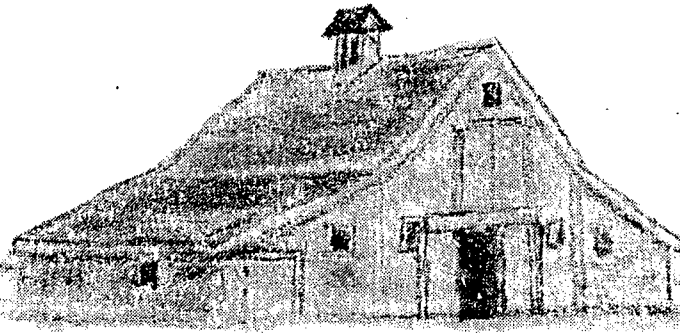


THE FREEH FARM

1896 - 1996



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
OF TRADITION AND FAMILY OWNERSHIP

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1996

Foreword

This book is dedicated to the Adam and Rosina Freeh Farm and the people who are part of its history on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, July 5, 1996.

One hundred years is a long time in the life of a nation, an individual, or a farm and thus it seems appropriate to celebrate what such an accomplishment encompasses: One hundred years of enduring endless wind, searing sun, driving snow and rain with your original buildings still intact, except for the sod house. One hundred years of providing a home for countless people and animals; one hundred years of generating a multitude of memories; one hundred years of benign neglect and tender loving care; one hundred years of joy and sadness, laughter and tears, hope and despair; one hundred years of surviving in an environment in which few farms have survived.

Thanks to those who loved you and took care of you, you made it, and for that we salute you and them.

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The Freeh Farm

I. Adam and Rosina Freeh

The Freeh Farm was established by Adam and Rosina Freeh (spelled Fruh in German) in the summer of 1896 under the Homestead Act which provided early immigrants to America with 160 acres of land if they would agree to live on the land and improve it.

Adam was rather short in stature and quite intense as well. He tended to worry a lot and was quite adverse to risk taking. Rosina, taller and physically more sturdy, was more assertive and the one who would "wear the pants" in the marriage, as people used to say, and make most of the major decisions. It was to Rosina that the family members most generally turned to for advice and direction. It was Rosina who would mete out punishment when needed. A self-assured, confident person, she set her own agenda including never wearing shoes unless the weather or the occasion absolutely demanded it.

Adam and Rosina were of German ancestry, although both had been born and raised in Southern Russia, in a German Colony (or dorf) named Peterstal or "Peters colony", reportedly so named because of the abundance of people named Peter in the colony when it was founded.

II. Germans in Russia

Adam and Rosina were the descendants of landless peasants in Germany, who had immigrated to the Crimea Region of Russian near the Black Sea during the 1700's. They had come to Russia at the invitation of Catherine the Great, herself of German ancestry, who was the Czarina of Russia from 1762 to 1796. She wanted the Germans to settle and farm the area Russia had won from the Turks in the Crimean War. She especially wanted Germans to come because she considered them to be hard working, industrious people in contrast to the Russian peasants whom she felt were uneducated, uncouth, and poor farmers.

She offered the landless peasants from Germany free land, paid some of their moving costs, allowed them to have their own churches and schools, and to speak their own language. She also exempted them from military service and gave them other concessions as well.

And so they came, by the thousands, in covered wagons drawn by oxen, in river boats, wheelbarrows or by simply walking. Catholics settled along the Volga River and Protestants (Adam and Rosina's ancestors) mostly in the Crimean and the Black Sea Area.

In this new land they were to live, prosper, and raise their families

in German colonies organized by religion. Their social and business life was communal in nature, with community bakeries, community laundries, and community farms. Everything was done not for self, but for the community.

As the farmers progressed, individually and collectively, they bought additional land and increasingly began to farm on their own. Through it all, they had little interaction and no respect for the Russian peasant and no German in Russia was ever considered low enough to marry a Russian.

Given the many concessions they had been granted by the Czarina, their egotistical nature, their isolationism, and their prosperity, the Germans were equally resented by the Russians.

This was the situation when Adam Freeh's father, also named Adam Freeh, was born in Peterstal, on March 15, 1838 and his mother Frederica Geier was born in Odessa, South Russia on May 21, 1837. They were married in late 1857.

Rosina's father, Simon Gimbel, was born on August 24, 1839 in Freudental, South Russia and her mother was born, Barbara Pfaff, on January 20, 1843 in Freudental. They were married in 1861.

Adam and Rosina Freeh, who were later to establish the Freeh Farm, were born in Peterstal, South Russia in the mid 1800's. Adam was born on July 9, 1858 and Rosina on December 10, 1861.

They grew to adulthood in Peterstal and were married there in 1881 at the ages of 23 and 20 respectively.

The situation in which they found themselves was much different and much less accommodating than when their ancestors had immigrated to Southern Russia. After Catherine the Great's death in 1796, subsequent Czars began to remove the special privileges which had been granted to the Germans in Russia, including exemption from the military service.

Seeing the "handwriting on the wall" and not wishing to be assimilated into the Russian culture, the Germans in Russia began looking for better opportunities in other countries, usually sending "scouts" to check them out.

One of the best opportunities reported back to them was in the Dakota Territory of the United States of America where land was being offered by the U.S. government to anyone who would live on it and improve it.

Leaving Russia was not all that easy however, and many times required payoffs to border guards, sneaking over the border under cover of night, and leaving almost all of their material possessions and often family members behind never to see them again.

III. Coming to America

In late 1883, Adam and Rosina made their way to Germany with her folks, Simon and Barbara Gimbel, and their eight children (Rosina's brothers and sisters) ranging in age from twenty to one.

Rosina was twenty-three and Adam was twenty six. They had been married for three years and had no children.

In 1884, they sailed for America on the German ship SS Werra, one of nine express liners built in Scotland for the North German Lloyd. The ship's top speed was 17 knots, it had 4 masts, 2 funnels and an iron hull. It carried 125 passengers in first class; 130 in second class, and 1000 in third class. We can be sure that the Gimbels and Freehs did not travel first or second class.

They arrived in New York City on October 18, 1884, were processed through Ellis Island, and took the train west as far as the tracks had been laid to Delmont, South Dakota.

The next 10 years were spent getting adjusted to a new country, starting a family, and working on farms to earn money to repay their passage and to establish their own farm. Five children were born to Adam and Rosina Freeh during their nine and a half years in South Dakota; Mathilda on May 1, 1887; Rose on July 5, 1889; Emelia on June 19, 1891; Robert on March 24, 1893; and Gustav on January 25, 1895.

The last year in South Dakota was mostly spent in preparing for their next trip, to North Dakota by wagon, to stake their claim on some land and establish their own farm.

IV. A Home of Their Own (1896 - 1925)

So they came north, Adam, 36, Rosina, 35, Mathilda, 9, Rosie, 7, Amelia, 5; Robert, 3; and Gustavus, 1 1/2. Some walking, some riding in the wagon, some riding horses, and some driving the cattle. They worked their way north to the promised land, a place to put down roots, to own their own land, and to raise their growing family.

Knowing of the fierce winters that would soon be upon them, the family spent every waking moment that first summer and fall, plowing up strips of sod from the prairies which surrounded them and building a sod house/barn combination where they could shelter themselves and their animals from the harsh winter which would soon be upon them.

The Freeh family really got to know the meaning of togetherness that first winter as they huddled together in their half of the sod house/barn and watched and attended to the cows and horses which

occupied the other half and provided warmth for the entire structure with their body heat.

The Freeh family was to spend two winters living in their sod house/barn as most of the spring and summer of 1897 was spent in breaking the prairies, removing the sod, plowing and seeding the land, cutting and stacking hay for their cattle, and harvesting their crops. So there was no time for building a house or other luxuries such as that. Besides, Rosina was busy having another child, Edwin, who arrived on July 7, 1897, a little more than a year after they founded the Freeh Farm. One more child was to be born, Arthur, in 1904. But the pattern of a child every two years had been broken and there would be no more.

V. Life Was Not a Bowl of Cherries

The children had to work exceedingly hard, as was the lot of homesteaders children, especially if they were of German descent. Girls were expected to work just as hard as boys and unlike the boys, had to work both inside and outside the house with equal vigor.

A typical day on the farm consisted of Rosina arising about 4:30 a.m. to get a fire going, to knead the bread dough which she had prepared before going to bed, and to make breakfast. Adam and the older children arose about 5 a.m. The girls helped their mother bake bread and make breakfast and the boys helped their father feed the cattle and horses; curry and harness the horses, milk the cows (Rosina usually helped with the milking), separate the milk from the cream, and feed the calves and hogs.

Then it was time for breakfast. After breakfast, the manure had to be hauled from the barn and in the spring, summer, or fall, Adam and the boys hitched up the horses and planted and cultivated their crops; mowed, raked, and stacked hay for the winter; and harvested and threshed their grain. If the boys weren't old enough to help in the field, the older girls were expected to take their place. Other than that, the girls helped their mother take care of their younger brothers and sisters, washed, ironed, sewed clothes, baked bread, cooked meals, planted and tended the garden, picked and canned vegetables and fruit, changed diapers, churned butter, gathered eggs and on and on.

The days were long, usually from sunup to sun down. The work was hard and the nights were short. Weekends meant going to town, if you were lucky, going to church, if there was room in the buggy, and meeting your friends whenever possible.

Everything was horsedrawn or horsepowered. The summers were hot and dusty with lots of flies drawn by the manure, lots of mosquitoes as well, and no air conditioning or refrigeration. Meat and milk were

kept cool by putting them in buckets and hanging them down in the well. Winters were long and extremely cold and always there was the wind blowing so hard at times you could hardly stand up.

The main and usually only source of light at night was the kerosene lamp which barely shed enough light to illuminate even a corner of a room. To read or write anything at night required getting as close to the lamp as possible and hoping you could see the words. Later the gas lamp was invented and lighting improved greatly.

Going to the bathroom was an adventure and involved going to an outdoor toilet, to the barn, or squatting behind a tree or hill. Toilet paper was nonexistent so catalogue paper was used. In the winter, when it was too cold to go outside, everyone used covered ceramic night pails or pots, which were kept under the bed and emptied early every morning. Nobody relished the job of emptying the pots.

Water had to be carried into the house every day, as was coal and wood for the stove. Ashes had to be carried out. In the summer the youngest children and Rosina, their mother, would collect dried cow droppings called "chips", to burn in the stove when she baked.

Children of working age, who could be spared from the farm, were often hired out to other farmers as "hired" men or girls.

Education was thought of as something you did in those few months in the winter when the weather was so bad you couldn't work. As a result, most of the Freeh children had little formal education except for Arthur the youngest - who was thought a bit sickly for hard work.

Practicing Lutherans while living in Southern Russia, the Freehs became members of the German Congregational church in North Dakota and helped build the Eigenheim German congregational church seven miles south of the farm. The family attended church quite regularly when the weather and roads were accommodating to horse and buggy travel. (Both Rosina and Adam are buried in the cemetery which adjoined the church, although the church has been torn down.)

The primary language of the family was German and the church services and Sunday School lessons were conducted in German. As time went on, the children increasingly spoke English as well, though German remained the primary language of the family through the 1920's and early 1930's.

And so the Adam and Rosina Freeh family worked hard and the children had fun with each other and with friends whenever time permitted. Making ice cream in the winter, visiting neighbors and relatives, attending church and participating in church programs, going to family gatherings and picnics were some of the ways they spent their time. They had to be creative because there were no radios, no television sets, and few books or newspapers.

VI. Things Were Getting Better

After the second year in North Dakota the Freehs found time and resources to construct some buildings with the help of relatives and neighbors. First came a barn, then a grainery and chicken coop, then a milk house and coal and tool shed, and then a stone building which served as an ice house in the winter and a smoke house in the fall.

Ice was cut from the Sheyenne river and, when covered with straw in the stone house, served as a means for cooling things and for making ice cream most of the summer. In late Fall, after the butchering season, the stone house served as a place to smoke meat so as to preserve it for the winter.

Butchering usually lasted for two or more days and consisted of killing hogs and steers and making various cuts of meat and lots of pork/beef sausage. Nothing went to waste including the intestines which were cleaned by Gust and used as casings for the sausage. Everyone got involved, from the youngest to the oldest child. It was an exciting time for everyone but the hogs and the steer.

Through it all, the farm was growing in size and the children were growing up. Between 1896 and 1917, four hundred and eighty acres were claimed and purchased and added to the original 160 acres that was homesteaded.

During the same period, Mathilda, Rose, and Emilia grew to womanhood, were married, and went off to establish homes of their own. Mathilda was the first to marry in 1906 at age 19. She married E.B. Sauter. Rose followed in 1910. She married Ed Hanneman. Finally, Emilia in 1918 at age 27, married Walter Magstad.

That left just Adam and Rosina and their sons, Robert, Edwin, Gust, and Arthur and lots of work.

VII. Tragedy Strikes the Freeh Farm

In 1917, in the midst of World War I, tragedy struck the Freeh farm, when on January 11, in the midst of a major snow storm, Adam suffered a heart attack and died at the age of 59. His death was not entirely unexpected because just two years earlier he had an operation for ulcers and had never fully recovered his strength.

For two days the snow storm raged, so it wasn't until the third day after his death, that Adam's sons were able to take his body to the mortuary in Harvey on a horse drawn sled.

VIII. A Time of Transition

Needless to say, at age 56, Rosina was not yet willing to turn over everything she had worked so hard for to the children. Nor was she willing to retire and move to town as was the custom in those days - not while she still had four strong sons at her beck and call.

And so for eight years, from 1917 to 1925, she continued to run the farm, mostly with the help of Robert and Edwin. Gust had purchased a small farm two miles further north and was living there. Arthur spent considerable time off the farm going to school.

In 1918, Robert, the eldest son, married Martha Kaftan and moved onto Gust's farm with Gust returning to the home farm. The arrangement was prompted by the fact that Robert felt it would be difficult, if not impossible, for his new bride to live under the same roof as his strong willed mother, Rosina. For Gust this posed no problem as he was not married.

Four years later, in 1922, it did become a problem for Edwin when he married Amelia Herr. Rosina assured him that it would work for them to live on the farm with her and Gust. By 1924, however, it had become painfully obvious that such an arrangement wasn't working, given Rosina's temperament and her propensity for wanting everything done her way. So Edwin and Amelia rented another farm three miles north of the home farm and moved out.

That left Rosina and Gust with more work than they could handle, so in 1925 Rosina decided to divide the land among the children, with a life estate for herself. Then she retired and moved to Harvey. She was 64 years old.

There was no question as to who would next occupy the Freeh Farm. German culture of that period was quite clear that "when a German father and mother die and/or vacate the farm, the eldest son gets the farm. Usually at that time the land is fully divided. That was not to be the case with the Freeh farm which was to remain an estate farm for 26 years.

Nevertheless, in 1925 the eldest son, Robert Freeh, moved onto the farm with his wife, Martha and their seven year old daughter, Viola.

Gust moved back to his farm, the one the Robert Freeh family had just vacated.

Though he occupied the farm in 1925, Robert was not to become its owner until April 23, 1951, twenty-six years after becoming its tenant.

IX. The Robert Freeh Era (1925-1963)

Robert Freeh was a person of many dimensions. Short in stature, by today's standards, at 5 feet, 8 inches, he carried himself with the confidence of a much larger man. Outgoing, fun loving and a risk taker, he was prone to worrying as well. An outstanding story and joke teller, he could become quite agitated on occasion. A loving, indulgent father, he could also be a harsh disciplinarian if the situation warranted it.

A good judge and handler of horses, livestock, and people and a hard worker, he was not very adept at carpentry or mechanical work partially because of a lack of interest and partially because being the eldest son, he was kept busy with livestock and crop responsibilities, leaving little time for carpentry or mechanical work which were delegated to Edwin and Gust who learned to do them very well.

A farmer by circumstance of birth and time, Robert was probably more ideally suited for politics and public service than he was for farming. This was demonstrated by his serving as chairman of the local school board for 18 years, on the township board of supervisors for 21 years, and the Community Chest board for 10 years. In addition, he organized and was chief of the Harvey's first Rural Fire Department; chair of the cemetery board and a leader and long time head usher of the German Congregational Church in Harvey.

Martha, his wife, came from a devout Seventh Day Adventist Christian home and was rather quiet with a warm and friendly demeanor. Almost completely deaf since she was nine years old, she depended on her husband and daughter, and later her son, to update her on things that were said in huge gatherings. In one on one situations, she augmented what she could hear with her ability to read lips. Curious and fun loving by nature, she loved to read and to sing, the latter usually when by herself churning butter. It was she who read to the children, taught them all the old gospel songs, biblical verses, and the German language,

In addition, she was an outstanding baker and cook and could work inside and outside the house with equal ease and ability, handling much of the milking, hay stacking, and shocking of grain during the spring, summer, and fall seasons while Robert was planting the crops, mowing and putting up hay and cutting the grain.

Viola, their only child when they moved on the Freeh Farm was seven years old, just starting school, happy to be on a nicer, larger farm, a great helper for mother and a "tag along" with her dad.

All this was to change rather dramatically one year later in 1926, when her brother, LaVern, was born. Another brother, Raymond,

had been born 6 years earlier but only lived 17 days.

LaVern, the author of this history, was born on one of the hottest days of the summer, July 10, which was also his mother, Martha's birthday. He was born without a doctor in attendance. Seems the doctor was inebriated and took the wrong turn coming from town. While Robert was chasing after him on horseback, getting him to the farm, and sobering him up, baby LaVern was born and celebrated his first common birthday with his mother.

To Robert, the birth of a son was one of the greatest things that had ever happened to him. Martha's initial reaction was undoubtedly one of relief after carrying a baby in the extremely hot, dry and windy spring and summer of 1926.

Sister Viola's feelings were mixed. I'm sure somewhere between happiness on having a baby brother to play with and worry about losing the "only child" center of attention status she had enjoyed for almost eight years.

And so began the era of the Robert Freeh family on the Freeh Farm. He was 32 years old and happy to be back on the home farm, this time fully in charge. Martha was 25.

Things started out really well for Robert as he purchased new farming equipment, including the first ever new tractor in the neighborhood, and set out to make the Freeh Farm one of the most progressive and successful farms in the area. Unfortunately, a number of bad breaks in the form of a devastating depression, grasshoppers, rust, and a soil searing drought were to intervene and he was to spend a good part of his life on the farm paying off bills and simply trying to make ends meet. It wouldn't be until the 1940's that things would finally turn around and he was able to purchase a new tractor and farming equipment and even a new combine and an almost new car.

In spite of the hardships caused by the depression and the drought, and the poverty which resulted, there was always enough food on the table, mostly prepared from things raised on the farm. What couldn't be raised, such as staples, gas for the car and tractor, heating oil, coal, and kerosene for the lamp was purchased on credit or with money from the sale of cream, cattle, and grain, when available. Once a year new clothes were purchased for the children, usually before school started.

Many years the cows had to survive on hay made from weeds like Russian thistle and during the winter horses were put out on the prairie to fend for themselves.

The family learned to get by; to do without, to improvise and accept such things as old cars with little power, no brakes and extremely poor tires, as the norm in transportation as part of the excitement of life

-- especially when Martha and the children used to have to jump out of the car on Saturday nights and push the car up the hill just before they reached Harvey, to avoid going backwards down the hill without brakes. A very scary experience which happened one time and no one wanted to repeat.

In spite of these hardships there was fun and laughter on the farm and the enjoyment of developing close relationships with each other and with their horses, dogs, and cats; going to town on Saturday nights and to the Saturday night cowboy movies; going to school and church; to church and school picnics; to family gatherings, mothers side at Thanksgiving and Dad's side at Christmas. There was the four day county fair in Fessenden every summer with the carnival, the grandstand show, the horse races, and always some soft ice cream and one hamburger before going back to the farm. There was also the annual 4th of July celebration in Harvey complete with a parade. Every so often even a circus came to town.

To earn money for some of these things, LaVern would trap gophers in the pasture and then turn in gopher tails for money, 5 cents a piece at the annual gopher tail day which was sponsored by the county under a program designed to get rid of gophers.

Most of the time the family was quite healthy but there were some near tragic experiences. One Fall, in the midst of harvesting, Robert started hemorrhaging and almost died. One winter, Vi developed a rheumatic condition which was very serious and layed her up for months. Another time, LaVern developed a rather rare disorder which resulted in convulsions and caused him to be very sick for a number of months. Martha severed an artery in her arm during a tornado on the farm in 1939 and almost bled to death before reaching the hospital. Luckily LaVern had studied about tourniquets in school and was able to restrict the loss of blood by applying one to her arm.

All in all the family was remarkably healthy most of the time and while they didn't have much in the way of money or material goods, they never really considered themselves disadvantaged.

Likewise, while Robert and Martha never accumulated any wealth, they left a legacy of compassion and Christian love; of hope, determination, integrity and hard work which inevitably is more valuable than money.

Robert died of a heart attack, at age 70, on May 7, 1963 in the middle of the planting season, still farming and never realizing his dream of someday moving into Harvey and leading a more leisurely life. Martha was to live another 20 years before passing away in January of 1983, at the age of 84.

Both Vi and LaVern graduated from the one room rural school in

the Whitby School District and both made the 6 mile round trip to the school on a daily basis by horseback. Vi for 5 years and Vern for 7 years.

LaVern, or Vern as he prefers to be called, graduated from Harvey High School; served in the marines in World War II; taught in a one room rural school with only a high school diploma for a year; played football and earned a bachelors degree from North Dakota State University; taught and coached football at Linton, North Dakota; coached football and earned his masters and Doctors degree from Michigan State University; was a professor and Dean at the University of Minnesota for 18 years; and Vice President for Public and International Offices at Land O Lakes, Inc. for 12 years. He currently operates his own company, Freeh Enterprises.

He was married to Mabel Moen of Hunter, North Dakota for 43 years and is the proud father of 4 children and 8 grandchildren who are profiled later in this booklet.

Viola, or Vi as she is usually called, stayed in the Harvey community where she worked as a waitress and grocery store clerk for many years, and operated a restaurant and went into farming with her husband Howard Keson, whom she married in 1945.

She and Howard have three daughters and three grandchildren who are profiled later in this booklet.

X. The Howard and Vi Keson Era (1965 - present)

Howard and Vi Keson and their three daughters, Diane, Karen, and Wanda moved onto the Freeh Farm in 1963 following the death of Robert Freeh. They bought the farm on August 31, 1965.

Prior to buying the Freeh Farm they had rented and farmed the Keson farm where Howard was born and raised near Chaseley, North Dakota.

Its safe to say that when they bought the Freeh farm, they bought more than land and buildings, they bought a whole lot of heritage. Moreover, their hard work, and the repairs and renovations they initiated assured that the farm would not only be preserved to achieve its 100th birthday, it would be greatly improved as well.

Working tirelessly and usually after a full day and/or evenings work on the farm or at their jobs in town, they repaired all of the buildings and completely renovated the house, which for the first time was to have a full basement rather than a cellar.

They planted hundreds of trees around the farmstead continuing a planting program started by Robert Freeh, replacing the tall cottonwoods which grew fast and tall, but usually came thundering

down during a bad wind storm.

Some buildings were moved but none were demolished. The house received running water and a sewer system for the first time. A new entrance road was developed and, can you believe it, a swimming pool was added. Rosina must have rolled in her grave.

The Keson family transformed a farm that had deteriorated through the years, to a place of beauty and in the process kept it from being demolished as was the fate of most surrounding farms of its generation.

But they did more than fix, clean, paint and modernize, they made the farm a popular place for picnics and family gatherings in keeping with their spirit of hospitality and their love for entertaining.

In 1978 they quit farming, sold their livestock, rented out their crop land and concentrated their efforts on gardening; helping others, and further upgrading the farm

The farm became, and is, a summer gathering place for friends, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, cousins, nieces and nephews, as well as community gatherings and church picnics -- and you can always expect fireworks on the fourth of July.

But that's not all, in 1993, aided and encouraged by their daughter Diane and son-in-law Jim Gerak, they added a winter dimension as well with hundreds of lights and decorations illuminating the farmstead and the evening skies during the Christmas season. People come from near and far, by car and bus, to see the farm in its sparkling beauty and to partake of coffee, cider, and cookies and the friendship and hospitality of Vi and Howard Keson.

The Offspring of Adam and Rosina Freeh

Mathilda Freeh, born May 1, 1887, in Scotland, South Dakota, married E.B. Sauter on July 8, 1906. Mathilda lived in or near Tuttle, North Dakota for her entire life. They had ten children. Mathilda died on July 18, 1964 at the age of 77. Her husband preceded her in death on October 26, 1953, at the age of 70. Their ten children were as follows:

Walter, born in 1907, married in 1930, and was an agent for Standard Oil for many years. He is deceased. They had three sons:

Duane of Bismarck, North Dakota - deceased in 1993

Jim, who lives in Minnesota

Vern -Waco, Texas

Hilda, born in 1909, lived most of her life in Jamestown, married to Earl Hinkel. Earl died in 1967 and Hilda in 1987. They had one daughter:

Elizabeth (Liz) Hendrickson - Rancho Cardova, California

Fred, born in 1912, farmed the home place for his entire life. He was married, and then widowed in 1948. They had three children:

Fredricka (Panjcovich) - Roscoe, Illinois

Roberta (Shirley) - Phoenix, Arizona

Patty (Hintz) - Bismarck, North Dakota

Louise, born in 1914, spent most of her life in Tuttle, worked at Riskedahls store, retired in 1973, died in 1986.

Erna, born in 1916, and married Clifford Riskedahl. He died in 1972, and she now resides in Bismarck. They had three children:

Burt, an attorney - Bismarck, North Dakota - *District Court Judge*

Barbara - Ada, Minnesota - *Univ. Instructor - Moorhead S.U. and Clinician Psychologist at V.A. Hosp. Fargo*

Laura, a flight attendant - Florida and New Hampshire

Viola, born in 1918, lived in Valley City and Bismarck. Married to Jack Bailey, her husband died in 1991, and Vi in 1993. They had one child:

Sandra Ogren, a member of the Supreme Court in Minnesota and lives in Shoreview, Minnesota

Edwin, born in 1920, owned a business in Tuttle for many years, and was married to Mabel Hertz, who died in 1977. Later hemarried Ella Clark. They live in Bismarck, North Dakota. Eddie and Mabel had one son:

John Sauter - Bismarck, North Dakota

Ruby, born in 1922, retired in 1973, later moved to Bismarck where she died in 1991.

Lynora, born in 1924, married Art Scherbenske. They still live in Tuttle, North Dakota and have three children.

Alan - Kenmare, North Dakota

Linda - Denver, Colorado

Steve - Denver, Colorado

Mae, born in 1927, married Harold Glanville in 1947. He died in 1974. Mae moved to Bismarck and in 1985 married Pat McFerran - he died in May, 1995. Mae and Harold had three children:

Mary - Aberdeen, South Dakota

Mike - formerly of Bismarck, North Dakota (deceased, 1993)

Susan - Mesa, Arizona

Rosie Freeh, born July 5, 1889 in Delmont, South Dakota, married Edward Hanneman in 1910. Edward died in 1920, leaving Rose with three small children, Edna, Eugene "Ike", and Raymond to raise. She lived in Harvey most of her life and was an excellent seamstress and sewed dresses for a living. She died on August 31, 1971 at the age of 82.

Edna, the oldest child, married John Schauer in 1938. John was employed with the railroad and his employment necessitated their living in a number of small towns around the state of North Dakota. John died in 1978. Since then, Edna has lived in the home in which she grew up in Harvey. Edna is an excellent pianist. They had no children.

Eugene, or "Ike" as he was called, married Vi Ball of Sarles, North Dakota. He spent most of his life in Puyallup, Washington, where he worked for the State Highway Department. A strong advocate for physical fitness, Ike was always in tip top shape. He died of cancer in 1995 at the age of 83. They had no children.

Raymond, the youngest, was an excellent musician, playing both the tuba and the bass fiddle in numerous dance and community bands. He married Dorothy Halvorson, of Minot, North Dakota, and spent most of his life in Gladstone, Oregon, where he and his wife and family owned and operated a number of grocery stores and residential properties. Ray died of cancer in 1995 at the age of 79. They have four children:

Brian, with the U.S. Department of Energy - Vancouver

Bonnie (Pear), co-owner of a travel agency

Gregory, grocery store operator with Safeway
Steven, beauty salon operator and co-owner of a travel agency

Emilia Freeh, born on June 19, 1891 in Delmont, South Dakota, she married Walter Magstadt in 1918. She lived most of her life with her husband and family on a farm southwest of Tuttle, North Dakota. She died on February 9, 1963, eleven years before her husband died. They had three children:

Wilbert, married Joyce Skogen and farmed near the Magstad farm. He died in 1956, at the age of 38. She later married Manfred Solhiem and served as treasurer of Kidder County for 28 years. She died of cancer in 1992. Wilbert and Joyce had five children:

Gary, married to Mary Rohrick and has 6 children. He lives in Steele and works for the city.

Eldeen is married to Gerald Giest and lives in Devils Lake. They have five children. Gerald works for the State Highway Department and Eldeen works part-time at the school.

Wilbert Walter (Billy) is married to Joy Swanson and has four children. He lives in Kindred, North Dakota and works in a warehouse in Fargo.

Juleen is married to Gary Johnson and lives on a farm south of Steele. She runs a beauty shop in Steele and has two children.

Edwin Verne was born in 1922 and died in 1924.

Robert, married Florence Skogen, sister of Wilbert's wife in 1946. When Robert's folks retired, he and Florence moved onto his parents farm where he lived until his death of a heart condition at the age of 57. His wife still lives on the home farm which is now run by their son Tracy. They have two children.

Tracy operates the home farm. He married Joni Almer, who teaches school in Steel. They had two children, Brook and Drew.

Roberta married Ronald Leno and lives in Missoula, Montana, where she works for the "Missoulian" newspaper. She has three children.

Clara, married George Vollmer in 1947. They lived in Bismarck, North Dakota and had five children.

Jim, married to Cindy Kirchmeier. They have one daughter, Amber. Jim works at Falkirk Mining and Cindy works at Children's Development Center.

Donald was killed in Vietnam in 1969 at the age of 19 years.

Sheila, married to Larry Graff, lives in Mandan. Larry works at Mandan Refinery. They have two children, Erick and Jennifer, who are both college students.

Steve, married to Jill Mathern, operates an upholstery shop in Bismarck, North Dakota where they reside. Jill works for U.S. Health Care. They have no children.

Mike, the youngest, lives with his mother in Bismarck after becoming disabled in a motorcycle accident in 1991.

Robert Freeh, born on March 24, 1893, married Martha Kaftan on April 18, 1918. They had three children: Viola, born in 1918; Raymond in 1923; and LaVern in 1926. Raymond is deceased and Viola and LaVern are profiled earlier in this publication. This section contains a profile of Viola and LaVern's children.

Viola married Howard Keson of Chaseley, North Dakota in 1945 and they have three children and three grandchildren.

Diane, their oldest daughter, married Jim Gerak of Los Angeles, California and they currently live in Agua Dulce, California and operate an equipment rental business in Palmdale, California. They have no children.

Karen, their middle daughter, married Craig Nygaard of Harvey, North Dakota. They have three children. Erin is studying pre-medicine at Arizona State University in Phoenix, Arizona. Parrish is attending community college in Mesa, Arizona, and Bianca is a senior in high school. Karen lives in Phoenix and works for AT&T. Craig is employed by the Target Corporation.

Wanda, the youngest daughter, is married to Kenneth Sorenson of Harvey and currently works for the Schroeder Furniture Company and as a bookkeeper for an auto parts business that she and her husband operate in Harvey. They have no children.

LaVern, married Mabel Moen of Hunter, North Dakota on June 25, 1950. After forty-three years of marriage, Vern's wife Mabel died of a brain tumor in 1993. Vern has since remarried the former Lois Ramey Swanson of Loma Linda, California. They live in California in the winter and in Minnesota in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. LaVern and Mabel have four children and eight grandchildren.

Robert Freeh, their oldest, is married to the former Debra Neische and they have two children; Christopher and Adam. The family lives in Zimmerman, Minnesota. Bob is an independent insurance agent and marketing consultant. Deb

is a dental hygienist.

Lori Tufte, their oldest daughter, is married to Darryl Tufte of Northwood, North Dakota. They have three children; Lindsay, Kelsey, and Andrew and live in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Lori is a speech/language pathologist in the Eau Claire Area School District and Darryl is the City Planner for Eau Claire.

David Freeh, their youngest son, is married to the former Rhonda Johnson. They have two children; Siri and Emily and are expecting a third. They live in Fargo, North Dakota where Dave is manager of trade credit and leasing for two Farm Credit Services corporate offices.

Kristi LaPlante, the youngest daughter, is married to Jason LaPlante of Crookston, Minnesota. They have one child, Kaylie Marie, and live in Lino Lakes, Minnesota. Kristi is a buyer for the Target Corporation. Her husband, Jason, is President of Entech Industries.

The Freeh children and grandchildren have always considered "going to Dad's and grandpa's home farm" one of the real highlights of their lives and do so whenever possible.

Gust Freeh, born in Delmont, South Dakota, on January 25, 1895, spent his life living on the Freeh farm as a child and young adult; on his own farm two miles north of the Freeh farm for a number of years; and most of his adult life living with his brother, Edwin and his family, also two miles north of the Freeh farm.

Gust was a good mechanic and carpenter and enjoyed putting and fixing up equipment. He never married and died on February 19, 1968, at the age of 73.

Edwin Freeh, was born on the Freeh farm on July 7, 1897, the first child to be born on the farm. He grew to adulthood on the farm and married Amelia Herr in 1922. After spending the first two years of their married life living with his mother on the Freeh farm, they rented the "Wartner" farm in 1924 and lived there for a few years. Then they lived on the Gust Freeh farm before building their own farmstead in 1945. They lived there until they retired to Harvey in 1970. Amelia died in 1978 and Edwin died in 1984 at the age of 86, outliving everyone in the family by five to seventeen years. Edwin and Amelia had three children, Arduin, born in 1922, Marjorie, born in 1925, and Raymond, born in 1936.

Arduin, after serving in the army during World War II, married Regina Muscha in 1954. Arduin died of a heart attack in 1969

at the age of 47. Regina is also deceased. They have two children:

Richard, who lives with his wife, Rosemary, and son, Christopher, in Jamestown, North Dakota. Richard works for a nursing home.

Randy, an engineer, lives with his wife, Mary Beth, and their two children, Carissa and Craig, in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin where Randy works for a paper company.

Marjorie, lives in Harvey, North Dakota, after having retired as Vice President of the First State Bank in Harvey in 1990. She spent her entire career with the bank and never married.

Raymond graduated from Jamestown College and married Ilo Tuntland of Sheyenne, North Dakota in 1959. Following their marriage, Ray served as Principal of the school at Pettibone, North Dakota and the elementary school at Lisbon, North Dakota. He died of a heart condition in 1971 at the age of 35. Ilo is remarried to Clair Fox and still lives in Lisbon, North Dakota. Raymond and Ilo had three children:

Roxanne, married Cecil Bartosh, teaches piano and lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota. They have two children, Lacey and Chad.

Tim, an optometrist, lives in Salem, Oregon and has two children, Erin and Amelia.

Colleen, married to Jason Flattum, is a dietician and lives in Lake Oswego, Oregon. They have no children.

Arthur was born on the Freeh Farm on February 4, 1904. Somewhat sickly as a child, he was excused from much of the hard work and was therefore able to go to school. As a consequence, he was the only child to graduate from both grade school and high school (Harvey High School). He also attended Fargo business college. In 1925, he married Lydia Stock and was employed in the Union National bank in Minot, North Dakota until he died of a heart condition in 1943 at the young age of 38. His wife died in 1972. Arthur and Lydia had two children:

Betty, lives in Minot, North Dakota and is married to Owen Lansverk. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Ronald Lee Lansverk is married to Dana Smith of Great Falls, Montana. Ronald was a baseball umpire for 22 years and is now a Vice President of a brokerage firm in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dana is an attorney and they have one daughter, Erin, eight years of age.

Debra Kay Graves, is an addiction counselor at UnMed hospital

in Minot, North Dakota. She is divorced and has two boys, Joey and Casey.

Amy Jo Lansverk, a homemaker for 35 years, is divorced and has two sons, Jameson and Justin.

Donna, lives in Minot, North Dakota and is married to Art Esterby. They have three children.

Kip Arthur, trainmaster with the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad, lives in Seattle, Washington. He is married to Wanda Veter who is a secretary for Boeing Incorporated. They have three stepchildren and two step grandsons.

Barbara Boyeff lives in Minot, North Dakota and is married to Ken Boyeff. Barbara's a counselor in Minot public grade school and Ken is a math teacher in a junior high. They have three children, Tasha, Alex, and Kyle.

Kirk Allen, married to Renae Esterby, live in Killeen, Texas. Kirk is an art instructor and Renae is an elementary teacher of grade school gifted children. They have two children, Callie and Madison.



Emelia



Rose



Mathilda



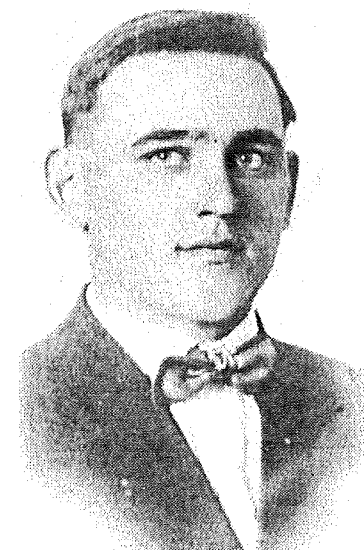
Gust



Rosina



Robert



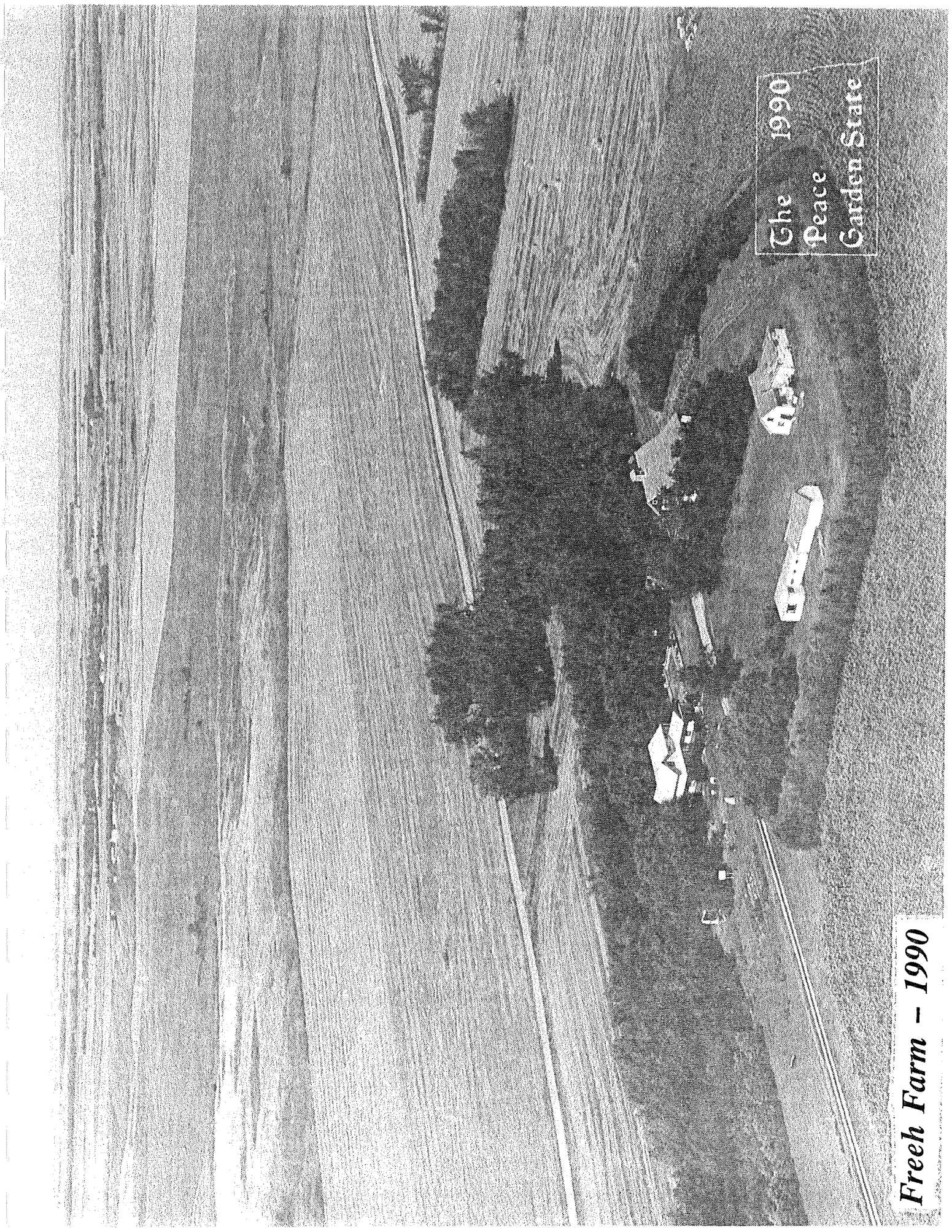
Edwin



Adam

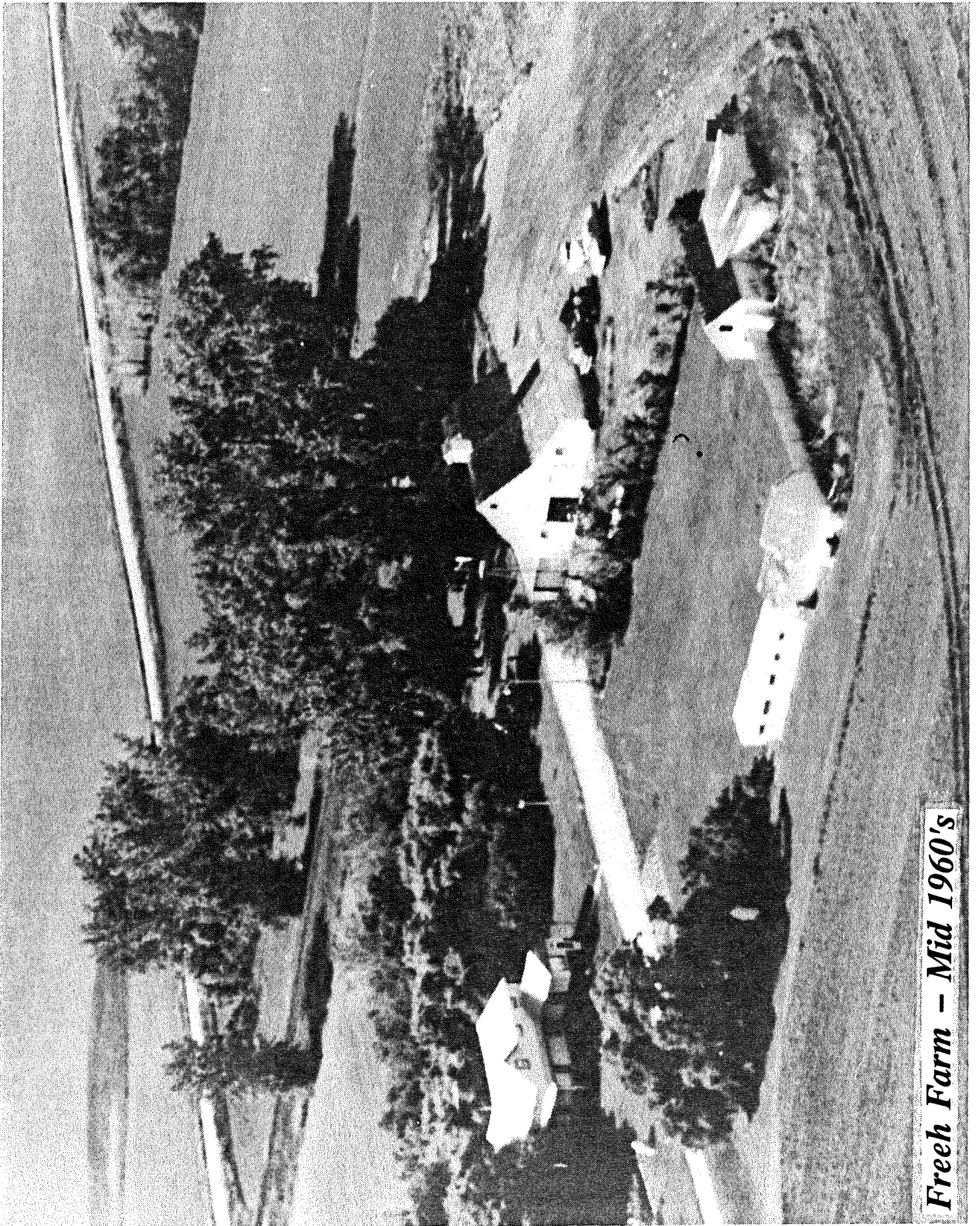


Arthur



The 1990
Peace
Garden State

Freeh Farm - 1990



Freeh Farm - Mid 1960's

Dates to Remember

- 1896 Freeh farm is homesteaded by Adam and Rosina Freeh
- 1896 Combination house/barn is built of sod
- 1897 Edwin becomes first child born on the farm
- 1901 Present house is built
- 1902 Eigenheim German Congregational church is built
- 1904 U.S. government gives land title to the Freehs
- 1904 A second child, Arthur, is born on the farm
- 1906 Mathilda marries to E.B. Sauter
- 1908 First Congregational Church is organized in Harvey
- 1910 Rose marries Edward Hanneman
- 1917 Adam Freeh dies of a heart attack
- 1918 Emelia marries Walter Magestad
- 1918 Robert marries Martha Kaftan
- 1922 Edwin marries Amelia Herr
- 1924 Edwin and Amelia move to the Wartner farm
- 1925 Rosina retires and Robert, the eldest son, takes over the farm
- 1925 Arthur marries Lydia Stock
- 1926 LaVern Freeh becomes the third child born on the farm on July 10th, his mother's birthday
- 1926 Robert buys the first tractor for the farm

- 1942 The telephone comes to the farm
- 1946 Robert buys a combine
No more threshing crews.
- 1951 Robert buys the farm
- 1953 Electricity comes to the farm. No more keeping food
in the well
- 1963 Robert Freeh dies and Martha moves in with Vi and Howard
- 1965 Vi and Howard Keson buy the farm and Martha moves into
Harvey
- 1965 A new entrance is made for the farmstead
- 1965 Buildings are repaired and painted, some are moved
- 1968 House is completely remodeled and running water
and sewage system are added
- 1969 Hundreds of trees are planted around the farmstead
- 1984 Swimming pool is constructed on the farm

A Labor of Love

This dedication piece was written by Dr. LaVern A. Freeh and designed, assembled, and printed by his daughter, Lori Tufte. The cover design was created by his daughter-in-law, Rhonda Freeh.

Vern is the son of the late Robert Freeh and the brother of Viola "Freeh" Keson. He and his wife, Lois, live in Loma Linda, California during the winter months and in Roseville, Minnesota in the summer and fall.

Lori Tufte lives with her husband, Darryl, and their three children, Lindsay, Kelsey, and Andrew, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin where she is a speech/language pathologist.

Rhonda Freeh lives with her husband, David, and their two children, Siri and Emily, in Fargo, North Dakota. Rhonda is an artisan specializing in woodworking, decorative painting, and drawing.