

THE NORTHWEST MONTHLY



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Station to Celebrate 40th Anniversary

Northwest Experiment Station Was Established in 1895

School of Agriculture Established By Legislature in 1905

Visitors' Day, Monday, July 15, 1935

Plans have been completed for the fortieth anniversary celebration of the establishment of the Northwest Experiment station which will be held on the campus Monday, July 15. T. A. Hoverstad, who served as the first superintendent of the station from July 1, 1895, to 1905, will be present to greet old friends and associates and to deliver an address during the day. Mr. Hoverstad has the distinction of being the first graduate of the College of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota. He was followed by William Robertson who served as superintendent of the station and the newly established school of agriculture from 1906 to 1910. Following his untimely death, C. G. Selvig was appointed superintendent, which position he occupied until 1927. Mr. Selvig will also be present on this occasion and appear on the speaking program. Upon the election of Mr. Selvig to Congress, he was succeeded by A. A. Dowell, who has been in charge of the school and station from 1927 to date. With the exception of William Robertson, deceased, all former superintendents of the station will take part in the day's program.

Dean W. C. Coffey, director of the Department of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota since 1921, will deliver the principal address of the day. He will discuss achievements of the Minnesota Experiment stations and indicate problems that will require solution in the future. A. D. Stephens, former state senator and life-long friend and supporter of the school and station, will speak on the part played by the school and station in the development of the Red river valley.

The day's program will include the

inspection of the station herds and flocks from 9 to 11 a. m., under the direction of O. M. Kiser, animal husbandman; R. J. Christgau, assistant, and A. M. Pilkey, poultry husbandman; speaking program, 11 to 12 noon; picnic lunch on the school grounds, 12 to 1:30 p. m. (the school will furnish coffee, cream and sugar for all who bring their picnic lunches); speaking program continued, 1:30 to 2:30; followed by a tour of the station plots under the supervision of R. S. Dunham, agronomist; T. M. McCall, horticulturist, and E. R. Clark, seed specialist. Extensive trials



Visitors Inspecting Station Plots

with forage crops, variety trials with grains and grasses, potatoes, sugar beets and other crops common to the Red river valley, will be inspected and the work explained by station specialists.

Members of the Red River Valley Crops and Soils association will hold their annual meeting during the day and join with other organizations in the station celebration. Officers of this organization include Herman Skyberg, Fisher, president; Melvin Flaskerud,

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Station Agronomy And Horticultural Work Summarized

The Northwest Experiment station, comprising about 560 acres of land, was established at Crookston in 1895 to serve the farmers of the Minnesota Red River Valley. Throughout this forty-year period, emphasis has been placed largely upon the solution of regional problems relating to the production of field and forage crops; the maintenance of soil fertility; the establishment and maintenance of windbreaks, ornamental shrubs and flowers, and fruit trees; the production of bush and small fruits, potatoes, sugar beets and garden vegetables, and the breeding and feeding of livestock and poultry. In this issue of the Northwest Monthly, we are pleased to present the following brief summary of the work of the Agronomy and Horticultural departments:

Agronomy

Sweet Clover. Sweet clover was first seeded at the Northwest Experiment station in 1895. It is now grown throughout the Red river valley. Because of its increasing importance, comprehensive investigations have been made from the standpoint of varieties and species, cultural methods, soil improvement, weed control, pasture and hay, life history and seed scarification. A few of the more important results of these investigations include the following:

The common white biennial (Bokhara) has proved most satisfactory for general use. It has yielded more than

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Northwestern Minnesota.

ALUMNI REUNION AN ENJOYABLE AFFAIR

Approximately five hundred alumni returned for the annual Northwest School alumni reunion on June 29, thus establishing a new attendance record for alumni meetings. Those coming the greatest distances included Elesia Simonson, former school nurse now residing at Kotzebue, Alaska; Mrs. S. A. Grimes (Ann Radneicki, '27), Jacksonville, Florida, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Grandy (Harold, '15, Blanche Morrison, '16), from Royal Oak, Michigan. Two other members of the class of '15 also returned for their twentieth reunion: Mr. and Mrs. Willard Johnston of Minneapolis, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jacobson (Grace Walker) also of Minneapolis. Clarence Lee, '18, St. Paul; Thelma Torkelson, '22, St. Paul, and Ole Tarvas, '22, Iron, also returned to renew friendships of former years. Mr. C. G. Selvig, superintendent from 1910 to 1927, together with Mrs. Selvig, attended the annual gathering.

Harvey Johnson, '29, of Hawley was elected president, and Evelyn Bierbaum, '29, Clay county 4-H club leader, secretary of the General Alumni association at the annual meeting which was held during the day. Mr. Johnson succeeds John Gronner, '22, Underwood, while Miss Bierbaum succeeds Dr. Harry Hedin, '11, East Grand Forks. They were elected for two-year terms. Other officers include Paul Engelstad, '16, Thief River Falls, vice president, and Archie Lee, '23, Roseau, treasurer, whose two-year terms will continue for another year.

The alumni, with Ed Widseth, '32, in the pitcher's box, defeated the students in the annual baseball game, while the faculty were victorious in the faculty-alumni kittenball encounter. The physical education building was beautifully decorated for the evening dance which served as a fitting close to a most enjoyable day.

WOMEN'S CAMP DREW RECORD ATTENDANCE

A new attendance record was established when 150 women from all parts of northwestern Minnesota registered for the Tenth Annual Women's camp which was held on the campus during the second week in June. In reviewing the activities of the week, Registrar J. W. Milnar states that an unusually large number of ladies attended their first camp this year. However, many former campers who have returned year after year were in attendance and

stated that they looked forward eagerly to the opportunity of renewing acquaintances with other ladies throughout the Red River Valley counties. Four ladies have attended each of the ten camps since this course was established in 1926. This group includes Mrs. A. Lindstrom, Waubun; Mrs. Emma Wright, Middle River; Mrs. Jay Payne, Goodridge, and Miss Retta Bede of the Northwest School. Mrs. E. E. Green, Crookston, and Mrs. Emil Peterson, Middle River, have attended nine of the ten meetings.

Officers elected for the coming year include Mrs. G. K. Hovie, Thief River Falls, president; Mrs. C. H. Roholt, Mayville, N. D., vice president; Mrs. E. E. Green, secretary; Mrs. Emma Wright, treasurer, and Mrs. Gus Gustafson, Crookston, sergeant-at-arms.

MOST SUCCESSFUL

4-H CLUB WEEK

In competition with thirteen northwestern Minnesota counties, Pennington county scored the highest total number of points in all inter-county contests and thus was awarded the championship banner at the close of the 4-H club short course held at the Northwest School June 17-22. Second place was captured by Norman county, with Kittson county third.

East Otter Tail county won first in the general livestock judging contest, with East Polk county second; Norman, third, and West Otter Tail fourth. Myles Nelson, Otter Tail, was highest ranking individual, followed by Olaf Hedlund, Kittson.

In the dairy judging contest, Clearwater county ranked first; Norman second; Mahnomen third, and Lake of the Woods fourth. Palmer Freborg, Clearwater, was high individual, followed by Irwin Stenborg, Clearwater, second.

Marshall county captured championship honors in the crops judging contest, followed by Pennington county, second, and West Polk, third. Wesley Hazelton, Kittson county, was highest ranking individual, with Frank Hughes, Mahnomen, second. Silver trophies were awarded first place winners in the general livestock, dairy and crops judging contests.

The three highest ranking one-act plays were "Pearls," by a Clay county group, first; "Elmer," by West Polk, second, and "Putting on the Dog," by Marshall county, third, with "Dr. Mable," East Polk, as alternate.

The three highest ranking vocal groups were Clay county octette, first; Roseau county trio, second, and Kittson county trio, third, with the West Polk county sextette, alternate. In the instrumental group, the Pennington county band ranked first with the Clearwater band second.

The three winning one-act plays, together with the three highest ranking vocal groups and the Pennington county band will compete in the state-wide 4-H contest to be held during the Minnesota State Fair week.

Pennington county swept the field in the athletic section with a total score of 470 points compared with 431 points for Norman county, which ranked sec-

ond, and 315 points for Kittson county, which ranked third.

Four separate divisions were arranged for the Better Groomed Girl contest: one for girls under 15, one for girls over 15 during the first session of the short course, and similar groupings during the second session. In the division for girls 15 and under, Bernice Peterson, East Otter Tail, and Dorene Tholke, Mahnomen, won first place. First prize winners in the class for girls over 15 included Hazel Friestrom, East Polk, and Marie Skottem, Pennington.

Approximately 900 4-H club members were in attendance during the week, while a total of 100 junior and senior club leaders registered for the special leadership course. District Club Leader H. A. Pflughoeft was assisted by members of the staff of the Northwest School of Agriculture, state club leaders, agricultural extension specialists, and county agents and club leaders from the thirteen counties included in the conference.

STATION TO CELEBRATE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

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Fosston, vice president; R. S. Dunham, secretary, and S. M. Sivertson, Crookston, treasurer.

Many community clubs have also advised school officials that they are planning to visit the station during the day and joining in the picnic lunch on the campus at noon. A special program is being arranged for the women by Retta Bede of the home economics staff, and for the boys and girls by R. J. Christgau, J. W. Milnar and A. M. Foker, so that the occasion may be enjoyed by all.

ECKLES HONORED BY DAIRY ORGANIZATIONS

A feature of the Semi-Centennial Agricultural Experiment Station celebration at University Farm June 15 was the presentation of a bronze memorial tablet in honor of the work of Dr. C. H. Eckles, late chief of the dairy department, University Farm. Dr. Eckles' most outstanding contribution resulted from his research work in connection with mineral deficiency in rations for livestock. This was an especially critical problem in some of the valley counties, hence Dr. Eckles' work was of untold value to this section of the state.

In recognition of this work, thirteen leading dairy organizations of the northwest cooperated in the move which led to the presentation of the tablet which now hangs in Haecker Hall where Dr. Eckles carried forward his work that led to national and international recognition. The presentation on behalf of the leading dairy organizations was made by Dr. A. A. Dowell, president of the Red River Valley Dairymen's association which organization initiated the project. Dean W. C. Coffey accepted the memorial on behalf of the University of Minnesota.

STATION AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURAL WORK SUMMARIZED

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Hubam for hay the first year when seeded alone. The Alphas have yielded less than Bokhara but more than alfalfa and are fine stemmed and leafy. Grundv county has proved inferior in root development and, hence, is less desirable as a soil improvement crop.

Wheat has been more satisfactory as a companion crop than oats, barley or flax. Sowing sweet clover alone in June was not satisfactory but sowing alone in April resulted in maximum root development and the largest yield of hay. Sowing in the fall with winter rye has been uncertain.

In years of deficient moisture, plowing under sweet clover has somewhat reduced the yield of a succeeding grain crop. This has been especially true in the case of grain seeded on sweet clover land from which two crops of hay were removed. In such years any increased yields of grain following sweet clover plowed under may be ascribed to the partial fallow which follows early spring plowing. In wet years increased yields of grain following sweet clover on heavy soils may be due to improved underdrainage. A large crop of sweet clover plowed under may return 100 pounds of nitrogen to the acre, but there has been no proof that the nitrogen influenced the yield of succeeding crops at this station.

When sweet clover is plowed under and the crop followed the remainder of the season, it has proved an effective control crop for weeds such as wild oats, mustard, perennial sow thistle, and quack grass.

No other pasture crop or pasture mixture has proved so dependable and high in carrying capacity as sweet clover. Hay cut in the bud or early bloom stage and properly cured has proved nearly equal to alfalfa for wintering cattle and sheep in trials at this station.

Scarified sweet clover seed retained its viability after one year in storage but the viability decreased rapidly after the second year. Unscarified seed, after three years in storage, germinated as well as fresh seeds. "Hard" seeds produced practically no plants during the first season and did not improve the stand in subsequent seasons.

The Perennial Sow Thistle. Trials in control and eradication of perennial sow thistle through tillage, rotations and the application of chemicals have demonstrated the practicability of control and the impracticability of eradication except in small areas. Control has been affected by early plowing, use of sweet clover and alfalfa, and the bare fallow. Sodium chlorate, potassium chlorate and atricide were effective in killing sow thistle, but the amount of chemical required makes it too costly for widespread eradication of field weeds.

Forage Crops. Grimm and Cossack alfalfa have yielded practically alike. Correlation of profile levels and winter killing has indicated that the amount of killing corresponds more closely to the depressions in the land than to varieties of variegated alfalfa.

Meadow fescue sown with alfalfa has proved a successful hay and pasture crop when Canadian fescue is used, but the cost of the seed is high. Reed Canary grass is not adapted to mineral soils at the station. Soybeans, sorghum and Sudan grass have not proved dependable crops because of the climate. Oats has been found one of the most successful annual hay crops even when planted late.

Rotations. Wheat grown continuously for nineteen years without the addition of fertilizer or crop residue yielded 12.8 bushels as an average of the five years, 1925-29. After one year of fallow it yielded 32.4 bushels. Corn grown continuously for 24 years without fertilization or addition of crop residue yielded 33.4 bushels as a five-year average, 1930-34, and 36.3 bushels as an average of the first five years, 1911-14. Wheat, oats and barley grown continuously have yielded practically the same as when rotated with each other. As a method of eradicating perennial weeds, the bare fallow has been effective but in years when the rainfall was normal or above, it did not increase yields of wheat, oats, and barley at this station sufficiently to pay for the added expense.

Small Grains, Flax and Corn. Investigations in small grains, flax and corn have included varietal tests, disease and insect control, and fertilizer applications. More than 50 varieties of wheat, 40 varieties of oats, 20 varieties of barley, 20 varieties of flax and 60 varieties of corn have been given comparative tests at the Northwest Experiment station in the last ten years. These trials have been in addition to the row tests of hundreds of new strains from the plant-breeding nursery. As a result such varieties as Gopher and Anthony oats, Mindum wheat, and Crookston Northwestern Dent corn were found particularly well adapted to the region. They have been increased and distributed to farmers by the station, and are now commonly grown in northwestern Minnesota. Subsequently these varieties have proved superior in adjoining states and Canada.

The use of formaldehyde for cereal smut control has been found definitely injurious to seed viability when seed has been stored too long after treatment or planted in dry soil. Copper carbonate and Ceresan dust have proved effective in controlling covered smut of wheat and barley and covered and loose smut of oats. Commercial quantities of seed grain have been treated with these dusts in the station elevator. Black stem rust and orange leaf rust of wheat were controlled by dusting the crop with colloidal sulphur but the cost, under present conditions and methods of application, makes the practice impractical. Counts of wheat plants injured by the wheat stem maggot (*Meromyza Americana* Fitch) during a five-year period indicated that varieties differ significantly in the extent of their injury and that they do not react in the same manner in different years.

Cooperative trials with students living in various counties of the Red River Valley have shown that soils vary wide-

ly in their response to treble superphosphate when planted to small grains. Increase in the yield of alfalfa has been more uniform. These cooperative trials have indicated that applying the fertilizer in the row with the grain may be more effective than broadcasting.

Planting samples of farmers' lots of flax on wilt infected soil in comparison with pure lots of the same varieties demonstrated that badly wilted strains were due to mixture with seed of non-resistant kinds rather than a loss of resistance by the variety.

Corn investigations have shown the importance of adapted strains. Seed of Minnesota 13 obtained from localities at approximately 100-mile intervals from Crookston to the Iowa line and planted on the same day produced plants of progressively later maturity, the strains from St. Paul and south ripening no ears in three years of trial.

Distribution of Pure Seed

Since the establishment of the Northwest Station, pure seed distribution has been an important project. In 1914 about 40,000 pounds of alfalfa seed was distributed to 629 farmers in the Red river valley counties. Reports from these growers during the next three years showed only nine failures. In 1918, 218 cooperative pure seed plots were established on farms in northwestern Minnesota. In 1919, Mindum wheat, noted for its high yielding ability and excellent macaroni qualities, was released from this station. During the next 15 years, 3785 bushels of this variety was furnished to farmers for seed plots. Improved varieties of wheat, oats, barley, flax and corn, developed by the Minnesota Experiment station, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, have been increased and distributed from time to time as they became available. Among the important releases are the following:

Variety	Yr. Rel.	No. Coop.	No. Bu.
Minota oats	.....1924	21	1380
Chippewa flax	.....1924	56	213
Gopher oats	.....1925	58	673
Velvet barley	.....1923	46	210
Ceres wheat	.....1927	49	239
Anthony oats	.....1929	11	156
Marquillo wheat	1929	118	1020
Redwing flax	.....1930	18	95
Thatcher wheat	..1934	71	1004

The total amount of pedigreed seed grain furnished to farmers for foundation seed during the 14-year period, 1921-34, was 32,022 bushels. This was distributed to 1715 growers. The increase from fields planted to this seed, in most cases, has been used for seed. Through this distribution, the improved varieties have become thoroughly established in every community in the northwestern section of the state.

Horticulture

Trees, Shrubs and Flowers. More than 18,000 broadleaved trees were used in the original windbreak plantings at the Northwest Experiment Station during the 1896-97 planting seasons. The windbreak and campus plantings were increased by an additional 12,000 trees during the period 1912 to 1917. Tree and shrub plantings since 1917 have been confined largely to campus im-

provement. Two hundred sixty-five specimen evergreens of 12 species, 1022 broadleaved trees of 21 varieties, over 7000 shrubs of 40 varieties and species, 60 varieties of herbaceous perennial and more than 100 varieties of annual and bedding plants have been used in campus improvement.

Seedling nurseries have been maintained for the growing of seedling and lining out stock. Soil alkali has been largely responsible for the loss of pine seedlings in the nurseries. Species of spruce, arbor vitae and juniper appear to be more resistant to soil alkali than pine. Scotch pine has survived best of the pines, followed in order by jack, Ponderosa and Norway species. The loss of spruce seedlings has been about 50 per cent, while for arbor vitae and red cedar the loss has been 15 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. The losses from planting the larger evergreens with balled and burlaped roots has been about 5 per cent. Black Hills and Colorado spruce have proved to be the best all around evergreens, followed in order by red cedar, arbor vitae, Mugho and Scotch pines.

Fruits. The following conclusions have been drawn from extensive plantings of tree fruits involving more than 2000 trees:

1. Only fruits of the first degree of hardness can be recommended for the Red river valley.

2. Hardiness in tree fruits has been found to be closely correlated with growth control. Hardy varieties suffered winter injury when late fall growth was encouraged. Late planted cover crops checked late season growth of trees and gave the best cover for winter protection.

3. Bush and cane fruits have been profitably grown; strawberries, however, have not succeeded on soils with high alkalinity.

4. Heavy applications of sulfur reduced soil alkalinity. In a rate of application test, 20 tons of sulfur reduced the Ph reading from 8 to 6.4.

5. All tree, bush and cane fruits succeeded better following the cropping of alkali soils with sweet clover than before the clover was grown.

Root Crops. Extensive variety trials of mangels, rutabagas and turnips have demonstrated that root crops are well adapted to the Red river valley and are dependable sources of high yielding, succulent feed for livestock and poultry.

Sugar Beets. Variety, culture and fertilizer tests with sugar beets have shown that highest yields have been obtained consistently with the 10-inch spacing in the line of row. Subsoiling to a depth of 12 and 14 inches over a period of years did not produce sufficient increase in the yield of beets to warrant the added expense of the deep tillage operation. Superphosphate fertilizers at the rate of 125 pounds of 20 per cent or its equivalent of 16 per cent or 45 per cent have proved most profitable. Heavy applications of 45 per cent superphosphate (125 pounds per acre) in the line of row had no injurious effect on the best seedlings, but the gain in yield was not sufficient to warrant the added expense.

Garden Crops. Variety trials of 75

to 125 varieties of garden crops each year have determined varieties best suited for the soil and climate of the Red river valley.

Tomato cultural tests have demonstrated that larger and earlier yields can be obtained by prostrate culture with late summer pruning than by early pruning and staking the plants. The cooperative tomato breeding project has developed several early strains of good type and high yielding qualities ready to be released to growers.

Potato Varieties. Extensive variety tests have indicated that early varieties of potatoes, desirable for both seed and table stock, are most profitable for Red River Valley Growers. Varieties ranking in order of yield and importance are Irish Cobbler, Early Ohio, Triumph, and Warba. The Northwest Station is cooperating in the state and nationwide potato breeding project.

Potato Fertilizers. Comprehensive tests have been made between different fertilizing materials when used alone and in combination. The results obtained from the use of commercial fertilizers have varied from year to year due apparently to the availability of soil moisture. In years of ample rainfall, during the growing period, good responses have been obtained from fertilizing materials; however, during dry seasons the responses have been negligible. Conclusions from exhaustive trials of fertilizing materials when used alone and in combination on different types of rotations show:

1. That potash fertilizers are unnecessary on the heavy clay loam soil types.

2. Phosphate fertilizers in moderate amounts (basis of 250 pounds per acre) on the average produced profitable returns. The increased yields from phosphates have varied from an eight-year average of 5.15 bushels on a three-year rotation to 13.3 bushels per acre over a five-year period.

Potato Disease Control. Combination sprays made of a fungicide (bordeaux mixture) and an insecticide (calcium arsenate) have been effective in controlling leaf diseases, potato leaf hoppers and flea beetles. Three sprayings have proved most profitable with yield increases averaging 16 per cent.

Extensive tests of home prepared and commercial seed treating substances have demonstrated that home prepared treating solutions of standard corrosive sublimate or acid mercury dip are superior to commercial brands in disease control and can be obtained at less cost.

Depth of planting tests indicate a correlation between deep planting of potato seed pieces and rhizoctonia injury.

Potato Virus Diseases. Tests covering a four-year period have shown that there may be as much as 25 per cent spread of spindle tuber in fields through the use of contaminated cutting knives. Disease free strains of potatoes are maintained through tuber indexing of potatoes in the greenhouse and through tuber unit field plots.

Culture and Rotation Tests. Spacing tests with Early Ohios have shown that maximum yields can be obtained from 1½-ounce seed pieces planted 10 to 11

inches apart in rows 3 feet apart.

Rotation tests have shown that highest yields were obtained on a short term (3-year) rotation, but that after the first rotation cycle the cleanest and brightest seed stock was produced on the longer term rotations.

Rate of manuring and soil improvement tests with sweet clover have demonstrated that moderate amounts of green manures or stable manures (4 tons per acre) give the most profitable returns for the time and money expended.

PERSONALS

Mr. E. R. Clark and daughter Mary Ellen, visited relatives and friends at Lodi, Wisconsin, during the latter part of June.

Paul Thorson (special '33-34) is a member of the Concordia college band now on a three months' tour which will take them to Norway. The band sailed from New York City on July 3.

Word has been received of the death of Bertha Poetschat, '31, early in June. Funeral services were held at Bird Island.

MARRIAGES

Gertrude Dale, '26, to Clifford Berhow on June 5. Mr. and Mrs. Berhow are living at 449 Marshall ave., St. Paul.

Margaret Pester to Benjamin Strickler, '27, on June 6. They are living on a farm near Euclid.

Laura Gerhardson to Lauritz Mikkelsen, '29, Sunday evening, June 9. They are living at Lake Park.

Elizabeth Erickson, '32, to Lowell Ryden, '29, on June 26. The newlyweds will live on a farm near Hallock.

Theodora Larson to Lawrence Peterson, '30, on June 19. They will reside near Twin Valley.

Hazel Noyes, '31, to Ray Perras at Brooks on June 4. They are making their home in Red Lake Falls.

Gladys Huartson, '27, to Henry Johnson on June 12. They will live at Middle River.

Josephine Harvey to Lloyd Johnson, '28-30, at Winger on May 31.

Mildred Rothfuss Fisher to Delmer Harold LaVoi on Wednesday, July 3. They will be at home after August 15 in East Lansing, Michigan.

Vivian Lundberg Landby, '20, to Rev. John Sutherland on Sunday, June 30. They will reside in the Lutheran parsonage at Kennedy.

Ethel Bowerfield to Ingvald Landro, '19-20, at Milbank, S. D., on June 30. Mr. and Mrs. Landro will make their home at Ada.

BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lyford (Laura Gerber) of Columbus, O., a son, Lawrence Dudley, on May 12.

To Mr. and Mrs. Martin Landby, '13 (Gladys Hoscheid) of Swift, a baby girl, Monday, May 27.

To Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Engelstad, '19-20, of Nielsville, a baby boy, on May 28.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Luchau, '24, of Gary, a baby boy on June 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Peterson (Alta Weckwerth, '31) of Plummer have a daughter, Mildred, now five months old.