
BICENTENNIAL
COSMOS
SPACE FEST
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The history of the beginning of Cosmos until the present time has been made available through several sources.

We are indebted to the following:

1. Condensed History of Meeker County 1855-1939 Compiled and published by Frank B. Lamson, Litchfield, Minnesota and the Brown Printing Co.

2. Meeker County History - West Tier of Towns 1857-1938 Published under direction and guidance of the Meeker County Historical Society. Edited and compiled by Frank B. Lamson, Grove City. Brown Printing Company, Litchfield, Minnesota.

We are further indebted to the Public records at Meeker County Court House, the publishers of "The Cosmos Courier", "Cosmos ?", "The Cosmos Enterprise", "The Cosmos News," "The Cosmos Sun", History of 50th Anniversary of First Lutheran Church, History of Peace Lutheran Church, History of Cosmos United Methodist Church.

Perhaps the most valuable personal contributions have been made by members or relatives of some of the early settlers of our Cosmos Community. There are also various friends throughout the area that have searched their memories and their family archives to aid in compiling this book.

Perhaps there are items that have been omitted, and undoubtedly mistakes have been made, being human; but to the interested citizens who helped with information, a thank you!

With the nation celebrating its Bicentennial and Cosmos its Fiftieth Anniversary may we dedicate this book to the sturdy pioneers who laid the foundation for the development of this city that followed.

DISCLAIMER

The historical items reported herein were obtained in part from verbal accounts related to the author and in part from prior written accounts of the history of Cosmos. This author assumes no responsibility for the authenticity of the materials reported herein.

"THE HISTORY OF COSMOS" was compiled by Amy Peterson

THE ORGANIZING OF COSMOS TOWNSHIP

Let us journey back to "remember when" and try and picture what the area surrounding the City of Cosmos was like long ago.

Cosmos has a very interesting background that begins with the 1860's. Cosmos was a part of Cosmos Township and had an area of 23,000 acres. Previous to its settlement 542 acres were covered with water, but over the years the lakes were drained and small ponds took the place of lakes that once teemed with fish.

One of the earliest white pioneers in Cosmos and also the oldest settler was Daniel Jackman who came here from Maine in 1867. On his arrival here, he located about 2½ miles southeast of the present sight of Cosmos on what is now the Leonard Meyer farm. Until he could set up a house, he lived in a tent and cooked on an open fire. He homesteaded 160 acres, where he engaged in farming until his death in 1896.

During these years he was a leader in the organization of the township and served the township in various capacities as town clerk, supervisor, assessor and also as a member of the Board of County Commissioners. Jackman was married to Annette K. Page on February 12, 1852. There are two direct Jackman descendants living in Cosmos - Mrs. Wesley (Annette) Grussendorf and Dorin W. Anderson, grandchildren of the Jackmans.



D. JACKMAN



OLE K. NELSON

Another of our pioneers we hear much about is Ole K. Nelson, who was born in Norway in 1840 and came to Cosmos Township in the spring of 1866. He established a farm house in Cosmos Township and erected the first log house in the township. Nelson is also credited with bringing the first team of horses and plow into the town and breaking the first soil.

January 22, 1870 he married Mary N. Danielson, which was the first marriage in the Township of Cosmos.

Their daughter, Nellie Amelia Nelson, born October 25, 1870, was the first white child born in the township.

Nelson farmed in Cosmos for about five years, on a farm about 1½ miles east of the present Cosmos on what is presently the Cy Weispfenning farm. During these years he took an active part in town and county affairs and held various offices including Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Mrs. Lloyd (Myrtle) Housman is a granddaughter of Ole K. Nelson.

During the early years of Cosmos much was said about Daniel Hoyt, an early pioneer and a cultured and highly educated man from New Hampshire. He was one of the first homesteaders in Cosmos Township, arriving May 6, 1864 and taking up a homestead on the South Shore of Thompson Lake.

He was a visionary and eccentric character and occupied his time in working for the establishment of a great university in Cosmos. He became prominent in the town's organization and a recognized leader in the township and was the first town clerk. Hoyt is credited with the naming of Cosmos which previous to its organization was known as Nelson Town. O.K. Nelson had won the respect of his neighbors by acts of helpful assistance and they named the township Nelson as an expression of their regard to him.

Hoyt had planned for the establishment of a great university in Cosmos and did not regard the name Nelson suitable for a University City. He prevailed upon Nelson to consent to change the name Nelson to Cosmos. Hoyt picked the name Cosmos from a Greek definition of the Universe. The word represents the university of created things and its synonym is harmony.

Hoyt prophesied that a railroad would pass through the section of land he homesteaded and that was fulfilled when the Luce Line was built.

Daniel Hoyt was called during his life here "The Hermit of Cosmos Prairie". He had disappointments in his love affairs in his early manhood and never married. He was frozen to death in the blizzard of February 11, 1870 while on his way to visit a friend in Lake Lillian. This ended the Cosmos College Plans.

Some of the other early settlers arriving and taking up homesteads were: Edward Chamberlain, Nelson Eddy, Hans H. Hanson, John Jameson, Isaac Layton, Ezra Matthews, J.M. McDonald, Ole Olson, Orrin A. Phelps, Iver H. Thompson and H.W. Young.

In 1969 the settlement was increased by the arrival of Albert Amermen, C.H. Duckering, Elisha L. Grindall, Christian and Lewis Halverson, John Rastue, J.T. and Thomas Royce, Ralph D. Waterman and A.B. Watson.

Many of these pioneer settlers gained title to the land they acquired by preemption (they paid $1.25 per acre to the government direct), by homestead after the homestead act took

effect January 1, 1863, by purchase of land from railroad company, or purchase of school lands from the state.

The first school was held in the spring of 1870 in the residence of J.T. Royce with Lilly Cathcart as the teacher.



Cosmos School District 89, where children went to school before Cosmos had a school. This was taken about 1912. Sara Holliran, teacher, later Mrs. Otto Mortenson. Robert Lietzau - front row - first on the right.



The way of transportation to the Country School, District 89. The Creamery house in the background and to the right what is now the Hesser Hardware.

A son, born to the Albett Amermans on March 17, 1871 was the second child born in the town. The first death was John T. Royce, April 16, 1871.

In 1871 a small school house was built in the center of population at that time with Miss Nellie Barrock as the pioneer teacher. This building was later replaced by a larger structure that served as a Community hall.

Mrs. Carl Anderson, a daughter of the Jackmans, was a rural school teacher for twenty five years and this was in a radius of five miles of the home birthplace.

The first wheat crop raised in the town was by Isaac Layton and H.W. Young, 1871.

A Methodist minister, Rev. Kennedy, conducted the first religious service in the school house in 1873.

In 1874 a post office was established in the town named Cosmos and John A. Jameson was the first Postmaster. Isaac Layton became postmaster in 1876 and in 1878 Daniel Jackman succeeded Layton. Jackman resigned in 1880 and Mrs. Jackman became his successor.

The early settlers would drive from their homesteads by team or horseback for many miles, once a month to pick up their mail.

The post office was located in the Jackman home; but this was discontinued in 1904 when the patrons were served by rural free delivery from Brookfield-Renville Post Office with August Wehking as carrier.



Harry Larson, temporary mail carrier, delivering mail to the Cosmos Bank mail box. Cosmos Village, April 1915.

The grasshopper plague of 1876 and 1877 caused severe losses to the pioneers of these days. It has been said that before the grain had ripened the grasshoppers made their appearance in such large numbers that the light of the sun was dimmed as they flew through the sky and alighted on the ripening crops and began work of devastation.

Grain fields were fenced to protect them from cattle that roamed at large until 1880 when the herd law became effective.

Cosmos had its very first beginning about 2½ miles southeast of its present site on what is now the Leonard Meyer farm and where the Daniel Jackman home was located.

A preliminary meeting to organize the Township of Cosmos was held at Beaver Falls, Renville County, January 5, 1870 at which time the township was a part of Renville County.

The town was organized January 25, 1870 at a meeting in the home of Daniel Jackman with only 9 voters participating in the election. Officers chosen were: Supervisors, Chairman Daniel Jackman, John Jameson, Albert Amerman; Clerk, Daniel Hoyt; Treasurer, J.H. Thompson; Assessor, Daniel Jackman; Justices, Oren Phelps and E. McMatthews.

At a meeting held March 4, 1871 the town records show that Cosmos had been annexed to Meeker County.

THE BEGINNING OF COSMOS VILLAGE

Perhaps because of the thought of a railroad coming through, the village site changed and the first business places in the new location of Cosmos were a wooden creamery structure, a grocery store and the creamery house.

The Cosmos Cooperative Dairy Association was organized and incorporated October 16, 1897 with a capitol stock of $3,500. The incorporators for the creamery were: W. H. Greenleaf, C.A. Gilman, Ernest Lietzau, John E. Anderson, E. P. Jackman, H. T. Hanson, Asle Halverson. Officers and directors were: President, Andrew Nelson; Treasurer, Axel V. Nelson; C. A. Gilman, Ernest Lietzau, John E. Anderson, P. N. Hanson and W. H. Greenleaf. During the early years of operation of the creamery, the entire product of the plant did not exceed two tubs of butter each week derived from the skimmings of whole milk. During the first years the creamery operated only in the winter months. One of the very first butter makers was Hans Peterson, a brother-in-law to Ole K. Nelson, one of the pioneer settlers.



First Creamery in Cosmos. A wooden structure - taken in 1924. Notice how the streets are being scraped.

The creamery was reincorporated in 1934 at which time the authorized capitol stock was fixed at $10,000. A new creamery was constructed in 1934 and its equipment represented an expenditure of $9,000.

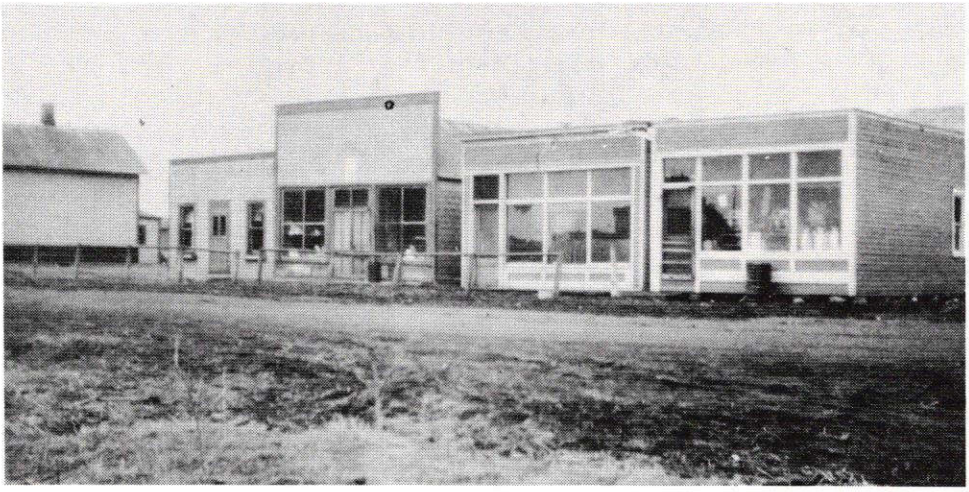


Cosmos Creamery in the early years. This is the second creamery.

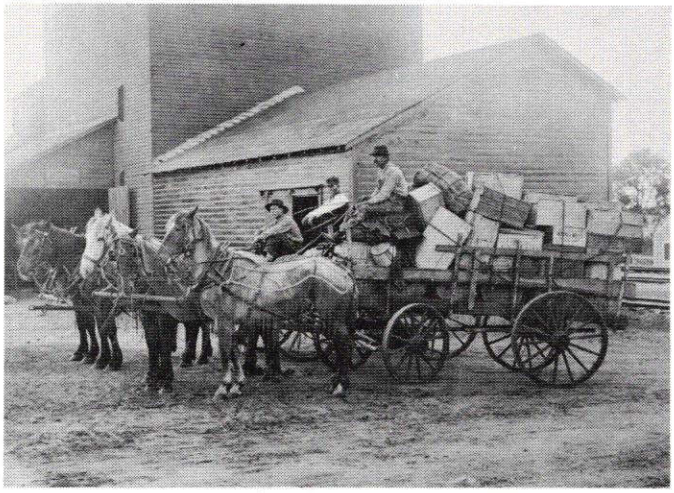
There were an average of 90 patrons and during the peak milk season of 1937, the maximum monthly check issued only one patron was $248 and the average daily churnings were 2,000 pounds of butter.

By 1942 the maximum monthly paycheck issued to any one patron was $325. At this time the creamery had installed 108 refrigerated meat lockers. The creamery ceased to operate February 15, 1969. The building is now used as a storage space and was purchased by Stan Koch in December, 1972.

Through the years some of the butter makers that followed Hans Peterson were: Laurence Peterson, Robert Sorenson, Sam Edmunds, Clifford Paulson, Knute Carlson, Roland Podratz and Martin Kutzke.



Cosmos Main Street West Side in 1914. Note grass growing in the middle of the street. Extreme left is the home of the buttermaker, C.J. Larson family home attached to the Larson store. These two are the Hesser OK Hardware. Next is the bank building and then the hardware store run by C.J. Larson.



Albert Lietzau hauling groceries from Grove City for one of the early stores in 1907. Notice the three horse hitch on his wagon because of the muddy roads.

The first grocery store in Cosmos was built in 1895 and was run by Ellery Jackman (uncle to Mrs. Wesley Grussendorf and Dorin Anderson). The original store houses the present Hesser Ok Hardware on Milky Way Drive. The first home in the present Cosmos village was known as the "creamery house" and was located between the creamery and the store. Later years it was moved and it is still presently being lived in.

The first blacksmith to come to this little settlement was Mr. Frank Welp. His little shop was a little north and east of the grocery store. This was not in business for long.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The First Lutheran Church of Cosmos was organized through the efforts of a small group of interested Christian people who wanted God's Word proclaimed. The church was organized in the spring of 1893 on the afternoon of May 18th in the home of Andrew Gustafson under the name of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Salem Congregation and later changed to First Lutheran. The Gustafsons were the first settlers of Swedish descent in this community.



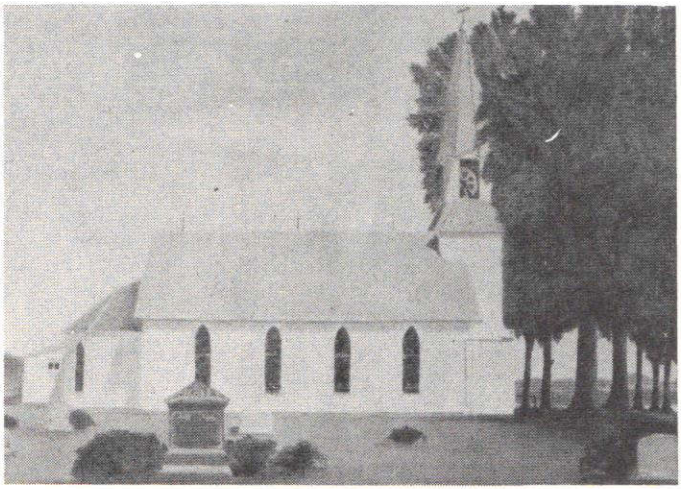
First Lutheran Church 1897. This was a midsummer picnic.

Charter members were the Oscar Gustafsons, Nils Franks, Nels Johnsons, John M. Nelsons, Andrew B. Nelsons, Nels Andersons and Andrew Gustafsons and Erick Ericksons. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gustafson donated the land for the church and cemetery grounds.

Land for the picnic grounds was donated by P. E. Peterson in 1899.

Services were held for the first two years in a school house and in the Community Church located two miles northeast

of the present church. At a meeting on January 2, 1896, it was decided to build a church. In the spring of 1896 a church was started and erected at a cost of $1,100.00. The church was dedicated to the Glory of God in November of 1896 by Dr. E. Norelius, President of the Minnesota Conference. At the annual meeting on January 27, 1897, Pastor P.A. Venner, who served the Beckville and Litchfield parishes, was called to this church and held services once a month for which he received $70.00 a year plus a free will offering. Membership dues were set at $3.00 for a man and $1.50 for a lady.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, today

In 1914 a Luther League Hall adjoining the church on the east side was added at a cost of $1,600.00. In 1920 a kitchen was annexed to the Luther League Hall at a cost of $700.00. Through the following years improvements to the church have continually been made and in 1973 the congregation observed their 80th anniversary. The Word of God is continually being proclaimed with Rev. Harold E. Carlson as pastor.

THE EARLY GROWTH OF COSMOS

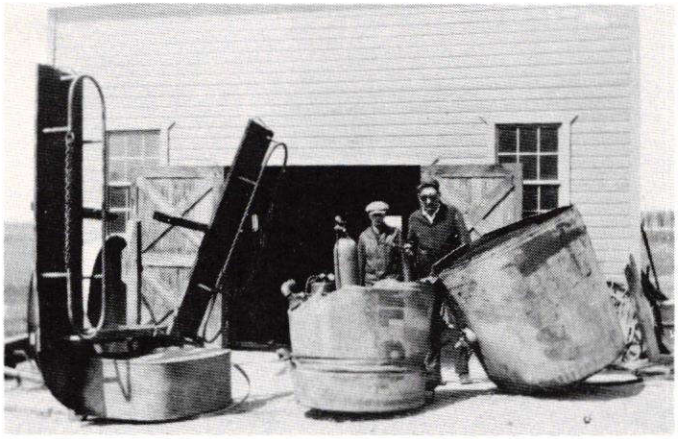
Cosmos was still a little hamlet when Henry Klawitter opened up his blacksmith shop in the present village in 1907. The only other business places were the creamery and the store; and the blacksmith shop was first located north of the store, but later moved to the south part of the business district.

Since that time Merton Klawitter, Harold Katzenmeyer, Jim Olson have been in that business with Stanley Mortenson taking over in 1954.

In 1909 corn fields and grain fields were growing to the road in front of the creamery, store and blacksmith shop and these business places were on the West side of the street.



Cosmos Main Street in the early 1900's. Bank, flour house and Blacksmith Shop. Mr. and Mrs. August Steuber are seated in the wagon.

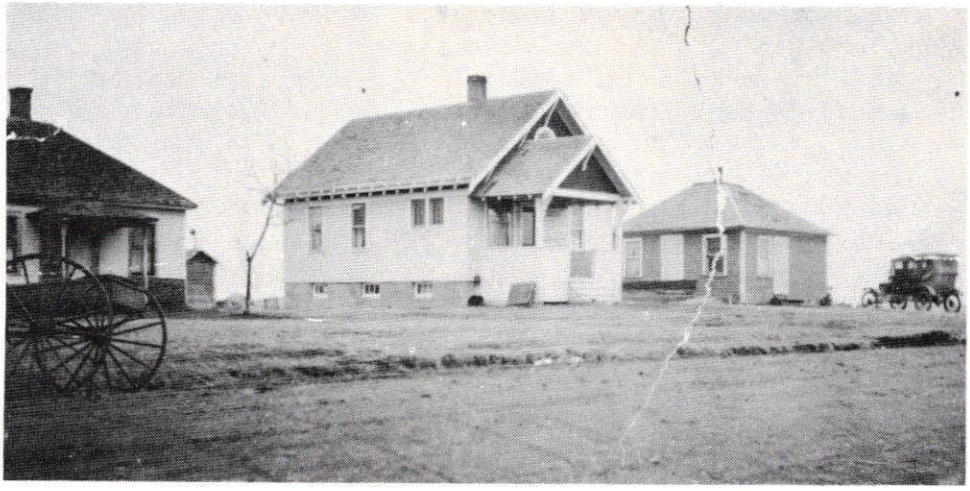


The Blacksmith Shop in 1925 with Henry Klawitter, blacksmith to the right.

During these years the grocery store had changed hands and George Hedner and then Max Kalitowski had been operators. In 1914 Charles J. Larson took over the business. Mr. Larson sought to supply the needs of the community and handled a stock of hardware, groceries, dry goods, oils, etc. Hector was the nearest railroad station and the supplies were hauled a distance of 14 miles by a team of horses.

The same year, 1914, the First State Bank of Cosmos opened its doors for business on April 9. The bank was built where Sathre's Market is now located and was next to the Larson's Store. The bank opened with a capitalization of $10,000 and surplus of $2,000.

The stockholders at the time the bank incorporated and opened its doors were F.W. Stevens, John Hageman, L.B. Stevens of Sandborn, A.I. Mellenthein of Sleepy Eye, R.J. Neunsinger of Carver County and C.E. Melbye of Martin County. The first banker was Dick Neunsinger. His successor following was John (Jack) Jerabek who came about 1920.



Cosmos Main Street in the early 1920's. The house on the left was the blacksmith's home, Henry Klawitter, second house, the banker's, Mr. Jerabek. This house was where the street goes just north of the first State Bank. House on the right was the Implement dealer's, Emil Hackbarth. Notice the Model T. car.



First State Bank of Cosmos in 1925 after it had been remodeled and moved.

In 1924 the bank was remodeled and moved across the street.

After the bank had moved and been remodeled, Cosmos residents witnessed and heard all the excitement of a bank robbery. Just how much was taken was not known but the local residents escaped the bullets even though they did go through a home.

From a write up in the Minneapolis Journal at the time of the bank robbery of August 20th, it stated, "Bandits flee empty handed in fog after blowing safe containing $5,000." Four armed bandits isolated the small town of Cosmos early in the morning by cutting telephone, telegraph wires and then wrecked the safe at the First State Bank, only to be driven away in a gun battle before they completed their task.

The residents of Cosmos heard two terrific explosisions after 2:00 a.m. that alerted them to the robbery.

Emil Hackbarth, garage proprietor, living across from the bank, saw from his window a dim light in the bank and caught a glimpse of men moving in the bank. He reached for his revolver and fired in the direction of the bank. J.H. Jerabek, cashier of the bank, who resided next door to the Hackbarths then got into action.

The situation became rather tense for the robbers and they decided to take flight and leaped through a window and took off in their car, which was parked down the street.

Eight bullets struck the Hackbarth home. The bank was no doubt indebted to Mr. Hackbarth for his quick part he played in the affair, and had he not acted as quickly as he did, the men could have in a few minutes time been able to enter the remaining compartment in the safe. This compartment contained the $5,000 creamery paroll and a large amount of the bank's cash.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Swanson in the First State Bank of Cosmos (in the old bank) December of 1952.

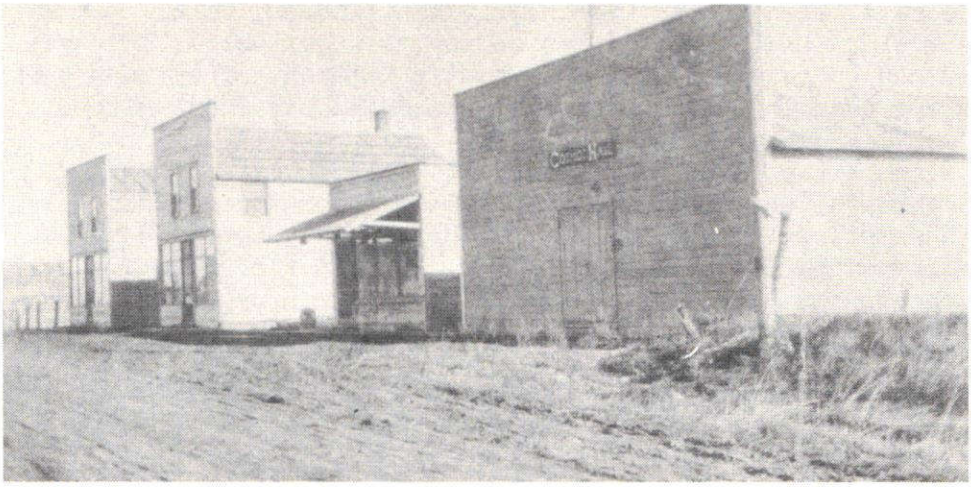
In the year 1925, Harry Swanson took over the First State Bank of Cosmos. At the time of the depression the bank was not closed except during the moratorium.

In the years following, it was evident more space was needed with the increase of business, and in 1952 a much larger bank was under construction directly across the street. The new First State Bank of Cosmos held Open House May 9, 1953. Eilert Flemming became an employee in 1952 and handled the Insurance business.

In 1961 Stephen Spreiter took over the bank and Eilert Flemming became Vice President with Stephen Spreiter becoming President of the bank in 1966.

In the year of 1914, to supply the needs of the community, a flour house was built next to the Bank and this was owned by C. J. Larson.

Charles Ritter erected a dance hall in 1915 which later in 1920 was taken over by Albert Keehn and Julius Jacobson. They had this until 1923. Later followed a butcher shop operated by Ernest Pohlmon and Lewis Larson and later by



Cosmos main street, east side looking north, taken in 1914. The Cosmos Hall is now the Cosmos Pharmacy.

Enoch Peterson. In this building in 1940 was the Gamble Store Agency with Wallace Mortenson and Donald Grussendorf Proprietors. In later years, a grocery store was in the building with various operators, including Clifford Bonniwell and Siefert's Market. In March 1955 a fire threatened a business block on main street, when fire broke out in the basement of Siefert's Market and brought out fire departments from three towns - Cosmos, Hector and Hutchinson. Others taking over the store were Lester and Wilton Alseth, Bernard Stolpman and Wyman Lundstrom. In October, 1974 Stanley Koch bought the building and in 1975 the Cosmos Pharmacy opened for business in this building with Jim Christopherson, pharmacist.



Ernest Grussendorf in front of his Pool Hall in the early years. Sign on the window "Roi-Tan Cigars, a cigar you'll like." The popular sitting bench in front.

In 1916 Edward Lindwall and John W. Anderson built the Pool Hall and Ernest Grussendorf operated it for many years. During the following years some of the operators were Donald and Robert Grussendorf, Otto Madsen, Albert Flemming, Ronald

Podratz, Glen Thomas, Jim Mohr, Virgil Olson, Petri, Werner Betterman and others. This is now the Sportsman's Inn owned and operated by Doug and Georgia Bateman. They took this place over in 1966 and in 1975 remodeled the front with a frontier design.

The first garage in Cosmos was built in 1917 by Emil Hackbarth, who were the sixth family to come to Cosmos. Business places at this time were the Creamery operated by Sam Edmonds, Larsons Store, the bank, the blacksmith shop operated by H. Klawitter, the Pool Hall run by E. Grussendorf. The families would get together once a week and play cards.

The mechanic at the Hackbarth garage was Louie Otto, known as "Little Louie". He was a favorite among the children giving them rides in his pick up truck.

Around these years 1917, Edward Lindwall opened up the first shoe repair shop on the east side of the street in the basement of the building south of the Pool Hall. Mr. Lindwall also repaired canvases and harnesses.

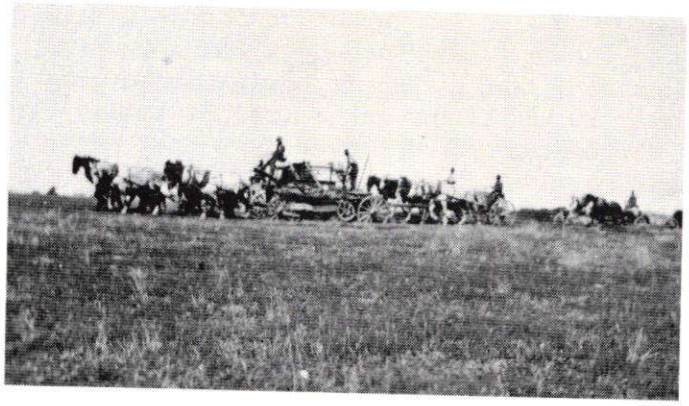
COMING OF THE RAILROAD

Much of the development of Cosmos is due to the transportation facilities afforded by Minnesota Western Railroad with builders and promoters W. L. Luce and Colonel Earl D. Luce. When the railroad got as far as Hutchinson, people from Cosmos joined in a celebration with the Union Club of Hutchinson and the Luces on an excursion trip over the line followed by a banquet at the West Hotel, Minneapolis, which took place February 15, 1916.

The excursion train left Hutchinson at 9 o'clock A.M. and arrived in Minneapolis at 12:30 P.M. There were more than 200 present who generously partook of the following menu:

Cream of Tomato Soup
Radishes Pickles
Cosmos Roast Beef
Mashed Cedar Mills Potato
Hutchinson Gravy
Baked Brookfield Squash
Acoma Pie Corvuso Cigars

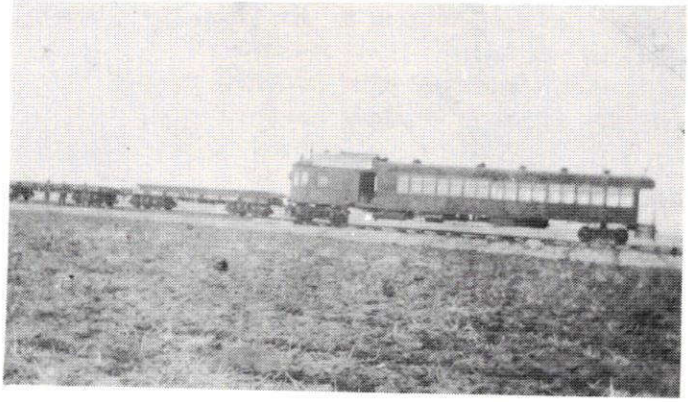
Those attending the excursion and banquet from the Cosmos community were: John and J.E. Anderson, Herman Berkholz, Carol Dries, Bertel Dummer, Otto Flemming, Albert Flemming, Ferdinand Geier, George Halverson, Albert Heller, Chas. Hoecke, Richard Kaddatz, Mike Koch, H.R. Klawitter, Carl Koglin, Ernest Lietzau, Andrew B. Nelson, R.J. Neunsinger, Emil Reuckert, Albert Runke, Chas. Soltow.



Building the railroad, 3 miles west of Cosmos.

Cosmos first depot. This was a two story building with living quarters upstairs. Down stairs was office and freight room. Notice the loading platform in the foreground.





First train on the track 3 miles west of Cosmos in 1923.

In September of 1922, grading for the railroad had been completed west of Cosmos.

November 17, 1922, the line was completed as far as Cosmos and the rails had been laid.

December 22, 1922, an inspection train reached Cosmos.

To initiate the new train a delegation of Cosmos people boarded the train and rode to Gluek and back and a program was held with speakers and band. The first scheduled trip to Cosmos was December 29, 1922 and was a freight train. On the return trip to Minneapolis it conveyed five cars of stock as a Cosmos shipment.

A.J. Slanga was Cosmos' first station agent with his headquarters in the Cosmos State Bank.

Ernest Riebe was the first dray man to haul freight from the depot to the business places after the railroad came in.

In the years following, a depot was built and some of the station agents were Tony Helinik, Evans, C.J. Jones,George Olson and in 1942 John Larson became station agent and was for 17 years.

The old depot was taken down and a new one built across the street in 1947. In 1959 Francis Wall became station agent and held that position until 1962. After that the station was served by men out of Hutchinson, till it closed.

The railroad had its ups and downs and mostly downs due to increase in auto and truck transportation.

November 1st, 1957 the railway section crew was a thing of the past in Cosmos.

Cosmos, like other towns along the Minnesota Western line, had its railroad service discontinued in 1967.

NEW BUSINESS FOLLOWED THE RAILROAD

In 1922 when the Luce Line was in the process of construction, the business district began to increase. Otto Mortenson opened a hardware store, Ed Watson opened a soft drink parlor, where the Royal Cafe is now. Ed Matson opened a grocery store next to Grussendorf's Pool Hall. The Matson building was later moved.

Herbert and John Lietzau erected the Lietzau Barber Shop in the south part of the village on the east side of the street.



Herb and Jack Lietzau in front of their barber shop. Jack was the first licensed barber in Cosmos in 1922, and his cousin, Herb got his license in 1924. Haircuts during their period were 35c or 3 for $1.00.

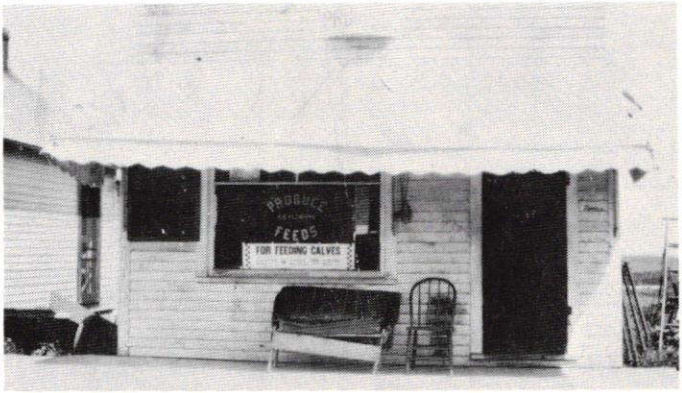


Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Olsen in 1945. Alfred holding grandson Curtis Meyer. Alfred was manager of a produce for a number of years.



Herman and Florence Flemming packing as they are leaving the Produce.

Around this same time, Emil Hackbarth built a produce south of the bank and this was used by Johnson Produce and operated by Oscar Lee for many years. Later John Larson took over as manager followed by Alfred Olsen, who was operator for many years. Andrew Varland added two more business places to the business district, about 1922, with Henry Olson as carpenter. One was a butcher shop with Otto Steinke as butcher. This building later became the Farmers Produce. In 1929 Herman Flemming started in the produce; and in the peak season fifteen people would be employed taking care of poultry, eggs, cream and hides. Mr. Flemming later sold out to Paul Pearce.



Flemming Produce in 1930.

The other business place Mr. Varland built was a Ladies Millinery shop. This in the later years became a restaurant with different owners and operators. Everette Johnson, Henry J. Koch, Mrs. Mary Tusha, Andy Anderson, Mrs. Rebecca

Miller, Gene Sundin, Greenfield. In 1970 Bruce Hoff leased the building and it is known as the Royal Cafe.

It was in 1922 that Edgar J. Stearns decided to open a lumber yard in Corvuso, Cosmos and Lake Lillian. To insure being first at Cosmos, he hired Henry Koch, Sr. and some other local farmers to bring material from their Hector yard. Mr. Stearns rented the site now occupied by the Legion Building and Walter Schmidt of Gibbon was first operator of this yard.

Later when the town site was established, Steans purchased the property along the railroad track for the lumber yard. Elmer Lundstrom was the second operator of the yard and Frank Marx the third operator.

Colonel L.E. Streater of Spring Park also decided to build a lumber yard at Cosmos and Lake Lillian. The one in Cosmos was built across the street from Stearns.

The lumber business became very highly competitive.

In the fall of 1923 Harry Swanson became manager of the Streater Lumber yard.



Grand Opening of Stearns Lumber Co. in June, 1932. When they started selling paint and builders hardware. Fred Zrust was manager.

It was decided to have one lumber yard in Cosmos and Stearns Lumber took over the Streater Lumber Yard in 1929. In 1930 Fred Zrust became manager of this yard for Stearns and in 1958 Mr. Zrust bought the yard from Stearns. Mr. R.C. Matthews bought the yard for storage purposes in 1968.

At one time, there was the thought that the main part of the town would be located further north than its present site; and with that thought, Cosmos was to have a glass

business block on what is now a residential district north of the track on the west side of the street where Charles Porath's home is now.

In May of 1922, Cosmos welcomed a Harness Shop and Shoe repair shop opened up by Herbert Schiro and Arthur A. Flemming as partners. This building was the former Lindwall Shoe Store and moved ½ block south on the east side of the street before Schiro-Flemming went into business. Mr. Flemming remained in the partnership for eleven years.



One of the early Cosmos business men, Herbert Schiro. At his work in his shoe shop.



GRAND OPENING — Albert Jordin, Sr. and Leonard Svien.

Mr. Schiro recalls there were times when they had 500 sets of harnesses in the shop for repair during the winter months.

Prior to going into the Harness Shop and Shoe Repair Shop Mr. Schiro was in the restaurant business and this was in the early years of Cosmos and the town had a population of nine with the following business places, General Store, Pool Hall, Shoe Shop, Produce Station, Blacksmith, Hackbarth's Garage and the Creamery.

Mr. Leonard Svien opened up a clothing store in the front part of the Shoe Shop in 1966 and continued for a few years. Mr. Schiro continued in the shoe and harness repair work, retiring in 1972.

Cosmos continued to grow and new business places came up. Mr. J. M. Lietzau built a new business place in the south part part of town around this time in 1922 and in this building Herman Schramm had a grocery and dry goods store. Later Ed Paul operated a tavern in the building. Others having businesses in the building were John Lund-a restaurant, Mrs. Al Hammerstrom-a dress shop. Mrs. Mary Tusha had a restaurant for awhile and in 1954 Mrs. Laurane Anderson took over the place and had "The Diner". In 1961 Paul Palmer went into the restaurant business followed by Mr. and Mrs. Gus Larson taking over in 1965. They continued in business a few years and in 1971 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jacobson took over the business and building and it is known as the "Silver Star Cafe".

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

In 1922 many Lutherans in the Cosmos area felt a need for a church to be built in the town. Pastor Krull, who was serving in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hector, agreed to start services in Cosmos and conducted the first service on the first Sunday in Advent in 1922 in the old hall which is now Cosmos Pharmacy.



Peace Lutheran Church on Main Street.

A constitution was drawn up and signed by Charter Members: Berthold Dummer, Albert Flemming, Sr., Carl Reinke, Albert Lietzau, Arthur A. Flemming, Fred Hasse, Henry Buck, Ferdinand Schiro, Henry Koch, Sr., Michael Koch, Herbert L. Schiro, E.H. Maag,Albert Klemp, Alfred Olsen, Otto E. Reinke, Henry Martin, Carl Soltau, Paul Boettcher, Carl Zemke, Henry Schiro, Wm. Geier, Wm. Zemke and Ernest Soltau.

Albert Lietzau offered the congregation two lots and also a plot of land for a cemetery. On November 25, 1923 just a year after the first service held in Cosmos, the new church building was dedicated.

Henry Koch, Sr. was the first janitor and Mrs. Berthold Dummer was the first organist. They both served ten years, without pay.

The congregation continued to grow, and in 1956 it was voted to build a new church. The congregation bought 5.4 acres of land. The corner stone for the new church was laid September 11, 1957; and the dedication for the new church was held on April 13, 1958.



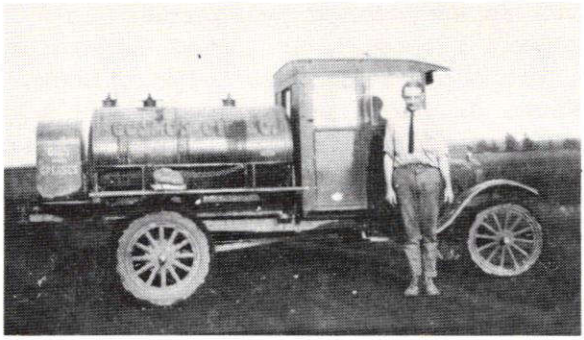
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH dedicated in 1958

With the continued growth in the congregation, there is a proposed addition to the west side of the church. Three sons of the congregation, Robert Bipes, Ronald Koch and Duane Kamrath have been ordained into the Christian Ministry. In 1973 the congregation observed their 50th Anniversary and Rev. Ronald J. Freimark serves the congregation.

The old church was sold to Marvin Koerschen for a Memorial Chapel.

NEW BUSINESS PLACES CONTINUE TO MOVE IN

Around 1922, the Cosmos Oil Company was built on the west side of the street near where Phillips 66 Station is located and was owned and built by E. H. Maag.

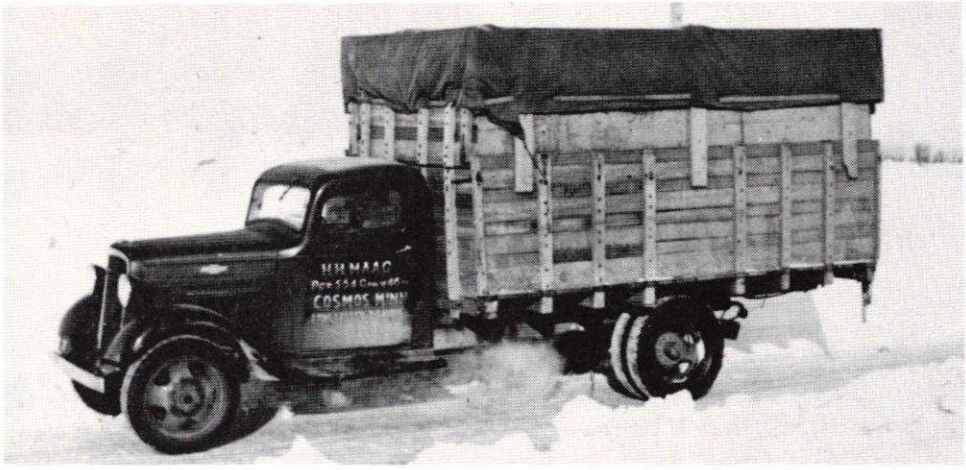


Herbert Maag with his Model T ford truck. He worked for Cosmos Oil Co. Ed Maag was owner. Taken in 1926.

In 1923 Herbert Maag came to Cosmos and engaged in hauling gasoline and oils as an employee of the Cosmos Oil Company. In 1926 he purchased one truck and engaged in local hauling and by 1927 was hauling livestock to the South St. Paul Market.

During these years there was an increase in business and the business required two trucks. He had the best assembled trucking station in Central Minnesota. At this time in 1942 it was said Maag Livestock Transfer represents the largest units in stock hauling in Meeker and adjoining counties.

The shipments for 1941 were: 9,163 hogs gross weight 2,037,970 lbs.; 733 cattle, gross weight, 631,325 lbs.; 556 calves, gross weight, 83,885 lbs.; 117 sheep, gross weight, 9,750 lbs.



Herbert Maag's truck used to pick up live stock and a larger one was used to haul to South St. Paul. If the roads were bad, the small truck was used to haul. This was taken in 1937.

Mr. Maag also purchased stock outright and did custom hauling on commission basis.

The Maag transfer was taken over by Kermit Maher and by Herbert Maag again and then for a short time by Harold Blackwell and Tom Samson. In June of 1951 Lowell Benson took

over the business and is owner and operator of the Cosmos Transfer.



Lowell Benson with his Cosmos Transfer truck in 1953. Cosmos elevator in the background before the bins were built.

In 1923 the new large C.J. Larson General Store was completed and built where the First State Bank of Cosmos had been located before moving across the street. The store became known as the "Larson's Store." It was April 26, 1924 that the Post Office was moved to the Village of Cosmos and established in the Larson's Store and C. J. Larson became postmaster, a position he held for 30 years.



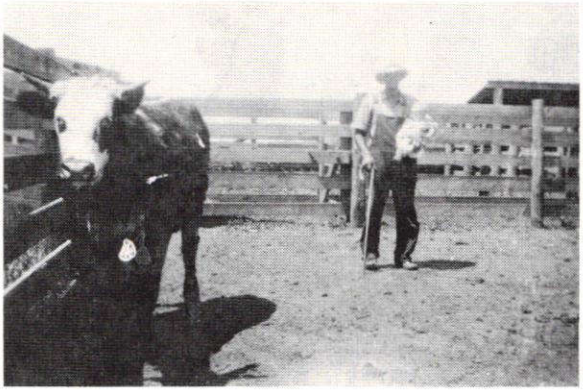
Charles J. Larson retiring as Postmaster in 1953. With Edythe Olson, clerk; Dorin Anderson taking over as Postmaster - and the postal inspector to the extreme right. The post office was in the Larson-Peterson Store at this time.

The rural free delivery service was transferred from Brookfield to the Cosmos office serving a route of 28½ miles and 90 families.

In 1947 the store became known as the Larson and Peterson Store when Stanley Peterson bought half interest in the business.

In 1973 the Larson and Peterson store was sold to William and Morna Sathre and is now the Sathres' Market.

After the railroad came through Cosmos, the Shipping Association was organized in 1924 with Michael Koch as the first manager followed by Roy Olson and later by Saben Peterson. The stock yards were located West of the Cosmos Elevator.



Cosmos Stockyard - located west of the elevator. - taken in 1931. In the picture is Soben Peterson, Manager holding his son Milton. Shipping was one day a week with sometimtes as many as four cars of cattle and hog shipped. Shippin by rail in those days was big business.

The story was told that a farmer shipped 8 sheep and when he got the returns he owed the railroad 88¢. There were days that there wasn't any profit.

Walter Reinke opened up a produce in 1923 on the west side of the street in the south part of town. He continued in this business for about eight years.

Carl Hoecke then went into the grocery business in this building and operated a store for a few years.

Miss DeLores Anderson - now Mrs. Milton Bakke opened up the first Beauty Shop in Cosmos in this building in 1942. The Shop was in this building until 1947 when the shop was relocated in an addition to her folks home, the Albert O. Andersons and then later in 1965 to her own home, the present location.

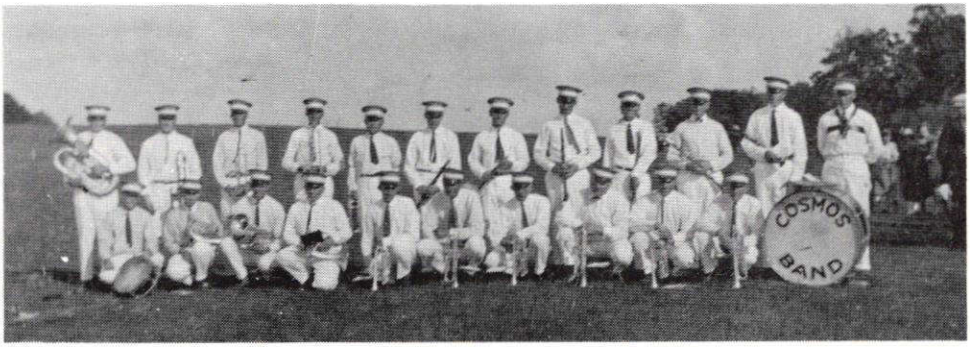
Following the moving of the beauty shop a plumbing business was opened up in the building by Duane Bomstad in the late 1940's.

In 1951, Cosmos welcomed their first bakery that opened up in this building. Maynard Rennecke was baker and manager of this new business.

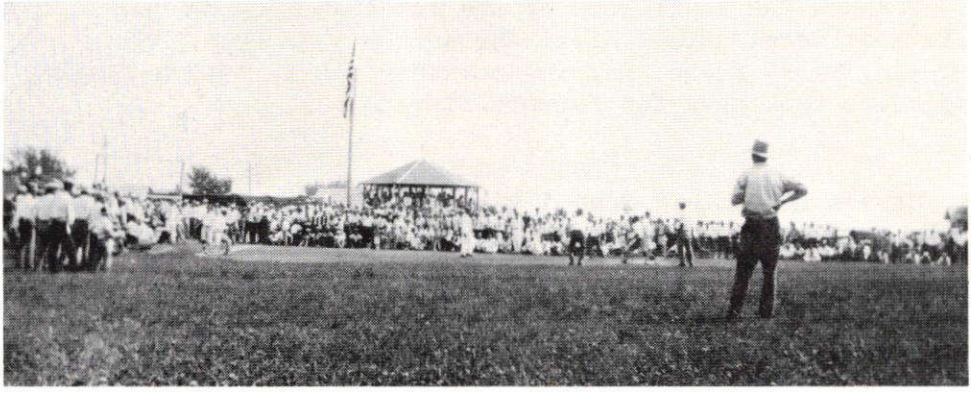
COSMOS BAND

Cosmos was very fortunate back in the early days to have a band made up of about 30 Cosmos young men. The band was organized in 1923 by Ernest Grussendorf and J. M. Lietzau. The director was Herbert Burke. The band was self supporting. The band concerts were a main attraction playing on Saturday nights on the Creamery lawn. The band continued

til 1942 when the band was disbanded when many of the young men went into service during World War II. The money in the band treasury was turned over to the Cosmos Band and the instruments turned over to the Cosmos School.



The Cosmos Band in 1925. Band concerts on the creamery lawn were always enjoyed.



Cosmos band picnic in the days after the band was organized. Notice the nice big band stand that was moveable.



Cosmos Band in 1942 in a parade.

GROWTH CONTINUES AFTER RAILROAD CAME

The Penn American Oil Co. had a bulk station built in 1923 after the railroad came in. It was north of the Stearns Lumber Yard, now what is a residential area about where the Clarence Lietzau home is located. Bill Nelson operated the bulk station until 1929, then Shell Oil bought the plant and George Davis operated the station. After some years this ceased to operate.

Just north of the Penn American Oil Bulk Station, Hugo Boetcher had a black smith shop. That was built in 1923.

In the early 1920's, Cosmos business district got its first Elevator, built by Hoppenstedt brothers, Fred and William. The first elevator burned down, but soon was rebuilt by the Hoppenstedt men.

Previous to the development of the dairy and poultry industries in the Community, the marketing of grain was the main source of income to the farmer and helped to a large degree the commercial and financial growth of the town.

Through the years some of the men that were in the elevator were Bunyan, Alvin Abrahamson, Rasmuson, John Larson, Harry Keene, Marvin Koerschen and in 1957 Roland C. Matthews took over the Farmers Elevator Co. Inc.

COSMOS SCHOOL

Cosmos Elementary School District #93 was organized October 3, 1923. Officers were: Clerk, Mrs. C. J. Larson; Treasurer, Roy Olson; Chairman, Clarence Paulson. A two room school was built in 1924.



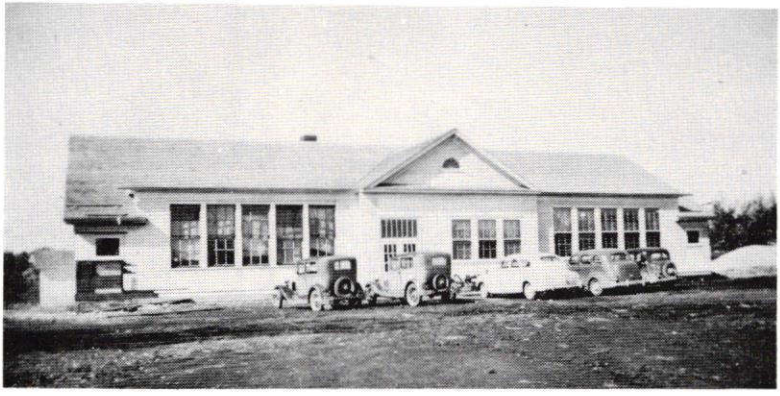
FIRST COSMOS SCHOOL

In 1940 the Cosmos village population was increasing so rapidly that additional class rooms were needed to meet the educational needs of the community. It was decided to build an addition to the existing structure and through their effort they received a Federal grant of $500.00 toward the ex-

pense of construction.

The building was ready for occupancy in 1941.

The ground floor had four available school rooms, three of which were used at this time with an enrollment of 78 pupils. Each room had an individual library and cloak room and there was a general library.



Cosmos Elementary School after the addition in 1941.

The basement had a furnace room, mechanical arts room and a domestic science room electrically equipped with built in cabinets. The beautifully finished knotty pine auditorium was 40x52, had a seating capacity of 300 and was equipped with stage, dressing room, ticket booth and check room and served as a Community Center.

The Cosmos school at this time excelled in its furnishing and appointments all other school structures in the entire county except in villages that maintained a high school. This school was used til 1956.

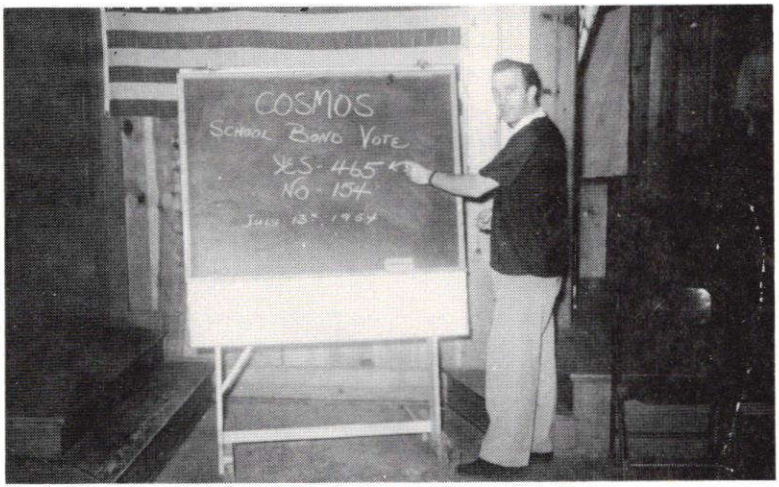
In the spring of 1952 a delegation of rural and urban people called Supt. Knutson of Danube on the possibilities of organizing a new school in the Cosmos area.

Meetings were sponsored by the Cosmos Commercial Club with Mr. Knutson as speaker. The people of the area in August of 1953 requested the county superintendent to call an election of rural districts on consolidation. Voters approved the merger by a vote of 293 to 107 on August 29, 1953.

July, 1954 a bond issue was presented to voters in the amount of $560,000. and carried by a margin of 465 to 154.

After nearly twenty months of construction, the new Cosmos Elementary and High School was built. J. M. Lietzau, Dr. Russel Backe, and Fred Hesser of Cosmos and members from each district that worked for the new school saw this become a reality when it was dedicated in August, 1956 and school opened September 4, 1956.

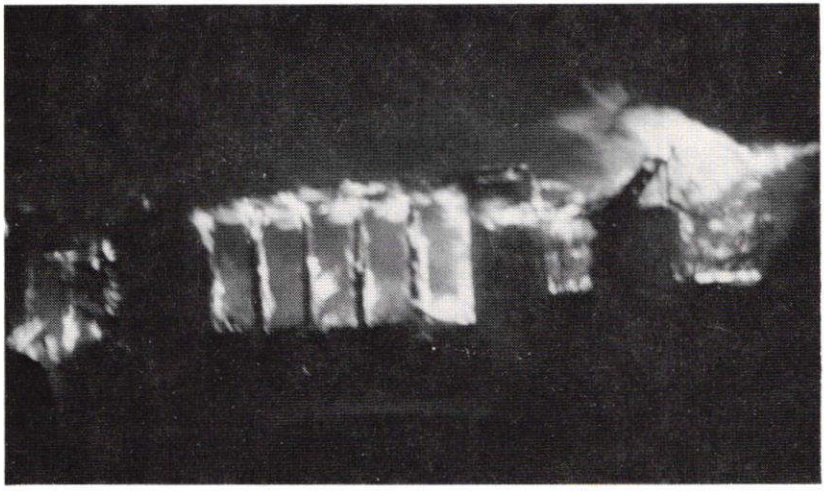
The building at this time consisted of six elementary classrooms with a capacity of 200 students.



Dr. Russel Backe with the results of the bond issue for the building of a Cosmos Elementary High School, 1954.

The secondary area was a 6 year high school with a capacity of 300 students.

Band and athletics were offered at this time with the regular school courses.



The PolyLite Plant which was in the Old Cosmos Elementary School burned to the ground 1963

The Board of Education members at this time were: Chairman, Russel J. Backe; Severin Olson, Arnold Adams, Wesley Youngblom, Melvin Bipes, Emanuel Jensen and Stanley Mortenson. Superintendent of School was K.B. Knutson.

The first football game played on a local field was won over Big Lake with a score of 19-6. The business places closed to attend this big event.

Since the school has been built, the school has had several new additions. In 1964 the school had a large Elementary School addition added.

The Board of Education members at this time were Arnold Adams, Marvin Hackbarth, Herman Raske, Merrill Flemming, Loren Pearson and Earl Koeberl. Superintendent of School was Gale G. Lennon.

A bus garage was added in 1966 and with the increasing number of musicians, a band room was added in 1973. A tutors Special Education room was added to the school in 1975.

The Board of Education at the present time is Dale Anderson, Myron Reinke, Ronald Park, Earl Raske, Marvin Hackbarth and Robert Tharp. Superintendent of School is Lynn Townsend.

COSMOS INCORPORATED

The original townsite consisted of four blocks and undivided Out Lot C. The plat was filed January 31, 1923 and the survey was made by Sven A. Vaule. The town was laid out by Harry Hart, August 29, 1923 and the engineer was T. S. Herverdine of Olivia.

From records back fifty three years ago, lots in this new Luce line town were sold at an auction and there was much interest. H. F. Hort was the seller and lots sold from $75.00 up to almost $500 and he had sold about $20,000 worth of lots up to that time.

When Cosmos was laid out, plans were made for the beautiful wide Main Street that Cosmos is known for.

The original townsite was increased by the following additions, Larson's First, Anderson's Addition, and Rearrangements of Out Lot A, Lietzau's First, Lietzau's Summit, Nelson's First and Nelson's Sub-division of Section 21.

During these early years the village had a slow but steady growth and it was September 24, 1926 that the present village was incorporated. Ernest Grussendorf, J.M. Lietzau and Albert Anderson were the promoters for incorporating the village. The first Mayor was Arthur W. Johnson.

The years of the 1920's saw several business places added to the business district. In 1924 Harry Strom built what is now the Turner Radio & TV Shop. Through the past years many different operators have had business here. Ed Koenig had an IGA Store, Leonard Svien, an IGA Grocery Store; Elsie Maag had a grocery store and Mr. Gilberts a grocery store and Ray Erickson Store and an IGA Store.

In the later years there was a restaurant in the building with Herman Boetcher, Jack Porath, Bud Harris, Lyle Thomas, Clifford Mortenson, Elva Meyer, Archie Ditters, Ken McDonalds, Nick Theis and Alfred Gorrs and others as operators at different times. In 1973 Maurice Turner moved into the building and this is the Turner Radio & TV Shop at the present time.



Clerks in Leonard Sviens IGA store in 1943. A Ryan girl, Ardell Schiro Johnson, and Lou Ella Flemming Benson.

In 1924 Julius Jacobson built a restaurant and he and his wife operated this for several years followed by Lawrence Thurston and Hugo Boetcher. In the fall of 1937 Elmer Holmquist and Abel Oman took over the restaurant business and at that time a complete meal cost 35¢. A ham, beef or pork sandwich was 10¢. In the fall of 1940, Herman Boetcher went into the restaurant business taking over from Holmquist and Oman. After some years Wesley Grussendorf opened up a Gamble store January 1, 1940 in the building, taking over the business from Wallace Mortenson and Donald Grussendorf who operated the business in another building. After several years of operations, Wesley Grussendorf sold out to Verne Fredin on November 11, 1949. After 25 years of operation Vern sold out to Stanley Koch in March, 1974 and this is the Cosmos Hardware and Supply.

The International Implement Building was built in 1924



Hackbarth's International Inplement with gas pumps.

by Emil Hackbarth. At this time the highest price tractor sold for $680.00. Also, this same year, Hackbarth put in the first gasoline pump in Cosmos and gas sold for 22¢ a gallon.

In 1946, Marvin Hackbarth and Bernard Arnold bought out the International Implement Business from Emil Hackbarth and the business became known as the Cosmos Implement. In 1951 Marvin Hackbarth bought out Bernard Arnold's interest and the business is known as Hackbarth Implement Co.



This is the Emil Hackbarth Implement September 1941. Notice the pot belly stove. Bernard Arnold is behind the counter.

Two brothers, Arthur and Lewis Johnson in 1924 built the present K.F. Garage and operated that for several years. Around 1930 a bowling alley was built in the north side of the building and was in existence for 2-3 years and operated by Albert Wooley, Sr. Around this time Carl Ulrich was in the garage followed by Emery Phillips. In 1950 Lyle Petersdorf became owner of the building and in 1951 Orton Melberg joined in the garage business until 1964. Lyle Petersdorf sold his interest to his partner and in 1969 Darrel Ketcham became owner-operator of the K.F. Service Garage. Lyle Petersdorf operates "Lyle's Repair" in Cosmos.

A new business place was built on the west side of the street in the south part of the village in 1925 by Henry Gutzke. In here Andrew B. Nelson had a Meat Market, followed by Carl Soltau.

In the fall of 1931 Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Broderius started the Rainbow Hatchery in this building and engaged in the poultry business. They started with a 16,000 egg capacity incubator and centered their efforts in raising the very

best strain of white leghorns. They met with marked success and by 1933 they added a unit of 35,000 capacity and in 1937 a 16,000 unit. From February to July 1, 170,000 chicks and 30,000 turkey poults were hatched. The breeding stock was secured from an Ohio breeder and the initial stock was from the best English strain.

The Rainbow plant was a state accredited hatchery. There was a great demand for the hatchings in Meeker and surrounding counties.

The Hatchery ceased to operate some years ago and in 1956 Maurice Turner opened a Radio & TV repair shop in the building.

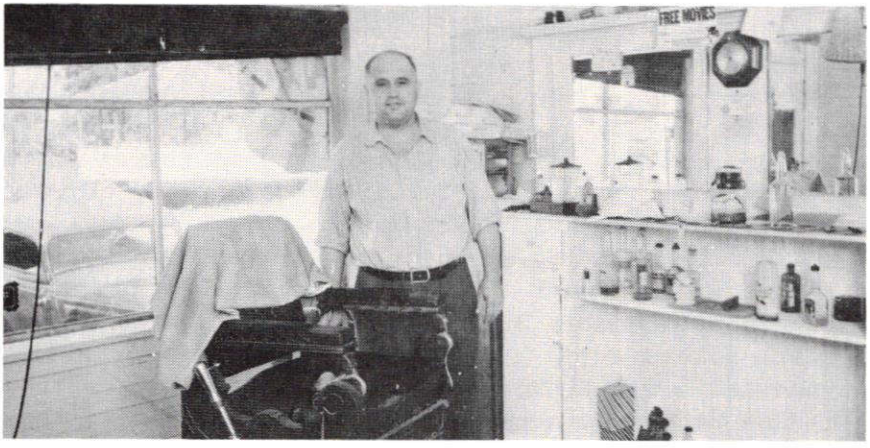
Following, Dr. David Allison and Dr. Gregory Olson had their office in the building, moving from their former office above the drug store. The doctors had their office here until the early part of 1976 when this was discontinued.

In July of 1963, Cosmos welcomed a new business, the Kemco Specialties, with Sherrill Koch as head of this manufacturing company, and this opened in the basement of this building, the Turner Radio & TV Repair Shop.

This chemical company manufactured Kemco Bowl Cleaners, Kemco Liquid Detergent, Kemco Liquid Car Wash, Klear Spray Glass Cleaner. All products of Kemco Specialties, Inc. were original formulas devised by Koch and manufactured in the place of business.

This business moved later across the street. The building now has living quarters in it.

The year 1926 saw a new barber shop built by Albert O. Anderson. Mr. Anderson was in the barbering business until 1950 when Vern Soltau took over the shop. He continued in the business for 11 years and in 1961 Paul Peterson became barber and is in the barbering business at the present time.



Albert O. Anderson in his barber shop in the late 1930's. Note the band stand across the street.

COSMOS FIRE DEPARTMENT

At the April 16, 1927 Council Meeting, the matter of purchasing a site for a fire hall was discussed and the offer of Albert Lietzau was accepted for the sum of $100.00.

On May 5, 1927, the bid from Lester Wall to build the fire hall was accepted for the sum of $1,490.00.

A volunteer fire department was organized, December 14, 1927 with 18 members and Ernest Grussendorf as fire chief. The equipment consisted of a combination International truck with hooks, ladders, chemical and water tank, and pump purchased in 1930 in cooperation with the town.

This station was sold to the Hector Telephone Company in 1953 for $1,000. The building is being used by the Continental Telephone Co.

The present fire hall was bought by the village in 1953 and was the former Anderson-Wothe garage. An addition was added on to the fire hall in 1958 at a cost of $7,360.00.



COSMOS FIRE DEPARTMENT in 1957

Front row - left to right; Doran Anderson, Richard Mortensen, Wyman Lundstrom, Robert Erickson, Merrill Meyer, Elmer Retzlaff, Erwin Hukreide. *Second row;* Harold Hesser, Bud Harris, Herbert Schiro, Lyle Perersdorf, Harold Minnick, Sr., Martin Kutzke, Marvin Koerschen. *Back row;* Glarence Geier, Sr., Walter Reinke, Floyd Murray, Delano Lietzau, Donald Zrust, Clifford Olson, and Vern Fredin.

Through the passing years, new equipment has been added and in 1956 an ambulance was purchased after a fire necessitated the use of an ambulance. There are eleven volunteer qualified EMT (Emergency Medical Technicians) ambulance personal, with Harold Hesser as Ambulance Squad Captain. Merle Olson is Fire Chief and Tom Smith, Assistant Chief, assisted by about 21 other volunteer firemen. Herb Schiro and Robert Erickson are charter members of the fire department and are honorary members.

After the town was incorporated from early records from the Village Council meeting of November 18, 1926 a petition was presented to the Council to enact a rule forbidding children under the age of 16 years on the streets or in any

business places of the Village, unaccompanied by their parents, after 8 p.m. until May 1, 1927 and thereafter until October 1, 1927 after 9 p.m. The petition was granted and the constable to put the rule in force.

At this same meeting, the Council was to make a survey of the business section and designate the location for necessary lights and to proceed with erecting these lights.

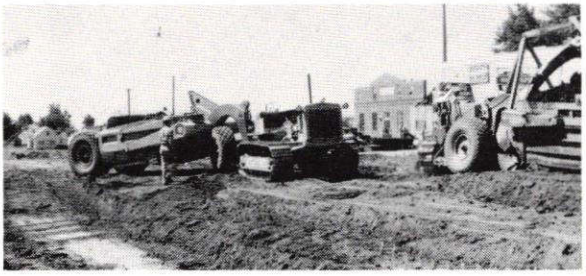
Council members at this time in 1926 were A.W. Johnson, President; H. L. Swanson, Clerk; H. A. Schramm, E. A. Hackbarth and Arthur Flemming, Trustees.

At the February 10, 1927 Council meeting a fire bell was voted upon, the purchase price $45.00.

The December 2, 1927 Council Meeting, H. L. Schiro was engaged to attend and keep fire in the fire hall for the sum of $2.00 per week during winter months as long as it was necessary to have heat.

At this time in the 1920's, in addition to the railway transportation, there were two state highways, Number 4 going North and South and Number 7 going East and West furnishing connections with trunk highways. Cosmos also at this time had telephone connections through Grove City and Hector exchanges.

Not only were business places added to the business district, but many new homes in the residential area were being built at this time.



Highway No. 4 rebuilt through Main Street, Cosmos in 1950's.



Road construction in the early 1950's in front of the Larson and Peterson Store. Notice the height of the sidewalk. In front is Mrs. Edward Olson with daughter, Nancy, C.J. Larson, Mollie Albrecht in the doorway and the man on the right is unknown.

AMERICAN LEGION AND LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Beack Thompson Post 126 was organized in 1926 with 13 members: Commander, Alvin Gunderson and Adjutant, Albert Anderson.

From the early records of the Post, they met every month with the exception of July and August, and the meetings were held the first Thursday of each month in the school auditorium. Some of the activities the Post took part in the first years were the repair of the village hall, post financed Junior and Adult ball games, Post and Ladies Auxiliary outline and charge of Memorial and Armistice Day celebrations. The Post also had charge of decorating graves of the Soldiers of the Civil, Spanish, World Wars in the following cemeteries: Spring Grove, Cedar Mills, First Lutheran Cemetery of Cosmos, Brookfield Lutheran Cemetery, and Peace Lutheran Cemetery.

The past years the Legion has grown considerably and has given generously to local and state organizations. They have given to the Cosmos Summer Recreation program, hired managers for Legion baseball, sponsored a Boy for Boys State, remember veterans at Christmas time, purcased American flag for Cosmos library, give two American flags at Cosmos Space Festival drawings, support the Cancer Society, made and installed scoreboard for softball field, donate to Red Wing Training School for boys, purchased a Bicentennial sign for Cosmos, help sponsor a fishing trip for veterans at St. Cloud Hospital, gave donation to a needy family, and gave American Flag and material for lights for Cosmos Park to fly flags day and night and remember servicemen and women in the service at Christmas time. Officers for 1975-76 are Commander, Willard Arndt; First Vice Commander, Paul Lux; Second Vice Commander, Ralph Inselmann; Adjutant, Clarence Geier, Sr.; Chaplain, Ronald Mortenson; Treasurer, Dorin Anderson; and Sgt. of Arms, Harvey Picha.

LADIES AUXILIARY OF BEACK THOMPSON POST

The Ladies Auxiliary of Beack Thompson American Legion Post 126 was organized July 11, 1928 with 14 members. The officers elected were: President, Mrs. E. Y. Koenig; First Vice President, Mrs. Lewis Johnson; Second Vice President, Mrs. Mary Meyer; Treasurer, Effie Meyers; Chaplain, Mrs. E. H. Maag; Sgt. at Arms, Mrs. Alvin Gunderson; Historian, Mrs. W. Lietzau; Chairman of Committees: Rehabilitation, Mrs. Mary Meyer; Membership, Mrs. H. Boetcher; Music, Mrs. Alvin Gunderson and Effie Meyer.

The officers were installed by Mrs. S.B. Keen, District President of Olivia, Minnesota on July 27, 1928.

The Legion Auxiliary, like the Legion, during their early

years was very active in patriotic and civic affairs, and had performed various charitable services and also had helped in shaping and conducting the Memorial and Armistice Day programs.



Mrs. Mary Meyer on her 90th birhtday. Mrs. Meyer was a charter member of the Legion Auxiliary of Cosmos and second vice-president of the newly organized Auxiliary.

By 1942, the Auxiliary membership had increased to eighteen.

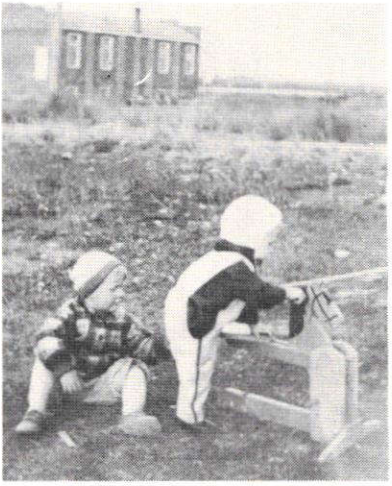
Some of many projects that the Cosmos Legion Auxiliary helps with are: gives to the American Cancer Society, gives money to the $ bill shower for veterans, gives money for gifts for veterans gift shop, give gifts each year to men in service, donates to Redby Indian Mission, makes robes and bibs for veterans in the hospital, gives gifts to needy in the community at Christmas, sponsors parties at the nursing home. These are a few of the many worthwhile projects done for veterans and the local community.

The officers for 1975-76 were: President, Mrs. Levi Lietzau; First Vice President, Mrs. Alice Anderson; Second Vice President, Mrs. Richard Mortenson; Secretary, Mrs. Willard Arndt; Treasurer, Mrs. Gordon Johnson; Sgt. at Arms, Mrs. Dorin Anderson; Chaplain, Mrs. Glarence Geier, Sr.; Historian, Mrs. Milan Retzlaff.

Around 1926, the Cosmos Town Hall was built by the town, with Adolph Holmgren the contractor. This was a place of much entertainment, dances, the talking movie, parties, socials and town board meeting.

To initiate the new Town Hall, a grand opening was held with a dance with people coming from far and near and the receipts that night almost paid for half the hall. The hall was taken down in the late 1940's.

Holm Brothers joined the business district of Cosmos in 1928 when they took over the first store in Cosmos, which was now a hardware store from Charles J. Larson. William Holmquist was named manager. Merrill Meyer was named man-



Cosmos Town Hall in 1935. This was taken down and was where Highway 7 went. Donald and Daryle Zrust are the two little boys.

ager some years later. Holm Brothers sold out to Leonard Svien and William Holmquist and they remained in the business for a few years and then sold out to Albert Flemming, Jr. and Wallace Mortenson. In 1951, Fred Hesser bought out the hardware and implement line and Bernard Arnold took over the implement line in 1951 and carried the Minneapolis Moline line. Fred Hesser sold the hardware store in 1962 to his son, Harold Hesser, and it is known as Hesser OK Hardware.



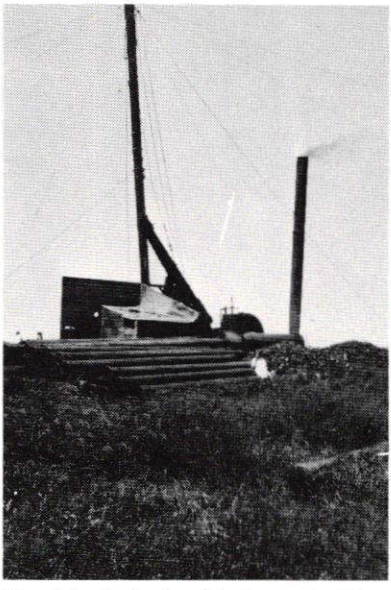
Holm Brothers store with the gas pumps - around 1933. This is now the Hesser OK Hardware.



Holm Brothers Hardware around 1939 with Lloyd Bergman, Merrill Meyer, manager, and Aretha Hogemeister Olsen.



Albert Jordin, Sr. and Bernard Arnold in the Arnold Implement Co. Jordin worked for Arnold. This was taken about 1954.



The oil rig digging for oil in Cosmos in 1929.

The year 1929 was a big year for Cosmos. Prospectors started digging for oil on the west edge of Cosmos, just south of the Cosmos Nursing Home. This was a futile attempt as far as finding oil. The tube still remains in the ground.

COSMOS 4-H ORGANIZED

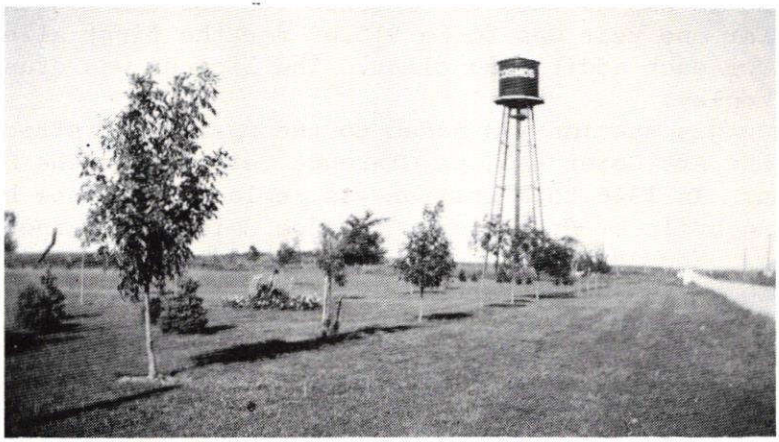
The youth of Cosmos organized the Cosmos 4-H Club in 1929 with the following officers: President, Emily Olson; Vice President, Marshall Olson; Secretary, Doris Larson; Mrs. Alice Abrahamson, local leader; Mrs. H. J. Koch, local leader; Mrs. A. G. Abrahamson, local leader and Mr. E. Holmquist, local leader. The enrollment was fourteen girls and fourteen boys.

The club disbanded after some years and reorganized in January 1958 and Cosmos Comets was the name chosen by the newly organized group with 17 members. Officers elected were: President, Cheryl Petersdorf; Vice President, Judy Podratz; Treasurer, Gary Welander; Secretary, June Frederiksen; Reporter, Nancy Olson. Leaders were, Mrs. E. J. Thomas, Mrs. Edward Olson and Mrs. W. Welander. The present officers for 1975-76 are: President, Martha Sharpe; Vice President, Gary Schmidt; Secretary, Gene Schmidt; Treasurer, Cindy Schultz; Reporter, Kevin Driver and leaders are: Mrs. Charles Sharpe, Mrs. Marvin Schiro and Mrs. Kenneth Driver.

COSMOS PARK

In 1929 during the administration of Mayor William

Holmquist, the question of establishing a village park was given consideration. The leadership in this movement was furnished by E. A. Hackbarth, Ernest Grussendorf and Wm. Holmquist. It occasioned a bitter controversy, but in the end a tract of land, five acres, block 25 and 26 were purchased from the Interurban Development Company.



Cosmos Park in 1939. Notice the only road was South of the park. No. 7 had not been built.

The park was developed and partially landscaped by W.P.A. labor in 1935. E. A. Hackbarth was in charge as Park Commissioner and took a great deal of pride in the development of the park. A 35 foot flag pole was erected in 1942 in the park.

This beautiful park that lies at the intersection of highways 4 and 7 attracts many tourists for a stopping place for picnics with a Lions' Shelter, picnic tables and amusement slides and swings.

In 1930 the census for the village of Cosmos was 279.

Social function of these years consisted of Christmas festivals, holiday celebrations, donation parties, spelling bees and meetings of the Farmers Grange.

From the minutes of the April 8, 1930 Council Meeting of the village of Cosmos, a petition for license to operate pool tables was submitted by Ernest Grussendorf. Permit and license were granted to operate four tables; the license thereon being at the rate of $5.00 per table for a period of one year beginning March 21, 1930.

THE 1930's BRING NEW BUSINESSES

Around 1931 a Phillips "66" Station was built on the east side of main street where our new Post Office is built. Harry Springer had this for a number of years followed by Albert Flemming, Jr. and Leonard Meyer, Emery Minnick and in October, 1946, Harold Minnick, Sr. started in the station.

In the January 1931 Council minutes it is recorded that three street lights be placed as follows, one at the corner of the John Anderson property, one a block west in the direction of the school house and one on Main Street South near the Fherm property.

The Council meeting of the Cosmos Village of November 14, 1933 it was decided the license fee for the Bowling Alley for one year was to be $10.00 for the first alley and $5.00 for each additional alley. The license was granted to A. E. Wooley.

A new gas station was added to the business district in 1933 when Art Geier and son Glarence Geier built the Home Oil Station. In 1946 this station was replaced by a new brick building built by Art Geier, Glarence Geier and Vernon Swigart. The station and bulk service is now owned and operated by Vernon Swigart.



Glarence Geier by the gas pump - note the price of gas, 11c per gallon plus tax. Taken around 1937. In the background is the Dvork building.

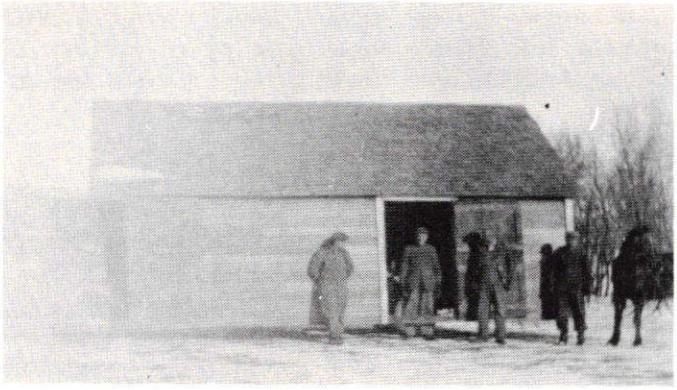
Also this same year, 1933, saw William Holmquist enter into real estate business in Cosmos.

Cosmos continued to grow with a new Lumber Yard and Hardware started by J. M. Lietzau in 1934 in the south part of Cosmos, east of Peace Lutheran Church.

With the steady growth of business and more employees, this business made a move to a much larger newly constructed building on Main Street in 1948. This building housed a grocery store, men's clothing store, hardware, lumber and machinery.

The grocery store was run by Leonard Svien, until the spring of 1950 when Marcus Larson took over and in the fall of 1950 Glenn Dahlquist bought out Larson and continued in

business until January 1963 when Mr. and Mrs. Ted Wothe took over the business and continued until October of 1973.



Jack Lietzau's first lumber yard, which was the Rosendale Methodist Horse barn that had been moved in. On the picture is Walter Reinke, Otto Reingke, Robert Lietzau and Albert Lietzau. This was taken in 1934



The lietzau Hardware and Lumber after they moved in their new building in 1948. On the picture are three generations, Albert Lietzau, Jack Lietzau, and Levi Lietzau.

Elmer Holmquist moved his clothing store to this new building in 1949. J. M. Lietzau operates the J. M. Lietzau Lumber and Hardware, Inc.

The Community Oil Co. Station was built in 1935 by Mr. Ingerson of Fairmont with Art Rykken as manager. This station was located just a little south of the new Milky Way Restaurant. In 1941 Vern Fredin was in the station for some years followed by Henry J. Koch. This building was moved to the country some time later.

In the fall of 1936, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Broderius started a most unique side line of business, when they started

their mink kennels. They started with six females and one male and by 1937 the litter was increased to thirty and by 1938 the number had increased to seventy. In the year 1938, the single domestic pelts had an average sale price of $40.00. The kennels were located in the northwest part of town which is now a residential area.

"THE COSMOS COURIER"

"The Cosmos Courier" made its first appearance June 25, 1937 and was compiled and printed in the office of the Grove City Gazette at Grove City. The Gordons were editors of this eight page paper. The staff writer for Cosmos was Miss Lavern Olson. Of interest under the locals in this paper were "The Cosmos Junior Baseball team defeated Lake Jennie, the score was 6 to 1."

"The businessmen of Cosmos have a lawn mowing party every Monday evening in the park in order to keep it in trim."

"Talking Movie to be shown - Friday, July 2 'The Fire Trap". "The local fire department will sponsor the movie in the town hall."

"This picture gives you the low down on how fire bugs and crooks work when they plot to make money by the sacrifice of human lives."

"The Fire Trap will give you an evening of entertainment you will seldom see anywhere else. And in addition, a good comedy will be shown. Both are talking pictures."

"No organization is more deserving than the firemen. So turn out and give them a good crowd. Admission is adults 25¢ and children 10¢."

In some of the ads: Holm Brothers Birthday Sale. Ironing Board-48 inch folding $1.09; House paint-5 gal. cans per gallon $1.84; 7 piece Berry Set only - - 25¢.

Peterson's Cash Market - Beef Pot Roast, per lb. 22¢; Ground beef-pure - - 20¢; Peanut butter - Swift's Best in Bulk 15¢.

Larson's Fairway Store - Kohinor flour per bag $1.98; Men's work shoes $1.98; Men's Union suits 49¢; Ladies frocks $1.09 and $1.98.

Cosmos IGA Store - Cocoa 2# box - - 13¢; Sugar 10# 53¢; Bananas per lb. 5¢.

Under the Church News Notes:

Peace Lutheran Church - "The Peace Lutheran Church will have English services at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Rev. E. J. Kaiser Pastor."

First Lutheran Church - "First Lutheran Church will have English services at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning. The Ice Cream

Social which was postponed last Friday evening will be Friday evening, June 25 at the Luther League Hall of the First Lutheran Church." Rev. G. Larson, Pastor.

Other business places carrying ads in the paper were: Service Garage; Minor Motor Co., C. A. Jacobson, Local Agent; Cosmos Harness and Shoe Shop, Herb L. Schiro, prop.; North American Cry., A. O. Olson, Prop.; Litchfield Produce; First State Bank of Cosmos; E. A. Hackbarth, McCormick Deering Dealer; Home Oil Co; Ernie's Place, Ernest D. Grussendorft, Prop.; Cosmos Inn, L. R. Thurston; The Rainbow Hatchery; Phillips Service Station, Meyer & Flemming, Prop.; Stearns Lumber Co.

It was January 14, 1938 Cosmos welcomed their first dentist, Dr. Donald Gilman and his office was above the Larson's store.

By 1938, the village had contracted for the establishment of a water works system, which was in process of being constructed under a W.P.A. project in which the government furnished $22,000 and the village an equal amount. The well had an 8" casing and was 153 feet deep.

The estimated population in 1938 was 375.

The incorporated village had an area of one square mile and embraced four sections: the SW ¼ of 15; SE ¼ of 16; NW ¼ of 22; and NE ¼ of 21.

The village officers at that time were: President, R. J. Broderius; Councilmen, H. H. Maag, Carol Ulrich and Ernest Grussendorf; Recorder, F. H. Zrust; Treasurer, H. L. Swanson and Constable, Robert E. Erickson.

The establishment of a water works system hastened the growth and development of the village and numerous residences were erected.

June 6, 1939 the Council established the water rate for a period of one year. Rate was set at $2.50 per quarter with a 50¢ discount if paid on or before the due date.

By 1940 the population had doubled from when the Minnesota Western Railroad was built in 1922. Few towns this size could boast such an up to date and extensive sewer and water system as Cosmos had just installed. The main thoroughfare was now hard surfaced and had a spacious and inviting business district. Sidewalks also at this time were being extended, giving the village an attractive appearance.

In 1940 Mr. Charley Ahlbrecht and his family came to Cosmos and started the Cosmos Apiary. When he came to Cosmos, he had a few hives and by 1942 the hives numbered 107. Each year new swarms were purchased and some from as far off as Grocerville, Arkansas. In 1941, besides comb honey, he marketed one ton of strained honey. He found a ready market for his product in Cosmos stores and neighbor-

ing villages.

In the early 1940's during the open season for pheasants and ducks, the Cosmos territory was known as hunter' paradise. Citizens opened their homes to out of county hunters at this period and extended every possible courtesy.

Around this time the village hall served as a voting center, council room and a community center for social purposes.

"COSMOS?"

In January 1940 the "Cosmos?" published by O.T. Bergstrom at Grove City made its appearance as a newspaper in Cosmos.

The "Cosmos?" had these articles of interest: "A.O. Anderson as Mayor Heads a Fine Village." "Albert O. Anderson now is mayor, having succeeded R. J. Broderius who retired at the close of his term in December. F. H. Zrust is the veteran Village Clerk, Councilmen are H. H. Maag, Ernest Grussendorf and Art Geier."

"17 New Homes Sold by Lietzau Building During 1939 around Cosmos."

"Perhaps the truest picture of Cosmos progress can be gained by a glance at the new structures that grace the surrounding territory, as well as the many new homes in Cosmos village."

"Rainbow Hatchery to Have 100,000 Volume With New Incubators."

"The Rainbow Hatchery Building is being remodeled and enlarged for installation of all new Robbins incubators with a capacity of 100,000 eggs to meet the increasing demand for Rainbow baby chicks and turkey poults."

"Win $3.00 Prize for Naming This Paper."

"As this will be a Community newspaper, devoted to the interests of Cosmos and surrounding territory, the publisher and business men who are advertisers are backing the new undertaking, wish the community to have part in naming the paper. A prize of $3.00 cash, donated by a Cosmos business man, will be given for the name selected."

Under the Cosmos Locals written by Bertha Koch was "Peace Lutheran Church held its annual meeting Thursday evening and officers elected were: Ervin Nelson, Chairman; Walter Homan, Deacon; Floyd Jacobson, Secretary; Chas. Hoecke, Treasurer; Carl W. Hoecke on Sunday School Board."

Business ads that appeared in the paper at that time were:

Meyer & Flemming Super Service
Try the Phillips "66" Twins

Holm Bros.
Minnesota Machine Line
Merrill Meyer, Mgr.

Gamble Store Agency
1940 Coronada Radios - Liberal
allowance for your old one
Mortenson & Grussendorf, Props.

Johnson Produce
Hybrid Seed Corn
Alfred O. Olson, Mgr.

Rainbow Hatchery
Chicks & Turkey Poults
Feeds for Every Need

Maag's Livestock Transfer
We buy Livestock, Monday & Thursday
Office on Main Street North of
Stearns Lumber Co.

Spud's Cafe
Where Coffee is the Best
E. M. Johnson, Prop.

E. A. Hackbarth
Mc Cormick-Deering Machinery
Special This Week
8 inch Feed Mill Bradley Make

J. M. Lietzau Lumber Co.
We are dealers in High Grade
Hardware & Western Lumber

Holmquist Remedy Company
Quality Poultry Remedies
Also handles Real Estate

C. J. Larson
General Merchandise
Special This Week
Mens 4 Buckle Overshoes All Rubber $1.98 to $2.49

Home Oil Co.
Open their doors for Direct Service
January 8, 1940
Art & Bud

Adolph Holmgren
Contractor and Builder
See me for estimates
First Class Work at
Lowest Prices

Stearns Lumber Co.
"Where the Good Grades Come from"
Put in your order for that Brooder House
F. H. Zrust, Mgr.

Community Oil Co.
Always ready to serve you when you call at our store.
Petroleum Products at very lowest prices
Art Rykken, Mgr.

Litchfield Produce
Cash Buyers of
Cream - Eggs - Poultry - Hides & Wool
H. O. Flemming, Mgr.

Enoch Peterson was granted a permit to use the M. W. Stockyards as a slaughter house if he operated under State

Board of Health rules governing slaughter houses. This was granted by the Council in March, 1940.

People hired by the year for jobs by the Council were discussed and acted upon at the January, 1941 meeting. Robert Erickson was hired for Police duty, Water system, and Park care at a salary of $235.00 per year. Mr. Emil Hackbarth was assigned Park Commissioner and Art Geier was assigned Street Commissioner.

"THE COSMOS ENTERPRISE"

In a couple years, in June 1942 "The Cosmos Enterprise", edited by Frank B. Lamson, came as a supplement to the Meeker County News.

In this paper, an article of interest is the "Community Picnics." "Cosmos has promoted each year for seventeen years without interuption, a Community Picnic gathering open to the people of Meeker and adjoining counties."

"An unusually fine program has featured these events consisting in campaign years of addresses by representatives of opposing political parties. The speakers are chosen from men of state wide reputation, candidates of all parties who attend as introduced. A band is present and there is a program of games and sports. The ladies of the Community provide lunches at reasonable prices and unobjectionable concessions are granted."

"These picnics usually occur the first Saturday and Sunday in August. They draw immense crowds, have become very popular and have been self sustaining."

Also in this paper was an article on "Free Movies Wednesday Nights." "The business interests have made arrangements whereby on each Wednesday evening free out-door movies furnish free entertainment to the people residing in the Cosmos territory. The film programs are greatly enjoyed by those in attendance. Each Wednesday night all the available parking space is utilized."

"KOCH'S TRUCKING SERVICE"

"Henry J. Koch established himself in the local and stock hauling business in March 1941, since then he has built up a successful and growing line of business. He makes regular trips to the St. Paul Stock Market and has been known to make three or more trips in a 24 hour day. On his return he hauls products for Cosmos businessmen where the demand requires speedy delivery."

"LUMBER YARDS"

"Cosmos is one of the outstanding building material markets of Central Minnesota."

"It has two outstanding lumber yards that have a trade area far in excess of the Cosmos Community. They operate under a very low overhead. Both yards have facilities to provide skilled carpenters whereby they are able to furnish interior finishings and cabinet work."

"These yards are keenly competitive and their trade area covers a radius of thirty miles."

"Both yards specialize in portable farm buildings."

"They are among the largest shippers from the Cosmos territory over the Minnesota Western Railroad."

"These two yards are among Cosmos' greatest assets."

In the Cosmos Business Directory at that time were First State Bank, J. M. Lietzau Lumber Co., Erickson I.G.A. Store, Koch's Trucking Service, Henry J. Koch; Stearns Lumber Company; Spud's Cafe, E. J. Johnson; Rainbow Hatchery; Litchfield Produce, Herman Flemming Agent; Cosmos Inn, H. G. Boetcher, prop.; Cosmos Cooperative Creamery; Holm Bros. Hardware, M. A. Meyer Mgr.; Home Oil Company, Art & Bud; Holmquist's Poultry Remedy Company, William Holmquist; The Fairway Store, C. J. Larson; Poultry Products, H. O. Flemming; Cosmos Garage, A. E. Hackbarth; Hoeckes Food Market; Ed's Tavern, Ed Paul Prop.; Daylight Tavern, Ernest Grussendorf Prop.; Cosmos Construction Co., E. H. Maag, Prop.; Phillips 66 Service Station, Meyer & Flemming; Community Oil Co., Vern Fredin, Manager; Peterson Meat Market, Enoch Peterson, Prop.; Cosmos Harness & Shoe Shop; Maag's Live Stock Transfer, Herbert H. Maag, Prop.;

Other lines of business at that time listed were: Minnesota Western Railroad, C. J. Jones, Agent; F. Hagemeister, Milk Distributor; Builder & Contractor, Adolph Holmgren, Ahlbrecht's Apiary; Dovart's Machine & Welding Shop; Olson's Blacksmith Shop; Olsen Produce Company; Anderson's Barbershop; Gamble Store; Garage; Riebe's Local Trucking Service.

From the records of the October, 1943, Council Meeting, it was decided to have a curfew at 9 o'clock for all school children unless they were with their parents. No bicycle riding on streets ro after dark without lights was allowed.

In 1944, an ordinance was adopted to discontinue having poultry or stock yards which were objectionable to Village property owners in the village.

COSMOS COMMERCIAL CLUB

Around 1946 the Cosmos Commercial Club was organized by Cosmos businessmen. This organization through the years has sponsored various activities as Corn Days and Free Monies in the years gone by, with Christmas drawing and Santa Claus day as some of their Community Projects.

Present officers are: President, Rich Jamison; Vice President, Merle Olsen; Secretary, James Christopherson; Treasurer, Jerrel Sharpe. Present projects they are sponsoring are Community benefit supper during the Space Festival and a golf tournament during the space festival.

The year 1947 brought the Holmquist Clothing Store to Cosmos that opened in the former Lietzau Barber Shop and operated by Elmer Holmquist.

ROD & GUN CLUB

The Rod & Gun Club had their first meeting February, 1948 in the Flemming Mortenson Hardware Store with Arthur A. Flemming, Wm. Schiro, Melvin(Louie) Schiro, Marshall Olson and Harris Nelson organizers. Officers elected in March were: President, Emerald Gunderson; Secretary-Treasurer, Arthur A. Flemming and Board Members Lyman Stafford, Marshall Olson, Floyd Jacobson, Melvin(Louie) Schiro, Erwin Heller, Clarence Beckstrand, George Kaddatz, Albert Flemming, Wallace Mortenson, Emery Phillips and Herman Flemming. The club disbanded in 1953 with 156 members.

The club reorganized in 1967 with the following officers: President, Delano Lietzau; Vice President, Delbert Wiederhoft; Secretary-Treasurer, Leo Plut; Directors Eldon Froehlick, Charles Lietzau, Dennis Bellig, Paul Peterson and Harold Minnick, Jr.

The present officers are: President, Louie Schiro; Vice President, Delbert Wiederhoft; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Lorayne Caawuwe and present membership is 55.

The Rod & Gun Club have donated to Rapid City flood, planted pheasants, give gun training classes, snowmobile training classes, given to the ambulance fund and also bought ambulance coats and given to other worthwhile causes in the community.

The year 1949 was a year Cosmos had substantial growth in the business district. In that year the town welcomed the new "Hub" Theatre built operated by the Hukriede brothers, Maynard and Erwin.

They continued to operate this for a time and this was taken over by Wesley Grussendorf, November 1, 1950. Mr. Grussendorf operated the theatre until March 1, 1969. The building was sold to Stanley Koch in 1971 for $143.00. Libby's Beauty Salon & Boutique is now in part of the theatre building.

Also at this time Hukriede brothers, Maynard and Erwin built a restaurant just south of the theatre. Restaurant operators there have been John Whisler, Rueben Bahr and

Wesley Grussendorf.

In 1954 the Post Office was moved into this building from the Larson and Peterson Store with Dorin W. Anderson, Postmaster.

After the post office moved to its new building in 1961, the building later was used by Mr. Sherrill Koch for Kemco Specialties. In 1971 Koch purchased the building and it is the Farm & City Laundromat.

In 1949, Stanley Koch built a furniture store just north of the theatre. Gordon and Donald Grussendorf were in the furniture business for a time. Later in 1953, Donald Grussendorf sold the building to the village. In May, 1953, it was voted at a Council meeting to set up a municipal liquor store in the building and was passed by 4 ayes and 1 nay. Only part of the building was used for this purpose. Royal Barklow was the first Manager with a salary of $250.00 a month. The liquor store was remodeled the summer of 1975 at a cost of approximately $36,000. The present manager is Tom Dege.

The vacant part of the Municipal building was leased to Jack Lawrence for the purpose of a Feed Store in 1955. He operated this to about 1958 when Donald Smith took over the business. In 1961, Donald Smith built the Cosmos Farm Supply on the north edge of town and operated the business until the spring of 1968. Kenneth Zimmerman took over the business and it was called Cosmos Farm Service. September 1, 1971, Earl Blackwell became owner and operator of the Blackwell Farm Supply.

The south part of town was progressing rapidly at this time in 1949 with the Pure Oil Station built with Don Koch as operator. Some of the other station operators were Lyle Haley in 1952 and 1953 followed by Albert Flemming, Jr. and in 1961 Arnold Lang took over the Pure Oil Service Station and it is known as Lang's Union 76 Station.

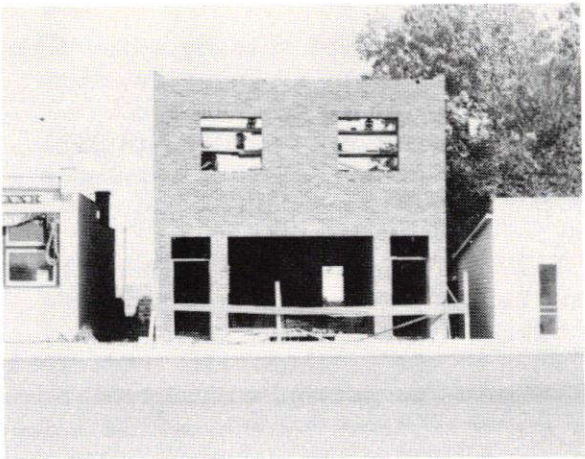
COSMOS GROWING IN THE 1950's

In 1950, the Nazarene Church was built; but this did not remain a church for long as it was in 1954 C. J. Larson bought the building and a duplex was made out of it.

The Drug Store was built in 1950, which also had office space for a Dentist Office and Doctors Office on the second floor.

The year 1950, also saw the building of a garage by Dorin Anderson and Theodore Wothe. This was located east of the First State Bank, which is now the Cosmos Library. This garage building was sold to the village in 1953 for the Cosmos Fire Hall.

Cosmos was happy to get Dr. Russel Backe in the dental



Construction of Drug Store in 1950.

office in 1951; also Dr. Sol Austrian. M.D. in the new doctors office. Dr. Ray Nyberg followed Dr. Backe as dentist and Dr. Russell Thompson followed Dr. Austrian in the medical office and remained there until the middle of 1959.

Dr. David Allison and Dr. Gregory Olson came from Litchfield and agreed to conduct an office in Cosmos part time. Their services were carried on until the first part of 1976.

The 1950's saw Cosmos continually on the move with more advancement in business.

An implement building was built in the east part of Cosmos in 1950 by Harvey Stark. In 1951 Richard Defries and Royal Barklow bought out Mr. Stark and carried a line of Massey Harris machinery. Some time later, in 1967 Johnson Hardware bought this building and operated this with a John Deere line of machinery. The building was vacant for a time and Stanley Koch purchased the building in 1973 when he used it for storage. In 1975 Pal's Discount Mark-It Warehouse opened up in it.

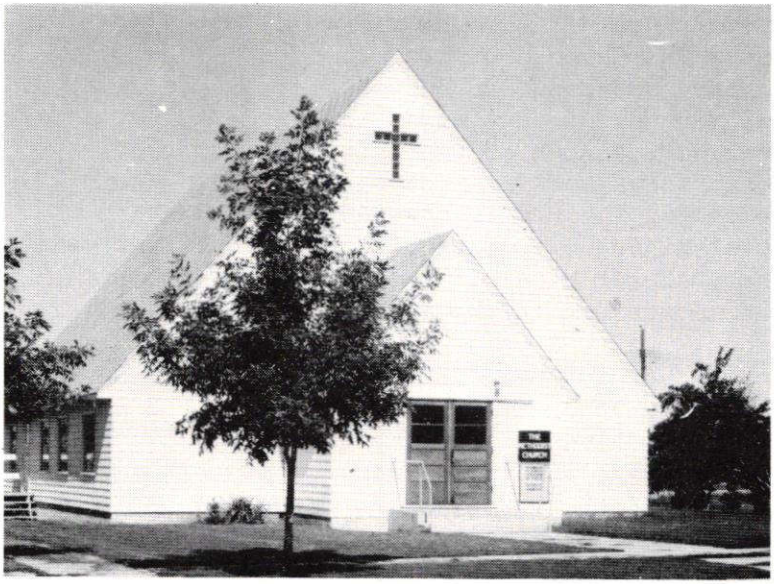
The year 1951 saw the building of the American Legion Building on Main Street with Building Committee: Albert O. Anderson, Adolph Holmgren, Wallace Mortenson and Gordon Johnson. Officers of the Legion at that time were Commander, Wallace Mortenson; Adjutant, Henry Larsen; Finance Officer, Erwin Meyer.

In 1951, Elmer Holmquist moved his Clothing Store from the Lietzau building to the main floor of the Legion building. Mr. Holmquist continued in business until 1954. After a few years Mrs. Herman Klemp operated a Variety Store in the building.

At a special meeting in 1952 by the Cosmos Council, the issue was a $6,000 Bond for street light improvements and also at Council Meetings at that time was the discussion of garbage disposal.

METHODIST CHURCH

In the summer of 1952 a group of interested persons, Vern Soltau, Richard Defries, Vern Fredin, Fred Hesser and Clair Bryant met with families in and around Cosmos to find if it were possible to establish a Methodist Church in the Cosmos Village. Rev. Russell Carr of Hutchinson helped a great deal with this.



COSMOS METHODIST CHURCH 1961

The first service was held in the drug store basement on September 14, 1952. On December 21, 1952, the articles of organization for the Cosmos Church were signed. Temporary pastors filled the pulpit for the first year.

In March 1953, the Methodist Church of Cosmos bought six lots from Mrs. Alice Broderius on Pegasus Avenue.

Charter families of the church were: Mr. and Mrs. Clair Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Defries, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Grussendorf, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hesser, Mr. and Mrs. George Mueller, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Fredin, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Grussendorf, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Herrly, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Don Koch and Mr. and Mrs. Vern Soltau.

In December, 1953, the dedication and the first service in the Cosmos Methodist Church was held with Rev. A. R. McCorkel as Pastor.

Since that time, the church has seen improvements. In November 1975, a beautifully stained glass faceted cross placed above the front door entrance was dedicated; and a full basement with kitchen facilities, dining room and Sunday School rooms was opened up. Rev. Terry Tilton has recently served the

congregation until June, 1976.

The Mortenson Construction started in business in 1953 with Lloyd Mortenson, owner.

The year 1954 saw the building of a dry cleaning building just north of the K. F. Service Garage.

"COSMOS NEWS"

For about two years a committee of Cosmos Commercial Club members worked to get a newspaper editor interested in coming to Cosmos. The members working on this were: Mayor Vern Soltau, Harry Swanson, Cashier of First State Bank; Eilert Flemming, Manager of the Cosmos Insurance Agency and Rev. A. L. Oelschlager, Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church.

The efforts of these men were realized on March 24, 1955 when Cosmos got its weekly newspaper with Richard Higgin, formerly of Minneapolis, as Editor and Publisher assisted by his father, Albert Higgin. The office and commercial printing plant was maintained in the municipally owned building on Main Street.

News at that time was "Fire threatens Business Block in Siefert's Market."

Mrs. Alfred Olsen was Society editor for the paper.

In the business ads, there were twenty-six ads: Grussendorf Furniture advertising Norge Automatic Dream Kitchen Range priced from $109.95; Norge Automatic Washer, Push Button Washer, Convention Washers priced from $99.95; Larson and Peterson Store: Sugar 10#-95¢, Lettuce-10¢, Grapefruit-10 for 39¢; Red Owl Agency: Perch fillets-1# pkg.-39¢, Brown or powdered sugar-2#-29¢, Red Owl salad dressing-quart-45¢.

Other ads appearing were: Flemming Pure Oil, Cosmos Elevator, Daylight Tavern, K. F. Service Garage, H. O. Flemming Produce, First State Bank of Cosmos, Stearns Lumber Co., Soltau's Barber Shop, Remick Drug, Cosmos Elevator, Hackbarth Implement, Gambles, Hub Theatre, Lietzau Lumber & Hardware, Cosmos Blacksmith Shop, Marces' Cleaners, Hesser Hardware, The Diner, Johnson Hardware, Cosmos Transfer, Cosmos Insurance Agency, Wm. Holmquist & Son Realtors.

The Cosmos News was later changed to Cosmos "Sun".

In August 1972, Dennis Baker became Editor-Publisher of the Cosmos Sun. The office later was moved and located in what was formerly the Schiro Shoe Shop.

Cosmos still was growing in the 1950's with new business people and business places.

Attorney Cedric Williams came to Cosmos in 1955 and his office was in the old bank building. Now, Williams is Judge for Meeker County.

The Main Street Business District got a new Phillips "66" Station on intersections Highway 7 and 4 with Harold Minnick,

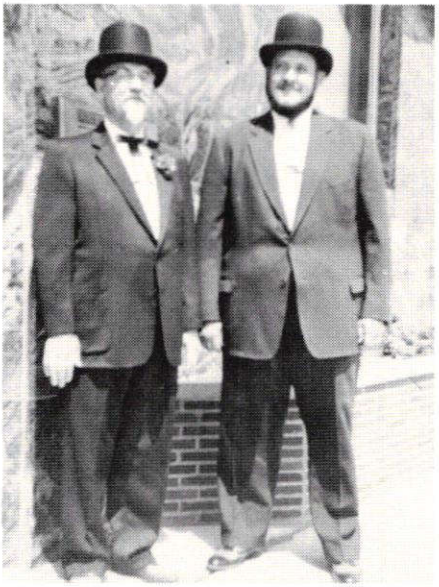
Sr. as owner and operator, built in 1956. Since 1958 Harold Minnick, Jr. has been operating the station and Harold Minnick, Sr. has the bulk truck.

Vern Haagenson became the new druggist in 1956 replacing Dan Remick.

The residential district was also enlarged with two new homes built in 1956.

Cosmos also took part in the Meeker County Centennial by taking part in the "Brothers of the Brush" with Elmer Holmquist, Glenn Dahlquist and Stanley Peterson as Committeemen; and also took part in the "Sisters of the Swish."

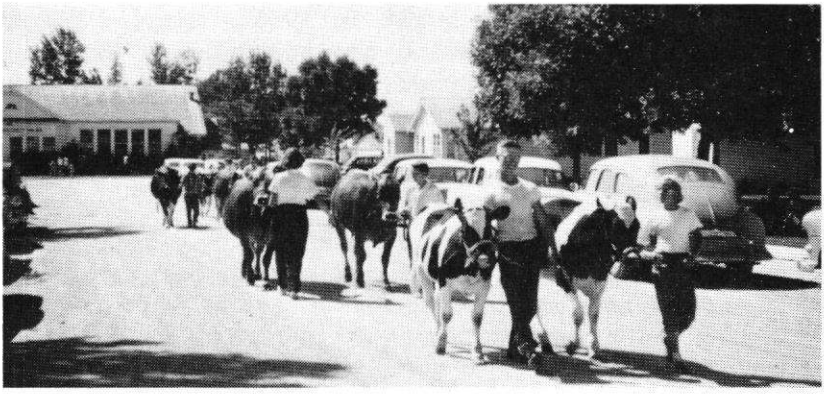
Cosmos, in 1956 hosted the Meeker County Fair in Cosmos and this was held down by the old Cosmos Elementary School.



"Brother of the Brush" for the Meeker County Centennial in 1956. Harry L. Swanson and Eilert Flemming.



Cosmos gals as "Sisters of the Swish" in 1956 as part of Meeker County Centennial. A coffee party was enjoyed one afternoon a week at various places.

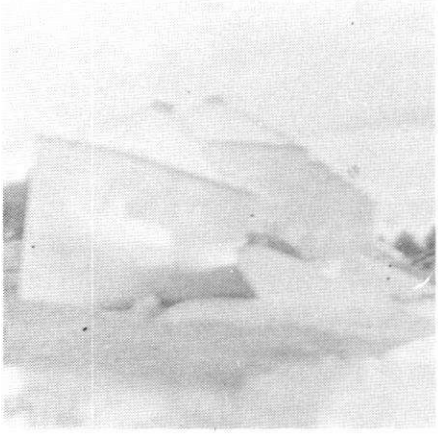


Meeker County Fair held in Cosmos, 1956. Old Cosmos elementary school in the background left.

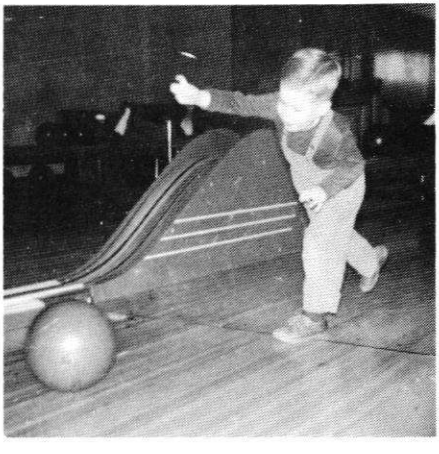
The following year, 1957, saw June floods split grain tanks, wash out railroads, and flood basements.

This same year, J.M. Lietzau was named President of the Rural Electric Association.

Otto Wilner and Charles Porath were given permission by the council in September, 1957 to go into business and build a Drive-In on the northwest corner of Highways 4 and 7.



1957 - June floods split grain bins, taken by the Cosmos elevator.



The perfect throw - David Eastman, four years old, in bowling alley in Cosmos. Taken 1961.

The bowling alley was a new attraction in Cosmos for both young and old, built in 1958 and owned and operated by the Victor Eastmans. This was a four alley lane with AMF pin spotters. This was a popular entertainment for many years.

Stanley Koch bought the building in 1971 and the Animal Fair Manufacturing plant opened in 1973 in the building. Here they made stuffed animals and employed a number of people. The plant continued to operate until December, 1975.

August 1, 1958 saw the beginning of a new business, Cosmos

Fertilizer Co., with ammonia tanks operated by James and Robert Miller. In 1962 the dry bulk fertilizer plant was built. The year 1965 saw Robert buying out James' interest and in April 1968, Robert sold out to Gulf and continued to work for Gulf until January 1970. Polar Chemical took over January 1970 and Mr. Miller continued with Polar until 1972. June of 1971, Leo Ainslie started with Polar Chemical and replaced Mr. Miller. Sales during the year of 1971 reached a quarter of a million. In 1973 Merle Olsen became manager of Polar Chemical.



STONY MOTEL in 1959

The Stony Motel was a welcome addition to Cosmos, built on the east side of town, when it was completed in 1959. The Motel, operated by the Delano Lietzaus' was a six room motel. The Motel has been remodeled since and made into apartments.

Wm. Holmquist was elected President of the State Realtors in October, 1958.

The Cosmos Liquor Store was robbed of about $1,500 in October, 1958.

The Raske Building Systems, Inc., Butler dealer for six county area, went into business in Cosmos in 1959 in the basement of the drug store.

The next decade of the 1960's saw much activity in Cosmos.

Marvin Koerschen opened up Cosmos first 20$ wash Automatic Coin Laundry in the basement of the Cosmos Chapel in 1960.

Elizabeth Degner opened a Beauty Salon in the basement of the Cosmos Chapel in September of 1960 and in January of 1963 the Salon was moved to a shop adjacent to her home. In 1971 Libby's Beauty Salon and Boutique relocated in what used to be the Hub Theatre on Main Street.

In 1960, the Cosmos Comets 4-H Club, with Mrs. Edward Olson and Mrs. Edwin Thomas as leaders, built a fireplace in the Cosmos Park.

The following year of 1961, Cosmos got their new Post

Office Building on Main Street, built where the Phillips 66 Station was originally built. Adjacent to the new Post Office Building was the new office building that Wm. Holmquist and Son, Realtors moved into in 1961.

Acting Postmasters since Dorin Anderson was Postmaster were Mrs. Elsie Katzenmeyer, Dennis Flemming, Edwin Thomas, and Mrs. Edythe Olson. The present Postmaster is Francis Wall and Mrs. Carol Lang is assistant.

January, 1961, Cosmos started being aired over KDUZ with Eilert Flemming as M.C. Forty business places sponsored this news cast. This was on the air for a short time.

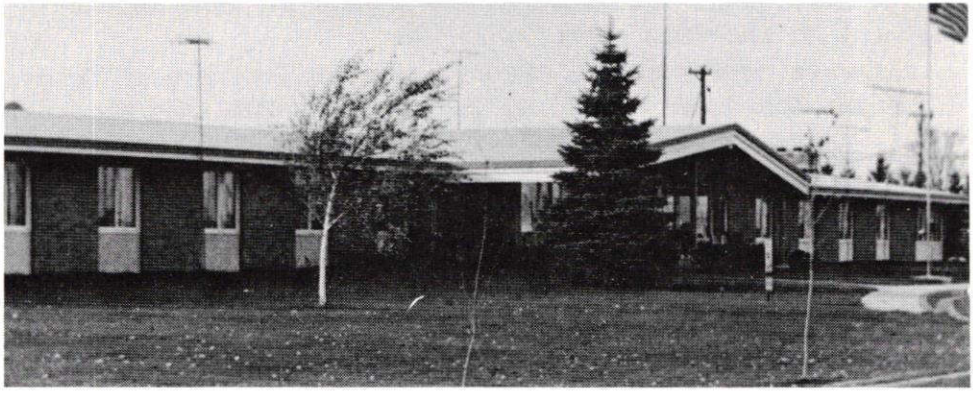
During the summer months free movies were shown in the Hub Theatre and these were sponsored by American Legion and business men.

The July of 1962, Harold Minnick, Sr. started a very interesting business raising Chinchillas. Starting with 8 chinchillas, the number increased to 300. Around 170 to 225 chinchillas were raised a year. The price of the pelts ranged from $10 to $50. Mr. Minnick continued in the business until April of 1975. During these years, the chinchillas were exhibited at many shows and the Minnicks received many awards for these beautiful animals.

The Cosmos Bakery moved into their newly constructed building in 1962, built just South of the First State Bank. Maynard Rennecke and Tom Rennecke are partners in the bakery.

COSMOS NURSING HOME

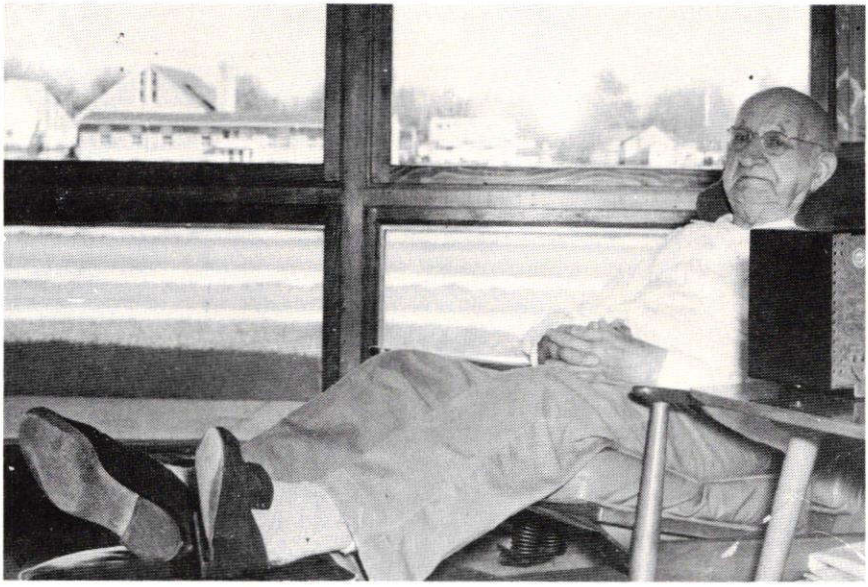
September of 1962 saw the beginning of the construction of a Nursing Home in Cosmos, which opened for occupancy in October, 1963. This is a modern 58 bed nursing home offering services ranging from minimum care to intensive nursing care. Services are under the direction of a registered nurse.



COSMOS COMMUNITY NURSING HOME

The home has been furnished and equipped with the needs of the residents in mind with wide hallways, hand rails and no steps, a cozy fireplace guest lounge and a large spacious dining room to serve the residents.

Board of Directors at the time the Nursing Home was built were: Glen Bemis, Sr., Emanuel Jensen, Stephen Spreiter, Harry Swanson, Marvin Hackbarth, Jay Beytien, Marvin Rodvik, and Janice Rodvik.



Mr. Henry Koch, Sr., 87, in the Cosmos Nursing Home. Mr. Koch was the second guest to enter the home. This picture was taken in 1963. Peace Lutheran Church seen through the window.

In April of 1972, fire threatened the Cosmos Nursing Home and fifty two patients sought refuge in the Cosmos School. An emergency field hospital was set up in the school. Fire Departments from Hector, Lake Lillian, Hutchinson, Litchfield and Cosmos were in attendance. Fortunately, the damage was minor and the residents were able to go back to their residence later in the day.

This home has been a home for many residents in their reclining years. Mr. Marvin S. Rodvik is administrator of the Nursing Home, Mrs. Muriel Nelson is the supervising nurse.

NEW BUSINESSES

Two young Cosmos men, Delano and Charles Lietzau started a new profession in Cosmos, the Lietzau Taxidermy, in 1962. This unique business is in the Lietzau Lumber and Hardware Building and is a great attraction to the Cosmos Community. Animals from all over the world are prepared and mounted at this place.

An Airport Committee started working on an airport in 1963. January, 1964 with Eilert Flemming on the committee, there was a possibility of a landing strip in the north part of town. This did not materialize.

Cosmos was very happy to have a manufacturing plant, the Poly Lite Plant open up in town in the old Cosmos Elementary School. Polyethelyne plastic packing material was manufactured here and this was in operation only a short time when it burned to the ground in 1963.

BROWNIE & JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS ORGANIZED

The Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts were organized November 23, 1964. The first meeting was held December 4, 1964 with 12 Brownies and Mrs. Lou Ella Benson as leader and Mrs. LaRae Thomas as assistant.

Mrs. Stanza Haagenson was leader and Mrs. Arlene Mortenson the assistant of the Junior Scouts with 18 members. They met once a week in the Legion Auxiliary Rooms. Mrs. Marlys Ryti was Neighborhood Chairman and helped organize the groups.

The present leaders are Mrs. Reyna Sharpe-leader and Mrs. Karen Carlson-assistant for the Brownies with 9 members.

Mrs. Elaine Ainslee is leader and Mrs. Ethel Olson is the assistant for the Junior Girl Scouts with 14 members.

LIONS CLUB

The Cosmos Lions Club was chartered June 6, 1964 with the following officers and members: President-Gale Lennon; First Vice President-George Lehmkuhl; Second Vice President-Wyman Lundstrom; Third Vice President-Martin Kutzke; Secretary-Charles Porath; Treasurer-Stephen Spreiter; Donavon Bluhm, Victor Eastman, Virgil Olson, Russell Nordine, C. L. Haagenson, Marvin Hackbarth, Charles Lietzau, R. C. Matthews, Harold Minnick, Jr., Eilert Flemming, Paul Peterson, Kenneth Raiber, Rev. Thomas Smrcka, H. L. Swanson, Cedric Williams, Jr.

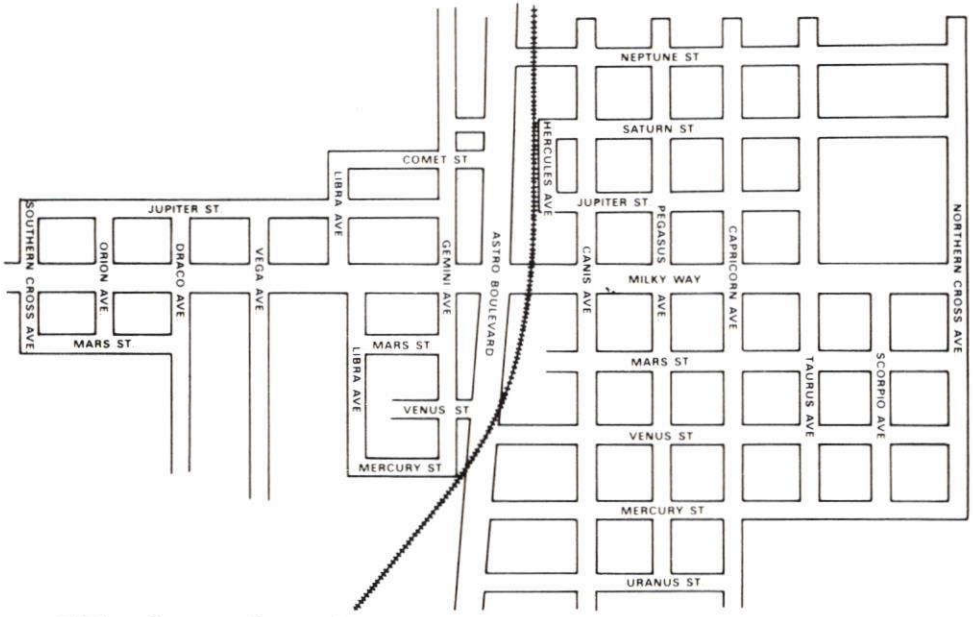
Present officers are: President-Larry Carlson; Secretary-Donavon Bluhm; Treasurer-Eilert Flemming; First Vice President -Wm. Sathre; Second Vice President-Arnold Blum; Third Vice President-Norman Johnson and Tail Twister-Bob Arndt. At the present time there are 33 members with 6 of these being charter members.

The Cosmos Lions Club have had many major projects that have been a great improvement to our Cosmos Community. Some of the projects were: construction of a shelter in the Cosmos City Park at a cost of $1,000.00, a Concession stand and tiling at the softball park at a cost of about $2,000 to the Lions and the same amount paid by the Softball Association; raised

$3,500 for the purchase of a new ambulance; cash contribution to help in erection of necessary buildings at the County Park at Lake Thompson; playground equipment in the City Park; trophies for Rocket Club at the Space Festival each year; 2 guns for children's gun training classes; pitching machine for the school at a cost of $1,030 and also giving financial support to the Minnesota Lions Eye Clinic and Hospital at the U of Minnesota for research and treatment; placed Spanish print magazines in the Cosmos School and put magazines in the Cosmos Library.

The year 1966 saw the Senior Citizens organized in Cosmos. The Golden Age had their first meeting March 21, held at the Cosmos Nursing Home with 15 present. The second meeting May 2, the following officers were elected: President-Vern Soltau; Vice President-Pearl Tiedji; Secretary-Marie Maag; Treasurer-Mrs. Walter Homan. Rev. Dominaski helped to organize the Golden Age. Present officers are: President-Mrs. Wm. Radtke; Vice President-Mrs. Martha Anderson; Secretary-Mrs. Merrill Meyer; Treasurer-Mrs. Harold Dorn. Members meet once a month in the Senior Citizens Center. Board members are Vern Fredin, Rev. Terry Tilton, Rev. R. Freimark, Mrs. Cora Anderson, Glenn Dahlquist and Wm. Radtke.

NAMING OF STREETS AND AVENUES



With the naming of Cosmos, representing the universality of created things and its synonym harmony, Rev. Thomas Smrcka, Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church suggested the town

should follow the stars and suggested calling Cosmos the center of the universe. Entering Cosmos on highways 7 or 4 you may think you are seeing a rocket blasting off, but this homemade rocket was placed on top of the water tower in 1967 which adds to the name of Cosmos. Cosmos, the center of the universe (which officially has not been proven the center), has the north and south streets named after planets and the east and west avenues after constellations. At the junction of highways 4 and 7, Milky Way and Mars, you may go down these roads and see Vega, Libra, Comet, Gemini or Pegasus in this south central city of Cosmos, which came into existence in 1870.

The Cosmos Redi Mix and Drain Tile Mfg. Co., which has been in operation for several years was taken over by Mr. Robert Berry, Sr. and Sons in 1968. During the peak seasons around fourteen men are employed at this plant.

The Cosmos Land and Development Company was organized in 1968 by a group of Cosmos men. There are eleven mobile homes in the court and the court is located where the Cosmos first Elementary School was built.

During the early years of the 1960's the special event of the summer was Corn Days held in August. The Commercial Club members served Hot Dish and Sweet Corn and the day was followed with ball games, water fights and the Saddle Club Show.

COSMOS SPACE FESTIVAL DAYS

July 20-21, 1969 marks the date of the first Cosmos Space Festival, and that coincided with the first moon walk. Each year this is an annual event and it is held to as near the original date in July of the moon walk as possible.

This is the celebration of the year in Cosmos with its parade, circus, ball games, golf tourney, outdoor Ecumenical Church Service and all the activities that go with a festival. Each year there is the crowning of "Man in the Moon" and "Little Miss Universe."

At a special meeting held in July, 1969 at the Cosmos School Cafeteria, an open hearing of the Cosmos Sewer Project was held. The estimated cost of the project was $462,000. After many meetings and much controversy the city decided to put in a sewer system. The fall of 1973 saw the completion of a new Cosmos lagoon type system at a cost of $391,355.00.

The year 1971 brought us a real Minnesota blizzard with many school children and travelers stranded in town.

Through the years, Cosmos has had its ups and downs and

has had substantial growth and 1975 has been a year of many changes.

After much work on the part of some of our local citizens, Cosmos got their first public library, which opened in February, 1975. A contest was held for naming the library and the name selected was "Cosmos Starlight Library - Satelite to Learning."

After being without a Drug Store for several years, Cosmos Pharmacy with Jim Christopherson as druggist was a welcome business on Milky Way.

Pals Discount Mark-It Warehouse opened in July to add to a new type grocery store.

The Milky Way Restaurant with the Raske Building Systems, Inc. and Real Estate in connection was built at the intersection of Milky Way and Mars.

Jerrel D. Sharpe opened an accounting and auditing office in the former Raske Building Systems, Inc. and Real Estate office on Milky Way.

B & V Equipment, a used farm equipment business was started by Keith Blod and Don VanderVoort.

Delano and Donald Lietzau started the father-son Lietzau Construction.

The R & E Construction started with new owners and operators, Earl Roulet, Marcellus Egge and Ronald Egge.

"The Hair Affair", a new beauty salon, was opened by Kim Wurscher.

The Professional Builders Inc. with Larry Sharpe as President was also a business that came to our Cosmos community.

Cosmos is always on the move in the building of new homes and two new homes were built in 1975; also an eight apartment building was started with Marlyn Danielson and Sheldon Larson as owners. This was ready for occupancy the first part of 1976.

Cosmos was made a Bicentennial City in December 1975 at a flag presentation program held at the Cosmos School when Lt. Governor Rudy Perpich gave the address and presented the certificate to Harold and Jeanne Hesser and the Bicentennial flag to Mayor Eilert Flemming. Mr. and Mrs. James Spille are Co-Chairpersons for the Cosmos Bicentennial.

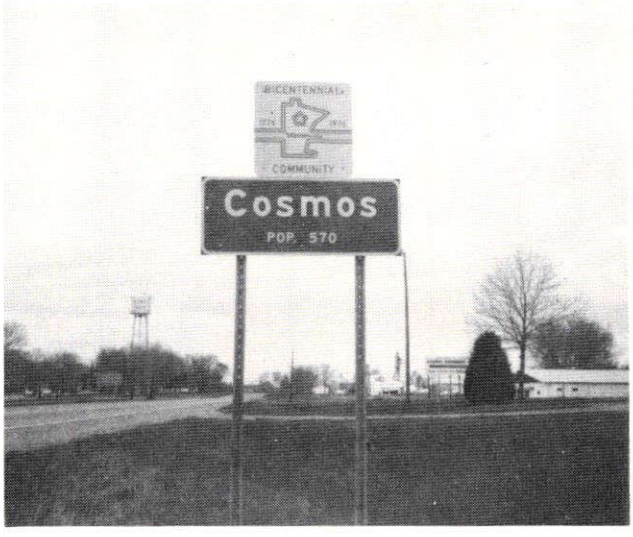
To the many wonderful organizations in our community we added the Cosmos Jaycees when they formed a new chapter on March 27, 1976. Newly elected officers were: President-Tom Dege; Internal Vice President-Terry Anderson; Ext. Vice President-Jim Christopherson; State Director-Jim Raske; Secretary-Treasurer-Don Martin; Director-Dave Peterson and Director-Ken Schmalz.



Cosmos became a bicentennial city in December 1975 with a flag presentation made by Lt. Governor, Rudy Perpich, extreme left, with Rich Jamison, program announcer, Mrs. Mary Kay Spille, Cosmos Bicentennial Chairperson, Dorin Anderson, legionaire and Eilert Flemming, mayor of Cosmos, receiving the flag.



Representative Adolph Kvam of Litchfield, second from the left, and Lt. Governor Rudy Perpich, extreme right, visiting two of the Cosmos Seniors, Emil Hackbarth, extreme left, and Walter Mortenson, seated, at the Cosmos Nursing Home, the day Cosmos was made a Bicentennial City.

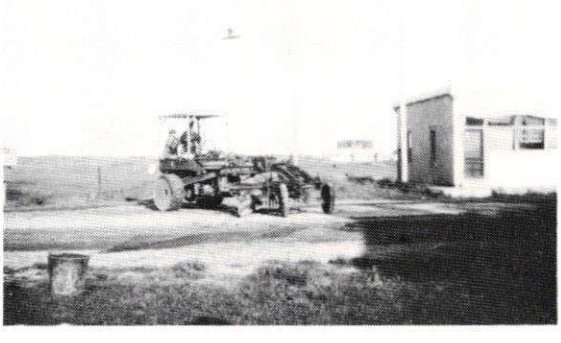


Bicentennial sign as you enter Cosmos on highway 7 from the east.
Signs were purchased by Cosmos Lions Club, Cosmos Commercial Club, Cosmos American Legion Post and Cosmos Rod and Gun Club.

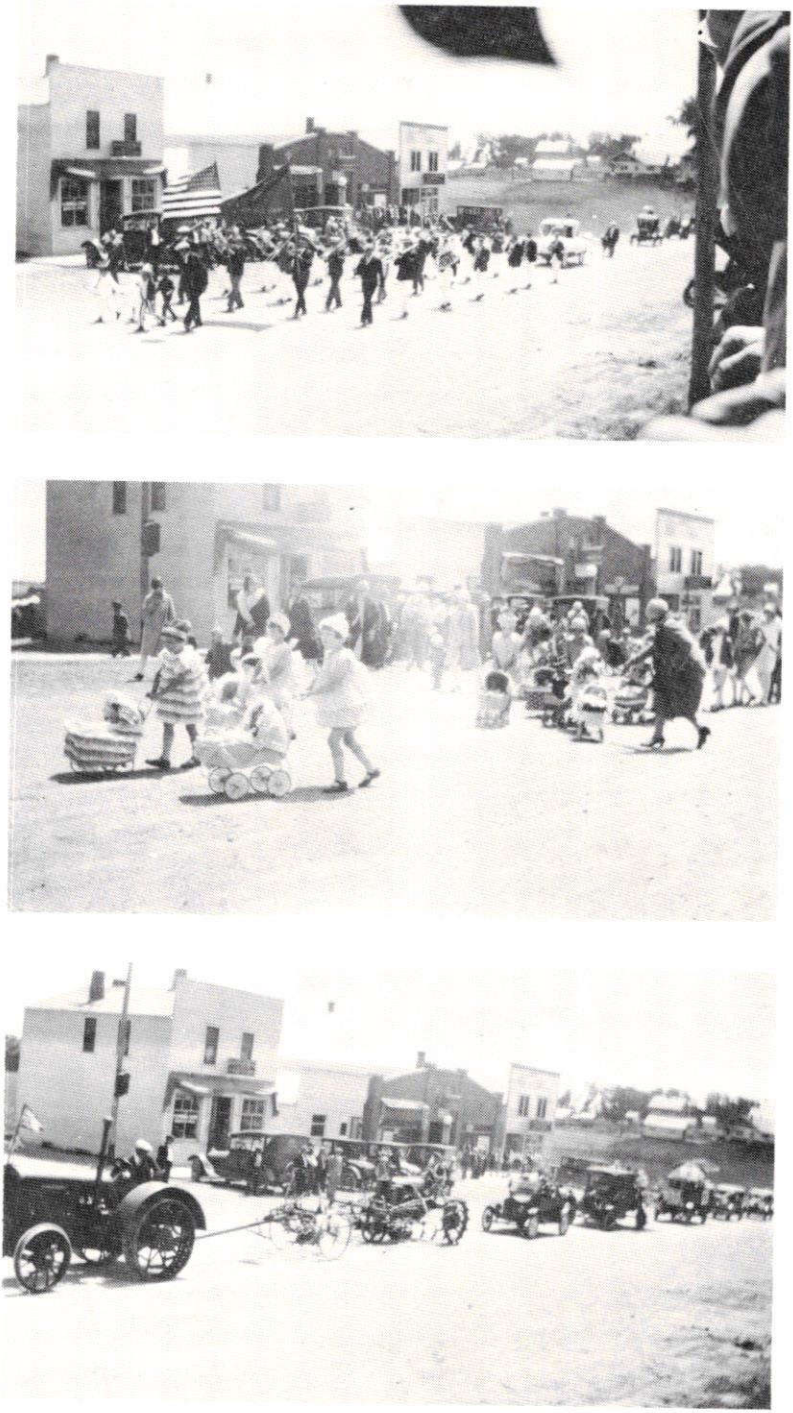
Through these past years Cosmos has grown from a small hamlet to a busy city with forty businesses in the business directory. The city, in the heart of a rich farming community, is proud to be a part of this great nation which is now celebrating its Bicentennial.



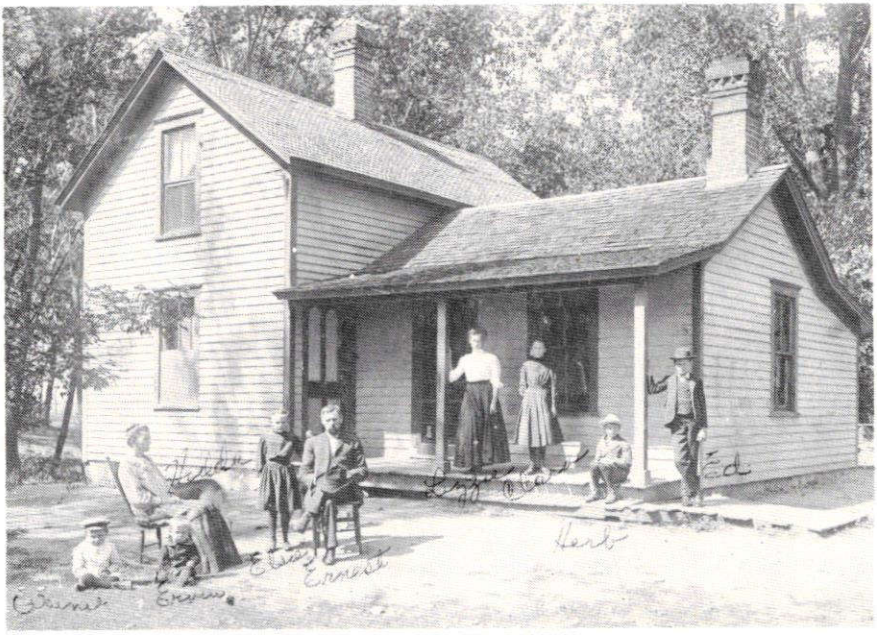
Cosmos Store Truck (C.J. Larsons) advertising the Big Community Picnic, June 2. The picnics started in about 1925.



Cosmos' first grader. Cosmos park in the background, back in the corner.

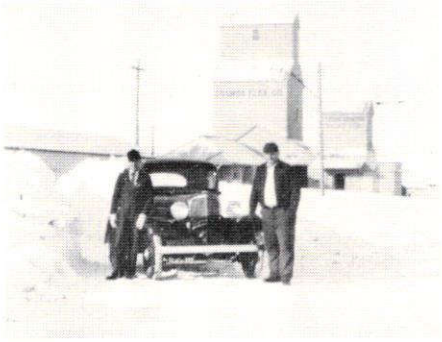


First parade in Cosmos. This was at the Cosmos Creamery Picnic, 1922.



AN EARLY PIONEER FAMILY

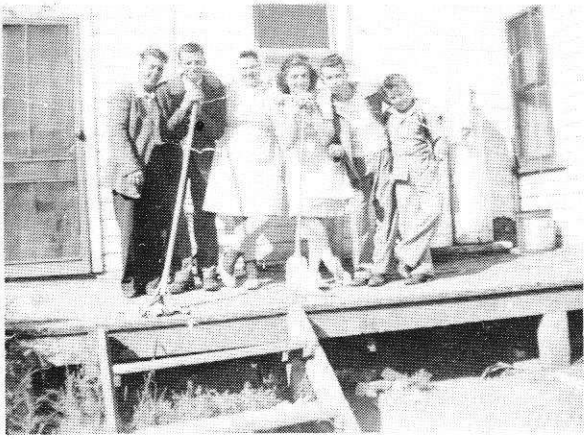
The Ernest Lietzau family taken about 67 years ago. Part of this house still standing on Leo Schultz farm in the south part of town in the city limits.



Stanley Peterson on the left having just picked up coal at the coal shed, the back left. Notice the 1933 Chevrolet. Fred Zrust on the right. Elevator in the background. Taken in Dec. 1936.



City Meat Market in 1925. Now it is the Cosmos Pharmacy. Herbert Maag's oil truck in front.



Clean up day in Ernest Grussendorf's Daylight Tavern, around 1940. Jackie Carhill, Bill Albrecht, DeLores Anderson, Gladyce Geier, Mervin Swigart, and Russell Carhill.



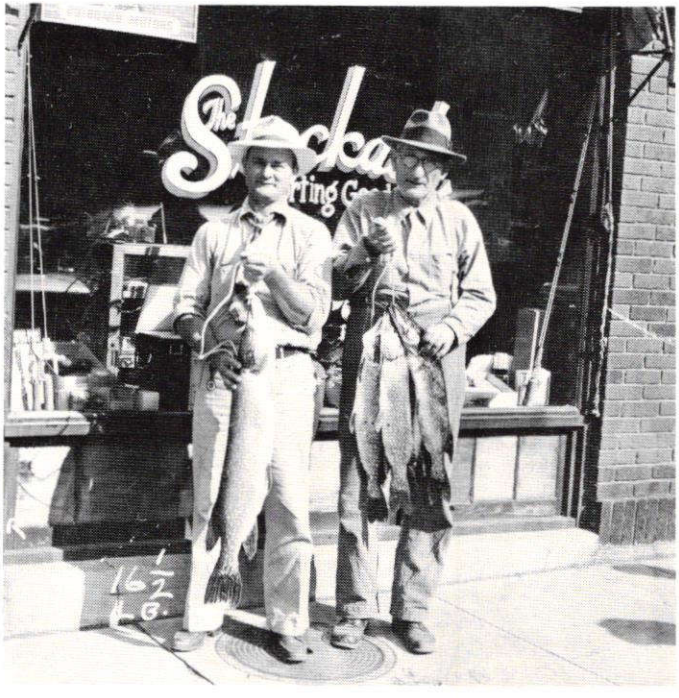
Cosmos Mainstreet, East side, 1927. Notice the hitching posts.



Abel Oman and Elmer Holmquist in front of their restaurant in 1938. This is now the Cosmos Hardware and Supply.



Cosmos Girls Kitten Ball Team 1934. *Back row, left to right;* Lucille Wooley, Ethel Larson Sparks, LaVerne Olson Klawitter, Sally Klawitter Knapp, Evelyn Wooley. *Front row;* Edythe Larson Olson, Ardis Nelson, catcher, Phyllis Nelson Anderson, Lauretta Geier Halverson, pitcher, William Holmquist, manager.



Fishing was very good for Bernard Arnold and Henry Klawitter in 1948. Bernard, catching a 16½ lb. Northern.



COSMOS KIDS

Lucille Jerabek, Harriet Edmunds, Earl Klawitter, Merton Klawitter, Viola Klawitter, Marcella Klawitter, Elmore Edmunds, Edmond Jerabek, Doris Larson, Ralph Grussendorf, Robert Grussendorf, Evelyn Grussendorf, Donald Grussendorf.



Cosmos was always sports minded way back. Cosmos ball players taken May 1921.



Picnicking was always fun. Cosmos young folks, early 1900.



Walfred Peterson, George Hedner, Louis Madsen, Willie Nelson, Eddie Nelson, Willie Heinrich, Emil Gustafson, Oscar Gustafson, Nelson. Cosmos boys wearing their winter apparel (including those heavy fur coats.)

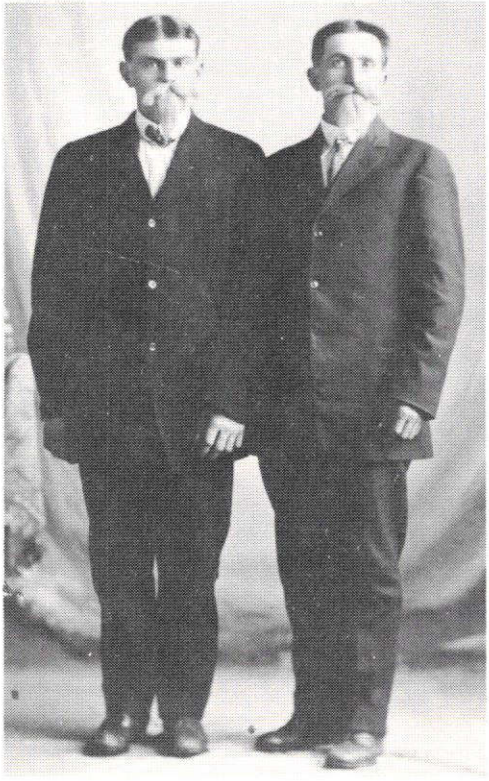


Cosmos Ball team around 1938. *Back row;* Albert Jordin, Jr., Earl Klawitter, Harold Lietzau, Glarence Geier, Donald Grussendorf, Clayton Halverson. *Front row;* Earl Carhill, coach, Vernon Swigart, Mervin Swigart, Virgil Beckstrand, Robert Grussendorf, Marvin Hackbarth, Clarence Beckstrand, manager.



THE COSMOS WORKING GIRLS AROUND 1935

Laverne Olson Klawitter, Edythe Larson Olson, Loretta Geier Halverson, Gladys Geier Swigart, Sally Klawitter Knapp, Ethel Larson Sparks, Aretha Hagemiester Olson.



Future brothers-in-law, Arthur Geier and Julius Schiro around 1912.



Part of the orchestra that was very popular in the early days. Wesley Grussendorf, Leonard Meyer, and Merrill Meyer.



Guess who is singing "I'm just a little Onion in the Petunia Patch," in one of the plays in the old elementary school in Cosmos in the early 1950's? Glarence Geier, Sr.



Want to go for a ride with me? Minnie Peterson Jordin, and child, Hazel Nelson Deide.



Two dairy heifer calves given away at creamery picnic in 1922. The store in center was Koenigs.



Bernard Arnold just arrived from Chicago, 1930.



Mrs. Bertha Nelson on her 80th birthday, taken 1959. On the left is Mrs. Martin and on the right Mrs. Mary Meyer.

Do you want to come to the wedding? Cosmos kids playing wedding. Joan jerabek, Gordon Grussendorf, Ethel Larson, Edythe Larson, Marcella Klawitter, Robert Grussendorf, Donald Grussendorf, Doris Larson, Lucille Jerabek, Evelyn Grussendorf and Harriet Edmunds. The creamery house is partly shown to the left.





Charles J. Larson and his first car - 1911 Buick



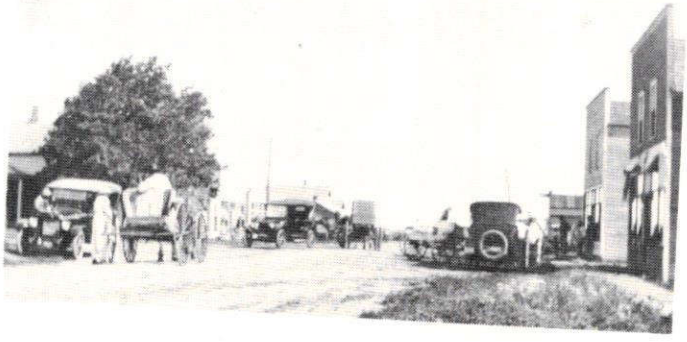
Two of Cosmos dedicated citizens that have done much to help keep Cosmos a clean city, Harry and Nettie Larson, taken 1965.



Cosmos cop, Henry Olson, in the early era.



Cooks and Waitresses in the Harold Martin restaurant (what is now the south part of Sportsman Inn) Mabel Buck Flemming, Myrtle Flemming Reibe, Annette Nelson Grussendorf. Picture was taken around 1924.



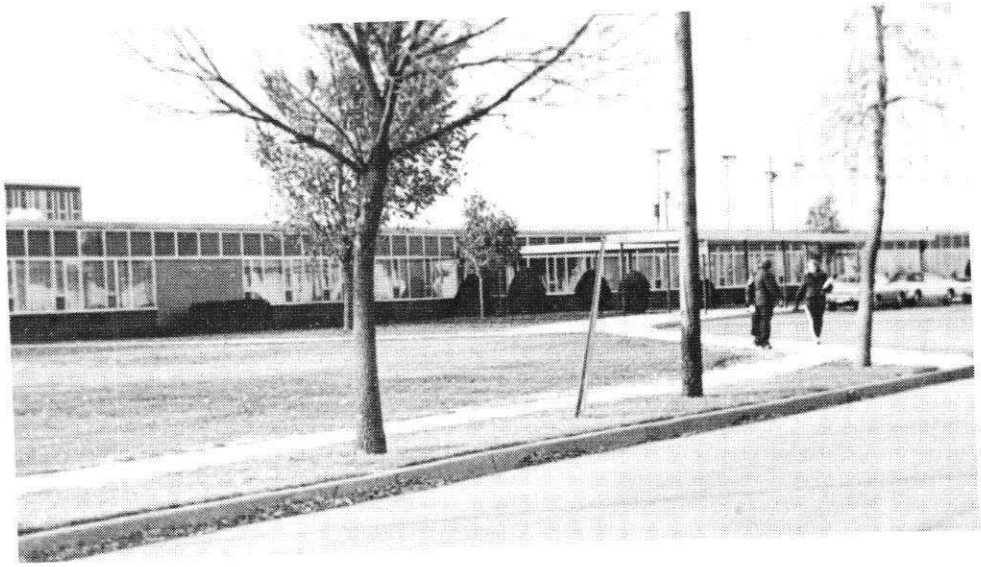
In the early 1920's, Cosmos main street looking north.



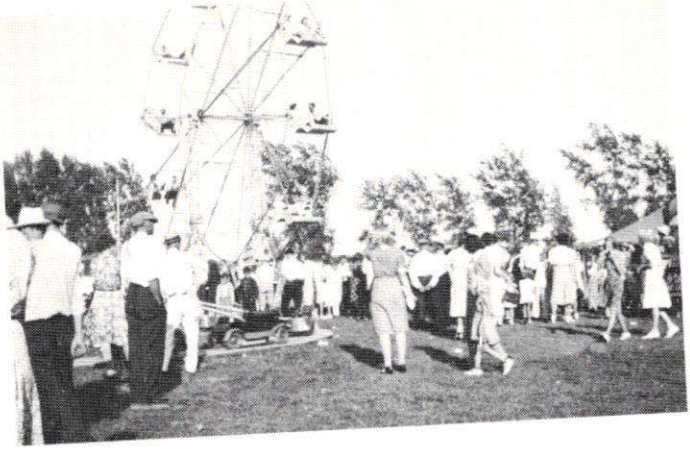
These three young ladies, Esther Carlson Larson, Selma Nelson Peterson, Ida Erland Ovall.



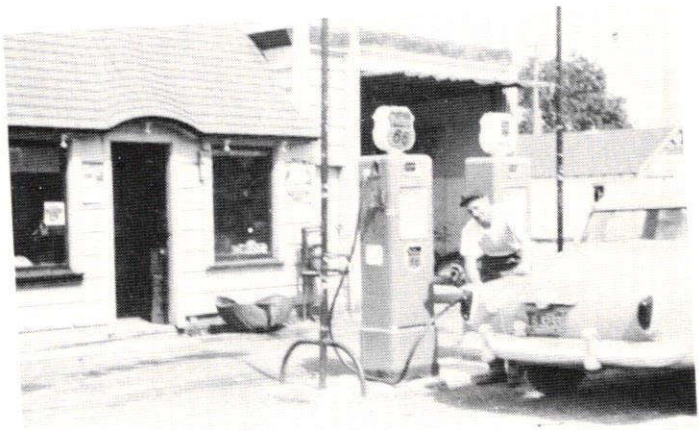
The sale of the lots by F.H. Hart in 1923. Notice the banners flying.



COSMOS SCHOOL AS SEEN TODAY.



Fun days at the big Cosmos Community Picnics, held in the Ernest Lietzau pasture. Picture taken in 1939.



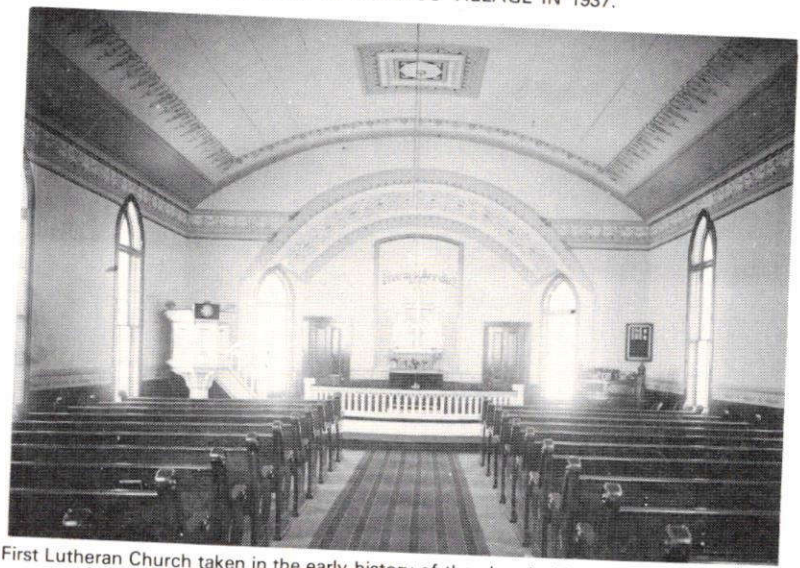
Edwin Thomas in the Phillips "66" Station on highway 7 and 4, where Milky Way Restaurant is now. Picture taken in 1956.



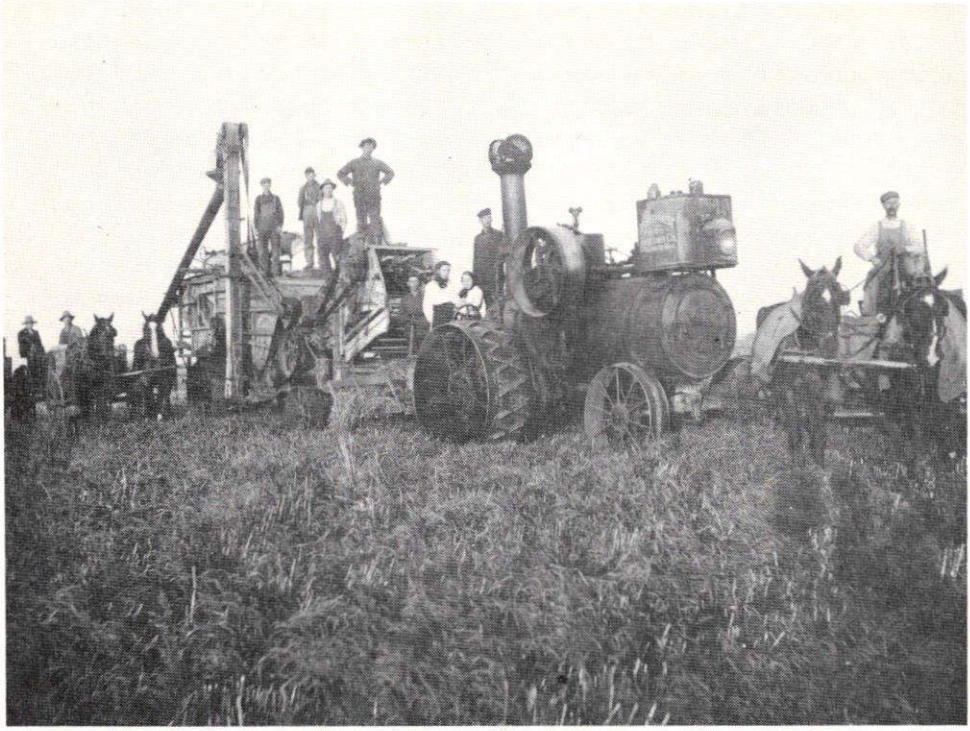
COSMOS MILKY WAY FROM THE SOUTH.



AIR VIEW OF COSMOS VILLAGE IN 1937.



Interior of First Lutheran Church taken in the early history of the church. Lights were hung on the chains that extended from the ceiling.



Here is a typical threshing crew in the Cosmos area. Horses furnished the horse power and the huge engine that furnished the power for threshing. This was the C.J. Larson threshing equipment.

A special thank you to each and everyone that so willingly let their treasured pictures be used in making this book possible.

The Cosmos business directory has many qualified professional people ready to serve the people of the Cosmos Community and surrounding area: Arnold Implement, Bernard Arnold; Blackwell Farm Supply, Earl Blackwell; Blum Construction, Arnold Blum; Blue Moon Supper Club, Earl Roulet and Marcellus Egge; Continental Telephone Company; Cosmos Bakery, Maynerd and Thomas Rennecke; Cosmos Blacksmith Shop, Stanley Mortenson; Cosmos Farmers Elevator Co., Inc., Roland and Phyllis Matthews; Cosmos Nursing Home, Marvin S. Rodvick, Administrator; Cosmos Legion Club, Nadine Wurscher, manager; Cosmos Pharmacy, Jim Christopherson, pharmacist; Cosmos Red-i-Mix, Robert Berry, Sr. & Sons Robert, Jr. and Bruce; Cosmos Transfer, Lowell Benson; Cosmos Hardware and Supply, Randy Koch, manager; Cosmos Liquor Store, Tom Dege, manager; Cosmos Sun, Dennis Baker, publisher; Cosmos Post Office, Francis Wall, postmaster; Cosmos Public Library, Roule Ketcham, librarian; Danielson Construction, Maryln Danielson; Degner Construction, Marvin Degner; Dynamic Specialities, Inc.; Vic Eastman Plumbing and Electrical; Farm & City Laundromat, Stanley Koch; First State Bank of Cosmos; Eilert Flemming and Merlyn Krosch, auctioneers; Hackbarth Implement, Marvin Hackbarth; Hair Affair, Kim Summerlet; Hesser OK Hardware, Harold Hesser; Hillside Greenhouse, Gladys Krienke; Home Oil Company, Vernon Swigart;Hughes Funeral Home, Raymond D. Hughes; Inselmann Tiling, Ralph Inselmann; John's Motor Shop, John Boll; K-F Garage, Darrel Ketcham; Lang's Union 76 Station, Arnold Lang; Libby's Beauty Salon and Boutique, Elizabeth Degner; Lietzau's Construction, Delano and Donald Lietzau; Lietzau Lumber and Hardware, J. M. Lietzau; Lietzau Taxidermy, Charles Lietzau and Delano Lietzau; Lyle's Repair, Lyle Petersdorf; Milky Way Restaurant, Richard Jamison, manager; Minnick's 66 Service and Bulk, Harold Minnick, Jr.-service station and Harold Minnick, Sr.-bulk truck; Mortenson Construction, Lloyd Mortenson; Norm's Painting Service, Norman Straumann; Pal's Discount Food Mark-It, Phil Hovander and Stanley Koch; Paul's Barbershop, Paul Peterson; Polar Chemical, Merle Olsen, manager; Professional Builders, Inc., Larry Sharpe, president; Raske Real Estate, and Raske Building Systems, Inc., Earl Raske; Royal Cafe, Bruce Hoff; R & E Construction, Earl Roulet, Marcellus Egge and Ronald Egge; Sathre's Market, Wm. and Morna Sathre; Jerrel Sharpe Accounting and Auditing; Silver Star Cafe, Walter and Muriel Jacobson; Sportsmen Inn, Douglas and Georgia Bateman; Spreiter Agency, Inc.; Turner's TV and Appliance, Maurice Turner and Town and Country Car Wash, Jim Dvorak.