



THE ABOVE picture of the seven children of Marta are the ancestors of over 950 descendants in America. They are, front row, Guro Olson (Mrs. Tores Erickson), Sjur (Severt)

Olson, Torris Olson, Inger Olson (Mrs. Aslak Grindheim). In back are Osmond Olson, Ole B. Olson and Nels Olson.

Descendants observe 100th

(Courtesy of Langford Bugle)

More than 500 descendants of Ole and Marta Sjursen met at Langford last week to observe the 100th anniversary of life in America in Langford.

The celebration began Friday with registration and visiting relatives, friends and neighbors of the Olson clan and continued through Saturday afternoon at the Legion hall.

Later that evening, a banquet was held at the school gym concluding with music, skits and talks.

Maurice Olson of Waubay was master of ceremonies for the banquet.

Worship services at the Langford Lutheran Church started Sunday's activities followed by a potluck dinner at the park.

In 1847 Ole Sjursen and his wife,

Marta came to America, but were discouraged and returned to Etne, Norway. Ole became a boat builder until he drowned in the Etne Fjord.

Marta gathered her children and came to America, finally settling in the Langford-Pierpont area in 1883. All seven of her children eventually lived within a 10 mile radius of each other.

Marta spent the last years of her life with each of the children. She died in 1903 and was buried at Hillside Cemetery at Langford.

After migrating to America, the name was changed to the family name of Olson (Ole's son).

Ole and Marta have 925 descendants listed in a book published for the reunion; 772 reside in 24 states and 21 in

Canada for a total of 793 living.

Those coming the farthest distance were from Hawaii or Alaska.

The seven children of Ole and Marta and the total number of descendants are as follows:

Sjur (Severt) 52, Torris 252, Inger (Enger) 250, Osmond (Osmund) 86, Ola (Ole) B. 149, Guro (Goro), 30 and Nels 106.

The only living children of these ancestors are Mrs. George (Enger) Tobin of Langford, Mrs. Jack (Nellie) Conarroe of Northfield, Minn. and Mrs. Charles (Ruth) Paulson of Britton.

The book, written especially for the Olson reunion by Norman Olson, has much information, along with many pictures, about the Olson family.