

Jesse Jorgen Petersen

By Isobel Petersen

He was usually called J. J. He and his brother-in-law Mike Christensen, came to Canada in 1909 to look for land and each bought a quarter section just west of where Standard is now located. In December, 1910, he moved up here from Verdel, Nebraska with his wife Mary, and five children, Alvin, Sidney, Vera, Herman, and Emily. Their first home was two granaries pulled together, (on the farm where Siegfried Selgensen now lives), and here their fourth son, Walter was born, February 3rd 1911. Herman recalls it was so cold that a bag of potatoes, stored behind the stove froze solid.

J. J. hauled the lumber from Gleichen to the first store in Standard, which is now the Fletcher residence. He also hauled the lumber for the Crown Lumber Office.

In 1916 J. J. sold his land to Simon Christensen and moved east of Standard where he bought land from John B. Schultz and the C.P.R. Here he built a two-storey house on the west slope of the hill, with a good view of all the land to the west and south as it gradually became broke up into farms. Many trees were planted for shelter and they have continued to flourish, as it is now the present home of his son Herman and his family.

Vera and Herman were in the original class that started in Dana School at Standard. After moving to the farm the children attended school at Longbeach, after it was built, but Herman recalls a prolonged holiday from school. He was always a good rider, so, during this time often rode to the dipping vat north of his home to watch as hundreds of cattle were brought there, and each one slid down a ramp into a large trough of dipping solution, as a treatment for mange.

Alvin passed away in November 1917, and J. J.'s wife, Mary died in September, 1939. Mr. Petersen lived on the farm until he passed away in April 1950 at the age of 89.

Sidney married Clara Busch, and lived east of Standard until 1937, when they moved to Kevisville. Sid passed away in June 1973. They had thirteen children: Grace Jensen (widow) lives in Innisfail; Margaret (Mrs. Fred) Dingman, at Caroline; Mrs. Joyce Petersen (widow) lives at Innisfail; Jesse (Mrs. Charlie) McKain, Kevisville; Jim Petersen, Sundre; Christine (Mrs. Leonard) Becker, Innisfail; Toots (Mrs. Leonard) Kanton at Caroline; Jean (Mrs. Ralph) Fisher, at Raven; Ida Law (widow) Kevisville; Ivan, at LaGrace; Dolly Ann (Mrs. Ken) MacIntosh, Kevisville, and Ted at Innisfail, Irene died at three months.

Vera married Ernest Elliot, Calgary. They had five children: Earl lives at Wabamun; Norma died at age three; Bonnie (Mrs. Ross) Bills, at Calgary; Judith (Mrs. Ray) Finkbiner, at Edmonton, and Darcy at Pincher Creek. Herman born June 4th 1906, is still on the home farm. He married Isobel Michie and they have three children, Myra Mack, at Edmonton, and Dean and Wade, the third generation to carry on farming the original J. J. Petersen homestead. Herman celebrated his 73rd birthday in 1979, still actively farming and feeding his cattle all winter and fencing. Myra worked for Hussar Credit Union and later was the youngest woman manager of a radio station in Canada.

Dean attended U. of C., also received his auctioneer's license, and took a lengthy trip to Australia. He married Joanne Jensen, in 1978, youngest daughter of Andy and Kitty Jensen of Gleichen, and they live on the farm. Wade married Cathy Dopking, second youngest daughter of Roland and Annie Dopking of Rockyford. They have one daughter Christina, (our first grandchild). Besides farming, Wade is attending U. of C.

Emily married Ole Nissen and had two children; Norma (*sic*) lives at Fort McMurray and Joan (Mrs. Art) Walters (*sic*) at Winnipeg, Man. Emily died Nov. 1956.

Walter married Edna Elliot first and had one son who lives in Calgary. His second marriage was to Alice Thorn (*sic*). They live in Camrose and have two sons; Warren at U. of C. and David taking Grade twelve at Camrose. Mike Christensen who came with Petersens from Nebraska had apprenticed as a tailor for seven years in the old country, so practiced tailoring after arriving in Canada as well as carpentering. He later sold his farm to Fiksdahls and moved to Standard where he lived on the lot where Tom Jensen's home is now.