

July 13/83

## Tastad Family Holds Reunion At Pierpont

John, Gustav, Sam, Lauritz, Josephine and Olga Tastad emigrated from Norway at a very young age. They changed their family name from Peterson to Tastad, the area from which they had come, changing because they thought there were too many Petersons in the United States. They came to Pierpont because they had relatives there. Later Gustav, Sam and Lauritz went to Canada to make their home in Saskatchewan. Their descendants had a reunion July 2, 3, and 4 at Pierpont and Groton with 175 people registered. The festivities began Saturday afternoon with a picnic supper at the Groton park.

Sunday morning services were held at Bethlehem Lutheran church in Pierpont with Pastor Les Hernes officiating. Janice Holler was organist and Brenda Holler pianist. A solo was sung by Rita Cameron and a duet by Helen Njaa and Kathleen Mc Gillivray from Canada. Lunch was served by Evelyn Tastad, Janice Holler, Jessica Holler and Robin Williams following the service.

Recognition was given to Mrs. Hannah Tastad, 95, of Saskatoon. Hannah Syrie and Gustav Tastad were the first couple married in Bethlehem church Mar. 22, 1906. Mrs. Tastad had 40 of her family members with her including her six sons and two daughters, one daughter being unable to come.

Also recognized was Mrs. Helen Tastad, 85, widow of Lauritz of Hawarden, Sask., Mrs. Josie Tastad Sletten, only living member of the original family, Nina Sletten Parker, daughter of O. J. Sletten, a charter member of the church and Ardyce Scheid who organized the reunion.

A catered dinner was served to the group at the Groton Community Center. After the meal a program which had been prepared by Mary Raap was given with Mary in charge. Mary introduced the Likness, Nygaard and Sletten families who were guests. Among the surprised participants were Ole Tastad, Ann Wiltfang, Alice Kettwig and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Parker. Gifts were given to various winners, family units were introduced, songs sung and special musical numbers by Helen Njaa and Kathleen Mc Gillivray. Laura Tastad and Janice Holler were accompanists. Lavern Baxter representing the Canadian relatives gave closing remarks after which the Canadian relatives all joined in an original song. Lunch was served following the program.

Monday a pot luck dinner was held at Bethlehem Lutheran church. Guests came from Canada, Mexico, Washington, Maryland, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

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## Reunion held

Descendants of John, Gustav and Lauritz Tastad, Olga Tastad Fossum and Josie Tastad Sletten held a reunion July 2-4. Approximately 170 attended from Canada, Minnesota, Maryland, Mexico, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Kansas, North Dakota and Washington and South Dakota.

Saturday evening a picnic was held at the Groton Park. Sunday morning the group attended services at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont. Mrs. Gustav (Hannah Syhre) Tastad, of Saskatoon, Sask. Canada was the first bride in the church; Mrs. Josie Sletten, the only living member of the Tastad family; Mrs. Helen Tastad, Haywarden, Sask. Canada, widow of Lauritz Tastad; Mrs. Lloyd (Nina Sletten) Parker's, Oakes, N.D. father was a charter member and one of the founders of the church; Mrs. Ed (Ardyce Tastad) Scheid, Aberdeen, organized the reunion; Mrs. Lloyd Njaa, Saskatoon, Sask. Canada and Mrs. Angus McGillivray, Prince Albert, Sask. Canada, sang a duet during the service and for the program in the afternoon. Coffee was served after services.

The group then gathered at the Groton Community Center for a catered dinner followed by a program introduced by Mary Raap, accompanied at the piano by Janice Holler. Surprise participants were Ole Tastad, Ann Corrine Fossum Wiltfang, Nina Sletten Parker and Alice Tastad Kettwig. Additional special guests at the dinner were members of the Nygaard and Likness families. Greetings from Canada were given by LaVern Baxter who then introduced 40 members of the Gustav Tastad family from Canada who sang an original song.

Monday a potluck dinner was served at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont. The Tastads emigrated to the United States from Stavanger, Norway settling in the Pierpont area where John, Olga and Josie remained. Gustav, Lauritz and Sam later moved to Canada to make their home.