

settled on a homestead. After only a year, Mr. Morrison was killed in a cave-in. Later she married Tom Rees. Tom and Anna Bell together had one son, Leonard; and Anna had a son, Edgar, by her previous marriage to Mr. Morrison. Following Tom's death in 1936, Anna had a sale and moved into Winnett. In the summer of 1937 she moved to Oroville, Washington. In 1948 she married Ernest Truax, and he preceded her in death in 1954. Anna passed away on November 29, 1958."

Edgar attended Winnett High School, graduating in 1929. In May of 1933 he was married to Elma E. Doxy of Sand Springs. Edgar died December 22, 1968. He had moved to Bremerton, Washington.

After Leonard's father died in 1936, Leonard moved with his mother to Oroville, Washington. He met and married Waneita Jones, and they had three children, Linda Lea, Betty Lou, and Thomas Leonard.

Waneita is the daughter of Walter and Hazel Jones, who filed on 640 acres of land 20 miles northwest of Jordan in 1916. "We lived there until moving to Oroville in 1937," Waneita writes. "Walter, known as 'Casey', was a carpenter and worked in Jordan as well as having the farm and animals."

"We went to Hell Creek School for many years, and I graduated from Jordan High School in 1934. I met Leonard in Oroville and we were married in the fall of 1937."

RIGG, Ole S. (Sec 32-15-27) Ole S. Rigg, wife Ida, son Ole G. and daughter Aleen bought the Ben Wood farm September 2, 1927 and took over the water delivery service for the town of Winnett, which had earlier been handled by Ben Wood. Ole and his son, Ole, both delivered water around town by horse-drawn wagon tank and, when a truck became available, by tank truck. They had the contract with the City of Winnett for the furnishing of these services, and, depending on the supply or demand, collected 5 cents or 10 cents a pail. A barrel of water was sometimes available for 50 cents — a real bargain! A water card in a window indicated the need for water.

Ida Rigg also owned or leased a house in town at 202 East Jenkins Street. Ida served as Petroleum County's clerk of the district court from 1924 to 1932, and then as public administrator from 1933 through 1938. Ole S. was appointed City of Winnett Clerk in November of 1929.

After many years of serving the public, the Riggs moved to Billings in 1942. Ole S. died there in 1952. Ida then made her home with daughter Aleen in Arizona and passed away there in September of 1956.

Aleen and Ole both graduated from Winnett High School in 1926. Aleen was employed at the courthouse, and had been serving as deputy clerk and recorder when she married Donald Anderson of Mankato, Minnesota. They became the parents of one son and three daughters. It was said of Aleen, "If you want something done well, get Aleen to do it." She died in 1972.

Ole, after graduation and having been a "whiz at foot-

ball," ran a filling station for a time, and handled the wholesale department of the Continental Oil Co. in Winnett. He also continued to help with water deliveries. Aleen brought a friend of hers to the parental home on vacation in 1942. She was Katherine Wetz, the daughter of John and Ella Wetz of Trumansburg, New York. She had been previously married and was the mother of a son, Leonard Van Patten. She and Ole were married in the American Lutheran Church of Billings in December of 1943, and the Ole S. Rigg Ranch was managed by them.

Katherine (a trained nurse), as well as being a wonderful helpmate for Ole, also supplied a great need in the community. Doctors of Lewistown or Roundup could depend upon her to faithfully administer necessary "shots" or carefully perform first aid treatment.

Ole died in 1981, and Katherine ran the ranch alone for one year. She moved to Central Montana Nursing Home in Lewistown, Montana, in 1982. She died there in July of 1983. (See also RIGG — Dovetail)

ROBINSON, John (Sec 3-15-27) John Robinson was a young bachelor who filed a homestead claim north of Winnett. He apparently didn't stay long and went back to his home in Iowa, as this article from the 1921 Winnett Times implies: "Mr and Mrs. John Robinson of Carbon, Iowa, left for home Saturday after spending several days visiting friends here. Mr. Robinson homesteaded on Brush Creek several years ago, and his recent trip was in the form of a honeymoon and business trip combined."

ROHR, Ora M. (Sec 19-15-27) In May of 1921 a group of old timers were invited to the Rohr home for a surprise party honoring Mr. Rohr's birthday. (W. T. 8-12-21) "Mrs. O. Rohr and Mrs. Ira D. Pierson successfully entertained a number of old timers at a social gathering at the high school building last Saturday night. They danced till the wee hours of the morning, only stopping at midnight for refreshments."

Rohrs and Piersons were homestead neighbors north of Winnett, and Rohrs were the parents of Mrs. Ira Pierson. Mr. Rohr did heavy hauling in the early oil field days with horses. They lived a few miles north and west of Winnett. Mr. Rohr died in February of 1946 in Great Falls, Montana.



Rohr homestead



Mr. Ora Rohr, Mrs. Rohr and daughter, Helen

SANDMAN, Albert (Sec 31,32-16-28) Albert and Minnie Sandman came to Montana in 1926 and moved to the Ed Quigley homestead. They had seven children, all born in South Dakota, before coming to the Winnett area. They were Alberta, Lloyd, Harold, Helen, Harriet, Carl, and Howard.

Those early days are remembered by Helen Sandman Lamont: "Our family moved to Montana, in Petroleum County, when I was eleven years old, and remembering back to that period of time, I felt I'd never adjust to living there and I'm sure some of the rest of the family felt the same. The Dakota area we came from was quite different — farms close together, green grass, creeks, and lakes. For us it was really the wide open spaces here.

"The first crop was hailed out, and our house burned down. Through the kindness of the neighbors who brought food, clothing and miscellaneous items, we did survive that period, but it must have been a really bad time for our parents. Children can adjust, I guess, more than adults. It was a real change, and, perhaps a challenge for the greenhorns from South Dakota."

The Sandmans eventually bought the brick home that had been built by Evan Holmboe and occupied by Ninnemans. With this move, Sandmans were neighbors of B.C. and Pearl Stewart. Helen recalls "Have often thought of the time B. C. fixed up an old car of George's for Mom and I to use to go back and forth to work in the garden near the creek on their place.

"The first time I drove it from their place, (the car could really go), B. C. said, 'all I could see on the road was dust all the way to the folks' place!' We had a lot of laughs about that. Oh yes, the passenger door was wired with baling wire, and Mom, being as nervy as she was, didn't mind one bit — the wild ride, nor the wired door. For a few weeks that summer, that was our transportation to go to the garden, thanks to B. C.

"We have also enjoyed the time we have spent visiting with friends at the Winnett Senior Citizen luncheons these recent years. It is a very nice place, and those who live there are fortunate to have such a place."

Helen Sandman married Tony Lamont, and they have one daughter, Janet Lamont Maitland. They all live in Ohio. (See also SANDMAN — Ashley, Cat Creek and Winnett)

SCHELLENBERGER, Charles A. (Sec 28-15-26) Charles Schellenberger homesteaded, and the school near his place was named the Schellenberger School. Further information on this family was found in Winnett Times news articles:

(W. T. 7-15-21) "Miss Louise Schellenberger, who has been with her father in Wyoming for the past two years, arrived home last Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Pribble motored to Billings bringing her home from that city."

(W. T. 7-22-21) "Evelyn Schellenberger, who has been attending school the past two years in Colorado, returned home Monday. Miss Evelyn, a sister of Louise, will leave soon for Minature, Nebraska, where she will visit with relatives and take a course in singing and music."

(W. T. 12-9-21) "Louise Schellenberger received a 93.25 average which qualified her for the honor roll."

Louise graduated from Winnett High School in 1922. She taught the Sheldon School of Kelley, Montana, in 1923-24. She later married a Nicholson. Their family consisted of four girls and one boy.

SCHENK, Albert (Sec 32-15-27) Albert "Mike" and Ann Schenk arrived in the Petroleum County area in 1961, bringing with them Wes (1956), Carla (1957) and Robin (1959). They leased and lived on the Pat Sinclair Ranch in the Petrolia area until 1966, then moved to the Eager Ranch west of Winnett.

Ann became clerk in Winnett Post Office holding that position until February 1978 when she was appointed Winnett Postmaster.

Schenks purchased the former Ole Rigg Ranch in 1981, built a fine new home, and reside there as of this Montana Centennial year.

Due to injuries suffered as the result of a car accident, Ann retired from her position as postmaster in 1986. She now keeps busy with her family, home and garden. Mike operates the ranch and likes to hunt and trap.

The Schenks are parents of three children who attended the Petrolia and Winnett grade schools and graduated from Winnett High School. Wes was valedictorian of his high school class. He married schoolmate Tammy Jones. They are the parents of two sons — Will and Clay. Wes is the proprietor of Schenk Saddle Shop in Harlowton, Montana.

Carla married Lon Loff and lives in Billings, Montana. Lon works for the City of Billings. Carla is head secretary of Montana Title. Robin married Rus Olson, a rancher, near Monarch. Their two children, Amber and Steven, are their ranch helpers.

SEARLE, Albert Albert Searle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Searle, was born in 1889 in England. Marie Mortensen was born November 16, 1883, in Denmark. Albert and Marie both immigrated to North America. Marie homesteaded with her brother in Canada.

Albert and Marie were married in 1914 and filed on a homestead near Winnett. After making final proof on their original homestead, the Searle family moved to an

irrigated farm in the Brush Creek area. Their neighbors were the Jacob W. Vogels and the Elmer Eagers.

On the irrigated farm, Albert raised alfalfa and produced registered alfalfa seed. He also managed a seed house in Winnett. Later he and O'Dillo Rogge bought the Frantz warehouse and installed machinery for cleaning, loading, and unloading seed grains of all kinds

The Searles were the parents of four children — Marie "Mollie," Samuel, Albert, and William Walter.

Mollie entered first grade in the Winnett School and attended through the seventh grade. She finished her elementary schooling in Lewistown, Montana, graduating from Fergus County High School in 1934. In 1935 she started working for the Lewistown area Chamber of Commerce and is working there in this Montana Centennial year of 1989. Mollie has served on the Fair Board, the Airport Board, and is involved in several organizations of her community. She enjoys bowling.

Samuel was born in January of 1919 at Winnett and passed away at one year of age in January of 1920.

The Winnett Times of May 26, 1949, reported: "Albert V. Searle Jr. was born December 6, 1920, at Winnett, and attended first grade in Winnett. He graduated from Fergus County High School in 1938, attended Montana State College in Bozeman, and the University of Washington. He completed his education at the Curtis Wright Aeronautics School in Los Angeles, California. He enlisted in the Air Corps and, after completing his training, was sent overseas to Italy.

"Sgt. Searle went to his death March 22, 1945, over Vienna when his bomber was shot down. He had been serving as a bombardier and radio man. Six of the ten-man crew were killed in the crash. Four others parachuted to safety. The crew had successfully completed 43 missions from their base in Italy. Sgt. Searle was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Air Medal with two oak-leaf clusters. He served with the Fifteenth Air Corps."

William Walter, at the age of seven months and nine days, passed away in Winnett in February of 1924. Funeral services were held from the school gymnasium with Rev. T. T. Fike officiating. Both Searle babies were laid to rest in the Winnett Cemetery.

The Searle family moved to Lewistown, Montana, in 1921. Mr. Searle operated a seed house in Lewistown until his retirement in 1950. Mrs. Searle passed away in January of 1977 and Mr. Searle, on January 19, 1979.

SKINNER, Rev. J. O. (W. T. 4-29-21) "Rev. J. O. Skinner, who for the past year has been pastor of the Moccasin church, has given up his work there and will spend the summer on his farm on Buffalo Creek and is busily engaged now in getting in a large acreage of corn. Rev. Skinner will remain here until he makes proof on his additional entry and will then take up the ministry again."

SMITH, Isaac (Sec 8-15-27) Isaac Smith filed a homestead claim between the Vogel and Eager homesteads. The Smiths had a son, Lyle, who went to the Brush Creek School.

SMITH, William (Sec 12-15-27) William Smith homesteaded close to the Brush Creek School. "He raised corn, and had the straightest rows I ever saw, and a half mile long," Pearl Stewart remembers. They had one daughter, Vera. The family left and moved back East.

STAGE, Clarence The Clarence Stage family settled on what is known as the Wadman place now (1989) — a little north and east of Winnett. He farmed and raised cattle and also had Shetland ponies. They had a daughter, Elnor, who always rode to school on horseback. The Morningstar or Stage School was located on their property.

STEWART, B. C. B. C. and Pearl Stewart both came to Montana in 1917 with their parents. Pearl is the daughter of Joseph and Clara Henton, and B. C., the son of George and Mary Stewart.

Pearl wrote this account of their beginning together: "My father died in June 1924, and my youngest brother, Earl, was ready for high school. We rented a house in Winnett that fall. My sister, Millie, had graduated from



Pearl and B. C. Stewart (1924)



B. C. Stewart family (1947): B. C., Fred, Gene, Grandma Clara Henton, Pearl, Ramona, George

high school and college at Dillon and was a teacher at Brush Creek School, but she stayed with us part time, too. In November, or earlier, Mom went to California to visit her mother, who was aging. She sent for us three girls and Earl to come to California to live, but I stayed behind.

"I lived with Bessie Stewart and her parents until January 20, 1925; then B. C. and I got married. We went to Lewistown on the train; I remember there was lots of snow and it was cold. Eva, another of B. C.'s sisters, went along with us. 'Dad' Tuttle, a family friend, was waiting for us there. We were married in the hotel that evening, with Eva and 'Dad' as witnesses. Next day, we ate at a Chinese restaurant, something special for me.

"We soon moved out to the Smith house to live, near the Brush Creek School. The owner had the house plastered and fixed up for us. We took B. C.'s eight-year-old nephew along with us, as his mother was leaving for Wyoming where her husband was. LeRoy went to school at Brush Creek, just one half mile away.

"When we started out, B. C.'s dad made a table and a cupboard for us. They also gave us a kitchen range, a bed and a dining room table and chairs. We bought a new heating stove for \$16.00 and a second-hand dresser for \$16.00. His folks made the first payment on a linoleum for the front room and we made payments on it every month. I had my mom's sewing machine and each family gave us some dishes, so we did okay! I made my curtains for the front room, they had pretty bluebirds on them. One time we ran out of bread (I did learn to bake it), so B.C. and I made biscuits. Boy, were they rich! Eventually, I learned to can fruit and vegetables in the fall for winter, and we had 30 head of cattle and raised wheat. We used horses then, didn't have a tractor.

"B. C.'s folks lived on the Pribble place, a half mile from us. When we were first married, his dad gave us a choice of white Plymouth Rock hens or Rhode Island Reds. We took the Plymouth Rocks and whites, and didn't get any eggs. His dad sold eggs all winter! In the early 1930s we sold cows with calves for \$25.00, eggs were 12 cents a dozen and wheat was 25 cents a bushel. Under the W. P. A. work program, B. C. and many other men helped build dams in the winter with horses for extra money.

"In 1932 we moved to the Eager place and went into the hog business with Mr. Eager, but it didn't pay that year. One spring in the 1930s, the army worms came and cleaned everything to the ground. Late in 1940 we got electricity, which was great! We bought the Eager place and started in the sheep business.

"Our first son, Fred, was born in January 1927, daughter Ramona in 1928, Gene in 1931 and George in 1937. The children all graduated from high school. Fred at Great Falls and the other three from Winnett. Fred is married and living in Hobart, Oklahoma. Gene and his wife, Marcia, bought the ranch and live north of Winnett on the Eager homestead site. Ramona married Jim Johnson, and she passed away in 1985 of a heart condition. George and his wife, Lana, live in Bozeman.

"We retired and moved to town in 1970. We continued to raise big gardens, and B. C. would help on the ranch when he could. He passed away in 1974. I'm still (1989) enjoying my home, Senior Citizens, and church every Sunday."

STEWART, Gene (Sec 10-15-27) The following was submitted by Marcia Stewart: "Gene, the third child of B. C. and Pearl Stewart, was born in Winnett, Montana. Gene and I met through mutual friends while Gene was going to college in Havre. We were married in December of 1958. Gene worked on road construction the first ten years of our marriage, and we lived in several different towns in the state, with home base at Havre.

"We have three children — Jay, born at Havre; Scott, born at Ennis; and Sandy, born at Havre. We bought the ranch from B. C. and Pearl and moved to Winnett in 1967. We currently (1989) have our home on the old Elmer Eager homestead, about eight miles northeast of Winnett.

"All of our children graduated from the Winnett public schools. Jay is at Winnett; Scott, at Great Falls; Sandy lives in Bozeman."

STEWART, George George Stewart and Mary Gwin were both born in Michigan. They met, married, and had five children — Leo, Eva, Ida, Benjamin C., and Bessie Mae. The family spent several years in Virginia. Two of their children died while living there — Leo from appendicitis, and Ida from diphtheria. Eva married Vern Bailey. About 1915 George and his young son-in-law, Vern Bailey, came west to look for homestead land. The best land was taken, however, so George went to work for Sam Pribble north of Winnett. Vern hauled freight from Winnett to Grassrange.

Mary and their children — Eva, B. C. and Bessie — moved from Williamsburg, Virginia in 1917. Also, Mary's aging mother, Sophronia Gwin, and Eva's new young son, LeRoy Bailey, made the trip to Montana. George con-



Mrs. B. C. (Sophronia) Gwin and her grandson, B. C. Stewart (1906)



George and Mary Stewart as newlyweds

tinued to work on the Pribble place. In the early 1920s, Mary became involved in restaurant work in Winnett, eventually operating her own.

"Gramma Gwin" stayed in town with Mary. In 1929 on December 21, Mrs. B. C. Gwin died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Mary I. Stewart. She had been failing in health for several months.

Mrs. Gwin was loved and admired by a large number of friends and had spent a very active life. She was a devoted wife and mother. Mrs. Gwin entered fancy work and baked goods in the county fair and always took many prizes.

George Albert Stewart passed away December 25, 1934, and Mary Iola Stewart passed away October 8, 1946. Both are buried in the Winnett Cemetery. Eva passed away at Red Lodge in 1976, and B. C. in Winnett in 1974. Bessie married Jack Kent in 1925 and moved to Seattle, Washington. They moved to Oregon, where Jack passed away from cancer. Bessie came back to Montana and later married Pete Gulbranson in Lewistown. After Pete's death, she continues to make her home in Lewistown (1989). (See also STEWART — Winnett)

STONE, Wallace Anson Wallace Stone homesteaded near the Beckstrom Ranch in Township 15, Range 26 in what was, in 1916, Fergus County. Besides being a professional stone mason, he also secured leases in this area for the Black Panther Oil and Refining Co. of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

In May of 1921, the Stones were unfortunate in losing their six-year-old son, Mourell, from an unusual complication of throat and lung trouble. Funeral services were conducted at the home by Rev. A. P. Aiton, and interment made in the Winnett Cemetery.

When they left here, they moved to Casper, Wyoming, later moving to Amarillo, Texas. There they lost their son, Gordon, when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver.

Wallace died in Amarillo in 1953. His wife was the former Dyle Johnson, a resident of Winnett before her marriage.

SWIFT, Amanda (Sec 29-15-27) Amanda Swift and her brother Walter homesteaded in the area in about 1911, having come from Maine. They settled about three miles north of Winnett near the hogback which distinguishes two drainage areas. (At some time each of them also owned land in Sec 26 and 35-13-25.)

Amanda, although a homesteader, was primarily an educator, and records indicate she began teaching in Winnett in 1913, serving under District #26. She taught in the town of Winnett during the regular school term and in numerous rural areas during the summer months. She became Petroleum County's first county superintendent of schools. (See also Tribute).

While living on the homestead near her brother Walter's dairy, Amanda had the following experience which she related for the Winnett Times of 11-28-41. The article is edited slightly for clarity.

"While I as teaching in a rural summer school, my brother was unexpectedly called to Lewistown by illness. His two hired men, having a weekend vacation occasioned by an unusually rainy week, were supposed to appear on Sunday to care for the dairy, but they did not. The neighbors who usually came to our aid seemed afraid of the cows and just couldn't extract the milk. Fortunately the girl who did the housework was a native of Canada where women do the milking.

"I, too, had learned to milk in my New England childhood, so we met the situation. For fear we might dry the cows by not getting all the milk, we stripped most persistently and then delivered the milk from 15 cows by utilizing the double-service saddle horse, the buggy and trailer. Since the hired men still hadn't appeared on Monday, the problem on Monday morning was to corral the cows, milk them, separate for cream, deliver the milk, unhitch the horse from the buggy, saddle him, and then make the seven-mile ride to the rural school I was teaching by 9 o'clock.

"Donning the overalls of my brother at 3 a.m., I rounded up the cows, helped milk, harnessed, got ready for school, and took the milk to town where I found a boy to help in delivering — also getting some aid from interested bystanders, some of whom were timing and speculating



Mrs. Mary Wadman and Amanda O. Swift

as to my ability to make the seven-mile ride to school without being tardy, all of which didn't improve my equanimity. However, a swift but safe ride brought me to the school door at ten to nine. An unusually large rattlesnake had appeared nearby so the extra few minutes were used in dispatching that one of seven we killed that summer close to the school.

"With no wish to duplicate so long and arduous a day, I came back to town to find an undersized youth looking for work. Finis Darnley stoutly claimed his size was no criterion of his ability to do any and all farm work, especially the milking. I hired him on the spot and took him home only to find my brother just arrived from Lewistown, and also the two sheepish hired men bearing signs of evident recent dissipation. Finis proved his assertions and insisted on staying; a school teacher couldn't possibly break her word. We found he could always find something that needed doing and did it well, showing the same spirit that the conscientious objectors of today do in their camps, so that the managers are hard put to find work enough to keep them busy, so industriously cheerful are they." (See also SWIFT — Winnett)

SWIFT, Margaret (Sec 33-15-27) Margaret Swift filed on her homestead as Margaret Allen while unmarried. Before she had taken final proof, however, she had married her homesteading neighbor, Walter Swift. (See also SWIFT, Walter)

SWIFT, Walter (Sec 29-15-27) Walter Swift came to Montana in 1910 or 1911 and took up land north and east of Winnett, Montana. Walter ran freight wagons from Lewistown, Montana to Winnett, bringing lumber and supplies to other homesteaders as there were no trains as yet. His daughter, Dorothy Swift Beckwith submitted the following account of her parents sojourn in this part of the country:

"Margaret Allen visited her married sister and husband, Dr. and Mrs. Asher Biddle, in Lewistown, Montana. While there she learned of the opportunity to acquire land under the homesteading act and, with some encouragement by the Biddles, decided to file a claim. The land she claimed was near Winnett, Montana, which she describes as consisting at the time of a saloon, school and grocery situated in a county the size of Pennsylvania.

"To get from Lewistown to Winnett she rode a wagon loaded with lumber for 65 miles over open country supposedly following a trail which she says was frequently indistinguishable from the surrounding countryside. There were no fences nor marked roads. On her way in she met the man she later married who lived on an adjoining claim.

"To acquire land under the homestead act she had to live on it for at least seven months of each year. Keeping busy was no problem. Having attended Ohio University she got a job as the local school teacher. As companion and protector she acquired a large white bulldog, which she named 'Si' in honor of a favorite uncle back in Ohio.

"Shortly before proving up on her claim she married



Margaret Allen (later, Mrs. Walter Swift) and her bulldog, Si

Walter Swift. They were married in 1914, July 2, and announced it at a rodeo and dance at Mosby. In 1920 the house burned and they moved to a farm a mile north of Winnett and ran the dairy from there.

"In 1925 we sold our dairy to the Glazier family so we could take a trip by car back to Maine and Ohio — my parents' native states. It was for a well-earned vacation (for a year from the dairy). However, we left Montana permanently in 1930. Father sold all his property and dairy to Elmer Bauer intending to retire to a small farm in the East. He planned on leaving Montana in the spring after we children had finished school. That proved to be a mistake! The bank went bankrupt, and with it twenty years of savings!

"I can still recall my father's remark to us all. 'We will be O. K. if we have our health.' Mother had some savings which she wouldn't bank and so we made our trip and located in Pennsylvania. After much adjusting and lots of work, they prospered on the farm and several outside jobs. This is the 'spirit of the West.'

"When farm work became too much for Dad, they moved to New Jersey and bought a chicken farm — large scale egg production, shipped to New York market. It was hard for Dad to retire, but he finally did. They retired in Albany and Chauncey, Ohio, where my father passed away at 81 with a stroke. Mother lived to the age of 92 — just frail but alert and capable until her death."

Swifts were the parents of three children — Dorothy (1916), George (1917) and Dean (1921). Dorothy Swift Beckwith has one son and one daughter. George and Dean are both deceased.

VOGEL, Fred Fred, son of Jacob and Inez Vogel, was born June 4, 1920. He graduated from Winnett High School in 1938 and served in the Army during World War II, from June 24, 1942, to November 7, 1945.

Erna Woischneck from Klein, Peiskerau, Germany, had come to visit her sister, Elsie Baitis, whose husband was employed on the Vogel Ranch. There she met Fred, and

on Christmas Eve in 1954, they were married. She had one son, Norbert, by a previous marriage, and she and Fred became the parents of two sons — Curtis and Fred "Rudy."

Fred Sr. died of poliomyelitis in September of 1960, at 40 years of age. Erna later married Peter Marks. They had a son, Hans, who now, with his father, runs the former Vogel Ranch.

Curtis graduated from Winnett High School in 1973, and now, having earned a doctor's degree, teaches at Montana State University at Bozeman, Montana. Frederick Rudolph "Rudy" graduated from Winnett High School in 1975 and attended Montana State University at Bozeman, then joined the Navy. He and his wife, Sherry, are the parents of three children — Joshua, Jeremy and Jennica. Rudy works in a nuclear power plant near San Diego, California.

Erna died in April of 1981. (See also MARKS)

VOGEL, Jacob (Sec 5-15-27 and Sec 8-15-27) Jacob and Inez Vogel were both born in 1880. Jacob took a 320-acre homestead claim five miles north of Winnett in 1911. In 1912, he and Inez Nickey were married. Two sons were born of that union, Fred and William. These stories of life on the Vogel Ranch were written by William "Bill" Vogel:

"One of my most pleasant memories is of the big dinners we men of the threshing crew were given by the people for whom we were threshing. When it came our turn to host the threshing crew on our place, we gave them the same neighborly treatment. After about 1937 most grain harvest was done by combine, however. Alfalfa seed was still threshed by threshing machine, however, well into the 1950s. We did custom threshing of alfalfa seed in our neighborhood, since we were the only ones in the immediate area with a special alfalfa huller.

"I particularly remember an old steel-wheeled Fordson I had to crank by hand in 1936 when I was in high school. Even with cranking and a six-volt hot shot battery, it was hard to start. It would pull a two-bottom disc plow.

"About that time we also had a horse-drawn binder that would cut a six-foot swath of grain and kick out a tied bundle (usually tied) onto the carrier every half a minute. After the carrier was filled with about five bundles, I would trip the foot lever and the five bundles would slide off. Later we would set those bundles upright into shocks, and when threshing time came, pitch the bundles one by one onto the bundle wagon and then onto the threshing machine to reverse the process.

"I planted a field of wheat in the spring of 1936. It was a beautiful green carpet in May, but then came the grasshoppers from every direction. The beautiful green disappeared gradually on each side each day, changing back to the grey-brown soil until at last the whole field was gone.

"Lambing was the busiest time of year during the years when we had sheep. All members of the family took part and usually two others were also hired for a month or so

to help out. It took a lot of close attention on the part of all.

"In the 1920s our domestic water supply consisted of a cistern that held melted snow water and rain water for culinary purposes. For laundering water, a two-horse team (pulling a stone boat with two barrels) hauled water ¼ mile from a stock-water pond to the house. In later years we hauled from the town well.

"Between 1918 and 1933 Dad irrigated our hayfields from the Winnett Irrigation Company ditch, a company Walter Winnett, my dad, Fred Attix, E. K. Holmboe, and others started around 1915. There was no water for irrigation from 1933 to 1942, however.

"During the dry years we built, at a great expense, a big reservoir across a badland creek, hoping to hold water to irrigate our hayfields. A cloudburst washed it out and we lost all the water just after the dam was completed. The same cloudburst washed out the county bridge across Box Elder Creek. After the dam was repaired, there was not enough rain the next two years to fill the dam again.

"I saw the thermometer register 108 degrees Fahrenheit in July 1930 and -54 Fahrenheit in February 1936. The incessant spring and fall winds were a factor in keeping the country dried out.

"One night in 1936 before we had telephones in our country area, a blizzard with high winds and below zero temperatures struck. Our elderly neighbor stumbled into our front door, gravely ill, after a ¾ mile struggle in the storm. As we were 60 miles from a doctor, and the roads to town were impassable, my mother doctored this old gentleman for a week, doing everything possible to save him. Finally we were able to get him to town, where he died shortly after.

"Our springtime tonic was sagebrush tea — very bitter, but it seemed to do the trick.

"I remember once when there was a neighborhood picnic on the Fourth of July on our ranch. Several other school and church picnics were held there because it was on a creek with trees and scenery, and a nice place to have a picnic.

"Names of families who occupied what was later to be the Vogel Ranch, and who all lived in this land, are as follows: Searle, Smiley, Crawford, Phillips, Feldt, McCrorey, Rezba, Perry, Brumberger. They left the land for other areas of endeavor, after finding that it was not suited for successful farming results.

"Jacob and Inez Vogel, my parents, who were schoolteachers in the 1905-1920 period, lost their lives in a fire that destroyed their ranch home in February 1962, during a cold stormy wind."

Bill Vogel was married to Louise Callewaert in 1945. They had seven children — David, Dick, Donald, Ardella, Dennis, Robert and Roger — all born in Lewistown. Bill and Louise sold the ranch to Fred Vogel and Earl Brady in 1960 and moved to Corvallis, Montana.

William is now deceased. He was very interested in the compilation of this book and contributed several items of interest.

WACKER, Gus Gus Wacker, his wife, and daughter, Marlene, came to this area in about 1964 and worked for Ray Bohn. They lived on the Dell Huotte place.

Marlene graduated from Winnett High School in 1965. She graduated from Kinman Business College at Spokane, Washington and was employed by Empire Steel in Billings, Montana, and for Transwestern Life Insurance Company. She married serviceman Robert Dooley in Tacoma, Washington, in 1969.

Gus was a brother of Ed Wacker, a Milwaukee agent in Winnett.

WILSON, Dick Yates (Sec 5,8-15-26) D. Y. Wilson was born February 4, 1862, in Mercer County, Illinois. Mary M. Puckett was born March 9, 1868, in Ohio. They were married February 21, 1889, and became the parents of six children — Louisa (1891), Flora (1894), D. Y. Jr. (1902), Ressa (1904), Alberta (1906) and Mary Alice (1908).

Dick Y., a staunch Republican, served as county clerk in his own Republic County in Kansas, and also served two terms as chief clerk of the House of Representatives in Kansas.

The Wilsons moved to Montana in 1914. Alberta died at a young age. Louisa and Flora each filed on their own land — Louisa in Sec 9-15-26, and Flora in Sec 7-15-26. The new homesteaders found the prairie life quite demanding and difficult. Excerpts from letters written by daughter Louisa to her fiance, George Henry Deethardt, give us pictures of the family's joys and hardships:

"(November 2, 1919) The folks have been reading aloud in the evenings, the book *Michael O'Halloran*, by Gene Stratton Porter. I have worked at my tatting while they read, and certainly enjoy it!"



Wilson homesteaders: Flo, Louisa, D. Y. Jr.; Daddy (D. Y. "Dick") Mother (Mary), Alberta

"The folks were going to town Wednesday for coal. They borrowed some from Uncle Frank, but are clear out now. D. Y. (Jr.) told them there was none in Winnett. There is none in Lewistown, either, so they are opening up those coal mines out of Lewistown."

"(November 17, 1919) Well, I am in Winnett — and from the looks of things I may be here for a while. We were all out of fuel and eats. Can't get a lump of coal in town — guess we will have to use the post pile for fuel. This is far worse than it ever has been since I've been here. I'm afraid we won't have a cow left by spring, or in a little while ... There is from 6" to 18" of snow every place, then a ½ inch crust of ice on that. Every bit of grass or sagebrush is covered with ice. We didn't have much hay hauled, and now that's gone ..."

"(November 30, 1919) Daddy plans to go to Winnett and haul some hay and mill feed to the Deethardt Ranch, also some coal. They will move over there. It will be better there because of the water supply and the barn. Viv Morser will help them when I leave."

"(January 2, 1920) We had a jolly time here New Year's Day. The day before, Daddy caught one of the geese. Mama and I were both about ready to back out of having her killed. I came into the house — I just didn't want to see her killed. We had goose, oyster dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, casserole sweet potatoes with nuts and marshmallows, cabbage slaw, baked apples, cranberries, mixed pickles, doughnuts, bread and butter."

Wilson's did not lose all their cattle, but did lose, besides some range stock, a few old treasured pets. As Louisa said about an old saddle pony — "We couldn't bring her in the house."

Louisa, torn between love and the feeling of duty to her parents, and her desire to get on with her own married life, did leave, and moved to Raymond, South Dakota. She and George Henry Deethardt were married February 4, 1920, in the log house of former owners, Benjamin and Anna Deethardt, parents of George Henry. Her parents, at that time, were living on the Deethardt Ranch.

Dick and Mary Wilson moved into the town of Winnett in 1921. Flora married L. R. Peddycoart and moved to Sidney in 1920. Ressa eventually married Ben Ranum, an oil field worker. D. Y. Jr. attended Winnett High School, while working in Scotty Spears restaurant at times, in Oscar Badger's Clothing Store, and also in George Pullin's Grocery. He graduated in 1920, and was employed by Mordecai J. Boyd, agent at the Milwaukee depot, until 1924, when he was transferred to Great Falls, Montana. He returned to Winnett in the spring of 1932.

Mary Alice graduated from Winnett High School in 1928 and from Montana State College. She later taught and coached in Winnett High School. She married Herbert DeVries. They were parents of four children — Noel, Gordon, Gail and Kathey — all of whom also graduated from MSU. (See also WILSON — Winnett)

WILSON, Frank (Sec 3-15-27) Frank made final proof on his homestead on January 10, 1917. Louisa Wilson, as witness for the proof, recalled the experience: "I don't remember just how much snow fell the night before, but it must have been eight inches or more. It was 0 temperature with wind when I woke up in the morning. Snow had sifted through the cracks in the roof and around the door and windows, so everything, including my long hair, was covered with a light snow. I got up and tried to get a fire going in my heater — went back to bed — had to try a third time — used all my kindling and couldn't get a fire going. I was terribly cold then — even in bed.

"About 10:00 a.m. Uncle Frank came to get me. It didn't take him long to kick some pine wood out of the snow and find some pitch pine knots, and have a roaring fire. Then he went home, came back later, and we went to Winnett — with team and wagon, of course.

"After the proof was made at Oscar Badger's place, I went over to Rasmussens's store to do some shopping. Uncle Frank had given me a \$10 bill which I had stuck in my pocket. The wind was fierce — my \$10 bill was gone! We started home — it was so cold that we walked most of the nine miles home to keep from freezing." (See also WILSON — Cat Creek)



Louisa Wilson, teacher and homesteader (1916)

WILSON, Louisa (Sec 9-15-26) Louisa wrote in the November 26, 1964, issue of the Winnett Times: "I had a homestead on Dry Creek northwest of Winnett. I taught my first term of school in 1914 at the Schellenberger School west of Winnett. I taught school in Winnett the winter of 1916-1917. The school had always been a one-room school with Miss Amanda O. Swift as the teacher. That term I taught the first six grades in the white schoolhouse, and Miss Swift taught seventh and eight grades. Also ninth and tenth grades were added that year. She taught those grades in the upstairs of the Ray



Flora Wilson and son, D. Y. and Gayle Fredene; Ressa and Bobby; Louisa and Ruth Inez

Moll building, a pool hall...

"I follow with pride and interest the activities of your Senator Kenneth Cole, who was once one of my students.

...

"One summer I walked from my homestead to Winnett on Sunday mornings to teach a Sunday school class. Quite a hike out of the little valley up over the 'hog back' and into town! I didn't have a saddle horse that summer and would rather walk than ride one of the workhorses.

"The longest hike I made was one Saturday morning in an October when I was teaching the Beck School at the Circle Bar Ranch. I walked all the way to Winnett.

"I worked at the Winnett Ranch house one summer while my father, with the help of some of the homestead boys, built my cabin. On the Fourth of July we fed over 250 people at noon. It was quite a day. I was waiting tables and Etta and Ethel Parker were working in the kitchen. There was no other place to eat, so W. J. fed people. Many, I am sure, never paid him for their meals."

Louisa married George Henry Deethardt in 1920. They were the parents of two children — Albert Wilson (1921)



Mary Alice, Louisa, Mother Wilson (80 years), D. Y. Jr.

and Ruth Inez (1925). Albert died in 1970. Ruth Inez Deethardt Fahrman paid a visit to the Winnett Public Library in 1986 and presented the library board with some historical pictures and several letters written by her mother, Louisa, during the winter of 1919-1920. Those letters have been a source of great help to the history committee. Ruth Inez lives in Great Falls, Montana.

Louisa passed away in January of 1986.

WOODARD, Pratt E. (Sec 33-16-27) After working in the Eager Mercantile Store in Winnett, Mr. and Mrs. Woodard moved to their homestead in 1919. They had two children — Velma and Homer. Homer attended Winnett High School and graduated with the class of 1921. Velma married John Merten in 1919.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodard took an active part in affairs of the community. When the first Methodist Church board was established in Winnett, Pratt served as treasurer, and Mrs. Woodard took part in all the Ladies Aid activities.

To supplement a rather meager income from farming, Pratt often worked at various jobs in town. He sometimes clerked in Pullin's store. In September of 1921 while helping there, someone stole his keys out of his jacket and robbed the store that night. To make matters worse, the next month, while the family was in town, probably the same thieves visited the Woodard farm and took away nearly everything moveable — a wagon load of oats, two sets of harnesses, bridles, halters, etc. They carried off



Pratt and Hattie Woodard and children, Velma and Homer

practically everything but the homestead! They were traced for 35 miles, but then the track was lost. The goods were never recovered, nor were the thieves apprehended.

In December of 1921 Homer worked in R. J. Woods drugstore during annual inventory.

In 1925 the Woodards moved back to Winnett. (See also WOODARD — Winnett)

YOUDESIAN, Bernard L. Bernard farmed north of Winnett. On August 9, 1926, he married Maude Shafer. They were married in Lewistown by Judge Ed Martin.

YOUNG, Jim Jim Young is the son of Willard and Marion Young of Pittstown, New York. Pittstown is near Albany, New York. Willard Young has a registered polled hereford ranch.

Jim has one brother and one sister, both in New York.

Jim met Rick Hanson when Rick worked on a dude ranch in New York. Rick returned to Winnett, and Jim came to visit in 1983. He got some part-time work and then went to work for Earl Brady until the fall of 1988.

On September 21, 1985, Jim married Terrena Lund, daughter of Monte and Donna Lund of Roy. Terrena was assistant city clerk, and assistant city maintenance person in Winnett. She also did day work in a variety of jobs. In November of 1988 Youngs took a job near McLeod, Montana, and moved there. (Submitted by Donna Lund)

ZINGMAN, Jose W. (Sec 26-15-26) "Jose W. Zingman from Ryegate moved onto his homestead two miles northwest of town last week. (W.T. 9-30-14)