

## MEMORIES OF FIDELIA MILLIREN BERGSTROM

My folks lived in Pepin, Wisconsin then moved to Iowa and from there moved to Cornell, Minnesota in 1900. They had 3 boys, Dwight, Guy and Clarence and one girl, Goldie. Margaret was the first child born March 28, 1900 in Cornell.

Our house was an old cold place. My sister stayed in a high chair most of the winter. There were big cracks in the floor that let in the snow. We could hear the wolves howl. My folks then built a ten room L shaped house with two porches.

We lived 10 miles from Mora and 10 miles from Pine City. When we went to Pine City to cross the north end of Pokegama lake there was an old high noisy bridge which shook. The horses were afraid of the noise so Dad would have my mother and me walk across and he would lead the horse with the buggy. We would go to the Pine City fair which was real nice. Roads were very poor. We would start out early in the morning. It would take all day.

Six trains went through town; two at noon, two in the evening and two at midnight.

My Aunt Lillie DeFrang sometimes took care of me. She is still living and will be 102 September 16.

Dad would go to Mora with the horses and wagon and would pick up the Indians along the road. They would shop in Mora and then he would bring them back home again. They would show him where the best fishing was in Pokegama Lake. He helped build the Henriette road from the bridge towards Mora with horses and a slush scraper.

My father would tie a hay rope on the light post in town and the children from the neighborhood would come and jump rope. When the freight train went by us children would wave at the fireman and brakeman and they would whistle and wave at us.

When Mother would run short of groceries or cloth she got a ride on the hand car to Grasston and buy things there. She was a seamstress.

If anyone had sick cattle or horses Dad would go help them. He never took training to be a veterinarian but he saved many people's animals. He never charged as very few had money.

The folks had a 120 acre farm south of Henriette on the Mora road. My Aunt Maggie and Uncle Joe Roberts had a farm joining us. Our spotted horse would get over into with their horses and we couldn't understand how he got there. One day he cleared gates and fences with us and then we knew how he got into the other pasture. We found out he was a circus horse. My mother fed every bum that came through.

I had a pair of skates that screwed on the sole of my shoes. If one screw wasn't loose the other one was. Sometimes it would rain when the threshers came through and we had part of the men in our home sometimes for days. One time they auctioned off a Maxwell car. They got Mother to buy the last ticket and she won it. My folks run the hotel for a while.

My two uncles, John and Joe DeFrang, my mother's brothers, had a grocery store and a dance hall upstairs. The children liked to go with their folks to the store because my uncles would send a bag of hard candy home with them.

My father had many beautiful horses. He trained horses.

When my twin brothers were born I went and stayed with Velma Bennet. It snowed so much I had to stay several days. The snow was so high we walked over the fence posts going home. Mr Bennet was section foreman then. I remember Mr Richard had the first car. He had a horn on the outside and would toot it when he went by.

I remember Hank Waldorf's store, Randall's barber shop, the hardware store and meat market and living quarters run by Guetskows and Hoflin's grocery. Petersons hardware store and bank on the corner run by Mr Moline. His wife was a school teacher. Florence Strom Blake was cash the bank. A pool hall run by Iva Petersdorf and her husband. They served lunches. I helped at times take care of her children. Joyce Thorstenson Blanchard folks run a variety store. It burned down so my parents let them have part of our house. My parents had the dance hall above my uncles grocery store.

My brother Monroe went out of state to be a horse jockey and later



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My brother Monroe went out of state to be a horse jockey and later trained horses. Russel went to Pine City high school. He couldn't get a job in Minneapolis so he joined the Navy. He was in three years and ready to get out when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. He was on the way to Australia with a fleet of ships and was killed near an island.