

# 'LITTLE VISITS'

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By I. M. KALNES

Charles Schuster farms 100 acres west of Marshall. Some of his small grains which had been damaged by hail had been harvested with the mower.



KALNES

About half of the corn stalks had been beaten down by hail, two out of every four in a hill being put out by hail. This has not appreciably damaged the crop as the thinning out process makes for better ears. The crop of hog feed in the

form of ear corn will be nearly as large as it would have been had there been no hail.

This year's hail was the first damaging storm that the Schusters have ever experienced. Mr. Schuster has been on this farm 15 years, including two years before he married.

Mr. and Mrs. Schuster have five children, Florence, 12; Leo, 10; Claude, 8; Loretta, 6, and Rosalie, 4. Loretta will be seven soon and has already had a year in school. She starts second grade this fall.

Mrs. Schuster has a fine patch of raspberries and had just finished some canning. Several dozen filled quart cans of the delicious fruit were lined up in the kitchen before being put away. Hail cut the raspberries to about half a crop, but the quality was good and despite the hail there was a large quantity of good berries.

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John M. Blaska, Jr., was busy hauling hay with a large crew on his 160-acre farm. He was putting a second crop of alfalfa in the big hay mow in his barn. The third crop is already sprouted on what was cut earliest of the second crop, he told me. It was some of the finest alfalfa I have seen—green and dry with all the leaves preserved.

The Blaska barn is 84 feet long by 34 feet wide. It has the balloon frame hip roof which makes for a lot of room for hay as the distance from the floor of the hay mow is 43 feet in the center. But it takes a lot of room to handle 20 acres of good alfalfa cut three times a year.

Mr. Blaska takes a keen interest in civic life. He is president of the Pierceville Cooperative creamery which has been in successful operation for 45 years. He is also being mentioned as a candidate for director of the tobacco pool in his district.

He favors a more economical policy in harmony with the depressed times. Mr. Blaska was a candidate for assemblyman in eastern Dane at the last election. He won the democratic nomination but was a thousand votes short in the final contest with James C. Hanson who has served 16 years. Mr. Blaska will probably try again next year.

we called. It is of a very good quality although the yield may not be high. Riley's oats was among the best I saw all that day. Mrs. Riley has a fine flock of young chickens mostly White Leghorns, with also a few Anconas.

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Olaf Halvorson, president of the Lief Erickson Memorial association of California, was a Madison visitor Saturday, on his way home from A Century of Progress exposition in Chicago.

### Teacher 31 Years

Mr. Halvorson has been a teacher in the Los Angeles schools for the last 21 years and before that he taught for 10 years in Arizona. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota. Before coming to America, he took his B. A. degree at the University of Oslo.

His wife, a son and daughter and his son's wife were with him on this trip to the old haunts.

When Mr. Halvorson had been in America a year and a half, he secured a permit to teach school in La Salle county, Illinois, but the Norwegian-Americans of the community in which he had been living, didn't think his English was good enough and wouldn't hire him. A school district in which the residents were all Irish or English (Yankees, as they were called), did hire him and he proved very satisfactory.

### Strike Oil — and Riches

Some years ago, Mr. Halvorson bought five acres of land about 16 miles from his Huntington Park home, a suburb of Los Angeles. This was a badly neglected orange grove. He later added more land so that he had 10½ acres, but all the hard work that Mr. Halvorson and his boys put into it didn't save them from losing money every year.

Suddenly oil was discovered in the neighborhood and one day a representative of an oil company offered Mr. Halvorson \$2,000 an acre for the right of drilling and one-sixth of all oil. After he caught his breath, he accepted, with the additional stipulation that the company should pay him \$100 or each orange tree removed.

### Didn't Quit Teaching

Oil was found in great quantities and Mr. Halvorson became a rich man—but he didn't quit teaching. The depression has proven that he was wise to keep his teaching job, for the company that is now handling his oil is in difficulty, and the bank of which he is president is in receivership.

Mr. Halvorson could write an interesting book on the ups and downs of life. I spent a few highly instructive hours with him while in Madison, where he visited Prof. Rasmus B. Anderson and R. N. Qualley, while his family looked over points of interest in connection with the university.

Harry Phillips  
Ready to Mix in  
Legal War Again