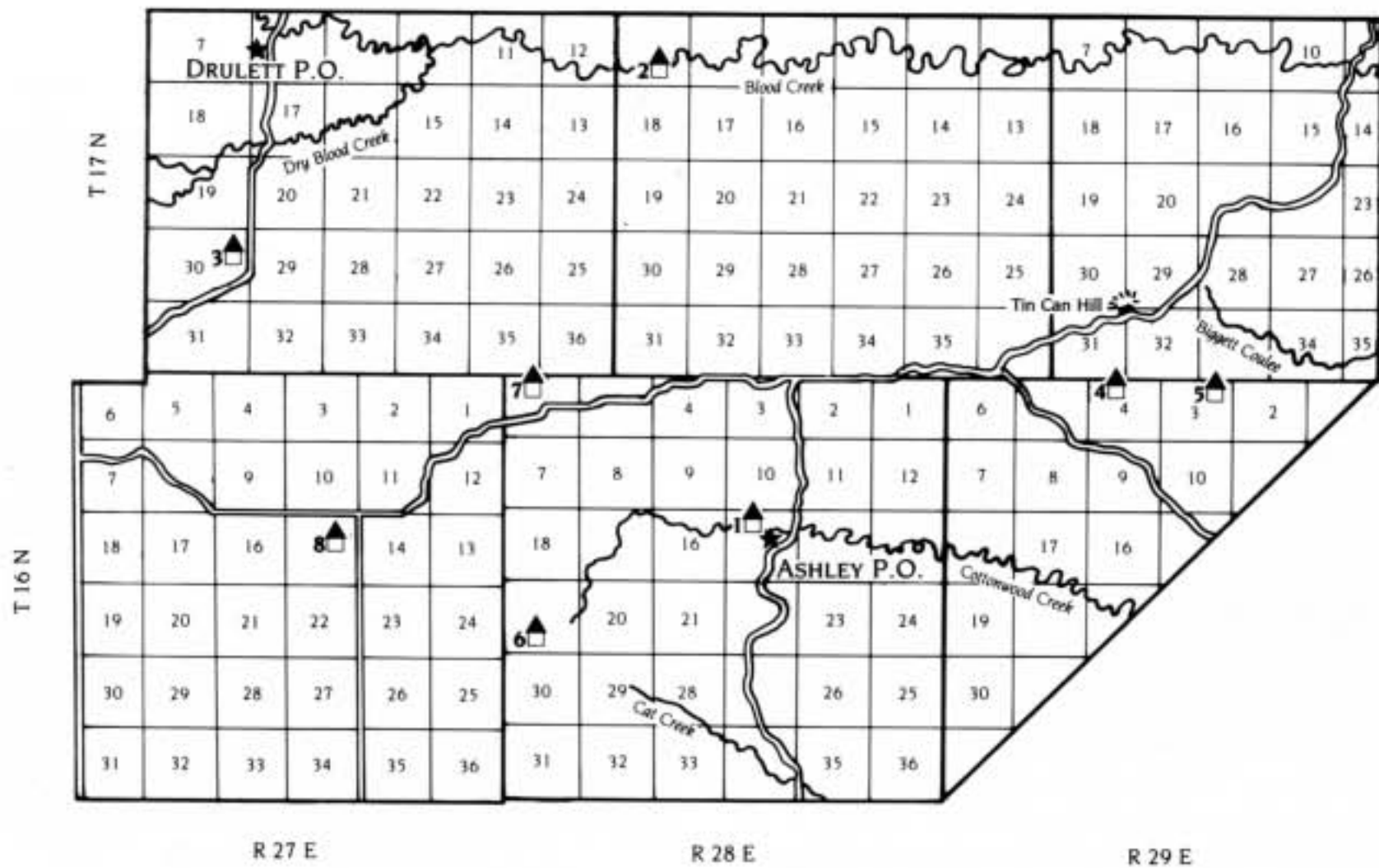


# Ashley — Drulett



- SCHOOLS**
1. Ashley
  2. Blood Creek (Rice)
  3. Brady
  4. Dryland - 1
  5. Dryland - 2
  6. Kid Hollow (Sunnyside, Wood)
  7. Marty
  8. Quigg - Sutton

**Legend:**

- ▲ School
- ★ Post Office
- State Highway
- County Road (1986)
- ... Trail
- ++++ Railroad

**Scale:** 0 1 2 3 MILES

**North Arrow:** N

**Inset Map:** PETROLEUM COUNTY (with the map area highlighted in black)



*A branding bee*



*Back: L. C. "Shorty" Thorsen, Roy Manuel; Middle: Gen Brady, Edna Bridger, Mrs. Roy Manuel, Bessie Barden Thorsen, James Bridger, Allan "Bill" Bridger; Front: Willie and Leonard Bridger*



*Clay buttes of the community*



*A fine hay crop in 1944*



# Ashley Community and Post Offices



*Ashley home, store and post office (1900)*

The section of Petroleum County denoted as the Ashley Community is comprised of about five townships. Dry Blood Creek, as it drains in a northeasterly direction into Blood Creek, cuts across the northwest corner. Blood Creek, as it twists and turns, but always in an easterly direction, most nearly defines the northern boundary.

Due to hilly plateaus, two creeks originate within the Ashley area. Cottonwood Creek begins its journey as a coulee in Sec. 19-16-27, finds its downward way by first heading northeast, then worming southeasterly through the country before finding its escape in the Musselshell River.

Cat Creek also takes form just about one mile southeast of Cottonwood's point of origination. It rambles off immediately to the southeast, meandering through the community for only a distance of about five miles.

Large sheepmen completely controlled the greater share of this area until the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 made homesteading arid lands more attractive. Some hostility arose between the first settlers and the homesteaders.

Homesteaders found many areas of tillable land where small grains and other crops thrived. One large bench between Blood Creek and Cottonwood Creek was especially adaptable to the growth of corn and beans. Pasture, gardens and crops, however, in all areas were either plentiful or scarce, dependent, always, on the amount of natural rainfall, hailstorms, and/or the invasion of the land by pestilences.

Much of the northeastern and eastern part of the Ashley Community is composed of very high ridges and deep coulees — a prelude to the greater breaks of the Musselshell River.

The Ashleys were already settled on their fine ranch on Cottonwood Creek before the land was invaded by the homesteaders. When all their new neighbors flocked in,

the need for a post office and store became evident. The Ashley Post Office was established in their home September 8, 1913. Ashleys also stocked a store for the convenience of the many new arrivals.

When Mrs. Ashley became ill, the post office was closed May 14, 1921. A valiant attempt was made in July of the same year to open an office in another building near the same site. The plan did not succeed. Established mail routes from Winnett finally served some of the people of the community.

In 1917 a post office named Drulett was established in the northwest corner of the Ashley area in Sec. 7-17-27. This met the postal needs of those who were far removed from any other office. Robert F. Wright was the postmaster who served until the office closed in 1921.

The Ashley Community was not overlooked by those in quest of oil. In 1921 the E. G. Lewis Development Co. drilled two wells — one in Sec. 15-16-28, and the other in Sec. 32-16-29. Both produced only water which did not even rise to the surface. There were probably other drillings but there is no record of any production in the area.

The Ashley family had their own cemetery which also became the last place of repose for many of their neighbors.



*Ashley wool wagon heading for Billings*

# Ashley

## Community Schools

Some residents recall that there were many bachelors who homesteaded or settled in the Ashley Community but there were also many families. When there are families, schools become an immediate necessity. The very, very early settlers arranged for the education of their children in their own home — either by older family members or by personally paid educators.

The first school of record in this area was at Ashley. Valentine District #122 was the governing body. Elizabeth Barsness was the teacher from January of 1915 to July of 1915.

With the great number of homesteaders, came the need for more locally organized school districts. A group petitioned for a district to be formed from Valentine District #122. On the same day, February 28, 1917, another group of petitioners asked that School District #183 be formed from School District #181.

So it was that the entire Ashley Community was divided into two school districts — #181 in the eastern half, extending to the Musselshell River; and #183, the western half.

Two schools operated in District #181 in 1917. They were the Blood Creek and Ashley Schools. Fae Serry was teacher in one from May 28 to July 20. Stella Martin had a longer term at the other school from February 12 until July 20. William Abbott was a second teacher in one from September 3 to December 23, 1917.

Two schools commenced in District #183 — the Hubert and Wood.



*Brady School (1935) Teacher: Genevieve Hamill (Brady); Roy Brady; Earl Brady; Claudia, Gloria and Harvey Hubert*

On May 6, 1920, Brady School District #78 was created from District #183. Mr. L. C. Malcolm, C. E. Brady and Charles Tunnick were the first trustees. Mrs. C. E. Brady was clerk. Miss Gladys McLean was the first teacher of that district.

For the school term of 1930-1931 at the Kid Hollow School of District #183, a teacher by the name of Marjorie Worsdell was hired. She has submitted her interesting remembrances of that year, which are entitled "Kid Hollow School":

"The sun was shining warmly on the brown rolling hills that Saturday before Labor Day in 1930 as we came in sight of the little white schoolhouse which was to be the site of my first school-teaching year. The happiness and excitement which I felt was to last the whole school year.

"The yard was fenced and included the two usual outhouses and a horse shed. Along the fences and the road were goldenrod and sunflowers (I could imagine them in vases on the desk inside) and many shiny bunches of the yellow flowers of gum weed, which in the heat of the day were strongly scenting the air.

"We made a short visit inside the school and the cloakroom. The water jar sat on a corner stand, and a coal and wood room was at one side. The schoolroom itself was bright and clean and furnished with desks, bookcases and blackboards. Just perfect and I longed to linger!

"However, from the school we went to the home of the Wood family where I was to live for the year. I could not anticipate what a wonderful home it was to be for me. To share their tiny home must have been somewhat difficult for them, but I never knew it. They included me as a part of their family. It was a joy to live with them.

"After two delightful days of exploring and arranging the schoolroom (and reading many of the books which I had used in my own school days), the Kid Hollow School was ready for its six pupils — Laddie Harold Wadman, grade seven, his brothers Lincoln, grade five, Victor, grade three; and three Coffman children, Edith, grade seven, her fourth grade sister, and brother Donnie, a first grader. Altogether I would be teaching five grades.

"As the pupils appeared over the hills I was truly nervous, but acquaintance was easy and school began. I hope it was as happy a time for my pupils as it was for me. I learned many things that year. Hopefully the children did too.

"When the weather turned cold, I went earlier to school to build the fire. The stove was in the center of the room and on very cold days the desks were pulled up close to the stove. Even so that was not too comfortable as one's face would toast warmly while one's back would shiver. Many times at noon the children would open their sand-



wiches and place the meat on the top of the stove to warm. The schoolroom smelled like the kitchen all afternoon.

"When Christmas came, Laddie brought a pine tree which he placed on a stand, and the children made the paper decorations. It was a beautiful tree. Parents and the board were invited to a program on the last afternoon before the holiday. The children couldn't wait for the visitors, so we had the program early. The program was repeated when the visitors arrived. It was a very happy day.

"In the spring Laddie and Edith worked very hard to prepare for the seventh grade examinations which were administered in Winnett. Mrs. May Vontver, the county superintendent of schools was very helpful to me at this time. Since she had been my own first grade teacher (Miss May Anderson), it was especially delightful to work with her..

"1930 was an election year, so there were several parties given by the candidates. The Ashley home, a large log cabin, had room for the crowd of neighbors and room for dancing, after speeches and delicious foods. These were a very special treat. Edna Ashley became a good friend and I often rode to her home on an old horse provided by the Woods. The horse was usually poky, but in the spring she would often break into a gallop and jump the coulees or tear down into them as I clung for dear life to the saddle horn.

"At one time, the snow was so deep that there was no travel. After several weeks Paul Wood rode horseback to Winnett for mail and batteries for the radio. During this time the Wood family entertained me with photographs and stories of their family and with reading, but we did not miss any school days.

"Sometimes I would find that the stove in the school

had warm ashes. Some kind person had either used the building during the night or had built the fire early that morning.

"During the spring many little lambs were born who had to be fed by bottle. I learned to feed them and rose early to do this before going to school. I think there were about thirty before school was over. When I left, Mrs. Wood sent home with me one of the lambs, thirteen yellow chicks and a kitten.

"Of course the last day of school was picnic day. My sister came from Lewistown with many goodies and Edna Ashley was there to help with games. It was a happy ending to a very special year."

So went the story of one school teacher of one year's experience in one school. Her splendid sampling of teacher-community relationships could be repeated o'er and o'er.

There were eventually seven individual schools at separate locations within the Ashley area. Some, on the same site but at different periods of time, were known by various names. The schools by district number, names, and locations were as follows:

District #78 Brady	Sec 19-17-26
District #181 Ashley	Sec 15-16-28
District #181 Blood Creek, Rice	Sec 7-17-28
District #181 Dryland No. 1	Sec 4-16-29
District #181 Dryland No. 2	Sec 3-16-29
District #183 Hubert, Killian, Quigg-Sutton	Sec 15-16-27
District #183 Marty	Sec 6-16-28
District #183 Wood, Kid Hollow, Sunnyside	Sec 19-16-28

History and stories concerning some of the students and teachers of the above named schools will be found throughout the pages of this book.



*Marty School: Genevieve Brady, Teacher (1943-44) William Bridger, Joan Marty, Leonard Bridger*



*Ethel and Bill Abbott*

**ABBOTT, William J.** (Sec 28-17-29) Bill was an early homesteader in the northeast area of the Ashley community. He was a teacher in the Ashley School from September 1, 1917 through December of that year. The Winnett Times of October 19, 1919, contained a news item regarding his farm activity:

"Wm. Abbott of Ashley left Monday for his old home in Maine where he will spend the winter. Mr. Abbott this year experimented with raising sweet potatoes and broom-corn and in both cases was very successful. Shortly before he left he invited in a number of his friends to a feed on the sweet tubers, and they vouch for the fact that they had a real 'down south' flavor and size.

"His success in raising broom-corn opens a way for some farmer to make a little money making brooms during the winter months. A small broom machine is not expensive, and a crop of broom-corn made into brooms is a valuable one indeed."

Bill married a lady attorney from Maine. (See also ABBOTT — Winnett)

**ANDERSON, Samuel** (Sec 12-16-27) Sam and Ethel Anderson homesteaded in the Ashley area, and were the parents of one daughter, Elva Ellen (1900). They lived in Petroleum County until 1937, when they moved to Fairfield, Montana. They both passed away there and are buried in the Fairfield Cemetery.

Elva graduated from Winnett High School in 1922. She and Warren Brady were married in 1924. (See also BRADY — Ashley)

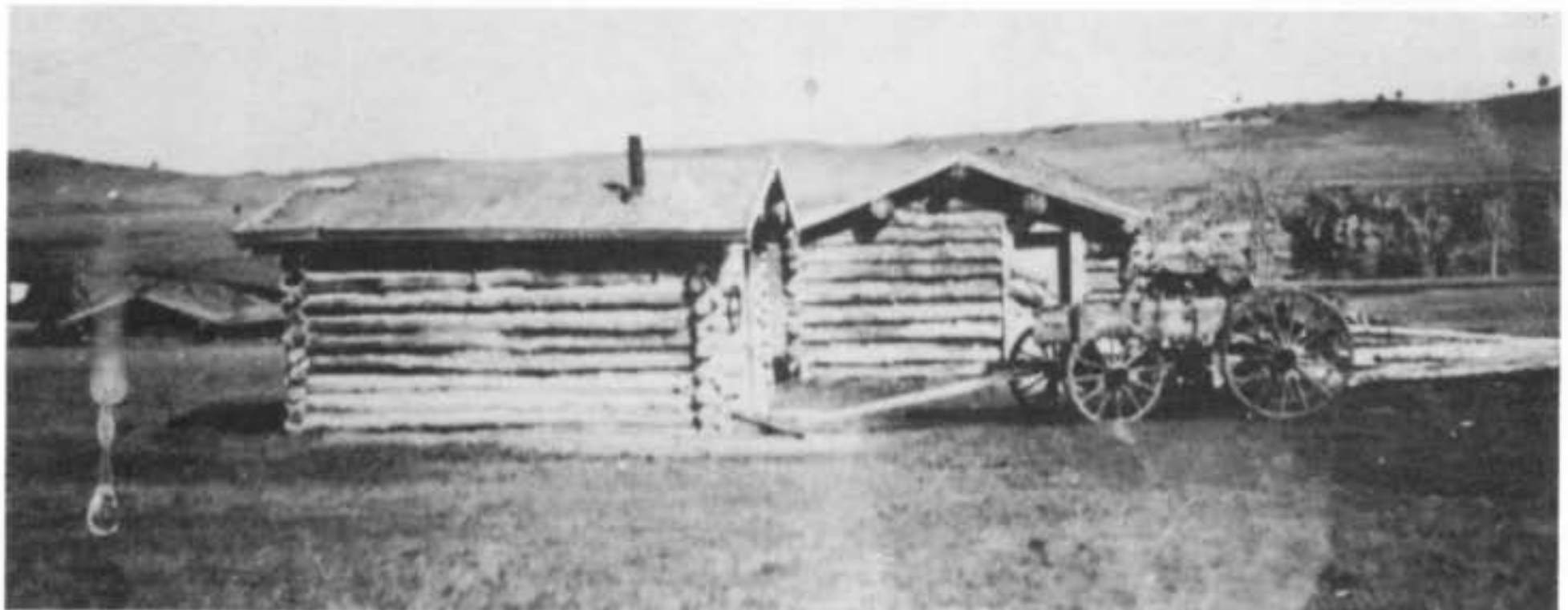
**ARNOLD, Payne** (Sec 18-17-28) Payne Arnold married Edna Tunnicliff, daughter of Charles Tunnicliff. They had a son born in 1924.

**ASHLEY, Eben** (Sec 14,15-16-28) Eben Ashley, a son of Edward Phillip and Harriet Newell Havens Ashley, was born in Cornish, New Hampshire, March 28, 1861. Eben was a descendant of Jacob Ashley who settled at Freetown Furnace, Massachusetts in 1717. Through his mother, he was also a descendant of the Arms family, who were pioneer settlers of Old Deerfield, Massachusetts. An ancestor of Eben, who sailed to America on the Mayflower, was Prudence White.

Mr. Ashley came to Montana in 1894 to visit some of his relatives in White Sulphur Springs, Montana. So impressed was he with the country, he took up a homestead on the south side of the Snowy Mountains, where he raised sheep.

He did not live there long, and his next move was to the Miller place about four miles east of Winnett.

Not satisfied there either, he moved to a place on what was known as Wood Creek (name later changed to Cottonwood Creek), about 23 miles northeast of the town of Winnett, Montana. He bought squatters rights from Henry Orance (known as "one-arm Henry") on about 320 acres of land. Under the Desert Land Act, he laid claim to several springs on forty-acre tracts in the area. He ran about 5000 head of sheep at that time. Mr. Ashley was to have grazing rights on any land south to Box Elder Creek. This was open range and had not been surveyed.



*Ashley homestead. Squatter cabin in background. Bunkhouse in foreground (1900)*



After about two years he returned to Boston and was married to Sadie Burrows. They returned to the ranch and started building a large log house. It was completed in about 1904. He ran sheep until people started coming in and taking up homesteads in the area, and he had to reduce his sheep herds. This caused him to finally turn to cattle.

Mr. Ashley was a very respected man and was never called anything but "Mr. Ashley." Mrs. Ashley was a school teacher and taught the grades in a school on the ranch and later taught high school in the town of Winnett.

Their daughter, Edna, was born on September 29, 1906. About 1914 the Ashleys started a general store and post office in their home. This was done for the convenience of the homesteaders in the area. The first mail carrier was Mr. Enos, a homesteader. He used a team and wagon, or rode horseback in bad weather. Later the mail carrier was Demond Woods.

Ashley, as the ranch was called, became the social center for the homesteaders in the area. There were many dances, picnics, and baseball games held on the place. At one dance the musicians failed to show up. One man who was there said that he could play the fiddle for dancing. It turned out he knew only one tune and he played that tune for waltzes, fox trots, or whatever all night; but it was still fun for all. Once Mrs. Ashley thought it would be fun to have a daytime dance. It started about 2:00 p.m. and lasted until 4:00 a.m. the next day.

The store and post office was closed in 1921. Many of the people had left the area because of hard times. Also at that time came the arrival of the automobile, and people were able to go to Winnett to do their trading. The Ashley house was still used for dances and was the social center for picnics and games. The house is still used as a ranch home (in 1988).

About this time Mr. Ashley went back into the sheep business in a small way and was being financed by a group from the oil fields. Oil had been discovered at Cat Creek, and the town of Winnett was booming. The sheep business lasted for only a matter of three or four years.

Mrs. Ashley died in 1921.

In 1934 daughter Edna was married to Allan "Bill" Bridger. They remained on the Bridger homestead for a few months and then moved to Fort Peck, Montana, for work on the Fort Peck dam project. In 1935 Mr. Ashley sold the last of his cattle because of drought and grasshoppers and also due to the fact that open range was about over, with grazing districts being formed.

In 1936 he died of a heart attack. Two days later he was found in his favorite chair by Mr. Ed Healy, who notified the authorities, who then contacted the Bridgers at Fort Peck. Mr. Ashley was what was called "an old timer," if there ever was one.



*Ashley home; Eben Ashley, Edna Ashley, Isabelle Burrows, Mr. Burrows, unknown, Mrs. Eben Ashley*



*Kitchen in Ashley home*



*Ashley home dining area*

The Bridgers returned to the ranch, which was barren of stock at the time. With the help of Uncle Sam, the ranch was stocked with cattle. Additional land was purchased and the ranch was eventually more than doubled in size.

Three boys were born to Edna and Bill — William, Leonard, and James. The boys didn't want to take over operation of the ranch, so it was sold in 1969. The Bridgers moved to Lewistown, Montana. Edna died in 1981 and is buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery. (From Allan Bridger and W.T.)

**BAILEY, Joseph** (Sec 18-16-28) Joseph and Cassie Bailey were the parents of four children: Clarence (1907), Leonard (1910), Florence (1910) and Howard (1913).

Mrs. Bailey died in November of 1918 with the flu, leaving a newborn baby boy. Mr. Bailey moved back to Minnesota.

He and his family came back to Montana several years later. In the meantime he had remarried. The son who had been born in 1918 died from a ruptured appendix. He was buried in the Ashley cemetery.

**BARRETT, Lawrence** (Sec 3,10-16-28) Maude and Lawrence Barrett had two children, Maude and Jennie.

**BENGSTON, Carl F.** (Sec 31-16-27) Carl and Pauline (or Perlina, as sometimes reported) Bengston homesteaded north of Winnett in 1915. Sheep raising was their main interest. The family left this area in 1920 and established themselves at Evanston, Illinois, where they operated an apartment house. The family was still operating it when some of the relatives visited Winnett in 1966.

When Elbert Bengston visited in July of 1968, he remarked that while Carl was proving up on his homestead he also helped build the present courthouse and several other buildings in the town of Winnett.

A school very near their ranch was named the Bengston School for a period of years.

**BENNETT, Henry** (Sec 18-16-29) Margaret and Henry Bennett were parents of four children: Ernestine (1901), Josephine (1901), Margaret (1909) and Genevieve (1911).

**BOOS, Conrad** (Sec 32-17-28) Mary and Conrad Boos were parents of a daughter, Margaret.

**BRADY, Charles Evert** (Sec 29,30-17-27) Charles Evert Brady was born in Bridgeport, Missouri, December 17, 1886. Callie Myrtle Haynes was born in Cape Fair, Missouri, August 13, 1896. They were married in Missoula, Montana, on March 31, 1914. They lived at Dixon, Montana, for those first few months until June of 1914, when they, along with Evert's folks, Charles Wilford and Sarah Jane Brady, decided to move to the homestead area near Winnett.

The group included Evert's three youngest sisters — Pearl, Alice, and Helen — who rode in the spring hack wagon; his brothers — Warren and Harvey — who rode

horseback, keeping watch on the 17 loose horses; and his youngest brother Rondall, who rode in the wagon with C. W. and Sarah behind a four-horse team. Evert and Myrtle drove another wagon with a six-horse team.

As this procession was going through Missoula, one of the loose horses got away and while Harvey was retrieving it, the train went by with the whistle blasting. C. W.'s lead team reared up and fell over backwards, tangling with the team hitched behind them. Several men from the street ran to help quiet the horses and straighten them out. Before long they were on their way again.

When they camped on top of the Continental Divide, bears had been sighted nearby so all the workhorses were tied to the wagons. Then the front and rear wheels were tied together so if the horses spooked in the night they wouldn't drag the wagons down the mountainside.

(Delmar Cole, Helen's husband wrote: "From Missoula the group traveled east through Hell's Gate, Drummond and Garrison. From Garrison they went on to Avon and Elliston and crossed the Continental Divide on the old Priest Pass road to Helena. From Helena they turned south-southeast and crossed the Missouri River at Townsend. They then turned east again up and through Sixteen-mile Canyon, north to White Sulphur Springs, east and over another pass to Martinsdale, Two Dot and Harlowton, north through Judith Gap to Moore, then east to Lewistown.")

Seventeen days after leaving Dixon, the Bradys camped at the Box Elder Creek bridge north of Winnett. They stayed there about a week while Evert and C. W. looked for suitable homesteads. They chose sites next to each other about 17 miles north of Winnett.

Logs were cut and hauled to the sawmill for Evert and Myrtle's house and for his folks' house. In 1915 they built the Brady School on Evert's homestead. Evert was a member of the school board for several years.

Myrtle and Evert had fourteen children — Rena, Eula, Eldon, Leta, Earl, Roy, Doris, Alvy, Irene, Dale, Lyall — and three others who died and are buried at a burial site on the homestead.



(1926) Myrtle and Evert Brady with Leta, Rena, Eula, Eldon, Earl



Evert, along with his father, did construction work with their teams, building county roads and dams. One such project was the Valentine Dam.

For recreation, the Bradys often organized baseball games that were played on the flat above their home. Dances were also a source of enjoyment for the whole community. Most people used horses to get to the dances, so there were always a lot of saddle horses tied up most of the night. Harvey remembered that at one dance in the wee hours of the morning as people were mounting up to ride home, he watched eight horses bucking at once. He figured it was their way of warming up for the ride home.

Farming and ranching went well for the Bradys until the drought years of the 1930s. By 1937 the only available feed was slough-grass hay shipped in by railroad from South Dakota. Even that had to be rationed among the farmers in the area because there was not enough to go around. Sheep weren't worth the money it cost to get them to market. When the government opened a new farming project on the Fairfield bench, Evert and Myrtle moved their family there in the spring of 1938. The rains started in the fall of 1938 and the next two years were good ones for those who had lasted out the drought in Petroleum County.

**BRADY, Charles W.** (Sec 29,30-17-27) The following interesting account of her family's move to their Montana homestead was written by Helen Brady Cole.

"The C. W. Brady family spent the winter of 1913-1914 in Dixon, Montana. We moved there from the Palouse country in Washington State. Our family consisted of Mama, Papa, and their four sons and three daughters. Two older daughters were married and lived in or near Dixon.

"The last of May 1914, we left Dixon in a two-seated hack and two wagons, one of which was covered. My brother Evert had gotten married that winter so there



*Wedding picture — Sarah and Charles Wilford Brady*

were ten of us. Mama, Papa, and Rondall rode in the covered wagon, and Evert and his wife, Myrtle, in the other wagon. We three girls rode in the hack, and Warren and Harvey were on horseback, driving 17 head of workhorses with a colt following. They were using 10 head of horses on the wagons and hack. We traveled about 400 miles in close to two weeks.

"Arriving in Fergus County, we camped at the 'Steel Bridge' on Box Elder Creek for 10 days to two weeks while Papa and Evert looked for land to homestead. They filed on land 17 miles north of Winnett. Evert filed on land joining Papa's on the south; and Evert's land was joined on his south by a school section on which later the Brady School was built. I believe the first building was a log house for Evert and Myrtle, then a dugout for us. Our first home had about five or six logs above ground, with two windows.



*Brady family leaving Dixon for Winnett (1914): Alice, Helen (little girl), Pearl, Sarah, Rondall, Wilford, Myrtle, Evert, Warren, Harvey*



*The "Parlor"*

"Dad built a fireplace from rocks and mud, and it worked beautifully; the first and only fireplace he ever built. The schoolhouse, one-half mile south of our home, was built in 1915. Henry Cassidy was the first teacher and he taught more than a year. Dad and my brothers built a small log house (the parlor) to hold our furniture, which came by rail to Grassrange in 1915. Dad hauled it to the homestead. It included a piano — the only one in the vicinity. In 1916 they built our two-story log house, complete with cellar. At the present time (1985) this house still stands, and is the home of the Gardner family who purchased the ranch from Rondall and Gen Brady in 1980.

"My Dad broke sod and built fences for several homesteaders who had other work to do, or who did not have the proper machinery and horses. The one I remember was R. J. Woods, the druggist in Winnett, whose homestead was north of us. Dad fenced and broke 40 acres for him. He would take one of my brothers with him, usually Harvey, and they would batch, leaving Warren to help Mama. He also would haul for people, but I don't believe he did too much hauling.

"When Pearl was 21 years old, she homesteaded; but she didn't have a full half-section. Her place was south and east of us. Dad built her a log cabin and fenced all of her place and grew a crop on 40 acres. Pearl worked as a cook for Mr. Leslie and paid Dad for all his work. Later on she worked in Lewistown for the manager-owner of the

Power Mercantile.

"Alice also worked for the Leslies and she spent two years cooking at a dairy in Colfax, Washington, which was owned by our sister Clara. Warren also homesteaded when he was 21 years old. His place joined Dad's on the north and east. He bought and moved in a teacherage to live in.

"Both my parents were hard-working people. Mama always planted a big garden. Sometimes it was hailed out or didn't get enough rain, but she seemed to always have enough root vegetables to last us through the winter. She always tried to have fried chicken, new peas, and new potatoes for the Fourth of July. Often she succeeded; although a number of times we were hailed out near the Fourth of July.

"During the first few years we were on the homestead, a few of our neighbors died. Dad made many caskets, and Mama lined them with cotton batting and sheets. I remember going to the Ashley Cemetery in the wagon. It was ten miles there, so it was an all-day trip. In early days there was no preacher, so they read from the Bible and sang songs. Sometimes we had bread and butter on the way home.

"We drove to Winnett in a wagon when the railroad tracks were brought into Winnett. I believe Grace Woods drove the 'golden spike.' It was a big event for Rondall and I to go to town.

"Alice married Philip Hubert in 1921, and Warren married Elva Anderson in 1924. The same fall, Harvey, who had graduated from high school in May, was given funds by Dad to attend a technical school in Los Angeles, California. He was accompanied by Max Woods. Pearl married Chester Vought in 1925 and moved to Taft,



*The Brady log home*



*Clara and Mother Brady after a big storm*



California. Both Alice and Warren and spouses lived close by.

"The first year I was in high school (1923-24) my folks rented a four-room house in town. Pearl kept house for us. Harvey was a senior, and Warren worked at a grain elevator. Some of the time Rondall was in town going to school, as the Brady School always seemed to run out of money. During the next three years I stayed at the old dormitory. Part of one year Margaret Jelinek and I batched. Rondall and I batched most of the year I was a junior. My senior year I spent full time in the dormitory. I graduated in 1927." (See also COLE — Winnett)

**BRADY, Harvey C.** Harvey Brady was born May 14, 1903, in Spokane, Washington. Irene Neal married Harvey on October 12, 1929, in California.

Harvey related in a sketch of his life that his dad was renting land and farming it. "The landlord was given one third; so when Dad Brady (C. W.) learned of land in Montana to be homesteaded, he moved his family to Winnett." Helen, his sister, related the story of the move by wagon to the homestead.

"My brother, Warren, and I had to look after the loose horses. We camped at the steel bridge on Box Elder about 10 days, while Dad and Evert, my oldest brother, scouted for land. The family experienced their first Montana hailstorm while camped there. The wind and rain were really severe. When we arrived on the land chosen by Dad, we were welcomed by another storm. Harvey said, 'This storm's a real go-getter.' The tents leaked like a sieve and the water was belly deep on a horse in the coulees. Grandpa Malcom, Lawson Malcom, and Harvey



Warren, Harvey, Pearl and Alice Brady

Richardson, our new neighbors, visited us.

"The first thing we did was plant a garden and it produced an abundance of vegetables. Then we had to get logs cut and to the sawmill of Ernest Barden, who lived north and east of us, for our home and for a school. I helped cut the logs along with Dad, Warren and Evert."

Harvey attended grade school in Washington. Later, in the winter of 1914, he attended school in Dixon, Montana. Then, when the Brady School was completed, he went to school there. Harvey went to high school in Winnett and graduated in 1924. Harvey stayed home on the ranch for a year; then he went to Los Angeles and enrolled in the National Automotive and Electrical School. He worked for different companies putting in electrical services and later burglar alarm services.

Harvey had his own burglar alarm business in Los Angeles. He sold this and moved to Yuba City in northern California, where he ranched a short time. He went back into the burglar alarm business in Yuba City. Upon retirement, he sold his business and resided there until his death on February 3, 1981. Both Harvey and Irene are buried in Yuba City, California.

**BRADY, James** (Sec 27-17-27) James Brady, brother of C. W., homesteaded or owned land about three miles east of the Charles Brady homestead. His daughter, Adeline Brady, attended Winnett High School from 1922 through 1925. During this period of time she lived with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Moreland, Sr. in Winnett. Her brothers, James and Henry, worked in the Cat Creek oil field.

In the fall of 1924 the Winnett Times sponsored a Petroleum County Queen Contest. Participants were required to have been residents of the new county for at least six months and were to be between the ages of 18 and 25 years. Nominations were made from ballots which were printed only in the Winnett Times. Seven girls were nominated by popular choice. Five of those seven chose to run. Ballots were then printed in the Winnett Times for the final selection, each ballot submitted being worth 100 points to the girl named on the ballot.

The winning girl was to receive an all-expense paid trip to the State Fair in Helena where she would compete with girls of other counties for the title of Queen of the State. Adeline was Petroleum County's contestant for the state title. She emerged the local winner with a 9100 - 6100 victory over her nearest competitor. The Winnett Times of 8-15-24 reported:

"The Queen of Petroleum County Contest came to an end Monday evening at eight o'clock when the ballot box was taken to the Chamber of Commerce headquarters, opened by Dr. J. L. Alexander, who with Rudy Beck and Perry Gorsuch, acted as judges, while J. A. Dugan, B. F. Tanner, and C. J. Doherty acted as tellers.

"The following morning, Wm. G. Ferguson, manager of Queen of Montana Contest was wired as follows:

'Congratulate Adeline Brady, Winnett, Montana, first Queen of Petroleum County. Winnett Times.'



"The judges' certificate of election was also forwarded to Mr. Ferguson as was one of the tally sheets showing the actual count. He was also asked to take the matter up with Miss Brady as regards to credentials, transportation, and expenses to and from the State Fair in Helena.

"So ends the first Queen of Petroleum County Contest. Next year another charming young lady, elected by popular accord, will be honored as Queen of Petroleum County and given a free trip to the State Fair in Helena." Adeline did not win the contest at the state level, but she had a wonderful time and reigned as Queen of Petroleum County until the next year when she moved to Midwest, Wyoming, where her two brothers were working.



*The Brady family (1946): Helen, Pearl, Warren, Clara, Evert, Alice, Rondall, Mother Sarah Jane, Harvey, Dot*

**BRADY, Pearl** Pearl Brady was born on May 8, 1895 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which at that time was called Indian Territory. Pearl came to Winnett with her parents, brothers and sisters in 1914. When Pearl was 21, she homesteaded one mile east of her mother and father. She had acquired 160 acres or a half section. Her dad built her a log cabin fenced the land, and farmed 40 acres of it. Pearl worked some at the Leslie Ranch and later on went to Lewistown to work in the home of the Symmes family. Mr. Symmes was the manager and owner of Power Mercantile.

Pearl married Chester Vought and moved to Bakersfield, California. Chester was employed by an oil company. When the couple retired, they bought an airstream trailer and visited in most all the National Parks in the U. S. They made a trip into Mexico, as well, with the Wally Bynum Travel Troupe. Pearl passed away on May 10, 1962. She gave her body to medical research. Chester is buried in Oklahoma near his relatives.

**BRADY, Rondall** (Sec 29,30-17-27) The following was submitted by Genevieve Brady: "Rondall was born in LaCrosse, Washington, on April 15, 1911. Rondall and I (Genevieve Hamill, a teacher) were married in 1935. We resided on the Brady homestead north of Winnett until 1980 when we retired and moved to Lewistown.

"Rondall came with his parents to the homestead when

he was very small. He attended the Brady School when it operated. Some of the school terms were short, due to lack of funds. In those years, Rondall went to Winnett to grade school. He graduated from the grades in Brady School and went on to high school in Winnett and graduated in 1929.

"Rondall's graduation was given special attention in the January 1930 Winnett High School paper: 'at noon on January 24, Rondall Brady, the only mid-year graduate, was presented with his diploma by superintendent Fred J. Ward. Edythe Hamilton and Kefas Sikveland rendered speeches for the occasion. Mr. Ward appointed two fellow seniors, Hulda Wadman and Elton Hansen, to bring him forward while he was presented with his diploma.'

"In 1929 Rondall and his dad bought a combine for \$1,575.00. They did custom combining with horse power. The first year they cut 650 acres and nearly paid for the combine. However, conditions steadily declined. In 1930 only 25 acres of their own land was worth harvesting. In 1931 no wheat or hay was cut.

The following are a few figures Rondall and his father kept concerning their own grain harvests: 1932 — 20 bu/acre wheat, 45 bu/a barley; 1933 — 10 bu/a wheat; 1934 — 5 bu/a wheat; 1935 — no crop due to drought and grasshoppers.

"The following is an account of cattle marketing: 1930 — 12 cattle, \$411.00 in Chicago; 1931 — 14 head, \$233.32; 1932 — 4 head, \$58.00; 1935 — 50 head, \$1,300.00; 1936 — 29 head for \$750.00

"The years of 1933 and 1934 the government began to help the people. Roosevelt initiated public works programs and Rondall, along with other farmers, was hired to build dams for livestock as well as for irrigation. This was done with horses.

"I taught school in our area at both the Brady and the Welter Schools. Welter School was about 15 miles from home. Later I wasn't allowed to teach the Brady School due to nepotism laws, as I was related to the trustees.

"In the spring of 1937, Rondall put some crops in; then he went to Anaconda and worked in the copper smelter. My folks lived in Anaconda and with the influence of my dad, Rondall got work. In August we learned of the good rain received at home, and so we returned to the ranch. We lived and worked there until we retired in 1980.



*Rondall and Gen Brady*