

PICTURES OFTEN TELL STORY OF LIFE OF PIONEERS

When Albert Wanous Sr. began collecting records relating to his "roots" he found two pictures of his mother. One was taken in 1913, the other in 1978.

"It struck me just how many things had happened to that little woman between the two sittings," he said. "Her life is typical of so many early settlers of this area."

Mary Skalicky Wanous came from Owatonna with her family in 1900 when she was 10 years old and settled on a farm near Beroun. She remained in the same area for most of her life.

As the young bride of Adolph Wanous she moved to the Chengwatana farm that is still occupied by her grandson, Albert Wanous Jr.

While Adolph did carpenter work and served as town board and school clerk, Mary went about her usual household chores and helped with most of the farm work according to her son.

"When she posed for the five generation picture in 1913 holding her first born son she didn't know that just three months later she would lose that baby in a tragic fire," Wanous Sr. said.

Overcome with grief, the young mother couldn't bear to continue living in the house so she and her husband moved to a neighboring farm.

She bore three more sons, George, Richard and Albert and a daughter, Caroline.

"I always wanted to farm on the property my parents started out on," Albert Sr. said. "In 1937 I bought the property back and it has been in the family ever since."

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The house on the farm was build in 1911 by Albert's father and uncle. Later on he father build on an addition.

The historical rural school building located in Pine City was also once located on the property.

"It was sold for a consideration of \$15.", Wanous said. "There was a clause in the deed stating that it must continue as an educational institution."

Wanous Sr. recalled that he farmed pretty much as his father had.

"I might have moved up from a three tined fork and wheelbarrow to a three tined fork and horses but there wasn't much difference in our farming methods.

Mary Wanous watched all of those changes take place. Today the same property is farmed by her grandson, Albert Jr. and is a thoroughly modern, mechanized dairy operation.

Only the site remains the same.

The pioneer women sandwiched a large slice of life between the two five generation pictures she appeared in. She had joy and sadness, high spots and low, good times and bad. Patience and understanding carried her through.

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