

"I have ice-skated on McDonald Creek and have spent hours washing the black soot off of my face and clothes from the burning tire bonfires at the creek and the 'tanks' hill.

"Scary things' included the big flywheels at the old Winnett Light Plant and the fires. It was confusing for a young boy to understand how such an interesting store as the Eager Mercantile could just disappear, because it was from there that all the good things in life came — hard candy and bananas." (For the other Merten children, see HARRIS and MYERS — Winnett; KNUTSON — Petrolia)

MESERVE, William Bill, son of Cosby and Dot Meserve, was born in 1935 in Lewistown, Montana, and received his schooling in Winnett. He graduated in 1954 and joined the Air Force, serving from 1956-1960. He spent two and one-half of those years in Japan.

During his high school years, Bill rode bucking horses (both barebacks and saddlebroncs) in rodeos around Central Montana. During his senior year, he won the Montana State High School Bareback Championship, an event which qualified him for the National High School Rodeo in Hallettsville, Texas. After his stint in the service, Bill continued rodeoing as a pastime.

Bill returned to Montana after his discharge from the Air Force and worked in the oil fields around the state. In 1962 he was in Wolf Point, Montana, where on October 31, he married Mary Himes. They moved to Glendive, Montana, to begin a trucking business. Mary had three children by a previous marriage, and Bill and Mary had two children — Kari (1963) and Coty (1966).

In 1970 Mary Himes and Bill were divorced, and shortly thereafter Bill moved to Utah and continued to truck for eight years. It was during this time that Bill met Mary Webb O'Driscoll. In 1978, after returning to live in Montana, Mary and Bill were married and settled in Winnett. Bill's children — Kari and Coty — and Mary's daughter, Paulette (1974), lived with them. On September 2, 1980, another daughter, Dottie Rae, was born. Kari now (1989) lives in Cat Creek with her husband, Jeff Altenburg, and their three children. Coty graduated from Winnett High School and is now working in Renton, Washington.

The Meserves still live in Winnett where they are involved in school activities — ones in which their daughters are involved — and also in the capacity of bus drivers for the majority of school events (1989). They are supportive of the students; they say it seems like every year when the graduating class departs, it's as if their own children are leaving. The highlight of Bill's life was when the graduating class of 1984 asked Bill to be guest speaker for the commencement ceremonies. In addition to driving a regular school bus route and the activity bus, Bill also works for the Petrolia Water Users' Association as ditch rider. (See also MESERVE — Musselshell River)

MESSIER, Mary Mary Messier acted as Milwaukee Road agent from the time A. G. Pitman left until February of 1948.

METZEL, Herschel (By Viola Welter) Herschel was not born as Metzel. Something happened to his parents, and the Metzels who lived at Forestgrove, Montana, adopted him. The Robert Sinclair family of Winnett often visited with the Metzel family, and so it was that Wanda Sinclair and Herschel became friends. Herschel played mouth harp and accordion for dances. He was a good dancer himself.

Wanda attended Winnett High School, but did not graduate. She married Herschel and they moved to Red Lodge, Montana, where Herschel worked on ranches. A boy, William Edmond, was born there in 1937. Shortly thereafter, Metzels returned to Cat Creek, where they worked for a time at Dunlap's Refinery. Wanda had invited her parents to have Thanksgiving dinner with them one year, but before Sinclairs left town, word came that the Metzel house had been burned down, and the family lost everything.

The Metzels moved to Winnett and lived in a separate apartment of the Sinclair home. When a great number from this community moved to Fairfield, the Metzels moved there also. While there, in about 1940, a daughter, Lois, was born to the family. Herschel and Wanda were later divorced. Herschel was given custody of the children and, not knowing anything better to do, he eventually brought the children home to Grandmother Della Sinclair. There was always room for more in her heart and home. Herschel worked at many different jobs to support his children and himself.

Herschel has been mentioned by many as a most considerate and helpful person — first to be at hand if help was needed. While playing a game in the bar one evening, a call came in that help was needed — there had been a wreck outside of town. True to form — Herschel was the first one there. Approaching the scene, he took one look and exclaimed "Oh, my God, it's my son!" William "Bill" Metzel, then 13 years old and in junior high at Winnett, was killed in the car wreck on that July evening of 1951.

Lois graduated from Winnett High School with the class of 1958. She married Bill Service and has three boys and a girl, all married. They all live in Great Falls, Montana. Herschel died in the mid-1980s.

MEYER, Rev. Paul E. Rev. Meyer conducted Lutheran services in Winnett for several years. He resided in Lewistown, Montana. (See also LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORY)

MICHAELSON, Mildred Mildred Michaelson of Hogeland, Montana, came to Winnett to teach mathematics in Winnett High School. She replaced Grace Van Duser, who had resigned in the spring of 1936. In May of 1941 Mildred married John Feaster Jr. in Billings, Montana (See FEASTER — Petrolia).

MIKSCH, J. E. Mr. Miksch acted as agent of the Milwaukee depot upon the departure of Mordecai J. Boyd.

MILLAR, Phelps Phelps, youngest son of the

Reverend and Mrs. W. H. Millar, was born in Cortland, Ohio, January 15, 1876. As a young man he enlisted in the 31st Michigan infantry and served in the Spanish-American War until honorably discharged.

He married Nelle Whitlow in 1904 and soon thereafter moved to Park City, Montana, and then to the Winnett country where he settled on a farm in Sec. 33-15-27, about 1½ miles east of Winnett. The Millars' social and civic community was Winnett, where Phelps was an active Mason and Nelle was a charter member of the Order of Eastern Star. Phelps was a talented member of the Winnett baseball team.

A brother, Clarence, also acquired land in the section adjoining Phelps' land. The Phelps Millars moved back to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1922. When Phelps died in June of 1925, brother Clarence was living in Cortland, Ohio.

A water well on the Millar place was a source of water for the town of Winnett in 1921.

MILLARD, Frank L. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Millard, Rosalie and Richard came to Winnett in the fall of 1954. Mr. Millard was the school superintendent, and Mrs. Millard a third and fourth grade teacher.

The Millards were here only one year. Mr. Millard resigned and taught at West Yellowstone the next year. Mrs. Millard taught third grade in the Billings, Montana, school system. The family lived in Billings. Mrs. Millard (Annabelle) died in Billings in December of 1965.

MILLER, James The great Northern Refinery, which shipped its first carload of gasoline out of the city in October of 1921, employed Mr. Miller as secretary-treasurer.

MILLER, N. O. The Farmers and Merchants Bank of Winnett became defunct in 1930. Before coming to Winnett in 1931, Mr. Miller had been engaged in the banking business in Roy, Montana. He served as the liquidating agent for the closed Winnett bank. (See also MILLER — Flatwillow)

MILLER, Royal J. "Roy" Miller, with the assistance of sons Cecil and Chris, had charge of the water system in Winnett from 1930 until 1934. In November of 1930, Roy was forced to reinstitute a water route of house to house delivery to supplement the city water system. The Burt Sisters Telephone Exchange built a telephone line to connect with the Fred Merten home on the hill. In that way, if there was a sudden drain on the supply of water in the reservoir, the Mertens could quickly start the pumps on the wells which were situated on the top of the rim. If the Mertens found trouble with the pumps, they could call the maintenance men.

Roy and his sons were efficient water people. After the big fire in September of 1931, Roy was given much credit for having ample water to save the bakery building and Cole's Service Station, when three other structures on Main Street were demolished. It seems that some of the old iron water lines were beginning to disintegrate in the 1930s, and Cecil remarked once that if he wasn't digging

out old lines and replacing them, he was running to the hill to repair the pumps.

Mildred, daughter of Royal and Daisy Miller, reminisced: "I suppose my worst memory of Winnett was watching our house burn. We were in school, and the teacher let us out — we weren't doing anything but looking out the windows, anyway." The Miller family left Winnett in about 1934. (See also MILLER, Arthur — Kelley; MILLER, Cecil — Petrolia)

MILLS, V. E. In July of 1938, Mr. Mills came from Yakima, Washington, where he had operated a shoeshop for 12 years. He took over A. A. Kragrud's "Winnett Shoe and Harness Shop" after Mr. Kragrud's death. A later news item stated that Mr. Mills was also good at sheep shearing.

(W.T. 6-7-1940) "V. E. Mills and his crew of 10 sheep shearers arrived in Winnett this week and started work at the O. M. Green Ranch for Joe King. The crew has 40,000 sheep to shear for various ranches."

MILLSAP, Frank Frank Millsap married Ella V. Moshner in 1903. Ella was born January 30, 1883, in Virginia City, Montana, and moved to Lewistown, Montana, with her parents as a small child. She graduated from Fergus County High School in Lewistown in 1901, a member of the first class to graduate from that school. She attended the University of Minnesota and then taught school.

Frank and Ella V. spent many years in the Flatwillow country (See also MILLSAP — Flatwillow). Ella V. and two daughters moved into Winnett in about 1917, and Leone entered Winnett High School. Ella V. Millsap was chosen as cook of the dormitory. The Winnett Building, as it was known at that time, had originally been built by W. J. Winnett for an opera house. In 1918 the local board of school trustees rented the Winnett Building for use as a dormitory. As a dormitory, the second floor was reserved for girls, the third floor for boys, and the first-floor rooms and lobby were used for teacher lodging and dining facilities. In 1920 the same building became the "Montana Hotel." Frank and Ella V. were the proprietors.

The formation of Petroleum County was approved by the electorate in November of 1924. Ella V., Art Dunn, Elden Freed and Robert Hogg all ran for the office of clerk and recorder of the proposed new county. Ella V. won the election by a one-vote margin — 275 to 274 — over Art Dunn. Freed received 254 votes and Robert Hogg, 266. Ella V. held office until the election of 1930, when she was defeated by Hammond Greene by two votes — 468 to 466.

The election of 1932 brought political change in governmental administration. A Democrat, Franklin Roosevelt, became president, and Democrat James F. O'Conner was elected state Senator. Ella V., a staunch Democrat, was appointed acting Winnett postmaster on January 22, 1934. She became postmaster June 18, 1934.

Frank passed away in 1935. Along with the administra-

tion of the Winnett Post Office. Ella V. was also sole proprietor of the Montana Hotel. She served as Winnett postmaster until her marriage to Forbes Leslie in November of 1945 (See also LESLIE — Blakeslee). She sold the Montana Hotel to the Winnett School District in 1945 for use as a dormitory. (The school district was forced to demolish the building in 1960.)

Forbes and Ella retired and moved to a ranch about two miles east of Lewistown. Forbes died in 1951. Ella V. suffered a severe stroke and died in March of 1974.

Frank and Ella were parents of two daughters: Leone, who graduated from Winnett High School in 1923 and who presented Ella with one granddaughter, Pamela Sue Britt; and Fern, who graduated from Winnett High School in 1924, and presented Ella with two granddaughters, Jane and Jeri Whitten, and one grandson, Jack Whitten. Ella's record of public service tells the story of the capabilities of a determined, hard-working lady.

MINATO, Frank (W.T. 5-6-21) "Hotel building for lease — 23 room, brick and tile building, lighted and heated rooms. Inquire at First National Bank, or Frank Minato, Winnett, Montana."

MING, Bill Bill was born at Liberty, Ohio, October 28, 1863, and came to Montana in 1900. His early days were spent at Maiden and Giltedge, Montana. There does not seem to be any record of when Bill moved into Winnett. He had owned land in Sec. 14-16-26.

It is known that his residence was in Winnett in the early 1930s. A *Winnett Times* news item of 3-17-1933 stated that Bill left his house shortly before noon, and had extinguished his breakfast fire; however, fire broke out while he was uptown shortly before noon, and destroyed his house and all of his belongings.

In May of 1944, Bill became ill and was taken to the hospital in Lewistown, Montana. Bill just wasn't going to be corralled that easily. He was particularly upset when nurses tried to give him a bath, so he ran away from the hospital in his nightgown the first night there. However, he was caught and brought back to the fold. He was very ill and died there May 11, 1944.

MODDE, David David Modde was an employee of Earth Builders, Inc. That company, while working on the State Highway near Winnett in 1979, also paved the streets of Winnett. Two of the Modde children attended school in Winnett — Cherrie Lee, sixth grade; and Tina Marie, fifth grade.

MOE, Oscar Oscar Moe, a member of a seismic crew, came to Winnett from North Dakota in 1952. The crew was stationed across the road and west of Block 14, Rimrock Addition to the town of Winnett.

Moe left Winnett for a time but returned in 1954 and worked on various ranches. In 1958 he began working for Petroleum County on road maintenance. He continued this work until 1973, when he was forced to retire because of heart problems. Moe lives in his trailer home at 105 South Moulton Avenue (1989).

MOLL, Ray Mr. Moll was proprietor of a billiard parlor — Temple Billiard Hall — in what was later known as the I.O.O.F. hall. In 1916 the second story of his building was used as a classroom for 7th and 8th graders and the first Winnett High School students. His ad in 1916 stated: "First Class Pool and Billiard Tables."

Ray later established a shoe repair shop in Kragrud's furniture store. The Moll building became the site of many businesses, among them being Scotty Spear's restaurant, Buhler Cafe, Bauer Cafe, Williams Restaurant, Winnett Meat Co., Scheurman Store, Winnett Drug, Winnett Pharmacy, Winnett Drug and Gift Shop, and Sugar Shack.

It is not known when Ray, Beatrice and family left Winnett, nor what their destination was. A paragraph in the *Winnett Times* of July 3, 1925, stated: "Word has been received here by friends of Ray Moll to the effect that he has left the hospital after several weeks treatment for crippled hands. Mr. Moll's hands were seriously injured when they were caught in an electric bread mauler in a bakery where he was employed. One of his hands was permanently crippled." (See also MOLL — Teigen)

MOLLERSTUEN, George Mr. and Mrs. Mollerstuen of Billings, Montana, came to Winnett March 25, 1947, to operate the Mint Barbershop. They had a son, Larry.

MONCRIEFF, C. B. Engineer C. B. Moncrieff directed the construction work of the Independent Pipe Line. He left in July of 1921 after completion of the project.

MONTGOMERY, Clarence J. "Monty" Montgomery came with the tide of new people who arrived at the time of Winnett's second little oil boom in April of 1946. He could see the need for a laundry and dry-cleaning establishment. He put up a building 16' x 32' in the southeast corner of Block 18. The business opened July 20, 1946.

One year later, in June of 1947, Mrs. Montgomery opened a ready-to-wear shop for ladies, children, and babies in a building facing Main Street and in Block 17. It was named the E and M. However, the burst of boom began to fade, and this business was closed August 20, 1947. Remaining merchandise was available at the Axel Livingston home.

Monty also was named deputy state stock inspector in Winnett, but his health began to fail. In October of 1948 he was taken to Seattle for treatment of heart disease and asthma. He died there October 24, 1948.

MONTGOMERY, O. L. Mr. and Mrs. O. L. "Red" Montgomery came to Winnett in 1946. Red was employed by a pipeline company on the Mosby dome of the Cat Creek field. An ardent sportsman, Red was president of the local sharpshooters rifle and pistol club. In November of 1949, Montgomeries left Winnett and went to Texas, later moving to Laurel, Montana, in June 1950. Red serviced wells on the Maser Dome of that area.

The Montgomeries always felt tugs of heart for this area and returned frequently to fish in Yellow Water Dam. While fishing in the Yellowstone River on January 18,

1971. Red fell through the ice and drowned. His body was found March 27, 1971.

MOORE, Arthur Art Moore, son of Lottie and Chester Moore, was born January 10, 1927. He married Lillian Whisonant June 22, 1946, in Jordan, Montana. Lillian, daughter of Borghild and Dudley Whisonant, was born November 14, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois. She came to Montana with her parents at age two and lived near Dovetail. She attended Dovetail School until grade six. Then the family moved to the Petrolia area, and Lillian attended Box Elder or Solf School through the seventh grade, after which she went to Winnett schools.

Art worked as a mechanic in Dunlap's Garage and the Britzius Garage. He also worked on construction and did a lot of shop work for himself and others.

In 1952 Moores bought their Flatwillow Creek farm from Clinton Hassett. Five children were raised there — Linda, Lorraine, Judy, LeRoy, and Steve. The children attended the Box Elder School. When the schools in the county were consolidated, LeRoy and Steve finished the seventh and eighth grades in Winnett. The Moores raised cattle, sheep, and hogs on their ranch.

In 1980 Art bought the former Joe Shumate building. It was remodeled and repaired and was named the Winnett Bar. Some meals are also served there. Lillian is an excellent cook, as was her mother, Borghild Whisonant. Lillian ran the Stockman Cafe from 1974 to 1979. She has also cooked for the Winnett senior citizens since 1975. She sells Avon products. She is a member of Rimrock Chapter #82, Order of the Eastern Star of Winnett and a Rebekah of the Roundup Lodge. (See also WHISONANT — Cat Creek)



Borghild and Dudley Whisonant with daughter Lillian

MOORE, Chester Chester Moore replaced Herb Thiel in the Enterprise Meat Market when Herb moved to Oilmont, Montana, in 1928.

MOORE, Otto The history of the Otto Moore family is best told the way Mrs. Otto "Nannie" Moore herself related it at the time of the Moore's 50th wedding anniversary:

"We were married at the home of my parents near Frankfort, South Dakota, December 6, 1911, by Rev. Boslaugh of the Methodist Church. We made our first home at Moore, Montana, in 1912. We homesteaded in the Kelley country about 18 miles southeast of Winnett in 1913. Otto was inducted into the U. S. Army in 1917, did overseas service in 1918-19 in World War I, returned in 1919 and located in Winnett. After 24 years in Winnett, we came to Washington in 1943, our present home.

"Three sons were born to us — Wesley in 1918 and twin sons in 1921. Ralph died in infancy; Roscoe gave the supreme sacrifice March 18, 1945, in Germany, and is laid to rest in Custer National Cemetery in Montana. Wesley served his country in Japan. He passed away November 15, 1961, and was laid to rest at Custer National Cemetery on November 20, 1961.

"Wesley married Adeline Rozeluh, May 15, 1943, and they have three children — James, Linda, and Timothy — our only grandchildren. Both our sons attended the School of Mines at Butte, Montana. Wesley graduated in 1940. Roscoe was in his junior year when he was called into service. Wesley was branch manager for Ingersol Rand Co. of New York City at the time of his death. The family resides in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"The years found us in various occupations — carpentry, farming, lumber and hardware assistant, construction, homesteading, Army service, sheriff of Petroleum



Nannie and Otto Moore

Wesley Moore in Winnett High School



Roscoe "Buddy" in England just before he was killed

County, Montana; Correctional Officer, Federal Prison, McNeill Island, Washington. We have been active in civic, school, church, veteran, and fraternal organizations wherever our paths led until retirement in 1952.

"We now have passed our three-score years and ten and are enjoying the fruits of our labor through the years — security, health, and most of all, friends in abundance."

The Moores were truly community people, and Otto was untiring in his efforts to help the youth of the community. As Lura Anne Gaines stated: "At athletic functions, no one out-rooted our long-time sheriff, Otto Moore."

And Bill Griebel Jr, with his picturesque writing, described some of Otto's work with youth: "We had a boys' baseball team and played games on Sunday with Valentine and Cat Creek. Mr. Otto Moore was our coach and did a really good job. Mr. Moore was blessed with a low center of gravity; that is, he had a very ample midsection. We boys were afraid of the ball when we were up to bat, so Mr. Moore was demonstrating how to stand up to the plate.

"Now Ray Nelson "Nellie" was an exceptional athlete for his age and could throw a curve ball. Mr. Moore had "Nellie" on the mound and called for a curve ball. Nellie wound up and threw; Mr. Moore stood his ground, and we watched the ball bury itself in his ample midsection. We could never find out if Nellie did that on purpose or not, but there was no more batting instruction."

The Moores first lived in a little yellow house which Otto built. It was located at 8 West Jenkins Street. This house was purchased by Clinton Hassett and moved to Clinton's Ranch in about 1939. Moores had purchased the Ed Hegna home, which was located in Block 14 facing South Moulton Avenue.

Otto was Petroleum County Sheriff from 1933 through 1939 and sheriff, county coroner, and public administrator from 1936 through 1940. The Moores left here in 1943. Otto died in April of 1966, and Nannie in April of 1977. The entire Otto Moore family are at rest in the Custer Battlefield National Cemetery.

MOORE, Ray Mr. and Mrs. Ray Moore were managers of the Mint Bar and Lounge in July of 1947.

MORELAND, John The Morelands lived in Winnett from 1914 to 1924. Mr. Moreland freighted the first oil rigs into the Cat Creek field.

MORELAND, Willis P. Willis was awarded the contract to haul mail between Grassrange and Winnett in July of 1916. (See also MORELAND — Cat Creek)

MORGAN, Ed While Morgans lived in Winnett, Mrs. Morgan worked for several months in the Aristo Theater. They left for the East in May of 1921.

MORGAN, Joseph B. In 1929, after several years of living in Winnett during the school week and returning to the ranch about 10 miles southwest of Winnett on weekends, Mrs. Morgan and Dorothy, now accompanied by Mr. Morgan, moved into Winnett permanently (See also MORGAN — Teigen). Dorothy had commenced high school. The Morgan home was at 305 South Teigen Avenue. Mr. Morgan served several years on the School District #159 Board during the 1920s. He did not enjoy retirement for long, as he died in November of 1931.

Mrs. Morgan continued to live in Winnett, renting part of her house as an apartment. She acted as a mother or grandmother to several people and spent a lot of time visiting her children. She died in September of 1942.

Dorothy, who graduated from Winnett High School in 1931, reminisced: "Whitten was my favorite teacher — probably because I got better grades in commercial classes than I did in any others!"



Dorothy, Nancy and Joseph Morgan about 1930

MORGAN, Russell Russell, wife Dorothy, and family lived at 305 South Broadway when they were operating the Aristo Theater in the 1930s. They made their own delicious ice cream, which was sold in the confectionery part of the theater. (See also MORGAN — Teigen)

MORNINGSTAR, Alvie (W.T. Sept. 1915) "The work has already begun on the new tailor shop to be erected by A. S. Morningstar east of the Jarrett Hotel. The basement is excavated and lumber is on the ground for the carpenters. In this, Winnett is to have a brand new tailoring establishment." Alvie homesteaded Sec. 34-15-27.

MORSE, Florence Florence Morse was employed at Pat's Cafe. She and her husband had been divorced, but when King H. Morse Jr. was discharged from military service, he returned to Winnett, and he and Florence were remarried on September 1, 1946, by Justice of the Peace O. K. Hough. They left to make their home in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

MORTIMER, W. O. (W.T. 6-24-21) "The partnership of L. I. Brimm and W. O. Mortimer, doing business under the name of Oil Field Sales Agency, has been dissolved on the 15th day of June 1921, by mutual agreement, and the public are hereby notified that the undersigned will not be liable for any contract entered into by anyone under the name of Oil Field Sales Agency. W. O. Mortimer."

MORTON, John John Morton of Chicago was transferred to Winnett as general manager of the Independent Pipe Line. (W.T. 7-1-1921) "Mr. Morton comes to Winnett with years of practical experience to guide him in his new executive capacity, and it is a safe prediction that the enterprise will progress under his direction."

MORTON, R. Pat R. Pat Morton purchased the Aristo Theater in April of 1934. He sound-proofed the walls and ceiling and installed two of the latest sound machines. He also purchased buildings in Grassrange, Montana, Jordan, Montana, and Judith Gap, Montana, and remodeled them for theatrical purposes. He showed movies at each location on different nights.

In March of 1935, Pat was also appointed as the authorized Terraplane, Hudson, and Diamond T truck dealer for this district. The first interior popcorn machine in Winnett was installed by Pat in the Aristo Theater in November of 1935.

In February 1936 one of the plagues of Winnett hit, and an internal fire in the Aristo burned all the sound padding from the walls and ceilings. Also part of the floor and some of the seats were damaged. Pat quickly acquired workmen to repair the damage so the movie "Grand Exit" could be shown as scheduled the following week.

The building was closed for about six months in late 1937 but was reopened the first of January in 1938. Shows were resumed on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Roller skating was held in the building every other week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. A. Neirstheimer was the skate manager. He had a new music

maker and new skates.

In April of 1938 the Aristo was closed, and Pat left for Fairfield, Montana, where he was a salesman for Plymouth and Dodge cars. The family did not move until later. A son was born in April of 1938. Pat's wife, Olive, was named Petroleum County census renumerator in January of 1940. Olive and the four children moved to Fairfield June 1, 1940.

MOTARI, J. T. (See BLANCHARD, H. E.)

MOUTREY, Jim Jim Moutrey was the manager of the Mint Bar and Lounge during the second "baby" oil boom of early 1946.

MUDD, John Otis J. Otis Mudd was born September 25, 1891, in Butte, Montana, and was reared in the Big Hole Basin of southwestern Montana. J. Otis and Vera Guilbault were married October 7, 1912. Two children were born to this union — John (1913) and Vera (1914). Mrs. Vera Mudd died when daughter Vera was born. After Vera's death, J. Otis married Vera's sister Ellen. Ellen and J. Otis had five children — Mary (1917), Joseph (1921), Catherine Alexina (1928), Rose Ellen (1930) and Doris Ann (1933).

In 1920 Mr. and Mrs. Mudd, John, Vera and Mary arrived in Winnett. Mr. Mudd and F. A. Boeckman became partners in the Enterprise Meat Market which they purchased from Rudy Beck, and which was located three doors east of the first Aristo. The family's home was at 240 Southwest Avenue (in 1989 the Brendan Murphy home).

(W.T. 4-17-25) "George P. Mudd, father of J. Otis Mudd, arrived here last week to visit a few days with the Mudd family. Mrs. Mudd, who was visiting at Grassrange, Montana, with the Emory Mudd family, arrived Monday, and the elderly folks are enjoying a visit with their children and grandchildren.



J. Otis Mudd

"George P. Mudd trekked cattle through this section of the country thirty-seven years ago (1888) when the range was wide and white folks were scarce. His home ranch is in the Big Hole country."

The Otis Mudd family lived in Winnett for nine years and were valuable assets in business and social circles. Besides running a meat market, Mr. Mudd was president of the Petroleum County Realty Co. He was on the executive committee of the Winnett Chamber of Commerce which successfully led the campaign to form Petroleum County, and he and Elmer Eager signed the bond for appeal costs when the county-splitting case was taken to the Montana Supreme Court in April 1923.

The loss of the Enterprise Meat Market by fire on September 1, 1929, was a financial setback for the family. They decided not to re-establish a market in Winnett but moved to Missoula, Montana. (W.T. 10-11-29) "Otis and his estimable family will be sorely missed in this city, but their many friends wish them the best of luck in their new home."

John Mudd married Clair Stowe. John (deceased) was a car dealer by trade. He and Clair had one daughter, Charlene. Vera became Sister Rita and was president of the College of Great Falls for several years.

Mary was a librarian at Carroll College for 20 years and now lives in Missoula, Montana. She married E. Perry Moholt, and they were parents of four children — Thomas John, Ellen Christine, Mary Anne and James Perry. Mary reminisced: "I recall Mother telling us stories about people from the oil field coming into town eating at a restaurant that was a tent with dirt floors . . . I recall riding out to the slaughter house (south of Winnett about two miles) with my father. I also recall how my father spent many days working to form Petroleum County, independent of Fergus County. Roger Mudd, television anchorman, is a very distant relative of our family."

Joseph was a lawyer. He married Rose Marie Bourdeaux, and the couple were parents of John Otis Mudd III, Lee Ann, Nancy and Jolene. Catherine Alexina "Lex" was a social worker. She married John McCullough, and they had six children — John Charles, Bruce, Joe, Robert, William and Ellen. Rose Ellen, a teacher, married Robert Richlie and had five children — Diane, Larry, Allen, Dan and Elaine. Doris Ann married Tom Haggarty. Doris was a teacher. She and Tom had five children — Michael, Anne, Ellen, Pat, and Sean.

Mr. Mudd died in 1961. Mrs. Mudd, in 1969.

MÜELLER, Fr. Aloysius Fr. Müller was born in Lucerne, Switzerland. He received his early education with the Benedictine Fathers at Engleburg, Switzerland. He continued his studies under the Benedictines at Mount Angel, Oregon, after coming to the United States in 1890.

He was adopted into the diocese of Helena, Montana, and ordained there by the Rev. J. B. Bondell, D. D., the first Montana bishop. Father Müller served 54 years in the diocese as missionary priest at the following Montana missions: St. Labre, Roundup, Harlowton, Lewistown,

Hilger, and Winnett.

An elderly couple, aged 68 and 70, who lived at Roy, Montana, wished to be married in January of 1927. They called Father Müller to perform the ceremony. They could speak nothing but Bohemian; consequently, Fr. Müller had to learn the Bohemian ceremony to accommodate them.

In October 1948, after being in Winnett for 25 years, Father Müller celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination. The ceremony was held at St. Leo's in Lewistown, Montana.

At his residence in Winnett, he also operated a small printing shop which supplied printed forms to the Catholic church in various parts of the state. It was while working in his shop that he suffered a heart attack which took his life on October 8, 1952. Besides people, Father Müller loved flowers and gardening. (See also CATHOLIC CHURCH; also picture, page 460)

MUNK, Christian (W.T. 12-9-1921) "Christian Munk, who emigrated here from Denmark last April is attending school for the purpose of studying English."

MUNSING, Alyce (W.T. 7-8-1921) "The Misses Alyce Munsing, Nellie Pullin, Margery Hough, and Etta Nichols have taken bachelor-girl quarters in the E. M. Berg residence . . ."

MURPHY, Brendan Brendan Murphy was born and raised in Roundup, Montana, where he graduated from Roundup High School. He attended college out of state one year on a basketball scholarship but returned to Montana where he graduated from Montana State College in 1959. He married Joan Hill.

Joan Hill, daughter of Floyd and Viola Hill, was born and raised in the Winnett community. She graduated from high school in 1955 and continued her education at Montana State University, where she received a degree in home economics and business education in 1959. She was married that August to Brendan Murphy from Roundup, Montana.

In 1967 Brendan was named Class C Basketball Coach of the Year, after taking the Stanford High School Wolves to the state tournament where they won second place. The following year, 1968, he was named Class B Basketball Coach of the Year for coaching Chinook High School to the Class B basketball state championship. Under his leadership Chinook placed third in the state basketball tournament in 1969.

Together, Brendan and Joan have taught school in Montana for fifteen years. Their family was completed with the birth of two sons, Brad and Brent. In June 1974, Murphys made the decision to return to Winnett where Brendan worked with Floyd and Vi Hill on their ranch, and Joan taught home economics and business in the local school system.

Brad completed his education at Winnett High School graduating in 1983. He continued his education at Carroll College where he participated in the basketball program



Brad Murphy wedding (1988) Brent, Shannon, Brad, Joan, Brendan

for three years and received a degree in business administration in 1987. He married Shannon Clinch of Helena, Montana, on July 2, 1988, and they reside in Seattle, Washington, where he is pursuing a career in banking.

Brent finished his junior and senior years at Roundup High School, graduating in 1985. He is working toward a degree in secondary education at Montana State University with plans to graduate in 1990.

Joan has completed 14 years of teaching in the Winnett school system, and Brendan is busy working on the Hill Ranch. Brendan was elected to the Petroleum County Board of Commissioners in 1976 and has served two terms in that office. On November 8, 1988, he was elected to another six-year term. (By Joan Murphy)

The Murphy boys, Brad and Brent, were excellent athletes. Brad was chosen as a member of the basketball All-State Class C first team in March of 1983. That same year, Brent was one of three sophomores who received All-State honorable mention in basketball.

In the dead of night, when all else is still, some strange sound may emanate from inside the Murphy home. It may well be echoes of music and roller skates; or the solemn processional march of graduating Winnett High School seniors; or the booming voice of Dan McKay urging local people to form their own county; or Nadine Griebel making sound effects on the piano for the silent movies; or the applause of the crowd as Hattie and Al Bohn so gracefully dance the Spanish Waltz. These whimsical noises could be generated from the hardwood flooring which was placed in the house. These fine boards were originally installed in one of the most popular buildings of the town, the large brick building known as

the second Aristo. (See also HILL)

MUTH, Roy V. Mr. Muth first set up the Winnett Sheet Metal Works in Boyd's Garage. He later purchased a building, south of Boyd's Garage, from Dave Farnum, and conducted his sheet metal work there.

MYERS, Lee Lee "Pudge" Myers graduated from Winnett High School in 1955. He worked in the oil fields and volunteered for the draft in August of 1956. He worked for G. A. Ostler and Sons of Helmville, Montana, and then was ranch foreman for Wales Brothers, Inc. Sally Burnham and Pudge were married in 1959.

In 1973 Lee bought the original Jarrett home at 101 South Broadway in Winnett from Jack Clark. Pudge and his wife, Sally, had moved to Winnett to work for Hugh Brindley on construction. In 1974 they moved to a ranch between Big Timber and Livingston, Montana. Their Winnett house was sold to John Sibbert. The Lee Myers family now live in Rainier, Washington. They have four children — Gwen, Gary, Greg, and Benny. (See also MYERS — Dovetail)

MYERS, Roy (By Janet Myers) "I, Janet Merten, youngest daughter of John and Velma Merten, and Roy Myers, oldest son of Tiff and Lillian Myers, were married March 11, 1957. We started our married life at what is now the Fred Robinson Bridge, as Roy was employed there. We lived there two months and then came home to work for Petroleum County. Our life for many years consisted of construction work and working on ranches.

"Our son, Rick, was born April 25, 1958, and on August 27, 1960, our oldest daughter, Rhonda, was born. When school time was nearing, we quit construction. Our youngest daughter, Renae, was born in September of 1963. We moved to Fort Benton, Montana, and leased a ranch until 1973, when it was sold. We moved to Livingston, Montana, in 1973 and figured we had finally found our home. We built a new home in 1976. Roy was working on a ranch at this time. In 1978 he went to work for Burlington Railroad.

"In May of 1979 Rhonda was married. In November of that same year, Renae was in a terrible accident, but the good Lord was with us and she survived. In September of 1982, we were blessed with our first grandchild, Brad, born to Rhonda and Ralph Fehlman. He was really a joy.

"In 1983 Roy was laid off from the railroad. He worked around Livingston doing what he could, and in May of 1985, he went to work for Burt Bevis in Winnett. I stayed on in Livingston until we sold our home, at which time I joined Roy in Winnett.

"Our youngest daughter, Renae, and Herman Wilson were married in 1984, and in March of 1985 they presented us with another grandson, Lance. Our first granddaughter was born May 6, 1986, to Rhonda and Ralph. So now there are no dull moments in our lives.

"Roy went to work for Petroleum County in 1986 as a truck driver, and in 1987 became road foreman which was his goal for a long time. I am sure Winnett will be our home for a long time. On the side, we do a little fishing

and enjoy our motor home." (See also MYERS — Dovetail)

NAPTON, Percy Percy Napton was born July 21, 1876, at Elk Hill, Missouri. He studied law and was an early lawyer in Winnett, practicing through the first oil-boom years. (W.T. 10-7-21) "Mr. and Mrs. Percy Napton left Monday for New York, from which point they will sail to France to visit with Mrs. Napton's mother and sister in Paris. Mrs. Napton's mother and sister will sail soon for their home in India." Mr. Napton's ads in the *Winnett Times* were discontinued as of the first of September of 1922, which indicates that he might have left Winnett at that time.

In August of 1923, Percy wrote to Homer Geis of Winnett from San Francisco, California: (quoted in part): "... Well, you know the difficulty of breaking into the game in a new place — more, in particular, in a big city. I think I will be able to land a place in the office of one of the foremost lawyers of the city — fact is, I have already done some work for him and think I have made good.

"Why do you not locate in this country? ... I liked Winnett and the people there ... I hope Winnett becomes a county seat. That is one of the disadvantages of practicing law in Winnett ... To me Winnett was an interesting place and I liked the rough and tumble life it afforded ... Give my regards to Weidman, Druggist Woods and our genial friend, Nick."

Masonic Jerusalem Lodge secretary books revealed that in 1933 Percy was an attorney in the courthouse of Woodland Park, Colorado.

NEIL, Joe Joe, raised in Kansas City, was an electrician working for the City Light Co. in Winnett when he and Maxine Cox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orlie Cox, were married in the Episcopal parsonage in Billings, Montana, in 1925. Maxine and Joe were attended by their two friends, Vane Catlin and Winnie Smith, of Winnett. In 1927 Joe purchased the machine shop equipment of Frank Boyd of Cat Creek and had it placed in the Hoyle's Garage, where Joe ran a machine shop. With this purchase, Joe had the largest lathe this side of Billings.

Later, in partnership with Alvin Ingebo, Joe was a proprietor of the Neil-Ingebo Garage. (W.T. 11-23-28) "At the Neil-Ingebo Garage they have a large speaker which, when attached to their radio and set in the driveway of the garage, can be heard all over the city. When the music first began to pour forth, our citizens wondered where all the music was coming from. On still nights the speaker can be heard ten blocks from the garage."

Joe later worked for the Lewistown Electric Co. and in 1934 was employed as a machinist by Trench Oil Company of Cat Creek, Montana. Being handy at many trades, and having been formerly associated with his father in the restaurant business, Joe tried a new venture in 1938 when he took over the management of the Herman Hansen Cafe. Still preferring to work with tools and electricity, Joe leased the Jim Bair repair shop, when Jim left Winnett in April of 1939.

February of 1940 found Joe back at the City Light Co. working with Harry Hafer. At the same time Joe was chosen as justice of the peace for the 1940 and 1941 years. Then came World War II and machinists were much in demand. The Neils moved to Bremerton, Washington, where Joe was employed in the Puget Sound Navy yard. After the war, he and son Rex established an electric service shop, J. F. Neil and Son, in Cut Bank, Montana. This was truly a family affair, as Maxine served as bookkeeper for the company.

Joe died in 1968 after a long illness. Rex continued in the business until January of 1988, when he sold it and retired. He still makes his home in Cut Bank. His three children are grown and on their own. Peggy Joe Neil Robinson graduated from Cut Bank High School and the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana, and now resides in Sacramento, California. Peggy's children are also grown. Maxine has retired as bookkeeper and continues to make her home in Cut Bank. (See also COX — Cat Creek)

NELSEN, Dan Dan Nelsen was chosen as Superintendent of the Winnett Elementary and High Schools in 1986, and is presently serving Winnett in this Centennial year of 1989-1990. Dan was raised and educated in Kalispell, Montana, and Havre, Montana. He graduated from Havre High School in 1962 and from Northern Montana College of Havre in 1966. Before coming to Winnett, he taught in a number of Montana schools — Browning, Chinook, Harlem, Columbia Falls, and Whitefish. He came to Winnett from Terry, Montana, where he was an administrator.

Dan's wife, Margaret "Margie" (Johnstone), was raised and educated at Fort Benton, Montana, and Bozeman, Montana. Her father was acting president of Montana State University in 1970. She graduated from Bozeman High School in 1965 and the University of Montana in 1969. Margie was a speech therapist in the Harlem school system and was a teacher at Terry. She is a teacher of first grade students in Winnett (1989-1990).

The Nelsens have two daughters: Jennifer, who was born in Bozeman in 1971 and graduated as a valedictorian of Winnett High School in 1989; and Lisa, who was born in Whitefish, Montana, in 1973 and is a junior at Winnett High School in 1989-1990.

NELSON, Arthur Art Nelson, son of Oscar and Hedvig Nelson, was born in Thurston, Nebraska. He came to Montana and on May 8, 1917, was married to Lulu Mae Thompson in Lewistown, Montana. "Mae," daughter of Steven and Jennie Fay Thompson, was born in Decatur, Nebraska. She homesteaded near Roy, Montana, in 1913. Art worked in the Montana Lumber and Hardware Store at Roy.

In April of 1919 the company transferred Art to manage their store and yard in Winnett. The Winnett store had been established August 10, 1914. When Art arrived, the business was housed in the Winnett Block. There, in 1921, the essentials of every household — a pail, a dipper, and a



Arthur Nelson family: Ray, Arthur, Mae, June, Dale, Gene, Virgie and Bobby

washbasin — could be purchased for only 90 cents! The Nelsons moved into the James A. Dugan residence at the northwest corner of South Broadway and West Rowley Street. At that time they had one son, Ray. In June of 1921 Doctor Stork (Dr. Alexander) delivered a little girl by the name of June to their home.

By November of 1929, a fine new Montana Lumber and Hardware building had been constructed adjacent to and east of the Winnett Block, and the former store merchandise was moved to that location. The family eventually moved to the original Archie Faragher house at 201 South Moulton Avenue. After sixteen years of community service, the Nelsons were transferred to Roundup, Montana, in September of 1936, and later moved to Billings, Montana.

Art died in January of 1978, and Mae in August of 1983. Art and Mae were the parents of six children: Ray, June, Gene, Dale, Robert, and Virgie. Ray graduated from Winnett High School. He worked for Saunders Lumber Company in Billings, Montana, was married, and had two daughters — Linda and Susan. Ray died in 1968. The other Nelson children all attended Winnett Elementary School.

NELSON, Ed The Ed Nelson family left Winnett in August of 1921 and moved to Lewistown.

NELSON, Frank Frank J. Nelson was born in Howard, South Dakota. In about 1911 he homesteaded in Sec. 32-17-29. When the Montana Elevator was established in Winnett on November 17, 1917, Frank was the assistant manager under Mr. G. W. Conrad. Mr. Conrad resigned in June of 1921, and Frank was promoted to the manager-ship.

The Nelsons built their home at 101 West Wheeler. When Ted Hegna opened the Gildford Hegna Elevator in November of 1928, he chose Frank Nelson as manager in Gildford, Montana. The family moved, then returned to Winnett again in August of 1932. They leased the W. J. Winnett house, barn and about 100 acres of land, and operated a dairy for a short time.

Nelsons' son, Merle, graduated from Winnett High School in 1934. In 1935 Frank was elected Petroleum

County Representative to the State Legislature and served through 1939. In the early 1940s, the Nelsons moved to Livingston, Montana, where Merle became a Greyhound bus driver. He was killed in a bus-car collision in August of 1946. Later that same year, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson moved to Gold Bar, Washington. Mrs. Nelson died in 1952. Frank in 1967.

NELSON, Oscar Oscar Nelson, born March 4, 1894, in Paynesville, Minnesota, was assistant cashier of the First State Bank of Winnett in 1921. He also had farm land at Winifred, Montana. In 1921 he reported grasshoppers did his harvesting for him there. Oscar was secretary-treasurer of the then popular Gun Club of Winnett.

NESS, Mrs. (W.T. 9-21-23) "Mrs. Ness, of Lewistown, Montana, has arranged with Mrs. Alexander to open a beauty parlor in conjunction with the Dress Shoppe. Mrs. Ness comes recommended as an artist in applying beauty to the beautiful as well as to all others."

NEVILLE, Hattie Hattie Neville ran the Cosmopolitan Rooms until the building was razed by fire in October of 1927. The Riley Cafe, adjoining on the south, was also ravaged. The Cosmopolitan Rooms were in Block 3 facing Broadway Avenue and south of the Leader Hotel.

NEWMAN, Judy Judy Newman, formerly Judy Moore, opened the Mecca Beauty Shop in Winnett November 13, 1975, planning to have it open each Thursday and Friday.

NICHOLS, Etta In 1921 Etta was leader of the Victory Memorial Methodist Church music group. She was assisted by Dr. J. L. Alexander. Etta was also stenographer for the Frantz Corporation. She married Dean Quilter of Great Falls, Montana, on May 17, 1930. (See also QUILTER — Brush Creek and Winnett)

NICHOLSON, Lyda Mrs. Lyda Nicholson was one of the registered nurses who established a hospital in Winnett in March of 1924. The equipment came from a Roundup, Montana, hospital and was installed in the Park Hotel (in 1989, the Masonic building). Reportedly, the first floor was used as an operating room by Dr. Kent W. Berry, and there were 15 hospital beds on the second floor. Miss Stella Youderian was the name of the other registered nurse. The hospital was known as the Winnett Hospital and was not believed to have operated for more than a few months. Alexander Dixon from Cat Creek was the first patient registered.

NOBLE, George R. George was one of the proprietors of the Army and Navy Store in Winnett. The store, which was in Block 18 facing Main Street, was destroyed by fire in September of 1921. (See also MCGUIRE — Winnett)

NOLEN, William Ford W. Ford Nolen, born in June of 1886 at Colorado City, Texas, homesteaded about six miles southeast of Winnett. In April of 1921 Mr. Nolen inaugurated a stage line service between Winnett and Lewistown, Montana, operating daily. His office was at the Central Drug Store. The route was via Cheadle and