

WIEDEMAN, George J. George Wiedeman acquired land in Sec. 4-15-26 and was treasurer of the Winnett Irrigation Company for several years. As a resident of Lewistown, Montana, he had established the Montana Hardware Company in 1893 and the Montana Lumber Company in the 1890s. When the two were merged in 1916, George owned 28 stores throughout the division, including the store at Winnett. He had also been president of the Bank of Fergus County and was associated with the Montana Flour Mill, Hanover Portland Cement, the Silver Tip Beer Brewery and Lewistown Brick and Tile.

After the oil boom at Cat Creek, George became the first president of the Arro Oil and Refining Company of Lewistown. Much of the oil from the field was shipped directly to this refinery.

George had married Anna Weydart, one of the first teachers at the Giltedge School. They were the parents of three sons — William (1891), George J. (1894), and Arthur (1904). William was employed by the Montana Lumber and Hardware Co. after its establishment in Winnett in August of 1914. He resigned that position to become the manager of the Arro Refinery in Lewistown in 1921.

WIEDMAN, Raymond H. Raymond H. Wiedman, attorney, joined Homer Geis in his law office in the Winnett Block in September of 1921 and was chosen clerk of the town of Winnett in 1922. An enthusiastic defender of the county division cause, he and Homer Geis represented the local petitioners for a new county when the petitions were submitted to the Fergus County commissioners (the first one in May of 1922).

On November 25, 1923, Mark H. Deer, Lake County Attorney wrote (in part) to R. H. Wiedman as follows: "Allow me to congratulate you upon your efforts in trying to get a new county. You are not through with the fight, and you will sleep with your boots on before you get the new county, but it is worthwhile. We have clearly demonstrated in Lake County that a new and smaller county is far preferable to the larger and older one . . . Now I will be able to give you some statistics in comparison with the old counties . . . Fact is, I am so enthusiastic about the new county principle that it would not take much encouragement for me to come over. If I can get away from my work long enough, I will surely do that. Hoping for you the best of luck and success, I remain,

Sincerely yours, Mark H. Deer."

R. H. was also a member of a committee to raise funds to appeal to the Supreme Court the negative position of the Fergus County Commissioners. R. H. persisted in his support of county division through all the legal entanglements, thus helping to win the final victory. R. H. was a candidate for the position of the first Petroleum County Attorney in November of 1924 but was defeated by Nick Langshausen by a vote of 465 to 370. Attorney E. S. W. Abbott garnered 213 votes.

WIERSCHKE, Carl Carl Wierschke was connected

with the Enterprise Meat Market during the oil boom period. He returned to Winnett in 1925, visited the market, and just for the diversion, fixed up a few hundred pounds of sausage.

WIGGINS, Martin V. Martin "Cupie" Wiggins, the son of Elizabeth "Ella" and Volney Wiggins, was born November 2, 1896, in Genoa, Nebraska. He came to Montana in 1911 and ranched in the Sand Springs, Montana, area. In April of 1938 he married Lottie Moore. She was the mother, at that time, of a son, Arthur. Cupie worked on ranches and was also a gandy dancer for the Milwaukee Railway in Winnett. He and Lottie became the parents of a son, Perry, and a daughter, Bernice. Cupie died in July of 1951.

Perry graduated from Winnett High School in 1957 and enlisted in the Navy immediately. There he was in charge of electronics and worked with radar and sonar. He served three tours in the Vietnam conflict. Perry retired as chief petty officer after 22 years and worked for the U. S. Forest Service in Helena, Montana. Perry married and became the father of three sons — Dale, Clark and Shawn. He was remarried, and he and Sandra had two daughters — Julie and Lila.

Bernice married Marvin Garlick of Lewistown, Montana. Marvin is the head custodian for the Fergus High School (1989). Bernice works as noon duty playground aide at Garfield Elementary School. Bernice and Marvin have one son, Martin, who attends vo-tech school in Helena, Montana. (See also MOORE — Winnett and WIGGINS — Flatwillow)

WILKINS, Lewis A. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Wilkins and six children — Pat, Gloria, Paula, Wilkie, Bo and Burt — arrived in Winnett in November of 1965. Lewis had been chosen as marshall and water commissioner for the town of Winnett. Lewis had lived in Montana for two years, but had previously come from Memphis, Tennessee, where he had been engaged in law enforcement.

The Wilkins' residence in Winnett resulted in a friendship between Larry Ziesmer, son of Corky Ziesmer, and Pat, the Wilkins' oldest daughter. The friendship blossomed into love. In October of 1970 the two were married in the Temple Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee. (See also ZIESMER)

WILLIAMS, Charles Charles was already running a restaurant of his own in Winnett when he purchased another from William Bauer in September of 1925. Charles hired Joe Maxey and his wife as managers of the former Bauer restaurant. The *Winnett Times* indicated a Charles Williams came to Winnett from Cut Bank in 1946 and opened the Rotary Inn in the Mother's Cafe building. It is not known if these two "Charles Williams" are the same individual. The Williamses returned to Cut Bank the middle of October 1946, having sold the Inn to Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Teie.

WILSON, Dick Y. In 1922 the D. Y. Wilson family moved from their homestead in the Brush Creek area into

the town of Winnett. D. Y. became involved in the insurance business. In April of 1926, he was appointed U. S. land commissioner, succeeding Oscar Badger. He was elected justice of the peace for the area that same year. In June, Wilsons purchased the former Blanche Greene house at 307 South Broadway. D. Y. served as justice of the peace until his death on December 24, 1942. Mrs. Wilson died November 8, 1951. (See also WILSON — Brush Creek)

WILSON, Dick Y. Jr. D. Y. Jr. came with his parents to this area in 1916. He attended the local schools and graduated from Winnett High School in 1920 — a member of the first class to graduate from the first high school building. While attending school, he worked at Pullin's Grocery and in Scotty Spears' restaurant. After graduation he worked at The Mode — Badger's clothing store. In 1922 he was employed by Mordecai J. Boyd at the Milwaukee railway depot.

Mabel Smith graduated from Winnett High School in 1921. She and D. Y. had dated throughout their high school days, and they were married in November of 1923. D. Y. was transferred by the Milwaukee railroad to Great Falls, Montana, in 1924. Two daughters were born to them — Barbara Jo (1925) and Gayle Fredene (1927).

In 1932 D. Y. and his two daughters returned to Winnett. D. Y. became deputy clerk and recorder from 1932 to 1943. On May 1, 1943, he and Leta Aikens Bowers were married. They moved to Cut Bank, Montana, where D. Y. was personnel supervisor for Union Oil Co. of California. He retired from that position in 1966. Leta died in 1977.

D. Y. has been most loyal to his high school and has returned for every reunion. He was the oldest alumnus present at the 1989 Montana Centennial gathering. (D. Y.'s daughter, Gayle Gregovitch of Great Falls, accompanied her father. Gayle had attended Winnett Schools, but moved away before graduating.) Barbara graduated from Winnett High School in 1943. She married Vern Molen, and they had three children — Bob, Brenda and Don. Gayle "Freddie" married Robert Gregovich. They have four daughters — Bonita, Catherine, Barbara, and Karen. D. Y. lives in Great Falls, Montana. (1989).

WILSON, Ellis Ellis was associated with the Rex Freighting Co. in 1921.

WILSON, Frank M. Frank was born February 10, 1880, in DeWitt, Missouri. In the homestead days, he lived in many places in what is now Petroleum County. He trapped, herded sheep, and tended bar when needed.

Frank and Mrs. Cora Lenten Weaver were married May 17, 1947, in the Palace Hotel at Roundup, Montana. They left by train for Puyallup, Washington, where they made their home for a time. In the 1950s they returned to Winnett.

After being confined to her bed for a year due to a severe leg injury, Cora died in June of 1959. In 1962 Frank moved to Roundup, where he lived in the Maryland



Frank M. Wilson

Apartments until he entered Grand View Rest Home in October of 1963. He died there in September of 1968. (See also WEAVER — Musselshell River and Winnett)

WILSON, James James and Ora Lee Wilson homesteaded near Winnett in 1915. They had come from Texas. They were the parents of five sons and three daughters, one of them being Ema.

In 1928 daughter Ema married Edward R. Roehl of Lewistown, Montana. He was a widower with three small children — Judy, Maxine and Richard. They lived on the Roehl Ranch at Moore, Montana, and later in Lewistown, Montana, where Mr. Roehl owned the Ford car agency. Mr. Roehl died in 1951. Ema moved to Missoula, Montana, in 1981 to be near her nephew, John E. Wilson. Ema died March 8, 1989.

WILSON, John E. Lottie L. Holmes of Boulder, Montana, and John E. Wilson, formerly of Boonesville, Texas, were married in 1916. Their oldest son, John, was born on a farm about seven miles north of Winnett. It is not known if the following news items taken from the *Winnett Times* of 1921 actually relate to this family, but for the sake of history they are inserted:

"J. E. Wilson has about completed plans to erect a one-story brick office building on his lots between the new Odd Fellows' building and the Eager store. It will be furnished with modern and beautiful fixtures and made a credit to both Mr. Wilson and the city of Winnett."

"J. E. Wilson was chairman of the board of trustees of the Brust Syndicate in 1921."

Lottie and John were the parents of six children — John Evans, Wauline L., Prince H., Fabian L. "Teddy," Jerry J. and Lois K.

When the Works Progress Administration came into operation in Winnett in the 1930s, Mrs. Wilson was in charge of the distribution of commodities. Her office was in the courthouse. Young folks all over the county looked upon John Wilson Jr. as some sort of hero after reading the following account which was in the *Winnett Times* paper under the date of July 7, 1929:

"John Wilson Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson of Winnett, was struck by a rattlesnake Sunday. The fangs entered on top of the boy's right instep. The youngster immediately made a tourniquet from his shoe string and had his younger brother suck out the poison while he drove home. Dr. Alexander was at Valentine, so druggist R. J. Woods administered anti-venom and dressed the wound. When the doctor arrived a short while after, he found that everything possible had been done. Prompt action with first aid seems to have caught the poison before it entered the boy's system with the result that he suffered very little from the effects of the bite."

John Jr. graduated from Winnett High School and served in the Marine Corps until 1945. He married Beryl Wilkinson that year, and they became the parents of three children — David (died in 1987), Penny and John. Wauline graduated from Winnett High School in 1937. Prince joined the Marines after the family moved to Missoula, Montana, in 1941. He was killed in November of 1943 in Bougainville in the south Pacific theater. Teddy lives in Hornbrook, California; Jerry, in Victor, Montana; Lois, in Tacoma, Washington.

Lottie Wilson died in July of 1970 and was buried at Corvallis, Montana. Mr. Wilson died in January of 1976 and was buried at Anaconda, Montana.

WILSON, W. J. "Joe" Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wilson bought the Commercial Hotel from Mr. and Mrs. Tom Carr, parents of Norman Carr, in August of 1950. Mr. Wilson had previously worked for several years in the Flamingo Hotel of Las Vegas, Nevada. After three years, Wilsons resold the hotel and moved to Lewistown, Montana.

WINKES, Frank Frank was born February 19, 1892, in Wheaton, Minnesota. His wife-to-be, Melvina Sigford, was born October 15, 1893, in the same town. They were married October 5, 1914. Frank and Melvina homesteaded near Culbertson, Montana. Two daughters were born there — Opal (1915) and Maxine (1919).

Accompanied by Frank's brother, Barney, the Winkes family arrived in Winnett in April 1921 and commenced immediately upon the building of a residence for themselves across the street from the Eager Mercantile. As soon as their residence was completed, work was started in building another store for the town of Winnett. The two-story building was completed and the store known as Winkes Brothers Store opened July 16, 1921. The second story of the new structure was leased to the local Odd Fellow and Masonic Lodges. Although there were four other stores serving the growing town at that time, business was brisk. Fifty wells in Cat Creek were producing, and more were being drilled.

With the great increase in population, it became apparent that a more powerful electric plant was needed. The Winkes Brothers secured the franchise and were in business as the City Light Co. in February of 1925. They sold their general store to George Waldrop.

The family moved to the former Sullivan house at 301 South Broadway, and Barney and Frank worked hard to



Melvina "Ina" Winkes in 1935

supply the electrical needs of their neighbors, at the same time giving of themselves in other community undertakings. Frank served as alderman in 1929 and was elected to the board of school trustees in 1934. In May of 1937 Winkeses sold the plant to Harry Hafer. Winkeses moved to Tacoma, Washington, where they operated a large tourist camp including a store, service station and cabins.

Barney, though unmarried while living in Winnett, eventually married Melvina's sister. Frank died in April of 1982.

Opal graduated from Winnett High School in 1933 and attended Montana State College studying dietetics. She married Jerome W. Roberts and they had three children — Barbara Ann, Patricia Jean, and Michael Shawn (deceased in 1955). Maxine married Lewis Phillips of the Winnett High School class of 1936. These two Winnett High School graduates became the parents of four daughters — Shirley, Anita, Vicki, Carol Ann — and one son, Lewis.

WINNETT, Walter J. (Sec. 7-14-27) "W. J." Winnett was born in the Crystal Palace Hotel, later known as the Queen's Hotel, in Toronto, Canada, in 1859. The Crystal Palace was owned by W. J.'s parents. W. J. left his home when he was very young. An old trapper had filled his young mind full of visions of the big unknown beyond the city.

After drifting about for a time, W. J. met Colonel Fowler, whom the Canadian government had hired to provide game for the crews building a railroad through Kicking Horse Pass near Lake Louise in the Canadian Rockies. W. J. helped Colonel Fowler supply wild meat to the crews, and so sprung up a long-time friendship.

W. J. journeyed south into Montana from Canada. He spent a winter near the present town of Moore, Montana, but felt the winters were more severe in the Judith Basin than they would be east of the Judith Mountains. According to the *Winnett Times* of 11-4-1921, he settled on



McDonald Creek in 1883. After losing his first cabin in a flood, he built a three-room log house about a mile farther east on the creek. Had the town of Winnett been mapped at that time, his new home would have been at about 10 South Ashley Avenue.

Mary Jenkins was born to Lewis and Safrona Jenkins in Joplin, Missouri, in 1872. The family later moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where Mary grew to young womanhood. At the age of 26, Mary was informed by her doctor that she should go west where the air was drier to get relief for some lung problems. Mary is reported to have told her family, "The doctor says I will have to go out West, Mother, or I shan't live long," and stamping her foot, she shouted, "I may as well die here as go out to that wild land and let the Indians kill me!" But in a month's time she was on her way West. While staying on the Handel Brothers' Ranch at Musselshell, Montana, she met W. J. Winnett. They were married in 1899, and W. J. took Mary home to his three-room dirt-roofed cabin. He soon added two more rooms, and the first three Winnett children — Pearl (1900), Bertha (1901) and Mirth (1903) — were born there.

In 1900 W. J. started sawing lumber for the large ranch house he and Mary had planned. It would be a three-story, 11-room house with four more rooms on back for the hired girls and for an office for W. J. He sawed all but the finishing lumber at his own sawmill which was located on the timber ridge near War House Lake. Some of the larger logs were hauled from the Missouri River Breaks. The finish lumber was hauled from Billings, Montana. Three more babies were born to the Winnetts in this house — Arthur (1904), Edith (1906) and Lewis (1908).

The ranch house became the center of all community life — weddings, funerals, dances, church meetings, business gatherings, and school. W. J. started the first school in what was to become the town of Winnett when he hired a teacher, Katherine Moore, to teach in an

upstairs room of the Winnett house in 1907. Pupils were the older Winnett children and children of Winnett's hired men — among them, some of the Fleurys. School was held in the Winnett home for about three years; then W. J. bought a house in Lewistown, as Mary did not feel the children were getting all the advantages they needed. In about 1912, when a schoolhouse had been built in Winnett, the family returned. W. J. furnished all the fuel to operate the new school the first year.

Irrigation was a necessity on the Winnett Ranch, and W. J. was an irrigation enthusiast. He established an extensive irrigation system from McDonald Creek and eventually irrigated several thousand acres which he put to the plow. He had hauled railroad rails from Billings, Montana with his freighting outfit. His fields were leveled by having four teams of horses drag a rail over them. This was apparently the first land leveling done in the country. Mr. Winnett was also instrumental in forming the Winnett Irrigation Company in 1911. (See also Blakeslee Introduction)

In the early 1900s, W. J. made several trips to Illinois to purchase registered stallions — Percherons and Belgians — from which he built a sizeable herd. At one time he had from 500 to 600 horses on the range. His saddle ponies were of Morgan stock. He owned and operated a fine freighting outfit.

W. J. purchased the first car in the country — a Premier. It had no top, no doors, and headlights resembling lanterns. All comforts were omitted, but it did have speed; and it was speed that he was wanting — horses were too slow getting him everywhere he wanted and needed to go. Beside his own ranching business, Mr. Winnett set up a land office and was busy locating the homesteaders who were pouring into the area. One time he had several homesteaders in the Premier and went over a hill at a pretty good lick, hit the bottom, and as some settler had built a fence across his trail, he pulled back on the steering wheel yelling, "Whoa — whoa — damn it, stop!" It did when it hit the fence, throwing a couple of men out on their heads.

Years later, W. J.'s daughter, Mirth, told of the huge orders of groceries which were purchased for the family. Many items came packed in barrels — barrels of flour, sugar and even mixed nuts. Ten-pound boxes of dried fruit were common. Candy came in twenty-pound buckets — "chocolates for Mama, horehound for Daddy." Chewing gum came in long chunks which could be sliced off, one piece at a time. Clothing for the family, as well as for the hired help, was ordered in large quantities from Montgomery Ward in Denver, Colorado. As more and more homesteaders arrived, W. J. built a store and set up a trial post office at his ranch headquarters. There was also a place for selling liquors in the back portion of the building. All this ended when W. J. built the famous Log Cabin Saloon, Tony Rasmussen bought the store, and the official U. S. Winnett Post Office was established in 1910.

With the advent of the Milwaukee Railroad in 1917, W.



Winnett family in front of Winnett house.

(Back row) Hired men; (Front row) Hired man, Bertha Winnett, Una McAllister, Walter Winnett holding son Lewis, Arthur Winnett, Mary Winnett holding Edith, Mirth Winnett, Pearl McAllister, Ada (?) McAllister; Pearl Winnett (sitting on ground)

J. turned his efforts toward establishing a Great Western Sugar Company on his ranch. Even the blueprints had been drawn, and work was about to begin when World War I sounded the death knell not only to the sugar refinery, but to the building of the railroad further east. The Great Northern had also started building east from Lewistown, but was abandoned for the same reason.

During the first World War, W. J. sold his sheep and approximately 1500 hogs that ran more or less loose. The pigs were easy picking for thieves, so W. J. began branding them on the left "ham" with the Winnett "05" cattle and horse brand. Soon there was a rumor about a lot of three-legged porkers hitting the markets! Due to the Army taking most of Winnett's hired help, for several years he ran only his horses and some cattle. In 1924 he purchased more Hereford cattle from the PN Ranch on the Missouri River north of Lewistown, Montana. This

brought the number of cattle to about 1200 or so head. Along with his horses, this comprised his livestock for a couple of years.

When oil began to pour from the fields of Cat Creek in 1920 and 1921, W. J. saw the opportunity for yet another enterprise. In partnership with several financiers from Miles City, Montana, he purchased and moved to Winnett a small oil refinery (which had been built in Cat Creek by Batchler and Miller). It became known as the Weowna Oil Refinery Company. It was built in a bend of McDonald Creek just east of the town of Winnett on land owned by W. J. It operated at full capacity for many years.

In 1929 Mary Winnett developed heart trouble to an extent that the doctor advised W. J. to take her to a lower climate, as that was the only chance for her to live; so he sold his cattle and horses and moved to California, turn-

ing the ranch over to his daughter, Mirth, and her husband, Charles Kiehl, to operate until disposed of.

In California Mr. Winnett invested in acreages with fruit orchards and a chicken farm with several thousand hens. So the last years of this truly pioneer couple were spent in the warm sunshine of California, until their deaths in the early 1940s. In response to their wishes, their ashes were flown back to Winnett, Montana, and scattered on the rimrocks, a landmark on the former Winnett Ranch loved by the Winnett family.

Pearl married, lives in Lakeside, California, and has one daughter, Edie Lou Kates. Bertha married, has one son, Lewis, and lives at John Day, Oregon. Arthur lived in Winnett most of his life (See also WINNETT — Cat Creek). Edith never married, but lives in San Diego, California, close to her sister Pearl and brother Lewis. Lewis lived on the Winnett Ranch until his parents went to California in 1926. He married Pearl Ball and had no children. However, his wife had two girls by a previous marriage. He retired after 35 years of working under a subcontractor for the Navy and resides in San Diego, California (1988). Mirth married Charles Kiehl. (See also KIEHL — Winnett)

In 1929 Ward Bratten bought the Winnett land which was east of the town of Winnett. The New World Life Insurance Company took over the balance of the property in 1932. For several years the company rented or leased the land. In 1932 or 1933, Frank Nelson rented the house, barn and about 100 acres, and ran a dairy. A group of local businessmen (Hammond Greene, Mordecai Boyd, Archie Faragher and Lincoln Washington Hamilton) formed the Big Four Sheep Company and leased the balance of the property, but their venture was short lived.

In about 1934 the Rogge Brothers (See also ROGGE — Cat Creek) made arrangements to purchase all of the former Winnett land west of the town and in the town. The Rogges owned the property until 1951 when G. A. Ostler and his family purchased it (See also OSTLER — Winnett). They were the last family to live in the once lovely Winnett house.

The Ostlers sold to Bill Meyer and Eileen Foxley in 1964. The Foxleys were the owners of the Nebraska Feeding Company on Flatwillow Creek. In 1967 Wayne Bratten fulfilled a long-time dream when he purchased the Foxley property, thus unifying the old Winnett Ranch and returning it to its original boundaries. It was Wayne's desire to see that ranch continue as a single ranch unit, and when health made it necessary for him to retire in 1978, he sold to Ag Land and Livestock Corporation. The corporation, according to the *Winnett Times*, consisted of Angus Kennedy of North Dakota, his brother of California, and Larry Grantier. The property's days as a cattle ranch were numbered, however. In January 1983 the First Continental Corporation, owned by John Greytak, took over the entire ranch (with the exception of some acreage withheld by Larry Grantier) as part of its grain empire. In late 1989 a portion of the original Winnett Ranch proper-

ty was sold to Coleman Murnion; the balance remains in Greytak-related hands.

WIPER, Charles Charles was cashier of the Winnett State Bank when it opened in 1914. He was also a stockholder, as was L. E. Wiper. In 1916 he and Hamm Greene purchased the Independent Lumber Company. They named P. J. Anderson as manager. Charles was also the first treasurer of the Methodist church board. Wipers moved to Lewistown, Montana, before 1920.

WISE, Gary Gary Wise was relief agent for the Milwaukee Road in 1963.

WISE, James James Wise, water commissioner and town marshal, had been on the Lewistown, Montana, police force before coming to Winnett in March of 1956. He had also served in the Navy in World War II as a plumber and pipe fitter, and as a marshal at Lodge Grass, Montana, for six years. The Wises had three children — Wendell, Anita Lee, and James. After working in Winnett only 3½ months, James tendered his resignation as of July 1, 1956.

WISE, Oliver Oliver, son of Henry and Linnie Wise, was born in Sedalia, Missouri, October 28, 1894. He came with his parents to the Grassrange area in 1898 and later moved to the head of Yellow Water Creek where he grew to manhood.

Elizabeth, daughter of John Lee Powell, was born in 1902 in Ranchester, Wyoming. She and Oliver Wise were married in 1915 and farmed near Winnett and Grassrange until about 1951.

In January of 1954, they moved to Winnett, bought Lil's Cafe, and changed the name to Wise Cafe. September found them leasing the restaurant to Hattie Cantrell. They resumed management in March of 1955. In the meantime, Mrs. Wise had cooked at the Spring Creek Rest Home near Lewistown, Montana.

Oliver died in October of 1957. Mrs. Wise became the Winnett schools' cook that year. In 1960 she moved to Billings, Montana, where she was cook at the Great Northern depot. In 1966 she married John Tunnicliff. She died in April of 1977.

WOOD, Benjamin (Sec. 32-15-27) (See also WOOD — Teigen) After homesteading on Elk Creek, "Uncle Ben and "Aunt" Bertha, as they were affectionately known, secured some land contiguous to the extensive Winnett Ranch and about 1½ miles east of the Winnett Ranch buildings. The year was about 1905, and they were then closer to some of their own kinfolk, as they were aunt and uncle of Mrs. Walter (Mary Jenkins) Winnett.

Uncle Ben knew that the most valuable asset on any farm property was water, and since their farm was quite far removed from any flowing stream, he dug a well in a spot near his house where there appeared to be constant green growth. Not content with the first shallow water encountered, he dug deeper, to what residents recall was between the 60 and 80 foot level. He discovered a well that produced a voluminous amount of very high quality

water — exceptionally good for drinking.

Ben, with his mechanical ability, devised a gasoline-powered lift in such a manner that he and his neighbors could easily fill a container or a tank on either a wagon or, in later years, a truck. He hauled water to Winnett when the town began to grow in about 1913, and when the town was incorporated in 1918, he was given the franchise to serve the town. He sold the water to the town at a barrel price, and a share of the receipts from the delivery was returned to the town coffers. Customers paid from five to ten cents a pail.

Uncle Ben and Aunt Bertha were especially interested in any community activity that involved the arts and the involvement of young people. Miss Amanda Swift, in one of her historic memoirs in the *Winnett Times* told how the two of them led the dances for the young folks when Dicken's *Christmas Carol* was performed in the Winnett Opera House (later the Montana Hotel).

Ben leased the farm and city water route to Lloyd Hassett in 1925 and moved into Winnett. A large number of friends gathered at his home in February of 1926 to help Uncle Ben celebrate his 72nd birthday. Uncle Ben and Aunt Bertha moved soon thereafter to Gardner, Kansas, and later to Wilder, Kansas, where Aunt Bertha died December 27, 1933. (No information was gathered on the son, James, or on the death of Uncle Ben.) (Ed. In all printed articles the Wood name was spelled Woods; however, legal documents indicate the name was Wood.)

WOODARD, Guy Guy Woodard and Pete Tunnicliff teamed up and refurbished the old Shumate building in the spring of 1934. This became their beer parlor. Guy also helped build the skating rink which was such a source of enjoyment for the young folks during 1934 and 1935.

In April of 1935, Guy contracted with carpenters to completely remodel the old Mint Bar building which he had purchased. His beer parlor was then moved from the Shumate building to the new location in May of 1935. Guy later moved to Polson, Montana. He died in January of 1941 at Conrad, Montana.

WOODARD, Pratt Pratt Woodard was born March 6, 1873, in Dresden, Iowa. Hattie Fronfelter was born September 6, 1874, in Gallipolis, Ohio. They were married August 17, 1898, at Hattie's parents' home in Carleton, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Pratt Woodard, Velma and Homer came to Winnett in 1914 to build and manage the Eager Mercantile. Pratt had been previously employed for two years by Elmer Eager at Beaver Crossing, Nebraska. After five years employment at the Eager Mercantile in Winnett, Woodards moved to their homestead in the Brush Creek area, where they actively engaged in farming (See also WOODARD — Brush Creek).

In 1921, when William Grobe resigned as clerk at the Pullin Grocery store, Pratt filled the vacancy. When Petroleum County was created, a janitor was needed for the courthouse. Pratt was chosen, and the Woodards moved back into Winnett. Many folks remember how the



"Sharing secrets, girls?"

courthouse woodwork shone under Pratt's good care! He also served as public administrator from 1926 to 1930.

Pratt served the public faithfully for 14 years before ill health forced his resignation. He died March 12, 1940. After Pratt's death, Mrs. Woodard kept house for Ernest Freburg and cared for his three-year-old daughter, Mavis.

Later Mrs. Woodard cooked on the Forbes Leslie Ranch. While working there, she rented her home in Winnett, and in October 1947 she sold the house to Tom Carr of Roberts, Montana. She moved in with her daughter, Velma Merten. Later she bought the Morgan house and lived there several years until poor health caused her to move back to live with her daughter, Velma. In 1944 she sold the Morgan house to John Hill.

Mrs. Woodard died January 31, 1964. The Woodards had raised two children, Velma and Homer. Velma married John Merten in 1919 (See also MERTEN).

Homer was born June 15, 1902. He graduated from Winnett High School with the class of 1921 and worked for R. J. Woods Drugstore part time. He attended college in Missoula, Montana, before moving to Portland,



"Yes, we're D. Y. Wilson and Homer Woodard."

Oregon, where he was married and had two sons, Byron and Lee Woodard. All have visited Montana several times. Homer retired as chief pharmacist of International Health Assurance Pharmacy and died in Tigard, Oregon, in 1974.

WOODIWISS, Doyce "Woody" Ruth, daughter of Lawrence and Margaret Kauth of Roy, Montana, and Woody had both been previously married when they were wed in 1959. They arrived in Winnett in August of 1969. Woody was employed in Coffey's Service Station, and Ruth cooked in a local cafe. In 1973 Ruth was cook for the school lunch program. Both Woody and she were active members of the senior citizen group.

When Ruth died in September of 1980, she was survived by Woody and five daughters — Esther Irish, Harriet Irish, June Larson, Elaine Goette, Carol Martin; a stepson, Charles Woodiwiss, and a stepdaughter, Roseanne Woodiwiss; and three sisters — Ava Zahn, Lucille Komarek, and Edith Oquist.

Woody lives in the Homes on the Range complex in Roundup, Montana (1989).

WOODS, James James Woods, a brother of the druggist, R. J. Woods, also resided in Winnett during the oil boom years. He was a stage driver and was believed to have left Winnett in the mid-1920s. He moved to Butte, Montana, where he became a car salesman. In April of 1935, he was found dead in his car. He was survived by a wife and a four-year-old child.

WOODS, Jimmy Jimmy served Winnett as barber at two different times — first in 1957 in the Winnett Barber-shop — and in 1961 in the shop in Clark's Speedy Wash building.

WOODS, Ray Ray had been a policeman at Valier, Montana, and at McCall, Idaho, before he came to Winnett in December of 1962. His wife and a granddaughter, Mary Lou Yelvington, accompanied him. He was hired as marshal and water commissioner for the town of Winnett, but finding the position unfavorable, resigned January 1, 1963.

WOODS, Robert J. Misfortune was hot on the trail of Bob Woods when he moved from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, to Winnett in 1914. All the fixtures and equipment for the new drugstore which he had planned to establish in Winnett were burned enroute. However, by October 18, 1914, a tidy little drugstore had been opened up on the south side of Main Street in Block 17. An ad in the *Winnett Times* in 1921 — "R. J. WOODS HIDING PLACE FOR DRUGS" would raise some eyebrows in these 1980 years! Mr. and Mrs. Woods were outstanding civic leaders and strong supporters of the Methodist Church — Bob being the first secretary of the church's first board. Mrs. (Katherine) Woods earned a little extra spending money from her doughnut-making expertise. She had a regular run of customers who went to her house to buy their weekly treat for their families.

Bob Woods was elected the first State Representative

from Petroleum County in both 1924 and 1926.

The Woods Drugstore became Winnett's first State Liquor Store in 1934.

Mr. and Mrs. Woods were the parents of three children — Grace, Mildred and Ray — who received their education in Winnett. Grace graduated in 1928 and married Petroleum County Attorney, Albyn F. McCullough (See also McCULLOUGH). Mildred graduated in 1929. She married James Renshaw. James' interesting career in the forest service caused them to live in many parts of the country. Mildred studied pharmacy at the University of Montana, kept busy with three children and arts and crafts, taught some high school classes, and worked in various stores.

Ray graduated from high school in 1931 and from the University of Montana with a degree in pharmacy in 1935. He married Eva Thomas of Roundup, Montana, and they had two children — Robert and Bonnie. Ray became a druggist in Great Falls, Montana, and raised a family there.

Mr. and Mrs. Woods left Winnett in 1937 and moved to Plummer, Idaho, where they operated a drugstore. Mr. Woods died in 1946.

WORBERG, Newton In July of 1921, Newton moved his family into a new bungalow which he had completed on Waterside Avenue.

WRIGHT, L. C. Mr. Wright worked for the *Winnett Times* in 1921. (See also KEITHLEY — Winnett)

YERRINGTON, Carl M. Carl M. Yerrington was chosen as Petroleum County Manager in October of 1954. He held the position until May of 1956, when he resigned and ended his public career. He moved to Florida and also had a summer home in Hendersonville, North Carolina. He was active in church and social circles at both locations. He died in June of 1974 at Winter Park, Florida.

YOUDEIRIAN, Bernard L. Bernard Youderian, one of 11 children, was born March 28, 1893, at Marion, Wisconsin. He came to Montana in 1909 and lived with a brother on Cottonwood Creek for many years. He then homesteaded at Alice, 35 miles east of Winnett. He enlisted in the Air Force July 24, 1918, and served for six months in France. In 1923 he moved to Winnett, and on August 9, 1926, he was married to Maude Shafer in Lewistown, Montana.

The Youderians moved to the Frank C. Bennett Ranch in the Petrolia area and became the parents of three children — Frederick, Betty and James. One of Bernard's brothers — William — also lived around the Winnett area. The Youderians also lived for a short time on the Fred Akins Ranch.

Bernard died at only 46 years of age from an attack of quinsy, which produced a fatal blood clot. Maude and family moved to a farm near Lewistown.

YOUNG, Charles L. Charles Young and Nancy Kidd were married in Bedison, Missouri, in 1891 and were

parents of seven children — Grace (who died at Gackle, North Dakota), Johana, Mary, Catherine, Dewey, Charles T. and Newton. They moved from North Dakota to Montana in 1913 and settled on a farm near Forestgrove.

The family moved to Winnett in 1919, and Charles became the owner and proprietor of the Leader Hotel (Block 3 facing Broadway Avenue). Mrs. Young was a fabulous cook and served meals to the roomers. Mr. Young planted two elm trees as shade for the entry to the building. Those two trees, though gnarled and stunted by their 70-year age, tenaciously struggle to provide restful shade for those who might be passing by. They may be seen just west of the present State Highway building (1989) — a memorial to a fine gentleman, Charles Young.

Nancy Young died in 1924 after a long debilitating illness. Her services were held in the Young home. In September of 1926, the Leader Hotel burned. Defective wiring and a shortage of water combined to lead to the demise of one of Winnett's oldest hotels. Charley had moved to Lewistown after Nancy's death. He died there in February of 1946.

Johana married, and both she and her small son died. No information was given on daughter Mary. Catherine graduated from Winnett High School in 1922. She married a Robinson and they had no children. Her husband died in 1965, she, in 1966. (See also YOUNG, Charles T., Dewey, and Newton)

YOUNG, Charles T. Charles T., son of Charles L. Young, ran his own business in Winnett. (W.T. 5-14-26) "Charles Young and Charles Kroll have entered into a partnership agreement to conduct the former Weowna filling station and a vulcanizing shop. They have erected a novel sign over the filling station in the form of an airship. The propellor of the airship is driven by a small motor which keeps it circling about the pole to which it is attached. Two lights on the wings make it especially attractive at night. The ingenuity of the boys must be complimented."

In 1925 Charles sold his shop to William Busby and went to the west coast in search of other employment. In 1927 he moved to Lewistown, Montana, and operated the Grease Spot (later the Central Motor Sales) in partnership with Elmer Olson.

YOUNG, Dewey Dewey Young, son of Charles L. Young, enlisted to serve in the Army in 1918. Upon his return, he worked as a mechanic in Winnett. He moved to Lewistown in 1927, and he was associated with his brother Charles in the Grease Spot. He died in April of 1963.

YOUNG, Newton "Newt," son of Charles L. Young, received his apprenticeship as a printer while working for Charles Doherty in the publication of the *Winnett Times*. In 1927 he earned a more lucrative position as printer for the *Montana Free Press* at Butte, Montana.

When he returned to Winnett on vacation, he always visited his old home shop. Charles Doherty wrote fondly of Newt: "His holiday at home means that he drops in to the *Times* office occasionally and helps the 'Old Boy' out while he is short-handed. His experience of the past year makes his company better than ever, and we both get real enjoyment out of talking 'shop' while we are getting out the paper. Oh, yes, he looks fine, feels good and is a better man than he was when he left me a year ago. Yes, we're proud of the 'kid.' We're pleased, too, that he still likes the 'driver' who took him as a 'broncho,' harnessed him and taught him the printers' trade!"

ZIESMER, Alberta Coffey (By Alberta "Corky" Ziesmer) "In December 1949, my four children and I moved from Roundup to Winnett. I went to work as a clerk in the post office, and in 1971 I was appointed Postmaster due to the death of my brother-in-law, James McCue. I retired in 1978, after 28 years.

"My children all graduated from Winnett High School. Bud, who was active in sports, graduated in 1957, went right into the Navy, and served 22 years. He now works at Boeing Aircraft in Burbank as a supervisor. He and Lucy have three children — Ester, Valerie, and Dale — and they live in San Diego, California. Lucy is a homemaker.

"Judy, who was active in cheerleading, graduated in 1958 and soon after married Burt Bevis. Burt has his own business, Bevis and Sons, with trenching his specialty. He is also the town mayor. Judy is a homemaker and also the school secretary. They have three children — Bryon, Michael, and Patti Jo.

"Joyce, who was active in cheerleading, graduated in 1960 and soon after married Gene Drube. She lives in Lewistown and is a homemaker and works at the Fergus County treasurer's office. She has four children — Randy, Christina, Tracy, and Judy.

"Larry, who was active in sports, graduated in 1967 and went into the Army where he served four years. He now works for Chrysler Corporation, and he and his wife, Pat, live in Little Rock, Arkansas. Pat is a homemaker and also works as a supervisor in a state office. They have two daughters — Tina and Shawna. Larry's work has him traveling over four states, so he is gone from home frequently.

"I travel by plane most every summer and visit the boys and their families. In 1973 my sister and I flew to the Philippines, where we spent two weeks with Bud, Lucy, and kids. We visited Manila, where Twila was stationed in the WACs during World War II. We also stopped at Tokyo, Taiwan, and Anchorage, Alaska."

Corky died in December of 1989.

ZIMMERMAN, Opal Opal was morning cook in the Stockman Cafe in December of 1965.

ZUSEK, Mike In June of 1921, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Zusek purchased a small home in Winnett.



A dust cloud, reportedly created by a highway construction project, rolled into Winnett in June of 1937 and turned daylight into dusk. Shown on the south side of Winnett's Main Street are the following: (L to R) Mother Stewart's Restaurant (the original Ray Badger Restaurant which became The Mode in 1915), former Nick Langshausen office, first Winnett Times, I.O.O.F. Hall (original Moll Pool Hall), Woods Drugstore, Farmers and Merchants Bank building, burned-out Block 16, City Service Station, Winnett Post Office, Winnett Mercantile, and the rear portion of the second Aristo. On the north side of Main Street are: (L to R) Cole's Service Station, Weiloff Oil Company, and the Butte Block.

Although a fine collection of pictures was received for use in this book, no one produced a picture of the second Aristo building. If anyone has such a picture to share, the history committee would be pleased to receive it, in order that a copy could be placed in the Winnett history files.