

Alaska during the entire World War II. He married Rosanna Kemp of Lewistown in 1945. They have lived in the Lewistown area since that time, and have raised a family of eight children.

William enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1940 and made the Air Force his career. He served three years in Japan in the late 1940s. His first wife was Sarah J. Ware of San Jose, California. They had four children. He now lives with his second wife, Mollie, on a small acreage outside of Sacramento, California.

Raymond graduated from Winnett High School in 1944 and went to work for Continental Oil Company in Cat Creek. In 1952 he married Willis Flannigan. The couple have three boys — Mark (1954), Thomas (1956) and Daniel (1958).

Elwood graduated from Winnett High School in 1946. He, too, went to work for Continental Oil Company in Cat Creek. He and Leta Carrell, a 1948 graduate of Winnett High School, were married in 1948. The couple lived in Cat Creek until 1955 when "Woody" was transferred to Frannie, Wyoming. They have three children — Dennis, Regina and Darrell.

August Ihde died in 1967, Ellen, in 1978.

IHDE, Richard (Sec 11-15-29) Richard Ihde was born in Peshtigo, Wisconsin, in 1887. He was married to Clara Erdmann and the couple had six children — Roger, Roland, Donald, Willard, Virginia and Mrs. John Doering.

On August 5, 1921, the Winnett Times reprinted the following news article from the *Milwaukee Sentinel*:

"Worthless Farm Proves a Mint for a Homesteader — Hard luck, which turned to good luck, has made Richard J. Ihde of Green Bay (Wisconsin) wealthy, through a 'worthless' farm he abandoned when it refused to yield wheat, but which turned out to be rich in oil.

"After nearly accepting an offer of \$1.00 an acre for it, he reconsidered and now is enjoying an income of \$3000 a month representing one-eighth interest in royalties. An offer of \$250,000 has been made to Mr. Ihde for one-half of his royalties and he has also turned down \$1,000,000 cash for title to the farm.

"Ihde left Peshtigo in 1914 and took up a homestead in Montana with the intention of developing it into a wheat farm. His tract comprised 320 acres 20 miles from Winnett. He found wheat farming uphill business and met with untold discouragements. He had little money and had to 'batch' it. For two years he kept at it, getting his own meals and living the life of a hermit.

"In November 1917, he married Miss Clara Erdmann of Green Bay, and after the ceremony at Lewistown, Montana, the newlyweds took up their honeymoon on the farm. Two more years of discouragement met Mr. Ihde's efforts, and he finally decided he could never put the farm on a paying basis. His money was exhausted and he was forced to gain his livelihood in some other way. So Ihde brought his wife to Green Bay after being unsuccessful in his efforts to sell his farm, and obtained employment.

"Trying to forget his unfortunate experience with his western farm, Ihde settled down to his work here with the J. F. Mars Fruit and Produce Company. From time to time he received reports indirectly, but thought nothing of them. One letter offered him \$1 an acre, but he did not think it worth while to answer the letter, although he might have been willing to sell for that. Later he received an offer for a lease. Then the man who tried to get him to sell for \$1 an acre increased his offer to \$4000 for a lease.

"With such a price staring him in the face, Mr. Ihde decided it was worth his while to take a trip to Montana to investigate — arriving here he found this section had gone wild over oil discoveries and indications were there might be oil on his land. So good were the prospects, he sold a lease to the 56 Petroleum Company for \$12,000, reserving one-eighth royalty on all oil produced.

"Today there are four producing wells on the abandoned 'wheat farm' and 12 more wells are under construction. Some are expected to be big producers. Many flattering offers for the property have been made by big oil companies.

"When asked what he expected to do with his money, Mr. Ihde replied, 'First I am going to establish my seven brothers and five sisters in business or on farms, then I am going to build a fine home in Green Bay for myself and my family.

"The story of Mr. Ihde's rise from comparative poverty to riches in a few years would be incomplete without a recital of the efforts made by the legitimate salesman and 'gold brick' artists to separate him from his money. Every mail brings him offers, and scarcely a day passes he does not turn down some opportunity to 'double his money.' But he declares he is not going to be stampeded into harvesting his surplus or selling the old farm, being content to see his income roll in in increasing dimensions as the oil gushes out of his barren fields that refused to yield wheat in sufficient quantities to afford him a livelihood."

Richard died in August 1966.

INGALLS, Ruth Ruth Ingalls taught the Brown School in 1932 and the Shay School in 1933. Her memories, though softened with subtle humor, are barbed with realities some would prefer to overlook or forget. The following are excerpts from writings by Ruth Ingalls English now of Olympia, Washington, after more than fifty years of successful and respected teaching.

". . . I have lived too long now by the philosophy, 'Let's concentrate on today; it's all we have,' to be able to turn back to that nineteen-year-old's notes and write a personal history in any way objective and not hurtful to people who may still be living. The trouble with a trip down Memory Lane is that there usually are a few potholes on the way. One of the biggest 'potholes' is trying to reconstruct a year in your life that you've spent a lifetime trying to forget!

"The story needs to be told of the hardships endured by very young teachers in pioneer Montana, hardship

multiplied by loneliness and fear and a lack of understanding (a common weakness of the young!) of the differences between the idealism and expectations with which we approached a new school year, and the reality of the situation.

"Of course, the West was won by the young — those pioneers, whether teachers or cowboys, gun-fighters or farmers were all young. I read somewhere that the average age of the Pony Express riders was 16!

"So I can say to myself now (at seventy-five years of age), 'Do you think you were the only one? How do you think the West was won?' But back then, I really felt I *was* the only one. Lola Freed and Marjorie Gaines, who started their careers at Cat Creek that same fall, had a two-room school together and a cute little apartment to live in, also *together*.

"I am enclosing a copy of 'Rules for Teachers, 1872,' many of which conditions still existed 50 years later in backland Montana. They are as follows:

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves."

Ruth Ingalls English responded to these rules with comments relevant to her school year at the Shay School.

"1. There was no electricity, of course... any light for programs or evening meetings at the school would have to be by lamps with temperamental mantles and such to fool with.

2. The coal was furnished up until March at which time I ran out and Dad had to bring railroad coal for the rest of the year; Shays charged me \$1 a month for water, saying I was not a part of the school after 4 o'clock.

3. Thank goodness, I didn't have to make the pens, but they weren't furnished either, nor was the ink.

4. Such 'courting' as went on was not with the approval of anybody except me. At one time 'Happy' Quigley with whom I used to ride to the top of the hill each night after school said that I could no longer do so because the

neighbors were talking.

5. Nothing was written about our moral standards, but it was clearly understood that bowling alleys were off-limits, pool or billiards was not played by ladies, poker was for the 'boys' and to have an empty beer can in your garbage would be grounds for immediate dismissal. In Troy, a year later, a schoolboard member proclaimed we could not wear silk stockings to school because it emphasized the fact that teachers made more money than other people in town!

6. Written in contract was the recipe for oiling the floor twice a year and the fact that marriage would result in immediate dismissal from my fabulous \$800-a-year job.

7. The last warrant was a double one (\$160) which was held out until we could prove we owed no debts around town before leaving for the summer and was probably expected to be a part of that 'goodly sum' for the benefit of our declining years.

8. The contract for \$800 for ten months was \$300 higher than I had received for my first year at the Brown Lease School, but I believe I deserved it . . . not only because I was now 'experienced' but, if for no other reason, as compensatory pay for harassment.

9. Although I performed my labor faithfully, it was not without fault. The county superintendent, Mrs. Frances McDaniel, visited me twice. I remember only her visit when she listed 16 things I had done wrong, but appended a grudging footnote: 'Some say you may be able to write Real Educator after your name.' My name was Ingalls at that time, of course, but after my initials became 'R. E.' I used to wonder . . . and that wonder has led me to title my autobiography RE: Real Educator?

"Perhaps the best way to end this 'saga of love and complaint' is with the last line of an article I wrote when I retired from teaching in 1972: 'I have a lurid past but my future is spotless.'"

Ruth's letter is signed: "Most sincerely, Ruth M. English, Real Educator?" (See also INGALLS — Winnett)

JACOBS, Theodore, N. Mr. Jacobs was a pumper for Mid Northern Oil Company on their West Dome lease in the 1920s. He was married to Audrey Eddy, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Eddy who was the district superintendent for Mid Northern.

The Jacobs had two children — Ronald (1926) and Wanda (1927). The family moved to Billings, Montana, in the early 1930s. (See also EDDY — Cat Creek)

JENSEN, J. T. (W. T. 4-8-21) "Field Manager Jensen of the Great Western has annexed the added duties of Field Manager of the Alexander and Ritter-Lawson."

(W. T. 4-15-21) "The Great Western No. 2 came in Monday at a depth of 1375 feet . . . the 29th producer in Cat Creek in Sec. 10-15-29 . . . J. T. Jensen is field manager for the Great Western, and as such, has two excellent producers to his credit."

JOHNSON, Ellis Ellis Johnson was a driller in Cat Creek in the 1920s. The following news article appeared in the Winnett Times November 5, 1926:

"Ellis Johnson, well-known Cat Creek driller, was instantly killed in the Kevin oil field. He was working on a 'Queen City' rig when the engine stopped suddenly on dead center. In tinkering with the engine, Mr. Johnson had his head between the spokes of the flywheel. The engine started suddenly and crushed his head between the flywheel spokes and the engine frame."

JOHNSON, Ira Ira Johnson was born in Caldwell, Kansas, in 1891. He was orphaned at age seven. In 1908 he went to Billings, Montana, and attended a Rumley tractor school. He became a sales representative and mechanic for them. He worked in several areas in central Montana and came to Cat Creek in 1921.

Ira married Nelle Riddle in 1915. Nelle was born in Rockton, Pennsylvania, in 1889 and came to Montana in 1914. The Johnsons had one daughter, Beverly, born in Cascade, Montana, in 1917.

Ira was a good mechanic, and he set up a garage and filling station in Cat Creek. Perhaps this item from the May 16, 1930, Winnett Times pictures him best: "Ira Johnson, proprietor of the Cat Creek Garage was in Winnett on Wednesday purchasing supplies and greeting friends. Ira's genial disposition wins him both friends and business. He is an expert mechanic with a lively chuckle!"

With his easy jovial manner, Ira didn't always press for people to pay their bills. He liked and trusted everyone and was not above having a drink or two of moonshine with his friends. In contrast, his wife was serious and business-like. She organized and taught Sunday school for the Cat Creek children and in 1927 took over the post office from Orville Canfield and set it up in the service station. She was efficient and respected by all.

Beverly attended the Cat Creek Elementary School and graduated from Winnett High School in 1934. She married Lee Clyde, and the couple have two children. They lived in Great Falls, Montana, for a time but have made their home in Florida for many years. Beverly worked as a secretary at Florida Southern College, and her husband was the Bankers Life and Casualty representative in the area.

Ira died very suddenly in 1939. Nelle continued to operate the post office until 1947 when poor health forced her to retire and make her home with her daughter. The Winnett Times expressed the feelings of



Ira Johnson services a Stutz car at his Cat Creek filling station

the community toward Mrs. Johnson stating, "Nelle, our spiritual leader and beloved neighbor will be sadly missed." Nelle died in 1952.

JOHNSON, James James Johnson has been employed by CENEX since the 1960s. (See JOHNSON — Winnett)

JOHNSON, Walter (Sec 33-15-28) Walter Johnson and his wife, Ruth, homesteaded east of Winnett in 1914. Ruth had been a native of Texas. In 1921 the couple recognized the need for a bakery in the town of Winnett so they opened a shop which they operated for ten years before returning to their ranch.

In July of 1936, their home, barn and chicken house were all destroyed by fire. In October of that same year they went to Toppenish, Washington, where Mr. Johnson was employed as a carpenter.

Mrs. Johnson received the sad news that her days were numbered, so Mr. Johnson arranged a trip for her to her old home in Magnum, Oklahoma. She died there in May of 1937. In May of 1939 Walter again returned to his Montana ranch, and then in March of 1945, he sold it to A. J. Bohn. He left for Carthage, Missouri.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson had been active community members, both in Winnett and in their country community and were highly respected. (See also JOHNSON — Winnett)

JONES, Bob Bob Jones took over the Nate Wells place in about 1954. He and his wife ranched. They bought a nice log home and had it built on the place by Wade Fowler. The couple had two children — Kay and Denny Riddel. Kay graduated from Winnett High School in 1957. She married Jack Hill. Denny attended elementary school in Cat Creek. The family left the area in about 1958.

JORDAN, Etta (Sec 27-15-28) Etta Jordan was a sister of Mrs. Harvey (Elsie) Hodson. She and Laurabelle Carpenter, another unmarried lady nearby, became very good friends. Their friendship eased the loneliness of their prairie life.

KAMPSTER, Eugene Eugene Kampster worked in the Cat Creek oil field on the Chamberlain lease in the early 1950s. He and his wife, Margery, had two children at that time — Jimmie E. (1944) and Billy (1951). According to the Winnett Times, on June 15, 1950, Whitney Kampster was burned when a fuel tank blew up. The relationship between Whitney and Eugene is not known.

KELLEY, Edward J. Mr. Kelley was pipeline superintendent for Continental Oil Co. in the late 1920s. He was a small energetic Irishman with a sparkle in his eye.

KERR, William P. Mr. Kerr was the geologist who was instrumental in promoting and drilling the first oil test on the Brush Creek dome in 1919 followed by the successful Cat Creek well in 1920. (See Introduction — Cat Creek Oil Field)

Mr. Kerr died in June 1924 leaving a wife and one son, Frank W. Kerr, of Toronto, Canada.

KING, Mike Mike King came from Iowa to work in the Cat Creek oil field. He did not marry. In the late 1920s he shared a cabin with Jim Cox and they ate in the cookhouse. He later moved to Gallup City, Montana. He was a neighbor of the Casey Fails in both Cat Creek and the Conrad field.

KITTERMAN, K. C. Mr. Kitterman was employed by Mid Northern in the mid 1920s. He was injured pulling pipe in March 1924 and taken to Dr. Berry in Winnett. The Winnett Times did not give a follow-up report on the accident.

KNAPP, Harry Jackson (Sec 19,20-15-29) Harry Knapp was born in Faulkton, South Dakota, in 1887. According to his daughter, Irma, when he first arrived in the Winnett area, he worked for a man with a large ranch — perhaps it was Henry Sibbert although it might have been Mr. Winnett. (Ed. B. F. Lepper) He then homesteaded west of Cat Creek in about 1910.

On December 23, 1913, he married Johanna Deethardt, a daughter of the Benjamin Deethardts, homesteaders northwest of Winnett. (See also DEETHARDT — Brush Creek) Harry and Johanna had six children — Vera (1915), Irma (1916), Howard (1918), Archie (1920), Raymond (1922) and Dorothy Ann (1930). Irma wrote the following account of her parents homestead days and her own memories of her childhood.

"Although my father's original homestead was near the area of the Follette School, he sold or traded it in a few years for land about another mile or more from the school. This new place was our home until my parents moved to Fairfield, Montana, in 1936. I do not recall the amount of land my father farmed but for many years it was all farmed with horses. He raised hay for our own livestock, and wheat and other small grains for sale. He also milked about 10 to 15 cows in the summer and sold cream to the creamery in Winnett — that is why, at least in the summer, we had to go to town every week. We usually had two 10-gallon cans of cream a week for the creamery besides what we used for our family.

"I can recall for several years we were able to hire one of the boys of the neighborhood to help with the summer field work. Later crops were not as good and since we could not afford to hire a boy, my mother would help with the haying. The grain was cut with a binder and, when my brothers and older sister and I were still quite small, we used to help shock the grain. Then the threshing crew would come with a threshing machine and a lot of the neighbor men with their hayracks and teams of horses. They would haul the bundles of grain from the fields and pitch them into the threshing machine which was set up close to our large shed. The straw would be blown from the thresher onto the shed which provided shelter for the cattle in the wintertime. Threshing time was always a busy and exciting time because there were so many men and horses around. Mother had to prepare lunch and dinner for all of the crew and, of course, my sister and I had to peel a lot of potatoes, shell a lot of peas and string a lot

of stringbeans and help to serve the meals.

"Although my older sister, Vera, and I were born at our grandparents' home just northwest of Winnett, the three boys were born at our home. Dr. Alexander was our doctor but one of the neighbor ladies acted as midwife and stayed for several days or more to take care of mother, the new baby and get the meals for the rest of us. My youngest sister, Dorothy, was born when I was about 15. About a week before she was to be born, we went to Lewistown to attend the Fourth of July celebration and mother stayed there so that she could go to the hospital for that birth. We never had much occasion to go to the doctor. Since we lived in the country we were not exposed to many of the childhood diseases. There was no hospital in Winnett but one year some doctors and nurses from Lewistown came to Winnett and took over one of the hotels (I believe it was the Millsap [Ed. Park] Hotel) and performed a large number of tonsillectomies.

"In addition to raising grain and hay, our father also raised livestock — at one time having well over 100 head. Except for those we milked, every spring he would turn the rest of the herd out on the open range a few miles from our farm where they would graze over a large area all summer. Sometimes we would have electrical storms with much lightning and thunder and torrents of rain. One spring just after our livestock had been turned out onto the open range for the summer, we had such a storm with very sharp lightning. When my father went out to check on the livestock he found seven or eight of his choicest steers — some of those which would have been sold that fall — dead along a barbed wire fence closest to our farm. They apparently tried to get home during the storm and were hit by lightning along the fence. That was a real blow to the family income for that year.

"We lived about a mile and one-quarter from the Follette School and walked both ways each day. Occasionally, when it was very cold or the snow was very deep, our father would take us to school. He built a small, flat-bottomed sleigh with shallow sides and turned up front. On the bottom he fastened a sheet of tin so it



Hannah Deethardt Knapp holding Irma Knapp (now Irma Brocha), Vera Knapp, Louisa Wilson

would slide over the snow more easily. Then he fastened a rope to the front, and riding his saddle horse, would pull the sled behind the horse.

"For several years the teacher roomed and boarded at my parents' home. (Follette School was a one-room, one-teacher school — sometimes with eight grades.) At that time we lived in a three-room log house with the kitchen-dining-living room area in the middle and a bedroom on each end heated by a wood and coal range. My father built a small (10 X 10 feet) house a short distance from the log house for the teacher to live in, and she ate with the family. Finally they built a teacherage on the school grounds.

"We had a very good well to provide water for the family and the livestock. My dad had an engine in the log milk house and arranged a lot of wheels and pulleys which were used to pump the water, run the milk separator and best of all to run the washing machine so mother no longer had to wash clothes on the washboard. He also had dug a large pit and made an icehouse — he would cut large blocks of ice in the winter and store them in it in straw so we had ice in the summertime for lemonade and for making ice cream.

"Every fall he would strip the wagon to the running gears, hitch up four horses to it and early in the morning would drive eight or ten miles to where there was some timber. He would cut and limb trees most of the day and come home late in the evening with supplies of wood for use in our cooking and heating stoves during the winter. He made a number of trips each fall to get enough wood to last us through the winter.

"My sister Vera started to high school in Winnett the year before I did. She lived in the school dormitory. One day in January 1930, Dad went to town to do shopping and when he came home he brought Vera and all her luggage with him. In town he had learned that the bank had closed so there was no money to pay her dormitory rent. Those were bleak days but since we raised our own meat and garden produce and did a lot of canning in the summer, we did not go hungry like many families did during that time.

"When Dorothy Smith and I graduated from the eighth grade in 1930, the only children left to attend Follette School were my three brothers and three children of the LeRoy Manuel family. The school board decided it would be less expensive to pay the two families to take their children elsewhere to school than to maintain a school for six children. Thus, the Follette School became only an empty building. When the oil field at the California Camp was in operation there were sometimes over 20 children who attended that school. It was also used for a year or two by the Follette Union Sunday School of which my father was the superintendent. We had many school programs and community dances there, as well. The desks would be piled against the walls and the younger children would fall asleep on them while their parents enjoyed an

evening of dancing."

Irma graduated from Winnett High School in 1934 and went on to Northwestern Business College in Spokane, Washington. Twice widowed, in 1947 and 1956, she raised two boys, Mike and Don, and one girl, Karen. She worked for the Unemployment Compensation Division of the State of Washington for over 30 years.

Harry and Johanna Knapp moved to Fairfield, Montana, in 1936, and later to Spokane, Washington, where they lived for 24 years. Johanna died in 1966 and Harry in 1969.

KNEELAND, Mabel Mabel Kneeland and her brother Duane came to Cat Creek from Nebraska. Mabel taught in the Cat Creek School in 1924. She married Jiggs Canfield. (See also CANFIELD — Cat Creek)

KUHRY, Benjamin (Sec 4,5-15-29) Benjamin homesteaded several miles northwest of the Cat Creek oil field. His brother, A. H. "Dick" Kuhry, homesteaded in the Grassrange area where some of the family still reside. In 1937 Benjamin was making his home in Oriska, North Dakota, where he was in the mercantile business.

LAMBERT, Ed Mr. and Mrs. Lambert moved into the Mid Northern oil camp in May 1924. The Lamberts were former residents of the Valentine area. (See also LAMBERT — Dovetail)

LAMBERT, Hartley Hartley Lambert and his family moved to Cat Creek from Garfield County in the early 1920s. He worked at the Montacal Camp and later ran a pulling machine for Mid Northern. He and Earl Smith set up a well servicing business and moved to the Kevin, Montana, area. The Lamberts retired to the Bitterroot Valley in western Montana.

LAMMEL, Ed Mr. Lammel worked for Dave Schrock during the 1940 revival of the Cat Creek river leases. (See also LAMMEL — Winnett)

LANDHEIM, Gunvald Gunvald Landheim was a land and oil promoter and developer. The Winnett Times reported he moved a new drilling rig onto the Oiltana dome near Cat Creek in 1927. The Oiltana Dome was southwest of Ashley about three miles. Though geologists maintained conditions were right for the collection of oil on the dome, none was ever recovered. The Landheim family lived on the oil property and the children went to the Kid Hollow School. (See LANDHEIM — Ashley)

Mr. Landheim did not have the resources to finance some of his ambitious oil development schemes, so he went to Portland, Oregon, to promote his oil and land interests. Among others, he interested Burl R. Gainer and Dave Schrock, retired Oregon farmers, in his oil prospects. (These men eventually came to Montana to examine their oil investment and became interested in other oil property, which ultimately resulted in the revival of the Cat Creek east field in the late 1940s.)

Mr. Landheim spent almost eight years on the West coast. His family moved to Lewistown, Montana. When

he returned to Montana, he was able to put together a sizable block of land west of Cat Creek. He called the property the Columbia Petroleum Limited and/or the Landheim Development Company. It included land formerly owned by Ginevra and Albert Van Tassell, Arthur Spaulding, Grace Dobson, John Dunphy, Lucy Ryan, George and Floyd Maine, Charles Vogel and George Holt. Much of this land had been leased by the California Oil Company in the early 1930s. Several small producing wells were drilled in 1958. The *Winnett Times* reported on October 30, 1958: "Landheim Development Co. No. 1 Fee, a couple of miles west of the producing area of the West Dome of the Cat Creek field, got a flowing oil well after coring 10 feet of oil saturation in the second Cat Creek sand. Location is Sec 12-15-28. Tubing and production packer has been run.

"The core was from 1751 to 1761. Pipe was run for a test and after swabbing, the well flowed six barrels of oil per hour. Production plans have not been announced."

Carroll Manuel presently owns most of the land involved, but some of the oil interests are still maintained by Gunvald's son Elliot under the name Columbia Petroleum Company.

LANE, Franklin Franklin Lane was a son of William and Blanche Lane who homesteaded near Valentine. (See also LANE — Dovetail) He was married to Betty Jo Hamilton. She grew up near the Musselshell River. (See BUMP — Musselshell River) The couple had three children — Martha Sharon (1941), Donald (1943) and Terry (1949). Franklin was employed by Farmers Union Exchange when the company first invested in the Cat Creek oil field. The family lived in Cat Creek until the early 1950s.

LANTZ, L. S. Mr. Lantz, "Roxey" as everyone knew him, was the drilling superintendent for the Frantz Oil Company when the first oil well was brought in at Cat Creek. He arrived in Winnett on October 11, 1919, bringing with him a "rattletrap drilling machine and two drillers, Curley Meek and Sol Alderdice." Two other men, Joe Nordquist and Fred Barnett, filled out the drilling crew. The story of their drilling venture can be found in the introduction to the Cat Creek oil field history.

"Roxey" had the uncanny ability to make life-time friends out of those with whom he had only casual contact according to an article in the *Montana Oil Journal* at the time of his death.

Mr. Lantz became superintendent of the Tulsa division of the Continental Oil Company in the 1920s. In 1929 he became an independent lease broker. He successfully operated in this capacity until his death in November 1958.

LAVERDURE, Ralph (Sec 1,2-15-28) Ralph "Left Arm" Laverdure took up land in the Cat Creek Basin in about 1913. He was of Indian descent and, according to Floyd Maine, the grandson of the warrior "Left Arm" who died near Lewistown in 1914. Mrs. Laverdure sometimes helped neighbor women and had a vast store of knowledge about herbs and everyday remedies.

LEACH, Art Mr. Leach was a tanker for Continental Oil Company in the 1920s. He fell from a 25-foot scaffold and crushed his heel in an oil field accident in 1926.

LEDOUX, Eli and Adelaide The Ledoux family lived in Cat Creek in the early 1930s. He worked for Gene Hunt on the Brown lease. They moved to Winnett in 1937 and to Polson, Montana, the following year.

LEHMAN, Mr. "Big" Lehman was not commonly known by any other name than his nickname, and "Big" he was! People who knew him say he must have weighed 350 pounds. He drove a Ford touring car with the top down, and it is said that it looked as though he took up the entire front seat. The car literally squatted down when he got in!

Mr. Lehman had a lease on part of the Ihde property and brought in the Big Lehman No. 1 well on March 10, 1921.

LEVI, Albert Mr. Levi came to Cat Creek as a driller from Vernal, Utah. In 1947 his wife, Alice, took charge of the Spencer Camp cookhouse. The family moved to Winnett in 1948. Albert and George Carrell operated a well-pulling business together for a time. (See also LEVI — Winnett)

LINTON, W. L. Mr. Linton was in charge of the Frantz Corporation for two years. He was a pioneer merchant and rancher in Montana with a number of interests in the oil industry. He died in 1930.

LIVINGSTON, W. L. Perhaps this article which appeared in the *Winnett Times* on May 16, 1946, best tells the story of "Axle" Livingston's activities in the Cat Creek oil field.

"The now-famous rotary drilling rig of the more-famous drilling team of Dyril Spencer and W. L. Livingston will soon be back to its old job of drilling water wells after drilling in the discovery well for Dave Schrock, et. al. on the Mosby dome in the Cat Creek oil field. (See also SPENCER — Cat Creek)

"Livingston announced the rig had been brought to Winnett where it will undergo a thorough overhauling from stem to stern after which it will be put to use drilling much needed water wells in the area. He said he already had a number of drilling contracts signed up.

"After drilling in the discovery well on the Schrock-Fifer lease, the partnership entered into an agreement with Wm. S. Brindley, the landowner, and Joe Murphy. The partnership deepened an old second sand producer to the deeper producing horizon below the third Cat Creek sand. The well came in flowing more than 1000 barrels a day on January 1, 1946. Since that time the well has caved in and production is at a standstill. Further plans of the combine are indefinite with the sale of the land by Brindley to R. C. Tarrant.

"Spencer, in the meantime, is associated with the Spencer-Denton Drilling Co. which is drilling for Farmers Union." (See also LIVINGSTON — Winnett)

LOCHIMER, George Mr. Lochimer was the field manager for the 56 Petroleum Company in the 1920s. He made his permanent home in Miles City, Montana. The 56 Petroleum Company had one of the most profitable leases in the Cat Creek oil field.

LONG, Walter Walter Long and his family moved to the Homestake Camp in 1924. The two Long children, Floyd and Mildred, entered the Cat Creek School.

LOVELESS, James Mr. Loveless was employed in Cat Creek in 1921. His wife and two children, Lorene and Virginia, spent the winter in Lewistown. In 1924 Mr. Loveless opened a gas station near the Cat Creek post office, meeting "a long felt need in the community" according to the Winnett Times. He worked at Mid Northern cookhouse before opening the gas station.

LUDWIG, Pete Pete Ludwig worked in the Cat Creek oil field in the late 1920s and 1930s. He lived in the bunkhouse and was a pumper for Continental. He moved to Kevin, Montana. Pete died in 1954.

LYNCH, B. L. B. L. "Ben" Lynch homesteaded in Sec 14-13-29 but moved to Cat Creek to become a pumper for Mid Northern in the 1920s. The Lynches had twins, Olen and Norman, born in 1921. The school nurse, Mrs. Kingsley, was impressed with the wonderful health of the twins when she made her school visit to Cat Creek in April 1927. The Lynch family moved to Sunburst, Montana.

MAIER, Mary Miss Maier was the intermediate room teacher at the Cat Creek School during the 1928-29 school year. She attended the state teacher's college in Valley City, North Dakota, and had a B. A. degree from the University of Montana. In addition, she had four years of successful teaching in North Dakota and Montana before coming to Cat Creek. Mary married a law student from Missoula, Montana, and they lived in Winnett for a time. (See also BOOTH — Winnett)

MAINE, Floyd Floyd "Lone Eagle" Maine came to the Cat Creek Basin in October 1910. In later years Floyd wrote a number of newspaper articles and several books under the pen name "Lone Eagle." Some of these writings were questioned by others as being exaggerated and romanticized tales of Indians and the old West. However, the Winnett Times published a special Easter edition in March 1917, and Floyd S. Maine contributed an article on the Cat Creek Basin to the issue. It is one of the very few early written accounts about the area and since it was written only seven years after Lone Eagle arrived, perhaps time had not had an opportunity to color his memories. Excerpts from the article are reprinted in the introduction to this chapter.

Floyd claimed to have been adopted by the Sioux Indians and given the Indian name Lone Eagle. His cabin was decorated with Indian blankets and relics and he called his farm the Eagle Bar Ranch.

It has been reported Floyd Maine was married to a Pratt girl and later divorced. The Cat Creek Cemetery

records show the burial of a stillborn child, Shirley Winona Maine, on October 29, 1920.

MAINE, George S. (Sec 11,12-15-28) The Reverend George S. Maine was born in Stillwater, New Jersey, in 1856. He came west in 1890 to take up duties as a Methodist minister in Iowa and the Dakotas. He came to Montana in 1911 and homesteaded on a tract of land about two miles east of Shay. He preached his first sermon in Montana at the I. E. Thomas home in April 1911. Mrs. Maine (Emma) came to Montana with her husband but very often returned to Iowa to spend the winters.

The Reverend Maine conducted funerals, weddings and Sunday school services. He died in June 1924.

MANUEL, Carroll Carroll, the son of LeRoy and Laura Mae Manuel, was born April 21, 1920. He was a teenager in the 1930s when his parents were struggling to keep their farm going. He wrote: "I got out of school early in the spring of 1936 and worked on the WPA poisoning prairie dogs. In 1937 the drought broke and people got back into livestock — mostly sheep. I got a job herding sheep in the fall of 1938. I graduated that spring, saved my money, and started on my own the fall of 1939. The 1940s were real good years. Land was 50 cents an acre and stock prices were on the rise. I put together a nice ranch and raised four real nice kids. My two oldest boys have the ranch now."

Carroll married Marval Kelley in 1944. They had four children: Walter (1946), Betty (1947), Victor (1955) and Thomas (1960). Carroll is now married to Merelee Miller Gjerde and still (1989) lives in the Winnett area.

Walter married Judie King and lives on the ranch. They have two sons, Brian and Greg. Betty married Tony Kuhry and lives near Grassrange. Before moving to Grassrange, Betty served for a time as Winnett Public Library trustee. They have three children: Laura (who is married to Orren Kiehl of Winnett), Karen and Janel.

Victor and Kathy Manuel had two children, LaVonne and Colin. They were divorced and later Victor married Bonnie Rempel. They have a son, Alexander. They reside on the ranch. Thomas married Marcella Smith of Forest Grove, Montana, and they live in Red Lodge, Montana.

MANUEL, Charles O. (Sec 25-16-29) Charles "Mick" Manuel was born in Seneca, Kansas, in 1894 and later moved to Indian Territory, Oklahoma. Carroll Manuel wrote of Mick: "When the Manuel clan came to Montana, Mick was just a kid. There was so much going on all the time that life was just a big party to him. He wasn't ready to settle down yet. He worked around and broke horses. He really got around the country and knew many people. He and Clarence Shay became great buddies. Those two boys used to go to Winnett and get their snoots in the trough and maybe steal a pig from W. J. Winnett. People said you could sure tell when they came home — they were singing, and the pigs were squealing!

"When Mick and Clarence decided what they wanted to do, the land was pretty well taken up. There was quite a chunk of land down in the breaks that was not

homesteaded. They took up homesteads down there on Cottonwood Creek and used this rough country to run their cattle on. The winter of 1919 came along and sure put the crimp in their plans. The oil field work was just starting up, so both of them got started drilling oil wells.

"Mick went to California after things slowed down here to work in the oil patch. He was superintendent for a big oil company and lived the rest of his life in California. He and his wife, Maude, came back here several times to visit and enjoyed telling lots of stories about the good old days."

Mick died on July 20, 1973, in Bakersfield, California.

MANUEL, LeRoy (Sec 1-15-28) LeRoy Manuel, the son of James and Margaret Manuel, was born in Seneca, Kansas, December 16, 1887. (See also MANUEL — Ashley) He came to Montana "riding the rails" in 1910 and worked in the Judith Basin near Lewistown, Montana. Roy leased a place at Half Moon Pass in hopes of getting started on his own. When that didn't work out, he looked toward eastern Fergus County and the homesteads being offered there. In 1911 he homesteaded in the Cat Creek Basin.

On November 28, 1912, Roy married Laura Mae Hopkins. They had five children: Marion (1916) who died in infancy and was buried in the Cat Creek Cemetery; Wilma (1918); Carroll (1920); Merle (1921); and Edna (1924).

Carroll described their life on the homestead: "It took quite a lot of money to get the place fenced, buy



LeRoy and Laura Mae Manuel on March 30, 1913



Roy Manuel with his team and buggy in 1916

machinery, horses and harness. They worked out a lot to get it all together. Even after they raised a crop, they had to haul it to Lewistown. They mortgaged their land and lost it. In 1923 we loaded our stuff in an immigrant car and moved back to Oklahoma. In 1925 the Schaffer Oil Company offered to pay off the indebtedness on the land and give it back to my folks for an oil lease. They were happy to do that so we moved back in the fall of 1925

"Wilma had started to school and I started in 1927. Dad ran the school bus to the Follette School. He bought a Model T Ford. There were several families at the California Oil Camp, a half mile south of our house. When it was dry, he used the Model T. When there was mud, he used the buggy, and when there was snow, he used the team and sled.

"The year 1931 was a complete failure for farming. Most of our neighbors took their livestock to the Judith Basin to winter, but we stayed. It was a real mild winter, so we got by. People were starting to move out. The California Oil Camp closed, and the Follette School closed in 1930. Things really got tough from 1931 to 1937. We really had a struggle to survive. The spring of 1936 my dad went to work on the WPA with a four-horse team and a Fresno building reservoirs."

The Manuel family survived the drought and remained on the farm until their retirement. Mrs. Manuel died following a traffic accident at Stockton, California, in January 1959. Roy was seriously injured in the same accident but he survived.

In 1961 Roy married Dora Brock. On May 29, 1964, Roy died, and he is buried in the Cat Creek Cemetery.

Wilma graduated from Winnett High School in 1936. She married John Kastner in 1939. (See also KASTNER — Winnett) Carroll remained on the ranch and is written about in a separate article. Merle graduated from Winnett High School in 1939. He married Audrey Story (See also STORY — Winnett) Edna graduated from Winnett High School in 1941. (See also PETERSEN — Musselshell River and WANGSENG — Winnett)

MARKIN, George George and Molly Markin had two children on the 1922 school census in Cat Creek. They were Irene (1909) and George (1916).

MARKS, Roy Roy Marks and his wife Nettie (Seefluth) had two children on the school census — Edward Leroy (1930) and Mabel (1932). The family moved to Flathead County. (See also MARKS — Teigen)

MARSH, P. E. Mr. Marsh and his wife, Minnie, were living at the Globe test site in east Cat Creek in March 1930.

MARTINDALE, Clinton R. Clinton Martindale was born in Beemer, Nebraska, in 1889. He homesteaded in the Valentine area. His wife, Bessie, was born in Avaca, Iowa, in 1890. In 1923 the Martindales moved to Cat Creek where Clint worked in various capacities and Bessie ran the Continental cookhouse for 19 years.

The couple had one son, Gayle, born in 1910. He attended the Cat Creek and Winnett schools. He also attended Helena Business College and later made the military his career. He died in 1957 and was buried with full military honors.

Mr. and Mrs. Martindale moved to Thermopolis, Wyoming, in 1945 where Clint was a district maintenance man for the Continental Oil Company. He came back to Cat Creek in the spring of 1946 to erect the stone and cement Continental sign at the Highway 200 turnoff to Cat Creek. Mr. Martindale died in 1948. He had worked for Continental Oil company for over 25 years. Bessie returned to Cat Creek for the summers and spent the winters in California. She died in 1961.

McADAM, Robert Robert McAdam was born in Scotland and came to Miles City, Montana, when he was 13 years old. He married Maude Griffen of Stacey, Montana. The couple had 13 children: Lloyd (1914), Mary (1917), Robert (1918), Frank (1920), Blanche (1922), Roy (1924), Annie (1927), Charles (1929), Donald (1931), Glennette (1933), Mona (1935), William (1937) and Max (1940).

Robert and his family moved to Cat Creek in 1923 where he worked for Mutual Oil Company and then the Continental Oil Company Pipeline Division. The family moved to Winnett in 1926 and Bob worked for the Ford Garage until about 1929 when he went to work in the Bannentine oil field near Dutton, Montana. In 1934 the family settled in Cut Bank.

The McAdams' son, Robert, served in the Army in World War II. He was taken prisoner of war and died in the Phillipines where he is buried. All of the other children are still living. Maude died in 1964 and Mr. McAdam in 1968.

Blanche McAdam married Vic Wadman and they made their home in the Winnett area. (See also WADMAN — Ashley and Winnett)

McGINLEY, Pat Pat McGinley was a driller for the Frantz Corporation in early Cat Creek oil field days. Later

he worked for Continental Oil Company. He was a bachelor sporting a new Ford coupe in May 1924. Pat became an independent drilling contractor in partnership with Perry Culver.

McGLENN, William William "Archie" McGlenn was a native of Missouri. He worked in the Cat Creek oil field in the early 1920s, and in 1924 he took a position in the office of the Continental Oil Company. Shortly afterwards he married Frances Morgan. (See also MORGAN — Teigen) The couple moved to Kevin in the 1930s and later made their home in Glasgow, Montana. They had three children — Archie, Doris (Sword), and Nancy Rae (Sloan). Frances died in 1957 and Archie in 1970.

McGRATH, George Mr. McGrath was a bookkeeper for Mid Northern and was transferred from Cat Creek to Kevin, Montana, in March 1924.

McGUIRE, Eldon Mr. and Mrs. McGuire acquired the Merritt Wells property after the Robert Jones family left in 1958. Mrs. McGuire had a unique pet which she displayed in an interesting manner. Helen Sims described this incident: "My mother got a shock in Clark's store one day when she approached Mrs. McGuire who was holding this beautifully bonneted and baby-blanket-wrapped "being." Mom peered under the bonnet to behold a tiny monkey face!!"

The McGuires had a son Eldon K. Jr. who chose to finish his high school years in Miles City, Montana, rather than move to Cat Creek with his parents.

McKNIRE, Ralph Ralph McKnire was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward McKnire of Grassrange, Montana. He married Altha Carrell in 1941 and began work for Continental Oil Company as a roustabout in 1943. (See also CARRELL — Dovetail and Cat Creek)

The couple made their home in Cat Creek until Ralph was transferred to Wyoming. They had three children: Ralph Edward (1942) and twin girls, Marilyn and Myrna (1946). Ralph died in 1982. Altha still makes her home in Thermopolis, Wyoming.

McSPADDEN, Dean Mr. and Mrs. McSpadden had their cabin in Cat Creek burn to the ground on April 26, 1924. Some of their furniture, clothing and bedding was saved. Mrs. McSpadden belonged to the Mid Northern Ladies bridge club in 1924.

McVAY, Claude Claude and Della McVay were Cat Creek residents in the 1920s. The school census showed they had the following children: Agnes (1907), Della (1911), Ray (1913), Gladys (1917) and Mamie (1917). Their oldest son, John, worked in the Cat Creek oil field.

John married Lois Saylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Saylor, and they moved to Oilmont, Montana, where John was employed in the oil field. Lois died very suddenly on May 30, 1930, leaving a newborn baby girl — Lois (Patty). The baby was raised by her grandparents (See also SAYLOR — Winnett). Patty graduated from Winnett High School in 1948 and married Ray Sult.

MEAD, William William Mead, the son of George and Ida Mead who homesteaded south of Valentine, was born at Table Rock, Nebraska in 1897. (See also MEAD — Blakeslee) Rhea Kretzer was born in 1900 and came to Montana with her mother, Gabriella (Stone), and stepfather, Otto Storm. (See also STORM — Flatwillow)

In the winter of 1922 Rhea and William were married. The couple had intended to be married in the spring but they were both without jobs and wanted to go from Howard Coulee to stay with the Meads near Valentine. It simply seemed easier to be married and go as a couple. In an oral interview, Rhea recalled the circumstances of their marriage.

"The closest place (from Howard Coulee) to get married was Roundup; so we got up about three o'clock in the morning and started on horseback, intending to ride all the way. We got up on top of the Knofsinger hill, however, and met the Copelands in their car. We told them we were on our way to Roundup to get married, and they insisted on taking us in their car. There was a schoolhouse barn nearby so we put our horses in the barn and went on in to Roundup. The Copelands witnessed our marriage at the Justice of the Peace, took care of their other business and took us back to our horses. We rode on home, arriving about ten o'clock at night."

The newlyweds went to visit the Meads, and while they were there, they learned that Billy Trimble was quitting his job in Cat Creek and was willing to recommend William for his replacement. That was the beginning of the Meads' 23 years in the oil fields. William went to Cat Creek immediately, and Rhea waited until the weather broke in the spring.

Rhea made the trip to Cat Creek from her stepfather's place on Howard Coulee with a team and wagon loaded with their few possessions. She recalled, "It was April and had been very muddy in places. The big trucks had made these terrible ruts. My poor horses could not walk in them — or out of them! By the time I got to Cat Creek they were very, very tired and I still had to go four miles on down to the river camp where Bill was. I did not know of this big hill that I had to go up or the big hill I had to go down. It was getting dark. I didn't know that the truckers had a switchback where I could have gone. I didn't see that.

"I stood up in the front of the wagon and I hit the horses and used a few choice words to help them along. I made it up the hill just fine, then we got down almost to the river and there was this big turnabout on the hill that I learned a lot about afterwards! But I got down with no problem. Anyway the next morning Bill and I went over to the cookhouse and the skimmers (freighters) wanted to know how I got down the hill. I said, 'Why? I just came down.' 'Without a roughlock?' they said. I said, 'What is a roughlock? As tired as those horses were there was no way that wagon would have pushed them out of a dead walk!'"

The Meads lived down on the river camp for about a month and then were moved up to the main camp in Cat Creek where they had a little tar-paper shack like everyone else. It was about 12' by 16', one room with a Murphy bed which folded up against the wall. When Bill's parents and Gladys Thorsheim and her two children came to visit, they all managed to sleep on the floor. Rhea said, "We had a good time. We were glad to see them!"

The Meads had three children, all born while they lived in Cat Creek. Betty was born in 1923. She went to grade school in Cat Creek and graduated from Winnett High School in 1940. She played on the girl's basketball team coached by Ivan Hodges. Betty went on to Montana State College and took nurses training at the Great Falls Deaconess hospital. She became a registered nurse, a profession she has followed all her life.

Gene was born in 1926. He also went to Cat Creek School and Winnett High School. He played football and boxed on Shorty Saylor's boxing team. Lois was born in 1933. She began her education in Cat Creek, but her father was transferred to Riverton, Wyoming, in 1943 and she finished her education there.

Mr. Mead worked for Continental Oil Company for 23 years. He was their superintendent in Cat Creek for ten years. He died in 1945. Rhea married again to Z. C. McDermott. She is still living in Albuquerque, New Mexico (1988).

MEADER, Winona Winona Meader married Harold L. Nordahl of Mosby on November 23, 1928. Mrs. Meader, whose husband was dead, had twins, Charles and Robert, born in 1920 according to the school census.

MEEK, John S. John S. "Curley" Meek is a name synonymous with oil development in Montana and Cat Creek in particular. Curley was the head driller on the crew when oil was struck in the Charles No. 1 well on the Musselshell River February 19, 1920.

Curley was born in Mapleton, Kansas, and came west to Wyoming as a young man. He was working for the Cosden Oil Company in the oil fields of Wyoming when the company was purchased by several of its employees including Frank Frantz, ex-territorial governor of Oklahoma, and C. T. Lupton, early-day oil geologist. Curley was put to work by the new company dismantling a rig and loading it on three railroad cars for shipment to Winnett. The story of that venture is told elsewhere. (See Introduction — Cat Creek)

Mr. Meek followed the early development of oil from Cat Creek to northern Montana. He established the J. S. Meek Drilling Company, and in addition to oil drilling, he drilled ore samples for the Anaconda Company in Butte and Lincoln and test holes for missile sites in Eastern Montana and North Dakota.

In 1937 he married and the couple had four children — Ramona, Mabel, Raymond and Donald.

Curley was instrumental in establishing the Marias Museum of History and Art in Shelby, Montana. He con-