

per ranch" south of Grassrange. Marie died November 1949, when their only son, John Jr., was 10 years old. John Schultz died in February 1976.

The younger John married Nancy Anderson in 1960. John not only operates the original "upper ranch" where he grew up, but he purchased the Ted Schultz Elk Creek property where he and Nancy make their home. They have four children — Vivian, Laurie, Sonya and Nicholas. All three daughters have graduated from Grass Range High School. Vivian graduated from Eastern Montana College, married Mike Fosjord and lives in Billings. Laurie will finish a master's program at Purdue University in 1989. Sonya and Nicholas are at the family ranch.

**SCOTT, William** (Sec 27-14-25) and **SCOTT, Walter** (Sec 26,27,35-14-25) William Scott and his son, Walter, had adjoining homesteads midway between Elk and Yellow Water creeks and north of today's Yellow Water Dam. Walter was a kindly bachelor who used to walk to James Mink's homestead and read to the old man.

In July of 1921 Walter reported to the Winnett Times that he was busily engaged in putting up hay and reported a good crop. However, he said the grain had been damaged because of the hot winds, and he felt unless rain fell within a few days, the crop would be lost.

The Scotts had 640 acres, 85 of them cultivated. Most of the farming was done with a tractor.

**SEUTE, William** (Sec 21-15-25) William Seute made many improvements to his homestead. There were a number of small reservoirs on the property and nice buildings.

William married Alec Young's widow, Linda Young. (Alec Young was proprietor of the Young Hotel in Grassrange.) William left the homestead and moved to Lewistown. He opened a grocery store at 122 West Main — the present location of the Snow White Cafe (1989). Mrs. Seute was cashier in the store, and Mr. Seute was known for his fairness to employees and customers alike. He kept his store open longer hours for the convenience of his customers; and during the fruit season, he often bought ripe fruit at the end of the week from local wholesalers, carefully culled the overripe fruit, and sold the balance cut rate for canning.

The Seutes owned a small farm less than a mile southeast of Lewistown. William sold his grocery business in 1935 and later moved to Arizona.

**SHEPHERDSON, William** (Sec 5-15-25) William Kinsley Shepherdson served on the District #134 school board in 1915-16. He and his wife, Alpha, had one child listed on the school census, O. Don (1901). Mr. Shepherdson also served as sheriff in the 1920s.

**SHUSTER, Albert** (Sec 22-15-25) Albert Shuster and his wife, Lulu, had one child listed on the 1914 school census for District #134, Richard Clement (1905). (See also SHUSTER — Petrolia)

**SIBBERT, Henry** Henry Sibbert came to the Petroleum County area in 1894, long before Petroleum County was dreamed of, but he and others like him were to be instrumental in the growth and development of the country and the ultimate formation of Montana's last county.

Henry's early life was typical of many immigrants looking for better opportunities in the United States. Born in Germany, one of 10 children, Henry and his family came to Iowa in 1887, where they took up farming. Though Henry's formal education was scant, he learned self-sufficiency very young, and after having worked on farms in Iowa, he came west when he was only 18. He found his first work on a large sheep ranch owned by one of the earliest sheepmen in eastern Montana — Le Feldt. He not only learned every phase of sheep ranching, but he did some wolfing, trapping, stage-driving, and traveling with a shearing outfit over much of Wyoming, Nevada and Montana. He worked for the Bean Brothers at various times, and in 1906 he purchased their 1200-acre Elk Creek ranch. He stocked the ranch by taking 1400 sheep from B. F. Lepper on shares.

Henry married Marie Olson in 1902. Marie was the daughter of John Olson, early homesteader on Elk Creek. Ole Olson of Grassrange was her brother, and Mrs. Lena Lindstrand of Lewistown, her sister. They had two little girls, Marie and Lillian, when they moved into their two-room log cabin on the ranch which was to grow and prosper and become one of the garden spots of Petroleum County. Three more children were born to the couple — Oscar (1906), John (1908) and Gladys (1910).



Marie Olson about the time of her marriage to Henry Sibbert in 1902



*The Sibbert Ranch about 1920*



*Senator Henry Sibbert in about 1935*

Gradually a fine set of buildings was completed on the ranch — two large lambing sheds, a forty-horse barn, a hog house and granary, a cook house, ice house, garage, and a large two-story home with full basement and attic. Many trees were planted and a large yard and garden

was watered from an irrigation system out of Elk Creek. Alfalfa meadows were planted and irrigated as well. Not only was hay produced, but many years the alfalfa yielded heavy seed crops. Reportedly the Sibberts were the first people in the area to use an airplane for spraying their meadows, and people came for miles to watch the operation. The ranch ran as many as 5000 head of sheep, and one season had a wool clip of 52,000 pounds.

The Sibbert ranch property not only expanded, but Henry's interest in other enterprises developed. No one had greater faith in the potential of the area than Henry Sibbert. He promoted the drilling of numerous oil wells and was involved in the formation of several royalty and leasing companies. Unfortunately, the success of the Cat Creek field was not to be repeated in the Flatwillow-Elk Creek anticline. A number of the "dry" oil wells, however, were to furnish precious water for stock in the years to come.

Henry took out citizenship papers when he filed on his homestead and cast his first vote as an American citizen at Fort Maginnis, Montana. In 1919 he served on the District #159 school board. He worked for the formation of Petroleum County and became the county's second senator in 1927. He served a four-year term, ran for office again in 1935, and served another four-year term. The following quote from the January 14, 1938, *Winnett Times* has a familiar ring 50 years later. It tells something of the man and of the times.

"Henry Sibbert, your Senator, says, 'As a resident and State Senator from Petroleum County, I am more than in-





*Wool ready for market at Sibbert Ranch*

terested in the articles appearing in the Winnett Times concerning the oil industry.

"The serious situation of the oil industry in the state can little be realized until it has been reduced to statistics and various other facts.

"It is my opinion that few people realize what a state's industry, crops, and other production, means to us individually. They mean much in either increase or reductions of taxes, mean much in increase or reduction of payrolls, all of which in turn mean much to general business and our own happiness.

"Therefore, as Senator from Petroleum County, I urge all of my constituents to give full support to this movement of 'Buying Montana Made Gasoline from Montana Crude' as it has so aptly been put, regardless if it is gasoline, oil, stock, coal, grain, or what have you. What Montana makes or produces, makes Montana."

School presented a serious problem for the Sibberts. When Marie was old enough for school in 1909, there were very few schools in the entire area. There are no records available to tell us exactly how the family coped with the problem, but newspaper accounts show that Gladys, the youngest child, attended at least a year or two of elementary school at or near their ranch (See also STORY). In the late teens, however, the family bought a house in Lewistown and Mrs. Sibbert and the children began living there during the school year.

Marie Madeline, the oldest daughter, married John Schultz in 1939. John, his father, and two of his brothers homesteaded in the Teigen area. (See also SCHULTZ) John and Marie made their home on what was known as the "upper" Sibbert Ranch on Elk Creek.

Lillian loved her parents' Elk Creek home and ranch. She was an excellent rider and all-around ranch hand. Pictures reveal that she was stylish and fashionable as well. She was ambitious, fun-loving, and had a wealth of friends in the community. She married William Doman in 1946 and the couple had one son, Donnis. They lived in Winnett, where Lillian was actively involved in many affairs — Eastern Star, Legion Auxiliary, Republican Woman, Garden Club, and Methodist Church. She often

played the piano for club activities, funerals, etc. Lillian died in May 1966.

Oscar was killed in a tragic hunting accident when he was about 17.

John played football for Fergus County High School in Lewistown. After his high school years he returned to help his father on the ranch. He stayed on the ranch until the family moved in 1940. At that time, he and his father acquired the Porter Hays place on Flatwillow Creek where they lived for many years. John served in World War II, and in 1955 he married Emma Rabern. They purchased a home in Winnett in the 1970s, and Lillian's son, Donnis, took over the operation of the Flatwillow property.



*Ice being hauled to the icehouse for storage*



*John Sibbert sports his fancy Studebaker*

Gladys, the youngest child, graduated from high school in Lewistown and went to the University of Montana in Missoula. In order to receive a degree in library science, she transferred to the University of Washington, where she graduated. She was juvenile librarian in the Lewistown Public Library for three years before moving



Henry Sibbert with three of his children — Lillian, John (behind the wheel of their 1927 Studebaker Commander) and Gladys

to Billings, Montana, to accept a similar position. She married Claire Cutter in 1940. He was a display advertising manager at Hart Albin in Billings. One year after they were married (in May 1941), Gladys was killed in an automobile accident on the road just south of Winnett. The Cutters had been visiting the Sibbert family on Flatwillow for the weekend when the accident occurred.

Drought and depression had forced the Sibberts to give up their Elk Creek ranch in May of 1940. Henry continued to live in the community until his death on August 31, 1954. Marie, his wife, preceded him in death in 1933.

**SIBBERT, Marx** (Sec 23-14-15) It is believed this was the father of Henry Sibbert. The name has been spelled "Max" on other records. He was a native of Germany who came to the United States in 1885 and settled in Crawford County, Iowa, as a farmer. He and his wife, Lena Schleuter, had ten children — Annie, Maty, Henry, Lena, Hans, Charles, Emma and Bertha. The names of the other children are not known.

Son Henry came to Montana before the turn of the century. (See SIBBERT, Henry) Daughter Lena also came to Montana where she married John Holmes of Benchland, Montana.

It has been reported a Helen Sibbert worked at the Flatwillow Hotel in the early days of its operation. There is a possibility the name Helen or Helena was shortened to be "Lena."

Marx and Lena Sibbert (living in the state of Iowa) deeded the above listed property to Henry Sibbert in 1913.

**STORY, Percy and John** (Sec 18,19-14-26) The Story family roots go back to England and Norway. The first Story came to America on the Mayflower. In the mid-1880s, one of the Storys moved west to Minnesota. Albert Lee Story was born on April 2, 1857. He married Sarah Elizabeth Southwick and they had nine children. Three of their sons, Percy, John and Fred, came to Montana.

Percy was born in 1884. He married Ethel Lillian Jennings in 1908. They had two children, Lillian (1909) and Leland (1910), born before they came to Winnett in 1914. John and Fred were younger brothers of Percy.

John and Percy acquired land seven miles southwest of Winnett. Fred worked as a mechanic in Winnett.

The Storys did not remain on the land long. After the oil boom in 1921, Percy secured work in Cat Creek. In 1936 he was in charge of the Hover-Schwartz operation of the West Dome Lease. (See also STORY — Cat Creek)

Lillian graduated from Winnett High School in 1927. Leland in 1928.

The following is an account of the Story homestead days written by Lillian Story Hough: "Percy Albert Story, his younger brother, Jack Story, Wallace Davis, and Archibald Faragher left Minnesota in early 1914 to homestead land near Winnett. They rode the boxcars loaded with stock, wagons and machinery, lumber to build, and household possessions. All was unloaded at Grassrange and hauled to the respective homesteads: Percy Story and Arch Faragher, seven and one-half to eight miles west of Winnett; Jack, about two miles farther west; and Wallace Davis, south of Winnett about four miles on the Flatwillow road.

"Ethel Lillian Story (my mother), Leland (my brother), and I were met at the Grassrange depot by my father on May 14, 1914, the day before my fifth birthday. I can recall the excitement of that train trip, meeting my father after so long a time and the ride in the wagon to our new home: the acrid smell of sagebrush and dust, the arid scenery compared to the green of Minnesota. My father and Arch Faragher had built two large homes (large for homesteaders, that is) a half-mile apart, and though the partitions weren't in, we had more room than most homestead shacks in that area. Dad soon built a large barn, corn crib, granary, and partitioned off bedrooms. The next two years he built on a kitchen-dining room, and a large screened porch, plus a huge sheep shed and large brick silo. Our house was one story, painted light blue, with white trim, and the sheep shed was a deep red.

"The picture is of the farm at the peak of production. That year we put out shade trees — they never matured, as the drouth soon hit and no amount of water we hauled could keep them growing. We hauled water those first years from a creek 2½ to 3 miles away and kept the



The Percy Story homestead



drinking water barrel on the north side of the house. When it started getting stale with a green scum, Mother and we kids cut large cactus, chopped it up to get the slimy liquid, and put it in the water to make it clear for drinking until we could get fresh.

"Besides Faraghers as neighbors, we had Chet and Edith Strayer one-half mile south of us, moving in about 1916. They had two children; Glen (Leland's age) and a baby girl, born on the homestead, who died in infancy. Mother helped prepare the body for burial and the men nailed boards together for a casket. The baby was buried in the Winnett Cemetery. Strayers left before we did. I cannot recall Roy Strayer except as a brother of Chet, and presumably he lived with them.

"The Brittons lived two miles northwest of us and a bachelor, Charles Peterson, who we called 'Old Pete' lived about two miles north. The Runnalls family were about three to four miles north. Sibberts were about four miles west and Stroups about three miles south on Yellow Water Creek, as well as Walkers.

"The first I can remember of the Elk Creek School is the year I was seven (1916). I started to school that summer with my six-year-old brother, Leland, and Glen Strayer, the same age. We three rode a gentle, old, fat horse, at least the two boys did! I, being the oldest, was expected to take care of them, and most of the time I was off that old horse retrieving their caps, books, etc., with no way to mount again until I found a rock or fence or dirt bank high enough to get back on the broad back. Mostly, I walked!

"Our teacher that summer, and probably the following winter, was Mary Feaster, who lived on a farm about a mile or mile and a half south of Winnett on Flatwillow road. I can remember walking to school through herds of cattle on the range, sometimes dodging behind low hills or going into gullies when those cattle began pawing the earth and lowing at us kids. Also, I recall one day starting home in a bad snowstorm, the wind coming up to a blizzard. We kids got so cold we cut across the hills instead of following the trail as our dads had instructed us. Needless to say, when we arrived home safe, our parents were in tears as they couldn't find us on the road, and we got a heck of a lecture. It was then I fully realized the danger of storms in that country. Never again did I let us stray off the trail.

"Our next teacher was Reba Hauk, a young normal school graduate from Indiana who was interested in finding out about the wild and woolly west! She came to our school in 1918, boarded and roomed with us, and, I assure you, she learned about the West the hard way. That year we had huge snowdrifts to walk through, and the teacher was expected to get the fires going in the schoolroom to be warm for the children when they arrived. That young girl stuck it out through the winter but didn't apply for teaching another year — I'm sure she had enough of the West!

"That must have been the last year for that school, as my mother drove us back and forth to Winnett School in

our Ford touring car in my fifth year. I skipped the fourth grade. She drove the Britton boy, Glen Strayer, Leland, and I; and while we were in school, Mother worked at the Millsap Hotel as chambermaid.

"I can remember only a few pupils at the Elk Creek School: the younger Sibbert children — Oscar (the one who shot himself accidentally while he was out hunting), Gladys, and John; Madalyn Walker; Ernest Britton; Glen Strayer; my brother and I. I think there was a family of several children on Elk Creek that also attended, but I can't recall their name."

**STRANGE, George** George and Maude Strange had three children listed in the District #134 school census — Helen (1913), Irma (1915) and Daisy (1921).

**STRAYER, Chester** and **STRAYER, Roy** (Sec 19.20-14-26) Chester and Roy Strayer were brothers who homesteaded north of Elk Creek about six miles west of Winnett. Chester and his wife, Edith, had one son, Glen (1910). (See also STORY, Percy)

**SUNDSVOLD, Anna** (Sec 19-15-25) Anna Sundsvold cooked for the Teigen Ranch before taking up a homestead north of the ranch. She lived on her property by herself until she married Frank Luebke in the early 1930s. She sold out to the government after a few years, however, and the couple made their home in Lewistown.



*Anna Sundsvold's homestead north of Teigen*



*Anna Sundsvold before she married Frank Luebke*

**TAIT, Lyman** Lyman "Bill" and Katherine Tait took over the Teigen Store and Post Office from Mrs. Kelley in 1946. They came from the Fort Maginnis area. Bill was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Tait. There were four other children in the family — Elden, Cecil (Dieziger), Stella (France), and Fanny

Katherine was a Tognascioli. She had six sisters — Carrie (Clark), Mary (Bishop), Orsoline (Reed), Nellie (Perry) and Ann (Byfuglin). Katherine had been married to Frank Vogl and they had two children — Kenneth and Marie (Newlin). Both children were grown when the Tait's moved to Teigen.

Bill supplemented their income by working for crop insurance. He was an enthusiastic hunter, fisherman and trapper. He also guided hunting parties.

The Tait's sold the store to Lester and Pearl Huff in 1970 and moved to Grassrange. Lyman died in October 1981 after a long illness. Katherine still makes her home in Grassrange (1989).



*Threshing alfalfa seed on the Teigen Ranch*

**TEIGEN, Bard** Bard Teigen, the second son of Mons and Elsie Teigen, was born in 1905 at the Teigen Ranch. He, like his brother Peter, began school in Helena, Montana, but due to the death of the aunt with whom the boys were living, moved to Belt to continue school with other relatives. In 1914, however, a school was opened at Teigen, and Bard was able to finish his elementary education there.

Bard married Ann Clark in 1935. Ann was a daughter of Sumner and Nellie Clark who came to Grassrange in 1914 and opened a general store. They managed the business until 1958, when their son, Archer, took it over. He sold the store in 1984 to Velma and Gene Daum. It was "Clark's Store" for over 70 years, serving people from a wide area. In the earliest years, people from Roy, Teigen and Winnett traded there. The Clarks had nine children — Luther, Frances (Hart), Mabel (Ryan), Rachel (Wood), Ann (Teigen), Archer, Robert, Albert, and George. (See also CARPENTER — Cat Creek; CLARK — Winnett)



*Bard and Ann Teigen*

Ann graduated from Grass Range High School and became a teacher. She taught one term at the Teigen School.

In 1936, because of the drought, the Teigen's made arrangements to move most of their sheep to Ovando, Montana, to be herded on forest service land. Bard and Ann spent the summer in Ovando camp tending and spotting fires which were a constant menace.

Bard and Ann were the parents of three children — Bard C. (1939), Ellen (1942) and Patricia (1949). They all graduated from Grass Range High School. Bard is a mechanical engineer working for Combustion Engineering in Enfield, Connecticut. Ellen is a registered nurse living in Billings, and Patricia is a certified public accountant in Helena.

Bard took over the presidency of the Teigen Land and Livestock Co. in 1962 and served in that capacity until his death in 1976. Bard suffered from lung problems for many years, but he faithfully tended camp for the bands of sheep and moved wagons from place to place. He probably knew more about where the early homesteads were located than anyone else in the area. He had a keen interest in history.

**TEIGEN, Mons** (Sec 5,6,7-14-25) Mons Teigen was born in Voss, Norway, on July 12, 1851, and reared on a farm in his native country. His mother was an Opheim. He came to America as a young man, first to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he worked in a sawmill and then to Helena, Montana, where he worked on ranches. The story of the founding of the Teigen Ranch can be found in the introduction to this chapter.

Mons married Elsie Bordsen in 1897 in Helena. Elsie was born in Bergen, Norway. She came to the United States in 1892 and earned her first American dollar as a seamstress in Helena, Montana. After her marriage, she came to the Teigen sheep ranch, where she made the





*Mons and Elsie Teigen and their grandsons, Mons and Peter*

former bachelor's camp a home. She raised chickens, churned butter, baked bread, and cooked good food for the hungry men.

It was a pleasant change in the quiet days whenever a neighbor or traveler stopped, for many miles stretched out between ranches, and time grew long between these visits. When a rancher and his family set out to go to town, it usually meant a two-day journey, and so often they stopped overnight at some convenient ranch along the way. Mrs. Teigen was always happy to have visitors, and the aroma of coffee brewing on the big black range, or roasting meat, or bread a-baking keenly tempted the travelers.

Mons and Elsie had two sons — Peter (1900) and Bard (1905). They lived on their McDonald Creek sheep ranch all of their lives. When Mons died in 1931, the *Winnett Times* said of him, "Through his sturdy character, his integrity and his industry, Mr. Teigen became widely known as one of the most successful and influential citizens of Montana."

Elsie died in 1936.



*The new Teigen ranch house in the summer of 1908.*

*(On porch L to R) Mons Teigen, Elsie Teigen, Grandma (Mrs. D. W.) Bowen; (On steps) Bard Teigen and Peter Teigen; (In foreground L to R) Peter Erickson, Oscar Haug, Bert Orwick, Reinhardt Olsen and Martin Gavle*

**TEIGEN, Peter** Peter was the oldest son of Mons and Elsie Teigen. He was born in Helena in 1900. Because school was not available near their McDonald Creek ranch, Peter began school in Helena where he lived with his aunt, Sophia Anderson, until her death. Then he went to school in Belt, Montana, where he again lived with relatives. When he was a sophomore in high school, he went to Fergus County High School in Lewistown and lived in the school dormitory.

Peter met his future wife, Edna Poetter, when he was a senior in high school and she was a sophomore. Edna lived as a child on a ranch in the Pig Eye Basin near Utica, Montana. She was the oldest of six children — Edna (1902), Arthur (1903), Edith, George, Lois, and Frank (1910). Peter courted Edna for several years, and in 1921 they were married. They both worked in Lewistown — Peter at the Bank of Fergus County, and Edna at the Power Mercantile Company. In 1922 their first son, Mons, was born, and 14 months later Peter Jr. was born.



*Pete and Edna Teigen*

The Bank of Fergus County closed in 1923, and Peter and Edna moved to the Teigen Ranch. For a time they lived in the upstairs of the Teigen house, then in the Teigen Hotel. Edna has fond memories of those days when neighbors and strangers alike gathered to enjoy cards or dancing or just an evening of visiting. In 1928

Teigens built the home where Edna still lives (1989).

Two girls were born to the couple after they moved into their new home — Elsa Mae (1930) and Lois (1932). The boys, Mons and Peter, went to the little white Teigen School which sat on the hill north of the Teigen homes, but when Mons graduated from the eighth grade, there were no longer enough pupils to keep the school open. The boys went to school in Grassrange for a year, but then it seemed best for Edna to move to Lewistown for the school term. Mons and Peter both graduated from Fergus County High School. The two girls began school in Lewistown but finished in Winnett. Elsa Mae graduated from Winnett High School in 1948, Lois in 1950.

Mons and Peter served in World War II and completed their education after the war. Mons graduated from Montana State College in Bozeman, and Peter received a business degree from the University of Montana in Missoula. Mons married Eleanor Assen. They have three children — Lloyd, Mons Jr., and Carla. Mons has been Secretary of the Montana Grass Conservation Commission, Commissioner of State Lands, and Executive Secretary of the Montana Stockgrowers Association. He is retired, and he and Eleanor make their home in Helena, Montana.

Peter Jr.'s history is written separately.

Elsa Mae took a secretarial course in Billings and worked for a law firm before marrying Robert Lenhardt. The Lenhardts make their home in Billings. They have three children — Lorraine (1952), Janice (1955) and Allan (1959).

Lois graduated from the University of Montana in marketing. She held a responsible position for a number of years with Hewlett Packard Company in Loveland, Colorado. She married Clifton Bryan and the couple had two sons — Lonnie (1953) and Kip (1958). Lois died in 1988.

Pete and Edna were active in community affairs and had friends statewide. Pete Teigen Sr. was chosen as a farm representative on the Draft Board in 1942 and served as Petroleum County State Representative for two terms, 1944 and 1946, in Montana's House of Representatives. He died in 1962.

This tribute to Edna Teigen was written by her granddaughter, Carla Teigen, in 1989:

**Bedtime at Teigen** "My grandma always had chenille bedspreads, always did, always will. I remember fondly learning how to make beds with those textured knobby designed yards of tasseled cloth. After getting the sheets and woolen blankets smooth, I would pride myself in the symmetrical placement of the spread. These particular spreads taught order amidst the infinity of their dots. Sometimes I'd get distracted by counting, which usually ended with a zillion (but which probably came to a hundred and a promise to pick up the count tomorrow).

"The picture of the flower basket, the latticed border and the curly-cued corners are still alive in my memory. It was the corners that guided my small efforts at centering the spread. You know, the bed wasn't made unless the



corners came to the same place on each side and the basket was smack dab in the center of the bed below the pillow hump. Of course, evening up the pillows was yet another great feat of form and uniformity.

"Sometimes Grandma and I would do the beds together. This was like a walk in the mythical garden of the design, a time to share our dreams of the night before, plans for the day ahead, and wishes for the future. Other times I would do the beds alone, which naturally took more time going back and forth from side to side in an exaggerated ritual of an apprentice. Yes, I was Grandma's apprentice or 'lil grandma' as they called me.

"We took baths in the evening at Grandma's. The beds would obviously stay clean longer that way, but that didn't seem to matter, because they were changed Mondays regardless. Sheets, blankets, spreads were all line dried and aired. Ummmmmmmm, I've heard that our sense of smell is more closely linked to our memory than any other of our senses, and I believe it. When I occasionally encounter that same fresh fragrance, I'm back there again. The first moment of my clean body hitting the fresh bed made me wonder if life could get any better. Then lights out and prayers; Jesus, the Good Shepherd, or the 23rd Psalm hang above all the beds at Grandma's. The Teigens, historically sheep ranchers, seem to know Christ through the shepherd image.

"Bedtime traditions at Grandma's, the going to and getting up from, have made indelible impressions on me. I cherish my Grandma Teigen, the family, home, and memories of her creation. She is a great woman, an artist of the simplicity and fullness of life. From my Seattle home and bed, I am transformed by the liturgy of bedtime prayers and rituals that were spawned and nurtured through her love. On the occasion of her 87th birthday, I rejoice in her life. I love you, Grandma, Edna E. Teigen."

**TEIGEN, Peter Jr.** Peter Teigen Jr. graduated from Fergus County High School in 1941. He returned to the family ranch and herded sheep until the following year when he joined the Navy. After radio man's school at Texas A and M, he went aboard the DD 571 *Claxton* in January 1942. He stayed on the ship until mustered out in 1945.

Peter returned to the ranch and worked until September 1946 when he enrolled in school at the University of Montana. He went two years, then stayed one year on the ranch, returning to school in the fall of 1948 and graduating at the end of winter quarter in 1951. Because his father was not well, Peter decided to stay on the ranch to help out.

Peter and Gladys Stahler, daughter of Florence and Ferman Housel, were married in June 1954. They lived on the home ranch until they purchased the Leonard Eld place in 1959. They moved to their own place in the fall and have resided there since. Peter commutes to the main ranch almost every day.

Peter Sr. died in the spring of 1962. He had been president of the Teigen Land and Livestock Company since the

death of his own father in 1931. After Peter Sr. died, his brother, Bard, served as president of the company for 14 years, and Peter Jr. took over as vice-president and manager. When Bard died in 1976, Pete Jr. became president and young Bard became vice-president. Peter Jr. has continued to manage the ranch.

Peter and Gladys are some of Petroleum County's most loyal supporters. They both have served as officers of boards and fraternal organizations too numerous to mention. They often use the excuse of a Teigen birthday or anniversary to entertain their many friends with fine food and dancing.

**TEMPLEMAN, Elmer** Elmer Templeman spent only a couple of years in Montana. He and his wife, Blanche, came from Webb, Iowa, with their two small children, Imogene and Josephine.

Blanche died during the flu epidemic and Elmer returned to Iowa in the early 1920s, where he remarried and had three more children — Alice, Joyce and James.

Because Elmer had great faith that oil would be discovered on his Montana property, he faithfully paid the taxes and rented out the land for grazing. His heirs still own the land.

**THOMAS, Marvin** Marvin Thomas was a son of Ollie Thomas, who homesteaded in the Blakeslee area. Marvin went to Teigen in the spring of 1927 to run the elevator. Shortly thereafter he married Marguerite Meier from south of Grassrange. The elevator closed in about a year, and he and Marguerite moved to his father's farm for a time. After a few years they moved to Iowa, however. Marvin died in Iowa and Marguerite returned to Grassrange and married Joe Maddox. They farmed southwest of Grassrange for a number of years and retired to Lewistown.

Marvin and his brother, Orval, both graduated from Winnett High School — Marvin in 1923, Orval in 1922. (See THOMAS — Blakeslee)

**TRANKLE, Julius** In March 1929, the Winnett Times reported Mr. and Mrs. Julius Trankle and son arrived from Heilborn, Germany. The article stated, "Mr. Trankle is a relative of Mrs. R. P. Beck and expects to take over the Beck Ranch two miles south of Winnett. He is a trained agriculturist from Germany, a fact that stepped him up to the head of the quota list of emigrants and allowed him earlier entrance to the United States . . . He is twenty-eight years of age and feels that life holds many good things for him in the United States. He contends that conditions in Germany are very unsatisfactory."

In 1930 two of Julius' sisters also immigrated to the United States. Klara and Emma Trankle crossed the ocean on the S. S. *Bremen* in six days. They came from New York to Winnett in four more days. It was considered record time for such a trip.

Julius and his family farmed in Whitehall from 1930 to 1933 and then lived in Billings for ten years. He worked in defense work in Utah from 1943 to 1947. During this time, he was married to Etta Kabrich. At the time of



their marriage, Julius had two sons, Fred and Hans, and Etta had one son, Delmar Kabrich.

Fred was killed in France in 1945. He graduated from Billings High School in 1941 and held the state track record for the 880 and the mile run. He went to the University of Montana, where he continued to train. He was considered one of the best runners in the United States when he went to the Army in 1943. He received both the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

In 1947 Julius and Etta moved to the Beck farm, where the couple lived until Julius died while repairing an irrigation ditch in 1962.

His obituary states, "From a seemingly profitless farm, Mr. and Mrs. Trankle developed a fine farm, producing alfalfa and small grains. Utilizing run-off water entirely, Mr. Trankle had irrigation water reserves which have produced a succession of fine crops. The farmstead itself was developed into a garden spot with a fine windbreak and garden. During his spare time, Mr. Trankle served the community as a carpenter and builder."

Etta continued to live on the farm property until shortly before her death in 1982.

**TURNER, Earl** (Sec 20-14-25), **TURNER, Leo** (Sec 17-14-25) and **TURNER, Pearl** (Sec 20-14-25) The Turners — Earl, Leo and Pearl — owned two sections of land south of Elk Creek near the Fergus-Petroleum county line. Earl and his wife, Bertha, had three children listed on the District #134 school census in 1916 — Lorrell (1898), Mary (1912) and Elizabeth (1913). The family moved to Lewistown in December 1920, and Earl went to work for the county.

Pearl Turner moved to Longmont, Colorado, in January 1921. The property of all three men reverted to the government.

**VINGE, Ole** Ole Vinge came from Norway about 1910. He worked on the Teigen Ranch before taking up land of his own. He married Rosa Luebke, daughter of Edward and Wilhelmina Luebke, in 1919. Rosa homesteaded near her parents northwest of Teigen in 1913.



*Ole Vinge and his bride, Rosa Luebke, ready to leave on their honeymoon in 1919*

The Vinges had two children — Marian (1920) and Orville (1926). The family moved to Lewistown in 1936. Ole died in 1957. Marion lives in Lewistown. She is active in community projects such as Council on Aging and Community Cupboard. Orville lives in Denver, Colorado.

**VINGER, Ole** Ole Vinger was born in Oslo, Norway, in 1853. He came to Montana in 1885 and worked for Teigen and Opheim for five years. Saving his money, he bought a ranch south of Grassrange which was later owned by Blaine Woodard. An early account book of Teigen and Opheim shows the following items charged to Ole: 1 saddle mare, \$50; pr. overalls \$.75; shoes, \$2.50; suit fancy clothing \$18.00; tobacco, \$.50; woolen drawers, \$2.50; fancy shoes, \$4; and 1 gal. whiskey, \$6.

Ole was married and had three children — Jennie, Richard and Martha. Richard married Neva Washburn of Grassrange. After Ole's first wife died, he married Julia Stay. She had two children — Even Stay and Helen (Dahl). Ole died in 1935, and Julia continued to live in the area for many years.

**WALKER, Ross** (Sec 15-14-25) Ross Walker homesteaded on Elk Creek between the Sibbert and the Foreman ranches. The *Grass Range Review* reported the birth of a baby to Ross and his wife, Carolyn, in May 1920. Dr. Freed of Grassrange was in attendance. The Walkers had two girls — Rita (1912) and Jessie (1920).

The Walkers moved to Grassrange, where Ross operated the Pioneer Garage. The business had a large sign which boasted "fireproof garage." Ironically the garage burned in 1930.

**WARD, Thomas** (Sec 18-14-25) Thomas Ward's land was on Elk Creek very near the Fergus County line. He and his wife, Cina, had seven children — Mary (1904), Helen (1906), John (1907), Kathryn (1910), Delia (1912), Alice (1914), and Don (1917). The school-age children attended the Kinnick School.

Gurn Kelly leased the land in 1932 and the family moved to Grassrange. Several of the girls ran a restaurant in Grassrange.

**WILSON, George** (Sec 4-14-25) George Wilson homesteaded on the bench between McDonald Creek



*George Wilson and his brother John in 1911*



and Elk Creek. He was a popular musician, playing his violin and harp at local dances in the community. He lost his harp in the fire which burned the Teigen Community Hall.

In the years following World War II, he herded sheep for the Teigen Ranch. It is said he was married and his wife would send him loving, flattering letters and ask for money while she was having a good time in town.

**WINNETT, Richard F.** (Sec 10-14-26) Land records indicate Richard Winnett owned land southwest of Winnett.

**WIPFLI, Louis** Louis and Anna Wipfli reported three children on the District #134 school census in 1915 — Angeline (1909), Antoinette (1911) and Elizabeth (1914).

**WOOD, Ben and Bertha** (Sec 27,28,34-14-26) According to land records, Bertha Wood homesteaded 160 acres of land in Section 34, and Ben owned land in Sections 27 and 28. They jointly filed for water rights on Elk Creek in 1901. In 1905 Ben and Bertha deeded their 480 acres to B. F. Lepper.

Bertha Wood signed the creation papers when School District #26 was formed in 1899. She became one of the first trustees of the district. The school census indicated Mr. and Mrs. Wood had one son, James, born in 1891. (See also WOOD — Winnett)

**WOODS, John W.** (Sec 10,11-14-26) John Woods was born in Illinois in 1866. He came to Montana in 1895 and homesteaded several miles southwest of Winnett. The Polk Directory in 1904-05 lists John Woods as a woolgrower and 'W. J.' Woods as a taxpayer, paying taxes on sheep and 1440 acres of land with a total taxable value of \$7144. It is believed "W. J." and John W. are the same person.

John also worked for W. J. Winnett. He married Pearl McAllister while she was working for the Winnetts.

Pearl (1887) was a daughter of Charles and Florence McAllister. (See also McALLISTER — Winnett) Pearl worked as cook and hired girl for Mrs. Winnett. After she married John Woods and was expecting her first child, she asked her sister Una to come take her place in the Winnett's household. (See also HANSEN — Petrolia)

As the time approached for the baby to be born, Pearl wanted to go to Lewistown to be with her mother when the baby was born. Ernest Hansen, who had married Una, agreed to take her to Lewistown. According to an article written about Ernest in the 1978 Christmas edition of the *Lewistown News-Argus*, "They left Winnett with a team and spring wagon. It had been raining and snowing and the roads were awful. It took three days to make the trip and it was cold! They used buffalo robes and heated rock slabs (slate foot warmers) heated very hot, wrapped in sacks, to keep their feet warm. When they became extremely cold, they got off the wagon and walked. The first night was spent at the Sullenger (or Roy Ayers) Ranch, and the second night at a place just east of the divide. Ernest recalled, 'When we got to Lewistown, the streets

were nothing but mud and water a half foot deep. It was a very tough trip on Pearl, but she made it alright.' "

This was the first child of ten which Pearl was to bear before she died following complications of childbirth when she was 38 years old. The children were — Myrtle (1909), Hazel (1910), Edna (1912), Leonard (1914), Evelyn (1915), Howard (1918), Henry (1919), Roy (1922), Jean (1923) and a baby boy Teddy "Buster" born shortly before Pearl's death in 1925. In 1921 Hazel, who was only 11, died suddenly at the Woods home. Reverend Taylor of the Methodist Church conducted private services for the little girl.

After Pearl's death, Pearl's sister Essie, who was married to Kristian Egeland (See EGELAND — Dovetail), helped care for some of the children. In 1926 Karl Egeland (Kris' younger brother) married the oldest Woods girl, Myrtle.

Myrtle Egeland's records indicate the three youngest children were put up for adoption. Years later Evelyn made contact with them in California where they had been raised.

John Woods, in partnership with Roy Hopkins, had an apiary just east of the town of Winnett. (W. T. 9-14-23) "John W. Woods . . . reports that from his bee industry, he will have 2000 pounds of honey to market this fall. When asked by the Times man where he intended to market this, he asserted that he always is able to sell the entire output of his bees locally, which possibly helps account for the sweet disposition of our good people during the winter months."

John Woods died in 1945. He had been a resident of Petroleum County for more than fifty years. He lived with his daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Egeland of Lewistown, for several months before his death.

**YORK, Dave** (Sec 17-15-25) Dave and Ida York homesteaded northeast of Teigen. He was a railroad man working on the train running from Lewistown to Grassrange. His wife would take him back and forth to work by buggy. Ida and Elsie Teigen became great friends. Many times Ida would stop for coffee on her trip back from Grassrange. Their friendship lasted long after the Yorks moved to Lewistown.



*Mons Teigen visits with Dave and Ida York at their Lewistown home*