

Old Settlers Picnic Set For Saturday, Sept. 4 In Alex

Julius Forthuns Will Be Honored



HONORED GUESTS . . . Mr. and Mrs. Julius Forthun

In 1907 Julius M. Forthun came to the community of Alexander with his mother, two brothers and two sisters from Cummings, N. Dak. His plans were to help his mother build a homestead and farm, then to return to the eastern part of the state where he had attended school and helped his mother run a General Store. His father was killed when Julius was only nine years old. This happened as he was moving to Bottineau county to homestead and to start another store.

The western plains got into Julius' blood and he proceeded to file a claim on a homestead in the spring of 1910.

Julius loved to eat and when he met a young lady, Miss Slagle of Ravenwood, Mo., she soon discovered this weakness and put out many meals of delicious southern fried chicken, golden corn bread, baking powder biscuits and gravy. Thus a romance started. They were married in Williston on March 18, 1914. They moved into a one room house on his homestead that he previously had broken up with three white oxen.

Mrs. Forthun came to the Alexander community in 1910 to visit with her sister and family, Mrs. Jim Soward of Shafer. Her brother, Rorse Slagle lived on a homestead near Alexander and Golda spent some time with him also. It was then she decided to file a claim on a homestead. While she was living here a steam shovel was moved by its own power, on rail, from Baker's Ferry across her land on the Old X Trail, to Rawson to build the railroad. The only means of travel for people in the community at that time was by stone boat or horseback.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Forthun have been active in their community. Mr. Forthun served 20 years on the school board in Alexander, along with Julius Jacobson, E. Toenburg, B. C. Moses, S. E. Ensor, J. H. Fallon, Dr. Rogers, Paul Wold, F. K.

James and A. J. Burke. Of these only Mr. Forthun and Mr. Burke are living. He served as township treasurer and assessor, and on the township board.

Mrs. Forthun has served many years as Missionary president; Sunday School superintendent, and other activities in the Alexander and Camp Creek Church of the Nazarene. Both have been instrumental in building the Camp Creek and Alexander church and parsonage.

Entertainment in the early days was mainly baseball. Mr. Forthun was a catcher for his team. Sack Johnson was manager, and they played Indian Hill, Elsworth and other teams.

When Mr. Forthun first came to McKenzie county, Alexander was a small village of one store and a bank. He spent his first Fourth of July in Alexander at a celebration which consisted of riding horses a short distance from where the Lutheran church now stands.

The Forthuns have spent nearly 52 years on the homestead. They have raised four sons, William, Oren and Stanley of rural Alexander, and Vernon of Sawyer; and one daughter, Eulavauhn Tangsrude of Williston. Mr. and Mrs. Forthun have 15 grandchildren and one great grandson.

They plan to leave the farm home later this fall to move into a lovely home in Williston. Their youngest son, Stanley, who has been in a partnership with his father for 16 years is purchasing the home place and will continue farming it.

The annual Old Settlers' Picnic will be held Saturday, September 4th at Alexander, with Mr. and Mrs. Julius Forthun, long-time residents, of the area as honored guests.

Events will get underway at 11:00 a.m. with a big parade. Vince Rettig, parade chairman, has issued an invitation to everyone who would like to enter a float in the parade to do so, and asks that anyone planning to enter should contact him as soon as possible. There will be cash prizes for first, second and third place floats. Bands, antique cars, farm machinery from pioneer days, and many decorative floats will all be featured in this year's procession.

At noon everyone will be guests of the Julius Forthuns who have donated the beef for the big free barbecue. Serving starts promptly at 12 noon.

The afternoon program will start at 2 p.m. and will include talks by distinguished citizens, special honors for Mr. and Mrs. Julius Forthun, and entertainment numbers.

The annual horse show and races will get underway at 3 p.m. followed by a Pee Wee baseball game at 4:30 p.m.

In the evening there will be a free show in the City Park.

Everyone, young and old, is invited to attend the annual Old Settlers' Picnic in Alexander on Saturday, September 4th. There will be fun for everyone.



HONORED GUESTS . . . Mr. and Mrs. Julius Forthun of Alexander are shown as they lead the barbecue line of over 1,000 persons who turned out to honor them at the Old Settlers Picnic in Alexander on Saturday. In spite of the rain thruout the day the large crowd was adequately

taken care of in the new fire hall. On the extreme left is Wm. Forthun, son, and on the extreme right, Stanley Forthun, another son of the honored couple. Behind the Forthuns are another old time couple, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sanders of Rawson.

(Farmer Photo)