

The REAL HANSEN BROTHERS from Camrose, Alberta and Augsburg College. Minneapolis, Minnesota

By Gary Zeman
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The movie Slap Shot was done in 1977. It starred Paul Newman as hockey coach Reggie Dunlop and real hockey players as actors. It was deemed necessary for the team to physically beat down the opposition. The HANSON BROTHERS are obtained by the Charleston Chiefs to finally win a Championship. They play the Carlson Brothers in the movie.

The Power of Brothers takes over. Fights before, during and after games becomes the Chief's way. Even the police are called in to tame the players.

This movie has become a Classic for most hockey players and fans as a "must see." Hockey bus trips today still feature this movie.

The **HANSON BROTHERS** spent years after making popular guest appearances at hockey venues in Canada and the United States.

In hockey history there have been other brothers who have been in the spotlight as well.

In the 1938/39 season, the Drumheller (Alberta) Miners .a Senior Club had 5 Bentley Brothers from Delisle, Saskatchewan. (Roy, Scoop, Reg, Doug and Max). Unfortunately the oldest brother Jack decided to stay home and farm. The Bentley Brothers had 7 sisters. 4 were older. They were also talented hockey players.

In *Hockey Heritage: 88 Years of Puck Chasing in Saskatchewan* (1983), co-authors Brenda and Joe Zeman (my sister and father) Art s writer Stan Fischler wrote. "The Bentley Brothers would play regularly against the Bentley sisters by NHL rules. Poppa Bentley refereed these games. My "girls" said Poppa Bill "could beat the blisters off the boys nine times out of ten."

In later years, after WW2, Doug, Max and Reg joined the NHL.

Another well-known group of Brothers came from Viking, Alberta. Viking is an hour east of Camrose. The Sutters had 7 brothers. 6 made the NHL. The Sutters were the sons of Grace and Louis Sutter. Section 1 -- 49 -- 12 County of Beaver is the farm where they grew up.

One time when the twins (Rich & Ron) were playing tiny mite hockey, an opposition player from Bruce, Alberta was having trouble with knowing the twins. (From my book **Alberta on Ice** - Brenda Zeman - Chief Associate Editor).

Referee Gary Wolosinka remembered that one of the twins was ready to take a face off. The kid from Bruce asked, "Are you one of the Sutters"?

The twin replied, "What the he'll does that matter to you? Lets play". The kid from Bruce probably had every reason to be intimidated. The Sutter name carried a lot of weight.

A unique game took place in Calgary on January 31, 1920. It was the second exhibition game between some Calgary Law students and the Calgary Millers. The Millers won the first game 4 - 3 and tied 4 - 4.

One fan sat up proudly and cheered every time the Millers scored. The father was watching his sons. Wesley was in goal. Lorne and Clinton on defence and Harper at centre, Vance was on left and Stanley on right wing. The other son Clifford was the rover. After the game, all 8 had to pile into the car.

THE HANSENS in CAMROSE

Around 1910-11, John and Marie (Scotvold) Hansen moved from South Dakota to farm on 1 and 1/2 Sections near Camrose (SE1547 20 W4th) in the County of Camrose. . They needed a big farm for their 3 girls (Mae, Martha and Ann) and 7 boys. (Julius, Joe, Louis, Emil, Oscar. Emery and Alfred).

A mile north of the Hansens there were two brothers born in 1910 and 11. They were Adolf and Henry Mittlestadt.

Fortunately for Camrose and the Mittlestadt brothers, Bill Glatiotis, of Greek descent, came to Camrose in 1920. Bill was a wrestler with the circus taking on any local challengers.

When he got to Camrose he waved goodbye to his entertainment travels and made Camrose his home thereafter.

A restaurant named Bill's Cafe was opened and wrestling mats were placed on the second floor.

He took time to train Adolf and Henry.

Later the two became professional wrestlers named Al "Murder" and Tiny Mills. Sometimes as a tag team, they were called "Murder Incorporated". The Mills Brothers fought all over including Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto.

There is no record of whether the Mills Brothers ever tangled with their Hansen neighbours!

The Hansen Brothers were becoming well known as hockey players in Camrose and Edmonton.

One story is about Joe. Joe ended up charging some snacks and chocolate bars at a local Chinese restaurant. He told the owner that he would pay later when he sold his pig.

His father John was in town almost daily to sell vegetables, dairy and meat products. He sold to businesses and Camrose Lutheran College. A few weeks later the restaurant owner was presented with a Hansen bill.

The owner said he would possibly have to deduct Joe's expenses. John was surprised. The owner said Joe had told him he would pay when he sold his pig.

John said, "Joe doesn't own a pig"!

By 1926 Camrose had a population of 2,002. Three national railways crossed at Camrose sending 8 to 16 trains through daily. The two water towers and a coaler were busy places.

Radio was becoming popular. Once a week for half an hour one of the feature programs was "Bridge". At 8:30 on Edmonton's CJCA. Questions were asked for listeners. "If you held South's hand, in the Bridge deal below, and were Declarer, with Spades trump, could you make a game if the opponents opened your suit?"

Camrose Town Council met on in February, 1928 .Secretary - Treasurer J.D Saunders reported that only 48 dog licences had been applied for. It was felt by council that there were considerably more canines in Camrose. Saunders was informed to enforce the penalty by - law. This was years before the song "Don't let the Dogs Out" was created.

Now Council had to pass 3rd Reading of a by - law for certain regulations at the Municipal owned skating rink.

"No person may throw away within said building any cigarette or cigar that has been partly smoked or the stub of any cigar or cigarette".

Mayor Douglas expressed his opinion that ratepayers would wholeheartedly co-operate in the enforcement of this by – law.

Was it ever enforced?

Ninety-six year old Joe Voytechek, a former hockey player and coach (CLC Vikings '73-'82) and two time city councillor recalls at one occasion.

Joe was on the bench waiting for a line change. A disturbance was happening a few rows away. The game stopped when a peace officer approached the fan. The fan must have been a visitor. He would not butt out. The officer took the fan out of the Arena. The game continued.

Camrose, in 1928, may have been one of the first Canadian centres to have a no smoking by - law. Smoking was allowed in many places. However, not in the rink - maybe the most "prized" location in Camrose.

A CAMROSE HOCKEY CONNECTION

The Hansens may have been the first to draw attention to International hockey in Camrose, but more recently the town (now a city) has been put on the map of International hockey by the Viking Cup of Camrose Lutheran College, now Augustana Faculty of the University of Alberta.

Augsburg College and Camrose Lutheran College were founded as sister Scandinavian Lutheran schools, and there has always been that connection for the Hansen family.

In 1977 the CLC Vikings played the Auggies in Minneapolis and the Auggies played in the Viking Cup '94 in Camrose.

Famous Canadian Diplomat and early President of Camrose Lutheran College, Dr Chester Ronning was a brother-in-law to Julius Hansen who became the Captain of the famous Auggie Hansen Hockey team.

The best known of the hockey clubs in Camrose have been the Maroons, (Emil played on the team after his professional career), the Camrose Lutheran College (Augustana) Vikings and the Junior A Kodiaks. The Vikings won the Canadian College Championships in 1975 after a successful Christmas tour of Sweden, their first venture into International hockey. They were inducted into the Alberta Hockey Hall of Fame in 2009.

The Kodiaks won the Royal Bank Trophy in 2001 as Canadian Jr A Champions.

Following a Vikings tour of Sweden, Finland and Russia (Leningrad) in 1979-80 European Junior teams were invited to Camrose for the first 'Viking Cup' of International hockey. The tournament ran until 2006 and became known as one of the premier International tournaments in Canada attracting world class Junior players out of the top hockey playing nations, and College and University teams of North America.

The tournament became a biannual event after Viking Cup '82 allowing for alternating exchange trips with Czechoslovakia and other countries over a 20 year period.

The Viking Cup drew scouts from every NHL team and American Colleges.

Records show that 335 player were drafted. Of those, 115 were from Czech and Slovakia including world famous goal tender Dominik Hasek (Buffalo and Detroit), Patrick Elias (New Jersey) and Pavel Demitra (St Louis, Minn, LA, Ottawa, Vancouver).

The players were all billeted with Camrose families as part of the cultural exchange.

Hasek has revisited Camrose on different occasions to visit friends including his billets, the Bragers.

Elias keeps in contact with Camrose.

Recently he and Vaclav Varada, room-mates at the Falk home at Viking Cup '94, were the head coaches of the Czech National Junior team at the World Junior Championships in Vancouver. In a rare spare moment they sent photos to the Falks in Camrose!

Pavel Demitra and Petr Jas (Slovaks) were billeted with the Gordeyko family at the famous Willow Way Clydsdale horse farm east of Camrose.

Eyes were widened as the boys were introduced to 100 or so mammoth gentle horses who welcomed the Slovak boys with whinneys and grunts.

Some had already been sent off for Budweiser beer commercials in the USA.

After a free day of rides at West Edmonton Mall young Wes Gordeyko hooked up the heavy Clydes to a sleigh..... and the way they went to end the day with the powerful gentle animals.....maybe not unlike the horses that the Hansen boys worked on their Camrose farm seven or eight decades earlier.

Before the boys went to bed, Pavel whispered to Eloise Gordeyko, "this has been the best day of my life"!

Demitra had an exceptional 16 year NHL career with St Louis, Minnesota, LA, Ottawa, and Vancouver. He is described as one of the best Slovak players ever.

Then Pavel decided to end his career playing for a year with *Lokomotiv Yavoslavl* in Russia.

Camrose mourned with the hockey world to hear that Pavel and Viking Cup team mate, Josef Vasicek were on the Russian team plane that crashed in 2011 killing the whole team.

FIVE HANSEN BROTHERS go to AUGSBURG COLLEGE, Minneapolis, Minnesota

(Thanks to Mary Stimpson, Registrar's Office & Kristin Anderson PhD. Professor of Art History and Archivist, (now) Augsburg, University, Minneapolis, Minnesota for assistance given).

It is the hockey season of 1927/28.

Julius, Joe, Louis, Emil and Oscar end up playing hockey at "tiny" Augsburg College. The male and female student population is less than 400.

The team basically consisted of the Hansens and a goalie. It must have been a surprise for this location to have such skilled players? There were no hockey scholarships at Augsburg for "farm boys" from Camrose, Alberta, Canada. The five were born in South Dakota.

One of the major competitors for Augsburg was the army team stationed at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. The Fort were talented but were invariably defeated by the college, thanks to the Hansen brothers.

Rolf Felstad of the Minneapolis Times - Tribune reported that a fight between the two clubs was stopped in a sudden manner. A melee ignited when Oscar Hansen was crushed into the boards on a heavy check by an army player. Brother Emil observed his family member lying in a heap. He fought the army player and both benches cleared. It was a fight to the finish. An army commander did not appreciate what was happening. He came to centre ice and pulled his revolver. Emil and the rest of the pugilists immediately ceased fighting.

It is not known what the Administration at Augsburg said to the Hansens when they returned to the Lutheran College.

The army club was fortunate that a younger Hansen brother, Emery was still in Camrose. Emery was playing with the junior Camrose Flyers. Emery did end up in

Minnesota. He played professional hockey with the St Paul Saints. That may have been close to six Hansens for the army to scrap with!

The Augsburg Auggies were becoming well known. They expected to win every game. Another match vs Fort Snelling had the Auggies dominating play. Oscar thought he would wake up his own goalie, Wallace "Moose" Swanson and help Uncle Sam. He fired the puck into his own net. Moose woke up.

A moment later, Oscar took the puck through the army team and scored. Moose commented that it was sometimes difficult to stay alert ...and awake in goal with the Hansens. Moose lost his shutout in the 4 - 1 victory.

**AUGSBURG COLLEGE ICE HOCKEY TEAM - HANSONS
OF AUGSBURG 1928**



Louis Hanson | Joe Hanson | Julius Hanson | Pat Larson | Wallace Swanson | Oscar Hanson | Emil Hanson | Merril McInerney

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

US teams were being considered for the 1928 Olympics in St. Moritz, Switzerland. The US Olympic Committee delayed the selection of a team. The reasons for this were never known.

The Universities of Boston and Minnesota were offered the opportunity to compete. The Minnesota Gophers decided this would take too much time from classes and the cost would be too great. Boston University bowed out. Eleleth Junior College, Minnesota could not come up with the funds. Even Harvard was not ready or able for the Olympic venture.

It finally came down to "tiny" Augsburg College in Minneapolis to accept the Invitation to represent the USA at the 1928 Olympics. William S Haddock, of Pittsburgh, Chairman of the US Olympic Hockey Committee finally had a team.

Augsburg had one problem. They would have to raise 1/2 of the money to go. They needed \$4,500.00. In 1928 a carton of milk 10c ,coffee 50c a lb, a car \$400.00, gas 20c a gallon, average house price \$2,500.00, post card 1c, letter 2c and 2 blocks of salt for \$1.80.

The team did not even have a bank account. First National Bank's Vice President J G Byam was named treasurer of the Hockey fund. Contributions poured in. Then Samuel O Severson pledged \$2,500.00. Severson had taught English and Chemistry at Augsburg from 1904 - 1915. In 1906 he also became Augsburg's first Athletic Director. The University of Minnesota Grad later became Principal of Franklin Junior High in Minneapolis.

The South Side Commercial Club of Minneapolis promised a large donation.

Plans were made for a benefit game with Augsburg's old rivals Fort Snelling. The Minneapolis Figure Skating Club and two speed skaters would combine for an entertainment package. Everything was quickly falling into place.

The Hansens were also ready to donate.

There was 10,000 bushels of grain stored in Camrose valued at \$1,500! Meanwhile, the **Camrose Canadian** Newspaper was headlining the US Olympic Team.

The **Canadian** reported on January 19, 1928.

"When the amateur hockey team representing the United States at the Olympics to be held in St.Moritz, Switzerland, sails from New York, five Camrose players will be with them to participate. These boys are well known, not only to hockey fans but also to the public generally. Their parents live just north of Camrose. Mr. and Mrs.

John Hansen have every reason to be proud of their sons, Julius, Joe, Emil, Louis and Oscar who will lead the attack for the American team."

The **Canadian** printed a dispatch from Pittsburgh.

"The Augsburg College hockey team recently secured to represent the United States in the Olympic games at St. Moritz, Switzerland, will sail from New York on January 25, W S Haddock, Chairman of the American Olympic hockey committee, announced here last night. The team will play its first game on February 11."

The Auggies made headlines in the **New York Times** in 1928 as follows:

(ARCHIVES | 1928)

5 HANSON BROTHERS ON U.S. OLYMPIC SIX; Goal Tender Only Player on Augsburg College Team Not a Hanson. SCHOOL HAS 500 STUDENTS But Starts Campaign for Funds to Send Its Hockey Stars to St. Moritz.

Special to The New York Times.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Jan. 14. The Augsburg College hockey team of Minneapolis has been selected to represent the United States in the Olympic Games at St. Moritz, Switzerland, this Winter, it was announced today at the local institution, which has an enrolment of less than 500

It was quite the feat to be in the **New York Times**. There was only one problem. They were the HANSEN Brothers, not the HANSON brothers.

The **Associated Press** said, *"There is no coach. The team needs none. Julius Hansen, the oldest, directs the play in the capacity of captain. While other teams often have as many as 10 or 15 reserves, the Augsburg team has only two and one is a substitute goalie. They are rugged and know how to save energy. They have never known what substitutions are. They are in age from 19 to 28."*

Besides raising funds, Athletic Director Si Melby had a few more things to do. He had to arrange passports and other trip planning. The list for Melby also included finding a Coach and a couple more players. There was not much time.

Nick Kahler, Assistant Manager of the Minneapolis Arena was selected to coach the US Olympic Hockey Team. A couple of players were added.

The Augsburg College Auggies were able and ready to go to the 1928 Olympics!

A TEAM TO FEAR

There would be only one team to fear for Augsburg. **Canada** had won Gold in 1920 and 1924 and they would be favourites for 1928.

The Toronto Varsity Grads had won Canada's Senior Championship -- the Allan Cup -- in 1927. In the final they defeated the Fort William Thundering Herd in Vancouver. The Allan Cup for Senior Hockey began in 1909. It is still awarded.

The Grads were coached by Conn Symthe who later became the principal owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Maple Leaf Gardens. The Canadian Olympic Hockey Committee decided two of the Grads should be replaced. Symthe was not happy, insisting "all the team or none". Symthe stayed home.

The University of Toronto Varsity team has always been called the Varsity Blues. Lester B. (Bowles) Pearson was the Varsity coach in 1926 - 27 and 1927 - 28. He received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1957. From 1963 - 1968 Pearson was Prime Minister of Canada.

During his leadership he changed the Union Jack Flag to the Maple Leaf of today, and his government legislated the first National Health Program in Canada, a treasured legacy. Lester B was the last Canadian Prime Minister born in the 19th Century.

CRUSHED

With time running down, Willam Haddock, who had selected the Augsburg team received a telegram from the Secretary of the Olympic committee.

"Major General Douglas MacArthur instructs me to inform you that the Hockey team recommended is not regarded as a representative team and certification by the American Olympic committee is disapproved." (MacArthur would later become one of the few US Five Star Generals in WW2.)

Haddock was outraged. It was only 5 days before Augsburg was set to leave for the '28 Olympics.

It was now necessary to inform Augsburg College and the Hansens.

Athletic Director Si Melby received the negative notification. All that work in fund raising and bookings were gone.

Melby still tried.

He wrote to Minnesota Governor Theodore Christianson and Congressman Walter Newton.

The letter to Walter Newton included the following:

"We were informed today that some eastern influence has been brought to bear to cancel (our) selection. Our record is unblemished. We have played every amateur team and have yet to be defeated in two years and we take on all comers. We appeal to you as our congressman to help us get a square deal on this matter."

Citing time and money restraints, the committee was unable to organize a qualifying tournament and stuck to its decision to deny Augsburg the trip.

Minneapolis newspaper accounts describe the players as heartbroken. Many of them delved into the life savings to buy new clothes and other things needed for the trip. When it appeared that Minneapolis would not be able to raise the required quota of \$4,500, one of the Hansen boys agreed to sacrifice his life savings of \$500 in order to secure the trip for his brothers and teammates. "

Melby's attempts failed. The hopes and dreams of playing in the Olympics were gone. This was a team of all players **born** in the USA **including the Hansens**.

RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE ???

This was 1928.not like today's Russian-American meddling of relations and news.

Major General MacArthur went even further to justify his decision to keep Augsburg at home. He simply said "we are not playing this year." The decision was apparently the result of the "cold" relationship between Russia (Soviet Union) and the United States.

It was said that the Russians raised questions about the Hansen's being American born. General MacArthur had papers showing the family was born in the United States and moved to Canada (Camrose, Alberta) to operate a large farm.

Statements went even further to say General MacArthur was under presidential orders to pull out of the Olympic game as the United States and the Soviets were "already on the brinks."

It is more than difficult to believe what MacArthur was talking about. Russia had only competed in three Olympics. (1900, 1908 and 1912). The number of Russian athletes participating was very low and the Russians never competed in Ice Hockey at the Olympics until 1956.

The idea of the Russians interfering in the 1928 US Hockey Team does not add up.

In a conversation with Dr Petr Mirejovsky, Associate Professor, Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta in Camrose. (European History) he stated:

"In 1928, the US had few relations with Russia. There were no diplomatic ties and few commercial associations. Politically, the Olympics did not measure up to Soviet standards. There was no organized hockey in the Soviet Union at that time and the Soviet Union first participated in Ice Hockey at the Olympics in 1956. The idea of the Soviet Union complaining about the Hansen Brothers makes little sense. The US may have been concerned about communist subversion. Hockey was definitely not on the radar for the Soviets".

A HANSEN SON COMMENT

In 1994 one of Oscar's sons, David, said:

"The Olympics story was a shame. My dad and uncles really got taken. Augsburg really got taken. That could have put the school on the map. If they would have gone to the Olympics, they would have won, hands down."

CANADA WINS GOLD

Canada won the 1928 Hockey Olympics. The other teams were split into three groups. The winner of each group went into a tournament with Canada. Canada won three games with a total goal score of 38 – 0!

If Augsburg College with the Hansens had gone to the 1928 Olympics and won, the Hansens would not have considered it to be a surprise.

The Hansen Brothers were amazing. We will never know if they would have beaten Canada for Gold. What we do know is that they **knew Canadian hockey very well** and if these great athletes from Augsburg and Camrose had represented the United States in the 1928 Olympics there would have been no **easy rides** to victory!

The US has won two Olympic Golds in Hockey at the Olympics, in 1980 in the ***Miracle on Ice*** and in 1960. Each was considered an upset.

The only time the US was not represented in Men's Ice Hockey at the Olympics was in 1928..

The **Power of Brothers** and the **Real Hansens** almost fixed that!

HANSEN FOOTNOTES

* **Oscar Hansen** played professional hockey with the St.Louis Flyers, Minneapolis Millers and the St.Paul Saints. He played 8 games with the Chicago Blackhawks. His nickname was "King" Oscar after King Oscar Sardines. The sardines are Norwegian

- **Emil Hansen** played professional hockey with the St Paul Saints, Minneapolis Millers and the Kansas City Greyhounds. He played 7 games with the Detroit Red Wings.
- **Joe Hansen** became a teacher and school Principal.
- **Louis Hansen** started his working career as a teacher. He earned a PhD in Chemistry. He did pioneering research for Sinclair Oil, Firestone Tire and Rubber and Archer Daniels -- Midland.

He invented a slow release coating that released fertilizer over a 3 month period..... before that rain could wash away the fertilizer..... before it had a chance to work. At 90 years of age, Louis said; "I helped to make a lot of money for Archer Daniels".

In WW2 he worked for Firestone and on a special project for the American Government. US planes were unable to fly above 20,000 feet in cold weather. Louis said; "We were called in to try to help out." Help, he did. Hansen invented a synthetic rubber film that would resist cracking and swelling at lower temperatures and wouldn't swell when used as a membrane to pump fuel into the carburetors. This product was immediately put into use. It helped the Allies .

It is not known if General Douglas MacArthur ever knew that a former Augsburg hockey player was such an asset.

Louis remembered his roots from **Camrose**....."We were always working with tractors and horses. Farm life really taught you to get up and go. We couldn't loaf."

- **Julius Hansen** was the Augsburg hockey captain. He became a Lutheran Minister. He was prone to dwell on the value of sports and the lessons to

be learned by participating. "Ice hockey was good experience for the problems I was to face later in life....after all life is quite a game, too...and hockey has helped many to play it square"

Julius married **Hazel Ronning**, the sister of **Chester Ronning**. Dr Chester Ronning was probably the best known Camrose citizen. He had been President of Camrose Lutheran College and later served in the Canadian foreign services as Ambassador to China where he was born. He was fluent in Mandarin and Cantonese plus possibly other dialects. Ronning often spoke with the top Chinese officials and was a friend of Chou En Lai.

Chester's nephew Julian enjoys telling about 'Uncle Chester'. It seemed every time they met, Chester wished to go to a Chinese restaurant. Chester looked after the ordering. As soon as he spoke, the server would say, "He speaks like us." The kitchen and other staff would almost surround the table. There was a continuous conversation. "Uncle Chester was in his element. It was always fun and enlightening".

- **Julian Ronning Hansen**, now 85, is the son of Rev Julius Hansen, the oldest of the Hansen brothers. He is a graduate of St. Olaf College in Minnesota with majors in History and Economics. Julian recently reminisced about his father in the tribute entitled "**The Hockey Rink**", as printed below.
- **Jerry Hansen** is a son of Oscar. He did play some hockey as a youth. He decided to become a race car driver. Later he became owner of Breinerd International Raceway in Minnesota. He became a friend of Paul Newman actor and producer of "Slap Shot". Newman did some racing. When Newman was at Jerry's track, he sometimes stayed at the Hansen home. This was as close as Newman got to a Hansen.
- **Evy Scotvold**, cousin of the Hansen's, was born in Camrose. He left to play with the Minneapolis Millers in the early 1930's. His two daughters Joanne and Joyce became professional figure skaters. His son Evy Jr played a little hockey as well but, more seriously took up figure skating with his sisters..
- **Evy Jr Scotvold** said; "dad may have got tired of taking us children to two activities".

As it turned out, Evy Jr really enjoyed figure skating. Evy Jr and his wife, Mary became two of America's top figure skating coaches. They coached US teams for 6 Olympics. Paul Wylie and Nancy Kerrigan skated under the Scotvolds.

The Hockey Rink by Julian Ronning Hansen

February 2019

The rink was built on a piece of flat ground behind the church and the parsonage. It had wooden boards to circle the ice, with electric lights for night skating powered from a large generator supplying electricity to the town of Hogeland Montana. The main

street consisted of a gas station, grocery store, a bar, an automotive garage and a school which had a basketball floor. Classes were held grades 1-12!

When the railroad left, the town gradually died. Today the church is lovingly cared for and they have a small congregation pastored by the Lutheran Church, ministering to the farms and ranches. It remains the center for weddings, funerals and annual gatherings.

Alas, no rink.

The rink was supplied with water from a 70 foot windmill with water being pumped from the well through a pipe, to a wooden barrel tank cut in half from an old cast off farmer's tank. When the tank filled with water it had to be dumped into the rink. Julius did this throughout the day and night with his unusual strength.

He could chin himself 18 times with one arm. I remember the large bicep he had, something he acquired from earlier days at the homestead farm at Camrose where the boys had cleared the land of bush, using the horses that later plowed the fields. The rink was smoothed out using his car with a specially designed plow scraper.

His skills were honed as a graduate from Vermillion Agricultural College in Alberta: skills that helped local farmers with their mechanical and farming problems. One project I remember as a small boy of six or so years was an elevator to lift grain up into a metal grain bin. It was powered by a one lunger gas engine. This contraption eased the difficulty in accomplishing this job. Combines were also always in need of repairs and here again he was called upon.

The hockey players were from local farms. He somehow managed to train these farm kids. Although good goalies were hard to come by, they still managed to beat the Canadians across the border in Climax. Their uniforms came from the brothers returning to Canada after the professional season was ended. I still have a goalie stick and regulation sticks up in my attic.

Many years later my Father retired and they were living in Oakland California. My Dad had passed away by this time but Mother continued to attend Trinity Lutheran Church where Dad had been a visitation Pastor. At a service the Pastor started to mention the visitor from Canada.

Of course Mother asked where he was from: "Climax just across the border", he stated. She told him her late husband had been Pastor at the Turner/Hogeland Lutheran Church and he said, "You don't mean Julius Hansen? He came to Climax with his farmers to play the local team."

The Hansen reputation preceded them. The visiting Pastor told Mother that The Canadians were afraid of Julius as he was so tough on the ice and could not be handled or controlled. ~~~ They beat Climax without a decent goalie!

I remember my Father shooting wrist shots at cans placed on top of the fence. He could hit them, knocking them off the poles..... one after the other.

In his retirement we attended many hockey games in San Francisco to watch the Seals. Dad remembered that he had played hockey with one of the coach's father. We were unable to validate this.

At any rate, in one game against Portland there were two fans sitting next to my father shooting off their mouths about how lousy the Seals were. Dad asked them to quiet down...just like old times. The guy shoved Dad and we were in physical fight. Dad ended up on the floor between the seats and I stepped back when the gendarmes arrived. I got a chewing out from my father for not flattening them..With all the injuries sustained over the years—broken nose many times, and broken fingers, he somehow managed to protect his front teeth and beautiful smile.

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Contributions from LeRoy Johnson, Camrose, Alberta, Canada – Professor Emeritus, Augustana UofA, 3 term Alberta MLA, Founder of the **Viking Cup**.

