

# LICENSE PLATES

Patient Stories by Ellen Hand



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by  
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## Since 1936

Ellen Hand has been a patient of the Ortman Clinic Since 1936. Her residence then was Mobridge, SD. While a student at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis she was involved in an automobile accident at the age of 17. She came to the clinic seeking relief for a painful lower back and a numb leg. The relief she received gave her a lifelong appreciation for the clinic and a strong desire to tell others.

Ellen continued to come for treatments while living in Mobridge, Watertown, SD and Fort Collins, CO, then moved to Canistota in the early '80's to be near the clinic.

Ellen, always pleasant and sociable, enjoyed visiting with other patients. One day she decided that patients' stories should be published, so from 1988 to 1991 she did so each week in the Canistota Clipper under the title "What's in a License Plate". Each patient was asked to write their own story and sign it as proof of authenticity. All of these selected stories are on file in her home in Canistota.



## Farm Scenes

9-88

Mrs. Sanford Sylland, Wahpeton, ND. When I was 12 years old (1929) we came to the clinic when it was out on the farm. My mother had a large, visible goiter. She was treated and the goiter went away. We had a tent we lived in out there that week. My mother and father came here every six months for many years and I have been here often. (Editor's note: In 1929 there was a small hotel on the farm where Amon treated and patients stayed. The number of patients greatly exceeded the available space, so many pitched tents or stayed in neighborhood houses.)

5-89

Frank Collins. The first time I remember seeing Amon was the fall of 1921 or 1922. Ed Albergo who was working at our place had hurt his neck and couldn't straighten it out. He wanted me to take him down to see Amon. The next morning I took him down to the farm. Amon was out in the barn milking. He told Ed to go in the house and sit by the cookstove to get his neck warm. Minnie was baking pancakes for breakfast. Amon came in, washed his hands and warmed them, walked around behind Ed and started on his neck. Seemed like just a few seconds and the neck was ok again, no more trouble. On the way home we took Herb to the country schoolhouse. I think it was his first year of school.

## California

3-89

Roy King, Santa Rosa, CA, My first visit to the Ortman Clinic was in the summer of 1931. I was carried into the clinic unconscious and Dr. Amon came in from the farm to treat me.

I returned again in 1970 in a wheelchair from a neck injury and lost all balance. I returned home well and walking. Since that time I have returned fairly regularly seeing Dr. Wayne, He and his wife Sally have become good friends along with all the good people who run the hotel and clinic.

10-90

Veryl German, Corona, CA. We have been coming here since 1973. I am having treatment on my arm, shoulder, neck and feeling much better after the first treatment.

While here the Germans met John and Hilda Rathke and discovered they were neighbors in the 1930's in the Mound City area.

2-90

Connie Buher, Santa Maria, CA. She took treatments on her shoulder and found they helped her a great deal. We came here

in 1936. My husband walked with a cane as his hip bothered him. He took one treatment and could walk without the cane. I came here for knee and gallbladder problems. So far have avoided surgery with one. I'm so thankful for these doctors.

8-88

Herbert and Elsie Melzer, Lucren Valley, CA. We have been coming here since 1962. Herbert had Polio at age 15 leaving him with problems in his left leg. They have helped him over the years with many other problems from a car accident last fall. We have nothing but the best to say about the clinic.

9-90

Harold Lewis, Salinas, CA. In 1980 I had a very bad head injury. By 1986 no doctor had helped me. The last resort was to operate on my head and rebuild it. I came here in June of 1986 and in seven days they had me feeling very good which lasted until March of 90. When I hit the same area of my head. I'm back again and I'm sure they will make me fine again.



## Canada

1-90

Glenn and Iris Siemans, Sask., Canada. We heard about the Ortman Clinic from Glenn's brother from Grande Prairie, Alta who got help from a bad knee. Glenn has always had a poor back and I had a car accident about 3 ½ years ago. We came through a severe snowstorm to get here and was very pleased with the treatments we received. This is our third try back to the clinic. Each time we came we were more encouraged by Dr. Tom's treatment and we will continue to recommend the great work.

11-88

Stan Gifford, Outlook, Sask., Canada. We started coming here in 1957. We heard about it through a friend who had tried everything including Rochester. Her back was so bad she couldn't even lift the baby. She was healed here. My wife has epilepsy according to the doctors. She now hasn't had seizures for five or six years. She got this at the age of 14.

8-88

Ann and Alfred Euteneier, Outlook, Sask., Canada. This is our first visit. We have back problems and our daughter injured in a car accident. We already have had help from the treatments. We will try and come again if possible.

1-90

Carol McLeod, Alberta, Canada. I live near Edmonton. I was in a car accident 2 ½ years ago and was squished under the dash and steering wheel. I have been to specialists, therapists and chiropractors without help. I have made this 1500 mile trip because I'm optimistic and so is Dr. Tom which keeps me going. Encouragement and prayer keeps my head above water.

## Illinois

1980

Jon Wallace, Quincy, IL. Thirty-five years ago at the age of 21 years I had a thyroid condition with an inward goiter. My medical doctor suggested surgery after years of medications and Iodine. I gained 60 lbs. in 6 months. Dr. Ervin was my doctor and made the goiter disappear along with the nervousness and other symptoms. After 2 more separate trips I started to lose weight and it disappeared also. Truly a miracle and a "touching story."

6-90

Alma Rostagno, DePue, IL. I had a fatty tumor on my knee and my right fist and had a lump on the ball of my foot. I have avoided surgery by having it treated here. He also worked on my neck and helped that a lot.

11-90

Delores Epping and Henrietta Leenknecht, East Moline, IL. A specialist told my mother that she needed carpal tunnel surgery (she had no feeling in her hand for about 3 years). She would burn her fingers when she took pies out of the oven and she wouldn't know she burned them until she saw blisters.

She came here to the clinic and by Thursday she had feeling in her hands. They have been fine ever since.

6-90

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Benecke, Union, IL. Forty years ago my husband had neuritis in his hand. The medical doctor said his hand would wither away. He came here for 3 months and was working again and never had problems with the arm again. In 1990 he had carpal tunnel problems. Doctors were going to operate and we came here first to have treatments. The doctors here said it would be gone within a month. Praise God!

No date recorded

Ed and Bernice Koelper of Arlington Heights, IL. Ed came to Canistota in 1951 having asthma. After one week of treatments his wheezing was almost gone. We come every year since 1962.

On one trip here while staying at the U-Bar Motel we met another couple from Arlington Heights-we were neighbors and didn't know each other.



## Indiana

11-89

Katie May Knepy, Topeka, IN. The first time I came my daughter had a nervous breakdown and I had a bad back problem. We were both on doctors pills. The first treatment I saw a change in her. When we went home we both threw away our pills. Now I have arthritis and come every six months.

12-89

John Beechy, La Grange, IN. Our blue eyed blonde hair boy was born with nystagmus or unusual eye movement. We got help from a chiropractor in Ft. Wayne. In August of this year we came here and got help plus more of an understanding of our problem.

11-88

Leah Hostiles, Shippshewana, IN. I have been coming here since 1978. I had sinus really bad, my dad comes for back problems and my mother for heart problems. My three sisters and two nieces also come. This time we have a six year old girl who has tubes behind her ears to drain off the fluid. After the treatment she has 10 minutes of ultrasound. So far she hasn't had any drainage since her treatments back in July.

## Oklahoma

5-90

Melvin and Katie Yoder, Chouteau, OK. Katie had been here six times and this time I had so many headaches that it seems to come from my back and neck. My first treatment I could tell a difference. It is amazing how quiet and peaceful this small town of Canistota is. It has also helped my allergies a lot.

5-90

Ruth Detweiler, Chouteau, OK. I brought the Yoders here and had no intention of taking treatments. I've had major back problems all my life along with sleeping problems. I average three hours a night with help from an herbal relaxer. Since I'm here I've been able to sleep all night-thanks to Dr. Tom and the good food.

8-90

Bee Choflin, Bixby, OK. I came for treatment of my thyroid. My sister, Anne Hughes has had very good results with her allergies. Holly and Kelly come for a checkup as well as Braxton Choggin.

## Iowa

89

Mr. Ol Yates, Ottumwa, IA. In the early '80's I was in the hospital for 15 days with a severe headache. The doctor sent me home with some heavy painkillers that I took every four hours. My brother brought me to Canistota and Dr. Doug treated me. I took two treatments and the headaches were gone. My brother and I went on a trip covering 11 states and have never had that type of headache again. Now I just come for a tune-up.

8-89

Ester A. Beck and Phillip Ritz, Elden, IA. I am here for a locked shoulder. I was helped here two or three years ago for my other shoulder with the same condition. A friend of Peggy Stagers was born about 1926 with her entire body covered with eczema. She was taken to every noted clinic in the USA but to no avail. Someone suggested the Ortman Clinic. After three treatments improvement began and eventually cured.

5-89

A.B. Patten, Auburn, IA. I am 87 years old. I had trouble with my knees for years, hardly walking without a cane. My nephew from Springfield, MO insisted I come up here with him. I have had 3 treatments and can almost walk without

my cane. The pain was gone after the first treatment. I intended to go to Omaha for an operation but will not now. I cannot praise Dr. Ivan enough for what he has done for me.

11-88

Edgar Mehen, Prole, IA. I first came to the clinic in 1960 with rheumatoid arthritis. A friend told us about Dr. Ervin at the clinic. My hands were swollen and also my feet. I had to wear large bedroom slippers. Now after 21 years I live without pain if I come to the clinic every six months.

2-90

Carl Mangles, Delmar, IA. My dad started coming here 20 years ago with my mother for her arthritis and took treatments himself. He had a bad ulcer and was on a very restricted diet. After five treatments he was able to eat anything. So when I started having stomach trouble and asthma we headed out to the Ortman Clinic. After three treatments I was keeping the food down.



## Iowa (continued)

5-90

Phyllis Riehle, Spillville, IA. I was about 12 years old when I got a real bad sore throat. My folks took me to the doctor and he said I should have my tonsils out when I was nine years old. My dad brought me to the Ortman Clinic for a week's treatment. The next time I went to my local doctor he said "I see you have had your tonsils out". I tried to tell him of the treatments at the Ortman Clinic, but he wouldn't believe me.

Date not recorded

Mr. and Mrs. John Holland, Roland, IA. We came to Canistota for nine years now. John came for his knees and while standing in line a lady said "they work on migraine headaches". Both of us had the doctors work our sinuses. A year later I have only had one migraine headache. We return once a year to keep in shape. We think it is a great place.

## New Mexico

11-88

Mr. and Mrs. Mucio Yslas, Albuquerque, NM. We started coming here in 1936. When Mucio was 27 years old he had extremely swollen glands in his neck and under the arms. It was painful and the doctor said there was no cure for him. A man in a hotel in Iowa near the hospital told me that I should go to the Ortman Clinic and I came here right away. Dr. Noah treated me and on the third day the glands were normal. Simona, my wife had hemorrhoids and hay fever and the treatments

helped both conditions. This time a friend was here who was blind in one eye and by the fourth treatment with Dr. Charles, she could see out of that eye.

The clinic has recently made a video telling of the "Healthful touch of the Ortman Clinic". It is very informative and tells the story of the past up to the present.

## Minnesota

9-89

Edgar and Allie Brooke, Hibbing, MN. The first time we came here was for my back and my husband had a sciatic nerve problem. We both had good results. We had Dr. Charles Ortman. We are here again for my arms and legs that ache at night. We have told a lot of people about the Ortman Clinic.

5-89

Gilbert and Evelyn Holste, Hackensack, MN. In 1964 I had a head injury and I was taking so many drugs that my wife had to lead me around as I had lost my sense of balance. We came to the Ortman Clinic and after the first week of treatments I could drive the car home. We come down twice a year. I just couldn't pay them enough for what they did for me. Evelyn had tension migraine headaches. Haven't had one since the first treatment in 1964.

4-90

Vernon and Violet Werner, Pipestone, MN. In 1957 we brought my mother to the Ortman Clinic. In 1959 my brother and I were in a car accident and I hurt my lower back-couldn't even turn over in bed. Dr. Herbert and Ervin got me over it. Got help for blood clots in my legs 5 years ago. Got help for whiplash and didn't have to wear a brace. I never take

medication as they cause side effects. We recommended the Ortman doctors highly. They will tell you if they can't help your condition.

3-89

Mrs. Marty Kroening, Morris, MN. I first came to Canistota in the 60's with my brother who had trouble keeping his balance due to an inner ear problem. They helped him tremendously. I came for a sinus trouble and general "tune-up" and they helped me feel really good. Now I have a neck problem which they are really helping. I have not only received medical help but have enjoyed the friendliness of the good people of Canistota.

5-90

Irene and Forest Smith, Winnebago, MN. We have been coming here since 1981. I had been taking treatments for a numb and sleepy arm in Arizona. The treatments were very painful and didn't do anything for the condition. After the third treatment here I had feeling in my arm and hand. Since then I have acquired a weak deteriorating back and they keep me going without pain. When it started to bother me I know I need treatments.



## Minnesota (continued)

### Date not recorded

Anges Lubbers, Browns Valley, MN. My husband and I came to this clinic about 55 years ago. I had a goiter that was bothering me. After the treatments it disappeared and never had trouble again. I am here for a sinus trouble and have also been here for back ailments.

### 3-89

Lowell and Adella Osylander, Lindstrom, MN. Our first trip here was in 1973. We had Dr. Dennis. Lowell had a stroke and I had asthma. We got good results, then after Dennis left we came and had Tom. He also was good. Then we came to Lon for all kinds of things. We have had him several times. Now we are here because Lowell had a bad fall and hurt his shoulder and I am getting treatments for my arthritis.

### 5-89

Marcella Berg, Wabasso, MN. My son was five years old and came down with rheumatic fever and was in bed for three months. We brought him out to Ortman Clinic and after five treatments his temperature

went down and that was the end of the rheumatic fever and no more problems.

### 3-89

Mrs. Marty Kroening, Morris, MN. I first came to Canistota in the 60's with my brother who had trouble with keeping his balance due to an inner ear problem. They helped him tremendously. I came for sinus trouble and a general "tune up" and they helped me feel really good. Now I am back for a bad neck condition which they are helping.

### 8-88

Gerald Weber, Pipestone, MN. Along with other patients commenting, I feel that the therapy we received from the senior waitresses at the Ortman Hotel Café makes our stay more enjoyable, and adds to the therapy of the treatments.

## Montana

### 10-88

Ralph and Alice Korman, Saco, MT. Came here for treatments for back, sinus and circulation problems and pinched sciatic nerve. Heard about Canistota from my parents who brought a five year old sister for treatments of a bladder problem (no more bed wetting). Later this same sister brought her nine month old son for asthma with remarkable results. He is now 14 and participating in sports.

They also brought another child who as a baby had a wry neck which was pulling her head out of shape. This was stopped and the condition didn't worsen and she was also active in sports.

### 5-90

Lloyd and Mildred Nueduck, Lewiston, MT. We have been coming since 1964 once a year or so. Lloyd has a stroke six years ago and was left with a shaky arm. We are here three days and he hasn't had one of those shakes yet this week. I have two bad fingers and can hardly write (now I have written this and they still feel normal).

### 5-89

Manie Rhoades, Dillon, MT. I have problems with hip and shoulder. Had a pinched nerve in my hip. Had been to several chiropractors but none helped. I worked in a coal mine in a truck that carried 120 tons in a load. Needless to say it really beats your body. Without help from these doctors, I would never have been able to make a living for my six children, as my husband was killed when they were young. I wish everyone with back or bone problems would come here.

### 11-89

Scott Hirgher, Miles City, MT. I came to Canistota the first time in 1956 with a slipped disc and was in misery for 10 years. Dr. Stan Weiland fixed me up and I haven't had any back problems since. I came back in 1987 with sciatic nerve and went to Dr. Lon Weiland and he fixed my back with no problems since. I am convinced this is the place to go if you are having back problems.



## Nebraska

11-88

Leroy and Rayliss Vollerlsen, Nebraska City, NE. We first came to the Ortman Clinic after three years of orthopedic, chiropractic, back braces, neck brace and therapy-all caused by an accident in 1979. I was reluctant to come as travel bothered me so badly. This has proven to be a miracle for me, as it has relieved me of the terrible pain I had. I certainly give credit to Dr. Wayne.

10-88

Edward and Mildred Jarla, St. Paul, NE. My husband had a neck condition. Dr. Tom said "this is the worst neck I have run into yet". We were here in September and October. He can now move his neck some. We sure enjoy our visit here.

10-88

Glenville and Annie Kottman, West Point, NE. I went down with a slipped disc and a sciatic nerve in 1972 and went to my hometown doctor. He wanted me to have surgery but I refused. He said I would be in a wheelchair in five years. I came here instead and now have a stronger back than ever. Now we both come and get help several times a year.

3-90

Mr. and Mrs. Derald Knuppel, West Point, NE. I came here in December 1999 for a wrist problem. I had been to medical doctors and specialists-had many physical therapy treatments. I hadn't worked for several months. I couldn't even sit and read the paper without so much pain I hardly knew what I read. I now can do things without pain. After seeing my results, my husband came along to take treatments for sinus and lower back. So glad there are doctors like these.

89

Oneta and Ernest Kock, Fremont, NE. We have been coming here for all of 10 years. The first trip I only needed two treatments-they are so good about that. The next trip I was having much trouble in my left hand, called carpal tunnel and the doctor wanted to do surgery. I came to the Ortman Clinic and they fixed me up.

## North Dakota

12-88

Margruite DeLair, Jamestown, ND. These doctors keep many of us older people going. It is not only helpful but enjoyable to come here for treatments and companionship.

12-88

Wahpeton, ND. Years ago I came here to be treated for backaches and at the time Dr. Stan Weiland treated me. In 1974 I had neck problems and couldn't get help from other chiropractic doctors. My husband said "we'll go to Canistota". I got help and my husband took treatments for arthritis. We take treatments from Dr. Lon Weiland. After we received help our son has been coming too.

4-90

Martin Ingebretson, Mayville, ND. I have three fingers going numb and they are helping them a lot so will be back with wife and daughter with neck problems. Excellent place and the most courteous place, very nice people.

4-90

Delores and Gen Krick, Bisbee, ND. Heard about this clinic from friends in town. Delores and I come for migraine

headaches and arthritis. My mother takes treatments just to stay on top and for charley horses in the calf of her legs.

9-88

Mrs. Lyle Masheh, Wyndmere, ND. My husband and I came here eight years ago, he had been hurt in the feedlot working cattle. It was so painful he could hardly stand it. Dr. Charles gave my husband treatments since. Thank God we came to the Ortman Clinic. They are super doctors and I recommend them highly. We stay at Lela Volmer's when we come.

4-90

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Mickelsen, Jamestown, ND. We heard about the Ortman Clinic back in the 40's. Our boy was nearly deaf-no doctor could help- we took out tonsils and adenoids but no help so we came to the Ortman Clinic. Dr. Ervin brought his hearing back. The boy is now 48 and his hearing is still good.



## North Dakota (Continued)

### Date not recorded

Melvin and Ethel Beaver, Rolette, ND. My husband came to the clinic for skin trouble and has come in many times to get help. I came in 1972 after having a stroke in June. They have given me relief for my pain. I try to come twice a year as they are good. I have a pinched nerve in my hand now. I was referred here from a doctor in Minot who was raised in Sioux Falls and knew about the clinic.

### Date not recorded

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Siverson from Fargo, ND. We came here to get help for arthritis. I have one hip that is higher than the other so I am wearing a shoe lift in my right shoe. I think my husband is getting relief for his back and legs.

### Date not recorded

Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Lee, Kindred, ND. My husband and I come to the Ortman Clinic quite often. We have been coming here for 20 years. Dr. Ervin Ortman has done so much for us. We have lots of faith in him. Many of my friends and relatives go to the Ortman Clinic as it is a superb place to get treatments.

### 9-90

Orville and Bernice Deniusion and Robin Olson, Cavalier, ND and Hallock, MN. Orville and I have been coming since about 1945. I was diagnosed in Rochester as having M.S. I was totally paralyzed and in a wheelchair. Through friends, we heard about the Ortman Clinic. My father brought me here. Dr. Noah said I did not have MS, "you either overlifted or fell" he said. I remember of lifting. It took about a year before I was totally paralyzed. After my first set of treatments, Dr. Noah said it would take about six months and I would begin to be on my feet which it was. I came every six months for a period of time for treatments. I have been living a normal life ever since.

### 10-90

Mrs. Louis Estad, Hoople, ND. I came here 25 years ago for my arthritis. My doctor asked if I was cured. I told him "no, but they sure helped me for a year". Then he told me "maybe we should send you back". I informed him I had just come back. His comment was "I wish I had their touch." Now I am back for a week's treatment. I'm sure I will have as good results as I had before.

## Ohio

### 10-88

Ray and Lavina Miller, Holmesville OH. In 1978 I had a severe muscle spasm of my heart and went through the Cleveland Clinic and supposed to be on heart pills the rest of my life. My wife had hip trouble. The chiropractic doctor said cortisone shots or hip replacement was the only answer. She had to have help getting out of the van and walking. After the third treatment she was on her own. Since July 1983 I've been off the heart pills and working full time. This is our seventh trip here about 1100 miles. We have lots of faith here-people are so nice and kind. People should come here first instead of waiting until they have exhausted all other treatment and money.

### 1-91

Albert Miller, Bellville, OH. This is the tenth time here as I hurt my back 12 years ago. I've had real good results from the treatments and also feel the neighborhood. It does a lot for the treatments.

### 10-90

Abe and Anna Yoder, MBG, OH. I am epileptic and my husband has lower back problems.

This is the second time we are here. We got good results from Dr. Tom and we plan to come back.

### 10-90

Mrs. Erma Hershburger, Millusbury, OH. We heard from a heart patient coming to the Ortman Clinic so I decided to give it a try instead of taking tests. I couldn't do my housework anymore, but with a few treatments from the doctors I am able to do most of my work. I try to come back every six months.

### 3-89

Chriss and Katie Slabaugh and grandson, John Miller, Utica, OH. We have been here six times at the clinic. Our grandson, John, was here in August and had good results. He has a nerve condition and becomes "jerky". He seemed OK after the treatments, but now needs them again. Dr. Tom was our doctor every time and really helped us.



## South Dakota

8-89

Oscar Fenner, Milbank, SD. About five years ago I had a very bad fall and was paralyzed from the waist down. I was brought down here and couldn't walk. After treatment I walked out carrying my crutches. I believe in miracles and Dr. Doug was a great help.

5-89

Marjorie Jefford, Kadoka, SD. I had trouble in Arizona and a doctor there told me that if I had back trouble again to come to Canistota. I also wore special gloves for my carpal tunnel problem in my wrists. Needless to say I've had so much relief that I'm back again. Everyone is so nice here that I feel right at home.

10-88

Marjorie Jefford, Kadoka, SD. I want to thank the coffee shop drinkers for including me in their group. What a bunch of gab. The church dinner on Wednesday was absolutely perfect. This is a great place to be when you are hurting.

8-88

Betty Thomas, Pierre, SD. I've been coming here since 1953. I have always gone to Dr. Ervin Ortman and son Tom. Dr. Ervin and I started together, he is a very special person. I have had neck, back problems due to an accident. Have always gotten help here.

8-90

Opal Blek, Watertown, SD. Why go to the Ortman's in Canistota? They are just a bunch of quacks that's what I told my friend, she persuaded my husband to take me away. I was better before I even got back to the room. My medical doctor told my husband "they did more for you than I could ever do". Nerves, sciatic, banged up shoulder, neck, go to Canistota.

2-89

Floyd and Ruth Campbell, Sturgis, SD. My husband comes for his back and has gotten lots of relief. I came this time to have frozen shoulders treated and they seem better. My nephew came here years ago with epilepsy with blackout spells. He received treatment and never had another spell-later joining the airforce.

## South Dakota (continued)

10-88

Elsie Fischer, Mount City, SD. I've had serious back problems since 1983. My son Larry brought me here the first time and I had to spend two and half weeks here. I'm fine and didn't have to have surgery like the medical doctors thought. I came back twice a year for a tune-up-the people here are so nice, they make you feel like home-very much appreciated.

11-90

Fern Swearington, Sioux Falls, SD. I had terrible pains on my right side for a week. I was first diagnosed as having a kidney infection, and later found nothing wrong. I decided to come to my doctor in Canistota and he treated the area where I had pain. The next day I broke out in shingles. Dr. Lon Weiland has treated that area since and it doesn't bother me anymore.

4-89

Marlene Ritter, Mound City, SD. Back in 1963, I was hurt in a farm accident. I laid in the hospital and saw several doctors and was told I would never do any work again. Chiropractors gave me some relief but I always had pain in the back, neck and shoulder.

In 1971 I made a trip down here every other month-eight trips in all which gave me relief from pain. My thanks to Dr. Tom, the hospitality and friendly surroundings are great.

11-88

Elden and Erma Bertsch, Tulare, SD. In 1962 I sneezed and my back went out. I called the Ortman Clinic and it was a weekend. They told me to come anyway. I got help with one treatment. I couldn't lift my feet in the car when I came or lift the baby. When we went home I could do it all. Now 2 of my children come here.

**Date not recorded**

Mrs. June Hicks, Brookings, SD and daughter Mrs. Marion Ustrud, Watertown, SD. We come to Canistota every three weeks for a slipped disc, degenerative arthritis of the spine and painful sciatic nerve. My first visit was in a wheelchair and I haven't used it since. Marion broke a shoulder and badly tore the deltoid muscle. Surgery hasn't helped much-good relief here for both of us. Thanks to Dr. Doug.



## Washington

5-90

Betty Forcier, Bothel, WA. I am here for the first time at the clinic. I have had headaches for years. After five treatments I no longer have headaches or dizzy spells. I would recommend all the doctors as I feel much better. I came with Kenny and Vivian Nigg.

11-89

Peggy Bergman, Puyallup, WA. I started coming here at the age of 7, when we lived in Kansas. I have had so much help here with health problems and enjoy coming back to Canistota not only for treatments but to see and talk to townspeople who make you feel welcome.

## Kansas

9-89

Harry and Barb Yoder, Hutchinson, KS. I heard about this place from my sister about 15 years ago. Not getting any relief of my sciatic rheumatism any other place, I came here to the clinic and had wonderful relief here. I do not have any pain since I come one a year.

10-88

Emery and Bernice Bontrager, Hutchinson, KS. We first came here in 1976, but Emery's father had brought a load here in 1936. Emery comes for treatment of a broken neck from a car accident years ago.

## Arkansas

9-88

Mr. and Mrs. Erving Stahl, Mt. Home, AR. We started coming here in 1955 for bad knees. They did me so much good that I've come every year since. To us it's like a vacation here-we love Canistota.

## Tennessee

Date not recorded

Mr. and Mrs. John Mast, Lawrenceburg, TN. I have been having migraine headaches for many years. We were here 40 years ago and again 20 years ago. The distance is so far that we put it off coming more often. I have gotten a lot of relief here.

## Wisconsin

10-89

Lilah Erlandson, Westby, WI. I was scheduled for surgery in the 60's to correct a duodenum ulcer condition. Then I thought "why not give the Ortman Clinic a try." To this day I haven't had the surgery and rarely feel any more discomfort. Dr. Erv was my doctor and he is responsible for two of my sons becoming chiropractors. Dr. Tom is not to be under estimated for what I call a native talent. I could recite more examples, but I have to leave space in the Canistota Clipper for news items.

4-89

Emma Sicwae, Prairie du Chien, WI. This is my first visit at the clinic. I have rheumatoid arthritis and hope to get help with the treatments. I have been impressed with the treatments and also enjoy the relaxed atmosphere here and the restful place. It is the only town I've been to where there are a lot of doctors and no undertakers.

4-89

Jerry E. Goldstod, Osseo, WI. I came here the first time in 1975 with four friends for a sore back from lifting and from milking cows. Now it has been once a year for a variety of sore

spots; for knees, hips and sinus. We brought a guy along from Whitehall who has a lot of back trouble.

No date recorded

Mrs. Jacob Miller, Augusta, WI. We have been here several times mostly for stiff muscles and stress. I have been to many chiropractors locally but never found as much help any place else. Maybe there are places just as good but I haven't found one for myself. I would recommend this place before having a back operation.

11-90

Martha Jensen, Camp Douglas, WI. Well it's been a month since we were in Canistota at the Ortman Clinic. There are three cars of us from Tomah and Camp Douglas. All have good results and can't wait to come back.

6-90

Judith Larsen, Milwaukee, WI. I came with my mother and grandmother way back in 1954. I remember so much about the clinic, hotel, and the nice man Mr. Pletan who paints scenic pictures across the street from the clinic.



## Wisconsin (continued)

8-90

Cheryl Iverson, Viroqua, WI. My family has been coming to the clinic for over 40 years. My grandparents, Tom and Sophia Ostrem started to come bringing my aunt Myrtle who had polio at the age of seven. Then my parents, Otis and Marcelle started to come. The treatments have kept me from having back surgery. Mother and I still come several times a year. We thank God we found them.

### No date recorded

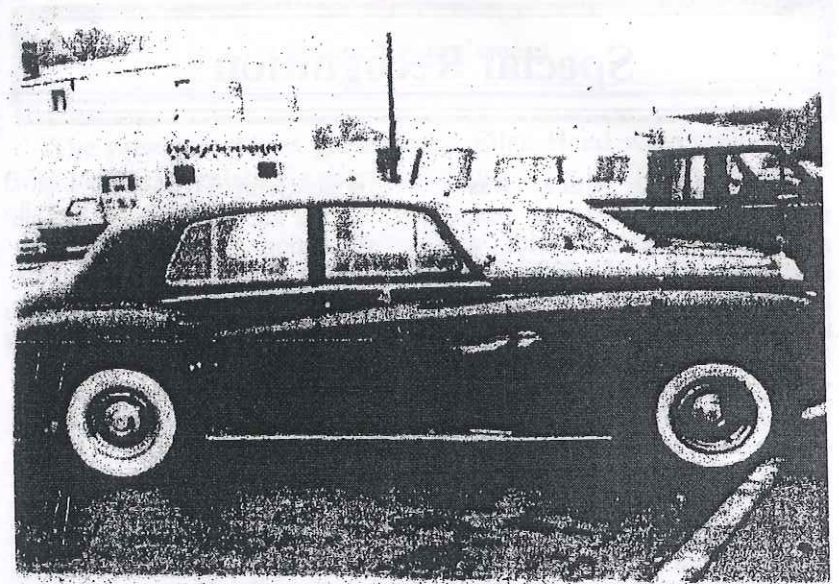
Irene Heesaker, Green Bay, WI. My original problem was when I was backed over by a pickup truck. It doubled me up and broke three vertebrae. I have come to the Ortman Clinic every two to three months to ease the pain. I think Dr. Ivan is special. It gets cold here in the winter-one time it was 38 below with a windchill of 68 below.

4-90

Evelyn and Rubin Wesener, Mayville, WI.

We started coming here about 30 years ago. Rubin was pinned between a milk truck and a tractor in 1970. It pulled the scapulars out of his shoulder, punctured his lung and liver. Rubin decided he should try the

Ortman Clinic and he got help the very first time. For two years he came twice a year and since then once a year. Everything is fine and normal. We brought our son Ronald here when he was a young boy. The outlet to his stomach was too small. After one treatment he started eating and growing and got to normal size. He is now 34 years old and is doing fine. Our grandson Mike has a similar problem and was corrected in one treatment.



"The Old" - Pete Schmidtke

### A Touch of Class:

Visitors to Canistota over the years have come from all over the world, in all shapes and sizes, nationalities and arrived in many different modes of transportation. A week ago, Pete Schmidtke of Orlando, Florida and Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, caused quite a stir when he parked his Rolls Royce on Canistota's Main Street.

Pete, who came to Canistota 35 years ago to be treated for a pinched nerve has been making frequent trips back over the years. Now, he returned yearly for an annual "Tune-up".

The 1963 Rolls was purchased by Pete eight years ago. He had driven several other "luxury" cars over the years but had always wanted to own a Rolls. He likes the way it drives, and the comfortable interior. He paid \$10,000 for the used vehicle when purchased eight years ago. The reason he got such a "good deal" was the steering wheel in on the right side as the cars in Europe have. When asked if that posed any problem, he said, "No, it's really quite easy to drive, but does get to be tricky when driving on a two-lane road and trying to pass another car or especially a semi truck. You almost have to pull completely out on the other side to see if the road is clear; it also helps to have a 'co-pilot'." Today, a new Rolls (Cornish model) sells for \$135,000 and a convertible sells for \$165,000. Pete also had bought his daughter a white Rolls several years ago, but she sold it as she didn't care for handling it in heavy traffic every day.



## Special Recognition

8-88

The Ortman Clinic was recently recognized in the Achievers magazine with a circulation of over 55,000. The article traces the beginning of the practice from the early 1900's. Amon Ortman, a young farmer treated people at his farm. Word of the success of his manipulation technique spread and he build a hotel and gas station on the farm for people coming long distances to see him. It is very possible that Amon S. Ortman has treated more patients than any other practitioner anytime anywhere. He started treating members of his family using manipulation procedures developed by him. He simply has what he called a gift of treating certain muscular skeletal injuries. He was determined to keep farming having no intention of capitalizing on his gift. He also recognized his gift of discernment knowing whether the patient would respond to his treatment and the number of days of treatment needed. People would come to him in the field where he was out farming. He would set them on a wagon tongue or car seat and apply treatment. Through these unique circumstances evolved the sitting up technique which

is the Ortman trademark.

As the years went by his reputation as a "healer" grew by word of mouth. Patients were treated for everything from back injuries to normalizing other body functions. Brother, Noah showed an aptitude for treating and joined him in treating at the farm.

The practice grew beyond the limits of the farm facilities and a new 72 room hotel was built in Canistota in 1929.

Amon's oldest son, Herbert joined the practice in 1938 and the patient numbers grew to 500 to 600 patients a day sometimes exceeding 800.

In 1946 Amon's youngest son Ervin along with Amon's son-in-law Stanley Weiland were sent to chiropractic college in Chicago. They began their practice at the Ortman Clinic in 1950. Amon Ortman continued his practice until his death in 1956.

Dr. Wayne Ortman son of Dr. Herb and Ida Ortman was the beginning of the third generation practice in 1964.

## Editor's Supplement

The previous stories gathered by Ellen Hand were collected from 1987-91, a relatively short time considering the 90 year history of the Ortman practice.

Patients have frequently questioned the relationship of the doctors presently on the staff, which prompted the writing of this brief update.

### THE SECOND GENERATION

Dr. Herbert Ortman was the eldest son of Dr. Amon (founder of the Ortman practice) and Minnie. Herb was the first of the second generation to join the practice, which he continued from 1938 to 1984. He is now 90 years old and lives independently in Canistota.

Ervin (Herb's youngest brother) joined the practice in 1950, continuing until 2003. He and his wife Arleen currently live in Sioux Falls and winter in Arizona.

Dr. Stanley Weiland married Amon's and Minnie's only daughter Irene. He joined the practice in 1950 and retired in 1986. He died in 1994 and Irene resides in Sioux Falls.

Dr. Dennis Ortman, son of Dr. Noah and Opal joined the practice in 1958 and was deceased in 1998. His wife Bette is also deceased.

### THE THIRD GENERATION

Dr. Wayne Ortman, son of Dr. Herbert and Ida joined the practice in 1964. He and his wife Sally currently live in Canistota.

Dr. Tom Ortman, son of Dr. Ervin and Arleen joined the practice in 1972. He and his wife Jennifer reside in Canistota.

Dr. Charles Ortman, son of Clarence (brother of Herbert and Ervin) and Evelyn entered the practice in 1973. He and his wife



## Editor's Supplement (continued)

Diane reside in Canistota.

Dr. Doug Ortman, son of Dr. Herbert and Ida, joined the practice in 1976. Doug and his wife Leann currently reside in Sioux Falls. Doug commutes daily to the clinic.

Dr. Ivan Ortman joined the practice in 1977. His parents were Lester (brother of Herbert and Ervin) and Evelyn. He and his wife Katie live in Canistota.

Dr. Lon Weiland, son of Dr. Stanley and Irene entered the practice in 1974. He and his wife Anita reside in Canistota.

### THE FOURTH GENERATION

Dr. Jay Ortman, son of Dr. Wayne and Sally, joined the practice in 1994. His wife is Somer. Jay resides in Canistota.

Karen Kettner of Sleepy Eye, MN sent this letter to Dr. Jay.

"My deepest appreciation for all the help you gave me for my migraine headaches and general back problems! I told you daily that you're a 'miracle worker' and you definitely remain so as I feel marvelous with no headaches; and my body is free of pain, tightness and impaired movability. After 46 years of suffering with headaches, extremely severe daily for the last 1 ½ years, I can't thank you adequately. I have referred eight people who desperately want your help."

Dr. Ryan Ortman, son of Dr. Tom and Jennifer entered the practice in 1999. He and his wife Bridget live in Canistota.

Dr. Ryan received this letter from Patsy Leegaard of Dawson, MN.

"In 2003 I was diagnosed with a herniated disc. I had severe back pain. It also went down my left leg, my leg below the knee

## Editor's Supplement (continued)

went numb and my foot started to flop. I was scheduled for surgery, but decided to try the Ortman Clinic. I had three treatments with Dr. Ryan and within a month I was really a lot better. It slowly kept getting better and I never had to have surgery."

Dr. Todd Weiland, son of Dr. Lon and Anita joined the practice in 2001. Todd currently lives in Sioux Falls and commutes daily to the clinic.

Jerry Lind of Columbus, MT sent this letter to Dr. Todd.

"In June, 2002 I was troubled with lower back pain and catches, with a gravelly sensation in my neck, problems I've had for years. After a week of treatment I returned home (much to my surprise) completely pain-free in both my neck and back, for the first time in years. I returned in June, 2003 and had two treatments-still pain free-but for a tune up because I've come to really enjoy this life with no pain. Thanks!!"



## Canistota

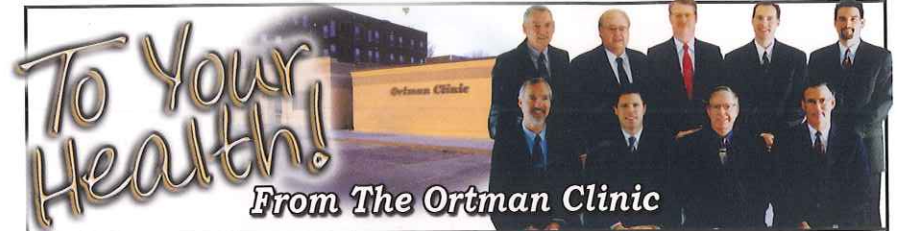
Canistota was originally located one mile southeast of the present location. The town was plotted in 1880 and was named Cameron.

In 1883 the Chicago-Northwestern Railroad developed a line northwest of Cameron and the town was renamed Canastota after Canastota, NY. A clerical error was made when applying for a post office and misspelled Canistota.

The Canistota Clipper was established in 1901. Wendell Anderson has published the weekly paper since 1955. Wendell's son Matt joined the management in 1995, continuing the publication, now in its 106<sup>th</sup> year.

On April 1, 1929 a new 72 room hotel was opened on Main Street to accommodate the patients coming to see Drs. Amon and Noah Ortman. The brothers had a smaller hotel and clinic on a farm seven miles south of Canistota and needed larger facilities.

In 1937 the clinic was built onto the hotel and has been enlarged several times since. Many motels have also been built in town to accommodate the hundreds of patients daily coming to the clinic. Today there are nine doctors on staff at the clinic carrying on the tradition through four generations. A complete history named "A Touching Story" by Dr. Ervin Ortman is available at the clinic.



## NOT YOUR TYPICAL AMISH BUGGY!



In August of 2005, **Jonas Stoltzfoos**, an Amish man, traveled 1200 miles to **The Ortman Clinic** to seek help for pain in his low back and elbow. At that time, this gentleman from Nottingham, PA, came to Canistota by commercial carriers.

Stoltzfoos experienced relief from his own back pain, and friends and family who were along were also helped by the Ortman doctors. As a result, he enthusiastically recruited others in his area to make the trip to The Ortman Clinic in an effort to find help for their neck, back, and other joint pains.

The list of people who wanted to make the trip grew rapidly. Soon Stoltzfoos was faced with the challenge of transporting a large group of people a distance of 1200 miles.

Now, the Amish generally travel by horse-drawn buggies -- which was not an option on this trip. For longer distances, they usually hire a van and driver, use the train, or ride on scheduled bus routes.

Jonas had a better idea. Why not rent a bus and drivers to make the trip? So in late February, Jonas and 38 of his friends, relatives, and drivers boarded a bus and made the 27-hour trip to Canistota. This is thought to be the first time an entire busload of people have come to Canistota for a treatment, and it probably won't be the last!