

In August, 1894 my grandfather, Royal Smith, my father Ole Lyseth and my mother's uncle, Martin K. Smith came from Elmwood, Wisconsin to Pine County in Minnesota to cut logs for my grandfather for a home. They also wanted to look the country over. This was in the community now called Meadow Lawn. At last a pile of logs was cut and rolled up. On September first Grandpa looked at the dark and hazy heavens in the north and said, I don't like the looks of that sky. Let's get out of here. The three men left by team and wagon for Wisconsin. It seems I can remember when my grandpa returned to Wisconsin, but as I was only three and one-half at the time I may just imagine I recollect it from hearing my folks tell of it. The haze of course proved to be the forerunner of the great Hinkley Fire. It swept over Grandpa's logs, charring some, making others unusable. The next Fall when Grandpa Smith came back he said the country looked like an entirely different land. In place of trees were blackened stumps and in the rich ground of the fire ruins were growing fire weeds ten feet high.

In 1895 my grandparents built a log house close to where the Meadow Lawn School now stands. In 1899 I came and stayed about 2 weeks with them and went to school in the log schoolhouse that stood in the same place. My folks came from Elmwood, Wisconsin and after a short visit took me back home. At that time there were Oscar and Orson Scofields, Hollers, Hathaways, Kilgores, Clynes, Cummings and several new settlers. In this new country there were no graded roads. People drove cross country to Pine City. I remember the road went close to Becvar's house.



•1894• HINCKLEY FIRE

In the Fall of 1904 our family moved to Pine County. Mother, the three girls and Leonard came by train My Dad and I came with a team and wagon, bringing what furniture etc. we had. We stayed with my uncle Elmer Smith the first winter. My Dad worked in a logging camp near Cloquet. In the Spring of 1905 we bought 40 acres from Mr. Edridge for \$600. My uncle Charlie Franklin had built a log house on this place and had lived there about 2 years. In the Fall of 1906 Dad and I went with the team to Breckenridge, Minnesota and worked thru harvest and threshing. That winter Dad was off for the logging camp again. In the Spring he had to sell the team to make the payment on the land. We went in debt for another team. We would go into the tamarack swamp one day and cut two cords of corwood. The next day we would haul it to Pine City and get \$1.75 a cord for the two cords. This would buy a sack of corn for the horses and a sack of flour for the family. Finally Garland came along and there was another plate atv the table.

After we came to Pine County they started to replace the log houses with frame ones. The log schoolhouse had been moved and replaced by the one that is stil ther before we came. Some of the settlers moved out, and new ones moved in.

My father and I worked many days building the roads that are there now. The few dollars we earned helped keep the wolf from the door.

After World War I my Dad bought another 40 acres joining him, known as the Laird forty. He paid \$100 per acre. He worked hard, plowed in the rain, walked to town and carried a few groceries home to save the horses. He was never too busy to help a neighbor in need. He helped organize farmers' clubs boosted co-op movements, such as Land O' Lakes. His parents died when he was small. He ran away from his uncle's home when he was 12 and made his own way in the world. He was a progressive pioneer. He built the first silo in Meadow Lawn community.

Mother was killed by a train near Pine City in 1916, and 29 years later to the exact day my g father passed away. The brothers and sisters