

ONE STEP AT A TIME

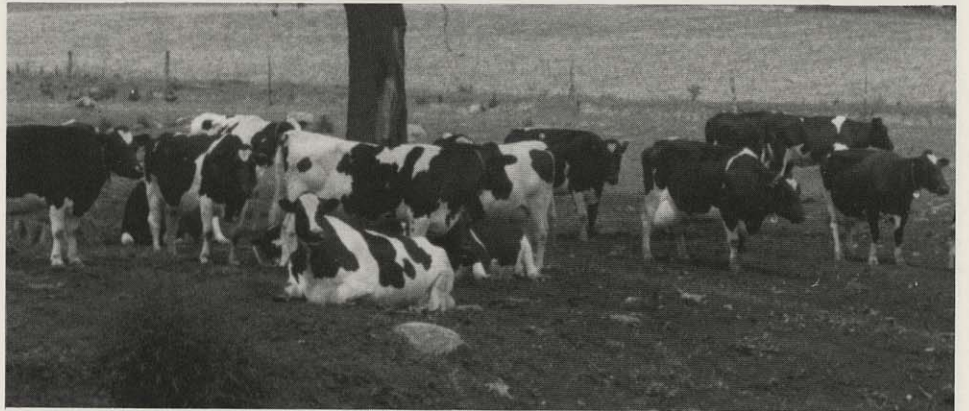
Life is like a mountain range
poised high above the sea,
With hills and plains and chasms
in varying degree.
And within this range of mountains
each child is given birth,
Seedlings sent from heaven
to be placed on the earth.

We cannot know when we are born
how high we're going to climb
But most of us will come to learn...
it's one step at a time.
Some will stay in the valleys
missing the beauty above,
Others will labor every day
in grace and hope and love.

Seldom dismayed by sweat and tears
though they may falter and fall,
Striving to take another step...
heeding the Master's call.
They may climb only a little way
in this world that we know,
Yet, when their labors are finished
they will leave it all to go-

There, where there are no mountains to climb
no chasms to be faced,
There, where all sorrow, sweat and tears
God has promised to erase.
Don't spend your time in the valleys
it's not so hard to climb,
Lift your eyes up to the hills...
take one step at a time!

Robert Stowell



In Gardner's Prairie, the township of Spring Prairie, three Stowell Farms continue the farming traditions. Ross Stowell and his wife, Jill, who live on the Prairie Moon Farm, now manage the farms with one hundred thirty dairy herd and over two hundred beef and dairy heifer livestock and over seven hundred acres of crops to support the animals. Ross's father and mother, Robert and Dorothy Stowell's farm on Spring Prairie has been in the family for over thirty years. Their seven children are very accomplished in

various professions including Anna in Russian language and culture. Bob Stowell is a fine poet. He started writing when he was in grade school and writes every morning for one hour before chores on the farm. On the nearby farm, owned by David and Kit Stowell, early Gardner's Prairie settlers are buried in three cemeteries.

Ross Stowell is bringing the newest farm practices to the farm. A birthing facility is under construction. Recently, in one day, seven calves were born.

