

one of only three killed (although there were over 60 passengers in the plane) during a snowstorm in January of 1947. Wayne was married to Ruth Gregory and had one son, Peter.

Calvin was another good-looking Vannoy boy, but it is believed he did not graduate from Winnett High School. Max graduated from Winnett High School in 1939. He is remembered by some as an exceptionally good football player in high school. Max took some college courses and served in the Navy in the Pacific theatre. He later purchased and was proprietor of a trailer court, cabins, restaurant, and gas station in Oregon.

Max and wife, Eleanor, were parents of one son, Mark, and four girls — Lynne, Cheryle, Dayle, and a twin sister of Dayle's who died at age two of cancer. The family evidently left Winnett before Rex and Gene were old enough to graduate from high school.

VANNOY, Earl (W.T. 1-23-1925) "Earl Vannoy will, this week, open a general merchandise store in the building formerly used as County Division Headquarters, which was across the street from the Farmers and Merchants Bank. The new enterprise will be known as the 'Busy Corner.' Mr. Vannoy was formerly in the general merchandise business in Jordan, Montana."

VANSCHOYCK, Maurice Maurice VanSchoyck graduated from Winnett High School in 1924. Throughout his high school years, Maurice earned his way by being a printer for the *Winnett Times*. His "School News by Maurice" kept the reading public in touch with the school. Those same notes have provided local historians with bits of history that are unavailable elsewhere. Some excerpts of historical interest from the 1921 issues follow:

"The Winnett dormitory is running cheaper this year than before . . . Last year the board was sixteen dollars, . . . this year board costs \$15.50."

"The total enrollment of the high school is 97 and is expected to go over the top in the near future . . ."

"We have with us this year four college graduates among the faculty of our high school, a higher percentage than before."

"Last Saturday afternoon the first game of football ever played in the Winnett district was staged between Harlowton and our own high school boys. It was the second game that all but two of our boys had ever seen or played."

"The chemistry class will visit the laboratory at the Weowna Refining Company plant in a few days to learn about manufacturing the different products from crude oil and how to test them."

"Lone Eagle paid the school a visit Friday morning and gave a very interesting talk about his experiences when doing secret service work for Uncle Sam."

Maurice followed the newspaper trade all of his life. His parents later changed their name to Van. (See also VAN — Flatwillow)

VINSON, C. S. (W.T. 8-26-1921) "The new Method

Laundry commenced business operation Monday at the location of the old laundry on McDonald Creek in the south part of the city. C. S. Vinson and J. M. Cockran purchased the equipment from the former proprietors and are operating the same.

"Mr. Cockran comes from Washington, where he previously engaged in this business, and Mr. Vinson has resided in this city for some time, conducting the Belmont rooming house. Being an experienced laundryman, Mr. Vinson realized the opportunity here for a first-class institution, which resulted in the opening of the New Method Laundry. These gentlemen understand treating the water. Lack of this procedure has somewhat hindered success in this line previously."

VLASTELIC, Mike Mike was employed by the Nebraska Feeding Co. and lived at Flatwillow in 1977 (See also VLASTELIC — Flatwillow). His wife, Patti, became the manager of the Mecca Beauty Shop in Winnett on September 15, 1971. Patti had taken her training at the Hollywood Beauty Academy of Billings, Montana. She had previously worked at Mary Jones Beauty Salon in Roundup, Montana. Vlastelics presently (1989) live near Grassrange, Montana, and are the parents of two daughters — Jamie Michelle and Jo Dee Lynn.

VOGEL, George George worked for G. W. Conrad in October 1921.

VOLLER, R. N. On February 1, 1960, Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Voller and 20-month-old daughter, Linda, came to make their home in the Winnett depot. Mr. Voller was the Milwaukee Road agent, coming here from Straw, Montana, where he had previously been agent. They left here in October of 1960 and moved to Manhattan, Montana.

VON TOBLE, Rudolph Mr. Von Toble, well-known early-day Lewistown lawyer, was secretary of the Winnett Irrigation Co. In the early 1920s he was also a judge of Department No. 2 of the 10th District Court of the State of Montana.

WAAGE, Taylor B. Mr. Waage was not a Winnett resident, but was mail clerk on the Milwaukee train out of Winnett for many years. The Winnett post office personnel cooperated with him in preparing the mail for shipment to Lewistown, Montana, and points along the route.

WACKER, Ed Ed had been previously employed on the main line of the Milwaukee Railroad at Jefferson Island (about 25 miles west of Three Forks, Montana, on the Jefferson River) when he was transferred to be local agent at Winnett. He, his wife Fern, and his son Larry moved here in May of 1950.

Fern was hired as first and second grade teacher in the fall of 1954 or 1955. She was also chosen public library trustee in 1957. She resigned both of these positions in the spring of 1960, as Ed had been transferred to Choteau, Montana.

Larry graduated from Winnett High School in 1958. He had pleased many audiences with his musical ability as a

singer and instrumentalist. He graduated from Eastern Montana College with a degree in English and taught four years at Geraldine, Montana. He acted and played piano during summers with the Pioneer Playhouse and the Virginia City Players. He became a hotel manager in Hawaii and married Janice McCurry of Hawaii.

WADMAN, Lillian Lillian came into Winnett from the Ashley community in her teen years and worked in Mother Stewart's restaurant. She later ran her own restaurant, Lil's Cafe, for many years.

Desiring to see more of the country, she found cooking jobs in both Arizona and Alaska before moving to Anaconda, Montana. She married Raymond Piper there June 9, 1956. Her married status did not put an end to her public cooking career, as she was then employed as a cook at Galen State Hospital until her retirement in 1974. Lillian died in 1982 in Anaconda. (See also WADMAN — Ashley)

WADMAN, Victor Vic graduated from Winnett High School in 1941, then was in the service as an Army medic at Fitzsimons Hospital in Denver, Colorado, and Baxter Hospital in Spokane, Washington. When his father passed away, Vic returned home to help on the ranch.

Blanche McAdam had lived in Cat Creek as a small girl (See also McADAM — Cat Creek). She later came to work for Lillian Wadman in Lil's Cafe. She and Vick were married in February of 1947, and they lived in Winnett most of their married life. Vic worked on the ranch and Blanche worked in both the Herweg and D and E Stores. When the Rex Eagers left in 1974, Vic and Blanche purchased the Eager house at the corner of West Main and South Moulton Avenue.

Vic played a lot of basketball, even after graduating from high school. Both he and Blanche were very supportive of sports and other activities for the betterment of the community. Vic was a member of the local American Legion. After a struggle with crippling arthritis, Vic passed away in 1980.

Blanche and Vic had one son, Jay, who graduated from Winnett High School and had a great basketball record in 1966. He attended Eastern and Northern Montana Colleges. He and Carol Pfeiffer of Cut Bank, Montana, were married and are the parents of three children — Angela Renee, Blake Justin and Derek Jay. Jay works for the Texaco Company of Roundup, Montana. Carol was a teacher in Winnett the 1988-89 year, and the three children attended Winnett schools. She is now (1989) teaching in Roundup, Montana. (See also WADMAN — Ashley)

WALDROP, George R. George R. Waldrop was born April 15, 1893, in Rutherford, North Carolina. He received his early education there and attended the University of Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He grew up working in a general store and, as a young man, secured a job as clerk in a store in New Mexico.

Grace Greenwood Marshall was born December 3, 1893, at Wichita Falls, Texas. While visiting her sister,



George Waldrop — good actor!

Maude, in New Mexico, she went shopping and met George, the store clerk. In the presidential election of 1916, George had the courage to vote for Woodrow Wilson as President, although his employer's choice was Charles Evans Hughes. For this, George lost his job, so he signed up with an employment agency to secure work elsewhere.

The proprietors of the Coates store of Martinsdale, Montana, were favorably impressed with George's application and asked him to come work for them. Of course this presented a problem — how could he stand to be so far away from his sweetheart? The enigma was quickly solved — they both traveled to Montana, got married in Butte, and went on to their first home in Martinsdale. They were both very happy there.

George was drafted for service in World War I, so Grace returned to her former home in Illinois to make a living for herself. She was employed by Carson Pirie Scott. George received his first military training at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas and was next sent to Fort Meade, Maryland, from where he was to be sent overseas. He did not go across the sea, however — measles caught up with him, so he missed the ship!

After George's discharge, he returned to Illinois, but he felt that he could not make a good living there. Again he signed up with an employment agency. This time Elmer Eager of Winnett liked his credentials. George and Grace arrived in Winnett in 1919, and George worked as clerk in the Eager Mercantile store. He built his house at 305 South Broadway. Two daughters were born to the couple — Hazel Jean (1920) and Grace Marie "Tyke" (1922).

Although happy with his employment, George, like



Senator George R. Waldrop

many ambitious young men, felt the need of getting into business for himself. In May of 1925, the Waldrops bought the Winnett Mercantile from Barney and Frank Winkes. Thus George became the friendly competitor of his former employer. Still the two families, all through the years, shared Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. As though being a new businessman was not enough, the town populace chose George as their mayor in 1925.

During this time, Grace, an excellent seamstress, had been busy making clothes for her family, helping at the store when possible, keeping a beautifully clean house (with so little water) and directing the Methodist church choir. She also gave voice and piano lessons to aspiring musicians.

Both Grace and George were most supportive of any community effort for improvement of the town, the school and the businesses. George, with his natural southern accent was a featured actor in many home talent plays, flawlessly acting the part, either male or female, of our southern Black Americans. Grace was a featured singer for most programs and celebrations. When efforts were being exerted to form the new county of Petroleum, Grace was the one who wrote the rousing "Battle Hymn of Petroleum County" — a parody of "Hail, Hail, the Gang's all Here."

With hard work and long hours, Waldrops fared well with their general store. After the Enterprise Meat Market burned and Rudy Beck quit selling meat, George took over meat handling. He did most of his butchering at night at the slaughter house on Rudy Beck's place just south and west of town.

In 1930 the Winnett Mercantile suffered an internal fire resulting in an estimated loss of about \$7000, mostly due to smoke permeation of food and materials. A lot of the burned and badly smoked material was hauled to the Winnett dump, only to be hauled away again by those who thought they could derive some benefit from it. A fire sale was held of less-damaged goods. There are those



Grace G. Waldrop

in the community who can still remember the unique taste of smoked bran flakes! So what? Five cents a box was really cheap!

Jean and Grace Marie were instructed in piano by Miss Sue Kenny of Lewistown, who gave them lessons on Saturdays. Each girl practiced prodigiously throughout the week, before and after their school hours. They became accomplished musicians, and entirely by rote, presented many recitals at the Kenny studio in Lewistown. They shared their talents at local programs in Winnett. Jean, like her father, was especially interested in the game of baseball. She was also a fine marble player and won more marbles than she lost!

A strong Democrat, one of George's chief interests was in local, state and national politics. He won the election as State Representative for Petroleum County in 1937-38 and as State Senator in 1939 and 1941.

The Waldrop home was sold in 1945, when the family purchased the original Jarrett house at 101 South Broadway. Residents remember the beautiful grand piano that had its place in that residence. Several youngsters received instruction and performed recitals at its noble keyboard.

George had an operation for cancer in 1948 from which he never fully recovered. He died April 6, 1949, in St. Joseph's Hospital of Lewistown, and was buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery.

Grace and Jean operated the store for one year after George's death. Then the store was sold to Elmer and Rex Eager, and the stock of the Eager Mercantile store was moved to the Winnett Mercantile site. Grace and Jean lived in Winnett for a time, and Jean worked for Eagers in their newly-acquired store until she returned to school.

Grace later sold her house and moved to an apartment in Billings. In 1968 she married Eldridge C. "Corky" Fort and moved back to her beloved state of Illinois. Corky died in 1978, and Grace moved to Los Angeles, California, near her two girls. She died in 1987 and her ashes



Grace married Eldridge "Corky" Fort in 1968.
Hazel Jean, Grace, Corky, Grace Marie

were scattered at sea.

Jean graduated from Winnett High School in 1938, attended Stephens College for girls in Columbia, Missouri, and received a B. A. degree from the University of Montana at Missoula, Montana, and a Ph. D. degree in economics from the University of Southern California. She had served in the WAVES as a technician in 1943 and is now a retired Commander in the U. S. Navy Reserve. She is also a semi-retired Emeritus Professor in the School of Business and Economics at California State University of Los Angeles.

Grace Marie graduated from Winnett High School in 1940. She received a B. A. degree in 1946 and an M. D. degree in 1949 from the University of California at Berkeley. She has had a private practice in obstetrics and gynecology in Los Angeles, and has held many prestigious positions related to her special field. She is still serving as a gynecologist.

Jean and Grace Marie each worked in the Petroleum County courthouse during their school years. Jean worked under Harry Tripp for the Agricultural Conservation Administration office in the 1940s. Grace Marie worked as assistant treasurer, assistant clerk and recorder, and assistant clerk of court from 1943 to 1945.

Both women feel that their education in Winnett schools was a fine stepping stone to their ultimate work in life. Loyal to their high school and their old home community, they return often for reunions or to visit. Through the years they have made generous contributions to various local endeavors.

WALKER, Daniel C. "D. C." Walker, as he was commonly known, was born in Hillsdale, Illinois, February 18, 1870. Daisy Pettifer was born in Moline, Illinois. By some consequence they became acquainted, were married in 1896, and moved to Lewistown, Montana, in 1904. Three

children were born to them — Marie, Perry and Ruth. The whole family moved to Winnett in 1917.

D. C. was involved in a transfer business and, in association with Ted Hegna, built up a bulk oil plant and handled the Ford Agency in the Broadway Garage. The transfer company was known as the Blue Line Transportation Co. Co-partners were Roy Hopkins of Winnett and Ray S. Conger and A. T. Van Dinternow of Lewistown.

D. C. was elected city alderman in April of 1921 and was also chairman of the board of school trustees. Daisy was a leader in the local Woman's Club and was also first vice-president of the Methodist women's Ladies' Aid in 1921. In the mid-1920s, Daisy established the Dress Shoppe in the old Northrup barber building across the street from the Aristo building. She sold millinery for girls and ladies of all ages as well as a fine line of dresses.

For a time in the mid-1930s, D. C. operated the State Liquor Store in the First State Bank building. Walkers moved to Denton in 1940 and operated a theater there until 1944. D. C. died June 24, 1945.

Marie Walker graduated from Fergus High School, had teacher training, and was hired as teacher of the Circle Bar School of the Petrolia area for two years (1917-1919). She married a local land owner, Selah Converse, and became a part of the western Petrolia community. Perry served as a barber in Winnett and in 1925 married Mae Kauth. They moved to Denton in the late 1920s. Perry was involved in the grocery business there.

Ruth graduated from Winnett High School in 1928. She worked for a time as post office clerk under Postmaster Kragrud. She was married and became the mother of two sons, Perry and Wilson Johnston. After taking many prestigious business courses, she became a licensed real estate broker in the state of California. (See also KAUTH — Winnett)

WALLACE, Earl I. Earl I. Wallace was the stepfather of Bernice and Bennie Lee Haldeman (later known as Bernice and Bennie Wallace). Ben Haldeman, the father, was born in 1892 in Aurora, Kansas, died in 1912, and was buried in Concordia, Kansas. He had married Nellie Mae Harrington, who was born in Concordia, Kansas, March 7, 1880.

They had two daughters, Bernice and Bennie Lee. When Bernice was one year old, Ben Haldeman died. Bennie Lee was born three months later. Five years later, Nellie married Earl I. Wallace. In 1917 the Wallace family moved to Winnett, where Earl Wallace purchased some land a few miles east of Winnett.

Bernice recalled: "As a child, all I can really remember of Winnett was sagebrush, rattlesnakes, and hard times. When we children started school, my mother rented a shack in Winnett, and she rode the horse out to the farm every morning and back to Winnett in the evenings, so that we girls could go to school. She used the horse to plow in the daytime. Hard life. Wonder how she could have done it. Think I would have gone back to Kansas! They broke up land with horses, but I can't remember

them ever having a crop.

"They kept at farming until they starved out, then moved into Winnett and started a dray line. They moved freight from as far as Lewistown with horses. Father used to haul water and sell it to the townspeople. Mother took in boarders to make a living. I can remember cattle running loose and being dangerous. There must have been a doctor there then, because I broke my arm one time. I remember the day the train came to Winnett. Big day!"

Bernice and Benny went to grade school here. Then in 1922 Earl sold his dray line to Alvin Ingebo and the family moved to Wyoming, where Earl went to work in the oil fields. Bernice returned and graduated from Winnett High School in 1928. She married Richard Kullberg in 1928. They had four children — Robert, who was killed in an air crash; a boy who died in infancy; Janet, who was Rodeo Queen of Montana in 1956 and taught in high school; and Nora, an art major who graduated from American University in Washington, D. C., and taught school in West Virginia. Bernice has 11 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Richard passed away April 12, 1988, and was buried in Cut Bank, Montana.

When Bernice answered her history questionnaire, she presented the local library with the special Easter edition of the 1917 *Winnett Times*. It had been kept in perfect condition. This edition was taken to Helena, Montana, where the Montana Historical Society microfilmed it for their records and then encased the complete paper in mylar to preserve it for the library's use. With thanks to Bernice, the local community library now has that issue for the patrons.

WALLACE, George George was a prominent rig builder in the oil fields.

WALTER, James James, wife Renae, and son Mitchell arrived in Winnett in 1950. They lived in the original Pullin house of Lot 16, Block 14 on Millsap Street. Jim was employed as butcher in the Winnett Mercantile.

Both Jim and Renae quickly entered into the civic and social concerns of their new community. Jim was made manager of the Winnett softball team. Renae shared her gift of singing for many occasions. Another son, Raymond Joseph, was born to them on May 2, 1951.

Later that same month, the Walters were outside visiting with some of their neighbors. It was a little late in the evening and becoming somewhat dark when two-year-old Mitch slipped away from the group and went for a walk. Believed to be in the house, Mitch was not missed for quite a time. A quick exploration of the house and surrounding area was fruitless.

The entire population of the town was soon involved in the search — even fearsomely scouring the McDonald Creek area. Finally, using spotlights, the roads leading out of town were explored. A driver on the Bauer road north of town sighted something white. It was Mitch's newly-acquired white puppy standing guard over his little master! The little boy, minus one shoe, was lying exhausted in the ditch. The following weekend there was

hardly a dry eye in the crowd at a school program when Renae sang, "It is no Secret What God can do."

Jim found other employment in Poplar, Montana, in August of 1951. He later acquired his own butcher shop there.

WALTERS, Charles (W.T. 6-10-1921) "Charles Walters, the well-known artist, has recently painted a fine large oil painting of the Winnett rimrocks. This picture is about eight feet by six feet in size and is an artistic creation."

Before the big Pribble Implement fire, Charles had used a portion of that building for a paint shop. A vest, that belonged to Charles which held the key to the building, had been stolen; and it was thought the thief may have used the building for sleeping quarters and accidentally set fire to the property.

(W.T. 12-12-1923) "Two oil paintings from the brush of Charley Walters of Winnett, Montana, have just been returned from the Lewistown fair with the first prize awards. In depicting western scenery and western scenes, Mr. Walters is not outclassed by any artist in this line. The charm of the vari-colored buttes and the unusual and peculiarly shaped lime and sandstone formations in this section provide scenes of absorbing and never ceasing interest, and when produced on canvas by the masterful hand of Charley Walters, they are distinctly realistic. The artist is now working on a series of pictures emblematic of Montana life from the early days when buffaloes and Indians added picturesqueness to western scenery.

"These paintings will picture western life up to the present day. The artist is assisted in his portrayal of early day scenes with accounts from personal experiences of Mr. W. J. Winnett, who has spent over forty years of his life in this section during the days when Montana and the west were in the making. The fact that Mr. Walters has not long since had a nationwide reputation for his oil paintings of the west is due entirely to his very modest temperament and the only desire of the artist's soul for the supreme joy of his work."

Charles also decorated the interior of the Winnett house with a mural. In 1922 he re-decorated the Savoy Hotel.

WALTZ, William Coming here from Roundup, Montana, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Waltz and four children moved into the Rowton house in the southwest corner of Block 14, the original townsite of Winnett in July of 1966. Bill Waltz worked for Claude Allen.

WANGSENG, Thomas Tommy Wangseng's father originally homesteaded in the Blakeslee area near War House Lake. His mother worked for a time at the Teigen Ranch. Tommy was eventually raised in Musselshell River territory by two uncles, Sever and Ed Wangness. Tommy attended Winnett High School for three years and was very active in the boxing club. While in Winnett, he became acquainted with Edna Petersen, daughter of Roy

and Mae Manuel of Cat Creek.

Edna and Tommy were married in 1952. They, along with Edna's sons — Dan, Bill and Art — lived on Tommy's uncles' place for one year. Then they moved into Winnett so the children could attend school.

Tommy worked for a seismograph crew for a few months and next went to work with the Petroleum County road crew in April of 1954. Edna did sewing for herself and others while their children were small. She also worked in the cafe for Edith Arthur; in Clark's store for five years; in the State liquor store for one year; and was the Winnett School hot lunch cook for 8½ years. During this time she was nominated as Culinary Queen by the *Lewistown Daily News*.

Tommy served Petroleum County as road foreman for 29 years and retired in October of 1987, after a total employment period of 33½ years. Upon his retirement in September of 1987, over 125 people gathered in the hospitality room of the Petroleum County courthouse to wish him well in his retirement and to thank him for his dedicated service. He and Edna had spent many of their Sundays driving around the county to check the road conditions. Tommy was presented with a gold watch and a bonus check.

The Wangsengs bought a new fifth-wheel trailer so they can do what they like to do — go fishing, camping and just traveling. The Wangsengs parented six children — Dan, Art, Bill, Loretta, Stanley, and Pamela. Dan and wife Cherlyn live in Winnett. Dan leases the mechanical shop of Rabern's Garage and is kept busy. He and Cherlyn are parents of Laurie, Gordie, Kevin, Kathy, Caren and Christie, who are all grown and on their own.

Art graduated from Winnett High School in 1965 and enlisted in the Air Force that year. After discharge he returned to Texas where he has been employed by American Telephone and Telegraph for 20 years. Art and wife Joan adopted a son, Billy, and were parents also of Matthew.

Bill also graduated from Winnett High School in 1965 and enlisted in the Army in 1966. He served as Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery before going to Thailand and Vietnam. He and Marsha Belstad were married. Their two sons, Rodney and Duane, live in Wolf Point. Bill works in a cement plant in Fernley, Nevada. Loretta passed away at three days of age. Stanley graduated from Winnett High School in 1973. He and his wife, Amy, have three children — Sarah, Shawna, and Bryan. Stanley works for a water company in Valier.

Pamela graduated in 1974 and has one son, Jason Davis. Pam works as a waitress at Circus-Circus in Fernley, Nevada. When Winnett's new gymnasium was completed in 1973, Pam painted the ram's head on the floor in the center of the basketball jump circle. Many contests have begun at that spot.

Wangsengs own a former house of education. The old Long schoolhouse was moved to their home and converted into a garage and shop building. (See also WANGSNESS — Musselshell River)

WARD, Fred Fred C. Ward, formerly of Ismay, Montana, was chosen superintendent of School District #159 in April of 1927. Two children — Katheryn "Bumpy" and George — accompanied their parents to Winnett in the summer of 1927. The Wards remained in Winnett until Fred's resignation in the spring of 1930.

Mr. Ward had always been interested in journalism. In September of 1934 he purchased, and became the editor of, the *Meagher County News* at White Sulphur Springs. That newspaper was one of the oldest in the state, as it had been first published November 1, 1889, one week before Montana attained statehood.

WARFIELD, Paul Paul Warfield and family came from Lemmon, South Dakota, in June of 1967. Paul worked on the Wayne Bratten Ranch. The family had three children — Rex (1961), Velvet (1963), and Kathy Marie (1970). They lived in the Sommerfield house in Block 22 on Moulton Avenue.

In the fall of 1971, the family moved into the former telephone office building, which had been remodeled by Mrs. Anna Solf. Paul then worked for Floyd Hill. Rex entered first grade in Winnett in September 1968, and Velvet in September of 1969. The family left before the 1972-1973 school year.

WARNER, H. E. Mr. Warner was born in Cooperstown, North Dakota, and came to Montana in 1908. He went into the cattle business at Big Timber, Montana. Eline A. Adam was born in Belleville, Illinois, grew up in the Big Timber area, and graduated from Sweetgrass County High School. She attended Eastern Normal School. Eline and H. E. "Lynn" Warner were married in 1915.

After a few years, Lynn Warner became interested in the oil industry and was connected with operations in the Cat Creek field. He later became an oil and gas supervisor and was operator of a producing lease in the Kevin-Sunburst field. In the meantime, Eline pursued her teaching career, serving in the rural schools and finally in Winnett from 1945 to 1954. She retired from teaching at the end of the 1953-54 year and moved to Billings, Montana.

Mr. Warner died in 1950 as the result of a highway accident. Eline and Lynn had been parents of a son, Edward. Edward graduated from Winnett High School in 1943. He received an appointment to West Point, but failed the physical examination. With a valedictorian scholarship he entered college in Salt Lake City, Utah, and completed an engineering course which would permit him to enter the university. However, all students of this course were transferred into the Army.

Edward served in Africa, Italy, France, and in the Battle of the Bulge. As a platoon runner, he was mortally wounded while attempting to reach his platoon sergeant with a message. Killed on December 7, 1944, he was posthumously awarded five medals, the Purple Heart and the Silver Star.

Mrs. Warner died August 25, 1982, at 96 years of age.

Students who were so fortunate as to have had her as a seventh and eighth grade instructor remember her as an excellent mentor.

WATERS, Harry Harry Waters came to Winnett in the early part of 1962 and worked as a bartender. In April of 1966 he was hired by Stella Getten as bartender in the Gusher Bar, after Stella had discharged Hermie Bruns. On July 7, 1966, and in self-defense, he shot and killed Hermie Bruns in the Gusher Bar.

A manslaughter charge was filed against him. John Hedman provided \$2500 surety bond. At a coroner's inquest, Waters testified that he shot Bruns with his own gun, and offered nothing in his own defense other than that Bruns came after him and said, "I'm going to throw you out of here." Waters said, "When someone comes at you like that, you've got to do something."

At Harry Water's trial, the jury of eight men and four women, who had deliberated 4½ hours, returned a verdict of justifiable homicide, and Mr. Waters was set free.

WATSON, Clinton Until Clinton was in ninth grade, he lived in Valentine, Nebraska. Then his family moved to Townsend, Montana, where Clint graduated from Broadwater County High School in 1982. He then graduated from Montana State University. Clinton Watson started his teaching career in Winnett in the fall of 1987, after having done his student teaching here. Clint teaches industrial arts/technology education and physical education. He married Pamela Wilson, and they have a son, Shane Clinton, and a daughter, Emily (born in Montana's Centennial year).

WAY, John Mr. Way was a surveyor for the Resettlement Administration in Winnett. He and his wife lived at the Montana Hotel. They lost an infant son while living in Winnett in October of 1936. In May of 1937, John was transferred to Roundup, Montana.

WEARNE, Robert Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wearne and three children — Michael, Nancy Colleen and Steven — moved to Winnett in September of 1951. Robert was in charge of the local SCS office. The family soon entered into the affairs of the school and the community in general. Mrs. Wearne (Vivian) was named Red Cross fund chairman in February of 1952. Son Brian was born in 1953. The Wearnes left Winnett in April of 1954, when Robert was transferred to Roundup, Montana.

WEAVER, J. E. J. E. Weaver was one of the E. V. McCollum and Co. seismic crew. He and his family lived in Winnett during 1955 and 1956.

WEAVER, James Mr. and Mrs. James Weaver moved to Winnett from their ranch on the Musselshell River in the early 1920s. They owned and operated the Central Hotel, which had initially been the Jarrett Hotel. Their business was consumed in the devastating fire of September 1, 1929.

Jim was a veteran oil and mining prospector. Finding time heavy on his hands, and wishing to be more produc-

tive, he left Winnett in 1943 to work in the shipyards on the west coast. He became ill while there and died February 22, 1945. After Jim's death, Cora returned to Winnett. (See also WILSON, Frank)

WEILOFF, Victor Vic Weilloff, born July 17, 1881, married Bertha Skjold Folleso at Havre, Montana, in 1918. The couple lived at Gildford and Great Falls, Montana, before coming to Winnett in May of 1921.

Vic took over the management of the local Mutual Oil Company for two years. He built a home at 202 East Jenkins Street. After two years, he organized a wholesale business for himself under the name of Weilloff Oil Co. Both he and Bertha were active in the Methodist Church, Eastern Star and Masons. Vic took his turn at being alderman and mayor of the town, and Bertha helped coach a basketball team.

Weilloffs moved to Lewistown in 1929, and Vic set up the Weilloff Oil Co. in that city. Bertie concentrated her efforts in the work of the Eastern Star and the Republican party. She was elected Worthy Grand Matron of the Eastern Star Order in 1942. She later held state offices in the Grand Old Party and in 1965 was honored at the state level for her many years of dedicated service. Vic died in 1952 and Bertie, many years later, January 14, 1987.

WELCH, E. E. Mr. Welch was a carpenter in Winnett in the very early years of the town's existence. In December of 1921 he had the extreme misfortune of losing his 31-year-old wife, Tessie. They were the parents of five small children.

WELCH, Fred Fred came to the Petroleum County area in 1916 — very soon after his marriage to Anna Angleroth Gerstenhauer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. August Angleroth. Anna, born in Jena, Germany, in 1887, had married Oscar Gerstenhauer in 1908, and they became the parents of a daughter, Alice. Oscar Gerstenhauer died in 1909. Anna Gerstenhauer and daughter, Alice, immigrated to the United States in 1912 and settled in Oklahoma. In 1916 Anna married Fred Welch in Kansas, and they all three moved to Montana where they secured land in the Blakeslee community (Sec. 25-17-24). Alice attended the Blakeslee School.

In the 1920s, Welches moved to Winnett, where Fred was a self-employed trucker. In October of 1927, Fred and Anna leased the Palm Garden Restaurant and Confectionery from Charles Baker. They operated the restaurant until November of 1928, when they moved to Gildford, Montana. Fred had been hired as assistant manager of the Hegna Elevator there.

Two years later Fred was back in Winnett and leased Carl Howry's Busy Corner Garage. When the lease expired in May of 1933, Fred again resorted to trucking as a major source of livelihood. He was chosen justice of the peace in April of 1942, but he and Anna moved to Taft, California, later that year. Fred died there in 1953. Anna died in 1955 at Columbus, Montana.

Alice graduated from Winnett High School in 1925 and

attended Western Montana College at Dillon. She married Henry Van Heemst, a former resident of the Ashley community, and they moved to Taft, California. They later moved back to Montana — to Columbus — where they specialized in raising registered hogs. They were the parents of one son.

WELLANDER, Ernest Ernest Wellander was born in Johkoping, Sweden, November 2, 1876. He came to this country, and in 1917 homesteaded eight miles north of Winnett in Sec. 35-16-26. He lived on his farm for 18 years and then moved into the town of Winnett.

In Winnett he built a two-room cabin finished with cedar shakes on the outside. He completed a unique fence around his house and lots. Cedar posts were set and painted white on top. Then three double strands of smooth wire were attached to the posts. The interval between the posts was woven with willow. 10,000 willows were required to complete the fence weaving. He built the fence tight to keep out cats and dogs. Then the whole yard was plowed for a truck garden and flowers of many varieties.

Mr. Wellander lived in Winnett until forced to enter the Roundup nursing home. He died there in December of 1961.

WELLS, Charles Mr. Wells, a former city engineer of Great Falls, Montana, came to Winnett in August of 1922. He was engaged as municipal engineer for Winnett — to be in charge of all improvement work within the city.

WELLS, George George, an architect and builder, came to Winnett from Great Falls, Montana, in June of 1921. Prior to 1915, Mr. Wells drew the plans and erected many of the large buildings in Lewistown, Montana.

WELLS, Nate (Not to be confused with Mate Wells of Cat Creek.) Nate operated a shooting gallery and a dance hall in the Winnett Theater building in 1925. In 1927 he was a partner with William Griebel in the Peoples Theater.

WELTER, Nickoles R. Nickoles Robert Welter, son of William N. and Viola Sinclair Welter, was born at Valentine, Montana, on March 3, 1933. The family moved to the Petrolia Bench area where they lived until leasing the ranch a few years ago. Nick attended schools in Petrolia and Winnett, and later in Lewistown. He became a victim of rheumatic fever and missed many days of school. In the seventh and eighth grades, Nick attended schools in Winnett, and with the kind and persistent help of Mrs. Eline Warner, graduated from grade school with flying colors. To be nearer a doctor, Nick lived with grandmother, Rachel Welter, in Lewistown and attempted to attend high school, but was forced to give it up.

His health later improved, and he enlisted in the Marine Corps in November 1953. While in the service he received his GED and became a certified ground airplane mechanic and diesel engine mechanic as well as a test pilot for jet planes.

After his discharge, he worked for a time on his parents'

ranch, then went into trucking, working mostly in the local area, until moving to Billings in 1957, where he met and married Jayne Wardell. He later took over the management of Wardell's truck stop and continued trucking, returning to the ranch for a few years in the 1960s.

The family bought the Gusher Bar in Winnett in the late 1960s, and Nick managed it along with his trucking. He returned to Billings and the Laurel area in 1970 and married LaVerna Stoick. They resided outside of Laurel until Nick's death from a head-on car collision on the interstate west of Billings on August 12, 1984.

Nick and Jayne were the parents of three daughters — Lynda (1959), Karen (1961) and Traci (1962). Lynda has been married and has a daughter, Danielle. Lynda resides in Great Falls, Montana. Karen Ann lives in Billings, where she works for the U. S. Postal Service. She has son, Christopher. Traci married Michael Bevis. They reside in Winnett and Billings, where Michael trucks and helps out with Bevis Construction.

WELTER, Rosemary Shields (By Rosemary Welter) "I was born and raised in Roundup, Montana, the daughter of Raleigh Shields — game warden of Petroleum County for 26 years. As a girl I had been to Winnett a lot with my dad, and I always thought it was an isolated place! One couldn't have known I'd spend my adult life here. In 1962 I came to Winnett to teach school. Previously being employed in Great Falls, I was looking forward to teaching in a more rural setting. Fred Buchholz was the superintendent at that time; and he offered me a combination-room of 5th and 6th graders. What a challenge — I loved it!!

"Winnett wasn't exactly a hub of social activities for a single parent, but my daughter, Linda, and I soon became acquainted and settled in this little community. Fortunately, there were quite a few single people around and some young couples with children Linda's age, so we managed to fit in and keep busy. One of these single people was a guy I'd known from high school days by the name of Kenny Welter. He and I started dating regularly and in March of 1963 we went to Riverton, Wyoming, and were married! Linda and I moved to the ranch and we settled into ranch life. (See also WELTER — Petrolia)

"In the summer of 1986, I moved to Winnett into a house right across from the school. It was certainly nice to be so close to work, after all those years of driving back and forth to the ranch.

"As of 1988 my family is somewhat scattered. Ken has the ranch leased and lives in Billings most of the time — he has many interests and seems to stay busy. Linda now lives in Las Vegas, Nevada. She works in a casino-hotel and likes her work; however, she's also going to school training to become a real-estate broker.

"Todd is attending Cheyenne Aero-Tech hoping to achieve his life-long goal — being able to work on airplanes. As for me — I still live across from the school and am still the school librarian and Chapter I teacher (1989). I spend as much time as I can with my dad in

Roundup, and enjoy many interests and friends. Winnett has been very good to me, and I will always consider it 'home.'"

WEST, Everest Everest was a native of Kansas who came to Montana in about 1913. He settled at Roundup, Montana, for seven years and conducted the Wardrobe, a cleaning establishment. He was married to Lillian Rose at Roundup, and they became the parents of three children.

In June 1921 the family moved to Winnett and established the Star Cleaners. On December 12, 1921, Everest was visiting at the Winnett electric plant when an air pressure boiler exploded, killing him instantly. (See also HOUSER)

WEST, Harry Harry West had been a barber in the Metropolitan Barbershop of Billings, Montana, when he and Mabel moved to Winnett in November of 1929. He leased the barbershop building formerly owned by Len Hoyle and, at that time, owned by Walter Johnson.

Harry barbered there until April of 1931 when Walter Johnson decided he needed that building on his ranch in the Petrolia area. Harry, still enjoying a good patronage, remodeled a building on Main Street which had been a cafe and continued his business. That shop burned in October of 1931.

By the first week of November that same year Harry was back cutting hair in the First State Bank building at the corner of East Main and South Lepper Avenue.

In the meantime Mabel West, an avid reader, became interested in the development of a library. With the help of the Legion Auxiliary and members of the Eastern Star and other organizations and interested folk, a library was established in the basement of the courthouse. Mabel was the librarian until Wests moved to Jordan, Montana,

in 1936.

Bill Griebel Jr., many years later in writing his memories of Winnett, told of his experiences with Harry West: "There was a bond that held the community together that exists only in small towns. I was not aware of it because I was young and unsophisticated, but now I recall many times when someone needed help and was helped. One man, in particular, comes to mind. His name was Harry West, and he was the town barber.

"During those bleak depression days when we had nothing, Harry would cut my hair for the fee of performing some small task like chopping a small bundle of wood or running an errand. I recall passing his barbershop with a full head of hair and hearing Harry call to me to come in. Then came the haircut, and directions as to how to do some small task. I never knew enough to thank that man, but he was an outstanding member of our town."

WESTERVELT, "Shorty" "Shorty" was a trapper around Winnett in 1911. Visiting here in December of 1951, he related how he and Clayt Severns came here from Laurel, Montana, in a spring wagon drawn by a team of horses. They trapped along the way. There was no town here then — just the Winnett Ranch.

WHEELER, Dudley B. Dudley, a nephew of Mrs. Tony (Bessie Black) Rasmussen was born October 23, 1901, in Yankton, South Dakota. He was employed in Rasmussen's grocery store when he married Frances McFarren on Sunday, July 6, 1924. He joined the local Masonic Lodge in May of 1925. The Wheelers later moved to Yankton, South Dakota. (See also McFARREN)

WHISONANT, Dudley Dudley "Dud" Whisonant (1903) first came from North Carolina to the Winnett area in 1916 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Whiso-



Whisonant family first lived in tent near Dovetail (1916) Dudley at far right

nant, and seven brothers and sisters. They traveled by train to Roy, Montana, then on to Dovetail by foot. (See also CARRELL — GARRISON TRIP TO DOVETAIL — Dovetail)

Dudley lived with his family for awhile in the Dovetail area before they all moved back to North Carolina. He then came back to Montana several times in his search for employment and opportunity. He met Borghild Lunde in Chicago, where they were married in 1928. They were the parents of two children, Lillian (1928) and Donald (1930). In 1931 the couple moved to Petroleum County. Joseph was born at Dovetail in 1937. (See also WHISONANT — Cat Creek)

The Dudley Whisonant family purchased the Barkdoll house in Winnett in 1941, after renting various homes so the children could attend school. The family remained on their ranch on Box Elder Creek while also maintaining a home in Winnett throughout the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s.

Dud worked in the oil fields, on construction, and on various jobs. Dud was a "jack of all trades" which included butchering beef and hogs for George Wardrop at the slaughter house southwest of Winnett. (One time a two-year-old steer jumped out of George's four-wheel trailer, cleared the corral, and headed for open range with George and Dud in hot pursuit in George's pickup. The chase ended when George hit a ditch and broke a front wheel off. The steer was captured three years later at the Elmer Bauer place. The steer had at least four .22 short slugs in his thick skull.) Borghild worked at various jobs, including working for Mrs. Millsap at the Montana Hotel, for Lil Wadman at Lil's Cafe, and at the school dormitory.

Borghild and Dud owned and operated cafes and hotels in Roy and Lavina, Montana, before Dud passed away in 1982. The house in Winnett was burned in 1983 to make space for a new retirement home for Borghild. She died at her home in 1985. The home in Winnett now belongs to Ron and Lisa Solf.

WHITACRE, N. (W.T. 6-10-1921) "N. Whitacre, manager of the Valley Lumber Co., this week announces the removal of the company's offices from the Dickerson building on Main Street to their yard office west of the depot. This company has erected a large shed on their yard site and, according to Mr. Whitacre, now has the largest stock of field material of any yard in the state of Montana." Whitacres' daughter, Gladys, was married in Bozeman, Montana, in August of 1921.

WHITCOMB, A. B. Mr. Whitcomb, born September 29, 1884, in Wright County, Minnesota, was general manager of the Weowna Refinery in Winnett in 1924.

WHITE, Charles E. Charles E. White came here from Britton, South Dakota, and in April of 1921 resumed the management of his restaurant property, known as the Rainbow Cafe. This restaurant was across the street from the Jarrett Hotel and the First National Bank.

WHITE, George George worked as a clerk in Rasmussen's store. In the spring of 1921, he and Mabel Ingebo, who was a clerk in the R. J. Woods' drugstore, were married. A news item in the *Winnett Times* of 6-3-21 stated, "George White, a recent newlywed, is building a real nifty bungalow on South Moulton Avenue." (See also INGEBO — Petrolia)

WHITE, Hugh (W.T. 4-15-1921) "Hugh White this week disposed of his residence in the west part of town to S. C. Spears. Owing to the failing health of Mrs. White, it is necessary that this estimable family move to some other climate, and they plan to leave soon for Hamilton, Montana, where they have purchased a small tract of land."

Mrs. D. C. Walker, Mrs. P. E. Woodard, and Mrs. A. H. Faragher gave a party for Mrs. White, and gifts were presented from the Ladies Aid and the Order of Eastern Star.

WHITE, Nelle R. Nelle was born in Dresden, Missouri January 25, 1879. She taught schools in Missouri and Oklahoma until 1912, when she married Leonard White. They came to Montana in September of 1923 and settled on land near Sand Springs, Montana. Nelle taught in various schools of Montana for twenty years. Her oldest son was killed in action in 1942.

In 1944 Nelle moved to Winnett and became actively engaged in the political and social affairs of the county and city. She was named chairman of the Petroleum County Red Cross in 1944. In 1946, as a representative of the Leader Store in Lewistown, she displayed and sold clothes from that source.

An ardent Democrat, Nelle was voted chairman of the Democratic county committee in 1946. She was also active in the Methodist Church, Eastern Star, Rebekahs, and American Legion Auxilliary. Some days she was a substitute teacher in the Winnett school system.

She moved to Idaho in August of 1949 to make her home with a nephew and family. A farewell party was given by all the organizations, and she received many gifts of gratitude for the service she had rendered the community. Nelle passed away March 8, 1970, in Bricelyn, Minnesota. Her two sons, Douglas and James, survived her.

WHITE, Rex Collins Rex C. White was born October 11, 1896, at Utica, Nebraska, and became an oil driller. Mr. White was a member of a contracting firm of Larson and White, who operated in the oil fields of Cat Creek in the 1920s. On June 27, 1924, at the Methodist parsonage in Lewistown, Rex married Miss Leone Millsap, the older daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Millsap of the Montana Hotel. They were later divorced.

WHITING, Walt L. The Whitings bought the Commercial Hotel from Robert Hogg in April of 1926 and sold it to Otto and Myrtie Senst in August of 1927. The Whitings were parents of a son, Keith Leo, who was born September 5, 1929. Upon leaving Winnett, the Whitings moved to Onalaska, Washington.