


# THE PALMER STADUM FAMILIES

## Children

- .Margaret (Peggy)
- .Beverly
- .Rodney

## Descendant Chart Stadum, Palmer Alvin March 22, 2013 9:48 .



**Stadum, Palmer Alvin**


- ✦ **Birth (Broe Twp.)** 04/22/1909  
Esmond, Benson, ND, USA
- 🎓 **Graduation...Broe Twp.)** 1928  
Baker, Benson, Baker, USA
- 🇺🇸 **Military Se...y Seabees))** BET 1942 and 1945  
Pearl Harbor, Hawiia, USA
- 🏠 **Place of Re...701-4732)** BET 1960 and 1999  
Minot, Ward, ND, USA
- 🔧 **Occupation (Organized...er Electric Cooperative)**  
ND, USA
- 🔧 **Occupation (Electrician & Electrical Instructor)**
- ⚰ **Death (Ma...lth Services)** 01/19/1999  
Minot, Ward, ND, USA
- 🪦 **Burial (Saint Petri Lutheran Cemetery)**  
York (Rural), ND, USA



**Solberg, Signe (Stadum)**

- ✦ **Birth (Broe.... near York)** 02/02/1912  
York, Benson, ND, USA
- 🎓 **Graduation...igh School)** 1929  
Baker, Benson, ND, USA
- 💍 **Marriage (...trie Church)** 06/14/1941  
York, ND, USA
- 🏠 **Place of Residence**  
Minot, North Dakota
- 🔧 **Occupation (Elementary School Teacher)**  
**Graduation (Valley City Teachers College)**  
Valley City, ND, USA
- ⚰ **Death (Hea...edical Ctr)** 06/18/2003  
Rugby, Pierce, ND, USA


Wife



**Stadum, Margaret (Peggy) Gene**

- ✦ **Birth** 04/22/1942  
Rugby, Pierce, ND, USA
- 🔧 **Occupation (Elementary Educator)**  
Rugby, Pierce, ND, USA
- 🏠 **Place of Residence**  
Rugby, Pierce, ND, USA
- 🎓 **Graduation (Minot State College)**  
Minot, Ward, ND, USA
- 📅 **Retirement** 05/ /2007  
Rugby, Pierce, ND, USA

Daughter



**Stadum, Beverly Ann (Tollefsrud)**

- ✦ **Birth** 12/31/1945  
Rugby, Pierce, ND, USA
- 🎓 **Graduation...igh School)** 1964  
Minot, Ward, ND, USA
- 🎓 **Graduation...tory Major)** 1968  
Minneapolis, MN, USA
- 🔧 **Occupation (College Professor)**  
St. Cloud, MN, USA
- 🏠 **Place of Residence**  
Minneapolis, MN, USA
- 🔧 **Occupation (Social Worker)**  
Columbus, OH, USA
- 🎓 **Graduation (Masters from University of Ohio)**  
OH, USA
- 🏠 **Place of Residence**  
St. Cloud, MN, USA
- 🔧 **Occupation (Social Worker)**  
OH, USA
- 🎓 **Formal Education and...g (Education: MSW, PH.D.)**
- 📅 **Retirement** 2003  
Norway
- 🏠 **Place of Residence** 2003  
Oyer, Norway

Daughter



**Stadum, Rodney John**

- ✦ **Birth** 08/05/1948  
Cando, ND, USA
- 🇺🇸 **Military Ser.../04/1973 )**BET 1970 and 1973
- 🔧 **Occupation...object Mgr.)** BET 1974 and 2012
- 🏠 **Place of Residence**  
Dayton, Ohio, USA
- 🎓 **Graduation (St. Olaf College)**  
Northfield, MN, USA
- 📅 **Retirement** 2012  
Dayton, Ohio, USA

Son

## Palmer Stadum Family Photos



The photo on the left shows Palmer Stadum as a baby.

The photo on the right has Palmer and Ida with baby brother Art.



1941 Solberg home John, Gina, Palmer, Signe, Mr. & Mrs  
Chris Solberg

**Above: Palmer  
Stadum and Signe  
Stadum marry.**

**Right: Lovely young  
Signe**



abt 1940?  
Signe  
Solberg  
Stadum

*PALMER STADUM FAMILY*

Palmer Stadum was born and reared on the family farm in Broe Township, and attended school at Baker where he graduated from high school in 1928. He started a Radio and Electric Repair business while still in high school. This he expanded after graduating, using the former bank building as his shop. After a few years of this, his interest in rural electrification inspired him to develop the first R.E.A. Project in North Dakota. During World War II he served in the Navy for 3½ years.

In 1941 he married Signe Solberg of Baker. They have three children:

Peggy is a graduate of Minot State College, presently teaching at Ely Elementary School in Rugby.



Beverly graduated from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, and obtained a Master Degree at University of Ohio.

Rodney is a graduate of St. Olaf, College, Northfield, Minnesota. He spent three years in the Air Force after finishing college. He is now employed as a Computer Technician with National Cash Register Co., at Cambridge, Ohio.

After many years with Baker Electric REA, Palmer and family moved to Minot where he has been employed by Main Electric Construction Company for 20 years.

In 1974 he was honored with the "State Electrician of the Year" Award. He plans to retire in the near future.

**Palmer Stadum served in the US Navy  
between Dec 1942 and Sep 1945**

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Name:                 | <b>Palmer Stadum</b> |
| Birth Date:           | 22 Apr 1909          |
| Death Date:           | 19 Jan 1999          |
| SSN:                  | 502012685            |
| Branch 1:             | NAVY                 |
| Enlistment Date<br>1: | 4 Dec 1942           |
| Release Date 1:       | 29 Sep 1945          |

|                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Name:                | <b>Palmer Alvin Stadum</b> |
| Service Info.:       | EM1 US NAVY WORLD WAR II   |
| Birth Date:          | 22 Apr 1909                |
| Death Date:          | 19 Jan 1999                |
| Cemetery:            | St Petri Luthern Cemetery  |
| Cemetery<br>Address: | York, ND 58386             |

Many articles have been written about the work that Palmer was involved in when it came to the electrification of the rural areas of ND. Too many to include in this compilation.

He also sketched many diagrams of inventions he felt useful in his lifetime.

# REA To Mark 50th Birthday

To mark the 50th anniversary of the rural electrification program next Saturday, a plaque, mounted on field stone, will be unveiled at 10:30 a.m. on the Orville Pierson farm three miles south of York.

Pierson's father, the late Ralph Pierson, was the first farmer in North Dakota to be served by the a North Dakota cooperative on Nov. 24, 1937, with power from Baker Electric Cooperative, then located at Baker, but since moved to Cando.

In a ceremony which is open to the public, the plaque will be unveiled by Sidney Olson of Mohall, president of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, and Ben Axtman of Rugby, president of Baker Electric.

From the Pierson farm the observance will move to a noon luncheon at Andrew's Steakhouse in Rugby, where special recognition will be paid to Palmer Stadum of Minot, formerly of Baker, incorporator, president and later manager until 1953 of Baker Electric, the first power cooperative in the state.

Stadum will receive awards from Baker Electric, Central Power Electric Cooperative Inc. of Minot, Minnkota Power Cooperative Inc. of Grand Forks and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives at Mandan.

Lt. Gov. Ruth Meiers of Ross will be the speaker for the luncheon.

North Central Electric Cooperative at Bottineau will hold open house from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday in observance of the anniversary. Olson is president of the cooperative.



Stadum

With 1.46 members per mile, the North Dakota Association serves 250,000 people with 67,000 miles of line.

"Of all the events we have planned, this is perhaps the most symbolic of what this celebration is really about," said Olson.

"The rural electrification program was founded in the mid-1930s amidst a great economic depression. Yet by working together these farms and ranchers were able to build a great electrical distribution system, despite the odds," he said.

Franklin D. Roosevelt handed down an executive order which on May 11, 1935, established the REA. When REA was founded, nearly

90 percent of rural America was without central station electric service. Due to financial backing by REA, 99 percent of rural America now has electricity.

Postmaster General Paul N. Carlin will officially issue a commemorative stamp in observance of the anniversary during ceremonies next Saturday at Madison, S.D. On May 13 the stamp will be available at the Minot Post Office.

Designed by Howard Koslow, artist from East Norwich, N.Y., who also created commemorative stamps for the Brooklyn Bridge and Tennessee Valley Authority, the stamp will eventually be used on about 160 million envelopes.

Gov. George Sinner has proclaimed the period from Sunday through May 12 as Rural Electrification Administration Week in North Dakota.

One of the more recent accomplishments of REA in North Dakota, in 1971, was bringing telephone service to the Squaw Gap area of western North Dakota by stringing 200 miles of line through rugged Badlands terrain to serve fewer than 100 ranch families.

Fred Ahlgren, who was manager at that time for Reservation Telephone Cooperative at Parshall, knew that REA loans came with the condition that the cooperative provide service to anyone in the co-op area that wanted it. Service was provided with 2 percent loan funds from REA.

Olson has remarked that it is ironic that on the eve of the anniversary



Stamp being released next Saturday at Madison, S.D., commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration.

sary for REA rural electric and telephone co-ops are fighting for a program that's been their lifeblood for 50 years.

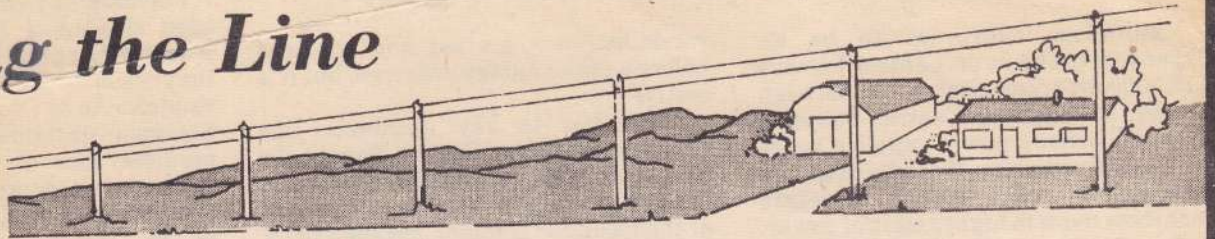
"Our theme this year is a 'Celebration of success; time for renewal,'" Olson said, "but it's turning out to be a fight for survival."

Reagan administration proposals call for raising the interest rate for REA loans to the government cost of borrowing plus 1 1/2 percent, effective Oct. 1, up from 5 percent interest from an off-budget revolving fund, and phasing out the agency over the next eight years.

Without REA funding, Leland Ulmer, executive vice president and general manager of the North Dakota association, says most cooperatives would have trouble finding loan funds.

He contends that the administration doesn't understand rural America and the special hardships faced by rural electric cooperatives, especially those in North Dakota.

# Along the Line



*Baker Electric Cooperative, Inc.* Cando, N. D.

## PALMER STADUM HONORED

Palmer Stadum, original manager of the Cooperative, was honored at the Area Power Conference in Grand Forks on November 2, 1978 for his role in bringing central station electric service to rural North Dakota.

Andrew Freeman, general manager of Minnkota Power Cooperative, introduced Palmer to the largest luncheon gathering in the 25 year history of the Area Power Conference and related Palmer's role in organizing North Dakota's first rural electric cooperative and reminisced about their relationship in the early days of the REA program. Each person in attendance at the luncheon received a brochure entitled "The Palmer Stadum Story" based on information supplied by Mrs. Doris Stadig and the Minot Daily

News. David Hamil, retiring administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration was the featured speaker at the luncheon.

The annual Area Power Conference is sponsored by seven generation and transmission cooperatives, six investor-owned utilities, the Nebraska Public Power District and Manitoba Hydro.

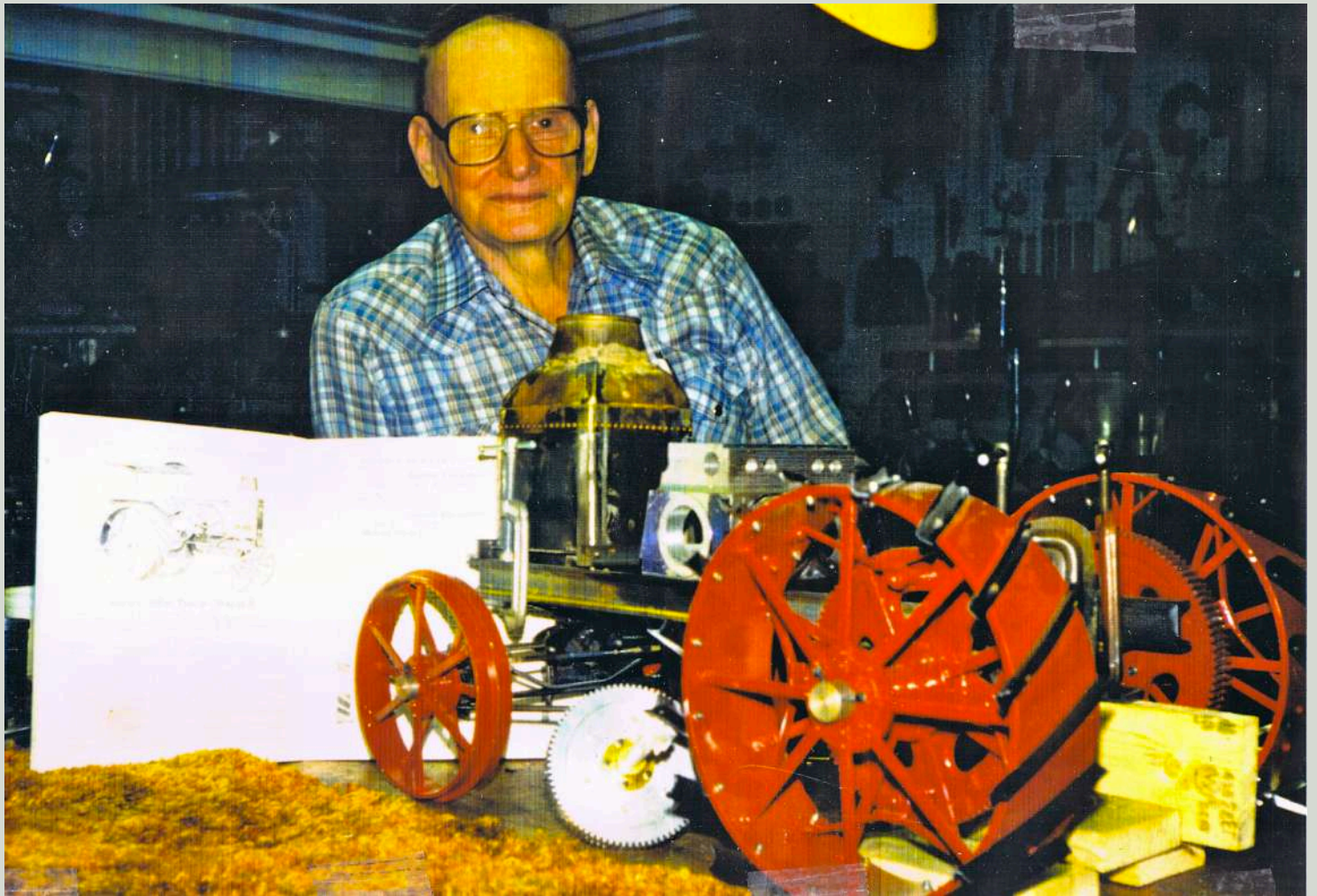
The November 3, 1978 edition of "Minnkota Messenger", a publication of Minnkota Power Cooperative, carried an article on Mr. Stadum and referred to him as "Mister Rural Electricity in North Dakota."

The October 1978 issue of "Ember", the monthly publication for the employees of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, featured an article on North Dakota's first rural electric



cooperative based on excerpts from "Acorn to Oak", the history of Baker Electric Cooperative written by Doris Stadig. The article pointed out Mr. Stadum's role in establishing the Baker Electric Cooperative.

**Acorn to Oak was a history of Baker Electric Cooperative written by Doris Stadig. (See paragraph under photo).**



When Palmer retired he spent many hours in his shop building tractors, electric plants, trains, and other equipment. Everything was made to actually function. It was lots of fun to visit his shop and listen to Palmer describe the operation of each piece he made.

The above photo was from a calendar made in his honor.

## Palmer Stadum

The funeral for Palmer Stadum, 89, of Minot was held at 2 p.m. on Jan. 23 at First Lutheran Church in Minot. Burial will be in the St. Petri Lutheran Cemetery, York, in the spring. He died Jan. 19, 1999 at Manorcare Health Services in Minot.

Rev. Lee Yarger, Rev. Darald Church & Rev. Ernest Stadum officiated. Gary Stenehjelm was organist & Josie Schmitt was pianist. Roberta Johnson provided vocal music. Pallbearers were Myron Hall, Jon Hillestad, Brad Perkins, Dave Smith, Mark Solberg & Gary Stadum. Honorary pallbearers were his miniature model maker friends. The Niewoehner Funeral Home of Rugby was in charge of arrangements.

Palmer Alvin Stadum was born April 22, 1909 in Benson County to John & Gina Stadum. He grew up in the Baker area & attended Baker High School, where he graduated in 1928. He ran his parents' farm & repaired radios until 1937. He organized & operated Baker Electric Cooperative in North Dakota. He married Signe Marie Solberg at York June 14, 1941. In 1942 he joined the US Navy & served with the Navy's Construction Battalion (Navy Seabees) in the rebuilding of Pearl Harbor. He was discharged in 1945 with the rank of Electrician's Mate First Class. He then returned to Baker Electric as manager. He worked at Main Electric in Minot from 1957-1974. During these years he set up a laboratory where he taught apprenticeship classes for the local Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of which he was also a member. During his retirement he built scale models of steam engines & other machines & traveled the state to show his work. His collection is on display at the Pioneer Village Museum at Rugby.

He was a member of First Lutheran Church in Minot.

Survivors include his wife of Minot; 2 daughters, Margaret G. Stadum of Rugby & Beverly Stadum of Minneapolis, Minn.; a son & daughter-in-law, Rodney & Chris Stadum of Dayton, Ohio; 3 grandchildren; a great-grandson; & a sister, Ida Hillestad of Mad-dock.

He was preceded in death by his parents & 2 brothers, Art & Julian.

## Signe Stadum

The funeral for Signe Marie Stadum, 91, of Rugby was held Saturday at the Niewoehner Funeral Home in Rugby. Interment was in the St. Petri Lutheran Cemetery, rural York. She died June 18, 2003 at the Heart of America Medical Center in Rugby.

Rev. Michael J. Pretzer and Rev. Nathan Steen officiated. Dianne Carlson was organist. Casket bearers were Tom Freund, Kurtis Gillespie, Jon Hillestad, Kevin Schepp, Paul Solberg and Gary Stadum.

Signe Marie Stadum was born Feb. 2, 1912 in Broe Township of Benson County, near York, to Christ and Rackel Dackset Solberg. She was reared on a farm in Broe Township and was baptized at St. Petri Lutheran Church. She graduated from Baker High School in 1929. For a short time she worked as a housekeeper for the superintendent of the San Haven Tuberculosis Sanitarium. She earned her Standard Teacher's Certificate from Valley City State Teachers College and began teaching at the Beaver (Pier-son) School, rural Benson County. She taught school in several other locations for many years. She married Palmer Alvin Stadum June 14, 1941 at York. While her husband was in the military service she lived in Rugby. They later moved to Can-do. In 1953 she began teaching school and continued until 1976. In 1958 they moved to Minot. He died Jan. 19, 1999. She moved to the Heart of America Medical Center Long Term Care Unit in 2001.

While living in Minot she was a member of First Lutheran Church, its ladies aid and its quilting group. She also volunteered at the Lutheran Home in Minot. She enjoyed baking, sewing, gardening and reading.

Survivors include two daughters, Margaret G. Stadum of Rugby and Dr. Beverly Stadum of Minneapolis, Minn.; a son and daughter-in-law, Rodney and Chris Stadum of Dayton, Ohio; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband on January 19, 1999; seven brothers, Eivend, Olaf, Mac, Melvin, Carl, Oscar and K. Olaf "Ole" Solberg; three sisters, Martha Solberg, Ruda Hull and Ragna Hewitt; and her step-mother, Olina Solberg.