
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.

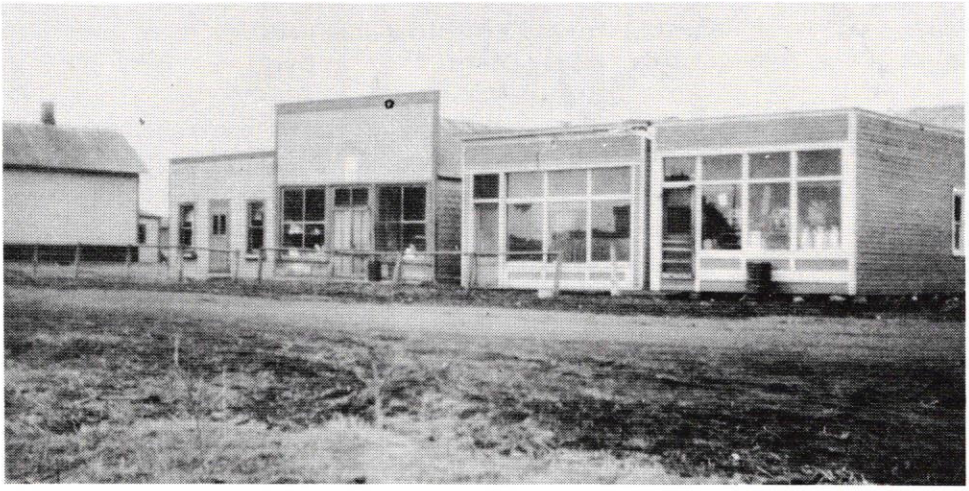


Cosmos Creamery in the early years. This is the second creamery.

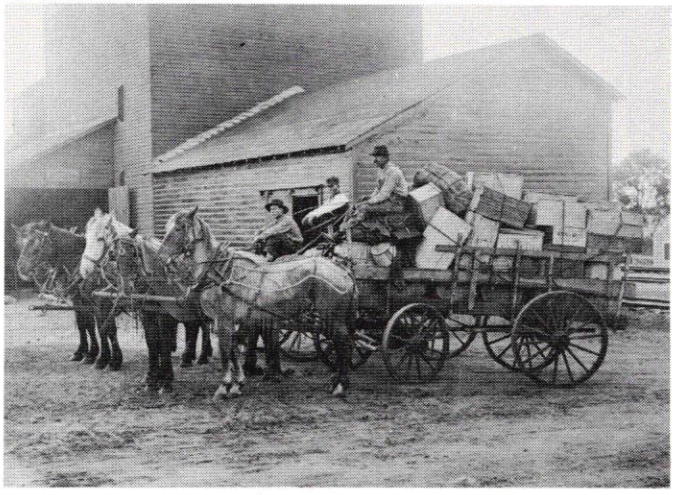
There were an average of 90 patrons and during the peak milk season of 1937, the maximum monthly check issued only one patron was $248 and the average daily churnings were 2,000 pounds of butter.

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.



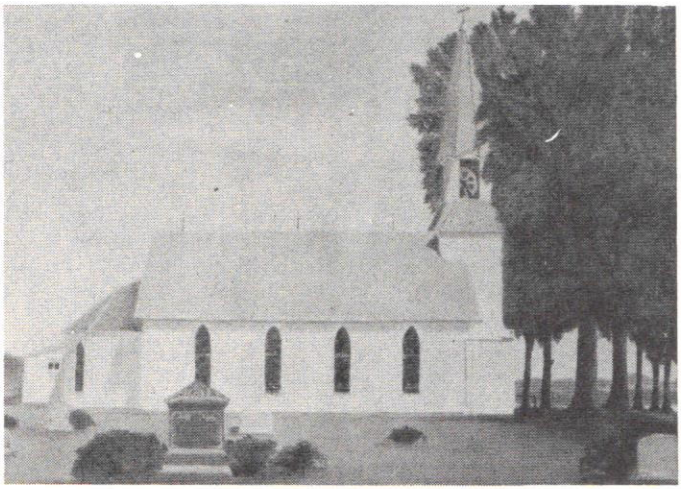
First Lutheran Church 1897. This was a midsummer picnic.

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

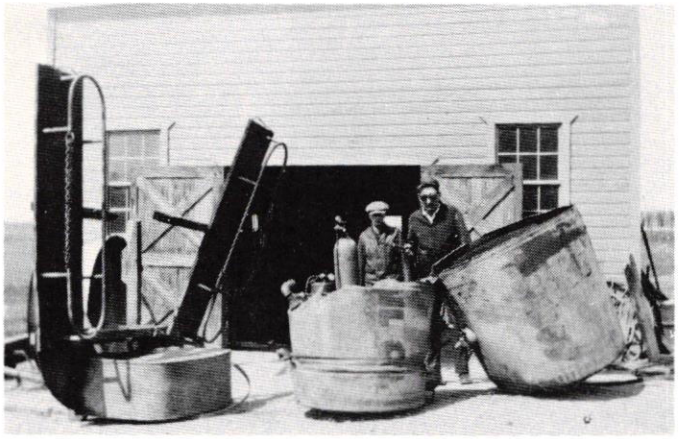
Cosmos was still a little hamlet when Henry Klawitter opened up his blacksmith shop in the present village in 1907. The only other business places were the creamery and the store; and the blacksmith shop was first located north of the store, but later moved to the south part of the business district.

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.

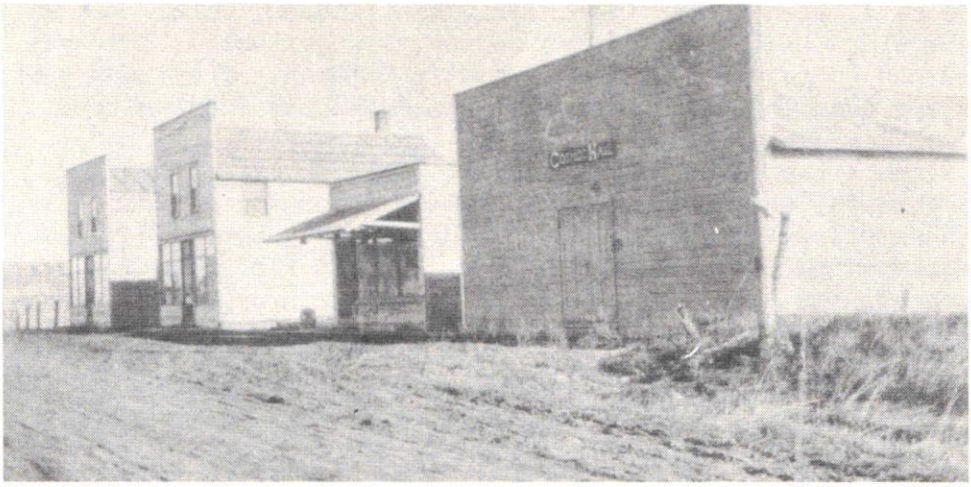
In the year 1925, Harry Swanson took over the First State Bank of Cosmos. At the time of the depression the bank was not closed except during the moratorium.

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.

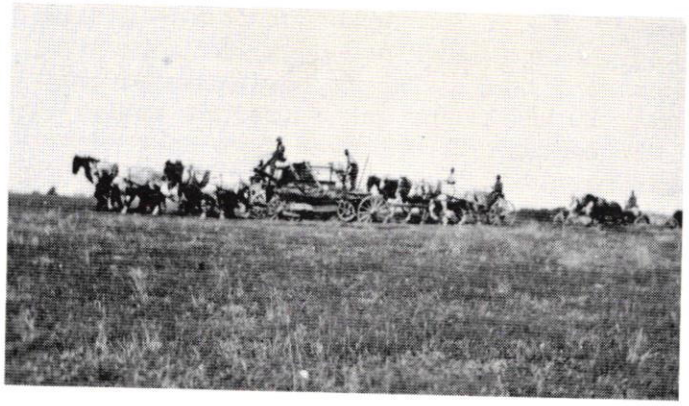
COMING OF THE RAILROAD

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

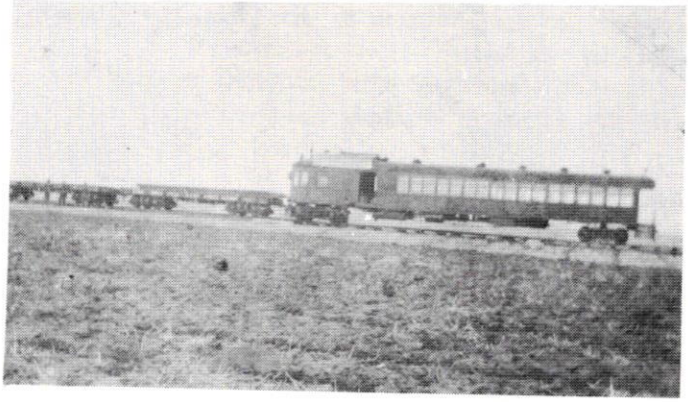
Those attending the excursion and banquet from the Cosmos community were: John and J.E. Anderson, Herman Berkholz, Carol Dries, Bertel Dummer, Otto Flemming, Albert Flemming, Ferdinand Geier, George Halverson, Albert Heller, Chas. Hoecke, Richard Kaddatz, Mike Koch, H.R. Klawitter, Carl Koglin, Ernest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

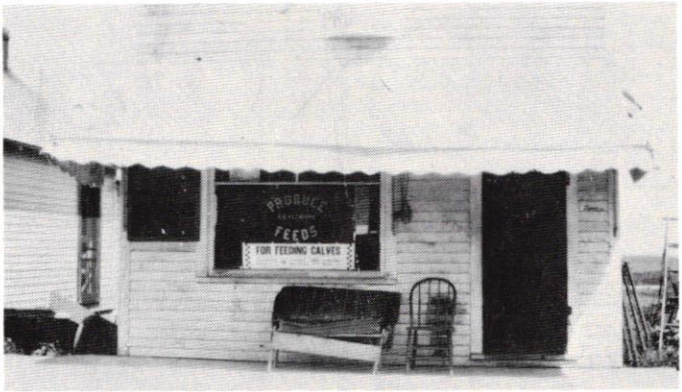


Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Olsen in 1945. Alfred holding grandson Curtis Meyer. Alfred was manager of a produce for a number of years.



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.

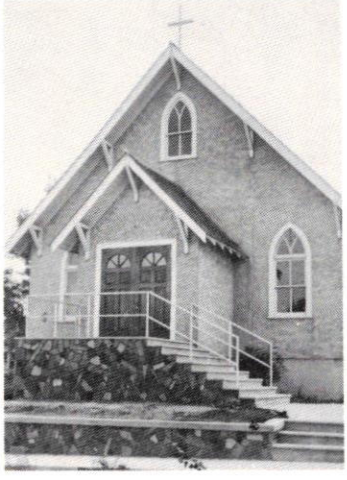
Prior to going into the Harness Shop and Shoe Repair Shop Mr. Schiro was in the restaurant business and this was in the early years of Cosmos and the town had a population of nine with the following business places, General Store, Pool Hall, Shoe Shop, Produce Station, Blacksmith, Hackbarth's Garage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



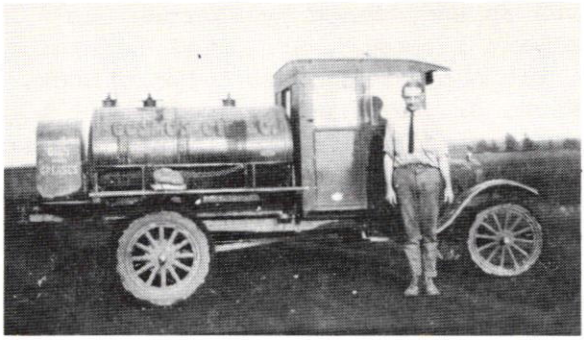
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH dedicated in 1958

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.

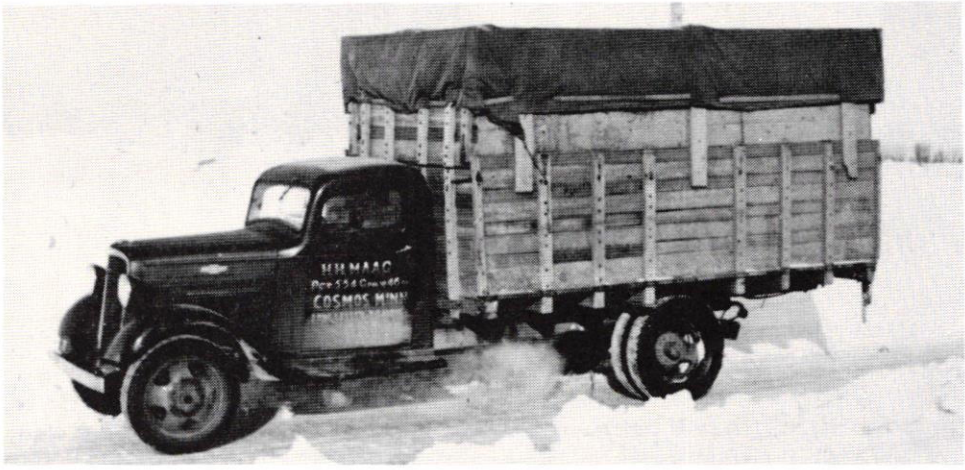


Herbert Maag with his Model T ford truck. He worked for Cosmos Oil Co. Ed Maag was owner. Taken in 1926.

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.



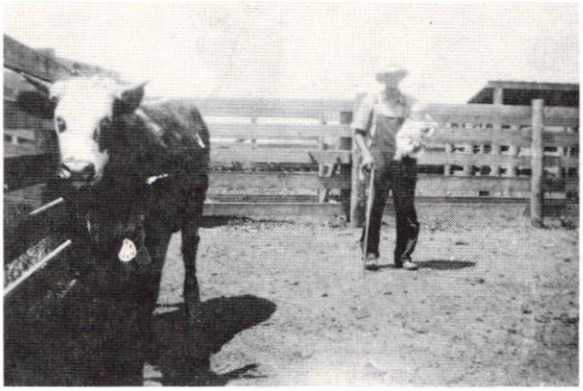
Charles J. Larson retiring as Postmaster in 1953. With Edythe Olson, clerk; Dorin Anderson taking over as Postmaster - and the postal inspector to the extreme right. The post office was in the Larson-Peterson Store at this time.

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