

THE GILBERT TWEETEN STORY 1887-1970– his obituary

Gilbert Bendick Tweeten was the 3rd Child born to Bendick and Olava Tweeten. He was born October 29, 1887 in Mt Valley Township. He attended grade school in Vatne School and enrolled at Waldorf Academy the winter quarter after Waldorf opened its doors in October 1903. He perhaps attended 3 winter quarters. His first attempt at selling was selling stereo optical viewers to farm families in Mt. Valley Twp. He was small for his age and remembers helping his mother-even staying home from school to help his mother with the laundry.

He worked for Hans Holtan in North Dakota to pay off ocean fare for Bendick and later took over Ingebrit Holtan's land that is now Kenneth Tweeten's place. He lived in a sod house. But there was a girl in Iowa and he came back to Iowa to farm where the rains came more regularly. He married Cora Myhre Jan 29, 1913 and they bought a farm in NE Mt Valley Township. Two children were born to them, Alvin and Olive, and soon after, Cora was diagnosed with a brain tumor and she died during surgery at Fairview in Minneapolis on October 10, 1917. On July 2, 1918, his mother also died from complications of a heart condition, adding to his sorrow.

On March 4 1918, he married Mae Dahlby Johnson, widow and mother of Komer. Their family came to include Ruth, Jim, Stanley, Luther and Maynard.

From January 1930 to March 1932, Gilbert, Mae, Ruth, Jim and Stanley lived at Los Vegas, New Mexico for Mae's health. Luther was born there Dec 4, 1931. His farm had been rented out and after their return he bought some more land and rented some to add to his operation of dairy cows, hogs and general farming. In 1935, his old barn was accidently destroyed by fire. It was a difficult time for farmers during the Great Depression but they were home in Iowa and baby Maynard was born November 26, 1932.

They acquired more land, more hired help and finally the Tweeten boys were in charge of the farming. Gilbert and Mae still made some trips to California and Florida and in 1955 they retired and moved to a new house in Lake Mills.

His Parkinsons disease was a real challenge, but in his quiet way he faced it, and his faith carried him to his death in June of 1970.

BLESSED BE HIS MEMORY!