

of the county. He has held several local offices of trust, being for many years township supervisor, treasurer of the township for some years and school treasurer for eighteen years. He was a member of the first township board. He was a leading spirit in the organization of the Farmers Elevator Company at Gary and also helped establish the Bear Park Mercantile Company.

Osvold Garden, a son of Ole L. Garden, the subject of this review, was born on the home place, where he now lives, December 16, 1881. He received his formal education in the local public schools and has always lived on the home place. Here he carries on general farming, and has important interests in the co-operative business agencies of this locality, being a stockholder in three stores, the Waukon, Bear Park and Sundahl mercantile companies.

FRED L. SKAURUD.

Fred L. Skaurud, one of Norman county's most progressive farmers and stockmen and the proprietor of a fine farm in the township of Lake Ida, was born on a farm in Winneshiek county, Iowa, but has been a resident of Norman county since he was thirteen years of age, having come here with his parents in 1881, and therefore very properly may be accounted one of the real pioneers of the county. He was born on May 10, 1868, son of John O. and Martha (Monson) Skaurud, natives of Norway, who were married in Iowa and who became pioneers of Norman county in 1881, settling on a quarter of a section of land in Lake Ida township which Mr. Skaurud had bought in 1879, a part of the place now owned by the subject of this sketch, who has resided there ever since he came to the Red River country with his parents in 1881, the year in which Norman county became a separate civic unit. On another page in this volume there is set out at some length the story of the coming of John O. Skaurud and family to Minnesota and that story need not be repeated in this connection, the reader being respectfully invited to refer to the same for further particulars of a genealogical nature relating to the Skauruds.

As noted above, Fred L. Skaurud, the second of the surviving sons of John O. Skaurud and wife, was but thirteen years of age when he came up into this part of the country with his parents and his schooling was completed in the early schools established in the neighborhood of the Skaurud home in Lake Ida township. After his father's death he continued the man-

his home. From time to time Mr. Lee has added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of six hundred and forty acres in sections 34 and 35 and has one of the best farm plants in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done well in his operations. For some time Mr. Lee was treasurer of the local school board and also served for some time as overseer of highways in his district. He helped to organize the local creamery and the local elevator and in other ways has contributed of his time and his energies to the advancement of the material interests of the community in which he lives, at the same time actively concerned with the work of building up the interests of the local churches and schools.

On March 1, 1890, at Perley, Hans O. Lee was united in marriage to Anna Larson, who was born on February 26, 1871, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Laura, wife of Selmer Gaare, who lives on a farm a mile and a half north of the Lee place; Olga, who is at home; John, who is married and lives on a farm a half mile south of the home place, and Arthur, Helmer and Edward, at home. The Lees are earnest members of the Lutheran church, in the affairs of which they take a warm and active interest, Mr. Lee being a member of the board of deacons of that church and superintendent of the Sunday school.

BENNIE J. GUNDERSON.

Bennie J. Gunderson, a prosperous and progressive young farmer, owner of two hundred and seventy-eight acres of choice land in Moland township, Clay county, was born on a farm in section 20 of that township, January 18, 1886. He is a son of Gunder B. and Anna Gunderson, natives of the kingdom of Norway, the former of whom was born in 1854 and the latter in 1865.

Gunder B. Gunderson came to the United States in 1861 in company with his father, Benedik Gunderson, who homesteaded one hundred and eighty acres of land in section 28, Moland township, Clay county, in 1871. On this tract Benedik Gunderson farmed for the remainder of his life and died in March, 1911. Gunder B. Gunderson subsequently acquired land in section 20, Moland township, and in 1892 moved to a farm in section 19, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1908. His wife, Anna Gunderson, also a native of Norway, came to

America in 1882 and they were married in 1884 and settled on the farm in section 20. Mrs. Gunderson is still living. Gunder B. Gunderson and wife were the parents of the following children: Bennie J., the subject of this sketch; Allen D., Agnes G., George C., Andrew H., William E., Henry J., Dora J. and Mabel E., all of whom are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and always took a proper interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general social activities of the district in which they lived, helpful factors in the promotion of all causes having for their object the common good of the community.

Bennie J. Gunderson was educated in the public schools of Moland township and was reared on his father's farm. From boyhood he was an able assistant in the labors of developing and improving the home place. Mr. Gunderson sold, in the spring of 1917, the old homestead place, which his grandfather had entered in 1871, to Torgus Langley. Mr. Gunderson is now the owner of two hundred and seventy-eight acres of prime land, about sixty-five acres of which is given over to the cultivation of potatoes, and he is doing very well in his farming operations. The value of the machinery on the farm is about two thousand dollars.

In 1913, Bennie J. Gunderson was united in marriage to Lenora Filland, who was born March 26, 1885, in Oakport, Minnesota. To that union was born one child, a daughter, Lenora Carolina. Mrs. Gunderson died in 1914. She was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Concordia, as is Mr. Gunderson, and in which he served as trustee and was treasurer to the congregation for six years. Mr. Gunderson takes a good citizen's interest in the public affairs of his township and district and has served as town clerk for the past six years, and in many other ways has shown an active desire to further the civic affairs of the community.

B. M. OIEN.

One of the substantial and prosperous pioneer farmers of Shelly township, Norman county, where he is the proprietor of two hundred acres of fertile and well-improved farming land, is B. M. Oien, who is a native of Norway, born on January 10, 1852, a son of P. A. and Gertrude Oien, both of whom were natives of Norway, and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work.