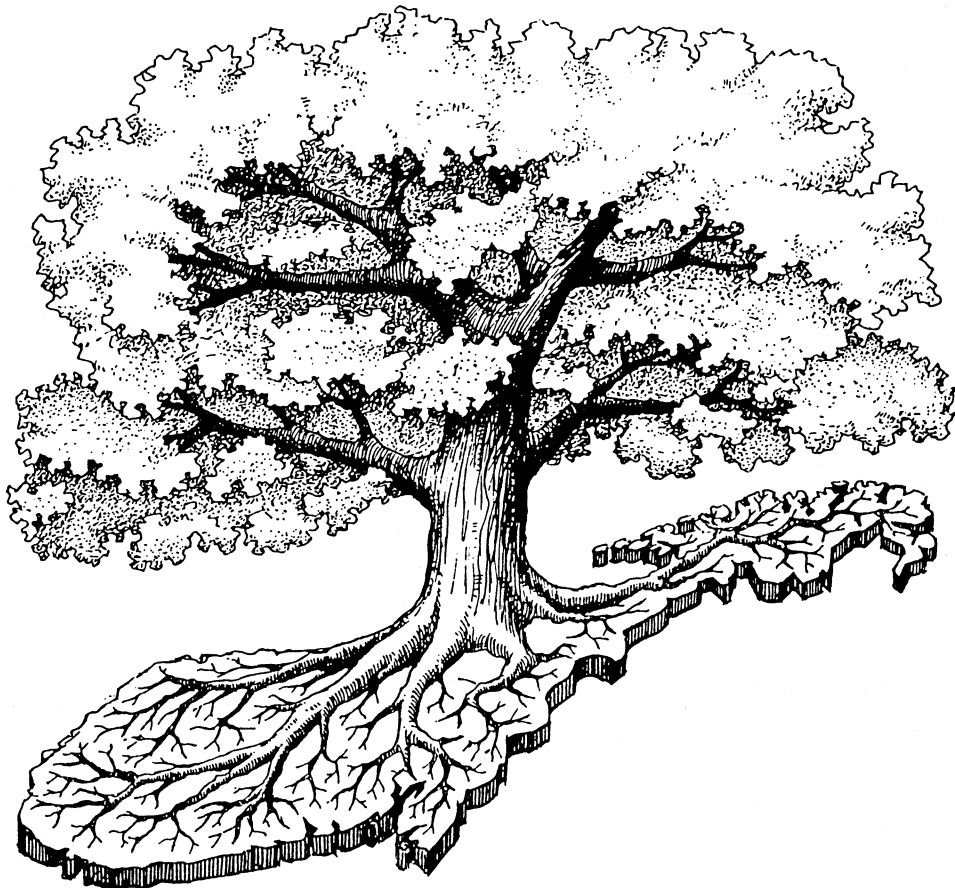

THE LONESOME TREE

THE STORY OF
GUSTAV TASTAD



**THE
LONESOME TREE**

**THE STORY OF
GUSTAV TASTAD**

... remembered, compiled and written by

Peder and Garth Tastad.

INDEX

	<u>Page</u>
Acknowledgements	i
Forward	ii
Introduction	iii
Chapter 1: Sauda	1
Chapter 2: Stavanger	5
Chapter 3: Niels Peder Johannessen	11
Chapter 4: Niels Peder's Family	14
Chapter 5: Gustav Leovin Nielson Pederson Tastad	19
Chapter 6: Leaving Home	23
Chapter 7: The United States	30
Chapter 8: Hannah Syhre	34
Chapter 9: Leaving Again	38
Chapter 10: Carlstad Alberta	42
Chapter 11: Glenside	47
Chapter 12: More Land	57
Chapter 13: Church and Family	61
Chapter 14: Hawarden	76
Chapter 15: Sale at Loreburn	91
Chapter 16: Hawarden - For the Last Time	96
Chapter 17: History of Section 4	100
Chapter 18: The New Home	103
Chapter 19: The Twenties	129
Chapter 20: Willdon	148
Chapter 21: Skudesness	152
Chapter 22: Sam Tastad	160
Chapter 23: The Thirties	167
Chapter 24: The Depression	178
Chapter 25: Runaways	186
Chapter 26: A Sister's Death	192
Chapter 27: The Fourties	201
Chapter 28: The Fifties	216
Chapter 29: Conclusion	227
Appendix	229

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to each person who has contributed with information to the "Tastad" story. A special thanks to editing by Kathleen and Carol.

The following is a list of research facilities and materials used for hard data collection:

Saskatchewan Provincial Archives - Regina
Saskatchewan Provincial Archives - Saskatoon
Alberta Provincial Archives - Edmonton
National Archives Canada - Ottawa
The Norwegian Emigration Center - Stavanger, Norway.
National Archives - Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
Saskatchewan Geneological Society, Regina.
Geneological Library, Latter-Day Saints Church, Saskatoon
Geneological Library, Latter-Day Saints Church,
Salt Lake City
South Dakota State Archives, Pierre
Vital Statistics, Province of Saskatchewan, Regina.
Vital Statistics, Province of British Columbia, Victoria
Francis Memorial Library, Saskatoon.
Regina Public Library, Regina.
Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver B. C.
Lutheran Theological Seminary - Library, Saskatoon.
Homestead Heritage - Story of Strongfield, Loraine Blashill
Hawarden Heritage, Hawarden and District History Committee
From Fjord to Frontier, Gulbrand Loken
Karmoy, Skudenes og Skudeneshaven, Arnvild Lillehammer
The Star Phoenix, Saskatoon.
The Leader Post, Regina.
Pierpont Signal, Pierpont, South Dakota.
Day County Treasurer, Webster, South Dakota.

FORWARD

Carol was recently listening to a radio interview with a guest who was describing how the mind has adapted to the incredible influx of information that we are expected to absorb. Rather than deal with each and every bit of knowledge, today's mind has chosen to remember where the information is stored rather than the specifics of the data. I have noticed this in my work, where retrieval systems are now much more important than they ever were before. It is impossible to absorb all that is going on around us. In the past, less information was available and there was more time for reflection.

This makes me fear for the detailed history of our families. There seems to be no time to record the small events which help to form our ideas, our visions and our actions. If this history is not formally kept, then it is lost and forgotten forever.

Already, much has been lost as our parents memories fade and as the older generations die. My generation will simply not have the time to reflect or record events that seem insignificant in our daily lives.

INTRODUCTION

When I was five or six years old, I used to go horseback riding with my brother. Dick would ride "Nancy" our old sorrel horse, and I would run along behind the two.

When Dick and I relate this story to our children, we remember the incident, each from our respective viewpoints. Dick recalls the thrill and excitement of riding tall in the saddle while my view of the same incident is from a slightly different perspective of the horse.

My point is that each of us has a memory of the same event that may agree with another's recollection, it may vary slightly with another's recall, or it may sound so different that you wonder if the incidents even happened at the same time to the same people.

In writing down some of the happenings of our family I had to decide if this was to be a "Family History" or a collection of memories from the family. A history commands facts, checked and cross checked. The further I got into the writing I realized that there were too many "horse riding" incidents for me to check out with any degree of accuracy.

The events that follow then, are based on as much factual or "hard" evidence that I was able to compile, along with the memories of my father Peder Tastad. Twice I questioned father's memory, and twice I found that my information was not correct. After that I saved my time by

accepting his word when he was sure of his facts. When he was unsure of the details, he told me so and I then worked on filling the memory gaps with hard copy evidence.

So, if the reader does find an error, it may be my error in interpreting father's notes, it may simply be an error in his memory, or it may be your position in the event, relative to the horse.

We are influenced in this world by our communities, schools, churches and governments. Our families, as well play an important role in determining who we are and what we are about. And of course, our parents were influenced by their parents and so on. The best I can hope for is that the reader will see just a glimmer of herself/himself in this family "Tastad" and that it will inspire others to record their memories for future generations.

- Garth Tastad

CHAPTER 1

SAUDA

The Tastad Family finds its roots in the Sauda area of Norway, approximately 120 Km. North and East of Stavanger. Johannes Herheim is the earliest ancestor for which we have a record. He was mentioned in the records of Sauda in 1563. Johannes was the 9th great-grandfather of my grandfather, Gustav Tastad. We have Pedigree Charts that will trace these early ancestors down to the present day. Little of the details on how they lived or their size of family is available.

We should describe the system of naming the family members. In the early days, the Norwegians took on "patronymic" names - they were identified by their Christian name and their father's name. For example, Johannes Navarsen's oldest son was Niels Peder Johannessen (son of Johannes). Niels Peder's oldest son was named Johannes Nielson (or Pederson). Daughters would be Johannesdatter, or Pedersdatter.

In addition, a third name was often used, usually a farm name. Thus, Gustav Leovin Nielsen Tastad, is named after the farm "Tastad". Most immigrants to the United States and Canada adopted the farm name, and we are aware of at least one other family in the Dakota's that is unrelated to this family but shares the same surname. The

patronymic naming system was changed by law in 1925. Several of Gustav Tastad's sisters reverted to the family name of Johannessen at this time.

There were also strict rules for naming of children. The eldest son was named after the paternal grandfather. It was no accident that my father then, was named after his grandfather Niels Peder Johannessen. The second son was then to be named after his maternal grandfather. It was a similar situation for the daughters, being first named after their paternal grandmother and then their maternal grandmothers.

When all the grandparent's names were used up, great grandparent's names were used. In some special cases, this process could be tampered with. You could, for example use a deceased spouse's name or the name of a deceased sibling. If an infant died, the next child of the same sex born to the parents was given the deceased child's name. This can cause some confusion in tracing ancestors, as each death record must be checked for a surviving sibling of the same name.

The first "hard" evidence of the family roots begins on the "ROD" Farm, Part 3, with the appearance of Gunhild Gunnarsrod (born 1748, died 1803). Her only brother must have died, allowing her to inherit the farm. The daughter would never be allowed to inherit the farm unless she was the oldest lone survivor. Farmland was controlled under the

"Odel" system, and could only be passed on to the oldest male heir in the family.

Gunhild Gunnarsrod then married Pal Torrjelsson (born 1743, died 1823) whose second son inherited the farm. This was Navar Palsson Gunnassrod, (born 1779, died 1869) Gustav Tastad's great grandfather.

Navar Palsson married twice and had 15 children. His first wife was Ingeborg Omundsdatter (born 1777, died 1817), who bore seven children - six boys and one girl. She was only 40 years old when she died. Records indicate that a set of twins named Torkjel Navarson and Johannes Navarson were born in the year she died. It is likely that the mother died either giving birth or as a result of giving birth to these boys.

Navar's second wife was Gunnvor Johannesdatter, (born 1792, died 1859) was 13 years his junior. She bore him eight children, four boys and four girls. Her first son was named Johannes Navarson (born 1825).

We now have two Johannes Navarson in the same family, one, a twin born in 1817 and the other, born in 1825. As we previously stated it was customary to name the next child born after a deceased sibling by the same name. From this, we can then assume that the first Johannes died very young (before 1825) and perhaps even at childbirth with his mother.

The second Johannes then, whose mother was Gunnvor Johannesdatter, (born 1792, died 1859) was the grandfather of Gustav Tastad et al.

CHAPTER 2**STAVANGER**

We are not sure of the details on how or why Johannes Navarson moved to Stavanger. Undoubtedly, economic reasons drove the children from their homes. As the eleventh child, and with many older brothers ahead of him, he had no chance of inheriting the farm. As the second largest city in Norway, Stavanger was a busy seaport and undoubtedly Johannes went there to seek employment. He and his younger brother Targer Navarson (born 1830) found work and settled down in Stavanger.

Targer found work as a plumber in the city and is listed in the 1885 Stavanger Census. Neither he nor any other Navarson is listed in the 1900 Stavanger Census. From this we can suggest that only two of the Navarson brothers left Sauda for Stavanger and only the one brother, Johannes, remained. Often when one member of a family achieved some success in a new area, the other siblings would follow into that area. It appears that this was not so with the Navarson family. Either the reports out of Stavanger were not encouraging, or Sauda had been able to employ the 12 remaining siblings in his family.

At this point there is some conflicting evidence about how Johannes got established on his farm. One story said

that Johannes went to work on a farm in Tastad. There, he married the farmer's daughter, who then inherited the farm.

Other evidence suggests that he bought land in 1843 from brothers Tore Trulson and Ole Trulson. This may be the same land or it may be different property. Further investigation is being done to clear this up.

In any event, Johannes met and married Maria Olsdatter (born 1815, died April 3, 1865). We are unable to find either a marriage date or a marriage location in Sauda, Hetland or Stavanger church records. This seems to indicate that Maria came from outside these parishes.

Johannes and Maria had the following children:

Niels Peder	Born June 20, 1849
	Baptized July 15, 1849
	Died March 21, 1904
Samuel	Born Sept. 23, 1851
	Baptized November 2, 1855
	Died in the 1930's
Johan Mandius	Born Dec. 17, 1854
	Died May 14, 1873
Ole Gabriel	Born Aug. 28, 1855
	Still living in 1920

We note that Ole was only 9 1/2 years old when his mother died. It is interesting that Niels Peder's baptismal sponsors (and presumably close friends of Johannes and Maria) were named Peder, Ole, Niels and Gabriel. The names were all used to name their children.

Samuel, Gustav Tastad's uncle, was baptized in the Hetland Church when he was two months old. There is no record of him having a second name. In the 1875 Census (Samuel would be 24 years old) he is listed as a "learner of furniture making". We would call him a furniture apprentice in Canada. In the 1900 Census he is living with his wife Nellie in Stavanger at Nedre Dalgate 7W2. This is only five or six blocks from the Hetland Church. At this time Samuel was 49 years old, and he and Nellie had no children.

Our cousin, Mary Rapp, questioned her mother, Josie Sletten, about these uncles. "Uncle Sam, was a carpenter. He was married to a Quaker, who was in the Salvation Army. They made many trips to America. His wife spoke in tongues so people would come to see her from America and they would talk in tongues. When they made trips to America, it would be a calling for them from the Lord, who called them to go there. Mom (Josie) and Aunt Jennie stayed with them at Nerstrand for two or three summers." I'm not sure how one can be a Quaker and a preacher for the Salvation Army at the same time!

We believe Samuel died in the 1930's after his wife had passed away. His estate was left to his nephew, Samuel Nicoli Tastad, Gustav's brother, as he was a favorite of his Uncle Sam's. Samuel and Nellie had no children, and when Samuel Nicoli was still a young boy it was agreed that he could go and live with his uncle and aunt as long as it

was agreeable with him. It wasn't long until young Samuel moved back to his parent's place. No doubt this arrangement was made with the best interests of all in mind, but we wonder just how a small boy might interpret being sent out from his home to stay with another family. Small boys don't think of their homes in terms of "practical", or "best economical sense". How this separation from family may have affected Samuel in later life is only speculation, yet I can't imagine that it was a positive experience.

Johan Mandius was the third son of Johannes and Maria. He was born in the Hetland Parish on December 17, 1854. Niels Peder, Johan's brother and Gustav Tastad's father, named his first son after his name. This was Uncle John Tastad, who later emigrated to the U.S.A. Johan Mandius died May 14th 1873 at the age of 19 years 3 months. He is listed in the Hetland 1865 Census (his age is incorrectly listed as 14 years of age), yet he is not listed in the 1875 Census. The cause of Johan's death is unknown. In the days of primitive medicines, a small cold could result in pneumonia and death in a matter of weeks. It is possible that he died in a farm or sea accident as well.

The youngest of Gustav's uncles, Ole Gabriel, was born in the Hetland Parish on August 28, 1855. We know from the 1875 census report that he lived in Stavanger with his two brothers Niels Peder and Samuel. Later census reports do not show him in Stavanger or in Hetland. Again, from Mary Rapp we hear Aunt Josie's account. "One brother was a

tailor, who was married but had no children. They knew he was their uncle, but that was all, they never had anything to do with him." Walter Tastad has recalled stories of Ole Gabriel as a tailor who had a shop in downtown Stavanger. Marie Johannessen, Niels Peder's daughter, had a dress shop near her Uncle Ole in Stavanger. He worked at this shop into the 1920'S.

Niels Peder and his family had little to do with their Uncle Ole. None of the family letters ever refer to him. Perhaps it was a family dispute or a rejection of lifestyles that separated the family. We can only speculate.

These then are the four sons of Johannes and Maria. Only two sons married and only one son had a family; a family whose roots can be traced back to the 1500's in Norway and now whose descendants are only found in North America. It's strange how those who chose to remain in Norway were the ones to remain single or did not have a family, while those in America had sometimes very large families.

With the death of Maria Olsdotter, (Niels Peder's mother) on April 3, 1865 (buried on April 10, 1865 in Hetland Church Cemetery), Johannes remarried on May 29, 1868. His bride was Liva Mikkelsdatter (born 1846), daughter of Mikkel Omundson. Johannes was 50 years old and Liva was 22 years old - talk about robbing the cradle! Liva died six years later on June 20, 1874 and was buried June

26, 1874 at Hetland Church. Johannes and Liva had two children;

Ole Johannes	Born Dec 21, 1870
	Baptized Feb 12, 1871
Michael Ole Johannes	Born Oct 27, 1872
	Baptized Nov 24, 1872

Ole and Michael would be step uncles to Gustav Tastad. As far as we know, no contact was ever made with the two boys or their descendants. They would be the only remaining family of the descendants that started out in Sauda. Though many stories were passed on through the generations none of the family ever mentioned this remarriage of a grandfather. Perhaps there was disapproval of the marriage or the wife. Niels Peder was married in 1876, two years after Liva's death. We do not know if Johannes raised the two boys or if they were taken to a relative's home after their mother's death. These step uncles of John and Gustav were only 5 or 6 years older than their nephews!

I haven't been able to find a death date or a burial place for Johannes Navarson. Born in 1825, we can guess that he died prior to 1895 and that he is buried at Hetland Church in Stavanger.

CHAPTER 3**NIELS PEDER JOHANNESSEN**

Now we come to Niels Peder, the first son born to Johannes and Maria Navarson in the Hetland Parish on June 20, 1849. He was baptized on the 15th of July in the Hetland Church, and was later to become the father of twelve children - one of them being my grandfather, Gustav Tastad.

In 1865 Niels Peder Johannesen was still at home with his father and three other brothers when his mother died, he was only sixteen years old. Ten years later we find him living in Stavanger with his brothers Samuel and Ole at Bekkegate 4, Stavanger. This is about twelve blocks East of the Cathedral and two blocks South of the docks, where he worked on the north shore of Stavanger.

Niels Peder Johannesen was a ship's carpenter. So for a time, the carpenter, the tailor and the furniture maker shared their accommodation. A ship's carpenter sailed with the crew on a wooden vessel, and was responsible for all repairs to the structure. He had many exciting sailing adventures such as the time he was on a boat that sailed from Liverpool, England around the tip of South America and into Portland Oregon. On the way back a storm broke the steering rudder. Niels Peder hung over the edge of the boat for three days and three nights until the rudder was

repaired. When they returned to Liverpool, they had been on the sea one day short of six months since leaving Portland.

On another trip that carried them through the North Sea, they were caught in a terrible storm. The wind had come up so quickly that they could not get the sails down from the mast. The Captain ordered them to cut down the mast. Niels Peder said that cutting down the mast was just like cutting thick strands of rope. They finally managed to rid themselves of the mast and sail and were eventually rescued on Christmas Eve. What a present to celebrate!

On November 4, 1876 Niels Peder married Anne Karine Aadland (born June 1, 1856, died December 28, 1900) in Skudeneshavn, Karmoy. Niels Peder was 27 years old and Anne Karine was 20 years of age. I believe that Anne Karine had moved from the Island of Karmoy to work in a bakery in Stavanger. It will be difficult to find out whether Niels met her on Karmoy and she followed him to Stavanger, getting a job there, or if he may have met her in the bake shop; she may have also lived next door to him. We probably will never know. After they were married, Niels Peder never went to sea again.

Anne Karine was a sister to Uncle Ludvig Aadland. Her parents and brother had left for South Dakota in the mid 1880'S. It was on a return visit from Uncle Ludvig that Anne Karine's second son, Gustav, would be encouraged to make the trip back to America with his Uncle. This was the beginning of the Tastad emigration to the United States.

Anne Karine was a fearless woman who had a deep faith in her Lord. One day she came out of the barn, gathered her children around her and told them that their grandfather was dead. This was long before telephones and instant communications, so it was amazing that she should have such a strong premonition. Within three weeks, a letter was received from South Dakota telling of her father's death. The death date coincided with the time three weeks earlier when she had recounted the incident to her children.

Niels Peder was a Justice of the Peace for the Tastad region. The exact translation of the job or its responsibilities may not be identical with a J.P. in Canada, but it appears that it was somewhat similar. He was occasionally called on to deliver justice to domestic quarrels. Gustav recalls one incident when he was very young. A complaint came from a married woman that her husband was beating her too often. The complaint was not that she was being beaten, as every wife needed a beating occasionally, but that she was beaten far too often. We're not too sure what punishment, if any, was handed out by Niels Peder that day. It is one of the few stories Gustav recalls of his father from these early days. Perhaps it had a positive effect on him in later years in his relationship and treatment of Hannah.

CHAPTER 4
NIELS PEDER'S FAMILY

Their first child and son, Johan Mandius (Uncle John Tastad), was born July 12, 1877 and baptized on July 29, 1877 in the Cathedral Church. He was the first of twelve children:

Johan Mandius	Born July 12, 1877 Baptized July 29, 1877 Died May 26, 1957 (79 years old) Buried Pierpont, South Dakota, U.S.A.
Gustav Leovin	Born February 9, 1879 Baptized March 2, 1879 Died May 24, 1957 (78 years old) Buried Loreburn, Saskatchewan, Canada
Marie Johannessen	Born December 18, 1880 Died January 24 1966 (85 years old) Buried Stavanger, Norwa
Louise Johannessen	Born April 20, 1882 Baptized May 21, 1882 Confirmed Oct 4, 1896 Died April 27 1908 (26 years old) Buried, Stavanger, Norway

Petra Johannessen Born January 8, 1884
Confirmed on October 2, 1898
Died February 21 1975 (91 yrs. old)
Buried Stavanger, Norway

Alfred Konrad Pederson

Born November 22, 1885
Died March 8, 1979 (93 years old)
Buried Stavanger, Norway

Samuel Nicoli

Born December 19, 1887
Baptized February 5th, 1888
Died March 21, 1961 (73 years old)
Buried Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Olga Mathilde

Born November 21, 1889
Baptized December 26, 1889.
Died Sept. 30, 1980 (90 years old)
Buried Pierpont, South Dakota,
U.S.A.

Lauritz

Born March 4, 1891
Baptized April 19, 1891
Died February 13 1974 (82 yrs. old)
Buried Hawarden, Saskatchewan,
Canada

Olene Josefinine

Born October 20, 1893
Baptized December 25, 1893.
Died July 1988 (94 years old)
Buried Pierpont South Dakota,
U.S.A.

Jennie Johannessen Born October 18, 1895
Died October 24 1971 (76 yrs. old)
Buried Stavanger, Norway

Peder Born December May 20, 1900
Baptized June 24, 1900
Died May 20, 1902 (2 years old)
Buried Stavanger, Norway

This family lived off the Tastad farm, doing a bit of market gardening, raising farm animals and working out and about the neighborhood. They sold peat from their bogs on the farm at 56 kroner per load. A lamb from their flock would fetch them 10 kroner each. They grew potatoes and then would take them around the neighborhood to sell. They had up to eight cows and sold milk. They milked as much as 420 liters per week.

Niels Peder would take on various jobs in the community. He worked at the dairy where he cut ice, and he used his carpentry skills to build houses in the area. He worked selling coal for a time as well as helping to build a new marina in Stavanger. Johan often was found helping his father on these jobs. Niels Peder made as much as 20-24 kroner per week with his carpentry skills. Daughter Marie was a seamstress and worked in Stavanger for 7 kroner per week.

Daughters Louise and Petra worked for neighbors who needed help in the home.

Seven of the children would leave their home at Tastad Farm to go to America. It was very difficult for Niels Peder and Anne Karine to be separated from their children. They wrote to their children in America often, with many of their letters being preserved. Their letters were full over concern for their relatives and friends in America as well as the longing for their children. Death surrounded them all the time and they told of those who had died recently or of those who were sick. Typically they would warn their children to always be prepared for the day when God would take them home.

Anne Karine prayed on her death bed for her three children in America. She made her husband promise to get her mother, Gustav's grandmother, who lived in South Dakota, to pray for her children after she had died. The parents did not seem to fear death, they only feared dying and having their children caught unprepared to meet their Lord. After his wife's death, Niels Peder writes and tells of his joy when he shall be united with his wife and son Peder when he dies and goes to meet his Lord.

Anne Karine was a hard working woman who slaved away the days with no concern for her own health. Her family often scolded her for not allowing others to do her work for her when she was ill. She had been diagnosed as having tuberculosis two years before her death, and was often bedridden for weeks at a time. Her body seemed to be no

match for her fighting spirit. If the Tastad family has any spunk at all it's roots are found in this woman.

Anne Karine died on December 28, 1900 at the age of 43 years and 6 months. She is buried in Stavanger at the Hetland Church Cemetery.

With regards to the death of Niels Peder few details are available. Gustav, who had emigrated to the United States in June of 1896, returned for two years to be with his father Niels Peder during his lengthy illness. He died March 21, 1904, at the age of 54 years 6 months and is buried in Hetland Church Cemetery with his wife.

CHAPTER 5**GUSTAV LEOVIN NIELSON PEDERSON TASTAD**

Gustav Leovin born February 9, 1879 at Tastad, was baptized on March 2, 1879 in the Cathedral Church in Stavanger. He was the second child and the second son of Niels Peder and Anne Karine.

Gustav attended school at the Tastad School house which was about a half a kilometer north and west of his home in the farming community of "Tastad". After completing his grade school, he took some advanced classes from a private school, always claiming that he had a high school education. He later became a blacksmith apprentice at the blacksmith shop 1/2 kilometer to the east of his home.

One day at school, Gustav had misbehaved and his teacher was going to hand out some punishment. This meant a slap on the knuckles with a meter stick. This, however was not an ordinary meter stick as we might know it today. It had a brass inlay running lengthwise for use as a straight edge. Gustav was to place his hands on the desk in front of him and his teacher was to bring the brass part of the meter stick down on his knuckles. Well, Gustav could see that ruler coming down on his fingers and at the last instant, he pulled them off the top and hid them under the desk. "Put your hands back on the desk," the teacher would tell poor Gustav. He would slowly place his fingers back on

his desk. Again, Gustav would pull back his fingers just in the nick of time. It was a natural reaction for him, and try as he might he couldn't leave his fingers on the desk. After the third try, the instructor grabbed on to one of Gustav's hands and using his free hand, he delivered a double dose to Gustav's knuckles. Well, that was bad enough, but when he got home he received a good licking from his father as well. That must have been the start of a tradition, as we were always warned that a spanking at school would result in a similar event at home. That never happened at our house even though Dick probably deserved one.

Another time at school, Gustav and six or seven of his friends were playing on the hill just north of the schoolhouse. They called the hill their "mountain". Their game that day was to roll stones down the hill and have them hit the barn down below. Gustav came upon a reasonably large rock, and with the help of several of his friends, they got it started rolling down the hill. Not only did it make it to the bottom of the hill, it crashed right through the barn wall. I suspect at that point they were all in a lot of trouble, each of them frantically working out their stories for parents and teachers. Years later when Gustav returned for a visit to Norway, he chuckled as he saw that the ragged hole left by the rock had been neatly squared out and patched.

The area of Tastad was just outside of the town of Stavanger to the north and west. There was a "poor farm" nearby where people were sent when they couldn't pay their debts. Occasionally, one or more of these residents would escape and hide in a nearby farm. Early one morning, before dawn, Gustav went out to the barn to do his chores. He was nervous that morning, either from hearing some noise or perhaps just anxious in the dark. When he reached the barn door, he stuck his head slightly in and he called out in Norwegian "Any human in here? Speak out!" "What did you say?" came a reply just by his right ear. Gustav shot out of there as fast as he could, heading for his mother. Gustav used to say that he never knew his mother to be afraid of any man nor beast. She went out into the barn and invited the man into the house where she fed him breakfast.

When Gustav was ten or twelve years old, he was out in the kitchen trying to balance on two chairs. He would stand with one foot on each chair, then tip the chairs inward. By balancing with his feet, he could keep the chairs on their front legs. There was a slip-up somewhere, and Gustav fell forward, hitting his chin on the edge of the stove. His chin opened up "just as if he had another mouth." Someone ran to get his mother. She came in, and seeing the gash on Gustav's chin, went into action. She took an egg, separated the membrane from the eggshell and placed this thin skin on the gaping chin. The gash healed pretty well, considering

no stitches were used. Often when he shaved, he would tell his boys "See this mark here?", and relate the story again.

Evelyn recounts the story of how Gustav came home late one night - later than he should have. He crept in quietly, with shoes held tightly in his hand. He moved up the open stairway, quietly holding his breath. Suddenly a big strong hand slipped between the steps from behind the stairs and grabbed him by the leg. Gustav said "My heart almost stopped. I was terrified." It was of course, his father that had grabbed him. Nothing much was said, but Gustav thought twice about ever coming home late again.

CHAPTER 6
LEAVING HOME

In the Spring of 1896, Gustav left Norway with his Uncle Ludvig (Ludvig Gunnvald, son of Gunder Mortenson Odland and brother of his mother, born October 30, 1868) and headed for America. Ludvig had made a previous trip in 1885 with some of the Syhres from Karmoy who had settled in South Dakota, U.S.A. At the time of the crossing, Ludvig would have been 28 years old and Gustav was 17 years old.

They crossed the North Sea to England. There they travelled by land until they reached the seaport of deportation. Many, such as Gustav, left from Liverpool for the Americas. Gustav remembered travelling across England. Street vendors selling hot potatoes would come up to them calling out, "Warm your 'ands and fill your belly for an ha'penny".

They landed at the Port of Philadelphia in June, 1896. It must have been very exciting for a 17 year old to cross the Atlantic and land in such a busy port.

I have always wondered why my ancestors decided to leave their homes and families to come to America. This was even harder to understand once I had seen the rugged beauty of the Norwegian countryside.

It is estimated that 74% of Norway is mountains, lakes and glaciers; 23% is forest land; and 3% is arable

cultivated land. With a total area of 125,064 square miles (about 1/2 the area of Alberta), it is easy to understand how valuable fertile land was and is in Norway. The official population of Norway in 1801 was 883,000. These people, then, lived off the sea and roughly 3,750 square miles of arable land. To put this space in perspective, draw a line from Saskatoon to Biggar, to Elrose, to Loreburn and back to Saskatoon. This is the physical size of arable land in Norway upon which nearly one million people lived. One half of these people made their living off the land! At this same time the industrial revolution had not been realized, so industry, as an employer, did not exist. I thought it was also interesting to read that the Norwegian of that time had never known the bondage of serfdom common to many European countries of that day. He may, at many times in his life been poor and hungry, but he never ceased being a free man in spite of political controls by Denmark and Sweden.

I have no information for the period 1880 - 1900, however it is noted that in 1857, sailing ships averaged 44 days in crossing the ocean and steam ships required 12 days. At best, I think that we can assume it took our family at least 10 - 12 days to reach the New Land by sea.

The first shipload of Norwegians to migrate to America were some fifty three Quakers who left Stavanger on July 4, 1825. These were the first of some 800,000 Norwegians who would emigrate to America over the next 100 years. This

represents 90% of Norway's total population of 1801! In the years 1800 to 1885, one out of every eleven Norwegians would emigrate. No other country in the world excepting Ireland has contributed so large a percentage of it's people to the new lands of North America.

Religious intolerance seems to have been the first motivator for emigration of this first ship load of Norwegian Quakers. Our great Uncle Samuel Johannessen had married a Quaker, so we have some ties to this religious group. During the Napoleonic Wars, England had placed a blockade upon Europe, which caused a tremendous hardship on Norway. Many Norwegian ships attempted to break through the blockade to secure food and supplies, but were captured by the English and imprisoned in their own ships, anchored on the Thames River. They were not treated well by their captors, except by a group of English Quakers who provided food, clothing, comfort and some hope. Many of the Norwegians were converted to the Quaker teachings in response to the kindness shown to them. With the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, the Norwegians returned home and a group of shipmates established the first Quaker Assembly in Stavanger. The Lutheran State Church was less than kind to this new group and brought persecution upon these dissenters. This persecution, then, resulted in the first group of Norwegians to leave their country. They sailed for New York and settled in Illinois.

Another cause of migration was the frequent crop failures and increase in poverty as a result of those failures. By the mid 1800's, over 1/2 of the population was still realizing it's livelihood from farming. Reports from family members who served in the merchant marine were filtering back to Norway the news of America and it's huge landscape. The poor crops and shortage of land encouraged many to leave for America.

This was also a time of strong population growth in Norway. Prior to 1750, deaths in some years exceeded birth rates. After 1750, the death rate slowly declined, and by 1890, the population had reached two million peoples, despite the loss of 500,000 people who left for America between 1850 and 1890. A prolific bunch of Norskies! The younger sons of these families were prevented from ever acquiring a part of the home farm by the "ODEL" system. This required that the family land would be passed on to the eldest male heir. This was only recently changed to the oldest heir, allowing the eldest daughter to inherit ahead of the oldest son. This system did not allow for the purchase of land from other families, and thus the children from these large families had little choice left but to emigrate. It's no wonder then, that it is estimated that 85% of the immigrants to America were from rural areas.

The choices of the younger sons were clear:

- 1) Be a hired man on one of the farms for \$25.00 per year with free lodging.
- 2) Go to sea, as a merchant seaman.
- 3) Go to America.

In 1883 a ticket to South Dakota was \$60.00. In converting 1883 dollars to 1991 dollars, we estimate that it would be around a thousand dollars in today's currency. (Still less than it costs to fly there today) We are not sure how Gustav and his brother's and sisters were able to save or borrow that kind of money, but it's likely that the repayment of the loan from America financed the trips of those to follow. Many benevolent landowners financed trips to the new land for sons of tenants.

Military service was compulsory in Norway at this time and some of the young men may have chosen emigration over the choice of a harsh military service.

There were those who emigrated out of a dissatisfaction with the Lutheran State Church. Most of these dissenters had been part of a large christian revival which had begun in the early 1800's with the Hans Nielsen Hauge movement. This pietistic movement was at odds with the State Church and reacted against it's "formalism and barrenness". These dissenters would find a religious freedom in the New Lands.

There was, as well, a class system which I still think exists today, albeit in a slightly different form. There

was the "bonder" or landowners who in turn were divided into large and small landowners; the "husmand" or renter who worked a set number of days per week for the "bonde" in return for the use of a few acres and a hut to live in; and, of course, the elite - the government officials including the clergy. Many of the poorer "husmands" had their trips to America financed by a benevolent "bonder". America gave many of those who were stuck in a class system the only opportunity they would ever have to break out from their destination.

The Norwegians of that day were literate. A law set out in 1739 compelled each parish to erect a schoolhouse and name a teacher. Children were taught to read their bibles, catechism, hymn books and devotional books. Children were taught to a late age, with secondary schools available for study. Uncle John attended an agriculture school in Stavanger after completing his regular schooling. This literacy undoubtedly made them more aware of a global scene, where they would be especially attracted to the opportunities in America.

The early Norwegians settled in Wisconsin and Illinois. Every 10 or 15 years, the settlements would jump a hundred miles or so to the north and west, to Iowa, Minnesota and finally to the Dakota's, the preferred settlement area of Norwegian emigrants in the mid 1890'S. This was the area of settlement for young Gustav Tastad and his family which was to follow.

So, emigration became a viable option to many Norwegians for varying reasons: religious persecution, overpopulation, crop failures, limited opportunity to own land, military service and dissatisfaction with the State Lutheran Church. Any one, or combination of these realities motivated Gustav to leave his home in "Tastad".

CHAPTER 7
THE UNITED STATES

Gustav and Ludvig left Philadelphia by train, although no one is able to confirm details of this trip. I assume that the train reached the area of Pierpont, South Dakota although they may have required a ride from the nearest main rail line. They arrived in June of 1896.

The farmland in South Dakota had long since been homesteaded so Gustav had to look for work. Once he was settled, he worked briefly for his uncles, the Likness brothers, David and Tenas. These boys had married his mother's (Anne Karine) sisters, Louise and Thea.

The brothers had brought home a new two bottom plow for Gustav to use in the field. The first thing the brothers did before the plow could be used, was to remove the seat. There was no way that a hired man was going to ride on the plow when he could walk. It didn't seem to matter that the plow might work better if it carried some weight.

On October 27, 1900 at Webster, South Dakota, Gustav renounced the King of Norway and Sweden and declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States. He later signs documents claiming that he was a U.S. Citizen, so we assume that his citizenship was accepted. Shortly thereafter, he ended his short lived farming career when he

went to work for August Lochrem. He worked that first year for \$120.00, his room and board, plus a bonus. This is equal to \$2.00 per hour in 1991 dollars plus bonus. The bonus incentive must have worked well for Gustav as he was able to send considerable sums of money to Norway to help his parents and bring other family members to America. Gustav lived with the Lochrems, along with fellow worker Peter Bergen and housekeeper Henrietta Nelsen.

August Lochrem had invented what was called the "Modern Trip Hammer". The trip hammer was a foot operated hammer which was used to help form the red hot metal taken from the forge. This unit was manufactured and assembled in the Pierpont, South Dakota shop. In 1903, it sold for \$50.00 to \$60.00 per unit (\$1200.00 per unit in 1991 dollars), which made it a fairly large investment for anyone to own. There were many units sold, with Gustav personally signing agreements for sale on seven units with various purchasers in 1903. I am not sure if Lochrem was doing this as well or if it were only Gustav who was lending the credit. Interest was charged at 8% per annum. As far as we can tell, only one unit was not paid for, and the hammer was never recovered. It was purchased by Peder Abelson and B.A. Falnes. Abelson died and Falnes settled in the state of Washington, along with the trip hammer.

The hammers were cut from 4" x 4" tool steel which came to the shop in 8 foot lengths. Lochrem would mark out the pieces and Gustav would heat them in a forge that could

hold 100 pounds of coal. When the steel reached the proper temperature, Gustav would hold a chisel with an attached handle on the mark. Three and perhaps four men would alternate blows to the chisel using large sledge hammers. The cut on the 4" x 4" tool steel would be made in one heat, not allowing the material to cool off before the cut was made. The men would have to work very fast while at the same time maintaining accuracy with their blows. The heads of the hammers were first drilled to accept the arm, and then heated and drawn out to their final shape. Lochrem would take the cut pieces to the grinder where they would be ground smooth and then polished. The grinder/polisher was likely gas driven.

Gustav would spend his summer on the road demonstrating the trip hammer. He would always try to arrange for one or two bankers to be on hand for the demonstration. When the buyers showed an interest in a hammer, the bankers were at hand to extend the necessary credit.

When a big dray team came to the shop to be shod, many of the bankers and businessmen would gather at the blacksmith shop to watch how Gustav would handle these big horses. Gustav claimed that he didn't like to start the job until there was an interested audience!

August Lochrem also had a cement company working out of his shop. He was said to have poured all the sidewalks

in Pierpont as well as the various footings, basements and floors in the area.

Gustav's brother Johan (John) was the next brother to arrive in South Dakota. He was likely helped in his ticket purchase by Gustav. He arrived in the United States at the port of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the 23rd of March, 1900. Johan immediately went to work as a farm laborer for John Nygard who farmed in the Lynn township of Day county.

Gustav dealt with the Bank of Pierpont, owned by Dart and Hawkins, whose business was Real Estate, Collections, Insurance and Loans. The U.S. Banking System allowed the banks to be involved in diversified enterprises. On December 2, 1903, Gustav turned over his collections to the bank. In the meantime, the Farmers' State Bank of Pierpont was still attempting to make collections for Gustav in January of 1907. The bank was owned by Gannon, Howell and Nordness, but more interesting were the two directors, Knud Sivertson and O.J. Sletten. This Sletten was the future father-in-law of Gustav's sister Josie.

Prior to his marriage Gustav stayed with a Mrs. Johnson and the August Lochrem's. These were terribly lonely days for Gustav. Often, after he would receive letters from his mother and father in Norway, he would go out into the barn and go to a particular unused stall where he could be alone, to read, to remember and perhaps to cry. There were many homesick nights spent remembering friends and family "back home" in Norway.

CHAPTER 8**HANNAH SYHRE**

During that first winter, Gustav attended "Old Glory" school in order to improve on his English. On one stormy day, some of the students were picked up by one of the parents. There wasn't room for all of them so Gustav (age 18) grabbed Hannah Syhre (age 9) and put her on his knee. "This is my girl" he said. Little did he know that he would marry her 9 years later.

Gustav would later maintain that he met Hannah in a pasture where she was wearing a grass skirt. He said that she had no other clothes and he felt so sorry for Hannah that he married her. Later, his son Norman would use the same line, claiming that he went back to the same pasture to find his wife, Eunice.

Gustav would visit his friend Ludvig Aadland who had married Hannah Syhre's sister Lizzie. He spent enough time there that the family soon became suspicious that there was an other motive to his visits. Hannah initially felt that Gustav was interested in her sister Lena, however it soon became evident that it was Hannah that caught his fancy.

Hannah had lost her mother on September 11, 1901 (Hannah was 14 years old) and then her father died February 17, 1902. Gustav had lost his mother on December 28, 1900, just 8 1/2 months previous, and no doubt was a comfort to

Hannah at this time. When Gustav learned of his father's illness in Norway, he returned to spend some time at home. Prior to his leaving, he asked Hannah to marry him. While in Norway for some two years, Hannah and Gustav wrote love letters back and forth across the ocean, love letters which Hannah saved for many years.

Gustav was a great comfort to his father in those last few months of his life. Years later, Gustav's brother Alfred would write: "Well, Gustav, whether we live or die, my wish is that when my time comes, I will be able to say "Thy will be done God". With those words you comforted father when he was sick. And father's trust to us - Seek God and his righteousness first - you took with you out in life for yourself and your family and that has been proven according to promises". Alfred Pederson - April 7, 1957

After his father's death on March 22, 1904, Gustav concluded his business with the estate and returned to South Dakota and his future wife. There he continued to court Hannah until they were married. Hannah worked at Harry Lemon's and the Potter's homes in the neighborhood while she waited for the wedding day. She always kept a small stool near the door for her to stand on when she kissed her tall boyfriend goodnight.

It was Mrs. Potter who helped her with some of the shopping for her wedding. They picked out a nice suit for her going away outfit as well as a new hat. The hat, she said, was beautiful. It had a bird on the brim, and cost

several dollars. Mrs. Anderson helped her make her wedding dress.

They were married March 22, 1906, a Thursday, likely at 3:00 o'clock. The invitation states 3:00 p.m. although the write up in the Pierpont paper states 2:00 p.m. Anna Guttormson and Louise Tastad (sister of Gustav) were bridesmaids and Gandval Nygard and John Tastad (brother of Gustav) were the groomsmen. Carl Anderson was the organist and Reverend Danielson officiated at the ceremony. A reception for about 40 people was held at the home of Herman Anderson. A delicious meal of roast beef, potatoes, gravy, vegetables and of course wedding cake was served to the guests. Hannah was 18 years old and Gustav was 27 years of age.

When the wedding party was about to sit down to eat their meal, the fire bell began to ring. As a member of the volunteer fire brigade, Gustav got up to leave. Just then the fire department showed up in front of the Anderson home and the hose was pulled out from the fire wagon. The house was sprayed down by the firemen in a mock fire exercise designed to cool off the bride and groom. It was only some time later that they noticed that the paint was coming off the walls. Evidently the water contained some chemicals which caused the paint to peel!

Gustav owned some property at Pierpont on the edge of town. (There is a tax levy for 1903 assessing property in his name in the Town of Pierpont.) He continued to own this

property until at least 1907. It is likely that this is the house purchased from August Lochrem that he and Hannah moved into a year after they were married. That first summer and winter after they married, was spent in an upstairs room at the Andersons.

Gustav's sister Louise had come from Norway to find work in America. We are not sure when she came to Pierpont, but we know that she was part of the wedding party in 1906. She went to work as a companion and caregiver for a lady from South Dakota who suffered from tuberculosis. As her disease developed, she decided for health reasons to move to Texas where she could take advantage of the warm dry climate. As she lived out her last days, Louise not only nursed her, but also slept with her in order to be close to her and help her at the end. Louise contracted the dreaded disease herself, and after the woman died, she went home to Norway where she died April 27, 1908, only 26 years old.

Gustav's 15 year old brother Lauritz came to South Dakota on July 23, 1906 too late for the wedding. Lauritz attended school in "Old Glory", covering grades 1 - 8 in one year! He worked with his brother John on the farm, where he became an excellent horseman.

Another brother, Samuel, came a bit earlier, likely in 1904. He worked in Minnesota for a while for a company that manufactured large cranes.

CHAPTER 9**LEAVING AGAIN**

By the 1890's, the good farm land was occupied, and the crop yields were below normal. By 1900, there had been two decades of poor prices for grain, drought and a poor economic future for the Midwest farmer - especially if one was a farm laborer or renter. Many farms had been mortgaged at high rates in order to expand. Farm laborers represented about 1/3 of the population and they were poorly paid. Tenants, or renters operated about 1/2 the farms. They were experiencing high rents, increased production costs and the unhappy prospect of remaining a renter for the rest of their life. These 100 year old problems are familiar to us today, proving that no matter how much things change, so much remains the same. Gustav had previously investigated purchasing some land in North Dakota, not far from Minot. Between the Saskatchewan border and Minot there is a large valley with trees planted to the west near the top of the valley. We believe this to be the land in which Gustav had some interest.

We assume he saw some advantage to his decision to move to Canada. Many of Gustav and Hannah's friends had already left, along with three of Hannah's sisters. The Canadian homestead was very attractive to the American settler. In Canada you only needed to be 18 years of age to

receive 160 acres of any land open for homestead (80 million acres to choose from). Free and clear title was granted if you lived on the land for 3 years and made successive improvements each year. You could also apply for a preemption right of an adjacent 160 acres, which could be bought at low government prices at any time within the 3 years of making homestead application.

The townships (36 sections; 6 miles square) were divided as follows:

- 1) The odd numbered sections were given tax free to the CPR Railway.

- 2) Section 8 and 3/4 of section 26 were reserved for the Hudson Bay Company.

- 3) Two sections were set aside as school lands, which could be sold to help pay for the construction of a school.

That left 16 1/4 sections in each township which would be set aside for homesteading. A \$10.00 fee was charged for each 1/4 section. Immigrants were unable to settle on adjacent quarters of land as was possible in the settlement of Ontario and Quebec. This homestead policy scattered the Norwegian immigrants perhaps further than they wished. As railway lands (18 sections of each township) were exempt from tax, this policy also caused the early homesteader to pay heavy taxes when roads and schools were introduced to their area.

Between 1900 and 1910, 44% of the homestead entries were from the United States. Between 1901, 560,856 settlers gave Saskatchewan and Alberta as their destination. In 1921, the Saskatchewan census reports 68,856 persons claiming to be Norwegian. Of these, 1/3 were born in the United States; 1/3 were born in Canada; and 1/3 were born in Norway.

Not all Americans stayed in Canada, however. Uncle Sam Tastad tells of meeting a family at North Portal on the Canada/US border. They were fed up with Canada and were heading south. "The country is full of bugs in the summer, you freeze in the winter, and it's so dry . . . you had to carry water for two miles." Uncle Sam inquired "Why didn't you dig a well?" "Same distance!" came the reply.

By 1903, there were 20 - 30 Norwegian families in the Hanley area. As many as 150 families had already settled in the Birch Hills area.

Gustav and Hannah immediately finalized plans to move to Canada. Ludvig Aadland had already decided to go that year. Jacob Haugan, of Pierpont had left for Canada in 1903. Lars and Ludvig Akre had also left Pierpont that year and settled in the Strongfield area. (These Akres are not related to the Tastads) O.M. Akre and Albert Amrud came from Pierpont in 1906. Three of Hannah's sisters were already in the Loreburn area. The interim Homestead receipt shows that Gustav had made a trip to Canada in the fall of 1906. He had applied and paid his Entry Fee on November 24,

1906 for the N.E. quarter of Section 6, Township 29, Range 5, West of the 3rd meridian.

This land was just east of Glenside, Saskatchewan, and north west of Hawarden.

CHAPTER 10
CARLSTAD ALBERTA

August Lochrem operated his business in Pierpont for three more years before he also looked to a new future in Canada. There had been some whispered talk later, that Lochrem was chased out of Pierpont by the Masons, who he opposed. There had been a murder in the area as well which was somehow tied into the Masonic activities. At first they had thought the man had died of natural causes. Later on, they exhumed the body and noticed that powder had been placed on the neck of the dead man, in an attempt to hide the fact that he had been strangled. One night, when Lochrem was at a choir practice, a man with a big stick appeared at the window. He could tell that Lochrem wasn't home, so he didn't attempt to get in. He moved all-round the house, peering in all the windows - then he left.

The family was very scared and shortly thereafter they decided to emigrate to Canada. Lochrem's goods and machinery were loaded December 17, 1909 in a box car and shipped on the rail line which passed through North Portal. The records show that a 22 year old Sam Tastad accompanied the load on the freight train as it crossed the border on December 25, 1909. What a way to spend a Christmas!

Lochrem had applied for a homestead on March 20th, 1909 and decided not to farm or move his family that summer. He took up residence on his homestead on the 20th of September 1909. His wife and family left Pierpont November 3rd, 1909 to join him in Carlstad Alberta. Alex, the "cement artist" left with them. He had returned later that December, to help Samuel Tastad load the rail car. Andrew Aadland had also moved from Pierpont to Carlstad at that time.

When young Samuel Nicoli Tastad reached Medicine Hat, he applied for a homestead on January 3rd, 1910, for the north east quarter of section 7 township 15 range 10 west of the 4th (West of the town of Carlstad). This was about three miles south of Lochrem's farm and a quarter of a mile west. Samuel set about immediately to build himself a house. It was constructed of wood, and measured 12ft x 14ft. Seven days later it was completed, and he moved in on January 10th, 1910. He worked for neighbors during the summers and boarded with them. He eventually broke 35 acres over the next three years which was enough to get him the grant of the land on May 16th, 1913.

On March 8th, 1910, 19 year old Lauritz, another brother of Gustav Tastad, applied for a homestead on the northeast quarter of section 1 township 15 range 10 west of the 4th. This was five miles east and one half a mile south of his brother Sam Tastad's farm. He had left the United States travelling by train on the "Soo Line" crossing the

border at Portal on December 20th, 1909, destined for Carlstad, Alberta. This was 5 days prior to Sam's crossing.

Lauritz built his 10ft x 12ft wood frame house on this land. He lived here in the winter time and moved in with various neighbors who he worked for in the summer. Lauritz was still able to make improvements to his land each year and was granted title to this land on January 10th, 1913. Lauritz supplemented his farm income by working on the "Dominion Farm", a twenty section corporate farm in the area. He also broke horses for a price.

Sometime in those early years, a cyclone hit Lauritz's house. Parts of his house and belongings were scattered all about the countryside. Of particular interest were a number of love letters that he had received from a girlfriend and placed in a trunk. The neighbors enjoyed picking these up and returning them to an embarrassed Lauritz. At this time Lauritz had a girlfriend called Hilda Myhre who occupied his spare time and thoughts. They broke up and she eventually settled in the Swalwell area in Alberta.

It would appear then that Lochrem knew someone who had moved to the Carlstad area and had decided to move there with the Tastad brothers, Samuel and Lauritz. There had been a great deal of advertising and promotion of land in this area by the Canadian Government as well as private land companies. The homestead land near where Gustav Tastad had settled in Saskatchewan had long since been claimed. With the lead of August Lochrem then, Sam and his brother

Lauritz came to Canada seeking free land. The land agents in this area had done a real number on the early settlers. There had been many veiled promises of irrigation for this area, similar to programs started further north in Alberta. The land was simply not suitable for farming. It was good soil, but it never rained in the region and it is now being used for what was always intended - grazing ranch land and a military wasteland.

On February 6th, 1913 Samuel and Lauritz Tastad became a Canadian citizens in the citizen court at Medicine Hat, Alberta. This was a legal requirement they would have to meet if they were to obtain the Grant and title to property. Samuel sold out to Hans Jacob Brodersen in 1913 for \$1875.00 (\$26,550 in 1991 dollars). Not a bad return for the few improvements Sam had made.

Lochrem and Lauritz should have sold out like Samuel, as they were later to fall victim to the depression. Lochrem lost all on April 28th, 1930 and Lauritz lost title on June 9th, 1931. On November 10, 1921, Gustav lent his brother Lauritz \$1,200.00, taking a chattel mortgage out on Lauritz's stock and equipment.

It's interesting that Carlstad, Alberta, changed its name to Alderson during the first world war. No one wished to live in a town with a German name.

Lauritz abandoned his farm at Alderson sometime in 1922 returning to Saskatchewan and living and working on Hannah's farm "up north" as well as the original homestead.

This was the Northeast quarter of Section 4, Township 29, Range 5, West of the 3rd (Ma's Land Up North). While in Alderson, he had left his home in the late fall to work in the Big River area in the winter at the sawmill. He lived in the schoolhouse on this land where he could put most to shame when it came to housekeeping - it was always in perfect order with never a dirty dish left sitting around. His nephews and nieces always looked forward to his visits at Christmas, as he often would stay a week or more.

Albertine Walters became his cook on the farm. Soon Lauritz would meet her girl friend, a Miss Magvaline Helen Schutte who had emigrated from Germany, entering Canada on November 7, 1925. They would fall in love and marry in Saskatoon on November 6, 1929. Lauritz was 38 years old when he married and Helen was 31 years of age.

CHAPTER 11**GLENSIDE**

Gustav Tastad would have preferred to have homesteaded closer to Loreburn or Strongfield, however no homestead lands were left in these areas. Hannah's sisters were already settled in the region. (Lena Akre, Lydia Syhre and Lizzie Aadland) as well as his friend and uncle, Ludvig Aadland.

Gustav moved his equipment and belongings from Pierpont to the homestead in the fall of 1907. They were shipped by CNR freight car, crossing the border at Portal on August 20th, of that year. Hannah travelled by passenger train, while Gustav rode in the freight car that carried his stock, equipment and belongings.

When Hannah arrived at the station in Bladworth, she asked the station master if he had seen a man fitting Gustav's description arriving to the town from the U.S.A. He pointed to Alf Norrish who was leaning against the station wall, suggesting that he had been around most of the day and might have seen the freight passengers. Alf said that he had seen a tall blonde man arrive that day. Alf thought that he was over at the hotel having a meal at that moment. Hannah rushed over to the hotel where she saw Gustav. She had no doubt been anxious on the trip,

travelling alone into a strange country. It was a happy meeting for them both.

Gustav and Hannah unloaded their belongings from the train and left them in a safe place. They immediately struck out for O.M. Akre's to see Hannah's sister. They didn't get all the way, as they had started out later on in the afternoon. That evening Gustav hobbled the horses and he and his bride spent their first night together in Canada in a wagon out in the prairie between Bladworth and Strongfield! The next morning Gustav had to go after the horses who had strayed from the camp that night. They drove straight to O.M.Akre's that morning. I'm sure that Hannah was excited to see her sister again!

Several wagons then left for Bladworth to get Gustav and Hannah's belongings. There were the usual household items as well as blacksmith tools, a mower and rake, a plow, stove and some oak lumber. Gustav brought much of his machinery with him, as there was a 33% tariff on new farm machinery brought in from the United States. The bottom frame of the stove broke while in transit and they would later build a stand to support the stove off the floor. The oak table that they brought with them has been restored and is in Roger Tastad's home in Edmonton. They brought with them the cupboard unit which was either a wedding gift or it was purchased with money received on their wedding day. (This same unit has been refinished and is in Garnett and Earl Francis's home in Saskatoon.) They returned to Akre's

to pick up Hannah and then headed for the homestead at Glenside.

Their first home was a tent, which was set up on August 23, 1907. They immediately went about building their sod house on the northeast corner of the 1/4 section. The house measured 24 feet x 30 feet, or 720 square feet. This was much larger than the 18 foot x 24 foot house that was the minimum requirement required under the homestead act. This was a good sized home for it's day. "It was a two roomed house, with white washed walls, scatter mats on the wood floors, white curtains and plants on two large window sills. It was cozy and warm in winter and cool in summer. It was their first home." The small room was not heated in the wintertime and was mostly used for storage, or a guest room for travellers passing between Outlook and Elbow. The large room was divided using curtains which were strung on wires hung from the roof. There were likely many that helped with the building of that sod house, but one that stands out was Osmand Aadland, Earnest Aadland's father, who walked from his farm at Loreburn (on the correction line) all the way to Gustav's homestead just to help him build the sod house.

The doors and windows and hinges were usually purchased from a lumber yard and were the only items to cost any money on the new house. (about \$4-5 dollars) The sod was turned using an ordinary walking plough pulled by Gustav's team of horses. Sod from sloughs was the best as

it contained more fibrous roots to hold together the soil. The turned sod was cut into three foot long pieces using spades. These pieces were then loaded on wagons or stone boats and taken to the building site. The sod was laid grass side down in a manner that made the walls three feet thick. The outside of the walls were usually plastered with clay mixed with grass or straw. This would offer the sod some protection from the elements. Often the inside of the walls were treated with the same plastered mixture of clay and straw but with sand and lime added which would make the walls white. The roof would be made of lumber (or perhaps rails cut in the sand hills) covered with tar paper and then a layer of sod. Sometimes hay was used instead of the paper. When the tar paper rotted out, the roof would leak and new paper would need to be installed. Some settlers never used the tar paper and seemed to get used to the leaky roofs. One day of rain outside resulted in two days of rain inside the house.

Gustav and Hannah stayed with two bachelor neighbors, Ed and George Halvorson, as it became too cold to live in the tent and they had yet to complete the sod house. They must have become very good friends as Gustav would soon buy their land and he would give two of his sons the same names. Hannah cooked for them while they lived there and the bachelors were happy to share their garden with the new couple.

There is an interesting story regarding these brothers, although the tale is very sketchy. Uncle Sam remembers that these men experimented with a wind driven tractor, however little is known of their results. They later returned to Waseca Minnesota, where we believe they developed the self-propelled threshing machine. One of these units is on display in the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon.

The fall of 1907 must have been very busy for Gustav and Hannah with firewood to cut for the winter, fences to build for the stock and auxiliary buildings to be built around the farm. The first building to be built, after the house, was a sod stable to house their animals. A 14 foot x 22 foot shelter was erected. A sod hen house, 10 feet x 12 feet was built as well as a wood frame granary (10 feet x 12 feet). Approximately 25 acres to the north and east of the sod house was fenced for pasture. Feed and a source of drinking water for two horses and three head of cattle were needed for that first winter. Firewood in the treeless landscape was another priority. That fall and winter Gustav and his neighbor Dave Johnson hauled 28 loads of wood 22 miles from the sand hills. Some of the mornings it was so cold you could hear the runners of the sleigh squeaking over the snow from 3/4 of a mile away.

Gustav set up his sod blacksmith shop as soon as he could. It was a source of cash for them in those first years. The shop was just to the north and west of the sod

house. To the north of the farm, was an east/west trail running between Hawarden, Glenside and Outlook. This road, or trail, tied in with the old Moose Jaw trail just east of Hawarden. One day Gustav saw that one of the traveller's had broken the axle on his wagon. He had unhooked his team of horses and was heading down the road looking for help. Gus ran after him, finally catching him, and convinced him that he could make him a new axle. The man agreed and Gus had one of his first sales. He said that he didn't charge him that much. He used U.S. prices for his materials and labor, which were cheaper than the Canadian prices.

A well was dug south of the house and just south of the garden. He dug the well with his usual gusto, digging deeper and deeper with his spade. He then realized that he had gone too far and he had a terrible time to scramble out of the hole. Kathleen remembers hearing another story about the well digging from her Grandfather: "He was busy digging the well that was now up to his shoulders when Grandma called him in for dinner. When he returned, he noticed a mouse in the bottom of the well, trying frantically to scramble out of the hole. Grandpa slipped quietly into the hole and stood motionless. The mouse started crawling up his boot, then up his pant leg, his shirt and finally out along his outstretched arm and onto the ground - safe and free at last. It was a wonderful story to tell children". Even if the story is not true, I'm sure that the telling

caused more than one small child to squirm and giggle as they imagined the escape route of the mouse.

While arranging for all these bare essentials to survive the first winter, Gustav still found the time to break three acres of his homestead. In 1908 he managed to break an additional 50 acres of land and seed 10 acres of it that same year. His livestock increased to three horses and five cattle that first year. In 1909 an additional thirty acres were broken up, giving Gustav a total of eighty-three acres of broken land and 25 acres fenced in for pasture. This left 52 acres untouched. That year he also managed to put in 50 acres of crop and accumulate four horses and four more cattle. I have no record of Gustav's crop in 1910, however Gustav indicated an increase of four horses, for a total of eight horses that year, with his cattle count remaining at four.

Some of the initial breaking was done early in the spring before the frost came out of the ground. They would start as early as March, with four horses on a one bottom plough. The plough would slide on the frozen ground and turn over the top two or three inches of the softened layer of sod. Two acres a day was a good day's work. The plowed land was then disked and cropped.

There was not a lot of stone on the homestead, but many that came off the farm were hauled by Indians who would pick for the farmers. They would travel through the area picking stones by the "cord". To receive fair payment

then, they created stone piles with square sides which could easily be measured for payment. Many of these neat square stone piles can still be seen on this farm and many others in the community.

The crops were not all that bad in those early years. One fall, Gustav had hooked up five horses to the binder! What a crop that must have been.

The grain was hauled to Glenside by horse and wagon. It wasn't until many years later that Jay's Siding became a reality. This rail siding consisted of two elevators only two kilometer from the homestead. Fred Quintaine, a neighbor of Gustav's had brought the news "Today the siding went through". Many had worked long and hard for this day.

Gustav almost always had hired men. One of these was a Metis named Sam Dumont. He was one of the best stokers that Gustav ever had. Ole Swensen, Benny Holland, Sam Tastad and other various Norwegian immigrants worked for him as well.

Hannah too, was kept busy during these years doing chores, baking bread for many of the bachelors in the area, and giving birth to three children, Evelyn and Jennie and Gudrun. She often had housekeepers to help her with the children. Sarah Holland, Clara Olson and Clara Likness (Akre) also worked for Hannah. The "Claras" were referred to as "Big" and "Little" Clara. Ann McKenzie stayed with the family as a teacher for the children.

Prairie fires were a constant worry for Gustav and Hannah. One day when Gustav was gone, Hannah noticed a fire coming towards them from the north. She took the girls with her and ran to the north end of the quarter section where the trail passed to Glenside. She lit a backfire, laying a wide black strip between the oncoming fire and the homestead. The fire was stopped at the backfire line. The prairie wool grass was very dry in the summer months and it took very little to set off a prairie fire. The police could fine you if they felt that you had been careless with fire.

One day Uncle Sam, had accidently caught some grass on fire. He had been working out, doing some breaking. The first thing you needed to do when you started to break land was set up your mobile blacksmith shop, as plow shears needed to be sharpened daily. Some of the coals, or some hot sparks had caught in the dry prairie wool. They had gotten it put out and Sam was headed to Hawarden in the Ford runabout. A policeman who had seen the smoke and come by to investigate, attempted to stop Sam in his Ford. He was waving his arms at Sam who just kept on driving to Hawarden. The policeman took out his revolver and fired it into the air. Sam never stopped. The policeman followed him into Hawarden and finally managed to corner him. "Didn't you see me wave or hear me yell?" he asked Sam. "No", Sam replied. "Did you hear me shoot?" he asked. "Yes" Sam replied. "Well why didn't you stop?" he asked. "I didn't

want to get shot!" came the reply. Sam explained that the fire was an accident and that the land which burned was to be broken shortly, so the policeman let him go with a warning. Prairie fires were a respected danger.

The Johnsons (Dave and Mrs.) and Carlsons (John and Mathilda) were good neighbors to Gustav and Hannah. Mrs. Johnson was like a "Queen". She was a very stately woman, large boned but with fine features. Neighbors relied on one another for not only assistance but for encouragement.

Martin Hove was another friend of Gustav's. Both he and John Carlson made sworn statements on Gustav's behalf when application for patent on the homestead was made in May of 1910.

CHAPTER 12**MORE LAND**

On December 7, 1908, Edward Halvorson and Gustav L. Tastad entered into an Agreement For Sale for the northwest quarter of Section 4, Township 29, Range 5, West of the 3rd. The price for this quarter section of land was to be \$2,200.00 with payments to be made on the first of December of each year with interest at the rate of 6% per annum. The agreement also required Gustav to "break and backset in a good and husbandmanlike manner during the season of 1909 at least twenty acres on the above described premises, and a further quantity of uncultivated arable land upon said premises to be broken and backset in the same manner during the proper seasons as may meet the convenience of the purchaser (Gustav) until not less than one hundred and thirty acres of land will have been broken up."

This northwest quarter was homesteaded by Edward Halvorson in 1905. As was the case quite often, once the necessary improvements were made, the homesteader received full title and the land was sold. Halvorson received full title on August 24, 1908 and he struck a deal with Gustav on December 7, 1908. Halvorson was no fool! In selling to Gustav in an "Agreement For Sale", the title would not transfer until the property was fully paid for. In addition to yearly payments and 6% interest, Gustav had to make

specific improvements to the land. Any failure to do so would allow the land to be repossessed by Halverson. This was good protection for Halverson, as many of the new farmers were walking away from their land. It wasn't until April 22, 1924 that Halverson was fully paid up and the title was then transferred to Hannah C. Tastad. (I wonder why he did this. Women had barely gotten the vote, so land ownership must have been unusual.) The addition of this land must have been the reason why Gustav needed eight horses in 1910. I suspect that this was the year he hired a man as well.

Both Edward and Gustav list their post office locations as Hanley, Saskatchewan. Payments made to Halverson were sent to him in Waseca, Minnesota, U.S.A. This particular quarter section of land was always known to me as "Ma's Land" up north. It bordered the land of Rex Friend, and had several good hay sloughs. I remember a "bottle shaped" well in one of the sloughs. Rex Friend ended up buying this land from Hannah Tastad on July 13, 1965.

On November 16, 1910 Gustav received clear title to the homestead, fulfilling all the necessary requirements of the agreement between himself and the Government of Canada. He had, on May 30, 1910, been declared a British Subject and Citizen of Canada by the Saskatoon District Court. It must have been a proud day when he returned home with free and clear title to his homestead.

In May of 1912 Gustav took out a mortgage on the homestead for the sum of \$1,500.00 from the Mortgage Company of Canada. This mortgage was repaid and discharged on June 16, 1920. Interest had been charged at 8% per annum. This land was eventually sold by Gustav to August W. Steabner who received title on January 5, 1945. Steabner later sold this land to John Edward Jersak, who presently owns the land and resides in Vancouver, B.C. In 1980 this quarter was assessed at \$4,500.00.

Gustav also farmed the quarter section directly East of the quarter purchased from Halverson. This was the northeast quarter of Section 4, Range 5, Township 29, West of the 3rd. This land had also been homesteaded by Addison S. Blanchard in 1905. He received full title on April 5, 1909. Two years later, Blanchard passed away and his wife Elosia A. Blanchard and a woman named Ethel Taber received clear title. Ethel Taber is listed as a "married" woman and we are going to guess and say that this was Blanchard's married daughter. Elosia remarried to a Peters and she and Ethel Taber lived in Clouston, Saskatchewan. At this point in time they have disposed of the land to an Elbert Hadlock of Mansonville, Quebec. Eventually, it was Hadlock's Estate that sold to Gustav Tastad on March 7, 1928. I suspect that Gustav farmed the land from at least 1911, if not 1910, and thereafter. There is no record of a rental agreement to confirm the dates. Gustav immediately put the land in

Hannah's name, where it stayed until the sale to Rex Friend in 1965.

So by 1912, Gustav owned one quarter section of land, rented another quarter and was purchasing a third quarter. By present or past standards that was quite an accumulation of land, after only four years of farming.

CHAPTER 13
CHURCH AND FAMILY

On July 23rd, 1908 Gustav and Hannah became parents for the first time. It was a girl, registered in Craik by Rev. Hagen as Eveline Lovise on the thirty first of August, 1908. Her second name came from Gustav's sister Louise who had died on April 27th of that year. The usual custom of naming the oldest girl after the mother or the oldest sister was often set aside to name the child after someone close to the family who had recently died. Evelyn was the first registered baptized member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The baptismal date is August 19th, 1908 with no sponsors indicated.

Less than two years later, Hannah was to give birth to their second child and second daughter, Jenny Irene, on April 1st, 1910. She was named after Gustav's youngest sister in Norway, Jenny Johannessen, who would have been 14 years old at that time. She was no doubt proud to hear of the child's naming when Gustav wrote to tell her. Jenny was baptized one month later on May 1, 1910.

Hannah's brother, Olaf, stayed with them a bit in those early days. He remember's one year in which Gustav hired him to spend the complete winter with them, taking care of the stock and helping with the other jobs around the yard. Gustav needed his help as he had taken on enough

blacksmith work to keep him busy all winter. This must have been between 1908 and 1910, as Olaf remembers when Evelyn and Jenny were born. Gustav went for help for the first child and returned just in time for Evelyn to be born. He vowed that he would never allow that to happen again with the next child. When Hannah was about to give birth to their second child, Gustav went to get help again. When he returned, Hannah had already delivered their daughter Jenny. Uncle Olaf said that Gustav loved to tell the story and brag about Hannah delivering the child on her own.

On Sunday, May 23, 1909, Gustav and Hannah had been to the community church, which was held in the home of John Carlson. Reverend W.M. Hagen of Elbow had given the service that day, for the twelve people present, and everyone signed an agreement to form the new "Bethlehem Scandinavian Lutheran Church Congregation". Gustav and Hannah were two of the twelve that had signed that day. Gustav Tastad was chosen as the First Secretary of the Congregation, and he also served on the Board of Deacons. The first baptism recorded by the church was that of my Aunt Eveline Louise (Evelyn Olson) on August 19, 1908. The Congregation called their first Pastor, Reverend W.M. Hagen on August 1, 1909 and he served until September 3, 1910. In a joint effort, the Congregations of Skudesness at Loreburn, Bethel and Zion at Elbow, and the Bethlehem Church, called H.G. Storebo as their new pastor. Mr. Storebo accepted and began his duties on July 27, 1910. On

October 29, 1910 the Congregation decided to build a Church. Gustav Tastad was elected as one of the four on the Building Committee. Peder believes that Gustav and Hannah suggested the name "Bethlehem" named after their church in Pierpont South Dakota. Gustav made the weather vane which still stands high on the steeple today. On August 22, 1909, a Ladies Aid was organized at the home of Mrs. John Carlson. Hannah Tastad was one of the original five members who met that day.

Gustav's brother John was settling down in South Dakota, starting to plant some roots. He married a widow named Minnie Winson who had a 5 year old daughter named Agnes and a young son named Elert. They were married in Pierpont on May 21, 1910.

I wonder if the family remembers December 13, 1911 when a \$50,000 fire almost destroyed the town of Hawarden. Many businesses were destroyed; Milburn & Milburn's Hardware, Manderson & Torgeson's Garage, Canadian Bank of Commerce, Nuttall's Drug Store, James Davidson's Store and the building used by the Hawarden "Pioneer" newspaper. The CPR sent a special train with fire fighting equipment from Outlook, which helped greatly in getting the fire under control. That train would have passed only a kilometer from Gustav's sod house.

On February 13th, 1912, Gustav and Hannah's third child was born in the sod house. This was Gudrun Hannah. She was baptized as Hannah Gudrun on April 21 in Bethlehem

Lutheran Church with the congregation listed as the sponsors. She had been named Gudrun by Gustav and Hannah after the baby's mother.

Gustav Tastad's involvement with the Church was rooted in Norway and that involvement and commitment remained with him in his new home in Canada. Church services would not be held every Sunday as the pastor had many preaching points. After Gustav purchased a 1914 Model T car, the trip to Bethlehem church was not such an all day affair.

The girls remember the day when Gustav had Hannah drive the Ford by herself from the yard down to the main road and back. The girls were crying, convinced that their mother would never turn the machine around and return to them.

Evelyn writes "A young girl named Sarah came from Norway to live with us. She was anxious to learn and speak English. She loved to sing and had a lovely voice. Mother also was a singer and knew many songs. So she attempted to teach her an English song.

One lovely morning Sarah took myself and two sisters outside. We all sat on the back door step. To entertain us she sang an English song that mother had taught her. She sang cheerfully and lustily the following song:

Pony Boy, Pony Boy
Won't you be my Toni Boy
Don't say "NO" here we go
Right across the plain
Marry me, Carry me
Right along with you
Giddy up, Giddy up
Whoa, my Pony Boy.

As she finished singing to us, she looked up and to her great amazement saw a Mountie in his uniform on his horse. He had been listening to her sing her song. He smiled, saluted her, and rode away."

They always had a dog in those early years and almost always they called him "Bob". It's not a name that would come to most people's mind, especially considering that this was an "immigrant" family. Bob was a great dog to play "hide and seek" with the children.

On January 28, 1913, Gustav's sister Josie married Joe Sletten in Pierpont, South Dakota. This was the first of Gustav's sisters to marry.

In 1913, Gustav and Hannah decided that the sod house was not large enough for them, as Hannah was pregnant with Peder Arthur, and with the coming of this new arrival it would mean that their living quarters would be much more crowded, so more room would have to be made before this happened. In one of Gustav's pocket books we read:

August 31, 1913 - Lumber For House

40	-	2 x 8 x 16 ft.
21	-	2 x 8 x 12 ft.
38	-	2 x 4 x 12 ft.
5	-	2 x 12 x 10 ft.
196	-	1 x 8 x 16 ft. Shiplap
31	-	1 x 12 x 16 ft. Boards
59	-	1 x 8 x 16 ft. Boards
27	-	1 x 10 x 16 ft. Boards
6	-	1 x 6 x 16 ft. Boards

He had help to build his house that fall. Gus Mostad was the carpenter who was in charge. Mostad had his brother John helping him as well as a couple of young nephews of

his from Norway. They started the house in early September and were finished before November. It was a two story house, with two large bedrooms upstairs. Each room held two beds. There was a bedroom on the main floor where Peder Arthur was born on November 8, 1913.

Peder was named after his grandfather, as was the Norwegian custom. Gustav's youngest brother who had died in May of 1904, was also named Peder. So the customs of naming the first son after the grandfather and of naming a sibling after a child who had recently died, were both used in the naming of my father. Peder was baptized on November 30th, 1913 with no listed sponsors.

One of the bedrooms in the new house was made into a schoolroom. Gustav built them a desk - perhaps 8 feet long - so that all three of the girls could sit at the desk at the same time. Annie MacKenzie stayed with them in the home and taught the girls. Mr. McTavish also helped to teach the children their English lessons. Gustav had previously attempted to take the children to the nearest school but the roads were so bad that he quickly abandoned this idea and opted for an "in house" teacher.

Peder tells a story about Uncle Sam and Ole Swensen. They were both working for Gustav on the farm at the time that the wood frame house was being built. They were both sleeping in the granary near the sod house. Sam had sold out his farm at Alderson, Alberta by this time. Ole had a great laugh, a hearty laugh, which he couldn't stop once he

started. Each night the Mostads would stop for evening devotions and song. As they sat around in a group one night, Sam tickled Ole from behind and Ole burst out laughing - at a very inappropriate time. Ole felt terrible, and got very mad at Sam for what he had done.

Ole Swenson lived in the sod house for a while after the family moved into the new house. Hannah remembered a feeling of sadness after leaving her first home in Canada. They had lived there for more than six years. Jenny remembers begging her mother to let her pack up her clothes and move back into the sod house with Ole, who was like a big brother to the girls. When the house was finally abandoned, the children were not allowed to play inside, however they loved to climb and run on the roof.

The house was lit with coal oil lamps at night. The brighter lamps with mantels which burned high-test gas were not used until much later in Hawarden.

Gustav had planted a row of ash trees about two hundred meters to the south and east of the house. This was in a low spot which would catch the snow and runoff. It was next to these trees that they planted their garden. Gustav took garden work seriously, and spent each Saturday afternoon working in the vegetable patch, which was one main source of food for the next winter. They were always concerned with insects and hail which could wipe them out in very short order. The produce was kept over the winter as best as they could in the root cellar under the house.

Hannah loved flowers, and she always planted them in her garden and near the house. Jennie remembers the gold flowered Mignonette she had in the garden. They had such a beautiful fragrance when in flower.

Gustav and Hannah had an organ which we believe they had brought with them from South Dakota. Hannah had learned to play for her own enjoyment as well as her families pleasure.

The Ladies Aid practiced at Hannah's house when they were to sing for the Sunday service.

It was difficult to keep meat without having it spoil. It could be left in a granary in the winter time however the summertime was more difficult. Beef was often canned and pork was cured in a large crockery pot or barrel. The pork was usually left in the brine up until the time it was to be eaten. Hannah would take the salt pork out of the brine, slice it thinly and heat it in skim milk. This reduced the extremely salty taste and made it almost edible. It was then fried on the cook stove.

Christmas was a main event in the "Tastad" year. With or without money, Gustav and Hannah made this a fun time for the family. The children were to be sleeping when Santa came to their house. One Christmas they peeked out the south window and saw Santa coming across the yard carrying a sack over his shoulder. Scampering back to their beds, they closed their eyes tightly. They had not thought how unusual it was for their father to tuck them into bed at

night. It was their mother who they had seen dressed up in Gustav's long underwear that night with a sack over her back walking up the road. One Christmas some of the children received slates in their long underwear as their stockings were too small for the large presents.

In 1908 the CPR tracks ran past the south end of the homestead, between Outlook to Strongfield. The last leg of the line was finally completed through to Moose Jaw on January 28, 1909. Trade prior to this was handled on the CNR line at Hanley, a long distance to travel with a loaded wagon. The train ran north to Outlook on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It returned south to Moose Jaw on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

It was the usual custom for Hannah to tuck their children into their beds at night. Each child would pray his Norwegian prayer with their mother:

Gud boye mitt unge
hjerte til sand Guds frygt
og lydighet. Amen

Translation: Dear God submit my will to you
in true faith and obedience. Amen

Another prayer the children used was:

Nu lukker jeg mitt oye
O Fader i det hoie
I varetekt meg tag
Fra synd fra sorg.
Fra fare din engel meg bevare
Som vokttet har min fot i dag. Amen

Translation: Now as I close my eyes
O Heavenly Father
Watch over me and keep
me from sin and sorrow.
And may your angel,

Who has protected me this day,
Keep me from all danger. Amen

Gustav's pocket book contained some interesting shopping lists. Some examples are: 2 - Tin Cups; Tanglefoot Fly Poison; 2 Yards - Oil Cloth; Dried Apples; Old Chum (tobacco for the hired man); 1/2 Bus Lime; Blacksmith Coal. Gustav never smoked, however he did enjoy a chew of tobacco. He chewed one cut of "Piperheidsik - wine flavored" per week, which cost about 20 cents per cut. In the thirties he had to go to cheaper cuts, such as "Big Ben".

One winters day an unfortunate incident happened at the Tastad home. Jacob Aadland's mother from Strongfield was staying with Gustav and Hannah. Jacob was the father of Ole and Nils Aadland. The lady was going to the bathroom outdoors when she slipped, fell and broke her hip. Gustav was not home, so Ole Swensen went to Glenside to get medical help. Hannah gave her anaesthetic while the doctor attempted to set her hip. It didn't set well, and her son Jacob came up from Strongfield with a team of horses and sleigh to pick her up. She was in bed for ten years. Of course there was no wheelchair or walker in that day to help her get around in the community.

Occasionally, Gustav would hook up the horses to the double buggy, load the family and head out for the Loreburn area. They would visit with Hannah's sisters, Lena Akre,

Lydia Syhre and Lisa Aadland. The buggy rides were long, but were filled with laughter and fun.

Gustav had a sorrel horse which was very hard to drive. He could make a mile in three minutes - trotting. He also claimed that he would kiss Hannah good-by each time he hooked up the horse, as he was never sure if he would see her again. He finally had had enough - he called on the machine agent in Glenside who had been admiring the horse for some time. After some haggling, the horse was traded for a new 8 foot binder, a gang plow and a couple of sets of plough shears. It was at least a \$300 value. Horses were very dear to the early farmer. Gustav once spent \$700 for a team of horses when he only wanted one of them. The seller would only sell them as a unit, so Gustav bought them both.

Gustav was a shareholder in the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co. Ltd. at Glenside, Saskatchewan. He purchased four shares at \$50.00 each and continued to hold three units after he had left the area. As late as December, 1924, he was receiving dividends on this investment. Gustav banked with the Citizen's Security Co. Limited, in Glenside. The following is a list of some of those who had business dealings with Gustav: P.A. Stewart; Miss Dalby; Roger's Lumber Co.; J.N. Fraser; A.M. Anderson; J. Phibbs; B. Haaland; J. King; O. Dahlby; Laugheed; N.E. Kidd; Erskine; Mrs. Walker; H.N. Howlett; J.R. McPhee.

On August 22nd, 1915, Gustav and Hannah were blessed with their 5th child, and second boy that they named Edward Raymond. He was baptized as a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, however the specific date was not listed in the register.

In the Spring of 1917, thirty eight year old Gustav decided to retire from farming. He arranged for an auction sale date of March 14th. He had not been feeling good, travelling as far as Rochester, Minnesota to have his heart checked out. At the sale, all his farm equipment - cultivators, drills, binders, wagons, and plows were sold. One bull, two cows, five heifers, five steers and two calves were also sold. A good cow brought in \$75.00, while a bull only sold for \$24.00. Two sows and a boar were sold as well as thirty five chickens. The big money, however, came from the horses. In all, 16 horses were sold - there were five mares, eight geldings, two colts and one buckskin. The top mare went for \$325.00. The top gelding which was for a team of geldings was sold to A.Caesar for \$535.00. A mare colt went for \$137.00, while the buckskin only brought in \$100.00. The total sale brought in \$4,655.25. This would be about \$60,000.00 in 1991 dollars. About half the money was in cash and the remaining was in notes due and payable that fall which were deposited with the Citizen's Security Co. Ltd. in Glenside. The money was later transferred to Gustav's bank in Hawarden, Saskatchewan.

The homestead was rented out to Fred Toles, who farmed it until Lauritz took over in 1926. Lauritz moved onto the homestead farm in the late twenties and stayed there until he moved east of Hawarden in 1938. The farmhouse was later sold and moved into Hawarden. It still stands in the northwest end of town, however it has had the second floor removed. I'm not sure who presently owns the home. When Lauritz moved from the schoolhouse to the homestead in the late twenties, Gustav rented the schoolhouse to a family of Sopinkas. Their son later went on to become a judge on the Supreme court of Canada.

The family moved into the " Vicary House" in Hawarden after the sale. There were five children in the family, with the addition of Edward. Almost as soon as they were settled, they decided on a trip back to the United States. And so in July of 1917, Gustav and Hannah took the train from Hawarden and headed for the "Stavanger Lag" in Valley City, North Dakota. This was a gathering of peoples from all over the midwest of Canada and the U.S. who had emigrated from Stavanger area in Norway.

Just north of Elbow, the train flipped up a broken rail into the axles of one of the units, causing a train derailment. The smoker car became unhooked and several people from this car were injured. Dirt and ties were piled up in front of the engine "up to the light". Several hours later the north bound train from Moose Jaw came upon them. Gustav and his family were transferred to this train which

then backed up to Moose Jaw. The trip was slow, seeming to take forever, especially for several tired children.

They stayed in a hotel that night in Moose Jaw. The next morning they again boarded the train for Valley City. After the celebration with their friends at the "Stavanger Lag", they left for Pierpont, South Dakota. There they stayed with the Paulsons, Hannah's Aunt and Uncle.

Another reason for their trip that summer was to celebrate the birthday of Johan Tastad, Gustav's brother. Johan had turned 40 on July 12th, and Gustav presented him with a present of 40 silver dollars. Johan must have been pleased with the visit and gift, as he mentioned it in a letter of thanks 40 years later. Forty dollars was an incredible sum of money in 1917, equivalent to almost \$500 in 1991 dollars!

Shortly thereafter, Evelyn was one of many in the community to come down with smallpox. The family was quarantined until the danger passed. Jenny had a very mild case of the disease, however no one else in the family was to get sick.

Their second son, Edward was with them on the trip and was having a difficult time falling asleep in the summer heat. His mother became so exasperated with him that she put him on the floor under their bed. He quickly fell asleep, cooled by the cooler air under the bed and the relief of not sleeping between his mother and father.

Hannah would chuckle when she would retell the story to the grandchildren.

Gustav and Hannah were to stay for the next month. He purchased a new 1917 Model T Ford from the local dealer which he used for the time of their visit. When they were to leave, Gustav sold the car to Alfred Paulson, Hannah's cousin. Upon their return to Hawarden, they moved into their new home.

CHAPTER 14**HAWARDEN**

Their first home in Hawarden was called the "Vicary" house. This house, owned by Edsel Vicary, was only lived in for a few short months while they waited to take possession of the house they had purchased from Julius Hurd.

Their new neighbors would be C.C. Steven (Undertaker, school secretary and harness repairman), Charlie Life (Manager Rogers Lumber Company), and the Wingham's. Charlie's daughter Theo was Peder's "first" girlfriend. My daughter Kristan has the teacup which she gave father. It must have been a serious relationship.

The Hurd house was soon available and they moved in. When entering this house, you had the option of going from the entry to the upstairs, or you could take the short hall to the kitchen/dining room. There was a front room facing the street. The upstairs was divided into two bedrooms off the hallway, containing two beds in each of the rooms. Sleeping arrangements were somewhat cozy by today's standards. Gustav and Hannah nearly always slept with one or more of the children. Each of the children had to sleep with at least one of his or her siblings whether they wanted to or not. At their early age, sleeping with a boy or girl didn't seem to make much difference.

Peder remembers calling his dad one night to come and check out what was biting him in bed. He had been restless that evening and a bit scared. They had recently bought the record of Jack and the Beanstalk to play on their phonograph and Peder was sure that he could see and hear the Giant climbing through the window to get him that night.

Gustav scratched where Peder was itching and then went downstairs. What he hadn't realized was that the small hand painted kerosene lamp which was sitting on the chiffonnier, had upset and spilt its fluid inside Peder's bed. There was just enough kerosene in the lamp to soak up in Peder's woolen underwear night shirt. In the morning Peder got out of bed and started down the stairs. Father Gustav spotted him swaying on the staircase and caught him before he fell. The kerosene had taken his top layer of skin off the side of his chest and belly. The doctor made up a mixture of salves to put on the burned area. The mixture was terribly cold on the tender skin so Hannah would heat a mixture of linseed oil with some medicine in a saucer on the stove. Peder remembers crying out in Norwegian that "Now it's just as hot as it was cold before!" A clean night shirt was put on over the burnt area. Peder remembers the first bath he had after the accident. Hannah had left by train to visit Aunt Lizzie in Loreburn. Gustav fixed the bath water and the put in a large handful of oatmeal with Peder. When he was done with the bath, Gustav couldn't find Peder a night

shirt. Not to be stuck for anything, Gustav located a twenty pound sugar sack. He cut out the neck and the corners of the sack and put it over Peder's head - a perfect fit! The girls were excited to tell Hannah of their father's sewing skills.

That spring came and Hannah was to give birth to another child. This one was a bit stubborn in coming out - Hannah's baby was past due. On a warm sloppy spring day, she gave birth to a big boy and son Norman Arnold saw his first light on March 21, 1918. Dr. Burwash was the doctor with Nurse Salter. (She later married Owen Pollard of Loreburn, where she moved in the spring of 1922).

Two and one half months later, on June 2, 1918, Norman became a baptized member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Again no sponsors were listed in the registers. Perhaps the custom of baptismal sponsors had not yet begun. The old Lutheran Free Church may have treated sponsors similar to the Calvinists, who charged the whole Congregation with the responsibility of a Christian education and Christian upbringing of the child.

The girls started school as soon as they could. The school was just south and east of the Hurd house. This was not the large brick building that was later erected on Gladstone street, which was erected some time later. Gudrun was in grade 1 and Jennie and Evelyn were in grade 2. The three girls attended this school until they moved to Loreburn and were enrolled in Willdon School.

Hannah visited the editor of the "Hawarden Pioneer" and received remnants of the newsprint which he used for the weekly paper. These sheets were carefully cut and bound becoming notebooks for the girls.

Water was carried from the town well on Gladstone street (the main street running east and west). The job was usually left to Hannah and one of the children. A honey pail was used by the siblings to help their mother. One day Hannah had been busy washing clothes so she asked Peder to get water from the town well. He was not very anxious to go by himself, but did as he was asked. He turned the tap to start the flow of water into the pail, however he was not able to shut off the tap. He ran home, and in tears told his mother of his difficulty. Hannah had to put on her coat and boots, leave her small children, and return with Peder to the town well. The water was shut off, and the pail was filled to the brim, but it had not run over. When you ask Peder what happened, he always points heavenward, hinting of some sort of divine intervention.

When they returned to the house, Edward had Peder's good mittens on a plate at the breakfast table. He had the syrup container in his hand and was pouring its contents in a circular motion over the mitts saying, "Ole, Ole, Ole". This custom was often used whenever you made the letter "O" with a pencil or crayon, but was mandatory when you poured syrup!

Gustav was returning home from Moose Jaw on the train, perhaps on business or a trip to see the doctor. Hannah dressed up her two sons, Peder and Edward, in their new sailor suits and sent them down to the train station to meet their father. They were a little late, and as they neared the station, they saw their father already coming towards them. They started to run, keeping their eyes on their father, not watching where they were going. Edward did not see the rather large hole in front of him and he fell head first into the mud with his new sailor suit. Gustav bawled out Peder for letting Edward fall in the mud as Edward worried about the "Germans" in his muddy mouth.

One winter's day in February, Edward and Peder went shopping for their father's birthday. They had a small amount of money and were searching for the perfect present for their dad. They looked in many different stores on Gladstone street, and finally found just the right gift at Muter's. They bought two five pound bags of salt, one from each small boy. When they got outside the store, they hoisted the bags onto their shoulders and took the presents to their father. As children, they were fascinated to watch how men could throw a one hundred pound bag of flour over their shoulder and carry it to their wagons. Peder had even made up a verse in Norwegian to recite when they proudly presented their gift. The English translation was roughly "Giving you salt to last your whole life". Gustav grinned when he accepted their gift and told them it was the best

present he had ever received. Years later he would laugh as he recounted the story to his grandchildren.

In the winter months, Gustav helped organize a skating rink in the Agricultural building. This building sat in the north west part of town where the present Fair Grounds is located. He taught not only his family how to skate, but claimed to have taught every woman in Hawarden as well. A curling club was established and Gustav enjoyed the sport while they lived in Hawarden.

Gustav then joined some of the organizations popular in that day. He held one share in the Hawarden Rural Telephone Co. Ltd., purchased on March 13, 1916 (he never did have a phone in Hawarden); he held two shares in the Norwegian Farmers' Publishing Co. of Canada and the Scandinavian Colonization and Immigration Bureau Ltd., purchased on March 1, 1920; he was also a life member of the Hawarden Agriculture Society, shares being purchased on April 1, 1919. He was also a member of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association at Glenside, and the Glenside Co-operative Association Ltd., where he continued to sell his wheat from the homestead.

Gustav, we remember, had been to a heart specialist at Rochester, Minnesota, where he had been told that he may live no more than one year. Gus didn't do a lot that first year in Hawarden. You might catch him once a week flying through the house with the cedar mop, covering the floor with a thin film of cedar oil. More than likely, however,

he could be found playing checkers at the harness shop with Jim McDonald and C.C. Stevens. When he wasn't there, he might be at the blacksmith shop swapping a story with George Brookbank. He might be down at Roy Torgerson's garage, J.B Muter's store or Thomas Nuttall's drugstore. Leisure time was much different then than now. When one had nothing to do you made no "bones" about it. They called it loafing. There was no shame in it, as certain times of the year there was simply nothing to do but to wait. The word isn't used much any more - either we have no time to loaf or we think that we are too busy. It's a shame.

There were lots of kids around in this new and fast growing town. Ross Muter, son of J.B. Muter, was the same age as Peder. He went on to become a Mining Engineer and work for Sherritt Gordon. Peder also remembers Horace Clarke, son of S.G. Clarke (he had bought out Muter's Store in 1919), Malcolm Burwash, son of Dr. Byron Burwash, Scotty Killoh and Harold Quintaine. With seven Tastad children to account for, the general rule was - "Play in your own back yard, unless you have permission to leave." Hannah was a good mother, always wanting to know where her children were playing.

They celebrated the first of May as "May Day". The children would decorate "May Baskets" and fill them with cookies and other goodies, that would be left on a neighbor's doorstep.

Church life was still centered around Bethlehem Church north of Hawarden. They would travel by car, weather permitting to attend as many services as possible. Sunday school was held in the Tastad house (in Norwegian) for any in the community who wished to attend. Prosper (Bruce) Van Hereweghe would have his children attend from time to time. Hannah helped with the teaching, as she had memorized both the "Catechism" and the "Bible History". These were long dissertations which she had committed to memory. Gustav was able to assist as well. Prayer was stressed in the home by both Gustav and Hannah. The Norwegian table prayer was prayed at each meal. (See appendix) Gustav prayed each night by kneeling down at his bedside. (Kathleen remembered him still doing this years later, and that he used to spend quite a long time on his knees.)

The children went to the Presbyterian Sunday School in the afternoon. Peder remembers Retta Fligg playing "Upward, Ever Onward to the Promised Land" as they marched from their classes. The family occasionally attended Methodist evening services in the community whenever possible. The pioneers were certainly more ecumenical then than we are today. We tend to spend 95% of our time criticizing the 5% of doctrine in which our church denominations cannot agree. Too often we believe that our church is the only one that has a corner on "truth". We should be more like those pioneers who celebrated the common faith.

In the fall of 1917, after returning from his long visit to the United States, Gustav must have begun to feel better. He travelled to Regina where he purchased a threshing outfit for work custom work that fall. It was an "Altman-Taylor" thresher, made of wood. He had it shipped to Hawarden on the CPR. He used it that fall and then sold it to Frank Erskine the next year. Erskine had ordered a new separator for custom work and his machine had still not arrived. Gus sold him his year old machine and then took over the new machine that Erskine had ordered. This unit is now on Peder's farm at Strongfield.

Gustav had also purchased a Titan Model 1530 4 cylinder International tractor to power the threshing machine. He paid \$7000.00 for the engine and thresher. This same unit was used to break the Mountain Ash farm as well as work the farm at Loreburn.

On September 25, 1917 Gustav purchased, through a land contract, the west half of Section 3, Township 28, Range 4, West of the 3rd. This land was located East and South of Hawarden, and referred to as the "Mountain Ash Farm", as it was located in that school district.

Gustav was already threshing with his new outfit that fall when he found out about this land being up for sale. Unable to leave his crew, he sent Hannah, Peder and Edward out to look at the land with the land agent George Charters. Charters had one of the first cars in the district, a Case touring car. The car ride must have been

as exciting as the prospect of looking at new land. Hannah had been told by Gustav what to look for. The land was cheap, but full of stones. Peder remembers that there were a lot of hills and a few gravel pits on the land. The gravel was used for foundations and plastering materials in the neighborhood. Gustav then made an offer on the land through the agent Charters, which was accepted.

John Galbraith Bastedo had received clear title of this property on February 24, 1915 at a declared value of \$4,500.00. Bastedo was a land speculator who lived in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. The agreement called for \$2,000.00 cash and \$592.00 per year for the next five years, with interest at 6% on the unpaid balance. Gustav also added a clause allowing him to pay out the agreement at any time without penalty. This gave Gustav the freedom to make a quick sale, if he found a purchaser. The \$2,000.00 cash down payment was the same amount of cash that he received from his sale that Spring.

The first thing Gustav organized for his new investment was a crew to rid the land of stone. They hired six men to help with the job and a Mr. & Mrs. Ted Baker. They had just arrived from England and were hired to work on the land as well as to cook for the men. Ole Swenson and Sam Tastad were two of Gustav's crew. There was a homestead house which the Bakers used as a base to feed and sleep the men. Gustav paid the Bakers ninety dollars a month plus supplied all the food. That was a tremendous amount of

money for that time. Uncle Sam operated the Titan 1530 and the four bottom plow. With breaking bottoms, the plow would cut a four foot width through the virgin prairie. He could likely average ten acres a day of breaking if most of the stone had been removed. It was not an easy job.

Gustav received clear title on October 25, 1917, indicating that Bastedo had been paid out completely. Caveats were placed on the title by George Halverson on September 10, 1920 and by Andrew L. Moffatt and William H. Jay on May 16, 1919. Quite often these were put on the title indicating some sort of agreement for sale or operating agreement.

The half section of land was later sold to John B. Stoehr "on time" for thirty seven and a half dollars an acre. The land was not good. Stohr was having problems keeping up with both his payments and interest and in the winter of 1924, he came down to see Gustav, fully prepared to give the land back to him. As he didn't want the land back, Gustav suggested that a final payment of twelve hundred dollars would give Stoehr free title to the property. He accepted and title was transferred on February 2, 1924. It was still a good deal for Gustav as he doubled his investment, minus the breaking expenses.

The flu struck Hawarden in October of 1918. Mrs. Torgerson was the first to catch the highly contagious disease which attacked the lungs. A number of thresher men at Strohbahn's farm, east of town, first got sick and then

Dr. Burwash came down with the dreaded flu. The methodist Church was turned into a makeshift hospital and Dr. Monkman came up from Loreburn to assist until Burwash was back on his feet. Dr. S.W. Shurtz from west of Hawarden assisted in this effort as well. Gustav's girls remember sitting in their backyard and watching the goings in and out of the church. Their Uncle Sam worked there and they were more than just a bit curious. At the time, there were nearly two hundred people in town and they were the servicing depot for twenty miles around Hawarden. Disease could spread fast, almost as fast as the rumors. For a time they were afraid to drink the water from the town well, as they were convinced that it was the source of the disease. Many people died, and many others were all but scared into their graves. Stories of men coming home, opening the door and falling in - dead, did nothing to calm those who were trying to help. Masks covering the mouth were used when going downtown. The Tastad children had a small playhouse in their yard. Gustav pulled it south and out of town so that they could play away from the other children.

Gustav and his brother Samuel went about the neighborhood doing chores for the farmers who had become ill with the disease. Many times they would find livestock and poultry which had not been fed and cows which hadn't been milked for days. It must have been a sorry sight.

It made no sense as to how the flu took its victims. The large Stevens family all came down with the flu, with

not one of them dying. Another neighbor, a newly married couple with a child got the flu. The husband died leaving the wife and child to look after themselves.

All the villages in the area were turned upside down with the breakouts of the dreaded flu. By mid October, public gatherings (including church services) were banned by the local Medical Health Officers. Some public schools closed completely, while others tried to carry on some semblance of order. Station agents were not allowed to sell tickets to anyone wishing to leave the community and travellers were not allowed off the trains as they passed through. Many towns such as Loreburn and Outlook closed their businesses to the public excepting between the hours of 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Orders to the various firms were to be phoned in to the merchants in the morning and the 3 hours were to be used to pick up the merchandise. Grave digging was a growth industry for several weeks.

Uncle Sam nursed at the hospital during the flu epidemic. Normally he would stay with the patients day and night. When Gustav ended up with the virus, Sam would come home in the evenings and nurse his brother. There were no vaccines to stop the spread of the virus. Sam offered his own antidote to his brother in the form of a shot of whisky. When he finished the drink, he made Gustav drink another glass. The kids began to cry, "Papa's drunk, Papa's drunk!". Whether we agree with Sam's medicinal practice or not, we have to acknowledge that Sam never did catch the

flu. In fact, this practice of Sam's kept him from ever catching the flu! Sam would sleep on the floor, not even taking off his clothes as he cared for his brother. Gustav recovered quickly and was able to help others. Perhaps it was the whisky which helped. Gustav suggested that it was because their family ate lots of vegetables, beets, turnips and the like. That sounds a lot like a good story to make sure the kids all cleaned up their plates!

Sam caught other things though. I remember as a boy hearing the story of how Sam caught Nurse Salter during the flu in an embarrassing situation. He had returned to the church unexpectedly one day to find her having a bath in the washtub. Likely she had trouble finding time to bathe with the heavy patient load. Anyway, Sam walked in on her when she was just getting out of the tub. All she had in her hands was a small washcloth, and she was having trouble determining just what she should cover! I imagine that the story that Uncle Sam would tell was probably a lot funnier than the event.

By the middle of November, only six weeks after the first reported case of the flu, the outbreak ended. Those six weeks took a terrible toll on the community, in terms of lives and spent energy.

A huge collie stray dog had come by and Gustav had befriended the animal. He became a pet for the children, undoubtedly another dog they named "Bob". The boys would play tricks on their Uncle Sam by taking the dog away and

telling Sam that the collie was missing. Sam would offer the boys 25 cents if they could find the dog, which of course was returned in short order. It was a good way to get ice cream on a hot day. Sam no doubt got a kick out of their game. Someone poisoned the dog shortly before they left for Loreburn. They tried to save it by pouring milk down its throat but it died shortly thereafter.

In 1919, Gustav was a school trustee for the Hawarden school district. A petition was circulated for the merger of the Osprey School District with that of the Hawarden District. Osprey served the large area to the west of Hawarden where Gustav had homesteaded. The merger went through, and the students west of town were bussed to Hawarden in horse drawn vans.

CHAPTER 15**SALE AT LOREBURN**

In the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Provincial Police, Region Division, Constable H.G. French reported a murder in his detachment at Elbow. "Mary C. Smith of nearby Loreburn killed her husband at their home on March 31, 1918, in a fit of insanity. At her trial it was ordered that she be kept in custody until the pleasure of the Lieutenant Governor of the province shall be known". It was suggested that Mrs. Smith's insanity might have been triggered by her husband's insistence on building a new barn while the family was stuck in the small quarters of the farmhouse. Five children were left as orphans. This unfortunate incident resulted in the farm being put up for sale. The farm was only a kilometer from Gustav's good friend, Ludvig Aadland and on the farm next to Jacob Haugen. This farm is what the family now refers to as the "Home Place", located two miles west of highway #19 on the "correction line". The farm location was the southeast quarter of Section 4, Township 27, Range 5, West of the 3rd.

In the spring of 1919, 40 year old Gustav was up town in Hawarden when Moffat and George Hudson stopped him on the street. They told him about a sale down on the correction line near Loreburn which they were about to

attend. Gustav had them wait while he went home to pick some extra clothes for the ride and to tell Hannah he was leaving. He rode down with them in their buggy, approaching the farm from the north on the prairie trail adjacent to section four. He was able to have a good look at the farm prior to his arrival at the sale.

The yard contained a brand new barn, a well drained yard and reasonable outbuildings. It was only a half mile from the school, four miles from the Norwegian church, close to relatives and friends, and in the thick of the Norwegian community. Only the house detracted from the farm. It was terribly small for a family of their size, and poorly constructed as well.

Gustav took part in the land auction and was successful with the final bid of \$42.50 per acre. (\$88,000 per 1/4 section of land in 1991 dollars). He was forced to borrow at 8% interest which was extremely high for that day. Gustav's agreement with the J.H. Smith Estate was arranged through The Western Trust Company, and it covered the whole east half of Section 4.

After the sale Gustav stayed the night with his sister-in-law and her husband, Ludvig Aadland, while Moffat and Hudson returned to Hawarden on their own. He likely wanted to stay until the sale ended and then look over a bit more closely the land and buildings he had just purchased. He returned to Hawarden by train the next day.

Despite the high price and interest, Gustav could have sold the farm that fall for a profit. A man called Anderson came by in what they called a stallion cart - a two wheeled cart hooked up to a single horse. He offered fifty dollars an acre for the land - a 20% return for a six month investment. Gustav evidently felt it had more potential than that.

Gustav farmed the land in 1919. One of the earlier stories of the new farm came from Uncle Sam. Gustav had been downtown in Hawarden on a Saturday afternoon shortly after the land purchase when he ran into Ervin Greatrix. He had been in the army and was now looking for some work. Gustav offered him a job to help Uncle Sam pick rocks and work the plow levers. He told him that he would be heading down to Loreburn on Monday but Sam was already at the farm. Well, Ervin had a bicycle and he thought that he would go there that night. It was a strange bicycle in that it had a steering wheel instead of regular handlebars. Somehow he found the place and arrived just when Sam was cooking his supper. Sam had the stove going and had a storm door set up on two sawhorses for a table. Well, Sam and the new hire got to talking as Sam fixed his favorite meal of fried raw potatoes, eggs and bacon. "What kind of place is this?" he asked Sam. "Well," says Sam, "Not too bad a place, but a woman shot her husband in that bedroom right over there. Well, she comes back at night and fires off a couple of shots, but she doesn't hurt anybody!" Sam had to go into

the other room for something and when he came back, Greatrix was not to be seen. He had put on a little extra for supper and now when he called him there was nobody there. Sam went and looked out the east window. There were no trees yet and you could see straight to Ludvig Aadland's. There he spotted his man, peddling like crazy, heading back to Hawarden! He arrived back in Hawarden at ten o'clock that Saturday night and went straight to Gustav's house. "Mr. Tastad," he says, "I thought it over and I don't think I'll be coming to work for you". He didn't even know that Ervin had been down to Loreburn. When Gustav got to the farm on Monday morning, Sam greeted him with a big grin. "Well", he says, "Did you send that Greatrix down here?" "Well yes," Gustav replied, "I told him he could come if he wanted to". "Well, he was here and he went home again", says Sam and he just smiled.

The family moved down to the farm that summer with Gustav. All the necessary items for the summer were taken down in the grain box behind the team of horses. They were also making trips between Hawarden and their new farm with the 1914 Model T Ford.

Peder remembers that the forge had been unloaded on the south side of the house where the ground sloped to the south. He was six years old, and inquisitive enough to want to turn the crank on the blower wheel. It was on enough of an angle that the movement upset the three legged blower on top of him. The forge pinned him across the chest and

stomach but with some difficulty he was able to work himself free of the weight. Hannah found him crying underneath one of the bedroom windows. He was scared that he would be punished for upsetting the forge. She asked "Why didn't you tell me when you were pinned under the forge?" Peder replied "But I didn't know what you called it!"

Shortly after they arrived, a policeman came to the door and told Gustav that his children would have to go to school that summer just like the neighborhood children. The girls had already completed their required weeks of schooling that year in Hawarden, however Gustav had the girls attend that summer even though it was just a repetition of classes they had already taken.

That fall they moved back to Hawarden where they spent the winter. The girls attended school and Gustav readied himself for farming in the spring.

CHAPTER 16**HAWARDEN - FOR THE LAST TIME**

Hannah was pregnant again, and on February 4th, 1920, two baby boys were born. They were named Harold Charles and Byron Grant. Both of the boys were very small. Harold weighed about four pounds and Byron Grant about three and a half. When six year old Peder was asked that day what all the commotion was about he said "We got two twins at our house!"

I remember the fascinating story of how Hannah had taken Gustav's gold wedding band and placed it on Byron's hand. She said that she thought that she could have pushed it over his knuckles onto his wrist, but was afraid to try in case it would tear the skin when she backed it off his hand.

Harold was having some trouble breathing properly. The morning he was born they had wrapped him in a sheet of cotton batten and then sewed him in a cheesecloth, just like a baby "mummy". He started again with his convulsions and Gustav went to get Dr. Burwash. Nurse Salters got there first and started by cutting baby Harold out of his cocoon. They worked on him with the best tools and knowledge that they possessed.

His throat was clogged with mucus and they tried to make him gasp or cry by dipping him in alternate basins of

warm and cold water. The procedure failed and Harold died. They laid him down on the Winnipeg couch and covered him with a sheet.

Both of the boys were baptized on February 5th by pastor R.H. Hofstad. The pastor must have been in the area, and because of the twin's physical conditions, he baptized both boys that day. Mr. & Mrs. J. Carlson are listed as sponsors for Byron Grant and Dr. Burwash is listed as sponsor for Charles. The baptismal record refers to him as simply Charles, as the "Harold" was likely added after he died. All this time two little boys were peeking through a slit in the curtain covering the archway to the living room. They were Peder and Ed, curiously watching the proceedings.

C.C. Stevens took the body and built a small casket. The casket was covered with white silk, and Harold Charles was placed inside. Mrs. Stevens had helped with the work and we believe that the material used was from her wedding dress. Stevens returned to the house with the box under his arm and went directly upstairs to Hannah so that she could have one last look at her baby boy. Harold had only lived the one and one-half days. The funeral was held on the afternoon of February 6th, 1920, in the porch of their neighbor's house, C.C. Stevens. The burial was at 4:00pm that afternoon. Only a few attended the service officiated by Pastor R.H. Hofstad from Bethlehem Lutheran Church. He was buried in the Hawarden Cemetery. Through some mix

up, (the records are lost) the gravestone has been placed in the wrong spot and we are not sure today exactly where it is that Harold Charles lies.

Byron Grant was named after Dr. Byron Burwash, with the "G" in Grant coming from Gustav's name. Harold Charles was named after his mother's initials, Hannah Cornelia. Katie Stephensen was there to help Hannah with little Byron and the rest of the children. Hannah often had help with her growing family. Nellie Dawson also worked for them as well as a Mrs. Asheim, who was Olaf Anderson's sister.

The living room was made into a makeshift incubator, to care for the tiny Byron. This room was used because it could be isolated and kept very warm. Jenny remembers the closed door to the room, which no child was allowed to enter. Gustav helped with the care of Byron, as the nurse could only be with them for a short time. Gustav used an eye dropper to help feed him. The bedrooms were upstairs, so that Hannah was not able to be with her child except for short periods of time.

The Hurd house in Hawarden was not sold immediately when they moved to Loreburn. He rented the house for many years to a carpenter named Oscar Thada who had just recently been married to Beatrice Charters, sister to Mrs. George Shepherdson. The rent was fifteen dollars per month, not a bad deal by today's standards. A letter and a cheque would be received each and every month for many years. The house was eventually sold. It is interesting to note that

when Evelyn boarded and taught in Hawarden, she stayed in this same house.

Hawarden was a safe place to live. The doors to the house were never locked when the Tastads lived in the Hurd home. When Thada moved in, he (or possibly his new wife) wished to lock the doors. Peder remembers as a small boy, watching as a small needle nose plier was inserted into the lock and the end of a broken key was removed. The key was repaired and Thada had his locked door.

CHAPTER 17
HISTORY OF SECTION 4

The history of the Southeast quarter is hard to follow. We know that the land was homesteaded by John L. Cunnard in May of 1906 and in October of that year a 12 x 14 frame house was erected. He was single and spent only enough time on the farm to satisfy his homestead agreement.

By 1909 only thirty-four acres had been broken and seeded. He had put in a well, although we have no idea of where it was located. James Inkster and W.J. Crose made sworn statements as to the amount of improvements and Cunnard received full title on December 13, 1909. He then had the property sold and the title transferred to Edward William Ingleton on March 21, 1910.

Ingleton paid \$2,000.00 for the quarter of land. It is not likely that Ingleton farmed the land himself, but had J.H. Smith farm it for him. The house was probably built in the summer of 1911, as on June 11, 1911 the Monarch Lumber Co. placed a lien for \$295.00 on the property (a common practice by all lumber companies was to deliver lumber to the farm for a house or barn and immediately place a Mechanic's Lien on the property). The debt was paid and the lien was removed in November, 1913. William S. McLeod and Emil Lestia liened the land on August 1, 1911. They were probably carpenters who built some stage of the house. Ben

Kaardahl claimed to have built the first part of the home, which was to become the north east bedroom. As needs developed, the house was built on to from there.

Ingleton continued to own the land after Smith was shot in March, 1918. Ingleton then sold the land to Robert Martin on September 18, 1909. After that it becomes very confusing as to what happened. Martin, a druggist from Regina, valued the land at \$3,360.00 and immediately turned over the ownership to the Western Trust Co. Gustav, then worked out some sort of agreement with the Western Trust Co. and finally received title to the land on December 18, 1929. This land is presently held by Walter Tastad, son of Gustav.

Gustav began farming the Northeast quarter of Section 4 as well. This quarter had been homesteaded by Robert Sieverwright Rae in late 1905. He had been living on the south half of Section 28, Township 27, Range 5, West of the 3rd, previous to this homestead. He had built a 10 x 14 frame house in April of 1908, also a 16 x 20 sod stable, and a 10 x 12 frame granary. He lived there with his wife and one child. By 1909, thirty-three acres of land had been broken and thirty-one acres were cropped. After receiving full title to this land on April 13, 1910, he sold the land to John H. Smith. Again, we do not know when Smith began to farm this land, but we do know he took over the title on July 26, 1915.

Smith took out a mortgage on the land for \$1,400.00 at 8 1/2% per annum on November 22, 1915. A Mechanics Lien was placed on the property by the Lumber Manufacturers' Yards Limited of Regina, in a dispute with a Delbart Reiber. The liened amount was \$1,181.35.

From the above I have come up with a possible scenario for the strange events: Smith had bought, or was in the process of buying, the Northeast quarter of Section 4 from Rae. He was also able to rent or purchase on an agreement for sale, the Southeast quarter of that Section. With better roads and closer neighbors, Smith chose to build on the land he was purchasing from Ingleton (the Southeast quarter of Section 4). He then built the house in 1911 and had Reiber build him the barn shortly before he was killed in 1918. After Smith's death, Reiber couldn't pay the lumber company bill. The lumber company could not lien Ingleton's land, as Smith did not have title, so the only option they had was to lien the North half of Section 4 which was in Smith's name. I am not sure that the lumber company was ever paid and this is all my own guessing as I can't back it up with any hard evidence.

CHAPTER 18
THE NEW HOME

In any event, Gustav took over the farm from the appointed executor of the estate and eventually obtained title to the east 1/2 of section 4 on December 18, 1929, which is presently owned by Walter Tastad.

The population for the Municipality of Loreburn in that time was 2406 persons. By 1956, this number had dropped to 959. Most farms averaged 320 acres, or 1/2 section of land.

Gustav hired Dunc Livingstone, a carpenter from Hawarden who went to work on the farmhouse before the family moved in. Beaver board was put on all the walls and paint freshened the kitchen. When he finished the job he suggested that perhaps bumping one's elbow against the coal oil lamp might be the best remedy to the house problem. He was not impressed with the quality of the construction in the house. No one was impressed with its size. From the start, Gustav was intent on building a new house for his family.

The next year Gustav had hired Herbert Foster, a skilled tradesman who lived in Loreburn, to build onto the west end of the house. The existing summer kitchen was removed and what I remember as the kitchen area, was added on. As the land dropped away to the west from the house,

they decided to drop the kitchen one step. This also allowed for a much higher ceiling in the kitchen. There was something about a high ceiling - they felt they were getting more air, and it was somehow healthier to have a larger space. I always thought that the step made such a good bench to sit on.

The east bedroom was always reserved for Hannah and Gustav. They hardly ever were able to sleep there however without at least one or two tiny ones snuggled in somewhere. (It was either Norman or Walter that promised that they would sleep with their parents until they got "Cheg"- Norwegian for whiskers!) The middle bedroom with a window to the north, was able to hold two beds with as many kids piled in as possible. The west bedroom was always reserved for the hired man and one of the older boys. The living room was the south east corner of the house and the dining room was facing south in the center of the home. Hannahs and Gustav's bedroom was off the living room, while the other two bedrooms were off the dining room.

The house and addition was covered with cedar shingles in 1925. Peder and Edward were by this time old enough to help with the job. Peder remembers that Gustav would nail on a board to be used as a guide. The boys would set the shingles on the board and then nail them into place. There were some spots where the spacing between shingles was less than consistent.

The present day garage was built for use as a pig barn. The blacksmith shop was just north of the house, where the present quonset is situated. A large round stump was placed in the ground to anchor the anvil. This stump had been moved from Glenside to the Mountain Ash farm, where they had set up a temporary blacksmith shop when the land was plowed. When they moved the stump to Loreburn it took four horses to pull it out of the ground. North of the blacksmith shop were several buggy sheds and granaries.

Peder remembers when he and Ed were small, they used to have lots of fun jumping from one roof to the other along this row of buildings. Once, on Ed's birthday (August 22) they were running across the roofs in their bare feet and Peder caught his foot on the roof's edge, filling his foot with slivers. Gustav used Ed's new red handled knife to dig out most of the wood. Some of the slivers remained for many years in his foot. At times - especially the winter months - the pain was severe enough to cause him to use crutches. At other times he would walk on the sides of his shoe causing them to break away. Finally the sliver came out after a visit to Dr. Burwash, who had again tried to dig out the infection and find the sliver. He had finally gotten Nurse Weir to put on a poultice of bread and milk, and the stubborn sliver came out a few days latter. It was 1/4" long and as thick as the lead in a lead pencil.

The present machine shed was built after they started farming, in the early twenties. The building which I

remember as the blacksmith shop and used as a tool shop today, was built in the forties. The old blacksmith shop with the curved roof was hauled away. The old wash house was pulled out of the way to make room for the bunkhouse. This was a house from the Stewart farm that was moved in to the yard in 1936. This is the house that Leroy Olson was born. It was used as a bunkhouse for the boys and the hired men as well as a wash house. A stove was installed in the wash house. Later the "Home Comfort" stove in the farmhouse was replaced by a "Round Oak" stove. The "Home Comfort" was installed in the washhouse. In the wintertime lines would be hung across the room and the clothes would be hung to dry in the heated space. Hannah used a Maytag washer driven by a small two cycle gas engine. In the summer months the machine could be used outside with the clothes to dry on the outside line, although this was not usually the case. This machine had been purchased and used in Hawarden when they had moved in from the homestead. The washers could be dangerous when used indoors. Even though they had hoses to pipe the fumes outdoors, not everything works perfectly and Hannah, on at least one occasion, was gassed. Just finding enough gas to run the engine in the thirties was a chore, as it was not only expensive but hard to find as well.

Water boilers (an oblong water container of perhaps 5 gallons capacity) were used to heat water for dishes, baths and cleaning. It sat on top of the stove and was heated by the fire. Homemade soap and lye were mixed in with the

towels and the dishtowels in the boiler. They came out very clean and fresh from this treatment.

There was a wooden walk between the house and the bunkhouse. One day Hannah was walking out to the wash-house when she tripped and fell to the ground. She waited for a moment while she caught her breath, and then proceeded on her way. She noticed that she was walking with a terrible limp, and was sure that she must have broken her hip. She felt no unusual pain and so was convinced that she was in shock. She sat down on the bunkhouse step, to get her composure and then noticed that the heel had broken off her shoe. The broken shoe was the cause of her limp! Years later, she would laugh as she retold the incident.

Gustav never set up a blacksmithing business at the Loreburn farm. The shop at the farm was used solely for his own repairs on the farm. He was always available to help a neighbor with his repair or even to shoe his neighbor's horses. He most always took his own horses to the blacksmith in Loreburn.

Gustav needed horses to farm his new land. He still had his one horse "Dolly", who was now only a four year old. Gustav had held her back from the sale at Glenside in 1917. He purchased a good team from Bird who lived north west of Hawarden. He called them "Cap" and "Dick". He also got a mate for Dolly - "Fanny" - from Uncle Ludvig. Now he had two teams for work. He later bought "Charlie Chaplan" from Uncle Ludvig as well. Uncle Ludvig was recognized in

the community as being an excellent horseman. "Roxy" was purchased from Olaf Berg. She was the mother of many fine colts. Dolly's colt "Freddie" was paired with Roxy's colt "Charlie". "May" was an offspring of "Roxy". "Darkie" was purchased from Archie Edwards and was often ridden by Peder. "Bess" and "Beauty" were bought from Joe Gifford. "Bess" was claimed by Ed while Gustav claimed "Beauty". "Lady" was "Dolly's colt and "Daisy" was purchased in April of 1920 from N. Summerscales, from Loreburn. Gustav paid him \$220.00 for the horse which included a Deering wagon. "Prince" and "Star" was one of the last teams they had. Prince was Roxy's colt and Star belonged to Lady.

Many of the children learned to ride on Darkie. She could be trusted to carry a small child, walking carefully and picking her steps. With an adult, Darkie was high spirited, off in a flash, turning on a dime. Gustav could never get her to gallop for some reason. Often on Sunday afternoons, the neighbour kids would come over and they would take turns riding Darkie from the barn to the "Lonesome Tree".

Darkie had a special spot in the hearts of all the Tastad children. Most of them will not forget the day that they took Darkie away. He was to be given to Pete Hetland, who lived just a short distance away on the farm which would become the home of the Ferkingstads years later. He raised coyotes for their fur, and fed them horse meat. The family was at the table eating dinner when Hetland stopped

at the house with the horse. The family all got up to say their goodbyes, all that is except for Peder. He was sure that if he went out to see Darkie, he would break down in front of his family and cry. He was of an age considered too old to cry. The rest of them watched as their friend was taken away. When they got to the school, Darkie stopped, unwilling to go any further. Perhaps he had some idea of his fate, or was remembering all the times that he had carried or pulled the Tastad children to this spot. Darkie looked to the school, back to the Tastad farm and then whinnied three times. Only then did he move on to his fate.

"May" got tangled up in barb wire in 1939. They got her unravelled, however she had lost a lot of blood. Hauling her home on the stoneboat behind the tractor, they tried to get her to stand. She was unable to get up and was suffering considerably. Gustav reluctantly destroyed her. "Cap" and "Dick" were big and strong but were notably slow and lazy as well. One of them died in the mid - thirties, and the other one was destroyed the same day. The horses were skinned and the hides were sold in Saskatoon.

Gustav was known in the neighborhood to have the slowest moving horses in the area. Once the boys got a bit older they were to speed up the horsepower somewhat. Horses were respected as animals. As work and transportation was largely dependent upon them, they were cared for in special ways. They were given good feed, water and they were always

curried and brushed after and before the day's work. Driving a horse too fast from town and sweating him up was not only unhealthy for the horse, but also to the driver who would have to answer to Gustav at home. Gustav claimed that it was a poor man who couldn't walk as far as a horse that was pulling a load.

Harness breakdowns of a minor nature were repaired on the farm with rivets or by sewing. Sewing the leather lines was the preferred fix, being a permanent solution. Gustav was pretty good at this job. If repairs were of major proportion, the harness would be taken to C.C. Stevens in Hawarden or Charlie Mclean in Loreburn. Both these men had machines which could sew the large tugs.

The collars wore out quicker than the leather tugs. The best collars (best for wear and the easiest on the horse) were the cloth faced long straw horse-collar. The longer straws made them hold shape and last longer. Great care was taken with the collar, as this was the pressure point of the load against the horse. If the collar did not fit properly, a thin pad of deer hair referred to as a "sweat pad" was used between the animal and collar. If the horse developed a sore, the sweat pad was hollowed out in the area of the sore, and the animal could be still used to pull a load in the field. When harnessing the horse in the morning, great care was taken to thoroughly clean the collar of any dirt or scale. The horse was also inspected for possible shoulder sores or blisters.

Four horses were needed to pull the drill, but two only for most other chores around the farm. The drill was by far the hardest of the implements to hook up. It had two poles and a spreader, which had to be stepped over and then backed up to. This usually took more than a little patience for both horse and horseman.

Later, six horses were needed on the gang plow used for summerfallowing. Without drawing a picture it's difficult to understand, however, driving six horses meant only holding four lines. The four lines were held firmly in your right hand and your left hand hung on to the seat. This was protection in case you hit a rock which could throw you off the plow. On one occasion, the carriage bolt which held the seat to the plow pulled right through the seat and Peder landed on his back on the wheel of the plow. He rolled over and lay in the furrow until he caught his breath. The horses stopped, as they never needed an excuse for a rest when pulling a load.

You normally placed your best horses in the lead position. The lazier ones were followers, or placed between good horses. There was usually a pail tied to the harrow cart that carried some small stones. One got pretty good at hitting the lazy horse in just the spot to get the desired result. "Fanny" had more than one stone thrown her way.

Nine horses would need six lines to control them. The most Peder ever handled at once was eleven horses when he was working in Alberta. Usually Gustav allowed the boys to

ride the implement they were working or to use a harrow cart behind the harrows. Sometimes if they were using four horses on a six horse harrow bar, they would take the cart off and walk. This probably worked better anyway, as the harrows were always plugging with trash or some roots. If you were really tired and out of Gustav's sight, you might try to stand on the harrow bar behind the horses. This was very risky, and it was no one's wish to be run over by a diamond harrow. A few times a horse was ridden behind the harrows, with the lines extended to the rider. This didn't work very well as the riding horse had a tendency to walk onto the harrows.

The horses were rested at each end of the field, or sooner if necessary. If it were very hot the horse would not lather, as the sweat would evaporate as soon as it formed. This was very dangerous, as shoulder sores could develop very quickly. The rests at the far end of the field invariably took up more time than the stops near the farmhouse where they could be seen by Gustav's watchful eye.

The day started early, with feeding and harnessing of the horses. Gustav expected you to be in the field by 7:00 am. At noon the horses were unhooked and brought back to the barn. The harness was left on them and they were given a portion of hay or oat sheave to eat while the men went in for dinner. After lunch, the horses were fed oats, and when finished they were taken for a drink. You would be working

in the field again by 1:00pm. The outfit ran until six that night, when the horses would refuse to make another round. They just seemed to know when it was time to quit. The horses were unharnessed and then fed their supper. After eating they would be turned out into the pasture. Even before they would drink, the horses would roll around in the dirt. As they were often wet, this resulted in a layer of caked dirt on their coats. Then came one of the worst jobs on the farm - to some at least, and that was currying the horses. Gustav loved to curry, and would never place a saddle or harness on a horse unless it had been curried from top to bottom. Gustav was even known to curry his cows, for what reason I'm not sure. (I'm told that it keeps the "dingle berries" out of the milk!)

The Titan was usually used to plow the land and the horses pulled the seed, harrowing and disking equipment. Gustav had purchased the basic equipment to farm properly. Boss harrows, Vanbrunt drill, International out-throw disks and Bissel in-throw disks and sod buster lever harrows.

The farm land was always plowed. They had always done it and there seemed no good reason to stop. Olaf Berg was one of the first farmers in the area to stop plowing. The neighbors were very sceptical, but finally changed their ways when they saw new successful methods of farming.

It's hard to imagine, but there were no trees around the yard when the family moved into their new home. The tree farm at Indian Head provided trees at no cost to the

farmers. From the day he set foot on the farm until the day he moved into Loreburn, Gustav planted and cared for his trees.

In 1920, Gustav received permission from Percy Page, a neighbor, to dig up some of the wild poplar which were growing on his land. He would move large trees - 10 or twelve feet high - and place them along the road. The neighbors gave him a bit of a bad time over his tree transplants, so Gustav was pleased when they came through that first winter.

The first shipment of nursery trees came in the spring of 1924. Peder was in bed with the measles so Ed started out with his dad and a spade. Gustav would stick the spade deep into the ground and then push over the handle. Ed would take a tree out of the pail and hand it to his father, who would then place it in the ground behind the spade. Removing the shovel, Gustav would step on the soil, packing the ground around the young seedling. This process was repeated again and again. Peder got better and it was his turn to help Gustav. Over the next few years, Gustav and his family planted over twenty seven thousand trees.

The seedlings were planted in a set order, say six poplar, six willow, six elm, and then one maple or ash. Carraganas were placed only a foot apart. In later years, fruit trees, berry bushes and currants were added.

Gustav would hook up one of the horses to the cultivator. With one of the children on the horse steering

between the rows of trees, Gustav would walk behind, controlling the handles of the machine and avoiding the trees. I remember trying this with my brother in the potato field. There were often long stretches between plants where the cultivator cleaned off more than it should.

Almost every year Gustav would try to grow an evergreen tree. They just didn't seem to want to catch in that soil. For all the evergreens Gustav planted, only 11 survive today (That's one for each of his children). He transplanted two of the spruce trees to the front of the old McLean house in Loreburn.

Gustav had planted grass across the south east corner of the section, directly east of the house. There was one wild poplar growing in the corner of the section. It stood by itself, crooked and bent. This tree became the anchor to one of my favorite stories that Hannah, and then later my mother, told to her children. It was the story of the lonesome tree. Peder had been mowing the grass next to the road when he noticed the growth of many small poplar trees. Gustav decided to let them grow, creating a shelter belt.

Hannah would take a young Walter or Ruth Elaine down to the old crooked poplar and tell them that once long ago this tree had been lonesome. There was no one near him to talk to, to laugh with, or to play with. He was just plain lonesome. Pretty soon however some new trees started to grow up around him and he was soon to be lost in the many trees around him - he wasn't lonesome any more. It was a

great object lesson for any small boy or girl that was feeling sad or lonely. I remember my mother telling me the story when I was small. We made a point of going there with mom and our children just to have her relate the story again. Each time we go by, one of the kids is sure to point out the location of this very famous tree. Over the last seventy years there has no doubt been more than one successor to the lonesome tree. As each one dies, it leaves its seedlings to carry on surviving much in the same way that the Tastad family has carried on.

Work on the farm meant long and hard committed hours for the whole family as it was expected that the men were to be out in the field working by at least seven in the morning. This meant that the day started at five in the morning. Gustav and the hired man would head off to the barn. There, they would curry and harness the horses, milk the cows and feed the chickens.

Before leaving to do the chores, Gustav would crank the shakers on the stove, take out the ashes and empty the sink pail. He always left the door wide open in winter or summer to bring in fresh air to the house. Often he would have to fill the reservoir with water from the cistern. Gustav maintained that if a fire broke out in the house, it would likely start in the stove reservoir as it was usually dry. He would then start the fire in the cook stove and then Hannah would be up to start the breakfast. It nearly always consisted of oatmeal porridge with bacon or salt

pork and boiled eggs. In the winter there would be toast in the oven. Later, in the thirties, they would make their own porridge out of cleaned wheat. Later in the twenties, they might be treated to cornflakes or shredded wheat.

For lunch they might have soup before the meal, perhaps with a joint of beef with vegetables and dumplings. This would be followed by a full course meal that would include a meat dish. Meat, however, was not always served up in the thirties. A lighter, warmed-up meal could then be expected that night.

Meal times were at a set time, and all were expected to be there with a washed face and clean hands. When the meal was ready all the family would stand around the table, and then be seated at the same time. If you were not yet ready, or if you were late coming into the house, you would wait until after the family had finished before you sat down to eat. No doubt the kids were usually on time. Meals were a serious time and usually it was time for serious adult discussion only. If, however, something struck the children funny, they could usually find an agreeable smile and chuckle from their mother.

Hannah too, liked to get out of the house. She often would go down to the barn to help milk the cows while her girls were preparing supper.

Meat was a difficult item to deal with. Just outside the northeast corner of the house, Gustav had dug a hole five feet square and several feet deep. The hole was

cribbed and was deep enough to require rings mounted on the outside wall to form a ladder to reach the bottom. In the fall water would be placed in the hole and allowed to freeze. Once a large enough mass of ice was formed, it was covered and insulated in the best manner possible. Meat was placed in sacks and left to cool on the ice. It wasn't unusual to still find ice in the pit far into July and August. This was also the storage place for the partially filled cream can. If the meat was butchered or purchased in the winter, it might be frozen, placed in sacks and buried in an oat bin.

Flour was always bought in 100 pound bags, and sometimes stored in granaries, covered with wheat. It was an attempt to keep the flour away from the mice, which loved to gnaw through the cotton bags. Flour was usually purchased in the fall in bulk quantities, so storage became a problem. This was not the flour we are familiar with today. It was a white flour from Robin Hood which they used. A Graham flour was purchased in 25 pound bags. This was mixed with the white flour and molasses to make brown bread.

There were two butcher's in the neighborhood - Bill Marshall from Loreburn who had taken over the butcher shop from Bernhard Berg and E. H. (Butch) Edwards from Strongfield who sold out to Stephen French in 1932. Stephen's daughter Dorothy, married Don Follick, a farmer and good friend who lived west of Strongfield.

Edwards had a Ford runabout in which he packed fresh meat to peddle to the community. This would allow each farmer to buy only enough meat that he could eat in the next few days. Edwards was available to butcher at the farm as well. Gustav would set up a large tripod and Edwards would help him with the large animals. Edwards had the help of a small boy during this period. He could work like any man - he was especially adept at splitting the animal down the back using nothing but a meat cleaver.

In threshing time, Bill Marshall and his son from Loreburn, would butcher two beef each night which he would peddle the next day. It took a lot of meat to feed a big harvest crew.

Threshing was an exciting time for the whole family. They would be up early in the morning, as there was work for everyone to do. The crews worked hard, and could put away a tremendous amount of food, and would have to be fed even if they were unable to thresh due to the weather.

Hannah's lemon pies, her bread, biscuits and sour cream cookies (later called Grandma Cookies) were favorites with the crews. Many of these men were far from home, coming from the east or the U.S.A. to help with the harvest.

I should describe a typical threshing crew of the twenties:

Cutting - The crop was cut and tied into sheaves by a horse drawn binder. It was ground driven, meaning that the

cutting bar and reel was powered by the rotation of the drive wheel. It was pulled by four horses, three on one side of the pole and one on the other. The hitch was offset so that the horses would never trample the crop. The operator sat on the binder, steering the horses and adjusting the cutting and reel heights. This was the only time that Gustav allowed his men to use a whip on the horses. The whip was called a "binder whip", and was made like a bamboo fishing pole. With horses so far away from the driver, a whip was needed to keep up the speed through the heavy crop in the low spots. Of course, being ground driven, the slower you went, the slower you cut. With poor horses, old binder and a heavy crop, a two foot swath may be all you could handle. When conditions were normal, an eight foot cut could be taken. Twenty acres was a good day's work for the horse drawn binder. Later when the binders were powered by the John Deere, and 60 acres could be cut in one day. This 10 foot cut powered unit, however, required both a tractor and a binder operator.

Stooking - This was the job of picking up the sheaves that the binder had dropped and building a "stook". The stook usually was made up of 10 sheaves, which placed in the shape of a tee-pee would dry in this position until picked up by the harvesters. There were good men that could stook quickly and others who couldn't seem to get anything done. Peder remembers when he and Edward cut into a field one day. Brothers Byron and George had started to stook

behind them early that morning, and when they finished cutting the last of the field that night, the boys pulled out and set up the last sheave from the binder. They had stooked sixty acres that day.

Threshing Crew - The threshing outfit was usually set up in the field to minimize the hauling distance of the stooks. It was also good practice not to set them up near your yard as the straw piles were a fire hazard. Ideally, it was set up next to a granary so that the grain spout could discharge directly into the bin. Gustav's thresher was powered by the Titan tractor, which tied up a good part of one man's time. In addition to looking after the Titan, the operator would be responsible for supervising the grain wagons or bins, watching the grain tally and being the overall "straw boss". Next came the man in charge of the separator. His job was to maintain the equipment and see that there were no stoppages due to breakdown. He would oil and grease as necessary, repair belts and set the sieves and concaves. In many ways this was the worst job, as you were always in the dust and the dirt. Working around all the moving parts could also be very dangerous. Charlie Petman from Hawarden had been killed while working on his machine. Probably only one grain handler was needed when they were set up at a granary. If, however, the grain needed to be hauled by wagon, three or four grain haulers may be needed. This was the time before augers and hoists, when all grain was shovelled both on and off the wagons.

Most of the manpower was used in picking up the stooks from the field. Eight teams of horses pulling eight hayracks was usually enough to keep the thresher from shutting down. The hayracks were on either wooden or steel wheels. In the winter they could be mounted on sleigh tracks. Each man tried to load his rack as quickly as possible. Sheaves were placed "butts out" on the rack, that is the heads of the grain were placed to the center of the rack with the straw end of the sheave to the outside. The load was built up as high as possible. The pitcher mounted the rack and his horses brought them back to the threshing outfit. The quicker he got back with the load the longer rest period he would have at the threshing machine. Lauritz's hired man, Alfred Morgan (brother to Joe and Howard), was one of the best loaders they ever had. His loads were so square and straight that it was almost impossible to climb up on them. They would have to pull down a few sheaves in order to get a hand or foot hold. The hayracks would pull up beside the feeder on the thresher and wait to be unloaded. Loading the racks was considered one of the easier jobs and was left to the younger boys. It was not such an easy job for the horses however, as a good crop of wheat in the rack could be a hard pull back to the outfit.

Spike Pitchers - These were the men who threw off the sheaves into the separator, helping the loaders to unload the racks of sheaves. Often a divider board was placed lengthwise on the feeder so that the hayracks could be

unloaded from each side of the thresher. It was very important to feed the sheaves onto the feeder at just the right speed. Too fast could plug the machine and too slow wasted time. The sheaf was placed so that it went in "head" first. Placing them crosswise could plug the unit. The spike pitcher was spelled off occasionally for rests. Depending on the wind direction, this could be a good or very bad job. Climbing up and down the racks usually filled your fingers with enough thorns and slivers to fill a Sunday afternoon using a needle and knife to cut away the infection.

That was the crew then, roughly twelve men. Peder remembers the crew in 1938. He was 25 years old and there was one "old man" who was 42 years old. The rest of the crew was all younger. Can you imagine the food that a crew like this would consume? Some of the steam driven outfits were even larger, with 12 pitching teams and many grain haulers. Peder remembers hauling grain from a steam outfit for Pete Hetland. The thresher was set up on section 31 west of Gustav's and they were hauling the grain to the elevator in Loreburn with 12 grain wagons. What a production! Peder hauled two loads that one day.

Chickens were raised for their meat as well as eggs, however beef was still the preferred meal. Gustav kept sheep on the farm. One of the ewes seemed to always have three lambs, and having only two teats, the children would bottle feed the third lamb. As this was the easiest lamb to

catch, it was usually the first one to end up in the soup pot. Peder can remember standing and holding one lamb which he had become particularly fond of. "I held my eyes shut as tight as possible. I was holding it by the wool and was straddling the lamb. Pa hit it on the back of the head and even with my eyes held tight, still the tears shot right through. Well, I was a little moved but I knew it had to be." Children raised off the farm often grow up not knowing of death and the cycles of nature. They miss the hard lessons and sometimes develop an unrealistic view of life cycles.

Wild meat never was used extensively on either the homestead or at Loreburn. Gustav maintained that deer were too beautiful to shoot. There were not likely very many of them in the area anyway, choosing rather to stay in the protection of the trees in the coulees near the river. Peder remembers eating rabbit only once. It never caught on in the stew pot. Saskatoons and chokecherries were picked on the riverbank. They were preserved in syrups, jellies and jams.

Birthdays were special days - whether there was money in the house or not. Hannah loved to play tricks on these days. Jenny remembers cream puffs filled with cotton batten instead of whipped cream and candy kisses made from bread dough. Christmas time always brought a tree and presents, although the number of presents varied from year to year depending on the crops. These were the days before Canadian

Wheat Board price levels and government stabilization programs. On one of the meagrest of Christmases, a poplar tree was used, with one small present for each child. Despite this, Hannah and Gustav made the best of it, helping the children to remember the real meaning of Christmas. It's hard for me to believe, but lutefisk was never served for Christmas Eve dinner! The Norwegian foods became the normal festive meal much later. Christmas dinner was often a lamb roast.

Coal was always burned in the stoves up until the "thirties" when wood was salvaged from the river valleys to the west. The coal house was next to the bunkhouse. Each winter seemed to bring an eight foot snowdrifts between the coal shed and the house. It was no easy feat for the small boys to haul heavy pails of coal over the drifts and into the house each day.

Before the "thirties", what wood was used was purchased and hauled from Loreburn. Harry McDougal would sell it by the cord, cut to stove lengths. Wilbur Drummond worked for Harry at that time.

Lars Olson was one of the first hired men at Loreburn along, of course, with Gustav's brother Sam. One day in 1919 Sam was out plowing with the Titan pulling a four bottom plow. Actually it was a five bottom independent beam plow which had the fifth plow shear removed as the Titan did not have the power to pull that heavy a load. Sam was stopped in the field just north of the pasture, part way to

Jacob Haugens. The large gear on the Titan was defective and Sam was removing it. Gustav had been out with Ed and Peder digging out rock in the fields. It was dinnertime and they were headed back to the farmhouse in the Model T when Sam was spotted. Gustav stopped to inspect the damage to the tractor and Peder decided to walk home for dinner. Before he could reach home, the Model T came roaring past with Sam at the wheel and Gustav holding a crying Ed. On the way home, they had gone over a bump and Ed had been thrown out of the car and broken his right arm. By the time Peder reached home, Dr. Monkman had been summoned. Ed was on the davenport when Monkman came in. He was carrying a smooth board in his hand. The doctor waited in the kitchen, visiting with the family as they finished their meal. Peder did not know what had happened to his brother, only that it was serious enough to receive an immediate visit from the doctor. The kids were in the kitchen and when Dr. Monkman sent their father out to the kitchen to get the meat saw, their imaginations ran wild. "Will this do?" he asked the doctor. "That will do fine", says Monkman. Peder began to hear the saw working and he began to howl, "They're cutting off his arm!" Well, of course, they were only cutting the splint to fit Ed's arm. They wrapped the little arm (Ed was only four at the time) onto the splint and that night Ed slept with Hannah and Gustav. When he awoke the splint was off his arm, and Gustav had to straighten the arm and wrap it again to the splint.

Meanwhile, the tractor needed repairs. What I would have expected to be a long delay in getting replacement parts, was not as it is today. A simple phone call to the International dealer, Harry MacDougall, who in turn would call Moose Jaw that day, would result in the part being delivered to Loreburn the very next day! This was in a time before accountants had invented "inventory control", which allows companies to sell their product out of an empty bin. It's very doubtful that we could deliver next day service between major points in Saskatchewan today. Delivery to a town can take up to a week. Our instant communications and modern transportation systems have regressed in some areas of service.

Hannah's sister, Lydia, had moved to Canada with her older sister Lena Akre, wife of O. M. Akre. They lived next door to Andrew Halvorson who she met and later married in 1911. They lived on the quarter adjacent and east of O.M. Akre's farm in a sod house. Eight years and four children later, Andrew was needing more land for his family. His neighbor John Soberg had moved to Sylvan Lake, Alberta and reported good land prospects. In April, 1919, the family sold out and moved to their new farm west of Red Deer. This was an important event to me, as this was the family my father would work for in the thirties. This job placed him in the community where he would meet and fall in love with my mother, Ruth Bjelke.

One summer day in 1919 a car dealer from north of Broderick came down to visit Gustav. He was a Finnestad, the grandfather of Pastor Ken Finestad. He was driving a new Willis Knight car which he had for sale. It was a beautiful car, all leather upholstery, with small fold out seats behind the front seats. Gustav bought the car but never told anyone what he paid for it. They used the car that fall when they moved back to Hawarden.

Gustav must have acquired quite a sizable bank account by the time he moved off the homestead at Glenside. He had bought a house in Hawarden, the Mountain Ash farm, the farm at Loreburn, a threshing outfit, refitted his farm with new machinery and stock, maintained hired men and housekeepers, fed a large family and now bought a new car which cost enough that he didn't want to tell Hannah the purchase price!

The 1918 crop was about average for that time, 14 bushel per acre in the Loreburn area. The next year was much poorer, with average yields only reaching 7 bushels per acre.

CHAPTER 19

THE TWENTIES

The twenties were fun times for the family, as it grew, worked, played and matured together. The radio didn't invade the home until the mid twenties. In the mean time, the entertainment was creative, often made up in the home. The boys especially enjoyed sitting around the adults, listening to them telling stories and yarns. Jacob Haugen, Gustav, and the Martins were just some of the men who they liked to hear talk. Halsten Stamnes was a great singer, although he usually liked to sing in the barn or outside of the house. One of the songs we remember came from Halsten:

There once was a lady from Tussa
 She had in her hand a young roost'a.
 She cut off his head
 Until he was dead
 And now he don't crow like he used 'ta.
 Refrain: Fal - de - la - la
 Fal - de - la - la
 Fal - de - la - la
 La - la - la - la.
 There was a lady from Tucket
 She'd a bussle as big as a bucket.
 She filled it with oats
 And the tough billy goats
 They came from behind her and took it. Refrain.

Halsten farmed directly south of the farmhouse. The girls remember that Halsten would rest his horses at the north end of the field and then walk across the road to the house. The girls would have the phonograph moved to the door on the south side and play one of the old records.

When it was finished he would wave and head back to his horses. Halsten enjoyed many of their records.

After supper and when chores and cleanup were completed, the family would gather in the living room, often around the piano. Hannah could chord on the piano that had been purchased when they lived in Hawarden. She always had a song and loved to play the guitar as well while leading the singing. Often on winter evenings, the house would be full of young people from the neighborhood. Hannah would entertain them with her songs, some happy (No Sir) and some sad (The Blind Child). The Gerhard Heintzmann piano is at Byron Tastad's home. Evelyn, Jennie and Gudrun practiced on this piano when they took lessons in Loreburn.

When company came over, they would try and come up with some new trick; some stunt or gymnastic trick. The Norwegian newcomers often showed them tricks with string or they used their hands and the gas light at night to project pictures of animals on the walls. There was some folk dancing done in the home as well as Norwegian singing. Parlor games were a favorite, many of which were played when I was a young boy. (See appendix) The Tastad home often had a jigsaw puzzle set up on a table to pass the long winter nights.

The telephone was already installed in the home. (One long ring followed by two short rings) This was the first telephone the Tastad family had known. One day Hannah had

been frightened by Mr. Ashworth, who walked into the house to check the phone. He hadn't knocked, and he looked like a man from "Mars", dressed in his lineman clothes and rigging.

In 1920, O.M. Akre had returned for a visit to Norway. When he returned, he brought with him Gustav's sister - Olga. She stayed with Gustav in Hawarden and then at the farm in Loreburn for a while before going out to see her brother Lauritz in Alderson, Alberta. Hannah and baby Byron accompanied Olga to Alberta on the train. After her visit to Alberta she then left for South Dakota to visit her brother and sister. She not only had a return ticket to Norway with her, but she had a boyfriend waiting there as well. She never did return to Norway, settling down in South Dakota with Sam Fossum.

The radio finally came to the Tastad farm in 1925. This event was similar to what I remember to be the coming of television in our community. The whole family would get together, often with neighbors, and sit around the radio. Schedules and routines were changed in order to be able to listen to a favorite show. The first radio was a " King Neutrodyne", a large horizontal radio which sat on the desk. There were three knobs for adjustment. When listening, the radio station would often fade in and out, so it was necessary to have a designated "radio man" who would sit near the unit and make the adjustments as necessary. Radios were not just turned on in the morning

and left all day as is common today. It received its power from a car battery, three "D" batteries and a single "C" battery. The unit was directly connected to an areal system in the yard. Of course, a one or two dollar license each year was needed for its legal operation. The radio stations did not operate continuously. It would come on the air for a few hours in the morning, briefly at noon, and then later on in the day carrying on to late into the evening. Salt Lake City, Shannindoah Iowa, and Moose Jaw were some of the stations they loved to listen to as a family. Some of the favorite shows were: Lux Radio Show, Amos and Andy, Fibber McGee. The big "King" was later traded to Saul Socolofsky for an upright "Philips" floor model.

On January 26th, 1922, another son was born to Gustav and Hannah. This was George Leovin Tastad. Dr. Burwash had come down the night before and had been waiting around for Hannah to give birth. Hannah's sister, Aunt Lizzie, had been with her all night as well. Burwash loved an occasional cigar, so he had walked down to the barn that morning. He was smoking and talking to Gustav as he did the morning chores. Both men heard the yell from the farmhouse, and Dr. Burwash ran all the way to the house just in time to catch George as he entered the world. He was born with a "veil" over his face, (The membrane still covered him) which was considered to be a good omen for a child.

When Uncle Sam saw George Leovin with his brown eyes and husky body, he gave him the name of Jack Dempsey, a champion boxer of the day. George was baptized on March 22, 1922 at Skudesness Lutheran Church. His sponsors were his mother Hannah, Mrs. Ludvig Aadland, Ludvig Aadland and Lauritz Tastad. George shares both his second name (Leovin) and his initials (G.L.) with his father Gustav.

The 1920, 1921 and 1922 wheat crops were all near or above average crops. Gustav had an excellent crop in 1923 and the wheat was sold for 85 cents a bushel. The average yield in the Loreburn area reached 27 bushels per acre that year. The farm had been a good investment thus far. Gustav had Fred Codere as a hired men that year. Codere was a frenchman who had considerable trouble with the English language. During the second world war Codere ran into Byron Tastad which prompted him to write Gustav a letter that week telling him what he had been up to since he had left the Loreburn area.

The family was saddened on December 3rd, 1923 with the death of Hannah's brother-in-law, O.M. Akre of Strongfield. He had been over to O. Kaldor's house that Sunday evening at a meeting to call a new minister for the church. He had travelled the three miles by horseback, accompanied by his dog. He left Kaldor's at ten that night to return home, but he never arrived. The last the Kaldor's heard of him were the hymns they could hear him singing into the night as he rode away. When Aunt Lena called over to Kaldor's the next

morning, she became worried when she found out that he wasn't there. Otto Kaldor retraced the trail back to O.M.'s and found the body a half mile from his home. The horse was standing at his head, and his dog stood guard at his side. Gustav was with Dr. Monkman when he performed the autopsy which showed that he had fallen from his horse and broken his neck. He was only 44 years old and left four boys and four girls all under the age of sixteen, as well as his wife Lena. It was a very sad time for the whole community.

On April 15, 1923 Hannah and Gustav's first child, Evelyn was confirmed. She was the first of Gustav's children to become a member of Skudesness Lutheran Church. Hannah's sister Lydia, had been in the second confirmation class in 1909. We note too that Aunt Lena, Aunt Lydia and Uncle Olaf were the 3rd, 4th and 5th listed members of the new church, Skudesnes. These were Hannah's sisters and brother.

Another baby was to be born to Gustav and Hannah and again, Aunt Lizzie was called in on New Years Eve, 1923. She stayed with her sister all night and then on the first day of the year, 1924, they decided that it was time to call the doctor and the nurse. We assume that Dr. Monkman arrived as he is listed as the attendant at birth. However, there was some concern in getting Nurse Coutts to attend the event as well. Ed and Peder were sent out to fetch Darkie, as they would have to get the nurse with the horse and sleigh. It was very cold, -30 degrees and Darkie was at

the north end of the field. Try as they might, Darkie would not let the boys catch up with her. They went back to the house empty handed. The family had telephoned Nurse Coutts and she was waiting to be picked up. Hannah was giving all indications that Nurse Coutts should come sooner rather than later. Gustav sent out the hired man, Fred Gutormson to hitch up Fanny and Dolly. Fred had just recently come over from Norway. Gustav gave Fred the directions to find the Nurse and a whip for the horses. For one of the few times in his life he told his man "Don't spare the horses!" Darkie, still uncaught, ran ahead of the team all the way to the George Coutts farm and back. She was white with frost when she came into the yard. The nurse came in time and Walter Alfred Tastad was born that cold winter's day. On March 3rd, 1924, baby Walter Alfred Tastad was baptized at Skudesness Lutheran Church. His sponsors were Myrtle Aadland and Tobias Johannessen. Walter's second name came from Gustav's brother, Alfred Pederson.

While 1924 started out with a bang at the Tastad house, the remainder of the year was not fondly remembered. It was extremely dry that year. They chose to dig a well west of the house and garden, near the road and not far from the sandpoint well that I remember. The men dug down through two feet of topsoil and clay to find some large chunks of gravel and rock. These were pried out with a bar and below was pure gravel. Gustav took a posthole auger to the site and drilled a hole into this vein. A cup was

The threshing outfit was set up in one location and the low spots which had been stoked were hauled over to the machine. Mandius Olsen had removed the buckwheat sieve from the machine, allowing the weed seeds to fall to the ground directly under the machine. When the last of the sheaves had been threshed, they hooked up the tractor to the threshing machine only to discover that they could not pull it out. After much shovelling of weed seeds, the unit was finally clear enough for the tractor to pull the machine free. Gustav shovelled the weed seeds into a wagon and used it as feed for the sheep. Mandius's son Ole ran the threshing machine that fall. He was later to marry Gustav's oldest daughter Evelyn.

1924 marked the first year that their oldest daughter, Evelyn would attend high school in Loreburn. Willdon did not offer a class beyond grade 8 until sometime later. Evelyn's classmates for that first year in Loreburn were: Kathleen Child, Verna Reis, Hattie Aadland, Gudrun Asheim, Frances Henry, Wilfred Bush, Dudley Buchanan and Kenneth Ferguson. The next year Gudrun would join her in Loreburn, taking her grade 8.

In the winter months, Darkie and Bess were harnessed to the enclosed cutter. Evelyn, Jennie and Gudrun would bundle up in their warmest winter clothes and head for Loreburn in the sleigh. They would heat a large flat stone on the stove to help keep their hands and feet warm. It was worrisome for Gustav and Hannah to have their girls come

home in bad weather in the dark afternoons. Jennie remembers almost reaching home when they ran into Gustav, dressed in his "Coon Skinned" coat, coming out to search for them. Evelyn stayed with Mr. & Mrs. Jack for one winter while she attended school.

The 1925 crop was above average that year, (22 bushels per acre) however the price of grain was considerably lower. Fred Guttormson and Ole "Spec" Aadland worked for Gustav that year.

This was also the year that the three sisters, Hannah Lizzie and Lena returned for a visit to South Dakota to see their families. Considering that Lena had just lost her husband 1 1/2 years earlier leaving her with 8 young children, there must have been a special occasion to draw the three sisters together for a return trip to Pierpont.

That fall of 1925 (August 9th), their second daughter, Jennie, was confirmed at Skudesness. There were four boys and six girls in her class.

In 1926 Gustav hired Albert Tossel and the in 1927 he hired Henry Dyrson, a man of German descent, worked on the farm in 1927 and he was responsible for any of the German that the Tastads have picked up. He moved to Regina where he worked for a milk company from 1934 to 1939. His pro-German stance resulted in his deportation when war broke out in 1939.

One day Gustav took the wagon and went into Strongfield. He went to the lumber yard and bought enough

lumber for a flat bottom boat. Dunton helped him build it, and Gustav was back home by dinnertime. They painted and sealed it up, christening her the "Stavanger". The boat was put into the slough west of the house and used to get from the farm to school or over to Haugens. Once the correction line grade was installed, it was used more for fun than out of necessity. Occasionally the neighbors would come over and they would go boating. They sang and laughed as they rowed from one side to the other. One of the last times it was used was to carry the body of Stan Peardon from a sandbar on the river. He had drowned one hot summer day while cooling off in the river with some friends in the mid-thirties. Johnny and Harold Haugen along with Walter Tastad sealed the boat up once in the thirties and took it down to the river. They rowed across to the west bank to visit the infamous Finn who was building a boat. He was planning on travelling back to Finland on water in the boat he was constructing from scratch. Walter remembers the smell, especially the rotting horsemeat. It didn't appear that there was any sense to the scattered parts and pieces which lie around the site. The "Stavanger" was eventually purchased by a Medby from Elbow. The boat disappeared from the river during a June flood.

1926 was not a good year for Gustav. He caught pneumonia and pleurisy in the spring of the year. He was just starting to get better in the fall when he came down with rheumatic fever. A tent was set up outside the house

and Gustav stayed there night and day. It was supposed to be better for him to be outside.

Ole Swenson helped with an average harvest that fall. Gustav made the same deal with Ole as he had with his brother Samuel in 1925 - to take off Gustav's crop for free and then use the outfit to make as much as he could by doing custom work in the neighborhood. That was the last year that the old Titan was used. Ole Swenson and Ole Haugen had a terrible time to keep the engine running for harvest that fall. At the best of times the Titan couldn't get through a harvest without grinding the valves. When tuned up properly it was still difficult to start. Ole used four horses that fall to pull it home to Gustav's farm where it was parked. Later, Newhouse came from Elbow with a team of horses and dragged it away. He had an identical machine to Gustav's, and would attempt to make one tractor out of two.

In 1927 Lauritz purchased a Model 1832 Case tractor which was used on the threshing outfit. This threshing machine was used by the family until the late thirties, when the boys bought their first combine. Years later we attempted to donate the machine to the Western Development Museum. They sent out a semi-truck on two occasions to pick it up. Both times they had breakdowns, so the thresher sat outside where it has deteriorated. I have never seen it in operation (the brothers got it running once in the

fifties), however we got to know it inside and out when we used it for playing "hide and seek".

The fall of 1927 saw the first of Gustav's children leave home. The oldest child, Evelyn, left for teachers college in Moose Jaw that year. This was the beginning of a teaching career that would stretch into the 90'S. It was not expected that children would complete their high school much less attempt any type of post secondary schooling. Gustav felt strongly about the value of education to his children and to the community as well.

Ole Swenson was the hired man in 1928, and he was a man who could get a lot of work done in a day. That summer, he summerfallowed with six horses and a two bottom plow. In one nine day stretch, he plowed the 75 acre field east of the farmhouse! This was the last year that Gustav had a year-round hired man. Peder was 16 years old and now old enough to work the fields with his father. A man might be picked up to help with the harvest in the fall.

On February 25, 1928, Gustav's sister Olga married Sam Fossum from Pierpont, South Dakota. I don't believe any Canadians went down to that wedding.

May 1st was Gopher Day. The municipalities encouraged whole families to spend the day snaring, shooting and poisoning gophers that day. Gopher's were a terrible pest - eating the new crops and leaving burrows that crippled horses.

Saturdays were work days in the home and in the yard. The boys usually hauled feed for the animals and did other "weekly" chores in addition to the regular workload of caring for the livestock. Sometimes they would help the Jackson boys - Eddie and Tamer - who would come by with their outfit and grind feed. The younger boys were often given the job of herding cattle along the ditch. This was a boring job, but necessary in order to keep the stock from getting into the neighbor's wheat fields. In dry years, the ditches provided much needed acreage to supplement the pastures.

Mondays were set aside for washing clothes. Tuesday was ironing day. The irons were heated on the stove, the clothes were sprinkled with water and shirts had their cuffs and collars starched. It was a great conditioner for the arms and wrists. Wednesday was often baking day, with a dozen loaves of bread being the norm. The ironing job was often combined with the cooking as the stove was needed for both. Hannah often included apple and lemon pies in her cook days, as well as the "Grandma cookies" we always remember. The bread was kept in a large container, something like a garbage can. Without preservatives, the bread would dry out quickly and was often baked twice a week.

Each day, the milk was brought in after milking and run through the "separator" This was a machine which mechanically separated the cream from the milk, leaving

only the skim milk in one pail and the rich cream in another. The cream was then either placed in the "cream can" which was stored in the underground "fridge", or it was placed in the "barrel churn" and made into butter. Both machines were powered by hand, usually the youngest in the family who could handle the job. Hannah was a very good butter maker and she blocked, packaged and sold some of her butter in Loreburn. The separator then, had to be cleaned after each and every use. The bowl and disks were washed in hot soapy water and then rinsed and dried, ready for use again at the next milking.

Each year considerable canning took place. Hannah mostly preserved fruit and pickles. Chicken was canned and meat was preserved in two gallon crocks, covered with lard and a cloth. Vegetables such as potatoes, turnips and carrots were kept in the cellar, fresh for the winter. The produce was often canned in 2 quart jars. It seemed that there was often much more juice than fruit in those sealers. Peder remembers that he was often the last one to be passed the fruit bowl, and it often contained only the juice. At least that was the reason given at our house when Dad would start out the fruit bowl!

In late spring and early summer, the whole family could be seen walking in the fields, picking the large pig-weeds and mustard that stood high above the crop. There were no herbicides and insecticides to control weeds and insects in those days.

Hannah had her girls to help with the duties in the house, and often had neighbor girls stay with the family and work in the home. At one time or another all three of the Joseph Tjosvold girls worked for Hannah. (Mabel, Alma and Olida)

In the late twenties, wood was hauled from the river valleys to burn in the stoves that winter. Peder remembers starting out at dawn on the ten or twelve mile trip with the horses and hay racks. Gustav and the hired man would drive down with the car and start to cut the trees into rails. They would work all day, loading the racks to be returned that night. Sometimes they would not get back until well after dark.

Joel Olson from Hawarden had a "saw outfit" which would travel around the neighborhood. A gang of men would travel with it, going from farm to farm, neighbor helping neighbor. The logs were cut to length and hand split with an axe. All this work was done after threshing was completed in the fall.

Other trips were made to the river as well, this time for fish. Jacob Haugen and Gustav would net fish, usually suckers, bringing them home to preserve for the winter.

In the early twenties, a rock pile had been hauled into the yard by Gustav's hired man. It was placed on the east side of the coal bin and wash house. The rocks were to be used for the foundation wall of their new house. For whatever reason, this idea was abandoned and the rocks were

hauled away to be used as "rip-rap" on the correction line grade, west of the farm house.

In 1928, Peder and Jonas Ferkingstad picked the stone off the whole of the east half of section four. They picked rocks down to a size smaller than one's fist. All the stones were piled south of the present garage. Gustav again planned to build his family a new home.

When his brother John and brother-in-law Joe Sletten came for a visit in 1929, Gustav still had a dream of a new home. With the market crash in September of 1929 and the heavy costs of a new well (\$1000), power plant (\$1000) and then the cost of building (\$5000) Gustav wisely decided to take all his available cash and pay off the mortgage on section four in December of that year. Gustav was never able to set aside the money during the subsequent depression years to build his new house. When prosperity returned in the forties, his family was mostly grown up and the need for space was gone. Had he decided to build in the spring of 1929 and not pay off his mortgage, there is a possibility that he could have lost all in the thirties and moved out of the area as many others were forced to do. How different the history of the family and farm might have been!

Gustav's sister Josie Sletten and her husband Joe, as well as his brother John and Aunt Minnie had come up that July in 1929. Young Ole and Robert were along as well. It was the first trip to Canada by Gustav's siblings, and they

would wait twenty years for their next visit. Perhaps it was a belated birthday party which they celebrated for Gustav. He had turned 50 years old that February.

In 1928, Gustav traded off the Willis Knight car to a dealer in Strongfield. He got a new 1928 4-cylinder Plymouth. The car was a big step down in size and power from their Willis Knight which had been purchased from the dealer by the Norrish boys from Strongfield. Gustav was never happy with this trade and in 1929 he traded the Plymouth off for a maroon 4-door "Chrysler 65", 1929 model. It had the size and power Gustav felt he needed and he drove this car until the early 1940'S. The car was used sparingly during the 30's as most of the neighbors walked, used bicycles or traveled by horse power. In 1937 no license was purchased for the car. Bird, from Loreburn, would occasionally trade some gasoline for vegetables and the family would have use of the Chrysler again for a special occasion.

On the second of December, 1928 Peder and Gudrun were both confirmed. They were part of a 16 member class which included students from Bethel, Elbow.

In the summer of 1929, Gustav all but lost his barn. Peder was out summerfollowing after lunch that day. He had six horses pulling the two bottom plow. The wind was blowing so hard from the west that he couldn't keep the plow straight in the furrow without moving the horses over. He unhooked at the end of the field and turned the horses

to head back to the barn with the wind. Gustav saw him coming so he opened the gate to allow him to put the team away through the east door of the barn. The horses were galloping, with Peder hanging onto the reins and taking twenty foot steps! The horses got put away, with the harness getting scattered on the floor. Melvin Hetland was there shearing sheep that day. The men stood back at the garage and wondered if they should take the horses and stock out of the barn. The top plate on the west wall at the hip roof had broken. The wind was now getting inside the loft and the roof was "breathing" - going up and down with the gusts of wind. They thought for sure that the barn was lost. It held together however, and the plate was fixed along with some 14 windows which had blown out. The barn served the family well until January 11, 1965 when it accidentally burned destroying 15 cattle and a tractor.

The 1927 and 1928 crops were well above average but they suffered badly in 1929, when wheat averaged only 7 bushels per acre. This was an omen for the disastrous crops to follow.

CHAPTER 20**WILLDON**

The school was petitioned for by Olaf Berg, W. H. Martin, J.H. Smith, and Bernhard Meir in July of 1912. School started thereafter on the North East corner of section 33 which was sold to the school board for \$25 by W.H. Martin. John Smith proposed the school take its name from the brothers Will and Don Martin.

Initially there was a stove in the classroom. This was changed to a furnace which could be loaded up with coal the night before and which could then be stoked the next morning before school. The temperature would be up to room comfort by the time classes would start at 9:00 AM. I think all the Tastad children had a chance to take on this job. Opening exercises commenced with a hymn and reciting both the 23rd Psalm and the Lord's Prayer.

There was a barn in the school yard for those who came by horse. Chris Vestre moved the barn off the site in the forties.

The children almost always stayed for lunch at school. Hannah baked excellent bread and it made for great sandwiches. A frequent treat were "doughboys", which was a slice of bread dough cooked like a doughnut. Peder remembers that Gordon Reed seemed to have a drumstick in his school lunch pail every day.

The other school children would always try to trade something from their lunch for Gordon's chicken. You were usually sure of getting it if you had one of Hannah's cold waffles inn your lunch pail!

The kids would get to school by walking, riding horseback, or by ski and sleigh in the wintertime. Inside the school there were some one and two seater desks, however they were reserved for the girls. If any boy misbehaved, the threat was to have him sit between two of the girls - a big enough threat to straighten out any young boy. Each desk was equipped with an inkwell which was filled from a large bottle of ink stored in the library.

All the boys wore "bloomer" pants which stopped just below the knee or bibb overalls. Irregardless of what he might have on that day, he was sure to be carrying a knife. Once you were confirmed by the church you became a man and wore long pants. Later on, in high school, it was not uncommon for the boys to dress up with suit and tie to attend classes.

The girls wore a dress or skirt and blouse, all which would be sewn by Hannah. In the winter they might put on long underwear covered by heavy woolen socks. Playing at recess meant putting on a heavy coat, hat and scarf. The socks usually got wet with snow and never seemed to dry out while sitting in the classroom.

In the early twenties the boys had a baseball team which would play the neighboring towns. Gus would often

drive them to practices and games. The team was not known for its powerhouse play, but it certainly did not lack enthusiasm.

School holidays were very different from what the children are used today. There was a full month long holiday after Christmas with school starting again around the 1st of February. The summer holiday was then shortened to one month, the month of July. School started up again in early August. If you were more than ten years old, you could qualify for a two week permit to stay out of school until harvest was completed.

School must have felt like an extended family event, as there was almost always four or more children in the school at any one time. Gustav was elected a school trustee on January 19th, 1922, serving for one term only.

In 1928, these 29 children attended classes:

Grade 1- Don McPherson, Norman Stamnes, Gladys Vestre, George Tastad, Mabel Anderson, Helen Anderson, Louise Aadland, Anna Haugen.

Grade 2- Kenneth Marshal, Ruby Stamnes, Byron Tastad, Allen Munshaw, Erling Berg, Oliver Vestre, Mervyn Aadland, Mearl Aadland.

Grade 3- Theodore Haugen, Gordon Munshaw, Norman Tastad.

Grade 4- Kathleen Higgs, Earnest Vestre, Earnest Aadland.

Grade 6- Helga Berg, Edward Tastad, Marie Aadland.

Grade 8- Thelma Berg, Ruby Aadland, Johannes Haugen, Edith Aadland.

The teacher for that year was Helen D. Schunaman who was paid \$1000.00 per annum to handle this bunch. Maybe it's no wonder that teachers rarely stayed for more than one or two years! Walter started school in 1932 with classmates David Vestre and Harold Haugen. The records are not complete for Willdon School, with no registers prior to 1926. However, here is a partial list of the teachers: Helen Schunaman-1926; Louise McPherson-1927; Elizabeth Rowley-1928,1929; Eliza Helen Beverly Caldwell-1930; M.P. Willoughby-1931 to 1934; Evelyn Tastad-1935; Robert Kenneth M. Miller-1936,1937; Thelma Rosen-1938; E.E. Carrington -1939; Alfreda Monkman-1940; Gudrun Tastad-1942 to 1944; Martha Kempainen-1956.

Peder says that his favorite teachers were Clarence Aadland and Miss Anthony, a sister of Mrs. Gordon McPherson. Peder remembers telling Miss Anthony that he loved her! Many of the single girls that came to Willdon married the eligible bachelors in the area.

Just to the west of the garden on the home farm, Gustav had flooded a large area to make an outdoor rink. One of the mobile cookshacks, which was used at threshing time, was pulled up beside the skating rink to be used as a warm up shelter and a place to lace up one's skates. It was often filled with school children and neighbors on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

CHAPTER 21**SKUDESNESS**

The church at Loreburn, Skudesness Lutheran Church, played an active role in the life of the Gustav Tastad family. Worship services were held twice a month at first, although in some years this slipped to once a month as they shared their pastor with 3 or 4 other congregations. All the children except Ruth Elaine were confirmed in this church, and all the children after Byron were baptized in this church. Three were married in this church.

Each confirmation child studied for a year under the direction of the pastor of the day. The group would usually gather on Saturdays in a home central to the students. Much study and memory work was required for the sessions. Each confirmand was to learn the Bible History. These were stories from the Bible as written by Voth or H.A. Urseth. Urseth was a theologian from Augsburg College in Minnesota. The students were also to learn and memorize large portions of Luther's Catechism. On Confirmation Day, the Pastor would ask each student to recite some portion of this memory work to the congregation. Of course no one would know what he or she would be asked, so it was necessary to memorize all. Hannah found memory work easy, so the children grew accustomed to her reciting the Bible History and Catechism at an early age. She would often do this

while preparing a meal in the kitchen. The number of classes held each year seemed to vary, with 40 sessions held in 1925 and only 24 sessions in 1926. For those of us who had trouble memorizing, Confirmation Day was a day they have tried to forget! Today's confirmation classes have all but eliminated memory work. The Tastad children were all confirmed in the Norwegian language with the exception of Walter.

Initially, Sunday School was taught in the community country schools of Bright, Pleasant Ridge and Willdon. In 1920, Mrs. Otto Jacobson conducted a "Saturday School" at the church for the young people. This was then expanded to two weeks of Christian instruction in the summer. Forty-two students attended in 1925. This school operated well into the 30's and was expanded to three weeks instruction in 1934. In 1938, the school was authorized to use English for instruction if the numbers of English speaking students warranted its use. There were many different instructors over the years, with the record naming Evelyn Tastad in 1933 and Ruby Aadland in 1938.

In 1938, they attempted to have one Sunday School for the community, held at the church. It was felt that this would help bring the young people together. Each year at Christmas, the "Christmas Tree Festival" was held on a Sunday afternoon, usually between Christmas day and New Years day. Pleasant Ridge, Bright and Willdon Sunday Schools each participated in the program. Bright school had

many musical students, so for Willdon students it was sometimes a hard act to follow. A large tree was decorated at the front of the church, complete with candles and at some point in the program, all would join hands and walk around the tree. Two men would stand as a fireguard on each side of the tree. The program ended with the handing out of apples, oranges and candy for all the children. Evelyn, Jennie and Gustav each served on the Christmas Tree Festival Committee at various times.

The Skudesness Luther League was formed on September 20th, 1925. Evelyn Tastad was a member of that first executive. This was the beginning of a young peoples group in which all Gustav's children would participate.

The Strongfield, Pleasant Ridge and Willdon areas started what was to be known as the "Sunshine Club", a church social group for single girls. Monthly meetings were held, with "Sunshine Club Picnics" once a year. I can still remember the fun we had as kids on those days. The picnics were looked forward to each year. Bright district had its own young girls group called the "Busy Bees".

Gustav did not get involved in church politics until June of 1923 when he was a member of the committee to call a new pastor. He was then elected to finish off O.M. Akre's term of Deacon with O.M.'s death in 1924. He was elected to a full Deacon term in 1925 and was to later serve as a Deacon in 1928, a Trustee in 1931 and a Treasurer for the church from 1934 to 1940 inclusive.

In the fall of 1925, a few of the congregational members decided to build a barn east of the church. It was a private undertaking, not an effort of the church. Upon its completion, the barn was turned over to the church trustees. Each family had its own "stall" where the horses were kept. In my day, a trip to the barn was long walk. It meant that you were unable to behave during the church service and a good spanking could be expected when father reached his favorite stall. Of course I only heard this second hand from my brother and sister. The barn was later moved to the farm of Mervyn Aadland, where it remains standing today.

On February 5, 1929, Gustav became a member of the committee which planned to raise the church four feet off its foundation and construct a full basement - as well as build a choir loft addition to the east. The project was started in June of that year, after seeding was completed. Chris Jacobson was the foreman for the excavation crew. They raised and blocked the church off the existing footings. A seventy five foot cable was fed under the jacked up church and connected to a walking plow. A team of horses would then draw the plow through the space. They would disconnect the cable from the team, turn the plow around and run the cable back under the church to a team of horses waiting at the other end. Soon they had a ditch formed under the church. A scraper was pulled through to remove the loose dirt which was dumped east of the church

and just east of where the barn stood. They discovered that there was still frost in the ground under the church. Obviously not enough fire and brimstone being preached in those days! The ground was so frozen and hard that four men would hold the plow in place, turning it up on the sides of the ditch making it wider. When the opening was large enough the smallest team of horses was driven through the ditch under the church for the first pass. The hames on the harness had been modified so as not to catch on the underside of the building. Once they were able to drive through, the work advanced quickly. Soon the walls were formed for the concrete, the concrete was poured, forms were stripped and the building could now sit on its solid foundation. Tom Arneson and Ingval Hagen were the carpenters in charge. They were fortunate enough to have a gas driven cement mixer for the concrete. Stones were hauled to the church by Olaf Sather, to be poured into the walls with the cement. Knute Olsen said that Olaf did such a good job of cleaning off his fields of stone that he wouldn't find anything to pound with if he lost a single-tree hook. (When the hook came off the single tree you would cut some hair off the horses tail, wrap it around the single tree and then pound the hook onto the single-tree using anything that was handy for a hammer - often a stone)

It was interesting to find out that Skudesness Church had concealed piping in the walls and ceilings which led

back from high test gas lamps to a box in the north east corner of the church. There was a manifold, some tanks and a car tire pump, to pressurize the system. I wonder what happened to the old gas fixtures.

Gustav served on many ad hoc committees. The one which I found to be most interesting was the committee struck on November 28, 1929. Gustav and three others were to investigate the question of whether a woman member of the church lost her membership if she married outside the congregation. Their final decision was deferred for two years and then mercifully, it was dropped from the agenda.

Gustav's children became active in all areas of church service:

Jennie - Organist in 1931, 1932, 1933, 1941, 1945, 1946.

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent 1944, 1946

Evelyn - Auditor 1934

Gudrun - Assistant Organist 1935

Organist 1936 - 1939, 1941, 1942, 1944 - 1946.

Norman - Usher 1935 - 1938

Byron - Usher 1940, 1941

Peder - Trustee 1941 - 1944

Walter - Usher 1944, 1946

My mother Ruth and Jennie's husband Jonas also served giving of their time and talents.

Initially, the Norwegian immigrants banded together with their common language, heritage and Lutheran background. No doubt it was necessary for them to be

together so that they might help each other understand the customs and language of the new land. It wasn't so long until the community looked upon them as a group set apart.

The church initially was conducted exclusively in the Norwegian language. It wasn't until July 22, 1935 that the church "experimented" with an English speaking service every 3rd Sunday of the month. This was continued until November 9th, 1937 when it was decided to use the English language every 2nd Sunday. Shortly thereafter, english was used exclusively. There were still some diehard holdouts however. On November 3rd, 1941 the treasurer's report was given in English at the annual meeting. After considerable debate it was decided that the report should be read in Norwegian at a later date, presumably to make it official. And still in 1943, it was specially noted that Pastor Ostby's report had been given in English. After 1945, the minutes of the congregation were recorded in English, ending a 40 year tradition. With the disappearance of the Norwegian language the church has gradually moved to a community church, with a mission statement to serve all peoples in the community.

One of my favorite stories was surrounding the debate of English over Norwegian in the church. Someone commented, "Don't you think God understands when you pray in English?" The cute reply came, "Yes, He maybe understands it, but He doesn't like it!"

Upon a motion put forward by Gustav on November 16, 1944, the church decided to purchase pews to replace the wooden chairs. He chaired the committee that made the final seating purchase. Initially, only half of the chairs were eliminated with pews. In 1957, the remainder of the chairs were taken out with a second pew purchase. These pews are still in use, almost fifty years later. These are still the most comfortable pews in the country, and this is coming from someone who has slept in the best of them!

CHAPTER 22**SAM TASTAD**

Gustav's brother, Samuel Nicoli, lived with the family for many years. He had sold his homestead in Carlstad, Alberta for \$1,875.00 in 1913. This was equivalent to over \$26,000.00 in 1991 dollars! Uncle Sam, worked for many farmers in the Hawarden/Loreburn areas. One, was a doctor who lived between Gustav and Hawarden named Dr. S.W. Shurtz. One day Sam and the other hired man were sitting down to dinner. The meat dish was passed to Sam first and he promptly took all the meat off the plate. Nothing was said, and after dinner Sam took aside the hired man and apologized for his action. "I took it all" says Sam," and it was only half enough". He was hoping that the cook would take the hint and serve better meals. He called people that didn't feed their men properly "cheat the belly". He always said that he preferred to work for Sam Reed as Mrs. Reed was the best cook around.

We know that Sam was helping to build the house on Gustav's homestead in the fall of 1913. From that point on, dates and times are difficult to pin down.

We do know that he returned to Norway for a short period of time. There is a family picture of Sam working beside some large machinery in Norway. He may have left there as a result of the outbreak of war in Europe.

He returned to Canada, likely in 1915. We know that he was in the area long enough to be noticed and drafted into the Canadian Army. (To obtain a homestead, it had been necessary to become a Canadian citizen). Sam applied for exemption from the army that fall and a "Notice of Hearing of Application for Exemption" was held on November 13th, 1917. Gustav must have attended that meeting as the notices were with his personal papers. The end result was that Sam, who was thirty at the time, did not have to join the Canadian Forces.

In the fall of 1918, Sam nursed in the temporary hospital set up in Hawarden for the "flu" epidemic. Between 1919 and 1923, he worked in the Loreburn/Hawarden areas, mostly for Gustav, however. In the winter months Sam would take jobs where ever he could find them. Some winters were spent with his brother Lauritz in the lumber mills at Big River, Saskatchewan, where he drove steam engines mounted on "catipillar tracks". These large power units pulled long "trains" of logs and rough-cut lumber out of the bush. In 1924, Sam worked the winter out in British Columbia, at one of the lumber mills. Sam returned in late summer. He had stopped in Loreburn to visit friends in the area before going on visit Gustav at the farm. He borrowed Jack Shand's Model T Ford "Runabout", picked up Alma Lochrem (she was working in Loreburn at the time) and went on to visit his family. Gustav was about to start getting ready for harvest that fall and he and Sam agreed to a deal: Sam would get

the threshing outfit ready to go for the fall season. Sam would take off Gustav's crop and then take the outfit and make as much money as he could, threshing for the farmers in the area. He would take Ole Spec who was Gustav's hired man at the time. (This was Ole Aadland who, of course, wore glasses).

Sam was able to line up a lot of work that fall and when harvest was completed, he headed back west to the coast. There were some bad feelings between the two brothers that fall, either a disagreement over money or perhaps Sam's lifestyle, we will never know. He left Loreburn abruptly. Gustav took Sam's tool chests out and put together all his tools. He ripped pieces of tarpaulin to lay in between the layers of tools. The lids were then both nailed and secured with padlocks and then the boxes were sent on the train to Moose Jaw, to a waiting Sam.

That Christmas, a large parcel arrived from Vancouver. In it were presents sent from Sam. Evelyn got a pull-out camera. Jennie and Gudrun each received a wrist watch. The four boys each received \$2.50 from their uncle and Hannah received a present as well. But the message was very clear - there was nothing for Gustav.

On February 15, 1922, Sam transferred 692 kr. to the Sparekasse Bank in Stavanger. It sat there for many years accumulating interest. Gustav withdrew the money when he and Hannah were on a trip to Norway in the spring of 1947.

The money (1400 kr.) was sent to the Salvation Army in Vancouver, and was passed on to Sam.

Little contact was made with Sam for many years, as he worked up and down the coast as a millwright. He worked for the Joseph Chew Shingle Company from 1925 - 1932. His address was usually given as a Vancouver Hotel where he would stay when he was between jobs. Gudrun had some contact by letter during the thirties, and did see Sam in 1940, but contact was sporadic at best. At one time, word had come back to Loreburn that Sam had died, a rumor later proven to be wrong. When Sam's uncle Samuel died in the thirties, there was an inheritance which was passed on to him through the Red Cross. It wasn't until 1946 that the brothers got together for the first time since 1925. The Sam I knew came for his first visit in the mid fifties.

Sam loved to make up names for people. Many of the nicknames are still in use today: Hannah was Topsy; Evelyn was Blondie; Jennie was Jonas (even before her husband Jonas came along; Gudrun was Dubby; Peder was Pete the Shoemaker; Ed was Trills; Norman was Tony; Byron was Whitey; George was Jack Dempsey and Martha was Orphan Anne.

Sam used to brag about his brother, saying that Gustav had put his money on slow women and fast horses, while he had done just the opposite. Mind you, this was coming from a man who claimed to be president of the Liars Club!

Sam had his way with dogs and kids. One day while he was working with his tools in the blacksmith shop, he told

a very young Byron to "Beat it". It was a dangerous place to be at the best of times, and certainly no place for a four or five year old boy. Byron was angry and his feelings were hurt. He thought up the worst thing that he could possibly say to Sam, and through tears, choked out "Sam cy baby, Sam cy (cry) baby" Sam just threw back his head and roared with laughter.

I remember when we had a beautiful palomino colt born at the farm. We knew that Uncle Sam was returning for a trip to Loreburn soon and so we decided to wait for him to name the horse. We all went down to the barn with him that afternoon to see the mare and colt which were in the "box stall". Sam went in, and Dick and I ran up the loft stairs where we could peer over the top of the stall. We watched as he talked to the horses and walked about them. Then he made his announcement: Julia, call her Julia. Only it came out Yulia, call her Yulia in his Norwegian accent. Can you imagine riding around on a horse called Yulia? I was terribly disappointed, but of course the name stuck, after all it was named by the great Uncle Sam. I remember that when anyone ever asked the name of my horse I always let them know she was named by my uncle - not by me, and it was a tradition to have him name our horses.

But even if he couldn't name a horse, I loved Sam as did all the kids and dogs in the area. We looked forward to his visits and his letters. He wrote great letters - he wrote just as he spoke, and he would write back anyone who

took the time to write him. He died on March 21, 1961 at the age of 73 years.

This letter was received from a friend in Vancouver:
April 23, 1961

"This is all the information I can give you about your uncle. The day I saw Sam was 2 or 3 days before his death about 3 in the afternoon. As I was walking east on Hastings, between Columbia and Main streets, I saw him sitting on a chair with two policemen standing beside him. I crossed over the street and asked what had happened as I knew the man. The first thing they asked me was if he was drinking. I told him that he had not had a drink in several years and he was now under treatment at the hospital. Sam had told me this the last time I had seen him about a week before but he did not tell me what for.

I tried my best to get him to speak to me but he did not know me, so I guess it was a stroke.

The ambulance came and took him to the hospital. Then we saw in the paper where he had gone.

I knew Sam and worked with him for many years off and on. He was one of the best millwrights on the coast and I liked him very much."

Nordahl Kaldahl

Lauritz, Samuel's brother went out to make arrangements for the funeral. The following notice appeared in the two local papers: TASTAD - March 21/61 Samuel N.

Tastad age 73 yrs. late of 466 East Cordova Street.
Survived by 1 brother Lauritz of Hawarden, Sask. + 2
sisters in S. Dakota + 3 sisters in Norway. Funeral Friday
March 24 at 1:30 P.M. in chapel of Hamilton Mortuary,
Fraser Street at 38th Ave. To Mt. View Cemetery.

CHAPTER 23**THE THIRTIES**

The thirties were a struggle for all in the farming communities. As there was no money, everyone "made do" with what they had. There was no money to purchase gasoline to travel by car, so people tended to stay home and entertain their own families and their immediate neighbors. The radio continued to be an important link to the rest of the world as well as a source of entertainment in the evening. The programs often remembered from the thirties and forties were: The Happy Gang (with Bert Pearl); Ma Perkins; Pepper Young's Family; Charlie McCarthy; Back To The Bible - with E.C. Manning.

In the fall of 1930, Gustav and Hannah's second son Edward was confirmed at Skudesness Lutheran Church. He was part of a thirteen member class which took their vows on November 23rd.

The 1930 crop was terrible but the crop in 1931 was average until it was wiped out by a severe hail storm. This was just the beginning of a series of crop failures they would experience this decade.

It was November 11th, 1931 and Hannah was about to give birth to her last child. She was 44 years old, and her previous child, Walter, was already 7 years old. Gustav woke Peder and Jonas Ferkingstad, who was working for

Gustav at the time. He asked them to go and get Nurse Weir, who was at the farm of Manley Wankel. The two men jumped in the car and went to fetch her. The baby girl was born that next morning and they named her Ruth Elaine Tastad. Dr. Monkman is again listed as the attendant at birth. Hannah had listed names for the other children to pick from. We believe that the name Elaine came from the second name of her cousin, Opal Elaine Sletten. She was almost always referred to as Ruth Elaine, especially after 1940 when my mother Ruth came to Loreburn. Aunt Lizzie was with her again as this child was born. She never said anything to her sister at the time, but she confided to her daughters that she feared that baby Ruth had what we now refer to as Down Syndrome.

Ruth Elaine had a beautiful complexion and was a happy baby. As she grew older, they noticed that some of the motor reflexes were a bit slower than they should be. They took her to specialists in Moose Jaw who confirmed what most already knew. As she grew, Ruth Elaine became very close to her family. I suppose being the youngest as well as needing their protection endeared her to them all. She loved everyone, and all loved her. My mother was very impressed in the way the whole family accepted and cared for Ruth Elaine. They were never ashamed of her in private or in public.

She was very special with the neighbors as well. Jacob Haugen would always stop at the gate if he saw her in the

yard and would call out in his loud voice, "How are your father's black pigs today?" Ruth Elaine would bravely call back to him in her loudest voice, "My father's pigs are not black, Mr. Haugen, they are white!" I remember how scared I was of Jacob Haugen's loud voice when I was small and so I can appreciate how brave Ruth Elaine must have felt when she answered him. Ruth Elaine did a rather good impression of Jacob - when he wasn't around. Jacob was very sad when he learned of the child's death.

Ruth Elaine was baptized on the 19th of November, 1931 at the farm house. Her sponsors were her brothers and sisters; Evelyn, Jennie, Gudrun, Peder and Edward Tastad.

Jennie had been attending Outlook College (part of S.L.B.I. and later L.C.B.I.) She took a steno course there and graduated June 30th, 1930. Work was not easy to find in this field. She applied to many different places near Loreburn and ended up for a short time working just north of Rosetown and then around Birch Hills. She later married Jonas Ferkingstad in Prince Albert, Sask. on July 28th, 1935. Jonas Langager and sister Gudrun stood up for the couple.

Gustav had his 1932 crop dried out. Whatever could be gathered from the low spots was accomplished using a mower and rake. The feed was brought back to the yard, where it was fed to the livestock that winter.

On December 4th, 1932 son Norman was confirmed as part of a combined Bethel/Skudesness 34 member class! This class

no doubt stretched the patience of Pastor P. Overlid to the limit more than once.

The 1933 crop was even worse than in 1932. Some of the crop was cut with a binder where possible and used for feed. No threshing was done that year by Gustav. The Municipality records a 0 crop yield for that year.

Another tragedy struck the community with the death of Hannah's sister, Aunt Lizzie, in the summer of 1933. She had come down with a case of double pneumonia that hot summer. She was very low when her son Leonard came over to see Gustav. The doctor had advised them that she would not recover. They asked Gustav to go after the children, Ruby, Marie, Mearl, Mervyn and Jennie, who were on the wagons heading north to Birch Hills. They were with the Larsons and the Likness' families who were moving to their new homes. Ed and Gustav started out after them, catching up with them around Dana, Saskatchewan. They brought the children back the night she died. Hannah was with her until the end. It was a large family that Aunt Lizzie left to be on their own.

In 1934 Peder left for Alberta to work in the Sylvan Lake area, near Aunt Lydia Hallvorson, Hannah's sister. He worked out there for 19 months and there he met his future bride, Ruth Valborg Bjelke in the community.

As tough as the times were, Gustav was able to scrape together enough money to attend the funeral of his brother-in-law Sam Fossum. Sam had died from spinal

meningitis and had left not just a grieving wife, but a young family as well.

The crop in 1935 was a bit better. (9 bushel per acre average for wheat in the R.M.) Peder remembers returning from Red Deer just before Christmas that year to find Gustav there at the station to meet him. Gustav had been in town curling that day and he was anxious to have Peder pick out the team at the livery barn. The horses (Freddie & Charlie) had not even been broken when he had left for Alberta. The family all looked well dressed and well fed when he returned.

In the mid thirties, they set up a windcharger on the bunkhouse. The blade on the charger was made of wood and charged up the six volt batteries which operated the lights and the radio.

Five months after Jennie was married, Gustav and Hannah were to have their first daughter and their oldest child, Evelyn Louise, marry on January 1st, 1936. She wed Pastor Ole K. Olson, son of Mandius and Bertha Olson of Strongfield, Sask. They were married in Amery, Wisconsin where Ole served his first parish.

May 19th, 1935, saw the confirmation of two more sons of Gustav and Hannah. Byron and George were part of a class of 15 students, all from Skudesness, pastored by Rev. Sylvester Rue.

Grandchildren were to come quickly to the Tastad family. Helen Opal, daughter of Jennie and Jonas was the

first to be born, on May 12, 1936. A second granddaughter followed closely on February 4th, 1937 when Opal Elaine, daughter of Evelyn and Ole was born. The first grandson was born to Ole and Evelyn on July 25, 1938 - Merrill Byron.

In January of 1936, a 57 year old Gustav got up to light the fire in the stove. His routine never varied: Turn the shakers on the stove, take out the ashes, open the front door to ventilate the house, fill the water reservoir and build the fire. This day they heard him get up and move about the kitchen and then go back to bed. The family knew already that something was wrong. He came back to the bedroom and discovered that he was unable to speak. He crawled into bed and curled up to face the wall. He later told Hannah that he had thought that there was a strange woman in his bed. Hannah called for Dr. Monkman, who was driven out from Loreburn by Mr. Peardon. It was a stroke as they had suspected. In that day, strokes were often fatal, so the family was very concerned for his life. When Mr. Peardon went into the bedroom to see his friend, Gustav spoke to him in Norwegian, a language he didn't understand. Gustav would later recall that he had no memory of those first days after his stroke. Even months later, Gustav would talk to strangers in Norwegian, unaware of his speech.

Gustav was unable to do very much that next year, and spent much of his time in bed. The boys took over the running of the farm completely. It was no doubt hard for

him to give up control, but it was good for the boys to get the added responsibilities. His speech was impaired, but later that year he managed to recover enough to do some work around the farm. He still enjoyed doing some of the lighter work around the farm, such as feeding and hooking up the teams to the equipment. In 1937 Gustav bought an old threshing machine from Alf McLelland and over the next few months, he took the unit apart, removing each and every bolt. The bolts were rethreaded and sorted into bins for later use.

Within a few years, Gustav had fully recovered from his stroke. When he would die twenty years later, the doctor would comment on his good condition, outside of the cancer which would take his life.

The spring of 1936 marked the beginning of a move by the sons of Gustav Tastad into the business of farming. Ed and Peder were able to contract the farming of section 32 from Mrs. Stuart who lived in Loreburn. The land had not been farmed for four or five years. She was sick in bed, and Sol Sokolofsky and Dr. Monkman agreed to talk to Mrs. Stuart on the Peder and Edward's behalf, as she was sick in bed. With their recommendation, Mrs. Stuart paid the boys \$640.00 in advance to work the whole section and seed half to wheat.

The boys then took \$500 of this deposit and put a downpayment on a new rubber-tired John Deer tractor and one-way disk. It was one of the first two tractors on

rubber to hit the community. As sick as Gustav was after his stroke, he still managed to co-sign the loan for his boys. The outfit was worth \$2025.00. This was a lot of money, especially in the middle of a depression.

The 1936 crop was again a poor one. Less than two bushels per acre were harvested and no payment could be made that year on the machinery. The crop in 1937 was even worse, with no crop being taken off that year at all. They boys made more money trapping weasels off the farm than for any wheat they might have sold. Again, no money for payments. Peder talked to Sokolofsky who told him not to worry. If the company started to take back all the machinery which was behind in payments, there just wouldn't be enough room in Regina to park it all.

As so often happens with new ideas and methods, the boys took a bit of ribbing from the neighbors regarding the rubber tired machine. "If I hear a big bang out there, I'll know that it's one of your tires blowing out," said one. Melvin Olson thought that if he used one on his land he would probably bounce over to Bill Lett's field! Another asked, "What would you do if you came up to a big rock? What would you do, go around it?" Without hesitation, Peder says "I think if we ran into a rock like that on our place, why I'd stop, unhook the outfit, hook up the wagon, and spend the rest of the day picking rock!" It wasn't too many years before the neighbors all abandoned their steel wheeled tractors.

None the less, John Deer did attempt to repossess the tractor. Only after talks with the MP for the district, a trip to Regina and some effective negotiating at the farm, were they able to keep the tractor. While Gustav and Peder were in Regina, they were invited to have dinner with B.C. Porter, the manager of Manufacturers Life. He lived in a beautiful home with two tennis courts out back and a maid. He convinced Gustav to go up to the armouries that night to see R.B. Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada. While he was there, Peder took in a movie with his old friend Henry Dyrson, who had worked for them in 1927.

Dyrson sent home a box of apples with them the next day. They ate away at the apples and got down to the bottom of the box just before Christmas. There, at the bottom of the box was some of the finest chewing tobacco that Gustav had had in a long time. He had been complaining to Dyrson in Regina of how difficult it was to get a good chewing tobacco during the depression. Henry had evidently gone out and bought some and hid it in the bottom of the crate. It was one of Gustav's best Christmas presents that year.

Norman worked for Ingvald Hagen (he lived east of Loreburn) in the winter of 1937 and the summer of 1938. He worked for the Ector's from April 15th through to the fall of 1939 driving a "cat" pulling two 8 foot diskers in the summer and hauling grain from the combines in the fall. He and George Hundebey took shifts, running the "cat" 24 hours a day. In the winter of 1937/38, son Edward spent the

winter bailing straw piles in Alberta. In the spring of 1938, he was offered a job with Wilfred Edgar, a herford breeder from west of Innisfail. He wanted Ed to help take care of his show cattle and help with the spring seeding. He got the crop in and decided that he would come home. That spring of 1938 was very wet, and when Ed came home, no crops had been seeded in the Loreburn area. A spring snowstorm held them up even longer. With all the extra help around, Norman went to work for Ingvald Hagen.

November 13, 1938 saw Walter, the last of Gustav's children to be confirmed. Pastor Rue confirmed 16 members that day, all from the Skudesness area.

In 1939, Peder and Edward purchased from Ector's, a 1938 Dodge truck with a gravel box (about \$1400.00). He and Edward worked for Art Voice, who had a gravelling contract on Highway #19. They hauled gravel 24 hours a day, with each brother taking a 12 hour shift. The gravel was loaded south of Elbow, and was spread from Elbow through to Strongfield. They were paid by the yard/mile which worked out to \$39.00 per 24hour day on their 3 1/2 yard truck. This covered their wages plus the truck expenses. This truck was later traded off on a 1941 one ton V-8. All Gustav's wheat was hauled by Ed and Peder. When the boys moved up north to farm the homestead and Hannah's land, the press drill was loaded onto the 16 foot wagon which they pulled behind the John Deere AR. Peder and Ed had taken over the two farms up north in 1940 when Lauritz purchased

his land east of Hawarden. They farmed the homestead until Gustav sold the land to August W. Steabner in December of 1944. Byron and Walter then took over Hannah's farm.

In the summer of 1939, Peder, Gudrun, Norman, Jennie and Ed met up with their sister Evelyn at Pierpont, South Dakota to visit with Aunts Uncles and cousins. Evelyn and husband Ole had met them at Uncle John's, travelling from Wisconsin. Gudrun returned with Ole and Evelyn where she spent a year with them at the coast.

September 1st, 1939 was one of those days in which everyone remembers where he or she was when word of the second world war broke out. Peder remembers being in Charlie McLean's store. He rushed home to tell the others and to tune in the radio for more news.

The 1938 crop was just barely worthwhile, with the Loreburn average for wheat being 5.5 bushels pper acre. 1939 must have been a farmer's dream, with the wheat average jumping to 20 bushel per acre. This was the biggest crop since 1928. Young farmers born in the early twenties would never have been exposed to such a crop. What a thrill it must have been for some of these men to work the harvest that year!

CHAPTER 24
THE DEPRESSION

The October 29, 1929 crash found Gustav, Peder and Ed on the way back from Alderson, Alberta. They had visited August Lochrem for a short time and attempted to see a Mrs. Johnson, at Taber, who Gustav had boarded with in South Dakota. They stayed overnight in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. While they were on the trip, Gustav's 38 year old brother Lauritz had gotten married to 31 year old Magvalene Helen Schutte in Saskatoon on November 6, 1929. Helen had come to Canada on November 7, 1925. This was bigger news than any money market crash in a world away from the prairies. When they got back to Loreburn, Gustav picked up an old cow bell and took it to Lauritz's farmhouse where he fastened it to the underside of the bed! Pete Skotheim, Lauritz's neighbors caught him in the act, but went along with the joke. They put a couple of pounds of "spikes" in between the sheets as well.

The effect of the crash was, however, felt quickly and very close to Loreburn. Many of the very wealthy business men in this small town had invested in equity shares which were wiped out overnight. Gustav had been approached many times by some of these men to invest in the equity markets. Whatever his reasons for not doing so, it was a good decision for Gustav. One man said that if only one

individual would have committed suicide in the community it would have resulted in a chain reaction taking many more lives.

The depression was the great equalizer. It put all the people in the same financial position as his neighbor. In some ways the poorer folks were better off than the previously well off business men, as they at least knew how to adjust their living standards and knew how to live off the land with little or no cost. The price of wheat went as low as 21 cents per bushel. The farmers had no money, so the towns all suffered. Nothing much has changed in 60 years!

The dust storms were legendary. By ten o'clock in the morning the wind would start to pick up. The soil would begin to sift across the road, just like snow drifting across our roads today. By three o'clock in the afternoon you couldn't see a thing.

Peder remembers driving home the "power line road" north of Strongfield in 1938. He was on the tractor, pulling the power binder behind him. He had been up on Hannah's land at Hawarden, cutting the crop. The wind was really blowing hard. The visibility was almost down to zero and the tractor was not getting enough air to run. Peder was having trouble breathing as well. He got off the tractor and got down beside the tire where the dust wasn't swirling around and breathed in as much air as he could. He went around to the front of the tractor, carefully holding

on to it so that he would not be separated from his machine. He was going to adjust the carburetor and hopefully get the engine to run smoother. He noticed that it looked a bit clearer up ahead. Just a short walk ahead of the tractor and it was remarkably clear. He got back on the tractor and managed to get the sputtering machine into the clearing. Some trees at the side of the road had split the wind, and the dust was bearable. Peder worked the throttle back and forth, getting the tractor blown out as much as possible. He knew that there were three bluffs of trees along the road in this mile stretch. All he had to do was drive hard and fast from clearing to clearing. (This condition only existed when you were driving adjacent to a summerfallow field) He made a run for it and arrived at the next bluff with both rider and tractor spitting and puffing. The roar of the wind was constant. I am not aware of anyone losing their life in a dust storm in the thirties, but I am sure that it was quite possible.

Hannah would try to keep some of the dust from getting into the house. Wet sheets would be hung over the windows with knives into the casing, holding them into place. Even with these efforts, fine "flour like dust" covered everything. There were no vacuum cleaners then, and the dust just kept coming back, covering furniture within minutes of dusting. Major cleaning was done on Saturday only to have dust covering everything for Sunday. The flies were terrible. Periodically the family would go through the

house waving dishtowels in a feeble attempt to get them out of the house.

These wind storms often lasted one day, but it was not unusual to have them go on for three or four days in a row. Wind erosion was not limited to the lighter soils. Trips to Regina, a city surrounded by heavy clay gumbo soil, would present the same problems as those at Loreburn. Lights would be needed in the middle of the day as the sun was blotted out with clouds of dust. Thistles and dust flew far overhead. Walter remembers holding the areal and ground wires from the radio antenna an inch apart and watching them spark during a dust storm. Damage from the drifting was immeasurable. Fences which trapped blowing Russian Thistle and Tumbleweed, soon trapped the drifting soil. Fence lines disappeared except for a mound or ridge at the end of a field. About thirty acres on Hannah's land at Hawarden blew so bad they feared they would never reclaim it. It was solid dunes. Eventually they got it seeded one spring with the "one-way" seeder, and the vegetation gradually came back.

The relief trains would come in to town periodically. They would drop off a car load of potatoes and ripe tomatoes which would be unloaded and hauled up to the town hall. Carrots, barrels of apples, boxes of raisins, dried pears and peaches and of course C.P.R. strawberries (prunes) along with clothes were made available. A third grade flour was sold for 1 cent a pound. Huge round slabs

of cheese were sent in. Gustav received 1 1/2 slabs of this cheese. As they were unsure of how to preserve the cheese they phoned Shaffer in Loreburn for his ideas. He suggested freezing would not hurt the product, which they did. Of course it crumbled when it thawed out, but none was wasted. Cheese souffles became a common meal.

And, of course, there was the fish. They were cod fish which had been split down to the skin, flattened out, dried and salted. Even in the winter, the fish would not freeze. Many complained about the fish - calling it rotten, unfit to eat. They were supposed to make great shingles on the outhouse roof. A lot of the problem was that people did not know how to prepare the food, after all, fish did have to be fried, didn't it?

In the early thirties, fishing trips were made to Long Lake (50 miles east of Loreburn). A group of men usually went together, fishing with four lines out of the back of the boat. The boat was rowed - no motors in those days. Mandius Akre and Dick Langager were especially adept at this job. One spectacular catch of 135 pickerel in one day was made. This was no doubt before daily catch limits were established! The fish were taken back home and cured using a smoke/salt mixture.

Some of the people were not eligible for relief as they were still American or foreign citizens. A committee was set up to allocate the relief based on special need as well as size of family. Gustav would not personally go to

pick up relief but did send in his boys. Gustav was not one of the early ones to apply for relief, although he admitted much later that he wished that he had applied sooner.

Gardens were large and labor for their care was cheap. All the family had their turn at weeding the rows and rows of potatoes, cabbage, turnips and other vegetables. Blackberries, gooseberries, plums and crab apples grew in the yard.

The kids don't remember being hungry during these years of depression, however small treats stand out in their mind. Corn Flakes or Shredded Wheat were a special breakfast. A good eating apple, grapefruit, oranges or any other special citrus fruit was an extra special treat. Gustav enjoyed a good apple, and made quite a production out of it. He would always carefully peel it with his pocket knife, quarter it and cut out the core. Each piece was eaten slowly, savoring each quarter. Bananas were shipped in "on the vine" and then hung from a large hook from the ceiling of the general store. The wicker baskets that they were shipped in made great clothes baskets. The family grew used to the meals of potatoes, turnips and cabbage. Turnips were usually mashed with rich cream, and the boiled cabbage was served in a cream sauce. They always had cattle in these tough years, and they would often butcher the young calf for the veal. It kept reasonably well in the underground ice-well especially if it was canned in sealer jars.

The "Bennett Buggies" of the era were common to the Loreburn area. These were cars which were rigged with a pole up front and pulled with a team of horses. The body was usually stripped and the motor removed. The Olsons and Jacobsons both had these outfits. Chris Jacobson, however, chose to add the pole but still leave his car in tact, allowing him to run his car if gas became available.

Occasionally, Gustav would be called to co-sign a loan for a friend or neighbor. At other times a group of neighbors or church members would each throw in \$5 or \$10 dollars each to help a neighbor make a payment or perhaps move up north.

Occasionally one of the boys would be forced to wear his sisters shoes. These choices were not optional, they were choices of shoes or bare feet, not much of a choice in wintertime. Evelyn remembers her mother telling the children to sit in the back of the church one day, as they were not particularly well dressed.

Many of the farmers just couldn't keep on in the dry years. They usually decided to head into northern Saskatchewan where they could secure feed for their cattle and leave the wind behind. Many of them left beautiful homes and yards to start over again up north. Some, perhaps would have been able to "stick it out" if they had been able to accept relief.

Some of the earlier farmers to leave were:

Halsten Stamnes - July 29, 1933

Lars Olson - 1933

Knute Olson -

Peder Aadland -

Olaf Stamnes - 1933

Melvin Hetland - 1933

Otto Jacobson - 1933

Ole Kaldor - 1933

These were all good friends of the family and it was difficult to see them leave. Not only was there a sense of lost friendships, but their leaving was a reminder of the seemingly hopeless situation for those who remained.

CHAPTER 25**RUNAWAYS**

Everyone who was ever around horses has a runaway experience to tell. Usually they were so terrifying that they are still fresh in their minds. Some were simply scary, and others resulted in serious injury.

In early 1936, one of the more serious injuries occurred when Walter and Byron took the team of horses (Freddie and Charlie) and wagon down to the well west of the house that early spring. It was still cold and there was ice and frozen mud built up around the well. Walter started to pump water into the trough where the horses could drink while Byron stood in front steadying the horses. The team spooked and started to run. Byron tried to hold them back, however he fell while trying to run backwards ahead of the team. The horses went over him and the large wooden wagon wheel ran over his body lengthwise and sliding across his head. Walter was scared as he had seen the wagon wheel run over Byron's head. His hat lay beside him and his face was in the frozen ground. Walter picked him up and with his arm around Byron's waist, they struggled to the road and then back to the house. The horses were gone and the boys didn't even concern themselves with their whereabouts. Hannah was immediately concerned as she saw her son with hair sticking out in all

directions from under his hat. Walter took him directly to his room and helped to place him in his bed. There were large "egg-sized" bruises on his head and other bruises on his body. (Byron recovered but he was sore for a long time.)

Uncle Ludvig Aadland was at the farmhouse that day, and he went down with Walter to get the horses which were by now standing in front of the barn door. Ludvig grabbed the team by the bridles and yelled "These horses are crazy"! He had no use for this team, a feeling shared by many others.

This was the same team which ran off with the mower one day. The wheels were made of cast iron, and during the runaway one of the wheels broke in half. The team pulled/dragged the mower back to the yard.

In the early forties, Freddie and Charlie were being used for threshing at Uncle Ludvig's. George was home at the time, on harvest leave from the Air Force. George and Walter were throwing bundles onto the hayrack when the team broke away. They headed north, up through Ludvig's yard and were spotted by Esther. She ran along beside them and actually got a temporary hold on the team before they finally broke away. They ended up back at the Tastad farm, a mile west of Ludvig's. This team wrecked more harness and farm equipment than any other team.

Norman had a runaway with Freddie and Charlie as well. He had been to Loreburn that fall day to pick up some oil

for the tractor that was working on the Joseph Tjosvold farm. He unloaded the oil drum into the wagon and proceeded to hook up the team of horses. When he was hooking up the 4th tug, the horses bolted. He ran along beside them, hoping to catch up to them as they headed north of the barn. They seemed to know he was there, as they ran closer to the pig-fence, squeezing him out. He later caught up to them near Haugen's, brought them home, fixed the harness and got the oil to the threshing outfit on time.

By Walter's account, Byron was one of the best horsemen amongst the brothers, with himself being hands down the worst. He was scared of horses and hated working with them - and they usually returned the sentiment with a runaway, or a kick to the knee. "May" always seemed to have a bite or at least a warning to them as she lay back her ears.

Evelyn remembers riding with the Aadlands to confirmation class when the whippetree broke and not only did they all roll out of the sleigh, but the team of horses kept on running and they had to walk the rest of the way.

She also remembers taking the infamous Freddie and Charlie to Loreburn one day to get medicine for the family. She got the package and headed for home. Just across the tracks, she took the "short cut" heading directly for the present day Breynton farm. They hit a dip, the whippetree broke, and as expected, the horses took off running. Whoever was living in that farmhouse at that time saw the

horses coming and somehow managed to get them stopped. They fixed the sleigh and again hooked up the team for an uneventful return trip.

Not all runaways lost the horses. A runaway could mean simply losing control of the horse or team of horses. In December of 1935 Norman and Peder were on their way to town to mail the family's Christmas cards and letters. They had crossed the tracks and were almost in the village when the cutter flipped over on a turn. The cutter broke free, throwing Norman clear. The pole and eveners were still with the horses, with Peder hanging on to the lines as he skidded on the snow behind them. Bill Vaughn saw the accident and was able to stop the horses. It had just turned cold after several warm days in a row and there was a sharp crust on top of the snow. Peder's face was cut up pretty bad and he had lost his boots. Norman took the horses into the livery and Peder was taken to England Hayes' where his face was cleaned up. He was pretty shaky so he rested a while before joining Norman.

When Edward was working for Wilfred Edgar in Alberta, he had a runaway with eight horses. They had worked one Easter Sunday getting all the seeding equipment ready for spring work. At 4:00 p.m., Edgar told Ed to get some sleep so that he could run the plow that night. After supper, Ed got on the tractor and ran it through the night until 7:00a.m. He had breakfast and went to bed. They called him at 11:00 that morning, to start harowing in the field. He

goot the 8 horse team together and started to work on the newly seeded field. By late afternoon he was finished the field and was resting the team before starting the next field. (He was probably wondering how many hours Edgar was going to get that month for his \$30.00 pay.) One of the mares shook loose her bridle and pushed ahead of the rest. This caused the other horses to surge ahead, each at a different time. Soon the horses were out of control and Ed was desperately trying to hang on and stop the runaway. The dust behind the harrows filled the air, making it difficult to breathe. When he eventually got them settled down, he was still faced with the job of bridling the mare and untangling the confusion of harness. Shortly thereafter, he took the team of horses home and put them away in the barn. He did the chores and finally got to bed at 9:00pm that evening!

During the thirties very few crops were good enough to see a binder. Most were cut for feed with a mower and then raked into piles to be picked up later. Horses often ran out of control pulling the hay rake. The driver sat in front of the rake behind the horses and quite often one of the lines would get caught under the horses tail and they would break. This was especially common with some horses that were "twitchers", that is their tail would spin around and catch a line. If they broke away with the lines, all you could do was to walk down the pole, jump on a horse and get control of the lines. Then came the easy part - jump

off, land feet up and dig in your heels! No wonder so many of that generation have arthritis and rheumatism in their joints!

Norman spotted one of Gustav's runaways from the barn. He had just harnessed the team and took them over to the bob-sleigh. He got them backed up and in place quickly. Just as he was about to hook them up, they took off.

CHAPTER 26
A SISTERS DEATH

On April 1, 1944, the family was deeply saddened with the sudden death of the youngest child, Ruth Elaine Tastad. Perhaps the best record of the events comes from a letter written by sister Jennie to her older sister Evelyn. It was written on April 6th just after Ruth Elaine's funeral. It reads as follows:

April 6, 1944

Dear Evelyn and all,

I'm sure you've been waiting for a letter but until now it's been so hard to relax. Mama wrote airmails to Byron and Norman right away instead of sending cables. But Peder sent telegrams the same evening to George and you. George wasn't able to get home either, but we got a lovely spray of flowers from him, and yesterday such a nice letter. He's trying so hard to get spring leave and I do hope he get's it.

Now I'll try and tell you in detail just how everything happened.

Friday evening Gudrun had a social evening at the school (the junior Red Cross). Mama and I were just a little busy all day and Ruth Elaine was such a good girl. A little quiet perhaps but nothing that we took special

notice to. She was so happy to be going to the school that evening. They were having the unveiling of the honor role and a short program to begin with and after words a few games and contests and lunch. The folks planned to go just for the program and then bring the children home and put them to bed. However, Papa hadn't been feeling well the past few days so had been lying around most of the time. Friday afternoon he just stayed in bed and said he wouldn't be able to go to the school much as he would have liked to. Helen had been in bed with the flu the week before and was quite sick for a few days. (otherwise we'd been so well all winter). Thursday and Friday Gwendolyn had a sore throat so when Papa decided to stay home I just got Gwendolyn to sleep instead of taking her with me. I was afraid taking her out might make her worse as she had some fever too. Well mama was finishing up the dishes and Ruth Elaine washed and dressed herself so she was all ready to go except for combing her curls.

I forgot to mention that at supper time we noticed her sneeze a few times. And I mentioned "there's another one getting the flu". She didn't eat much supper either but we thought she was just excited about going to school. After she was all ready she must have got awfully tired because she went into the front room and lay down on the davenport and started to cry. Several of us went and talked to her and asked her what was the matter and she said she had such a sore throat and felt so sick. After a few minutes she ran

out into the kitchen and vomited such a lot. She often cried before vomiting and then felt better right after so we didn't even think much of that. After that she got so cold. So mama decided she better stay home with daddy, so she undresses her and got her the hot water bottle. After a while she vomited again and asked mama to stay home with her too. Mama said "yes", and is so glad that she didn't feel the least bit cross about having to stay home although she was disappointed - having planned on it and being all ready to go.

Well the rest of us left and when we got home Ruth looked sick all right but was asleep and slept some all night. However she did vomit quite a few times and drank quite a bit of water. Mama slept with her on the davenport. In the morning Gudrun had such a terrible sore throat so she stayed in bed with Ruth nearly all forenoon. Being Saturday I was busy cleaning house and when I got the middle bedroom cleaned we moved Ruth in there. Gudrun stayed with her nearly all the time and mama was in and out quite often. She kept on vomiting continuously and begging for water. We'd give her a sip, and she'd vomit. Mama talked to the Dr. twice during the day, but we thought it was just the flu like Helen had had. Helen didn't vomit but we knew Ruth's stomach was so sensitive. Finally in the afternoon we took her temperature shortly after dinner. It only showed 102 but we realize now that we couldn't have got it right. I think all these things were God's workings

- we were all blinded until she was almost dying. Around 5-6 o'clock we noticed that she really looked worse so we called Walter and he went to get the Dr. Just before he came mama decided to take her temperature again. She had just finished when the Dr. walked in and it was over 106 degrees! Just then Peder and Ruth drove in with a birthday present for me. Kathleen was in bed so Ed stayed home. By that time the Dr. had finished examining her and the one lung was filled right up (just like putty) and there were several spots on the other one. He gave her a pneumonia tablet which she vomited up again a few minutes afterwards. (the vomiting was caused from the unusually high temp.). He gave Gudrun a list of all the medicine she was to take which Gudrun wrote down. He was going to send out some Rum to settle her stomach and then we were to continue with the tablets. Yes he also made a mustard plaster. Just before Walter took him back to town he went over and looked at her again and decided to sound her heart. It was so weak there was no pulse in her wrist so he hurried and gave her a hypo. Then they left. Mama was with her alone while we were in the front room making arrangements to move her in there. Mama called out "I think she is dying now." We all ran in to see her. I ran down to the barn to get Jonas. Phoned the Dr. again and told Mrs. Monkman to send the Dr. and Walter right back again as soon as they came to town.

Ruth jumped in the car and went to get Ed. He got here - threw himself down beside her and talked to her. She

seemed to know us all although she didn't speak a word after the hypo. Mama said "Do you want to go to Jesus now?" She nodded her head. Otherwise she kept looking from one to the other. Then we sang Jesus loves me, and repeated the Lord's Prayer. Her lips moved as if she were trying to say it too. The Dr. and Walter came back and at about 8 o'clock it was all over. Just a little over an hour from the time we realized she was seriously sick - and she was gone. It went so quick that we just felt stunned.

Coventry came right away and took her to Hawarden. We got her back Tues. forenoon, so we had her here for a few hours. We all felt better when we saw her - she looked lovely! So peaceful and satisfied. The casket was white - the most beautiful one that I have ever seen. There were so many flowers and memorial wreaths. We will send you a list when we write again. The funeral service was very nice too. Gudrun and Walter were both running temperatures but they insisted on going. Papa hasn't been able to stay in bed since - he has to be outside a lot. Walter seems better but Gudrun is still in bed. It seems so terribly hard on papa although we all miss her so much. I have never seen him really cry before, but now he breaks down many times a day! It seems everything he sees reminds him of her and he'll start to cry. He's never really been the sentimental type, but he is now. Her things seem almost sacred to him. It's hard for mama too, but she is bearing up real well. Perhaps

in a day or two she'll write and tell you more about the funeral.

Love to all - Jennie

The day of the funeral was very mild and the roads were a muddy mess. Olaf Meir had Mandius Olson's tractor and was kept busy pulling cars through the mud holes on the church road. It was close to Easter and Hannah had a large Easter Lily which was in full bloom. When Ruth Elaine was in the home the day of the funeral, Hannah cut the flower from the plant and placed it in her daughters hands. Rev. C. Ostby held a small service in the home before they left for the church. Viola Ringdal and Mrs. O. Johnson of Hawarden sang a duet, "God Understands" and Rev. Ostby read from Psalm 46. Katie Feltis came down with Gustav's brother Lauritz and his wife Helen.

At the church, there was lots of music. "What a Friend we have in Jesus" was sung by the congregation and the choir sang two songs, "Children of the Heavenly Father", and "One Sweet Solemn Thought". Melvin Olson sang a solo as well as Rev. Ostby who sang "When He Cometh". Her brothers Peder, Edward, Walter and brother-in-law Jonas were pallbearers.

The death was sudden and hard for the family, especially Gustav. But in many ways it was much harder for those who were away from home, for those who could not see the lifeless body to initiate the mourning process. Three

of the brothers were away at war and Evelyn was in Silvana, Washington with her husband and family.

Norman, perhaps best shows the feelings of the absent brothers and sister in his letter to my mother:

May 2, 1944

Dear Jimmy;

Thanks so much for your letter, it's the first I have received telling anything of Ruth's death, other than what I heard from Eunice, the mere fact that she had passed away. It's rather a blow to have people speak of something, something that has happened about a month before and they think you know all about it and you find out it's your sister's death they are speaking of! Eunice only spoke of her as "our little sister" and as she also has a younger sister I wasn't sure until I received Evelyn's letter the same afternoon that it was our Ruth Elaine. There was very little I could do. Of course it hurts, not the same kind of hurt that it would have been had this happened before I left home. It didn't bring tears to my eyes but it seems to swell up within oneself until you almost burst, and it comes very close to hate! Hate because there is such things as war, war that can take you from your home, and hold you while your loved ones pass away. I will never be able to think of her as dead. I will always remember her as I last saw her, happy and truly a sweet child. This is truly a

strange place, last Wednesday when I returned to this unit I met Bill Ashworth. I told him of Ruth's death and he had heard long ago! The other day I received a parcel sent from home on the 21st of March and in it was a letter from Ruth. I shall keep it always

I'm O.K. love Norman

Ruth Elaine was a special friend to all. Kathleen remembers her through the eyes of a child: "I remember Ruth Elaine as being a very happy and loving child. I remember playing on the swing with her. Once she took my dolly and I cried so - and told Grandma what she had done. Grandma set me on her knee and told me that I could perhaps let Ruth Elaine have the dolly for a while. There were so many things in this world that I would be able to have and that Ruth Elaine would never be able to have. I don't remember feeling particularly comforted by her statement at the time, but I do remember it years later. I remember Daddy crying and being so very sad at the breakfast table the next morning. It was my first experience with death. I remember the white casket in front of the windows in the dining room. Everyone was crying. I remember that Grandma could cry, talk or sing at the same time. There were some of the family who thought we (Helen Gwen and I) shouldn't be allowed to see her, but Grandma said "yes". She brought a chair over so we could climb up and see how peacefully she looked. She looked like she was asleep - just as mom

had said and I remember thinking and wondering why everyone was so sad when Ruth Elaine was with Jesus. I remember that the sorrowing of the family was more difficult for me to accept and cope with than the death itself."

After her death, Gustav was sitting with Dr. Monkman when he mentioned that Ruth Elaine had required a lot of special extra care - but that they had all loved to care for her. Monkman nodded and replied, "Now the Almighty will care for her." It was a comforting thought for the family in their grieving.

The neighbors had grown very close to her, as well. Jacob Haugen and Ludvig Aadland were both touched with her death. Ludvig said that he couldn't have thought more of Ruth Elaine if she were his own child. Her warmth and love touched all those she met.

Brown Eyes - Ruth Elaine's favorite song.

Brown eyes, brown eyes, winsome and true.
Beaming, gleaming, all the day through.
I only live in the hope that some day,
You will bring summer across life's dark way.
Brown eyes, brown eyes, linger awhile.
Send me just one bit of a smile.
Down from my heart it shall never depart -
Two little, true little brown eyes.

CHAPTER 27**THE FORTIES**

The fourties found the sons and daughters of Gustav and Hannah starting not only to leave the home, but also spreading out all over the country.

Son Norman was living in Elbow while he worked for the British American Oil Company. He and Lloyd Joel roomed with the Robertson family. In the fall of 1941, Edward left for the west coast to find work for the winter. When he registered with the unemployment officer, the man recognized the name and asked him if he was related to Sam Tastad. Discovering that hhe was Sam's nephew, he advised Ed to go up to Port Mellon on the coast, where Sam could get him work. Sam got him a job, however, an old foot injury never healed properly and Sam returned to Vancouver. Ed returned in the spring of 1942. Jennie and Peder were married and lived in the neighborhood. Evelyn was married and lived in the United States. Gudrun had been living with her sister Evelyn for a year (1939/40) in Washington State. She returned home in 1941 where she enrolled in Teacher's College. This allowed her to teach at Willdon school from 1942- 1944.

On June 29th, 1940, word was received of a second grandson for Gustav, Gordon Hanley, born to Evelyn and Ole in Wisconsin.

Just a few months later, on December 12th, my mother gave birth to my older sister Kathleen in Davidson, Saskatchewan. She and mother rode 35 miles home from the hospital in a horse drawn sleigh, packed away in a Delsey toilet paper box. Mother had gone to stay with the Dodd's family near Davidson prior to the baby's birth. After the birth, she was on her back for 10 days, and then bounced home the thirty five miles in the horse drawn sleigh. They stopped off at the French farm where they were served a delicious turkey dinner.

Six months later, a second daughter was born to Jennie and Jonas. This was Gwendolyn Dee, a fourth granddaughter to Hannah and Gustav. This was three grandchildren in 18 months. Nurse Weir had been in attendance at Gwen's birth. To keep the germs away from baby and mother, Nurse Weir would not allow any visitors to her patients. To get around this, Jennie and Gudrun devised a plan: While Nurse Weir was having her nap, Gudrun would stand on a stool and peek through the stove pipe hole in the wall between the kitchen and the bedroom. There she could visit with her sister, sneak a look at her niece and they could both deny that they had seen each other in the bedroom!

The Tastad boys were called to active duty in short order. The first to be conscripted was 21 year old Byron. He signed up with the army on June 19th, 1941. He was sent overseas November 23rd, 1941, and was sent back from Europe

January 24th, 1946. He was discharged March 14, 1946. Byron served as a nursing orderly and lab assistant.

Norman started with the Army Engineers in Regina on March 12, 1942. After short stints in Dundurn, Prince Albert, Chilliwack, Saskatoon and then Chilliwack again, he was sent overseas. Reaching England in August of 1943, he served until his return in October of 1945. His discharge was in November of 1945.

George was the next to receive his invitation in the mail from the armed forces. He served with the Royal Canadian Air Force, beginning in January of 1943. After training sessions in Moose Jaw, Chilliwack and St. Thomas, Ontario, he was stationed in Scoudouc, New Brunswick. He returned in the spring of 1946. He was able to arrange for harvest leaves to Loreburn, however they were difficult to arrange.

It was difficult for the boys to be away from home for such a long time. They especially missed the birthdays, anniversaries and their sisters's funeral. It was an anxious time for Gustav and Hannah having three of their boys in the war. Many letters were sent to the boys in the services along with "care packages" of clothing and goodies. The sons wrote back to the family faithfully throughout the war. Their letters were passed on to family and friends, from house to house, with everyone being eager to hear the news.

During the war, all the family was glued to the radio to hear the evening news from the CBC. Mathew Halton or Lorne Green were the bearers of the good and bad news from the war in Europe. This was a time that all learned to be quiet as the parents and siblings listened to the casualty and "missing in action" lists. This was often followed with the playing of "Land of Hope and Glory" (Pomp and Circumstance), which received a lot of air time during the war.

There were still the carryovers of comedy shows from the thirties on the radio. Added to this mix, were the local shows: Farm News on CBC at noon; Dick Lillico Wake-up Show on CHAB; The Mail Bag - with Cy Night; and the The ACT Amateur Night.

The family still gathered in the living room some evenings to play and sing around the piano. Gudrun would play and the family would all sing the family favorites. "Brown Eyes" was Ruth Elaine's favorite song. Other favorites were "Alle Bitte Lammene", "Tip Tip Tua", "Gubba Noah", and "Paul on the Hillside".

On the first snow, the family could always expect a meal of Kumla. Hannah's recipe always included boiling the Kumla with salt pork or ham. They were always white, light and delicious, smothered in homemade butter. Often she would place a piece of salt pork in the centre of the dumpling. Kumla always required Norwegian grace!

Kathleen remembers Christmas at the Tastad farm in the forties: Christmas Eve was always spent together with the family at Grandma and Grandmas. After a lovely dinner, someone would read the Christmas Story from the bible, and finally we would open our presents. A large tree was placed in the living room in the front of the south window. It was always beautifully decorated, with more icicles than I have ever seen on any other tree. One particular Christmas I remember 3 or 4 oblong boxes under the tree for Helen, Gwen and I. We were not allowed to touch or shake, but we were still pretty sure that we were getting dolls. Grandpa was on his hands and knees under the tree shaking and feeling the presents. (He seemed to be the only one that was allowed to do this) When he got to mine, I told him that I was sure that I was getting a dolly. He said, "Oh, I don't think so." But as he picked up my present I heard the box say "Mama", and I knew that I was getting the dolly! Grandpa looked guilty and his blue eyes twinkled. Grandma was really annoyed with him and chased us all out of the living room!

My mother Ruth, Gudrun and Jennie sang a lot together as a "Tastad" trio. "I want My Life to Tell for Jesus" was one of their more requested songs. All went well providing they didn't get the giggles. Gudrun recounts one time when mom took the pitch from the piano and Jennie froze. She looked at the music and didn't recognize one bit of it.

Somehow they struggled through the song with few noticing the mixup.

In 1942 Gustav bought a 1940 gray Chevrolet from Mr. Fred Kwasnica, the CPR Section Foreman in Strongfield, for \$1400.00. This car was used by Gustav until he bought a 1948 Dodge Custom (dark blue) car from son Norman who now operated the garage in Strongfield. He drove the Dodge Custom until 1952, when he purchased his last car in Watrous - a 1952 gray Plymouth. This car was later used by Tamer & Gudrun Jackson.

At Easter of 1943, all the brothers were home except Byron who was already overseas. It was the last time for several years that they would be together. I remember two pictures from this time, one of the brothers lined up in front of the one-ton truck, and the other of Norman and Eunice (his new bride) sitting in Harold Haugen's car which had been modified to look like a "Stutz Bearcat".

Norman, their 3rd son, had married Eunice Olson at Silvana, Washington State, prior to his leaving for Europe. Their wedding was on July 24th, 1943. He was 25 years old when he left for overseas.

In 1944, Peder hired Ectors from Elbow to dig a dugout on the "Page" farm where he lived. Ectors had a "cat" and scraper which hired out in the community. After they had finished Peder's work, Gustav had them move down to his farm and excavate a similar dugout west of the house. They attempted to dig in the middle of the old slough which had

carried the "Stavanger". They soon hit sand and were unable to continue with the hole. It was much later that Walter and Byron hired a dragline to excavate a proper dugout that could be used for their cattle.

In 1944, the Oscar Alton farm west of Strongfield became available for purchase. Peder and Edward Tastad were able to negotiate the land agreement and the family soon moved to the house that has become my "home place". In the early fifties, Peder bought out Edwards share of the farm. It was hard for Peder and his family to leave the close proximity of Gustav and Hannah, especially for 4 year old Kathleen who missed her grandparents. One day, she was in the loft with Walter and Byron when one of them said, "Let's see if we can see where your house is." Kathleen replied that it was too far away to see, it was at least 10 miles. Byron replied, "Oh, no, it's not that far. It's only 7 miles," to which she replied "Well it's still 10 miles away by horse!" It had seemed to take forever to get there for that first Christmas while travelling by horse and sleigh. Within a year, Mother had given birth to her first son, Richard Grant, in Outlook, Saskatchewan. (July 25th, 1945) This makes him much older than his younger brother.

In 1945, Gustav negotiated with the Wells Dickie Company to purchase section 33 which was across the road, south of where the farmhouse stood. This section of land had been owned by the Martin brothers until Wells Dickie foreclosed on January 31st, 1930. Gustav receives title on

January 31st, 1945. He has paid them \$9000.00 cash, which has been raised by selling the homestead at Glenside for \$5000.00 (1/2 section) and \$4000.00 from savings. This land was offered to Norman in a letter from Gustav when he was still overseas. Norman was not sure what he would do when he returned to his new bride, and he declined his father's offer.

The Wells Dickie Company had foreclosed on section 31 which was also owned by the Martins brothers. It was then immediately sold to the Director, Veteran's Land Act. This land was then sold to Gustav's sons, George and Byron. George farmed the north 1/2 and Byron the south 1/2.

The East half of Section 4 had tax liens filed against it by the R.M. of Loreburn No. 254 in 1934 and in 1942. These were subsequently paid off, but it's curious that Gustav would allow his tax bill to go into arrears far enough to attract a tax lien, especially in 1942.

Gudrun finished teaching at Willdon school in 1944. She then finished off the Christmas to June term at Sunrise School.

Soon after the war was over, George attended the School of Agriculture in Saskatoon. He farmed for two years and then in 1949 he took over as the Imperial Oil Agent and the Western Grain Elevator Agent in Loreburn. He also operated a general trucking business - hauling coal, grain and cattle.

On August 5th, 1946, Norman and Eunice had their first child, a daughter, Alice Corinne Lee. All children are loved and enjoyed equally, but there is something special about the birth of the first child in the family. (Mind you the last one is pretty good too!)

In 1946, Gustav flew (yes I mean flew) out to the coast to see his brother Samuel. This must have been very exiting for both Gustav and the family. He left Regina in the morning and was in Vancouver that same day. He told his boys that he could have gone to work the very next morning. What a contrast to the long, tiring train ride! When he got into Vancouver, he went to the hotel in which Samuel was rumoured stay. He walked in and Sam peered up from the magazine he was reading. "Long way from home ain't you?" he asked. (Must be right out of a Humphry Bogart movie) Gustav stayed with him for a while. This was the first contact that he had with his brother since their 1925 argument. The visit went well and when Gustav returned to Loreburn, mail from Samuel was a regular occurrence. Gustav remmarked that his hearing was poor all the time he was in Vancouver, likely due to the poor decompression in the aiircraft of that day.

Gustav was applying for a passport to make a return visit to Norway with Hannah, and this was a requirement needed to apply to the Secretary of State for naturalization. This was granted on June 3, 1945 and a passport was issued shortly thereafter.

On March 22, 1947, Gustav and Hannah left New York City on the steam ship "Stavanger Fjord" and sailed to Stavanger, Norway. This was Gustav's first trip to Norway in 43 years, and Hannah's first visit ever. The total for both return tickets was \$724.00 Canadian dollars, not including the train tickets from Loreburn to New York. When they got to their stateroom, they found a beautiful bouquet of flowers waiting for them. It had been sent by their children for their wedding anniversary on the 22nd. They had been very anxious to return to Norway and see their friends and relatives. They had worried for them while the country had been occupied by the German forces. Uncle Alfred and the girls had been forced to live in the barn, as the Germans occupied their home. Hannah and Gustav left Stavanger on their return trip on July 11th, 1947, completing a 111 day tour. They brought many beautiful presents back for their children. I remember a wooden carving of the "old saving woman" that dad was given and the bracelet that mom received.

While they were enjoying their visit, their daughter Jennie was giving birth to another grandchild. This was Wanda Jean, born July 5th, 1947, the third daughter of a happy Jennie and Jonas.

Norman, having declined Gustav's offer to live on and farm part of section 33, had purchased a house and was living and working in Elbow. In February of 1947 he was able to negotiate the purchase of Elmer Thompson's garage

in Strongfield. He paid \$4500.00 cash and assumed a \$3000.00 mortgage. This was to be named "Tastad Motors", a name which would remain on the garage until its sale in December, 1966. Norman's brother Edward helped him fix up the garage, building offices and stock shelves. He hired Albert Greggorson as a mechanic, giving him a free hand in the "back shop". Norman was looking to expand by purchasing the Minneapolis-Moline dealership in Outlook. In discussions with the Territory Manager of this purchase, an offer of Territory Manager for the Humbolt/Melfort was offered to him. A call went out to brother Ed who was working that winter at the west coast, asking him to come back and take care of the garage for him. Norman started work at his new job on January 1st, 1950. In October, he moved his family to Watrous, and Edward and his family moved into the house in November.

1940 and 1941 were poor crops, a big disappointment after the big crop in 1939. The farmers were rewarded in 1942, when a bumper crop came in. Wheat averaged 29 bushels per acre in the Municipality that year. This crop of 1942 is the biggest crop on record for the years 1918-1957! The 1943 and 1945 crops were average and the 1944 crop was slightly above average. The 1946 crop was just below average. The later forties were not great for farming. In 1947 and 1948 huge hail storms wiped out promising crops and in 1949, they were dried out, making this three years in a row of crop failure.

The forties was a good decade for the family. The boys had returned safely from the war, many of the children had married, and grandchildren were coming thick and fast. Probably the best year ever for grandchildren was 1948. My mother started the family off that year on the right foot by giving birth to a baby boy, Garth Peter, on May 19th at Outlook, Saskatchewan. Mother had hardly caught her breath when she was asked to leave to make room for Norman's wife Eunice. (At least that is the way the story was told.) On May 28th, she gave birth to daughter Judith Rae, a second girl for Norman and Eunice. Not to be outdone by her brothers, Evelyn gave birth to her fourth child, Garnett Camille, in Camrose Alberta, on June 11th. Three grandchildren in three weeks would put a smile on any grandfather's face.

The grandchildren loved to visit Gustav and Hannah at the farm. The picnics with grandma at the Lonesome Tree, and the playhouses in the trees were remembered fondly. Kathleen writes: "I think that the most fun thing to do at Grandpa's was to build playhouses west of the house in the caraganas. I believe that I was very good at this! We would use old brooms or caragana switches to clean the ground. Orange and apple crates were used for furniture, and old tin cans, dishes and spice tins were neatly arranged in the orange crate cup boards. Grandma usually gave us old material for curtains and tablecloths. Where I really shined was in my mud pies. Using various consistencies of

mud and grasses one was able to make a variety of items - soups, bread, and cookies. We used brougham grass for tea leaves and brown ragweed for coffee. Caragana seed pods were shelled for peas. Grandma would often come out for "tea" and would bring real cookies. She would always tell us that it was the nicest playhouse that she had ever seen! Boys, be they brothers or cousins, were always a pain around the playhouse. We let them play a little, but usually we sent them out to work in the fields to get them out of our hair. They would "pretend drive " real tractors or play in the adjoining garden with their toy trucks and tractors."

Gustav used to walk the grandchildren to sleep in the old house, from the kitchen to dining room to the living room. He wasn't much of a singer, but he would sing "Marching Through Georgia" over and over again. When he tired of the words, he would sing teedle-dee, teedle-dee to the same tune until the child was asleep.

Hannah could be firm as well. Kathleen remembers being on the receiving end of a spanking from her, along with Merrill and Gordon. They had been throwing eggs at the chickens and were caught. If I had a nickel for every egg that had been smashed by a farm kid I'd be rich!

Peder and Ruth made an overnight trip to Regina and asked Hannah to stay with Kathleen and Ed at the "Page Place". All was going well until it was bedtime, and Hannah took out her teeth as she was getting ready for bed.

Kathleen was horrified, and promptly announced that she would be sleeping that night with her Uncle Eddie!

On June 24th, 1946 Hannah's aunt and uncle (the Paulsons) celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. Gustav and Hannah celebrated with them at Pierpont, South Dakota.

Walter, Byron and George were great teasers. They were always asking the nephews and nieces to "Ask mom if you can come over and stay all night. You can stay up as long as you want and eat as many cookies as you want." Of course the kids would get all excited and the mothers would have to deal with the situation. These brothers would also comment on any new coat or outfit that you wore. "I wouldn't wear that to the barn," was a familiar comment you would hear!

There were times that the grandchildren were allowed to have a sleep over with the grandparents, and that was an exciting time. It seemed that one was allowed to stay up just a bit later and that there were always cookies to help bake or just to sample.

Kathleen remembers asking Hannah to please tell her stories about when Peder and Edward were small boys. She told her Grandma that she liked the stories that came out of her mouth better than those that were read to her!

Walter, Byron and Edward left in the fall of 1949 for Prince Rupert, where they got jobs working on a new pulp mill being built near the town. Ed and Walter worked on the

fabrication of pre-cast concrete panels for the mill. Byron worked with the crew which was erecting the panels on the steel structure. They all returned in the spring to Loreburn. While the boys were in Prince Rupert, Gustav and Hannah moved into Loreburn to stay with son George, in the "elevator house". Jennie and Jonas stayed at the farm and took care of the animals that winter.

In 1949, Gudrun was hired by the Lutheran College in Outlook to help with the "Sunday School at Home" program. She would work at this project at Outlook until 1957.

CHAPTER 28**THE FIFTIES**

The fifties decade started out on a happy note with the marriage of one more of Gustav's sons. This was George, who married Alice Gjesdahl, the daughter of Knute Gjesdahl from the Birch Hills area. Gustav and Hannah had gone to Norway with the Gjesdahls in 1947, so they knew the family well. Their marriage was on July 8th, 1950.

Then, only a few months later, their second oldest son Edward married Mary Baxter from Hawarden. They married on November 11th, 1950 and moved into their new home beside the garage in Strongfield. Mary had a son from a previous marriage, Henry Laverne, who was 11 years old at the time. This was an exciting year then, with two new daughter-in-laws and a new grandson.

In between these events, another grandson was born. This was Douglas Wayne, the first son of Norman and Eunice. He was born in Outlook Hospital on August 20th, 1950. A bit more than a year later, on December 8th, 1951, George and Alice had their first child. This was son Roger, who turns the horrific "FOUR ZERO" this year.

In 1952, Edward bought the garage from brother Norman. He initially brought in fridges and stoves out of his retail space. Ed operated the garage continuously until its sale to Clarke Snustead in December of 1966.

In 1952 regular power came into the Strongfield rural area. Evan Adams, a neighbor of Peder's, sold his 32 volt light system to Walter and Byron to install in the farmhouse. This replaced the 6 volt windcharger system they had in place up until this time. It gave much better light, but still was of no use for the modern electrical appliances. (The housekeeper would often take the Walter and Byron's laundry to Loreburn where she could use Hannah's modern electric iron) Abercrombie from Strongfield wired the house. Regular 120/220 power came in to the farmhouse in the mid fifties.

On Good Friday, April 12, 1952, the Tastad family was deeply saddened with the death of Ole K. Olson, the husband of Gustav and Hannah's oldest child, Evelyn, and father of 4 of their grandchildren. The family would be needed over the next few years as Evelyn and her family moved back to Canada and settled in at Hawarden. Gustav spent some time doing small repairs and plastering walls in the kitchen of Evelyn's house before she moved the family.

Gustav moved into Loreburn in 1953. He had purchased his house from Sam Coutts, who had moved to Saskatoon. This house was next door to his son George, who had moved his family from the "elevator" home in 1952. Gustav and Hannah adjusted easily to town living, happy to be close to many of their Loreburn friends. Again, he planted many of the trees in and around their home. Some improvements were made to the house by Gustav. The coal and wood stove was

replaced with an oil unit. Walls were papered and painted. It wasn't until after Gustav died that the present day indoor plumbing was installed. Years later, Hannah told Kathleen that of all the modern conveniences she now had at her disposal, hot water on tap was by far the one she appreciated the most. Peder Tastad now resides in this home.

On May 9th, 1953, George's wife Alice gave birth to their second child, a daughter they named Cheryl. Just a year later in the spring of 1954, (June 18th), Bryan Kent, second son of Norman and Eunice was born in Watrous, Saskatchewan. This was the seventh grandson for Gustav, who was probably starting to get numbed by the frequency of these birth events.

Byron and Walter stayed on the farm but always had a paid housekeeper with them. Some of the girls who worked for them were: Vy Rostad; Sally Vestre; Ardyce Carlson; Marie Haugen; and Signe Lima, who taught at Willdon school and lived at the farm. Walter and Byron moved into Loreburn with Gustav and Hannah in the fall of 1956 when the Jensens moved into the farmhouse.

Shortly after Gustav moved to Loreburn, he decided to enlarge the garage. Rather than to demolish and rebuild, he and his friend Mandius Akre each got up on the roof with a saw. They removed the ridge board and started sawing down the roof, one going down each side. They continued down the walls until they had sawn the garage in two! They pulled

one of the ends out four feet and filled in the space. The job was completed in no time at all!

Gustav still liked to come out to the farm and see Byron and Walter who usually had a cook working for them. Walter remembers how it struck him as being odd when Gustav decided that the threshold on the door just had to be changed. Gustav proceeded to pull out the complete door and frame to install a new threshold. It had been worn down badly for many years. In fact, no one could remember it being any other way. I guess it's easier to see things when you have been away for a while.

The last crops that Gustav was to witness before his death were mostly average or above average. (1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, and 1957 were all good years) Only 1950 and 1954 gave up poor yields.

I remember Grandpa Gustav coming out to our farm with his electric lawn mower and tree pruning equipment. He trimmed up the caragannas in the lane by the house and let Dick and I mow the lawn. The last thing he said to us was "Don't let the mower cut the cord". Of course it was only a matter of time until it did cut the power cord and we were stopped. I remember Dick having to go in the house and tell Grandpa of the accident. I remember that Dick felt terrible although he probably blamed me for it. (just kidding)

Grandpa was also the one to call on when our dog died. We went into the grove of trees to the west of the house

and dug a grave for "Trixie", the best rat-terrier that ever lived. Grandpa was there for the funeral and the planting of the cross at the head of the grave.

On March 22, 1956 Gustav and Hannah celebrated their Golden Wedding in Loreburn. I can just remember parts of the program that was held in the United Church basement. I remember that it was long, as programs always are to an eight year old. The truly exciting part was the ride in the "bombardier" Jack Norrish picked us up in the contraption. It was a closed-in vehicle sitting on "cat tracks" in the rear and skis in the front. It could haul a dozen or more people and was definitely the highlight of the evening for me.

Of course a lot of other things went on that night as well. This is the account as recorded in the paper the following week: March 22, 1956, was a memorable day for Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Tastad, when they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. A turkey dinner was enjoyed by the family in the United Church parlors in Loreburn, in a suitable setting of decorations in gold and white and bouquets of yellow roses. Miss Gudrun Tastad had charge of the guest book.

After the dinner, Pastor Trygve F. Dahle proposed a toast to the honored couple and also acted as the master of ceremonies for the program at the banquet table. Pastor Dahle led in devotion, reading from the 1st Psalm. George Tastad read the telegrams of congratulations from

relatives, friends, including members of Parliament. "His Love is Wonderful to Me" was sung as a duet by Pastor and Mrs. Dahle. Mrs. Lena Akre read a write-up of the wedding from the Pierpont Dignal, Pierpont S. Dakota, of 50 years ago. Mrs. Alma (Lochrem) Leyden, Camrose Alta., a friend of the family, made a few remarks about the early days of the honored couple, Mr. Tastad having worked together with her father. Mrs. Dahle read a bit of poetry composed by Mrs. John Tastad of Pierpont, S. Dakota. Mr. Kasper Knutson, Elbow, gave an appropriate talk, stressing the points which make a happy Christian home. The eldest daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Olson, gave a very fine tribute to Dad and Mother on behalf of the children. She also thanked the ladies of the Loreburn WA of the United Church for the delicious meal and Mrs. Dahle for decorating the wedding cake. The doxology was sung in closing.

Mrs. D. McLelland, on behalf of friends, invited Mr. and Mrs. G.L. Tastad to the church auditorium. Here many friends and relatives were assembled to honor the bridal couple. Mr. D. McLelland acted as chairman for the program that was given.

Miss Ruth Hoiland led a singspiration with Mrs. Eugene McLean as pianist. Mr. Knutson gave a short talk, comparing the church and Christ with the bride and groom relationship. Miss E. Wankel played a delightful piano solo. Gordon Joel of Elbow read the telegrams of congratulations, one of these being from the Prime

Minister. Pastor and Mrs. Dahle sang, "Love Divine", as a duet. Mrs. W. Ashworth read a very suitable anniversary program. Miss Kathleen Tastad, a granddaughter, sang a solo, entitled "I Will Pilot Thee", accompanied by her mother Mrs. Peder Tastad then gave a lovely tribute to the honored couple. Mrs. Aksel Chrestensen, a niece of Mr. and Mrs. Tastad, composed a song about the bridal couple which was sung to the tune of "Marching Through Georgia" (Mr. Tastad's favorite Yankee song), by Mrs. Borger and Mrs. McLean. Pastor Dahle centered his talk on the "Seven Freedoms" mentioned in the 23rd Psalm. He also extended a thank-you on behalf of the family to the friends and the women of the United Church for what they had done to make this such a happy occasion.

The hymn, "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds" was sung before Mrs. W. L. Peardon and Mr. Aksel Chrestensen presented the honored couple with gifts. Mrs. Peardon spoke to the bride and presented her with a bouquet of roses. Mr. Chrestensen spoke to the bride and groom presenting a gift of money and an electric floor polisher. Mr. and Mrs. Tastad expressed their thanks very graciously.

An opportunity was given to all to congratulate the honored couple. All were invited to the church parlor for a lunch and a taste of the wedding cake.

For the occasion, Mrs. Tastad wore a dress of dusty rose color appropriately called "Lady Love", with accessories to match. She was presented with a corsage of

yellow roses and Mr. Tastad with a white carnation boutonniere.

All the children were present with the exception of Norman and his family of Watrous, who, because of blocked roads and stormy weather, were unable to come, though they had come as far as Davidson and had to turn back.

Mrs. Jennie Ferkingstad and some neighbors had to resort to horses and a trailer. Peter and family of Strongfield came via bombardier. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tastad and Laverne, Strongfield, Mrs. Evelyn Olson and children of Hawarden, Miss Gudrun Tastad of Outlook came by train. A brother, Lauritz and his family of Hawarden also came by train. Those of Strongfield returned by bombardier. To Byron and Walter, George and his family, no transportation problems were present as they reside in Loreburn.

In July of 1956, Gustav and his American siblings had a family reunion in Loreburn. Sisters Olga and Josie and brothers John, Lauritz, Samuel and Gustav were together for the first time in over sixty years. For a few days, time stood still as old memories and experiences were again relived.

Gustav's health started to fail him in the last few years of his life. His doctor in Moose Jaw had told him to get his affairs in order as he suspected stomach cancer. A trip to Regina doctors confirmed the diagnose and he was sent to Saskatoon for surgery. The first operation removed 3/5 of his stomach. He recovered somewhat from the

operation, however it was not too long before he was again very ill. They again operated but found that the cancer had spread throughout his digestive tract. They could do nothing more for him.

He felt somewhat better then for a short while, believing, or wanting to believe that he had been cured. It was especially hard for the family, who had been told of the hopeless situation. He drove Hannah up to our farm on March 1st for Peder and Ruth's 17th wedding anniversary. Shortly thereafter he was bed ridden. His bed was made up in the present day living room where he could receive visitors.

On March 25, 1957, Uncle Alfred writes the family:

Dear all of you!

Have just received your second letter. Poor Gustav who has to suffer so much. There are two things I'm glad and thankful for:

- 1) That you have put everything into God's hands, and
- 2) That you have spared nothing so that Gustav, my brother, shall have it as good as possible. Thanks ever so much to all of you.

Thanks ever so much, Hannah, that we also were informed. I have prayed for Gustav and for Johan and Samuel and I believe that God is with them. He takes care of them in a marvelous way. That's why I was so glad that you said

that Gustav is right with God. Yes, then he shall live even though he dies - everlasting life - and that's what we want, everlasting life - that is the goal.

Don't take this too hard, Hannah, you are so good - but trust and guide all of them like the good mother that you are. Gustav has been a good brother, and that I really wanted to thank him for, and I wish with all my heart that his illness (sickbed) might be easy and that he might always have his hand in God's loving hand.

Thousand thanks for both letters, and we now put this concern in God's hand.

Alfred Pederson

On April 27th, 1957, George and Alice brought home their third child, daughter Susan, who was to be the last grandchild that Gustav would see. They brought the baby over to the house where Gustav lay and he was able to see and experience for the last time, the joy of new birth.

On Tuesday morning, May 24th, 1957, he passed away with all his family present. This ended 78 years, 3 months and 15 days of his life. Shortly before his death, unable to speak, he scrawled the words "Faith, Hope and Charity". It was the last communication he had with his family. Dr. Tufts from Outlook certified his death. Sylvia McLean had been with him many times in those last days, providing medication and comfort. Once he knew that he was to die, he had said that he wished to die in the springtime, at home

and with all his family surrounding him. He got his wish. He was buried 4 days later on May 28th, 1957 in the Skudesness Lutheran Cemetery.

The funeral service was conducted by Rev. R. Snipstead of Saskatoon, assisted by Kasper Knutson from Elbow and Rev. R. Monkman of Saskatoon. Special music was provided by Oscar and Doris Akre and by Rev. R. and Mrs. Snipstead. Honorary Pallbearers were Wm. Vaughan; W.L. Peardon; George Dodds; Mons Langager; Bob Reed; Mandius Akre; Lorne Kerney; Jacob Haugen.

Casket Bearers were his six sons: Byron; George; Walter; Norman; Edward; Peder.

Olga Fossum and Josie Sletten (Gustav's sisters), Sam Tastad and Lauritz Tastad were all able to attend the funeral. Aunt Josie's daughters Rhoda and Phyllis attended as well. This was especially hard for them, as Gustav's brother John had passed away the day after Gustav had died. The following left for South Dakota to attend the May 31st funeral for Uncle John: Hannah Tastad; Byron, George, Walter and Gudrun; Sam Tastad; Lauritz and Helen Tastad; Eunice Tastad.

CHAPTER 29**CONCLUSION**

What then makes this family unique from other pioneer families? I suspect each one of us value the family's contribution to the community from a different perspective. The "success" of the family in terms of professional standing or of accumulation of assets is important to some, but not others. Others may view their with heritage with pride, admiring the strength of Anne Karine or the adventurous spirit of Niels Peder. Others are will be thankful for the strong faith of Niels Peder and Anne Karine, a faith passed on to generation after generation through baptism, the sacrament and word, the commitment of individuals and the prayers of many.

We may admire the commitment to a "work ethic" or the strong urge of the family to always try something different or something new. To others, there is a recognition of a strong sense of family and of tradition. Still some will say the story is unbalanced, avoiding the shortcomings of the family.

The history, or story of the family invokes a different response from each of us. Each response has been influenced by our age, our memories, our prejudices and of course, our position in the story, relative to the horse. In the end, I only hope that the reader will see enough of

themselves in the story to value his or her own contribution to the community and record the same for future generations.

APPENDIX**Expressions**

There were so many expressions that came out of the twenties and thirties. Many of the sayings have been around for so long that I just expect that everyone knows their meaning.

For instance, "Where in the world wide scratch?" is a favorite of mine. It started when Uncle Ludvig quickly glanced at the headlines in the newspaper regarding the world-wide search for the kidnapped Lindberg baby. "WORLD WIDE SEARCH" became "WORLD WIDE SCRATCH" ever since.

And then there was Gustav's "KEEP 'TINGS MOWING". This was a note that Gustav had in his papers regarding a loan he had taken out "to keep things moving", in other words a line of credit. Somehow, "keep tings mowing" sounds better! This was also the expression used when he played checkers with the grandchildren - "IT'S YOUR MOW!"

"LINA BISSY?" was the standard opening line when you picked up the phone on the old party line. We think that Jennie should be blamed for this one. She had (and still has) a great sense of humor. Some things just tickled her. The expression, of course, asked the question "Line busy" with just a bit of a Norske accent.

Of course there was the phone call to "central" when Gustav would be phoning Chris Vestre who ground feed for

the farm. Not knowing the number, he would ask the confused operator for Chris Westry - Vest of Strongfield. Those v's and w's often got twisted around. (Similar confusion came to the operator who orchestrated the collect call - "This is George Tastad calling Pete Tastad from Pete George's")

Jellow was yellow and yellow became jello. Theet were teeth. And who can't remember his smile when he was satisfied with something, and his words "Vell sir, vell sir."

Uncle Ludvig was supposedly quoted as saying, "I was just learning to say "Yam" and then they changed it to "Yelly". He also preferred to use only male pronouns. ie. "My wife, he . . . etc. Uncle Ludvig had a beautiful sense of humor. I wish that I could have met him and spent some time hearing his stories. For instance, when red headed daughter Myrtle asked where she had come from, he told her that he had been out ploughing one day and had found this red headed baby on a rock pile. He took it home and called it "Myrtle".

Speed had its measure then, as it does now. When I grew up 100 miles per hour was the magic figure. In the earlier years, sixty miles per hour was the number. It didn't take long then, for the rest of us to adopt Mandius Akre's variation "Vell, vell, he was going to beat sixteen!"

"Where the Sam Hill," is another expression for which I haven't yet discovered the origin. Perhaps it was Stammes or Uncle Sam.

Uncle Sam used many expressions which became unique to his speech. "Saw Bones" was the doctor; "girlses" was his plural for girls; ". . .fix you wagon" are just some of the many expressions he used.

Another example of Sam's wry humor was the story of his coming home after working away for the winter. As Sam got off the train, Osman Aadland asked him, "Well Sam, where have you been this winter?" Without batting an eye he replied "Kalamazoo, Texas!" Well, Sam had never been to Texas, and Kalamazoo is not in Texas, but that didn't matter to Sam. As a future President of the "Liars Club", Sam never hinted to Osman that this was not the truth.

When Sam returned for a visit one fall in the fifties, Gustav drove him out to the field to see the boys. Sam had run a threshing machine many years and had never taken a close look at the new combines the Tastad boys were operating. Walter asked Sam to come over and check the sieves on his machine. Sam knelt down and saw the open sieves. He was used to the closed settings used on the old separators and said, "What on earth are you threshing, corn on the cab?" Since then our house always had "corn on the cab".

The barn on the farm was being painted one year. Hannah was a bit perturbed that Gustav was still working

while the others had come up to the house for coffee. Mandius Akre responded by saying "Vell, vell, we'll wear out the old ones first. This expression got lots of mileage around our house, used by father and son at the appropriate time.

When Helen was first enrolled in the school in Loreburn, a young girl she had met ran home that day to tell her mother of her new friend. When her mother asked her the girl's name, she replied "Helen Finklestein". The story got around and the name was shortened to "Finkles". Gustav often called his grandchildren "vasecup" and Hannah called them "trilse".

When Edward was a small boy during World War I in Hawarden. He was an extremely clean boy, always willing to take his bath and always coming to the table with clean hands. On one occasion, the family was just seated at the table and a tearful Edward blurted out, "But I forgot to wash the Germans (germs) off my hands!" This expression was picked up and used occasionally during the Second World War.

FAVORITE RECIPES

Grandma Cookies

2 - cups white sugar
1 - cup margarine
1 - cup shortening
4 - eggs
1 - cup sour cream
1 - tsp. Baking Powder
1 - tsp. Soda
Vanilla
Salt
Flour

Blend in enough flour to make a soft dough. Chill dough and then roll it out to a 3/8" thickness. Cut dough using a metal ring from a glass jar. (This is a necessary step. No shortcuts allowed) Sprinkle with sugar and bake in oven. (Until done) There are a few versions of this recipe, however this is one that was written out. They were very tricky to make because the sour cream would vary from day to day, however most agree that Hannah knew all the tricks, and the results were always good.

Sour Cream Pie

1 - cup Brown Sugar
1 - cup Sour Cream
1 - cup Raisins
Let boil.
Add 1 - egg (or 2)
1/2 - tsp. Allspice
Flour or Starch to thicken

Pour into baked pie crust. Put whipped cream or egg white on top.

Soup Dumplings

2 - Eggs
2 - cups flour
1 - tsp Baking powder
2 - tsp. Sugar
Salt
Cinnamon
Milk

Spice Cake - This was an every day cake that didn't miss many days.

2 - tbsp. butter
 1 - cup Brown Sugar
 1 - cup Sour Cream
 1 - tsp. Baking Soda
 2 - Eggs
 1 1/3 - cup Flour
 1/2 - tsp. each of Cinnamon, Cloves and Allspice.

Lemon Snow

3 - cups Water
 4 - Tbsp. Cornstarch
 4 - Egg-whites
 1 - cup Sugar
 1/2 - cup Lemon Juice

Cook water, sugar and lemon rind 10 minutes. Add cornstarch wet with cold water, cook until starchy taste is gone. Add lemon juice and beaten whites of 4 eggs. Beat thoroughly, add and serve with soft custard.

Kringla (The good old hard stuff)

This is copied from Hannah's hand written recipe.

"Take as much sponge as you wish to use and I add a little scalded sweet milk, butter and sugar. Stir in flour to make a very stiff loaf. Work it in good on the board. Let it stand in a warm place like for bread but do not kneed down but make into shape desired. Let rise on table, dip in water at boiling point and bake quick in oven until done."

Ginger Snaps

3 - cups Sugar
 1 - cup Butter
 1/2 - cup Lard
 1 1/2 - cup Molasses
 1 - cup Black Coffee
 1 1/2 - tsp. Cinnamon
 1 - tsp. Nutmeg
 2 - tsp. Ginger
 2 - tsp. Baking Soda
 2 - tsp. Baking Powder
 Flour

Grandma's Buns

1 - cup Lukewarm water
 2 - tsp. Sugar
 2 - tbsp Yeast
 1 - cup Scalded Milk
 2 - tbs Shortening
 1/2 - cup Sugar
 2 - tsp Salt
 2 - Eggs beaten
 1 1/4 - cups cold Water
 8 - cups flour

GRANDMA'S BROWN BREAD

This will take some explaining. Do you know what a yeast cake looks like? This was a necessary start, before the days of packaged yeast.

The night before - "The SPONGE"

Take one yeast cake (1 1/2" square x 1/2" thick). The yeast cake was purchased from the general store.

Soak the yeast cake in a cup of water and 2 - tsp. Sugar. Add 6 - cups of water (Left over potato water plus fresh water to make up 6 - cups.

1/2 - cup Sugar

1/2 cup lard or melted down Shortening (They rendered their own lard from the butchered pigs)

4 - tsp Salt

Flour to make soft batter. Keep warm overnight.

The next morning

Add flour to make the bread dough.

3 - tbs. Molasses

Let the dough rise, punch down and let rise again. Make loaves and bake in moderately hot oven. Remove from oven, brush butter on bread surface and let cool. The bread was kept in a bread container, either in the cupboard or in the breadbox by the stove.

KOMLA

4-cups grated raw potatoes

1 1/2 cups flour

1/2 tsp salt

1/2 tsp baking powder

Mix together using hands. Add enough flour to make komla balls, place in boiling water with ham. Cook slowly.

(The above recipe is great, except that no one in their right mind would make such a small amount. Cook enough for a fried breakfast the next day)

POEMS

So Little - Written to Norman by his mother - Overseas

It takes so little to make us sad
Just a slighted word or a doubted sneer
Just a scornful smile on some lips held dear
And our footsteps lag tho' the goal seemed near.

And we lose the courage and hope we had
So little it takes to make us sad.
It takes so little to make us glad
Just a cheering clasp and a friendly hand.

Just a word from one who can understand
And we finish the the task we long had planned
And we lose the doubt and the fear we had
So little it takes to make us glad!

To My Son - Written to Norman by his Mother - Overseas

Do you know that your soul is of my soul such a part
That you seem to be fibre and core of my heart.
None other can pain me as you son can do,
None other can please me and praise me as you.
Remember the world will be quick with its blame,
If shadow or stain ever darken your name.
"Like mother like son" is a saying so true,
The world will judge largely of mother by you.
Be this then your task if task it shall be,
To force this proud world to do homage to me.
Be sure it will say when its verdict you've won,
"She reaps as she sowed, this man was her son".

Love Mama

SONGS

Fury Little Caterpillar

Fury little caterpillar
Soft and slow
Being sleepy thought that he
To sleep would go!
So in blanket closely wrapped
On a twig he lay.
There the little caterpillar
Dozed away!

But one day he wakened
When the sun was bright
Slipped out of his blanket,
Feeling gay and light.
Then unfolded wings of gauze
Bearing him on high
Little caterpillar was a butterfly!

I've a Dear Little Dolly

I've a dear little dolly
With eyes of bright blue
She can open and shut them
And she smiles at me too.

In the morning I dress her
And we go out to play
But I like best to rock her
At the close of the day.

(These two songs were brought from Birch Hills by Jennie
and taught to the rest of the family)

Brown Eyes - Ruth Elaine's favorite song.

Brown eyes, brown eyes, winsome and true.
Beaming, gleaming, all the day through.
I only live in the hope that some day,
You will bring summer across life's dark way.
Brown eyes, brown eyes, linger awhile.
Send me just one bit of a smile.
Down from my heart it shall never depart -
Two little, true little brown eyes.

My Love and I - another favorite of Ruth Elaine's

My love and I at twilights hour
Would oft times stroll 'neath leafy bowers.
The roses sweet in perfume rare
Sent fragrances through the balmy air.
What joy have I - Ah! none can know
To be with one who loves me so.
What joy at twilights hour to be
With one who truly loves but me.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

APRIL 15, 1923 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Evelyn Tastad; (unfortunately I have no other names)

AUGUST 9 1925 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Ava Arnesan; Esther Kaldor; Olga Akre; Arthur Osmund; Lars Akre; Otto Kaldor; Laurie Tjosvold; Jennie Tastad; Evelyn Evarita Van Hareweghe; Leonard Aadland

DECEMBER 2 1928 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Andreas Kaardal; Edith Odland; Ella Tjosvold; Peder Tastad; Ruby Aadland; Olena Akre; Edna Langager; Gudrun Tastad; Lilly Akre; Cecil Akre; Jonas Lanager; Odin Olson; Iver Kaardal; Obert Ganes; Gudrin Akre; Johannes Haugen

NOVEMBER 23 1930 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Ella Jacobson; Agnes Amrud; Marie Akre; Ingrid Kaardahl; Marget Olson; Gunda Akre; Olga Langager; Marie Aadland; Edward Tastad ; Ernest Aadland; Jonas Langager; Raymond Akre; Sofus Tjosvold

DECEMBER 4 1932 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Lloyd Joel; Francis Judd; Raymond Armer; Arnold Pederson; Edwin Joel; Fredrick Sanders; Ferdinand Sanders; Louise Sanders; Jaharmah Sanders; Verna Hagen; Evelyn Hagen; Anna Nelson; Helga Jacobson; Mildred Armer; Harold Kaldor; Magnus Akre; Burton Mostad; Theadore Haugen; Norman Tastad; Mearl Aadland; Mervyn Aadland; John Akre; Orvald Amrud; Helen Akre; Olga Olson; Jennie Olson; Bertha Langager; Helen Pederson; Esther Knutson; Mable Langager; Agnes Akre; Selma Amrud; Ingrid Svenning; Margret Svenning;

MAY 19 1935 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Hilda Akre; Mildred Akre; Ida Amrud; Clara Halvorsen; Sylvia Hagen; Anna Haugen; Bernice Langager; Edwin Langager; Melvin Langager; Arnold Larson; Beatrice Mostad; Inga Olson; Byron Tastad; George Tastad; Louise Aadland

NOVEMBER 13 1938 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Ellen Hagen; Elizabeth Sander; Ernest Sander; Gladys Storebo; Oscar Akre; Willard Haugen; Harold Haugen; Leonard Anderson; Gordon Langager; Walter Tastad; Gordon Olson; Kirsten Veraas; Albert Strand; Peter Strand; Nellie Strand

PARLOUR GAMES

The Moon is Round

The Harrison Family

MEET LORD NELSON - This was a great game to play with someone that had a vivid imagination. The player that had not seen the game, was blindfolded. This person would then be asked if he/she had ever met Lord Nelson. Of course he or she had not, so they would be gently walked over to the area of the room where Lord Nelson would receive them. They were asked to shake hands with him, reminding the player that Lord Nelson had lost his arm in previous battle. The player's hand would be guided to shake the jacket sleeve that was held up before him. The player would then be reminded that Lord Nelson had also lost his eye in battle. The player's finger would then be guided to eye level and plunged into a cored orange or apple, to simulate an eye socket. This was usually enough to stop the game.

Airplane Ride - This game also required the player to be blindfolded. Two people, one on each side of the player, then explained that they would be taking the player on an airplane ride. They would walk the player over to the waiting airplane where they would board the aircraft. The aircraft was actually a 12" board sitting on two bricks. The blindfolded player would then stand on the board. It would then be explained to the player that they would be taking a short flight around the room. Two people on the floor would lift the board off the bricks just enough to make the player believe that he or she was being carried freely on the 12" board. As the plane ascended, the persons on each side of the player would begin to crouch. With a slight tip of the board and a lower dip by one of the persons, a banking of the plane could be simulated. All of this is very realistic to the blindfolded person. A good ending is a crash landing where the supporting people drop away, leaving the helpless person stranded on the plank, believing that they are several feet above the floor.

PRAYERS

Table Prayer - Always used at mealtime. Later it was mandatory at any Komla feed.

I Jesu navn gar vi til bords,
at spise og drikke pa dit ord,
dig Gud til aere os til gavn;
sa far vi mat i Jesu navn.
Amen

Translation: In Jesus name we go to table,
to eat and drink thy word,
Thou God to honor, uus to be gifted;
so receive we food in Jesus name.
Amen

Night-time Prayers

Gud boye mitt unge hjerte til sand Guds frygt
og lydighet. Amen

Translation Dear God, submit my will to you in true faith
and obedience. Amen

Nu lukker jeg mitt oye O Fader i det hoie
I varetekt meg tag Fra synd fra sorg.
Fra fare din engel meg bevare
Som vokter har min fot i dag. Amen

Translation Now as I close my eyes oh heavenly Father
Watch over me and keep me from sin and sorrow
And may your angle, who has protected me this
day
Keep me from all danger. Amen

APPENDIX 2

October 8

Dear Gustav,

Many thanks for your welcome letters I have received from you. Please forgive me for not answering your letters before. It is funny if you don't answer right away it gets easier to put it off. It isn't easy for me to write these days. The summer this year has been cold all the time and dry as well and that makes for a late harvest. The grain stands real green yet.

I see you are well and healthy which makes me happy to hear, and the same I can share with you that all your siblings are well. I cannot say the same, because I feel pain every day, but I must be glad for every day that I can be up and working and look after everything.

Now I must start to write again. It is three weeks since I have come this far. Now everything has been straightened out in the house. There was Confirmation last Sunday and Samuel has received many beautiful things. I must thank you on his behalf for the money that you gave him and for what you gave your siblings and to me also. Yes, it has been a beautiful appreciation for us all. You must have thanks dear Gustav. I sit here now and am very sick. I was at the doctor three weeks ago and he examined me and he says it was an old bronchitis that I had and now has come back. Now I have been in bed for two weeks. Now, I am sitting up, but I can't do anything, but I am improving some. But Gustav I want to say to you that what I have thought for a long time that my life is not for long. But you know I do not know, God alone knows that. We must be ready when he comes.

I must tell you I was a bit unlucky this summer. I lost the colt to the Black mare. It was a very pretty colt and a nice color. It got tetanus and it was a hard death. It died when we were almost finished with haying and this summer I bought a binder. I was really in need for it because there was no one to help. Otherwise, all goes on as usual with the old people that you knew before. John Belesen from Dusevig was buried yesterday.

Maria continues with her usual serving.

Now, I must close for this time with a cherry greeting from us all to you. You must not be cross with me, because it has been such a long time since I have written to you.

From your Father

Dear brother Gustav,

Today I will also write a few words to tell you I go to school in second class. Nalborg Ledoliv is my teacher. At recess Nels Johan got 4 (unger). The same day he went, one was dead. When it came to there were three living and now she is angry. You must greet Louise friendly greetings from your brother

Laurits

Tastad, October 8, 1896

Dear Son Gustav,:

We received your dear letter yesterday in which we see that you're well and which cheered us much to hear, but at the same time it's sad to hear that you haven't received word from us. I've written four or five and Johan two. I can't imagine what's happened to them since the address is what I have always used to send to Louise, so we can't understand what has happened to them. We were so surprised (now) that it took so long before we got word, that we were sure that something bothered you. Many thanks for the money you sent Louise--you sent more than you could afford and you can believe that Louise thought it was great since tears flowed all day when we talked about you!

We had nasty weather on Sunday so we had no company except Bertel and Berta, and then Berta Volsta and Bertha came in the evening. Louise has received many presents. She received three sylolsa and a scarf she got from Berta Volslsa and many other things.

Altogen's Berget who was also confirmed (and) we dropped in to visit there Monday, and the house was full of company.

Johan returned home Saturday evening, then left again yesterday morning. Hannah too has a place to say--she's at Hellevag's factory, and at 25 kroner a month, and Berta has started at Lorevinde Kunsis.

I can't think of anything new to tell, except that we sold the peat, for which we received 56 kroner. We still have the hay barn; we sold one lamb quite some time ago for 10 kroner, but we still have the other one.

You should just see that we got Neber in the field, but it's in such a good place to make feed for anyone who wishes.

We now have everything gathered in except (neberne), and we are looking for a churn every other day--the weather is so bad that we have to churn all this week, so we are still milking so far.

So I'll quit for this time with a dear greeting from father and siblings. Greet Mother and my relations from all here, but most are you greeted from

Father and Mother, Karine Johannesen

PS: Keep one writing to us, then you are so nice.

Peder Johannesen

Tastad Stranger Norge

Tastad, September 24, 1886

Dear Gustav,

I will now again write a few words to you. I wrote four weeks ago, and then I had written two letters before that. John had written one letter to you, but I wonder if you have not yet received any of them. We are now despairing because it is so long we have heard anything from you. We have now waited 14 days, but have not heard anything. We would wish that there is not something wrong with you. You must by all means write and tell us how you are and find you content. We are all well and healthy now, but I can tell you it went fast with Gustav's Karoline. She improved and become well until the 6th day. Then she became very sick in the evening, but worsened so that they went for the doctor. In the morning by 7 she was dead. Now, Gustav lives with his mother. The child is with Nils. Bellest's child is also dead. This child died from blood poison and was sick only two days. Yes, so soon can it happed to us. We must be prepared and be ready when God calls us. Now, dear Gustav, the time is coming towards confirmation for Louise. We will certainly miss you when we will all be together. John will come on Saturday, and we expect also Guri from Skudesnes. Bergit was out here one evening this week. She was in town for a little while, and she had the desire to see us. I can tell you that we soon had everything ready. This year we have some potatoes left and these we had received. But father has gone to work enough so we have it good. Marie and Louise and Petra and Alfred who has had some work, but father should have been home this week because we should have got it changed, but then he had to go to the dairy cut ice for two days and we have had such unpleasant weather that we are not quite caught up yet. Now you should see Martin Smed's house. It stands like a shrine or chapel. Father has helped to build it.

Now, I know not more to tell you for this. You must greet Mother and all my siblings but most of all you are greeted from your parents and siblings. Live well.

Your Mother
Karine Johannesen

Tveds-Landbrugsskole, 24/2/1897

Dear Brother,

Thousand thanks for the letter that I received yesterday. I see you live well, for which I am glad, and the same I do also. Today, I got a letter from home and with it was also your last letter which they had received. They all live well at home, but they have had little misfortune, not so very little either. Monvils Kvigera has been sick for several weeks (den) it was well New Year, but since it has been sick. Now they have had the vetrinarian out and he said it was catching so they had to move it out of the place, but now it is improving. Yes, it was a big harm for them, but what can you do about it.

Today, I have had it good, you can be sure. We got some placards each of us, that we should fill in. It should serve us to get in order statistics and at the same time we should learn. On this placard it asks about all the man's name that used (lived) on the farm, and how big it was, how much he milked the size of the farm and the farms goodness, all possible, but I have it not good because I want to go home on Saturday, then I can get the information there. Then I won't need to work so hard. I will not be long at home, just one day. I go home on Saturday and return here on Monday, I will only go home to see how they are. In chance, I can say Bertha and I, the reason it is over, was because she thought our age difference was wrong and for Marie's sake she thought Marie liked me better and I liked Marie better. Yes, I know not how this will go. She write often to me, and I think I could get her and that can happen it happens to us too. Have you anything against it? I would desire to go to America, but I know not if I can get any use for the school, as I thought I should get something back because I have gone here for two years. I will see when I am finished. It can happen I can think of something also then. You do not know (evage) is dead. It went fast with him, New Year, Mother, Father and I were at Kraagan. The word that they did not understand I can't remember what it should be. Photograph I cannot send yet because when I have my picture taken now in winter, they will not be nice. But it shall not be so long before I will do it. So I better quit for this time, but you probably won't be able to ready the greeting this time, because I have such a headache that I can barely see the lines. Today I was up and read at 5 a.m. It must be why I have it. I often get up at 4-5 a.m. to ready, because then it is quiet here.

In closing, friendly greetings to you brother. Greet all known and relatives in America. Greet Ludvig and Louise.

From your brother John

Write as soon as you have time and so you are kind.

Tastad, August 25, 1887

Dear Son Gustav,

Now I'll answer your dear letter that we received day before yesterday, and for which we really thank you because we hve waited quite a while for a letter, and you likely have experienced that too since it's a long time since I wrote you last.

I'll tell you how we have fared this summer. Father has worked in town (city) all summer. He got a job at a coal lot (Kultomt) for a sailmaker Johan Pedersen and Klausen, where he worked 2-3 weeks, and also he's been at Johan Pedersen and worked on a new marina, and several jobs in the house, but now he's at the Tomten lot again yesterday P.M. and today he's busy hauling coal to Hellevaag. They sold 80 kroner worth and Alfred is to haul that.

In haying, we had a man from Tysver to help us, whom we paid 8 kroner per week and board. He was here four weeks, but for a whole week almost we had rain, so it got quite wet out, so it wasn't so good, but for the rest it hasn't been too bad, but he's been very busy. So for now you must greet mother from us, also greet Lars and Ludvig, and Thea and Louise and families from all us, and so you're greeted from all of us here--siblings and from Father and Mother, Karina Johannesen.

P.S. Many thanks for the money you sent, it came unexpectedly. Louise and Petro are out and earning at Byggen, and now they have started at the harbor (Havner). Marie is at Lye and likely will stay there this winter; October 1st Amtschool will begin in the school house, and then can Lye school (Kasper and Lerevinden, Ole Nadretasta).

(Regarding commencement of the school year.)

Envelope postmark Sept. 7, 10 a.m., 1897, Langford, So. Dak., U.S.A.

To Gustav Tastad,

(continued page 2)

before we got the money you sent us. Berta was out here the day after she had received it and paid us interest again, and she said she didn't want any interest and you were promised, and I said that since you had send interest so it was surely that he wanted to give you interest out she said (says) NO.

She said I must greet you heartily and say to you many thanks, you are a fine boy. She hadn't expected anything yet for a long time, she wanted to write you herself, and Mother shall write you that I think it was a month til Christmas (ell) and at the same she writes that I have sold the () at Kjelsen to Jobras for 270 Kroner per (like our acre) and there likely wan't more than 4 acres, and Mother has written to you about that.

One day I planned to go to Gernerrau's to butcher a pig, and I should also tell you that I have 9 animals with oxen. I bought expensive Dyer Ka eight days before Mother took sick, I'm sure I couldn't have done it since she became so ill. I gave 190 Kroner for it.

Now I must close for this time with a loving greting from all here and how we live for I say it's . Greet Bestemor from me and all the youngsters, and say I'll try to write to her presently. We received four letters from you yesterday, in which I see you've received everything now.

P.S. I'm wondering if you heard that Mother died, and I wanted you

Tastad, December 1st, 1897

Dear Son!

I'm writing a few words to you to tell you how we're living. We are all healthy and lively at this time, which is a great blessing.

Father is jobbing in town yet, but it is slowing down since the ground is frozen. Before we had rain, but now we have snow and frost.

We sure are waiting for letters from you, but something has happened that we didn't get any mail til near Christmas.

We received a letter from Johan yesterday. He is busy with reading now, he doesn't have much more time left, so he disappeared so much for, but now it got really too late to do it again.

I can tell you that Hans and Daniel who were in Smien have arrived home from America. It's 2 or 3 weeks (a few have come by now surely). Thore from has arrived too. He will soon graduate from seminary as a preacher in America.

Otherwise, there's nothing new here at home. I can't write more since Marie also wants to write and send a parcel, so you must have a Merry Christmas, greet all my relatives from us, but most you are greeted from Father and Mother and siblings and family.

Your Mother

Karine Johannesen

Tastad, May 27, 1897

Dear son Gustav,

The dear letter we received about 14 days ago for which I should have answered, but it has been neglected every day. I can first tell you that we are all well and healthy to this time which is the most important. I can also tell you that we are finished the spring's work, we have also let in the cows for a couple days. We are also thinking that we shall begin in the peat bog on Monday. We are not many this year that can help in the bog. I know not how this will go, because neither Marie or Petra are at home, there is only Father and Alfred who has worked with the spring work this year. Alfred is capable, he follows father all the time. I must tell you that Torger's son Sven has come home. He had now been away for the 7th year. He has done well. I must not forget to tell you that Aunt Nille has gone to America again. She left on Saturday and she will be there 2-5 months only on a visit. Uncle stayed at home here.

I can tell you that we have bought some sheep this year also. There was such a fuss with Alfred because he definitely wanted to have a sheep for himself, that we went to Hareska in Auction about 14 days ago and bought 4 lambs, they were quite cheap this year. They were from 10-19 Kroner (crowns) which was not bad after what they have been other years.

I can tell you that Aunt Inger at Skudesnes died about three weeks ago. But she had been sick a long time. We were invited to the funeral, but we could not be there because it was while we were working. Bergit Narnes was with us on the Day of Prayer (Sunday before All Saints' Day). She asked us to greet you and all over there. Bertha on Kraugen was also here on Sunday and she asked also that we should greet you and yesterday Johannes in Bakken was here. He lives at Sonnes now, and is very elegant now. He has a nice horse, and new small open carriage and a nice blanket. He drove as a bigshot.

Now I must stop for this time with a dear greeting to Mother and siblings, but most are you dear Gustav greeted from Father and Mother and from all your siblings.

Live well and wished by

Your Mother
Marie Johannesen

Tastad the 23rd of August 1898

Dear Son,

I will now write a few lines to you and tell you how we are living. We are except me healthy and well to this time. Although I have also been well for quite a while because we have now had very nice warm weather, and that is what I need. Now it is beginning to cool off, and then I do not feel well. The doctor says that I have tuberculosis and thinks I also very good for I have so much pain in my chest and also a bad cough. So I believe not that I will be very old and that can be all right also only that I must be ready when the Lord comes for me. Dear Gustav, we will now send a photograph of us all. We have thought about it for a long time. But now we must be serious about it or it might not be done. I think that you shall be surprised when you see yourself and Sam on it and that we thought it was the nicest for now we are there. Jenny looks little, but you do not likely know her now, but otherwise you will recognize everyone.

Petra is now as big as Marie. She will now be confirmed in five weeks. Louise is at Bertel's and there she will likely be all winter also.

Today Father has begun work at John Belleson and shall make a bridge to drive on for his salary. After that he will build a house Albret in Lyngness. He has bought Ivers' field and so shall the huset stand in our peat bog.

I do not know much news to write about for I let John write about what is new.

You must surely greet Mother from me and all my siblings. I have forgotten to tell you that Ane Tel Master was here on Thursday. She came from Bergen and had been to the display and then came here until Friday. They were all well at Skudesnes. Berget Nornes has started to shop in Koppervig and Gurie was at home.

You must please write as soon as you receive this letter and tell us what you think of it (the picture) and tell how many Mother recognizes of this group.

Be so greeted from your Mother and Father and from all your siblings.

Your Mother

Karine Johanneson

Tastad, 15-8-98

Dear Brother,

We have waited for a letter a long time from you now, but today I will write anyway. If I haven't received an answer on your last letter I will write to you.

I have as you will see had my photograph taken; of which I am sending you one. I am alone on the picture and one that Harvold is with me. But now I hope also to get one of you soon.

On Saturday, I shall write to you also and send you some, but what it is I will not say. I can only say this much that it is something you will be happy for. Now, you can wonder what kind of miraculous thing it is we will send you.

At home we live well. We are well and healthy all of us except Mother. She you know is somewhat short of breath, but she has improved alot so I think she doesn't look as poorly as she did before. If only she was a little careful of herself, she would soon be well, but you know how Mother is, she goes herself rather than ask someone else.

Father wants me to say what we will send you next Saturday. It is actually a photograph of all of us, all 12, some are at home and perhaps you also shall be on it, now you know what it is.

Martin Volstad is actually here today from America. He has been and dug gold and shall now be very rich. He has been in for 9 1/2 years.

Yes, now I must quit for this time with a loving greeting from us all.

From your brother,

John

P.S.I will hope that we soon will hear something from you. Greet all acquaintances and relatives there in America.

Tastad, the 24th August 1898

Dear Brother,

I will today write a few words to you. I will first tell you that we are all well. Olga has started school and father has gone to work a couple weeks. We have cut (runkorne) barley?, the oats is soon (sjer) ready? ripe? so we can cut it also. Louise has finished or (quit) school and it will not be long until her Confirmation now. I can tell you that I have been to Skudesness. I went on Saturday and returned the second Monday, so I was away more than a week. I should have come Wednesday or Friday, but I stayed on until Monday. I had an excellent time on my visit. Almost everyday I was visiting someone. I visited at Uncle Rasmus home on Friday and Sunday for dinner. I have greetings from everyone from Jacob (Gokob) and Bergit and Gurie and all the others. Gurie will be coming to us on Louise' confirmation. I should greet you from Gokob to Hannah. Berget teased Gokob because now Hannah and she can tease her for him, Hans Re. Now I don't know anything else to write about. You must greet Aunt Louise, Thea and Ludvig, Grandmother and everyone in America. Now I must close for this time. A friendly greeting to you and everyone. Live well and write soon.

From Marie Johannessen

Tastad, 2-10-98

Dear brother,

Today we have had Confirmation. Petra has now become an adult. There has been many people and more are coming tomorrow. I shall see if I can count up all who have been here. It may perhaps be fun for you.

Bertha and Gabriel paa Kraagan Farger, Ragna ag Thea, Ommi, Anna and Berthine, Thomas, Lena and Hendrick, Bartel ag Bertha, Bellest Anderson, Madam Fosse and Agate
m fl

Now I am tired, there has actually been so many that I thought it could be enough, with half as many.

I heard in your letter that I received this week that you are doing well and as I can tell you that we also are well and some is of great importance.

You wrote something about coming home. Yes, yes to you I will say nothing, but I know if it had been me, I doubt if I would have gone, in case I liked it in America. Mother is good after the circumstances. She says anyway that she has not been better in many years and she does not look worse either, but you know you do as you want. It will be fun to see you again if you come. I saw also that you wanted to send some money, yes you know it always comes in handy, but do not send money home and afterwards be short yourself. I think you are all too goodnatured Gustav. We have had it good this summer. Father has earned from 18-21 kr every week all summer and so have a milked for 20-24 kr per week. So we have had it good this summer. Fourteen days ago I bought a cow, but it didn't become good milker, it gave only 8 litres per day yet, but I hope it will improve. I have sold oxen this summer for 172 crowns, 1 for 100 kr and a cow for 80 kr. The cow was the old grey one.

Now, Gustav, that which we want for you I think specially was in the photograph of you, you can always do, now we have ours, now we have been this good to you. Was it really not really good?

When you write you must tell us if the others thought yours was good, so maybe you will send one so we can have two at home.

Father works now at Frederik Volates, he has been there three weeks and will not be finished for another week.

Do you know - think - Samual Ledal fell on Under-officer's shoe(?), now he is at home. He did not get to go for one year either.

Peder has done quite well, you know that Peder is engaged to Hanna lans Per on Karlaslzkki and Bertha Nolsta with Basu Knudson, all four of them have rings.

To close, dear greetings from us all. Write soon so you will be good. J. Pederson

P.S. Greet Ludvig and all relatives.

Tastad, November 7, 1898

Dear Gustav,

The dear letter we received for a couple days ago, whereby we can see that you are living well. The same can I also tell you. I have now been very well for a long time, so I am up everyday and go to town when it is good weather. Today we thought that John and I should go to Kraagen, but then we got such heavy rain that we would rather stay at home. Berte on Kraagen has moved to Hans on the farm, and so she has asked father to buy a house for her and now he has looked at one down on Hoemen which Belest has bought to tear down.

Father is mostly out working steady. Now, he has been at Fredrick Volstad for a while and at Emanuel Hoie. Gustav has sold down here to Ananias Legvol and now Marken bought himself a colt which he wants everyone up on (?). He has now started sprinkle in the (firewood?).

Marie is at Tomsepagen, she has been there now for four weeks. The girl Hendrik had became sick and moved and they knew of no one else to get in a hurry. Now I think one comes in the morning and Louise is continuing at Bertel. You say in your letter that we should write and say how you should send money home. But it is not so easy for us to say what method is best. We got it easily when you last sent us money. Any better method we have not any idea of. I see also in your letter that you have become so homesick and that was hard to hear. You must certainly not dear Gustav put it on you that I am sick, because that could do yourself harm. Especially now when I am so well and when I am careful I can be good for a long time. But we would so gladly that you should have your photograph taken and send us one so we could see if you have changed since you went to America. Also ask if Grandmother would do the same and send us one. You can be sure that it would be fun to see her again. Then we will send her one of the same as you got.

To close, greet all of my siblings and my old mother from us, but mostly are you greeted from your siblings and from your Father and Mother.

Karine Johanneson

Tastad, December 39, 1898

Dear Son,

Now I must write a few words to you and first of all beg your forgiveness that it has been neglected so long. It has not been because of any bad meaning. Yes, dear son you can believe I have thought many times about you. I have not written to you before. But now I have had so many chills that I cannot understand how long I must try with little. You know I am poorly, both at writing or compose so I fail in all.

Many thanks for all the letters that we have received from you and I see those you have greeted and they are well, which is a pleasure for us all to hear.

Here at home it is the same. I can tell you again about Mother. She is fairly well now. She is up everyday and takes care of the house, as well we are all healthy at this time.

Last night the four youngest children at the Christmas tree program. Mother, Maria and Petra had enjoyed it very much. Jenni was here. Tonight there will be a Christmas tree program for the young people. Bertel and I had a little fish at Mr. Volstad three days ago. We drank and ate well. Bertha on Kraagen has bought a big house on Holmekajen that I have torn down and will build it up again in Samoiggen on Gulligsen Shykke. They are now digging the ground.

There is much building being done in Stavanger now. Now all property is sold in the whole town. There are some people from Bergen who have bought up and own much in Stavanger. Now, I know no more for this time to tell you. You must give many greetings to Louise and congratulate her at the honor of carrying a child to baptism. It is beginning to be a large group for her now. So you give many greetings to Thea also and say that I should wish to see her again. Then you must greet all over there who know me and you must not forget Grandmother.

John and Louise talk alot about going to America in the spring, but what becomes of it I don't know yet. John will be writing to you very soon.

Now, I must stop for this time with many greetings to you all, but first and foremost you are greeted from all of us.

Thanks for the last letter that I received yesterday. Write soon again, so are you good.

Adjo Live well
Peder Johannesen

Tastad, 28-2 1898

Dear Brother,

It will possibly be the last letter I write now before I come and write by talking. In three days is the Feb. 28th and we plan to leave March 10th, that is in 10 days we leave from here if all is well and goes as arranged. Then you must meet us and provide a house for me. Louise and Olaf Nilsen, it is perhaps unexpected, but it is absolutely sure that Olaf is coming and he must follow us because he has no one else to go to.

You must see and get a house for a while for us all. Markus, brother of teacher Lye and a blacksmith boy of Belest Pedersen, will also go on the 19th, but they shall follow "Gunnar Unger". I think that they could follow the same line as we only that is (doori). Then we could follow then follow. But good luck on the trip and when they are just as glad with their group, so are we also.

We live here at home quite well. Nother has not been worse lately, with a bad cold but is now better.

(no name, likely John)

Tastad, August 4,

Dear Son Gustav,

Many thanks for the dear letter that I received eight days ago. I see you were well and healthy, which was good to hear. I can say the same can I say to you. We are all well and I have it fairly good this summer. You can be sure we are busy since it became so dry. We have not had rain for two months. The hay grew without rain and also the peat bog. Now, Alfred and Sam have driven and sold potatoes for three weeks and now they are finished. In the morning we shall begin to cut the grain. It has gone in a great rush. Now I must tell you that Petra has had a trip to Skeedoesnes which she enjoyed very much. Mria has had a trip to Havde and was there for nine days. Here in (pennemsnet) was a poor year especially from field and potatoes. But I must not complain, I have got as much as last fall and then some.

I see in your letter that John has come again and I think that is good. Maybe there was a man there that he could go to. I would have liked that best. Then I see in your letter that you have a desire to come home now. Right away Gustav we would all be glad to see you again. Little Peder is running where he wants to 14 months before he (selteseg) and that he said of hom. Be so (fed)

Loren Ledall's Bertha is ill and on her last. Now, I must quit for this time with a hearty greeting from all of us to you. Petra is sending you a picture. You must greet John and Louise from me. I am waiting for a letter from John. Write soon again.

Your father

Tastad, 6-3-1899

Dear Brother!

Two days ago we received your letters.

I shall and want to go to America. Yes, yes, it is not the desire that drives me away. To my own I can I have the desire, but I hold Old Norway in high regard, so that the desire thereby is lessened. But about economical reasons, makes me feel I must go out in the world and find my fortune. To work in America I think there will be

page 2

page 3

page 4

I wrote a piece in "Varden", in connection with a new house that young people shall build together with the innermission and foreign missions societies. I was against these the missions should be helping to build the house. I thought the young peoples' society could own their own house. For that reason, I wrote a piece in the "Varden" that she answered to, and then I took her a proper application. It is too long to tell you what I said, but I shall see if I can recall to say that I shall make it to America.

page 5 & 6

You must please inquire for us a good line, and if it is possible to stay in St. Paul a few hours and if we can escape customs examination in England or more instructions of that I do not know. But I beg you to give me some clarification in that regard.

Gustav Enaksen has sold Lunden that belongs to Annanias Legvold for 4,000.00 kr. Now, he works in "Veden" Hostmarken. He bought a foal for 250 kr. That one I was along and drank "to your health" for then you can believe there went much beer, but that was not the first time. Thorvold and I have gone high time after time. I have earned at least 100 kr this winter, but it goes bit by bit. There will be few high times before I come to America.

Send my ticket so that I get it the first part of May.

I shall greet you thanks from Father and Mother for the money that we received for about four weeks ago. So I close for now. A friendly greeting from us all. Father says he will write soon. Mother is about the same.

John Pederson

(Page 2-3 omitted)

Tastad, Jan 21, 1899

Dear Brother,

Thousand thanks for the letter that I received from you a while ago. Now, to be serious I will write to you after now receiving the ticket for both me and Louise.

We will come towards spring. You will think it is something strange that I will leave for America. But Gustav I will tell you that good times are not here in Norway. There is nothing here to do for one who has no money to speculate with. To go on day's wages or an annual salary it only amounts to that we give time to other.

I went for a time to work in town. I was along to tear down the judges' previous house, that Bertha on Kraage has bought and which Father is chairman for. Yes, yes that was that. I wanted to say that I worked for three weeks and had 2.00 krowns per day, but when I was finished I had only 15.00 kr. and those I naturally spent soon. Yes, yes I had worked there three weeks and I found I was no better off than if I had been at home. But he who has money and can put money in circulation, then there are thousands that make money everyday. One man who buys from Haverfgland earned 20,000 kr in 2-3 days. Olaus Eskeland that had bought in Healandsmarken before you existed has now sold and earned 70,000 kr. Ingal with Tjelsen who bought in Dokken has earned 120,000 kr. That is certainly a big turn out don't you think? But a poor man like me cannot think about that.

But tell me one thing Gustav, can it not be managed something for one as ambitious as me, some kind of job that I can earn more than here? I am good at mathematics. Yes, yes we will have to see when I come. But now you must surely choose a good boat for us, so we need not suffer too much as so you do not let word out before you send it.

Martin Volstad left yesterday . That is a man who has spent money while he was at home.

All is well here at home. Mother is well, but Louritz has been poorly again. Today we should have started on the fence at Bertha Aadland, but it rained so much this afternoon so we couldn't go. Yes, now must I stop for this time. Also, you must tell us if there should be something we should take with us on the trip.

Write soon. I should greet you from Bertha ag Bertel.

I close with a friendly greeting from your brother John Pederson Tastad. I shall greet you from us all.

Tastad, Dec, 6, 1899

Dear Son!

I will now this evening write a few words and let you know how we are. We have, God be praised, good health up to this time and the same we long to hear from you. It is a long time since we have had a letter from you, but we hope to hear from you soon. We can't but think that you have received several letters from us because I sent one to Thea and another addressed to David, so you must have received thgem, and if you haven't, then there must be something terribly woring with everything. I can tell you that Marie is in town. She works at Bergeland with Uncle Samuel, and Father works at the dairy. He has been there 2-3 weeks. They are working ona new ice house. Louise goes to night school. She goes three evenings a week. They write and calculate and read. There are many that go there. I have told you that Adol Gjostelen is married now with someone from Kristianea (Oslo). She is a small fine looking lady. Olaus' Hanna from Besen is also married. She got one from Malde. I must also tell you that Aage from Kraagen is very sicly now. Father and I were south there two Sundays go and last Sunday Father was there again. He doesn't have much tme left. I hear that Bertel from Martin is also married now. The wedding was three weeks ago and he married someone from Hedemarken. You have probably heard it before.

The sheep aren't sold yet, but we are going with them soon. The weather has been so good and they have been outside, and we thought that they would graze. We are also going to butcher the pig for Christmas. They are quite nice now. I have nothing more to write about now tonight, and we are patiently waiting for a letter from you. I shall see if I can think of more to write another time. I can greet you from Berta Volstad. I was in there yesterday. You had said that you wanted to write both to her and Marie, but so far they have heard nothing from you.

So you must greet Mother and all my siblings and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It will not be the same this Christmas as last year at Tastad. Then we were all together and has a cosy time. I wonder if there will be several Christmases more before we will all be together. So must we get ourselves ready so that we can all gather in Heaven with Jesus, where we will never again be separated. So I send greetings from your Father and siblings and also from your Mother.

Karine Johanneson

Tastad, Dec. 11, 1899

Dear Son,

It is now so long since I wrote to you that now I must first say thanks to you for your most welcome letter I received a long time ago. But it has gone away from me one week after the other. But you must not think it is that I am unevilling of me. But you are afraid that I am too sick to write. But dear son you are always in my thoughts about how you are living and how you have it. I have been working out very much. I was five weeks at Fredrik Volstad and also four weeks at Tharre Volstad and there I finished by harvest in the field. Now we have taken on the field work on the field. I bought another house to deliver more fertilizer from town and to plow more in the field and I have had two men who have worked up the plowed land. Now we have come as far as the two big stones that you most likely remember from the piece you and I plowed up.

Yes, Gustav I see it is more pleasant for me now since John is home this winter and you have asked me to work on the field so I will do all I can if I have time. Now we have frost for four days, but we will soon have a change. Now, I must tell you how we are. We are all well and healthy to this time. Mother has been well and healthy for a long time, but last week she was not so well, but is well now. Maria goes to town to sew everyday and earns 6 kr per week and comes home in the evening and leaves in the morning.

And how it will be with the pictures that you sent I do not know yet. There is much talk about it. Louise and Petra have talked much to leave them till spring, but have not decided on a definite time yet. they will be writing to you soon if there is anything new now I don't know to tell you. All goes well with the old. Except Bertha Volstad shall be married three days before Christmas and Rosmus Knudsen, which you probably know.

I should have written before so you could have heard before Christmas. But it will be welcom when it comes. You must receive it with pleasure anyway. I will wish you a Merry Christmas and a good New Year, and good luck in all you are doing in the New Year and thanks for the Old Year.

Many greetings to all siblings, to Mother from m and to Grandmother and wish them a good New Year from me.

Will you be so good to write us back as soon as possible.

Adjo. Live well with God.

Peder Johannesen

Tastad, 25-11-99

Dear Brother,

Christmas is drawing closer and then we all wait for letters, and so it is I suppose with you. What shall I now begin with that becomes a question. We sold the potatoe field and received 115 kr for it. So then we bought a horse (loppe) again, which we gave 120 kr for. It is a pretty brown, will be nine years old, is an especially nice hourse. You will now think to yourself now, that we have become dreadfully extravagant to have two horses. Yes, we are maybe that, but we have a good farm, we have started to work in the field and then we need both horses and people you can be sure Bore and Kund Høce has helped for three weeks now and we have ploughed 400 mal, so there is now soon a large orchard, and then we drive fertilizer from town with two horses. We have a new wagon. This week we have driven six loads, but coming week we shall drive eight loads. Isn't that well done? I did not get the mail I was wishing for, but none (stikker jig fansen) up again, I am talking to (postbefadringen) between Stavanger, Lunge and Boer.

It is three times a week and the salary is 360 kr per year. It is not much, but I do it for 1/2 day, but you can understand I get mothing new on Tastad. Here it is led by, the only think I can say, by people who drink much. Here are frightfully both young and old without a difference who drink too much.

Yes and so Bertha Volstad and Rasmus Knudsen have their wedding before Christmas. Last night I was in town and I met Marlin Smed. We were going to have a bottle of beer and when we had one than it was as usual more. Marlin became drunk so I had to lead him home. But when we came on Lokkevein, he made (opstos) trouble? so the politikorpo wanted to take him, but I talked them into letter me take him home. When we got farther on, we met two boys and two girls that Merlin pushed himself in with drunk as he was he could nothing accomplish. I had to therefor mix myself into it and use myself well as I could. Luck was with me. I hit that elf absolutely unusable and then I had won, because then I had only one left and him I managed always. That's the way it went yesterday, but that dare I not tell at home.

At home we are all well. Mother very well, she has not been better for many years. She works more than anyone. Maria goes to town and sews. She works for 6.00 krs per week. So I must quit for this time. We wait for letters from you, as you also do. In closing loving greetings from us all.

Johan Pederson

Greet all in America

Tastad, September 9

It is a long time since we heard anything from you. It is I suppose my fault for not having written to you before. But please excuse me this summer because I have had it extremely busy since I started with the cow barn, that you know I have finished it except for to do the masonry work around the walls from our peat bog where I will work at for 14 days. You can be sure it will be a good looking cow barn now. As soon as possible, we can see the new road and the old road and up the hill, so that the sun we will have the whole day. Dear son you should see the land now. I have cultivated a very lovely field also on the piece you were with me plowing up. I have not cut all off yet, but there will be almost 24 bus(?) in all. I have eight cows in all, also I have a beef I am feeding up to fatten. I have had it from the first of May. He is both big and angry. But he is a nice grey of color and I shall have 170 kr a year. I don't think it pays. I must not forget how big the cow barn is. There are six stalls on each side and a feeding passage in the middle and has worked out great.

I would have written to you before now, but since I did not get some money from you and no letter, so I have waited till now. Now Mother and I feel sure there is a letter from you now. Many thanks for the letter, you can be sure they in handy (I think money). Yes, Gustav, you have helped much now. Thanks for everything, but don't give to the point where you are without. Because you will get it again, in any way you want it again. Thanks for your big help that you have been towards me. I wrote today to John and I forgot one thing that he asked me about, and that was how much I got for the milk this summer. For each week this summer I have milked 300 liters. You must be so kind and tell John that.

We are all well and healthy to this time. Mother has been resonably well now for a while. She goes to the door for short times to be in the sunshine. Jennie talks a lot about you.

Now I must stop for this time with a cheery greeting to from us all. Greet to Grandmother from me and Mother and her siblings.

Adjo. Live well.

Peder Johannesen

Berta and Bartel had a daughter yesterday.

Tastad, 11-3-1900

Dear brother Gustav!!!

It is Sunday today, and I don't think I'll get around to going out any place. So I think the best way I can use the evening is to write a few lines to you and tell you how we are living in Norway. We received your dear letter yesterday. We see thereby that you are well and healthy. The same can we say about us here except Mother. She was in bed for a while, but now she is up most of the time. But she cannot do much, so it is busy at home, how you three have gone. There is only Petra at home. I go to town to sew yet. I sew at Noren Baade for the Shop. In the spring it will be a year since I started there. I have now 7 kr. 20 ore per week. I don't know anything more to tell you. I don't know much news. Yound Peoples' Club are speculating on building a house. The Ladies Aid is where we do all kinds of work. The boys have a place where they work, they do lots of work. They make bureaus, flower containers, other tables and many small things, a bed they also shall make. For the bed, we will sew bedding. This will all be at the bazaar. There will be many who wishes to have the ged and bedding. The one who wins it they say must get married right away. We will breath softly when it shall be raffled off. I know nothing more to write about. The small ones here at home. Jenny and Josophine are so big now that you would not know them brother if you came home. Jenny is a little wild one, she is so boisterous that it is amiracle she is a friend to everyone. John played much with her all the time when he was in the house. She is lonesome for him now when he is gone. Please greet Louise and John. I shall send greetings from Father and Mother and from all of us. I will close for this time with a friendly greeting to you from all of us. Greet Grandmother, and all Aunts and Uncles.

A friendly greeting to you Gustav. From your sister Marie.

Tastad, April 5

Dear Son Gustav,

Thanks for the welcome letter that I received 14 days ago. When I see that you have been sick for a while, I think of how well you have been for a long time. How little we understand while we are well and healthy that maybe it is good to be sick for a while it makes us remember to care for our health. Yes dear son, I am also sick and have been sick since Mother died. I got a bad cold then, and it has not left me yet, and I have a pain in the one side that won't leave me either. But I go to work everyday until now. But I am so weak and tired. It can be that my Lord wants me to move, and I believe he will, when he sees it is timely, otherwise we are all well and healthy now, which we thank God for. Maria goes to town before I have the chores done and Petra takes care of the house, and she is very good. Everything is going well, but quiet. We all think about Mother who is gone away from us. For my sake it gives me much pain when I look at all the little children who don't have their mother. But I will help them as much as I can. I can tell you that little Peder has become quite full of fun now and happy and kind. When we have summer you will see him. Gabriel Ree's John came home three days after his father died. Mandius Levensers will be home tomorrow. I have not had much meat this winter, but I have got (grave en Veide) an 150 (famner) and so have Kornelius taken up 30 (famner) and I am thinking he shall be able to get more up.

that I have had we sold on Monday and got 24 kr for it and my (mell ging) is quite well now. But it have been a little better yet because a cow costs and the other one has been sick. But I dare say it is some better. All the same am milking now almost 60 liters a day.

Now I must close for this time with a friendly greeting to you from me and us all and I will wish you a good improvement in health and greet again. Today is Good Friday and that sad day for God. Oh that we might remember every day as that day.

Write soon again.

Peder Johannesen

Tastad, 25-3-1900

Dear Brother and Sister,

I think I will try to write a few words to you. We were all glad when we got a letter and saw that you had such good weather. You were truly a pleasure to hear that you had good weather over the North Sea. But then it would depend on how it was over the Atlantic Ocean. We believe that you are almost reached your destination now. So I want to tell you how we have had it since you left. We have not been in the best humor since you left. Mother has been at the doctor has become much better now. She has not had such a cough as before. But strong she is not. I have not been out any Sunday since you all left. I have been inside and cooked and taken care of the house all day. There is much to do here at home.

Now Petra is busy, and so has Father. You can be sure Jenny thinks she has lots to do. She must dust and (Cale) and talk about everything they try to do. She tattles and (Caler) as you know when you were home. Yes, I will not tell more about this. News I know nothing, all is the same as when you were here. We had a letter from Gustav yesterday. We did not get less than two--that father and Petra got. We saw that he was living well, was well and healthy. It is good when you are healthy. It is really most important. I know not more to write, otherwise we are fairly healthy.

Yes, dear John and Louise, you are greeted from me and Marie. I had better quit for this time with a friendly greeting to you all. Greet Gustav from us all. A friendly greeting from your whole home, your Mother, brothers and sisters.

Marie

(Evelyn)

Tastad, March 15, 1900

Dear Son Gustav,

Many thanks for the loving letter that I got today. Where I see that you are well and healthy at the time we hear.

Now you have John and Louise with you. I must beg you to take care of them because now you are acquainted with the circumstances there, both with this and that. I see by your letter that you are speculating in something else now. That at (Bessutel) Stillehavkjasten - ocean coast. That I think you should not do, but where you and John should take land is a place where you like best and that you and John could be together I think best because I think you could come to know each other better yet. Either to earn as a man as to rent as take a lease and to get knowledge. If God will honor your life and health, so may it not be impossible to earn enough money that you get something for yourselves either to come home to get something here, or be your own man over there where you would like the best.

I asked John that he should ask you for some help for a new barn which I should have for it is both rotten and much too small. Now you speculate on something and can come to be a better earning for you so if it is not anyway for it, you must take care of Louise to get a nice place and not be too far away from each other, so you can see her. Olaf-Neilssen you must keep an eye on and help him find a good place.

Now, I must close for this time. We are all well and healthy now, except Mother is not well. I hope she will be better when summer comes. Otherwise, she is the same as when you left.

Greetings to John and Louise from us all and tell them I will write to them.

Yes, so I must greet to you all from Mother and to her Mother and siblings.

Peder Johannessen

Tastad, July 2, 1900

Dear brother Gustav,

Many thanks for the money you sent me. I have bought new clothes, Father added what more was needed. I have been to the museum and to (vaabars) Hill and on redlands Hill and to Nestrland and seen Lanbru School. Now I have said enight about my trips. Now we are going to begin to harvest and that will make enough work here at home. I have moved to third class. We have a little boy who was baptized two weeks ago. His name is Peder. Greet John and Louise and trade (blikmanden).

Greetings from Lauritz (Lorits).

Tastad, June 1901

Dear Son Gustav,

Thanks for the welcome letter I received Monday, four weeks ago. When I see you are well and healthy now, I am pleased to hear.

We are all well and healthy, I am pleased to say, and I am not worse. I saw in your letter that you want to come home now soon. That would be a pleasure to see and meet you again. Nils got a letter from Olaf about eight days ago, and he had written that he would be coming home in the fall in October (Maanne). John Ree and Mandius Leversen will go again this summer. Two sons of Erik in Rodoo has come home and go this summer again. Now our spring work peat bog finished and the summer looks lovely. We will soon begin haying. Pentecost Sunday was here with people from town. It was 25th year jubilee for the Mission. Yes, here was much good to hear. Peder books quite good, therefore I have taken so long to write to you, so you must have me excused. The gravestone for Mother I will get on Thursday of this week and it will be nice and is large and lovely and it will be nicely painted with marbelized painting. The inscription shall be done with nice colored letters. You must greet John from me and tell him I got a letter from him and Maria got one yesterday, and there I see you had time off for eight days when you visited relatives and friends and that you enjoyed to be there and to be free for awhile. John says that Louise has become so nice now and looks good. Yes it is fun to hear that you all are healthy and living well. John wants to go to Canada in June. You must greet him from me and tell him I will write soon.

Now I must quit for this time. Greet Grandma and to all that I know and in closing from me and all mine here at home. Write soon.

From your Father

Tastad, February 12, 1901

Dear Son John,

Thanks for your welcome letter that I received. We got five on Friday that Olga brought home as well as little Peder who has been at the clinic for eight days and three days at Aunt Nille. You can be sure we have had it very busy with him, but we are all so glad that we have him at home together with us. He had a sore throat and blood poison, he looked bad. The doctor said he would die. Yes, you can be sure we were worried. Now he is home, and we can all hold him. He is so dear to us. He is a little kind boy, Peder. This will be enough about him now. Ask Gustav if he has heard about Peder. It was Mother I wanted to write a little about. John, Mother is now dead. There are many of us here who are sorrowing for her and then it is you so far away that also sorrow. Yes, dear John we have hope that Mother has gone home to God and she waits to see us all again there. We do not need to be separated and cry and more. You should have heard Mother pray for herself and that God should forgive all her sins and the worst was for Mother was for you three over there. She said she had prayed to God too little for you three, and that I must greet to lovingly to you all and thanks for everything. Yes, she asked me to ask Grandma to pray for you all in her place. I must tell you a little about the funeral. It was big, many people and the Pastor was outside and the psalm that we sang for Mother was 559, that one she liked so much. Here are many who are dead at Tastad now. Gita from Dusevig died five weeks, she had to be in bed for seven months before she died. She was well prepared to face death. I was there two days before she died. She said to me, "I see you are sorrowing and it is heavy on your heart now, but sorrow not, pray to God and keep yourself close to him, then it is only a little while then we shall see each other again, and now I shall soon die and go home to God. Then I shall greet Kaia from you and the children. Maren's Samuel died the day after Gita Targer Skjeveland. The same day as Gabriel Rie.

Yes, our Lord has been in many houses here at Tastad and taken one of our dear one home to himself. Dear John let us not forget that we shall die and let us remember Mother. I have prayed to God many times for you three and the same I hope you three will pray for us here at home. I think there is a letter you have not received. It was, I guess, the last letter Mother wrote to you. You ask about Bertha Volstad had got the ring you sent to her. Yes she got it two days (no more)

Tastad, March 23, 1902

Dear Son Gustav,

Thanks for the welcom letter that I received three days ago, and that you have recovered and are well and healthy again, which makes me happy to hear. Except John who has been sick, but is better now. It all makes me happy to hear you are both well.

There has been a lot of illness here for a long time. Little Peder has been sick now again. He has been sick for eight weeks. At first we had him to the doctor, and he said it was pneumonia that he had. The doctor said we had to be careful with him and keep him warm night and day, and watch out for drafts. Since he has (the Dr) been out here to see him and how it is his tonsils that are sore. We have had a struggle with him. We have been up with him all night for five weeks every night. We are all so tired and played out that you would hardly believe it. I have often thought if there should be a time, he should get a time to die, but it doesn't look like that now. He has been improving now for three to four days. You should see him now, he is so very thin. Now we have to start spinning's work and I have not been able to get anything done. I haven't taken one load, either stone or peat in (Ophaget) and now a large (Holveide) on (Rassleshygge) that I must get ready and then I saw in your letter that you and John have two horsea and a wagon and will try to get land, which I think is good. You say that you are sending some money, but that I can't expect now that you are going to try to something for yourselves. But, I must seriously ask you about one thing. Be careful and take God with you wherever you go. Take what comes is what we call the (Sjorder), but you must not say that to anyone that it has come from me.

You must greet Grandmother. We are waiting for a picture. It will be nice to see her again now, and Ludvig and his wife. You must congratulate and wish them good luck from me. Then greet John and say I wait for a letter every-day now from him. I sent a letter to him the same day that I sent to you. Petra got one yesterday from him. Please greet Louise. I got her letter eight days ago. I must close for this time with a friendly greeting from us all here at home. Please greet all whom I know over there. Write soon.

From your Father

Tastad, May 31, 1902

Dear Gustav,

Thanks for the letters I have received that which I should have answered a long time ago. But I have put it off because I wanted to see what was to happen to Peder. Dear Bustav, now little Peder is dead, and gone home to his father in heaven, and there found his Mother again. You can be sure there was happiness in heaven, the day that Peder came home, and Mother who could see her smallest child again. Yes, Gustav we must finally think about that one day we shall die and after death live with God. Shall we come to God in heaven, we must confess all our sins to Him and become little as Peder was. Let us not object when God knocks and wants to come into us. That He does everyday. I will tell you a little more about Peder. He became ill shortly after New Year and was sick till easter when we had to sit with him every night and from Easter for four weeks he improved everyday. You cannot believe how much he improved everyday. But then he became ill again, and we took him to the doctor gain and the Dr. was certain that Peder would do well. But he became worse everyday. The Doctor came out at Pentecost evening again and he still had faith that Peder would improve, but on Friday evening 6 p.m. Peder died--two years to the hour since he took sick.

It has been a struggle for us all now in four weeks that we had to sit by him night and day and right during spring's work.

But God be praised that we didn't get tired of Peder, we all loved him dearly. Yes, Gustav, you couldn't believe his understanding. He was always kind and loving to us all.

I didn't have a big funeral. I took (borrowed?) a carriage and put the coffin in the middle and the four youngest children in the middle, and that looked nice. Then Maria, Petra and I behind. Uncle Samual Gabriel had a carriage and there were three others. It made a nice proccession. I must tell you that I have now bought a cemetary plot and Mother shall be moved and will lie beside Peder. He will be on her right side.

I will close with friendly greetings to you from us all. All your siblings are well and healthy, but I am quite sick.

Your Father

Addresses

Johan Manduts Pedersen Tastad born July 12, 1877
Louise Pedersen Tastad April 1882

I was in at Marie Volstad. She asked me to greet also from Thorvold. Bertha and Bertel also.



LYDIA
SYHRE

CONFIRMATION

TAKEN IN
Elbow



JOHN
TASTAD



GEORGE HOPE

MONS HANGBER

LUDVIG AKRE



MARIE

LOUISE

PETRA

JOHANN

SAMUEL

GUSTAV

LAURETZ

ALFRED

ANNE KAZINE

NIELS PEDER

JENNY

JOSIE

OLGA

PEDER