



ABOVE: Joe and Selma Langen. BELOW: Odin Langen, center, with sons Wayne and Lynden. (Submitted photos)

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.

Joseph Langen
By Odin Langen
"Our Northwest Corner - 1976" (red book)

In 1905, Joseph Langen came from Rosos, Norway, at the age of 18. He made his home at John Long's; his first years here were spent as a hired hand on several of the neighboring farms. He also worked one year on a "Company" farm, the "31 Farm," owned by L. H. Kaste of Minneapolis, which he later purchased.

It is now significant that we meet another family, the S. P. Almquists. They originated in Smaland, Sweden, and homesteaded about 3 1/2 miles north of Kennedy where they lived for several years. Mr. Almquist was one of the early school board members of the Kennedy School Board at the time the "old" school house was built. Later they bought a farm from a Mr. and Mrs. Olson who had homesteaded there. The Almquists had one daughter, Selma. Thus it seemed providence had arranged that Joe Langen and Selma Almquist be close neighbors. A romance blossomed, and they were married on July 2, 1911. So began the first family to bear the Langen name in Kittson County. They became immediate farmers because of a freak accident, which claimed the life of S. P. Almquist, while he was giving medication to a horse.

Joe and Selma operated this farm until 1919 when they bought the north half of Section 31 in Skane Township. This was the original headquarters of the "31 Farm," which they operated until their retirement in 1951 when they moved to Hallock.

During the 32-year period, they struggled with all the problems that confronted everybody, particularly the farmer. This, included the Depression, grasshoppers, drought and almost nonexistent farm prices. Somehow, their determination brought them through all these adversities while raising a family of four children. Joe served for a short time as treasurer of the Skane Town Board.

While the farm and family were his prime interests, he found diversity and relax-

ation as a sports enthusiast. His attention was directed to all sports with emphasis on boxing and wrestling. He maintained a miniature amateur gym at home which had punching bags, Indian clubs, dumbbells, wrestling mats, etc. This characterized him as an authority on boxing and wrestling, so he refereed most such events in Kennedy during the Nels Gravgaard era. Nels promoted and participated in many boxing and wrestling matches in the old town hall in Kennedy in the 1920s. During the winter, Nels would run 5 1/2 miles out to the Langen farm to train with Joe, then run back again to town. This sports enthusiasm has prevailed throughout the Langen history. His grandsons, Wayne and Lynden, have established some prominence in Kittson County and in college as baseball and basketball players, and is presently being continued by his great-grandsons.

Joe and Selma spent their remaining years in Hallock where Selma died in 1965. Joe spent his last four winters in St. Petersburg, Fla., and then moved to the rest home at Hillsboro, N.D., where he passed away in 1971.

The Langens had four children. Percy, the youngest, after having served his hitch in the Army, in the Japanese theatre, was discharged as staff sergeant and returned to Kittson County and married Della Swanson. They farmed the home farm for almost two years. At this time tragedy struck with Percy's unexpected demise in the fall of 1952.

Amy, the next youngest, following high school, pursued the medical field. She served as a doctor's receptionist in Stephen and Grand Forks, and St. Michael's Hospital in Grand Forks.

She then married Howard Knudsvig from Buxton, N.D., in 1946. They still reside there operating a funeral home and a hardware store.

Elphie became a secretary following business college, then married a young attorney, George Sorlie, also from Buxton. They have since established the Sorlie Law Firm in Hillsboro. Elphie still works as a legal secretary in her husband's office.

Odin, the oldest, began farming in 1935 on his grandmother's farm.

(Note: Odin has an interesting story of his own. It can be found in "Our Northwest Corner - 1976" page 241)

News from "The Station"

By Elaine Baker

Hi everyone! I am back from a very good winter in sunny Arizona and not really enjoying what Mother Nature is sending us. However, I know we need the moisture very badly for the crops and pastures. I did see several Kittson County folks over the winter and that was nice. It was near 100 degrees the day I flew home so it was time for me to exit the heat.

I attended the board meeting of The Station last week and the question of "Where are our senior citizens?" came up. I do know that many of you feel even though you are of the age you refuse to be one. I was of that mind set myself, maybe still am a little bit, but it is inevitable that sooner or later we will all need the companionship of others at a meeting place called the Senior Center. Like it or not, it is a fact.

Many of us get to be alone and it is the perfect place to meet with others and enjoy a meal, Bingo, a card game or coffee and visiting. We have a very nice facility here in Hallock and it needs the support of the younger seniors as well as the older ones.

Our meals continue to come from the Karlstad meal site and what I have had is very tasty and good. I encourage you to partake of these meals. Just call in your order the day before and you can eat it at the Center or have it delivered to your home. I suggest, if you are able to come in, to have your meal here. It isn't fun to eat alone. So, hats off to the Karlstad kitchen for their good work.

Whist was played last Monday and winning high for the ladies was Mary Carlson and low went to Dorothy Muir. For the men, Delmont Hagen with high

and Mel Such with low.

At Bingo on Wednesday everyone won twice, Helen Tweeten won the blackout and Marilyn Gatheridge provided the lunch.

On Friday, May 6 the nursing service will be doing the second booster for the Moderna shot. They will be given from 11 a.m. until noon. Foot care is that same day at 12:30 p.m. so you need to call in and get an appointment for foot care.

Did you know that April is Keep America Beautiful Month? All I can say is reduce, reuse and recycle, and tidy up your grounds. I think trash along the roadways is one of the most unsightly things I can see. Let's clean up our communities and roadways, and keep them that way!

Until next week I will leave you with this: Why does an archeologist make such a good husband? Because the older you get the more interested he is in you!

Meals for the week:
Wed., April 27: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, romaine salad w/dressing.

Thurs., April 28: Roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas.

Fri., April 29: BBQ pork on bun, creamy cucumber salad, pears.

Mon., May 2: Orange chicken, brown rice, Asian veggies.

Tues., May 3: Goulash, peas, tropical fruit.

Wed., May 4: Chef salad w/ham and turkey, carrots.

All LSS meals are served with milk, bread and dessert. Menu is subject to change based on the availability of food products. This service is funded in part by a contract with the Area Agency on Aging with funding from the federal Older Americans Act through the MN Board on Aging.

Lancaster looks ... Cont. from front

- Approved suspending the district's rule of no school activities after 6 p.m. on Wednesdays to allow scheduling the annual Spring Fling and senior high play on May 18. Typically, the district doesn't allow for events on Wednesday evenings or Sundays as they are designated for family time. But due to a hectic May activities schedule, the board made the exception. Similarly, the board also approved a resolution to add language in the handbook to state any practices or activities on Wednesday evenings or Sundays must be pre-approved by administration.
- Approved the first reading of the 2022-23 student handbook and employee handbook.
- Approved hiring Trent Jerome as the boys' golf coach; Jorja Allery as head cheer adviser and Heather

Anderson as junior class adviser.

- Accepted the resignation of Denise Strege as KCC girls' junior high track coach.

- Approved resolution to amend the 2021-22 school calendar to 165 student contact days, a result of having missed so many days due to inclement weather.

- Approved an FMLA request from teacher Autumn Schindele for the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, and approved advertising for a long-term substitute teacher to cover her classes.

- Approved a call for bids on old weight room equipment, which was recently replaced with new equipment through a grant.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18 at 8 p.m.

Do you qualify for Social Security spouse's benefits?

Social Security benefits are a crucial part of millions of Americans' retirement income. If you don't have enough Social Security credits to qualify for benefits on your own record, you may be able to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

To qualify for spouse's benefits, you must be one of the following:

- 62 years of age or older.

- Any age and have in your care a child younger than age 16, or who has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

Your full spouse's benefit could be up to one-half the amount your spouse is entitled to receive at their full retirement age. If you choose to receive your spouse's benefits before you reach full retirement age, you will get a permanently reduced benefit.

If you wait until you reach full retirement age to receive benefits, you'll receive your full spouse's benefit amount, which is up to one-half the amount your spouse can receive. You'll also get your full spouse's benefit if you are under full retirement age, but care for a child and one of the following applies:

- The child is younger than age 16.

- The child has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

If you're eligible to receive retirement benefits on your own record, we will pay that amount first. If your benefits as a spouse are higher than your own retirement benefits, you will get a combination of benefits that equal the higher spouse benefit.

For example, Sandy qualifies for a retirement benefit of \$1,000 and a spouse's benefit of \$1,250. At her full retirement age, she will receive her own \$1,000 retirement benefit. We will add \$250 from her spouse's benefit, for a total of \$1,250.

Want to apply for either your or your spouse's benefits? Are you at least 61 years and nine months old? If you answered yes to both, visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement to get started today.

Are you divorced from a marriage that lasted at least 10 years? You may be able to get benefits on your former spouse's record. You can find out more by visiting www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html for more information.

Hallock Eagles Club
Aerie #2617

BAR BINGO
Thurs, April 28 • 6 p.m.
\$500 Jackpot

Congratulations to **Kailey Younggren** who won **\$600** on **April 21.**

Big Screen TV • Pull Tabs
Lic. No. A01223-002

FRYBREAD TACOS + BINGO

FRIDAY, MAY 6
Tacos 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Bingo starts at 7 p.m.
Lake Bronson Legion

Fry Bread Taco with fixings and bar ~ \$12
Happy Hour: 5:00-7:00 p.m.
To-go Orders available!
Call the Legion @ 218-754-2525 to place your order
Come and enjoy a fun night with friends!
Sponsored by the Lake Bronson Improvement Committee!
FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS BRONSONFEST

Greenbush Veterinary Clinic

VACCINATION CLINICS

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Lancaster Old Fire Hall	Wednesday, April 27	5:00-7:00 p.m.
Karlstad Fire Hall	Wednesday, May 11	5:00-7:00 p.m.
Lake Bronson Fire Hall	Wednesday, June 1	5:00-7:00 p.m.
Kennedy City Shop	Wednesday, June 8	5:00-7:00 p.m.

Please bring reminder cards to the clinic.

Kindergarten 1st Year Preschool (3 years old by Sept. 1st)

OPEN HOUSE

Let us get prepared for fall 2022!
Please join us
Tuesday, May 3
6:00-6:45 p.m.
Lancaster School

Preschoolers (Preschool Room)

- 6:00 p.m. Meet & Greet
- 6:15 p.m. Preschool Immunization Discussion - School Nurses Jeanna Kujava and Shelby Retief
- 6:30 p.m. Preschool School Bus Orientation

Kindergarteners (Kindergarten room)

- 6:15 p.m. Meet & Greet
- 6:30 p.m. Kindergarten Immunization Discussion - School Nurses Jeanna Kujava and Shelby Retief

There will be fall 2022 information packets for first year preschool and kindergarten parents.

Stop by the book fair in the music room!
Open until 7:00 p.m.

Feel free to contact Mendy with any questions at 218-762-5400 or mcofield@lancaster.k12.mn.us

Hallock Eagles Club

Friday, April 29 • Regular menu
Saturday, April 30 • 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Taco Bar: Taco in a bag or Soft shell tacos
Seasoned ground beef and all of the toppings

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 4 - 11 p.m. • Kitchen open 5-8 p.m. • 218-843-3494

BUSINESS FOR SALE BY OWNER

Kittson Auto & Impl., Inc.
farm supply company
located in Hallock, Minn.

Any interested persons may contact
Brett Sobolik at 218-843-1474
for more information.

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.spoonertrainride.com

Garden of Eden

Opening Day Sunday, May 1

HOURS: Monday - Friday, noon - 7 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Come visit our greenhouse tucked against the borders of Lake Bronson State Park!

3923 240th Street, Lake Bronson, MN
701-526-6403
thegardenofedenj@outlook.com

Follow us @ Garden of Eden LLC