

# Old Settler's picnic in Alexander Sat., Sept. 7<sup>1968</sup>

Honoring Mr. and Mrs. Lars Haugen



Mr. and Mrs. Lars O. Haugen, Williston, former long time residents of the Alexander area, will be honored guests at the 23rd annual Old Settler's Day picnic in Alexander Saturday, September 7th.

Festivities will start with a parade at 11 a.m. followed by the traditional free beef barbecue at noon. The Alexander band will play at 1 p.m. and the program honoring the Haugens and other old settlers will begin at 1:30 p.m. Horse events starting at 3 p.m. will complete the afternoon entertainment. Charles Aasen will be master of ceremonies, and Mrs. Garvin Jacobson will be hostess.

All oldtimers, their decedents and friends are invited to attend the picnic, renew acquaintances and make new friends. There will be plenty of time for reminiscing and reviewing by-gone days.

The honored guests, Mr. and Mrs. Lars O. Haugen, were born and raised in Vang, Valdres, Norway. Mrs. Haugen, the former Christine Dahl, came to the United States in February of 1912. Mr. Haugen came in March of the same year and filed on land in Bowline township in November of 1912. He began living on the land in 1913.

Lars Haugen and Christine Dahl were married March 17, 1915, at Williston by Rev. Distad. Their wedding trip took them by train to Fairview where they had a three-hour wait before boarding the train to Alexander.

They began their married life on an empty prairie with two empty hands. They went through all the homesteaders' hardships, dry years, army worms, hail and grasshoppers, but with good health and hard work managed to live through it.

The Haugens had three children who were all born on the farm, and now have 11 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Their sons, Orville and Luther are farmer-ranchers living south of Alexander and one daughter, Inga, who recently lost her husband, Dr. Alan K. Johnson, lives in Williston and is a registered nurse.

Mr. and Mrs. Haugen moved to Alexander in 1928 because

there was no school near their farm. While they lived in Alexander they ran a roller skating rink and dance hall, known as Haugen hall, for ten years.

In 1946 they sold their farm and hall and decided to do some traveling. They went to Norway where they stayed for a year. Upon their return they bought a home at Silverton, OR, but soon decided that North Dakota was still the best place to live, so, in 1953 they moved to Williston where they built a home at 505 9th Avenue East.

In 1960, Mr. and Mrs. Haugen, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Luther Haugen and Dr. and Mrs. Alan K. Johnson made a second trip to Norway, going over by boat and flying back. The trip took six weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Haugen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1965 at their home in Williston.

Their most recent trip to Norway was in May of this year. They flew both ways and returned on June 15th. During the years they have also made various trips in the United States and find that this is a very good country.

Committees in charge of picnic arrangements are as follows:

Steering committee: Val Heinz, Vince Rettig, Ray Mrachek.

Barbecue: Howard Heggen, Pete Eikren, Wayne Pendelton,

Jerome Heggen, Bob Hinman, Darold Hitland, Joe Weber, Art Winden, Henry (Pinky) Weber, Roy Winden.

Publicity: Al Ley.

Button sales: Al Melby.

Parade: Dean Jacobson, Albert Mrachek, John Mrachek, Bill Forthun, Dennis Powell, Harold Hoehn, Tim Dwyer.

Horse events: Fred James, Lloyd Powell, Ford Sims, Carl Hermanson, Orville Haugen, Alex Gullickson, Garvin Jacobson, Jerry Bratsberg.

Beans: Edwin Leer, Buck Rhoades, Adolph Anklaam, Elwood Adams, Cliff Olson.

Coffee: Art Hett, Pat Roe, Glenn Helling, Paul Berge, Ervin Bottke, Art Link.

Park preparation: Charles Aasen, Tom Dwyer, Chet Monson, Stan Swearingen, Ed Strickland, Harvey Monson, Bob Olson.

Public address system: Bill Lanz, Henry Lebak.

Police: Jim Neer, Don Weber, Tony Paluck.

Pop sale: William Klym, Aveard Fjelstad.

Serving: Ray Mrachek, Bill Monson, Wayne Pedelton, Bob Chitwood, Rev. Nelson, Father Bachmeier, Gunder Skedsvold, Anton Geggelman, Jerry Slagle, Ben Okland, Roger Sanders, Bill Bolken, Jim Weber, Charles Ball, Floyd Monson, George Novak, Stan Forthun.

Cleanup: everyone.