

LUKE, Clyde (Sec 5,6,7,8-16-29) Clyde was a newcomer to Montana in 1911. He worked for Walter J. Winnett and, with John Luke, homesteaded in the Ashley area. He and Daisy Morrill, a homestead neighbor, were married in July of 1921. An account of their wedding appeared in the Winnett Times of October 14, 1914:

"Mr. Clyde Luke and Miss Daisy Morrill were married at the Winnett home at eight o'clock Sunday evening by Justice Ira Pierson. The bride and groom came expecting a quiet wedding, but were surprised to find about 50 guests gathered to spend the evening with them.

"After the ceremony, the guests were entertained with music. Miss Morrill is from Grassrange, and has recently filed on a homestead near Winnett. Mr. Luke has been here for several years and is well known in this country. His many friends wish him and his bride many anniversaries of this happy event."

The Lukes were active members of the community until March of 1928 when they moved to Lavina, Montana. Although they had no children of their own, they were very popular with the young folks of the neighborhood. When Clyde died in 1936, many of his young children friends attended the services.

It was reported that Daisy Morrill had come west in the first place to land herself a cowboy. And she did!

MALCOLM, Jeff In the school census of 1914, Jeff was noted as being the father of Cara (1907). A notation indicated that the mother was dead.

MALCOLM, Lawson (Sec 32,33-17-27) Mae and Lawson Malcolm were the parents of three children: Lloyd (1908), Holt (1909), and Gaten (1916).

MANUEL, Archie (Sec 34-16-28) Archie was working on a telephone line near Tulsa, Oklahoma, when he received word from his father, James, and his brothers, Martin and Roy, about eastern Montana opening up for homesteading. He came to the Ashley area and filed for a homestead next to his father's in 1911. Together, James and Archie built a house on James' land and a barn on Archie's. For several summers, Archie worked in the Judith Basin on threshing crews and other jobs.

In July of 1921, Archie married Minnie Pribble. They had three sons: Eugene (1922), James (1923), and Rex (1930). In the fall of 1935, Archie and Minnie moved their family to an irrigated farm near Fairfield. Archie died in 1969, but Minnie still resides in Fairfield. Their son, Rex, has always made his home in Fairfield, where he and his wife, Jeannine, have raised five children. Rex has served in the Montana House of Representatives since 1973. (See also PRIBBLE — Brush Creek)

MANUEL, James (Sec 35-16-28) James Manuel was born November 13, 1845. He married Margaret E. Hale in 1872. To this union thirteen children were born: Walter, Lenton, Van, Arthur, Austin, Jennie, Oscar, James Marion and John Martin (twins), LeRoy, Archie, Charles Orion (Mick), and Stella. Margaret Manuel died in Oklahoma in 1900.

In 1910, urged by two of his sons, Martin and Roy, to come to Montana to homestead, James arrived in Moore with his two youngest children, Mick and Stella. In 1911, he homesteaded 16 miles northeast of Winnett in the Ashley area. Oscar, Martin, Roy and Archie homesteaded nearby. Later Mick homesteaded in the Cottonwood Creek area. James died September 25, 1930, and was buried in the Cat Creek Cemetery.

Stella, although she was only fourteen, became the cook for her father and whatever crew of neighbors happened to be there. She talked of dressing chickens twice a day because of no refrigeration and of baking bread, pies, and cakes in a little fourteen inch, sheet-iron shepherd stove.

The Shays, who had been Manuel's neighbors in Oklahoma, were also their neighbors at Cat Creek. When a school was established on the Shay homestead, Stella was asked to attend so they would have five students — a requirement for establishing a new school. The Shay School was a log room about 16 feet square. The teacher was Harry Tripp.

Stella wrote of an incident that she remembered from her Shay School days. "A little first grader, Clarence Bailey, was learning to spell 'acorn.' The teacher asked him how he would remember it. The boy replied 'My ma has A CORN on her toe and takes Pa's razor to cut it off!'"

Dances were a popular form of entertainment. Stella wrote about a time when her brothers Archie and Mick hitched four horses to a bobsled and took Stella and several neighbors to a dance in Winnett. "On the way, we rounded a down-hill curve, and over the sled turned, throwing us all into a snow bank. We gathered ourselves up and went on our way only to discover our stockings were torn and my blouse sleeve had ripped. When we got to Winnett, we borrowed needle and thread to patch our clothes.

"The dance was well under way when I discovered my boyfriend was drunk. Another friend came along and offered to be my partner, but only an hour had passed before he, too, was drunk. My brother Mick took the two drunks over to W. J. Winnett's barn and bedded them down. After the dance, we three gals and the two small children crawled into one bed in the Winnett Hotel. The next day being Sunday, we had all been invited to dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Israel E. Thomas, a very religious couple. I am sure we were a sad-looking bunch."

Stella married Elmer A. Coffman in 1917. (See also COFFMAN — Ashley; MANUEL — Cat Creek)

MANUEL, Martin John Martin Manuel was the ninth child of James and Margaret Manuel. Born November 30, 1890, he was a twin of James Marion who died in 1891.

Martin married Etta Johnson of Red Oak, Oklahoma, in 1912. He and Etta along with their first baby, Maxine, homesteaded in the area. Etta did not care for the homestead life, so Martin sold his homestead relinquishment to Ford Follette and moved to California

Four more children were born: Twila, twins Bobby and

Betty, and June. Bobby died at two years of age. At this time (1989), Twila is the only surviving member of this family.

MANUEL, Oscar C. (Sec 26-16-28) Oscar had previously gone to North Dakota, married, and had a family. Like his brothers Archie, Martin, Charles and sister Stella, he was lured to this country by the homestead fever.

The family came with two wagons, and drove a few horses and a few cows. They were the parents of Rena (1907), Don (1909), Ted (1911) and Clover (1912).

Oscar homesteaded near the post office of Ashley, Montana. He worked with his horses for the oil company in the early boom days. Two more children were born on the homestead — a girl Coleen, and a son Wendell.

The family moved to Winnett so the older children could attend high school, and Oscar worked as janitor at the school. Oscar and his wife separated and he left home. He was never heard from again.

MARTY, John (Sec 6-16-28) Joan Marty Smith, daughter of John Marty, contributed the following: "It is with great pride that I submit the following article about my parents, John and Nan Marty:

"John Marty was born at Sherrills Mount, Iowa, on May 4, 1888. His father was a farmer and when he died, John was needed to work on the family farm. Consequently, John's schooling ended at about the fourth grade. At the age of fourteen, he left home and bummed his way west on freight trains, working on farms and in logging camps. When he got to Spokane, Washington, around 1907, he helped build the Monroe Street Bridge which spans the Spokane River.

"These early years made wonderful stories which he told to anyone who would listen. His grandchildren were especially eager to hear 'Grandpa's stories.' In 1912 he came to Montana looking for land on which to homestead. Before he found such a place, he worked for W. J. Winnett raising hogs. Until 1917 when the railroad came to Winnett, the hog crop was trailed to Grassrange for shipment to market. The drive was made along McDonald Creek with an overnight stop at the Teigen Ranch. When the hogs were allowed to roam at large during the winter, some would bury under the haystacks for warmth; but, still, many froze to death.

"John also freighted between Winnett and Grassrange using horses on the freight wagons. In winter it was necessary to walk along with the horses to keep from freezing. He rode the first train to Winnett in 1917.

"After filing on his homestead eighteen miles northeast of Winnett in 1914, he went there to live permanently in 1915. One of his favorite sayings was 'When I lived on the homestead, I ate so many jack rabbits that every time the dog barked I ran under the porch!' During World War I he spent a brief stint in the Army, stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, and Camp Presidio, California.

"It was after ten years alone on his homestead that he met Annie Harbert, who would become his bride. She

The "Courtin' Car"



John and Nan Marty — The "Courtin' Car"

was from Sanderstead, England, where she had been born on May 20, 1889. A sharper contrast in backgrounds could not have been imagined by a writer of fiction than that of John and Nan.

"After eight years of schooling, she had been employed first as a housekeeper and then as a parlor maid for a total of sixteen years. The desert climate, the sagebrush, and cacti of Montana must have seemed a strange environment compared to the lush green hills of England aglow with a vast number of beautiful flowers. To say nothing of the rattlesnakes!

"They were married on March 15, 1923, at the Methodist Church parsonage in Lewistown. After the ceremony the couple headed back to the homestead in their Model T. Upon arriving, they stored the car in the barn, but even so, the motor froze solid overnight. John had forgotten to drain the water from the radiator. That particular car had cost him \$40.

"The years on the ranch meant long hours of hard work with few material benefits resulting. John and Nan raised grain, kept hogs, turkeys, chickens, and milk cows. It was not until the early 1940s when they turned to beef cattle that ranching became more profitable. Prior to that they



John and Nan Marty at home (1923)

were plagued by grasshoppers, hail, lack of rain, and low prices for grain. During the Roosevelt administration, John went out to work with the resettlement crews building dams and tearing down homesteads.

"Their only child, Joan, was born on May 28, 1931. She presently lives with her husband, Ken Smith, in Tonasket, Washington. There are four grandchildren — Jeffrey, Molly, Brent and Kelly.

"Many years were to go by before John and Nan saw their childhood homes. In 1936 the two of them, with Joan, made a trip to Iowa to visit. The journey was begun by car but due to rain the roads became a quagmire, so from Hettinger, North Dakota, they continued by train. Joan was ecstatic with her first train ride, her first glimpse of a Negro, and indoor plumbing. In 1951 Nan spent the summer in England, and in 1964 both she and John spent several months there. On the way home, they attended the World's Fair in New York. John complained that Nan 'walked his legs off' in London.

"Montana blizzards have long been a legend and in the winter of 1950, John was caught in town during such a storm. For a week he stewed and fretted about Nan, alone at the ranch, and his cattle. So even though it was still storming, he hired a bulldozer and several trucks loaded with hay, and set out for the ranch. Eighteen hours later they finally arrived. John had often walked ahead of the bulldozer when they lost their way. Nan was all right, having fueled the oil stove with cupfuls of oil when the main tank went dry. After this harrowing experience, he sold most of the ranch and stock to Wayne



John and Nan Marty and daughter Joan

Bratten, keeping a small amount of land and stock to manage.

"School for Joan presented interesting problems and equally interesting solutions. Several years, school was held in the bunkhouse which had previously housed the turkeys. For three years she boarded at the Bill Bridgers by the week when their boys started school. Since most of the original homesteaders were long gone, there were very few children to attend any school. There were never more than three enrolled, and one year Joan was alone in school, with Eulalie Winter from the Musselshell River as teacher.

"After Nan had a stroke in January of 1967, John and Nan spent their winters in Lewistown, returning to the ranch in the summer. Thus, life flowed on until 1974, when Nan fell at the ranch while attempting to kill a snake with her cane, and fractured her hip. After three months in traction, she moved to Valle Vista Nursing Home, where John was living after a car accident. Here, in her usual 'take it on the chin' attitude, Nan became known as the 'Mitten Lady,' knitting dozens of pairs of mittens for the staff's children and grandchildren.

"John sorely missed his active life on the ranch and found little to brighten his days. On February 22, 1981, he passed away. Although Nan eventually lost her hearing, sight, and ability to walk, she was never to complain. On October 10, 1987, she died at the age of 98."

Joan added her own memories: "I feel a great sense of pride in being a part of the history of Petroleum County. By the time I was born in 1931, most of the homesteaders had left for 'greener pastures,' so our nearest neighbors were the Bill Bridgers, five miles to the southeast. I remember riding to Winnett in our Model T Ford and having to back up some of the hills so the carburetor would remain full of gas. School was 'God's gift to earth,' to me, and I always looked forward eagerly to attending.

"Gen Brady (Mrs. Rondall Brady) was my first grade and eighth grade teacher, and a finer teacher I've never encountered. There were never more than three of us in school in a term, a fact some of my friends can hardly believe. I went to school with Frances Sutton, Lucille Hamilton and William and Lennie Bridger. I lived with Bridgers three years to attend school which was held in their bunkhouse.

"The terribly black dust storms of the 1930s and the annual hailstorms made a lasting impression on me as a child. As I look back, it seemed the weather completely controlled our lives. If it rained the crops grew, but you couldn't travel until the roads dried. If it hailed you lost your year's work, and the winter drifts kept us isolated as long as six weeks at a time.

"It was a hard, harsh life, but I know my parents, especially my father, felt a great sense of accomplishment in the ranch he had built, one stick at a time. Coming from a fairly genteel life as a parlor maid in London, I admire my mother for being the best helpmate my dad could have found. What an adjustment that had to be! I think she lived out some of her hopes for a 'better life' through

me, as she urged me to practice the piano and get an education."

The Winnett Times of September 24, 1946, paid fine tribute to the Martys:

"One of the outstanding successful farmers of the North country is John Marty, residing about 18 miles north of Winnett. Mr. Marty homesteaded his present location in 1913, coming here from Iowa. His farm is located on the edge of the Missouri Breaks, which gives him timber for building as well as shelter. With the exception of his granary, all the buildings, including the comfortable Marty home, are built of logs which were hewed on his own land by Mr. Marty.

"Due to the fact that Mr. Marty has a warm, well-ventilated hog house, he has been successful in raising winter hogs which brought him fancy prices when placed on an early market. He recommends the building of good hog houses and raising winter hogs.

"Two pastures fenced with woven wire and seeded with winter rye supply the bulk of his hog feed, although corn and skim milk is also fed. He markets about one hundred hogs annually.

"Mr. Marty is far from being dependent upon grain crops; along with his hogs he also has a fine herd of Guernsey-Jersey dairy cows and receives large cream checks monthly.

"Advantage of his timber land for shelter and pasture is obtained by ownership of a fine herd of white-face beef stock which add to the financial returns of the ranch each year.

"Mrs. Marty successfully handles a large flock of turkeys and chickens and is very well satisfied with the checks she receives for eggs and fowl.

"A sixty-foot well supplies a large volume of pure water which is elevated to a storage tank by a windmill. From the elevated tank, the water is piped to the house, garden, and hog house. The hogs are watered by turning a valve. The garden is irrigated likewise. Mr. Marty has endeavored to copy the conveniences and systems of the Iowa farmers where he was reared; his ranch is not only a place to live and prosper, but it is an ideal home as well.

"One of the things that first attracts a stranger as he approaches the premises is the bird houses built and erected on posts by Mr. Marty. One large and prettily painted one has sixteen rooms. In the nesting season all the rooms are occupied. Mr. Marty is enthusiastic about the number of insects and bugs the birds destroy each year. They keep his garden free from these pests."

McCARTY, George (Sec 24-17-28) George McCarty's wife, Rebecca, homesteaded in the Ashley Community. The McCartys were the parents of three sons — Don, Guy and Glenn; and two daughters, Muriel and Marie. The three brothers lived in the community in the 1920s and 1930s. It is believed that the sisters lived in Lakeside, Montana. The three brothers eventually moved there, also.

Don served in the Air Force during World War I. After his discharge, he farmed in the Ruby Valley near Virginia City, Montana, before moving to Lakeside.

McGRAW, Roy and John (Sec 32.33-16-28) There were apparently two families of McGraws. One of the McGraws had a wife, Elizabeth, who taught the Kid Hollow School of District #183 from September of 1917 until May 15, 1918; again from September 3, 1918, to December 13, 1918. Former residents recall that a young boy came crying to their door that December in 1918. His mother, Elizabeth, the teacher of the school, had died with the flu. Consequently, there was no more school that year at Kid Hollow.

The next year the daughter of Elizabeth, age 17 years, was hired to teach. Her name was Esther. Older and larger boys were inclined to heckle the young, inexperienced teacher. The father of one of the hecklers, who just happened to also be a member of the local school board, heard of the trouble. He made a trip to school, and in no uncertain terms gave all the pupils a good sound lesson in discipline! Esther, the grateful teacher, had no more problems after that.

There are also memories of the McGraws and their large herd of 200 horses. During the horrible winter of 1919 when all the prairie was covered with ice, most of the horses perished and their carcasses could be seen in many of the coulees when spring finally arrived.



John and Nan Marty, after 25 years of "wedded bliss" (1948)

MIKICH, Matt (Sec 32-17-28) Matt Mikich was born October 16, 1883, in Bribir, Yugoslavia. He immigrated to the United States in 1904 and worked in the Lewistown, Montana, area in the coal mines. From there, he moved to Butte, Montana, to work in the copper mines until 1916, when he moved to his homestead 25 miles northeast of Winnett.

In 1923 he married Ethel Groves, who also lived on a homestead north of Winnett. In 1936 they moved to Homes, Montana, southwest of Missoula, where they had a truck firm. In 1948 they retired and moved to Billings, Montana. Mrs. Mikich died August 13, 1966. Matt died June 24, 1975. (See also MIKICH — Teigen)

MILLER, Lyman (Sec 10-17-28) Lyman Miller lived in a very isolated area on the banks of Blood Creek. Pete Larsen was his only neighbor to the west — also on the creek; John C. Miller's land joined him to the east. There were no neighbors to the north or south for many miles due to rough land and high ridges.

The Winnett Times of March 24, 1933 reported: "Fire caused from an overheated stove completely destroyed the ranch home of Lyman Miller a week ago Thursday, March 16th. Mr. Miller had built a fire in the stove and was outside doing his morning chores and did not discover the fire until it had too big a start to put out.

"Besides completely destroying the ranch home in the Ashley vicinity, many other articles were burned beyond use, including a complete sheep-shearing outfit, a circular saw wood-cutting outfit and work harness. All the household goods and personal belongings of Mr. Miller were destroyed, leaving him with only the clothes he wore on his back."

It is believed that Lyman rebuilt his house, and lived there for several more years.

MINETTE, Susan (Sec 9-17-27) "Miss Susan Minette, who has been cook for the E. G. Lewis Company near Ashley, returned to Lewistown last Tuesday." (W. T. 5-27-21) The E. G. Lewis Co. was an oil drilling crew who drilled some wells in the hope of discovering oil in the area.

Florence Minette was attending Winnett High School in 1919. The "Nonsense" page of the school annual stated: "Florence is fond of rats and mice. Is said to have expressed a desire to teach Filipinos in their native haunts, but this is not thought to be true. She intends to train men to help with the housework."

MINNICK, Robert (Sec 9-17-27) and **MINNICK, Alice** (Sec 32-16-27) The Minnicks made final proof on their homesteads in October of 1921.

MOCK, Orval Virginia and Orval Mock were parents of three children: Alvin (1906), Thelma (1909) and Viola (1912).

MOORE, Aubrey (See BRIDGER — Ashley)

MULLIN, Rock (Sec 11,12-16-28) Rock Mullin held a sale at the I. N. Parker place in June of 1922. Rock and Gladys were parents of a daughter, Evelyn (1917).

NAVE, Edward Laura and Edward Nave had three children: L. Ruth (1898), Marjorie (1900) and Constance (1911).

Marjorie Nave attended Winnett High School in 1919. The "nonsense" page of the annual stated: "Marjorie Nave, alias 'Mugs' says, 'I want a man — I want a man — I want a mansion in the skies.' Well known stroller. A maiden tall in stature and a lover of books and small boys. She wants to be a dressmaker."

Mrs. Laura Downing Nave was a teacher in School District #181 from April 22, 1918, until August 19, 1918; also from April 28, 1919, to July 19, 1919.

NETTLETON, Alfred Carrie and Alfred Nettleton were parents of two daughters, Mamie (1911) and Ruby (1914); also one son, Arthur (1919).

OLSEN, Sam (Sec 4-16-28) Hartvig and Sam Olsen were parents of a daughter, Maud.

PATTERSON, Charles (Sec 4,5-16-28) The Winnett Times of August 4, 1949, stated: "Mr. and Mrs. Charles Patterson homesteaded in the Ashley Community near the county road and west of the John Marty ranch. The hill there, which was sometimes troublesome to motorists, was known as the Patterson hill."

The school census revealed that Charles M. and Minnie F. Patterson were parents of one daughter, Addie (1910), and one son, Leonard (1911). Leonard Patterson came back to this country, and paid a visit to the Marty family in 1949.

PLUMMER, James (Sec 25-16-28) Although there is no information on James, who was an owner of land, there was an Anna and William Plummer, who had two children on the school census: George (1900) and Mable (1902)

PRATT, Charles Charles and Elizabeth Pratt were the parents of Hazel (1898) and Gertrude (1909), Mabel (1900) and Bertha (1902). Mabel was one of the first four graduates from Winnett High School in 1919. She was literary editor of the first high school annual and was vice-president of the senior class. After graduation she attended summer school in Lewistown, Montana, and taught at Plum Creek, Montana, in the fall of 1919.

She married Lloyd Rost in December 1919. They became the parents of four children: Jean, Kenneth, Lou and Merle.

Bertha Pratt was also in high school in Winnett in 1919. The "Nonsense" pages of the annual said of her: "A business woman she'll be. Too wise to be (very) foolish."

PRATT, Charles (Sec 8-16-28) Charles and Mary were the parents of Ella (1908), Hazel (1911), Goldie (1912), Melvin (1913), and Irene (1916).

PRATT, Jasper (Sec 19-16-28) Jasper and Della were the parents of two daughters — Gladys (1901) and Eunice (1911).

QUIGG, Farrell (Sec 14-16-27) The following was contributed by Erma Quigg Arthur: "My parents came to Petroleum County about 1912 or 1913 and homesteaded about 16 miles north of Winnett. Dad was the son of Dr. Horace H. Quigg and Elizabeth Quigg of Booneville, Missouri. My mother was Amelia V. Kechart, daughter of Henry and Caroline Kechart of Marshall, Missouri. Dad was a university graduate from St. Louis, and Mom graduated from school in Marshall. They had one son, Clinton, when they came to Winnett.

"Russell H. Quigg, Erma B. Quigg, James E. Quigg, and Helen R. Quigg were all born on the homestead. When I was five years old, Mom and we children went back to Missouri in the old Model T. I attended school there along with Clinton and Russell. We lived with my Kechart grandparents. That was the only time we ever saw our grandparents (the Quiggs) and only for a Sunday afternoon.

"The folks had built a log house of two rooms. They had a couple horses and two milk cows. They borrowed an extra horse and machinery to do a little 'sod bustin' and plant a few acres. A big garden was a necessity for such a big family. The trip to town was made by horse and buggy. Mrs. Killian, a neighbor, and Mom would go together to town a distance of 16 miles. They would take us as far as Hentons and we'd stay there till they returned from town. We'd get a sucker if we were lucky!

"Mom had an old wooden washer that you pushed the handle by hand. We packed the rain water from the coulees so she could heat it on the wood stove. Our soap was made from cracklings and grease and lye. We all had the measles at once, even Mom. Dad would drive the milk cows up to the porch so Mom could milk them.

"We were in Missouri about a year and came back. Mr. Killian met us in the wagon and took us up to the homestead. Our dad had pulled out and I never saw him again till I was ten years old and then never saw him again. He went to Alaska and got a small place and trapped. One spring he was lost while taking his furs to Anchorage, and his body was not found until the next fall. (That was in 1954).

"Times were so bad that in about 1927 or 1928 Mom got a divorce and married E. F. Sutton. We moved about three miles to his place. Mom and Ed had a daughter, Frances M. Sutton. We raised three big gardens, herded sheep and raised cows. We harnessed out 14 head of horses in the morning (for field work), and at 5:00 a.m. we were up and out milking 23 head of cows.

"Then we separated the milk, fed the calves, ate breakfast, washed the separator and the dishes, and were off to school. After school we'd clean the barn, put hay in the mangers for the cows, and then get the milk pails. Then came supper, dishes, homework, and bed. Once or twice a week, it was up at three in the morning to churn (in the old barrel churn) while it was cool. Mom sold butter in the hotels in town.

"The teachers stayed with us, so there was always extra to do. We had two schools in the district. Erma Dunlap

taught one and Mary Pierce, the other one. Then we had Erma Copeland and Miss Younk, and Bea York. When Helen and Jim finished school, one school had been moved to John Martys. They and Joan Marty, Frances and the Brady boy finished there. Gen Brady was the teacher then, and stayed in a little cabin at Martys. My sister, Frances, stayed with Martys.

"We worked hard as kids, so knew what work was when we had to do for ourselves. We had terrible sandstorms then, and we were going to the other school which was seven miles away. When it was nice we would drive a horse and buggy, but walked otherwise. When a storm would hit, Paul Wood would ride horseback to school and guide us to their place, where we would spend the night and go to school next day. He would ride and tell Mom we were okay. There were the Coffman children, the Wadmans, Alberta Burke, Leonard Patterson and us that went to that school (Kid Hollow).

"Everyone helped everyone else with workhorses, machinery and harvest. We even had time for a dance now and then.

"There were Martys, Bridgers, Pattersons, Brown, Burkes, Killians, Sullengers, Goodwin, Templeton, Phillips, Bradys, Huberts, Catlins, Stumpfs, Andersons, Wadmans, Woods, Coffmans, Manuels, McDonalds, Ashleys, Coburn, Dyers, Booses, Margaret Haly and numerous ones from W. J. Winnett's cowboys, Hentons, Gavels, Stewarts, and Hannahs. I can't recollect them all, but when one went to town, he got the mail for all. It was a rough time, but we made it and maybe the better for it!

"Clinton is deceased; Russell deceased; James is at Twodot, Montana; Helen is at Sagle, Idaho; Erma at Winifred, Montana; Frances is at Harlowton, Montana. Amelia V. Quigg Sutton is deceased." (See also SUTTON — Ashley; QUIGG — Winnett)

RAMSEY, Harry (Sec 14-16-28) An item in the Kelley news of the Winnett Times dated October 21, 1921 stated: "Dr. Ramsey of Ashley made a professional call in this vicinity last Saturday." From that news, it could be assumed that Mr. Ramsey was either a medical doctor or a veterinarian (Ed. veterinarian). Harry and Elizabeth Ramsey were the parents of a daughter, Helen.

RICE, Edward T. (Sec 18-17-28) Edward Thurmond Rice was born in 1872 at Highland, North Carolina, and worked as a carpenter all his active life. He and Katherine Pauline Landrum were married in 1903. Their oldest child, Dorothy, was born there in 1904.

In 1905, they moved to Englewood, Kansas, where four of their seven children were born. Juanita (1906), Marie (1908), Edward (1909), and Arthur (1911).

In 1913 the family moved again. This time from Kansas by train to Moccasin, Montana, where the sixth child, Ralph, was born in 1915.

November of 1916 brought another move by covered wagon, from Moccasin to their homestead at Blood Creek, about 25 miles northeast of Winnett. A two-week

layover at Grassrange was necessary because of deep snow. The family stayed in the covered wagon and tents during this time.

Their seventh child, Katherine, was born at Blood Creek in the log cabin built by Ed. Later Ed built a log schoolhouse at Blood Creek to educate his children and children of other families in the area. Several different teachers taught there. The log schoolhouse is still standing, and the school was called the Rice School. Filing fees for homesteads, at that time, were about \$150.00.

Among other things, watermelons and muskmelons were grown in large quantities to the delight of everyone. Underground cellars were used to store the winter food. Food supplies, except for the garden produce, were bought in Grassrange and hauled home by wagon. These trips were made about twice a year.

Most of the Ed Rice children were grown and married by 1935, so Ed decided to move to Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Ed passed away in 1957, and Katherine passed away in 1956. (By Evelyn Lund Steuve, granddaughter)

RICE, Lake C. (Sec 27-17-28) Lake Rice, brother of Ed Rice, lived on a homestead about four miles southeast of his brother, Ed. Lake's farm was in an area sometimes called the Ashley Bench. Lake and his wife, Elsie, as remembered, had at least two children — Clarence (1902) and J. Kenneth (1903).

Lake raised cattle and farmed. The following article taken from the Winnett Times of April 25, 1924, described his bean crop one year:

"Another bumper and profitable crop being raised in Petroleum County has just come to light by the marketing of 11,000 lbs. of Great Northern white beans in Winnett by L. C. Rice, of the Ashley country.

"During the winter months Mr. Rice has sacked and sold to Eager Mercantile Company 110 sacks of Great Northern white beans, each sack weighing 100 lbs. Naturally such an amount of beans could not be consumed in this section, so the Eager Mercantile Co. shipped the surplus to wholesale houses at Great Falls, Montana, and on to the coast.

"The beans bring \$5.00 per hundred, and from twenty-five acres, Mr. Rice sold 11,000 lbs. and has not yet cleaned out his surplus over return seed. Reckoning from these figures, it will readily be seen that a minimum of \$22.00 an acre will be the returns of the bean crop. At the present time land in the Ashley country can be purchased outright for that price.

"Apparently there is a long strip about four to six miles wide, known as the Ashley Bench and running east to and across the river, where the Great Northern white beans thrive better than in any other section of the country. All the farmers in that section plant from one to twenty acres of beans, and seem to prefer raising beans to corn, although their corn crops are also very good.

"One cannot ask for better returns on a crop than Mr. Rice received from his twenty-five acres of beans, on land at present value.

"Mr. Rice reports that the acreage planted to beans this year in the Ashley country will very likely be double that of last year in that practically all the farmers are planting the same variety bean, which will assist in marketing and bring greater returns.

"The bean crop through the Ashley country last year averaged about 550 pounds to the acre; with real care and attention this yield could be increased at least twenty-five per cent.

"Mr. Eager, of the Eager Mercantile Co., states that the Ashley bean found ready sale due to its unusual color, size, and weight, and that he was positive if entered at fairs, it would easily capture all first prizes in the state, and possibly, the national sweepstakes.

"There will be many photographs taken of the bean fields of the Ashley country this summer. The photographs taken will be used to advertise to the nation the wonderful bean crop possibilities of Petroleum County."

SANDMAN, Carl (Sec 31-16-28) Carl filed on a homestead about five miles southwest of Ashley. He went into the service of his country in World War I and paid the supreme sacrifice. The local Sandman American Legion Post #95 was named in his honor. Carl was a brother to Albert Sandman. (See also SANDMAN — Brush Creek)



Carl Sandman

SANDSTROM, Victor Victor and Ellen Sandstrom were parents or guardians of two children: Martha and Dale.

SEEFLUTH, William (Sec 24-16-26) William and Nettie Seefluth were parents of a daughter, Marion (1921). (See MARKS — Teigen; SEEFLUTH — Winnett)

SERRY, Earl A. (Sec 8,9-17-29) On July 15, 1921, the following ad was placed in the Winnett Times:

"Lost — On Ashley oil field road, a small rocker. Reward. Finder please notify E. A. Serry, Winnett."

Fae Serry taught in Ashley School District #181 from May 8, 1917, to July 20, 1917; also from May 20, 1918, to July 20, 1918.

SNYDER, Melvin L. (Sec 8-16-27) Melvin L. Snyder married Elenor Philibert on May 24, 1904. They came to Montana in 1914 from Missouri and with their three young daughters — Thelma, Ruth, and Ruby — filed a homestead ten miles north and two miles east of Winnett. They farmed the land for a living. Melvin became a charter member of the Winnett Masonic Lodge, and both he and "Della" were members of Eastern Star. Two sons eventually joined the daughters — Henry in 1915 and Glen in 1919. The Snyders eventually gave up their homestead and moved to the Flathead Valley in western Montana. (See also SNYDER — Cat Creek)

Thelma was only six years old then, but recalls traveling to their homestead by wagon from Grassrange, Montana. Her early years of schooling were at the Brady country school, with Henry Cassidy as the teacher. She left with her parents in 1926, and graduated from Ronan High School. Thelma married Ralph C. Willcuts, and they have one son, Melvin L. Willcuts, born at Alhambra, California.

SPELLMAN, W. A. (Sec 30-16-29) "Bill" Spellman was born in 1894 in Illinois. He homesteaded land north of Cat Creek, about six miles west of the Musselshell River. The following information was contributed by Carroll Manuel.

"Bill Spellman homesteaded the place Fulchers had squatted on in the breaks. Fulchers left for some unknown reason and Mr. Ashley kept people off their place, as they had told him that they were coming back. Bill was a remittance man who had been run out of Chicago. His family paid him to stay out. There was a nice spring on the place, and about the time Bill took over, the oil activity started. This was a great setup for Bill and Lillian. They went into the moonshine business.

"Bill was a rough character and was involved in many brawls. His neighbors were all pretty much afraid of him. In his business, he drove an old Star roadster and had a six shooter mounted on the steering wheel. The federal agents got word of his activities and tried to catch him but never did.

"Bill butchered the neighbors' beef, and Lil stole chicken feed out of the neighbors' granaries. After the Star coupe gave up, Bill had a light, black team that he drove to a two-wheel cart. Bill would take the wheels off the cart and soak them in the spring to tighten them up before he went to town. He would go after supplies, get drunk and usually end up in a fight. He would arrive back home about three days later — broke and without any grub.

"Spellmans had an old milk cow with a real good bell that you could hear for miles. Lil had an old white saddle horse she rode everywhere. I never did see Bill and Lil go anywhere together. Every now and then, they would have a party. Bill had a baby grand piano that he played really well.

"For the most part, Bill was quite mean to Lil, and she was sort of a slave to him. I would bet that she hadn't been to town in fifteen years. She wore Bill's discarded

clothes all the time. Her family lived in Texas, and they finally sent her enough money to escape. In about 1940, she caught a ride to Winnett on the mail truck, bought a ticket on the train, went to Texas, and never did come back.

"After she left, Bill moved to Winnett and herded sheep for different people. His last eight years were spent in the State Home for the Aged in Lewistown, Montana. He died there April 27, 1968.

SPHOON, Ray Ray and Nina Sphoon were parents of two children, Lesley (1922) and Paula (1929).

STINGLEY, George (Sec 21-17-27) Laura and George Stingley were the parents of three children while living in the area — Bernard (1909), Willard (1911) and Edna (1915).

STUMPF, Phillip (Sec 1-16-27) Phillip and Mary Stumpf homesteaded in the Ashley area, 15 miles from Winnett in 1914.

Both Phillip and Mary (Hubert) Stumpf were born in Warnberg, Russia, and were married there February 5, 1906.

Of the nine children in the family, four were born before Phillip and Mary came to the homestead — Mary Stumpf Brown (1907), Anna Stumpf Christiansen (1909), Phillip Stumpf (1911), and Henry T. Stumpf (1913). Four children were born on the homestead — Pete (1914), Alice Bell Stumpf Hale (1918), Esther Alma Stumpf Dew (1920), and Harold James Stumpf (1922). The youngest, Robert Preston Stumpf (1924) was born after they moved to Napa, Idaho.

The children's Uncle Pete Hubert lived with the family on the homestead until he went off to World War I in 1918.

Schools attended by the Stumpf children were the Brady School and various other schools near Ashley.

Mail was occasionally picked up at Ashley by someone who rode in on horseback, usually Phillip Hubert who lived with Grandpa and Grandma Pete and Mary Hubert.

Phillip Stumpf died February 11, 1970, and Mary Stumpf died January 22, 1976. Both are buried in San Bernardino, California.

SUTTON, Ed F. (Sec 10-16-27) Articles from the Winnett Times provide some history of the E. F. Sutton family.

"Mrs. Bell Sutton passed away at her home in the Ashley country Tuesday morning February 26, 1921, after a lingering illness of four years. Death was due to cancer. Interment was made in the Winnett Cemetery with Rev. Fike officiating.

"Deceased was born in Monroe County, Wisconsin, and was married to E. F. Sutton in 1891. To this union four boys were born, only one surviving the mother, J. J. Sutton, of Winnett.

"Ten years ago the family moved to Montana and located on a homestead in the Ashley country where they have made their home since.

"During the illness everything possible was done to obtain a cure for the dread disease. The best of medical attention, including Mayo Brothers at Rochester, was obtained but no human aid could offer cure. The distressed and sorrowing husband called every means at his command to her assistance, without avail." (W. T. 3-6-25)

Their son, Austin, was killed when a team of horses hitched to a wagon ran away.

Ed was a progressive farmer as illustrated by the Winnett Times news item dated October 9, 1925: "E. F. Sutton, residing north of Winnett, has just received a carload of lumber for a new barn which he will have built immediately. The barn will be 40' X 50' with hip roof. It will be modern throughout and will prove of great value as well as convenient to Mr. Sutton.

"The erection of such farm buildings speaks well for the future of Petroleum County and is evidence of success in agriculture and ranching."

In 1926 Ed was elected as Petroleum County's representative to the State Legislature: "Senator Sibbert and Representative Sutton are now seated in the Montana legislature serving their first terms in the highest offices as the gift of the citizens of Petroleum County. Both gentlemen are successful ranchers, are square shooters and have good judgment. They can be depended upon to always consider the best interests of their constituency." (W. T. 1-7-27)

Ed Sutton later married Amelia Quigg, a divorcee of Ferrell Quigg. They were parents of a daughter, Frances.

Son J. J. Sutton and his wife Shella continued to live in the community. They were the parents of six children who attended the local schools: Earl (1923), Robert (1924), Anna (1927), Elizabeth (1929), Margaret (1930) and Allen (1932). (See also QUIGG — Ashley; QUIGG — Winnett; KNERR — Brush Creek).

TAYLOR, Fred W. Fred W. Taylor homesteaded in the Ashley country in 1916. He entered the armed services in 1917 during World War I. Fred did not return to this country but sold his land to Bill Bridger, retaining the oil royalties. He followed oil refinery construction for many years in Maine. In 1961 he and his wife moved to California to make their home.

TEMPLETON, John (Sec 24-16-27) East of the Ohio well lived another bachelor, John Templeton. He was a neighbor of Henry Hulbert. John served with the U. S. Marines during World War I. John left Petroleum County and moved to Shepherd, Montana, in the early 1940s.

THOMAS, Alfred (Sec 35-16-27) "Alfred Thomas was my cousin from Iowa," Pearl Stewart remarks. "He and his wife Maude and two young sons, Howard and Don, homesteaded northeast of Winnett. They couldn't make it, so they left the land and moved into Winnett for awhile, then went back to Iowa." They had another son later.

TOWNE, Mabel (Sec 15-16-27) Mabel Towne filed her claim on land about 16 miles northeast of Winnett. She

bordered the land owned by her brother, Vane Catlin, and the two of them shared a home. (See also TOWNE — Winnett)

TUNNICLIFF, Charles (Sec 18-17-27) Charley Tunncliff was born in 1877, to Henry and Ellen Tunncliff, at Plaski, Michigan. He came to Montana with his parents and family in 1895.

He worked on ranches in Montana and in logging in Oregon. He married Goldie Handly at Eugene, Oregon in 1903. They had one daughter, Edna, born in 1904, in Walla Walla, Washington. They came back to Montana in 1917, to the Grassrange area; then took up a homestead next to his brothers north of Winnett.

Goldie died of the flu in 1919, and Charley's mother, Ellen, helped raise Edna. Charley died in 1949, at Roberts, Montana. (By Mary Ida Gill, niece)

TUNNICLIFF, Harold H. "Pete" (Sec 19-17-27) Harold H. "Pete" Tunncliff, the son of Henry H. and Ellen Tunncliff, was born July 28, 1894, at Fergus Falls, Minnesota. He and his parents moved to Montana and homesteaded in the Roberts area in 1895. He attended school in Roberts and Red Lodge. In 1912 he married Mary Butler. They had one daughter, Mary Idamae, born April 7, 1913. Mary and Pete separated and Pete went to Grassrange to work on a railroad bed. (The roadbed was never finished).

Pete homesteaded north of Winnett in 1920 and, with his brothers, raised horses and cattle.

Pete married Merry Lyne Conway in 1929, and they



Pete Tunncliff and Mother, Ellen

lived in Winnett for many years. Pete kept his homestead and ranch until he sold it to Alex Weingart. Alex also bought the property on Yellow Water that Pete had acquired. (By Mary Ida Gill, daughter) (See GILL and TUNNICLIFF — Winnett)

TUNNICLIFF, Henry Henry H. Tunncliff and Ellen Graham were married in Michigan. They moved to Huntley, Montana, in 1892, then back to Fergus Falls, Minnesota. They returned to Montana in 1895. They homesteaded in the Roberts area in Carbon County in 1910. Henry died in Anaconda in 1911.

Ellen and family moved back to Red Lodge and she was a nurse there until 1919, when she moved to the homesteads of Charley and Pete, her sons. Charley's wife had died and left Charley with a little daughter to raise. Ellen helped raise Edna, the daughter, and also took care of Bobby Orr. She moved to Roundup to put these children in school.

Henry and Ellen had five children: Jay, born in Michigan in 1875, homesteaded north of Winnett; Charley, born in Michigan in 1877, also had a homestead north of Winnett; Mabel, born in Michigan; Jennie, born in Michigan in 1891; and Harold H. "Pete," born in Minnesota in 1894, also had a homestead north of Winnett.

Ellen died of cancer in 1926, and is buried at Roberts. (By Mary Ida Gill, granddaughter).

TUNNICLIFF, Jay (Sec 24-17-26) Jay Tunncliff was born in 1875 in Jackson, Michigan, to Henry and Ellen Tunncliff. He came with his folks to the Roberts area of Montana in 1895.

Marie C. Kelley was a native of Newfoundland. As a small child, she moved to Boston. At 17 years of age, she came to Montana.

In June 1907, Jay and Marie were married at Missoula, Montana. They homesteaded north of Winnett in 1920 in the same township as the homesteads of Charley and Pete, Jay's brothers. They later moved to Sheridan, Wyoming — then to Lodge Grass, Montana. In 1943 they moved to a ranch northwest of Kalispell, Montana.

They had two children: Howard (1917) and Irene (1909)



The Tunncliff family: Mabel Tunncliff Carr, Jay Tunncliff, Jennie Tunncliff McDonald, Earl Tunncliff, Henry Tunncliff Sr., Ellen Tunncliff, Charles Tunncliff, (front) Harold "Pete" Tunncliff

who attended the Winnett schools. Irene later lived in Winnett in the 1950s.

Marie died in 1959, and Jay died in 1961. They are buried at Kalispell. (By Mary Ida Gill, niece)

TUNNICLIFF, Mabel (Sec 19-17-26) Mabel Tunncliff was born in 1885 in Michigan to Henry and Ellen Tunncliff. She came with her family to the Roberts, Montana, area in 1895.

She married Thomas Carr, and they farmed at Roberts. They had two children: Marjorie Jean (1913) and Norman (1926). (By Mary Ida Gill, niece) (See also CARR — Winnett)

VAN HEEMST, John (Sec 35-17-28) John Van Heemst was born in Sommelsdyke, Holland, October 6, 1864. Also born in Holland was a girl by the name of Helen Bakker. Their friendship developed into love and marriage. They became the parents of six sons: Dick, Leonard, Arthur, Jack, Abram and Henry.

The family emigrated from Holland, and in 1914 took up homesteads and acquired land about four miles northeast of Ashley. The older sons filed on their own homesteads.

Son Leonard passed away while living in the area. The father, John, died in September of 1925. Both were buried on the family homestead. Mother Helen died in 1956 and was buried in Taft, California.

Henry helped with the cattle on his father's farm. In 1922 he went to Los Angeles, California, and eventually to Taft, California. He and Alice Welch, daughter of Anna and Fred Welch of Winnett, were married and had one son, Wallace, born August 14, 1931. Alice, who had been a cheerleader in Winnett High School, graduated in 1925, and then attended Western State College at Dillon.

Henry worked for Standard Oil in the oil fields near Taft, California for twenty-eight years. Montana must have beckoned, as in 1950 the Van Heemst family moved to Columbus, Montana. Raising registered hogs became their specialty. Alice passed away July 29, 1982, at 76 years of age. Henry continued to live on the farm at Columbus. (See also WELCH — Winnett)

WADMAN, Walfrid (Sec 20,21,28-16-28) Walfrid was born in Sweden and came to South Dakota with his family when he was nine years old. He later married Mary Johnson from Osakis, Minnesota. Five of their eight children were born before Walfrid and Mary brought their family from Belle Fourche, South Dakota, to Montana. These children were: Alice, Ted, Lillian, Hulda (Tillie), and Mildred.

Walfrid Wadman had come to the Winnett area alone in 1914 and homesteaded near Ashley. He built a two-room log cabin and cut a pile of wood before going back to South Dakota for his family. The trip in late November was a harsh one. Wrong trails cost them several days of travel. While crossing the Musselshell River, with ice hitting the wheels, a horse cramped up and had to be dragged out by the other horses. To get up the steep hills

off of the river bottom, all of the horses had to be hitched to one wagon. They pulled each wagon up the hill, one wagon at a time.

Of their arrival at the homestead, Tillie said: "There wasn't much snow, but it was cold. We arrived at our destination fifteen miles northeast of Winnett, the day before Thanksgiving in 1915. We were all sick. Of course, there was no running water or electricity, but we survived some way or another."

Three more children were born on the homestead: Harold, Lincoln, and Victor. A neighbor, Mrs. Laverdure, an Indian woman, helped deliver babies, care for the sick, and fix meals. Tillie remembered Mrs. Laverdure rubbing a herbal mixture in the children's hair that smelled like sagebrush and evidently made their hair healthy and beautiful.

Homestead life left a lot of memories for the Wadman children. Once a bull snake fell through the sod roof of their cabin onto a bed.

None of the Wadman children will forget the time they decided to raid the Rogges' watermelon patch. The Rogge bachelors raised a huge garden and sold produce to the Cat Creek oil field people. Just as the Wadman kids had filled the sack on Ted's back with watermelon, one of the Rogge brothers fired blank shots over their heads. When their father learned of the escapade, he told his children to eat a good breakfast, and then loaded them up in the wagon and took them over to the Rogges to dig potatoes all day on that cold fall day. Tillie says to this day, she still doesn't care about watermelon.

Community gatherings were a highlight to the Wadman children. Their father would tuck them into a wagon filled with straw and blankets and take them to the dances. Baseball games and political dinners were favorite events, too.

Life on the homestead was hard for a mother of eight children. Mary Wadman's days were spent washing clothes, hauling water, baking, sewing, cleaning, and managing with very little with which to manage. She could fix jack rabbits in more ways than one would think possible. And yet, she found time to do those extra things for the pleasure of her children. Tillie told about her mother making "Yankee Boys" — little puffy men made out of bread dough — for their lunches. The lunch boxes were made from tobacco boxes that bachelor neighbors had given them.

To help out, the children had responsibilities, too. About once a week, they pulled a little cart five miles to Ashley to get groceries. More than once, they scrambled up a tree out of fear of the longhorn steers that Mr. Ashley pastured near there.

They also helped milk the cows and work in the garden. Tillie said, "None of us were too little to pull weeds. And I can remember that bean patch! How I hated that bean patch."

As the children grew older and the Kid Hollow School had closed, they worked in Cat Creek or Winnett,

sometimes just for their room and board, while they attended school.

Wadmans later moved to another farm in the Brush Creek area about six miles northeast of Winnett. Walfrid passed away there in 1943. Vic was called home from the Army to help his mother on the farm. Mary later moved into Winnett, where she passed away in 1969. Both Walfrid and Mary were buried in the Winnett Cemetery.

Alice worked for Mrs. Bowers in Cat Creek and later, in 1927-1928, was telephone operator for Matty Burt in Winnett. She married E. J. MacDonald, an oil field worker, and moved to Cut Bank, Montana. They were the parents of a son, Don, who now lives in Great Falls, Montana. Alice became ill with a rare nerve disease, leaving her an invalid the last few years of her life. She died in 1947 at the age of 41 years.

Ted married Blanche Alexander and they lived most of their life in Cut Bank, Montana, where he worked for an oil company. They had three children: Mary, Douglas and Bill. Mildred graduated from Winnett High School in 1934, attended a salad-making school, and worked for 4 B's Cafeteria in Billings for four years. She and Lew Shelton were married and had one son, John.

Harold attended Kid Hollow School in the Ashley Community. In 1934 he was working on a government project when he became ill and died. An obituary in the Winnett Times dated 2-23-34 stated: "Funeral services were held in this city last Thursday, conducted by Rev. E. D. Swisher, and attended by a large gathering of friends who paid their last respects to this splendid boy. Burial was made in the Winnett Cemetery."

Lincoln attended Winnett High School and was very active in the boxing club. He, Kenny Ingalls, and the three Saylor boys (all members of the Winnett Boxing Club) entered the armed services together. Linc married and has four children. There is a separate entry for Vic Wadman. (See also BOHN — Petrolia) (See also WADMAN — Winnett)

WAGONER, Jacob The account of Mr. Wagoner's death in the Winnett Times of December 13, 1929, furnished some history of this gentlemen: "Another pioneer Montanan died on Monday of this week in a lonely cabin north of Ashley. Jacob Wagoner was found dead in his cabin by Lyle Wood on Tuesday. Mr. Wood immediately notified Sheriff P. J. Anderson, who with Percy Story, went to the cabin. They drove as far as the Bert Wood ranch and had to make the remaining 16 miles with a team and bobsled. The remains were taken to Winnett and buried in the local cemetery Thursday. Death was caused by apoplexy and was instant, according to the report of Dr. Alexander.

"Deceased was wintering about 30 head of saddle horses in the north country and was using the cabin on the Bert Minnick place for a residence. Lyle Wood had the place rented and made regular visits to it. On the last visit he found Mr. Wagoner lying dead on the floor of the cabin. Every indication pointed to instant death. The old

man had been in good health for his advanced years, as it was estimated that he was at least 87 years of age.

"His hobby in late years was raising saddle horses, and two or three times a year he would ride into Winnett on such a beautiful animal that it attracted the attention of every one as he rode it down the streets.

"Jacob Wagoner came to Montana with the first pioneers. He was held up at Fort Phil Kearny for five days due to Indian troubles, while enroute. He was among those early prospectors in Last Chance Gulch at Helena. On his person when he died was a large gold nugget that he had found in the vicinity of Harlowton, Montana, many years ago. He lived in the Bitterroot Valley for 30 years. He had an ample estate to see that he was properly buried. No known relatives exist. Later his personal belongings will be examined, and more of the old pioneer's history may be brought to light."

WILSON, J. "Mrs. J. N. Wilson of Ashley was in town a few days this week visiting her daughter, Mrs. L. A. Hoyle." (W. T. 7-1-21) (See also HOYLE — Winnett)

WOOD, Bert S. (Sec 20-16-28) Bert S. Wood was born October 12, 1868, in Rochester, Minnesota, which was also the birthplace of Catherine Brannon. She became his wife June 16, 1894. The family, including five sons — Demond (1895), Max (1899), Paul (1901), George Lyle (1902), and twin brother, Wales (1902), settled on the homestead near Ashley in 1914. The school-age children attended the local Kid Hollow School.

The Winnett Times of May 19, 1925, described an accident which involved the family:

"Bernard Burke and Paul Wood, two young men of the Ashley country, met with a serious accident last Sunday while endeavoring to catch a bronco. Riding at a terrific rate of speed, both riders collided. The impact resulted in Mr. Burke's horse being thrown nearly fifteen feet and the boy hurled to the ground unconscious.

"Bert S. Wood placed the Burke boy in his car and rushed him to Dr. Alexander in Winnett. Dr. Alexander ordered him immediately taken to the hospital at Lewistown. Robert T. Hogg drove him in his Dodge taxi. Examination at Lewistown disclosed a fracture at the base of the skull. Death occurred the following morning." Paul Wood had not been seriously injured.

The closing of the Ashley Post Office in 1921 created problems for the people of the community. Demond and the Wood family volunteered their services as mail carriers and distributors. In May of 1923 the Winnett Times reported:

"The country home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Wood was the scene of a happy gathering Sunday, May 6th, when their friends and neighbors all arrived there at eleven o'clock. To say Mr. and Mrs. Wood were surprised is putting it mildly. They were almost speechless, it was such a complete surprise! The ladies all brought good things to eat, and although the wind howled outside, all sat down to a table that was piled high with goodies.

"After dinner the Wood family was presented with a

beautiful set of silverware, given by those who have been having their mail brought from town by the Wood family since losing the Ashley Post Office over a year ago. Only those who have been benefited by this service can appreciate what it has meant to them." Mr. and Mrs. Bert Wood left this area in 1936.

Max attended high school in Winnett, graduating with the class of 1924. He went to work in the Cat Creek oil field. In 1929 he was married to Rachel Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sumner Clark of Grassrange. Rachel and Max were the parents of three children: Donna, Arnold, and Glenn. Max was an electrician in a paper mill in Washington before retirement. He passed away in 1981.

Paul passed away in March 1974 and was buried in Port Hill, Idaho. Lyle rented the Bert Minnick place in the Ashley area for a time. July of 1933 found him shipping "a carload of household goods and some livestock to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, where he had purchased a farm. He was going where there was plenty of water up in the panhandle country, and in the heart of the timber region." (W. T. 7-21-33). He married Juanita Rice, and now lives in Port Falls, Idaho. The school census reported a daughter, Twila Marie (1928).

Wales graduated from Winnett High School in 1925, and became a lawyer. He married Ruth MacFarlane. He graduated from Northwestern College of Law after attending Intermountain Union College in Helena and the University of Washington. He was manager of Title and Trust Co. in St. Helens, Oregon, until he retired in 1968.

Wales and his wife had a beautiful hobby — growing flowers. Rhododendrons were their specialty. Their flower displays won many prizes. Wales died in February 1978, and is buried in St. Helens, Oregon.

Bert Wood died in October 1936, and his wife, Catherine, in March 1964. Both are buried in Port Hill, Idaho.

WRIGHT, James T. (Sec 6,7-17-27) James Wright settled near the Drulett Post Office on Blood Creek during the homestead days. He may have been a brother to Robert Wright, the postmaster. In the 1930s he entered into a partnership with an old friend, Dudley Whisonant, and they ranched on Blood Creek. In 1940 they moved their headquarters to a new location on Box Elder Creek.

For several years James made his home with the Whisonant family. In the winter of 1942-43 he froze one of his feet quite badly, and although a leg amputation took place, gangrene set in and could not be controlled. He died in St. Joseph Hospital June 30, 1943. The Reverend Ellen Rose conducted services from the Winnett Methodist Church and James was buried in the Winnett Cemetery.

WRIGHT, Robert (Sec 7,8-17-27) Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wright homesteaded when their daughter, Lillian, was a small child. From 1917 to 1921 Robert was the postmaster of Drulett, a post office which was located on the land owned by him. The office may have been in his home. (See also WRIGHT — Dovetail)