



Familiar landmark near Winnett — Barn built by George Henry Deethardt in 1915

DEETHARDT, George H. (Sec 35-15-26) George H. "Henry" Deethardt was the oldest son of Benjamin and Anna Deethardt. He homesteaded with his parents and was responsible for building the beautiful large red dairy



Four generations: Louisa Deethardt; Mary Wilson, mother; Albert Deethardt, son; Albert Jack Deethardt, grandson

barn which was a familiar landmark on the Winnett — Lewistown, Montana, highway for many years. It was sorely missed when finally demolished in the early 1980s.

Henry moved to Raymond, South Dakota, in the early winter of 1919. He and Louisa Wilson were married in February of 1920. (See also WILSON — Brush Creek and Winnett)



George Henry and Louisa Deethardt

DEETHARDT, Johanna (Sec 35-15-26) See KNAPP — Brush Creek)

DOTY, Levi (Sec 10-15-27) Levi Doty and his wife took a homestead north of Winnett before 1917. He farmed and had hogs. In the fall when the threshing was done, they would blow a big pile of straw over beside the barn; then the hogs would bury themselves for warmth in the winter. Mrs. Doty was a fine seamstress.

On April 3, 1931, the Winnett Times picked up an Associated Press report from Riverton, Wyoming: "Levi Doty, 58, was frozen to death while attending sheep during a severe blizzard. Many pioneer Winnett folks will remember Levi Doty as having homesteaded near the steel bridge over Box Elder and having married while there. His wife died shortly before he left Petroleum County. Mrs. Doty had homesteaded near the Swift Ranch. Elmer Eager bought the homestead which adjoins him."

DUNN, C. E. (W. T. 6-24-21) "C. E. Dunn, who taught school at Plankinton, South Dakota, returned to Winnett early this week and will spend the summer here. Mr. Dunn has a farm on Buffalo Creek."

DUNN, William (Sec 6,8-15-27) William Dunn was born at Ft. Logan, Montana, in 1880. His father was a non-commissioned officer in the 18th U.S. Infantry stationed at the fort. The family moved to Ft. Maginnis, Montana, in 1881. After First Sergeant Owen Dunn was discharged from the Army, he located on a ranch on the east slope of the Judith Mountains near Giltedge where William was raised.

Katharine Wiegler was born in North Dakota in 1890 and came to the Maiden, Montana, mining camp in 1900. She and William were married in 1909. They raised four children — Susie, Wilma, George and William.

It is not known exactly when "Bill" and "Kate" came to the Box Elder Creek area, but Kate filed a desert claim on 320 acres which was patented in May 1920. Bill bought 160 acres from August Van Lake in 1919. The couple did not remain in the area long, but returned to the foothills of the Judith Mountains where they developed a fine cattle ranch near Giltedge.

EAGER, Elmer (Sec 10-15-27) In about 1915, Elmer and Lillie Eager accompanied by daughter, Nell, moved from Beaver Crossing, Nebraska, to their homestead in this Brush Creek area. They were also owners of a store in Winnett. Mrs. Eager, in later years told of how much she enjoyed her life on the Box Elder homestead.

The Brush Creek Eager Ranch is now owned by Eugene and Marcia Stewart. (See also EAGER — Winnett)

ECKLAND, Andrew (Sec 5-15-25) Andrew Eckland, the son of Mr. and Mrs. August Eckland of Sweden, was born November 23, 1886. Andrew was educated in Sweden. He immigrated to America and before coming to Montana in 1910, he lived in Delaware and Chicago, Illinois.

He homesteaded and, with Teigen as his address, served his country in World War I. Upon his return, he profited from several years of good crops. In 1930 his sister, Anna Johnson, her husband, Arthur, and son Eric emigrated from Sweden and lived on his ranch for a time before locating their own place.

Andrew ranched until 1960 when he sold out to Arthur Kamrath (or Monty Price, as he was also known). He moved to Lewistown, Montana, and passed away there in 1971.



Andrew Eckland, World War I soldier

EDWARDS, Posey (Sec 24-15-26) Posey Edwards, it can be surmised, was very interested in education — so much so, in fact, that he ran away with Clara Schroeder, the teacher of the Brush Creek School, and she became his helpmate on his homestead in 1915.

ELDE, Sivert (Sec 1-15-27) Sivert and Elide Elde were both born in Norway. They came to the Brush Creek area in 1912 and homesteaded 12 miles northeast of Winnett. Lumber to build the family home was hauled from Lewistown with a team and wagon. Sivert and Elide



Evelyn, Monrad, Adolph, Esther Elde; Elide and Sivert Elde



Dorothy Morgan Elde and Adolph Elde

raised four children — Adolph, Esther, Evelyn and Monrad. They lived in the Winnett area for 24 years, then moved to Chinook, Washington.

Esther (Elde) Hansen, second child of Elide and Sivert Elde, was born in Winnett and attended Brush Creek Grade School and Winnett High School. "I was 18 years old," she recalls, "when we had an auction sale in the summer of 1935 and moved to Chinook, Washington, in August." She married Walter Hansen, and they had three children — Walter, Donald and Arnold. Esther still lives in Chinook, Washington, in 1989.

Adolph Elde was the oldest son of Sivert and Elide. Adolph was born at Teigen a year after his parents settled on their homestead north of Winnett. Adolph attended grade school at Brush Creek School and graduated from high school in Winnett in 1931.

The family received their mail on the Cat Creek route after it was established, and Adolph recalls someone "rifling" one of their packages and taking some of the things his folks had ordered for him to wear to school.

He recalled: "We were a little over a mile north of the school, so I wore out lots of shoes going back and forth through the sagebrush and cactus. Winters were not so pleasant, but in the spring we always managed to find a few birds' nests and watched them hatch and grow and finally take off. Finding a few wild flowers, too, brightened the way."

He also wrote: "I started to school there in 1919 — I believe that was the year the flu epidemic took so many. Somewhere along about that time, they struck oil at Cat Creek, so there was a lot of activity in the area. As they moved closer to our place with the drilling, at night it was quite a sight to see the rigs all lit up."

In 1927 Adolph started to high school in Winnett, boarding with the Oscar Houghs. "I used to enjoy going down to the store," he writes. "Grocery stores don't smell good like they did then! There was a fragrance in the store that I couldn't get enough of. Now everything is boxed up and canned up so tight. Even the new shoes smelled so good!"

Adolph and Dorothy Morgan were married in 1934 and moved to Billings in 1936. They had five children — Florence, Lillian, Virginia, Beverly and Russell. (See also MORGAN — Teigen)

ELDRIDGE, Harry (Sec 21-15-27) Harry Eldridge was born in 1887 at Cottonwood, Montana. He was a son of the pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Eldridge, who had themselves been the first couple married in Fergus County, Montana.

Harry attended Lewistown schools, and in 1912, married Elsie Hobensack. They lived on his homestead, which was about three miles northeast of Winnett, until 1917. At that time they moved into Lewistown where Harry worked as an accountant. He later served as Fergus County Treasurer.

When Harry died in October of 1946, his wife, Elsie, and sons, Douglas and Robert, were named as survivors.

FELDT, Ed (Sec 4-15-27) Ed Feldt was born in 1849 in Sweden, where early in life he learned the carpenter trade. He immigrated to America in 1909 and received his naturalization papers at White Sulphur Springs, Montana, in 1913. In 1914 he homesteaded in the Brush Creek community north and east of Winnett.

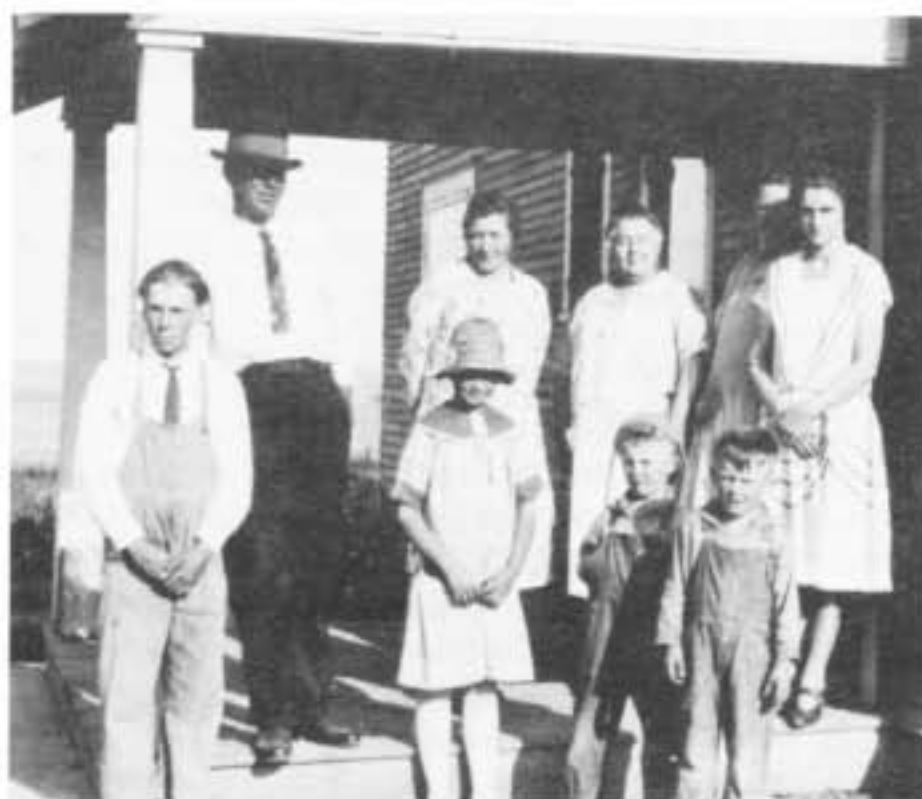
Mary Magdalene (last name unknown) was born at LaCrosse, Wisconsin, February 12, 1872. She was a trained nurse and a brilliant woman, graduating from the West Side Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago. She came to Montana in 1911 and took up a homestead in the Brush Creek area. At the same time, she pursued her nursing profession in the mining town of Giltedge and also in Lewistown.

She and Ed Feldt were married at Cat Creek in May of 1924. Ed worked his farm and also did a lot of carpentry work in the town of Winnett. In 1916 he built the new Eager Mercantile Store at the corner of North Broadway and West Main Street. Among many other projects, he built the large cisterns at the schoolhouse. On his farm he provided Percheron stud services during the times when good horses were a most valuable asset.

Mary died in September of 1949, and Ed, in July of 1955. Both were buried in the Winnett Cemetery. They had no children.

GAVEL, Martin (Sec 11,12-15-27) Martin Gavel moved to Montana from Iowa in 1899, and was employed on the Teigen Ranch, working for his uncle, Mons Teigen, Sr. At the same time he filed on his own homestead just north of the Teigen, Montana, town site.

Lena Brown was born in Sparta, Wisconsin, September 12, 1889. She graduated as a registered nurse in 1905. She eventually came to Montana and pursued her nursing career at Butte, later homesteading in the Brush Creek area. She and Martin were married in 1915 and took up residence on Lena's homestead.



At Mrs. Gavel's homestead: (Back row) Martin Gavel, Ingrid Teigen, Julia Vinger, Lena Gavel, Edna Teigen; (Front row) George Gavel, Grace Gavel, Mons Teigen, Peter Teigen

The Gavels raised two children — an adopted son, George, and a daughter, Grace. Both attended the Brush Creek School.

From the Brush Creek news of the Winnett Times of November 27, 1922: "The Brush Creek School was treated to a hot chicken dinner with all the trimmings at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Gavel in honor of their daughter Grace's birthday. Those present were Elsie Henton, Adolph and Esther Elde, Lewis and Gerald Quigley, John Nelson and Grace Gavel. The beginners class enjoyed blowing out the candles on the birthday cake. Mr. Gavel conveyed the crowd to and from dinner in his car. Mrs. I. N. Parker assisted Mrs. Gavel with the serving." The Gavels often boarded the school teachers.

Martin Gavel farmed and raised a large amount of sweet corn and sold it in Winnett. And, in another Winnett Times article: "Martin Gavel, of the Brush Creek country, makes a specialty of capons. Last week (December 23, 1927) he sold 50 to the Cash Produce and received in return a check for \$107.00, or 28 cents a pound. Last year he sold the choice ones to the Enterprise for 30 cents a pound. Mr. Gavel believes there is more money and less trouble raising capons than any other kind of fowl."

George Gavel graduated from Winnett High School in 1932. He served in the Signal Corp of the Army in Australia during World War II, then became an accountant in Washington, D. C. He and his wife, Isabelle, had two sons, Richard and Robert.

Grace graduated from Winnett High School in 1934, attended Billings Business College and worked as a stenographer in Billings, Montana, for six years. She married Paul Temple in 1941 and they became the parents of nine children — Edna, Janet, Joseph, John, Frank, Paulette, Tom, Steven and Michael.

Mrs. Gavel, a quiet, hard-working lady, and a strong member of the Christian Science faith, died quietly in December of 1939, never having burdened others with her health problems.

Grace and Paul helped Mr. Gavel on his ranch for a time after that. Paul also worked in the courthouse in Winnett for various government programs. When Grace and Paul moved to Great Falls, Montana, Mr. Gavel sold his place to Wayne Bratten and lived with the Temples in Great Falls. He passed away February 26, 1956.

GLAZIER, Albert M. Albert M. Glazier was born January 5, 1892, in North Dakota. Gladys Jennings was born June 6, 1895, in Albert Lea, Minnesota. They were married in 1915 in Lewistown, Montana, and homesteaded in the Musselshell River country. They moved to the Brush Creek area in about 1923.

Albert had previously been involved in the dairy business for fifteen years while living in Minnesota. In March of 1925 he took over the dairy business of Walter Swift. Later Glaziers lived on the Deethardt place west of Winnett. They moved to Laclede, Idaho, in 1938.

Glaziers were the parents of eleven children — Alberta,

Hazel, Phyllis, Joyce, Barbara, Janice, Harley, Gerald, Keith, Gene, and Milton. The children attended the Brush Creek and Winnett Schools.

Alberta graduated from Winnett High School in 1937. She married Christen A. Christensen. Together they owned and operated the *Lewis County Herald* newspaper of Nezperce, Idaho, from 1960 to 1978. They had three children — Chris, JoAnne and Don. Alberta died in December of 1985.

Hazel graduated from high school in 1937 and married Marvin Jackson in Idaho. They had five children and lived on a farm near Moses Lake, Washington. Marvin was also a mechanic, and Hazel, at times worked in a potato plant. Hazel always said that her work was her hobby.

Harley was killed in a hunting accident at Laclede, Idaho, in July of 1958. He had served in the Navy during World War II and was a heavy equipment operator. He was married, and the father of two children. Milton married Lorna Sindelar. The couple had two children, Del and Marvin, both born at Sandpoint, Idaho.

No information was obtained on the other members of the family. Albert died in October of 1971, and Gladys in July of 1975.

HALE, David David and Patricia Weingart Hale purchased the J. K. Smith Ranch — the former Beckstrom Ranch in May of 1964. (See also HALE — Dovetail)

HALE, Raymond Raymond Anthony Hale, son of David and Pat Hale, was born in 1960 at Sand Point, Idaho. Karen Kimmel, daughter of Donald and Jean Kimmel, was born in 1960 at Bozeman, Montana.

Raymond and Karen were married in 1980 in Lewistown. They lived in Bozeman and attended college there until Raymond graduated from Montana State University with a degree in Mechanized Agriculture in 1983. They moved to the Hale Ranch just north of Winnett in 1984 and have lived there since.

They have two sons — Tony Lynn, born in 1980; and Tyler Bo, born in 1982. These children are students in the Winnett School.

Karen is an accomplished piano player. Besides the students she teaches, she is also very willing to help out with accompaniments for any activities at the school. (Submitted by Raymond Hale) (See also KIMMEL — Flat-willow)

HANSEN, Fred William Will and Ida Hansen settled on land about five miles north of Winnett on the Dovetail-Valentine road. They had three children — Minnie, Elton and Larry. Also living with them, Pearl Stewart recalls, was another young girl, a relative of Will's. "She was a pleasant good-looking girl and always had a smile for you. She played the piano very well and went to school. She was a little older than Minnie."

The Hansens and the Ninnemans were good friends, visiting each other often. "I remember going along, when I worked for Ninnemans as a girl, to visit the Hansen girls. One time we crept into a bedroom to see a mother cat



Fred "Will" Hansen, Ida Hansen, and Larry Hansen, son

and her kittens, and she had a tiny baby skunk she was raising with her kittens!"

The Hansen's daughter, Minnie, finished high school and normal school in Billings, becoming a teacher at Winnett School. The 1930 Winnett Times had this account of Minnie Hansen: "Minnie C. Hansen, age 23, well-known and popular Winnett school teacher, passed quickly away Monday afternoon at the Lewistown hospital about 4:30 p.m. Miss Hansen was taken to the Lewistown hospital Monday about noon by her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Hansen, who are well known in this section and reside on their ranch five miles north of Winnett. Death was attributed to an overdose of medicine, and as soon as the young girl's condition was known, she was rushed to the hospital in Lewistown where every effort was made to bring about her recovery."

Elton attended Winnett High School and Larry entered elementary school in Winnett before the family moved away.

HARDY, Bryan (Sec 32-16-26) The Bryan Hardys owned land near Buffalo Creek north of Winnett. Mrs. Bryan Hardy was a daughter of Frank and Della Wilson of Cat Creek. (See also WILSON — Cat Creek)

Hardys' land was later owned or leased by a Mr. Campbell. (See CAMPBELL — Brush Creek)

(W. T. 7-22-21) "A bright baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Hardy Tuesday evening."

HARDY, Ned (Sec 32-16-26) Ned Hardy shared a section of land with Bryan Hardy, John Callahan, and Bert Porter. Ned died before 1921. His land was under the Winnett Irrigation project, and he had served as vice-president of the company.

HENTON, Joseph Mitchel Pearl Henton Stewart reminisces: "Joseph Henton was three years old, when he came with his parents to the United States from Cornwall, England. They settled in Iowa, where Joseph became a young man and met and married Clara May Thomas on November 24, 1887.

"My father (Joseph) ran a coal mine near Carbon, Iowa, and we kids went to school at Fairview School, two miles



Joseph Henton



Clara Henton

away. There were eleven of us, eight boys and three girls, John, William, David, Edward, Alvah, Tom, Mildred, Frank, Pearl, Earl and Elsie. Later, John went to South Dakota and took a homestead. Bill, Dave and Ed came to Montana and took land near Winnett. They had good crops and plenty of rain; things looked good, so they thought the rest of us should move out here too.

"Two of my brothers had died in Iowa, but the rest of us all came on the train. Tom had come earlier in an emigrant car with all our belongings. Dave (Sec 35-16-27) had a team of mules, some horses, nine head of calves, and our Jersey milk cow. Since Grassrange was as far as the train went, they had to trail the stock to Winnett, with a stopover at Teigen. A man from the river, by the name of Taylor, used his lumber wagon to deliver us to Brush Creek. We arrived in April of 1917.

"Brother Bill (Sec 15-15-27) built an addition onto his house for us, and was hammering away when we arrived about dark. Ed (Sec 15-16-27) was very ill the summer we came and died in August. Dad had to 'prove up' on Ed's



William Henton and his sister, Elsie

homestead, and we lived with Bill part of the time and on Ed's claim five miles north of Bill's. We stayed with Bill during the school term because he lived closer to Brush Creek School. The first teacher I remember was Mr. Lasater in 1917.

"We had lots of neighbors when we came, quite a few homesteaders with their families. There were lots of picnics, dances and quilting parties. Mom would have Ladies Aid and would have to set the table several times.

"Dad died in the summer of 1924, and that fall we moved into Winnett to go to school. In December, Mom, my brother Earl, and sisters Elsie and Millie went to California to live with my grandmother. I didn't want to go, stayed behind, and in 1925 married B. C. Stewart." (See also STEWART — Brush Creek and Winnett)

HILLIUS, Edward C. Edward Hillius was born in 1888 in Nevelft, Bessarabia, Russia. Isabella L. Lewis was born in South Dakota in September of 1889. They were married December 26, 1905, and in 1911 came from Napoleon, North Dakota, to Winnett. They brought three small children — Edward, Edna and Irvin — with them and homesteaded about five miles west of Winnett. Arnold was born in Lewistown on October 27, 1913. The children attended the Schellenberger School before the family moved into the town of Winnett. (See also HILLIUS — Winnett)

HOBENSACK, Sarah (Sec 20-15-27) Some of the wives of the Lewistown promoters of the Winnett Irrigation Company filed homesteads under the irrigation project although they did not live on the land. Sarah Hobensack's husband, Isaac M. Hobensack, was a vice president and secretary of the company.

The Hobensacks came to Lewistown, Montana, from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, in 1887. Isaac started the Judith Hardware Company and also invested in farm land in the Benchland, Montana, area.

The couple raised a family of four daughters and one son, who all lived in Lewistown for most of their lives. Ella (Mrs. Frank Hagen) had one son; Bernice (Mrs. Cecil Moore) had two sons; Horace married Hazel Reiley and they had no children.

HOLMBOE, Evan (Sec 15.17-15-27) On August 14, 1911, Mr. Holmboe, a Lewistown businessman, became the secretary of the Winnett Irrigation Company. He replaced Mr. Hobensack who resigned.

Though the Holmboes did not make their home on the farm property they owned north of Winnett, a very fine brick and tile house was built on the land. The Winnett Times of July 25, 1924, had this to say of the property. "Go about six miles north on the North Cat Creek road and you will see a large two story brick house about one mile east off the main road. This property is owned by E. E. Holmboe . . . it is now rented and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Will Ninneman . . . Six years ago Mr. Holmboe erected the beautiful two-story brick residence on his ranch and urged the Ninnemans to lease the place. The



Stained glass window of Holmboe house

ranch is irrigated from the Winnett project, War House lake reservoir.

HOPE, James (Sec 33-15-26) James Hope was born at St. Mary's, Minnesota. His wife, Margaret, had been born in Ireland in 1878. She came to America in 1893. She and James were married in 1912. Following their marriage, they homesteaded in this area. James Hope, previously married, presented Margaret with two stepdaughters, Katherine, and one who became Mrs. White, and two stepsons, Patrick and James.

James became involved in raising turkeys on a large scale, and in November of 1921 was offering for sale, young turkey toms — purebred bronze from a 50 pound tom. In November of 1925 and 1926 he was delivering shipments to Winnett and other markets. Mr. Hope was well gratified with the returns from sales and felt that Petroleum County was an ideal location for the venture.

James always liked to "make-do" with whatever he had on hand. He had a Ford of rather ancient vintage, but in 1928 he attached a transmission and belt wheel to the front end. The contraption did not interfere with the operation of the car while traveling. So, to help his neighbors, and to gain a little extra cash, he would throw a mill into the back of the car and drive to a farmer who wished to have grain ground. He would then lift the Ford, attach a belt, say a few magic words and grind the grain.

He later took the agency for Ward products with Petroleum And Musselshell counties as territory.

Neighbor Viola Carr Hill added some of her memories of Margaret Hope: "Mrs. Hope was a slender lady with a good heart. She was the first one to make waffles for us children after she got her first waffle iron. Of course, it was not electric, but worked on a wood-coal range. Mrs. Hope was a very dear person, and we used to get a big kick out of her. If someone came unexpectedly and she had on a soiled dress, she would run into the bedroom and slip on another dress over the one she was already wearing!"



Mrs. Tom Carr, Margaret Hope, James Hope, Tom Carr; Children: Opal, Glenn, Viola, Joe, Frances, Raymond Carr

After a short illness, which had not been considered serious, James passed away in March of 1930. His body was buried in the Calvary Cemetery in Lewistown, Montana.

Following his death, Margaret moved to Red Stone, Montana, near some of the children. She later moved to Plentywood, Montana, where she died in June of 1946. She was also buried in Calvary Cemetery.

HOPKINS, Roy Alvin (Sec 12-15-26) Roy Hopkins was born in 1886. The family lived at Garneill, Montana, at the time. According to some sources, they raised produce for sale in the mining towns. Roy was a member of the first graduating class at Fergus County High School. His father and the three boys — Roy, William and Marion — operated a store, Hopkins and Sons, on Main Street in Lewistown, Montana. When they were unable to collect accounts, they sometimes took farm property as payment. Roy acquired land on Buffalo Creek as a result of such a settlement.

Hazel Remington was born in Michigan and later lived in Miles City, Montana, where her mother ran a boarding house. Later they moved to Lewistown and she again operated a boarding house with the help of her five daughters — Jessie, Susan, Jo, Hazel and Mollie. Hazel married Roy Hopkins in 1912. They were parents of two children, Patty and Ralph.

Roy started a 25-acre market garden under the Winnett Irrigation Company system. Ellis Brothers from Hanover, Montana, were put in charge of running a daily truck to the fields to pick up produce for delivery to Lewistown, Roundup and Winnett. The Winnett Times of May 27, 1921, gave their nod of approval to the new business: "Winnett, being the center of the oil fields of Eastern Fergus County, is a small-sized city, and the need of market products is quite apparent. The town now has 11

eating establishments, and together with an estimated population of 1600 people, it would seem that a business of this kind would be a paying proposition.

Ralph, son of Roy, says "I remember when we were on the farm at Winnett. Dad worked for an organization that ran an irrigation project which distributed water from a lake ... I enjoyed going with him when he patrolled the ditches and turned the access gates on and off."

A few years later, Roy had a bee business and lived in the town of Winnett. Roy and Hazel are both deceased. (See also HOPKINS — Winnett)

The children of one of Roy's brothers were orphaned at an early age and raised by Adolph and Edith Beckstrom. (See also BECKSTROM — Brush Creek)

JOHNSON, Arthur Arthur Johnson was born in Sweden. Anna Eckland was born in Mariestad, Sweden, November 30, 1890. She was the daughter of August and Josephine Eckland. She and Arthur were married and lived in Sweden until 1930, at which time (accompanied by son, Eric) they came to America.

Anna's brother, Andrew Eckland, had invited them to help him on his ranch. In October of 1941 they purchased their own ranch — the Henry Thayer holdings just below Little Bear Lake. While living with Andrew, Johnsons sent Eric to the Teigen School. Later he attended school in Winnett as did his sister, Helen, who was born in about 1936. Eric entered the service of his country during World War II, then returned to work on his parents' and uncle's farms. Helen graduated from Winnett High School in 1954. She married Hubert Heaton.

Arthur did well at farming and stock raising, and was recognized as an excellent blacksmith. He died June 21, 1950. Eric then assumed the care of the ranch and his mother and sister.

In 1982 Anna moved to Sedalia, Missouri, to be near her daughter, Helen. She died in January of 1986. Eric continues to operate the Johnson Ranch. (See also HEATON — Winnett)

JOHNSON, James E. James E. Johnson, son of John Johnson, and Ramona May Stewart, daughter of B. C. Stewart, were married February 14, 1948. They lived on a farm north and east of Winnett. To add to his farming profits, Jim also installed a sawmill in the southeast part of the town of Winnett. His first business consisted of sawing 5000 board feet of lumber for the Jacob Vogel and Sons Ranch.

Jim and Ramona were the parents of seven children — Mary (1949), Jack, (1952), Douglas (1953), Norma (1955), Tim (1961), Sally (1964), and Mark (1966). Mary graduated from Winnett High School in 1967, Jack in 1969, and Douglas in 1970. In 1971 the family moved to Lewistown, Montana.

Ramona, after valiantly fighting a heart condition, died there in 1985.

Mary married John Edwards and has two boys — Daniel and Philip. They live in Belgrade, Montana. Jack is married. His wife is Cheryl and they have two boys, Taylor

and Logan. Douglas married Linda Marie Kemp. Their children are Amy and Brook. Norma married Steven Stewart and had two girls, Jamie Jo and Tonya. Tim works at the college in Bozeman cleaning at night. Sally married Clinton Dahlhausen and they have one girl, Corina, and one boy, Joseph. Mark works at a shoe store in Great Falls.

James was recently re-married.

JOHNSON, John E. John E. Johnson was born in Maiden, Montana, January 20, 1895. From 1920 to 1926 he worked in the oil fields of Midwest, Wyoming. He married there in 1923. In 1927 the family moved back to Lewistown and Giltedge, where John was engaged in farming and ranching.

Johnsons, with daughter Vivian and son James, moved to Petroleum County in 1942 and lived on a ranch five miles north of Winnett. They were there for about five years. Vivian rode horseback to school in Winnett.

In October of 1947 John became manager of the Montana Elevator in Winnett. While waiting on a customer there on September 21, 1953, he went to his desk and died instantly of a heart attack.

Vivian married Tom Addy. James entered the military service and upon his return, married Ramona Stewart, daughter of B. C. and Pearl Stewart.

JOZOVICH, Mitchall (Sec 30-15-26) Mitchall Jozovich homesteaded in the same area as the Dalsmons, and he was married to Clara Dalsmon. The following Winnett Times articles reveal some history: (W. T. 7-26-21) "Among the other resources of this city a gold discovery on the land of Mitchall Jozovich six miles northwest of Winnett is the latest attraction.

"The discovery which is on section 30-15-26 was made by Mr. Jozovich in the fall of 1919. A little excitement was stirred up at that time but on account of the low grade of placer mining it was not found to be profitable; and due to the financial situation, no attempt has been made to develop it. Recently, however, several mining men have made trips out to the land and after making a thorough examination have submitted propositions to take it over and develop it.

"The vein is about 50 feet thick and is open for 500 feet and can be traced for over a quarter of a mile. Some authorities pronounce it to be five miles in length. From several assays made of the ore, it will average from \$1 to \$4.88 per ton with about 50 cents of silver.

"Mining men state that this is an ideal proposition for development on a large scale and it will not be long before gold and silver mining will be added to Winnett's many industries."

(W. T. 9-16-21) "The two-year-old boy of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchall Jozovich, living north of Teigen, died Monday."

(W. T. 10-19-23) "A sample of perfect popcorn ears were delivered to the Times office by M. J. Jozovich who farms northwest of Winnett."

The Jozovich family eventually moved back to Butte where Mr. Jozovich became involved in mining.

KNERR, Homer Homer and Mabel Knerr lived for a time on the Fred Hansen place which was just north and across the road from the Fred Akins Ranch. Homer and Mabel were the parents of: Alice, who died at age 22, Agnes, Letha, Marian and Howard.

Knerrs were living on the Hansen place when Tom and Sarah Amos arrived to live on the Akins Ranch in the spring of 1946. Sarah Amos spoke of the Knerrs: "The Knerrs lived in the green house the first year we were there. She had us down for Thanksgiving dinner, which was our first home-cooked meal (other than my own) we had had since we left home. It was our first goose, and was delicious!"

Howard became acquainted with Frances Sutton, and they were later married. (See also KNERR, Howard)

KNERR, Howard Howard Knerr (1917), son of Homer Knerr, and Frances Sutton (1928), daughter of Ed and Amelia Sutton, were married. When Adolph Beckstrom sold his property to J. K. Smith in 1955, Howard and Frances were chosen as managers of the ranch.

They became the parents of three girls — Carolyn (1944), Patsy (1948) and Roxie (1950). Carolyn married Tom Hanson, son of Elmer Hanson. They had three children — Keith, Kim and Sue Ann. Tom works at construction and raises and sells horses. Carol has been an Avon dealer and a volunteer school librarian aide at Highland Park School in Lewistown, Montana. She is now receptionist for Doctor Dernbach, a surgeon in Lewistown.

Patsy married Martin Eike, and they had a daughter, Tammy. Patsy works for a yard-service company in Billings.

Roxie married Melvin Eike. (See also EIKE — Cat Creek)

Frances and Howard live in Harlowton where Frances is a dispatcher for the sheriff department. Howard retired from mechanical work and enjoys rawhiding — making beautiful leather articles.

KREINER, Edward Alvin (Sec 2-15-27) Ed Kreiner and his wife, Margaret Ann Cameron Kreiner, came to Petroleum County in 1918 from Brown City, Michigan. They settled on the Herb Jones homestead. The Kreiners had a large family, and the older children attended the Brush Creek School. They were: Helen, Jim, Carl, twins Jack and Bill, Dan, Kay, and Pat. There were two other children who were stillborn.

After three years in the county, the Kreiners left and traveled to Wyoming, Colorado and Texas. In an article in the October 6, 1922, Winnett Times, it was stated that they came back from Eastern Washington: "Mr. Kreiner is convinced that Central Montana land is of better quality and if farmed in the same manner, will produce more per acre than the land of Eastern Washington ... Mr. Kreiner is making plans to rent a farm here and start farming with scientific methods on a large scale."

The dry years came and the Kreiners left the Winnett area again, but remained in Montana.

Helen Kreiner Shafer lives in Billings, Montana. Jim and

Carl were both killed in World War II — Jim in 1944, and Carl in 1945. John (Jack) Kreiner still works on Saturdays and Mondays at his old business, which his son-in-law now owns — Kreiner Opticians of Billings. He was an optician for 41 years. Jack's twin brother, Bill, died in 1973. Dan and Kay Kreiner McArty both live in Billings. Pat Kreiner lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mother Kreiner died in 1951, and the father in 1952.

MARKS, Hans Tammie Rowton Marks submitted the following family story: "Hans, the son of Pete and Erna Marks, was born on May 17, 1963, in Lewistown, Montana. He graduated from Winnett High School in May of 1981. He attended college at Montana State University for two quarters. Hans has been working on the ranch since then.

"I, the daughter of Vernon and Donna Rowton, was born on October 17, 1963, in Lewistown. I graduated from Winnett High School in May of 1982 and attended one quarter of college at Eastern Montana College that fall.

"Hans and I were married on August 20, 1983, in the First Lutheran Church of Winnett.

"I started work as Deputy Clerk and Recorder and Clerk of Court for Petroleum County on June 4, 1984, and work there to date (1989).

"Our first child, Chad Vernon, was born May 2, 1987." (See also VOGEL, Fred)

MAXWELL, William (Sec 31-15-27) A number of years ago Bill Maxwell came to Winnett to visit friends. He liked the country and has been back many times to hunt and visit newly acquired friends.

When Vernon Bauer left Winnett and placed the Bauer home and land on the market, Bill purchased the holdings. The Maxwells make their home in California but return to Winnett regularly for the enjoyment of the country, to hunt, and to make improvements to their newly purchased Montana home. In his endeavors to improve the property, Bill recently was forced to demolish the old Winnett Milwaukee depot. It had been moved to the Bauer Ranch and used for storage and livestock shelter. In bad state of repair, it could no longer be utilized so it was burned. For sure no *train* will come to a whistle stop at his ranch now!

Bill and his wife, Doris, are planning to spend more time in Montana in future years.

McCRERY, Sam and Clifford Earl (Sec 1-15-27) Sam and Clifford McCrery, father and son, filed on a homestead north of Winnett in the Brush Creek area. They came to Montana from Monmouth, Illinois. Clifford married Louise Jenni of Lewistown on March 24, 1915. Three girls were born — Margaret Emma (1915), Laura Mildred (1917), and Helen Louise (1918).

Clifford's wife, Louise, died in childbirth when Helen was born. The three little girls were raised by their mother's sisters. Margaret was raised by Marie Jenni Reuss. She became a primary teacher, married Levi



Louise and Clifford McCrery (May 30, 1915)

Toulouse, and resides in Havre, Montana.

Laura was raised by Clara Jenni Young. She was a secretary, married Lowry Risdahl, and resides in Missoula, Montana. Helen was raised by Hulda Jenni Reis Clark. She became a kindergarten teacher, married John Warden, and resides in Bellingham, Washington.

Clifford continued on the homestead. His father, Sam McCrery, lived with him. In later years Sam became ill and they moved to a small home in Winnett. Clifford spent the last five years of his life in Havre, Montana. He is buried in Lewistown beside his wife.

McCROREY, J. W. (Sec 7-15-27) Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McCrorey arrived in Petroleum County from the Gallatin Valley in the fall of 1925, having purchased the Valley View irrigated farm from Mr. Williams. The Winnett Times of September 1926 reported:

"The McCroreys had leased irrigated land in the Gallatin Valley and though successful in their farm operations, preferred a location where they could own their own farm and not be subjected to the high rentals of the Gallatin Valley. Petroleum County offered the greatest inducements and resulted in the location of the McCrorey family on the Valley View irrigated farm where they are meeting with success."

One day in the fall of 1925, William Hayes Smith, proprietor of the Cash Produce Company at Winnett, made the following statement to a group of farmers: "I would like to build, free of charge, for a farmer in this community a modern poultry house and will do so for the first farmer who will agree to purchase the material — provided he permits me to build the house according to my own plans and specifications."

One of the group was J. W. McCrorey, and he stepped forward and notified Mr. Smith that he would accept the proposition and that he was ready to start any time Mr. Smith was. The agreement was fulfilled, the Times tells, and a large community picnic was held in the fall of 1926 at the farm, so all could view the poultry house.

Mrs. Theodore Ille gave a talk on "Making Poultry Pay on the Farm," and Mr. Ed Mack spoke on "Feeds and Feeding." Ice cream was served by the Fergus County Creamery and lunches were served. A great day for all, and the Winnett Times described the modern chicken house in detail, but alas!

On August 2, 1929, the Winnett Times reported: "Tues-

day night a fire of unknown origin destroyed all the buildings on the J. W. McCrorey Ranch northwest of Winnett. The fire started in the house with such rapidity that the McCrorey family had to leap from windows to save themselves. It quickly spread to the chicken house, destroyed it and the chickens, then leaped in the high winds to the barn and destroyed it. Only the ice house remains. Two quilts, the harness, and an automobile were saved.

"The loss will be heavy as but a small amount of insurance was carried on the buildings which were considered among the best farm buildings in the county. Mr. McCrorey plans to rebuild as soon as possible. A shortage of water and the high wind prevailing accounts for the total loss of the buildings."

But in the Winnett Times two weeks later, August 16, 1929: "J. W. McCrorey, whose ranch home, barn and other buildings were destroyed by fire two weeks ago, will sell at auction all his farm implements, livestock, and what household goods were salvaged from the burning building. The farm itself he plans to hold, putting it up for rent at the sale after selling the hay and other crops now standing.

"Mr. McCrorey has not made known his plans for the future, but it is expected he will return to the western part of the state, where he operated a farm before coming here."

McDANIEL, Clarence (Sec 3-15-27) See McDANIEL, Robert — Musselshell River; McDANIEL, Clarence — Winnett)

MILLAR, Phelps (Sec 33-15-28) See MILLAR — Winnett

MISS, Henry (Sec 24-15-27) Before the Brush Creek School was built, Henry's homestead cabin served as a schoolhouse.

MOSBY, Marvin Marvin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Mosby. (See also MOSBY — Musselshell) He was born in Jordan, Montana. They lived on a ranch at Mosby, Montana. He has two sisters. He went to school in Mosby, Hobson, Montana, and Jordan. His folks are retired and live in Lewistown.

Betty is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry McDonald. She was born in Lewistown. They lived on a ranch at Garneill. She has two brothers. Her folks are retired and live in Hot Springs, Montana. She went to school in Garneill, Montana, and Judith Gap, Montana.

Marvin and his folks brought their cows to the Hobson area for grass, as it was too dry at Mosby. Marvin and Betty met at the Hobson School prom. Betty went on to Butte Business School and Marvin went back to Jordan to school. In the summer of 1963, Marvin got a job at Judith Gap, and in August, Betty and Marvin went to Idaho to get married.

They lived for a year working on ranches in the Judith Gap area, moved to Great Falls in December of 1964, and Marvin worked for the smelter until May of that year.

Then they moved to Mosby and he worked at the refinery. Brett was born in Lewistown in June of 1964.

They lived at Mosby until May of 1971. Blaine was born in Lewistown in February of 1969, and Karleen was born in Lewistown in December of 1971.

In May of 1971 the Mosbys moved to Winnett, and Marvin worked for Dave Hale until December, at which time he started working for the State Highway Department. Betty started working for the library in 1972 as the evening librarian.

They lived in town until 1981, and then moved three miles out of Winnett, where they raise cows and sheep. Brett graduated in 1983, then went to Glendive to college for two years. When he graduated, he took a job at Jordan. He is now employed by Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative at Circle, Montana. He married Susan Hanson in September of 1984, and they have two daughters, Misty and Tanya. Blaine graduated in 1987 and is currently attending Montana State University. Karleen is a senior in high school (fall of 1989). (Submitted by Betty Mosby)

NINNEMAN, William W. (Sec 15-15-27) William Ninneman was born October 23, 1883, in Minnesota. Cecelia Strissel was born April 11, 1886, in South Dakota. They were married September 23, 1908. Around 1914 they traveled from Minnesota to Montana and filed a homestead north of Winnett on the Brush Creek structure. In 1918 they leased the nearby land and the brick house owned by Mr. E. Holmboe, while retaining their original homestead. (See also HOLMBOE — Brush Creek)

A Winnett Times article of July 25, 1924, described the beautiful Holmboe home on an irrigated tract. "The ranch is irrigated from the Winnett project, War House Lake reservoir... They have a fine grove, well started, which was planted four years ago by Mr. Ninneman (1920). He dug up small saplings along Cat Creek and transplanted them and has not lost one in the move. A large garden plot will take care of all the family needs in vegetables and leave much for sale.

"Everbearing strawberries, currants, gooseberries and raspberries fill the basement with winter canned goods. Mrs. Ninneman also has a very nice flower garden and meets with much success growing a variety of flowers. As there are no dry seasons for an irrigated tract, Mr. Ninneman has enjoyed good crops ever since his arrival on the place and is well satisfied with the returns of his labors."



Will Ninneman Ranch (June 20, 1917)



Will and Cecelia Ninneman on their homestead (June 20, 1917)

The house was elegant indeed, in its time, with beautiful polished wood beams, hardwood floors, and stained glass windows in the living room. It is one of very few homes built during the homestead era still standing in 1989 in the Brush Creek area.

Pearl Henton Stewart worked for Mrs. Ninneman for three summers during her high school years. "They raised geese," Pearl recalls, "and I'd herd them in the field south of the house, where there was lots of wild lettuce."

Sometimes Pearl worked in the hay field along with Charlie and Ruby Preston, who helped mow and rake their hay. In 1925 Will and Cecelia adopted a son, Raymond J. Ninneman, and in 1926 a daughter, Hazel, was born.

Raymond Ninneman is now living in Okinawa, and Hazel is in Alaska. Hazel married Norman F. Steen, who passed away in 1967, and is currently married to Wilfred Knutson. Hazel and Norman became the parents of six daughters — Darlene, Diane, Betty, Janet, Sandra and Judy.

In the August 28, 1931, edition of the Winnett Times, the following article was written: "William Ninneman returned Friday from the Huntley project near Billings, Montana, where he secured a location. He was accompanied on his return by his brother Paul, who has been on the project for some time. Paul is assisting William in removing his livestock, farm machinery and household goods to Huntley. The Ninneman family are pioneers of Petroleum County and have a large circle of friends who will miss them, but wish them the greatest success in their new home."

Cecelia died June 20, 1965, and William, October 19, 1972. Both were buried at Ortonville, Minnesota.

OWINGS, Leland Leland Owings son of Edgar and Hattie Grubb Owings married Ruth Branton. In 1945 Leland and Ruth operated the Fred Akins Ranch (sometimes known as the Golden Rule Ranch) for Mr.

Akins. Their daughter, Claudine, was born December 31, 1952.

Leland had a sister, Mildred, and a brother, Harold. Ruth Branton Owings and Sarah Amos were sisters. The Amoses were also connected with the Akins property. (See also AMOS — Brush Creek)

The Owings family left the area in 1954.



Ruth and Leland Owings

PEDDICOART, Flora (Sec 7-15-26) Flora was the second oldest daughter of Dick Wilson Sr. and Mary Puckett Wilson. Her homestead was in the area very near that of her parents. (See WILSON — Brush Creek and Winnett)



Ira Pierson and Gayle Pierson standing by the house that Ira built

PIERSON, Ira (Sec 26-15-26) Ira Pierson was born January 23, 1885, in Charles City, Iowa, and lived on a farm there for eight years. He moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, with his parents and graduated from a business college there. In 1910 he came to Montana and homesteaded. He and Helen Marie Castner were married. She had also acquired land in Sec 31-15-27. In 1921 Ira built a home for his family in Winnett. (See also PIERSON — Cat Creek and Winnett)

PIETROSS, Viego Viego was a railroad man, but not having steady work, preferred to spend his time on ranches. Having previously been employed by Fred Akins, in 1933 he was again hired during the lambing season.

Although in apparent good health, Viego was found dead in one of the lambing sheds. No family could be located. County Coroner, Jack Runnalls, had Viego's body shipped to the Eagles Lodge of Lewistown, of which Viego was a lifetime member.

PRIBBLE, Savil (Sec 14-15-27) "Sam" Pribble was born in Kentucky. He married Rose Heffner, and they had four children — Forrest, Leone, Minnie and Mary.

Sam came to Montana in 1910, from Hillsdale, Wisconsin. He found a job working on the W. J. Winnett Ranch where he was foreman for a few years. He filed on a homestead in the Brush Creek area.

The rest of the family left Wisconsin on April 1, 1912. "They came by train to Lewistown," Minnie Pribble writes, "and visited a couple of days there with the Dan Heffner family. (Dan was Rose Pribble's brother.) My dad loaded supplies in the covered wagon for the Winnett Ranch and we were on our way to our new home. We arrived at the Winnett Ranch a couple of days later and made our acquaintance with the Winnett family. This friendship lasted for many years until we all went our separate ways years later.

"Rose and the children moved to the homestead for the summer months, then back to the Winnett Ranch to attend school in the fall of 1912, returning to the homestead in the spring of 1913 for the summer months. In the fall of 1914, a teacher had been hired to teach in our neighborhood. School was held in Henry Miss's homestead cabin. Harry Tripp of the Flatwillow community was the teacher. [In 1915 Sam Pribble was trustee of Flatwillow School District #26. He was in charge of the school affairs for the Brush Creek area of the county.] The pupils that year were the four Pribble children, Wynn Parker (our cousin), Vera Smith, George and Pearl Myers.

"Clara Schroeder was hired to teach the 1915 fall term. The pupils were the same as in the previous year. Clara married Posey Edwards before the school term was completed, so Louisa Wilson was hired to finish out her term. [The next year when Winnett District #159 withdrew from District #26, Sam was elected as trustee of the District #159 board.]

"A brand new schoolhouse had been completed for the

fall term of 1916, just a half mile from our homestead. This was Brush Creek School. The pupils were the four Pribble children, Vera Smith, Wynn Parker, and the four Rodman children (whose parents were Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rodman).

"I'm glad I lived and had a part of the 'homestead era' — life was never dull. There were school activities and programs, baseball games, dances and what have you to attend, and a mutual friendship among all of the people.

"My father held a farm sale in the fall of 1917. My mother and sister Mary had moved to Virginia earlier that year to live with my grandmother and grandfather Heffner to help care for them. My sister Leone and I moved to Winnett with my father to attend high school. Leone was advised to quit school in her second year by the eye doctor, because of a serious eye problem. She later married Earl Harlan, who was lucky enough to have some oil wells drilled on his farm during the oil boom in the early 1920s.

"I graduated from Winnett High School in May of 1921. Later that year I married Archie Manuel and moved to the Cat Creek Basin. We lived there until the fall of 1935 when we moved to an irrigated farm on the Fairfield, Montana, Bench. Our two older boys attended the Shay School during the years of 1927-1934. (See also PRIBBLE — Winnett; MANUEL, Archie — Ashley)

QUILTER, Dean (Sec 3-15-26) Dean homesteaded and also was a fine carpenter and painter. Etta Nichols homesteaded in Sec 9-14-28 and worked as a stenographer for Continental Oil Company for eight years. She and Dean were married May 17, 1930. Etta died Augst 15, 1965. (See also NICHOLS — Winnett and QUILTER — Winnett)

REES, Tom (Sec 22-15-27) The following account was taken from the May 15, 1936, issue of the Winnett Times: "Tom Rees, prominent Petroleum County rancher and road building contractor, was Central Montana's first 1936 victim of spotted fever, when he died at the St. Joseph's Hospital in Lewistown at 6 p.m. Wednesday, following a week's uphill and unavailing battle against the dangerous bite of an infected tick.

"The deceased had a wide circle of friends in Winnett as well as throughout central Montana. He was a long time and active member of Lewistown Lodge No. 27 A. F. and A. M.

"Tom Rees was born in Dresden, Missouri, May 18, 1875. He came to Lewistown in 1906 and until 1912 was associated with Hal Akins in the old Golden Rule Store. In 1912 he was married to Anna Morrison, and the same year they took a homestead in the Sand Springs country where they resided until 1922. In the spring of 1922 they moved to a ranch north of Winnett where they have resided ever since, carrying on successful farming operations. Mr. Rees was a man of fine character, respected and admired by all who came in contact with him.

"Tom's wife was born Anna Bell Hubbell in Missouri, November 2, 1883. She married Benjamin Morrison, and in 1912 they moved to Montana, near Tindall where they