

Kittson County Museum

Preserving our history
through your stories



Editor's Note: These stories are provided to inspire you to write your family business and town history for an upcoming Kittson County history book. Watch for more information about the book and how you can volunteer to help in upcoming issues of the Kittson County Enterprise.

Ernest W. Davis
By Annabell Davis
"Our Northwest Corner - 1979" (tan book - edited for space)

My husband, the late Ernest W. Davis, was born on June 19, 1894, at Chatfield, MN to Mathilda and Herbert Davis. He was the youngest of a family of five children - Charles, Annie, Chris, Wesley and Ernest. His youth was spent in southern MN, where his father was engaged in farming. The family moved to Kittson Co. Halma, MN in early 1914 and settled on a farm about 2 1/2 miles west and south of Halma.

Ernest's interest in machines and their workings started at an early age, as a teenager. He would operate and service threshing machines during the harvest, also run Rumley and Titan tractors plowing and threshing for the large farmers east of Kennedy.

In 1918 he was drafted in the World War I. After boot training, his company left for overseas to France and Germany. He became a Corporal in the Co. K-117 infantry. He was in the front lines when the Armistice was signed and was discharged.

He attended the "Hanson Auto and Tractor" school at Fargo, N.D. and in 1920 E.W. built the first garage in Halma in partnership with Alfred Hammerbeck, who operated the blacksmith shop in the same building.

Later years the blacksmith shop was dissolved when Mr. Hammerbeck married the local school teacher Helen Loen and they moved to Ada, MN. Then E.W. built an addition on the garage as the business grew.

We were married Feb. 6, 1923. The wedding took place in Winnipeg, Man., where E.W.'s folks were living. We then returned to Halma in the spring, after spending the winter in Winnipeg. Our first home was a one room apt. behind the local café - next to the garage where we lived about four years.

Our first son, Neil Edmund was born there on Dec. 25, 1924. He attended Halma and Karlstad schools.

We later moved into the home, which we purchased that was built onto the same café on the east side. The house had been moved from beside the John Holm's Store on Iowa Ave. a few years before.

As our business increased E.W. built a gasoline and fuel bulk plant near the depot by the railroad side track. He again remodeled the garage, building it larger and adding modern Rest Rooms.

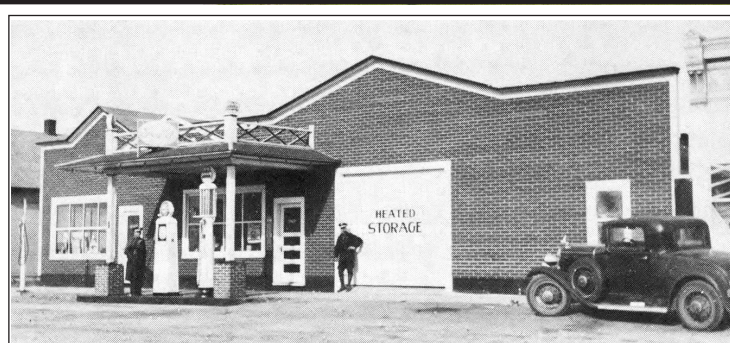
He bought a truck and tank to handle the bulk business and delivered gas, fuel and oil to the farmers, also road contractors including Herbert Reese of Greenbush, Oscar Schenky of Middle River, Peterson and Holin Co, and several others.

I worked alone with him in the garage and driving the truck, handling the bulk plant business for several years as well as taking care of the household duties, while E.W. was in charge of the shop.

E.W. was also active in his membership with the Masonic Lodge, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Forty and Eight, American Legion, the Elks Lodge.

The family were members of the Eidsvold Lutheran Church.

Ernest was with the crew that helped move the church from the local cemetery to the place at the crossroads in Halma where it now stands. The moving was done by logs, a stump puller, men and horses; it went very slow, the men had to crawl on their hands and knees at a great deal; that was in the



DAVIS GARAGE, Halma, Ernest Davis and Raymond Smith, pictured above. BELOW, Ernest and Annabell Davis with sons, Neil and Ben. (Submitted photos)



summer of 1916.

So this was an experience for him and helped when again our home was moved to the lots across on Main St. in the next block west where the home now stands, this was in 1933.

It was here where our second son, Ben Roger was born February 16, 1934. He, too, attended the Halma and Karlstad schools.

Several years later, we sold the garage and bulk plant and E.W. signed up with the road contractors. While working out he became ill, and doctored with several doctors and in several hospitals. His health kept failing. He passed away in Fargo, N.D. Vets Hospital June 3, 1952.

I know E.W. left some fond memories and a host of good friends thru our business with his happy and jolly personality, renewed our faith and lifted us up and gave us higher goals.

Our son, Neil was drafted in World War II and served overseas duty in Europe. When he returned he liked the farm so well he worked on several farms. He was employed in Nevada, IA on his Uncle's place. Here he met Coleen Eatwell and they were married April 19, 1948 and three children were born to them, Don, Mark and Carol. Neil became a Commercial truck transport driver. Living in Marshalltown where they had purchased their home. They then were transferred in later years to Arvada, Colorado. A few years later, Neil met with an accident with the truck loaded with gasoline for the "Colorado Springs Air Base", when a passenger train hit him at a crossing north of the city. From the result of the accident fire, he passed away Nov. 27, 1965.

Our son, Ben Roger, married Lois Sylvester of Kennedy, daughter of Helen and the late George Sylvester on August 8, 1953. They lived in So. Lyon, Michigan. He owns his own business, B.R.D. Incorporated Co. General Contractor. They have three children - Rikki, Ronda, and Mike.

In 1950, I was employed by the Karlstad School Dist. #343 to cook in the Halma School and was with the District for 26 years. When the Halma School closed down, I went to Karlstad cooking for fifteen years there and retired in 1976. I enjoyed my work and I miss the children.

In 1955 I had the surprise of my life when I won a

Hallock Eagles Club
Aerie #2617
BAR BINGO
Thurs, July 21 • 6 p.m.
\$750 Jackpot
Congratulations to **Vanessa Cook** who won **\$700** on **May 26.**
Big Screen TV • Pull Tabs
Lic. No. A01223-002

Sew Tori ... contuned from front page

"So my classes were The History of Togas; Pattern Making; Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Sewing; Draping. All kinds of stuff that was hands-on and I'm like, 'That's my major!'" she said.

Younggren had finally rediscovered her passion for fashion in a way that would allow her to enter into a great career. Although she never envisioned becoming a millionaire by entering the New York or Los Angeles fashion scene, she thought she'd design athletic wear or hoped to one day own a seamstress business. Everywhere she moved, her sewing machine took a place in her front seat and she did alterations and other seamstress work at her kitchen table.

With her bachelor's degree in hand, Younggren ventured out and held jobs like a paralegal and property manager until she could chase that dream. After moving to Kittson County with her husband, Nathan, she started coaching and continued to do seamstress work from home.

"Between Nathan believing in me and saying, 'You can do it,' and the community being so supportive, and it being affordable to start your own business, it's been great," Younggren said. "I want to provide a service to the community so I try to keep my pricing affordable."

Providing a service
For weddings and proms, customers will often bring in dresses and other garments to be altered - either let out or brought in - to ensure the perfect look on their special day. But day-to-day garments also find a second purpose in Younggren's shop. Recently, she altered a shirt for a woman who didn't like the neckline. A customer requested an outfit for her therapy dog. Using a dog Halloween costume as a guide, Younggren measured the dog and created her own pattern, complete with swinging arms.

Making her own pattern starts with measurements, pictures and a rough sketch or tracing a garment onto paper. From there, she can



MANDY SCHELL, of Grand Forks, tries on her altered bridesmaid dress Friday, July 15 as Younggren makes a final check of her work. (Enterprise photo by Anna Jauhola)

contour the pattern as needed, tweak it and pin it, drape it on a mannequin, and change it as she goes.

"It's like an art because I can look at a pattern and see what the garment will look like," she said. "It's just something I can do, like someone who can look at a sunset and paint it."

Another customer wanted new covers for outdoor patio furniture. Younggren worked with the customer to find weather-proof fabric online and made a pattern to fit the cushions the customer had.

A grandmother visited Younggren in need of a dress for her grandchild's wedding. She brought four pictures of four different dresses. She liked the sleeves on one, layers on another and the length of a third. Using her super-talent, Younggren envisioned how those would go together, worked with her customer to find the right materials, got her measurements and created a pattern from scratch.

"She absolutely loved it, and it fit her so perfect," Younggren said. "That was a fun project. And it was probably more affordable than what she would have gotten at a bridal store. Being able to make a custom dress, and make it something people can afford, is so cool."

She's also used baby clothes to create a special

quilt, memory bears from customers' loved ones' clothing and a first communion dress for a 10-year-old from her mother's wedding dress. These sentimental and heart-felt projects really fit into Younggren's passion to not only create new things from old material, but to also help reduce waste and do her part to save the planet.

One of her favorite stories from recent months came in the form of a stranger. A man walked in off the street and asked for a needle and thread. Sounds like a bad joke, but turns out the man was in real need. He'd split his jeans in a bad spot on the front.

"He said, 'I've never sewn before.' I said, 'I can help you. What do you need done?'" Younggren said. "He needed jeans repaired but he was wearing them."

She had the man step into the dressing room, hand her his jeans, she patched and stitched them up, and handed them back. It took her all of 10 minutes, leaving the man flabbergasted. The truck driver asked how much he owed and Younggren said, "Just let people know there's a seamstress in Hallock!" And he said, "You seriously saved my day."

When people leave Sew Tori satisfied and with a smile, that is Younggren's dream wrapped up in a bow.

Pontiac Car at the Kittson County Fair at Hallock. I sure enjoyed that gift, and drove it for many years. The Lord is good and has been good to me in many ways and my family.

I have always been active in church work, was a member of the choir, taught Sunday School several years, served on the church board a few years and working with the youth, the Luther League as a councilor and chaperone accompanied them on trips to Conventions.

My membership with the Legion Auxiliary, Royal Neighbor's of America Camp 10094, Homemakers Club, and I received a fifty year pin in the Eastern Star Lodge of Hallock having been in active all of these.

I'm now enjoying living in Halma with happy memories of yesteryear, and I have our loving Mother, Mabel Flugstad living with me who is in good health being ninety three years young. Enjoying retirement in the best of health, traveling visiting family, relatives and friends. God is Good, and we thank Him for his Blessings.

Local, area students graduate from UND, named to honor lists

GRAND FORKS, N.D. - Local and area students recently graduated from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. They are listed by hometown.

Minnesota:
Hallock - Ellie J. Lunsetter, accountancy; Bryden O. Swenson, kinesiology.

Karlstad - Brittany N. Donarski, early childhood education.

Kennedy - Cammy L. McEnelly, nursing, cum laude.

Lancaster - Alex D. Vagle, physical therapy.

North Dakota:
Drayton - Kelsy M. Rost, nursing.

Pembina - Spencer Peters, unmanned aircraft systems operations, cum laude.

The following students were named to the UND Dean's List:

Drayton - Alexia Langowski, Hailey C. Narloch, Victoria D. Stevens, Damian R. Pokrzywinski.

Kennedy - Cammy L. McEnelly.

Pembina - Spencer Peters.

The following students were named the the UND President's Roll of Honor:

Drayton - Alexia Langowski, Damian Pokrzywinski, Victoria D. Stevens.

Hallock - Evan J. Lunsetter.

Lake Bronson - Sarah A. Youngstrand.

POWERFUL SAVINGS WITH GENERAC

- FREE estimates
- Financing available
- AFFORDABLE backup power
- Delivery, Installation and Service
- Family and locally owned and operated

CLEARBROOK ELECTRIC
SALES AND "SERVICE"
Randy Wetenkamp
218-776-3995 • 218-556-5981

GENERAC
Automatic Standby Generator
Serving ALL of Northern Minnesota

TRAIN RIDES ARE BACK
Bed & Breakfast Train
Wine & Cheese Train
Elegant Dinner or Family Pizza
Begin May 10, 2022 • Get Tickets Today
Reservations 715-635-3200
www.spoonetrainride.com

N6639 Dilly Lake Rd Trego, WI

Summer Concert Series
Friday, July 22
7:00 p.m.
On 2nd Street
South, Downtown
Hallock
Paige Shannon
California-based singer/songwriter
Americana and folk-tinged country and pop music
Last Chance
TRADING POST
Hallock, MN

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Celebrate Kennedy
Friday, July 22
KENNEDY SOFTBALL
Under The Lights
Starting at 6 p.m.
Flippin' Turners food truck on site

Saturday, July 23
KIDS' ACTIVITIES ~ 9:00 a.m. - noon by the school
Fire truck rides and other activities provided by the Kennedy Firemen

KENNEDY CAFE ~ 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Serving Pulled Pork, Corn on the Cob and Beans across from the VFW

KENNEDY SOFTBALL
across from the VFW
Registration - 12:30 p.m.
Bags Fly - 1:33 p.m.

Second tournament of random draw to follow
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
\$20/team Entry Fee • Double Elimination • 75% PAYOUT
Pre-registration is not necessary, but can be done by calling Nathan Bowman at 218-988-2242

KENNEDY FIREMEN RIBEYE STEAK MEAL
Serving from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
in the Kennedy VFW Middle Room
Following the meal, the firemen will hold their raffle drawing - limited tickets still available.