

B. S. degree in 1944. Then I went to Eastern Montana College and received my Master's Degree in counseling and guidance in 1958. Even after this I spent two summers at Montana State College of Bozeman and one summer at Boston University, Massachusetts.

"As long as I continued teaching, I felt I had to keep up on the changing education cycle. It is interesting to note that a number of things have gone full cycle now and are swinging back to what I had been taught in my two-year certificate in Dillon so long ago. I retired in 1973 and married Howard Sandaker in 1975. We live at 2855 Belvedere Drive, Billings, Montana (1989). We were doing just fine until we reached the 80 mark. Then we began to fall to pieces like the shay in the poem 'The One Horse Shay,' where you remember the shay reached 100 years with nary a scratch and then when it reached 101 years it fell completely to pieces. Y'all come see us before this happens to us! (See also SANDAKER, Howard)

**SEEFLUTH, William** William Seefluth owned land in Section 24-16-26 about nine miles north of Winnett, Montana. Fern Kindt recalled that when Mr. Seefluth passed away from pneumonia in June of 1928, Fern's mother, Florence Kindt, was called in to prepare the body for services and to line the homemade casket. Mrs. Kindt used several yards of gray silk for all the lining. Fern sat contentedly by until her mother had finished the job. Then her mother sent her home, and Fern, just a small child, was disappointed that she didn't get to see the body of Mr. Seefluth put into that beautifully lined casket. (See also SEEFLUTH — Ashley)

**SENNETT, James** The Wide Awake Garage had been remodeled and redecorated by its owner, Carl Clauson, when it became the home of James and Mary Lou Sennett in May of 1946. James had been hired as bookkeeper at the Continental Oil Company loading racks in Winnett. James later became a postal employee in Lewistown, Montana, where Sennetts reside as of 1989. Mary Lou, the former Mary Lou Bastian of Winnett, is a nurse in Central Montana Hospital. She and James have a daughter, Linda. Linda married Mark Scally of Lewistown and they had two children, Mike (1971) and Crystal (1980). (See also BASTIAN)

**SENSST, Otto** Otto Sensst was a native of Minnesota, being born there on January 31, 1888, and residing there until moving with his family to Howard, South Dakota. In 1911 Otto moved to Montana and homesteaded five miles south of Winnett (Sec. 30-14-27). Otto served in the Army during World War I. After his discharge, he returned to Winnett and worked as a bookkeeper for Walter J. Winnett.

Myrtie Fisher was born in Sisseton, South Dakota, on Valentine's Day in 1898 and grew up in the Petrolia area, where her parents, the Andrew Fishers, homesteaded (See also FISHER — Petrolia). In her late teens Myrtie found employment at a laundry in Winnett. She was also a waitress in a cafe in the boom days of 1920-1921. It was



*Myrtle and Otto Sensst (1921)*

during this time that she met Otto Sensst. Myrtie at one time recalled how solicitous Otto was of her during those rough and rowdy days: "Why, he wouldn't even have me walk across the street alone," she said respectfully.

Myrtie and Otto were married March 2, 1921. Their son, Mervin, was born October 13, 1922, and daughter, Virgie Mae, July 22, 1927. When Virgie was three weeks old, Otto and Myrtie bought the original Schmidt Hotel,



*Mervin Sensst and Buddy Green feeding orphaned puppies*



*Veronika Bauer and Myrtie Senst in about 1981*

which at that time was known as the Commercial Hotel. Myrtie never let dust settle in her establishment! Many residents remember how often the dust mop, shaken in the wind, was seen at the front or back door.

(W.T. 8-4-1933) "The first draft beer in Winnett from the Great Falls Brewery is being sold by Otto Senst, proprietor of the Commercial Hotel." (W.T. 3-19-1937) "Otto Senst opened a beer parlor with Pete Tunnicliff next to the Sunset Cafe. The beer parlor will be known as the Town Tavern."

January of 1948 found Myrtie and Otto selling the Commercial Hotel after operating it for twenty years. They bought and moved into the original Sullivan house at 301 South Broadway. Otto continued to be proprietor of the Town Tavern. In August of 1950, at an annual secretary breakfast, Myrtie was honored and given an award as the best secretary in her division of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Otto decided to retire, and in October of 1954, Sensts sold their nice brick house to Harvey Cornues and moved to Lewistown, Montana. Otto died in Lewistown in August of 1975. Myrtie moved into a house close to her daughter Virgie and died in May of 1987.

Mervin graduated from Winnett High School in 1941. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 and was stationed in England, France, Belgium, and Germany as a radio operator. In June 1945, after he had visited Berchtesgaden, Hitler's favorite retreat, he wrote to his family as follows: (W.T. 6-21-1945) "The mansion sits on top of the mountain and is accessible by only one road which goes up and up until it makes the Red Lodge-Cooke City road look sick. There are thirteen stories carved out of solid rock underneath the mansion — right down into the heart of the mountain. You never saw anything so exquisite, even in the movies." Mervin and Ethel Skillen

Hodges (1947 Winnett High School graduate) were married in 1947. They have two sons, Terry and Jimmy.

Virgie graduated from Winnett High School in 1945. She attended McMurry College for girls and Montana State College. In September of 1948 she was married to William Baumgartner, a telegrapher for the Milwaukee railroad in Lewistown, Montana. Their children were Larry, Danny, Regina, and Mark. Mark was killed in a winter accident in 1960. Virgie still lives in Lewistown (1989).

**SETSER, Ralph** Ralph Setser acquired land close to Hoyle, Montana, in Sec. 34-15-28. (W.T. 5-6-21) "Ralph Setser has opened a repair shop at the Wide Awake Garage and is now ready to serve those in need of a good mechanic. The Wide Awake is one of the busy places in Winnett these days."

**SEVALS, Barney** Barney was a carpenter and contractor in Winnett in the early 1920s. (See JOHNS, Mrs. Louise)

**SEVALS, Walter** Walter was born January 16, 1888, in Bismarck, North Dakota. In 1919 he joined the Masonic Lodge of Winnett. In September of 1921 Walter Sevals served on a committee to advertise and plan for a chautauqua to be held at the Aristo Theatre the 5th through the 10th. He ran a billiard hall and card room on the south side of Main Street. His building also housed some popular bowling alleys.

**SHAFFER, W. M.** Mr. Shaffer was the father of Mrs. William Hough. (See HOUGH — Cat Creek)

**SHAMMEL, Frank** Frank Shammel, the oldest son of Fred and Elizabeth Shammel, was born July 20, 1876, in Ohio. He married Myrtle Cogswell, and they were the parents of Earl, Lee, Elizabeth, Iva, Gladys, and Wayne. Mother Myrtle died in 1909. Frank found another wonderful wife and mother for his children in the person of Sarah Laufer. They were married in June of 1911.

Somewhere around the mid-1920s, Mr. and Mrs. Shammel, Gladys, and Wayne moved to the Lepper Ranch on Flatwillow Creek. Frank's brother Fred shared the work on the ranch. In 1931, while still running stock on the ranch, the Shammels moved into Winnett and made their home in the former Mudd house.

An interesting news item appeared in the *Winnett Times* of 11-20-1931: "Taking advantage of the extremely low price of white beans, Frank Shammel bought 30 tons to feed his sheep. They were hauled to Shammels' ranch by Fred Welch and Spot Morgan."

Mrs. Shammel served as mother and grandmother to many who were just friends. She won prizes at all the fairs on her canned vegetables, fruits, and baked goods. Her large, soft sugar cookies couldn't be beaten. Her canned mutton liver was delicious!

In March of 1933, the Shammels moved to a beautiful ranch in the mountains near Lewistown. Much later they moved into Lewistown, where Frank passed away in March of 1960; his brother Fred, in June of 1961; and

Sarah, in May of 1963. Many Shammel family members live in the Lewistown locality.

**SHANDY, Dewey** Dewey was a Petroleum County road patrol operator until he entered the Army and went to Korea to serve his country.

**SHEETS, Mary Louise** Mary Louise and Constance Bowen were married in 1870 and were the parents of Daniel, Earl, John, Guy, and Dorothy Bowen. In 1893 Mary Louise Bowen married Alexander Sheets. One son, Harry, was born to them. He died in July of 1929. Mrs. Sheets also had a step-daughter, Mrs. Frank Morret.

Dean and Dow Bowen were grandsons of Mary Louise Bowen Sheets. She raised Dow Bowen from a baby as one of her own sons. Mrs. Sheets came to Winnett in 1921 and made her home with her daughter, Dorothy Bowen. She died in March of 1933. (See BOWEN, Dorothy — Winnett; BOWEN — Musselshell River)

**SHEPHERD, Leo** Leo W. Shepherd, son of Glen Shepherd and Lottie Mitchell Shepherd, was born June 20, 1927, at Chester, Montana. Arlene Tutvedt, daughter of Peter Tutvedt and Myrtle Brevik Tutvedt, was born March 12, 1929, at Chester, Montana. Leo and Arlene were married and were parents of two daughters, Linda and Lottie, and one son, Glen.

Mr. Shepherd was chosen as superintendent of the Winnett schools in March of 1975. He served two terms, and in July 1977 asked for and received a year's leave of absence. He returned as superintendent for the year of 1978-79

Mr. Shepherd remarked: "The greatest thrill in my experiences in Petroleum County came from the bunch of girls I coached in 1975 — winning the championship game of the Northern Divisional tournament by scoring eight points in the last one minute and three seconds; the same team winning a Saturday morning game in the State tournament by scoring nine points in 15 seconds!! Arlene and I feel we met some of the finest people of our lives while serving in Petroleum County. We wish them well and will continue to cherish their friendships."

**SHINE, I. S.** Mr. Shine opened a harness shop in Winnett in 1914.

**SHIPTON, James** James Shipton was born in England in 1863. In 1886 he immigrated to Hamilton, Canada, where he attended the public schools. Then he studied the business of manufacturing cigars, serving as an apprentice for three years. In the early 1890s he spent considerable time traveling over the United States and Canada studying cigar making and looking for a place to locate.

James was married in 1892 to Miss Sadie Kirkland of Winterset, Iowa. In the summer of 1890 Mr. Shipton settled in Livingston, Montana, engaging in the wholesale and retail cigar business, manufacturing Livingston Favorite and J. S. brands of cigars. A daughter, born to them there, died in 1905. He came to Winnett in 1922. Mrs. Shipton died in 1924.

It is not known just when Mr. Shipton started his soft drink parlor on south Main Street in Winnett. His first business site was in the building known as the Sevals Pool and Billiard Hall that adjoined the first Aristo on the east. In 1927 he moved his soft drink establishment to the Palm Garden, just west of the Enterprise Meat Market. That building was destroyed by fire September 1, 1929. He next rented the lower half of the Savoy Hotel but lost his business there in the next big fire of October 1931. He then moved to Whitehall, Montana, but in 1927 returned to Livingston where he opened the "Stein" on East Callender Street. He died in Livingston on July 10, 1939.

**SHOFFEN, Thomas** Tom Shoffen worked as butcher and clerk at the Winnett Mercantile in the early 1930s. He served as a witness of the Grace Woods — Albyn F. McCulloh marriage. Tom later worked at a large meat plant in the new dam-construction town of Fort Peck, Montana.

**SHUMATE, Joseph** Joe Shumate came to this area from Missouri and was, no doubt, one of the earlier settlers of this community. He established the Central Billiard Parlor on October 19, 1914. The same building celebrates its diamond anniversary this State Centennial year. Lillian and Art Moore operate their bar and serve lunches in the historic structure in 1989.

An early news item in the *Winnett Times* (which was only one week old itself on September 23, 1914), stated: "Shumate and Hunter gave a dance in the new pool hall Monday night." An ad (W.T. 10-19-1914) read "The Central Billiard Parlor, Joe Shumate, Proprietor. Candy, Cigars, Tobaccos, and Soft Drinks. Established October 19, 1914."

Joe was elected alderman of the first ward of Winnett in April of 1921. In December 1921 the following news item appeared in the *Winnett Times*: "Joe Shumate left today for Oklahoma where he will visit a short time with his mother, and from there he will go to his old home in Missouri to spend the holidays. It has been twenty-three years since Mr. Shumate left his old home, and this will be his first visit during that time."

Charles Doherty, editor of the *Winnett Times* of 9-13-29, wrote a short article entitled "Joe Falls from Grace": "At the administrator's sale of the personal property of the Erik Hove estate held at the courthouse Monday, Joe Shumate bid on the new model A Ford coupe. Joe has been afoot for all these many years. Auto salesmen have used every effort to induce him to join the traveling class but he stood steadfast until Monday. Now he has a means of locomotion and, like all the rest of us, can talk more learnedly on gasoline prices and taxes, auto licenses, mileage, etc. Among Joe's friends there are those who contend that the auto may also remove him from the contented bachelor sphere, but Joe stoutly denies this and points to Commissioner Hays as a shining example of a bachelor who can stay put even when put on wheels."

Joe left Winnett for a time in the late 1920s but returned in the mid-1930s to operate the Central Tavern in his old

building. He again left Winnett in October of 1939 and went to Suffolk, Montana, where he assumed the operation of the Suffolk Hotel and Tavern. He also owned a fine farm near there.

**SIBBERT, John** John spent his entire life in the Winnett area except for his schooling in Lewistown and his services in the Army during World War II (See also SIBBERT — Teigen). His service years were spent on troop trains in the United States, as he was in command of troop movement from one coast to the other. He had ranched with his father prior to entering the Army. When John returned, he took over the management of the family ranch on Flatwillow Creek (See also SIBBERT — Flatwillow).

John and Emma Rabern were married in 1955 and lived on the Flatwillow Ranch until 1974. At that time they purchased the original Jarrett house at 101 South Broadway in Winnett from Mr. and Mrs. Lee Myers. The house was remodeled, and Emma became busy with her favorite hobbies — gardening, growing flowers, and doing many types of handicraft. Her skill in decorating brightened many a social meeting.

Emma died in August of 1980 and John, in September of 1982. Emma was the mother of one daughter, Dulcie Rabern Thomas, and a son, Richard "Bud" Rabern (See also RABERN — Flatwillow and Winnett)

**SIECZKOWSKI, Joe** Mr. Sieczkowski was a butcher in the Eager Store in 1940.

**SIEGEL, J.** Mr. Siegel was general manager of the Brust Oil and Gas Syndicate, a common law trust, unincorporated, and consisting of practically all Winnett men. The officers in 1921 were: J. E. Wilson, Chairman of the board of trustees; J. Siegel, General Manager; E. E. Eager, Treasurer; and C. Bean, Secretary and Sales Manager. The Brust Company built a camp on their holdings in Sec. 17-15-30 and erected a rig in July of 1921.

**SIGVARDT, Vieggo** Vieggo Sigvardt was a cousin of P. J. Anderson. When Vieggo lived in Winnett in its early days, he assisted in laying Winnett's water system. He also worked on highways and bridges in the area. Vieggo and his wife, Ida, were the parents of two children — Marie (1911) and Vieggo Jr. (1908).

**SILER, Mrs. G. B.** (W.T. 6-3-21) "Mrs. G. B. Siler, a well-known citizen of Winnett, is visiting with friends in Lewistown."

**SIMS, Alan** In 1943 Alan Sims was a new employee on the Wayne Bratten Ranch. He lived in the former Sommerfield house on Moulton Avenue.

**SIMS, Claude** Claude and Helen "Doll" Sims and family moved to Winnett in 1963, and Claude commuted to his work in Cat Creek (See also SIMS — Cat Creek). Doll became the school lunch cook that school year and efficiently and lovingly held the position until 1970. With four fun-loving active Sims children as the core, the Sims household on Wheeler and Broadway was the home-away-from-home for dozens of kids. There was always room for one more! If a fast moving blizzard or spring

thaw marooned country children in town, regardless of age, they loved an excuse to be mothered by Dolly.

The Simses left Winnett in 1970 and spent a year in Billings, Montana, before moving to Missoula to make their home.

Helen laughs about her birth. "I was born," Doll says, "August 25, 1929, in the no longer existent Savoy Hotel. In attendance of my mother was our benevolent, good samaritan registered nurse, Mrs. Frank (Grace) McAllister. When I was just six days old, on September 1, 1929, a fire started near the Eager Mercantile store. A high wind came up, spreading the fire down the entire block. Mrs. 'Mac' kept watching anxiously out the window of the hotel room as the fire spread and devoured one building after another. She kept worrying that a shift in the wind would cause the fire to leap across the street and catch the Savoy Hotel. The citizens were alerted to be ready to evacuate the mother and baby in such a case. No such thing occurred, but I was almost born in a 'ball of fire.'" (See also SIMS — Cat Creek)

**SIMS, Glen** Glen "Jiggs" Sims was one of the 12 children of Henry and Alice Sims (See also SIMS — Musselshell River). Ruth (Noll) Sims was born in Winnett, Montana, on October 22, 1932, to Peter and Alma (Rostad) Noll. When she was two and one-half, her mother passed away; and she was raised by her mother's parents, Anna and Bernt Rostad, at Flatwillow (See also ROSTAD — Flatwillow).

She attended schools at Flatwillow, Winnett, and Missoula. After she graduated from high school at Winnett, she married Glen "Jiggs" Sims, who worked for Continental Oil Co. at Cat Creek. They lived in Winnett and Cat Creek until he was transferred to Circle Ridge, Wyoming, where they lived until he retired, and they moved back to Winnett.

They had five children — Dorothy, who married Frank Siroky Jr., and lives at Roy, Montana; Glen Charles; Doris, who married and divorced Wes Ford, lives in Pavillion, Wyoming, and has three daughters — Margaret Ann, Ruth, and Helen; Alice, who married Jerry Bisbee, lives in Dubois, Wyoming, and has two daughters, Cindi and Valarie; Wesley, who married Ilse Weiss, lives in Pavillion, Wyoming, and has one son, Cory, and a daughter, Misty; and Dale, who lives in Pavillion, Wyoming, and has never married. (Submitted by Ruth Sims)

**SIMS, Henry** The Henry Sims family lived in Winnett for almost ten years, and the children attended the Winnett schools. They lived in the northeast quarter of town on Waterside Avenue. Henry Sims was a trucker. (See also SIMS — Musselshell River)

**SINCLAIR, Robert J.** Robert and Della Sinclair moved to Winnett from the Dovetail-Valentine community in 1935 (See also SINCLAIR — Dovetail) and bought the former George Casteel residence on Edith Street. It was an especially nice location because of the beautiful cottonwood trees which shaded the house. Mirth Winnett

Hedman stated that her father had stuck cottonwood branches in the irrigation ditch formerly there which resulted in the growth of the trees. Though old, and with some dead branches, they still tower over the house in this Centennial year.

After moving to Winnett, Mr. Sinclair worked on the Sibbert and Rogge ranches. Della helped in restaurants and enjoyed being a good neighbor to anyone who needed help. She also cooked and worked for Ella V. Millsap in the Montana Hotel. During some of the World War II years, Sinclairs lived and worked on the Elden Freed Ranch at Petrolia. (That land is now under the lake.) Della liked to entertain people with humorous readings, and she acted in many home-talent plays. It seemed she always knew a good joke to make someone smile.

On a beautiful October day in 1960, the Sinclairs celebrated their golden anniversary. The party was staged by their daughter Viola and Bill Welter at the beautiful Welter Ranch in the Petrolia area. The weather cooperated and chrysanthemums were still in glorious bloom.

The Sinclairs were parents of five children — Viola (1913), Wanda (1918), twins Pat E. and Mick E. (1920), and Robert (1928). Viola married William Welter (See also WELTER — Petrolia). Wanda married Herschel Metzler (See also METZEL). Pat married Beverly Fleharty, daughter of Clifford Fleharty of Blakeslee, and they had three children — Susie, Dallas and Roy. Mick married Frances Akensen, a local schoolteacher, and they had four children — Allan, Beverly, Dennis and Carol. Robert married Louanne Hill, daughter of Lou Hill of Mosby, and they had four children — James, Paula, Don and Margery. (See also HILL and WOODFORD — Musselshell River)

Mr. Sinclair died in 1963, Mrs. Sinclair, in 1976.

**SKAGGS, Albert** Albert Skaggs and wife, Mary, ranched in Sec. 23-16-27, about ten miles northeast of Winnett. They had nine children — Beatrice (1909), Bernice (1910), Mary (1911), Bessie (1913), Judith (1914), Robert (1917), August (1919), Clarence (1920) and Ronald (1922). (W.T. 7-9-21) "A. A. Skaggs took his little daughter, Bessie, to Dr. Brice's hospital in Lewistown, Montana, last week for an operation for ulcers.

**SLUM, Adolph** Adolph worked in the Monarch Lumber Company in 1926 and 1927.

**SMIDT, Jack** Mr. and Mrs. Jack Smidt and family — Arthur, Lloyd, and Laureen — arrived in Winnett and took over the Rotary Inn establishment on December 14, 1950. Their three children entered the Winnett School. Smidts were natives of Laurel, Montana. Previously, Jack was a truck driver for Hageman Transport and had driven a truck through Winnett on a number of occasions.

**SMILEY, J. T.** The Smileys owned land about one mile northeast of the town of Winnett in Sec. 29-15-27. Mr. Smiley was reported to have delivered milk in town before Swifts operated a dairy. He ranched, and, in later years, operated the City Laundry near Winnett.

**SMITH (W.T. 4-22-21)** "Smith and Barnes are the new proprietors of the Peerless Grill, having taken over the business the latter part of last week. The men are both experienced restaurateurs and will make the Peerless one of the best cafes in Winnett."



"Grandpa" Smith

**SMITH, Arthur E.** Arthur E. "Grandpa" Smith came to Winnett several times to visit his daughter and son-in-law, Ethel and Don Gullickson. After retiring from the railroad in Billings, Montana, his visits lasted longer, and in 1957 he started helping at the D and E Store. He enjoyed visiting with the customers and waiting on the children. He became known to everyone as Grandpa Smith. He loved to fish and hunt and soon got a small dog, Tippy, which followed him everywhere. Tippy was the mascot at the store. Grandpa Smith lived with the Gullicksons until his death in March of 1977. (Submitted by Ethel Gullickson)

**SMITH, Brents** (See PECK, Clinton L.)

**SMITH, Dorothy** Dorothy was a bookkeeper and stenographer at the Broadway Garage. She had come here from Vergas, Minnesota, in 1921.

**SMITH, Estelle** She passed from the eighth grade into high school in the spring of 1921.

**SMITH, Harry** (See BLANK, Carl — Winnett)

**SMITH, J. E.** J. E. was manager of the Wide Awake Garage in 1921.

**SMITH, John** Wind derailed three Milwaukee stock cars in February of 1964. John Smith was Milwaukee agent at the time. The cars, pushed by the wind, rolled to the dead end but did not overturn.

**SMITH, Lillie B.** Lillie B. "Smithie" moved into Winnett in about 1937 and lived in the northeast corner of Block 21 (See also SMITH — Musselshell River). From there she often went out to work on various ranches — Forbes Leslie and N Bar Ranches — to mention two. She

also helped in restaurants and cooked at the school dormitory at times. Smithie died in 1950 at the age of 73. Her request that no flowers or music be part of the funeral service was complied with, and graveside services were held in the Winnett Cemetery.

**SMITH, Mabel** Mabel Smith graduated from Winnett High School in 1921. In November of 1923, she married D. Y. Wilson Jr. They were the parents of two girls — Barbara and Gayle. (See also WILSON)

**SMITH, Marlon** Marlon was clerk in Rasmussen's store in April 1921. In June she resigned her position and married David Patrick Freeman. (See also FREEMAN)

**SMITH, Sidney** Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith lived in Winnett and were running a repair shop in the early 1920s. (See also McFARLAND)

**SMITH, William Hayes** William Hayes Smith came to Winnett from Lewistown, Montana, in July of 1921. He previously had several years of experience in handling poultry and dairy products. He built a brick and tile building on Ashley Avenue south of Rasmussen's store. It had a 25-foot front facing west. After his building was completed, he took over the dairy and poultry business which had been handled by Rasmussen's store. His was the first creamery established in Winnett. It was named the Winnett Cash Produce. The Smiths' home was at 308 South Moulton Avenue.

In April of 1925 Mr. Smith installed an electric egg processor which enabled him to detect unerringly all eggs below standard or even slightly cracked. This was especially necessary before eggs were prepared for winter storage. (Before the days of the scientific handling of poultry — especially in regard to egg production — hens just were not expected to lay eggs in the wintertime. Consequently, farmers and produce handlers resorted to storing eggs in a solution of sodium silicate or potassium silicate, commonly known as waterglass. The silicate was dissolved in water to form a colorless, syrupy liquid used as an adhesive, as a protective and waterproofing coat for eggs. The eggs and solution were usually stored in earthenware crocks and placed in a cool room such as an underground cellar. Eggs stored in this manner had to be in perfect condition.)

In May of that year, Mr. Smith set up a produce line — two truck routes — one through the Valentine-Dovetail country, and the other through the Flatwillow country. For these routes, he had a special body built on a Ford truck. In 1927 William purchased a 1200-egg incubator and invited his customers to bring eggs to him for hatching, thus saving their hens the trouble! Mr. Smith sold his business to the Fergus County Creamery in May 1928. He then secured work with Erick Hanson in building concrete culverts along the highway between Grassrange and Lewistown — the contract being sublet to Mr. Hanson by Thomas Carr, prime contractor.

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Smith had two daughters, Winnifred and Hester. "Winnie" married Vane Catlin, a

farmer from Ashley. Hester worked in Rasmussen's store in 1924 and in 1929 married Dr. R. A. Elliott of Lewistown. The Smith family moved back to Lewistown in 1929. (See also CATLIN)

**SNIDER, Ray** Ray Snider operated Ray's Barbershop. He and his wife moved to Winnett in 1945.

**SOLF, Ronald** Ronnie Solf grew up on his parents ranch in the Petrolia community and attended elementary school there. After graduating from Winnett High School, he attended the Helena, Montana, Vocational Technical School. With that educational stepping stone, he was employed for five years by Industrial Plating and Grinding, Inc. of Billings before returning home to work on the William Solf Ranch.

Lisa Sluggett, daughter of Lester and Carol Sluggett, was born in Havre, Montana, May 29, 1966. Her parents lived south of Big Sandy, Montana, for six years and then purchased a ranch east of Roy, Montana, and north of Winnett. Lisa graduated from Roy High School in 1984 and went on to attend Montana State University where she received an associate degree in business administration in the spring of 1987. She was hired as deputy treasurer for Petroleum County on August 28, 1987.

Lisa and Ronnie were married on June 3, 1989. They chose the little picturesque and historic church of Forestgrove, Montana, in which to exchange their marriage vows. They make their home in Winnett, where Lisa continues her work in the courthouse, and Ronnie works for First Continental Corporation. (See also SOLF — Petrolia; and SLUGGETT — Dovetail)

**SOMBOR, Bores** Bores was a fine merchant tailor who established a shop in Winnett in April of 1921. In October of 1923, he also purchased the equipment and business of the Star Cleaners, which had formerly been conducted by Mrs. H. G. Houser. (W.T. 10-12-1923) "Mr. Sombor is the pioneer tailor of the city, and with the added equipment purchased of the Star Cleaners, will be in a position to handle the business of this city with his usual skill and promptness."

In August of 1925, Bores had planned to take an extended trip to Detroit, Michigan. But, at the last minute, he changed his mind and spent his money on a new steam presser for his shop and also bought some other equipment.

(W.T.9-11-1925) "Bores Sombor, the local tailor, who this week added some up-to-date equipment to his shop here, is a Russian by birth. He came to this country before the World War started, as a political refugee from the late czar's officers. Some of his associates were apprehended and executed, so it may be believed that Bores saved his neck by making a hasty getaway.

"During the war and revolution and counterrevolution that followed in Russia, he lost all trace of his family — wife and three children. He became a naturalized citizen of this country and carried on efforts to locate them. Finally a package that he had sent a year before, was

delivered to his son, now a youth of eighteen, and correspondence was resumed. He hears from the family regularly now, and they have resumed the quiet tenor of living.

"The raging battles, internal and external, drove the family from their home village, and they were forced to wander over the country with other refugees, seeking food and shelter, almost like so many cattle on the range, for a considerable time.

"While Bores is of the opinion that the Bolshevist or soviet rule will prove of value to his former countrymen, he is desirous of bringing his family here as soon as possible, and is now carrying on negotiations to at least get some of them here soon. The fact that he is a citizen will permit him to get permission to bring his immediate family into the country in excess of the regular immigration quota from Russia."

(W.T. 10-4-1929) "Bores Sombor has received a picture of his eldest son in the uniform of the Red Army of Russia. . . .The Red Army uniform consists of wrap leggings and breeches on the style of the American uniform. However, instead of the blouse, a shirtcoat is used. Apparently Russia is economical with uniforms, as the young soldier's uniform showed large patches on the knees."

Bores sold his business in June of 1930, but reopened it the first of October that year. He didn't stay in business long, however. Probably for the love of his family, he decided to return to Russia.

(W.T. 10-24-1930) "Bores Sombor . . . left Tuesday for his old home in Russia . . . Now that the revolutionists have had their inning and the nation is a republic, Bores feels safe in returning to his native land and his family. He states that the government will set him up in the chicken business, giving him a large number of chickens and incubators, and it will be his job to herd the chickens and run the incubators.

"Bores thinks things are all right in Russia now and, for his sake, we hope they are; but if they are not, you can depend on that little Russian hopping the country again just one jump ahead of the Bolshevik scalping squad, and he'll open up for business again in Winnett." (W. T. 1-16-1931) "Lazar K. Gray received a letter from Bores in January of 1931. Bores was reported to have stated: 'Close contact with Russia was not as appealing as the distant contact of the United States.' In other words, Bores will probably return soon — if he can."

**SOMMERFIELD, Dan** Dan Sommerfield homesteaded about six miles east and a little south of the Ashley Post Office. Alice Greenfield homesteaded in Section 34-17-24 of the Blakeslee area (see also GREENFIELD — Blakeslee). Her son, Ray, and nephew, Bertice, also homesteaded in that community. Bertice taught in many schools of the county. Alice and Dan were married, and Alice Sommerfield became the first clerk of the first board of school trustees of Winnett School District #159 in 1916.

Dan had previously operated a harness shop in Winnett



Alice and Dan Sommerfield in Canby, Oregon

as early as 1914. In 1921 Mr. and Mrs. Sommerfield moved into a new bungalow on Moulton Avenue. Dan was chosen custodian of the Winnett schools in 1922. A news item of the *Winnett Times* of July 29, 1927, revealed: "With help from Tony Schwarz and Ted Boeckman, Dan repainted all eight District #159 schools." That same year Mrs. Sommerfield was matron of the school dormitory.

After pushing a broom and tending a boiler for sixteen years, Dan resigned in February of 1938. The following articles appeared in the *Winnett Times* of February 4, 1938:

"We were greatly surprised last week to learn that our school janitor, Dan Sommerfield, had found it necessary to resign owing to ill health. Dan has been an important part of our school personnel for so many years that we had come to look upon him as a permanent fixture, something always in its place like the desks or the school bell, or like the building itself. We never had to think of his work, because it was always done. The school bell never failed to ring at the proper time.

"We were always sure that we could come into a building that was clean and warm. We are sorry to see Dan go, and we know that we shall miss him. We shall miss him for his untiring industry, his zeal for thoroughness, for his many little kindnesses to the students and teachers, his constant watchfulness over the school property, his love of system and regularity. The little poem contributed by Mr. Whitten well expresses the sentiments of the students and faculty:

'To define the words, *spic and span*,  
It might well be said, "do like Dan."  
Our mothers taught us to be neat and clean  
And Dan has shown us what this can mean.  
And though we'll miss you when to school we come  
God bless you, Dan — a job well done.

By Allen Whitten'

Dan countered:

'Remember well and bear in mind  
A friend like Whitten is hard to find.  
Dan'

The Sommerfields moved to Canby, Oregon, where Mrs. Sommerfield died in June of 1945, and Dan, in August of 1961.

**SPAULDING, Arthur** The Art Spauldings moved to Winnett in 1926. They made their home in the original Roy Hopkins house in the Rimrock Addition, and Art worked in Weiloff's gas station.

In 1928 Mrs. Spaulding (Henrietta) won an award in a national essay contest. The subject was "Why the Laundry Should Do My Washing." Henrietta's letter was one of the several chosen from 1,044,372 entries. Having moved several times with their family of five, she wrote with some degree of authority. Her final two paragraphs were as follows:

"If each busy housewife would take pencil and paper and pause long enough to discover the true financial relation between the old and new way (of washing clothes), she would have more time for recreation, music, fancy work or other pleasures which would leave her better prepared for the priceless duties of motherhood.

"So you see I am for the laundry for health, happiness, economy and that feeling of good will and fellowship in the home, which leads to real contentment. May she (the laundry) continue to prosper and grow."

The stork left a ten-pound boy at the Spaulding home under the rimrocks in June of 1929. Art said that it should have been a girl, but felt he could get along just fine with four boys. Two of those boys, Jay and Bob, were put out of commission for a time in August of 1929. The boys both fell off a horse and each broke their left arm, one above the elbow and one just below. Their father stated that the boys caused very little trouble around the house, since each carried an arm in a sling.

In September of 1929, Vick Weiloff moved to Lewistown, Montana, and Art was put in charge of the Weiloff bulk plant and gas station until the station changed hands in 1933. In July 1933, Art became the proprietor and owner of the Broadway Garage. He sold that business in 1935 to John Merten and Henry Lengemann and moved to Lewistown. The Spaulding family moved to Joliet, Montana, in October of 1939.

In Joliet, Art operated a bulk plant and service station until his retirement. Son James D. then took over the plant and service. Art passed away in June of 1967.

Art and Henrietta Spaulding were the parents of five boys — Max, Ray, James, Robert and Frank. A boy, Gardley Spaulding, was also listed on the Spaulding census card with a note stating that Gard's mother was deceased. In December of 1939 Gardley was married to Jean Provinse of Red Lodge. (See also SPAULDING — Cat Creek)

**SPEARS, Schuyler** Schuyler "Scotty" was a restaurant cook in Winnett as early as 1917 and was cook for the crew of the discovery well at Cat Creek in February of 1920. The crew had stated that "Scotty's good cooking and genial disposition made it easier for the drilling crew to enjoy the hardships encountered."

In April of 1921, Scotty bought the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh White. At that time he was operating his own restaurant in Winnett. The business was later sold to



Unknown, William Petrusch, Scotty Spears, unknown; (front) D. Y. Wilson, high school boy working in Spears restaurant (1919)

William Bauer, and Scotty moved to Los Angeles, California.

**SPECK, THE TAILOR** (See PEARL, THE CLEANER)

**SPENCER, A. W.** Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Spencer and family of Cut Bank, Montana, moved to Winnett in August of 1946. Mr. Spencer was the owner of Farm Service and Supply, an outlet for farmers' electrical devices and the service thereof. Spencers purchased the residence of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Palin, better known as the William Bennett house.

A daughter, Patty, entered Winnett Elementary School. While they lived here, another daughter, Marianne, was born (9-11-46).

In April of 1948, Mr. Spencer was given a larger service area that included Miles City, Montana. The family left here in August of 1948 and made their home in Casper, Wyoming.

**SPENCER, J. H.** Mr. Spencer was assistant to Mr. Morton and also acted as field agent for the Independent Pipe Line. He came here from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**SPENCER, Kenni Jean** The Mecca Beauty Shop in Winnett employed Jean Spencer as an operator in 1961. On November 24, 1961, she and Torger S. Sikveland were married in the First Lutheran Church of Winnett.

**STANTON, Kenneth** Kenneth Stanton was employed by the Eager Mercantile after coming to Winnett in May of 1949. There were two children in the family. One girl entered school here.

**STAUFFACHER, Edward** Edward Stauffacher was born December 19, 1904. He attended grade school in the Brush Creek area. On October 12, 1935, he married Josephine Doman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Doman of the Flatwillow area.

Edward often helped in the Town Tavern in Winnett. In 1943 Stauffachers purchased the Hansen buffet property, including all lots and sheds west of the Joe Shumate building to the corner of Main and Broadway. On October 16, 1943, Jo and Edward opened a soda fountain and lunch counter. They had also purchased Mother's



Cafe and the office house of Doctor Alexander. In November of 1945 Stauffachers sold those buildings to Willford Nadeau of Cut Bank, Montana.

Stauffachers also owned the old drugstore, and they sold that building to R. W. Gilmore, of South Dakota, for \$2700 in February of 1946. At that time Stauffachers owned and operated the Stockman Bar. (It appears that Edward enjoyed dealing in real estate.) 1949 found Stauffachers managing the Gusher Bar, and in June of 1953, they bought the Commercial Hotel. This was re-sold to Mrs. Fannie Brooks in 1955.

In 1961 Jo and Edward moved to Denton, Montana, then to Lewistown in 1963. Edward passed away there in 1967. Jo continued to enjoy life until September of 1985. (See also DOMAN — Flatwillow; BRUMBERGER — Ashley)

**STENSON, Henry A.** Henry Stenson was a resident of Winnett in the very early 1920s and was a partner with Archibald Faragher in the Broadway Garage. (W.T. 4-8-1921) "The splendid new garage being erected by Stenson and Faragher on Broadway is nearing completion, and it is more likely that it will be ready for occupancy by the 20th. Work of laying the concrete floor is now in progress. As soon as this is in and sufficient time elapses for its settling, the place will be opened."

(W.T. 4-8-1921) "Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Stenson returned from Helena Monday. They had gone there to get a baby girl left at the Children's Home in that city, and whom they have adopted."

In March of 1925, H. A. Stenson obtained the Chevrolet agency for Petroleum County. He purchased the John Wilson property (Lot 12, Block 11) for use as a salesroom. He also installed a service station and sold Conoco gasoline.

**STEPHENSON, Arthur W.** Arthur Stephenson resided in Winnett during the summer of 1921. As a pilot for the Aero Miles City, Montana, Club, he instructed Les Hoyle in the art of flying. In November of 1921, Art won the honors at the Legion Aerial Derby at Kansas City, Missouri.

(W.T. 11-4-1921) "Stephenson's mascot, a Montana bobcat, which accompanied him on the trip, was presented to Marshal Foch of France by the Montana delegation. The bobcat was captured along the Musselshell River in the vicinity of Winnett, which makes both the champion and his mascot purely Winnett natives." (Ed. Other biographies assert that the bobcat was caught on Sunday Creek near Miles City.)

Art Stephenson was later involved in establishing the present municipal airport in Great Falls, Montana.

**STERN, Jerry** Mr. and Mrs. Stern and two sons lived in Winnett for only one year while Mr. Stern was work unit conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service. They left here in May of 1955 for Missoula, Montana, where Jerry had accepted a position with the State Forestry Department.

**STEVENS, H. O.** Mr. Stevens was engineer at the

pump station for the Independent Pipe Line in the 1920s.

**STEVENS, J. A.** Mr. Stevens (relationship to H. O. Stevens unknown) was in charge of the field tanks and line of the Independent Pipe Line in the 1920s.

**STEWART, Harry** In 1915 Mr. and Mrs. Stewart managed the Bachelor's Cafe.

**STEWART, Mary I.** "Mother" Stewart, as she was affectionately known, was the popular owner of Mother's Cafe in the 1920s. In April of 1929, to better serve her many customers, she enlarged her restaurant. This allowed the installation of private booths, a special attraction for the young folks who enjoyed a bit of privacy.

Then, just like all other business owners in Block 16, she had to watch her fine restaurant be consumed by fire September 1, 1929. Her husband, "Pappy" Stewart, also lost his cigar store in the same fire. "Mother Stewart" was determined in her desire to feed the hungry public, so she purchased the Herman Hansen Cafe and continued in business.

In March of 1930, she moved her cafe to the former Mode building. There, in 1934, she installed a modern ice cream cabinet, and wonder of wonders, an electric refrigerator! Both units were operated from the same freezing plant in the basement.

After cooking for people for 22 years, and to celebrate her 74th birthday, she closed her restaurant in December of 1942 and remarked that she was going to "just rest." She died in October 1946. (See also STEWART, George — Brush Creek)



*Mother Stewart's Cafe (Lot 7, Block 17) about 1940. Lillian Howry and Mother Stewart behind counter. Henry Sibbert being served.*

**STEWART, Robert Lee** Robert Lee and Sally Howard Stewart, accompanied by sons Boyd and Virgil, came to this country in 1921 and lived in the Rimrock

Addition to Winnett. Mr. Stewart and son Boyd were active as oil drillers during the Cat Creek oil boom.

Young folks enjoyed visiting in the Stewart home, where Mrs. Stewart made taffy to pull and where everyone enjoyed listening to the music of a player piano. Stewarts raised chickens and always managed to have a beautiful and bounteous garden. They were active members of the Methodist Church, and Mr. Stewart served as church pledge collector for years.

In 1941 Stewarts moved to Cut Bank to be near son Boyd, and where they expected to continue in the chicken business. In December of 1943, neighbors noticed smoke pouring cheerfully from Stewarts' former Winnett house chimney. Stewarts had returned to their home near the creek.

Mr. Stewart died in 1946. Mrs. Stewart moved to Cut Bank to make her home. She passed away in 1950. Their mini-farm home in Winnett was sold to Kenneth Bratten.

**STOLL, Lewis** Lewis was a proprietor of the City Furniture Exchange, which was in the building known as the Northrup Barbershop. His first ad appeared in the *Winnett Times* on 4-22-21.

**STOLZ, Capt. Myles K.** Captain Myles K. Stolz arrived in Winnett in the fall of 1936, as commanding officer of Company 575 of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The first of January the family, including daughter Nancy, moved to Lewistown, Montana. Capt. Stolz was transferred to Havre, Montana, in March 1937 to command a CCC camp which was located in the Bear Paw Mountains.

**STONE, C. J.** Geologist Stone, Mrs. Stone, and daughter Muriel had their office and residence in the Hover building. Mr. Stone's advice was sought on many occasions, not only for oil drilling, but for obtaining a water supply for the city (1921).

**STORER, Robert L.** Robert L. Storer, the son of Mable (Dreisbach) and "Bud" Storer of Musselshell, was born August 1, 1930. (See also DREISBACH — Kelley) Gwen Blake was born February 12, 1932. Gwen and Bob were married in 1952. They became the parents of four children — Susie E., John W., David W., and Richard L. The family moved to Winnett from Roundup in September of 1964. Bob had been named manager of the Montana Lumber and Hardware Company. Their home, which was owned by Myra Poulton at the time, was the former Hillius house at 101 North Ashley Avenue.

Gwen was chairman of the Garden Club in 1965. When Bob was given the contract with School District #169 Board of Trustees for the transportation of pupils of the Dovetail-Valentine route, Gwen was certified as a relief driver. The Storer children all attended the Winnett Schools. Susie graduated from Winnett High School in 1971.

The Montana Lumber and Hardware was closed in August of 1971. The Storer family was transferred to Harlowton, Montana, where both Bob and Gwen were employed by the lumber company. Susie married Donald

Schoen. They have a daughter, Donna Suzanne, and live in California.

**STORMWIND, Solomon** Mr. Stormwind and his wife, Gertrude, were both born in Austria. They homesteaded in Sec. 29-16-27 before moving to Winnett. Sol operated The Hub, a clothing store for men in Winnett. An advertisement for The Hub stated the business was established on February 17, 1921. It is believed the store was a subsidiary of Joe Alweis' Hub in Lewistown, Montana. (In the fall of 1921, The Hub was moved into the new Ogg building which adjoined it on the east. The former Hub building became Blumenfield's Cafeteria and Pastry Shop.) The Winnett Hub operated until January of 1929, when the stock was removed to Lewistown.

Sol was in the insurance business at that time, and the family decided to stay in Winnett until the end of the school year. The family was very involved in school business, and social circles by this time, so when spring came, they remained in Winnett.

Then came the big fire of September 1, 1929, that destroyed not only the Hub clothing store, but also the Stormwind home. Unfazed by all this misfortune, Sol preferred to remain in Winnett and continue with his insurance business. Stormwinds rented the original Richard Valentine house, which had just been vacated by the Harmison family. The Stormwinds had four children at the time — Charles, Norman, Edith, and Ruth. Twin girls, Mary and Mildred, were born to them in 1932.

In March of 1933, Mrs. Stormwind was in the process of cleaning clothes and put about five gallons of gasoline into an electric washing machine. This would have seemed to have been a harmless and efficient operation. However, a "loose" electric spark ignited the gas. Luckily no one was seriously burned, and only the back porch suffered damage, so luck was with them that time!

Then the Stormwinds lost both of their twin girls — Mary in March of 1933, and Mildred in February of 1934.



*Charles Stormwind could do the "muscle grind."*