

The following story was related to F.D. Niles, Editor of the Endicott Index, by Anna Green Weitz in 1935. It was published in two editions of the paper; Friday, November 29 and Friday, December 6, 1935.

#### STORY OF A PIONEER

This Thanksgiving season has brought memories of distant scenes to many residents of Endicott. For Mrs. Anna Green Weitz there is the picture of this stormy day sixty years ago, on November 25, 1875, when as a little girl of 15 she left her native Russia. Her father, Henry Rothe, who had been a prosperous merchant in the town of Frank, was one of the leaders of the fifty families of the same religious faith who hoped to have new homes on the farm lands of the west.

On the 30th day of December they arrived in New York, and here came the first disappointment for some of the friends who had made the long journey from the towns on the northern Volga. They had no funds with which to travel the hundreds of miles which still lay between them and the land on which they wished to locate. Anna's father was able to take his own family and to assist others in the party who came on to Otis, in western Kansas.

Three years later, Anna was married to Philip Green, who had taken a homestead near Otis and who was one of the first of the party to become a citizen of the United States.

After a few years of repeated crop failures and the severe electrical storms which had been unknown to them in Russia, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Green, with their three small children and other members of his father's family, left their Kansas homesteads for the Pacific coast. They settled in Portland while the men looked for new farm lands. About ten months after their arrival Philip Green and Peter Ochs, now deceased, secured passes from the Union Pacific Railroad on which they came as far as Almota. From there they came to Colfax, and on to the present site of Endicott; there ~~were no houses where the town is now, but Mr. Green was satisfied~~ that this location offered opportunity for a new home, and he decided to go back to Portland and bring his family as quickly as possible.

On a beautiful day in late September they started on the return trip; a Mr. Batt with his wife and baby, and Mr. and Mrs. Green with their three children; Mary, now Mrs. Kleweno of Genesee, Idaho, Peter, and Mrs. Lena Kaiser, whose first birthday was celebrated during the journey.

Then followed the hardest two weeks the young people had ever known. After the first happy day, the warm sunshine was replaced by rain and snow, which drenched everything in the wagon; comfortable sleep was impossible, and the mules argued all the miles through the Cascades.

On October 12, 1882 the journey ended when two tired young fathers pitched here in the bunch grass the tents which served as their homes for the next three months.

The house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Lesser now stands on the ground where the tents were erected.

Mr. Green selected for his farm the land now owned by his son-in-law, B.H. Huntley. He constructed a dugout there and moved his family into it for the rest of the winter. It was a hard winter. And when the rains came, it rained inside as well as outside - only a little longer inside.

There were sheep and cattle in the country, and Mr. Green could exchange work for meat, and for potatoes, but other food had to be brought from Colfax. When spring came, he hauled lumber from Colfax and built a four-room house. The balky mules were traded for a team of horses. But that apparently fortunate trade had a most discouraging result. Both horses were stolen. Mr. Green traced them to Spokane Falls where they had been sold, and at much trouble and expense, he was able to regain possession of only one. The other was never recovered.

Later that summer, Mrs. Green with her four children - the baby, Henry, had arrived in July - accompanied her husband, living in the tent again, as he worked on the construction of the railroad through Colfax, Pullman and Moscow.

After they returned to the ranch in the fall, Mrs. Green's father, Henry Rothe, with his youngest child, a little girl of twelve, came out from Kansas, but he lived only two weeks after his arrival. The little sister remained and accompanied the older children to a little school near Diamond.

Each year after that brought increased comforts and prosperity. Four more children were born - John, who died at Endicott September 25, 1935; Dean, now Mrs. George Wilson, of Moscow, Idaho; Lita, whom they lost when she was nine; and Josephine, now Mrs. Ben Huntley of Endicott. Peter, the eldest son passed away May 24, 1927.

Mr. Green selected another location, a ranch four miles from Endicott, which was their home for eighteen years. When their son John was married, he took over the ranch.

As the children grew older, the family lived in Endicott or Colfax each winter to be near a good school; Mrs. Green had been well educated before she came to America. Disappointed in her ambition for further schooling, she was still determined to study the language of her adopted land, and while her children were in school, she studied with them at home until she could read English. At seventy-five, she is still a student, following world news in her daily paper, and interested in the college experiences of her grandchildren.

Philip Green passed away in 1914, but he had lived to see a thriving little town on his first tent site, and the unbroken sod which he found surrounding it converted into valuable wheat lands, one thousand acres of which were his own property.

Among the numbers of new settlers who had brought about these changes: Some were old neighbors from Kansas, while others had come directly from Russia to the Palouse country. John Weitz, to whom Mrs. Green was married in 1918, was one of the latter. Mr. Weitz came from one of the finest wheat districts in northern Russia, where the dense population caused many young men to look elsewhere for land. Both Mr. and Mrs. Weitz are serenely content in the knowledge that their choice of a new land was wisely made.