

In those early days, the schools of Houston county were quite rude and the elementary education that Henry O. Hermanson received there was limited, a fact which probably causes him to champion every sensible expenditure which is made in the community in the interests of the public schools. After he reached manhood, he and his brother, Halvor O. Hermanson, purchased the general merchandise business of C. F. Peterson at Rindahl, Norman county, but after they had operated the enterprise for about five years, they sold it to their brother, Arne. Then Henry O. Hermanson invested his money in farm land, two hundred and forty acres in sections 8 and 5, Waukon township. Here he has industriously improved his holding, perfecting his farm plant until it is now comprised of excellent and capacious farm buildings and a fine grove, most of which he planted. His agricultural operations are chiefly along the line of general farming.

Mr. Hermanson was married on March 14, 1896, to Anna Sundeth, who was born in Houston township, June 13, 1872, a daughter of Cristand and Isabelle (Ellingson) Sundeth, and to this union eight children have been born as follow: Clarence, Benora, Cora, Arnold, Grant, Sadie, Viola and Bernice, all of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Hermanson are sincere and consistent members of the United Lutheran church at Ness, and they are rearing their children according to this faith. Mr. Hermanson has never sought after public office, but takes a good citizen's interest in the local, state and national phases of his affairs. His community interests are very strong and he supports ardently any movement which has for its purpose the social and moral betterment of the community in which he lives. He helped to organize the creamery at Waukon and also the Waukon Mercantile Company, in the latter of which he is still interested.

INGVALD H. AAMOTH.

Ingvald H. Aamoth, manager of the well-established horse market at Twin Valley and one of the best-known horsemen and breeders in this part of Minnesota, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was six years of age and of Norman county since 1874, he having been but a child when his parents settled in this part of Montana, among the very first settlers of the Fossum neighborhood. He was born at Guldbrand Dahl, Norway, June 16, 1867, son of Hans and Karen (Peterson) Aamoth, also natives of that county, who came to the

United States with their families in 1873 and proceeded on out to Wisconsin, a year later coming on over to this part of Minnesota and settling in what later came to be organized as Norman county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, substantial and useful pioneers.

It was in 1874 that Hans Aamoth drove over from Rock county, Wisconsin, with his family up into the Red River valley, the journey consuming about six weeks. Upon his arrival here he bought a tract of railroad land in what is now Fossum township, Norman county, and there established his home, one of the very earliest settlers in that part of the country. That was before Ada had a place on the map and settlers hereabout were few and far between. It was not long until he had his place under improvement and as the years passed and he prospered in his pioneer undertakings he added to his holdings until he came to be recognized as one of the most substantial residents of the Fossum neighborhood. He and his wife spent their last days on that pioneer farm. They were members of the United Lutheran church and were among the organizers of the Fossum congregation of that communion, ever taking an earnest interest in church work and in other neighborhood good works. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being Agnete Peter, Lars, Hans, Olena and Nels.

As noted above, I. H. Aamoth was but a lad when he came up into the then practically unsettled valley of the Red River with his parents and he grew to manhood on the pioneer farm in the Fossum neighborhood, receiving his schooling in the local schools and from the days of his boyhood was a valued help in the labors of developing and improving the home place. Upon reaching his majority he began farming on his own account and was thus engaged for about three years, or until 1890, when he became engaged in the livery-stable business at Twin Valley, continuing thus engaged at that place until he sold his stable in 1910, in the meantime developing an extensive business as a dealer in horses, which he continued after selling his livery stable and in 1914 erected his present well-equipped sales barn at Twin Valley. He also conducts a breeding stable, making a specialty of pure-bred Percherons, and the products of his stables are in wide demand. Mr. Aamoth is the owner of two-thirds of the stock of the Twin Valley horse market and is the general manager of the same, doing an extensive business in the buying and selling of horses, the Twin Valley market covering a wide territory throughout Norman and adjoining counties.

In the year 1899 I. H. Aamoth was united in marriage to Mina Christianson, daughter of Ole Christianson and wife, and to this union five chil-

dren have been born, Selmar, Clifford, Cora, Alta and Ila. The Aamoths have a very pleasant home at Twin Valley and take an interested part in the general social activities of the community. They are earnest members of the United Lutheran church.

E. N. BJERKE.

E. N. Bjerke, a well-known and prosperous retired farmer, now living in the pleasant village of Twin Valley, Norman county, is a native son of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of the United States since he was seven years old. He was born on October 1, 1856, a son of Nels and Chestin Bjerke, also Norwegians, who came to this country in 1863.

When Nels Bjerke arrived in this country he proceeded out to the state of Minnesota and settled near Spring Grove, Houston county, in which place he resided for three years engaged in farming. At the end of that period he moved to Fillmore county, this state, and located near Spring Valley, where he lived for ten years, following his occupation as a farmer. His next move was to Mower county, also in Minnesota, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. In all his movements from one to the other of these places, he carried out the journey with the assistance of an ox-team—a mode of conveyance practically unknown to the present generation. Nels Bjerke was a skilled farmer and conducted his agricultural operations with advantage and profit. To Mr. Bjerke and wife the following children were born: Helena, Johanah, Christina, Petro, Caroline, Clara, Lars, Nels and E. N., the subject of this sketch. They were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith.

E. N. Bjerke was seven years old when he accompanied his parents to this country and he was educated in the schools of Fillmore county, later helping his father in the labors of the farm. He moved with his parents to Mower county and in that county started farming on his own account, remaining thus engaged for three years. In 1882 he moved via ox-team to Hagen township, Clay county, and took one hundred and sixty acres of homestead land and immediately commenced to get it into a state of cultivation, continuing to operate the holding for fourteen years. He carried out many substantial improvements and had one of the best-kept and most profitable farms in the part of the township in which he lived. Mr. Bjerke then bought another place nearby, known as the old Dudray place, which also contained a quarter section of land, on which he lived as a general