

# A HISTORY OF CYRUS, MN

1886 - 1949

by P. O. Lee



View of Cyrus looking eastward. Original image is from a postcard. Note on back side of card: "Red Cross sale at Cyrus, 1st World War."

Original typed historical document and cover photo provided by Phyllis Tinseth Chi of the Ernest and Vivian Tinseth family, documents digitized and assembled by Gib Ahlstrand, all of whom are former residents of Cyrus.

## History of Cyrus, Minnesota

The land on which the village of Cyrus was located was first owned by Mr. Charles Olson and Mr. O. H. Dahl. Mr. O. H. Dahl homesteaded this land. Some of the first settlers in the community were: Lars Hegland, Christian Jacobson, Hans Gudvangen, Thov. Hagen, Charles Olson, and Mr. Bjork. Those people arrived in this vicinity in 1866. A few year's later, about 1872--1876 the following men came and filed on a homestead in this vicinity; O. H. Dahl, Else Larsen, Gunder Larson, and Christian Estby.

The pioneers began immediately to develop their farms. Oxen were used to plow and do the heavy hauling at times the food became very scarce, because their were ravages of prairie fires and grasshoppers. The early pioneers were forced to go as far as St. Cloud for some of their necessities of life as this was the closest railroad town. Sometimes it was necessary to make the trip on foot. A little later it was possible to get supplies at Sauk Center, and then at Morris.

These settlers had frequent visits from the Indians during the early days. They passed through this vicinity every fall on their way to camping places for the winter when in the settlers home they begged for tobacco, but were always friendly.

In the year 1881 the town side of Scandiaville, was laid out and platted by O. H. Dahl and Charles Olson owners of the land and Fish and Livingston railroad officials of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

In the same year the first building was built by H. P. Hanson for a general store, on the site now accupied by the State Bank of Cyrus, in the spring of 1882 another building was erected by A. P. Kron on the site now occupied by the Olson Brothers,

Tilford and Warren under the name of Red Owl Agency.

In the early days all merchandise was hauled to them by team. In the summer of 1882 the Northern Pacific Railroad built there branch line from Little Falls to Morris which gave the town a railroad and depot. The same year Mr. A. J. Sawyer built a grain elevator, P. M. Danielson a blacksmith shop. Frank Cronquist made application for Post Office and built a store building, this building was used for Post Office, Drug store and later as a Restaurant a few years ago this building burnt down.

The name of the village was Scandiaville, but owing to the fact that there was another Post Office in the state by the name Scandia in Minnesota, the village took the name of Cyrus. The name was suggested by Charles Olson, there being a lake Cyrus south of the settlement. The first station agent was Mr. Bowlbe the present Depot Agent is L. T. Ristvedt. The first section foreman was Ole Olson.

The following year 1883, Mr. Iver Thompson, built a store building and started the first Hardware Store and Implement business in Cyrus, after Mr. Thompson passed away his daughters Ellen and Alma Thompson are conducting the business in the same building.

The first school house was built in 1883. The members of the first school board members were Iver Thompson, O. H. Dahl, and H. P. Hanson. The first building was burned down, and a new building was built a few years later a block of land was purchased and a brick building was built.

On September 16, 1916 the School District immediately south of Cyrus voted to consolidate with school District No. 58, thereby making the Cyrus School a Consolidated School. An addition was built to the main building in 1917 making the building twice the size of the first building. In 1919 School District No. 2 Stevens County voted to consolidate with School District No. 58 of Cyrus. In 1922 under the supervision and guidance of Supt. O. G. Berkeland our school became a State Accrediated High School. The enrollment was at that time 245 pupils. The school has taken part in Debates, Declamation, Athletics and has a Glee Club, Mixed Chorus and Literary Organizations, the school has a very active Parents and Teachers Association. In 1938 an up to date Gymnasium was built onto the main building, which is used for playing Basket Ball, Physical Ed., Parents and Teachers programs and other organizations. We are proud of the fact that many of the graduates from this school have continued their education and have become Ministers of the Gospel, Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Lawyers, Public Accountants, Nurses, Bookkeepers, School Supt. and Teachers, farmers and Housekeepers. A modern and up to date Athletic Field was added next to the school lawn, and is used by the school teams and the town team. A Grand Stand was recently built overlooking it for the spectators benefit.

The first Hotel was built in 1882 by Mr. Hagen, and is at the present time occupied as a restaurant by Norman Thompson.

The first Harness and shoemaker was Mr. Carl Froseth. Mr. Alfred Folin built a new modern brick and tile shop which he occupied until his death after which his son George Folin took it over and after a few years he sold it to Mr. A. A. Ettesvold who converted it into a restaurant. Mr. Ettesvold built an addition on the side the same size,

and changed the Restaurant into the new building and Pool Hall in the old building.

The first Meat Market was started by Mons Ness Sr. and Mr. Snestad, later they sold it to the Jacobson Brothers and continued the business. P. O. Jacobson continued til his retirement a few years ago and since meat has been sold in the stores.

In 1886 H. C. Estby and Louis Hegland started in the Hardware and Implemēt business and they continued that partnership until Mr. Hegland passed away in 1896 after that Mr. Estby continued that business alone, in 1898 he was honored by being elected Representative to the State Legislature from Pone County. P. O. Lee had charge of the store while Mr. Estby was in St. Paul through the Legislative session. Abe Abrahamson is now conducting a Farm Implement Shop in this building.

As early as 1869, Rev. Nels Brandt came to this community as a Minister and Missionary. A few years later, in 1874 Rev. Koefod came and served the people as pastor. The Lutheran Synod Congregation of Cyrus was organized in 1884. The first Pastor of the Congregation was Rev. H. Johnson, who served the congregation half a year when he resigned and Rev. A. J. Anderson served the congregation then Rev. P. A. Dedrickson served, then Rev. A. O. Dolvin, Then Rev. A. G. Quammen, Rev. O. T. Haaland and Rev. L. M. Osness is the present Bastor. The Church was built in 1898.

The first Pastor of the St. Petri Church was Rev. Dahle. Rev. Winter was Pastor at the time the Church was built in 1898. The following Pastors have served the Congregation Rev. Olson, Rev. Torgerson, and Rev. Sevig is their present pastor.

Mr. O. H. Dahl, conducted a second hand Furniture Store also made cabinets and cupboards and different articles.

From the year 1881 when the village was platted the village was under the jurisdiction of the Township Government of New Prairie. On March 13, 1899 a special election was held for the purpose of incorporating the village. The population at this time was 105. There were 33 votes cast. The members of the first Council were: H. E. Olson, President P. O. Lee, Recorder Iver Thompson, Treasurer and Peter Peterson, Assessor. P. M. Danielson and H. C. Estby were the other two members of the Council.

During the year 1899 the long distance telephone was installed in the H. E. Olson Store. A year or two later a Mr. Wheaton of Morris built a local telephone into Cyrus and a telephone booth was installed in H. C. Estby's store. A Telephone Company was organized in Cyrus and officers elected were H. C. Estby, President P. O. Lee, Clerk O. E. Bjorgaard, Treasurer, and the Company bought the local Telephone System from Mr. Wheaton. That was in 1904 and in 1908 the company was incorporated in 1913 a 16 X 24 building was built for a Telephone office and work shop. In 1933 this building was burned down. The switch board was saved and set in a residence across the street and in 1937 a new modern brick Telephone building was built. H. S. Peterson was operator and manager for 32 years. After his death his wife Mrs. Edelwiss Peterson took over the management of the company.

Mr. John Estensen built a Flour Mill in about 1892 and Arne Arnesson was the miller and after a few years he sold it to P. O. Kron and Axel Felt was the Miller. Some years later the mill was dismantled and sold. The land and the foundation of the mill is owned by Ruth Ness. To Mr. John Estensen must be given credit for owning

the first automobile in Cyrus--a Rambler.

In 1894 Mr. Aaberg built the building in which P. O. Lee and P. O. Barsness started a General Merchandise Store in 1902 which continued until 1908. Mr. Lee has been continuing the business alone since that time until 1939 when he discontinued the business and closed out the stock of merchandise and sold the building to C. J. Applen and he has converted the building to a print shop and publishing the Cyrus Leader.

The first news paper edited in Cyrus, was published in 1901 it was called the Cyrus Courier. This paper was later discontinued. Two years later Mr. Hiel E. West again started a paper in Cyrus and called it the Cyrus Leader. E. B. Vangness purchased the paper from Mr. West and sold it to Mr. C. J. Applen the present editor.

Mr. F. B. Gustafson built a store building on main street that was first occupied by Sather and Fjelstad of Glenwood and later by Mr. Gustafson then he sold out his stock to Carl Buesing of Glenwood and he continued business in that place until it burned down at the same time as the Telephone building burned. Then Mr. Buesing started in the Gust building and continued there until he sold out to Geo. Gilbertson.

In 1903 a volunteer fire department was organized and is now equipped with a modern fire truck with a 360 gal water tank for use on out of town calls.

In 1903 ~~Dr.~~ Helmark located in Cyrus as the first Doctor. He remained here until 1905 when he sold his practice to Dr. Herman Linde. Dr. Linde has been practicing medicine here up to this time.

~~In October 1901 W. J. Carson of Glenwood~~

In October 1901 W. J. Carson of Glenwood built a Bank building on the location where the Post Office is now located and started a Bank in Cyrus. Mr. Carson was president and Ole Irgens Cashier, In August 1902 Mr. Irgens was succeeded by O. E. Bjorgaard. In 1907 the bank was incorporated as a State Bank. The present bank building which is modern and up-to-date was erected in 1915 its Capitol Stock is \$20,000 and its officers are President P. O. Lee, Vice President A. H. Toftner, Cashier O. E. Bjorgaard, and Asst. Cashier C. W. Særvold. Director A. H. Hanschen.

In 1915 the Farmers State Bank was organized with T. O. Ofsthun as President and C. O. Ofsthun as Cashier and the first building it occupied was destroyed by fire in 1926. A new modern brick building was erected on the old site in 1929. The Capitol Stock was \$15,000 the officers were Julius Halvorson President, O. A. Solvie Vice President, C. O. Ofsthun Cashier and F. T. Olson Asst. Cashier. In 1935 this Bank moved to Morris.

The first Farmers Creamery was built in the early 1890's on the lot where C. Guy Eddy residence is now located. There were no cream separators at that time. They had two horse-drawn wagons with tanks gathering the skinned cream on the farms, but it was not a paying proposition so they sold the plant to H. E. Olson and he used it for awhile to rework the butter that the farmers brought to his store. That also failed so it was dismantled and the machinery sold. In 1910 the Commercial Club took up the creamery question and it was decided to build a new Creamery. Stock was sold to the business men and to the farmers at \$100.00 per share and a creamery was built and started to do business and continued for a few years and lost money on the deal. Had to make an assessment of \$100.00 per share quit business. So the Creamery was leased to Peter Miller and after



a couple years it was sold to C. C. Thoen of Westport and he run it for a few years and he again sold it to A. B. Johnson and in a couple years it burned down and he fixed up a Garage up town and continued the business and then that burned and that was the last of the Creamery.

Some years later G. L. Martin of Glenwood came here and bought a lot and built a modern brick building and run it for a while and he sold it to the Ahlstrand Brothers with Gilbert Ahlstrand as Manager. They have built on to it a cold storage locker plant and are doing a successful business.

The first elevator owned and operated by the Farmers Elevator Company was destroyed by fire and their present elevator was purchased from S. S. Stewart of Morris and since they have built an office and warehouse. This year 1949 they constructed a building for feed grinding, feed mixing, and fanning mill.

The first elevator built by A. J. Sawyer was destroyed by fire and it was rebuilt on a different location and the present owner is A. W. Johnson.

There were two Lumber Yards here. One was owned by E. J. Jones Lumber Company of Morris and a Line yard of the Standard Lumber Co. In 1916 the Cyrus Lumber Company was organized by W. B. Hanson, P. O. Lee, O. E. Bjorgaard, A. H. Toftner and Isaac Thompson, and bought the Jones's Lumber yard and also the Standard Lumber Yard and conducted the Lumber business. In 1945 they sold the business to the Skoglund Bros. & Company of Starbuck. W. B. Hanson still continued to be employed in the yard.

R. C. Gust built the first store building out of cement blocks when he conducted a Furniture store, also sold musical instruments. Mr. Gust also sold caskets and had the hearse which was drawn by horses. Upstairs of this building was the center of amusement for Cyrus for many years. The building is now occupied by George Gilbertson as a General Store, and part of the building Jerome Johnson has a Barber Shop. George Gilbertson as his own living apartment on the first floor and he rents out two apartments upstairs.

In 1916 C. F. Johnson & Son, Oscar, started a garage and built a large brick and tile building for that purpose and at that time it was an authorized Ford Garage. After a few years they discontinued the Ford and took on the Chevrolet Agency. C. F. Johnson retired a few years ago and Oscar Johnson continued the business until in 1947 when he sold the garage and business to Mr. Ernest Tinseth, who is conducting the business at present.

In 1921 Mr. Alfred Hanse built a garage and filling station. He conducted the business for a few years when he sold out to Binder & Carlson, who conducted the business for a few years. They sold out to Mr. Everal Barsness, who run the garage until 1948. He leased it to Johnshoy & Johnson, who are the present garage men.

In the fall of 1927 Mr. A. A. Avok built a Hardware Store and filling station which he conducted until he passed away after that his son inlaw Mr. Archie Brendefur has continued the business.

Mr. Gerhard Pederson, bought a barn and moved it to its present location and rebuilt it to a automobile Repair Shop.

In 1934 the Morris Co-op Oil Co. built a filling station and Arthur Flaten was the manager. Ed Steen, took it over and after his death Peter Bruland, took it over and has continued the same up

After the Farmers State Bank moved to Morris Mrs Mary Stensby bought the building, she was Post Mistress at the time. She partitioned off the front part and the Post Office was moved to this new location. The back part was made into living quarters. A few years ago she resigned and Gertrude Thompson was appointed Post Mistress and Janet Thompson assistant. Mrs Stensby, sold the building to Gilbert Ahlstrand so he is the present owner.

We had two liquor establishments in town here at one time but after the Volstead Act was passed and the county option took effect we have been Camels ever since.

P. O. Kron was a merchant in Cyrus first in the old H. P. Hanson store building. This building was moved back of its location and the State Bank of Cyrus built, where it stood. P. O. Kron continued his store business in the H. W. Olson store for a number of years till he sold out and moved to Detroit Lakes.

The first year we had Street Lights was in 1904. The Village Council purchased six gas street lamps from the Albert Lea Gas Lamp Company. These lamps were placed on the corners of six blocks. That was the only street lights we had beside the moonlight. We got along very well.

On December 28, 1915 R. C. Gust made an application to the village council for a franchise to erect and maintain an electric light plant in the Village of Cyrus. An Ordinance #18 was duly passed authorizing the erection of poles in the streets and alleys and the stringing of electric light and power wire there on.

R. C. Gust was granted the franchise for a period of 15 years and the President and Recorder of the Village Council were authorized to make a contract with R. C. Gust for lightening the streets and also to give 24 hour service for other purposes.

On March 18, 1916, Mr. Gust turned on the switch for the first time and the whole town was lit up by electricity and what a change it made over the system used.

The first part of November 1917 Mr. R. C. Gust sold the Electric Light plant to the Glenwood Electric Light, Heat and Power Company of Glenwood. On November 10, 1917 the Village Council met and passed an amendment to ordinance #18 granting to the Glenwood Electric Light, Heat and Power Company permission to erect, construct, install, and maintain an electric light and distributing plant and operate and maintain the same within and through the limits of the Village of Cyrus.

There seems to have been some trouble brewing between the Village Council and the Glenwood Electric Light Company as on December 16 1919 the Glenwood Electric Light Company served notice on the Village Council of Cyrus, to the effect that on January 2, 1920 they would forfeit their franchise and agreement with the village of Cyrus and stop furnishing current for street lights and private use immediately.

The Village Council took immediate action and retained Attorney T. J. Mangan who served an restraining order on the company. On Dec. 31, 1919 the Electric Light Co. withdrew their notice of Dec. 16-- and continued furnishing light and power until they sold the plant to R. C. Gust and he kept it going until in 1920 the Village Council called for a Special Election to vote on the proposition "Shall the Village of Cyrus erect their own Light Plant and build a power line to Morris and make agreement with the Otter Tail Power Company to furnish the current." The election was held and carried by a large majority-- only two votes were cast against.

The Village Council proceeded to advertise for bids for the construction of an electrical plant and a transmission line to connect up with the Otter Tail Power Co. at Morris Minn.

The bids wer called to be opened and considered on Sept. 27, 1920 and as per advetisement the Village Council met on said date to receive and open bids.

There was only one bid received and that was H. T. Lewis of Wheston Minnesota. His bid was \$17,078. This bid was accepted by the Village Council. A contract was given to Mr. Lewis to build the said plant and transmission line to Morris.

On December 24, 1920 the system was completed and accepted by the Village Council and the engineer of the Otter Tail Power Co.

About 10 years later June 2, 1930 the question again came up and a special election was called which read: "Shall the Village of Cyrus construct an Electric Light, Heat and Power System to be owned and operated by said village for the purpose of supplying light, heat, and power for public purposes and for private use of the inhabitants of said village." The election was held with the following result 73 votes cast in favor and 7 against. In the meantime the Otter tail power Company gave the Village Council a proposition to buy the present plant and the proposition looked good to the Village Council so they decided to call another special election to inform the consumers the proposition of the offer of the Otter Tail Power Company.

A special election was called for August 28, 1930. There were 63 votes cast, 61 in favor and 2 against so the sales was consummated and the Otter Tail Power Company has maintained the Plant since very satisfactorily.

In 1890 Mr. Osmond Kittelson came <sup>here</sup> fere from Homes City. Mr. Kittelson and John Thompson formed a partnership and built a blacksmith shop on the site where the present telephone office is now located. They continued in that location for a few years and then they built the shop where it is now located. After a short while Mr. Kittelson retired and Mr. Thompson continued the business. Until in 1903 Mr. C. A. Bergstrom came here fro Hancock and bought the shop from Mr. Thompson. He continued the shop until in 1939 when he sold the shop and business to Clifford Olson of Farwell, Minnesota who is now continuing the business.

In about 1915 R. C. Gust built a large brick and tile garage. There he had the agency for the Overland Automobile and farm implements. In 1916 Abe Abrahamson came here and he leased the front part for a auto Repair Shop, in 1917 he purchased the old Hotel building and he converted it to a repairshop, and in the side building that was built on to it for a Saloon he started a Cafe. Which he continued to operate until 1937 when he sold out to John Schwalbe.

Mr. John Schwalbe reconstructed the whole interior of the old Hotel building and made it into a modern Cafe. In the side building he turned into a Pool and Billeard Hall and soft drinks parlor. He also Stuccod the front and put in a new glass front in both the cafe and Billeard Hall.

In 1948 Mr. Schwalbe sold the building and business to Mr. M. A. Bohnenstingl who continued the business, and about the first of March 1949 he leased the Restaurant part to Norman thompson and Mr. Bohnenstengl is continuing the Billiard hall and soft drink parlor

Mr. H. L. Hegland and walter conducted a cream station, egg and Poultry business for several years, after Mr. Hegland passed away Walter continued the business until the first part of October 1948 he sold the business to Gilbert Ahlstrand.

Walter and Reynold Hegland formed a partnership and bought the building, Billeard Tables and a stock of Merchendice from L. T. Ristvedt. Their place of business is called "WATS AND RAYS PLACE."

Martin Jacobson and H. M. Ellesvold built a Cafe nest to the Gustafson store in 1905. Mr. Jacobson run the Cafe for a number of years, he quit the business and moved to North Dakota in 1908 and A. A. Avok and family took over the business until 1911. Mr. Avok also was Manager of the stand-ard Lumber Co. at that time. After that the building was used for a Cream Station for a number of years, the last mangers were Earl Cruzin and C. Guy Eddy. This building burned downethe same time that the Telephone building and the Buesing Store went up in flames.

Henry Ettesvold purchased the building that Frank Cronquist built, He converted it into a Cafe. It was called " Port Arthur" When his health started to fail him Marvin and Arnold Ettesvold of Morris his nepheus took it over and run it for awhile. Arnold took it over alone until it burned down to the ground he mowed whatever was saved from the fire into the showroom of the C. F. Johnson and Son garage and continued the business until he purchased a Railroad Coach and moved it to the lot where the Bernard Erickson Cafe is now located. He sold the Coach to Winfred Klevenberg and it was moved out on the farm. Mr. Ettesvd built a modern Cafe that is now owned by Bernard Erickson and Lloyed Lee is confucting a Cafe.

In 1901 Henry Kattelson Built a paint shop on the north 25 foot of lot 7 Block 16. In 1902 he sold it to C. O. Tollefson who built an addition to it. He was granted a Licinse for a liquor store. In 1908 he sold the building to P. R. Jacobson who ran the business until 1909. When the question of granting

Liquor License was put to the voters result of the election was 38 votes against and 20 in favor of license. Mr. Jacobson then changed the place over to a pool and Billiard Hall and soft drink parlor. This building burned down at the same time that the Etteswold Cafe burned. His son in law John Schwalbe took over his business which he conducted in another place when his health began to fail.

Mr. P. H. Helgeson moved into town from a farm West of town in 1921. He started a small feed mill in 1923 which he run a couple years. Then he bought a feed and livery stable built by L.L. Hense, which he converted into a mill, and installed a Hammermill feed grinder. He quit in 1943 and sold the building to the Farmers Creamery Company.

Mr. John Heggstad conducted a small grocery store first in the building now occupied by the Geo. Moe family. He continued his business for a few years in the building which later was used by the Hegland Produce Company.

L. L. Hense built a brick and tile building on about the center of Lot 7 which was used for a barber shop by Stone Johnson and Al. Johnson. This building is now included in the Locker Plant.

Mrs. Harriet Thomson started her Beauty Parlor in the Barger Shop in 1945. Shortly afterwards she purchased the old town hall building and remodeled it into an up-to-date Beauty Parlor and cozy living quarters in part of the building.

Myrtle's Confectionery and Novelty Shop is housed in the North apartment of the former Egeberg house. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gulsvig owners of the house are the owners and managers of same. It was started in October 1948.

On May 12, 1949 Melvin J. Johnson of Hoffman Minnesota opened a Phillip 66 Oil Station at the Palmer-Nurshanson Residence.



WORLD WAR 1

The following names of the boys on the Honor Roll on the Service Flag of the St. Petri Church for world war one. A gold star is placed in front of the boys that made the Supreme Sacrifice:

	★ Henry Smith,	
Goodwin Alfson,	Adolph Danielson,	William Danielson
★ Carl Holden,	★ Gustav Holden,	Martin Holden,
★ Oscar Holden,	★ Richard Johnson,	Bennie Ness,
★ Martin Ness,	★ Carl Opheim,	Herbert Opheim,
Fritzof Peterson,	Godfred Peterson,	★ Fredrick Rascom
Henry Snetting,	Louis Stockenss,	Olaf Strand,
Arnold Thomason,	Fred Tinseth,	Peter Vangness,

The Honor Roll of the Cyrus Luthern Church has the following names of the boys on the Service Flag. And one Red Star in honor of Miss Clara Lee, who was nurse in the Red Cross Service.

Raider Cappelen,	Olaus Cappelen,	Arthur Estenson,
Melvin Elvester,	Alfred Boe,	Tomas Toloff,
C. G. Birkeland,	Arthur Thompson,	★ Carl Williams,
Trygve Thmassen,	Eric Solve,	Heimer Bjornstad.

World War 11

The following names on the Honor Roll of the Service Flag at the School House Dist# 53 of World War 11.

They are either graduates of our school or former students from Cyrus. A gold star is placed in front of the names of the boys who made the Supreme Sacrifice.

Orice Abrahamson, Harrold Berg, Roeland Bergstrom,

Donald Buesing,	Edward Chalenburg,	Alfred Dlarud,
Glen Degenlorfer,	Earl Ettesvold,	Winfred Ettesvold,
★ Maynard Ettesvold,	Rudolph Ettesvold,	Richard Erickson,
Warren Gust,	Harrold Hanse,	Ernest Helgeson,
Luther Hoky,	Winston Hanson,	Kenneth Koch,
Melloy Larson,	★ Marvin Olson,	Ervin Opheim,
Tilford Olson,	Carroll Ofsthun,	Warren Ofsthun,
★ Willard Ofsthun,	Paul Quammen,	Lawrence Quammen,
Arthur Ronnie,	Robert Speer,	Harrold Tollefson,
Leonard Thompson,	Melvin Veum,	Julien Jacobson,
Marshall Alfson,	Harrold Alfson,	★ Irwin Anderson,
Thomas Hoky,	Erling Linde,	Ralph H. Lee,
Warren Olson,	Clarence Thompson,	Eruce Waddell,
Selmer Ronnie,	Alton Abrahamson,	Earl Adams,
Arlen Anderson,	Orrin Alfson,	Tollef Brandvold,
Albert Beireis,	John Erickson,	Eddie Egeberg,
Palmer Erlandson,	★ Roy Erlandson,	Joseph Gundvaldson,
★ Irvin Gundvaldson,	Harvey Helgeson,	Roy Hawkenson,
★ Ralph Opheim,	Raymond Steen,	Fred Steen,
★ Oliver Steen,	Franklin Steen,	Ray Smith,
Marvin Stonberg,	Roy Adams,	Waldo Alfson,
Raphael Hoky,	Vernen Gundvaldson,	Richard Reitz,
Gorden Anderson,	Arvid Anderson,	★ Marvin Hanson,
Dale Sylvester,	Ernest Ronnie,	John Schwalbe,
Ray Rosenvold,	Lawrence Alfson,	Peter Danielson,
Wallis Moore,	Arnold Pederson,	Guy H. Erlandson,
Harrold S. Grande,	Grant Bergstrom	Arnold A. Ettesvold
Lester Johnson,	Leonard Kjera,	Wesley Ferring,
Donald Rosholt,	Eugine Applen,	Arthur Mithun,

Vincent Hanson,	Myron Hanson,	Harvey Hanson,
Kenneth Thompson,	Kenneth Sylvester,	Harrold Opheim,
Donald Mickelson,	Arlo Mickelson,	Abner Ness,
Robert McCarl,	Warren Flaten,	Sidney Sylvester,
Marvin Bulick,	Oscar Bogen,	Llewellyn Linde,
Kermit Ettesvold,	Merle Dostall, Eddie Opheim, Donald Sunquist	

The names of the following girls served their country in the capacity designated after their name.

Pearl Jacobson, Wac, Evelyn Olson, Wac, Evelyn Veum, Wac  
Mary Smith, Wac. Thelma Ettesvold, Spar, Ione Gust, Nurse

#### ORGANIZATIONS

The American Legion was organized after the return of the boys from world war 11. The Cyrus Post was named The Opheim Post No. 525. It was named in honor of Ralph Opheim who was the first Cyrus boy to lose his life in world war 11. The American Legion is always in charge of the Memorial Day Exercises in Cyrus.

The Cyrus boys organized a Brass Band in about the year 1900. R. C. Gust was the first instructor. After a few years Dr. Linde, took it over. In about 1906 this Band played at a 4th of July celebration at Glenwood. A picture of this band you will find on the inside of the front cover.

A few years later a school Band was organized with about 30 students taking part. Chester Kaldal of Glenwood was the instructor for some time, then Ed. Olson of Starbuck took it over until T. D. Tweten came here as principal of the school and he continued as director. To say the least it was a very Peppy band. A band stand was built on the school grounds

where many a concert was given. The band also made a tour of several of the surrounding towns and gave concerts. Members were lost through graduation and it became difficult to get leaders so the band was discontinued. The band stand was made into a grand stand for the athletic field.

The Women's Study Club of Cyrus was organized and federated in 1925 and still continues to meet twice a month. Several of the charter members are very active. The Women's Study Club sponsors the Camp Fire Girls and Cyrus also has a Boy's Scout Troop.

Both the Churches here have very active Ladies Aids organized in the early days. Each are entertained in handy and beautiful church parlors. Both Churches have Men's Club, Luther Leagues and the Cyrus Lutheran Church has the L. D. R. also. Active Sunday Schools in both Churches are in session Sunday mornings.

The P. T. A. has been written up elsewhere in the history. It was organized in 1920 and still draws a large crowd at every meeting.

The Cyrus Commercial Club has carried on for the welfare of Cyrus for several years. The members are the business men who sponsors civic activities for our town and community.

The W. C. T. U. was organized in 1948. They meet regularly once a month.

We are very happy to say that we have the only Fishermen College in the world, with over 1500 alumni scattered all over the world. Presidents, Governors, Congressmen, Professors, Kings, Clergymen, Ambassadors, Dictators are numbered among it's alumni except Joe Stalin, who hasn't been able to pass the Piscatorial examination as yet but he is working hard and event-

usually he will make the grade. Every year since it was organized and established the alumni get together for a banquet. A prominent top notch speaker usually keeps the audience spellbound for awhile after which the alumni tries to outdo each other with fish stories. The College has a quartette composed of the Dean Dr. Herman Linde, Alfred Lee, Edward Olson and Allen Berg. This quartette entertains the gathering with songs pertaining to fishing and other humorous songs. The piscatorial instructor is C. Guy Eddy, his job is to show the fishermen how to locate the best fishing spots in the lake, and advice them what bait to use for the different species of fish and how to put the bait on the hook to lure the funny tribe of the blue waters of the lakes and streams to take a nibble at it.

We also have a Conservation organization here. This organization was instrumental in getting a game Refuge on the South side of Highway # 28 containing 640 acres. The Chippewa River runs diagonally thru the center of the Refuge. It is an ideal spot for wild game where they are protected from the onslaught of the hunter population.

The following buildings have been destroyed by fire. 1 School house, 2 Creameries-(one a former garage and Roller Rink) 1 Telephone office, 2 Restaurants, 1 Pool Hall, 1 General store, 1 Drug Store, 2 Elevators, 1 Harness Shop, 1 Farmers State Bank. Thirteen business buildings have been destroyed by fire in 67 years, not a bad record.

In conclusion I will say that I have tried to cover the village to the best of my memory and from what I could

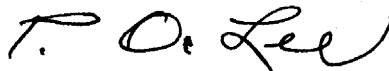
learn from other sources. Through the years people who have played a part in the history of Cyrus, have lived their lives and passed on leaving a heritage to posterity, many changes have been brought about down through the years. For instance years ago the 4th, of July Celebrations were the day of days, it was looked forward to with much anticipation and preparation such as a new dress for the 4th, was a must. Pavilion with a grand stand was built and all was covered with green branches and seats all around. Refreshment stand was also built where you could buy Ice cold Lemon Aid, Pop, Cracker Jack, hot Dogs, Cigars, and Candy. If anyone wanted something with more pep in it they could get it at a stand down by the Mill. Everyone was out for a good time and to celebrate. At one time when the first car made its appearance a Rambler owned by John Estenson, it was then quite a curiosity. The Rambler was busy all day taking passengers for a ride. For 25¢ you got a ride up to Thov Hagen's farm (the place where Harold Stensby now lives) at that celebration P. O. Lee read the Declaration of Independence and Hon. T. T. Ofstun delivered the 4th, of July address. What a contrast today fifty years later pack up your lunch basket, put your fishing tackle in your car and off you go miles and miles to some lake for a picnic and fish and otherwise spend the day.

As I sit reminiscing over the happenings of the years I am reminded of a so called "Good will tour" which many of our Cyrusites went on with representatives from Glenwood and Star-buck. We met in cars at Glenwood at 10:00 A. M. (These cars got there eventually but did not compare with the speed of the present day cars.) 15 miles per hour was the speed limit. It was raining so the top and side curtains had to be put on. The curtains were kept under the back seat so there was plenty

of commotion in the process. Someone tried to speed a little so Dr. Henrik Shinstead, then Dentist at Glenwood, stood in the door of a building - rain dripping from his hat, said, "eg truide vi var utte oaa morro eg." (I thought we were out for fun) The rain did not mar the spirits the tour was on. Roads were not marked like they are today so the pilot or leader threw out confetti, so the other cars could follow on the right road. They telegraphed ahead to have dinner ready for the group at Belgrade. The destination was St. Cloud but the nite was spent at Litchfield, going on to St. Cloud in the A. M. That evening a tired but happy group came home about 11:00 P. M., having taken a long sight seeing trip. Now days people think nothing of driving from one end of the United States to another - Cars just smile at the miles laterally.

I mention these episodes to show the changes that have taken place thru a few short years. There may have been other items of interest that could have been added but time and space do not permit.

Respectfully submitted



P. O. Lee

June 1, 1949