

SEDAN MAN FINDS BROTHER, SISTER

GENE LANDWEHR HAS REUNION IN DULUTH WITH LONG LOST KIN

Gene Landwehr, young farmer living near Sedan, last week was reunited with a brother and sister from whom he had become separated as a child of three years when their home was broken up through the death of their parents. The children became separated and Landwehr knew nothing of this brother and sister until two weeks ago, when he was advised of their presence upon receipt of a letter asking him to meet them at Duluth. The reunion was set for Wednesday, Dec. 9.

The contact at Duluth, however, almost ended in failure when neither recognized the other. This fact, together with the human interest wrapped about the entire incident, was the basis of a news story in the Duluth News-Tribune, related to its readers as follows:

"Stanley Jimnak, 35, and his sister, Vera, 25, of 1511, Belmont road, were standing in the waiting room at the Soo Line depot a few minutes before 7 p.m. yesterday. They were waiting for their brother, Gene, whom neither had seen since he was three years old.

"The Twin Cities train, on which Gene had said he would arrive in Duluth from Sedan, Minn., came in at 6:45, but no one like Gene appeared. The brother and sister, several friends and two newspapermen, were talking over the possibility that they had missed him, not knowing what he looked like.

"Just then a young man, carrying a black suitcase, came up the stairs leading to the waiting room. He glanced casually at the group, failed to recognize any of them, and decided to walk on.

"Stanley Jimnak thought there was something familiar about the man, ran over to him as he was leaving the depot at the Superior street exit, and asked:

" 'Do you happen to be Gene Landwehr?' "

" 'Sure that's me,' " the man replied.

" 'Well, I'm your brother, Stanley.' "

"There was a handshake between the two, neither being quite sure what to do. The sister joined the pair.

" 'And I'm your sister, Vera.' "

" 'Gosh,' " Gene said, his face coloring slightly. " 'This seems like something you read in a book—not knowing your own brother and sister when you meet them.' " He smiled mildly.

"Stanley and Vera learned of their younger brother's whereabouts two weeks ago. They wrote and asked him to come to Duluth. He replied immediately and expressed his surprise to learn that he had a brother and sister.

"The separation in the family came in 1918 when Gene was three years old, Vera was seven, and Stanley was 17. Their parents died during the influenza epidemic that year. Stanley came to Duluth, and his brother was cared for at the St. James orphanage in that city. The sister remained in Virginia with another sister, Rose.

"Soon afterwards, Gene was adopted by the Landwehrs and taken to their home. The others lost track of his whereabouts until recently.

"Gene, having become of age, will inherit a small sum of money left by his parents. The others already have received their money under the Jimnak will. Gene will spend a few days in Virginia to meet his other sister and to collect the inheritance. He is married and has one daughter.

"When the trio was reunited last night, the newsmen requested pictures.

" 'Let's have one with Vera and Gene embracing,' " one of the news reporters said.

" 'Gosh, no,' " Gene answered.

" 'Give us a chance,' " Vera cut in. 'We don't even know each other.' "

"Later in the evening they talked over childhood happenings, but Gene confessed he didn't remember Virginia where he was born."

Mr. Landwehr informed The Review that he had also been cared for a short time by Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Nockels, former residents of Brooten, prior to his adoption by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Landwehr.