchell.

At the dedication of lights on the ball field, a flag was presented to the post by Max Peterson, the post commander.



Pleasant Dale American Legion, July 4, 1977

This flag had flown on a Polaris submarine on which he had been commander. At the time of the presentation, Mr. Peterson was the recruiting officer in Lincoln for the United States Navy.

Viola Mitchell



American Legion Float in Fourth of July Parade 1976



Pleasant Dale Legion Hall, Fire Department and Tavern 1982

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 354

The American Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, Post 354, of Pleasant Dale, Nebraska, was organized on June 8, 1949. Application for a charter was made on September 13, 1949, and received on January 12, 1950.

There were 25 charter members. Today we have 48 senior members and several junior members. The first meetings were held in the town hall, which later became the Legion Hall. Meetings were also held in the school house during the cold months, and later, in the homes of the members.



Pleasant Dale American Legion Auxiliary Float in Fourth of July Parade 1980

The Auxiliary has sent a girl to Girls' State every year with the exception of 2 years. We have served the lunches at the annual meetings of the Emerald Elevator for many years. We have sponsored girls' and boys' ball teams for many years, and have also hosted tournaments. We have served food at farm sales throughout the countryside, served the lunch for County Government Day in Seward, and helped to relieve the

sorrow of families by furnishing and serving food after funerals of their loved ones.

The Auxiliary sponsors a picnic each August for patients at the Veterans' Hospital in Lincoln. Each month, 5 ladies go to the Veterans' Hospital in Lincoln to do escort work for a day. There is also a Christmas Gift Shop set up each year at the hospital, and 3 of our members go for 2 days to help purchase, sort, and wrap gifts for the families of the patients.

The Auxiliary has won awards on its History and Publicity books for several years, and has also won the membership gavel for 3 years consecutively. It is now ours to keep. Such things as folding chairs and tables, a sink, a kitchen range, kitchen cupboards, and two popcorn poppers have been purchased by the Auxiliary over the years. This year will make the 63rd year for our National American Legion, and the 32nd for our Auxiliary.

Viola Mitchell

THE 1957 TORNADO

A calm, sunny day, April 25, 1957, turned into devastation in late afternoon when a tornado started and touched the ground southwest of Milford. Many people there took refuge in the tunnels of the Community College. Much of the south part of the town was a disaster, with homes gone, wires down, and travel impossible. The National Guard was called out to prevent looting.

The tornado then turned eastward, heading towards Pleasant Dale. The farmsteads of Fred and Henry Ficke were in its path. A large mortised barn built by Frank O. Ficke in 1905 was completely demolished, granary upset, windmill blown over, chicken house blown to different sites and windows and chimneys broken in the houses. One wall was completely bowed out by the force of the wind, allowing grass to be seen from inside the house. Henry Ficke was milking in the barn and was hit by debris while running to the house where his wife had taken shelter in the basement.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ficke had taken his aged parents and left home in their car, so they were saved from injury by broken glass and flying debris.

The farm of August Luebke had several buildings blown over and destroyed. Mr. Luebke was in the field and took refuge in a ditch, letting his tractor motor run in the excitement.

The tornado then went through open fields, tearing up pasture and farm ground and hitting the buildings of Eugene Fougerson. Gene was at work in Lincoln and his two older children were away from home. Evelyn, 2-year-old Donna, 16-day-old Steve, and Evelyn's mother, Mrs. Viets, saw what they thought to be a severe hail storm, so took refuge in the cellar of the house. Sandstone sifted down their necks, and the furnace ducts contracted and expanded while they waited out the storm. When they opened the outside cellar door, drenched cattle were walking by, and they discovered all the buildings but 2 were completely blown away. The windows, chimneys and back porch of the house were gone and the house was moved off the foundation several inches.



1957 Tornado Damage on Fougerson Farm.

May 1883

John H. Merrill lost one of his best horses with the colic.

These winds have terrific force, driving grass and dirt into cupboards, large timbers into sides of buildings, and upsetting a tractor onto the seat. The next day loads of worthless lumber from the large one hundred year old barn, corncrib, hay and cattle sheds were picked up in the neighbor's fields.

The whipping tail of the tornado hit trees and tombstones at the Pleasant Dale Cemetery across the road from the Fougerson family farmstead, and then proceeded eastward and blew away the barn and took the corncrib off its foundation setting it against the tree on the Conrad Dankers farm. Mr. Dankers sought safety in a culvert and came out with a very dirty face. There was no rain with the wind, but moisture from somewhere plastered all these homes with a coating of mud.

Severe winds and tornados were never recorded in this immediate area, but ironically another one formed on May 20 of the same year and blew away buildings on the Charles Fougerson farm. This occurred about 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon, but the eerie, orange-looking sky made one think it was dusk. A large machine shed was lifted off its foundation and exploded in the air, leaving the machinery intact. The chicken house was upset and the barn demolished.

The farmsteads of Carl and Rudolph Nietenstein were damaged during this storm with outbuildings blown away and dirt blown into the refrigerator. The outbuildings on the Leonard Kolterman farm and the garage at the Zion Lutheran Church were destroyed also.

Volunteers from the Red Cross and the Mennonite Church from surrounding states answered the call from Milford and helped at the damaged farmsites soon after the storm. They brought food, clothing, bedding and chainsaws. No human lives were lost, but many old landmarks were gone forever.

Evelyn Fougerson

THE BANK BUILDING

The brick building was built in 1901 by the First State Bank of Pleasant Dale. It stands on land which became a part of the Missouri River Railroad Company in an act signed by President U. S. Grant in 1864. It was purchased by Thomas Best in 1881 and became a part of the Plat of Pleasant Dale in May 1883.

In 1931 the Bank closed due to the Great Depression, after serving the community well for many years. It was then purchased from the State of Nebraska by W. B. Stolz, F. C. Sieck, and N. E. Bishop in 1935.

At one point in time the building was used by Hugo Spence as a barber shop. He also sold 3.2 beer there following prohibition. Later, Mr. Stolz operated a Credit Corporation there, and then Mr. Bishop used it for the post office.

In 1958 Neil and Reva Stahn bought the building from N. E. Bishop and Reva opened a small cafe for a few months. In 1962 they purchased the liquor license from Lester and Mildred Ficke. After extensive renovating and remodeling of the building, which included removing the 3' thick walls of the

vault 1 brick at a time, it became the tavern. In 1963 they sold the business to James Ward, who called it the Flying Key, and installed the egg carton ceiling which is still a surprising sight when discovered by strangers. After a couple of years it became Neil and Reva's Place again until 1971, when Tom and Sue Kapke ran it for a few months. Finally, in 1975, the business was sold to the Keller brothers, Clemens Jr., Harry and Dennis. The men took turns tending bar at night and their wives, with the help of their mother, Mary Jane, served delicious meals at noon in response to the demand from construction and road crews, all of which helped make the business known as Kellers' Korner more prosperous. Then, in 1978, they sold the business to the present owners, Rudy and Marlene Nieman. Under their management it continues to be the place where many people enjoy gathering to visit and relax.

Reva Stahn

MY BASEBALL DAYS

I started to play baseball in the spring of 1918 at the age of 18. This was the regular team and we played in the Ficke pasture, which was about 1½ miles southwest of Pleasant Dale. The manager was Tom Best, who operated the pool hall and soft drink parlor. The team consisted of Fred Ficke, 1st base, Arthur 'Art' Merrill, 2nd base, Ralph Gemmell, short stop, Oscar 'Oc' Daffer, 3rd base, Faye Gemmell, catcher, Chester 'Chet' Gemmell and Frank Ficke, pitchers, Eloth Stahn, left field, Bill Berg, center field, and Norman 'Dutch' Sipp, right field.

The first game we played was with Dorchester and we won 5-3. I never forgot this game because I scored a run.

During the year of 1919, the players changed a little. Fred Ficke played 1st base and Bill Berg played 2nd base because Art Merrill moved to Iowa. Henry Berg played short stop, Claude Kiser (who returned from the navy) played 3rd base, and Russell Burd (who returned from the army) became catcher, because Faye Gemmell gave up baseball. Chet Gemmell and Frank Ficke were the pitchers, Eloth Stahn was in left field, Owen 'Buck' Minchow was in center field, and 'Dutch' Sipp in right field.

I played different years in the Blue Valley League, and there is not a town in the 40 mile radius in which I have not played ball. We played the shut-ins at the State Penitentiary at different times, but never did we win a game from those fellows. I think it is because they are always there to practice! There is one thing that stands out in my mind. I am the only fellow from Pleasant Dale that ever hit a ball over that stone wall at the State Penitentiary. Frank Ficke got on first base when he was hit by a pitched ball. I came along and caught a pitch I liked that went all the way downtown over the left field wall. We got beat 20-2. To this day when I travel Highway 77 south past the penitentiary, I always look up to that wall which the ball sailed over. That was 60 years ago.

A number of things happened and the team finally split up. Albert Petsch, living south of Pleasant Dale, came along and



Pleasant Dale Baseball Team, Early 1900's.

started a younger team. These players consisted of Clarence Burd, 1st base, Wiston Merrill, 2nd base, Henry Berg, short stop, Bill Zimmer, 3rd base, Bill Berg, catcher, Ed Ficke, right field, Albert Mueller, center field, and Henry Melichar, left field, and Bill Johnson alternating in left field. The pitchers were Adolph Ficke, right-handed, and Charlie Fougeron, left-handed. These fellows were good pitchers, and we formed a pretty good team. I played ball on this team for some time, until my wife entered the picture, and baseball faded out. We are now married 52 years.

I still like to talk baseball and enjoyed the game very much in my day.

Bill Berg



Pleasant Dale Baseball, Second Team 1923. Manager, Albert Petsch; Players: Bill Berg, Charles Fougeron, Adolph Ficke, Bill Zimmer, Wiston Merrill, Albert Mueller, Ed Ficke, Henry Melichar, Fred Sieck, and Henry Berg.

BASEBALL 1938-1954

When I was a freshman at Pleasant Dale High School, the town of Pleasant Dale had a baseball team that competed in the Blue Valley League along with such other towns as Garland, Seward, Staplehurst, Beaver Crossing, Gresham, Ulysses, Dwight, Malcolm, Raymond, Crete, and some others from time to time.

My knowledge of players prior to 1938 such as the Fickes (Adolph and Frank), Bill Berg, and many others, I'm sure, is not too great so I'll stop at this.

In 1938 the ball diamond was located south of Stuart Best's farmstead, on what is now the south part of the Pleasant Dale Elementary School's playground. The 1st base and right field line ran east and west and the 3rd base and left field line ran north and south. The right field foul line was very short, probably 250 feet at the most. If the ball was hit over the fence on the right side of a certain marker, the play was automatically limited to a two-base hit. If the ball was hit to the left of the marker, the player could proceed to as many bases as possible without being put out. Many foul balls went into the creek directly behind home plate and along the third base line. They paid 10¢ for chasing balls all afternoon.

I recall when Gus Lebsock in the late 1930's and early 1940's had the tavern in Pleasant Dale, and he would have his pop cooler there attended by Florence Kapke (now Lebsock) and the Nehi, Coca Cola and other kinds were 5¢ a bottle, and you were trusted to bring the bottles back. Candy bars were also 5¢ and you got a lot of licorice for a penny.

Some of the members of the team that I recall in the late 1930's and early 1940's were Russell Burd as the catcher and power hitter, Neil Stahn, 1st base, Elmer Dankers, center field, Noal VanAndel, right field, Bud Finke, 3rd base, Billy Kapke, short stop or second base, Ervin Sieck, infield, Arnold Krieser, pitcher. Harvey Denning and Wiston Merrill could play any place.

At the start of World War II, and around 1942, the team disbanded, and, as in most other towns, no teams represented the league.



1947 Pleasant Dale Baseball Team. Top Row: Dale Ficke, Eugene Fougeron, Jack Merrill, Landis Borchers, Russell Burd (manager), Wilmer Bishop, Delmar Borchers, Walt VanAndel, Chet Shaw, Hugo Thomas. Second Row: Wiston Merrill (manager), Ralph Burd, Harvey Denning, Elmer Dankers, Paul Berg (bat boy), Neil Stahn, Earl Borchers.

In 1947, Russell Burd, Wiston Merrill, Art Merrill and others called a meeting of all interested individuals who might want to play on the town team. There was enough interest, and a team was organized, with Russell Burd and Wiston Merrill as managers. The team joined the Tri-County League with such teams as Friend, Cordova, Exeter, and other teams to the southwest, including Milford.

The old ball diamond was by that time grown back to trees and grass, and finally turned into farm ground, and so a diamond was laid out in Art Piening's pasture north of town, where Lyle Piening's residence is now located. The home games were played there for a few years, and the diamond was moved, this time to the town of Pleasant Dale at its present location. The first ball diamond at its present location had home plate at what is now the end of the right field foul line. Around 1960 the diamond was rearranged and a large amount of dirt was moved. The power company donated the used poles for light towers, the light fixtures were acquired from the State Reformatory, and with many donated funds and a considerable amount of volunteer labor, the playing field was finished. Many baseball and softball games have been won and lost at this location.

In 1947, the team members, as nearly as I can remember, were Hugo Thomas, Wilmer Bishop, Ralph Burd, Landis Borchers, Delmar Borchers, Elmer Dankers, Walter VanAndel, Neil Stahn, Harvey Denning, Russell Burd, Earl Borchers, Jack Merrill, Chester Shaw, Wally Brandt, Wes Matzke, Bud Hamilton, Robert Eicher, John Treu and, as time went on, Dale Ficke, Paul Berg, Norval Brandt, Kenneth Ficke, Wayne Ficke, Larry Schildt, Stanley Thomas and many others.

In 1949 Pleasant Dale joined the Blue Valley League once again with the same teams that were in the league in the late



Pleasant Dale Baseball Team 1951

1930's and early 1940's. Russell Summers was president of the league and publisher of the Blue Valley Blade and the game results were published weekly. We had the dedicated services of these men behind the plate: Ardell Minchow, Eloth Stahn, Art Merrill, and 'Eagle Eye' Harry Johnson who seldom used the word 'ball'. There were many strike-outs on both sides, and they all performed well.

Wilmer Bishop was the most easy going player I remember, but he wasn't too fast afoot, so he hit 2 home runs in one game so he didn't have to run so fast. Jack Merrill was like Billy Martin, and was usually visiting with the umpires or opposing players, a very colorful person.

I remember one hot Sunday August afternoon in 1948, when Russell Burd, at the age of 48 years, caught a full nine-inning game at Cordova when our regular catcher, Harvey Denning, could not be there, tagged out what would have been the tying run in the bottom of the ninth inning, and won the game for Pleasant Dale.

Landis Borchers

BOYS' BASEBALL 1970 TO 1982

"We were all in it together," was the thought of a group of men interested in the boys' baseball program in Pleasant Dale, Nebraska. Among those working together were Bob Hays, Dick Pierce, Robbie Worster (of Emerald), Jake Hill, Jerry Allen, and Jerry Carpenter, to name a few.



Old and Young Baseball Players in Fourth of July Parade 1979

There are age divisions for boys' baseball. The league names are PeeWee and Pony. The PeeWee league was formed for the benefit of the younger boys in about 1972. There are many trophies in the case at the Community Hall to attest to the abilities and support of the boys, parents, coaches and fans. The record appears as follows:

- 1971—Pony team, second place.
- 1974—PeeWee team, first place in the Goehner Invitational Tournament.
- 1974—Pony team, third place.
- 1975—PeeWee team, first place in the Goehner Invitational Tournament.
- 1976—Pony team, second place in the tournament at Utica.
- 1977—Pony team, second place in the tournament at Staplehurst.
- 1978—Pony team, first place in the tournament at Beaver Crossing.
- 1979—Pony team, second place in the tournament at Milford.
- 1981—Small PeeWee team, third place in the tournament at Beaver Crossing.

The Pony league tournament is passed around among the towns participating. In 1974 and again in 1981, Pleasant Dale was the host of the Pony League tournament. This is a big job, needing the support of many people for a successful tournament.

July 1918—Try that new drink at the Drug Store. It's made of celery and alfalfa.



Girls Basketball, 1920. Back Row: Amy Fougeron Merrill, Evelyn Sipp, Laura Finke, Bethel Stahn Smith, Ethel Gemmell Zimmer, Matilda Dunker Bottrell. Front Row: Anna Bottrell Johnson, Fern Stahn Craig, Cynthia Brown, Hulda Finke Mueller.

GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM

The Pleasant Dale girls' first softball team was started in 1929. The girls played in a pasture where the new elementary school stands. Some of the first players were Erma Shaw (Kapke), Mildred Shaw (Nobbman), Bernice VanAnDel (Brose), Luella Shaw (Kenny), Lueda Dankers (Piening), Irene Stoltz (Brant), Neva Stahn, Edna Piening (Thomas), Viola Borchers (Thiess), Adeline Klug (Lohmeier), Florence Kapke (Lebsock), Irma Petsch (Elrod), Lorene Pyle (Minchow), Viola Dankers (Mitchell), Velma Dankers (Giles), Leona Borchers (Johnson), Helen Gemmell (McFadden), Dorothy VanAnDel (Schluckebier), Carol Shaw (Douglass), Hazel Best (Petersen), and Selma Miller.

Coaches were Walter Stoltz, H.E. Warren, and Fred Shaw, as years went on. The girls went to games in cars, but mostly in Fred Shaw's old Ford truck. They played teams at Milford Crete, Middle Creek, Garland, Goehner, Seward, Staplehurst, Beaver Crossing, Malcolm, Emerald, Denton, and some Lincoln teams.

The team won the Seward County and Saline County championships 2 years. The championship game in Crete in 1933 against Milford took extra innings. They also played at the municipal diamond in Lincoln. Four players, Lueda Dankers, Velma Dankers, Neva Stahn, and Florence Kapke made the all-star team.

Florence Lebsock



1933 Pleasant Dale Girls Softball Team

GIRLS' SOFTBALL 1962-1979

For 17 years, I had the wonderful opportunity to know and work with the girls' softball team. Although league championships have been scarce, the teams have always given 100% effort.

In 1962, there was no organized team, so the girls used bats borrowed from the school. As coach, I purchased a dozen balls for practice and games. In our first game, played in Lincoln, Pleasant Dale lost 23 to 1.

Girls on the team came from the Pleasant Dale area but did not all go to the same high school. Although Milford School district was the main district, girls on the team came from Malcolm, Seward, Lincoln schools, Crete, and the villages of Emerald and Denton.

From 1963 to 1965 the team joined the Seward Girls' Softball League. In 1966, several coaches from the Seward League created the Saline, Lancaster, Seward League known as the SLS League.

In 1969, the senior girls captured the League championship by beating Utica 13 to 6. The Pleasant Dale team consisted of Lois Piening, catcher; Debbie Burd, pitcher; Candy Woebbecke, 1st base; Ruth Heidtbrink, 2nd base; Ila Piening, shortstop; Beverly Burd, 3rd base; Delores Mook, left field; Kathy Austen, center field; Karen Ficke, right field. Donna Fougeron, Pam Hill, Deanna Mook, and Mary Kapke were the other players.

Another high point was in 1970. The junior team won their division. The team consisted of: Donna Fougeron, catcher; Debbie Sanks, pitcher; Janice Stahn, 1st base; Janice Austen, 2nd base; Gail Braunsroth, shortstop; Ann Pett, 3rd base; Joell Braunsroth, left field; Carrie Cooper, center field; Sally Pett, right field. Other players were Wanda VanAndel, Rhonda Sieck, Christine Blattert, and Mary Sieck. Each year from 1967 to 1970, Pleasant Dale has held a Pleasant Dale Invitational Tournament. During that time Pleasant Dale captured three 2nd places and one 3rd place.

During 1966 to 1973, the senior teams have finished 3rd place 2 times, 4th place 1 time, and have won 1 championship. The junior teams won a championship in 1970, 3rd place in 1978, and 2nd place in 1979.

Vernon Lemmert



Pleasant Dale High School Basketball Team 1938. L-R. Back: Harry Lesoing, Russell Pickel, Kenneth Klug, Earl Borchers, Edward Pennington, Harold Stueck. **Second row:** Roy Brebner, Sup't., Heed Tillman, Lelan Sipp, Richard VanAndel, _____, Keith Haist. **Front:** Glen VanAndel, Walter Van Andel, LeRoy Deden, Jack Merrill, Dwight Bishop, Wendell Sipp.

May 1907

Henry Oxley started real estate and insurance office. In March 1914 Henry Oxley and Chris Uthe were in the real estate business and in October 1918 Jay Wells was selling real estate.

C.C.C.

The C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corps) provided jobs for many men in the 1930's.

They made dams and planted trees, both for the purpose of conserving soil. They also made diversion terraces.

WORKS PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION (W.P.A.)

The W.P.A. came into being during Franklin D. Roosevelt's first administration. Its purpose was to provide employment for a lot of needy families.

The work consisted of many projects, such as planting trees, and building small buildings that were sold to different individuals. The most numerous buildings made were outhouses, and there were a lot of them in the community.

In the winter months when there was heavy snow and blocked roads, the W.P.A. employees would shovel roads open. If the wind blew and snow drifted, they could shovel them open again. They also worked on some road grading projects.

The W.P.A. ceased at the beginning of World War II.

Viola Mitchell

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

The Rural Electrification Administration is most commonly known to rural patrons as R.E.A. Through the efforts of a group of farmers, the question of electricity for rural areas was brought before Congress. Senator Norris promoted the idea in the first term of President Roosevelt's term of office.

Electricity in Nebraska was first organized by a group from Columbus on the Loup River, known as Loup River Public Power District on June 3, 1933.

By November 15, 1933, the Loup River project was approved by the newly created Public Works Administration.

Construction was started in October 1934 and was completed by March 1937 when it started to produce power.

It was one of the greatest projects accomplished for the local people.

Viola Mitchell

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Prior to 1942 the Village had no organized Fire Department. The people in the community would band together to help in any way they could with bucket a brigade or other methods. The Village Board purchased the first piece of fire equipment, a two-wheel hose cart. The cart and hose was lost in the 1936 Variety Store fire. Several years later the Village Board purchased the second piece of fire equipment from the city of Wayne, Nebraska, a 1927 LaFrance fire truck with a tip tank chemical operation, white in color. The fire truck was used to answer fire calls in the surrounding rural area as well as within the village. In early 1942 a group of individuals decided to organize a Fire Department. May 25, 1942, the dream of an organized Fire Department became a reality when ten men gathered together, created the first bylaws (many of these first bylaws are still used), thus establishing the first Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department. According to actual records of the original meeting, those men present who signed the bylaws of the organization were:

William Kapke	George Zimmer
Glenn Oxley	Harry Johnson
John Vagts	Paul Breithaupt
A. McFadden	J.W. Pyle
Bennie Stern	Wiston Merrill

The results of the first election were:

President	Harry Johnson
Vice President	Paul Breithaupt
Secretary	J.W. Pyle
Treasurer	W.B. Stolz
Chief	A.M. McFadden
Assistant Chief	Glenn Oxley

Note of interest: W.B. Stolz was not an active member of



Groundbreaking For New Fire Hall, June 1972. Helen VanAndel, Amy Merrill, John Smith, Gary Yank, Ed Schwartzkopf (with shovel).

the department. Since he was the banker of the community, the members felt he should be the treasurer.

Minutes of the meetings were not kept. However, records do show the men who joined between 1942 and 1946. Much of the information obtained from this period is from stories related by the men who were members. The fire truck was housed in several places throughout the town and finally ended up in the lower level of the Community Hall, located on the site of the old Patterson Store building. To keep the truck from freezing during the winter months, the firemen would take a night shift of keeping the stove going to supply the needed heat.

The department began to grow in membership, especially upon completion of World War II, when the returning servicemen began to fill the ranks of the department.

In 1949 the State Legislators passed a law to establish local rural fire districts, giving power to the Rural Fire Board to establish a tax levy for the collection of tax money for operation and replacement of fire fighting equipment. The Seward County Rural Fire Protection District was formed, which included all of Seward County, with the exception of A precinct (Bee), and a mile into York County, from Highway 34 south to the county line one mile south of Cordova. At the same time the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department established itself by preparing Articles of Incorporation which were signed and approved on January 9, 1950, by the following Charter Members:

Glenn Oxley	John Vagts
Harry Johnson	James Pyle
George Yank	Billie Kapke
Wilmer Bishop	Elmer Dankers
Chester Shaw	Wiston Merrill
Arthur Piening	Lester Ficke
Eloth Stahn	Glen VanAndel
Richard VanAndel	Eddie Lebsock
Henry Brt	Russell Burd
John Becker	George Zimmer, Jr.

In January 1950, this newly formed group voted to purchase their first piece of fire fighting equipment. A 1950 International Chassis was sent to LaVern, Minnesota, and according to specifications the LaVern Fire Equipment Company created a Class A pumper with a 500 gpm two stage pump and the water capacity of 500 gallons. This unit is still being used by the fire department.

In March 1950, the department received the deeds to the property that now included the Community Fire Station. The department then voted to have a 28'x40' quonset placed on the property to store the new fire truck.

From 1950 to 1954 the department worked hard to incorporate Lancaster County, east of Pleasant Dale to Denton, into the Seward County Fire District. By taking petitions door

to door, this was completed in 1954 and this 20 square mile area of Lancaster County was enrolled in the Seward County Fire Protection District.

The Village Board, in May 1953, sold the LaFrance truck and gave the proceeds to the Fire Department who purchased a 1950 Chevrolet truck in October of 1953. The department then contacted the Milford Trade School, who built a tank with 750 gallon capacity and placed it on the truck chassis. This truck served as a water wagon for many years.

During 1967 the department learned of the new Clark/McNary Act which allowed fire departments who served the local Salt Wahoo Water Shed lakes, Conestoga to the southeast, Pawnee to the northeast, and Twin Lakes to the north, by signing up, to receive surplus military equipment. The departments must then convert this equipment into fire fighting units. Through this Clark/McNary Act, the department in April 1967 received their vehicle, a 1951 6x6 GMC. A 1000 gallon tank was placed on this vehicle to make a water wagon which became valuable for grass fire fighting in hard-to-get-at places. In 1968 the Chevrolet truck began to show its age and was, in July 1968, replaced by another Clark/McNary Act truck, a 1951 Ford 2½ ton truck. This truck had 750 gallon capacity. By June 1973, the 1951 Ford truck began to falter and the department returned the 1951 truck, which had been used for 2 years as a grass fire fighter, to Clark/McNary. About the same time the first 6x6 was returned and the second 6x6 had a new 1000 gallon tank mounted. During the year 1977 the members discussed the possibility of having some kind of equipment vehicle.

In December 1977 the department had nineteen men who attended and passed the first Crash Injury Management Course. Thus the first Quick Response Group was formed. Seven men went on to obtain their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), a more advanced rescue course. During this time the department contracted with Smeal Fire Equipment for a four-wheel drive two ton truck. The body of this truck had compartments to be used for equipment as well as first aid materials for the Quick Response team. The truck also has a 250 gallon capacity for quick attack or to be used as a grass fire fighting unit. During 1979 and 1980 the 6x6 was converted to a 1500 gallon capacity with additional grass lines and quick dump for a water tanker.

As the community reflects on its first 100 years the fire department can reflect on only its first 40 years of existence.

With pride the department can say that they have not lost a fireman in the line of duty. Those of us that are still members, and future members, can reflect on those who served the community before us and their contribution and pride in the department and the community. Also to the past officers of the department who gave their guidance and leadership to make the department what it is today, and to the families of those now deceased, a thanks for allowing them to serve the community.

Firemen of the past were called smoke eaters because they wore no protective gear, which becomes a must for survival, because of the many hazards such as insecticides, pesticides, fungicides, and fertilizers. Everyday new products are put on the market bringing into our homes and buildings different hazards which the department members must know how to handle. Because of this, the department has an ongoing training session that discusses the hazards and training in the handling operation and familiarization of the products equipment.

Not all is strictly business with the fire department. They have, over the years, held events to thank the men and their families and also the people of the community for their loyal support. There have been Firemen's Picnics with carnivals, the Firemen's Dances held at the Pla-Mor Ballroom, and several years at the Flying V Ballroom in Utica. Also, for the past 4 years, the Pork Barbeque has been held serving over 750 persons each year. This year will be the fifth year for our birthday party when we honor our firemen. Plans are underway for this 40th year birthday party to be celebrated at our



Pleasant Dale Fire Department Trucks, 1982.

Hog Roast.

To those who are currently members of the Pleasant Dale Fire Department, and place their lives on the line when a fire strikes or a medical emergency arises, we wish to say thanks to you and to your families for lending us the use of your loved ones.

The Volunteer Pledge

1. Save lives (human or animal)
2. Protect exposures
3. Protect fellow firemen
4. Extinguish the fire.

FIREMEN – PAST AND PRESENT

Gerald Allen	Gary Harral*
Jerry Allen*	Ronald Havlat
Leland Austen	Robert Hays
	Vick Hdlacky
Edward Banning	James Helter
Gene Bauer	Neil Hirsch
Bernard Becker	Gene Hromas
John Becker	
Marion Benes	Clifford Irwin*
Gene Berg	
William Berg	Will James*
Stuart Best	Harry Johnson
Wilmer Bishop	
Gary Blattert*	Don Kapke
Keith Bottrell	Ronald Kapke*
Paul Breithaupt	Tom Kapke
Gary Brhel*	William Kapke
Lou Brose	William Kapke, Jr.
Henry Brt	Earl Kilday
Duane Burd*	Alvin Klug*
Ralph Burd	Terry Klug*
Russell Burd**	Konrad Koslowski
Richard Burianek	Norman Kropp
	Clyde Kremer
	Frank Kruger
Larry Carpenter	Larry Lawton*
Norman Clark	Edward Lebsock
Vernon Cook	Edward Lebsock, Jr.
	James Lee
C.F. Daberkow	Lawrence Lee
Laverne Dailey	Scott Lee*
Bill Daniels	Anthony Leisveld*
Eliner Dankers**	Michael Lemmert
Harlan Dankers*	Vernon Lemmert*
John Deden	Earl Lohmeier*
Kenneth Dill	Vernon Lostroh
Marvin Dreeszen*	Fred Luckey
Dale Ficke	Elmer Madson
Kenneth Ficke	Leo Martens*
Larry Ficke	Dale Matthes*
Lester Ficke	A.M. McFadden
Melvin Ficke	Lucas McMullen
Wayne Ficke*	Elmer Melichar
Frank Fontaine	Wiston Merrill
Gene Fougeron	Ardell Minchow
	Dean Minchow*
George Gammel	

Earl Mitchell**

Don Newell
Arthur Niewedde
Gary Nobbman
Harry Nobbman
Larry Nootz*
Ray Nootz

Glenn Oxley

Roger Pectold
Samuel Pennington
Fred Petsch
Ronald Petsch*
Arthur Piening**
Myron Piening
Ronald Piening*
Stuart Piening*
Vernon Piening*
Dick Pierce
James Pyle

Leonard Rapp
John Reid*
Wes Reil*
Rex Riley*

Vance Salisbury
Vernon Sharp
Chester Shaw
Ervin Sieck
Elloth Stahn
Neil Stahn
Bill Stephens
Bennie Stern

Bill Stern
Tim Stiefel
Larry Stonacek
Dick Sullivan

Al Thomas
Clinton Thomas*
Roger Thomas*
Stanley Thomas
Kenneth Timme

Bob Upton*

Glen VanAnDel
Richard VanAnDel
Ronald VanAnDel*
Walter VanAnDel*
Joe Vance
Tom Vance*
Arthur Vagts
John Vagts

Glenn Weeks
Neal Weeks
Bill Wiechert
Charles Wiechert
Bernnie Welsch
Lloyd Woebbecke
Milan Wolf

Gary Yank
George Yank
Russell Yank

George Zimmer Jr.
Wesley Zimmer

* Present Members

**Inactive Members

PLEASANT DALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

NAME	FIRE CHIEFS YEARS
A.M. McFadden	1942
John Vagts	1946
George Yank	1947, 48, 49, 50, 51
Wiston Merrill	1952, 53, 54, 55
Vernon Piening	1956, 57, 58
Glen VanAnDel	1959, 60, 61, 62, 63, 68, and 69
Ralph Burd	1964, 65, 73
Walter VanAnDel	1966, 67
Gary Yank	1970, 71, 72, 74
Gary Harral	1975
Wayne Ficke	1976, 77
Ronald Piening	1978, 79, 80
Ronald VanAnDel	1981

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEFS

Glenn Oxley	1942
George Yank	1946
Leonard Rapp	1947
Elmer Dankers	1948
Lester Ficke	1949, 50
Vernon Piening	1951, 53, 54, 55, 63, 64, 65
Earl Lohmeier	1952
Wiston Merrill	1956, 57, 58, 59
Leland Austen	1960, 61, 62
Glen VanAnDel	1966, 67
Gary Yank	1968, 69
Vic Hladky	1970, 71, 72
Alvin Klug	1973
Larry Lawton	1974
Wayne Ficke	1975
Gary Harral	1976, 79
Ronald Piening	1977
Fred Petsch	1978, 79
Vernon Lemmert	1981

PRESIDENTS	
NAME	YEAR
Harry Johnson	1942
Ardell Minchow	1946
Russell Burd	1947
Earl Kilday	1948
Ed Lebsock	1949, 50
Elmer Dankers	1951, 65, 66
Glenn Weeks	1952, 59
Ralph Burd	1953, 60
Chester Shaw	1954, 63
Walter VanAndel	1955
Earl Lohmeier	1956
Lloyd Woebbecke	1957
Leland Austen	1958
Charles Wiechert	1961, 68, 69
Bernard Becker	1962
Lawrence Lee	1964
Art Vagts	1967
John Reid	1970, 71, 72
Myron Piening	1973, 74
Gary Blattert	1975
Fred Petsch	1976
Gary Harral	1977
Kenneth Dill	1978
Will James	1979, 80, 81

VICE PRESIDENTS	
Paul Breithaupt	1942
Wiston Merrill	1946
Art Niewedde	1947
Harry Johnson	1948, 49, 50
Earl Mitchell	1951
Gerald Allen	1952
Arthur Piening	1953
Leonard Rapp	1954
Leland Austen	1955
Dale Ficke	1956
Joe Vance	1957
Eugene Fougeron	1958
Elmer Melichar	1959, 62
Kenneth Ficke	1960, 66
Alvin Klug	1961
Wayne Ficke	1963, 64
Gary Blattert	1965
Roger Thomas	1967, 77
John Reid	1968, 69, 73
Elmer Dankers	1970, 71, 72
Gary Harral	1974
Richard Burianek	1975
Ronald Piening	1976, 81
Will James	1978
Dean Minchow	1979
Clinton Thomas	1980

SECRETARIES	
NAME	YEAR
James Pyle	1942
George Gammel	1946
Elmer Dankers	1947, 58
Glen VanAndel	1948, 49, 50, 51
Chester Shaw	1952
Vernon Lostroh	1953
Kenneth Timme	1954
Kenneth Ficke	1955
Eugene Fougeron	1956
Ralph Burd	1957
Walter VanAndel	1959
Vernon Lemmert	1960, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68
Dean Minchow	1969, 74
Roger Thomas	1970
Ronald Piening	1971
Arthur Vagts	1972, 73
Ronald VanAndel	1975, 76, 77, 78
Ronald Petsch	1979, 80, 81
TREASURERS	
W.B. Stolz	1942
George Gammel	1946

Elmer Dankers	1947, 58
Glen VanAndel	1948, 49, 50, 51
Chester Shaw	1952
Vernon Lostroh	1953
Kenneth Timme	1954
Kenneth Ficke	1955
Eugene Fougeron	1956
Ralph Burd	1957
Walter VanAndel	1959
Vernon Lemmert	1960, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69
Larry Lawton	1970, 71, 72, 73
Ronald Piening	1974
John Reid	1975, 76
Gary Brhel	1977, 78, 79, 80, 81

Vern Lemmert

TWIN LAKES PROJECT HISTORICAL REVIEW AND INFORMATION SURVEY

The Salt Valley Watershed Association was formed in 1952. Out of this came several plans. The plan that authorized Twin Lakes was accepted by Congress July 3, 1958. The first site was near Highway 6 on the Conrad Dankers' farm which was first approved by the Salt Valley Watershed District. Because of the interstate, the proposal for this site did not mature. The site which is now known as Twin Lakes was selected. This was approved in 1963. The dam was then completed in 1965.

There was a hearing held at Pleasant Dale on July 16, 1963, at the Legion Hall. This was held on behalf of Dam No. 13, which is known as Twin Lakes. A public notice was posted, and all interested parties were invited, especially the landowners and tenants. The hall was filled to capacity, and people from the outside were listening in. This meeting was very emotional because of the destruction of property belonging to the people of this community. There was strong feeling from the audience that the dam was being built for recreation instead of the actual purpose of flood control. Today, however, we do look at this area as a recreational spot.

Some of the people who were displaced, who gave their time and their homes to their community for this particular site were:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fougeron, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Art Pohlman, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. August Schildt, Leslie and Larry Schildt, Mr. and Mrs. Rumboltz and Martha Ficken, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thomas and Hugo Thomas.

The community and the above individuals have adjusted very well. We must remember, however, that these individuals gave up their homes. Even though they were reimbursed for their homes, they did sacrifice.

Twin Lakes State Wildlife Management Area is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Pleasant Dale, Nebraska, and 9 miles west of Lincoln, Nebraska, all in Seward County.

Public Law 85-500, 85th Congress, approved July 3, 1958, authorized the project for flood control on Salt Creek and tributaries, as recommended by the Chief of Engineers in



Twin Lakes 1982

House Document 396, 84th Congress. The two dams on this area were constructed under the law.

Both dams on this area were completed in the fall of 1965 and began to store water at that time. Conservation pools of 47 acres (west lake), and 208 acres (east lake) will be maintained. In addition to the land acquired for conservation pools, an additional 967 acres of land was purchased for a total of 1,222 acres of land and water within the project boundary.

The Game and Parks Commission has purchased 576 acres of land on this area from the Corps of Engineers. In addition, the Game and Parks Commission is authorized, under a cooperative agreement, to manage all lands owned by the Corps of Engineers. Therefore, all lands within this project are managed by the Game and Parks Commission. Lands purchased by the Game and Parks Commission were acquired with Land and Water Conservation funds under the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

Mineral and oil rights are reserved by the agency owning the land. The Game and Parks Commission, therefore, reserves these rights on the 576 acres of deeded lands; and the Corps of Engineers reserve these rights on the remainder of the area.

In 1974, all access roads into the area were reshaped and surfaced with crushed rock. Seven new parking lots were constructed at this time also. These roads provide all weather access with two roads into each lake.

Also, in 1974, 3 Erosion Control Dams were constructed on this area by the Operations and Construction Division; and in 1975, 3 more Erosion Control Dams were constructed by Resource Services Personnel using a TD-20 crawler tractor.

As part of a Giant Canada Goose Restoration Project, young geese reared at Branched Oak Lake have been released on Twin Lakes each year since 1972. In addition, artificial nesting structures have been constructed on this area for resident nesters. Numerous broods of goslings have been produced and reared on this area since 1974. The resident flock of Canada Geese on this area averages 300 to 500 birds each year. These birds usually winter in the state of Texas.

In 1972, another waterfowl restoration project was started with the release of young wood ducks, also hatched at Branched Oak Lake. This project has also been successful, and releases of young wood ducks are no longer necessary on this area. Artificial nesting boxes have been installed and maintained on this area. Nesting in the boxes and in natural tree cavities is very common each year.

Access into this area is closed each year during waterfowl hunting seasons. As a result of closure, waterfowl populations build up to a high of approximately 30,000 each fall. This population of ducks (mostly Mallards), provides excellent hunting on areas west and south of the Twin Lakes area.

This area has been closed entirely to hunting each year. However, this policy changed in 1981. With the closure of the waterfowl hunting seasons each year, the area will be open to upland game hunting and sport trapping.

Public fishing in this area is considered excellent. It has been the opinion of Fisheries Biologists that the good fishing on these 2 lakes is due to the lack of public use facilities. The area is maintained as a primitive area with no sanitary facilities, wells, boat ramps or docks and no designated camping areas. This lack of facilities reduces a number of the other outdoor recreation activities, and leaves the area to be used primarily by the fisherman. A policy of "No Trash Pickup" was initiated on this area in 1967, whereby trash receptacles were removed, and the public was asked to remove their own trash from the area. This appears to be working very well with very little litter accumulations on the the area.

The initial fish stocking occurred in late 1965, with supplemental releases just about every year since then. These 2 lakes are well stocked with large mouth black bass, bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, flathead catfish, northern pike, and some walleye.

This area contains good populations of deer, cottontails, squirrels, muskrats, beaver, mink, pheasants, quail, and

numerous waterfowl species.

In April 1972, approximately 500 7th and 8th grade youngsters gathered in an area on the southwest corner of Twin Lakes to plant trees in honor of Stanley A. Matzke, a former State Senator. This area was dedicated officially as the Stanley A. Matzke Memorial Forest on April 22, 1981. Numerous trees have been and will continue to be planted in this area. Resource Services Division crews have also made numerous tree and shrub plantings at various sites around these lakes. It is estimated that approximately 40,000 trees and shrubs have been planted on the Twin Lakes area.

In closing this report, I feel that the Twin Lakes Project has been beneficial to Pleasant Dale. It has created a new commercial outlet on the Pleasant Dale Interchange and has given to many senior citizens within the Pleasant Dale Community a place to go for their recreation. And, I see many people from outside of Twin Lakes coming in and using this area. I notice that people even use it in the winter. You see huts out on the ice where they are ice fishing.

I do see a lot of use in the recreational area. And, since it was built, I can recall 2 times that it prevented floods downstream. Part of the land is leased to neighborhood farmers for share-rent, and part of it then left in the field for the wildlife. As I mentioned before, there is much wildlife in this particular area. We see wildlife in this area that we had never seen before Twin Lakes was built, and as time goes on, it will be stocked even more.

Harold Sieck

4-H

With giggles, whispers and laughter in about 1927, a 4-H club with leader Mrs. Ward Pyle gathered to do sewing. Helen and Ruth Ludden, Irma and Mildred Shaw, Lucille Zimmer and Lorene Pyle were in this club. This was the earliest 4-H club that this writer could find in the Pleasant Dale area.



1929 4-H Club

Another early 4-H club was Russell Burd's, and he taught rope tying to a group of boys in 1935. Mrs. Harry Johnson, a leader in the late 1940's tells about a pine tree she planted when she was a leader. It is still growing in her front lawn. Mrs. Lou Masek enjoyed Christmas caroling in 1953 with her 4-H club, and one of the places they sang their loudest was at Mrs. George VanAndel's home.

These are some of the people who worked with 4-H that this writer was able to find out about: Mrs. Albert Kahle, Mrs. James Sipp, Mrs. Henry Dedic, Mrs. Lou Masek, Mrs. Lou Brose, Emery Bottrell, Albert Thomas, Walt Thomas, Mrs. Vernon Piening, Kenneth Ficke, Mrs. Kenneth Ficke, Mrs. Eugene Fougeron, Mrs. Eleanor Shaw, Mrs. Howard Searingen, Mrs. William Kapke, Mrs. Herbert Hill, Mrs. Charles Detwiler, Mrs. Alvin Klug, Mrs. Neil Stahn, Mrs. Elaine Melichar, Virgil Minzel, Vernon Lemmert, Mrs. Lois Minzel, Mrs. Otto Hinrichs, Rodney Braunsroth, Mrs. Kenneth Dill, Mrs. Marvin Dreeszen, Wayne Ficke, Rhonda Ficke, John Zerfas Sr., Mrs. Garry Brhel, Ralph Burd, and Melvin Lostroh.

Mrs. Harry Oxley had a 4-H sewing club in 1935. Members were Leah Sipp, Maxine Gemmell, Helen Danekas, Doris Oxley, Adeline Pennington, and Ann Chamberlain.



4-H Club

In 1978 the Middle Creek 4-H club was started with Rhonda Ficke as the leader. There were 11 members enrolled. Today that 4-H club has 24 members enrolled and they carry many projects. Rhonda and her parents work very hard to keep this 4-H club going. Some of the things they have done this year besides doing their projects are: selling tickets for beef bundles to give away at the 4th of July celebration; selling spice shakers for the county 4-H council; cleaning up Pleasant Dale park; holding two aluminum can and newspaper drives, one for the club and the other for the Game and Park Commission to save Wild Life; planting a garden for the Bethesda Nursing home in Seward.

4-H has been great in the Pleasant Dale area. Being a 4-H leader is a very rewarding experience.

Donna Dreeszen

SMILERS EXTENSION CLUB

The first known extension club in Pleasant Dale was the Smilers Club, organized in the early 1930's.



Smilers Extension Club Kitchen Band. Back Row: Mabel Bishop, Loretta Woodward, Mrs. Kline (?), Mrs. Randolph Stahn, Mrs. Daffer (?), Faye VanAndel, _____, Lucy VanAndel, Denie Minchow, Belle Merrill, Mrs. N. E. Bishop, Ella Pyle, Mrs. E. J. Newton. Front Row: Ethel Shaw, Lorene Minchow, Helen Gemmell, Lydia Oxley, Blanche Shaw.

PEPPY DAMES EXTENSION CLUB

Eleven ladies met at the town hall March 25, 1960 to organize an extension club in the Pleasant Dale community. Mr. Lloyd Young and Mrs. Gertrude Hackbart of Seward explained the purpose of a Home Extension Club. We called ourselves the "Peppy Dames," and we meet the third Wednesday of each month in our homes.

Charter members were Hattie Allen, Vi Allen, Verneda Austen, LaVerne Dankers, Hazel Johnson, Lorene Minchow, Viola Mitchell, Norma Pennington, Erma Timme, Louise Timme, and Hazel Vance.

Some of the goals we've had in the past 22 years are to help needy families, provide favors and parties for county rest

homes, contribute clothing and assist County Welfare, community projects, cultural arts, citizenship, safety, and help provide scholarships for a boy or girl whose family is a member of an extension club.

We sewed dresses and shirts for the Orthopedic Hospital, held a party for inmates at the Lincoln Regional Center, held bake sales, and donated money for lights at the local ball diamond, donated to the March of Dimes and Heart Fund, started a mite box for worthy purposes in the community, donated to Seward County Welfare, collected for the Cancer Fund, held a bake sale with proceeds going to Community Improvement, in which Pleasant Dale was a class I finalist, helped with diabetes testing clinic, put an article in Davisson's time capsule in Seward, helped sponsor a film "Enriching Relationships", attended "Leap on Lincoln" and visited the Capitol and Governor's Mansion, donated money to help furnish a kitchen in the community building, helped entertain "Over 50" Club parties, and donated towards Fourth of July fireworks and prizes.

In 1973 Mrs. Don Borgmann, a member of our club, was elected chairman of the Seward County extension clubs. In 1976 we formed a kitchen band and had a float in the July 4th parade. We received second place. We also made a Bicentennial quilt. We sold tickets on it and awarded it to the winner July 4, 1976.

We went on field trips to Lincoln, Seward, Crete, and Omaha, and attended county bus tours. Each year we have attended Achievement Day at Seward and had a display table.

Our December meeting is always a covered dish luncheon and gift exchange to our secret pals. Each year since 1965 we have been giving treats to shut-ins around the Pleasant Dale community at Christmas time. At the present time we have 18 members.

LIBERTY BELLES EXTENSION CLUB

The Liberty Belles Extension Club was formed in the late fall of 1975 with the following members: Mae Pohlmann, Diane Irwin, Mary Jane Wendelin, Lucy Cooper, Joanne Allen, Marcia Stephens, Andrea Hovelsrud, Donna Dreeszen, Lucy Hinrichs, and Elaine Johnson.

Several of these members have moved from the community. Only two original members are still in the club. They are: Diane Irwin and Lucy Hinrichs.

Other members in the club now are: Barbara Blattert, Ruth Lewis, Janet Mowery, and Arlene Rezac.

BROWNIE TROOP

Brownie Troop 102 started in 1975. Janet Martens was the leader.

Pam James became the leader in 1976 and after a few years when the girls were older, a Junior Girls Scout Troop was begun to include those who went into 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. Karen Cairns, Anne Adkins and Edna Price served as leaders successively. Chris Brhel, (a scout from the first year that scouting came to Pleasant Dale), Tina Fisher, Michelle Nootz, Lisa Clark in our Centennial year became Cadette Scouts. (7th, 8th, and 9th grades).

Scouting continues to grow and change with these girls to provide an exciting program based on belief in God, service to mankind and country, and living by the Girl Scout Law.

Currently, Brownie Troop 102 has 11 members, Junior Troop 273 has 13 members, and Cadette Troop 403 has 2 members.

Brownie Troop 102 leaders are Pam James and Terry Nootz. Members of this troop are Tanna Irwin, Lisa Nootz, Susan Tanner, Calley Piening, Amy Lee, Collette Mueller, Staci Vance, Michaela Johnson, DeAnn Nicklas, Heather Schwindt, and Melissa Schwindt.

Junior Troop 273 leaders are Edna Price and Carla Jo Vance. Troop members are: Tina Fisher, Michelle Nootz, Melissa Thomas, Konnie Helter, Kristy Lawton, Sheryl

Kehm, Kelley Price, Jill Larmon, Devonna Price, Angie Stanton, Lea Stanton, Shana Anderson, and Sherie Brhel.

Cadette Troop 403 leaders are Pam James and Terry Nootz. The members of this troop are Chris Brhel and Lisa Clark.

Pam James

"OVER 50" CLUB

The "Over 50" club was started in the fall of 1975 by Mrs. Jim (Joan) Helter and Mrs. Gary (Mary) Yank. Their object was to get something going for the older citizens of the community. The afternoon was spent playing cards and bingo, with refreshments being served. These first meetings were held in the new Community Building.

A year later they started meeting in the Legion Hall with a carry in dinner at noon. Coffee and tea and rolls were furnished by the hostess.

On special occasions such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day and Hallowe'en, extra decorations and entertainment are added.

The afternoons are spent playing 10-point Pitch and Bingo, with prizes given.

The organizations helping are "Peppy Dames", "Liberty Belles", "Just Us" extension clubs, American Legion Auxiliary, United Methodist Women, Lutheran Ladies Aid and women of Zion Lutheran church.

The club meets the second Wednesday of every month, except for June, July, and August. It has been very exciting for those who attend each month and they look forward to a good day of getting together.

I know from my own experience in helping, how much they all enjoy that one day a month, and how all organizations enjoy putting it on. Our Senior Citizens deserve all of this and more.

Florence Lebsock

HUNTER SAFETY PROGRAM

Glenn Johnson, Clint Thomas, and Wayne Ficke became certified Hunter Safety instructors in 1976. They held their first Hunter Safety class for young persons, 12 years and older. Classes have been held since then in 1978, 1980, and 1981. Approximately 30 to 35 students have successfully completed the course.

Glenn Johnson

PLEASANT DALE TENNIS COURT

A multi-purpose court was constructed just east of the present school building in 1979 by the village of Pleasant Dale. The total cost of the project was \$32,000, with 75% of the cost from Land and Water Conservation Funds, and 25% from Pleasant Dale. The village and the school board entered into a lease and use agreement for this facility.

The court is 60 feet by 120 feet, surrounded by a chain link fence, and provides a doubles tennis court and 4 basketball backstops, with lighting for night use.

Glenn Johnson



Pleasant Dale Tennis Court Beside New Elementary School

SEWER

Due to the village adding the city water supply (see Water) 1962. Bids were let and A-1 Construction Company of Lincoln was low bidder. Other costs incurred were the purchase of land from John VanAndel for the land needed for the open lagoons for sewage disposal, Chet Shaw for road building and dirt moving, Price Johnson Erickson, Engineers, for project supervisors, and Jay Dunlap for attorney fees. The total cost of the project was \$39,124.61. The citizens of the village raised \$10,000 before construction was started, and, upon completion, bonds were issued in the amount of \$27,000 on November 15, 1962. These bonds were surrendered and paid off by November 1968.

Due to the Village adding the city water supply (see Water) and the influence of the Salt Wahoo Watershed dams, the population doubled within the next 5 years. The current lagoons could not handle the sewage disposal for which they were designed. The Village Board entered into the Sanitary Sewer District 1979-1, and, with the help of federal funding, added to the system by placing two lagoons north of the original lagoons. This gives the system total retention. Bids were let, and Chet Shaw Construction Company was low bidder. The entire project cost was \$122,000, of which the federal funds paid 80% of the construction cost. Additional land was purchased from John VanAndel for the project. The last project was completed in June, 1980. The total system now will handle a population increase through the year 2020.

Vernon F. Lemmert, Clerk

WATER

At a regular election on April 2, 1968, for the Village of Pleasant Dale, an election was also held for the citizens of Pleasant Dale to vote on and approve a \$47,000 bond issue to construct a public water system. Bids were let for the system. Bids for the construction of the Pleasant Dale water mains and hydrants were awarded to Willet Trenching Service of Beatrice. E.R. Hanson and Sons of Mead were awarded the contract for the digging of the well and the pump house.

The project was completed by August 15, 1968.

Vernon Lemmert, Clerk



Well House in Pleasant Dale Park

HOUSEMOVING IN 1936

When the Harry Oxley family moved to their newly purchased farm in 1936, they took their house and other buildings along. Since there were no hydraulic jacks then, screw jacks were used to lift the house. Each man turned a jack a quarter turn while the foreman counted aloud. Using beams from a Seward housemover, and steel wheels from a Lincoln housemover, the house was loaded. Howard Kapke of Lincoln supervised the job. This task took several days.

Four farm tractors were used to pull the house the 2 miles from town to farm, and the trip took 2 days. In places, the road was too narrow, and needed to be planked, using 3-inch planks. Also, in some places it was necessary to use a block and tackle to move the house forward. John Oxley and Russell



Oxley Housemoving 1936

Burd walked at the sides of the house to watch the wheels.

Two of the tractors used were 2236 Internationals belonging to Charles Fougeron and Walter Becker, and the other 2 were F30's belonging to Wiston Merrill, and Walter Becker. Drivers were Charles Fougeron, Wiston Merrill, Arthur Merrill, Chester Shaw, and George VanAndel (?).

Mrs. Oxley served the noon meal to the workers, in the house, wherever they happened to be. She stayed in the house all the way to watch the household belongings, while some of the neighborhood children rode part way just for fun. The family spent the night in the house while it was on the road.

Doris Lostroh

HOMES THAT HAVE TRAVELED HERE

The railroad Section house which stood north of Pleasant Dale was moved to the south edge of town and was the home of Mrs. Ella Kapke. Now it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Stern.

Houses of Hazel Null and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Allen were formerly 1 barracks building from the Lincoln Air Force Base.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Burd was moved to town by Mrs. Alvina Mueller in 1952. She and her husband, Fred, had lived in this house on a farm 4 miles northeast of Pleasant Dale.

Art Pohlman's home was in the Twin Lakes Dam area and was moved to just north of town.

Glen and Helen VanAndel purchased the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alvae Hoppman from the Pawnee Dam area. They moved it to just west of town.

A barn which stood south of the former A.M. Fougeron house, (now Zerfas), was moved ½ block south and became the home of Ira Woodward, later the home of Clemens Keller Sr. It was torn down a number of years ago.

The house that I remember Grandma Belle Merrill living in, north of the present Pleasant Dale Grocery, originally stood about straight north of Helen Zimmer's home. The house was moved to the northwest part of Pleasant Dale. Ernest and Ethel Shaw lived there, Arthur and Elaine Merrill lived there, and Wiston and Amy Merrill lived there after their marriage in 1925, and lived there until March 1930. Belle Merrill moved into that house in March, 1930 and lived there until her death in January 1946.

This house again moved, back to almost the exact place in Pleasant Dale where it originated. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Blattter.

Joanne Lostroh

The Eugene Hromas house in Pleasant Dale, now owned by Mrs. L.H. Johnson, formerly stood on the Vernon Lostroh farm north of Pleasant Dale. It originally belonged to Henry Hahn. In 1960, the house was moved into town by a David City housemover, Mr. Scribner, using a truck to pull it with ease. It was the home of the Hromases until they moved from Pleasant Dale.

Doris Lostroh



Thomas House Being Moved to Pleasant Dale in 1965



Thomas Home Moved Into Pleasant Dale

The house of John Stevens was moved into Pleasant Dale and set on two of the Merrill Addition lots purchased by Harry Nobbman. It had to be moved from the Pawnee Lake area when the dam was to be built. It belonged to Elmer Nobbman and was sold to Harry Nobbman. It was moved into Pleasant Dale by a housemover from Sutton. It was completely remodeled and the upstairs removed by Harry with the help of his son Gary. Gary and Judy Nobbman bought the house in 1965.

Mildred Nobbman

The house in which the Lawtons live was moved from the farmstead of Walter Bottrell after the State of Nebraska purchased their land for what is now Conestoga Lake (the dam near Denton). Mr. Saltzman from Milford received the contract for the moving of the house into Pleasant Dale. Everything went well on moving day until the railroad overpass was reached on what is now #103 to Crete. The house at one point was sitting on the bridge banisters. In an effort to raise the house to clear the banister, the chimney caught an overhead power line, breaking off the chimney.

Once the house was in position, a little remodeling and painting were done. The Bernard Beckers moved in just prior to October 10 of 1963.

Jeannie Becker



Becker House Moved Into Pleasant Dale in 1963

In the spring of 1964 William and Olivia Eilers moved from their farm to Pleasant Dale. Their farm house was moved into town from its location northwest of Emerald in Lancaster County. The Army Corps of Engineers had bought land in this area in order to build a large dam for recreational purposes, and approximately 13 families were told they would have to move. The land is now covered with water and known as Pawnee Lake.

To enable the house to be brought across Middle Creek, dirt was shoved into the channel to make a road over which the building could be moved. Now located near the old high school in Pleasant Dale, this house was one of several that was moved from the Pawnee Lake area.

Mary Eilers



Eilers House Moved into Pleasant Dale in 1964

NEW HOUSES OF THE 1960'S

SHAW: In 1959 Chester and Eleanor Shaw bought lots that were in the Best addition just east of the Lutheran church. They were purchased from Harry Oxley. Shaws had the house built by Neal Weeks Construction. They moved into the house that same year. The property was in the Shaw family until 1978, when it was sold to John and Edna Smith, the present owners, who now use it as a rental property.

WEEKS: The Weeks addition was a parcel of land bought from Maude Bailey in 1959. It was surveyed and entered into Pleasant Dale as the Weeks addition. In 1961 Neta and Glenn Weeks moved into their new home which was built on the north portion of the addition. Glenn and Neta built the house by themselves with the help of Neal Weeks Construction. The present owners, John and Edna Smith, bought the house in 1968.

THOMAS: In 1964 the south part of Weeks' addition was sold to the William Thomas family. Neal Weeks Construction built the house which Thomases moved into later in that year. It is still occupied by Bill, Hugo and Mildred Thomas.

YANK: The west half of Lot 1, Block 8, of the Best addition was bought from Earnest Haist by Glenn and Neta Weeks in 1964. In 1965-66 the house was built by Glenn Weeks and Neal Weeks Construction. It was sold to Gary and Mary Yank in June of 1966. As the first occupants, Gary built the garage a few years later. In 1976, the house was sold to Glenn and Elaine Johnson, who are the present owners and occupants.

FICKE: In 1969 Ida Ficke bought the north lots from Russell Burd, and the Pleasant Dale Lumber Company built her house. It was completed in February of 1970. Ida moved in during the last of the month. She still occupies the house.

Glenn Weeks

The Becker addition to Pleasant Dale is a parcel of ground isolated by the original Sanitary Sewer Project built in Pleasant Dale in 1963.

This parcel became part of Pleasant Dale in 1963 when it was purchased and annexed into the city by Bernard Becker. It was subsequently divided into 5 lots.



Earl Mitchell Modular Home Arriving 1977



Earl Mitchell Modular Home Completed 1977

Lot 1 on the east end and lot 5 on the west end were sold to Walter Thomas. The Beckers lived in a mobile home on lot 2 until 1963. During that year they purchased a house from Walter and Tillie Bottrell. The house was originally located in the area presently occupied by Conestoga Lake near Denton, Nebraska, and was moved into its present location on lot 2. The Beckers lived in that house until 1967 when it was sold to Larry and Ann Lawton.

Walter and Cecilia Thomas built a new home on lot 1, and moved into it in January 1965.

Lot 3 was purchased by Gordon Faukhauser and his wife in 1966. They subsequently sold the lot to Leroy and Jan Trease. In 1973 the Treases sold to Leland Austen, who later sold it to the Lutheran Church. The congregation built a new parsonage on the lot in 1973. It is presently occupied by the Rev. Jerry Riggert and his family.

Lot 4 was purchased by Charles and Darlene Detwiler in 1964. They built a new home and still reside at that location.

Lot 5. The house on lot 5 was moved in from the Twin Lakes area. This house was moved from its foundation in 1964 and placed on its new foundation in 1965. It is presently owned by Clint and Verla Thomas.

Verla Thomas

AUSTEN DUPLEX

The year of 1956 found us looking for a future location for a home. We purchased a lot September 18, 1956 from Donald and Carrie Zimmer, heirs of the former Jay Gemmell.

Stemming from many morning visits around the old lumber yard counter, Sam Pennington and Lee decided they would purchase the Pleasant Dale depot, which stood south of town, and use the lumber from it. The depot had formerly been located at Grover, near Milford.

During many days of work, interesting things, such as square headnails were found. Following the razing, Sam

erected a double garage at his home. Lee put his material into a duplex. Some of the depot windows are still to be found in the duplex. The name, Pleasant Dale, was salvaged and used in the duplex. Upon finishing the south part, Austens moved in during the following fall and winter. The north part of the duplex was completed later.

Lee Austen

AUSTEN FOUR-PLEX

The four-plex stands where the Pleasant Dale post office had been before its present location.

Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Haist acquired the property in 1944, deeding it to Keith Haist in 1963. We purchased it October 3, 1969.

The building was once a hotel. Ernie and Myrtle Haist made it their home with the northwest first floor corner used as the post office. Myrtle was the postmistress. If the need arose, they rented out some of the rooms upstairs.

After demolishing the building, we built the present apartment building during 1970, again using as much of the old material as possible in the new building. The siding material on the present garages is that of the old building.

Lee Austen

THE LEROY TREASE FAMILY HOME (FORMER SCHOOL)

Many changes have taken place since 1872, when by an Act of Congress, the Burlington and Missouri Railroad Co. acquired a large section of land that included the Pleasant Dale area. In 1881, Thomas Best purchased a portion of that land (SE 1/4, Section 35, Township 10, Range 4E of 6) which included Best's 2nd Addition to Pleasant Dale. The 1902 Addition included 245 Ash St. in the southwest corner of town.

Progressive settlement necessitated the building of Pleasant Dale's first school in 1890. A 30'x30' two-story structure was built at 345 Walnut. When the second school building was completed at the same location in 1916, Carl Viets bought the first building and used wheels, a team of horses, and block and tackle to move it to 245 Ash. The building was remodeled to include four bedrooms upstairs, with one bedroom, a kitchen, living and dining room on the main floor. A front porch was added, as was a south porch which contained a bathroom and stairway to a partial basement under the southwest quarter of the house.

The house changed very little until 1976. Two years after taking possession, the Leroy Trease family started a major renovation project which changed the structure tremendously. All the reconstruction was done by the owner himself, with energy efficiency and livability being his prime consideration.

The area under the house was excavated for a full basement after the house was raised two feet to accommodate a ground level walk-out basement door. Eight inches of 1/4 inch

crushed rock support the foundation footings. The basement walls consist of an all-weather-wood-foundation system. This system allows for drainage to prevent dampness associated with conventional concrete footings. The walls were built from 2x8 studs on 12" centers, covered by treated plywood on the outside surface. A 6 millimeter polyethylene sheet covers the plywood and all edges and seams are sealed. (Government studies indicate the treated wood will last over 200 years). Over 6 inches of fiberglass insulation were installed between the studs before drywalling.

The Trease family lived in the basement for 2 1/2 years while the house was being gutted and reconstructed. The south porch was removed. New floor plans placed the basement stairway and bathroom within the house. When an opening was cut in the main floor for the new stairway, it revealed that a previous remodeler had built a second floor 19 inches above the original floor. This second floor was removed. The front porch was completely replaced and constructed to allow for storage beneath and a deck above it.

After all plaster, lath, and interior walls were removed, the upstairs ceiling and floor were lowered 36 inches, and 62 inches, respectively, to provide for 8 feet ceilings. The revised floor plans included 3 bedrooms on the upper floor, kitchen-dining room, and living room on the main floor. A canning kitchen, and food storage, utility, and recreation rooms were placed in the basement.

The window and door placement was changed to increase energy efficiency. There are no windows or doors on the north side. All windows are double and triple-pane. The large south window utilizes the sun to heat most of the main floor on a clear winter day. The 4 exterior doors are thermo-efficient urethane foam filled.

The exterior walls are 2x6 construction, insulated with cellulose between studs, with 3/4 inch styrofoam insulation under the permanent vinyl siding.

The house is heated by a wood-fired boiler designed and built by Leroy Trease. A propane-fired commercially-built boiler is used for circulation, and as a back-up. Baseboard hydronic (hot water) heaters distribute heat to each room. The system is designed to be used with an active solar collection system, if economical in the future.

Heat for the domestic hot water system is extracted from the wood-fired boiler during winter months, using a conventional propane-fired water heater for storage and back-up. In the near future, domestic hot water will be heated by solar panels during summer months.

Plans are being made to use a wind-powered turbine to generate part or all of the electrical needs of the house.

The future will undoubtedly bring more changes to the house, but it is likely that none will be as drastic as those which occurred from 1976-1981.

Janice Trease

A TRAILER COURT IN TOWN

In 1970, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Field of Lincoln opened a trailer court on the corner of Cedar and Third Street. It was constructed to accommodate 7 trailers and it was parked full most of the time the Fields owned it. The business was managed by their son, Gary, who had just returned from the service. He continued his education at the University of Nebraska while here, and is presently an elementary school principal near Fayetteville, Georgia. The Fields sold the court in 1977 and it has had several owners since. The average mobile homes are much larger now than they were 10 years ago, and thus there are only 4 or 5 homes parked there much of the time.

Reva Stahn



Trease Home, Former Pleasant Dale School Building

July 1890—Pleasant Dale House, Enoch Martin, Proprietor. Rates: \$1 per day. Good accommodations for man and team. Transient trade solicited. Feed stable in connection. Satisfaction guaranteed.

DEAN MINCHOW'S ACCIDENT

On July 1, 1971, Dean Minchow was crossing the railroad tracks at a farm crossing near the Pleasant Dale Co-op Elevator just south of town, when his tractor was hit by a Burlington Northern freight train going east. Dean could not see the train coming from the west because there was a row of box cars sitting on a side track. He had the front part of the tractor on the tracks when the train hit him. Dean was not injured but his tractor was spread several hundred feet along the tracks.

Brenda Minchow



Minchow Tractor-Train Accident

TIMME'S STORE

In 1949, shortly after Erma and I were married, we thought it might be a good idea to look for a business of our own. I was employed by J.C. Penney Co. and Erma by First National Bank in Fairbury. Since I was subject to transfer anywhere by the Penney Co., we decided we would prefer to stay in eastern Nebraska not too far from our families. We found an ad in a paper which said that a grocery store near Lincoln was for sale. My parents did some checking on the location and community, and found it to be Pleasant Dale. We purchased the store from Ward and Jim Pyle and affixed the name of Timme's Store to our business. We took over the operation on August 21, 1950 and continued through May 2, 1976, at which time we sold the store to Will and Pam James.

In the almost 26 years we spent in the business, we experienced many changes in the way of merchandising. Frozen and convenience foods along with dog food became very popular items in the later years. Ed Timme, my father, ran a produce route into the country buying eggs and cream from the farmers and delivering groceries.

Time and merchandising changing with many new products on the market, we found it necessary to build a new building. This we did in 1964. We built to the east of the existing store, which had previously been a store room and tavern. We felt that it fit the needs of modern merchandising, and we also felt that our customers deserved a neater, cleaner store in which to shop. Our business continued to grow and our meat processing increased tremendously.

The post office was moved into the southwest corner of our new store building in 1965. In August I received the appointment of postmaster. We continued to operate the store with competent help for about 11 more years. The time finally came when we felt that we should find someone younger to take over the duties of the grocery store.

Kenneth Timme

JAKE FRAZIER GARAGE

Jake Frazier first rented, and in 1958 purchased the building on the corner of Ash and Main from Carleton Bishop. He started the repair shop in 1955 and sold the business and building to Vern Sharp in 1965.

Jake Frazier

THOMAS TRUCKING

In March of 1965, Kenneth Ficke and Roger Thomas purchased the trucking business from Larry and Leslie Schildt. The truck they first started out with was a 1965 Chevy with an 18ft. box. The trucking name was Thomas and Ficke. On one of their trucking trips they were to pick up a load of cattle. When they backed the truck up to the barn and went inside they found the farmer standing in the manger and he told them, "Look a little out, as these cattle were shotgun trained!"

In 1972 Thomases bought out Kenneth Ficke and started Thomas Trucking. They continued using the 1965 Chevy until May 1973 when they purchased a 1973 Chevy with an 18ft. box. Rog and Bob Berg built a 20ft. pup, which made it possible to haul more than twice as much as before. There were many people who were rather skeptical about the pup, but after awhile, decided it would work. The first load with the new truck and pup was for Art Piening.

Later in 1973 Thomases purchased a 1971 Tempte grain trailer. Stuart Piening purchased a 1974 Chevy tractor to pull the trailer. This was kept for only a couple of years. During this period there was not as much grain and more train cars were available.

Due to more farm work and less time for trucking, Thomas Trucking sold out to Rex Riley in December of 1980. There were many interesting experiences during the 15 years of trucking, and many good customers.

Roger and Diane Thomas



Thomas Truck and Pup

RILEY TRUCKING

The first day of business for Riley Trucking was November 28, 1980 with Maury Hansen of Milford our very first customer. We purchased the first truck and pup trailer from Roger and Diane Thomas of Pleasant Dale. A second truck was later purchased from Jerome Hovelsrud of Denton.

Riley Trucking is primarily a local grain and livestock hauling business centered around the Pleasant Dale, Milford, Lincoln, and Seward area hauling mostly within Nebraska, but occasionally out of state.

Jean Riley

"CURLING V" SALON

The "Curling V" is owned and operated by Verla Thomas. It is a beauty salon adjacent to the home of Clint and Verla Thomas.

The addition which houses the business was built in 1971 and was officially opened January 8, 1972.

KELLERS KORNER TAVERN

On May 1, 1975, Neil & Reva's tavern became Kellers Korner, purchased as a partnership by Clemens Jr., Don, Harold, and Dennis Keller. All of them had worked for Neil and Reva at one time or another so were familiar with the business. Neil and Reva Stahn were very helpful in the transition. During the day the women of the family (Mary Jane, Marcia, Janelle, and Ila) took care of cooking, cleaning, tending bar, ordering supplies, etc. In the evenings, the men would take over, and on the weekends they would alternate with everybody working. Friday nights were fish fries, so more help was needed then. They occasionally had bands on Friday nights and Sunday afternoons which sometimes necessitated extra help. They had a brisk dinner business, especially when railroad crews were in the area. Hamburgers were 55 cents, French fries 40 cents, homemade potato salad (by Mary Jane) was 15 cents, bottle beer was 50 cents, draw beer 35 cents. Many afternoons were spent watching two round tables of pitch players (Ray Allen, Cobe VanAndel, Harry Johnson, Russell Burd, Glenn Oxley, Otto Becker, Ardell Minchow, Elmer Viets, Floyd Scott, to name a few).

The building next door (to the north) was also on Kellers' property, so it was torn down to form more parking space. More storage space was added on by Clem Keller, Sr., and Marvin Hill. An upright freezer was added in the kitchen and the kitchen area was expanded.

On November 1, 1977, Rudy and Marlene Nieman took over the business.

Marcia Keller

THE ROUND BARN

This barn was purportedly built in 1912-1913. There is however, some uncertainty about this date, and the barn may actually have been built as much as ten years later.

FORM: As originally built, this true-round barn had a gambrel roof (having both an upper and lower slope on each side of a central ridge) which collapsed in 1967, and a central silo against which the roof was braced. The diameter of the barn is 38 feet and the diameter of the silo alone is approximately 15 feet. A ramp leads up to the loft level.

CONSTRUCTION: The walls are formed of tile blocks, and the framing of the roof and floors consists of 2x4's. A track led around the interior joints of the roof's two pitches to carry hay into the back of the loft. Short lath stringers running across the radial rafters carried the cedar shingles.

This barn is located 1/2 mile north of Pleasant Dale.

By Roger Welsch, *Nebraska History*, "Round Barns in Nebraska", published by Nebraska State Historical Society, Spring 1970.

Lori Ficke



Remains of Well-Known Round Barn

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK

Following the closing of the bank in Pleasant Dale in the early 1930's, Farmers and Merchants Bank of Milford stepped into the financial void in the Pleasant Dale community. The Milford bank provided credit to the farmers and community residents through the perilous times of the depression drought years. The community of Pleasant Dale has responded through their loyalty and confidence in saving and depositing their funds with Farmers and Merchants Bank.

The bank has provided the funds necessary for the expansion and improvement in the churches, school, and businesses of the Pleasant Dale community. It has been a rewarding partnership for the bank and the community. Currently, the Farmers and Merchants Bank enjoys a relationship whereby it lends to the people of the Pleasant Dale community over \$2,500,000 and receives in deposits a total of slightly over \$2,000,000. With the starting of a second century of existence, Farmers and Merchants Bank considers it a privilege and responsibility to continue to aid in the growth of the community and help its businesses, churches, and citizens acquire the necessary capital so that they may realize their greatest potential for the good of the community.

BITS AND PIECES

1982

Walter and Cecelia Thomas remember when a mail carrier carried not only mail, but items from the store if a patron on the route needed tobacco or perhaps some medicine. Also, the mail carrier treated the children with candy. (Walter mentioned Jay Wells, a carrier who drove a horse and buggy.)

July 1918—William Chapelow, The Blacksmith, will shoe your horses, sharpen your plows, repair your wagons and buggies, paint your wagons and buggies and other machinery, will do your soldering, repair your auto, repair your tires, etc. Have a full line of wagon wood stock, mower repairs, new plow lays. Oils and greases. Repairs for Ford cars. Will repair anything that comes my way. All work guaranteed and prices right. Pleasant Dale.

Lew Wallace had a drygoods store at the same time of Uthe's grocery store. When people paid their bills, Mr. Wallace would give free candy in little striped sacks.

November 1907

The work train, which is engaged in work on the new line of the B and M, but which, at the time was over on the old line in Grover, ran over a cow belonging to Mrs. Kenny. The animal was killed, and the engine, tender, and a couple of cars were ditched. The next morning the regular train, No. 22, came along and the rails spread where the previous accident occurred, letting the engine down onto the ties, which required several hours work to get it back.

February 1908

Horses and mules are selling well in Pleasant Dale, a couple of \$400 teams being sold the past week.

July 1918—Mrs. Daffer loaned her piano to the Chautauqua for the 3 days they were here, and we take this occasion for publicly thanking the lady for the kind courtesy.

The Chautauqua has come and gone. The crowds attending were not quite as big as they would have been if the crop conditions had been better. However, the Chautauqua itself was good. The music was fine, the lectures were up to the standard in every way, and those of us who had to put up \$7 each to get the Chautauqua here, feel that we spent our money in a good cause.

July 1918—J.B. Hill, Barber Shop. For an easy shave and nobby hair cut come here. Hot and cold baths. Pleasant Dale, Nebraska.

July 1918—Board of Trustees: J.B. Hill, Chrm., Harry Oxley, Henry Stueck, Walter Best, C. H. Oxley, J. M. Kisiski, Clerk, Walter Best, Justice of the Peace.

Board of Education: A.F. Ackerman, Secretary, Louis Finke, Treasurer, Walter Best, Moderator.

July 1918—Come and see the new line of guaranteed shoes at F.C. Thomas. If not O.K., repaired free.

Family Histories

BEST FAMILY

Thomas Best, later known to his friends as "Uncle Tommy", was born December 4, 1825. In 1872, at the age of 47, he and his wife Jane, his sons Walter, age 17, George, age 15, Thomas J., age 8, and their daughter Margaret, age 18, left their home in Watertown, in St. Lawrence County, New York, and headed west, where they settled in precinct I of Seward County, Nebraska. His son, Walter, helped his father start the farm where they lived.

Young Thomas J. passed away on September 26, 1880, at the age of 16 years. Jane, the wife of Uncle Tommy passed away on December 18, 1879, at the age of 60. Their daughter Margaret later married W. S. Dunten of Pleasant Dale. She passed away on February 15, 1883, at the age of 28 years. George Best, whose wife was Cynthia, passed away on July 23, 1903, at the age of 44 years. Cynthia was a long-time telephone operator in Pleasant Dale. She lived to be 96 years of age. They had 3 sons, Thomas, Clyde, and Ray.

Pleasant Dale was organized May 18, 1883, by Thomas (Uncle Tommy) Best. Also in 1883, Thomas Best and J. H. Merrill laid out a town site on parts of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 35 town 9, range 4, east. Both men contributed land to start the town.

Walter Best, who helped his father Thomas start the farm, married Elizabeth Lynch at Milford on October 8, 1885. She was born at Monticello, Wisconsin, September 10, 1885. Six children were born to Walter and Elizabeth: Maude, born January 26, 1887 (later married to Arthur Meryhew); Mary Onita, born January 5, 1888 (later married to Jack Smiley); Hazel Bessie, born February 20, 1890 (later married to Claude Kizer); Ethel, born February 16, 1891 (later married to Oren Meryhew); Stuart Ross, born December 26, 1893; Shirley Theo, born January 23, 1895 (later married to Richard Keim).

Walter owned and farmed a farm in Section 35 I township just beside Pleasant Dale. He was a member of the Knights of Maccabees and of the M.W.A. The Baptist church was the family home church.

Not only did Thomas Best help organize and give land to start the town of Pleasant Dale, but on April 9, 1909, land was given to the town by Walter and Elizabeth Best. This was known as Best's 6th addition to Pleasant Dale.

Thomas Best passed away May 1, 1904, at the age of 78 years.

Stuart helped his father, Walter, farm their land. Stuart married Maude Ellen Bill, daughter of Bertha and George Bill, on July 19,

1918. Besides farming, Stuart also worked on the railroad, and after he was unable to do that, he was custodian of the Pleasant Dale School. Stuart and Maude had 2 children, a son Faye, and a daughter Esther. Faye married Carol Mulder and they have a son Darrell and a daughter Linda. Darrell is married to Joanie Jones and they have a daughter Shari and a son Robert. So the name of "Best" lives on. Linda is married to David Uhrich. They all live in Lincoln, Nebraska. Esther is married to Robert Vance. They have a son Robert and a daughter Patricia, who is now married to Rick Whiting. They have a daughter Jennifer and a son Stuart. They also all live in Lincoln.

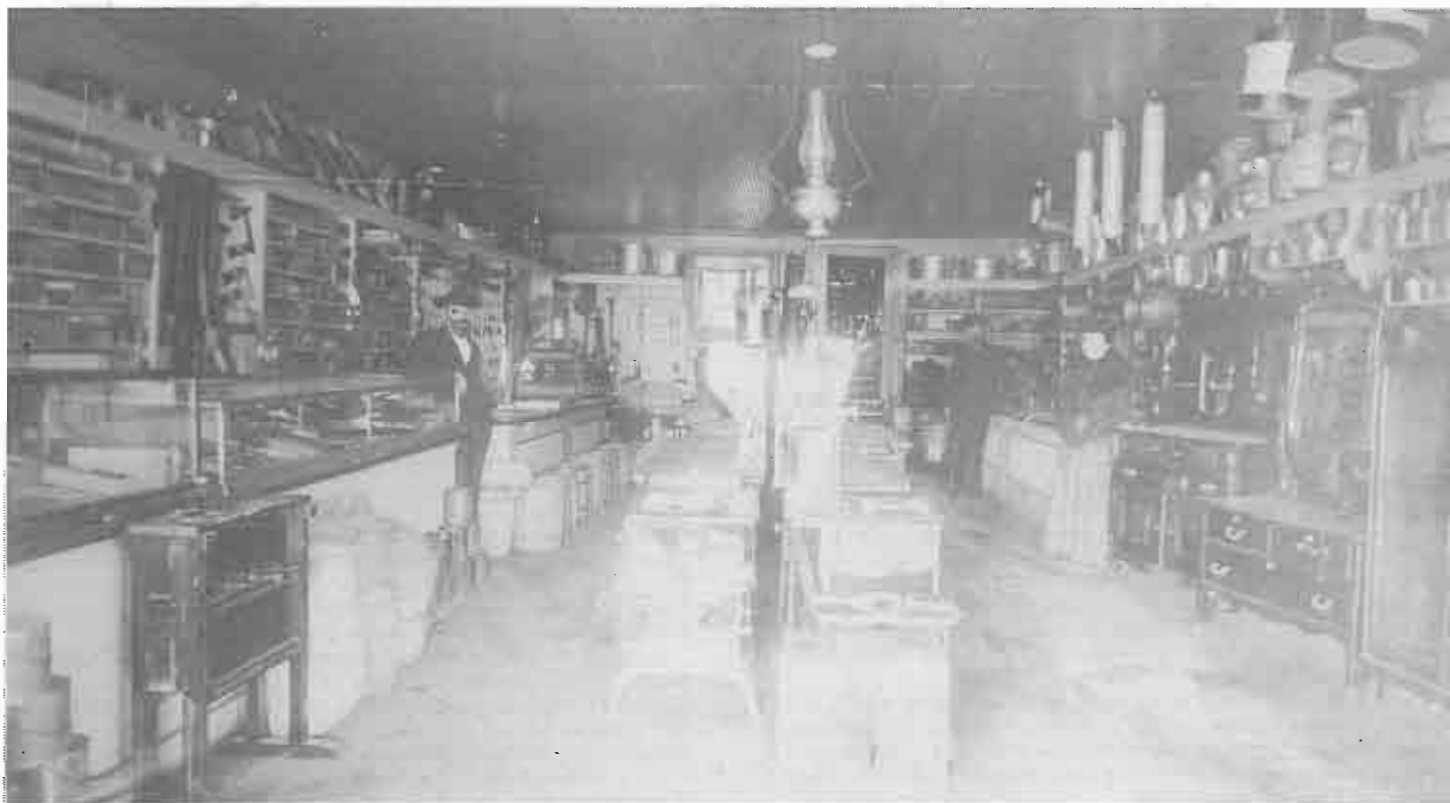
Elizabeth Best passed away July 13, 1927, at the age of 70 years. Walter passed away August 10, 1938, at the age of 81 years. Maude Best, wife of Stuart, passed away January 26, 1958, at the age of 57 years. Stuart passed away on July 25, 1962, at the age of 68 years.

Esther Vance

JOHN H. MERRILL FAMILY

The Merrill family lived near Nantwich, England, which is about 30 miles from Manchester. Samuel and Martha (Whiston) Merrill left England in 1850 with their six children, namely: Joseph, Mary, William H., Martha, Samuel Jr., and John H., and settled near Toronto, Canada, where they farmed and the children grew up. In 1871 the Samuel Merrill Sr., family moved to Meaford, Canada. It was there that their son, John H. Merrill met and married E. Catherine Shields. After their marriage, they moved to Painesville, Ohio, where their sons J. Wilbur S. Merrill and S.J. Edgar Merrill were born. In 1880 the John H. and Samuel Merrill Sr., families moved to Pleasant Dale. In 1881, John H. Merrill's wife, Catherine, died leaving 2 boys ages 5 and 3. They were cared for by their grandpa and grandma, the Samuel Merrills. Wilbur later married May White and Edgar married Mabel Gertrude Perkins. Samuel Merrill died July 1884 and Martha (Whiston) Merrill died April 1889.

In 1886 John H. Merrill married Lucy Carruthers, daughter of John and Ann (Wallace) Carruthers. They had 3 daughters, namely: Ethel, who married Ernest Shaw, Hazel, who married Ralph Bishop, and Lucy, who married John VanAndel. Lucy (Carruthers) Merrill died shortly after her daughter, Lucy, was born. Grandma Carruthers took care of the baby. In 1896, Belle Carruthers, also a daughter of



Interior of J. H. Merrill Store. J. H. Merrill at Left; Belle Merrill at Right.



J. H. Merrill Home 1880.

John and Ann Carruthers, became the third wife of John H. Merrill. They had 2 sons, Arthur, who married Elaine Abel, and Wiston, who married Amy Fougerson.

John H. Merrill bought 160 acres of railroad land, and the village of Pleasant Dale was plotted on part of this land. His early machinery business partner was Carleton Mason and the name of the business was Mason and Merrill. In 1890 he was General Manager of Pleasant Dale Horse Company, raising thoroughbred Percheron stallions on his farm. In 1898 he became owner of J.H. Merrill store which sold hardware, farm implements, furniture, buggies, and caskets. This store was located at the corner of 1st and Main. It is still standing, and is the store room for Pleasant Dale Grocery owned by Will and Pam James. Mr. Merrill was mayor of Pleasant Dale and president of the Pleasant Dale State Bank. In 1909 he had gall bladder surgery which was performed in his home. At this time surgery was a very new method of treatment.

John H. Merrill died April 1909 and Belle C. Merrill died January 1946.

Joanne Lostroh

JOHN CARRUTHERS FAMILY

The Carruthers family lived about 60 miles southeast of Glasgow, Scotland. They migrated to Canada and lived near Toronto. In 1859, John Carruthers married Ann (Wallace) near Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Five of the children were born in Canada: Jim, Fred, Lucy (Merrill), Belle (Merrill), Joseph, Annie (Manville) and David. Grace was born in Painesville, Ohio. In 1885, John and Ann Carruthers bought a farm about 7 miles south of Pleasant Dale, and they moved there from Ohio. They planted many fruit trees on this farm. The Carruthers family was very musical, giving musical programs in the area, even taking their pump organ from home to schools on these occasions.

Their daughter, Lucy, married John H. Merrill. She died when her third child was born. Belle Carruthers was the first school teacher in Pleasant Dale District 21 in 1888-1889. She taught Camden, the first rural school in Seward County, and District 17, and she was teaching the Vance School during the blizzard in January 1888. She later became the third wife of John H. Merrill.

John Carruthers died in 1892, and his wife, Ann Carruthers, died in 1901.

Joanne Lostroh

ED AND MABLE G. (MERRILL) FAMILY

My parents, Ed and Mable (Perkins) Merrill were married May 1, 1906. I am Maysel (Merrill) Kyles. There were 4 boys, Vern, Harold, Clarence, and Donald, and 4 girls, Marcella, Betty Jean, Joan, and myself in our family. In our early life, we lived in Pleasant Dale. Our oldest brother, Vern, was killed by a fall from a horse on January 18, 1933. Our mother, Mable Perkins Merrill, and our sister, Betty Jean, were killed in a car accident on December 7, 1956. Harold passed away in September, 1976, and Clarence passed away August 23, 1980. Marcella, Donald, and I live in Lincoln. Our youngest sister, Joan, lives in Houston, Texas.

In early 1911, my father and mother, with my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Perkins, and my mother's sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Ira (Loretta Perkins) Woodward moved to Johnstown, Nebraska and homesteaded until late 1914, the year I was born. They then moved back to Pleasant Dale.

My father, Ed Merrill, farmed south of Pleasant Dale, but most of

his working days were for the Burlington Railroad. He was section foreman at Pleasant Dale, Woodlawn, Garland, and Milford, Nebraska. My 3 brothers, Clarence, Harold, and Donald, with my father, worked on the Burlington Railroad, all retiring from there.

My grandfather, J.H. Merrill, was one of the founders of Pleasant Dale. He owned a furniture and hardware store. He also sold caskets for Charles Roper Mortuary of Lincoln. My father, Ed, used to drive the horses for Mr. Roper when he was called to Pleasant Dale.

There were 7 children in my father's family. My father died March 2, 1960. Five of the 7 children each celebrated more than 50 years of marriage.

My mother and father also had 17 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

I remember when the first World War was over, some of the boys and other folks ran over to the old Methodist church and rang and rang the church bell. Also, the men stuffed a dummy that looked like the Kaiser wearing a black suit. He was lying on the floor of the Chris Uthe store. That night they had a big bonfire and burned him.

The big day of the year was the fourth of July in the town "square" or park. There were always a ballgame, basket dinner, and lots of fireworks. I remember my brothers, Clarence and Harold, Gerald Daffer, Lawrence Finke, and Walter Brown climbing the greased pole. The person who could do it got a two-dollar gold piece. There were also gunny sack races.

Maysel (Merrill) Kyles

WISTON MERRILL FAMILY

D. Wiston Merrill was the youngest son of John H. and Belle (Carruthers) Merrill. He was 6 years old when his father died, and he remembered the long trip to Wyuka cemetery riding behind a black horse-drawn hearse. As a high school student he was kept very busy, as he was farming the "home place" as well as attending school. He was in the first class that graduated from the 11th grade at Pleasant Dale.

In 1925 Wiston married Amy Fougerson, the daughter of A.M. Fougerson and Amy (Cooper) Fougerson. They lived in a small house north of the present grocery store. In 1930 they moved to their farm 1 mile west of town where they farmed and raised cattle. Wiston liked machinery, and he had the first mechanical corn picker in the area and was well known for the mechanical work he did in his garage. In depression days farmers cut wood to heat their homes. Wiston had a buzz saw and sawed wood for many people.

Amy also graduated from the 11th grade and then went to Seward High for the 12th grade, never being absent or tardy during her school days. She taught kindergarten through 4th grade in District 21 with an average of 28-32 students. The pupils called her "Miss Amy".

When Wiston and Amy were dating, it cost 50 cents to attend a movie in Lincoln, and hamburgers were 5 cents each, or 6 for 25 cents. Wiston played on the baseball team.

Wiston and Amy have always been active in the Methodist Church, Milford Grange, Eastern Star, and Masons. Wiston served on the Pleasant Dale elevator board and was secretary for 25 years, and was also a charter member of the fire department. Wiston passed away March 16, 1972.

Their children are: Helen (Mrs. Harold) Busboom, Joanne (Mrs. Melvin) Lostroh, Julia Lee (Mrs. Eugene) Melichar, and Cheryl (Mrs. Charles) Ott. They have 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Wiston Merrill

CHERYL R. MERRILL OTT FAMILY

Although they do not live in Pleasant Dale, the Otts have close family ties there. All 4 of Cheryl's grandparents, the John H. Merrills and A.M. Fougersons settled in the area before 1900 and now there are many relatives living nearby. Cheryl was raised on the family farm ¾ miles west of town. She attended District 17 her first year, Pleasant Dale Elementary School through grade 5 (one teacher was Miss Copley), and District 17 grades 6-8 with the Burianek twins and the Havlat boys (5 students in all). Mrs. Martin was one teacher. Her graduating class in 1960 was the first freshman class to attend Milford High after consolidation. Previously, there was a choice of attending school in Milford, Seward, Lincoln, Crete, etc.

Some of the biggest childhood memories are: Kenneth Timme, as store owner, sponsoring Cheryl with Gooch Red Circles, which everyone in the area saved, so she could "buy" a steer at a Gooch auction in Salina Kansas with the circles. Of course the steer was named Goochie. She also remembers girls' 4-H, livestock 4-H, County fairs, singing with JoAnne Frazier and Linda Zimmer at area events, the Wednesday night free shows, her Fougerson grandparents' Durant car, their grapevines on a trellis, and the men's quartet in which her

father always sang.

Cheryl graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan in 1964 where she met her husband-to-be, Charles Ott. They were married in the Methodist Church May 31, 1964. Their children, Christine Renee, born February 26, 1968, and Charles Raymond, born November 14, 1969, have lived in many Nebraska communities. They have called Omaha home since 1975.

Happy Centennial, Pleasant Dale!

Cheryl Ott

HAROLD AND HELEN BUSBOOM

Harold Busboom and Helen M. Merrill were married May 23, 1948. They moved to a farm northeast of Pleasant Dale where Harold was a self-employed farmer.

Their family consists of Carolyn Ann, born in 1949, and Wayne Ray, born in 1951. In December 1949, their house burned to the ground. A newly built farm pond nearby provided water for fighting the fire. Harold's parents moved to Lincoln and Harold and Helen moved to their farm home.

Carolyn and Wayne attended District 80 grade school in Lancaster County. It later consolidated with Malcolm School District. The school building is now painted red and is a comfortable residence for the present owners.

In 1963, the Nebraska Corps of Engineers planned to build a dam and reservoir for "conservation use". About 17 families had to find new homes by either buying another farm or house in town. This included the Busbooms. They purchased a farm from Oscar Brandt, who moved to Lincoln. This was a difficult time for all! This 'reservoir' became Pawnee Lake.

Helen began working outside the home in the fall of 1966 and has continued to do so until the present time. In May 1973, Busbooms celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a reception and dance at Pla-Mor ballroom.

One favorite vacation for Harold and Helen was a two-week tour of 5 European countries in March 1977. The countries included: England, France, Switzerland, Germany, and The Netherlands.

Carolyn has remained single. In April of 1979, Wayne married Karen Hudson. They live in a farm home 1 mile west of Wayne's parents' home. Wayne and Karen are parents of Clayton J., born January 1980, and Becky Kay, born June 1981.

Helen Busboom

ARTHUR LOSTROH FAMILY

Henry G. Lostroh came to America from Hanover, Germany in 1867 at the age of 20 years. He homesteaded 2 miles north of Highway 6 on the Lancaster-Seward County line in January 1870. He lived in a dug-out, and later built a small house. He walked 60 miles to Nebraska City and returned carrying a sack of flour on his back.

Frank and Rebecca (Heidenrich) Naderhoff lived in Coatsburg, Illinois. They had 5 children. Their daughter Christina married Henry G. Lostroh in 1875 and to this union 12 children were born, namely: George, Louie, Lena (Lohmeier), Fred, Augusta, Dora (Piening), Theresa, August, Mary (Koop), Arthur, Lizzie (Roebke), and Clara (Borchers). Their youngest son, Arthur, was born June 24, 1894 in their recently built, larger house. Henry Lostroh died in 1920 and Christina Lostroh died in 1918.

On March 8, 1917 Arthur Lostroh married Ida Ninneman, a daughter of John and Emilie Ninneman. Arthur and Ida bought the homesteaded farm from his father. He farmed, and in the 1940's had a Grade A dairy farm here. They raised their family on this farm. Their 7 children are Henry, Velma (Lubben), Laverne, Alta (Schweitzer), Melvin, Ardith (Siegrist), and Paul. The family were members of Zion Lutheran Church. They have 20 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren.

Arthur and Ida moved to Lincoln in 1950, where Ida died in 1962. Arthur Lostroh, age 87, lives in his home in Lincoln.

Joanne Lostroh

MELVIN LOSTROH FAMILY

Melvin Lostroh, son of Arthur and Ida (Ninneman) Lostroh, attended School District 80 in Lancaster County. In the mid 1940's Melvin worked for Arthur and Elaine Merrill doing farm work. It was during this time that he met Joanne Merrill, daughter of Wiston and Amy (Fougeron) Merrill. Joanne attended District 17, graduated from Pleasant Dale High School, and then taught in School Districts 17 and 64. Melvin and Joanne were married August 15, 1948, in Pleasant Dale Methodist Church, and then moved to the Fred Mueller farm. In October 1950 they moved to the farm Melvin's grandfather had

homesteaded in 1870, and to the house where Melvin was born. They bought this farm in 1968 and have done extensive remodeling to the 89 year old house. Melvin is engaged in grain farming and raising beef cattle. He was the first in this area to raise milo, which is one of the major crops raised at this time.

Melvin and Joanne have been active members of the Pleasant Dale United Methodist Church, each of them holding many offices. Melvin was a member of Emerald Elevator Board when that elevator was built in 1964, a board member of District 80 where his father, he, and his children all attended school. He is currently a board member of Seward County Co-operative.

They have 3 children: David is married to Lorraine (Birkmann). Their children are Julie Anne, Stephen Wiston, and Katie Elizabeth. David was a pilot in the Air Force and is now a mechanical engineer in Columbus, Nebraska. Kathleen is married to John A. Frohner, and they live in Lincoln. She taught Home Economics at Sandy Creek for 3 years. Their children are Brenda Kay and Jennifer Denice. Kevin married Julia Lafferty. He is farming, and they live in a mobile home on our farm. Their daughter, Stacy Jane, is the fifth generation of Lostrohs to live on this farm which was honored by Ak-Sar-Ben in 1970 for being in the Lostroh family for 100 years.

Melvin and Joanne Lostroh

EUGENE MELICHAR FAMILY

Eugene Melichar and Juha Lee Merrill were married January 23, 1955 in Pleasant Dale.

They moved onto a farm 2½ miles south of Pleasant Dale for 1 year and then moved to a farm 6½ miles south of Pleasant Dale where Gene's mother grew up. Julia Lee taught school in District 65 and 76 those years.

Bruce and Lee Ann were born while they lived on that farm.

In September 1957, Gene sold all of his machinery and cattle. They bought a house in Lincoln and moved there in October 1957. Their daughter Wendy was born in 1958 in Lincoln.

In 1966 they moved into the house that was the original Lone Oak restaurant in Emerald. The lone oak tree still stands in the front yard.

Gene's career was the service station business in which he spent 21 years. The last station was the Phillips 66 station at 9th and P in Lincoln, which he sold to their son, Bruce.

Bruce married the former Sherry Flader. They have 2 children, Jeffrey, 3, and Kimberly, one.

Lee Ann is living in Lincoln and works for the Lincoln Electric System.

Wendy married Craig Potter. She is a Physical Education teacher in the Lincoln public school.

Julie Melichar

EMIL MELICHAR FAMILY

Emil and Tillie (Prochaska) were married April 30, 1917 in Crete, Nebraska.

They had a wedding reception at Tillie's parents' farm home. A floor was built in the yard so that a dance could be held. Lots of rolls, pies, cakes, and kolaches were baked on the old wood stove to feed relatives and friends. Some came by horse and buggy and planned to stay over night.

The Melichars moved to a farm 5 miles south of Pleasant Dale which Emil bought from his parents a few years before he was married. His parents had bought the farm in the early 1900's.

During their life together, Emil was a member of the District 65 school board for many years, and they lived through the trials of the depression and the drought in the 30's. These were the years when Emil played his button accordion at barn dances that were held in neighbors' barns. The children went too and played until they would fall asleep on some coats and blankets in the corner.

Tillie and Emil lived on the farm until Emil died in September 1951. Tillie and her son, Gene, lived there until he married in 1955 and then Tillie moved to Lincoln where she still resides.

Tillie and Emil have 2 sons, Robert of Lincoln, and Gene of Emerald, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Julie Melichar

THE ANTON MELICHAR FAMILY

The Anton Melichar family became members of the Pleasant Dale community when Anton Melichar married Annie Husa on February 10, 1914. They built their home on a farm 3½ miles south of Pleasant Dale. Besides farming, Anton also served on the school board of District 65 and a term as a Seward County Commissioner. Their son, Leonard, was born on March 18, 1920. Their daughter, LaVern, was

born on March 5, 1926.

LaVern received only a couple years of her formal education in District 65 since the family moved to Crete in 1935, renting out the farm. After her graduation from Crete High School, her parents returned to live on the farm. LaVern went on to Doane College and graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1949.

After starting her teaching career at Wymore, she came back to live on the farm with her mother, after her father died suddenly of a heart attack in 1949. In 1950, she was the census taker for P precinct and the town of Pleasant Dale. That fall she accepted a job as teacher in the Pleasant Dale High School. Besides her principal duties as an English and Social Studies teacher, she served as coach of the girls' volleyball team, director of the Junior and Senior class plays, and sponsor of the Junior class. From 1951 to 1953, she also served as principal. In the school year 1952-53, she also was sponsor of the annual, coach of the girls' volleyball team, and sponsor of the senior class. She took the senior class to Denver, Colorado for their "sneak day."

She taught for a year in the Crete High School, before marrying Stanley Unger on August 6, 1954. They still live at 305 Main in Crete. Their daughter, Linda, a 1980 Doane College graduate, is the probation officer of Otoe County, and lives in Nebraska City.

Mrs. Stanley L. Unger

CARLA MERRILL VANCE

During the marriage of John H. Merrill and his third wife, Belle Carruthers, they had 2 sons, Arthur and Wiston. Arthur, born in 1896, was one of the first to graduate from high school here. He also played trombone in the town band. He was an excellent baseball player and would have played professionally, but his mother would not let him.

Elaine Abel moved to Pleasant Dale from Emerson, Iowa, to teach school at the Pool School. It was then that she met Arthur, and in 1920, they were married. They lived in what is now Gary Blatter's house, which sat behind the store, where the home of Will and Pam James now sits. On March 31, 1921, John (Jack) Merrill was born in that house on the table that I now have in my kitchen. About 3 years later, a daughter, Marilyn Jeanne, was born. Sometime between then and 1938 they moved to a farm outside of Emerson, Iowa, but that didn't work out, and so they moved back to Pleasant Dale. In 1939, Arthur bought a farm 1 mile north of town from the Aden heirs.

In 1947 Jack coached the high school basketball team, and it was the first year they went to the state finals.

On April 2, 1949 Jack married D.M. (Dodie) Null. They moved into a trailer on Arthur's farm. In January, 1952, Arthur and Elaine moved that trailer into town where, in 1956, they built their new house. That house is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Yeakley. Jack and Dodie continued to farm until the 80 acres with the buildings on it were sold to John Pierce in 1963. They lived in what is now the Methodist parsonage until their new house at Fifth and Cedar was built in 1965. After the death of Jack in 1970 and the remarriage of Dodie in 1976, the house was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Weeks.

Carla J. Vance

JOE AND HAZEL VANCE

We are not natives of Pleasant Dale, but we have made our home here for 28 years. Joe was born in Saline county, and I, Hazel, was born in Cass County.

We shall have been married 40 years on August 15, 1982. We have 4 children, Joe Jr., of Grand Island, Jean Davis of Milford, Dorothy Kremer of Milford, and Tom of Pleasant Dale. We also have 14 grandchildren. Since March, 1955, we have lived in what is known as the Brown house. It was the original Andrus hospital of 1905.

The history of the house as we know it follows:

Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad to Thomas Best
June 23, 1881

New England Trust Company to Thomas Best—June 23, 1881
Charles I. Perkins—January 19, 1903

Frederick M. Andrus, Emma H. Andrus—April 3, 1905

Isaac J. Brinegar—December 6, 1909

Isaac J. Brinegar, wife Pearle M. to C.L. Tate and L.R. Barlow
June 15, 1910

Edward L. Brown and Emma Brown—May 5, 1919

Albert Yank and Ida Yank—August 12, 1947

Tilden M. Welch—December 6, 1947

Joseph L. Vance—December 18, 1954

The property had been vacant for a number of years and was very much in need of repair when we purchased it. We moved in with bare necessities. The house had a total of 13 rooms. In the spring of 1955,

Joe started his remodeling, which, I might add, is one big continuous job. He first tore the back kitchen and porch off, and then the top story (since it was a 3-story building), and this changed the roof line. The basement had fallen in, so he dug it all out, mostly by hand. He finally had a bulldozer come in and dig out one section which had never been dug out.

Joe jacked the house up, and he, along with Dan Allen, proceeded to put up basement walls. The day they were finishing, a big storm came up, and they hurriedly finished the walls, with Joe on one wall and Dan on another. They had dug a runway to get supplies down more easily, and that had to be closed very quickly. They finished just ahead of a terrible downpour. Everything stayed intact.

After that job, we changed rooms around. The upstairs was changed from 6 rooms to 2 large bedrooms and 2 small rooms. Downstairs, the living room stayed in its place. The dining room was made into a bedroom, closing up the double doorway and making the entrance off the hallway. We now have a bathroom at the north end of the hallway and an open stairway in the living room. A double arch was cut into the west room. What was originally bedrooms is now a dining room and an open kitchen with a very small wall between. In recent years, we have added a back porch-utility room, all in one, north of the kitchen.

Hazel Vance

HENRY AND HAZEL NULL

The first of December 1952, Henry and Hazel Null moved to Pleasant Dale from Lincoln where they had lived for 30 years.

Henry had retired from the Burlington railroad where he had worked for 33 years. Henry was somewhat lost for something to do as many retirees are.

Their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Merrill, living in Pleasant Dale, suggested that her parents move to Pleasant Dale. At that time the Lincoln Air Base was selling the barracks there, and people were buying them to convert into homes. Nulls purchased a lot from Arthur Merrill, and then purchased from Dan Allen half of a 100 foot barrack, and moved it onto the lot they purchased.

With the help of their son-in-law, Jack Merrill, it was converted into a comfortable little home. Later the garage was built.

Henry passed away on February 3, 1958. The 6 years he lived here were happy. The Nulls had transferred their membership from the second Presbyterian Church in Lincoln to the Pleasant Dale Methodist Church. He became active and made many friends.

After his death, Hazel continued working at the State Capitol until her retirement in 1965. Since then she has been enjoying her retirement, being involved in church and organization activities, and visiting her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Hazel Null

PERKINS FAMILY

Joseph Irvin Perkins was the fifth child of 11 children of Pleasant Irvin and Martha Ann Pearson or LaPearson. Joseph was born on July 5, 1851, in Amazonia, Missouri, Andrew County. His wife, Jeannette (Nettie) VanAndel was the 4th of 6 children born to John VanAndel and Christinia Preteonella Kievet VanAndel. Jeannette was born August 25, 1857, at Amazonia, Missouri. Joseph and Jeannette were married at her parents' home on August 9, 1876, in Andrew County. Shortly after her marriage, her parents moved to Pleasant Dale, as they are listed here in 1878. The 1st child was Charles Irvin, born April 30, 1877 in Fillmore County, Missouri. Their second child was Loretta Melissa (Retta), born August 22, 1881, at Pleasant Dale. The youngest was Mabel Gertrude, born July 5, 1885, in Pleasant Dale on her father's birthday. Mabel married Samuel John Edgar (Ed) Merrill on May 1, 1906. He was the second son of John H. and Elizabeth Cathrine Merrill. Cathrine died October 15, 1881. Mabel and Ed were married at the farm home of Mabel's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Burd, east of Pleasant Dale.

Joseph worked as a farmer and carpenter, and he also worked for many years for the Burlington Railroad. In 1914, he and his wife bought a home next to the livery stable. Jeannette became ill, and after many months of pain, she died October 16, 1916. She is buried at the Pleasant Dale Cemetery.

Several years later, Joseph married Mrs. Eliza Wheeler, a widow from the Milford area. They lived there for awhile, and then moved back to Pleasant Dale.

Mabel and Ed Merrill moved to Lincoln in 1934. John and Eliza followed shortly. Joseph died in Lincoln, February 16, 1938, at the age of 87 years. He was known as a quiet family man who loved ice cream. He was laid to rest beside Jeannette in the Pleasant Dale Cemetery.

Peggy Gulland

PEGGY AND JERRY GULLAND

I, Peggy Ann Heinbigner, the only living child of Hazel Marcella Merrill and Jacob Heinbigner, was born July 17, 1936 in Lincoln. My husband, Gerald Francis Henry Gulland (Jerry), is the only child of John E. Gulland and Margaret LaVally Gulland. Jerry was born March 6, 1932 on the family homestead north of McCloud, North Dakota. We were married in the courthouse at Council Bluffs, Iowa, on October 2, 1954. Witnesses were Betty Jean Merrill Stevens and John Harold Merrill Sr. A family reception was held at the home of my grandparents, Ed and Mabel (Perkins) Merrill. Our first child was Robert Alan, born November 22, 1957. On July 28, 1979, he married Katherine Sue Wilson. They both are the great great great grandchildren of John and Christina VanAndel. On July 15, 1960, our daughter Pamela Kay was born. On February 17, 1979, she married Richard John Bloom. On January 16, 1982 their son Jason Richard Bloom, was born in Dallas, Texas.

In 1960, on the day that Pamela was brought home from the hospital, we bought the property at 2236-38 South Ninth Street, in Lincoln Nebraska, for rental property. When we were taking off the old plaster, we found an old log cabin. This is the cabin that is now fully restored and sits at the Nebraska State Fair Grounds for all future generations to see. It is known as the Hudson's Log Cabin, as Mr. Hudson was the original homesteader. The finding of this house brought together history-minded people, and the Lancaster County Historical Society was formed. We were charter members.

In 1969 we were working on our family history, and we went to Chester, England. This is the area where my great grandfather John H. Merrill was born. The land is very much like that of the Pleasant Dale area, softly rolling. Chester dates back to Roman times.

Peggy Gulland

EVA L. WOODWARD MOSS

I was born at Pleasant Dale, Nebraska on April 30, 1918. I spent the early part of my life in and near Pleasant Dale. I attended the Pleasant Dale schools. I went to Pleasant Dale Methodist Church. I remember when Saturday night used to be a big night in town when my girl friends and I would walk the big streets and spend our nickles on penny candy. Some of my close girl friends were LaVerne Muesborn, Dorothy Crist, Florence Kapke, and Alice Allen. My mother, Loretta (Perkins) Woodward, used to drive our old Model T Ford to Lincoln, with blankets over our legs and feet to keep warm, so I could take piano lessons. In grade school, my teachers whom I remember were Amy (Fougeron) Merrill and Emily Harris. In High School I remember Mr. Lauda.

While living in Pleasant Dale, I had 3 children. My husband was Lloyd G. Kemper, whom I married in 1937. After a few years I moved away from Pleasant Dale, and then moved back to Pleasant Dale in 1949 and ran the (switchboard) telephone office from 1949 to 1952. Then I moved to Lincoln, Nebraska in 1957 and I married Edward P. Moss. We lived in England for 3 years. He retired from the Air Force in 1969, and we spend our summers in the mountains in Pennsylvania at our home there, and our winters in Florida. I enjoy going back to Pleasant Dale to see my old friends, the few that are left.

Eva L. Moss

ALDEN McFADDEN

Alden McFadden moved from Fairmont, Nebraska to Pleasant Dale in January of 1935 to become the manager of the Pleasant Dale Elevator. The manager who preceded him was Isma Bowker. Alden lived in Pleasant Dale and ran the elevator until 1941. He then moved back to Fairmont.

Neil McFadden

MICAJAH S. AND NANCY OXLEY

Micajah (or Micajale) S. Oxley and his wife, Nancy, came by covered wagon from Kentucky to Iowa, where they lived for a time before moving to Nebraska and making their home at Pleasant Dale in 1879.

In all, there were 9 Oxley children: Jane, John, William, Henry, Anna, Perry, Ed, Nathan, and Charles.

Doris Lostroh

CHARLES AND LENA OXLEY

Charles H. Oxley was the son of Micajah and Nancy Oxley. He was born in Linn County, Iowa, in 1866, and came to the Pleasant Dale community in 1881.

Lena Schnoor was born in St. Charles County, Missouri, in 1876, and came to Nebraska in childhood.

The Oxleys were married in 1893. They ran a grocery store in Pleasant Dale, and lived east of the village square, next door south of the old hotel.

They had 3 sons, Leslie, who died in infancy and is buried at Pleasant Dale, Homer, and Maurice.

From 1910 to 1916, the Oxleys lived in and ran a hotel which had been the original hospital building in the south part of town. One year later, they moved to Lingle, Wyoming, where they began farming.

Homer married Lula Burke, and Maurice married Sylvia Wells. Neither of the sons had children, and both are now deceased.

Doris Lostroh



North Side of Main Street.

HENRY AND ELIZABETH OXLEY

Henry Oxley was born in Linn County, Iowa, in 1862. His mother passed away and was buried there. In April of 1865, after hearing shots of a cannon in the nearest town, which meant that some important event had occurred, one of the family rode a horse into town and learned that President Lincoln had been shot.

In 1879, when Henry was 17 years old, he, with his father, M. S. Oxley, 3 brothers and 1 sister, left Wayland, Iowa, to come to Nebraska. With a caravan of 18 covered wagons, they crossed the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, taking 2 days to get them all across on the ferry boat. They settled on a farm 1 mile east of Pleasant Dale, in Lancaster County.

Elizabeth Ickes was born in 1866. She came to Nebraska in 1881 from Ickesburg, Pennsylvania, at the age of 14. With her parents, 6 brothers and sisters, they came by train to Milford, where they settled on a farm about 3 miles west of Pleasant Dale. They lived there 2 years, then moved east of Pleasant Dale, about 1 1/2 miles, in Lancaster County. They were neighbors of the Oxleys.

Henry Oxley and Elizabeth Ickes were married in 1887. They had 7 children, Harry, Grace, John, Everett (who died at 7 months), Gertrude, Eileen, and Glenn.

The Oxleys lived on the M. S. Oxley farm until the spring of 1900, when they moved to Pleasant Dale. Mr. Oxley ran a hardware and implement store for the next 5 years.

The family then moved to the state of Washington for 1 year, coming back to Pleasant Dale in 1905, where they lived for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Oxley bought a butcher shop and grocery store, which he managed for some time. He also did some carpenter work for a few years. He was an agent for the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company for 47 years.

Doris Lostroh

HARRY AND LYDIA OXLEY

Harry Oxley was born in 1887 on the family farm east of Pleasant Dale (now the Ralph Burd farm). He attended School District #38. When the family moved to Pleasant Dale, he attended school there, and also got a job selling newspapers. The family moved to Washington for a year, then back to Pleasant Dale.

As a young man, Harry played on the local ball team, and he played a cornet in the town band, which presented concerts in the park. He also played for dances with Albert Berg, who played the violin, and Mrs. Berg, who played the piano.

Harry and his brother John helped at their father's butcher shop, and they supplied fresh meat to the builders of the new railroad south of town.

Helping his uncle, William Oxley, Harry started learning the car-

penter trade when he was 16 years old.

Harry recalls driving the car for several Pleasant Dale doctors, Loughridge, Andrus, and Sandusky, when they went out on calls, especially at night or on muddy roads.

When World War I broke out, he joined the Navy and went to England, where he was stationed in Naval Aviation, making repairs on war planes.

After the war, Harry returned to Pleasant Dale, and he married Lydia Kubes in 1921. They made their home in Pleasant Dale in a house originally owned by Scott Dunten. They remodeled the house in 1927.

They had 1 daughter, Doris, born in 1923. Harry was then a full-time carpenter. Through the years, he built numerous houses and farm buildings in the community, plus 2 churches and 2 schools.

In 1936, the Oxleys moved their house and other buildings to a farm northwest of Pleasant Dale. They lived there from that time until they moved in 1962 to Seward, where they still reside.

Harry has been a member of the American Legion for over 50 years.

Doris Lostroh

VERNON AND DORIS LOSTROH

Vernon is the son of Louis and Sette Borchers Lostroh, who farmed northeast of Pleasant Dale. He attended rural school District 80 in Lancaster County, and also Pleasant Dale High School.

Vernon remembers the days when his father arose at 4:00 in the morning during harvest to fire the boiler of the steam engine which ran the threshing machine. When he was older, he helped shock grain and haul loads of bundles, which were then pitched, one at a time, into the threshing machine.

In 1945, Vernon was inducted into the Army, and, after basic training, he spent 13 months on Okinawa. When he returned home, in 1946, he began farming with his father.

In 1949 he was married to Doris Oxley of Pleasant Dale.

Doris is the daughter of Harry and Lydia Oxley. She attended elementary and high school in Pleasant Dale, and also the University of Nebraska. She taught rural schools for 7 years. She was also a pianist at the Pleasant Dale Methodist Church.

When Vernon and Doris were married, they began dairy farming the farm north of Pleasant Dale where they now reside. They continued until 1974, when they sold their cattle and turned to grain farming entirely.

The Lostrohs have 2 daughters, Sheralyn, and Kimberly. Both girls attended rural school District 64, which stood across the road southwest of their home. Sheralyn attended University High School in Lincoln, and also the University of Nebraska. She is now a psychiatric social worker on the staff of the Gateway Mental Health Clinic in Lincoln. Kimberly attended Seward High School, and also the Lincoln School of Commerce, in Lincoln. She is now a data entry operator at the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles.

Vernon has been a member of the Pleasant Dale American Legion for 36 years, and Doris has been a member of the Pleasant Dale American Legion Auxiliary for 29 years.

Doris Lostroh

JOHN OXLEY

John Oxley was the janitor and maintenance man for the new brick Pleasant Dale school for many years, beginning in the 1930's. He not only kept the whole building clean, but he pumped and carried all the drinking water for the 2 fountains in the hallway, and the water for handwashing in the "cloakrooms". He carried the used wash water back outside to be emptied. He unloaded coal to be used for heating the building, and kept the two furnaces going day and night in winter. In the summer, he kept the front lawn mowed and worked on any repairs or painting needed.

Doris Lostroh

GLENN AND ESTELLA OXLEY

It was on October 5, 1936, that Glenn and I were married, and that was almost my first day in Pleasant Dale. We moved into 2 rooms of what was known as the Blacker house. Our rent was \$7 a month, and even that seemed exorbitant, especially since Glenn was laid off from his railroad job for the winter.

We lived in that house for 8 years, and then the place was sold to Bill Eilers. Dr. Belden, whose wife owned the Newton house, wanted us to buy the property for the sum of \$1900. I did not want to spend the rest of my days in Pleasant Dale, and so I talked Glenn into moving into the brick house, known as the Stueck house. We lived there

for 8 years.

We had 2 children, Stephen, who lives in California and is employed by Hughes Aircraft Company as an electrical engineer, and Mary Jo, who married Terry Warren, lives on a farm near Lexington, Nebraska, and has 1 child, Trevor Dean.

I knew by that time that I was going to spend the rest of my life in Pleasant Dale. Glenn's mother passed away, and we moved into the Oxley house. Glenn was born in this house, and he was more than happy to return home. We have now lived there for almost 30 years.

I started a beauty shop in our home in 1954, and after having worked with all the wonderful people of this vicinity, I cannot think of any other place where I would rather spend my life than in Pleasant Dale.

Estella Oxley

NICHOLAS AND JEMIMA ICKES

Nicholas Ickes and his wife, the former Jemima Ellen Dromgold, came from Pennsylvania to Nebraska in 1881, and lived near Milford, then moved to Pleasant Dale 2 years later.

Their children were: Millard, Elsie, Sadie, Ada, Elizabeth, John, James, _____, Bandena, and twins Blanche and Charles.

Doris Lostroh

FRANK AND KAROLINA SVOBODA

Frank Svoboda was married to Karolina Petr, date unknown. They immigrated from Czechoslovakia to Crete, Nebraska, and homesteaded next to the Frank Kubes Sr. home south of Pleasant Dale. Frank had been trained for carpenter work.

They had 13 children, 7 boys, all of whom died in infancy, and 6 girls, Anna, Albertina, Freda, Carrie, Daisy, and Mary. The youngest girl, Mary, was the only one born in America.

Frank farmed until retirement. The family lived in a house of 2 rooms with a lean-to. Karolina passed away suddenly in 1913, after which Frank moved to Crete, where he passed away about a year later. Both are buried in the Crete Catholic cemetery.

Doris Lostroh

FRANK SR. AND FRANCES KUBES

Frank Kubes Sr. was married to Frances Remer. They and their family arrived in America from Czechoslovakia about 1880, and homesteaded in Seward County, 6 miles north of Crete. Frank's mother came with them. She is buried in the Crete Catholic cemetery, but the grave is lost.

The children of Frank and Frances are Frank Jr., Frances, John, Josef, Daisy, and William. Two other sons died suddenly after eating some poisonous plant, and are buried in the Camden cemetery in graves now lost. William, the youngest son, was the only one of the family born in America.

Frank Sr. never attended any school except Catholic instruction, which was learned by memory.

In about 1910 Kubeses bought land near Sidney, Nebraska, and they moved there to live with their son Josef and his wife. They later moved back to Crete. Frances passed away while on a later visit to Sidney, and then Frank Sr. lived his remaining life at the home of his son at Sidney. Both are buried in the Crete Catholic cemetery.

Doris Lostroh

FRANK JR. AND ALBERTINA KUBES

Both Frank Kubes Jr. and Albertina Svoboda had come from Czechoslovakia with their parents, and settled on farms south of Pleasant Dale. When they married in 1893, they began farming for themselves in the same vicinity.

They had 6 children: Agnes, who married Adolph Brhel; Lydia, who married Harry Oxley; Bessie, who married Rudolf Stehlik; 2 daughters who died in infancy; and Joseph, who married Helen Tisher, and now lives on the home place.

During the first few years in this community, mail was delivered to Crete only. Later, there was a mail route from Pleasant Dale. Charles Gray was the first mail carrier.

Doris Lostroh

WILLIAM AND LEONA SULLIVAN

William was born in Lead, South Dakota, in 1915. Leona was born near Pleasant Dale in 1918 to Daniel and Hattie Allen. William came to Lincoln in 1937, and met Leona at a dance. They were married in 1942. They spent some time in California during the war, and moved back to Pleasant Dale in 1945.

The Sullivans bought their first house from Albert and Ida Yank for \$600. The house is one of the oldest houses in Pleasant Dale. Originally it was a one-room house. It used to be a salt house up near the business district. It was moved onto the east half of Lot 4, Block 4, Best's Second Addition in Pleasant Dale. One room was added on at a time until it was 4 rooms and a back enclosed porch. Sullivans made the back porch into a kitchen. Then about 4 years ago, they tore off the back porch and put on a new kitchen and bath. Lot 5 was part of the yard. Then in 1947 they purchased Lot 6 for \$1 on a sheriff's sale. They used it for a garden for a few years. Then Dan Allen and William Sullivan built a basement on it. When the loan was almost paid, William and Leona built a house on it. The house was built by Clyde Kremer. The Sullivans have lived in it for 15 years.

William Sullivan



One of the Old Salt Houses After it Was Moved and Remodeled

ALEXANDER AND AMER BURD FAMILY

Alexander H. (Elliott) Burd was born September 26, 1843, in Union County, Pennsylvania. He served in the Civil War in Company F of the 2nd Iowa Cavalry. Two of his brothers were Bob Burd of Kansas (whose daughters were Jessie Poole and Pearl Allen) and Charlie Burd of Iowa.

Alexander homesteaded a farm 1 1/2 miles east of Pleasant Dale (the Vernon Piening farm). He was married 3 times. His first wife was Marthana Porter. His second wife was Nancy Van Anandel, who was born July 22, 1852, in Cleveland, Ohio. They were married at Pleasant Dale on February 14, 1872. They had 4 children, Myrtle, Amer, Omer, and Elmer. Another child, Lacey, was born to Alexander's third wife, Mary (sister of Nancy). A plot of land was donated by Alexander for School District 38, known as Burd School.

Amer Alexander Burd was born May 12, 1874, on the home place. He married Emma Schnoor, who was born October 5, 1878, in the Pleasant Dale area (old Wilmer Bishop place). Their marriage took place on February 24, 1897. They had 3 children, Clarence and Clara (twins) and Russell. Clarence married Alta Fougéron and moved to a farm near Ashland, Nebraska. Clara married Foster Weyand, and Russell married Eileen Oxley and moved to a farm across from the home place.

Beverly Burd

RUSSELL BURD

Russell R. Burd, son of Amer and Emma (Schnoor) Burd, and Eileen V. Oxley, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Ickes) Oxley, were married January 4, 1922, at University Place in Lincoln, Nebraska, by the Reverend Jay, pastor of the Pleasant Dale Methodist Church.

They lived on a farm 2 miles east of Pleasant Dale for 46 years and then retired and moved to Pleasant Dale.

They had 2 children, Ralph Burd and Vera Burd Ficke.

Russell served in France during World War I. He has been a member of the American Legion for 50 years. They are both members of the Pleasant Dale Methodist Church.

Russell and Eileen celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on January 4, 1982.

Russell and Eileen Burd

RALPH BURD FAMILY

Ralph Burd, the son of Russell and Eileen Burd, was born February 27, 1927, on a Lancaster County farm 2 miles east of Pleasant Dale. He

went to school at District 38. Then he attended high school at Pleasant Dale, which included playing basketball on an outdoor court. Ralph rode a pony to get to high school.

The Burd family attended Pleasant Dale Methodist Church. Ralph enrolled in a 4-H Rope Use club and Dairy Club. In 1944, he worked for the summer for the Burlington railroad. He entered military service on August 22, 1945, and was a control tower operator overseas in 1946. He was discharged March 11, 1947, at Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Ralph came back to Nebraska, and at the Pla-Mor ballroom, he met Marie Oehm, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sig Oehm. They were married in June, 1948. Marie had lived on a farm in Marshall County, Kansas, and had later come to Lincoln. After they were married, they lived on the Bill Weeks' place. Ralph and his father farmed together. Beverly was born in 1949. Then the family moved to the Zimmer place southeast of Pleasant Dale. Deborah was born in 1951, after which the family moved to the Chris Borchers place. Duane was born in 1952.

In 1953, Ralph joined the Nebraska-Iowa Milk Association, and began selling Grade A milk. He played baseball in the summers. He coached PeeWee and Junior Legion teams in 1960. He was on the Pleasant Dale elevator board in 1963. In 1968, Ralph was elected to the board of directors of the Mid-America Dairymen, Central States Division, continuing to serve on the Dairy Council, and as a Corporate Board member. He was the leader of several neighborhood 4-H clubs.

All 3 children attended grade school at District 38 like their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. High school followed at Malcolm, with Bev graduating in 1967, Deb in 1969, and Duane in 1970. Bev went to the University of Nebraska for 2 1/2 years. She graduated from UNL with a teaching degree, and Duane, after 1 semester at the University of Nebraska, attended and graduated from Milford Technical School.

Duane married Ruth Heidtbrink Wilson, from Malcolm, in 1974. He has a step-daughter, Teresa, and 2 sons, Aaron, and Andrew.

Ralph passed away April 14, 1980. Duane is the fifth generation Burd to farm at Pleasant Dale.

Marie Burd

DUANE BURD FAMILY

Duane, Ruth and Teresa joined as a family in 1974 in Pleasant Dale United Methodist Church. They resided in Geneva, Nebraska, when Aaron was born in 1975. They moved back to Pleasant Dale Community in June 1976, just in time to help Pleasant Dale celebrate the United States bi-centennial. Teresa started school at Burd School District No. 38 in the fall of 1976 and attended there until the school burned on December 6, 1981 ★. Aaron started school at the Burd School in the fall of 1981. He was the fifth generation of Burds to attend the Burd School.

Andrew Burd joined the Burd in 1979. He was able to celebrate his first birthday in the Burds' new home in 1980. At the time of this writing, the children are Teresa Lynn Wilson, age 10; Aaron Matthew Burd, age 6; and Andrew Russell Burd (named after his great-grandpa) 2 years.

Our family is very proud to be a part of the Pleasant Dale Community.

Ruth Ann Burd

★ After the fire, school was held in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Pleasant Dale until Christmas vacation, and now the students will finish the year in one room of the Emerald school, after which further plans must be made.

FRANK J. FICKE

Frank was born July 13, 1900, and died September 28, 1972. He was the son of Herman and Annette Ficke. He had 3 brothers, Henry, Fred, and Adolph, and 2 sisters, Mary VanAnandel and Helen Mowitz. He was born and grew up 2 miles west and 3/4 miles north of Pleasant Dale, where he lived until he was married to Minnie Sieck in 1926.

They moved to a farm 2 miles west of Pleasant Dale which was known as the Alday farm, where they lived until his death in September 1972. They had 2 sons, two daughters-in-law, and 8 grandchildren, at the time of his death. One beloved granddaughter was killed in a car accident. Since his death, 10 great-grandchildren have arrived. They were active members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Pleasant Dale. They lived through the Depression of the thirties and their boys had to be content to receive a nickel to spend on Saturday night, and to go to the free movies in Pleasant Dale. Their social life was much different than it is now. In the country schools there were P.T.A. school programs, and there was always a picnic at the end of the year to look forward to. It was usually held in a pretty, grassy spot in someone's pasture.

The threshing crews were something else to look forward to. There

were usually about 12 different farmers in the threshing group. It took that many men to haul the bundles to the machine, haul the grain, and run the rig. Frank did that for a number of years, which meant getting up at 5:00 A.M. and working until dark. The ladies prepared the meals, lunch in the morning and afternoon, which was taken to the field, and dinner which the men ate in the house. It was a lot of hard work, but fun too, with neighbor ladies helping each other.

Minnie Ficke

LAWRENCE (LARRY) FICKE

Lawrence R. (Larry) Ficke, son of Frank J. Ficke and Minnie (Sieck) Ficke, and Vera M. Burd were married October 3, 1948, at Pleasant Dale Methodist Church. They have 3 children, Eldon, Audine, and Nadine.

Larry is Assistant Superintendent of Burlington Northern Railroad where he has worked for 36 years. He served in the Korean War as a cook at West Point Academy in New York. He is a member of the Pleasant Dale American Legion and Vera is a member of the Pleasant Dale American Legion Auxiliary.

Larry and Vera Ficke

DALE AND DOROTHY FICKE

I, Dale Ficke, am a son of Frank J. Ficke, and a grandson of Herman Ficke, who homesteaded near Pleasant Dale, Nebraska. I have lived around Pleasant Dale all of my life. We presently live 1/4 mile north of my childhood home. In 1950 I was married to Norma Viets. From this union, 4 children were born. They are Mrs. Tim (Connie) Stauffer of Milford, David, who owns his own home one mile south of us, Karen, who was killed in a car accident September 10, 1970, and Joel, who is living at home and attending the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

In 1959 I purchased a farm of 80 acres from Clell Schwab, which adjoined my boyhood home on the east. We lived there for 10 years, at which time the children attended grade school in Pleasant Dale, and high school in Milford, Nebraska. In June of 1967 my wife, Norma, passed away.

In May of 1969 I was married to Dorothy Carr Heidtbrink.

Dorothy was born to George and Agnes Carr, of Raymond, Nebraska. She had 2 sisters, Mrs. Earl (Maxine) Nelson, and Mrs. George (Marilyn) Eager. She went to District 47 school of Lancaster County. The home where she spent the first years of her life was located in the spot that is now the center of Branched Oak Lake. The family moved to Malcolm in 1935. When she was in the 7th grade, she went to work for the Malcolm telephone office, where she received 10 cents an hour as relief operator. She also did housework on Saturdays from 7:00 A.M. to 7 P.M. for 50 cents a day. Upon finishing high school, she went to work for S.S. Kresge in downtown Lincoln, and then to Gold and Company, where she worked for 5 years. Dorothy was married to Lee V. Heidtbrink in 1947. Two children were born to them, Ruth and Gary.

After her marriage to Dale Ficke, the family numbered 8. At this time we sold the farm and built the home in which we presently live.

Dorothy worked for the Timme Store until it was sold. She is an active member in the Bethlehem Lutheran church, and is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

At this writing, we have been blessed with 7 grandchildren.

Dale Ficke

DAVID LYNN FICKE

I was born September 2, 1952, in Lincoln, to my parents, Dale A. and Norma L. Ficke. I went to elementary school at a Seward County country school and in Pleasant Dale. I graduated from Milford High School in 1970. I was drafted into the Army in August, 1972, and I was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. I was discharged in August, 1974. I went back to the Burlington Railroad, where I am still employed.

I bought 3 acres of land from my grandmother, Minnie Ficke, in 1978. I built a house and was married August 18, 1979, to Kristy Saylor. She graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School in 1973. She worked at First National Bank in Lincoln from July 1973 to May 1981. Our son, Troy William, was born June 4, 1981.

D.L. Ficke

MRS. HENRY (LAURA) FICKE

Elisha Pool, son of Ezra and Sophia Bene Pool, and Almeda Snick, daughter of Seymore and Laura Snick, were married November 1, 1894, at Pleasant Dale, Nebraska. To them 2 girls were born, Alta and Laura. Alta never married. On March 24, 1918, Laura married Henry

Ficke. The day after the wedding, Laura and Henry loaded their personal belongings onto a hayrack and moved to a farm owned by Henry's father. The farm was located 2 miles away from Henry's parents.

Two sons were born to the Fickes, Lester and Wayne.

In 1954, Henry had stroke and died. Laura and the two boys continued to live on the farm after Henry's death. In 1956, Lester married Mildred Olson and moved to Pleasant Dale where they lived in his grandmother's house.

In 1960, Wayne married JoAnn Lohmeier. They stayed on the farm, tore down the old house, and built a new house. At that time, Laura moved to town to the house located across the street west from the Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Lester and Mildred have 2 children, Mike and Eugene.

Wayne and JoAnn have 7 children, Lora, Jeffrey, Gerald, Tracy, Brian, Andy, and Amanda.

Laura Ficke

WAYNE AND JOANN FICKE

Wayne and JoAnn Ficke were married at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pleasant Dale, Nebraska, on August 7, 1960. Both were baptized and confirmed in this church when they were children. JoAnn is the daughter of Earl and Adeline (Klug) Lohmeier. She lived on a farm 1 1/2 miles north and 1 mile east of Pleasant Dale.

In 1970 the Lohmeier farm was recognized as a 100 year farm. The farm has been in the same family since 1868 when it was homesteaded. Ak-Sar-Ben, in Omaha, honors Nebraska farm families who have had the farm in the same family for 100 years.

JoAnn attended elementary school at District #38 in Lancaster County. Her grandfather, August Lohmeier, her 2 sisters, Jean Riley and LuAnn Lohmeier, and her brother John have gone to school there also. JoAnn attended University High School in Lincoln.

Wayne was born 1 1/2 miles southwest of Pleasant Dale, his parents being Henry C. and Laura (Pool) Ficke. He attended elementary school at District #17 and in Pleasant Dale. While Lester, Wayne's brother, attended District #17, several school teachers boarded with Henry and Laura.

Wayne graduated from Pleasant Dale High School in 1956. He was in the last graduating class from Pleasant Dale High School. Wayne then attended the Nebraska State Trade School in Milford for 2 years.

Both Wayne's and JoAnn's fathers served many years on the school boards.

Wayne's country school and JoAnn's country school have both been destroyed by fire. District #17 burned on March 2, 1957. District #38 burned on December 6, 1981. Both of their high schools have been closed.

Wayne and JoAnn now live on an acreage 1 1/2 miles southwest of Pleasant Dale, the same place that Wayne lived when he was a child. They have 7 children: Lori, Jeff, Jerry, Tracy, Brian, Andy, and Amanda.

Wayne is employed at Earl Carter Lumber Co. in Lincoln. He is a member of the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department. He was at one time a 4-H leader. He builds bookshelves, high chairs, children's toys, and trains.

JoAnn is a mail carrier in Lincoln. She serves on the Special Ministries Committee of the Lutheran Church. She also at one time was a 4-H leader. They are members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Wayne Ficke

FRANK C. FICKE

"Uncle Frank", or "F.C.", as he was known to friends and relatives, was born February 15, 1874 in a dugout 2 miles northwest of Pleasant Dale, to John Ficke and Margaret (Viets) Ficke. He enjoyed the outdoors, was a skillful hunter and fisherman, and had a collection of hunting and automobile licenses from the time they were issued until the 1970's when he stopped hunting and driving.

He married Amy Bertke in June of 1895, who, with her sisters lived with their parents in the northwest corner of I precinct. Frank and Amy had no children, but nieces and nephews were as close to them as if their own.

Amy and Frank lived the early part of their married life on a farm near his birthplace. Ill health ended his life as a farmer. He spent a year or so in Washington where he salmon-fished and hunted. He spent some time with the Indians in the area and learned their ways. An Indian girl made a buckskin shirt for him which he wore in the Seward Centennial in the 1960's.

He and Amy made their home in Milford for nearly 50 years. Harry

Oxley and Frank built the home they lived in. Frank was an expert "lather", nailing laths on the walls that were to be plastered. He worked for the telephone company for years and was an electrician, wiring many of the homes in this area when power first came through. He was a good cook, and loved to embroider, even up to the time of his 100th birthday. "Uncle Frank" was a great man for puzzles and stories and enjoyed visiting, playing cards, and sports and games of any kind. He and Amy traveled a good deal during their life. Many times they went to Michigan to drive back their new Buick. He and Amy celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in a local rest home in 1965. Amy passed away a short time later. Frank made his home at Crestview Care Center in Milford after selling his home and many prized possessions.

Evelyn Fougerson

EDGAR W. FICKE, AUCTIONEER (1901-1980)

ELSIE M. (MUELLER) FICKE

Ed was the third of 10 children born to Christopher and Caroline (Ihde) Ficke. He was raised on the family farm 1 1/2 miles west of Pleasant Dale.

Ed attended school District 17, southwest of town, and District 45, northwest of town. He rode a mule all the way to Ruby for confirmation instructions in German. About 1920, Ed took a short course at the University of Nebraska, Agriculture Department.

Ed took great pride in being part of "C.D. Ficke & Sons Shorthorn Cattle Breeders", but not such great pride in being "Pleasant Dale's highly rated prize ring representative" who met his match in a Lincoln boxing arena (where the Centrum is now located) on one long, dark, dismal, but never forgotten night back in the early 1920's.

After this experience, Ed served as a herdsman for the Gooch Farm, located just northwest of Lincoln, and in 1924, enrolled in the Jones School of Auctioneering in Chicago.

Ed's first auction was in 1924 for John and Albert Thomas, north of town. Twin Lakes now covers this site. Albert remembered the "bull calf on consignment from Fred Sieck" which he bought, and Ed well remembered their threshing machine, and thought it "so big, I'll never get it sold."

During the early years of Ed's career, he said that "it would take a pretty good farm sale to total \$1500." Terms were the same then as today, except that "credit on all items over \$10" was extended by the local bank, and in some instances, by the seller himself. Ed was one of the very last to have handled an entire real estate transaction (down payment, final payment, and fee) all in gold.

Ed married Elsie M. Mueller, the third child, and only daughter, of Fred W. and Alvina (Ebens) Mueller, in 1928. Elsie was raised on the family farm 2 1/2 miles north of town.

Ed and Elsie resided in Seward until 1934, and then lived out the depression and drought on a farm 3 miles north of Pleasant Dale. Ed remembered that "everyone was the same then, good neighbors, and nobody had anything except patches on their clothes."

In 1943, Ed and Elsie, with their 3 children, Robert, Don, and Marlene, moved to Lincoln. Ed became a partner with Herb Forke (from the Malcolm community) and formed Forke Brothers and Ficke, The Auctioneers.

From 1943 until 1959, Ed sold locally, and also traveled to nearly all the 48 states, plus the provinces of Canada, with this auction firm.

In 1959, Ed, joined by his son Don, returned to serve this community. Ed's last auction was May 15, 1979 for Clara Busboom.

Elsie M. Ficke

LIFE OF LEROY (LEE) W. FICKE

Lee, the son of Chris D. and Caroline (Ihde) Ficke was born on a farm 1 1/2 miles west of Pleasant Dale on February 21, 1907. His early years were spent on his father's farm. He attended school at District 17, and later transferred to District 45, which he attended through the eighth grade. He then attended the School of Agriculture for a short time, after which he worked on his father's farm.

He married Irene H. Miller on May 5, 1928, and worked for a neighbor until after harvest. They moved to Milford where he took a job digging a basement for his father-in-law. He then moved to Pleasant Dale and managed the Nebraska-Iowa Grain Elevator until it was sold.

They moved back to Milford where Lee did plumbing, heating and well work. He helped put up over 50 Dempster windmills in a year.

On June 30, 1930, Lee bought a cow from his father, and later 1 from Nelson Ed Bishop, and in 6 months was milking 6 cows and peddling milk from door to door. Fourteen years and 54 cows later he quit bottling milk and sold his herd of grade and mixed cattle at auction in 1946. He then started a herd of registered Guernseys and sold milk to

dairies. He showed cattle at the State Fair for many years.

On July 4, 1964, he drove an ox team which he raised, in the Milford Centennial Parade. He also drove the team at the State Centennial Celebration in 1967.

In 1972 he sold the herd of registered Guernseys, rented the farm to Ray Anderson, and retired. He helped organize the Seward County Historical Society which erected a museum on the east edge of Goehner. He is now serving as President of the organization. Lee and Irene have been very active members of the Milford Grange since 1952.

Lee and Irene celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1978 and are still on their farm 1/2 mile east of Milford which they purchased from Frank and Mary Bogert in 1945.

Lee Ficke

JOHN FICKE FAMILY AND DESCENDANTS

John and Margaret (or Caroline) (Viets) Ficke emigrated from Hanover, Germany in February 1862. It was a journey of nine weeks in a ship with sails. They settled in Thiensville, Wisconsin.

In 1869 John Ficke and Crist Dankers walked from Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin to Nebraska to take a homestead in Section 34, 1 Township, 15 miles west of Lincoln. John had to make improvements on this homestead before getting permission to leave for 6 months to find work. After making a dugout on the place to hold his claim, John walked to Nebraska City for a job and 6 months later had earned enough money for a yoke of oxen, a cow and 7 sheep.

Mrs. Ficke, Herman, John and Henry stayed in Wisconsin and then came to Nebraska City by train, and crossed the Missouri River by ferry boat. They came to the homestead in a covered wagon.

For 2 years the family lived in the dugout on the farm now owned by Mrs. Frank (Minnie) Ficke. A sod house was constructed and lived in for 4 years. Crist, Mary, and Frank were born here. School was attended in a dugout in P precinct. Their first frame house was built on Crist Ficke's place (now Herman Kablitz farm), where they lived until 1900.

John married Alma Schnoor in 1888. Two children, Amanda and Henry, were born. Later, after Alma passed away, John married Caroline Luebbe. Four children, Paul, Arthur, and twins John and Johanna, were born.

Henry Ficke married Mary Anne Bertke in 1894.

Chris married Caroline Ihde in 1896. Eleven children blessed this union. They are Elmer, Louis, Iva, Edgar W., Nora, Eileen, Leroy W., Milton, Walter, Sophia, and Melvin C.

Mary married Paul Herpolsheimer in 1895. Eight children were born to this union, Walter, Alma, Paul, Carl, Herbert, Robert, Louisa, and Arthur.

Frank married Amy Bertke in 1895. They had no children. Herman F. Ficke and Annetta (or Antoinette) Eggerling were united in marriage February 27, 1890. Children of Herman were Mary (Mrs. Cobe VanAndel), born in 1892, Henry in 1891, Fred in 1896, Frank in 1900, Adolph in 1904, and Helen in 1911.

In July 1912 John and Caroline celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Seward with all children and spouses and 26 grandchildren present.

Adolph married Lana Piening on September 20, 1928 at Pleasant Dale. They farmed and lived on the Ficke home place. Three children were born: Clifford on June 30, 1929, Kenneth on November 6, 1931, and Ellen, October 25, 1938. Clifford passed away on September 24, 1932 in an accident at home.

On January 27, 1952 Kenneth married Beverly Vaverka, In 1954 they built a house, also on the Ficke home place. They have 4 children: Janet (Mrs. Ernest Krenk), born on June 20, 1953; Rhonda, August 5, 1955; Jolene, November 17, 1958; and Delbert, May 10, 1967. Janet married Ernest Krenk Jr. on June 8, 1972. Kenneth and Beverly have 2 grandsons, Matthew Jon, born on December 15, 1976, and Ryan Joseph, born on March 30, 1980.

Ellen married Darrel Ahlschwede on September 16, 1956. They lived north of Pleasant Dale before moving to their farm south of Garland. They have 3 children: Nyla, born on November 16, 1957; Kevin, born on October 4, 1962; and Lynda, born February 28, 1966. On May 17, 1980, Nyla married David Helge, whose birth date is May 31, 1958. Jered Christopher joined the Helges on November 11, 1981, and the family resides in Fremont.

Leroy and Kenneth Ficke

ERNEST KRENK JR. FAMILY

The Ernest Krenk Jr. family started on June 8th, 1972 when Ernest married Janet Ficke. Ernest was raised on a farm near Linwood, Nebraska. Janet was raised on a farm 3 1/2 miles northwest of Pleasant

Dale. Ernest and Janet met while Ernest attended Southeast Community College in Milford. After their marriage, Janet graduated from Bryan School of Nursing as a registered nurse. In 1974 after two (too many) years of living in Lincoln they moved back to the country, 3 miles northwest of Pleasant Dale. On December 15th, 1976 the first little Krenk was born, Matthew Jon. He was joined by a brother, Ryan Joseph on March 30, 1980. The Krenks now reside on 3 acres northwest of Pleasant Dale on the old District 45 school site. Ernest is a mechanic at Randolph Oldsmobile in Lincoln. Janet is Assistant Director of Nursing at Milford Rest Home.

Janet Krenk

GEORGE ZIMMER SR.

Bertha and Ernest Zimmer, along with Bertha's mother, Bertha Villan (Wilhelm), came over with their son George Zimmer from Hamburg, Germany, on the ship Cember, June 19, 1882. They settled on a farm south of Pleasant Dale. George Zimmer became a naturalized citizen of the United States on October 7, 1925.

George Zimmer married Lena Brandt on February 14, 1901 and they lived in what was known as the old "Salt House" behind Chris Uthe's store in Pleasant Dale. Bill and Edward Zimmer were born in this house. Later this house was moved to a lot that is now owned by Bill and Leona Sullivan. This house was renovated and several rooms added. Lucille and George were born here.

George Zimmer worked on the railroad and it was there that he fell and his arm was broken and incorrectly set by the doctor, which caused him to have a crippled hand. He did mason work and rode a bicycle on Monday morning to the place of work and stayed there all week, with farmers moving his tools from place to place while he worked, returning home on Friday night. He also worked winters in Frank Thomas's harness shop.

The Zimmers then moved onto the Bill Berg place where they lived for a number of years and farmed. Wesley (Butch) was born there. Then they moved to Milford and Mr. Zimmer did mason work. From there they moved to Lincoln where he worked for the penitentiary teaching boys the art of masonry. They lived there until their deaths.

They still have two sons living, Wesley Zimmer of Lincoln, and William Zimmer of Giltner, Nebraska. Dead are Edward Zimmer of Tacoma, Washington, Lucille Clark, and George Zimmer Jr. of Pleasant Dale.

Many years ago, for the grandchildren, George Zimmer built a child's cupboard, table and chairs for each family. It is also remembered that he took slate from an old ice box and made a chalk board out of it, which is still in existence.

Donna Dreeszen

GEORGE E. ZIMMER JR. FAMILY

George Zimmer Jr. was born in Pleasant Dale in 1905 to George Sr. and Lena Zimmer. He lived his entire life in or near Pleasant Dale. In 1928 he met Helen Ludden, a senior in Pleasant Dale High School. They were married in 1933. They bought their present home at 4th and Cedar in 1935 for \$880 selling 2 pet cows to make the down payment. They paid the remainder under a HOLC loan at \$3.88 per month. George worked for the Burlington Northern Railroad for 43 years, retiring in 1970. He was also a self-taught mechanic, and in his spare time operated a garage and service station, on one corner of the lots, for 35 years. On Saturday mornings the cars might have been lined up for a half a block awaiting their turn. Many motors were changed with the help of Helen maneuvering the chain hoist or a bar. George was a charter member of the fire department and served on the town board, being mayor for some time. He died in 1978.

Helen was a housewife, working for her family, the church, and community. She was also a bridal milliner at Miller & Paine for 13 years. There are many pleasant memories of the work there, of the many made-to-order bridal and bridesmaid headpieces and custom-made hats for the wives of Governor Brooks, Terry Carpenter, and many more. This took nimble fingers which have also tried nearly every craft in the books. Daughter Mary Ann, after finishing school, was a country school teacher and worked for the American Red Cross. She married Gary Yank. They now live at Crete where he is city clerk. They have 2 children, Greg, and Janelle.

Daughter Linda, after finishing school, was a stenographer at the State Capitol. She married James Welsh of Milford, an electrician. They have 2 sons, Michael, and Bill.

Pleasant Dale is a good place to call home.

Mrs. Helen Zimmer

CLARK - DREESZEN

Norman Clark, born December 13, 1905, and Lucille Marie Zimmer, born October 9, 1909, were married on August 13, 1930. They farmed their whole life south of Pleasant Dale, in Seward County. Several years, during the depression, they moved to Lincoln in the winter-time to work. Norman worked for Swift Lumber and Fuel, delivering fuel oil for furnaces and heating in Lincoln. Lucille worked for many years for Gold's, and for the University for several years. Norman farmed and had the first square baler to do custom work in the community.

The Clarks farmed until their deaths, Lucille's on September 4, 1961, and Norman's in January 1974. Norman Clark married Pearl Dill on December 14, 1970.

Norman and Lucille had 1 daughter, Donna Mae, born May 2, 1932. She married Marvin Dreeszen, March 17, 1951. Marvin Dreeszen was born March 10, 1929. They reside south of Pleasant Dale on the Ernest Zimmer farm that he homesteaded. The house they live in was built around 1905. The only time the Zimmer farm was not in the family was when it was sold after Ernest Zimmer's death, to Arvard Elander.

Marvin Dreeszen was in the service during the Korean War. Donna Dreeszen worked for the American Red Cross for ten years. Marvin worked for the Lancaster County Clerk's office for a number of years while farming.

Marvin and Donna have 2 children, Diane Lynn, born October 24, 1960, and Marla Marie, born January 17, 1968. Diane Dreeszen graduated from Southeast Community College, Milford, and now works for Information Technology, Inc. Marla is an 8th grader at Milford Junior-Senior High School.

Donna Dreeszen

DIETRICH (DAVID) BRANDT

David Brandt was born at Clayton Center, Iowa, August 31, 1853. Mary Henriette Baumbach was born May 18, 1859, in Hampton, Illinois. They were married April 13, 1888, in Rock Island County, State of Illinois. They had 2 sons and 3 daughters; Lena Caroline Zimmer, Hulda Shaw, both of whom are buried at Lincoln Memorial Park, Minnie Deden and David Brandt, both buried at Pleasant Dale Cemetery, and William Brandt who is buried at Sabin, Minnesota, where he lived and raised his family.

The father of Mary Baumbach was George Baumbach, who served from March 8, 1865, to October 31, 1865, in the Civil War. He was in Co. "D" 9th Reg. of Illinois cavalry. Her mother was Caroline Wilhelm Eld and she was born in Sweden on May 19, 1839. She immigrated to the U.S. in 1854 at the age of 15. Mary had 2 sisters and 1 brother. Maggie, who was her sister, lived on a farm northwest of Pleasant Dale.

Both David Brandt and Mary Brandt are buried in the Pleasant Dale Cemetery. Brandts lived on a farm north of Pleasant Dale and later moved into Pleasant Dale in the house behind the Methodist Church. David Brandt passed away in 1929, and Mary Brandt passed away December 24, 1945.

Donna Dreeszen

JOHN DEDEN

(Taken from the book "Illustrated Album Biography" called Memorial and Biographical Records, Copyrighted in 1899)

John Deden, one of the pioneers of the county, is now successfully engaged in agriculture pursuits in precinct I.

He was born in province of Hanover, Germany, November 29, 1832, and attended the schools of his native land from the age of 6 to 14 years. In the latter year he was confirmed in the Lutheran church. For 7 years he was a member of the German army, and on being discharged, he engaged in farming until his emigration to America. At the age of 35 years he was united in marriage with Miss Adelheid Bove, and before leaving Germany 1 child was born to them, Annie, who is now the wife of John P. Stolz, of Seward County. The other children, Minnie M., Martha, Albert, and Mary were all born in this country and are at home with the exception of Martha, who is the wife of John Haganow, of Minnesota. The wife and mother departed this life in 1892 at the age of 49 years, leaving many friends as well as her immediate family to mourn her loss.

In 1869, Mr. Deden with his little family crossed the Atlantic and a year later came to Seward County, Nebraska, taking a homestead of 80 acres in I precinct, where he now lives. He came on foot from Lincoln, passing no houses on the way and only a few dugouts. After constructing one of these crude dwellings on his own place, the family moved in. On foot, Mr. Deden went to Nebraska City, a distance of 65 miles, where for 2 years he worked to earn the money to support his

family. As soon as he was able to purchase a yolk of oxen, he began to break and cultivate his land, but his team was stolen and one ox butchered. As he was in limited circumstances, it was a hard matter to replace the team, and he also lost much during the grasshopper plagues and dry seasons, but at length prosperity crowned his efforts.

Donna Dreeszen

DEDEN

Albert Deden was born March 1, 1877. He married Wilhelmina (Minnie) Brandt on September 10, 1903. They farmed and for awhile lived in Colorado, farming. They moved to Pleasant Dale in 1933 and Albert Deden worked at different jobs to support his family. They had six sons, John, Sam, Dave, Herb, Bernard, and LeRoy. They went to the Lutheran church in Pleasant Dale and Minnie Deden was a member of the Ladies' Aid. Albert Deden died June 25, 1958. Minnie Deden moved to Columbus where she resided until her death on January 21, 1977.

Donna Dreeszen

JOACHIM DEDEN

Joachim and Maria (Dammann) Deden came from Germany to America, bringing their 2½ year old daughter, Engel with them. They settled in Seward County on a farm about 5 miles northwest of Pleasant Dale. There their son John was born. Several other children were born to them, but died in infancy.

Joachim broke sod on his farm of 120 acres, and also hired out to help support his family. He had a wooden sod breaker. They purchased a team of horses, a few cows, chickens, and pigs.

Joachim died in October of 1911 of a heart ailment, and was buried in their church cemetery. Maria died January 18, 1928.

John, unmarried, continued with the farming until his health caused him to go to a rest home. He died about 1950.

Engel married George Meinberg on September 14, 1905. Ten children were born to them: Louis, Clara, Melinda, Edna, Henry, Elsie, Leonard, George, Walter, and Paul.

Melinda died May 1911 of measles and bronchitis. Paul, who was born August 17, 1923 died of pneumonia in December of 1925. Louis, born August 23, 1906, died in January of 1977 of a heart ailment. Edna, born in 1911 died of a rare brain disease in 1974. Engel died in September of 1974 at the age of 94.

There were 90 descendants consisting of children, grandchildren, their spouses, and the great-grandchildren. A great-grandson of the Dedens now owns their farm.

Clara Vagts

LELAND (LEE) & VERNEDA AUSTEN FAMILY

The Austens arrived with bag and baggage loaded in a good friend's farm truck from Norton, Kansas, on April 23, 1953. Lee was eager to accept the challenge of his own business in this small town of 176 people in Seward County.

They have 3 daughters. Cheryl Lee was 14 months old when they came. Kathy Jo and Janice Kay were born in Lincoln.

The girls attended Pleasant Dale Grade School and graduated from Milford High School. Upon graduation, Cheryl attended Nebraska Wesleyan in Lincoln; Kathy attended the University of Nebraska; and Jan attended Augustana in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Cheryl married Robert Leavitt of Omaha, Nebraska, and has 2 daughters, Kori Lynn and Denna Lee. They are now living in Omaha.

Jan married Patrick Stahly of Lincoln and is now living in St. Paul, Minnesota. Jan's work is in special education concentrated on deaf children.

Kathy lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, and is associated with Nebraska Title Company in Title Insurance.

Austens operated the Pleasant Dale Lumber and Oil Company for 26 years, during which time they saw many additions and new homes develop in and around this community.

Since selling the lumber yard, as of September 1, 1979, Lee has accepted a position with the United States Post Office as rural carrier at Pleasant Dale.

Leland B. Austen

ED AND LOUISE TIMME

In November, 1950, Ed and Louise Timme, having previously operated a grocery store in Colon, Nebraska, moved to Pleasant Dale to help their son, Kenneth in the grocery business. They lived in the Pool house, now the home of Lester and Mildred Ficke. In 1951 they built their home here.

Ed operated the produce route from Timme's Store picking up cream and eggs and delivering groceries to rural customers. This had been done by the former owners, Ward and Jim Pyle. Louise helped in the grocery store for about 23 years. Ed retired in 1961.

Ed had one narrow escape while out on the route one winter. It was snowing, and by afternoon there were blizzard conditions. He became stalled on Highway 6 just east of Highway 15. He stayed in the truck. John Vagts, then road maintainer, with Kenneth Timme and Glen VanAndel proceeded to go out to get him with the snow plow. They returned home about midnight that night.

Ed was active in the Lutheran church and particularly the Lutheran Layman's League. For years he was in charge of the Lutheran services and the Lutheran Layman's booth at the Nebraska State fair. Louise taught nursery children in Sunday school for at least 20 years.

They had 3 children, Kenneth of Pleasant Dale, Kathryn (Mrs. Wal-ly)Mundhenke of Joplin, Missouri and a daughter, Joyce, who passed away in 1936. Ed passed away in October 1973.

Louise Timme

KENNETH TIMME

In August of 1950 Kenneth and Erma Timme moved to Pleasant Dale from Fairbury, Nebraska. They moved into the former home of Jim and Tillie Pyle, now the home of Laura Ficke, across the street west of the Lutheran Church. They purchased the grocery and general merchandise store from Ward and Jim Pyle. In the fall, Ed and Louise Timme moved to town to help them in the store and to run the produce route. In 1952, they purchased their present lot from Millers and built a new home.

They have 2 children. Robert was born December 27, 1956, and is now living in Lincoln, working as a corporate accounting officer at First National Bank. He married Vicki Kunzie of Milford July 30, 1977. She teaches 4th grade at Milford.

Vickie was born July 3, 1958, lives in Lincoln, and works at Union Insurance as assistant supervisor in the word processing department. She married Doug Novak of Lincoln April 12, 1980. He works in the office of sales at Reimers Kaufman Concrete Products.

Kenneth Timme

THE BISHOP FAMILY

Thomas Henry Bishop (8-23-1842 to 3-25-1926). Thomas was born in Troy, New York, and, at the age of 3 years, his family moved to Kenosha County, Wisconsin. He grew up there, and served with the 33rd Wisconsin Volunteers, Company H, in the Civil War. In 1873 he homesteaded southwest of Pleasant Dale. He returned to Wisconsin and married Anna Elfrida Smith of Salem, Wisconsin, and moved to the Nebraska homestead in February 1874.

There were 9 children born to Thomas and Anna Bishop. They were: Clarence Potter Bishop (1876-1964) who farmed at Pleasant Dale; Nelson Edward Bishop (1878-1964) who farmed at Pleasant Dale; Julia May Bishop (1880-1942) who married Omer Burd of Fairbury, Nebraska; Emery Allison Bishop (1881-1947) who lived in Minnesota; Florence Emaline Bishop (1884-1959) who married Ray Smiley of Seward, Nebraska; Rufus Raymond Bishop (1885-) who farmed at Pleasant Dale and now lives in Lincoln, Nebraska; Maude Moma Bishop (1888-1973) who married John Bailey of Pleasant Dale; and Ralph Seymour (1891-1982) who lived at Torrington, Wyoming.

Carleton Oscar Bishop (12-1-1874 to 11-19-1957) was the first child of Thomas and Anna Bishop. He was born in a "dugout" at the homestead. The location of this dugout can still be seen, across the road east from the old Bishop farm house. The last Bishop to work the homestead was Clarence, the second son. (This is now the Roger Thomas farm.)

Mabel Esther Stoner (1889-1940) was the daughter of Findley H. Stoner and Dora Bell (Hall) Stoner of Bennett, Nebraska. The Stoner ancestors came to this country sometime between 1717 and 1726, and settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Findley came to Nebraska in 1880. His great-grandfather, Christian Findley (1754-1814), served with the Lancaster County Pennsylvania Militia in the Revolutionary War. Findley was a sergeant in Company I of the U.S. Army and saw service in 1891 during the Indian Outbreak in western Nebraska.

Mabel came to Pleasant Dale as a school teacher, where she met Carleton. They were married in 1917.

During his youth, Carleton worked on ranches in western Nebraska and Wyoming and traveled to Chicago with trainloads of stock. He was working for E. J. Newton Hardware in Pleasant Dale at the time of his marriage.

Carleton was best known for his business of delivery of fuel and oil

to farmers around Pleasant Dale. He worked for the Co-op Oil Company, represented Conoco, and finally was in business for himself. He also worked at the lumber yard of A. G. Scheele, at slow times of the oil business.

Carleton started out with a Model T Ford truck with a tank on it, and in 1929 purchased a new International truck chassis and built his own cab and installed a larger tank than was on the Ford. This truck served him until his retirement after World War II. The truck was then used for awhile on the farm of his brother, Nelson Edward, northeast of town.

Mabel spent her time after marriage in raising their 2 sons—Byron Oscar (1920) and Dwight Wendell (1921). She was very active in the Methodist Church, serving as Superintendent of Sunday school for many years. She was also active in the 4-H clubs, her 2 sons singing in the Seward County 4-H song group, with other young people from Pleasant Dale, during the early 1930's. This song group won prize ribbons at the State Fair year after year.

Mabel's interest in music led her to work with choirs, quartets, and other musical groups of the church and community. She was active in organizing the Pleasant Dale Band, and also played a French horn. The town band played at the State Fair several times and other occasions in the area.

Dwight W. Bishop

DWIGHT WENDELL BISHOP

Dwight Wendell Bishop was born in December of 1921 in Pleasant Dale in the home of his parents, Carleton O. and Mabel E. Bishop. He started first grade at the age of 4 years. He attended all 12 grades in the old school building and graduated in 1938.

He attended the University of Nebraska from the years of 1938-1940. While he was there he met Doris E. Berg, whom he later married in 1944. Dwight played the violin in the school orchestra and later, when the town band was formed, he played the trombone and the sousaphone. He was active in the church choir and the quartets. He also sang with the chorus at the University.

When Dwight was in high school, he worked in Fred Shaw's grocery store. In the summer of 1939, he drove a truck for Ralph Kapke. Next he went into the Civilian Conservation Corps at Bayard and Omaha.

Dwight entered the army in November 1942 as a draftee. He was appointed Aviation Cadet and graduated as a 2nd lieutenant (pilot) in Georgia, in November 1943. He trained in B-24 bombers staging for overseas service from Lincoln. Dwight served with the 8th Air Force in England. He flew 30 combat missions from July 1944 to February 1945. In October of 1945 he was discharged with the rank of Captain.

After he was discharged, he and his wife moved to Hollywood, California. He graduated from UCLA in 1947. After he graduated, he became a Certified Public Accountant, and eventually became Branch Controller for Hussman Refrigeration Co.

Dwight and Doris have 2 children: Judith Roxanna (born 1947), now Mrs. Thomas Knox of Riverside, California, and Douglas Steven, who married Sandra Evans, and lives in Page, Arizona. They also have 3 grandchildren: Jennifer Kay Bishop (1974), Karen L. Bishop (1976), and Stacy A. Knox (1978).

Dwight W. Bishop

THE NELSON E. BISHOP FAMILY

Thomas, a Civil War Veteran, and Anna Smith Bishop left Kenosha, Wisconsin, by team and wagon and settled on a farm in the hills south of what is now Pleasant Dale in 1874. They lived in a dugout while building their house. They had 9 children.

Nelson E. Bishop (1878-1964), son of Thomas and Anna, known as 'Ed', was my father. He left the Milford High School in his senior year to enlist in the 39th Nebraska Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish-American War (1899-1901).

After the war, he operated a livery stable in Pleasant Dale. At the time of his marriage to Emma Maurer, who was a registered nurse, he was a rural mail carrier at Milford.

After the birth of their 2 children, Wilmer and Bernadine, the Bishops moved to a farm east of Pleasant Dale. The house there was originally a log house, built by the Schnoor family. (It can still be seen at Daneborg, where it was restored by Roger Welch.) The first railroad to Pleasant Dale ran through this property. The embankment for the tracks and the remains of a bridge can still be seen. There is a small field of native prairie grass still on the farm.

Ed Bishop served on the school board, the elevator board, and the Credit Association. Both he and Emma were active in the Methodist Church. From 1940 until 1948, Ed was postmaster at Pleasant Dale. Both he and his wife are buried in the Pleasant Dale Cemetery.

Bernadine Bishop Taplin

RALPH BISHOP

Ralph S. Bishop, son of Thomas H. and Anna Smith Bishop, was born July 9, 1891, on a farm near Pleasant Dale.

Hazel I. Merrill Bishop, daughter of John and Lucy Carruthers Merrill, was born March 14, 1891, in Pleasant Dale.

Ralph and Hazel married February 21, 1914, in Lincoln, Nebraska, and lived in this area until the spring of 1918, when they moved to Goshen County in Wyoming. They homesteaded near Lingle, Wyoming, in 1920. The family lived on a farm there until after the children were married. The Bishop children are Richard S. Bishop, who was born April 25, 1915, and died January 2, 1975, and Ruth Ann Bishop Williams, who was born April 30, 1917. Ralph and Hazel later moved to Torrington, Wyoming, where Hazel Bishop died January 21, 1966, and Ralph died March 13, 1982.

Ruth Ann Williams

CONRAD DANKERS FAMILY

Conrad Dankers, son of John and Renska Dankers, was born in a country house in Section 13, Town 10N, Range 4 East, Seward County, Nebraska. Somewhere around 1910 the John Dankers family moved to Harlan county.

On January 8, 1914 Conrad married Anna Lostroh. They moved to Harlan County where they lived until March 1921. While in Harlan County, two daughters, Viola and Velma, were added to the family. Conrad bought his farm from a Mrs. Castle, a sister of Mrs. Cynthia Best, and known as the Happle farm. This 80 acres is located in Section 23, T10, N R4E. At the time of this purchase the road past the farm was a rutted county road. Within a few years it was to become Highway #6, which was graded and graveled. In 1957 Conrad bought another 80 acres from Mrs. Cynthia Best. 1957 was also the year the tornado went through the farm and took all the buildings except the house, which had broken windows and even a beer can embedded into the siding above the door.

Conrad was assessor for I precinct for many years.

Viola and Velma grew up in the Pleasant Dale vicinity, attending school through all 12 grades.

Velma married Everett H. Giles, son of Harry Giles, a farmer for a few years in the vicinity. They have made their home most of the years south of Plamor, with the exception of 40 months that Everett spent in the South Pacific. Everett and Velma have 4 children, 2 daughters in Lancaster County, a son, Bruce, living in Miami, Florida, and a daughter living in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Viola is married to Earl L. Mitchell. They have resided in the Pleasant Dale vicinity most of the time.

Earl and Everett are members of the Pleasant Dale American Legion. Velma and Viola are members of the Pleasant Dale American Legion Auxiliary. Earl is also a volunteer fireman.

Viola Mitchell

DIETRICH DANKERS

Dietrich Dankers, the son of Hans and Margaret Wilhelmina (Schmidt) Dankers was born in Horneburg, Germany, on December 21, 1843. He was the third child in a family of 11. He spent some time learning the carpenter's trade and was a soldier in the German army for 3 years. He left Hanover, Germany, for New York in the spring of 1867 and then settled in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where he resided for 2 years. In 1869 he arrived in Seward County and homesteaded 80 acres of land north of Pleasant Dale in July of that year. He received his United States citizenship on January 5, 1876.

On October 17, 1869, he was married to Anna Catherina Meyer. She was the daughter of Augusta (Steffens) and Johann Meyer and was born in Ahlerstedt, Germany, on September 20, 1844. Mr. Dankers worked as a carpenter to supplement the farm income.

Mr. and Mrs. Dankers were the parents of 8 children: Mary (Mrs. William Pohlman, Anna (Mrs. Jacob) Ficken, Chris Dankers, Minnie (Mrs. John) Ficken, Margaretha (Mrs. John) Klintworth, John Dankers, Louise Dankers, and Caroline Dankers.

Mr. Dankers was a stockholder in the Pleasant Dale Creamery, held school offices, was supervisor of the township, and records indicate that he was a director of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association of Seward County during the early 1900's.

Mrs. Dankers died on November 30, 1910. Mr. Dankers died on March 19, 1925. Their children, John, Louise and Caroline resided on the farm until 1949 when they purchased a home in Seward.

JoAnn R. Sieck

July 1890—Elgin & McLain: contractors, carpenter, plasterers & masons. Contract work a specialty.

THE DANKERS FAMILY

The original Dankers farm, located 1½ miles north of Pleasant Dale, was homesteaded by Frederick Rolfmeier in 1867. Minnie Rolfmeier, daughter of Frederick, married Christopher Dankers, and they homesteaded the 80 acres next to it. They had 4 children, Caroline, William, Henry and Anna.

Caroline married John Stueve and they made their home in rural Malcom.

Henry and Anna lived on the homestead until 1962 when they built a home in Seward. In 1969 they received the Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award for families who have owned the same farm in Nebraska for 100 years or more.

William married Louise Woebbecke and bought a farm ½ mile north of Pleasant Dale in 1912. They had 2 children, Lueda and Elmer. William Dankers passed away in 1940. At that time Elmer took over the farm.

In 1946, Elmer married LaVerne Haase of Lincoln and they lived on the William Dankers farm. They have 2 sons, Gerry and Harlan.

Harlan married Kim Reed in 1979 and lived in Lincoln. Harlan was employed by Bealle Construction Company. They have a son, Jeffrey, 1½ years old.

In 1981, Elmer reached retirement age and built a new home on the farm. Harlan has taken over the farming operation with the help of his father. They will soon live in the house occupied by his parents before retirement.

Gerry is employed at Carter Lumber Company of Lincoln and lives with his parents.

At this writing, Louise Dankers is 94 years old and has lived with Elmer and family for 36 years.

Elmer Dankers

HENRY G. PIENING

Henry G. Piening, the son of Fred Piening, was born January 14, 1876, in a dugout on his father's farm 2½ miles north and 1½ miles east of Pleasant Dale, in Lancaster County. He had 2 brothers and 6 sisters.

He married Louise Dunker on October 18, 1906, and moved to a farm 1 mile north of Pleasant Dale, where he built his home.

They had 2 sons, Arthur and Vernon, and 2 daughters, Lana (Mrs. Adolph Ficke), and Edna (Mrs. Albert Thomas).

Arthur married Lueda Dankers in 1948, and has lived all his life on the place where he was born, 1 mile north of Pleasant Dale. They have a son, Lyle, who also lives on this farm. Lyle married Sheryl Wilson in 1972. Lyle and Sheryl have a son, Chad, and a daughter, Shannon.

Arthur and Lueda also have a daughter, Lois, who married Robert Upton in 1977. They live 2 miles north of Pleasant Dale.

Vernon married Alvina Zwick in 1943. He served in the Army from August of 1941 to October of 1945, spending 1 year of that time in Europe. They have 3 sons, Myron, Ronald, and Stuart, and 1 daughter, Ila.

Vernon and Alvina live ½ mile north and 2 miles east of Pleasant Dale. All 4 of their children live within 3 miles of Pleasant Dale. Myron had 2 children, Calley and Cary. Ronald married Marcia Goeschel in 1967. They have a son, Michael Henry (Hank), and a daughter, Valerie. Stuart married Vicki Weideman in 1975. Ila married Dale Matthes in 1971 and they have a son, Daniel.

Submitted by the Piening family

ALBERT THOMAS

Henry Thomas came to Nebraska from Rock Island, Illinois in approximately 1871 with his grandparents. On April 14, 1882 he married Matilda Kapke. To this union were born 8 children. Ida died at the age of 7 months and Frank died when he was 11 years old from diphtheria. The other 6 children were Emma Borchers, deceased, Minnie Berg, deceased, John, deceased, William, Albert, and Walter.

On April 14, 1937 Albert Thomas and Edna Piening were married at Pleasant Dale. In 1944 Roger was born. In 1951 they purchased their first 80 acres of land northwest of Pleasant Dale. Before they were able to move into the house they had to move the coons. In 1958, after the death of Matilda Thomas, they inherited 40 acres of the "public domain", which was part of the original homestead.

In September of 1964 Roger married Diane VanAndel. They moved a trailer house onto Roger's parents' farm. The Thomases farmed this land until 1964 at which time "eminent domain" took over. This meant they had to give up the home and land which they had worked so hard to build over the years. Even more important, they lost the 40 acres of an original homestead, which is now Twin Lakes.

At this time they relocated ¼ mile north of Pleasant Dale in a home they built themselves, with the help of many good friends and

relatives. They moved Rog's and Diane's trailer house along with the double garage to the same location.

On July 29, 1965, along came their grandchild, Becky.

In 1966 they purchased 80 acres southwest of Pleasant Dale, from Otto Becker. In February 1969, on that 80 acres, Rog and Diane moved into their new home also built by many of the same friends and relatives who helped to build Albert's and Edna's home.

On March 3, 1971, their second grandchild, Cory, was born.

Albert Thomas

WILLIAM C. THOMAS FAMILY

William C. Thomas is the son of Henry Thomas and Matilda (Kapke) Thomas. Emma K. Thomas, who is not living, was the daughter of Peter Ficken and Metta (Tobaban) Ficken.

Hugo J. Thomas is the son of William and Emma Thomas.

William Thomas is a World War I veteran. He was a member of the Signal Corps.

The Thomas family lived 3 miles north of Pleasant Dale B.D. (Before Dam).

Hugo Thomas

WALTER AND CECELIA THOMAS FAMILY

Cecelia and I have lived in the vicinity of Pleasant Dale all our lives. The Thomas farm was 3 miles northwest of Pleasant Dale. My father came to Nebraska with his grandparents, the Henry Kempes from Illinois. They homesteaded, and also bought some land in 1871. In 1869 my mother came from Wisconsin with her family, the Kapkes. Cecelia's father moved here from Sterling, Nebraska. Her mother was from the Pleasant Dale vicinity.

Cecelia has 2 brothers and 6 sisters. One sister died recently.

We have 3 children, Stan, of Milford, Jean (Becker), Fairbury, and Clinton of Pleasant Dale. We have 7 grandchildren, 6 boys and 1 girl.

In 1964, we were forced to sell our farm to the State of Nebraska. We moved to Pleasant Dale in 1965. I worked for the county Department of Roads for 15 years, and Cecelia kept on working at Seward Memorial Hospital.

We have now semi-retired. Our farm would have been in the family one hundred years in 1979.

Walter Thomas

CECELIA LIPPS THOMAS

I was born in Lancaster County on June 11, 1913 to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lipps. I got my education at District 5, Emerald, and finished my high school at Lincoln High, in 1931. During the summer I worked at odd jobs for 1 dollar a day to earn enough money to go into nurse's training. I had met Walter Thomas in 1927, but I wished to fulfill my ambitions, so I entered nurse's training in the fall of 1931 and graduated in 1934. I joined the staff of Lincoln General Hospital, and was assistant surgical supervisor for 3 years. In April of 1937, Walter and I were married.

We moved to the Thomas home place. Three children were born to us. In 1953, I went back to work at Seward Memorial Hospital as surgical supervisor and O.B. supervisor.

After 23 years, I retired from the hospital. I have been helping with the Community Blood Bank for the past 5 years at Milford Southeast Community College, Concordia Teachers College at Seward, and at Seward Memorial Hospital. At present, I am also employed as night charge nurse at Bethesda Care Center. I love my work and my contact with people.

Cecelia Thomas R.N.

CLINTON THOMAS FAMILY

Clint Thomas is the fifth generation of a family that homesteaded in the Pleasant Dale area. The homestead was located ½ mile west and 2½ miles north of Pleasant Dale.

The first record was recorded in 1871 and is a deed for 120 acres adjacent to the 80 acres homestead site. It was dated June 24, 1878. The original homesteaders were Henry and Dorothea Kemp. Their daughter, Sophia, was married to Frank Thomas. In 1881 the widowed Mrs. Kemp and her daughter Sophia sold the farm on contract to Sophia's son, Henry Thomas. Henry Thomas operated the farm until his death in 1922. After that time, his widow, Matilda, and sons John, Albert, and Walter operated the farm. Matilda died in 1958, at which time the farm was divided among the living children. After the death of his mother, Walter purchased the home quarter from his brothers and sisters. Walter and his wife Cecelia, continued to run the farm until 1964. At that time the farm was purchased for a watershed dam.

Walter and Cecelia built a new home in Pleasant Dale and moved into it that same year. They moved the farm house into Pleasant Dale in 1965.

In 1969 Clint married the former Verla Heidtbrink, the daughter of Victor and Betty Heidtbrink of rural Malcolm. They rented a house from Walter and Helena VanAndel and occupied it for approximately 2 years. This house is located at the corner of 3rd and Main.

In 1971 they purchased the house which originally stood on the Thomas family farm, from Clint's parents, Walter and Cecelia Thomas. They still reside there with their 2 children, Myron, age 12, and Melissa, age 9.

Verla Thomas

OTTO C. BECKER FAMILY

The great-grandfather came from Germany to Madison, Wisconsin, and later homesteaded on land east of Emerald. Three sons were Carl F., John, and August.

Carl F. married Marie Klockemeyer, a minister's daughter born in Adams County, Illinois. Their 6 children were Carl, Henry, Mary (Schmidt), Anna, Christian, and Henrietta.

Carl H. married Mary Nobbman. Her parents were Christian and Wilhelmina Nobbman of the Zion Lutheran Church area. The 3 children of Carl and Mary Becker were Otto C., Walter, deceased, and Berdina (Spellman) of Whittier, California.

Otto married Pearl Wiechert (whose father came from Germany when he was 16 years old). The Otto Beckers resided on the home place of Otto's birth until lightning destroyed a large dairy barn and all the equipment in 1954. They then purchased and moved to the Bishop farm southwest of Pleasant Dale. They have 3 sons.

Bernard Otto is married to Jean (Thomas), and they live in Fairbury, Nebraska. He is a patrolman. (Jean is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Thomas of Pleasant Dale.) Their 3 sons are Brian Owen, Timothy Walter, and Nathan Gene.

Bruce Owen Becker is married to Kathleen (Exline) and they live in Omaha. He is dean of men and she is a house mother at the Nebraska School for the Deaf.

Bryon Christian is married to Debra (Jury). They live in Bettendorf, Iowa. He is with Pickers Medical Products and is an electronics technician.

Pearl Becker

GEORGE W. YEACKLEY FAMILY

George Willis Yeackley, the son of Mrs. Esther (Stoltzfus) Yeackley and the late Willis Yeackley, was born in Friend, Nebraska. Their family later relocated in Milford, Nebraska. On May 24, 1974, George Yeackley married the former Denise Heidtbrink. Denise is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Heidtbrink, (Betty Boldebeck) of rural Malcolm. After their marriage, they resided in Milford for a short period of time. In February of 1975 they relocated to Austen's Apartments in Pleasant Dale. After living there for almost 4 years, they purchased a home in Pleasant Dale. In November of 1978 they moved into the home formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jack (Jim) Howerton, which is located in Best's Addition, 245 Main Street, in Pleasant Dale.

On May 24, 1981, their sixth wedding anniversary, they were blessed with a son, Ryan Willis Yeackley. They are currently residing at the above address.

Denise Yeackley

HENRY AND MARY BRT FAMILY

Henry and Mary Brt took possession of Brts' Tavern in Pleasant Dale from Lester and Millie Ficke in 1950. They lived in back of the tavern where they could be close to their work. Both men and women came to play cards, shuffleboard, and have ice cream, and eat Mr. Brt's chili, home baked ham sandwiches, bean soup, hamburgers, etc. People talk about those ham sandwiches yet. Mr. Brt was a very good cook, and enjoyed serving the public. Mr. and Mrs. Brt both loved their work and put in long hours serving patrons. On October 30, Mrs. Brt's birthday, Mr. Brt would put on a free lunch and party for everyone. They were always well attended and well remembered by a lot of people.

Mrs. Brt had surgery in the fall of 1955, and they had to sell the tavern to Fred Luckey. They moved back to their home in Lincoln. Mr. Brt passed away on September 27, 1968, and Mrs. Brt, who is 91, is making her home in Crestview Care Center in Milford.

Mary Brt

LOUIS AND LUCILLE BURIANEK FAMILY

The Landis farm was auctioned off in the fall of 1945 and we became the proud owners. The house, granary, and small corn crib were the only buildings, and a well was east of the house. We were told that there was plenty of water, but found that there was not enough for drinking.

Ed Tesar from Crete came and dug holes all around, but found no water, so we had to haul all of our water from an ever-flowing spring, which is about 1½ blocks west of the house. We hauled for house use, chickens, pigs, etc., in cans, barrels, and anything we could put water into. In the fall we heard of a well witcher from Crete, Joe Hoesche. He came out and got a willow stick from the creek. He started across the yard and in front of the corn crib, the stick bent way over. When we found a suitable spot, Mr. Tesar dug. In two days we were pumping water, and had plenty. They say witching for water is a gift of God.

My father was a railroad fireman and watched the house being built in 1918.

Harry Oxley built our barn and chicken house in sub-zero weather in December and January with the help of Louis's brothers, John and Ed. We had to have buildings built before we could move on March 1, 1946. The house had been empty for ten years, so the floors and walls had collected smoke from coal trains which went by.

Our children are Maryan, who is married to Glenn Allen, Louis Jr., who married Gladys Bender, Jean, who married Roger Rudolph, and Joan, who married Jim Helter. We enjoyed the farm until 1976 when Lou had hip surgery and had to retire. We had a farm sale on December 18, 1976, and sold the farm in February, 1977, to J. R. and Andrea Hovelsrud, who took possession on April 15, 1977.

We moved to Lincoln, and enjoyed retirement until July, 1979, when Lou had a heart attack and passed away.

Mrs. Lucille Burianek

LOUIS BURIANEK FAMILY

I, Louis Burianek, the son of Louis and Lucille Burianek, was born and grew up on a farm near Pleasant Dale. I graduated from Pleasant Dale High School in 1955.

I met Gladys Bender, daughter of Herman and Sophie Bender of Milford. We were married June 3, 1956.

I farmed for 1 year, and then moved to Lincoln, where I have been employed at National Manufacturing for the last 23 years. I am a sheet metal worker, and build laboratory equipment.

Gladys and I have 3 children. Richard Louis (Rick) born September 19, 1958, is married to LeAnn Churchill from Lincoln. They have 2 daughters, Abby Marie, born July 12, 1979, and Jennifer, born October 31, 1981. They live in Lincoln. Our second son, Randal Lee, born December 5, 1959, is married to the former Cindy Martain from Lincoln. They have made their home in Crete. Our daughter Rochelle Lynn was born July 19, 1968.

We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary on June 3, 1981.

Our summers are filled with camping, fishing, and water skiing. Our whole family enjoys spending time at the lake.

Gladys and I have "Happy Fingers Macrame". We make hand-made crafts and sell them at craft shows. This project has been good to us, and we enjoy making crafts.

Louis Burianek

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD BURIANEK FAMILY

President Ulysses S. Grant granted a patent to the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Company in Nebraska on June 15, 1872, on land described as SW¼ of Section 21, Township 9, North, Range 4 east of 6th P.M., county of Seward.

On July 26, 1880, the B. and M. River Railroad and Company granted a deed of conveyance to the C.B. and Q. Railroad Company. This property was deeded to Margaretta (Broz) and Frank Burianek on December 4, 1883. Total consideration was \$1903.62 for 160 acres. In 1889 Frank and Margaretta purchased 40 acres across the road to the west.

Their first winter was spent in a dugout built into a bank just a little southeast of where the present house stands. The following spring they built a 2 room house with a bedroom upstairs. Access to the upstairs bedroom was from an outside stairway. Frank and Margaretta had 4 children: Frank Jr., Jacob, John, and Mary (Shebl).

On January 8, 1907, Maggie, widow of Frank Sr., deeded this property by warranty deed to her son John. John and Anna (Unger) lived on this farm. About 1910, they built a larger 1½ story, 8 room house. John and Anna had 4 children: John, Louis, Edward, and Marie (Skrdla). Anna, widowed in 1931, lived on this farm until 1943, when she retired to Crete.

On June 26, in 1945, the land was deeded to her son, Edward. Edward and his wife Evelyn (Kohel) lived on this farm from 1942, when they were married, until 1979, when illness forced Edward's retirement to Crete. Edward and Evelyn had 4 children: Shirley Mariska, Richard, Carol Krueger, and 1 son, Edward Alan, who died in infancy. In 1979 they sold the farm to their son, Richard, and Diane (Stern), who now live there with their family. In 1983 the farm will have been 100 years in the Burianek name.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Burianek

JIM HELTER

I, Joan, am the daughter of Louis and Lucille Burianek, and I was born and raised near Pleasant Dale. I graduated from Milford High School in 1960.

I then met Jim Helter from Lincoln, Nebraska and we were married on July 27, 1963. Jim and I lived in Lincoln where Janet was born, June 10, 1964, and Scott on June 23, 1965.

In 1968, we moved to Denton, Nebraska, as I missed the farm life. We had 15 acres, and had horses, cows, chickens, and enjoyed the country life. Connie was then born on January 11, 1971, and because of the time and work, we decided to move closer to my parents to help out at their farm. We then built a new home in Pleasant Dale in 1971, and moved into it on August 1st.

Our family's hobbies are boating, fishing, and water skiing. We also like to travel.

In 1975, Jim opened a business in Lincoln called H&H Transmissions located at 19 & N street, and in 1979, we built a new building at 3300 No. 20th.

Joan Helter

WILLIAM SCHROEDER

William Schroeder, the son of Robert and Mathilda Schroeder, was born on a farm near Emerald. He and Wilhelmina Busboom, daughter of Oltman and Emma Busboom, were married on October 12, 1938.

They farmed together on 4 places before settling on the farm on which Wilhelmina was born. One of the places is now a filling station at the Pleasant Dale exit of Interstate 80.

Schroeders have 2 daughters, Evelyn and Ann. Evelyn married John Reid, and they live with their 3 daughters, Linda, Rhonda, and Jodi, on an acreage south of the Schroeders' home.

Ann married Larry Lawton, and they live with their 3 daughters, Sherry, Tracy and Kristy, in Pleasant Dale.

William and Wilhelmina Schroeder

GLENN ALLEN FAMILY

I, Mary Allen, am the daughter of Louis and Lucille Burianek. I was born on a farm south of Pleasant Dale, and I graduated from Pleasant Dale high school. I married Glenn Allen, the son of the late Ray and Pearl Allen, on May 2, 1953. We have 4 children. Our daughter, Janice, was born December 21, 1953. She married Dwight Dufek and they have a daughter Amie Michelle, born December 16, 1981. Our son Steven was born April 13, 1956. He married Anna Storonsky, and they have 2 children, Michael, born December 17, 1973, and Nicole, born June 7, 1976. They were divorced in 1979. Steven married Lora Shier in 1980. Our son Kevin was born May 16, 1959, and he married Jane Miner. They have a son, Kevin Jr., born August 19, 1979. Our daughter Lori was born September 30, 1968.

Glenn has been with the Lancaster County Sheriff's department for 26 years. Mary has been with American Stores Packing Company since June, 1961.

We have lived in Lincoln most of our married years.

Bowling is our only hobby. The boys started bowling when they were 5 years old. Kevin received the Bobby Turner award for several years. Glenn also has a metal detector which keeps him busy.

Mary Allen

JOSEPH E. ALLEN FAMILY

Joseph E. Allen and Louisa G. Binne were born in Pennsylvania. They were married in Dixon, Illinois, on February 26, 1877. Moving to Nebraska in the fall of that year, they first settled on a farm east of Pleasant Dale which is now the Paul Berg farm, later moving west of town. Thirty years later they located southeast of Pleasant Dale, living on the farm which is now owned by Gerald and Violet Allen.

To this union 5 children were born, Lee, Osrow, Luella, Dora and Ray. Three children died in infancy.

Dora Allen moved to Pleasant Dale after the death of her parents. She spent part of her time working in the post-office.

Ray Allen married Pearl Burd on May 23, 1916. They made their

home on a farm southeast of Pleasant Dale, where he earned his living, first as a farmer, then later combining farming with trucking, taking livestock to and from Omaha, and bringing back supplies.

Their children were Alice, Korleen, Rachel, Ruth, Gerald and Glenn.

Ruth Patak

ANN AND LARRY LAWTON FAMILY

Ann (Schroeder) Lawton is the daughter of William and Wilhelmina Schroeder, and was born and raised on a farm north of Pleasant Dale. She has one sister, Evelyn Reid, who lives on an acreage north of Pleasant Dale. Ann's grade school years were spent at District #64 and District #38, and she graduated from University High School in Lincoln. After graduation, she worked for an insurance company in Lincoln. Their first daughter, Sherry, was born in April of 1966. In June 1966 they purchased the home in which they now live, in Pleasant Dale. In August 1968 they were blessed with another daughter, Tracy, and in October 1970, their third daughter, Kristy, arrived. Ann's work outside the home over the years has consisted of several different jobs in secretarial positions. She is currently employed at Lincoln Electric System.

Larry Lawton is the son of Merle and Isabella Lawton of Raymond, Nebraska. He has 3 sisters and 2 brothers. One brother was killed at the age of eleven in a train accident. Larry is employed at Goodyear in Lincoln and has been working there for the past 19½ years.

Mrs. Larry Lawton

HARRY AND HAZEL JOHNSON

The Harry Johnson family moved to Pleasant Dale in February 1939, from Lincoln, Nebraska. They had formerly lived at Malcolm

Harry purchased the tavern in Pleasant Dale from Gus and Inez Leebsock. Johnsons have enjoyed the people in the Pleasant Dale Community. They are friendly and kind. This was in the depression years. Everyone was trying to get along (financially).

For entertainment in summer, there were free shows in the park. The town merchants contributed toward the expense. People came from surrounding towns. The people sat mostly on blankets on the ground. Everett Petsch showed the pictures on an outside screen. The town was full of people. Johnsons sold lots of ice cream cones for 5 cents from a window which was on the sidewalk side of their building. They also had pop for 5 cents, candy bars for 5 cents, cigarettes for 12½ cents, and cigars for 5 cents. The men played pool and cards, and on rainy days they would come in and spend several hours with their friends. There were no paved streets then. Mr. Albert Deden worked for Johnsons and helped them learn to know the local people. They owned the tavern 7 years, then sold it to a Mr. Alex Kropp from Lincoln, Nebraska.

They then bought the Louis Finke farm in 1945 and have lived there since that time. Their home is 85 to 90 years old. Harry loved farming and livestock. Hazel worked part time. Later she started a bridal service in her home, in about 1950. Bridal gowns were her speciality including the veil, bridesmaids' hats, ring pillows, and also the wedding invitations, etc.

One daughter, Barbara, married Laurence Miers from Seward. They live in Fremont, Nebraska. They have 2 daughters, Roxane, in Lincoln, and Nancy in Fremont, who is married to Don Moss.

Patty, their second daughter, married Jim French, Lincoln. They have 2 children, Larry of Lincoln, and Linda, who married Robin McConnell. A great-granddaughter is named Alicia.

The tavern has been torn down and a new grocery store has replaced it, the Pleasant Dale Grocery (Wm. James, owner).

Hazel Johnson

BARBARA (JOHNSON) MIERS

I graduated from Pleasant Dale High School in 1948, then attended the Lincoln School of Commerce. I worked in Lincoln at Gamble Robinson's Fruit Wholesale Company until January 29, 1951 when I married Lawrence Miers (of Seward) at the Pleasant Dale Methodist Church. We moved to Fremont, Nebraska. Both of us worked for George A. Hormel's. Lawrence retired in September 1981 after 31½ years with Hormel's. We hope to do some more traveling, and he watches all football games.

We have 2 girls, Roxane, 24, living in Lincoln (state manager of sales for Cablevision), and Nancy Moss, 22, (who last May 30 married Don Moss). Nancy works for Peterson Machines in the office. Don works for Land O' Lakes at Schuyler, and they live in Fremont.

I do part-time interviewing for the U.S. Census Bureau. I also have a Welcome Service in Fremont, teach Bridge and play it often. My

other hobbies are music, gardening, flowers, china painting, crafts, social work, cooking, and traveling.

In the past seven years, I have traveled to Guayaquil, Ecuador, France, Holland, England, Switzerland, Belgium, Costa Rica, and many parts of the United States.

We attend the Congregational Church in Fremont, and this past season, I was co-chairman of our huge bazaar.

Barbara Miers

JAMES L. and PATRICIA A. JOHNSON FRENCH

At the age of 7, Patty and her family moved from Lincoln, Nebraska to a (large at the time) white house across the street east of the former Pleasant Dale Lutheran parsonage on the corner of Fourth and Main.

Their mother and father, Hazel and Harry, owned and operated the tavern on the north side of Main street. There were many highlights in those early years. One of these was when Barbara had scarlet fever and they were quarantined for 3 weeks. During this time Patty made a tree house and spent most of her time up there. Harry quickly moved out, and every day would leave fresh groceries or medicine on the front sidewalk for the family to retrieve later.

Patty always enjoyed riding horses, of which one belonged to Shirley Bishop, who lived with Maude and Jack Bailey, west of town. In those "olden" days, it was permissible to own livestock within the city limits. The Johnson family always had cows, pigs, rabbits, and chickens.

From that house, they moved to Lou Finke's farm, 3 blocks west of town. Patty graduated with 9 classmates in 1951, after having completed all the grades in one building.

Patty attended summer school at the University of Nebraska and then taught in the rural school, District #17 for 2 years.

Patty and Jim were married on June 4, 1954, in the Methodist church by Reverend Harry McClellan, who also baptized Patty when she was a baby in Malcolm, Nebraska.

They now live in Lincoln and have 2 children; Larry and Linda. They have now added 2 other precious people to their family, son-in-law, Robin, and a granddaughter, Alicia Ann.

Patty and Jim have lived in Colorado and New Mexico.

Patty is again a teacher, but now for the Lincoln Public Schools. Jim is with Phillips '66 Oil Company.

Patty Johnson French

HERBERT HILL, SR. FAMILY

Herb and Margery Hill moved to Pleasant Dale in February 1949. We live in the house that was the Robert Shaw place. I am told that it is one of the oldest houses in town. However, it has been remodeled, added onto until it would hardly be recognized by the man who built it. Thus has the face of the town changed. Nearly all the old homes have been remodeled or removed, and there are many new homes in the new addition to the town.

Herb worked for Goodyear for thirty years, until his death on June 18, 1977. We had 8 children. Our Billie accidentally drowned in a farm pond in April of 1955. One of our other children is Mary Alice Anderson, who is purchasing agent for Century Manufacturing in Aurora where she lives. Her 2 children are grown and gone from home. Dennis Hill married Pattie Keller. They have 2 children, Rod and David, and they live in Pleasant Dale. Marvin has 4 children, and lives on a farm between Pleasant Dale and Crete. Sandra married Dwayne Reed, and they live with their 3 children in Malcolm, Nebraska. Steve is married to Nancy Melichar, and they too, live in Pleasant Dale. Pam is married to Kent Kraus. They, with their son, Travis, live on a farm between Denton and Crete. Herbie is married to Becky Lebsock, and they live with their children at Air Park. As you can see, all of our children settled in this area. My roots have definitely grown in this community and I would imagine I will live here as long as I am able to take care of myself.

Margery Hill

PAMELA J. (HILL) KRAUS

I was born November 9, 1952, in Lincoln, Nebraska, and lived with my parents, Herbert and Margery Hill in Pleasant Dale until I was 26 years of age, at which time I married. During my teen years, I was one of the "demonstrators" who carried signs and was on the Channel 10 news asking the community for some type of recreation or activity for the teens of Pleasant Dale. With the help of Reverend Leslie Lewis, a group called "Teens in Action" was organized.

This group had officers, by-laws, and regular meetings and activities. We had monthly dances, hay rack rides, and other group ac-

tivities for the teens of Pleasant Dale and the surrounding rural area. We had sunrise services with breakfasts, all of which were conducted by the local teens, with guidance from Reverend Lewis. This group continued for several years and was very successful, but was not continued by the younger teens later.

When I married Kent D. Kraus, we moved to farm approximately 9 miles south of Pleasant Dale. Kent and I have a son, Travis Wade, born March 17, 1981.

Pamela J. Kraus

CHRIS C. BORCHERS

Mr. Borchers was a lifetime resident of Pleasant Dale. He was born December 15, 1889, and raised on a farm approximately 4 miles north of Pleasant Dale. In February, 1914, he married Emma Thomas, older sister of Bill, Albert, and Walter Thomas. In 1919, he purchased 80 acres of the 160 acre farm belonging to his father, Abbo, and erected a new set of farm buildings, which were built by Harry Oxley. He and his wife had 4 children, Roy, Leona, Viola, and Earl. Chris was not only well known as a farmer in the community but as a musician as well. In his younger days he played the fiddle along with brother Henry on the guitar and the organ. They played at wedding and barn dances for several years. In the middle and late 1920's he formed a 5-piece dance band consisting of himself on the violin, his wife, Emma, on the piano, (Emma, in her younger days, was a piano teacher in the community), Ed Nobbman on the saxophone, his brother-in-law Walter Thomas on the banjo, and his son Ray on the drums. This band played at dances in the dance hall above the old garage (later the pool hall) in Pleasant Dale and at the Sunset Ballroom in Emerald, as well as for wedding and barn dances in the area. The band was continued in the 1930's by his brother-in-law, Albert Berg, who was also a violinist. Chris devoted full time to farming and custom threshing until 1956 when he retired and moved to California where all of his children lived in the San Diego area. He and his wife were members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church until they moved.

His wife, Emma, died in February 1964, shortly after their 50th wedding anniversary. He died in May 1968. Both were 78 years old at death, and are buried in the Chula Vista cemetery.

Roy H. Borchers

CLAUS ("COLLIE") H. BORCHERS

Claus "Collie" H. Borchers was born July 2, 1893, and was raised on his father's farm, known as the Chris Priess farm, located south of St. Johns Lutheran Church on "O" Street. At age 10, his parents, John and Mary, moved onto a farm 2 miles east of Pleasant Dale.

Collie married Martha Ninneman in February 1916, and located on a farm 2 miles east and 1 mile south of town. Two children were born to them, son Harold and daughter Ruth.

In 1919 "Collie" and family moved to town where he and Alfred Muesborn owned and operated a garage for about 3 years. Twin boys were born on April 10, 1921; one was still-born and the other, named Carl, was baptized in Seward Hospital but died the same day.

After 3 years in the garage business, "Collie" and family returned to the farm and remained there 2 or 3 years, then sold the farm and moved to a farm at Dix, Nebraska, and later to a farm south of Kimball, Nebraska. After retiring from farming, he sold his farm, built an apartment house and lived in one of the apartments until his death in April, 1971. He had a brother, Chrisie, and a sister, Anna, who preceded him in death. His surviving sister is Sette Lostroh.

Ruth M. Borchers

CARLETON MASON FAMILY

Carleton was the son of Jonathan and Polly (Robinson) Mason. He was born in Orwell, Vermont in 1838 and moved with his parents to Dixon, Illinois at an early age. His father, Jonathan, and his grandfather Joseph were respected citizens of Dixon.

Carleton and Ella Courtright were married in Dixon, Illinois in 1861. In 1864, 18 years before the establishment of Pleasant Dale, they moved to Nebraska with their daughter Sarah Lulu. They homesteaded 2 miles west of Pleasant Dale, where they lived in a dugout until they built a frame home in about 1869. Lumber for their house was carried overland by wagon from Plattsmouth. The Mason's early years in Seward County were rather hard. Relatives recall Ella telling about Indians coming to their dugout asking for food when Carleton was in Plattsmouth getting lumber.

Masons' second daughter, Beulah, was born in 1872. Beulah married Lloyd E. Sanders in 1892.

Carleton farmed and later operated a general merchandise store. He and his wife moved to Milford after retiring. Carleton passed

away in 1931, having reached the age of 93. Ella passed away in 1936. Both are buried in Milford.

All living descendants of the Masons are descendants of the Sanders family. The daughter of Lloyd and Beulah Sanders, Myrtle (Sanders) Hughes and her daughter, Marjorie, live in Kearney, Nebraska. Ralph E. Sanders, the son of Lloyd and Beulah Sanders is now deceased. His descendants are Velma (Sanders) Siemsen, Verne A. Sanders and his son Dennis Sanders of Chicago Park, California, and Glen H. Sanders and his daughter, Glenda Sanders, of Omaha, Nebraska.

Glen H. Sanders

JAMES M. SANDERS FAMILY

James M. Sanders, the son of Amsey and Susan (Anderson) Sanders is the descendant of early settlers in western Pennsylvania. His grandfather Absolum Sanders and great grandfather Stephen Sanders had moved from Morris County (Morristown), New Jersey to Prosperity, Washington County, Pennsylvania in the late 1700's. James's great grandfather Stephen served his country in the Revolutionary War in the Pennsylvania Militia. Many descendants of Stephen Sanders still live in western Pennsylvania.

One of the early Pleasant Dale settlers was James M. Sanders. He was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania in 1846, and moved at an early age to Danville, in Des Moines County, Iowa where he was engaged in farming. In 1871 he married Phoebe Cady also of Danville. Phoebe's first husband, Charles Cady, had passed away shortly after returning from service in the Civil War. In 1886, James and Phoebe moved from Danville to Pleasant Dale with their children Floyd E. Sanders, Alice (Sanders) Dillenbeck, Willis Cady, Ruth (Cady) Shaw, Warren Cady, Clara (Cady) Dunten, and May (Cady) Hunter. An older daughter, Edith (Cady) Chandler, had also moved to Nebraska, but later returned to Iowa.

The Sanders family lived on a farm west of Pleasant Dale until 1897 when they moved to Pleasant Dale. Phoebe passed away on October 5, 1916 and James on February 11, 1932. Both are buried at Pleasant Dale.

Glen H. Sanders

CADY FAMILY

The Cady Family has been in America since 1630. That is when Nicholas Cady came from Suffolk County, England, to Watertown, Massachusetts, as an apprentice to a carpenter. Following generations of Cadys lived in Massachusetts and Connecticut until a sixth generation Cady, Edwin Cady, moved his family to Iowa in 1837.

The Cady family history in the region of Pleasant Dale begins with Phoebe Cady Sanders, who, with her first husband, who died young, Charles Cady, son of Edwin, had 6 children. Phoebe then married James Sanders and they had 2 children, Lloyd and Alice. All this time Phoebe lived around the Danville, Iowa, area. In the fall of 1887, James and Phoebe moved to Pleasant Dale.

Phoebe's daughter, Ruth Cady, married Osceola Shaw, and lived in Pleasant Dale. Phoebe's son, Willis Cady, was also a Pleasant Dale resident. He built the Cady house in Pleasant Dale in 1911. The Cady house is now the residence of Dale and Gloriann Nobbman. Willis Cady's daughter, Alma, was also a lifelong Pleasant Dale resident. Another of Phoebe's daughters, Clara Cady, married Winfield Dunten of Pleasant Dale, and yet another daughter, May Cady, married Frank Hunter. Alice Sanders married Winfield Dillenbeck and they were also Pleasant Dale residents.

Dale and Gary Nobbman, Chester Shaw, and Marilyn Allen are the present day representatives of the Cady family living in Pleasant Dale.

Dale Nobbman.

SCOTT AND CLARA DUNTEN FAMILY

Winfield Scott Dunten was born in Allen County, Indiana, in 1846, of parents H.F. and Almema Timmerman Dunten.

Scott remembered sleeping at the foot of his teacher's bed, to keep her feet warm.

At one time, in Indiana, Scott's brother was his teacher, and his brother's discipline, as Scott's teacher, was severe, to eliminate partiality accusations.

Scott joined the Indiana Cavalry in 1865. He was discharged the same year at the war's end.

He was admitted to law in Carroll County, Iowa, in 1871. He met his future bride there in Iowa.

Scott homesteaded 80 acres 1½ miles south of Pleasant Dale. The certificate with U.S. Grant's stamp was given in 1874. While living

here in a tar paper shack, he taught at the Camden School District 1.

Scott purchased property west of his homestead and gave a corner to District 65. His daughter and her husband lived there after their marriage in 1908.

Scott was married in 1885 to Clara Cady, daughter of Charles Cady and his wife, Phoebe Sanders Cady (who was born in Pennsylvania).

When she married, Clara brought with her (from Danville, Iowa) a dresser and a table purchased with her first earnings as a child.

Scott's and Clara's only daughter, Grace, was born in 1888.

Duntens operated a general store from about 1888 to 1900.

A red Maxwell replaced their huggy in 1910.

Duntens lived on the east side of the town square. They were church supporters. The church bell was used for services and fire alarms, and other special needs.

Clara cared for convalescents from the hospital, and called on the sick. She did a lot of quilting.

Duntens were loving parents and grandparents. Scott died in 1928, and Clara died in 1945.

Lois Weeks Wilson

OSCEOLA SHAW

The Shaw Family history in the region of Pleasant Dale begins with William and Elizabeth Shaw, who came here along with a number of their 10 children from the Danville, Iowa area in the spring of 1884. The other children were married and stayed behind in Iowa.

Two of the Shaw children lived around Pleasant Dale most of their lives, Robert and Osceola. Robert married Emma Dunten, and Osceola married Ruth Cady in 1881. Ruth Cady was one of 6 children of Charles and Phoebe Cady, who were also from the Danville, Iowa area. After Charles died, Phoebe married James Sanders and they had 2 children.

Osceola was a farmer and his home was located just west of where Chester Shaw now lives, just southeast of Pleasant Dale. Osceola and Ruth had 5 children, 3 of whom died in infancy, Ray, Laura, and Nellie. Ernest and Fred Shaw lived near and served the community of Pleasant Dale for their entire lives. Ernest married Ethel Merrill and was a carpenter. Fred married Blanche VanAndel in 1907 and was a farmer and later a groceryman in the town for 25 years. Both families were active in the Pleasant Dale Methodist Church.

Fred and Blanche had 3 children; Erma, Mildred, and Paul. Erma married Ralph Kapke and they currently live in Lincoln. Mildred married Harry Nobbman and they live in Emerald. They have three children, Gary, Vic, and Dale. Paul and his wife, Lee, live in Kearney. Paul has four children, Van, Audrey, Sherri, and Paula.

Ernest and Ethel had 2 children, Chester and Carol. Chester has 3 children, Larry, Doug and Sally. Carol has 2 children, Dennis and Marilyn.

Dale Nobbman

NOBBMANS

Karl Frederick Nobbman and his wife, Wilhelmina Ide, came to America from Hanover, Germany, in 1880. Nobbman was not the family name in Germany, but it was the surname chosen by Karl to enable his family to escape the insurrections of the time in Germany and to come to America.

After a short stay in Dubuque, Iowa, the Nobbmans homesteaded north of Pleasant Dale, where most recently, Arthur Nobbman lived. Karl built the house himself.

One of Karl's 9 children, Charles, married Martha (Mattie) Anna Schroeder, also one of 9 children of Heinrich and Elizabeth Schroeder. Heinrich Schroeder came from Hanover, Germany, at about the same time as Karl Nobbman. The Schroeder homestead is now the home of Alfred Meyer.

Charles and Mattie lived where Louis Busboom now lives, and later lived just north of Pleasant Dale in the house which now serves as a truck stop along the Interstate Highway.

Charles was a farmer and carpenter as his father Karl had been. Charles and Mattie had 3 children, Elizabeth, Edward, and Harry. Elizabeth married Ollie Busboom and Edward married Opal Weeks.

Harry married Mildred Shaw in 1936 and they have lived in Emerald since 1939. Harry Nobbman has lived around Pleasant Dale all his life and has served the community and its residents through his garage business for over 40 years. Harry and Mildred have 3 sons, Gary, Vic, and Dale.

Gary and his wife, Judy, live just 3 miles southeast of Pleasant Dale and have 3 children, Brad, Mike, and Michelle.

Vic has lived in Iowa for a number of years and has 3 children, Kim, Robert, and Susan.

Dale and his wife, Gloriann, have lived in the Cady house on the

eastern edge of Pleasant Dale for the last 4 years.

Dale Nobbman

ERNEST SHAW

Ernest Lee Shaw and Ethel Ruby Merrill were married July 31, 1907 in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Merrill. Their first home was a house on the Merrill farm just back of the north business street in town. Carol Antoinette was born in this house in 1911. Ernest helped with the farming of the Merrill farm and drove a team and buggy or car for Dr. Wm. Sandusky as he made his house calls.

In March of 1917 they moved 2½ miles west of town to a farm, and Faye Gemmell lived with them to help farm. World War I broke out and Faye was called to the service. Farming 240 acres was too much for one man to farm alone with horses, so the Shaws bought land 1½ miles east of town and moved there in March of 1918.

In 1919 they bought a new Fordson tractor, a new Model T Ford car, and Chester Merrill was born in December. The Zimmer boys (Edward, Bill, and George) who lived ½ mile west, got Dr. Matheny there for this event, bringing him in on horseback. Anna Sipp, a practical nurse, came that afternoon by bob sled.

After spending 26 years east of town, Ethel and Ernest moved into Pleasant Dale into the house that his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Shaw, had lived in many years before. While there, Ethel's mother, Belle Merrill, passed away in 1946. In September of 1946, they purchased the home at Pine and Elm Street where they lived many years.

In the earlier years, Ethel sang in a mixed quartet that sang for many occasions. The other members were Lucy VanAndel, Fred Shaw, and Will Weeks. Then in later years Ethel and Lucy sang duets whenever asked to, especially for funerals. They even sang on radio station KMMJ.

After retiring from the farm, Ernest did lots of painting of buildings both inside and out, and he and Ethel did wall papering for many years for people miles around.

Ernest died in March 1961 after a brief illness. Ethel lived by herself until September of 1962 when Carol and her family came to make their home with her. Ethel passed away in March 1979.

Carol Douglass

CAROL GEORGE DOUGLASS

Carol Antoinette Shaw and Kenneth F. George were married in the Pleasant Dale Methodist Church in August 1943 and lived on a farm north of Lincoln. Carol had taught school for 11 years.

Dennis Franklin was born April 14, 1947, and then in 1950 they moved to a farm near Cortland. They lived there 12 years.

On July 21, 1952 Marilyn Jane was born. After their father, Ernest Shaw, passed away, they moved and made their home with their mother, Ethel Shaw. Carol worked in Lincoln and Kenneth was employed by Pleasant Dale Lumber Company.

In 1964 Kenneth suffered a heart attack. He had a fatal heart attack in November 1972.

After graduating from high school in Milford, Dennis attended the Milford Technical College, completing the Diesel Technician Course, and then entered the University of Nebraska. He graduated from there as a mechanical engineer in May 1962. He then worked for Shaw Construction for the next 4½ years. In March of 1976 he was married to Lynne Pechtold, and they and their 2 daughters, Sherril and Dorcy, live in Stafford, Texas, a suburb of Houston, where he is employed by Phillips 66 Oil Company as an associate production engineer.

Before Marilyn finished high school, she was doing Candy Striping work, so she knew that she was interested in nursing career. She attended Bryan School of Nursing. She was married to Jerry Allen in August of 1972 and completed her training and graduated from there in 1973. She worked as a graduate nurse for Bryan Hospital till December 1975. At the present time, she is a visiting nurse for the Tabitha Home Care Service Center. Marilyn and Jerry have 2 children, Jeremy and Heather.

On May 1, 1977, Carol married Edward T. Douglass in the Pleasant Dale Methodist Church. They live in Cortland where he is in business.

Carol Douglass

JERRY AND MARILYN ALLEN FAMILY

Jerry and Marilyn were married in 1972 and lived in Emerald for a short period of time before returning to Pleasant Dale where they both had grown up. They now live in the home in which Marilyn grew up. It had belonged to her grandparents, Ernest and Ethel Shaw.

They have 2 children, Jeremy, born February 13, 1976, and

Heather, born October 27, 1977.

Jerry and Marilyn both belong to families that go back many years in this community.

Marilyn J. Allen

A.M. FOUGERON

A.M. Fougerson was born near Crete, Nebraska on March 13, 1876. In 1900 he bought a farm north of Pleasant Dale. He moved there on Christmas Day with horses and wagon.

One of the stories he used to tell was about the hard time he had getting the cookstove into the house and set up so he could cook supper, then later having to throw away the fried potatoes because he had cooked them in a new skillet.

In 1901 he married Amy Cooper of Rutland, Illinois. The old house they lived in had much to be desired, adding to the trials of a new bride.

They had 3 children: Charles, Amy, and Alta.

In 1919 they built a new modern home.

In 1929, A.M. and Amy Fougerson moved to Pleasant Dale, having bought the large home built by William Patterson. (Earlier occupants were Wm. Newton and John Helm.) This was their home until their deaths in 1959 and 1962.

Charles married Maye Spohn of Utica, Nebraska in 1926. Maye had taught school in the Pleasant Dale area — 1 year at District #45 and 2 years in Pleasant Dale.

Charles and Maye have 3 children: Eugene, Irene, and Charline.

Eugene married Evelyn Viets in 1948.

Irene married Dick Nootz in 1955. They have 5 children.

Charline married Rod Komarek in 1956, and they have 4 children.

Charles and Maye are still living on the Fougerson farm. The farm is somewhat smaller, having lost 35 acres to the Interstate Highway and 70 acres for the Twin Lakes. Two acres were sold to the Mobil Oil Co. in 1966.

One of the highlights of Charles's and Maye's married life was the opportunity to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 1976 by inviting their many friends and relatives to a reception and dance.

Amy Fougerson married Wiston Merrill.

Alta Fougerson married Clarence Burd. They lived in the Raymond and Ashland area and later moved to California. They had 3 children. Clarence passed away in December 1968, and in 1979 Alta married Charles Deuser of Lincoln.

Chas. and Maye Fougerson

EUGENE FOUGERON

Eugene Fougerson was born in October 1928 to Charles and Maye (Spohn) Fougerson and lived on a farm north of Pleasant Dale. He attended District #64 for his first 8 years and went to high school in Pleasant Dale. Gene was active in baseball and basketball. He graduated in 1946 and in 1948 married Evelyn Viets.

Evelyn was born in August of 1928 to Elmer and Hilda (Ficken) Viets. She grew up on a farm northwest of Pleasant Dale. She attended District #45, Middle Creek Parochial School, high school in Pleasant Dale, and Lincoln School of Commerce. Evelyn had a secretarial position in Lincoln before her marriage.

Gene and Evelyn lived on a farm near Seward and farmed for August Rolsmeier. In 1950, they moved to the John Danker farm north of Pleasant Dale, which Gene's father had purchased in 1949.

With 2 years of drought and hail and the 1957 tornado, Gene kept farming, but worked full-time as a switchman for the Burlington Railroad.

They are members of the Lutheran Church, where Evelyn taught Sunday School and is a member of the Ladies Aid and choir. She also belongs to an Extension Club. Gene was a school board member of District #45. He was a member of the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department. They have 4 children, who attended school in Pleasant Dale, Milford, and the University of Nebraska.

Margie is a registered dietician in Indianapolis, Indiana, and lives in Carmel, Indiana with her daughter and husband, Bill Bryan.

Ken married Sherry Jantze of Milford and they have a daughter. Ken works at the State Capitol, and Sherry is a registered nurse.

Donna married Larry Heyen from Milford. He is a lieutenant in the Navy and she is a registered nurse. They have 2 girls.

Steve is married to Marcy Stutzman of rural Milford. Steve has a full-time off-farm job and also farms with his father. They have 2 children.

Evelyn Fougerson

March 1921

Railroad bridge south of Pleasant Dale burned. It is to be rebuilt.

DANIEL FAMILY

Tom and Helen (Kubes) Daniel were both of Czech descent, but were born in Nebraska. Tom's father was a carpenter, Helen's a shoemaker, and both came from Czechoslovakia as did their wives.

Tom and Helen were childhood sweethearts in District 76. They both lived about 5½ miles south of Pleasant Dale. Helen then moved to a farm near Denton.

They were married February 17, 1916 and lived on a farm across the road from where Helen was born. Tom was engaged in farming and Helen in homemaking and flower gardening. They lived there all their married lives. Tom served on the school board and also the precinct board. They had 3 children, all of whom were graduated from Crete High School. Alma and Betty became rural school teachers, and Don farmed until he spent a year in the Army.

Tom passed away January 13, 1962, so Helen moved to Pleasant Dale where she purchased a home. Their daughter, Alma Stern, lives on a farm near Pleasant Dale. The twins, Don and Betty, live in or near Lincoln.

Alma and Bernard had 2 children: Marcia, now Mrs. Clemens Keller Jr., and Bruce at home. Marcia has 2 boys, Kirk and Kevin.

Alma Stern

STERN FAMILY

Arthur Stern was one of 7 children of Franklin and Ellen (Baughman) Stern. Franklin and Ellen came from Illinois with 1 child. Franklin had served in the Civil War at about age 16. He once shook hands with President Lincoln, who came to the battlefields to visit the soldiers.

Arthur married Jennie (Boggs) on October 18, 1917. They lived in the Pleasant Dale area all their lives, where they were engaged in farming. They had 6 children: Raymond, Bernard, Letty, Dorothy, Lyle, and Bonnie. All were graduated from the Pleasant Dale High School. Both Bernard and Raymond served in the Army during World War II, Raymond for about a year and Bernard for 4 years. They were both drafted and left home the same day. Jennie passed away January 10, 1944.

Arthur married Bertha Carlson in 1945. They continued to live in the area. Her son, Don Carlson, also was a graduate from Pleasant Dale High School. Arthur retired from farming, and then took the job of road patrol for a few years. Bertha passed away June 12, 1966.

Arthur passed away October 14, 1971. Bernard continues to live in the area. He farmed, and then spent 20 years working at the Pleasant Dale Co-op Elevator. Bruce is continuing with the farming.

Alma Stern

MARCIA AND CLEMENS KELLER, JR.

Marcia Stern Keller: parents: Bernard and Alma (Daniel) Stern; paternal grandparents: Art and Jeanette (Boggs) Stern; maternal grandparents: Tom and Helen (Kubes) Daniel. Born 1948. Attended Pleasant Dale Elementary and Milford High School, married Clemens Keller, Jr., 1964. Kirk born 1965, Kevin 1966. Currently employed Gooch Milling and Elevator.

Clemens Keller, Jr.: parents: Clemens, Sr., and Mary Jane (Louzek) Keller; paternal grandparents: Lou and Bertha (Siedhoff) Keller; maternal grandparents: Frank and Mary (Prochaska) Louzek. Born 1945. Attended District 77 (Kindergarten), Milford Elementary, Pleasant Dale Elementary, Milford High School (Graduated 1963). Currently employed at United Parcel Service.

Kirk and Kevin attended Pleasant Dale Elementary. Kirk attending Milford High-Grade 11. Kevin attending Milford High-Grade 10.

Marcia Keller

STANISH RAPP FAMILY

Stanish Rapp was born in Wurtenburg, Germany, in 1851. He, his mother, and sister set sail for America when he was 4 years old. After a perilous 3 months at sea, they docked at New Orleans. A few years later, they, with their new step-father, moved to a farm near Sheridan, Illinois. Stanish became known as "Bush" and his half-brother as "Stump" because they cleared the trees from many acres of land.

He married Louisa Dauwalter, who was born in Ottawa, Illinois, in 1858. They had two sons, Walter, born in 1881, and Lester (Cody), born in 1884.

In the spring of 1888 they arrived in Denton, Nebraska, on an immigrant train. They loaded their possessions on their wagon and drove their team down the trail toward Pleasant Dale. Four miles later they reached their new homesite. They were a hardy pair who loved to care for their land and animals, and to plant trees. Stanish died in 1931, and Louisa in 1944.

Walter Rapp completed eighth grade at District 101 West. He married Bessie Wilson in 1912. Their son, Leonard, was born in 1917. They lived the rest of their lives on the Rapp farm. Walter died in 1955 and Bessie in 1959. Bessie is remembered for her love of piano, her dramatic ability, and her compassion for people. Walter continued caring for the land and animals, and planted more trees.

Lester Rapp married Jessie Wilson. He died in 1955 and she in 1970. They had 1 son, Merlyn. He graduated from University High School, spent 4 years in the Sea Bees (Construction Battalion) and graduated from the University of Nebraska. He married Dorothy Zellers from Page, Nebraska. They live at Smithsboro, New York. They have two sons, Kirk and Kent.

Edna Rapp

LEONARD RAPP FAMILY

Leonard Rapp was born on his grandparents' farm. He went to a rural school and graduated from Pleasant Dale High School in 1934. He rode his black pony, Midget, to high school every day. Basketball was practiced outside on a cinder covered court.

He married Edna Good from Allen, Nebraska, who was teaching school in Pleasant Dale. He has spent his entire life farming and has lived all but 6 years on the Rapp farm.

Edna returned to teaching in 1959. She has acquired her Bachelor's Degree from Doane College and Master's Degree from the University of Nebraska.

Their son, Jerry, graduated from Milford High School. He enlisted in the Naval Reserves and spent much time in the waters near China and Japan. He married Belva Yoder and moved to Milford. They have 3 children, Cindy Rapp Shafer, Johnny, and Bernadine.

Kay went to Milford High School for 2 years, graduated from Crete High School, and from Doane College. She married Frank Milbury, from Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. They moved to Connecticut, where they both taught school. She now has her Master's Degree and he is a principal. They have a daughter, Heather.

Bill graduated from Crete High. He spent 2 years working in western Nebraska and in Wyoming. He now works at Control Data and with his father on the farm. He married Heidi Weideman. They live in West Emerald and have a son, Jason.

Mike graduated from Crete High School and from Doane College. He married Jody Rehm from DeWitt, Nebraska. They moved to Columbia, Missouri, where Jody earned her Master's Degree and Mike taught science in Moberly for 2 years. He is now in his second year of medical school at Columbia University.

Edna Rapp

THE RANDOLPH STAHN FAMILY

George Nicholas Stahn was born in Hamburg, Germany. He married Nancy Jane Sherman after emigrating to the United States as a young man. Nancy was born and raised in Pennsylvania. This couple raised 6 children. The oldest, Randolph, was born at Eldon, Illinois in May, 1868. He had 2 brothers, Phillip and William, and 3 sisters, Cora (Smith), Clara (Brown) and Lydia (Bill), and a half-sister Ellen, who married Frank Stern.

Randolph was married to Minnie Baughman on October 25, 1898. She was born in Moracco, Indiana, in 1878. Six children were born to this family. Eloth was born in 1899 and died in 1959. Gladys Fern (Craig) was born in 1909 and died in 1940. Evan, known as "Butch," was born in 1902, and now lives in Tucson, Arizona. He married Laura Stiener from Crete and they have 2 daughters, Virginia and Carol, and 2 sons, Gene and Don. Vesta Bethal (Smith) was born in 1905 and now lives in Salem, Oregon. She has 3 daughters, Margaret, Jane, and Carol. Neil, born in 1913, married Reva Good, and has 2 daughters, Joyce and Janice. Neva was born in 1915 and married Herbert Simpson. They made their home in Milford where Herbert worked for the Technical School for many years. Herb died in 1968. Neva is now married to Lawrence Wightman and lives in Lincoln. She has a daughter, Marilyn, who lives in Kansas with her husband, Henry Reifschneider, and 2 children.

Randolph made his living farming. One of his special interests was the care of horses and mules. During the 30's, he owned a corn sheller and shelled the handpicked ear corn for neighbors for many miles around. Later he was the P precinct assessor, and traveled from farm to farm recording the personal property for tax purposes. At one point in time, before the automobile and truck, but after the railroad had made Pleasant Dale a growing community, he had a livery stable and ran a dray-delivery service to and from the depot.

Randolph died in 1939, and Minnie died in 1955.

Reva Stahn

NEIL STAHN FAMILY

Neil Stahn was born on a farm between Milford and Pleasant Dale, attended rural school District 17, and graduated from Milford High School in 1932. He married Reva Good, from Allen, Nebraska, in 1941, and they farmed for about 5 years while she continued teaching school. He worked for Capital Bridge Company for a few years, and then for the Burlington Ice House before the electric refrigeration cars eliminated that. Since 1950 he drove semi-trucks delivering groceries for Grainger Brothers, then for Flemings of Nebraska, until he retired in 1975.

In the early 1950's, Neil and Reva built the home on Cedar Street where they have lived since. The property was purchased from George Zimmer, who had been truck-gardening there since he bought it from Wes Kiser. The old house had been moved to the Earl Lohmeier farm, where it is still in use.

In 1962 Neil acquired a liquor license, and he and Reva operated the tavern until they sold it to the Keller brothers in 1975. Some will remember that as an era of live country music on Sunday afternoons.

During this time, the Stahns raised 2 daughters. Joyce was born in 1951, and graduated from Milford in 1969. She attended the University of Nebraska for 4 years. She moved to Santa Cruz, California, in 1976, later moving to Seattle, Washington. In 1979 she married Patrick Mardock, who is originally from Schuyler, Nebraska.

Janice was born in 1960 and graduated from Milford in 1978. She will graduate in May from Teachers College at UNL with majors in English and Journalism. She has been active in the Student Alumni Association where she served as associate coordinator during her junior year, when the national convention was hosted in Lincoln.

Reva Stahn

FRANK KAPKE FAMILY

Martin Kapke was born in Prussia, Germany in 1800. In 1842 he, his wife and children came to America hoping for a better life. They settled near Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He was one of the original pioneers, carving a farm out of the wilderness despite Indians and wild animals. One of their 4 children was William Kapke. He married Wilhelmina Carolina Klug in 1859. Frank was their first child, born in 1860.

William was in the Union army during the Civil War and served until May 1865. He was wounded in the leg at the Battle of Hatcher Run. At the close of the war he immediately returned to his family in Wisconsin. Frank saw and remembered seeing his father limping up the lane when he came home.

As a young man, Frank left home for Nebraska with a team of horses, a wagon, and 12 silver dollars. First, he worked at Dunbar, Nebraska. His next home was near Emerald, Nebraska, where he bought a farm south of town. There he married Wilhelmina Thomas.

Next, they bought a farm 2 miles north of Pleasant Dale and farmed for many years. There they attended Zion Lutheran Church and later the Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Pleasant Dale.

Their children were: Louisa (who died of typhoid), Edward, Arthur, and Ralph. Edward had 3 daughters, LaVerne Paul who lives in Lincoln, Audrey Weigel, and Ellen Ellis who lived in Nebraska only a short time. Arthur married Hulda Muesborn. They had 3 children. Donald is married to Myrtle Cornell and they live in Texas. Neva married Max Hughes, and Artha Lee married Ross Rutledge, and both live in Seward, Nebraska. Ralph married Erma Shaw and they are living in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Frank had 14 great-grandchildren and of course some great-great-grandchildren.

Ralph and Erma Kapke

WILLIAM AND ELLA KAPKE FAMILY

William Kapke was born in Prussia, and his wife, Wilhelmina (Klug) was born in Wisconsin. After marriage they settled in Lancaster County. They had eleven children.

William Frederic was born September 26, 1877, and he married Eleanor (Ella) Berg who was born October 6, 1881. They lived on a farm near Pleasant Dale. They had 9 children, Walter (Pete), Gertrude, Irma, Vern, Herbert and Gilbert (twins), Clarence (Kelly), William (Billie), and Florence. Ella passed away in May 1962 and William passed away in September 1966 in Montana. Two sons and 1 daughter are deceased.

Florence married Edward Lebsock in May 1941. His parents, Edward and Lydia Lebsock, lived in Lincoln. Edward Sr. came from Prussia, and Lydia (Hoffman) was born in Culbertson, Nebraska. Ed also has a sister Evelyn in Colorado.

Florence and Edward have 3 children, Eddie, Leo, and Alberta. Eddie married Naomi Kroese, and lives in Waterloo, Iowa. Alberta mar-

ried Don Porter and they live in Lincoln. Leo is in Pleasant Dale. The Lebsocks have 5 grandchildren.

Ed and Florence have lived in Pleasant Dale since marriage, except for a short time in Lincoln, when Ed was in the U.S. Army in World War II. Florence was born and raised in Pleasant Dale.

Both Ed and Florence are active in community and civic affairs.

Florence Lebsock

ALVIN AND HILDA KLUG

In 1879, Henrietta and Jonathan Klug traveled to their new home northeast of Pleasant Dale from Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Little did they foresee that the original 80 acres they bought (from the railroad at \$7.33 an acre) would be the home of their descendants for over 100 years.

Gigantic cottonwood trees planted by Henrietta still mark the farmstead, which is now worked by their great-grandsons, Terry and Larry Klug.

Jonathan and Henrietta had 6 children; Frank, Rosa, Gesina, Louise, Matilda, and Augustina. Frank and his wife Emma, nee Bahr, settled on the farm after their marriage in 1916. Their 3 children Adeline Lohmeier, Kenneth (of Denver, Colorado), and Alvin were raised on the farm.

After Frank Klug's death in 1956, their son Alvin and his wife, Hilda (nee Lostroh), continued to farm the original 80 acres along with their own farm. Their twin sons, Larry and Terry, (who, with his wife Carol), continue to farm the land in the precedent set by their great grandfather. The Klugs also have 2 other children, Jerry, who is systems consultant for Benchmark Computer Systems (who with his wife Penny, live in Millard, Nebraska), and Robin, who is sales coordinator for the R.L. White Co.

The promise of another future generation continuing in the farm tradition lies in Terry's son—Jonathan's great-great-grandson, Jeffrey.

In 1979 Mrs. Frank Klug was presented the pioneer Family Farm Award by Ak-sar-ben as one of the 218 Nebraska farm families that had survived 100 years on the same land.

Mrs. Klug continues to live on the original farmstead.

Mrs. Alvin Klug

JOHN HENRY VIETS FAMILY

Henry Viets at the age of 13 came to Wisconsin from Germany in 1845. In 1878 he married Hulda Strupert and they came to Seward County, Nebraska where he bought 80 acres of railroad land and built a small frame house and sheds. Mother remarked how lovely it was to have that house instead of a leaky sod house.

With a yoke of oxen, Henry prepared to farm the first year, but in one week chinch bugs took all the crops. The next year proved better. He had several loads of corn that he took to Lincoln and sold, so he was able to make 2 payments. He had faith, and year after year kept on and saw his 6 children grow up. He passed on in 1930. The oldest son, John, who married Nora Bertkie, farmed close by until he died in 1943. Henry's widow and also his son-in-law, J.W. Sipp, passed away. His son Fred, who married Estella Hiatt, started to farm, but gave up, and later ran a butcher shop. He worked in several places. The last place was in Tacoma, Washington where he died.

Carl married Viola Rosenberg and farmed the home place, his father having purchased another 80 acres and put up another house in which they could live. He was stricken with ill health, and died in 1917 before his father.

Mary, who had her 101st birthday in December 1981, and Dora had always lived in the old home since their mother's death, but for several years now have been in a Lincoln nursing home. Helene still lives in the little house where she returned in 1943, close to the first old home.

Helene H. Sipp

MARY VIETS

Life for me, Mary Viets, began 101 years ago when I came bawling into the world just before midnight on December 10, 1880. I was the second oldest of 6 children born to Henry and Hulda Viets.

The day I was born, mother, in her condition, had milked the cows and done the chores because father had not yet returned from hauling grain to Lincoln with a team and wagon. Papa had just gone to bed after his long trip to Lincoln when mother awakened him to go to get Mrs. Engel (August) Minchow, father's sister, to help, because I was about to be born.

In 1885, I became a student in District 45's brand new school house.

I remained a student there through the 8th grade. Mr. Charlie Grey was the teacher that first year and he was still teaching there during the big blizzard of 1888. He lived in a house just east of ours and he followed the fences to get home in the storm. My brother John and I had been kept home from school that day because a peddler had spent the night before with us and left John with head lice. Mother had us stay home to get our heads washed with kerosene and to help wash and air all the bedding. It was a beautiful day, almost like spring, so we were quite comfortable hanging out the wash. No one guessed there would be a terrible storm.

As a little girl, I can remember Indians stopping by the farm. They were the friendly kind, but we were still always afraid of them. They always wanted something for nothing or would steal it from you just like the gypsies who were always coming by. One Indian even wanted our dog—to eat! There was a grove of trees along the creek just a mile south of our farm where the Indians often camped.

After grade school, my sister, Dora, and I went to the Iowa Church German Confirmation School. This was about 6 miles away from home. During the week, we stayed with people near the church. Father or John took us to school and came to get us most of the time with the horse and buggy. That road and my feet were not strangers—if they couldn't come for me I would walk home so I could spend the weekends with my family.

My first job was at the hotel at Main and Elm Street in Pleasant Dale, where I worked for several years before going to Lincoln to work until 1918.

Mary Viets

DORA VIETS

The Viets family name began in Nebraska, Seward County, and the Pleasant Dale community in July 1878, when our parents, Henry and Hulda Viets, came to Nebraska from Wisconsin by train. They spent the first summer with father's sister and brother-in-law, the August Minchows, who lived on the farm just west of the 80 acres our parents bought from the railroad. The deed to the farm was signed by Ulysses S. Grant during the transfer from government land to the railroad.

Mother began to have grave doubts about Nebraska after living with the Minchows in their sod house, because of all the rain the first year and the mud running into the house and dripping from the ceiling onto her clothes and worldly possessions. She was overjoyed when the very next year father built her a one-room frame house on the newly acquired farm ground. As the family increased, rooms and additions were built on, and the house still stands today.

In 1879, the chinch bugs were so bad they ate up all the crops, and no money was made to make a payment on the farm. They were very happy in 1880 when they were able to raise enough corn to sell to make the 1879 and the 1880 payments on the farm.

Father was one of the founders of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, along with August Minchow and Herman Ficke. Church was held in our homes as well as in the District 45 School, the school house in Pleasant Dale, and the town hall, until a new church was built about 1900, just east of our farm. The church was later moved to the west edge of Pleasant Dale.

Life for me, Dora Viets, began in the summer of 1893 on July 2. I was the youngest of six children. I went to school at District 45 through the 8th grade.

I went to Lincoln to work when I was in my early twenties and worked until 1939 when I came home to help care for my mother who passed away in 1943. Father preceded her in death in 1930.

During the earlier years, I traveled back and forth to Lincoln by train. I would walk from the depot in Pleasant Dale to the farm. In later years I took the bus.

Theodora A. Viets

ELMER VIETS

Elmer Viets was born in October 1904 to John and Nora (Bertke) Viets, on a farm 2 miles northwest of Pleasant Dale. Several years later they moved to his maternal grandparents' farm 8 miles northwest of Pleasant Dale. His brother Leslie still lives on that farm.

Elmer attended District #71 in northwest I precinct, graduated from the 8th grade, and helped his father on the farm, and also worked out for many of the neighbors in that area.

On December 31, 1926, at the stroke of midnight, he married Hilda Ficken.

Hilda was born in September 1905 to Heinrich and Clara Ficken on the family farm 4 miles north of Pleasant Dale. Her mother died when she was 4 and she was raised by her grandmother and older sister and brothers. She attended District #64 and Middle Creek Parochial School. She liked the outdoors and enjoyed horseback riding, and

found that an easy way out of household chores.

Elmer and Hilda lived in a small house on his grandparents' farm for 2 years and then bought the farm of Hilda's grandfather about 5 miles northwest of Pleasant Dale. Hilda's love for gardening and outdoors helped their farm income through the depression. She shared her flowers with neighbors and relatives. Elmer worked for the County Road Department running the auto patrol and caterpillar for 10 years. In 1963 they built a new home in Pleasant Dale and retired from the farm. Elmer continued with the County for several more years.

Elmer and Hilda had 3 daughters, Evelyn, Norma, who passed away in 1967, and Carol. They have 12 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, and 4 step-great-grandchildren. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January 1977 at the Lutheran Church in Pleasant Dale with their family and friends.

Evelyn Fougeron

JOHANN HENRY FICKEN

Johann Henry Ficken was born in Hanover, Germany in 1835. His first wife, Engle Heinz was also born there and died there. They had 5 children. Mr. Ficken then married Margaretha Willers. They also had 5 children. This family came to the United States in 1869 and settled on a farm 5 miles northwest of Pleasant Dale. The children—Peter, Katherine (Woebbecke), Heinrich, Engle (Hinrichs), and Jacob, from Johann's first marriage, and Metta (Tobaben), John, Margaretha (Gausman), Marie and Karoline (Brose) all resided in I precinct northwest of Pleasant Dale, and many of their descendants still reside in this area.

Heinrich was born in Germany in 1865 and came to the United States in his youth. He married Clara Bruedigam in 1892 and lived 4 miles north of Pleasant Dale on what is now Twin Lakes Game Commission ground. He later moved another mile west and built a farmstead there. He and his wife had 5 children. She died with the birth of their 6th child and her mother took over the task of keeping house for Heinrich and helping raise the 3 boys, William, Carl, and Adolph, and 2 girls, Clara (Rolfmeier) and Hilda (Viets).

Mr. Ficken served on the school board of District #64 for many years, and all his family were members of Middle Creek Lutheran Church.

Many of his neighbors remembered him as being able to run through the roadside stickerbushes barefooted!

Evelyn Fougeron

A BIOGRAPHY OF ADOLPH FICKEN

Adolph Ficken was born on Christmas Day, 1901, to Heinrich and Clara Ficken on a farm 3½ miles northwest of Pleasant Dale, now part of Twin Lakes. His mother died when he was 6 years old and his maternal grandmother moved in with his father and 3 boys and 2 girls. Adolph was a shy lad when he attended District 64 and later Middle Creek Parochial school.

In early 1920 Heinrich moved his family 1 mile west, to a 160 acre farm, where he erected a new farmstead and windbreak. (Steve Fougeron now lives there and farms 80 acres of the original farm.) Being the youngest son he stayed and farmed with his father after the rest of the family married and moved away. He remained a bachelor all his life. After the death of his father in 1934, he relied on his younger sister, Mrs. Elmer Viets, to do his laundry and cooking for his harvest crew.

Living only 2 miles away, it was convenient for him to spend most Sundays with her family always helping while there. He enjoyed cranking the ice cream freezer or churning and working butter. He repaid her kindness by taking her family along on Saturday nights to a movie and to church on Sundays. He would walk the 1½ mile across the section many weekends during the winter when the roads were impassable. Adolph was a hard working farmer and had a green thumb in gardening. He supplied many friends and relatives with vegetables, especially potatoes. These same people shared farming operations with him and he was known as the "meat cutter" of the area, as they always called on him at "butchering time".

The highlight of his year was to have the house filled to the rafters with company on Christmas night, when he would celebrate his birthday with card playing and tables full of food.

He died as a result of a heart attack in his yard in May of 1974.

Evelyn Fougeron

December 24, 1939

Paul Muellers received electricity from R.E.A.

WILLIAM T. SIPP FAMILY

My parents, Willima T. and Ida Sipp moved from Woodlawn, Nebraska in 1885 to their farm 1 mile east of Pleasant Dale. They had 7 children. We all attended the Pleasant Dale Public School. Ella finished her high school at Nebraska Wesleyan Academy.

In addition to farming, Father had a weekly butter and egg route in Lincoln, using the spring wagon. On cold wintry days those 12 miles seemed very long. Getting a Model-T in 1915 made the trips much easier.

We were members of the Pleasant Dale Methodist Church where Mother was an active worker until her health failed and she passed away in 1918. Later, Father, Ella, Marie and I moved to University Place where I finished high school and went to college.

How I looked forward to springtime after the cold, snowy winters. That's when we could take off the long, itchy underwear, and leave the buckled overshoes at home!

As the years passed, Will married May Newburn, and worked for the Missouri Pacific; Ella was a high school teacher and married Charles Pritchett; Ray married Anna Schell and farmed at Denton; Marie married Bob Plumb and worked at Miller and Paine; James was a farmer and married Lena Viets, who lives northwest of town; Norman was a mail carrier and garageman, and married Myrtle Olson who lives near Burlington, Iowa. I taught school and married Earl Johnson.

Evelyn Sipp Johnson

SIPP FARM HISTORY

William Thomas Sipp, born in 1861 in Illinois, settled on 160 acres in section 36, I precinct, in 1885.

Lumber for the house and farm buildings was hauled from Lincoln by horse and wagon. Fields were tilled for wheat, oats, corn and potatoes. A large fruit orchard was planted, and the lane lined with shade trees. Mr. Sipp would load a rack of hay at night and the next morning start out at 5 o'clock, drive the team to Haymarket Square in Lincoln, sell to the highest bidder, unload the hay in the buyer's barn, and return at 11 p.m.

Additional rooms and a second story were added to the Sipp house, and a big red barn was built. William's father, Andrew, painted the cupola white and spilled paint down the roof where it remained for years for all to see.

Andrew Sipp was born in Germany in 1834. His father, William Henry, was born in 1791, served under Napoleon Bonaparte, and accompanied the "Great Army" on its infamous march to Moscow. He fled the German militarism with his wife and 7 children in 1846, after smuggling his oldest son aboard ship to America in a meat barrel.

The CB&Q railroad was relocated on the south side of the Sipp farm. The workers tented in a potato field east of the house.

James Wesley Sipp, son of William Thomas, was born on the farm in 1893. He attended the public school, did his full share of the farm work and played in the family band. He married Helene Hulda Viets and farmed the home place after his father retired in 1922. Their children were DeWayne, Wendell, Leah, Lelan, Phyllis, and Mervin. The prosperous farm was hit hard by the depression, and the drought of the 1930's created crop failures and killed the orchards. Other misfortunes followed. His pigs were buried alive in trenches by the government, and his entire dairy herd was lost to sorghum bloat. The farm was sold by his family against his wish in 1943. James Sipp died from a heart condition in 1943 at the age of 49, leaving his wife and 5 children, the youngest 11 years of age. His oldest son, DeWayne, died an accidental death in 1939, and a daughter, Leah, died in 1976.

Phyllis Sipp Owen

THE SCHILDT FAMILY

In Chicago, August Sr. worked as a carpenter for the railroad after immigrating from his native Germany. As a bridge builder for the railroad, he found himself in Lincoln, where he married Catherine Tobaben. They homesteaded 80 acres on December 3, 1880 and purchased another 80 acres from the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy railroad for \$15 an acre.

August Sr. farmed his land for only 15 seasons, and died the summer of 1895. He was the father of 7 children; Bill, Emma (Mrs. Bill Brandt), Clara (Mrs. Frank Schmale), Henry, Pete, Fred, and August. August Sr. never saw his youngest son. He died in July, and August Jr. was born in October.

August Jr. grew up on the farm and helped his brothers with the threshing and cornshelling business. In 1922, he married Ida Schultz (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schultz). He took over the entire farm after his mother died in 1923. August and Ida had 4 children, Lawrence, Leslie, Wilma, and Larry. August farmed the land until he

retired in 1961 and passed it on to his sons, although he remained very active in helping with the work.

Lawrence died at the age of 6 from pneumonia.

Wilma married Ralph Mook in 1949. They had 2 children. Ralph helped Leslie and Larry with the shelling and trucking until his sudden death in 1980.

Larry married Carol Viets in 1963. They have 4 children, Michael, Rodney, Angela, and James.

Leslie married Joan Swanson in 1969. They had 3 children; Giles, Miriam, and Emily.

Leslie and Larry joined their father in the custom shelling business, and took over the dairy herd that August and Ida used to milk by hand.

In 1965, Schildt Brothers sold the trucking business and expanded the dairy herd to the 90 cow herd it is today. It was in 1965 that the Army Corps of Engineers purchased most of their land for Twin Lakes game refuge. Schildts moved buildings and all to a location 1 mile north of the previous homestead, which would have been impossible without the help of friends and neighbors. Leslie and Larry were in partnership with grain farming, custom shelling, custom chopping, and dairying until Leslie's untimely death in 1979.

August and Ida were honored as one of Nebraska's Pioneer Farm families in 1980, having had the land in the family for 100 years. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in January 1982.

Larry Schildt

RALPH AND WILMA MOOK

Ralph and I, Wilma (Schildt) Mook, were married on August 14, 1949, and lived on Ralph's parents' farm for the first 3 years of our marriage. After this time, we bought a farm that had been homesteaded by Ralph's grandfather, G.W. Lindner. The first year we bought the farm, our wheat averaged from 6-10 bushels per acre and we sold cattle for 6 cents a pound. We raised corn and wheat, and also milked cows. We had 2 daughters, Deanna, born in 1951, and Delores, born in 1953. After several years of raising milk cows, we decided to raise stock cows. To help make payments on the farm, I began working, at the Seward Senior High School, where I worked for 11 years. I then worked at the University of Nebraska for 1 year. I have worked the last 4 years at Concordia College of Seward. Deanna married Richard Furnas in 1973 and moved to Peru, Nebraska, later moving to Brownville. They had 1 son, Matthew, now 4 1/2 years old. In 1979, Richard was killed in an auto accident. Deanna and Matthew now live in Lincoln. Delores married Terry Maret in 1975 and lives in Lincoln. Terry is an environmental specialist and is employed by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control. Delores is employed at Ecological Analysts, Inc., of Lincoln. They have 1 daughter, 2 1/2 years old, Carmen.

On January 31, 1980, Ralph passed away very suddenly from a heart attack. I am still living on the farm, renting the land to my nephews, Mike and Rodney Schildt.

Wilma Mook

FREDERICK SIECK

Frederick Sieck was born March 25, 1835 in Prussia, Germany, and died June 27, 1913. He was drafted into the Prussian Army, but living conditions were so bad he decided to leave in 1871 and come to America. He worked his way across the continent to Nebraska in 1872. He homesteaded 80 acres, 4 miles north of Pleasant Dale. He resided on this land with his brother-in-law, by the name of Nieman. He got title to this land in 1876. He became an American citizen on February 10, 1876.

In 1875 he married Johanna Yess. She was born in Germany in 1855 in nearly the same surroundings of Frederick. Their first home was a log cabin, made from logs from Oak Creek. Their first barn was a straw barn which burned down.

Of this union, 9 children were born, Fred, August, Dora Sieck Ficken (the only one still living), Sophie Sieck Lindner, and Louie (who went to school seven years to become a Lutheran minister, but quit in his final year), and 2 children who passed away from diphtheria at ages 10 and 14. These 2 children are buried at the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery on Highway 34. Frederick was one of the first members of this church.

One of the first school houses for this church was located just 1/4 mile north of the Sieck property. This was a parochial school, and most of the Sieck children attended this school.

Early in the 1900's the St. Paul Church was established. This was known as the Iowa church; Frederick Sieck was a charter member. This is where the 3 younger children attended school. All of his children attended District 64 public school. Henry Sieck, an adopted son, was one of the first to attend this school.

When Frederick Sieck homesteaded, his only means of getting supplies was from Nebraska City. He carried his supplies on his shoulders and walked all of the way.

Both Frederick and Johanna Sieck, who passed away in 1917, are buried at the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery.

Harold Sieck



Straw Barn

FRED C. SIECK

Fred C. Sieck was born October 14, 1875, and died February 15, 1958. For over 50 years, he farmed 3½ miles north of Pleasant Dale. He married Dortha Piening.

They had 6 children, 3 sons, Fred, Albert, and Ervin, and 3 daughters, Hanna Muesborn, Minnie Ficke, and Amanda Lindner.

Fred was active in community affairs, having at various times been a board member of different organizations, District 64 School, Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Pleasant Dale, and Pleasant Dale Farmers' Co-op elevator, Co-op Credit Association and Pleasant Dale Telephone Company. He was also a precinct assessor of I Township.

He was one of the pioneers in soil conservation work, cooperating with the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1930.

Minnie Ficke

AUGUST SIECK

August Sieck was known as "Shorty" Sieck. He was born March 5, 1888, and passed away on January 1, 1948.

Shorty Sieck married Dorothy Lostroh on October 21, 1915. Dorothy Sieck is 85 years old and is living alone now.

To this union 2 children were born: Harold F. Sieck and Myrna Zillig.

Frederick Sieck's homesteaded 80 acres were willed to Shorty Sieck because he had taken care of his parents. Shorty took possession of this land in 1914, still caring for his mother.

When August Sieck first started farming, he could hardly raise any crops. He changed his system of farming and was one of the first farmers in the Pleasant Dale community to use legumes and sweet clover to build up his soil. He had one of the best wheat crops in the community.

To help establish his land, he allowed the CCC workers under President Roosevelt, to contour his farm. They also planted nearly 7 acres of trees, and these trees are surviving today.

August Sieck served on the school board for many years. He also served on the township board for I precinct in the 1930's. The township board was dissolved in 1944 when the commissioner system of the county took place by a vote of the people. He was instrumental in establishing the Rural Power District, and was one of the first board members. He served on this board from 1935 until his death in 1948. His son, Harold Sieck, then served on this board for 31 years, and now his grandson, Tom Sieck, is serving on it. So, the Siecks have served on the Rural Public Power District Board continuously since 1935. August was appointed by Governor Griswold to serve on the Seward County Draft Board in 1943.

Shorty Sieck was seriously hurt in 1931. He was helping his brother-in-law and the team ran away, making a sharp turn, and he flew off the load of feed and hit his leg against a telephone pole. His leg was crushed.

Harold Sieck

HAROLD F. SIECK

Harold Sieck was born February 29, 1916, on his father's homesteaded 80 acres, and is still living there. He is the son of August and Dorothy Sieck.

Harold attended grade school in District 64. He took the 7th grade examination at Pleasant Dale High School when he was in the 6th

grade. He attended high school from 1928 to 1931. He got to enter the 12th grade, but had to quit school to help on the farm after his father's serious accident. He did receive 31 credits out of the 32 credits that it took to graduate.

He attended Confirmation School at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. He was confirmed at age 14, and when he was 16 years old, he started teaching Sunday school, and taught for 30 years.

He met Elsie Meinberg at the Lutheran League to which they both belonged. Elsie later became his wife on February 8, 1942.

To this union, 5 children were born: Thomas, Barbara, Roger, Gerald and Annette. Thomas Sieck married JoAnn Klintworth. Barbara teaches school at Grand Blanc, Michigan. Roger, the 3rd child, is handicapped. He lives in Lincoln and works for Lancaster Manor. Gerald is a highway patrolman, and is married to Roberta Cooper of Decatur. Annette has 3 children and is working in Lincoln. Her husband, Dave Bayne, works for Goodyear and also sells real estate.

Harold was appointed to the Seward County Rural Public Power board. He also served on the Seward County Soil Conservation District Board. In 1951, he was reappointed and served until the board dissolved and became a Natural Resources District. He then became a director and chairman of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District until his term expired. He also served on the Salt Valley Watershed board from 1951 until it was dissolved and became a part of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District.

He has been quite active in the church, serving as secretary for many years, then serving as trustee and then chairman of the new church which was established in Seward. He then became a deacon and a trustee.

Harold has been quite active in civic affairs all of his life. He is now serving in the Nebraska Legislature as State Senator of the 24th Legislative District. He was elected and was sworn in in January, 1978.

Harold Sieck



Senator Harold F. Sieck

THOMAS SIECK

Tom Sieck, the son of Harold and Elsie (Meinberg) Sieck, and JoAnn Klintworth, the daughter of Dick and Louise (Greiner) Klintworth were married on May 20, 1966.

Tom was born on March 21, 1943, in Seward, Nebraska. He attended grade school at District 64. He is a 1961 graduate of Malcolm High School and a 1963 graduate of Nebraska Vocational Technical School. He worked in Lincoln as an auto mechanic until entering the U.S. Army in November of 1964. He spent 1 year of his 3 year tour of duty in Korea.

JoAnn was born on October 11, 1944, in Seward, Nebraska. She attended school at District 45 and at Immanuel Lutheran School, and is a 1962 graduate of Seward High School.

Since Tom was still in the Army at the time of their marriage, they lived for 1½ years near Aberdeen, Maryland. Tom received his discharge from the service in November of 1967 and he and JoAnn returned to Pleasant Dale, living first near Tom's parents in a mobile home, and then, after JoAnn's parents retired, moving to the Klintworth farm where they now live. They have purchased the farm which was homesteaded by Tom's great-grandfather, Joachim Deden.

They are the parents of 2 children, Jeffrey (born in 1969), and Peggy (born in 1973), who are students in Seward Public Schools.

Tom is a member of the Pleasant Dale American Legion. JoAnn is a member of the Pleasant Dale American Legion Auxiliary. Tom is a member of the Board of Directors of the Seward County Rural Public Power District and serves as its Vice President. He is a member of the Board of Directors and is secretary-treasurer of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association of Seward County. They are

members of the Faith Lutheran Church in Seward and have both served on the church council and as Sunday School teachers. JoAnn is a church organist.

JoAnn R. Sieck

JOHN KLINTWORTH

John Klintworth, the son of Hein and Maria (Fitschen) Klintworth was born in Germany on February 4, 1867. Margaretha, the daughter of Dietrich and Anna (Meyer) Dankers was born near Pleasant Dale, Nebraska, on May 5, 1871. They were married on April 2, 1891. They were members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Middle Creek, where he held offices on the board.

It is believed that they met when the Hein Klintworth family came to Nebraska from Germany and stayed with the Dietrich Dankers family until the Klintworth family could establish a permanent residence. John and Margaretha lived for a time one mile north and ¾ miles west of the present location of the District 45 school. In the early 1900's they moved to another farm on Highway 34, one mile east of the Middle Creek church.

They were the parents of the following thirteen children: Henry Klintworth; Anna (Mrs. Edward) Stillahn; John Klintworth; Dick Klintworth; Mary Klintworth; Martin Klintworth; Carl Klintworth; Clara Klintworth; Elsie Glantz; Selma Klintworth; Dorothy Klintworth; Theodore Klintworth and Louise Klintworth.

John died on December 25, 1957.

Their hardships were the same as those of many others of the early 1900's, illnesses such as scarlet fever, the loss of children at an early age, and the hard work of everyday living, but those things must have made the happy times seem even more special.

JoAnn R. Sieck

DICK KLINTWORTH

Dick (Dietrich) Klintworth was born near Pleasant Dale on November 20, 1896. His parents were John and Margaretha (Dankers) Klintworth. He attended public school at District 45 and parochial school at Immanuel Lutheran, Middle Creek.

In 1920 he married Frieda Klemsz. They had 2 daughters, Luella (Mrs. Elmer) Schultz, now of Pequot Lakes, Minnesota, and Nora (Mrs. Edwin) Schulz, now of Seward, Nebraska. Frieda died in 1936.

On January 3, 1942, he was married to Louise Greiner, daughter of Gottfried and Anna (Fischer) Greiner. She was born near Tamora, Nebraska, on July 11, 1904. Before their marriage she worked for 12 years as a nurse at the Seward Hospital. They are the parents of 1 daughter, JoAnn (Mrs. Tom) Sieck of Pleasant Dale.

Dick served in many offices of Immanuel Lutheran Church, including that of Secretary for about twenty years. He was a member of school boards. He was a director of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association of Seward County for more than 30 years and served as its president for 22 years. He lived over 50 years on a farm located in the northeast quarter of Section 21 of I Township. He was forced to retire in 1973 after suffering a severe form of tetanus in 1972. At that time they moved to a home which they purchased in Seward. Dick died on August 26, 1977. Louise still lives in Seward.

JoAnn R. Sieck

LLOYD WOEBBECKE FAMILY

Lloyd and June (Lohmeier) Woebbecke moved to Pleasant Dale in 1954 and have since resided there. They have 4 children: Candice (Mrs. Michael Avery), who lives in Gretna; Larry, living in Pleasant Dale; Crystal, and Marilyn.

Lloyd is the son of August and Martha Woebbecke, who farmed southeast of Seward. Lloyd farmed until entering the Army during the Korean conflict. After his service time, he began working in the construction industry. Carpentry has since been his vocation. Lloyd has 1 sister, Doris (Mrs. William Hartmann Jr.).

Lloyd's maternal grandparents were George (who was born in Hollenbeck, Germany) and Anna (Lindner) Eggerling. Their children were Martha, Antone, Alfred, and Harold. George was the son of Ernest and Anna (Schulte) Eggerling. Anna was the daughter of Egedyis "William" and Caroline (Roebke) Lindner.

Lloyd's paternal grandparents were Wilhelm and Catherina (Ficken) Woebbecke. Their children were Emma, Carl, Louis, Catherine, William, Herman, August, John, Marie (Mary), Adolph, and Marie (who died in infancy). Wilhelm came to America from Hanover, Germany. His parents' names are unknown. Catherina was the daughter of Henry and Margaret (Willers) Ficken.

June is the daughter of John and Leone (Pool) Lohmeier. She grew up on a farm ½ mile west and 2 miles north of Pleasant Dale. Her parents and 2 brothers, Harold and John "Alden" still reside there. She has 1 sister, Doris (Mrs. Lawrence Woebbecke), who lives on a

farm about 4 miles northwest of Pleasant Dale.

June's maternal grandparents were Charles and Jessie (Burd) Pool. They had 2 children, Leone, and Verge (Mrs. Fred Sieck). Charles was the son of Ezra (who was born in Michigan), and Sophia (Benne) Pool (who was born in Illinois). The children of Ezra and Sophia were Elisha, Charles, Guy, and twins Aurilla and Awilda. Jessie was the daughter of John Robert Burd, (birthplace, Pennsylvania) and Amelia (Newton) Burd (birthplace, Illinois). Their children were Gertrude, Blanche, Bertha, Alice, Charles, Nate, Wallace, Jessie, and Pearl.

Around 1825 there was a Henry "Byrd" or "Burd" who was a portrait painter. In the early years, some of the Burd family changed the spelling of the name. An aunt of Jessie and Pearl Burd was killed by an Indian arrow while coming from Illinois to Iowa.

June's paternal grandparents were John (birthplace—Hanover, Germany) and Minnie (Dankers) Lohmeier. Their children were Laura, John, Earl, and Lawrence. Minnie's parents were John (birthplace—Hanover, Germany), and Renska (Busboom) Dankers (birthplace—Hanover, Germany). Their children were Louis, Conrad, Minnie, Margaret, Jennie, Kate, and John. August was the son of John Henry (birthplace—Hanover, Germany) and Mena (Piening) Lohmeier. Mena, August's mother, was the second wife of John. John's first wife was Caraline Paner. They had 2 sons, John and Henry. Besides John and Henry, August had a brother Fred and 6 sisters, Christina, Sophia, Mena, Dora, Anna, and Amelia.

John Henry Lohmeier was a key maker and blacksmith. He came to America at the age of 16. He worked in different factories before enlisting in the infantry (Civil War) and served honorably with his regiment until the end of the war. After the war, he engaged in farming, first in Indiana and then homesteading east of Pleasant Dale. The farm is now being farmed by his grandson, Earl.

LAURA AND JOHN A. HARRIS

PARENTS: August and Minnie (Dankers) Lohmeier were both born and lived in the Pleasant Dale community. They farmed and raised live stock 2½ miles northeast of town. There are 4 children and their spouses. Laura, who married John Harris, John, who married Leone Pool, and Earl, who married Adeline Klug, live in this vicinity, and Lawrence, who married Ann Lemke, lives in Lincoln. There are thirteen grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren, and 2 great great grandchildren. Father passed away in 1963, and Mother is living at Crestview Care Center, Milford, Nebraska, at age 96. They were of the Lutheran faith.

GRANDPARENTS: John H. Lohmeier and Wilhemina (Piening) were natives of Germany. There were 2 marriages. Three children were born in the first marriage, though little is known of this. Six children were born in the second marriage, and August was one of these children. John Lohmeier served 4 years in the Civil War and was a blacksmith and keysmith by trade. He and his wife farmed 2½ miles northeast of Pleasant Dale. They were of the Lutheran faith.

GRANDPARENTS: John Dankers and _____ Busboom were natives of Germany. There were 7 children in the family, including Minnie. They farmed 3½ miles northeast of town. As the family grew up, they, excluding Minnie, moved to Stamford, Nebraska to enlarge their farming. They were of the Lutheran faith.

THE HARRIS FAMILY: John R. Harris was born in Lancaster County, Nebraska, and his wife, Ada Helmkamp, was born in Rome, Georgia. Six children were born to them, Walter, Maggie, Roy, Emily, John, and Tom. They farmed near Emerald. Mr. Harris was a Mason, and they were of Methodist faith.

OUR FAMILY: John A. Harris who was born at Emerald, and I, Laura Lohmeier, born in the Pleasant Dale vicinity, were married in 1930. We have 3 children. Norma married Lawrence Busboom, and they, with their 3 children, live in Omaha. Irene married Otis Nineman, and they with their two children live at Havelock, Nebraska. Don and Emily live in Lincoln. We farmed, John worked at construction work, and he also did maintenance work at the University of Nebraska. We are of the Lutheran faith, and we are now retired.

Laura Harris

MR. AND MRS. ARDELL MINCHOW FAMILY

On August 29, 1928, Ardell Minchow, son of Fred and Denie (Ickes) Minchow was married to Lorene Mildred Pyle, daughter of Ward C. and Ella (Lunkley) Pyle.

In 1929 they began farming 1½ miles south of Pleasant Dale. Their first child, Jeanette, was born September 20, 1929 and in 1948 married Keith L. Bottrell.

Their second daughter, Doris, was born July 3, 1934 and married Bob Lukow in 1961.

Dean A. Minchow was born May 9, 1940 and married Charlene Katt in 1962.

Alan W. Minchow was born December 2, 1941 and married Mary Hoeft in 1963. Alan enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1966 and spent 1 year (1969) in Viet Nam.

Ronald R. Minchow was born October 1, 1945 and married Susan Wilsey in 1964.

Ardell and Lorene had 19 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1978 with a dance and reception, given by their children, at the Pla-mor ballroom. A large number of relatives and friends attended.

They still make their home on their farm south of Pleasant Dale which they bought in 1952. Fred Minchow originally purchased the farm in 1908 from John White.

They are active members of the United Methodist Church and Mr. Minchow served on the elevator board and District 65 school board for many years. He was also a volunteer fireman.

Ardell Minchow

BOB AND DORIS (MINCHOW) LUKOW FAMILY

Bob is the son of Fred and Hannah Lukow of Holstein, Nebraska and is a pilot for Frontier Airlines. Doris is the daughter of Ardell and Lorene Minchow of Pleasant Dale, Nebraska, and is a graduate of Pleasant Dale High School. They make their home in Holmes Beach, Florida.

Children: Michael, born March 1, 1951, was a helicopter pilot in the United States Army. He was killed in action in July of 1971 in Viet Nam at the age of 20. He was a graduate of Henkley High School in Aurora, Colorado. Robert, born August 7, 1952, is in the United States Navy and is stationed in San Diego, California. He is a graduate of Henkley High School. Denise, born October 23, 1952, is a registered nurse at the Norman Municipal Hospital in Norman, Oklahoma. She is a graduate of Henkley High School, and graduated from Manatee College in Holmes Beach, Florida. Dennis, born September 20, 1955, was a helicopter pilot in the United States Army and was killed on a training mission in August 1975 in Fort Rucker, Alabama at the age of 20. He graduated from Henkley High School. Jerry, born December 1, 1957, is in the United States Air Force and is stationed in San Antonio, Texas. He is a graduate of Milford High School in Milford, Nebraska.

In memory of Michael and Dennis, the memorial fund was used for the plants and trees in the B Street Median in Milford, Nebraska. The white marble plaque engraved with their names was placed by their family at the north end of the mall under the flag pole donated by the Milford High School.

The Lukows have 1 grandchild, Denna Michelle, of Norman, Oklahoma. She is 4 years old.

Doris Lukow

DEAN AND CHARLENE MINCHOW FAMILY

Dean Minchow and Charlene Katt were married May 26, 1962 and have lived just south of Pleasant Dale on the Minchow farm since their marriage. Dean is the son of Ardell and Lorene (Pyle) Minchow. He has lived on the farm all of his life. Charlene is the daughter of Henry and Laura Ihde Katt who lived northeast of Pleasant Dale while she was growing up. Dean attended Pleasant Dale School until the high school closed and then finished at Milford High School. Charlene attended Malcolm High School.

Dean helped his father farm and worked at Lincoln Steel Corporation until 1970 when he took over farming the family farm after his father had a heart attack. Dean and Charlene have 3 children. Brenda was born February 24, 1963. She graduated from Milford High School and is attending Lincoln School of Commerce. Sharyn was born February 26, 1964. She is a Senior at Milford High School. Scott was born September 12, 1967. He is a freshman at Milford High School.

Charlene Minchow

FRED AND SOPHIE IHDE FAMILY

Fred and Sophie Ihde came by covered wagon from Garnavilla, Iowa in 1870. Several years later they homesteaded 80 acres, on which they settled in order to claim it. They lived in a dugout for 3 years. In order to build their house, they hauled lumber and supplies from Nebraska City.

Several years later they bought another 160 acres north of the homestead.

They raised 12 children, most of whom worked for different farmers as they grew up.

William stayed home and helped his dad farm. He married Mary Luebbe in 1908. They moved in with his parents and lived in the same house with them. William and Mary had 3 children, Laura, now living in Lincoln, and Elmer and Edna who still reside on the same farm which has been in the Ihde name for well over 100 years.

The children all attended District 64 school most of their school years, except for several years of parochial school at Immanuel Lutheran Church at Middle Creek, where they also attended church services. They are still members there.

The William Ihde children never knew very many people as they were growing up except their relatives who came to visit, and the children who attended school with them. They never got very far away from the farm.

In 1928 Ihdes began farming with tractors. Cattle and other livestock were raised for milk, meat, and butter. They also had a large vegetable garden from which they canned and stored food for winter use. The other groceries were bought in Pleasant Dale.

In 1932 William bought the rest of the land. He had already purchased 80 acres shortly after he was married.

In 1936 Elmer took over farming and livestock raising until his heart attack in 1976. Since that, his niece's husband, Dean Minchow, has been farming all the ground.

Laura Ihde Katt

HISTORY OF BILL NIETENSTEIN

William Nietenstein, also known as Bill Nietenstein in this vicinity, was born in Alameda, California. He came to live in Seward County at the age of 2 years, with his parents.

On November 19, 1903, he was united in marriage to Katie Busboom, of Emerald. Bill and Katie moved to an 80 acre farm located 5 miles northeast of Pleasant Dale. Here they farmed until the year 1943. In September, their son Carl, sometimes known as "Collie", took over the farming. Carl lived on this farm until the year of 1980. Bill and Katie had 6 children, 2 of which preceded them in death.

Bill passed away November 24, 1950. Katie passed away on March 2, 1976.

Four children are still living at this time: Carl Nietenstein, Clara Busboom, Lorene Piening, and Anna Sultzbaugh.

Anna Sultzbaugh

THE NIETENSTEIN FAMILY

Shortly after the war between the states, young Frederick Nietenstein came to this country. He came from Hanover, Germany. It was a lonesome land of prairie here, with occasional visits from friendly Indians traveling through. He planted trees to protect his log cabin from the cold and dug a well for his water supply.

He married Charlotte Schmale of Prussia. They had 3 daughters which died in the diphtheria epidemic, and to intensify their sorrow, plagues of grasshoppers came in the 1870's. They left Nebraska and went to California. Three sons were born there, Louis, Herman, and William. The family came back to Pleasant Dale in 1886 to farm. They survived the "Blizzard of 1888". The frame home which was built was one of the first in the area and still stands today.

Their son Louis and his wife, Clara, lived on this farm until retirement, and their son, Rudolph and his wife, Bertha, started farming it in the depression of the 30's. Rudolph and Bertha have 1 daughter, Evelyn, who is married to Lyle Meyer and lives in Dallas, Texas.

Rudolph and Bertha have farmed for 40 years. Seventeen of those years Bertha taught in neighboring schools. They experienced a devastating tornado in 1957. Thanks to neighbors and friends from Pleasant Dale they rebuilt their home and are enjoying it now. They received the Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award, July 15, 1969 and were special guests at the Seward County Fair and of Ak-Sar-Ben in Omaha.

Their grandson, David Meyer, has inherited the love of farming like his grandfathers before him and hopes to farm near Pleasant Dale.

Rudolph and Bertha Nietenstein

JOHN VANANDEL SR. FAMILY

John VanAnandel, Sr., with his brothers Hobart, Cobe, and Case came to America from Holland with their parents, William and Mamie VanAnandel in 1846. Their journey by boat took 6 weeks.

John was married to Christina Prettenella Kevitt on October 2, 1846, in the commune of Anandel in Holland, prior to their departure for America.

The VanAndels lived in New York state for awhile and then moved on to Ohio for a short time. The family then moved on to St. Joseph, Missouri, where William VanAnandel settled and died in 1879 at age 84. While in Missouri, John VanAnandel joined the Union Army and was a member of Company L, 1st Missouri S.M. Cavalry. While in the service, John made a lifelong friend in Charles White, who later also became a Pleasant Dale resident.

The John VanAndels came to Nebraska in 1867, the year Nebraska was made a state. They first lived in Richardson County near Rulo. They came to Seward County and filed a homestead on February 5,

1870. John's homestead of 80 acres was northwest of Pleasant Dale where the old District 45 school building stands. They first lived in a shanty, before hauling in lumber from Nebraska City and from a sawmill on the Blue River to build the second frame house between Milford and Lincoln. The house served as a Sunday School where the Pleasant Dale Methodist Church had its beginning.

John and Christina had 6 children, all of whom were residents of Pleasant Dale and the surrounding area. The children were Syrenus, Will, Elizabeth, Nancy, Mary and Annette.

Dale Nobbman

SYRENUS VANANDEL FAMILY

Syrenus VanAnDel was born in Rochester, New York, on July 14, 1848, the son of John and Christina VanAnDel, who had been living in New York since arriving from Holland.

Syrenus came to Seward County with his parents, and homesteaded northwest of where his father lived. He then went on to Green River, Wyoming, where he worked for the Union Pacific railroad as a brakeman. With money he saved there, he returned to Pleasant Dale and purchased a 130 acre farm just north of town. He married Ida Annette Schamp on July 15, 1884, and they moved to the new farm.

Ida Schamp was born in 1861, one of ten children of Reverend Peter Schamp. Peter Schamp was a descendent of Jan Cornelissen Van Horne, who came to New Amsterdam in America from Holland in the 1640's. Peter Schamp homesteaded in Yankee Hill precinct, filing his claim July 25, 1861. Peter started many churches in north central Iowa, and in his capacity as county surveyor helped lay out the city of Lincoln. His was the first frame house built in Yankee Hill precinct. Peter was also a Seward County resident for a short time.

Syrenus and Ida had 5 children, all of whom have lived in and around Pleasant Dale all their lives. Blanche married Fred Shaw and they had 3 children, Erma, Mildred, and Paul. Cobe married Mary Ficke and had 2 children, Walter and Dorothy. George married Faye Kennedy and they had 3 children, Noal, Richard, and Bernice. John married Lucy Merrill and had 1 son, Glen. Ida married Fred Ficke and they had 1 daughter, Myrna.

Dale Nobbman

HISTORY OF SYRENUS, COBE, AND WALTER VANANDEL

Syrenus VanAnDel was born in Ulster County, New York, on July 14, 1848. As a boy he lived in Ohio, Missouri, and Kansas. At the age of 20, he moved to Richardson County, Nebraska. He stayed there only a short time and then moved to Pleasant Dale where he located on a homestead on April 12, 1870. After living on the homestead for several years he went to Wyoming for 7 years and then returned to Nebraska and relocated ¼ mile north of Pleasant Dale. On July 15, 1884 he married Ida Schamp. To this union were born 5 children, Blanche Shaw, Cobe, George (deceased), John, and Ida Ficke.

On November 1, 1917 Cobe VanAnDel and Mary Ficke were married at Pleasant Dale. In 1920, Dorothy was born, and in 1922, Walter was born. They lived on the same farm where Cobe was born until they moved into Pleasant Dale in 1973, where they still reside.

On May 7, 1944 Walter was united in marriage to Helena Busboom. They moved to a farm two miles east of Pleasant Dale. To this union were born 3 daughters, Diane, Marilyn, and Wanda, and also 1 son, Gregg, who died in infancy. In September 1964, Diane married Roger Thomas and they have 2 children, Becky and Cory. In April 1977, Marilyn married James Schroeder, and they have 2 daughters, Jamie and Jodi. Marilyn has a son Jeffrey, by a previous marriage. Wanda is living in Lincoln, and is employed at the State Capitol.

Diane Thomas

GEORGE VANANDEL FAMILY

George VanAnDel was born in 1889 and died in 1977. He was born and raised ½ mile north of Pleasant Dale. He married Faye Kennedy of Dorchester, and they lived west of Pleasant Dale. To this union were born 3 children, Bernice, Noal, and Richard, who all graduated from the Pleasant Dale High School. Faye passed away, and later, George moved into Pleasant Dale.

Bernice married Louis Brose of Milford, Nebraska and they have 2 children, Carol Lacharite of Londonderry, New Hampshire, Don of Denver, Colorado, and 4 grandchildren. Louis is retired and he and Bernice live in Milford.

Noal married Margaret Miller of Malcolm and they have 3 children, Wayne of Valencia, California, Roger of Hong Kong, Noala Fritz of Verdon, Nebraska, and 6 grandchildren. Noal is retired after 30 years in the Air Force. He and his wife now live in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Richard married Jean Bottrell of Denton, and they had 2 children, Nancy Schwede of Norfolk, Nebraska, and Claude, who was killed in the Vietnam War. They have 2 grandchildren. Richard is an AAL In-

surance man and lives in Norfolk, Nebraska.

Some of the memories of Pleasant Dale are of the Fourth of July celebrations they had back in the twenties. One is of the Pleasant Dale ball team playing ball in the morning at the state penitentiary, and of the races for the children in the afternoon and fire works in the evening.

Bernice Brose

JOHN AND LUCY VANANDEL FAMILY

The parents of John VanAnDel were Syrenus and Ida Schamp VanAnDel. Sy was born in New York in 1884 and came to Nebraska with his parents after his father's medical discharge during the Civil War. The family homesteaded northwest of Pleasant Dale on 80 acres just north of where Adolph Ficke lives now. When Sy was a young man, he worked for the railroad and lived in Green River, Wyoming for a time. He returned to visit his family here in Pleasant Dale and met Ida Schamp, and a short time later they were married. Sy and Ida bought 130 acres just north of Pleasant Dale in 1884, and there they raised a family; Blanche, Cobe, George, John, and Ida.

John married Lucy Anna Merrill in August of 1915 and they had one son, Glen H., born in 1920. Lucy passed away in 1971. Glen went to the Pleasant Dale School and for a time played basketball. Eventually he worked for the railroad and was stationed at Fairmont, Nebraska where he met Helen Broman. They were married in December 1945 after Glen had served in the 8th Air Force during World War II. Glen and Helen made their home north of Pleasant Dale and in 1946, bought the farm just west of Pleasant Dale where they raised their family; Marie Eileen, born in 1947, Janice Lyne in 1950, and twins Rex Eugene and Ronald Dean in 1954. Glen passed away in 1970.

Marie married Gary Brhel in 1968. They have 2 daughters, Christine (1968) and Sheri (1972). Janice married Ron Bell in 1969 and they have 3 daughters, Stacie (1972), Natalie (1975), and Julie (1977). Rex married Marcia Hostetler (1974) and they have 2 children, Jill (1978), and Douglas (1981). Ron married Pamela Bowen in 1974 and they have 2 sons, Ryan (1977), and Aaron (1981). Gary Brhel works for the Department of Roads, and he and his family live in Pleasant Dale.

Ron is the fourth generation to live on and farm the land just north of Pleasant Dale. The Bells live in Milford where Ron is a carpenter. Rex and Marcia live west of Milford where Rex owns his own construction company.

Marie E. Brhel

IDA FICKE FAMILY

My 3 brothers, one sister, and I were all born and raised on a farm which my father, Syrenus VanAnDel, purchased from a Mr. Mays. He and mother moved onto this farm when they were married. We attended the Pleasant Dale school, which was only ½ mile away, and we always walked to school except when it was stormy or the roads were muddy. There were no graveled roads then.

Being the youngest child, I moved, when our parents retired, into Pleasant Dale with them. In a short time, school District 65, 2½ miles south of Pleasant Dale, needed a teacher and offered me the school. I had passed the state teachers' examination, and in those days that was most important, not how much college one attended. There were 23 pupils, and I taught 2 years. I walked to school and lived at home with my parents.

In 1920 I married Fred Ficke and we moved onto a farm 3½ miles northwest of Pleasant Dale, and spent almost 50 years there. We had 1 daughter, Myrna, who attended District 45 school and then Pleasant Dale High School, and then the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. She is married and lives in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Fred served in the U.S. Navy in World War I before he was married. He passed away in July, 1969. In 1970 I moved into Pleasant Dale.

The hot, dry years of the 1930's were not so pleasant, but people survived them. On April 25, 1957, a tornado crossed our home and did much damage. It took a year to get rebuilt and adjusted again. We did appreciate the help of our families and many friends at that time.

Many changes have taken place, and probably will continue to do so, as that is supposed to be progress.

Ida VanAnDel Ficke

WILL AND GRACE WEEKS FAMILY

James W. (Will) Weeks was born in Nebraska City in 1883 of parents Thomas G. and Elizabeth VanAnDel Weeks (who were married at St. Joseph, Missouri, 1878.)

Will and his brother, Thomas Oliver, were raised in Oklahoma Indian Territory, where horseback rides with the Indians were frequent.

The boys, with their mother, came to Pleasant Dale in the fall of 1890, anticipating a new baby. Father received a dispatch at Cotton Creek, of his wife's and baby's death in March 1891. He returned home after the funeral.

Will lived with his Uncle Syrenus VanAndel's family until age 18—then bought his first team of horses, did some farming, carpentry, and masonry work. He lived with the Joseph Allens. Helping develop Will's tenor voice were Dr. Loughridge, and his cousin Blanche.

In 1908, Will married Grace Dunten (daughter of Scott and Clara Cady Dunten). Grace (born in 1888 in Pleasant Dale) was a graduate of the first Pleasant Dale High School, had 2 years of college at Peru, and 3 years teaching school in District 17. They resided 1½ miles south of town, on her father's farm.

Lois, Opal, Carl, Merna, and Glenn were born here. District 65 was their home school and many teachers lived with them.

About 1921, they moved east to Lancaster County. Now, home was Shady Brook Farm, and a stream and bridge separated the house and barn. White English Leghorn chickens were their specialty (housed in the first walk-out basement chicken-house in that area).

Neal was born here, and District 101 West was the home school. Will and Grace enjoyed their children and neighbors. They participated in community, school, Methodist Church, and a vocal quartet for fun.

They lived in Emerald during the war and operated a feed business, "The Truckers Exchange".

They retired in Lincoln. Will died in 1950, and Grace in 1955.

Lois B. Wilson

GLENN AND MANETA WEEKS

Glenn and I were married in 1941. We lived in Lincoln, Nebraska, for 6 months, and then we moved to Caropolis, Pennsylvania, where Glenn worked for Neville Island Dravo Ship Yards for 4 years. In 1945, Glenn was called to serve in the Air Force. He was stationed at Sheppard Field Air Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. When the war ended in September, 1945, Glenn was transferred to Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The camp was a separation center for service men being discharged from the service. Glenn was then transferred to Fort Mead, Maryland. In 1946 he was discharged from the service, based on the point system.

We then moved to Lincoln for 1 year. In 1947 we moved to Omaha, Nebraska, and in 1949, we moved to a farm east of Pleasant Dale, where we lived for 11 years. In 1960-61, we built a home in Pleasant Dale. In 1967 we moved to Capitol Beach. Glenn worked as a heating and air conditioning inspector in the building inspection department for the city of Lincoln, and we had to live within the city limits in order to abide by the city code system. We lived in Lincoln for 9 years. In 1976, the code requirements were changed, so we were able to move back to Pleasant Dale in the fall of 1976.

I have taught music at home while I lived on the farm and for several years in Pleasant Dale. Glenn was a substitute mail carrier for 1 year after Clayton Rivers retired. Glenn built the house across from the Methodist Church in 1965-1966. Gary and Mary Yank were the first owners. Glenn and Elaine Johnson are the present owners.

Glenn retired in January 1979. We decided that Pleasant Dale was a good place to retire. Since then, we have been going to warmer climates in the winter, and we hope to continue doing so as long as Father Time permits.

Mrs. Glenn Weeks

DR. AND MRS. J.C. WILSON

Dr. Jeremiah C. Wilson was born in Montgomery County, Illinois, on February 24, 1860, where the Panama mines now stand.

He was the only son of George W. (a tanner by trade) and Jane Cox Wilson (a sheep raiser). He graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in St. Louis, in 1883. He started practice in Donnellson, Illinois, and then moved to Greenville in 1903. They were public spirited people. He married Laura Taylor in 1884. Four children were born to this union, Merle, Joybelle, Nellie, and George.

When the youngest child was 13 years old, the Wilson family moved to Nebraska for the boy's health. Dr. Wilson practiced there for about 16 years, in his retiring years. He delivered many babies and treated many cuts and bruises in the Pleasant Dale area, and referred the very ill to Dr. Arnold in Lincoln.

The Wilsons were deep in church work and lived next door west of the present Methodist church. Dr. Wilson was 1/32nd Cherokee Indian.

George, the youngest child, went through college and into teaching. He married Lois Weeks in 1929, and they survived the depression.

After many illnesses, Dr. and Mrs. Wilson moved back to Green-

ville, Illinois. He died in 1934 and his wife passed away in 1945.

Lois Weeks Wilson

ANGELUS VAGTS FAMILY

Angelus Vagts was born April 11, 1865, in Kakerbeck, Germany. Adelheid Bosch was born January 23, 1866, in Ahlerstedt, Germany.

Mr. Vagts came to America in the early 1890's and found work on a farm owned by Mr. George Fosler, northeast of Milford, Nebraska.

Adelheid Bosch came to America a year or two later, and worked for her 2 older sisters and their families, who located in Kansas after arriving in America several years earlier.

The couple was married November 22, 1894, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church near Seward, by Pastor Wittke.

They bought a 120 acre farm 3 miles northwest of Pleasant Dale, where their 5 children were born and raised. The children were Margaret, Henry, Emma, John, and Anna.

Henry worked as a road maintenance operator in the 1920's, and John farmed. The shop where the road equipment was stored was located at the Brandhorst schoolhouse corner.

In the 1930's, Henry took over the farming and John maintained roads until he was called to serve his country in 1942 as an engineer. He was stationed in Iran for 2½ years. He then returned home, and worked as a road maintenance man around Pleasant Dale until his health began to fail.

Angelus Vagts passed away in 1929 at the age of 64 years, and Adelheid passed away in 1963 at the age of 97 years. John passed away in September, 1967. Henry passed away in 1975, Emma in 1977, and Margaret in 1978.

Anna Woebbecke

HENRY AND CLARA VAGTS

Henry and Clara were both born in Seward County. They were married in June of 1933. They had 2 sons, Ivan and Arthur, and 2 daughters, MaryAnn and Leola.

Ivan attended Milford Technical School, where he studied mechanics, graduating in 1954. He married LaVina Kraus in 1958. They now live in Denton, where Art built their house in 1979-1980. Ivan works for Outboard Motors.

Ivan and LaVina have 2 daughters and 2 sons: Cynthia Roberts, who has 2 daughters; Kathy Hitch; Daryl, who joined the Navy in 1980; and Dale, who is in high school.

MaryAnn Vagts taught school near Ruby, Nebraska, for 2 years, then 7½ years in Grafton, Nebraska. There she met her husband, Don Shallenberg. They have 3 sons. Don is District Manager for Cengas.

Art purchased the family farm. Being a carpenter, he replaced the old house which had been built in the 1880's. Later, he sold 8 acres containing the buildings. He lived in Milford for 5 years, then decided to build a home on the farm again. He now lives there with his wife, Joyce (formerly Sieck), and their 2 daughters and 2 sons. Brenda and Linda are in high school, Dean is in elementary school, and Andrew was born in 1981.

Leola Duffy lives in Lincoln. She learned hair dressing after high school. She and her husband Bill have a son Mark and a daughter Leann.

Henry retired from farming when Art purchased the farm. He bought a house in Pleasant Dale in 1967 and lived there about 8 years. He and Clara purchased a house in Milford in 1975.

Henry died in September of 1975, after being in poor health for several years.

Clara did paperhanging and interior painting for about 12 years. After retiring, she pieced and quilted many quilts as her hobby, mostly for family members.

Clara Vagts

WILLIAM BERG

My wife Dorothy and I have been married for 52 years. We raised 3 children, 1 son, Paul Berg, and 2 daughters, Mrs. Pauline Brandt and Mrs. Donna Wurst.

My ancestors and I have lived on the same land which was originally purchased from a homesteader named Delos Brown. This homesteader built himself a house and tilled the ground to feed his wife and family. Due to the hardships and lack of medical assistance, 3 of their children died and are buried on our property. We have protected and cared for this precious cemetery with the 3 tombstones. They belong to James Brown, who was born November 12, 1864, and died November 21, 1864, Edmong, born May 18, 1870, and died November 20, 1870, and Rosa, born December 29, 1866, and died November 20, 1870. The inscription on her tombstone reads: "She was lovely, she was fair, and for a while she was given, Then an angel came down and claimed his own, and took her home to heaven."

The homesteader's home stood until it was sold for \$300 to a neigh-

bor. The floor, being very valuable, is still intact and is used in a barn of Charles Yeager of rural Pleasant Dale.

The first generation of my ancestors was my grandfather, John Berg, who purchased this land from Delos Brown in 1883. He planted walnut trees in rows and started an apple orchard. Two wells were dug, one being an open sandstone well where food was kept cool. My father, Julius Berg, bought the ground from John in 1914. With the death of Julius in 1942, I, William, then purchased the land from the estate. A few years later, in March of 1959, my son, Paul, and his wife Joan bought the farm. And so Paul, Joan and their 4 children are the fifth generation from the original Bergs to live on this 160 acres.

Looking over the years past, our family has been richly blessed from living on a land full of memories, which I hope will continue long after I am gone.

William Berg

E. A. BERG

The E. A. Berg farm, which is N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25, Township 10, Range 4 of Seward County, has been in the Berg family since September 1883 when John Berg purchased land in Nebraska 10 miles west of Lincoln. John came with his parents, George and Elizabeth, from Lauterbach, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, sometime between 1836 and 1840 to Warren County, Missouri, which is northwest of St. Louis. He later purchased a large tract of Missouri River bottom land in St. Charles County. The Missouri River was slowly changing its course and taking much of John's farm. He was even forced to move his home to higher ground. Finally, John decided to move west, and on September 12, 1883, he purchased land from Jeremiah Brown, taking with him 4 of his then 6 children as he came to Nebraska. John Berg deeded the land to his son, Julius Berg, and wife in 1903. The estate of Julius Berg and wife was next deeded to Eugene A. Berg and wife Myrri in 1956.

Gene Berg was born on the family farm and has lived there for 61 years. Gene and Myrri raised 5 children in the community: Neil, Emily, Merlyn, Kathy and Margaret. Neil and Judy Berg reside in Lincoln and have 2 children. Neil is a conductor for the Burlington Northern Railroad. Emily is the wife of Joe Mavlovic and they have 4 children. They farm near Brainard, Nebraska. Merlyn resides on the home farm and is a conductor for the Burlington Northern Railroad. He has a large greenhouse built on the south side of the homeplace and specializes in a variety of flowers. Kathy is the wife of Gary Hoover. They are living in Alliance, Nebraska, and have 2 sons. Gary also works for the Burlington Northern Railroad. Margaret, wife of Persijs Kolberg, resides at Bellevue, Washington. Both are employed at the University of Washington. Margaret is secretary to the Dean of the Architecture Department.

Gene and Myrri attend the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Pleasant Dale. Gene was on the school board for District No. 21 for 15 years. Both Gene and Myrri drove school buses for District No. 5 for 7 years.

E. A. Berg

RICHARD ALAN ANDERSON FAMILY

The Richard A. Anderson family moved to Seward County in 1976. They purchased 10 acres of pasture land from the Merlyn Braunsroth family and built a house. Their home is located in the southeast portion of Seward County, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles south and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Pleasant Dale. Richard was born and raised in Lexington, Nebraska. His parents are Arthur and Ferne Anderson. Richard and his mother and brother Roger moved to Lincoln several years after the death of his father. He met Samie Jayne Rhea in 1966 and they were married in May 1967. Samie was born and raised in Crete, Nebraska. Her parents are Morrie and Alice Rhea. Richard and Samie have 2 daughters, Shana Rhea, born in August 1972, and Sara Jayne, born in May 1980. Richard is a descendant of William Penn on his mother's side of the family.

Richard A. Anderson

MR. AND MRS. MIKE BRAUNSROTH

Mr. and Mrs. Braunsroth moved into the community in April of 1960, when they purchased 80 acres of land from Detlef Schmersal. They did some farming, and Mike was employed at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Lincoln.

At the time, they had 4 children, Rod, Gail, Joell, and Bill. While living here, 2 more children were born, Steve and Daryl.

Rod, the oldest son, started his education at the country school located in the same section. When this school closed, the children continued their elementary and high school education in Pleasant Dale and Milford. They furthered their education at the University of Nebraska,

Kearney State, Milford Community College, Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

Presently, Rod is married and lives west of town and is employed at Goodyear. Gail lives in Omaha and works for Ramada Inn Worldwide Restaurant. Sister Anne Joelle is studying in a Catholic convent in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and will be teaching in the future in Lincoln. Bill and Daryl are currently studying at the seminary in Erlanger, Kentucky, to become Catholic priests. Steve is married and lives in Lincoln. He is a welder at Apollo.

During the 21 years in the community, Darnelle served on the school board for 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. The family was also active as leaders and participants in 4-H and all types of sports.

In 1974 they built a new home and sold 5 acres with the homestead, which is currently owned by Marlene Griffith. They sold 10 acres to Mr. and Mrs. Dick Anderson who built a new home. So, currently, Mike and Darnelle remain on the 65 acres watching their children and grandchildren build their future.

Mrs. Mike Braunsroth

THE JOHN BECKER AND LEO MARTENS FAMILIES

John Becker, Sr., and wife Katharine (Walters) moved onto their farm 4 miles southeast of Pleasant Dale in 1917. This farm was purchased from Frank Dauwalter and consisted of 163 acres on the west side of the road and 160 acres on the east side. They paid \$90 an acre which was a good price at that time, but it was during the war years when prices were high. The Beckers had 10 children living to adulthood, Mabel, Margie, Anna, Marie, Lucille, Katharine, Jacob, Henry, John Jr., and Phillip. The John Beckers were German immigrants.

Henry Becker married Alice Parker in June of 1923, lived on this farm until 1935, and now lives in Lincoln. Their children Shirley, Virginia, and Richard were born on this farm, and Johnny and Donna were born later. Another sister living in this community was Anna, who married Henry F. Piening. They lived on a farm near Pleasant Dale until they moved to Pleasant Dale upon their retirement. Later, they moved to Lincoln. After the passing of her husband, Anna passed away in 1981. They had a daughter, Marian, and grandson, Larry Stephens, of Lincoln. Two other members of the Becker family were Phillip and Marie, the twins, who were born on the farm which now is the Adolph and Ruth Busboom farm on West Van Dorn.

John Becker, Jr., married Mary Lily Schoenemann of Phelps, Missouri, in August 1922, and they lived on the original Becker farm until moving to a new home in Pleasant Dale in 1963. Mary Becker passed away December 10, 1975, and John Becker passed away November 30, 1977. Their children were a son who died as a baby, daughters Helen Louise Chamberlain of Kingman, Arizona, Karen Kay Scott of Waverly, and Betty Jean Martens, now living on the Becker farm with her family.

Helen Becker married Howard James Chamberlain, originally of Milford. Their children are Mary Helen Platter, of Shubert, Nebraska, Mark, and Alan of Kingman, Arizona. Karen Becker married Larry Scott and they have a son, Lance.

Betty Becker married Leo George Martens on May 9, 1948. Their children are Janet Lee Mowery, Pleasant Dale, Leslie Leo Martens, Pleasant Dale (married to Audrey Carr of Maywood, Nebraska), Todd Carl Martens at home.

Here are a few notes on the early days of the Becker family. They went to town once every 2 weeks with a spring wagon and horses. Corn was picked by hand, wheat was cut with a binder and shocked, butter was churned with an up-and-down stick churn. Corn was 8 cents and 10 cents, and wheat was 30 cents.

With the Leo Martens family on this farm, they are the 3rd generation of owners, after purchasing it in 1963.

Betty Martens

THE GARY BLATTERT FAMILY

In August, 1960, Gary and Beverly Blattert moved to Pleasant Dale from Milford, after Gary had finished his education at the Southeast Community College. Gary and Beverly had 3 children, Christine, now living in Bee, Nebraska, Joan, living in Lincoln, and Dean, at home.

On September 22, 1970, Beverly passed away, leaving a family of 3 small children, ages 6, 8, and 10 years. With the help of Clara Vagts, Laura Ficke, and many kind people, all things worked out.

On July 24, 1971, Gary married his present wife, Barbara, who, from a previous marriage, had 2 children, Paula, living in Des Moines, Iowa, and Michael, who lives at Emerald.

The Blatterts live at 300 Cedar Street, Pleasant Dale, and Gary serves as vice president of the Earl Carter Lumber Company in Lincoln. He is active in the Pleasant Dale Fire Department and the Men's Club. Barbara is active in the Liberty Belles Extension Club, and also serves on the village board.

Gary Blattert

THOMAS N. BUNDY FAMILY

Thomas N. Bundy was born in Lee County, Virginia, in 1872. He was orphaned at a very early age, and when about 19, migrated to Nebraska near Springfield. There he met and married Sarah E. Jarman. Their 2 oldest children were born there. Later they homesteaded near Wild Horse, Colorado, where their third child, Helen, was born. After proving his claim, they moved back to Springfield, then 3 years later settled in the Denton area from where they moved to the Zimmer farm south of Pleasant Dale in March of 1930. Mrs. Bundy passed away in July 1930. Everett left sometime later to find work near Lincoln and married in 1934. Ruth taught school District 65 south of Pleasant Dale the school year of 1932-1933 and Helen graduated from Pleasant Dale High School in 1932 and taught District 65 the school years of 1933-1934 and 1934-1935. Helen and her father remained in the Pleasant Dale area, Helen teaching and Mr. Bundy farming various farms until 1946. Mr. Bundy's health failed while Helen taught at Crounse. The following year Mr. Bundy moved to Lincoln, working first at the Cornhusker Hotel and then Golds' restaurant until his health forced him to quit. He lived at Tabitha home until his death in 1965.

Ruth had married Ted Meyer of near Emerald in 1940 and still lives there. They had a son and a daughter. Everett had 3 sons all living in the Lincoln area. Helen went to Montana to teach the fall of 1947 and still resides there. She married Albert J. Svendsbye in 1955, a worker in the lumber mill, now retired, as is Helen after teaching 36 years.

Helen B. Svendsbye

DONALD H. BORGMANN FAMILY

Donald Borgmann was born November 21, 1925, near Lincoln. His parents were William and Lauretta Borgmann. Jean Kolterman Borgmann was born December 2, 1924, near Onaga, Kansas. Her parents were Leonard and Elisa Kolterman. Don and Jean were married September 14, 1947, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Pleasant Dale.

They have 4 children, Donald R., Carol, Marla, and Dean. Don attended District 80 grade school and graduated from Pleasant Dale High School. He served in the Army during World War II for 3 years; he was in Europe for 2½ years of this time. He was discharged in 1947 and has been farming since then. Most of this time was spent in dairy farming. Don and Jean purchased Pallet Makers in 1978 and Don is manager of the plant.

Jean attended grade school in Kansas and graduated from Seward High School. She taught school for 3 years. Jean has been employed by Sears for the past 7 years. The Borgmanns are members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Pleasant Dale. Jean taught Sunday School and is a member of Ladies Aid. Don is a member of Pleasant Dale Legion Post No. 354 and National Farmer's Organization. He was a 4-H leader. Jean is a member of Peppy Dames Extension Club and served as president of the Seward County Extension Council. Jean was a 4-H leader. A son, Donald R., graduated from Valparaiso High School and from trade school at Milford. He married Deberah Hembrough and they have 2 children, Jason and Catina. He is employed by E & K Truck Service as a truck mechanic. Debe is employed by Nebraska University. The other children of Don and Jean, Carol, Marla, and Dean, graduated from Malcolm High school. Carol graduated from Reese and Sybil Beauty School and Dean attended Concordia College in Seward. Carol and Marla are employed by Square D Manufacturing Company. Dean is assistant manager of Pallet Makers. Marla is serving in the National Guard.

Don Borgmann

HISTORY OF CHARLES AND SOPHIA DAFFER

For half a century the Daffers lived in Nebraska, 30 years in Pleasant Dale. When they located in this community in 1915 there were 11 children, Dulcie, Terrell, Gertrude, Howell, Oscar, Leland, Ella, Lucy, William, Peter and Gerald. Marian and Harry were born at Pleasant Dale.

Seven of the 13 graduated from Pleasant Dale High School. The 2 eldest sons, Terrell and Howell served in World War I. The 2 youngest, Gerald and Harry, donned uniforms in World War II. Mr. Daffer was a railroad maintenance worker. He served on the town board and was manager of a baseball team for years. Mrs. Daffer was local correspondent for the Seward Independent newspaper. Mr. Daffer retired from the railroad in 1937. They traveled extensively throughout the country. They sold their home in 1945 and moved to Zenith, Washington. They resided there for several years and then moved to Weiser, Idaho. Mr. Daffer died in December 1961. At this time the couple had been married 69 years. Mrs. Daffer died in June 1969. They are both buried at Weiser, Idaho. Mr. Daffer's father,

James Alexander Daffer, was a Methodist minister. He was a pioneer of 3 states and lived to see them develop from wilderness to a great agricultural section of the world. He died in 1925 at the age of 94, and is buried in the Pleasant Dale cemetery. At this time, the Daffer children number 10, and the direct descendants of Charles and Sophia Daffer number 140.

Marian Daffer Masilko

LOUIS FINKE FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Finke (Mary Dunker) and family became residents of Pleasant Dale in 1903, moving there from Germantown (Garland) Nebraska.

Louis needed larger quarters for his business and Pleasant Dale offered more advantages, as he could locate near the stockyards and the railroad.

He bought approximately 5 acres of land (then cornfield) from Mr. Walter Best, located on the west edge of Pleasant Dale. A new house was built on the premises by the Pleasant Dale carpenter, Mr. Charles Wheeler. The house was ready for occupancy in 1905. The family lived in 2 different houses in Pleasant Dale while the new home was being built. The last one later housed the telephone office operated by Mrs. Cynthia Best.

Mr. Finke opened his butcher shop south of the Chris Uthe grocery store. He put in long, hard hours slaughtering and dressing all of his own livestock in the evenings after closing the shop. He was also a livestock buyer, going through the country buying from the farmers. The meat was shipped to Omaha.

He served as treasurer of School District 21, as church elder, and as mayor of Pleasant Dale. He was active in having the Lutheran church moved from its location northwest of town into Pleasant Dale where it would grow and expand more rapidly. It was the duty of the Finke children to start the fire in the pot bellied stove on Sunday mornings.

Mr. Finke was an insurance agent. He made numerous trips on the train, as he never owned a car because of poor eyesight. Transportation to the depot was made by the "hack" (a horse drawn van).

When the railroad was moved out of town, Mr. Finke bought the limestones from the demolished elevator. With these, he built a large stone shed on his place to provide shelter for his cattle. It is still standing.

After quitting the butcher shop, he bought 160 acres ¼ mile south of his home place.

Mr. Finke retired in 1946 at the age of 80. He died on February 1, 1957, at the age of 91.

Hulda Mueller

THOMAS L. FRAHM

Tom was born in Yutan, Nebraska. His parents are William and Caroline Frahm. He has 5 brothers and 1 sister. He was in the Marines stationed in California where he met Jacqueline (Chmielewski). Her parents are Mrs. Mary Chmielewski and the late Edward Chmielewski. She has 3 sisters and 2 brothers. Tom and Jackie were married April 12, 1956, in Rialto, California. Tom worked for Douglas Aircraft, and they lived in Stanton, California, until 1963, when they moved to Yutan and started farming. They bought the Leonard Melichar farm in 1977. They are farming, and Tom is also working for Burlington Northern Railroad.

Jackie Frahm

JAKE E. FRAZIER FAMILY

After living in California and Oregon for 10 years, the Frazier family moved back to Tilden, Nebraska in 1950.

Jake, Alice, and daughter, Jo Anne, moved from Tilden to the Pleasant Dale community in 1953. Harlan, their son, had recently returned from the Korean conflict, but chose to live in California where he had graduated from high school 2 months before being drafted. He later married and settled there.

The Fraziers first rented the William Berg farm house south of town where they lived for 3 years. Jo Anne attended Pleasant Dale grade school, and raised pets ranging from lambs to turtles. Alice raised chickens and garden, and in her spare time taught music in the Pleasant Dale high school and directed the Methodist Church choir.

Jake brought home the bacon by working in construction as a steamfitter on projects in and around Lincoln. He also operated a repair shop for 10 years and served as town marshal for a time.

Fraziers bought a house in Pleasant Dale in 1956 from Mrs. Kilday, where they lived until 1958 when they purchased and remodeled the Ray Best residence. The Best house had formerly served for many years as a home for the Pleasant Dale telephone office. A new home was built in 1972 where they now reside.

Jo Anne Frazier Lohse graduated from University High School and the National Business Institute in 1960 and 1962. She and her 2 children live in Tilden, Nebraska where she is employed by the Tilden Citizen newspaper. Harlan recently passed away. His family of six children live in Fullerton, California.

Alice Frazier

GEORGE FREDRICK GAMMEL

George Gammel owned and operated the blacksmith shop in Pleasant Dale approximately 40 years. He was born in 1891 to Peter and Anna Gammel in Pleasant Dale. His parents moved in his early childhood to Grover, Nebraska, near Milford. In 1914 he married Margaret Schweitzer. They had 4 children: Bernice, Henry, Alverna, and Norman.

For a short time during these years, he went to Holyoke, Colorado, where he was employed as a blacksmith, but soon came back to Pleasant Dale to live, and with the help of his father, they built George's own shop.

After his wife's death in 1926, he married Lavina Jane Christ. They had a daughter, Willet. They enjoyed 11 years of marriage before Lavina passed away. He still continued to live in Pleasant Dale and raise his family, Alverna, Norman, and Willet, Henry and Bernice having married and moved away.

Alverna, Henry, and Norman graduated from Pleasant Dale High School, and Willet completed 8 grades before going to California.

Alverna and Willet moved to California in 1941 where Alverna still lives. Willet lives in Arizona, and Henry in Oregon. Norman joined the Navy at the beginning of World War II. Bernice and Norman have since passed away.

George lived alone until 1952 when he married Velma Allen, who owned and operated the tavern in Pleasant Dale. They moved to Lincoln where George went to work for the Bruning Company. He rented the shop until some local farmers came to him and asked him to return as they needed a good blacksmith. He consented to come on weekends during the summer until 1963, when he became too ill to do so. He passed away in 1964. He had many friends in Pleasant Dale and his family has many fond memories of their childhood days spent there.

Alverna Riley

JAY AND MARY GEMMELL FAMILY

Ralph Brown Gemmell is the only survivor of the immediate family of Jay and Mary Gemmell. Jay's parents, Herbert and Maggie, settled in Seward County in the middle 1880's. Jay was born 2 miles east of Milford. He was married to Mary Hickerson, and they raised 5 children, Archie, Faye, Ralph, Chester and Ethel. Harold and Grace died as infants. Archie married Maude Morgan to whom Carmon, Coral, and Rex were born.

Faye served in the Army of World War I, returning to marry Iva Ficke. Their children were Faye Jr., Jack, Phillis, and Carol.

Ralph served in the Navy in World War I. He later married Mildred Brinegar. To them was born Marilyn Janice. Mildred passed away in 1965. In 1967 Ralph was remarried to Frances Filey. He now is a retired business man in Lawrence, Kansas.

Chester married Helen Woodward to whom Gene and Maxine were born.

Ethel married Fred Zimmer to whom 11 children, 6 girls and 5 boys, were born.

Herbert, Maggie, Jay, Mary, Grace, Harold and Archie and Maude were interred in a cemetery at Milford, Nebraska.

Faye is buried in a cemetery at Ogallala, Nebraska, Chester in Fort McPherson National Cemetery, and Mildred is in Memorial Park, Lawrence, Kansas.

Things Ralph likes to remember:

His mother, although crippled at middle age with arthritis, took care of her family with a faith and desire unequalled. She never got to go out much. She saw that the children attended Sunday School regularly with no complaining. The last 20 years of her life were spent in a wheel chair.

Wishing God's Blessing to all of Pleasant Dale from then until now. Respectfully submitted by;

Frances and Ralph Brown Gemmell

LEO AND BONNIE HOHENSEE FAMILY

Leo Hohensee, the son of Henry and Ella Hohensee, was born on a farm at Western, Nebraska. He attended all 12 years of school in the Western community.

Bonnie Ross, the daughter of Henry and Jane Ross, was born at Narka, Kansas. She attended schools in Thayer County and Saline

county.

Leo and Bonnie met while attending high school at Western, Nebraska, and were married 2 years after they graduated.

They lived for a time at Elmhurst, Illinois while Leo attended college. Their first son Douglas Henry, was born here in 1957.

They returned to Nebraska and settled near Fairbury, Nebraska. While they lived here, David Lee and Daniel Ross were born.

Later they moved to Seward, Nebraska, and then, in 1964, they settled at Dorchester, Nebraska, where Leo began his work for the State Roads Department.

Bonnie returned to college and graduated from Seward Concordia in 1973. She taught for 4 years in a rural school at Pleasant Hill. The last 7 years she has taught second grade at Dorchester, Nebraska.

Douglas, David, and Daniel all graduated from Dorchester High School in the 1970's.

In 1979 Leo was promoted to a job with the State Roads Department in Lincoln, which required the family to move closer to Lincoln.

In May 1980, they purchased the former Pleasant Dale School playground area and proceeded to build a house. In September of 1980 they moved into their newly completed home.

They have not resided in the community very long but are proud to be Pleasant Dale residents. They wish to thank everyone for making them feel so welcome.

Bonnie Hohensee

ROBERT AND PHYLLIS HAYS

Bob and Phyllis moved to Pleasant Dale, Nebraska in August of 1968. They are, therefore, the first generation of Hayses to live in the Pleasant Dale area.

At the time they moved to Pleasant Dale, they had 3 children, Steven, Susan, and Mike. The fourth child, Teddy, was born while living in Pleasant Dale. At first they lived in the Methodist church parsonage until they were able to buy land from the Bradley estate. The purchase was made in 1971. They started building their home in the fall of 1972, and moved into it in the spring of 1973.

All of the children attended Pleasant Dale school and Milford high School. As their contribution to the community, Bob has worked with the PeeWee and Pony baseball teams since 1970, and Phyllis has done her share coaching baseball and being a coach's "widow".

TOM HAVLAT FAMILY

Thomas Havlat was born March 4, 1897 in Czechoslovakia. In 1903 he came to this country with his parents, Anton and Antonia Havlat and the family, including 3 brothers Anton, Frank, and Joe, and 3 sisters, Louise, Marie, and Antonna.

On July 11, 1922 Tom Havlat married Libbie Veprovsky, and they lived on the farm in the Pleasant Dale area in Seward County. They had 9 children, 6 sons and 3 daughters. They were Edward, George, Helen (Havlat) Hraban, Libbie (Havlat) Andelt, Robert, Thomas Jr., Albert, Marie (Havlat) Shandera, and Louis Havlat.

In 1961 Tom and Libbie Havlat moved to Crete.

On November 4, 1966 Tom passed away at the age of 69 years. His wife, Libbie, still lives in Crete.

There are 22 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren in the Tom Havlat family.

In March of 1963, Tom's son Albert and his wife, Norma Jean (Reetz) Havlat, moved onto the home place. They have 4 children, Shonnie, Jeffrey, Russell, and Douglas Havlat.

This farm has been in the family over 60 years.

Albert and Norma Jean Havlat

THE HAIST FAMILY

The Earnest Haist family lived in or near Pleasant Dale since the mid 1800's. Jacob Frederick Haist, father of Earnest Haist, came from Germany, purchased land, and engaged in farming. Earnest continued farming upon his father's death. Jacob married Medora Elizabeth Brong from Indiana. Earnest married Myrtle Bell Dunten.

Myrtle Dunten's family were also residents of the Pleasant Dale area since the mid 1800's. Her father, Alexander Burd Dunten from Indiana, married Frances Ann Rist, who came from New York state.

Earnest farmed south of Pleasant Dale until the 1930 drought and depression years. Myrtle taught school. Her first school was in the Denton area, District #108, where she taught 3 years. She also taught the primary room at Pleasant Dale beginning in 1911, teaching for 2 years. She also taught in District #65, south of Pleasant Dale.

In the 1930's the family moved to Pleasant Dale, where Earnest carried bags of mail between the post office and the railroad depot south of town. On September 10, 1948, Myrtle was appointed post mistress

and held that position for 15 years. She retired in 1963.

Earnest and Myrtle had 4 children, Doris, who died in infancy, Ivan, Milton, and Keith. All 3 boys graduated from Pleasant Dale high school.

Ivan graduated from the University of Nebraska, married Verna Jensen from Pilger, and they now own an insurance business in Clarkson, Nebraska. They have a son Roger.

Milton married Helen Shugart from Chester, Nebraska. They had 4 children, Judith, James, Roy, and William. Milton owned a jewelry store in Lincoln. Helen, a beautician, lives in Lincoln. Milton passed away in 1961.

Keith married Norma Woodward from Chester, Nebraska. Keith attended the University of Nebraska and a school of Horology in Denver. Norma teaches Elementary Education, and they own a jewelry store in Hastings, Nebraska. They had 5 children, Lee, Kay, Dean, Tim and Joy.

Earnest's family belonged to the First Methodist Church, and lived in the home that was once a hotel, across the street south of the church.

When Myrtle was appointed postmistress, the post office was in the bank building on the west side of the square. It was later moved to the family home where it remained until her retirement.

After Earnest's death in 1967, Myrtle moved to Clarkson where she lived until her death in 1974.

Keith L. Haist and Ivan Haist

GLENN AND ELAINE JOHNSON

The Johnsons moved to Pleasant Dale in 1971 from Lincoln. They have 2 children. Michaela was born in 1973. Ryan was born in 1976.

Glenn is originally from Wakefield, Nebraska, and Elaine is from Beatrice, Nebraska.

Glenn works in Lincoln. He has served on the Pleasant Dale Village Board of Trustees since 1976.

Elaine teaches for School District #5.

They belong to the Pleasant Dale United Methodist Church

Glenn Johnson

WILL AND PAM JAMES FAMILY

Will James, son of Ben and Jeanne James, was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska. He married Pamela Carroll in 1971, and a son, Wm. Kelly James was born in March 1972 in Lincoln. In 1976 the Jameses sold their Lincoln home, moved to Pleasant Dale and bought Timme's Store on May 3rd. The store was renamed Pleasant Dale Grocery, and the Jameses learned to run a grocery store and cut meat "on the job". Their family grew in May of 1978 when a daughter, Emily Kay James was born. After the fifth anniversary of the store, the Jameses built a subterranean home on a lot behind the store. Many people volunteered help, brought food, and built the home. It was started on October 10, 1980 and moved into on January 26, 1981. The James family very much appreciated the "barn raising" attitude of their friends which made the housebuilding possible. At this writing the family enjoys serving the Pleasant Dale community in its only grocery store.

Pamela V. James

RICHARD E. JONES, SR. FAMILY

Although the Jones family haven't lived in the Pleasant Dale area too many years, they have enjoyed it.

Dick and his wife have been married almost 40 years, have two children, Carolyn, who works at Union Insurance in Lincoln, and a son, Richard, Jr., who hopes to buy a dairy farm in partnership with a friend sometime in the future.

The Joneses are collie breeders and have surely enjoyed "going to the dogs." They also have 3 grandsons. The oldest is as fond of the collies as his grandparents are.

Dick works as an engineer in the boiler room at Bryan Hospital in Lincoln. The Jones family is small, but each member is enjoyed and loved.

Mrs. Richard E. Jones, Sr.

VERNON LEMMERT

The Vern Lemmert family moved to Pleasant Dale from Lincoln in August, 1958. We rented a house from Lee Austen, located on the northeast corner of Elm and Pine streets. At this time, our family consisted of Michael, not quite 3 years old, and Paul, 18 months old.

We moved from this location to the "Chris Uthe" house on January 1, 1960. We rented this house from William Patak, and then purchas-

ed it in July of 1960. This "Chris Uthe" house is situated on lots 9 and 10, next to the old school house on Walnut street. Lots 7 and 8, vacant at that time, were purchased from Mr. Patak in October 1961. Improvements were made on the house and the property.

Several outbuildings in bad conditions were torn down. In August, 1966, our daughter Michelle, was born. In March, 1972, just 10 feet west of the Uthe house, the building of our new house was started. We moved from the old house to the new one in September, 1972.

During 1973, we tore down the old house, saving the good lumber. A great deal of it was used to build the fence between our property and the school. Some was used to make storage shelves and work benches in our basement and garage. Many of the 2x4's were turned into lovely pieces of furniture by our son, Paul.

Our most recent project was the building of our bridge by Mike, Paul, and me. The last of the old lumber was used, and the bridge was built over the site of the cellar of the old house. This had been filled in, but has been sinking a little each year. Our idea is that it is a bridge from the old to the new and a reminder of all the work and 12 years of living in the Uthe house.

Mike earned his Masters Degree in Sanitary engineering from Nebraska University, and is living and working in Casper, Wyoming. Paul graduated in auto mechanics from Southeast Community College at Milford, and is working in the auto pool at Nebraska University. Michelle is a sophomore at Milford High School.

Vernon Lemmert

LIESVELD

Henry Liesveld and Grace Wissink, both from Holland, Nebraska, were married December 4, 1924 and have lived all of their lives in the Holland area. Grace passed away in 1976. Their children are Anthony, Pleasant Dale, and Noreen, (Mrs. Don Crawford), Roca.

Andrew Weber of Firth, Nebraska and Leota Housel of Raymond were married on June 18, 1924. Most of their married life was spent farming in the Firth vicinity. Andrew's life was taken in a farm accident in 1960. Andrew and Leota have five children: Lloyd, McCook; Charlene (Mrs. Irvan Schoonveld), Firth; Irene (Mrs. Lester Essink), Lincoln; Kathryn (Mrs. Anthony Liesveld), Pleasant Dale; and Clifford.

Anthony Liesveld and Kathryn Weber were married August 24, 1953, in Firth, Nebraska and began farming near Hickman. In March, 1960, they moved to the Emerald vicinity. A farm north of Pleasant Dale in Seward County became their home in 1977. They have 3 children.

Charles is married to Julie Matulis, daughter of John Matulis, Utica, and Coleda Schwaller of Lincoln. Chuck and Julie live in Lincoln with a daughter Mollie Lyn, born in 1980. Chuck is an employee of Burlington Northern.

Penny and her husband, Mike Freyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Freyer of Ashland, live in Omaha. They have a daughter Jennifer Louise born in 1981. Mike is working toward his electrician's license.

Jayne and Ron Kapke, son of William Kapke Sr. of Pleasant Dale were married in November, 1981 and live in rural Pleasant Dale. Jayne is an employee of Bailey Lewis Advertising firm in Lincoln. Ron is employed at the County Sheriff's Garage in Lincoln.

Kathryn Liesveld

PAUL MUELLER

During the Civil War Paul's grandfather, Mike Mueller, was farming in Missouri. One day while he was in the field, a squad of soldiers came through that territory and took all his horses away.

He then moved to Nebraska and homesteaded on a farm 4 miles north of Pleasant Dale. That is where Paul's father, Fred Mueller, was born. At that time the farm where Paul now lives was penitentiary land. This was land given to help build the first prison.

Later the land was given to a Mr. Clarke in payment for building a bridge across the Blue River in Saline County. He built the bridge but the land deal fell through. The land was opened for homesteading in 1870. A Mr. Creigh homesteaded here but could not keep up the taxes and so lost the land.

Paul's grandfather bought the land at a sheriff's sale in 1897, for \$2600. His father got married in 1899 and he bought the land in 1900 for \$3800. Paul bought the land in 1947, and by that time the price had gone up to \$16,000.

In 1934 Paul married Esther Vahl who had been teaching in Pleasant Dale for three years. They have 2 daughters, Elaine (Mrs. Norbert Waech), and Paula (Mrs. Stanley Wehling). They have 7 grandchildren who have brought much joy to their life. Esther's father, the Rev. F.F. Vahl was pastor at the Middle Creek Lutheran Church from 1892 to 1902.

The home in which Paul and Esther live was built by Paul's father in 1900. Paul was born in this house and through the years has made many improvements on it. Paul hopes he will be fortunate enough to live here the rest of his life. The Muellers give thanks to God for a good life here in Nebraska.

Paul Mueller
(Esther Mueller passed away on February 25, 1982, as this article was being prepared for print.)

NATHAN B. NEWTON

Nathan B. Newton located in Pleasant Dale in 1872.

Mr. Newton was born August 29, 1819 in Suffolk County, New York, in the town of Islip. He was a sailor for 8 years on the Atlantic in his younger days. He also learned the mason trade.

Nathan married Margarette Lynch in 1844 and to this union 8 children were born: Robert L., Margarette E., Hanna A., Wilfred E., Franke, Charles S., Carrie, Ezra J., and Eva B.

DAVID AND SHARON NICKLAS FAMILY

David Nicklas, born December 28, 1948, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Nicklas, was raised in Wauneta, Nebraska until age 8. The family then lived in Curtis, Nebraska until 1965 when they moved to Lincoln. Dave graduated from Southeast High, then returned to Curtis and graduated from the University of Nebraska Technical Agriculture School in Curtis with a degree in horticulture.

Sharon Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Johnson of Curtis, Nebraska was born March 8, 1951 and raised on a farm south of Curtis. After high school, she graduated from the Grand Island School of Business. Sharon Johnson married David Nicklas in Curtis, Nebraska on June 7, 1970. After Dave completed his basic training in the Army National Guard, he and Sharon moved to Lincoln where Dave was employed by William's Nursery, and Sharon was employed at First Federal Lincoln. Dave began employment as horticulturist at the Lincoln Regional Center in 1972. Dave has since started his own lawn service business in addition to his work at the State Hospital. They lived in Alvin Klug's trailer court, Route 6, Lincoln, until August 1975, when they moved to Pleasant Dale.

They have 2 children, Brian, age 10, born December 14, 1971, and DeAnn, age 7, born April 26, 1974.

Sharon Nicklas

LARRY AND TERRY NOOTZ

The Larry Nootz family moved into the Pleasant Dale area in November of 1977. Terry and Larry have 3 daughters—Michelle, Lisa, and Melissa.

Larry is the son of Bertha and the late Erwin Nootz, who farmed in this area. The family moved to the Malcolm area in 1949.

Larry and Terry were married in 1968 and resided in the Lincoln and Waverly areas before moving to an acreage near Pleasant Dale.

The family now resides in the home designed and built by John and Mary Daae, located southwest of town. The uniqueness of the house and the quietness of small town living brought the Nootz family to this area.

Larry and Terry Nootz

SAMUEL PENNINGTON

Sam Pennington and his wife, Norma, moved to Pleasant Dale from Milford, Nebraska, in the year of 1930. Four of their 5 children, Edward, Adeline, Donna Mae, and Phyllis, also moved to Pleasant Dale with them. June was born in Pleasant Dale in about 1932 in their home, which was located in the southwest corner of the block, south of the city park.

Sam maintained his own place of business, the Pleasant Dale Garage, which was located across the street from the northwest corner of the city park. He leased this building from Carleton Bishop and was in his own business from 1930 until 1942. In the summer of 1942, Sam and Norma, Donna, Phyllis and June moved to Manitowac, Wisconsin, where Sam worked in the shipyard welding in the interiors of the submarines during World War II for 3 years.

In June of 1945, Sam came back to Pleasant Dale, and he remodeled their home. He never went back into the garage business. Instead, he entered the carpentering business and did repair work.

Norma Pennington was a piano teacher all during their first 12 years in Pleasant Dale. She played the organ in the Lutheran Church, starting with the pump organ and then also playing the new organ. Sam, Edward and Adeline cleaned the church and rang the church bell for many a year while Norma was the organist. After their return

to Pleasant Dale in 1945, Norma started teaching Sunday School. Both she and Sam were very active in their community until they both were taken to meet their Lord in a car accident west of St. Paul, Minnesota, on October 2, 1969.

Adeline Borgman

REV. OTTO A. QUAIFE FAMILY

I began my work as a pastor at Westerville, Nebraska, on March 1, 1924. At the close of this pastorate, I was united in marriage to Miss Vida Lowder of Westerville. That fall we began our work together at the Walnut Grove Methodist Church north of Cozad, Nebraska. Pleasant Dale became our next home, where we served for 2 years while I attended Nebraska Wesleyan University.

We have 2 children, Merna Quaife Greer and Merton Quaife. We observed our 55th wedding anniversary on November 10, 1981.

Our recollections of our two years in Pleasant Dale in 1927 to 1929 are happy ones.

Rev. Otto A. Quaife

DWAINE AND MAXINE PEKAREK

Dwaine was born and raised on a farm near Seward. He has 1 brother and 1 sister. His father died in 1973 after a long illness. His mother lives on a farm near Seward. Dwaine went into the armed services after graduation from school in Seward. He was married and later divorced, with a son, David, to raise. After he was out of the service, he worked at American Stores in Lincoln.

I was born and raised on a farm near Hastings. I have 2 older sisters who both live on farms in the Hastings area. My father died from a swimming accident in 1978. My mother lives in Hastings. After I graduated from Hastings High School, I worked at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital as a nurse's aid. I was married and later divorced, with a son, David, to raise. We moved to Lincoln where I worked at Russell Stover Candy Company until 1969.

Dwaine and I were married June 21, 1969, in Lincoln. We moved here with our ready-made family. His David was 10 and my David was 6. Dwaine bought a farm from Dale Ficke about 5 months before we were married. We had a son named Dwaine Robert (after Dwaine) on May 13, 1970. We call him "J.R." Then, on Christmas Day in 1971, we had another son, whom we named John Fredrick.

On February 14, 1974, Dwaine adopted my son David, whose name we had changed at that time to Scott David Pekarek.

In June we bought Maude Bailey's farm just outside of Pleasant Dale. We had the creek straightened and cleared of trees. We put in an irrigation well, and we irrigate 105 acres. Dwaine is now a full-time farmer.

After David graduated from Milford in 1977, he worked at Farm-land Industries at Crete until he went into the armed services in May, 1981. Scott graduated from Milford in 1981, worked in Kansas for a few months on a farm, and then came back home and started Technical School this January, 1982, learning farm diesel mechanics.

Maxine Pekarek

HARRY P. ROBOTHAM

Harry Robotham was born in 1896 in Pleasant Dale, Nebraska, Seward County, to Pliney and Mary Robotham. Another son, Frank, was born to them and died at age 9.

In 1920, Harry was married to Etta Brown, and they had 6 children, Frank, Plin, Leonard, Don, Earl and Harriett.

Frank married Joanna Gatto from Lincoln and they have 4 children and 5 grandchildren.

Plin married Carol Petsch and they have 4 children and 2 grandchildren.

Leonard married Phyllis Masker and they have 5 children and 6 grandchildren.

Don lives on the home place and is not married.

Earl married Dorothy Leybold from Lincoln and they have 4 children.

Harriett married James Baxter and they have 3 children.

Frank, Leonard, Don, and Earl all farm in the Pleasant Dale area. Plin farms in Hamilton County. Harriett and her husband, James, live and teach in Fairfield, California.

Harry farmed his mother's 160 acres when he married, and owned 560 acres when he died on February 16, 1977. His land was equally divided among the 6 children.

Mrs. Earl Robotham

July 1890

Property purchased for a bank building

**ROBERT JACK AND
MARY ANN (WEYAND) ROBERTUS**

We are the first generation of Robertuses to be citizens of Pleasant Dale, Nebraska.

We did not come to Pleasant Dale by covered wagon, many, many years ago. In fact, by the date of the Centennial celebration, we will have been here only 2 years. We came via moving van on June 28, 1980, the happiest moving day of our 20 years of married life. We were both born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska. Bob works for the Burlington Northern Railroad as a car inspector and has been there 28 years. Mary Ann works for Southeast Community College-Lincoln Campus as a secretary. We have 3 children: Mrs. Michael (Cindy) Connerley of Schuyler, Nebraska; Robert Joe, who is married to Corine (Harris) Robertus, and James Lyle, age 13 and currently attending Milford High School. We also have 2 grandsons.

Our past and roots do not lie within the soil of Pleasant Dale, but our hearts do. We hope to experience many good years of living in this peaceful, pleasant dale.

Mary Ann Robertus

ERNEST ROUSEK

I was born and raised on a farm in central Nebraska and have always been involved with farming in one way or another.

My lifelong interest in conservation caused me to major in agronomy and conservation at the University of Nebraska, after which I worked for the Soil Conservation Service. I then came back to Lincoln to work in sales for a corn company. At that time I met and married my wife who was born and raised on a farm near Ceresco.

In 1958, I got the idea of sawing and filing a piece of plastic into a corn planter plate. In 1960, I was granted a patent for plastic planter plates. Since that time, by working closely with the nation's hybrid corn companies, to satisfy their often special needs, our company, Lincoln Ag-Products, has had the good fortune to sell nearly 25 million plates. We produce about 160 different plates for corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, and sugar beets.

In 1976, I bought from Wilmer Bishop, the 80 acres just west of the Pleasant Dale Cemetery. This land has two 10 acre fields of good native prairie as well as nice trees on the bottom land, including the largest white poplar in Nebraska. In 1977, I had a 30 x 42 foot log house built next to the grove of poplars. Their white trunks look much like the birch of the north woods. The walls consist of 17 tons of hand-peeled logs of Montana lodgepole pine. I spend as much time here as I can, enjoying the prairie, trees and wildlife. My wife and I may eventually move here. Each fall our square dance club holds a pig roast here for our members and anyone else interested in learning to square dance.

We have two daughters who attend the University of Nebraska, and a married son who lives in a log house east of Crete. He is a dealer of log homes and ultralight aircrafts.

Ernest Rousek

CONRAD STUECK

Conrad Stueck settled in Seward County, near Ruby, before the turn of the century. He married Anna Schleuter and they had 6 children. All the children eventually moved away from the Pleasant Dale area except Bill who continued to farm after his parents' retirement. In 1918 he married Vera Kennedy of Dorchester.

In 1926 they sold the farm and moved into town, 2 houses east of the Methodist church. They later moved 4 houses east of the Methodist church, where they lived until their deaths.

Bill was a substitute mail carrier for many years. He also drove a truck and had his own trucking business. He worked at Valley Ice Co. in Lincoln until he retired in 1956.

Bill died in 1969. Vera died in 1973.

The oldest son, Harold, married Hazel Breez. They live in Columbus and have 3 children. Eugene married Colleen Martin and they had 1 child. He later married Janice Moslander. Eugene died in 1967, after an acute onset of leukemia.

Vona Jane lives in Rieveria, Arizona. Loren married Carole Moslander. They live in Lincoln and have 2 children and 1 grandchild.

Carole Stueck

DOUGLAS W. SLAUGHTER

I arrived in Pleasant Dale from Evanston, Illinois during the first week in September 1978. I had been appointed by the Bishop of the Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church to be the pastor of Pleasant Dale United Methodist Church. I was greeted by

Gary Brhel, who was treasurer of the church, and Pastor Jerry Riggert and his wife Mary. Jerry was the Lutheran pastor and he and Mary were beautiful persons. The warmth of these 3 people made me feel right at home that first night. I went to bed about midnight, when a Nebraska thunderstorm blew across the town. A storm like that was ordinary but the fact that lightning hit the parsonage during the storm made it rather unusual!! It made me wonder just what God was trying to tell me about this town called "Pleasant Dale," (or about me?).

My ministry as pastor of Pleasant Dale United Methodist Church spanned 21 months. I was pastor of Malcolm UMC and Denton UMC during this same period. These 3 churches collectively are known as Conestoga Parish, and Pleasant Dale UMC was the largest of the 3. I had been an associate minister for 3 years, but this was my first senior pastor appointment. Because I was still so "green" as a pastor, I had a lot to learn. The people of Pleasant Dale and the church community helped me learn. I felt loved in Pleasant Dale, and over the two years of my ministry there, I sensed the town and congregation growing to trust me more as friend, person, and pastor.

I was blessed by God to be sent to Pleasant Dale and to a congregation that allowed me to come into their lives and to be their friend and pastor. When I left the town and congregation in June 1980, to begin work on my Ph.D., I felt that God had truly blessed my life.

Douglas Slaughter

LEROY TREASE FAMILY

Leroy and Janice (Reutzel) Trease were married September 1, 1967 at Clearwater, Nebraska. They lived in a mobile home at 430 Pine, in Pleasant Dale while Leroy attended Lincoln Aviation Institute. Upon completion of his schooling in April 1969, they moved to Grand Island, Nebraska where he was an aviation mechanic for Land-Air, Inc. From August 1970 to December 1971, they lived on a farm-ranch near Moffat, Colorado. Leroy started employment as a helicopter mechanic with the Army National Guard in Lincoln, Nebraska in December 1971. They lived 3 miles north of Pleasant Dale until they bought the house at 245 Ash in Pleasant Dale in August 1974.

Leroy is a person of many talents, including aviation mechanics, automotive mechanics, carpentry, plumbing, electricity, refrigeration, sheet metal work, and has the ability to repair almost anything repairable. At times he enjoys using his talents to help a friend or neighbor.

During a time when the majority of women are working outside the home, Janice finds it satisfying and profitable to "work" at home. Summers are spent gardening and preserving all the vegetables the family needs. Baking bread from their own freshly ground whole wheat is a weekly occurrence. Very few "convenience" foods are used. Many of the family's clothing needs are sewn on a Pfaff 1222 sewing machine.

The Trease family is actively involved in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Leroy has held several offices and has taught Sunday School since 1975. Janice has been an organist since 1979.

Leroy (born March 2, 1944) and Janice (born February 15, 1948) have 3 sons: Barry Alan, born November 17, 1968, Corey Alan, born March 8, 1971, and Dana Jay, born March 23, 1979.

Janice Trease

MR. AND MRS. GARY W. WEIER FAMILY

Gary and Evelyn moved to Pleasant Dale in the summer of 1970, from Richmond, Virginia. Gary was installed as pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches of Pleasant Dale and Malcolm, Nebraska, respectively, on August 2, 1970. Evelyn was employed at Seward Memorial Hospital, Seward, Nebraska as one of the parttime nursing staff. When the Weiers first moved to Pleasant Dale, they lived in the parsonage on Main Street straight across from the church to the north. Later, in 1973, they moved into the new parsonage now located on Pine Street. In April, 1972, the Weiers were blessed with their first child, Michael Gary, and in April, 1974 their second child, David Eric, was born.

While serving Bethlehem congregation, Gary served as the Pastoral Counsellor to the Seward Zone of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (1972-1976); he also served as Youth Counsellor for the York-Seward circuit of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Nebraska District. Evelyn was a member of the Peppy Dames Extension Club of Pleasant Dale.

The Weiers left Pleasant Dale in March 1977 when Gary accepted the position as pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Bellevue, Nebraska. They took with them many unique and joyful memories of their years in Pleasant Dale, and still feel a close kinship with all their many friends at Pleasant Dale.

Gary W. Weier

CHRISTOPHER UTHE—CLARA UTHE

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Uthe and their daughter Clara lived next door to the brick Pleasant Dale school in the east part of town.

Mr. Uthe ran a general store southwest of the village square. An advertisement in the local newspaper, *The Pleasant Dale News*, said on July 19, 1918, "Patronize CHRIS UTHE the old reliable merchant. Dry Goods, Groceries, Shoes. Prices are reasonable too. Highest prices paid for butter, cream, eggs."

Mr. Uthe later became the postmaster of Pleasant Dale. He was interested in photography and is responsible for many of the excellent pictures of early Pleasant Dale families and buildings. He also had a gun collection, a coin collection, and he owned a set of surveying equipment. He bought a small canon in 1913 especially for Fourth of July celebrations, and many people remember hearing it on early Fourth of July mornings.

Clara attended Pleasant Dale school, and is a high school graduate. She spent some years as a telephone operator in Pleasant Dale. She now resides in Milford.

Doris Lostroh



Christopher and Clara Uthe



Pleasant Dale's Oldest Living Citizen, Blanche Shaw

BITS AND PIECES

July 1918—F.C. Alley, The Druggist, Pleasant Dale, Nebraska. My stock of drugs and sundries is now larger than ever. Not many drug stores in towns of this size carry as good a stock or as large a stock. You can't buy drugs in Lincoln or any where else any cheaper than you can right here. Why not quit the medicine peddler and patronize your home druggist? You get better goods and all the accomodations you want when you come to me and you save money also.

July 1918—Divine services at the Lutheran church every Sunday morning at 10:30. English services every 3rd Sunday. Service conducted by the Pastor W.J. A. Oetting.

July 1890—Geo. Donnelson; blacksmith. All kinds of blacksmithing, promptly and neatly done. All kinds of wagon work. Horse shoeing a specialty.

December 1879—improvements still continue at Pleasant Dale. A corn crib over 300 feet long has been built at the depot, in which over 3,000 bushels of corn were deposited last week.

May 1908—Pleasant Dale went dry May 1, 1908, with a prospect it will stay dry this year.

1907—J.H. Merrill, dealer in hardware, farm machinery, furniture, wagons, buggies, etc. Pleasant Dale.

October 1913—Biggest year for trade in the village of Pleasant Dale, according to the store owners.

1907—Dr. F.M. Andrus, physician and surgeon. Private hospital. Pleasant Dale.

July 1890—Geo. Donnelson; blacksmith. All kinds of blacksmithing, Business, from a hair pin to a No. 14 boot, butter and eggs. Drugs and medicines.

1982—Amy Merrill remembers Jay Wells, the mail carrier north of town. He drove a horse drawn buggy which was enclosed with boards, and when it was cold he had a kerosene heating stove in it.

Different kinds of livestock were raised in town in the early days. I still have the little canvas bag which my mother made for me to carry a quart of milk from the home of Mrs. Lux who lived in the northeast part of town and had a cow. Many families had chickens. We cured our own hams and bacon, and had a smokehouse in the yard. A new one was built when we moved to the farm, and it still stands.

Doris Oxley Lostroh



Doris Lostroh and Joanne Lostroh Working on the Centennial Book, February 1982

Machinery Old and New



Transportation Old and New



Present Day Businesses



Pleasant Dale Lumber Co., Wesley Reil and Wesley K. Reil 1982



Pleasant Dale Grocery, Will and Pam James 1982



Curling V Salon, Verla Thomas



Beauty Shop, Estella Oxley



Pleasant Dale Community Building and Fire Barn 1982



Pleasant Dale Post Office 1982, Kenneth Timme, postmaster



Rudy and Marlene Nieman's Tavern 1982



Pleasant Dale Elevator Office, Lyle Johnson, Manager 1982



Lincoln Telephone Company Office in Pleasant Dale 1982



North Side of Main Street 1982

Old Houses and New Apartments



Former Thomas Best House



Former Dunten and VanAndel Houses



Old Railroad Section House From North Side of Pleasant Dale



Former Dora Allen House



Former Home of Wilsons and Pyles



Former Chris Utthe Home



Former Belle Merrill House



Petersen Apartments, 1982



Austen Fourplex 1982

Present Day Scenes



Looking North Across Park 1982



Northwest Pleasant Dale Showing Ball Diamond

Early Day Scenes



Francis Couture and Bill Schildt with a C 25 Buick



Pleasant Dale School 1927



Early Day Livery Barn

