

Observes 90th Birthday in Houston

By L. O. Kasper

(Editor's Note: Mr. Kasper, former teacher at St. Paul's Lutheran School at Serbin is now living in Houston. At the request of the family he wrote the following article.)

May 12 was John Mrosko's birthday, but Sunday. May 14 was the day when it was observed by 35 relatives and friends who had gathered for that purpose at 4629 Pineridge Street in Houston where the following helped the parents to maintain the neat and cozy Mrosko home: Lydia and Erwin Mrosko, Adele (Mrosko) Walston and her husband Elbert and their daughter Betty Ann.

"Uncle John" was born in the year 1860 on the old Mrosko homestead near the banks of the "Lower Pin Oak" about a mile south of the Serbin Church. This was some thirty years prior to the founding of Northrup (first known as "New Serbin" at the time when the "SAAP" railroad was built in that community in the early nineties.)

Besides farming, "Uncle John" took an active interest in the cattle business for years in his younger days. He relates that in those days a cow and a calf could be bought for five dollars — a calf alone brought "six bits."

A few of the outstanding events which Mr. Mrosko witnessed in his own family during his long life were: Two marriages of his own, the birth of 14 children, the death of six of them and that of his first wife, a golden wedding anniversary.

In 1881 "Uncle John" married the late Therese Knippa of Swiss Alp. To this union were born the following nine children: Willie, Gerhard (Jerry), Henry, August, Johnny, Minnie, Ben, and two who died in infancy. In later years

the three oldest sons also passed away. So did their mother who died on the day of Christmas Eve in 1896.

In the year following, Mr. Mrosko married Miss Marie Lorenz. To this union were born: Lydia, Adele, Herbert and Erwin (twins), and Harry who since March 12, 1920, rests in the Serbin cemetery. Three years ago Mr. and Mrs. Mrosko were privileged to celebrate their golden wedding.

At the age of sixty-two, when many people begin to think about retiring, Mr. Mrosko and his family decided to start life all over as far as their mode of living was concerned: They changed from country life to city life, and left the old Mrosko log house on the banks of the "Lower Pin Oak" for a new one to be established in a fine residential section of Houston.

"Uncle John's" health is comparatively good, better than that of some people who are twenty years younger, his physical strength still enables him to move about—but mostly within the confines of his home. His mind is clear and alert. Members of his family say that frequently they depend on him to be reminded of certain matters which may demand their attention in days that lie ahead.

Of those who were present at this 90th birthday celebration may be mentioned: the Rev. A. Froelich and family, Teacher E. Eifert and family, Teacher and Mrs. L. O. Kasper and daughter, Herbert Mrosko, Minnie (Mrosko) Winfield and son and daughter, Mrs. Hy. Mrosko and son, Mr. and Mrs. Melde, all of Houston. From outside of Houston: Mr. and Mrs. Ben Mrosko of Elgin and son Percy of Wallis.

