



Jozef and Maria's Hometowns of Hosca and Duplin in Eastern Slovakia

SHORT HISTORIES OF JOZEF KOVAL & MARIA PRUSAK AND THEIR CHILDREN



KOVAL HISTORY PREFACE

The sources for much of the information in this booklet are from genealogical research done by Wilfred Peters. The information was gathered from Hungarian (Slovakia) church records, United States Census records, States documents and various military and immigration records.

Much of the personal information was obtained from a taped interview with Helen Koval Peters in 1982 and recent (2006) personal and telephone interviews with Albert & Samuel Koval and Elsie Koval Thompson.

Some information was gleaned from internet sources relating to WWII military history of the organizations or theaters in which the various individuals served.

With the exception of the portions italicized, Andrew Koval's information was written by his wife Lena Fattore Koval. The italicized portions were inserted by Wilfred Peters.

Most of Pauline's information was gleaned from her obituary.

Wilfred L. Peters

KOVAL SNAP SHOTS OVER THE YEARS



KOVALS; Mary, Joe, Helen, Anne, Sam, Polly, Elsie 1963



Sandy Zook, Mary Koval 1974



April, Sam & Helen Peters,
Mary Koval & Beth Peters 1977



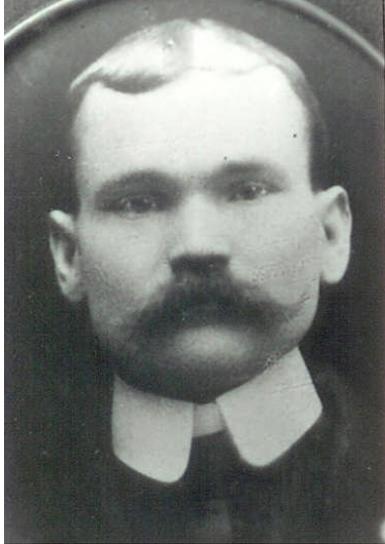
Sam & Marge Koval and Helen Peters 1986



Back Row: Janice, Sam & Ed Peters, Dave & Anne Rounds, John Chestnut, Sam & Marge Koval
Front Row: Gene & Polly Lundgren, Helen Peters, Elsie & John Thompson 1978

Personal history of Jozef Koval & Maria Prusak

Written by Wilfred Peters



Jozef 1901/1902



Maria 1948

Josef and Maria met and married in the United States. Because they grew up in areas very close to each other, there is a possibility that they knew each other prior to emigrating to the U.S. The other possibility is because of their origins; they frequented the same places and were attracted to each other here in the United States.

First some Slavic History: Slavic tribes of central Europe moved into Czechoslovakia starting around the 5th century, and were united early in the 7th century under a leader, Samo. This empire, the first distinctly Slavic state, disintegrated with his death in 658 or 659 AD. In the 9th century, Mojair I, succeeded in uniting several Slavic tribes, known as the Great Moravian Empire which included Moravia and most of Slovakia, Austria, Bohemia, and Lusatia. In 895, Moravian princes promised allegiance to the Holy Roman Empire in an effort to prevent invasion by the Magyars (Hungarians). Despite this alliance, the eastern area of Great Moravia, inhabited by the Slovaks, fell to the Hungarians in 896 and remained under their domination until 1918. These 1000 years of Hungarian rule hindered the development of the Slovaks while their Czech brothers progressed with the advantage of independence until 1620. Slovaks are not easily accounted for in immigration records, as early statistics lump them together with the Hungarians and Austrians. Their immigration to the U.S. at first lagged behind the Czechs from Bohemia and Moravia but increased rapidly at the end of the 19th century and surpassed them by the turn of the century. Over 322,000 Slovaks immigrated to the U.S. between 1898 and 1908. Of these, 169,000 went to Pennsylvania, attracted by coal mining and the steel industry. Many Slovaks had hopes of buying farms with their earnings, here or in Europe. Often earnings were sent home or the immigrant returned to Europe. In 1905 over one quarter of the arriving Slovaks had been here before. The opportunities in America proved a stronger attraction than the longing for Europe.

JOZEF KOVALY



Jan (John) & Jozef Koval 1901/1902

appear together in a photo, I don't know if the photo was taken in the USA or Slovakia. Joannes could have immigrated then returned, he died in Slovakia on 20 Feb. 1942.

Jozef was born on the 15th of July 1876 in Hocsá, Zemplén, Hungary, (Slovakia) to Jozef Kovaly and Anna Adamakova. His grand father was also a Jozef Kovaly so he was at least the third Jozef in the Kovaly line. He had three brothers and one sister: Josephus b. 7 Jan 1871; Joannes (John) b. 19 Mar 1875; Anna b. 23 Dec 1881 and Mika'ly b. 25 Dec 1885.

On the 22 of March 1901, Jozef, age 24, entered the United States at New York City aboard the ship Pennsylvania, from Hamburg Germany. The ship manifest states he was going to Dunlo PA. To an Uncle John Illigan or ilhgan or Kligan (the script is hard to read). This may have been an employment agent, not an uncle. There also is a Jan Kovaly on the same ship, a slight age mismatch doesn't place him as Jozef's brother although some of my uncles think Jozef had a brother in Upper New York or eastern Canada. The three brothers I have identified all died in Slovakia. Jozef and Jan (Joannes, John)

On 20 September 1902 Jozef (now spelling his name Joseph & dropping the Y from Kovaly) and Julia Baldovich were married by a Rev. W. A. Panuski in McKeesport Pa. Joseph lists his occupation as a mill worker which was typical employment. The marriage certificate lists Julia's birth date as 1 September 1881.

Julia Baldovic died on the 1st of January 1906. Her death certificate list the cause of death as Pneumonia and a contributing cause of Puerp. (Connected with, resulting from or following child birth). At the time of her death she and Joseph were residing at 900 4th street 6th ward in McKeesport PA. Julia was born in Hungary (probably Slovakia) and had been in the U.S for 4 years. She was buried on the 3rd of January in the Calvary cemetery. No records of a child could be found.

On the 8th of May 1906 Joseph & Mary Prusak were married by Rev W. A Panuski. Joseph and Mary list their residence as 900 4th street in McKeesport. Note: all of the dates on the Allegheny county marriage certificate other than the marriage date are erroneous. I.E. Joseph b. 8 May 1879 and Mary b. 9 February 1884. I suspect that the Reverend

took the marriage date to the clerk and he filled in the approximate dates of birth and corresponding ages. The certificate also states that Joseph has not been previously married. Note; The Original Catholic certificate has a John Koval listed as a witness.



Photos are all of Maria's Mother, Helena Tkacs Prusak (b. 1851) taken in Slovakia about 1867, about 1875 1922

MARIA PRUSAK

I believe that Maria was born in Duplin, Hungary (Slovakia) on 23 December 1882 to Mihaly Prusaka Majercsin & Helena Tkacs. Family tales were that Mihaly (Mike) and Helena came to the United States and Maria was born in Pennsylvania then the family returned to Slovakia and Maria immigrated at a later date (1899).

I have not been able to validate that Mike & Helen came into the U.S. While the 1920 U.S. census has her born in Pennsylvania, the 1930 U.S census has her born in Austria. She was the Oldest of three children. There was a sister Susana b. 1885 and a brother Janos b. 1891. Susana immigrated into the U.S. in 1908, Married Andrew Balko and lived in Great Falls Montana. I suspect that Maria was born in Slovakia having searched the Pennsylvania records pretty thoroughly and have found no evidence of the family immigration or her birth in the United States. I am fairly sure that a Slovak Genealogical researcher I hired in Slovakia found her birth in Duplin church records; therefore I have listed her birth in Slovakia rather than Pennsylvania.

Jozef & Maria's oldest boy (Joseph) was born in Harrisburg, PA., 15 July 1908, next came John, born in Cambria WYO. 22 May 1909. The family started to move westward. Cambria was a coal mining town on the eastern border of Wyoming. In 1909 the town was booming, with many Poles, Russians, Austrians & Hungarians congregating there for work. The Koval's didn't stay there long as Andy's' birth on 5 December 1910 places them in Stockett, Montana. Helen was next, also born in Stockett on 19 April 1912,

then Anne in Sand Coulee 1 July 1913 and Albert 30 March 1915 in Stockett. Samuel was born 6 May 1917 in Lehigh, Montana, indicating the farm was purchased between 1915/1917. The next two children Pauline 16 May 1919 and Elsie 23 October 1923 were also born in Lehigh.

Jozef purchased the 200 acre farm from the Cotton Wood Coal Company; which operated a coal mine in Lehigh about one mile from the farm. Jozef worked in this mine until it closed during a 1926 strike. The land had never been farmed so one of the early family tasks was to remove on the surface rocks with a horse and "stone boat" then Jozef broke the ground with a one furrow plow behind a horse. He was later able to get a 2 furrow plow. Jozef was also somewhat fluent in 7 languages, probably Czech., Slovak, Hungarian, German, Polish, Austrian and English so he spent some time in the County Court House in Stanford, Montana as a interpreter. Helen recalls Jozef reading the bible to the family on Sundays. Jozef died October 1928 of intestinal (stomach) cancer.

At 45 Maria was a widow, who couldn't read or write with 9 children ages 5 to 20, and her only means of livelihood was a 200 acre dry farm. Maria borrowed \$200 to bury Jozef, from a Windam Montana storekeeper (Louis Latterman) on a high interest contract. With the older children (Joe, Andy Helen & Anne) working, and the younger children in school, the family could just meet living expenses and pay off the interest on the \$200 loan. Helen says it was years before they could put money on the principle.

John had been paralyzed by a farm accident so he stayed on the farm with Maria. By raising cattle, turkeys and garden items and the children working at other employment and helping where they could, the farm survived the 1930 depression in Koval hands. Sam recalls purchasing a Allis Chambers tractor for the farm with his earnings from the Smelter in Great Falls just after he graduated from high school.

As World War II broke, Albert and Sam were in the Army Air Corps and Andy and Joe went into the Army. Maria and her son John, with the families help, kept the farm running during the war.

After John died in 1953, Maria continued to stay on the farm. When her daughter Elsie moved to Great Falls, Maria leased the farm to a Mr. Miller and moved to Great Falls, Montana; living with her daughter Elsie.

Maria died of cause's incident to age on the 8th of June 1978 and was buried next to Jozef in the Stanford, MT. Cemetery.

KOVAL CHILDREN ON THE FARM

Information from family and 1982 taped interview with Helen Koval



About 1935



Koval family farm

1974

The Koval children grew up on the wheat farm that thier father Jozef had purchased out side of Windham, Montana. They attended grades 1 through 7 in Lehigh Montana. When the mine closed the school house was shut down and a Presbyterian church was turned into a 2 room school for grades 1 through 8. There were 2 teachers, one for grades 1 to 4 and the other 5 to 8. Mother (Helen) remembered one teachers name as Bob McGuire. The Koval children would walk from the farm, one mile over some coal slack dumps, then down into Lehigh town. During the summer months these slack dumps would catch fire by spontaneous combustion, so the children had to weave their way between burning areas, as they made their way over the dump. Come winter time the snow got quite deep and they would get in a line the older children first then down to the youngest, this line of children would trail up over the dump to school. Mother can remember hanging on to her brother Andys' coat tails as they walked to school. They didn't have snow boots or galoshes, their mother, Mary, knitted long woolen socks which they pulled up over their shoes and legs to keep them warm and somewhat dry. This line was at times 8 to 9 children long since it would also include the Stash children from an Austrian family that lived ¼ mile down the road. They would meet at the Koval farm then the combined group would head for school.

Mother (Helen) said, the children didn't go to school much during the months of May and September. In May they had to help with the spring planting and in September they had to gather up the wheat sheaves and tie them into shocks so they could dry for threshing.

The Lehigh School closed down about 1927 and the grade schools were moved to Windham, Montana. By 1927 the father, Jozef, was very sick with stomach cancer and Mary rented a house in Windham for the children to stay during the week when school was in session. This was probably the school year of 1927 and 28. In the rented house was Helen age 15, Anne 14, Albert 12, Sam 10, Pauline 8, and Elsie 5. Elsie had been put into school a year early. Elsie was very attached to her father and insisted on sitting on his lap, and Mary thought he needed more rest.

The children maintained residence in the house during the week then went to the ranch on weekends. That involved cooking, cleaning, and house keeping, plus attending school and school work. Two of the older boys Joe 19, & John 18, were attending High school at Stanford. Andy was working for a Koval neighbor tending sheep. Albert & Sam went back and forth daily from the ranch to school using a “stone boat” pulled behind a horse that they kept in Rodgers barn during the daytime, while they were in school. Many times Albert stayed in town and Sam rode the horse back and forth alone.

The next school year 1928/29, they didn't rent the house because bus service was provided which picked them up at McNulty's lane about a mile from the ranch house.

During high school Albert joined the CCC's (Civilian Conservation Corps) for a time then came back to high school putting him a year behind Sam in school.



Pauline & Elsie abt1935

In the 1930's the family had a Model A Ford to travel between the ranch and Windham, and Windham had a 4 year high school, so the children didn't have to go to Stanford to high school.

About this time the boys put up a windmill to provide electric lighting to the farm house. It consisted of a Magneto from a Model T Ford, The windmill, turned the Magneto, sending electricity to Model T auto lights mounted in the house. Although the auto lights were not the brightest of lights, it worked fairly well providing some lighting until a large storm made havoc and destroyed the windmill.



Elsie, Anne, & Mary daughters & mother

JOSEPH KOVAL

Information from family and genealogical sources

Joseph was the oldest child in the Koval Family, born 15 Jul 1908 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Joseph was at least the 4th Joseph in the Koval Line dating back as far as I have traced the line: to about 1820.



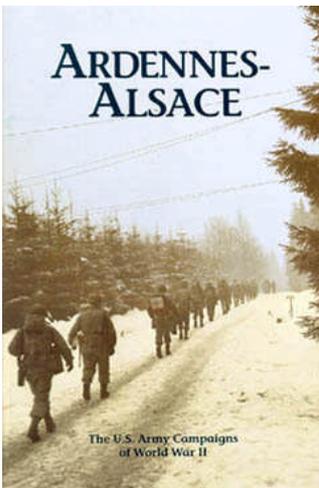
Mary, Joseph & Helen 1953

Joseph completed the 11th grade at Stanford High School in Montana leaving school in 1927. Between leaving school and enlisting in the Army in 1942 his army record written in 1947 states that he worked on the family farm and other farms in the area; Plowing, planting, cultivating and harvesting crops and making all types repairs on equipment and buildings. The record states, he had 13 years experience as a teamster, that he made harness repairs and adjustments and broke horses for harness.

Joe entered the army on the 5th of June 1942 at Missoula Montana. On the 19th of August 1942 he departed from the US for the European Theater of Operation (ETO) arriving there on the 31 August 1942.

Joe served in the CO 3 HQ 815th EAB ENGR 43. His military occupational specialty was a Bricklayer: Laid brick, tile, terra cotta, and other building blocks to construct walls, arches, partitions, manholes and other masonry structures. He was overseas for 38 months in England, France, Germany and Luxembourg, Participating in five major campaigns; Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe.

He received the good conduct medal, European African Middle Eastern Theater Service medal and six (6) overseas service Bars.



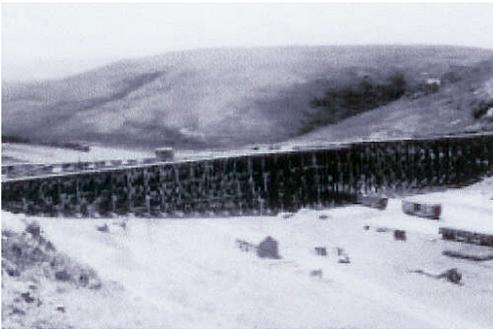
During the winter of 1943/44, Joe's unit was rebuilding many of the bridge abutments that had been destroyed during the allied advance. Working near and in the water he suffered frost bite to his feet. The damage was severe enough that he had difficulty in walking and received a disability payment after he separated from the service.

He departed Europe on the 26th of September 1945 arriving back in the US on the 3rd of October 1945 and was separated from the service the 10th of October 1945 at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. Joe's total military service came to 3yrs, 1 mo, 15 days of foreign service and 2 mo, 22 days of stateside service.

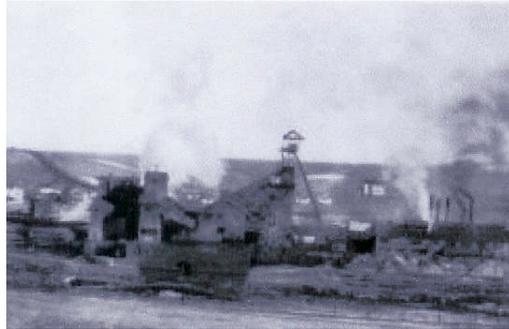
Joe returned to Great Falls, Montana where he married Bernice L. Taylor. They had no children.

Joe worked in the Smelter for a bit and then became Pound Master for Great Falls City and was a member in good standing of the Eagles Club.

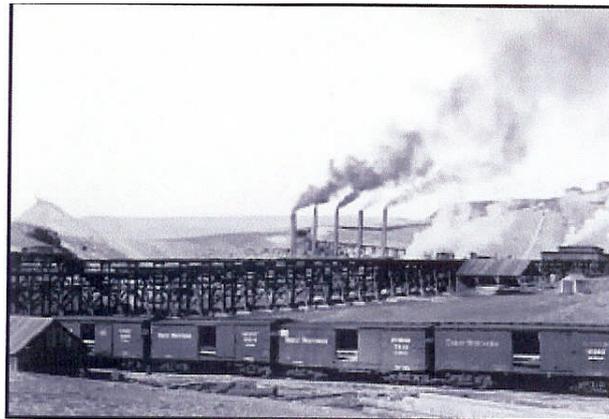
On the 12th of August 1963, Joe was found in his truck where he had suffered a heart attack.



Mine No. 2 Lehigh, Montana (ca. 1924)



Mine No. 1 Lehigh, Montana (ca. 1924)



Cottonwood Coal Company, Stockett, Montana, showing tipple.

Historical photos of the various Montana mines where Joe's father Jozef worked.

JOHN KOVAL

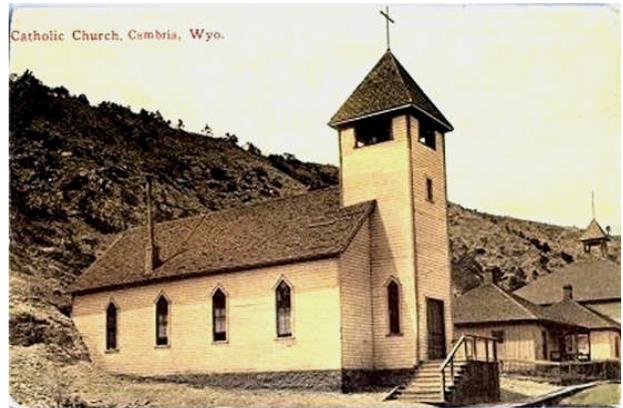
Information from family and genealogical sources



John with his nephew Sam Peters
1948

John, born the 23rd of May 1909 in Cambria, Weston County, Wyoming was the 2nd child and 2nd boy. His birth certificate is from the Catholic Church in Cambria and signed by the Rev. Father P. J. Lynch.

Cambria was probably unique among mining camps in that it had no saloons. The Kilpatrick brothers, who started the camp, had promised their mother Rachel that they would not permit the sale of liquor in their camp. As a result miners went down the canyon 7 miles to Newcastle or to roadhouses nearby to do their “celebrating”.



Catholic Church Cambria Wyo.

The Kilpatrick brothers ran a scheme which induced dozen of families to take up homesteads on the acres overlying the coal beds and sell then to the firm, as soon as it was legally possible. Johns’ dad Joseph had it in his mind, to own his own farm and the family moved on to Montana within a year.

I haven’t a lot of history on John. He was paralyzed on the right side of his body. Since there is more than one story as to how this happened I’ll relate them all. First let me preface them with this story. While John and his brother Joe were walking to Stanford to attend school, he “froze” his lungs and ended up with pneumonia putting him in the hospital at Gaylord where one lung was supposedly “dried up.

The 1st story I have was from my mother Helen, who thought the injury occurred when the kids were clearing rocks and one went over the wagon and hit John. Both Sam and Albert related that he fell from a wheat stack and hit his head. Since, he suffered the stroke that paralyzed him at a later date, the stroke may have been the result of the previous lung problem or an accident and there may have been two accident incidents.

In 1945, my uncle Albert and I spent a month on the farm with Uncle John and Grandma Mary. John walked me all over the 200 acres. I remember one time he took me up to a ridge where he had buried a 5 gallon barrel that he had left the hole in the top of the lid open. When he took the lid off, the barrel was half filled with snakes mostly rattlers. He had put some type of concoction in the barrel to attract them and they would crawl into the hole and fall into the barrel.

I believe he and grandma were somewhat glad to see me leave because they had a windup Victorola that I played a vinyl record of "Strawberry Roan" almost continuously for the whole time I was there.

John worked the farm with Grandmother Mary his entire life. He died the 6th of May 1953. A contributing factor in his death was the ingestion of gasoline while siphoning from one of the farm vehicles to another.



**Helen and a friend (Oikie Lary) in foreground
Pauline and John in background
Ranch house about 1931**

ANDREW KOVAL

Primarily written by Andy's wife Lena Fattore Koval



Andy about 1937



Lena about 1946



Andy about 1946

The 3rd of 9 children, born 5 December 1910 in Stockett Montana, Andy was 26 ½ yrs old when he enlisted in the Army at Fort Lawton, WA on September 18, 1937. He served in Hawaii in the Searchlight Division until Honorably Discharged on April 1, 1940.

He re-entered active service (*service number 39389545*) on March 16, 1942 at Fort Lewis at Fort Lewis, WA and was placed in the 42nd Rainbow Division (*Company F, 125th Infantry*), training at Gilroy CA, in the Page Mill Road Camp near Santa Barbara.

He met me, Lena Fattore, at that time while I was visiting my brother, John who was at the same camp. John and Andy became close buddies and Andy told my brother that he wanted to meet me. On May 1, 1946 we met at Tony's Italian Restaurant in Santa Barbara. It was love at first sight! We wrote to each other and met again in San Mateo CA for my sister's wedding and Andy came to see me again on furlough.



Andy & Lena with
Nephew Jerry Reichman

After months of writing he came to Seattle and we were married on April 12, 1942 at Mt. Virgin Catholic Church. A few weeks later, I joined him in Santa Barbara where we lived until Andy was sent to Butte, Montana to work in the copper mines. I joined him there and remained with him for several months until the Army recalled him. He attended and completed Non Commissioned Officer's Training. His next stop was Camp Gruber Oklahoma for overseas training. Before shipping out, he was given a furlough that was when he met his baby daughter who was 3 months old. He had been assigned to the Anti Tank Co. of the 222nd Infantry Regiment of the 42nd Rainbow Division. When his unit arrived in France they were immediately placed in front line action.

I (Wilfred) inserted the following account from the autobiography of Lt .Robert M. Barnhart of the Rainbow Division because I know Andy went through the exact experience being present in the same area at the same time frame.

Winter 1944-45

The weather in France was about the same as our weather in mid-western United States. As we moved from fall into winter and the ground became saturated with water, it was increasingly hard to keep our little dugouts dry. When we dug our holes, we tried to have them slope downhill in the direction of our feet. (Where our opening would be). We dug out a small trench on either side at the bottom of our dugout, and we dug a sump hole below the entrance to collect water. Sometimes we would have to get up during the night to dip water from our sumps to keep our dugouts from being flooded.

It may be hard to believe but a person can be wet and still warm in freezing temperature. When wool blankets become damp they seal the outside air from your body and the body heat from two people in a dugout keeps them comfortable. However, when you have to get up the next morning you are completely miserable. I can remember crawling out of my dugout and shaking like a dog when the cold wind would hit me. After one shakes for awhile his body heats and the cold winds dry out his clothing. We would get up, wring the water out of our blankets, and tie them in bundles for one of our jeeps to pick up. That night when a jeep brought up our food we would be given the dirty wet blanket we had left to be picked up that morning.

We spent most of the early winter in the vicinity of Wingen. There was not a lot of fighting for us but every three to five days we changed our position.

One time we were awakened in the middle of the night and told that we had to move out. I never understood the logic of our changing position in the middle of the night during a snowstorm. It may have been that the Germans had pulled back and they wanted us to get into position to block them in case they changed their minds

We moved out again when daylight came and we reached our destination before noon. Once again we dug in and prepared our covered shelters. These little dens gave us a feeling of security that is hard to define. I know that when we were in training it was hard to get men to dig foxholes. In combat, the opposite was true: Each time we stopped the men immediately started digging. Nobody had to tell them to dig: most of them had seen what can happen when mortar and artillery fire moves in.



Andy driving a captured German Kettenkraftrad “tracked motorcycle” in WWII

On March 9, 1945 Andy was injured near Wingen, France while on reconnaissance in a heavily mined area. A member of his squad entered into an anti-personnel mine field. Andy realized he was in a very dangerous position, so he cautioned him to remain where he was so he could clear a path in the mine field and bring him to safety. While he was marking a safe cleared path, a mine exploded a few feet in front of him. Although painfully injured Andy stayed at his task until his comrade was guided to safety. Through his courage a member of his squad was saved from almost certain death. As result of this action Andy earned the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medals. He was hospitalized until April 7, 1945 and then returned to active duty.

On December 1, 1945 Andy shipped out of Marseille France on the ship SS Joseph N. Teal for New York City USA. *Andy separated, with an honorable discharge, from the Army at Fort Lewis, Washington, on the 28th of December 1945.*

After a happy arrival back home and a few weeks rest he went to work at the Washington Iron Works Foundry in Seattle WA, where he worked for 28 years retiring at age 65. Company policy required age 65 retirement.

We moved to Lynnwood WA, where we lived until Andy passed away from heart failure on 18 February 1997 at age 87.



Lena, Andy, Patricia & David 1952



Andy, John Ehmet, Fred Lane abt 1937

Andy and I have three children.

Patricia Jean b. July 9, 1944; David Michael b. September 15, 1949;

Donna Marie b. October 22, 1952.

Among the medals Andy received besides the Purple Heart and Bronze star were the Presidential Unit Citation, Expert Rifleman, WWII Victory Medal, Eastern Service medal, American Theater Service medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Good Conduct Medal.

General Mac Arthur declared "The 42nd Rainbow Division stretches like a rainbow from one end of America to the other" because it was a division made up of men from every State of the Union.

During World War II, the Rainbow Division was activated in July 1943, and following the Normandy Invasion in the autumn of 1944, three Infantry Regiments, the 222nd, 232nd & 242nd, were rushed overseas ahead of the remainder of the Division. They were designated as "Task Force Linden" named after Assistant Division Commander, Brigadier General Henning Linden. And, in the words of one infantryman, "flung into the maw," totally fragmented, segregated with no artillery or back up support to bolster other thinned-down divisions trying to prevent a breakout of two German armies in Alsace. Task Force Linden's companies were used to defend against and attack and counterattack powerful German forces along a 30-mile furious battle front.

The rest of the Division arrived in France in January 1945 and the Division was at last intact. The Rainbow Division as part of the expanded 7th Army attacked through the strong German defensive positions in the Hardt Mountains of France, penetrated the Siegfried Line at the German frontier, crossed the Rhine, and advanced into the cradle of Nazism, capturing Wurzburg, Schweinfurt, Furth (Nuremberg's twin city), Donauworth, liberating Dachau concentration camp, on April 29, 1945, and swept through Munich on April 30, shortly before the war ended on May 8.

HELEN KOVAL



Helen About 1932

Helen, born the 19th of April 1912 in Stockett, Montana was the 4th of 9 children.

Early in her life, while watching her brothers unwrap a steel cable, Helen was hit in her left eye by one of the strands. Her mother, Mary, doctored her at home as best she could, but the accident left her with only about 20% vision in the injured eye.

I was unaware, that she couldn't see out of one eye, until I took her to an eye center for cataract surgery when she was in her 80's. It explained three traffic accidents that she had over the years due to her lack of depth perception.

When I was about 12 we lived in Scofield Utah, and drove, over some 34 miles of dirt road to pick up some fireworks that had been shipped to the train depot at Soldier Summit Utah. On the return trip we were eating dust from a car ahead of us so mother sped up and passed the car but turned in too soon and clipped the front of his car. Mother just kept going down the road and the race was on. My friend Reino Erkkila and I were bouncing up and down on the back seat pretending that we were shooting at the fellow. He caught up with us, I don't what was said or done but I'm sure now that mothers' lack of depth perception was a contributing cause.

She had a similar accident driving alone from Salt Lake City to Ogden in a 1964 Covair, for which she was ticketed. In passing another car she turned in too soon.

The third accident, Mother was driving Ed Peters' Ford down 36th street in Ogden. My brother Sam's' first wife Janice was riding "shot gun" when mother passed a car, turned in too soon, pulling the rear bumper of the Ford partial off. She keep going on down the street with the bumper trailing behind, for about 3 blocks, until Janice got her stopped.



**Helen & Wilfred
About 1936**



Helen about 1933



Windham HS 1929 L-R B-F Helen Koval, Helen Strong,
Mrs Rose Rostern, Blanch Walker, Bonnie Walker,
Elsie Rae, Mary Jane Westby, Mabel Schlotman

Mother attended the first two years of high school at Windham, Montana, where she played on the basketball team. Even though she was the shortest girl mother says that she jumped the center position, her coach said she could jump higher than the taller girls. She can't remember that they won any games (maybe one), but can remember they had great times traveling around in cars between Geysers, Stanford and other towns as a team.

Mother worked at the grocery store at Windham for a while and then she and her sister Anne went to Great Falls where they worked as housekeepers for Mrs. Eleanor M. Chase, who had a boarding house in the Great Falls area. Mother related one incident where she and Anne could smell gas and told Mrs. Chase about it, then the next day every one was sick with nausea and bad headaches. Repairmen came and fixed the furnace, they must have come close to getting killed by carbon monoxide poisoning. She also related what a stickler Mrs. Chase was when it came to polishing the silverware.

About this time mother met dad at a dance at Rainbow Gardens. Dad was working for a wheat farmer Richard (Dick) O'Day whose farm was near the Rainbow Gardens.

They dated going to dances and movies and were married on the 18th of September 1933, by a Justice of the Peace in Great Falls MT.

After marriage, Dad worked at the Black Eagle Smelter and then both mother and dad worked at a Dude Ranch near Hamilton Montana. Mother said they were never paid at the Dude Ranch and ended up working for only room and board.

From the Dude Ranch they moved back to the Koval farm in Windham. At this time mother was pregnant with me (Wilfred). When they first got there, the Welfare People came out and told Helen's mother Mary that Helen and Oliver couldn't stay there because the older boys were working WPA & CCC. Mary said that she wasn't getting any of the money and they had no say as to who stayed at her farm. I (Wilfred) was born on the farm on the 13th of July 1934. Delivered by Mrs. Dresdren, an ex-WWI Army Nurse and assisted by Mr. Glispie the local Pharmacist.

From the ranch our family along with dad's brother Eino moved to Landusky Montana in the Gallatin National Forest where dad and Eino got work in the Landusky gold mine.



**Wilfred/Helen
Burnt forest in background**

On July 25th 1935, Dad, Eino and another friend were having coffee in the kitchen when they looked out and saw a Forest fire in the nearby mountains. This fire which began by the town of Landusky swept over 23,000 acres of lodgepole pines and was finally contained on the 27th of July but not before three Ruby Gulch miners lost their lives.

Dad, Eino and the friend decided to volunteer to fight the fire. Sometime later a miner came into town and told mother that dad and Eino had been killed in the fire. He further related that the fire was going to overrun the town and she was to pack up the car and get out of town.

The road was dead ended at the town and there was only one way out. In a panic mother threw some belongings and me into Eino's Dodge soft top touring sedan and headed out. She got as far as the Landusky cemetery before she hung the car up (one version) ran it into the ditch (another version). Eino came back into town, found out what transpired and somehow found mother and the car. They got the car back on to the road and went back into town. The town never burnt but the fire did get to the cemetery. Eino and dad were caught in the fire but covered themselves with a blanket in a stream.



Helen with Eino's Dodge

1936 finds the family with Eino in Clear Creek, Utah, a coal mining town. Mother and dad had rented a two bedroom company house at the top of Finn Canyon. During this time dad's sister Julia and her husband joined the group. The five adults and me (a two year old all lived in the house). Around the 1938/39 time frame dad and Eino decided to go back to hard rock (gold) mining and we moved to Eureka, Utah.



Eureka, Utah

Here mother had to set up household in a two bedroom shack. One bedroom wall had separated in at the corner so bad that rags were stuffed in the crack to keep the air out. The only water was a out door cold water faucet, so all water had to be carried inside and hot water was heated on a wood burning stove.

It was during the spring of 1942 that dad was jailed for a period of time as an illegal alien. Mother said the day they took him to Salt Lake City to jail, I was sick with 103 degree fever. He was later released and had to validate his legal entry.

In the summer of 1942 mother and dad had moved to Scofield Utah. Oliver's sister Julia and her husband Alfred had moved from Clear Creek to Scofield where they purchased a two story house with an outside stair way leading to the top floor. Mother and dad lived for a period of time in the upper story of this house. In the period of 1942/44 they lived in three Scofield houses eventually ending up in the old rock Binns store. In November of 1943, my brother Sam joined our family.



Scofield UT 1942

While living in the Binns' store mother was a 4H leader, she took in two boarders, temporarily, during the school year. Johnny Erkkila, and Marilyn Zuba from Clear Creek, who had to go to school in Scofield. She also provided evening meals for construction workers from Price working in the area during this war time period. The workers would give mother their meat and sugar ration stamps and dad always provided us with plenty of deer meat, which the workers enjoyed as beef.



Clear Creek House (Photo take way after mom sold about 1980)

In 1945 we moved back to Clear Creek Utah, into a company house on the side hill at the intersection of Finn, and Ball diamond canyons.

Starting as a maid at the mining company hospital, mother was soon working as a nurse's aid for Doctor Hardy. Although not Latter Day Saint, The LDS Relief Society ladies

continually had her involved in their projects, such as handwork (mother loved to crochet), quilting, and food requirements.

Mother and dad raised Sam and I in this Clear Creek house. I left for High school in 1948 and Sam in 1957. After high school I went to college, married, into the Navy. After high school Sam went into the Navy and married. So by 1957 mom and dad were pretty much by themselves, except for the summer vacation periods.

In 1964 dad was killed in an automobile accident near the Scofield Reservoir. Mother stayed in Clear Creek for a short period of time, but with nothing to do and isolated in a small mountain town a change was required.



Oliver Peters

I lived in Ogden, so mother came up there to live with us for a short period of time. She obtained employment as an aid at Hillcrest Convalescent center and worked there until she was 83 years old. She rented a one room apartment directly behind the center so she could walk to work.

Eino Peters and his wife Elsie lived in Salt Lake City. Eino, Elsie and mother took many a trip to Las Vegas and Wendover Nevada on Gambling forays. Elsie didn't drive and Eino wasn't usually able to drive on the return trip, so mother became the chauffeur.

When Ed Peters retired he moved to Utah and mother and Ed were together until he died in 1979.

In 1991 Mother decided to take a bus trip north to visit all her brothers and sisters, & dad's brothers and sister in Canada. So by herself she took a round robin bus trip from Ogden, Utah, via Boise Idaho, Spokane Washington, Seattle Washington, Vancouver Canada, and Calgary Canada to Great Falls Montana. Sadly while she was on this trip her sister Ann died of a Stroke in Great Falls a few days before she arrived.

After mother retired, she lived with my brother Sam for quite a period of time and then went to an assisted living center called Apple Village in Layton Utah.

Mother is at the time of this writing (age 94) in a Nursing home (Rocky Mountain Care Center) two falls have resulted in the pinning of a fracture in one hip and a ball replacement in the other hip. She is also suffering from macular degeneration of her eyes and Alzheimer's. Although her short term memory is completely gone she is still upbeat and hasn't lost her different sense of humor.

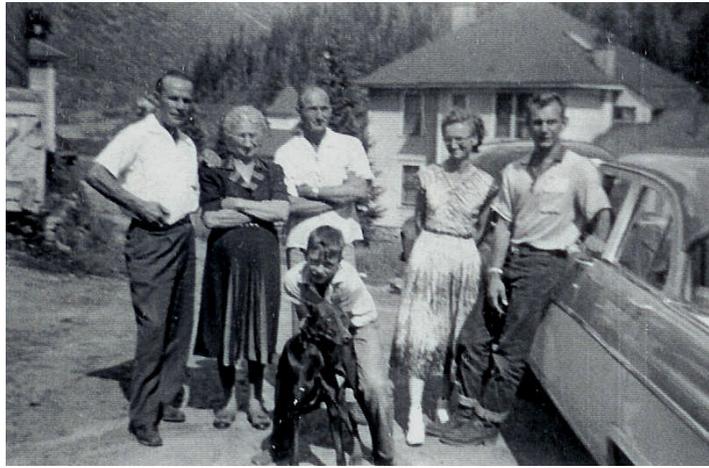


Samuel, Helen, Oliver & Wilfred - Clear Creek 1962

KOVAL SNAPSHOT PAGE



**Albert, Elsie, Wilfred, Sam, Oliver
Scofield Utah 1944**



**Oliver, Mary, Albert, Anne, Wilfred and Sam with Hans (Dog)
Clear Creek, Utah 1955**



**Helen, Marge, Sam & Sharon
Mt. Pleasant Utah 1948**



Polly and Chuck



**Charles Adams, Helen Peters, Pauline Adams with
Chuck and Pollys boys Scofield Reservoir 1948**

ANNE KOVAL



Anne



Anne and Dave Rounds



Dave Rounds

Anne, born the 1st of July 1913 in Sand Coulee, Montana was the 5th of 9 children.

Upon graduation from Windham High School Anne and her older sister Helen found employment as housekeepers for a Mrs. Eleanor M. Chase, who had a boarding house in Great Falls, Montana.

July 25th 1936 Anne married David Rounds. They must have purchased a house at 1312 8th Avenue N, in Great Falls quite early in their marriage. As her other younger siblings left the farm in Windham all of them stayed with Anne and Dave for a period of time. When her brother Albert came back from the World War II, his first wife, Cecilia Thompson was staying with Anne. Playing the matchmaker, Anne got the two together.

Anne lived her entire life at the above address, working some of the time as a nurse's aid in local convalescent homes, but most of the time was spent as a housewife.

Toward the end of his life Dave lost his eye sight and Anne became his care taker. At one point when the job became overbearing Anne placed Dave in a nursing home but soon didn't like the manner they were caring for him, pulled him out and brought him back home where she cared for him up to her death. Anne & Dave had one son Franklin Delno b. 15 April 1937.

Anne died 19th of August of 1991, as result of a massive stroke.



Anne, Helen, Wilfred 1934



David, Helen, Lena, Andy, Donna 1978



Anne



Helen 1997



John & Elsie 1945



Polly, Helen, Anne, Sam & Elsie 1976



Helen 1935

Great Grandmother & Great Grandsons

Jared 33 mo, Helen 75 yrs, Jeremy 27 mo



ages 19yrs 92yrs 19yrs

Jared, Helen, Jeremy. ~ 31/7/1987 -- 15/7/2004

ALBERT KOVAL

(Sources were telephone, personal interviews with Albert & from the internet)



The 6th of 9 children, born 30 May 1915 in Stockett Montana, Albert worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) for a while before returning to school, placing him behind his younger brother Sam in school.

After graduating from Windham High School, Albert went to Great Falls Montana and stayed with his sister Anne, while he was working at the local Smelter. He worked there for about a year, and then in 1940 joined the US Army Air Corps.

Albert's group mobilized at Hamilton AFB in California. Albert's Unit commander was Capt. Fairor (Farior). Albert was a Sergeant with about 50 men under his supervision.

Albert abt1937

December 7th 1941, found Albert two days out to sea from San Francisco in the USS Johnson. When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, the ship turned around and zigged & zagged for 4 days back to port at San Francisco.

Albert related that he shipped out again on the 18th of December 1941 aboard the USS President Polk. Note the following cablegram between Australian Ministers Richard G. Casey and Herbert V. Evatt.

Casey to Evatt

Washington, 17 December 1941

Cablegram 1163

Most Secret

United States is sending "in the next few days" two fast ships (President Polk and President Coolidge) [sc. Coolidge] from the Californian coast to Australia, containing 125 P 40 fighter aircraft, 5 transport aircraft D.C. 3 type, together with United States Army Air Corps [fourth mobile depot group](#) of about 550 officers and men. Each aircraft will be accompanied by pilot, crew, observer and armourer. Above ships will also carry some ammunition and bombs. The mobile depot group will have hand tools and such other necessary maintenance equipment and machinery as the ships can carry. This depot group is to establish itself at the most appropriate place in Australia (they presume either Brisbane or [Townsville](#)) for the assembly of the above-mentioned and subsequent arriving aircraft. Subsequently about 35 or 40 P 40 fighter aircraft with pilots, bombers and ammunition may be expected monthly as reinforcements by subsequent ships.

All of the above fighter aircraft are destined on the present plans to fly to the Philippines via Darwin and appropriate stopping places.

The SS Johnson was a real “rust bucket” and they were packed to the gills. The SS Polk was a great upgrade being a class passenger liner and they were treated very well on their trip to Australia. The SS Coolidge and SS Polk didn’t travel together. The SS Coolidge came almost a month later, with the 4th Air Depot Group, as mention in the message.

Albert says the SS Polk docked in New Zealand and then came to Brisbane Australia, 4 to 5 days later. The records state: *USAT President Polk loaded with 55 P-40 Es, departed San Francisco 16/12/1941 (Albert says the 18th) arrived Brisbane 15/01/1942.*

Upon arrival in Australia they were quickly dispersed, establishing repair depots at various locales, to do complete aircraft assembly and maintenance on B25, P40, Gliders and various aircraft engaged in the war.

These first fifty-five P40Es were built up and used to form the 20th and 3rd provisional Pursuit Squadrons (PS), respectively commanded by Capt. William Lane Jr. and Capt. Grant Mahoney. The 20th PS departed the 29th of January 1942 with 25 of the aircraft and the 3rd PS in early February 1942 from Brisbane in route to Darwin.

Albert’s group assembled aircraft in Ipswich for 3 to 4 months. He then went to Brisbane and on to Finschhafen, New Guinea for a short period. When the Japanese advanced through New Guinea, his group was sent back to Darwin (Eagle Farm) where they again set up their depot operation. Here Albert related that he came in contact with the famous “Pappy Gunn” and worked with him to install 50 caliber machine guns in a B-25 bomber so that the bomber could be used to strafe Japanese positions and ships.



B-25C Mitchell, #41-12946, "Margaret" with the 50 caliber machine gun modification in a hangar at Garbutt airfield, (or is it more likely that this photo was taken in Brisbane?)



A combat crew in front of B-25 "Fair Dinkum" of the 13th Squadron of the [3rd Bomb Group](#). "Fair Dinkum" was later burned up in a Japanese air raid on Port Moresby.

I included this photo because Albert mentioned that while at Eagle Farm they called themselves members of the "Fair Dinkum" flying club. "Fair Dinkum" is an Australian slang term that loosely translated means "Genuine".



Glider assembly at hangar No. 4, Eagle Farm Airfield Australia in August 1943.

Some time in 1942/43, while on a supply run to Darwin, Albert and one of his men were caught in a Japanese bombing raid. They ran to a slit trench and were hit by a bomb. The other fellow was killed and Albert woke up in the hospital where he spent the next month. Following that incident he came down with Dengue which was a mosquito-borne disease sometimes called "breakbone" fever, very painful.

Following the war Albert was assigned too many bases, as Malstrom in Great Falls, Goose Bay Labrador, Morocco North Africa and Mountain Home Idaho. He worked on C54s, B29s, and many other weapons, serving 24 yrs in the Air force before he retired.

In 1945 while stationed at Malstrom AFB in Great Falls MT. Albert's sister Anne introduced him to Cecilia Thompson, a lady staying with Anne at the time. Cecilia and Albert were married in 1946. Sadly Cecilia died from a brain tumor in 1954.

Cecilia & Albert



In 1955 Albert remarried to Dorothy Newkirk Vandall (b.23 Jun 1920 d. 17 Oct 1997), Dorothy had been married before and had grown children in Ohio.



Dorothy & Albert

Upon retiring as a USAF Master Sergeant in 1964, Albert ran a Tavern on the Snake River in Mountain Home Idaho for about a year. He then ran another Tavern in Notus, Idaho for 8 years. He says the tavern business is a tough way to make a buck. You have to be a doctor, lawyer, shrink, and a bouncer. He and his wife purchase a home in Meridian, Idaho. When he sold out of the tavern business, he worked for Boise Cascade (1970-80), purchasing the interior furnishings and stocking prefab houses.

His second wife Dorothy became sick with Lymphoma, and although Albert was very comfortable in Idaho they decided to move to Ohio to be closer to her children (Donna & Joe). However they only stayed there 1 year and then moved to the more comfortable climate of Lady Lake, Florida. Dorothy died there in 1997.



Albert and Amanda 2006

Albert then met Amanda Martinez; they were married in February of 2003 and presently reside in Mascotte, Florida. Amanda was born in San Pedro, Honduras and still has family there so they enjoy spend time tripping to Honduras to visit her family.

Albert has no biological children.

SAMUEL O. KOVAL

(Information from telephone interviews with Sam, a handwritten autobiography from Sam Koval and internet history on the 11th bomb squadron)



1937



Marge 1944



1944

Born on 6 May 1917 the 7th of 9 children in Lehigh Montana, he graduated from Windham High in 1937. After graduation, Sam went to Great Falls Montana and worked at the Black Eagle Smelter. Sam stayed with Anne and Dave Rounds. Anne's home served as a boarding house for the family as they left the ranch. Sam related that with one of his first pay checks he purchased an Allis Chalmers tractor for John to use on the Farm. This was the 1st tractor the Kovals' had. Prior to this all the hauling and plowing was done by horse power. Sam worked at the smelter for 2 years.

In September 1939 Sam joined the US Army Air Corps at Fort Missoula Montana. After 6 months basic training there he was assigned to the radio shop at March Field California for training as an electronic technician on the "New" B17 AC. Later in 1940 he was transferred to McChord Field in Tacoma Washington, followed by 9 months training at a Radio School at Scott Field in Illinois then back to McChord to work with B25s. In the spring of 1941 he was assigned to Felts Field outside Spokane Washington.



While he was stationed in Felts Field, Sam met and married Marguerite Marie Lewis (Marge) on 2 February 1942...

Sam was involved with B25 bomber orientation training of Russian personnel at Felts Field and a new base at Pendleton Oregon during the years of 1941/42. Russia was to get B25 bombers under the US to Russia Lend Lease program.

In 1942 the only B-25s in service were with the 17th Bombardment Group. The 17th Bombardment Group comprised the 34th, 37th and 95th Squadrons, plus the attached 89th Reconnaissance Squadron.

Sam's group had received orders to transfer from Oregon to South Carolina in order to meet the greater threat from German submarines operating off the East Coast. Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, when selecting crews for the 18th of Apr. 1942 Tokyo raid, found out which B-25 unit had the most experience. He then went to that organization and called for volunteers, to which the entire group, including the group commander, volunteered. 24 B-25B were diverted from the 17th Bombardment Group. 16 AC went on the raid because of the limitations of the carrier Hornet. Sam's crew volunteered but was not selected and went on to South Carolina in March of 1942.

In South Carolina Sam's crew set about preparing their aircraft for what was to be their journey to China. Titled "Project 157", they were ordered to Morrison Field Florida. The crews and the ground support personnel of "Project 157" were to join up with the crews of the "B-25 Special Project" (Doolittle's group) in China, to form the bomber portion of the US Army Force support, for the "China Air Task Force," which President Roosevelt had promised to Chiang Kai Shek. Of course all of Doolittle's AC was lost in the Tokyo raid, although some of Doolittle's crews did later reunite with the "Project 157" units.

The middle of April 1942, B-25 combat crews of Project 157 began to arrive at Morrison Field, Florida, under the command of Major Gordon C. Leland. Each crew was assigned a brand-new B-25C. About two weeks were spent outfitting the planes, testing all the apparatus and getting the crews accustomed to working together. The night of May 2, the first aircrews left for overseas, Sam and his crew left on the 13th May 1942.

The planes were not only completely fitted and ready for immediate combat, but were loaded with a great variety of extra ground equipment and men for maintaining planes. Every one of the aircraft was at least 500 Pounds over the maximum overload for safe flight, and the route they were to take had never before been flown over by combat crews, though part of the trip had been made in the same type plane by ferry pilots with lighter loads. Sam said they were "Stuffed In", most of the flight his back was up against barrels. The planes of Project 157 followed the regular ferry route to India. Starting in southern Florida they traveled 4,000 miles before reaching Natal on the Brazilian bulge of South America, the flight then crossed the South Atlantic to Accra, Gold Coast (Ghana) Africa via Ascension Island; then across Africa to Karachi, Pakistan. As they left the Gold Coast, Sam's group hit a bad storm in route and had to return to the Gold Coast. They lost one aircraft in the storm. The aircraft and crew were never found. The next day the group again left to cross Africa. This time Sam's aircraft ran out of fuel and had to land along side of the Nile River. Sam put a call out for help on his radio and the next morning about 8 camels arrived with gas for the aircraft. With that gas they flew to India then on to Karachi where they found a leak in one the aircrafts fuel tanks and had to stay there for two weeks to repair the tank. The balance of the group left on a mission to bomb a Japanese airfield and then go on to Kunming China. After the bombing mission 3 aircraft of this group lead by Maj. Leland, flying in bad weather crashed into a mountain and one ran out of gas and crashed some miles short of the Kunming runway.

KUNMING CHINA



**L-R: Capt Robert Ford pilot, 1/Lt Franklin Young copilot, 2/Lt Emery Downs bombardier,
1/Lt Rowland Hill navigator,
In front: S/Sgt Sam McGlaughlin engineer-gunner, Sgt Samuel Koval radio-gunner**

Sam's crew, with their plane repaired, flew over the Himalayas and arrived in Kunming, China on the 10 of June 1942. 13 aircraft had left Florida in Sam's group, only 3 made it to China, and only 2 aircraft were operational.

Designated as the 11th Bombardment Squadron they were attached to the newly formed China Air Task Force (CATF), and operated in a country already invaded by Japan and whose very existence was continually threatened. The Squadron was to support Gen Claire Chennault's forces. Their prime responsibility was the destruction of the enemy land transport system (Rail yards and rolling stock).

On one of Sam's combat missions, the B-25 he was in, hit the "prop wash" of the aircraft ahead of them and with a load of bombs skidded into a bunch of dummy P-40 aircraft. No one was hurt and they continued on a very difficult mission, which quoting Sam "they made very successful and were awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action".

There are many combat stories on the 341st Bomb Group to which the 11th Squadron was attached that can be found on the internet under “Life and Times of the 341st Bomb Group”. Including the 11th BG roster from May 42 – Nov 45. On July 4th 1942 the CATF had an effective strength of about 35 P-40’s and 7 B-25’s but by changing aircraft S/Ns and paint jobs they had the Japanese estimating their strength at 200 and 50 respectively.

The previously mentioned roster has Sam listed as a Radio-Gunner with the rank of Sgt. He was to operate one of the machine guns and the radio. Sam spent just under 2 years in this theater, putting in 175 hours of combat service and flying 45 combat missions. He was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Air Medal for outstanding service in the Air Corps and the Victory Medal for pre-Pearl Harbor service.

In February 1944, Sam and T/Sgt Earl Rhodes were selected to start up a gunnery School for the Chinese in Karachi, Pakistan. Sam left Pakistan on the 15th of March 1944. On his flight back to Florida he was on the same plane as Madam Chiang Kai-shek, the wife of the war time Generalissimo of China.

From Florida it was the train to Chicago and on to McChord AFB where he was given Leave. Sam and his wife Margie met in Spokane WA where they spent 10 days with Marge’s folks and then went on the Windham MT and spent 10 days with Sam’s, mother Mary and his brother John. Sam and Marge then left on a train to California and checked in to the Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica for their honeymoon. 30 days later Sam reported to Fresno California for Re-assignment and was assigned to Walla Walla WA as a Communication Instructor where he stayed until after the war. Between the 1st of November 1948 and the 30th of September 1951, Sam was rotated between the 92nd and 98th Air Base Group’s home base at Spokane AFB in Bng Washington. This was the Korean War time period and that resulted in various temporary duty assignments (TDY). One such assignment was 9 months (1951) in Japan as the Communications Chief in charge of all communications systems on the B-50 bomber electronics. Returning home to Spokane he served as the Electronic Chief there for a time.

As with all military careers Sam was stationed in many places on the globe; England, Frankfurt Germany, Korea, Japan to name a few. One of his more enjoyable duty tours was 3 years in Guam, with Marge and their 3 children, Creig, Sharon & Sam. They took trips to the Philippines and Japan with the children and Sam and Marge took a trip to Hong Kong, where they got a bit too close to the Chinese border, and were almost captured by the Red Chinese border guards. He attained his TSgt rank in 1945 and MSgt rank in 1951.

During his military career some of the organizations Sam was assigned: 17th Bombardment Group, 11th Bomb Squadron, China Air Task Force (CTAF), the 92nd and 98th Air Base Group HQ & HQ Squadrons, 324th & 344th Bomb Squadrons, 43rd Air Base Group HQ & HQ Squadrons, 4303 Armament Electronic Maintenance Squadron, 303rd Bomb Wing (HQ and HQ Squadrons and Armament Electronic Maintenance Squadrons)



Sam in china 1942

Sam Received: the Silver Star, Air metal, Chinese Victory metal, good conduct metal and 6 Victory & Campaign metals.

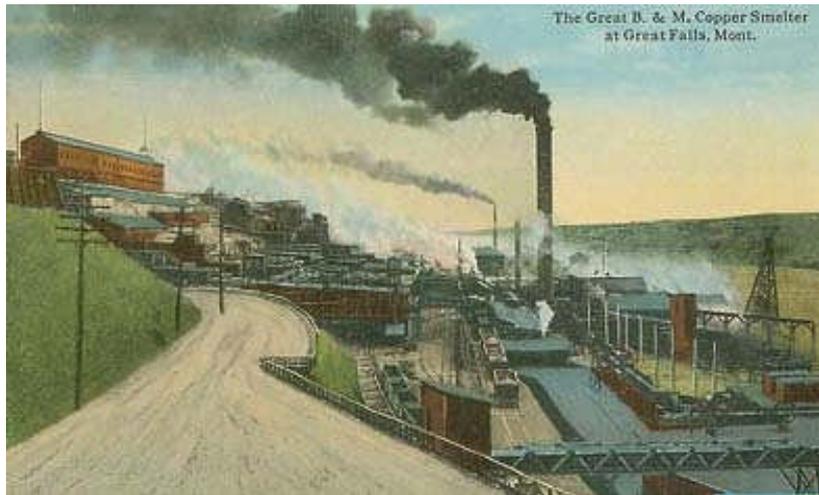
With the children getting old enough to need a permanent place to attend school, Sam retired from the Air force at Portland AFB In October of 1955. The family returned to Spokane, Washington, but Sam was unable to find a good job. In Great Falls, Montana he was able to find a Milk Delivery job for a year and then he obtained work for the United States Postal Service and worked there for 15+ years.

With Spokane as their base they traveled over the US in their motor home, spending winters in Florida and Yuma, Arizona.

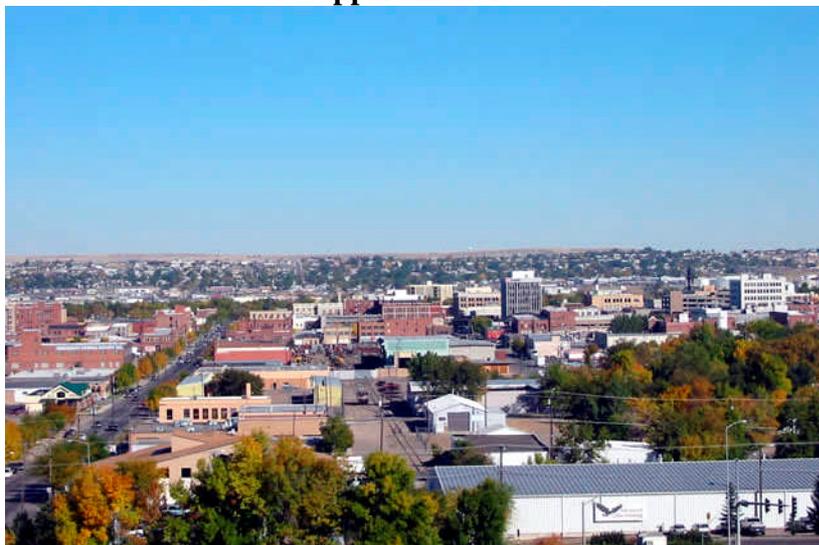
Sam & Marge raised a family of three children; Creig Oliver, Sharon Marie, and Samuel Franklin. At this writing (yr.2006), they reside in Spokane Washington.



Samuel and Albert Koval at March Field California 1941



Copper smelter



The city of Great Falls Montana



Great Falls on the Missouri

PAULINE MARY KOVAL
Information for obituary and family



Pauline (Polly), was born in Lehigh Montana on the 16th of May 1919, the 8th of 9 children. Upon graduation from Windham, High School in 1939 Polly went to work in Great Falls Montana as a Waitress. Over the years she worked as Eddie's Diner, Tracy's, Eddies' Supper Club and Wong's Restaurant.

On the 2nd of March 1942 Pauline married Charles Fay Adams (Chuck) just prior to his departure overseas in WWII. Chuck served in the North African Campaign where his jeep hit a mine severely shattering his legs. He was ambulatory but in considerable pain upon returning from the war.

When Chuck returned from service he and Polly resided in Springfield, Missouri for a couple years 1944/45 and then returned to Great Falls. Their marriage fell on hard times and ended in a Divorce. They had three sons; Charles (Chuck), Gary L., and Raymond E... Charles Sr. died the 22nd of March 1978. Charles Jr. had died in 1973.

Polly obtained a job working at the Great Falls Meat Co where she worked for 15 years, up to the time of her death.



Gene

While working at the meat company Polly met Eugene (Gene) Lundgren and they were married the 10th of October 1965.



Pauline, Charles Sr. & Jr.
1945

At the time of her death Polly was living at Rural Route 1227 in Great Falls Montana. On the 23 of January 1983 Polly came home from work and sat down in a rocking chair and passed on. The cause of her death was a heart attack.



Albert 1944



Helen & Sam 1947



Helen & Oliver 1962



Polly & Eugene, Helen, Joes' wife Bernice, Dave & Anne, Elsie & John, Dorothy & Albert 1978

ELSIE GLADYS KOVAL

(From Information thru telephone interviews with Elsie & other family members)



Elsie was the youngest of Maria and Josephs' 9 children. She was born the 23rd of October 1923 in Lehigh Montana. She was only 5 years old when her father Joseph became sick and passed on. My mother (Helen) says in an interview that Elsie was very attached to her father and during the last year of his life, would sit on his lap for long periods of time.

Elsie graduated from Windham HS in 1940 and at the age of 16 went to Great Falls working as a maid for a lawyer for about 6 months. She first stayed with her sister Ann and then got an apartment with 2 other girls, and started working as a Nurses Aide at the Montana Deaconess hospital.

In 1943 Elsie came to Scofield, Utah for a short stay with her sister Helen. After the birth of her son Samuel, she and a Scofield girl (Helen Simmons) went to Salt Lake City to share an apartment and look for employment.



John & Elsie 8 Sep 1945

While working as a waitress in a Salt Lake Chinese restaurant, John Thompson came in for a meal and asked for her telephone number, which she gave to him. However she transposed two numerals so the number wasn't valid. They got back together and after that first meeting in June 1944, they were married on the 8th of September 1945 in Salt Lake City, by Rev. Floyd Barr, at the 1st Presbyterian Church on South Temple.



John Russell Thompson

Upon John's separation from the Army Air Corps, Elsie and John moved back east to Green Acres, Indiana. This was a rural area between Gary and Crown Point, Indiana. They built their own house there on 5 acres of land. John worked for the Bude Company building Automobile bodies and took classes in Electronics. They stayed in Indiana until 1958; the climate here was hard on Elsie, she was suffering with asthma and allergies that resulted in her being hospitalized many times.

In 1958 the family moved to Great Falls, Montana, where within two days John obtained a job as a repairman for Sears where he worked for the next 32 years. Their first home in Great Falls was at 3505 5th Ave N.

This house had a small apartment towards the rear of the lot and about 1960, Elsie and John moved Elsie's mother Mary from off the farm in Windham Montana into this apartment and later when they moved to their house at 221 18th Ave NW they had a room set up for Mary. They were caretakers for Mary until about 1974, when she had to be placed in a care center because it became dangerous to have her unattended for even short periods. She caught herself on fire twice while working over a stove.

In 1970 Elsie went back to work as a Nurses Aide for the Montana Deaconess Hospital where she worked for 19 years having to quit due to heart problems. Dr Walker had installed in a pace maker to regulate her heart beat.

Elsie and John were very active in the Presbyterian Church and in the Masonic/Eastern Star organizations. Elsie was Worthy Matron twice and John Worthy Patron three times. They were Grand Representatives to a New Hampshire convention and Grand committee members. They had their children active in Rainbow girls and Jobs daughters.

John died the 5th of October 2004

Elsie had 7 children: Samuel (Raised by her sister Helen), Caroline, John R. (Bud), Sandra Lee (Sandy), David, Robert and Bradley.

At the time of this writing 2006 Elsie resides in an apartment in Great Falls Montana.

Ahnentafel Chart for Jozef Kovaly

First Generation

1. Jozef Kovaly¹ was born² on 15 Jul 1876 in Hocsca, (Chotca, Stropkov, Czechoslovakia). He died³ on the 16 Oct 1928 in Windham, Judith Basin, Montana, USA. The cause of death was intestinal Cancer. He was buried in Stanford, Judith Basin Montana, USA.

In 1902-06 resided at 900 4th street McKeesport Pennsylvania (source Marriage certificates of both wives). Jozef Kovaly arrived in New York City at age 24 on the ship PENNSYLVANIA 22 March 1901 from Hamburg Germany. His last residence was Hosca Hungary and he had \$24 on his person and was going to Dunlo Pa. to an uncle John Illigan or Lihgan or Kligan or Khgan.

Jozef married⁴ Julia Baldovic 8 September 1902 she died 1 January 1906, He then married⁴ Maria Prusak¹ daughter of Mihaly Prusaka Majercsin and Helena Tkacs on 12 May 1906 in McKeesport, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

Second Generation

2. Jozef Kovaly¹ was born² on 9 Sep 1855 in Hocsca, Zemplin, Slovakia (Hungary). He married Anna Adamkova.

3. Anna Adamkova¹ was born² on 26 Nov 1858 in Hocsca, Zemplen, Slovakia (Hungary).

Third Generation

4. Jozef Kovaly married to Maria Dankova

5. Maria Dankova² (note: VA is added to females Surname thus Maria's fathers' surname will be Danko)

6. Peter Adamko married to Helen Belaszova'

7. Helena Belaszova

Sources

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Ancestral File.
2. LDS film 1793861, Slovakia church census, pg 84 entry 52 & pg 115
3. Montana State Death certificate.
4. LDS film 878,616 Vol 70 pg 878

Ahnentafel Chart for Maria Prusak

First Generation

1. Maria prusak was born¹ on 23 December 1882 in Duplin, Hungary (Slovakia). She was christened on 24 Dec 1882. She died² on 8 June 1978 in Great Falls, Cascade, Montana, USA. She was buried on 12 Jun 1978 in Stanford, Judith Basin, Montana, USA.

Second Generation

2. Mihaly Prusaka Majercsin was born about 1853 in Banyonolgy, (Duplin) Hungary (Slovakia). He married³ Helen Tkacs on 5 Jun 1898 in Duplin, Hungary (Slovakia).

3. Helena Tkacs⁴ was born on 30 May 1851 in Mestisko, Svidnik, (Hungary) Czechoslovakia

Third Generation

6. Joannes Tkacs married Helena Januv

7. Helena Januv

Sources

1. LDS film 1792017 Duplin, Hungary , pg 115, 1788

2. Montana State Death certificate.

3. LDS film 878,616, vol 70 pg 878 (Dates incorrect other than Marr.)

4 LDS film 1792017 pg 106, 1898, pg 84 entry 52

KOVAL COUNTRY



This is an aerial view of the area of Judith Basin County Montana where the Koval farm was located, showing the approximate relationship of the farm and the various towns of Lehigh, Windham, and Stanford. The farm is 1 mile from Lehigh. Lehigh is 5 miles from Windham and 10 miles from Stanford.