

A STORY OF THE PRAIRIES IN GRIGGS COUNTY

Mr. and Mrs. Thor Hagen came from Norway in 1880 ; stayed in Iowa during the winter and in the spring ,they settled on a homestead on Sec.18 in what is now Sverdrup Tp. in Griggs County.

Mary, the twelve year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thor Hagen ,was sent one winter's day to the nearest neighbor to borrow some kerosene. It was a bright ,sunshiny day with the snow drifting about over the far reaching prairie. Mary was returning from O. Bolkan's with the kerosene ,when she noticed she was not going over familiar places. She had taken the wrong path. The snow had been blowing and drifting and it had begun to storm. The sun was going down. Through the stillness of the evening came the wailing and the howling of the wolves. As the frightened girl was stumbling along, she came to the home of Frank Frost, where she remained for the night.

In the meantime, when Mary did not return at the appointed time, her father (Thor Hagen) started out to look for her. He soon returned and wrapping the baby, <sup>Annie</sup> aged five, in many coats; strapped her on his back, and started again on his search which continued all night ,over the lonely prairie, in the storm.

In the morning Frank Frost and Mary, on their way to Mary's home met Mr. Hagen and Annie near the Sheyenne bluffs. When Mr. Hagen saw them ,he broke down and wept as a child.

Mary Hagen was later Mrs. E.C. Butler, Cooperstown, N.D.

Mary (Mrs. E.C. Butler) died in May 1980.

Found this in Co Supt. Office

N. G. Good