

Mrs Jean Wigdahl  
211 Southeast 3rd St.  
Glenwood Minn. 56334

May 26, 1986

We will try and relate to you what little knowledge we have regarding your Grand-father Herman Jr. Herman grew to manhood in the George & Matlock area. Making his home with the Joe Roth family who had two daughters namely Lilly & Pearl. Herman was part owner and operating of a trashing rig, trashing for both of our parents either shock or stack trashing. In the fall 1917 Herman was drafted in the U.S. Army, he served in France was discharged from military service in 1918. Herman married Alma Schmidt at the home of his Aunt in Rock Rapids Iowa. They lived for a time at Rock Rapids, Later moving to Curry Minn.

He was a great lover of children and that steam engine on thrashing rig he run went like this CHUCK . . . . . CHUCK . . . . . CHUCK\*CHUCK\*CHUCK and we would always get a ride we thought we were living quite dangerously. He would have to scoop in some coal, we could look into the fire pot that heats the water for the steam, red hot coals. He would tell Mother the kids got a bit dirty on the engine. In those days we fed the whole crew Breakfast, dinner and supper plus two lunches, they had a bunk house where they slept. Which helped a lot, houses were not so large, if it rained you may have thrashers 3-4 days, no air conditioning or electric fans, no electricity for baking or cooking, no refrigeration.

Herman would often stay with Joe Roth nephew while his folks went to visit his mother's folks in No. Dak. This would usually be in the winter, Herman being the cook and a very good one. Soup being the order of the day the nephew (Little Joe) as best known came over with a pot of bean soup. I will admit to this day it was the best.