

Albert and Verna Dronen

May 15, 2005

Presented by Erling Olson

Albert:

My dad came from the island of Dronen in 1899. the island is 40 miles S. W. of Bergen in the north sea. The people from there all go by the name Dronen.

My mother came from Arendal in 1908. Dad homesteaded 8 miles north of Driscoll where they raised 6 children. They had many trying times but survived the dry 30's, bank closings, etc.

As for myself and Verna, we do not think we deserve this tree honor, but do graciously accept. When we lived 40 miles from Bismarck, it was hard to take part in all we would have liked. When my wife Thoneta was ill and later passed away I dropped out of folk dancing for 8 years. Thoneta and I served as inner and outer guard for 2 years. Verna and I also served as inner and outer guard for 2 years, delivered Meals on Wheels one year, helped at the Lutefisk Dinner and really enjoy our time with the Sons of Norway Chorus and Folk Dancers.

At Driscoll, Steele and Sterling I was very active in all community projects: the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, Driscoll Men's Club, the Driscoll 30's Club who published the only history book of Driscoll. We built a park two miles west of Driscoll which we named Sibley Park and we sponsored an annual celebration of Driscoll for many years. I served on Zion Church Board for many years and the cemetery board for 55 years. In politics I served as precinct committeeman for about 53 years. I served on township board for many years. Also was Burleigh Co. Soil Conservation Supervisor for 32 years and was on the state Soil Conservation Committee for 4 years and was President of it for one year. I served 24 years as a Director of BEK Telephone Co. and served on the state telephone association as treasurer, and 2 years as president. I also served as president of Driscoll Pioneer Farmers Union local. I would spend about 55 days a year at these meetings.

I would say my best time I have had has been the 37 years I have been with the Sons of Norway. Both Verna and I enjoy visiting and being with all of you, and wish to thank you again for this award and all you have done for us.

Verna:

My parents were both born in Norway. Mother came from Trondhjem and Dad from Modum which is a small area north of Oslo. My Dad came over here with his uncle and settled near Verona, N. D. when he was just 14 years old. He was the oldest of ten children. Mother and a friend of hers came to that area too and they did housework for families.

My first husband Harold Hanson and I owned and published the Steele Ozone Press for about 35 years. This was a weekly newspaper in Steele, N. D. Due to my husband's health we sold the paper and later I worked for 10 years as Deputy Kidder County Register of Deeds. In Steele we were members of Trinity Lutheran Church and I was active in church



organizations, taught Sunday School and was active in the Altar Guild and ladies groups. I also belonged to the VFW and Legion Auxiliary and was past president of the VFW Auxiliary. I served as secretary of the Bowling League for several years and also was a member of the Golf League.

When Albert and I married in 1993, he inherited 3 sons, 1 daughter and 8 grandchildren. Since he and his first wife had no children, he loves to tell that it took him just 15 minutes to become a father and grandfather.