



Staff Photo by Jim Kimball

The 22 who attended the 15th annual Homesteaders Dinner posed for a portrait outside Bergit Anderson's cabin.

Kimball

Continued from Page 1F

and I was amazed to learn later that Jim has had only seven months of schooling. What amuses him the most is that the University of Minnesota has been sending students to him to learn a working knowledge of the Chipewa language and of the ways of the Indians in the old days. Jim's eyes twinkled when he said, "With seven months of education as a boy I am now teaching college students."

The first wave of homesteaders coming into this part of the country arrived in 1902 and settled around Bigfork. In the Effie area most of them came in 1904, and they were Norwegians. Only two could speak English.

When I asked if the homesteaders at this party were all Norwegian, Bergit replied, "Well, most of the men are, but not the women. You see, many of them were school teachers who came here and married the homesteaders. I was a school teacher too. In fact, I have taught for 46 years, 39 of those years in Minneapolis. But I never caught a homesteader." I'll bet Bergit did a lot more dodging than trying to catch.

As the party was breaking up I saw what appeared to be a tall young man walking briskly down the road. I didn't remember seeing him at the party so I took a closer look. It was Ted Byrnes, age 84.

It is a memorable experience to live a day in American history a day