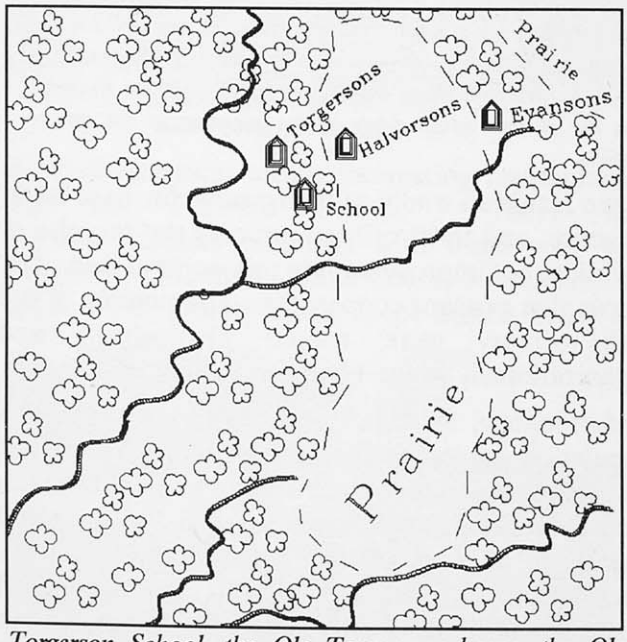
Chapter 5: The Forward School District

There is only one place in the historic Perry Norwegian Settlement where true prairie extended across a major valley -- from high land to high land -- and it was there, down in a mile-wide section of valley, that the community of Forward grew.

Sometime between 1850 and 1856, probably in 1853, 54 or 55, the families in the neighborhood -- the Lars Nelsons at farm 7, the Johannes Gunderson Fjelstads and the Knud Aslaksons at the two farms which came to make up 8, the Kittle O. Tvedtens at 10, the Ole Torgersons at 15, the Ole Kittleson Tvedtens at 17, the Christian Evansons at 25, the Ouver Halvorsons at 26, the Gullick Ryrs at 43, and the Olsons at 34 -- banded together to build a school, 16, at the west edge of the half-mile-wide, two-and-a-half-mile long tongue of prairie. Within 500 feet of both the Ole Torgersons and Ole Kittleson Tvedtens cabins, the Torgerson School was in the margin between creekside timber and open prairie.



Torgerson School, the Ole Torgersons home, the Ole Halvorsons home, and the Christian Evansons home. Map created from University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor Eneritus Robert Finley's pre-settlement vegetation map which was based on G.W. Stephenson's October 1, 1833, survey notes and the topographical information on the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society's c.1856 plat map of the Town of Perry

Although the population in the area served by the Torgerson School grew over the next 20 years, nothing even remotely resembling a village had emerged by 1871. The residents' family homesteads remained dispersed through the broad valley where the two northernmost arms of the Pleasant Valley Branch of the Pecatonica River merge. That year, however, when the federal government established a regular semi-weekly mail route through the Town of Perry and moved the Perry Post Office from Anders Sanderson's house to O.B. Dahle's store (see The Village of Daleyville), Christian Evanson, whose house (25) abutted the eastern edge of the prairie tongue, was appointed as the second postmaster for the township. Establishing his post office in his farm house, he exercised that special right of postmasters, and named the area it served Forward.

Unlike O.B. Dahle, Christian Evanson was not primarily an entrepreneur. Christian had owned this farm since before 1856. He was a farmer for over 25 years before he went into business. Although one can't be sure which came first, the post office or the sale of merchandise, Christian and his wife, Ragnild, did not open the first official Forward Store on their farm until 1874.

By the next year, Forward was prosperous enough to need a new one-room limestone schoolhouse.

Students outside the c. 1875-1910 Forward School

With the Torgerson School no longer in use, on April 4, 1876, at the Annual Town Meeting, the Electors of the Town of Perry voted to lease the site from Ole Torgerson and buy the old school building for $20.00 for a Town Hall.

In 1884, Forward got its second business establishment, the Perry Center Cheese Factory. Kennell Helgeson of farm 8 recalls that the cheese factory was usually run by cheesemakers from Switzerland who made brick, Limburger, and Swiss cheese. In the early years, the farmers would bring their milk to the factory mornings and evenings.

When the cheese was ready for market the farmers would haul it by horse and wagon to the railroad station in Blanchardville. Before it was sold, however, buyers would come and offer a selling price. Farmers would also cut and haul wood to the cheese factory for the big boiler that was required for making cheese. The factory was run as a cooperative.

That this factory was perceived by its owners as a cooperative, rather than a joint stock company, is perhaps reflective of the fact that it was located in the heart of the largest concentration of members of the Haugean Congregation in the Perry Settlement. In 1854, when the congregation meeting in the 1852 log church (9 in The Daleyville School District) split, with those wanting to call an ordained pastor from Norway and recreate, as closely as possible, the State Church of Norway in this new land leaving and organizing as a separate congregation (see Chapter 13), the settlers who remained with the existing church affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (also known as the Eielssen Synod, it was replaced by the Haugean Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1876).

From 1796 until 1811, Hans Neilson Hauge was the pivotal figure in a pietistic religious revival in Norway. As Elling Eielssen, a leader of the Haugean movement in Norway who carried the crusade to the American Midwest -- even supposedly preaching at the Perry log Church between 1852 and 1854, explained, while the leaders of the State Church of Norway concentrated on "masses, gowns, and dead ceremonies" they left "the miserable people to tumble about in their unresurrected lives," ignoring "their drunkenness, cursing, swearing, dancing and fiddling and other such noisy pleasures."

Hauge called for new leadership, lay leadership, of the church. Although acknowledging the core Lutheran belief that salvation was God's gift, not something earned by human actions or achievements, Hauge stressed the role of the individual in determining the fate of his or her soul -- salvation by grace followed a personal conversion experience and repentance. He also believed that one's faith and state of grace would be visible to others in one's work and daily life. Just as Martin Luther had 200 years before him, Hans Neilson Hauge saw work as a Christian calling, a means of worshipping God.

The Haugean defiance of established religious authority in Norway spilled over into social, political, and economic challenges to the Norwegian elite. Himself born a peasant, Hauge urged peasants to create businesses and cooperatives for the purpose of improving their economic and social position as a class. From the beginning, class hostility and the determination not to be exploited by the educated bureaucratic and merchant elite motivated Hauge and his followers.

It is easy to wonder if the dressy clothes these Forward students wore for school pictures relates in any way to the Haugean tradition so prevelant in this district. Regardless of the motivation, these outfits certainly contrast sharply with the clothes of students in the pictures in the other districts.

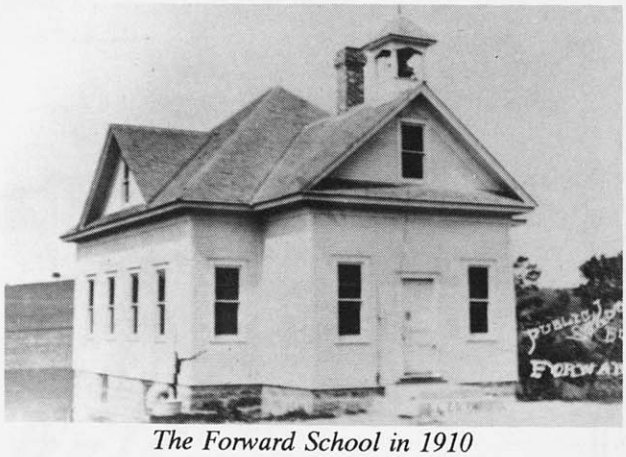
In the Haugean tradition the rewards for hard work, diligence, and thrift offered not only the promise of salvation, but improvement in this world as well. The Norwegian peasant cooperatives and politics of the 19th century were rooted ideologically and organizationally in the Haugean tradition.

Unfortunately, in 19th century Norway, where a population explosion that the economy could not absorb had led to the subdivision of peasant farms to sizes as small as two or three acres and to the rapid growth of a class of landless sharecroppes, life tenants, servants and day laborers, peasants' hard work produced declining returns. In America in general, and in the Perry Norwegian Settlement in particular, where the smallest farms of 40 acres were larger than the biggest farms in Norway, it produced just the opposite results. And, the transplanting of the peasant cooperatives lead to the blossoming of cheese factories, creameries, and eventually both the marketing and purchasing cooperatives so characteristic of rural Wisconsin today.

By 1880, even the Haugean pastor, Knudt Hageseth, lived in the Forward radius, at farm 4. In 1887, the Haugean Congregation built its new church, 2, on

Pastor Hageseth's farm -- at the top of the ridge that separates the drainage of the Pleasant Valley Branch of the Pecatonica River from the valley in which what is now known as Syftestad Creek flows. This ridge, nearly as high as the ridge upon which Daleyville sits, was visible for miles around.

By the turn of the century, the Forward District had grown to the point where it needed a new two-room school, 18. When the new school was built, the stone from the old school was used in the new barn on the P.V. Peterson farm, 17.



The Forward School in 1910

Kennell Helgeson recalls interesting happenings at this last Forward School. There were Parents-Teachers meetings with some very good programs. One time a Dane County Judge came and spoke. The County Clerk, Jacob Stolen, came with

A load of scholars from the Forward School on a ride to Ranum's Bee Farm, Arbor Day, 1915.

him. Another time a violinist who had played with the Chicago Symphony came and played. His name was Mr. Mosby.

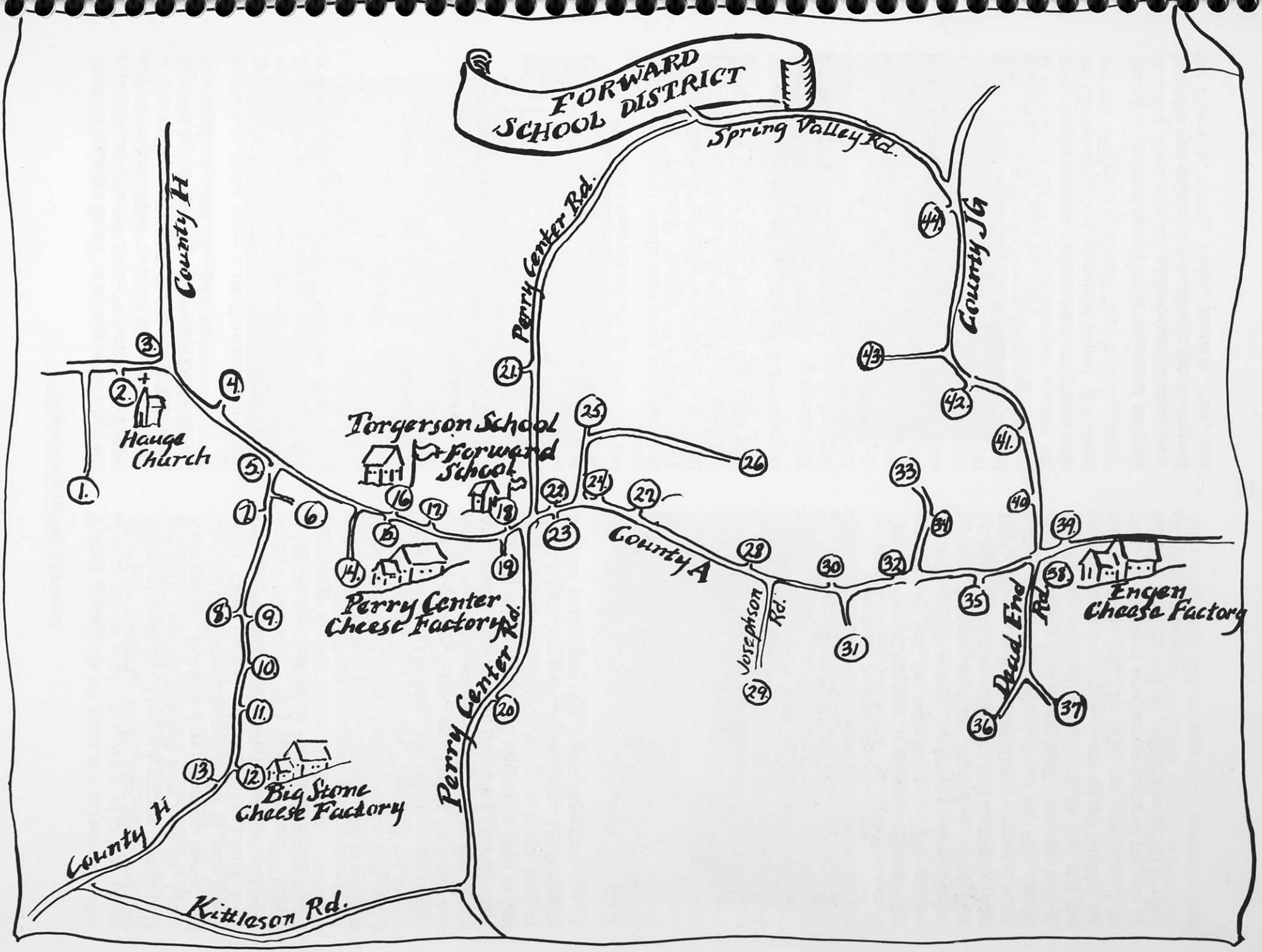
School was in session only eight months of the year in earlier times. At the end of April, the children had what was called "play days" with the students of the Daleyville, Spring Valley, Meadow View, and Tyvand schools.

Among the teachers at the Forward School were two natives of the district, Marvin Anderson from farm 15 and Ruth Anderson Peterson from farm 20. Later, Ruth and her husband, Ilow Peterson, owned and operated the Forward Store, 22, for 45 years (1934-1979). Other teachers included: Alma Lester, Joyce Shattuch, Phillip Thompson, Dorothy Diedrich, Alpha Jacobson, Evelyn Einerson, Lillian Hendrickson, Opal Stiner, Mabel Knudtson, and a Mrs. Wall.

By the turn of the century, Forward had, in addition to the school and cheese factory, a store (22), had a new Town Hall (6). The old Town Hall, the former Torgerson School building, was razed around 1895/6. Now, Wisconsin Power and Light's Forward sub-station is located (approximately) on the site. Early 20th century Forward also included a "Temperance" Hall (24) with a garage and blacksmith shop its first floor. In the early 1900s, a horseless buggy, as some called it then, was made in this shop. The horses on the road were afraid of it, so the story goes.

Main Street, Forward Wisconsin, 1908

The town did not, however, continue to grow with the new century and the auto industry. The garage, operated in its final years by plumber and repair man Helmer Swingen of farm 21 and 5 , and Ben Johnson, a garage man, was the first to close in about 1940. Then, in 1957, the Perry Center Cheese Factory closed. The school closed in 1962. In the early 1970s the "Old Town Hall" (the one built in 1895/6) was sold and moved off its site and the township took over most recent school building for use as a Town Hall. In 1979, the store closed. In 1981, the Madison newspapers featured the sale of the store building and the adjacent house, as a "town for sale for $58,900."


FORWARD SCHOOL DISTRICT
Spring Valley Rd.
County H
Perry Center Rd.
County JG
Hauge Church
Torgerson School
Forward School
County A
Perry Center Cheese Factory
Perry Center Rd.
Josephson Rd.
Dead End Rd.
Engen Cheese Factory
Big Stone Cheese Factory
County H
Kittleson Rd.
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1. Knudt and Maria (Larson) Gladem
They owned this property in partnership with Knudt's brother, Engbret Knudtson, and his wife. Although the two families lived here at the same time, the two brothers did not use the same family name. Knudt, apparently, never used his father's name plus "son" as a family name. It would have made him Knudt Knudtson. Engbret either used Engbret Knutdson all by itself or the place name "Bondelien." He and his descendants never used the place name "Gladem." Because of the joint ownership and residence, this place shows up on plat maps, etc. as "Bondelien and Gladem."

Alvin, Curtis, Mabel, Myrtle, Ella, Agnes, Hazel, Kenneth, Clara, Lawrence, Nora

Engbret and Ranelia (Halvorson) Knudtson
When they lived here with Engbret's brother's family, this farm included the land now identified as 7. The two families also jointly farmed 19, known as "Bondelie Farm". Engbret and Ranelia lived by themselves at 15 which adjoins "Bondelie Farm" on the east. Later, they lived by themselves at 43.

Albert, Henry

Although there had apparently been a residence at what is now farm 7 since the 1860s, there was no house on this part of the farm. In 1890, using horse power, an intact house was moved to this location from farm 23 in the Meadow View District -- which is almost directly south of this farm as the crow flies.

Henry and Olava (Mitmoen) Knudtson
Taking over the "moved-in" house, Henry farmed this part of his father and uncle's farms, while his brother, Albert, farmed the eastern part of it as 7. Henry and Olava also lived at the extended family's "Bondelie Farm," 19, for a while. Olava was also a native of the Forward School District. Her parents lived at both farm 23 and farm 33.

Esther, Edwin, Leonard, Milo

Edwin and Rose (Strahm) Knudtson
Beginning with Edwin, each of Henry and Olava's children and their families lived on this farm. Edwin and Rose also lived on his grandparent's other farm in this school district, 43.

Orton and Esther (Knudtson) Sherven
Orton was also a native of the district. His family farm was 39.

Jerome, Joyce, Audrey, Duane, Verdean, Larry, Steven

Leonard and Arlene (Jenson) Knudtson
They also lived at his extended family's "Bondelie Farm," 19.

Doris, Dennis, Phillip, James

Milo and Lydia (Hyry) Knudtson
They also lived at farms 3, 13, and 25 in this school district.

Howard, Helen, Clifford, Linda, James

When Milo and Lydia left, the Knudtson era of 75 years on this farm ended.

Later Occupants unknown

2. Hauge Church
Built in 1887 on what was then the farm of the Pastor (4), razed in 1981. See Chapter 13.

3. Ole Olson and Johann Schlimgen
Sometimes remembered as "Leather Cap Farm." Mike Goebel of farm 23 in the Spring Valley School District gave it this name because of the leather cap Ole habitually wore.

Syver (Olson) and Engelbricht, Mathias, Isabella, Louisa and Johann (twins) (Schlimgen)

Although the Schlimgen family relocated to the Town of Primrose, many family ties to residents in the Town of Perry remained.

Syver Olson

This was a one-story, one-room log cabin when the Olsons and Schlimgrens lived here. Gradually it was improved. The logs were covered with clapboard and a two-story addition was tacked onto one end of the cabin. This made the house L-shaped, with the original cabin serving as the one-story kitchen wing.

Ole Milestone and Ole Gilbertson
Carl, Peter, Gust (Gilbertson)

Ole and Christina (Larson) Gilbertson
Josie, Nettie, Milo, Olaf, Emma, Annie, Orton, Alvin

Jens Nygaard

Jens and Andria (Langfoss) Nygaard
Henry, Erling, Gudrun

Herman and Gudrun (Nygaard) Melby
Donald, Kenneth, Robert, Earl

Milo and Lydia (Hyry) Knudtson
Milo was a native of the Forward School District, having been born and raised on farm 1, where he and Lydia also lived. Milo and Lydia also lived at farms 13 and 25 in this district.
Clifford, Helen, Howard, James, Linda

Dean and Irene (Hendrickson) Switzky
Dennis, Susan, Debra, DeAnne

Dan and Jean (Schulenberg) Lyans

4. **H. Christian and Bertha Brekke** of Nelson-Brekke
Ragnild

Christian and Ragnild (Brekke) Evanson
They also lived on farm 25 where they opened the first Forward Store in 1874.
Agnette, Nels
Nels became a doctor in Mt. Horeb. He changed his name to Nels C. Evans. Agnette and her husband, Peter Tyvand, took over the store.

Knudt and Kjersti (Knudsdtr-Rye) Hageseth
Knudt was the minister of the Hauge Congregation from 1880/1 until 1906. It was under his pastorate that the congregation built its new church, 2, on a parcel of land drawn from this farm. The church site is at the top of the hill across the road from this house. See Chapter 13.
Gina, Carl, Gilbert, Emma, Bertha, Lena, Julia, Esther

(L to R) Eli (Mrs. Arne) Haadem, Christi Haadem with her granddaughter, Matilda Kragfoss, and Sever Haadem in front of his home in the Forward School District

Sever and Marie (Hill) Haadem
Marie was of Bakken-Hill.
Eleanore, Anna and Amy (twins)

Henry and Emma (Gunderson) Gjesvold
Kenneth, Evelyn, Ruth, Dorothy

Kenneth and Alice (Rhiner) Gjesvold
Janice, Jean

Torgrim Knudtson's log home

5. Torgrim and Kjersti (Aavok) Knudtson of Rundhaug- Knudtson

Ella, Carl, Tom Olson (raised)

(L to R) Torgrim, Clara, Carl, Kjersti, Karine, and Ella Knudtson

Torgrim and Kjersti (Ihus) Knudtson

Clara, Karine (died young), Hjalmer Duffy (raised)

The Torgrim Knudtson farm

Hjalmer and Amy (Steensland) Duffy

Eugene, Alton, Alice, Lucille, Delores, Arlene

Helmer and Clara (Knudtson) Swingen

Both were natives of this school district. Helmer was born and raised on farm 21. Until about 1940, He was the plumber and repair man at the garage on the ground floor of the Forward Temperance Hall, 24. Two of his brothers also remained in the district. Milton took over their parents farm, while Albert farmed at 43.

Herbert, Russell

Harold and Gladys (Rostad) Knudtson

Harold is a native of the Forward School District, having been born and raised next door on farm 7 where he and Gladys moved from here. They still farm that place with their son, Wayne.

Wayne, Elaine, Curtis, Raymond

Herbert and Marlene (Altman) Swingen

Known as "Century Hillside Farm."

Sharon

6. "Old" Perry Town Hall

In 1854, when the Town of Perry was organized, the first Meeting of the Electors was held at the home of Andrew Sanderson (8 in the Daleyville School District). The next year, the Annual Town Meeting was held in Hans Johnson Dale's home on the southern end of what is now Roger and Dawn Anderson's farm (16 in the Daleyville School District).

In 1856 and 57, the Annual Town Meetings and election were held in the Torgerson School, 16 in this chapter. Then, in 1858, it was held in the old log schoolhouse right next to Hans Johnson Dale's home. The next year, the Annual Meeting was back in the Torgerson School.

No record of the locations of the 1860, 61, and 62 meeting sites was found. In 1863, the Annual Meeting and election was held in the Skartum School, 34 in the Meadow View School District. The next year, it was again held back in the old log schoolhouse on the eastern edge of Daleyville. There is another gap in information on the location of the 1865 through 1868 meetings.

In 1869, at the Torgerson School, the electors voted to hold all future Annual Meetings at that same site. On April 4, 1876, after the school district had built the first Forward School, the Town bought the now abandoned Torgerson School for $20 for a Town Hall. On April 2, 1878, it was reported at the Town Meeting that a stove and stove pipe was purchased for the Town Hall for $9.

In 1889, the Annual Meeting and election was held at the Forward Temperance Hall, 24 in this chapter. From 1890-1895 the annual Town Meetings and elections were held at the Perry Center Cheese Factory, 14 in this chapter.

In 1895, the electors voted to buy one-half acre of land from Torgrim Knudtson (5 in this chapter) for $15. Although the minutes of the Annual Meeting do not relate the data about the actual building of (or acquiring of) this Town Hall, the electors, in 1896, voted to raise $50 to paint the Town Hall. In

1897, the Electors voted to build a hitching post.

Seating capacity was 14, on 8-foot long wooden benches. At well attended meetings, common in the early 1900's, when there was no room left inside the building to either sit or stand, it was not unusual to extend standing room outside around the "opened" windows.

Heating was provided, first, by a pot-belled stove and later (date unknown) by the more ornate "Original Detroit Stove" that was still in use in 1968.

Lighting was provided by kerosene lamps until 1958 when electricity was installed.

The voting booths were the windows with the wide sills used for marking ballots. The secrecy of voting was assured by the use of the calico window curtains as a back drop for the voter.

In the early 1970s, after purchasing the by then abandoned Forward School, 18, as a "new" Town Hall, the electors voted to sell the "historic" old Town Hall. The purchaser was Ed Schwoerer, of farm 25 in of the Spring Valley School District. Finally, in accordance with the agreement the Town officials made with Torgrim Knudtson in 1895, the property on which the "Historic Old Town Hall" stood was returned to the current owners of farm 5 in 1975 for $13.

7. Lars Nelson

Peter and Gunild (Kittleson) Dahlby of Ammundson-Dahlby

Gunild was of Tvedten-Kittleson. Peter was a Civil War Volunteer.

Olaus

Olaus and Allou (Tyvand) Dahlby

They also farmed at 9.

Alma, Olivia, Peter

Andrew (B.A.) and Caroline (Ingrebretson) Hanson

They moved from here to farm 39 where they lived with their grandsons, Alex and Orton Sherven -- Helga's sons.

Helga, Lydia, John, Carl, Anna, Delia

Engbret and Ranelia (Halvorson) Knudtson

When they lived here simultaneously with Engbret's brother, Knudt Gladem, this farm included the land now identified as 1. The two families also jointly farmed 19. Engbret and Ranelia lived by themselves at 15 for a while, and later farmed by themselves at 43 in this school district.

Albert, Henry

Albert and Mabel (Rundhaug) Knudtson

He farmed the eastern portion of the westernmost of his father and uncle's farms, while his brother, Henry, farmed the western part of it as 1.

Harold, Everett, Alvina, Leona, Irene, Wallace, Albert Jr.

Wallace and Lois (Disrud) Knudtson

Richard

Harold and Gladys (Rostad) Knudtson

They farmed next door at 5 before returning here to take over Harold's parents farm.

Wayne, Elaine, Curtis, Raymond

8. Knud Aslakson Family

What became the K.T. Kittleson farm in 1891, was before that composed of two farms. The smaller of the two, a 15-acre parcel, was farmed by this family in the 1850s.

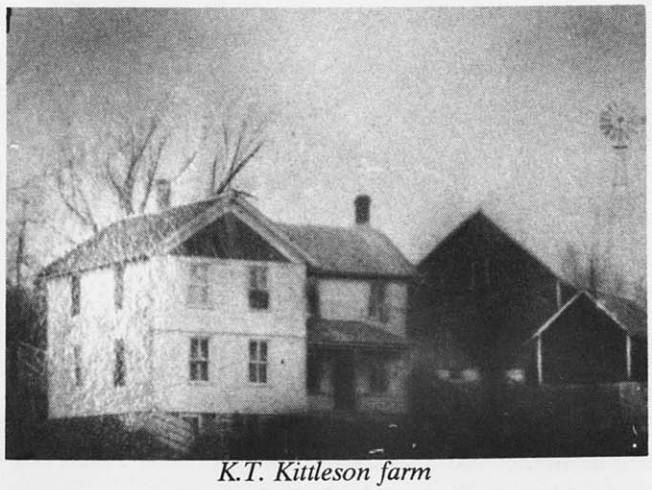
C. Isaac Family

Farmed that little piece in the 1870s, as an out-holding to their 80-acre plot across the creek.

Johannes Gunderson and Susanne (Kittleson) Fjelstad of Gunderson-Fjelstad

Susanne was of Tvedten-Kittleson. They farmed the 135-acre parcel through the 1850s, 60s, 70s, and 80s.

Signe, Gunder, Ole, Gunild, Anne, Eli, Johan



K.T. Kittleson farm

Kittle and Annie (Kellesvig) Kittleson of Ansteinson-Staulen-Kittleson

Put the two together to form a 150-acre farm in 1891.

Alpha, Helga

Kittle and Lena (Halvorson) Kittleson
Marie, Crystal, Kenneth, Leona

Albert and Alpha (Kittleson) Helgeson of Grovum-Helgeson
Alpha was of Ansteinson-Staulen-Kittleson and had grown up on this farm.
Kennell, Agnes, June

Kennell and Alma (Roen) Helgeson
Kennell's sister, Agnes, also stayed in this school district at farms 23 and 33.

9. Olaus and Allou (Tyvand) Dahlby of Ammundson-Dahlby
Olaus grew up down the road at farm 7, which he and Allou also farmed for a while.
Alma, Olivia, Peter

Halvor and Alma (Dahlby) Kellesvig of Kjellesvig-Kellesvig
Vera, Hazel, Orton, Donald, Elaine

Harry Tachon Family
Came from England

Theodore and Myrtle (Frislie) Kittleson of Ansteinson-Staulen-Kittleson
They also lived next door at 10 for a while.
Arthur, Dorothy, Gaylord, Gloria, Theresa

Gaylord and Isabel (Urben) Kittleson
Gary, Sally

Gary and Jackie (Eckel) Kittleson

Gary and Marsha (Thompson) Kittleson

Virgil and Dawn (Schlegel) Haag
Kody

10. Kittle O. and Siri (Aslakson) Tvedten of Olson-Tvedten-Kittleson.
Known as "Valley View Farm"
Carl, Lyle (L.M.), Thomas, Ella

Carl and Anna (Sovestad) Kittleson
Chester

Jacob and Eva (Rundhaug) Syftestad
Larry, Paul, Sonja

Theodore and Myrtle (Frislie) Kittleson of Ansteinson-Staulen-Kittleson
They also farmed next door at 9.
Arthur, Dorothy, Gaylord, Gloria, Theresa

Roger and Michelle (Skaife) Kittleson of Ansteinson-Staulen-Kittleson
Dawn, Darren, Christian

Everett and Mabel (Hefty) Kittleson of Ansteinson-Staulen-Kittleson
They exchanged houses with their son, Roger, and his family who moved into the big house at their home farm in the Meadow View School District as Everett and Mabel vacated it. Everett and Mabel moved from this house to farm 21 in this school district. In effect, trading houses with Milton and Rosella Swingen who succeeded them here.
Ronald, Roger, Elizabeth

Milton and Rosella (Post) Swingen
Milton was born and raised on farm 21, which he and Rosella farmed right before Everett and Mabel Kittleson took it over -- just the reverse of their order of residence here.
Robert, JoAnn

Hjalmer and Amy (Steensland) Duffy
Hjalmer was a native of this school district, having been raised at 5 by Torgrim and Kjestri Knudtson.
Eugene, Alton, Alice, Lucille, Delores, Arlene

Myrtle (Frislie) Kittleson
Widow of Theodore, with whom she had once farmed this place.

Michael and Sandy (Wollin) Mellor
Julie, Barbara, Darren

11. T. Severson
Simon, Nels

Simon Severson
Known as "Creek Valley Farm"

Lyle (L.M.) and Thea (Moen) Kittleson of Tvedten-Kittleson
L.M. had grown up next door at farm 10.
Nora

Carl Kvamme and Olaf and Hilda (Lundberg) Berkeland
Sexton (Berkeland)

Lars and Olaf Blendheim
Brothers

Olaf and Lydia (Hoel) Blendheim
Borgney

Alvin and Anna (Hustad) Paulson
Richard, Berry

John and Delores Little Family
By this time, most of the farm land had been sold off, but the parcel with the buildings from original farm remains as the unit we are tracking.

Michael Brickley and Janette K. Brimmer

Dan and Lori Raisbeck

12. Big Stone Cheese Factory
Located on farm 13

Known Cheesemakers:

Ernest and Mary (Manser) Reugsegger
Ernest Jr., Albert
William and Martha (Frankhauser) Knuble Sr.
Alice, William Jr.

Big Stone Factory was destroyed by fire in 1931. Following the fire the Knuble family returned to Switzerland. Later, William Kittleson received a letter from Cheesemaker Knuble admitting that he set the fire that destroyed the factory because of a bad batch of cheese that resulted in obligations to the patrons that could not be met.

13. Nels J. and Ingaborg Moen
Julia, Thea, Nora, Andrew

Theodore and Emma (Vamstad) Kellesvig of Kjellesvig-Kellesvig
Alice, Bonnie, Odell

Olaf and Inanda (Kittleson) Martinson
Inanda was of Ansteinson-Staulen-Kittleson
Curtis, Orton, Amos, Dennis

Alec and Hansine (Aurstad) Lien

William and Edna (Paulson) Kellesvig
David, Paul, Robert

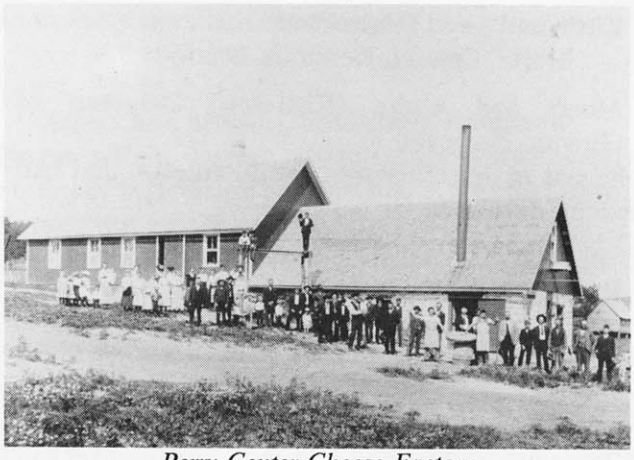
Milo and Lydia (Hyry) Knudtson
Milo was a native of the Forward District, having been born and raised at farm 1 where he and Lydia also lived for a while. They also lived at farms 3 and 25.
Howard, Helen, Clifford, Linda, James

Rolfe and Violet (Brynjulfson) Severson
Marilyn, John, Stanley, Carol, Ellen, Kathryn

Harold and Dora (Grandberg) Maurer
They also lived at farm 15.
Gary, Margaret, Ronald

Kenneth and Nancy Schulz
Kenneth Jr., Karol, Kathy

Jerome and Karla (Bishell) Ott
Alina, Austen



Perry Center Cheese Factory

14. Perry Center Cheese Factory
Located on Torgrim Knudtson's farm, 5, the Perry Center Cheese Factory was built in 1884 at a cost of $520. The principal stockholders were Amund Dahlby of farm 15, Olaus Dahlby of farm 7 and 9, Henry Johnson, Ole Gunderson Homme of farm 17, Albert Lunn of farm 16 in the Spring Valley School District, and John Fjelstad of farm 8 in this school district.

Known Cheesemakers:

John Grossen
Christ Born
Walter Schwartz
Henry and Christiana Gruenenfelder
Who operated the factory for 20 years
Christina, Anna, Lillian, Mary, Henry Jr., Catherine, Leona, Hedwig
Henry Gruenenfelder Jr.

The factory closed in 1957. After that it was converted to a livestock shed which is presently located next door on the Donald and Shirley (Zweifel) Peterson farm (15).

15. Ole Torgerson Family
Pre-1856 settlers who stayed, at least, into the mid-1870s.

Amund and Elise (Kittleson) Dahlby of Ammundson-Dahlby
Elsie was of Tvedten-Kittleson
Peter, Alpha, Isaac, Ellen, James, Paul, Clara, Mae, Ruth, Milo

Engbret and Ranelia (Halvorson) Knudtson
They farmed next door at 19 jointly with Engbret's brother and his family, as they did farms 1 and 7 which had yet to be divided into two places.
Albert, Henry

George and Julia Anderson
Martha, Hans & Henry (twins), Helen & Axel (twins), John & Jennie (twins), Mabel, George, Marvin, Ralph

Lewis and Josephine (Gjesvold) Slotten
Josephine was a native of this school district, having grown up on farm 33.
Joseph, Corella, Glenys and Gladys (twins), Helen, Doris

Stanley and Luella (Valstad) Kittleson of Ansteinson-Staulen Kittleson
Richard, Duane

Harold and Dora (Grandberg) Maurer
They also lived at farm 13.
Gary, Margaret, Ronald

Kenneth and Sylvia (Strause) Herlein
Nancy, Patsy, Sandra

Donald and Shirley (Zweifel) Peterson of Amelien-Peterson
Kathy, Steven

16. Torgerson School

17. Ole Kittleson Tvedten
One of the first trustees (1854-56) of Perry Lutheran Church.

Abram and Gunild (Ouverson) Olson
Gunild was a native of the Forward School District, having been born and raised at farm 26.

Abram and Cyrena (Torgerson) Olson
Cyrena was also a native of this school district, having been born and raised at farm 23.

Ole Gunderson and Ingaborg (Lee) Homme of Gunderson-Homme
Nora

Peter V. and Nora (Homme) Peterson of Amelien-Peterson
Peter was Chairman Town of Perry 1921-26
Ilow, Vernon, Norman

Norman and Mildred (Frankhauser) Peterson
Paul, Donald

Paul and Marie (Kellesvig) Peterson
Mark, Donna

18. Forward School
Present Perry Town Hall. Electors voted to purchase the Forward School for a Town Hall in the early 1970's.

19. Knudt and Maria (Larson) Gladem
Just as farm 1 (which at that time included farm 7), they apparently owned this property in partnership with Knudt's brother, Engbret Knudtson, and his wife and both families lived on it at the same time.
Alvin, Curtis, Mabel, Myrtle, Ella, Agnes, Hazel, Kenneth, Clara, Lawrence, Nora

Engbret and Ranelia (Halvorson) Knudtson
This farm was known as "Bondelie Farm." It may have been part of farm 15 which adjoins it on the east. Engbret and Ranelia lived there in a house that already existed at the time they moved onto the place. It is possible that this land was a separable, outlying portion of that farm, as what is now farm 7 was to farm 1. Apparently, the brothers Gladem and Bondelien (Knudtson) built the first house on this parcel of land.
Albert, Henry

Henry and Olava (Mitmoen) Knudtson
They also farmed the eastern half of his father and uncle's farm, 1, while his brother, Albert, farmed the western part of it as farm 7. Olava was also a native of the Forward School District. Her parents lived at both farm 23 and farm 33.
Esther, Edwin, Leonard, Milo

Leonard and Arlene (Jenson) Knudtson
All of Leonard's brothers and sisters remained in the district for a time after they grew up and married. Each couple, including Leonard and Arlene, lived for a while at farm 1. As an adult, Milo lived at farms 3, 13, and 25 in addition to 1 in this district.
Doris, Dennis, Phillip, James

Later occupants unknown

20. James and Eva (Nelson) Anderson
Built a 34' x 116" barn in 1916.
James, Ruth, Ethel, Louis, Arthur, Vivian

Donald and Dorothy (Paulson) Jelle
Joan, Paul, David

John and Caroline (Tollefson) Thorson

Aldine and Avis (Wahl) Sponem
Steven, Vickie, Judith, Alan

Myron and June (Auestad) Hendrickson
Debra, Donald

Larry and Lynn (Frame) Borcherding
Rachel, Erick

21. Halvor Larson Swingen
Ole

Ole and Olivia Swingen's home

Ole and Olivia (Anderson) Swingen
Milton, Clara, Helmer, Albert, Lewis, Ella

The young Helmer Swingen

Milton and Rosella (Post) Swingen
Milton's brothers Helmer and Albert also both stayed in the school district at farms 5 and 43, respectively. After leaving here, Milton and Rosella moved to farm 10, in effect trading houses with Everett and Mabel Kittleson when they bought this place.
Robert, JoAnn

The Swingen era of 90 years on this farm ended with this sale.

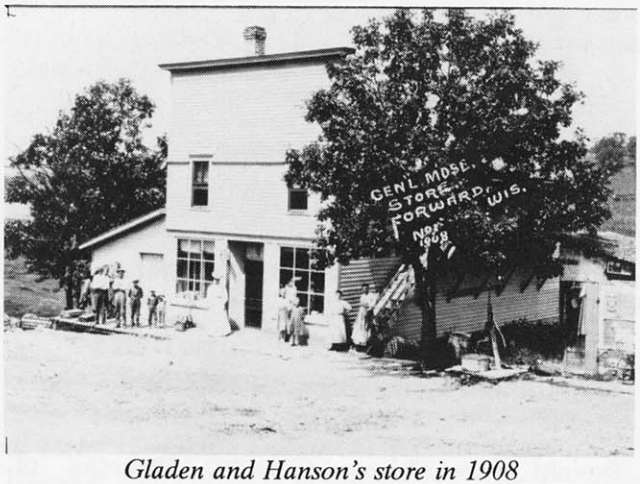
Everett and Mabel (Hefty) Kittleson of Ansteinson-Staulen Kittleson
They moved here from farm 10.
Ronald, Roger, Elizabeth

Ronald and Joanne (Olson) Kittleson
When Ronnie succeeded his parents at this place, Everett and Mabel returned to the small, second house at the family farm in the Meadow View School District.
Pamala (Joanne's daughter), Ryan, Shawn

Ronald Kittleson and Rosalie Huntington

Gary Burns Family

22. Second Forward Store
The first store (1874-1898) was located off County A on farm 25.



Gladen and Hanson's store in 1908

H.K. Gladen and Hanson
Relocated the Forward Store to this site in 1898. About 1910, Gladen and Hanson sold tickets for passage to and from Norway via steamship.

ANNUAL
CLEARANCE SALE

We have for some time been cramped for room, as our stock is larger than our accommodations warrants. We have therefore decided to have a reduction sale, and we intend to cut prices and give such bargains that the desired reduction in stock will be accomplished.

Sale to last only 10 days, beginning Wednesday, Jan. 31 and continue to and including Saturday, Feb. 10th, 1912.

The entire store will be loaded with cut price offerings. Every available place will be heaped up with Bargains, and a visit to the store will be necessary to form an idea of the great money saving opportunities of this sale to the public, as space here permits us to mention only a very few of the numerous bargains offered.

All Calicoes and Prints, per yd	5c	Men's Arctics, light or heavy, per pair,	$1.49
All Outing Flannel, per yd,	9c	Women's, Misses' and Children's Arctics, per pair,	98c
Monticello Wool Flannel,	27c	Patent Medicines, all kinds in stock, 1 Dollar bottle,	79c
Women's, Misses' and Children's Underwear,	19c and 29c	Patent Medicines, all kinds in stock, 50c bottle,	39c
Men's Heavy Underwear,	39c	Patent Medicines, all kinds in stock, 25c bottle,	19c
Men's Overalls and Cotton Pants,	49c	Talcum Powder,	17c
Men's Wash Shirts,	39c	1 pail Prussian Stock Food, price $3.50, sale price,	2.25
Men's Fancy Shirts,	39c	All Stock Foods, 50c size,	39c
Men's Wool Socks, per pair,	19c	All Stock Foods, 25c size,	19c
Women's and Children's Wool Stockings,	19c	Coffee, a good one, per lb,	23c
		Corn Starch, per package,	4c
		Gloss Starch, per package,	4c
		Corn, per can,	7c
		Big box Must. Sardines, per can,	7c
		5c bar good Toilet Soap free with every 25c worth Laundry Soap	
		25c can Calumet Baking Powder,	15c
		25c can K C Baking Powder,	15c
		Perfection Kerosine Oil, per gallon,	8c

SHOES! SHOES! SHOES!

Notwithstanding the fact that Shoes are higher than ever and another advance in the spring is to take place, our display in this line and prices given is something remarkable, and it will pay you big to lay in a year's supply at this sale. Our display at 98c per pair is a big one and we have others at higher prices, but every one a great bargain.

Rubbers! Rubbers! Rubbers!

Of this commodity we have a big stock of the best makes in Men's, Boys' and Youths' and as the stock is so varied it is hard to name prices, but guarantee to save you money on every pair you buy.

FLOUR

Pride of Elysian, none better, per sack,	$1.37
A good Syrup, per pail,	17c

CROCKERY

In Crockery we offer you some nice dishes for 4c, and some better ones at 9c.

A good line of Enamel Ware at bargain prices.

New Bargains will be added every day to make this sale as profitable and interesting the last days of the sale as the first.

Terms of this sale are Cash. No produce taken at this sale.

Store will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 29 and 30, to prepare for this sale, and store closed at 6 o'clock every sale day to arrange stock and add new lines to next day's sale.

GLADEN & HANSON
FORWARD, - WIS.

Gust Gladen
He ran the store after his father, H.K. Gladen.

Ilow and Ruth (Anderson) Peterson
Built a new home next to the store. Operated the store for 45 years. The store closed in 1979. Ruth was a native of the Forward School District, having been born and raised on farm 20. She also taught at the Forward School.
Constance, Rita

23. Ole and Guro (Oldatter) Torgerson
Ole served in the Wisconsin Legislature in the late 1800s.
Thomas, Cyrena, Wilhelm, Louise, Edward, Tilda, Martha, Gurine, Mary Ann, Martha

Peter and Gunild (Severson) Lund of Ivarson-Lund
Melvin and Milo (twins), Elmen, Mabel

Andrew and Lisa (Gjesvold) Mitmoen
They also lived at farm 33 in this school district.
Otto, Maria, Olava, Alma, John, Anna, Clara, Carl

Carl and Cornelia (Swenson) Oimoen
Lester, Kenneth, Doris

Preston and Stella (Norland) Erdahl
Doris, Pearl, Preston Jr., Ervin, Rodger, Shirley, LeRoy, Kenneth, Janet, Marilyn

Albert and Alpha (Swenson) Mitmoen
Dorothy, Roger

Joseph and Agnes (Helgeson) Slotton
Agnes was a native of the Forward School District, having been born and raised on farm 8. She and Joe also lived at farm 33.
Wayne, Nancy, Beth

Carl and Gena (Johnson) Kellesvig of Kjellesvig-Kellesvig
Lawrence, Vernon, Raymond, Theron, Orton, Leland and Leora (twins)

Homer and Avis (Gilbertson) Hendrickson
Deanna, Larry, Jeff, Jerome

Elmer and Rose (Marty) Jelle
Eldon, Connie, Darren, LuAnn, Lyle, Duane

Norbert Haag

24. Forward Temperance Hall
Located east of the last Forward Store. Ground floor was used as blacksmith shop and garage. Known blacksmiths were Oscar Jylland and Helmer Swingen of farm 21 and later 5. Ben Johnson is the only known garage man. The second floor was used for various community activities. In 1889, Town of Perry Annual Town Meeting was held here.

25. First Forward Store
Christian and Ragnild (Brekke) Evanson
In 1871, when the federal government established a regular semi-weekly mail route through the Town of Perry and moved the Perry Post Office from Anders Sanderson's house to O.B. Dahle's store (see The Village of Daleyville), it also appointed Christian as the second postmaster in the township. Establishing his post office in his farm house, he named the area it would serve Forward. In 1874, Christian and Ragnild open the first official Forward Store.
Agnette, Nels
Nels became a doctor in Mt. Horeb. He changed his name to Evans. Agnette and her husband, Peter Tyvand, operated the Forward Store.

Peter and Agnette (Evenson) Tyvand of Peterson-Tyvand
Unlike her parents, Peter and Agnette did not farm; they just operated the store.
Alma

Edward and Annie (Fjelstad) Helland
Operated the store next.
Stella, Elmer, Josephine

Edward and Allou (Tyvand-Dahlby) Helland
Last owners of the first Forward Store.

Ole and Ragnild (Overland) Lewis of Slutten-Lewis
Took over the farm after Christain and Ragnild.
Rueben, Arvin, Edith, Edith, Bertha, Anna, George, Albert, Carl

George and Vera (Kellesvig) Lewis
Both were natives of this school district. Vera was raised on farm 9.
Betty

William and Ethel (Mickelson) Haag
Judy, Steven, Karen, Ronald, Sheila, Patricia, Mark, Scott, Bruce, Joanne, Greg

Milo and Lydia (Hyry) Knudtson
Milo was a native of the Forward School District, having been born and raised on farm 1. He and Lydia lived there, as well as at farms 3 and 13.
Howard, Helen, Clifford, Linda, James

Larry and Susan (Gritmacker) Okeson
Ralph, Karen

Christopher Meyer

26. Ouver and Steinvor (Olesdtr Straume) Halvorson of Halvorson-Grovum
Ole, Anne (died), Anne, Gurine, Nels, Peter and Olina (twins), Halvor, Gunild, Christine, Andrew
Family went west.

Michael and Susan (Burreson) Melland
Edward, Lydia, Carl, Lawrence, Milo, Walter, Melvin

Milo and Della (Anderson) Melland
Sylvan, Wilma

William and Wilma (Melland) Baumgartner
Gary, Keith

Gary and Jean (Gjesvold) Baumgartner
Both are natives of this school district. Jean grew up on farm 4.
Kevin, Karla

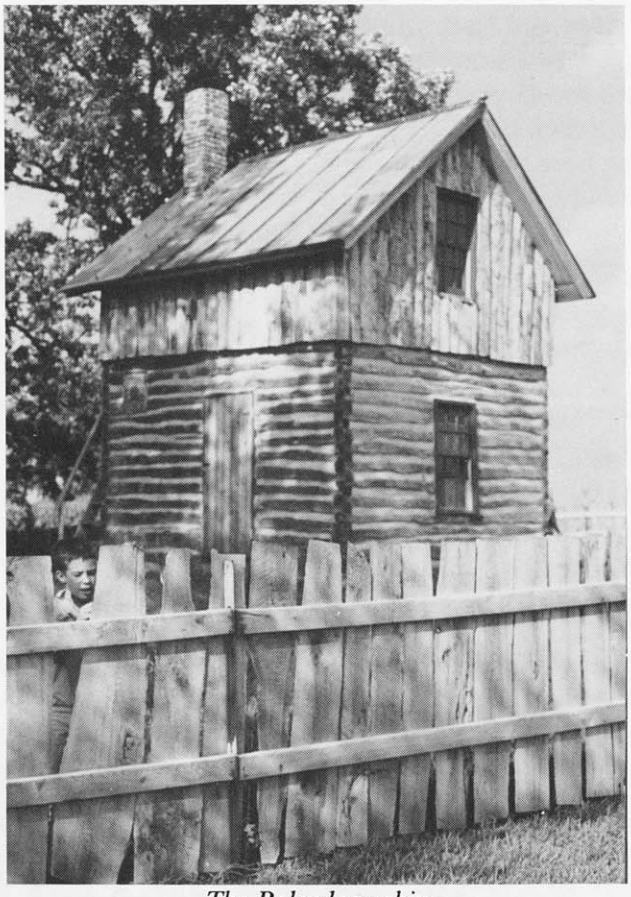
27. Ole Rear and Carl and Josina (Swiggum) Johnson
Shoemakers and harness makers. One of the descendants of this Johnson Family is a (present day) well known fiddler with a band in Iowa.
John (Jack), Clifford (Johnson)

William and Gladys (Wurgler) Sies
Nolan, Sharon, Gary, Robert, Edward

28. Steven and Angie Davies
Built a new home on a parcel of farm 26.
Amy, Peter

29. Anton and Gertrude (Ihus) Boley
Log home which they built remains on the property. Ron and Linda Josephson and Merlin Boley (Anton and Gertrude's grandson) took three years (1988-1991) to restore it.
Clarence, Grant, Ingvold

Grant and Hazel (Gladem) Boley
Both were long term residents of this school district. Hazel had lived with her parents at farms 1 and 7 when they were operated as one farm, and farms 15 and 19, when they, too, were operated as one farm. Here Grant and Hazel built a new home, incorporating the old log cabin.
Donald, Merlin, Roger, Joan, Delores, Carolyn, Diane, Gary, Bruce, Debbie, Rita, Linda



The Boley log cabin

Fred and Sharon (Sies) Frame
Tracy, Theresa, Tammy

Ronald and Linda Josephson
Had the craft center and shop, "Forward's Past." Added a new log home to the property and demolished the barn, as well as restoring the original cabin.

Linda Josephson-Mennenga

30. Donald Bennett Family
Built a new home on a parcel of farm 33.

31. Marius and Gunild (Berglund) Jenson
Valquar, Nels, Julia, Nora

Albert and Mary (Uhr) Marty
Known as "Southview Farm". Some allege Albert was a bootlegger during Prohibition
Mary, Albert Jr., Joseph, John, Rose, Lena, Freida

Buildings have been razed.

32. Michael and Susan LeGrand Family
Built a new home on a parcel of farm 33.

33. Andrew and Lisa (Gjesvold) Mitmoen
They also lived at farm 23 in this school district.
Otto, Maria, Olava, Alma, John, Anna, Clara, Carl

Thorvald and Julia (Hanson) Gjesvold
Henry, Herman, John, Carl, Thora, Josephine

John and Carl Gjesvold
Brothers

Joseph and Agnes (Helgeson) Slotton
Agnes was a native of the Forward School District, having been born and raised on farm 8. She and Joe also lived at farm 23.
Wayne, Nancy, Beth

Jack and Donna (Uren) Bigler
David, Julie, Steven, Jeanne, Scott, Kim

Glen and Ruth Studz

34. Ole A. and Ida (Olson) Jacobson
Otto, Albert, James, Thomas, Oliva

Otto and Violet (Rickey) Jacobson
Richard, Karen

Leonard and Donna (Disch) Mulhollon
Teri, Kenneth and Keith (twins)

Donald and Loraine (Kuehni) Lehnherr
Michael, Gary, Mark

35. Lars and Beatta Slutten
Emnma, Lotta, Lena, Jennie, Luke, Ole

John and Lulu (Lewis) Halder
Lulu of Slutten-Lewis
Bernard, Leonard, Emma, Etta, Roy

Burnett Sonsteby

36. John and Karen (Jacobson) Christopherson
Karen was a native of the Forward School District, from across the road at farm 34.
James, Carl, Mary, Thea

James and Anna Christopherson

Lyle and Claudette (Truttman) Freitag
Brian, Jolene, Janelle, Renee

Brian and Lori (Drinkwine) Freitag
Jenna, Krista, Emily, Nicholas

37. Christian and Ragnild (Hustad) Engen of Christianson-Syverson-Engen
Ragnild was of Husta-Hustad
Sever, Susan, Belle, Clara, Erick

Sever and Bertha (Eide) Engen
Clarence, Raymond, Gerhardt, Sylvia

Clarence and Prudence Engen
Robin, Theresa, Christian

Raymond and June (Holcomb) Engen

The Engen era of 90 years on this farm ended with this sale.

Mark and Tamra (Brunner) Judd
Joshua, Jessica

38. Engen Cheese Factory
Located on farm 36.

Known Cheesemakers:

Alfred Richard
John, Susan
Converted to a private residence.

John Eide

Engen Cheese Factory

Joseph and Veronica (Trainor) Jordee
Joseph Jr. and Jackie (twins)

Darrell and Rita Bertalino Family

39. Albert and Helga (Hanson) Sherven of Skjerveim-Sherwin-Sherven
Helga was a native of the Forward School District, having grown up on farm 7.
Eugene, Leon, Enoch, Myrtle, Alex, Albert Jr., Fern, Doris, Charles, Orton

Alex and Orton Sherven and Andrew and Caroline (Ingebretson) Hanson
Andrew and Caroline were Alex and Orton's grandparents who had farmed at 7.

Eugene and Arlene (Elmer) Sherven
Joan, Eugene Jr., Nathan

Verdean and Mary (Erickson) Sherven
Holly, Melanie, Eric, Wayne

40. Roland and Chris (Cornehls) Sarko
Built a new home on a parcel of farm 34.

41. Christ and Elina (Peterson) Magnuson
Peter, Carl, Bertha, Martha

Carl and Evelyn (Crooks) Magnuson

Donald Schram Family

Robert and Judith (Johnson) Brick
Elizabeth

42. Keith and Sue (Rand) Baumgartner
Built a new home on a parcel of the farm where Keith grew up, farm 26.
Tricia, Heidi

Leroy and Seraphine (Ballweg) Schlimgen
Jacqueline, John, Jean, Janet, Joseph, Jay, Joyce, Jesse

43. Gullick O. and Ragnhilda Ryr
Mary, Betsy, Ed, Sarah, Thomas, Gilbert, Ole, Halvor, Rena
Some of the children changed their name from Ryr to Rear.

Gullick and Steinvor (Olesdtr-Straume) Ryr
Steinvor was a widow of Ouver Halvorson.

L.H. Lewis and wife
During the tornado of 1878 their small house was totally destroyed and Mrs. Lewis was seriously injured.

Engbret and Ranelia (Halvorson) Knudtson
Built new buildings (c. 1916). They had also lived at farms 1 (which included farm 7 at that time), 15, and 19 in this school district.
Albert, Henry

Iver and Ida (Lunda) Ulsrud
Lela, Earl, Merlin, Iver Jr.

Albert and Alma (Lyster) Swingen
Albert was a native of this district, having been born and raised at farm 21 which his brother, Milton, took over after their parents. Their brother Helmer also stayed in the district, working as the plumber and repair man at the garage on the first floor of the Temperance Hall (24) and farming at 5.

Edwin and Rose (Strahm) Knudtson
Edwin was a grandson of the Engbret and Ranelia Knudtson who had lived here. Both couples had also lived on farm 1 in this school district.

Randolph and Beverly (McKewen) Thrush
Lisa, Valerie

Randolph and JoAnn (Poole) Thrush and Jessica Thrush

44. Knud and Asjerd Jordee
Annie, Tilda, Hans, Ole, Carl, Oscar

Carl and Ida (Hustad) Jordee
Joseph, Corella, Arthur, Edwin, Milford, Homer, Willard

Obert and Corella (Jordee) Lund
Neil, Dawn