

think they might have a horse that we could ride?' Oh joy! They did, but it had taken so long to get up the courage to ask that dinner was ready.

"The table was absolutely loaded with delicious looking food and we were all hungry from smelling cooking. Oh, that was so good. I heard Dwain ask for a drumstick and Dad said to wait until it was passed. We were near done when our host happened to look toward the stove with such a surprised look that we all looked. There on the shelf behind the stove, in all its glory, sat a huge platter of fried chicken!

"After dinner the men walked down to the corral to get the horse. Mom took our picture on him. Then Mrs. Loesch told us the way to go and where to turn around. We arrived at the big rock where we were to turn back and we tried, but that horse had other ideas and paid us no heed.

"We were trying so hard not to disobey our hostess that we failed to see the big low branch on a pine tree near us. The next thing we knew we were picking ourselves up out of the rocks and cactus. We were embarrassed and in pain too, and mad at that horse who smugly headed for the corral. Dwain has hopping mad because he got cactus in his backside. He yelled at me, 'You should have stopped him. You got the boots!' "

**TWO CROW RANCH** The Two Crow Ranch is located thirty-four miles north of Winnett, with the headquarters at the old Sanford place. The ranch was started in 1959 when Tony Weingart sold out to Wellington Rankin, the largest land owner in Montana. Rankin sold the ranch to Waldo Parsons in 1962. Parsons also acquired most of the holdings of Carl and John Hedman at that time. Two Crow got its name from Parsons' brand, which was the image of two crows flying, one directly above the other — or two sets of two connected quarter circles one above the other.

Savage Brothers purchased the ranch in 1965. In 1972, they sold it to Paul Mann and Jim Vestring, who sold it to the Golden Eagle Land Company, owned by Wes Krockner and Allen Stratman, in 1974. In 1979 the ranch was sold to Roland and Ramona Sahm, who are the present owners.

Dick Marshall came to the Two Crow in 1972 to manage the ranch for Mann and Vestring. Dick came from the Saco area, north of the Missouri River, where he had worked on ranches and as a cat skinner on construction.

Jan Dirickson was raised at Venita, Oklahoma. She came to Montana in 1973 to visit friends and see the "Big Sky." Jan and Dick were married June 4, 1973, in Malta. They have two sons — Brett Allen (1977) and Bradley C. (1981).

Jan Marshall remarked: "We have seen many owners come and go in our fifteen years on the Two Crow, and I doubt if any of them ever realized what they really had on this beautiful ranch in north Petroleum County." (Jan Marshall)

**VON LINDERN, Samuel H.** (Sec 6-17-27) Samuel Von Lindern was born in 1878 at Crete, Nebraska. Floy Shull was born in 1886 at Salem, Idaho. Samuel and Floy were married April 17, 1901, in Kansas. They came with three children to Lewistown, Montana, in 1914. In the spring and summer they built a covered wagon, put all their belongings in it, and headed for the homestead they had claimed east of Valentine. Several days later they arrived and began building a sod house. Half of the house was built back into a hillside. They used this house for a year or two and then built a log house.

They had three boys — Norman (6-18-1903), Earl (3-3-1905) and Doyle (6-10-1907). All had been born at Wakefield, Kansas. The boys attended the Dovetail School.

The family stayed at the homestead until 1927, then moved to Suffolk, Montana. They had twin girls (5-14-1928) at Suffolk. They moved from Suffolk to Sand Point, Idaho, in 1931. Von Linderns lived in several areas in Idaho and retired at Post Falls, Idaho.

Samuel died in 1957, and his wife Floy died in 1967. They are both buried at Post Falls.

The three sons are deceased: Doyle, in a logging accident in 1951; Norman, in 1981; and Earl, in 1987. The twins, Dorothy and Betty, are still living. (Mabel Von Lindern, wife of Earl)

**WALKER, Roman** (Sec 30-18-26) Roman Walker and his wife lived on Sage Creek, four miles southwest of Valentine. They came from the South and were part Black. They were well-thought-of people. Mrs. Walker was a nurse.

**WALSH, John** (Sec 18-19-27) John and Ada Walsh had four children — Robert (1910), Kenneth (1914), Nellie (1917) and June (1919) as listed in District #169 school census 1918 through 1920.

**WARD, Hervey** According to the 1915 school census for District #122, Hervey and Eugenia Ward had two children — Orville (1905) and Mary (1907).

**WARE, Harold** (W. T. 5-10-29) "Harold Ware, of the Valentine community, was taken to the Lewistown hospital last Sunday, suffering from a severe attack of spotted fever, presumably caused by a tick bite.

"Friends who saw Mr. Ware just prior to his departure for the hospital stated that he was covered with small eruptions even to the soles of his feet, and that he had swollen so it was difficult to remove his clothing at the hospital.

"This is the first case of spotted fever to be reported from the north country. Last year a case was reported from the Flatwillow section, and the year prior from the river country.

"Ticks are more numerous this year than for many years past. Horses are being severely punished by the ticks which gather in bunches on the lower lips, bellies and hind legs." (See also WARE — Blakeslee)

**WARTZENLUFT, Edwin** (Sec 5-20-27) and **WARTZENLUFT, Paul** (Sec 3-20-27) Edwin Wartzenuft was born in Pennsylvania. He moved to Illinois, then came to Montana with his son, Paul, and took up a homestead on the southern edge of the Missouri Breaks.

Paul took up a homestead next to Edwin. Paul married Mae Williams Pipes in 1938, and they lived in Lewistown, Montana.



*Wartzenuft house, with Mrs. Tom Iverson and Elise Grytemark, her sister from Norway, cooking for a lambing crew*

Edwin built his house of hand-hewn logs fastened together with pegs, no nails. The house was a story and a half tall with one large room for kitchen, dining and living room on the lower floor and one room on the second level for sleeping quarters. All of the lumber used in the house was hand-hewn — even to the shingles. After seventy-some years, this house still stands on the edge of the Missouri Breaks, as a monument to Mr. Wartzenuft's expertise as a builder.

He also built a large two-level barn the same way. The lower level was built into the side of a draw to the west of the house and back into the hillside far enough to put the upper level at the same level as the house. The animals could enter the lower level into their stalls. Hay and supplies could be put in the upper level without extra lifting and then dropped down to the animals below. The logs that were used in the lower level and into the hill have rotted out and the barn is now caving in from the loss of support.

When Edwin left the homestead, he sold his place to Tom Iverson. Tom used the house and barn for lambing and shearing for as long as he had sheep — probably about thirty years. This land and buildings now belong to the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM has agreed to preserve and take care of the house. (Ruth Iverson Laugeman)

**WEAVER, Raymond** (Sec 34-19-26) In 1960 Raymond Weaver and his wife, Lola, moved to the Dovetail area. When the Pete Lund house had been modernized, Raymond and Lola moved into it. Ray

worked with his father, Roy, and brother, Warren, and spent a couple of years working at Iversons.

In 1966 Raymond and Warren bought the ranch from their parents and, dividing the place, continued to ranch separately. In 1973 Raymond sold out to Merl Lee Busenbark and left the area. They had lived there for 13 years.

Ray and Lola had three children — Saunda (1960), Tracy (1962) and Lincoln (1964).

Raymond died in 1986 in Buffalo, Wyoming, where he owned and operated a saddle shop. He is buried at Buffalo. (Alice Weaver)

**WEAVER, Roy** (Sec 31-19-27) The following was contributed by Alice Weaver: "Roy and Alice Weaver, from north of Wolf Creek, bought the Ray Marr Ranch on Dovetail Creek in August of 1960. There were two sets of buildings, Ray Marr's and Pete Lund's, on the ranch, and both were older than we were used to.

"There was no electricity or telephone. Roy had signed up for electricity when we bought the place, at an additional charge of \$2200, so the power was there when we moved; but we had to wait quite awhile for the telephone.

"We had three sons — Dan, Warren and Raymond. Dan did not come with us to Dovetail, but Warren, and Raymond with his wife, Lola, came with us. We all moved into the Marr house, and since it was a dry fall, we cleaned out wells, dug ditches, and put water and bathrooms in both houses. We got it all finished just before Christmas, and soon Raymond and Lola moved into the Lund house.

"We had bought Ray Marr's cattle and had brought our own down from Wolf Creek. We were lucky that first winter was dry and warm, as we had very little hay for them.

"1961 was a very dry year. We spent most of it cleaning springs and putting in tanks to water the cattle. There was no hay to put up, so we had to buy hay to get the stock through the winter. We spent our spare time fishing and



*Roy and Alice Weaver*

water skiing on the Valentine reservoir.

"The old reservoirs on the ranch had been built with team and scraper and were not very deep, so Roy and Warren bought a Cat and scraper and built seventeen large dams. 1964 was a hard winter and Roy was kept busy plowing out the haystacks so we could feed the cattle. All the reservoirs got full that spring.

"Some of the nicest things I remember about Dovetail were the branding parties and the shipping parties. All the neighbors would gather at first one place then another for these big jobs and kept at it until all the calves were branded, or all the sold animals had been delivered.

"Fantastic meals were furnished at each place for branding (wives were also invited), and usually there was a shipping party, with drinks at the bar and a steak supper at the cafe in Winnett, after the cattle had been paid for and loaded into semi's for the rest of their journey. We had never been any place where the neighbors worked together to help each other like that. They had a lot of fun, and it made the big jobs easier for everyone. We really enjoyed that.

"We split the ranch in 1966 and sold it to Warren and Raymond. Warren got the Ray Marr buildings and land surrounding, while Raymond got the Pete Lund buildings and the land around them.

After moving to several different places, Roy and I now live just west of Lewistown, Montana."

**WEAVER, Warren** (Sec 31-19-27) Warren Weaver, son of Roy and Alice Weaver, was born February 9, 1941, at Big Sandy, Montana. After living in several different places, they moved to the Ray Marr Ranch on Dovetail Creek in September of 1960. (See also WEAVER, Roy)

Anne Iverson, daughter of Isaac and Ruth Iverson of Dovetail, was born January 23, 1944. (See also IVERSON, Isaac)

Warren and Anne were married at Winnett, February 25, 1962. After their marriage, Warren worked with his father on the place.



*The Warren Weaver family: Ed, Anne, Warren, and Bill*

Warren was chosen as local and state "Outstanding Young Farmer" in 1974, and won a trip to Illinois to compete in the National contest.

In 1966 Warren and his brother, Raymond, bought the ranch from Roy and Alice and split it up between them. One part, with the Pete Lund house and buildings, went to Raymond; the portion with the Ray Marr house and buildings went to Warren.

Anne relates: "Warren took flying lessons and bought his first plane in 1962. Warren made two trips to Georgia to bring new planes home. On the first trip, he went alone. On the second trip, he took the family with him. The second plane wasn't finished when he got there, so we toured the factory and watched them finish building our plane, then watched as they did all the necessary flight tests.

"Visibility was very limited in the southeast when we started home. We ran into a thunderstorm and found that radio communications were very difficult, since we couldn't understand the 'Deep South' accents. We finally got around the storm and were very relieved and happy to get back to clear skies, good visibility, and a radio we could understand.

"We have two sons — William Warren (1962) and Edward Isaac (1964). We hope they will take over the ranch when Warren and I retire."

**WEINGART, Alex** (Sec 20,29-20-29) Alex Weingart, son of Henry and Catherine Weingart, was born February 22, 1897, in Lewistown, Montana. The Weingarts lived on Spring Creek and later moved to a 160 acre homestead just east of Lewistown. They built a new home out of stone, which is now headquarters of the Saddle Butte Ranch.

Alex "Sonny" Weingart wrote the following family story. "My grandfather, Henry, would gather neighbors together, and with his sons, go for a two-week hunting trip to the Crooked Creek breaks. That was when Dad fell in love with that country. He was eighteen years old when he homesteaded down in the breaks, along with his brothers, Tony and Pete. Chris came along later. When they first went to Crooked Creek, there was a store, post office, saloon and ferry at Fort Musselshell.

"One evening Dad was lighting a gas lantern that evidently had a gas leak as it caught on fire. The flames were shooting up, so he threw it out the door to save the house from burning. His hands and face were severely burned. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Plumer, Indian friends who worked for the government trapping wolves, lived nearby and came to help him. Mrs. Plumer made a poultice of horse manure and other ingredients to put on the burns. The burns healed up and left no scars.

"Dad married Rita Rider September 26, 1926. Rita, daughter of Egbert and Mary Rider, was born May 8, 1906, in Bradford, Pennsylvania. They moved west to Spokane, Washington, when she was three, and then moved to Lewistown when she was six.

"Dad and Mom didn't move down to Crooked Creek

until the spring of 1927, although they did go down the winter before to put up ice for the coming summer. Dad bought the Spears' homestead next to his, as it had a larger log cabin with a sod roof. The rooms were very small, so later he added a large living room.

"The spring the folks moved down to Crooked Creek, Dad had a large wagon, called a grain tank, that took four horses to pull. They loaded up enough supplies to keep them for six months. It took them three days to make the trip as they had to cross and recross Crooked Creek. In one stretch they had to cross the creek five times in a mile.

"Early one morning, about 3:00 a. m., the dog began to bark and Mom got up to see what was wrong. The creek was flooding up around the house, so they moved most of their belongings, including the big piano, to the blacksmith shop, which was on high ground. They stayed there for two weeks waiting for the water to go down and for it to dry up enough for them to clean the house and move back.

"They built an ice house where the ice kept all summer because it was packed in sawdust and hay. They had a root cellar where they kept their spuds, milk, cured meat and butter. In the summertime the drinking water was kept in a barrel buried in the ground to keep the water cool. This barrel had a hand pump.

"In the winter they kept a large iron barrel behind the heater, next to the firebox on the cook stove, and melted snow in it for the drinking water. They sometimes had to use this water for the horse and milk cow, as the water in the creek got awfully stout.

"There was a small reservoir not far from the house, and when the water was good, we hauled it from there with a stoneboat and team. When that water got bad, we had to haul water from the Missouri River eight miles away. We usually hauled five to six barrels per trip.

"Most of the time, our ice for the summer came from the Missouri River by team and sleigh. We would chop a hole in the ice and then with an ice saw, saw out the ice blocks which were about 24" x 24", with the depth depending on how cold the winter was. We could haul 12 blocks each trip, and made at least ten trips during January and February. It was hard work, but the rewards were great. Iced tea in the summer and delicious homemade ice cream for Sunday dinners. Mom raised chickens, so we had fried chicken to go with the ice cream . . . um-m-m good!

"The folks had to go five miles for the mail, which was brought down into the breaks on horseback to Rukavinas. The folks took the bobsled to get the mail one time when I was about six months old. Mom wrapped me up in several blankets and put me in a clothes basket at their feet.

"On the way down there was a steep drop off, the bobsled tipped over, and the basket slid out and down onto the ice on the creek. Mom dashed down to me, knowing I had been killed, but when she reached me, there I was sleeping and didn't know I had been on a wild



*Jerry and Sonny Weingart in front of the homestead cabin on Crooked Creek*

ride alone.

"In the early 1930s the county was building a highway east from Winnett to Mosby. Dad had twelve head of fine horses, so he and Tom Olmstead loaded up a wagon of bedding and supplies and headed for Winnett to work for the Tobin Construction Co. The boss was tough on men and horses. Many a horse died on that project, but Dad said he wouldn't abuse his horses and didn't work there very long.

"He went into Winnett to pick up the bare necessities at the Eager Mercantile on his way home. Mr. Eager asked Dad, 'Don't you need more groceries than that?' Dad said, 'Yes, I need a lot more, but I don't have the money to pay for them.' Mr. Eager said, 'Alex, back your wagon up to the door and load up what you need. You can pay me when you can.' Dad finally got paid for the work on the road, broke and sold some horses, and paid Mr. Eager off. Dad often said, 'There isn't a better person walking the streets of Winnett than Elmer Eager.'

"Tom and Hattie Hogan lived at our place on Crooked Creek and took care of our cattle while Dad worked on the Valentine Dam in 1935 and 1936. Jerry and I started the first grade of school there. Our teacher was Grace Trimble, who is now Mrs. Fred Hill. She had twenty pupils. My folks lived in a hotel there. It was made of six small log rooms joined end to end. Mr. and Mrs. Tiff Myers lived there; also, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Lind. Mrs. Schoeneche was the one who rented out the rooms.

"After we moved back to Crooked Creek, Mom taught us for two years. Dad broke horses for the neighbors. Some of these horses were snaky creatures, so he would



*Big John Milesnick house with Jerry Weingart, Phil Crane (teacher), and Sonny Weingart*

use one gentle broke horse along with the unbroke one. One time we had a runaway among the big cottonwood trees along the creek. The horses tried to go through one place with one horse on each side of a tree. The gentle horse pulled the bronc's head into the tree and knocked him out.

"Grandpa Bert Rider brought the first drilling rig into the country. He drilled the first artesian well for John Milesnick in 1930. He sold the rig to Floyd Lute, who drilled wells for the Goachees, Andersons, Rukavinas and Matoviches.

"In 1938 we moved to the John Milesnick place on the Musselshell River, later referred to as the Big John Place. We moved because the government had built the Fort Peck Dam and had bought all the places that would be under water as the dam filled. Dad leased the Goachee and the Big John places, as there were beautiful alfalfa fields there and a nice two-story house.

"Phil Cameron, a teacher, lived with us and taught us for two years. School was held upstairs in our home. My cousin, Tina, of Great Falls, stayed and went to school one year with Jerry and me. Phil is married and lives at Cainas, Montana. Phil Crane, a Mormon, also lived with us and taught us one year. Jerry and I rode seven miles up the Missouri, to the John and Bill Town Ranch, for two years to finish our schooling. Town's daughter, Karen, also attended this school.

"While we were having school at home, Elden Freed, superintendent of schools for Petroleum County, would come down to our home at least twice a year to give us achievement tests, and at the end of the school year, we would go to Winnett where he gave us our final tests for the year.

"Christmas was always a big event. Mom made candy

and all those goodies, while Dad rode into the Missouri Breaks for the tree. I'll never forget those Christmas trees with the candles all lit early Christmas morning with all the gifts under it. It was beautiful.

"One Christmas, Tom Olmstead played Santa Claus. Mom said that when I looked out the window and saw Santa, I just stood and stared at him, trying to say something, but I couldn't make a sound. Talk about a thrill! We knew it was Santa because we found the sleigh and reindeer tracks out behind the barn.

"In the spring of 1943 Crooked Creek got awfully high. It washed away our house up the creek and took out the big bridge that crossed the creek. We salvaged four big planks from the bridge and made a raft with a couple of oars from boards. Jerry and I would load the dogs, cats and milk-cow calves and paddle around on the lake. We didn't have much luck keeping the calves on the raft, but we did have a lot of fun.

"We used to tie our fish lines to trees out in the lake. Talk about cat fish . . . we sure caught them! Swimming, fishing, hunting and riding horses were our pastimes. The summer the lake backed up Crooked Creek, we would take off our clothes, take our ponies and jump them off the bank into the water. The ponies used to go out of sight and come up swimming with us on their backs. We did this time after time.

"In the summer of 1943 Dad and I loaded the hayrack with the haying machinery, hooked it to the little Ford tractor we had, tied the four workhorses to the hayrack and headed for the Charles and Pete Tunncliff places to put up hay for our cattle for the winter. Dad drove the car and I drove the tractor. A storm came up and we got as far as Vane Phillips' gas station but could go no farther, so we took the horses down to corral them, and stayed the night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Iverson.

"The next day we made it to the Tunncliff place. We would go home weekends where Jerry had stayed with Mom and Janet. Jerry took care of the stock while Dad and I were haying. That fall we moved the cattle to the Tunncliff Ranch and leased the Brooks place at Valentine so we could stay there that winter.

"In the spring of 1944 we bought the Tunncliff Ranch and moved away from Crooked Creek. Dad and I took six head of horses and the tractor to haul the furniture, piano and the rest of our belongings. We had to go two miles up the creek, at the head of the lake to get across the creek. We crossed the creek and pulled the load to the top of the Crooked Creek Hill. Bill Trimble came with his pickup and hauled the piano, and Rex Harris came with his Model A Ford truck and hauled the furniture on over to the Tunncliff place.

"Dad and I went back for the rest of the machinery. It started raining and we were stuck there for two weeks. One day we started out, and when we got to the crossing, a heavy rain came up. We stayed under the hayrack until the storm was over. We knew we had to get our stuff across as this might be the last time we could get across.

"The water was over three feet deep and too high to run the tractor across, so Dad hooked the six head of horses to the front of the tractor and sat on the hood while I steered the tractor. The water came up over the transmission on the tractor but the horses pulled it across. We went back across to get the rack of machinery, and by this time the water was almost swimming depth for the horses. We started across and got to the far bank, but the bank was muddy.

"The chain broke and the lead team broke loose, leaving the back end of the wagon submerged in the water. We thought we would lose it all. We swam the horses back across the creek and went back to the house for the night. The next morning we could see that we wouldn't be able to pull the wagon forward, as it was so bogged down; so Dad hooked up the six horses to the back end and pulled it back across the creek.

"Then we hooked the team to the front of the wagon and with all six horses working, we made it across. My dad was a great teamster and could handle horses even in deep water. We finally had everything on the south side of Crooked Creek and were on our way to our new home.

"Janet received her schooling at home. Mrs. Hattie Hogan was her first teacher and Janet finished the first and second grades in one year. The third through the eighth she took through the correspondence school from Missoula.

"Dad died in 1965 and Mom moved to Lewistown in 1967 and lived there until she died in 1982. They are buried at Lewistown, Montana."

Alex "Sonny" Weingart Jr. was born in 1927 in Lewistown. He married Norma Pospisil in 1953. They lived at the Tunnick Ranch that Alex bought in 1944 until 1988. Sonny has the H hanging W brand now that has been in the family for three generations.

Jerry Weingart was born in 1929 in Lewistown. He married Dorothy Marks in 1951. They have three children — Gerald, Judy and David. They moved to Canada in 1963 and live in the area of Williams Lake, British Columbia.

Janet Weingart was born in 1939 in Lewistown. She married Walter Jack Kiehl in 1958. They have two sons — Duane and Orren. They live in the Petrolia Bench area in Petroleum County. (See also KIEHL — Petrolia)

**WEINGART, Anthony** (Sec 18,19-19-29) In the early 1900s, Anthony "Tony" Weingart and Alexander "Sandy" Williamson worked in the Power Mercantile in Lewistown — Tony in groceries and Sandy in dry goods. They talked about going out to the "badlands" and homesteading, as many others were doing at that time, because the land around Lewistown was already taken up. Tony had a desire to raise beef cattle, so they would need range land for pasture and farm land for hay and some grain. There was an area, in rolling hills about seven miles from the Musselshell River and a like distance from Crooked Creek, that looked especially good to them. In



*Tony and Lillian "Dot" Weingart*



1913 Tony and Sandy homesteaded there, each taking 320 acres, about 45 miles north of Winnett. From that nucleus the "Swinging H" grew to control 125,000 acres. This expansion came from an abundance of ambition, some right ideas, and of course, lots of good luck.

The early years were busy with "proving up" on the homesteads. In 1914 the first herd of cattle was driven in. What was to be the headquarters of the ranch was built on Sandy's homestead at Barrel Springs. Barrel Springs was a fine spring that produced good water in good quantity and was named by the early settlers. Tony's father, Henry Weingart, who was a stonemason, rocked up the spring for them. The spring dried up in the dry 1930s and

water for the house was always a problem after that.

Tony and Lillian "Dot" Williamson, daughter of Sandy and Blanche Williamson, were married at Roy in 1918

The early years were abundant, with lots of grass and huge gardens. In 1917 Tony's horse fell with him and Tony's leg was broken, which prevented him from going off to World War I. That year Dot and Blanche dug and sacked seventy sacks of potatoes and carried them to the root cellar.

Life in those days required careful planning. They made only one trip to Lewistown for supplies of food, hardware, fabrics, garden seeds, etc. This three-day trip, with horses and wagon, took them through Giltedge. Some of the basics purchased were: 1000 lbs. of flour, 500 lbs. of sugar, coffee, boxes of fresh apples, and cases of canned fruit. Then there was the special treat — a large sack of peanuts which would be shelled and roasted through the year.

Of necessity, people in those days were self-sufficient. They raised a large garden, canned many jars of vegetables and meats, and stored the produce in root cellars. They also raised beef, pork, chickens and turkeys. They smoked the hams and bacon and made a barrel of sauerkraut in the fall. Huge blocks of ice were cut from dams or the river in winter and stored in an icehouse built in the sidehill. The ice was then covered with sawdust. When the weather warmed up, the icebox could be supplied with a block of ice each day.

About 1920 Tony was able to lease some hay ground on the Missouri River. He rode a horse and led a team down each day to put up the hay. He wintered some cows there on the hay and had artesian water for them.

In the mid 1930s, Fort Peck Dam was being built, and the Musselshell River ranches were bought up by the government before they were flooded. Tony leased some of those places annually for hay ground. Hay equipment, milk cows and supplies had to be taken down the seven miles to these river bottoms. Some years the Musselshell was quite shallow and easily crossed with horses and wagons. Other times the water was high and the supplies and machinery had to be trucked around by Winnett and Sand Springs. Cattle were wintered down there, but they had to be driven back across the river before the ice started breaking up in the spring.

Hereford cattle were Tony's dominant breed. Ahead of his time, Tony chose bulls by looking at the herd and progeny, rather than the sires themselves. Bringing cattle into the ranch and shipping cattle out were major projects. The cattle had to be trailed into Winnett and loaded onto railroad cattle cars to go to Chicago, where they were sold. During the depression years, cattle died with their mouths full of hay. It was learned that the hay lacked necessary nutrients.

A continual chore was gentling one or more of the range cows so she could be milked to provide milk for the family. It was also necessary to raise quite a few horses and train them to harness or to the saddle. Horses were

used for most of the work, such as gathering cattle, haying, feeding, etc. Tony purchased a tractor in the mid-1940s to use in the haying operation, but horses remained a vital part of the ranch operation. He purchased one of the first balers, but it required four men to operate it, and there were many mechanical problems with it. It was given a fair trial, but Tony soon went back to stacking the hay loose.

Many good ranch hands were involved in the building of the ranch over the years. There were often four or five men at a time.

There weren't any close neighbors, so it involved a full day to do any visiting. Lots of riders came by and often stopped for a meal or for a night, including salesmen and politicians.

The log cabin was expanded into an L-shaped house, with three bedrooms, living room, dining room, large kitchen and pantry. Under the kitchen was a cellar for the canned goods. The cabin was built with no nails. The daubing between the logs was a plaster made partially of bentonite, and daubing was an annual chore. The house was heated with three wood stoves.

Tony and Dot had four children — Nan, Sue, Pat and Bob. Of course, the children had to be educated. Since there was no school close to the ranch, other arrangements had to be made. Nan was sent to Wisconsin to live with Dot's aunt, so she could start school there. This didn't work out very well, so she came home in March, and Dot taught her how to read. The next year Dot and the children moved to Valentine, near the school; but this wasn't satisfactory, either. They returned to the ranch, got some home-study courses from the county superintendent, and had school at home. Later a young teacher was hired to live at the ranch and teach the girls, but she got so homesick she had to leave. Nan again went east, this time to her grandparents, Sandy and Blanche, and attended the eighth grade. She then returned home and after that, Tony rented a house in Lewistown, and Dot and the children moved to town for the school year. That house was sold, so before the 1935 school term started, they purchased a house on Hawthorne Avenue in Lewistown. The family moved between the house in Lewistown and the ranch for the rest of the time the children were in school. Had those yellow school buses been making their daily trips to the Dovetail area back in those days, my folks' lives might have been simpler.

In 1959 Tony sold the northern portion of the ranch to Wellington D. Rankin. Tony died in 1965.

Lillian continued to live in Lewistown. She was an artist and needlecrafter and made countless sweaters, coats and afghans for family and friends. She was a founder of the Montana Institute of Arts and the Lewistown Art Center. Lillian died in 1981.

Nan married Wilbur Lindstrand and they made their home in Lewistown. Sue married Leonard Mayer and lives in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Pat married Dave Hale and

although they moved many times, they ranched for twenty years in Petroleum County. (See HALE) Bob married Pat Feeler and they have the "Swinging H" brand and the southern portion of the old ranch. He and Pat have added many acres to that, and they still raise beef cattle. (See WEINGART, Robert) (Pat Hale, daughter)

**WEINGART, Charles** (Sec 28,29-20-29) Charles Weingart was a son of Henry and Catherine Weingart of the Lewistown area. In 1913 he, with his brother Alex, homesteaded in the Crooked Creek area. He returned to Lewistown in the 1920s and married Rita Simonfy in 1929 in Great Falls. They moved to Minneapolis, where Charles entered the building trade. The couple had two children — one son, Dr. Richard C. Weingart of Livermore, California; and one daughter, Eugenia Risdal, of Dallas, Texas.

Charles died in 1981 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery at Lewistown.

**WEINGART, Chris** (Sec 32-18-28) Chris Weingart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weingart, was born in 1883 at Crystal Lake, Minnesota. He came to the Dovetail area about 1915 with his brothers, Tony and Alex. He married Nell Ragland in 1924 in Lewistown, then bought the Eric Hove place in the Dovetail area. They raised a big flock of turkeys, had dairy cows and sold milk and cream. They moved to the Fred Machler place, then the Henry Goachee place, to the Thorsheim place near Valentine, and finally to the Blue Creek area near Billings.

Nell had two daughters — Mrs. William McNair, of Casper, Wyoming; and Alice Hanson of the Blue Creek area near Billings, Montana.

**WEINGART, Robert E.** (Sec 2,3-18-27) The following account was submitted by Patricia Weingart. "It is my understanding, if you live in the same community for twenty years, you are considered an 'Old Timer.' We have lived on our ranch on Dovetail Creek for thirty-seven years, and Bob grew up on his father's homestead about fourteen miles north of our place. This should qualify us as 'Old Timers,' and we have seen quite a few changes in the Dovetail community during this time.

"Bob's father homesteaded in 1913 and called his place Barrel Springs. As the years went by, he acquired more land. One of the parcels he purchased belonged to Andrew Hauge. This land was located on Dovetail Creek, about two miles southeast of the Dovetail schoolhouse. When we were married in August of 1951, we moved to the Hauge place and this became the nucleus of our ranch.

"Through the years we have acquired several homesteads and small ranches through estate sales, or when the owners wished to retire and move to town, or in land trades. Even though we have lived here for thirty-seven years and named our ranch the "Swinging H Cattle Company" when we incorporated about ten years ago, some people still call it the Hauge place.

"When we moved here the road was mainly unimproved from Winnett out. Driving from Winnett the first

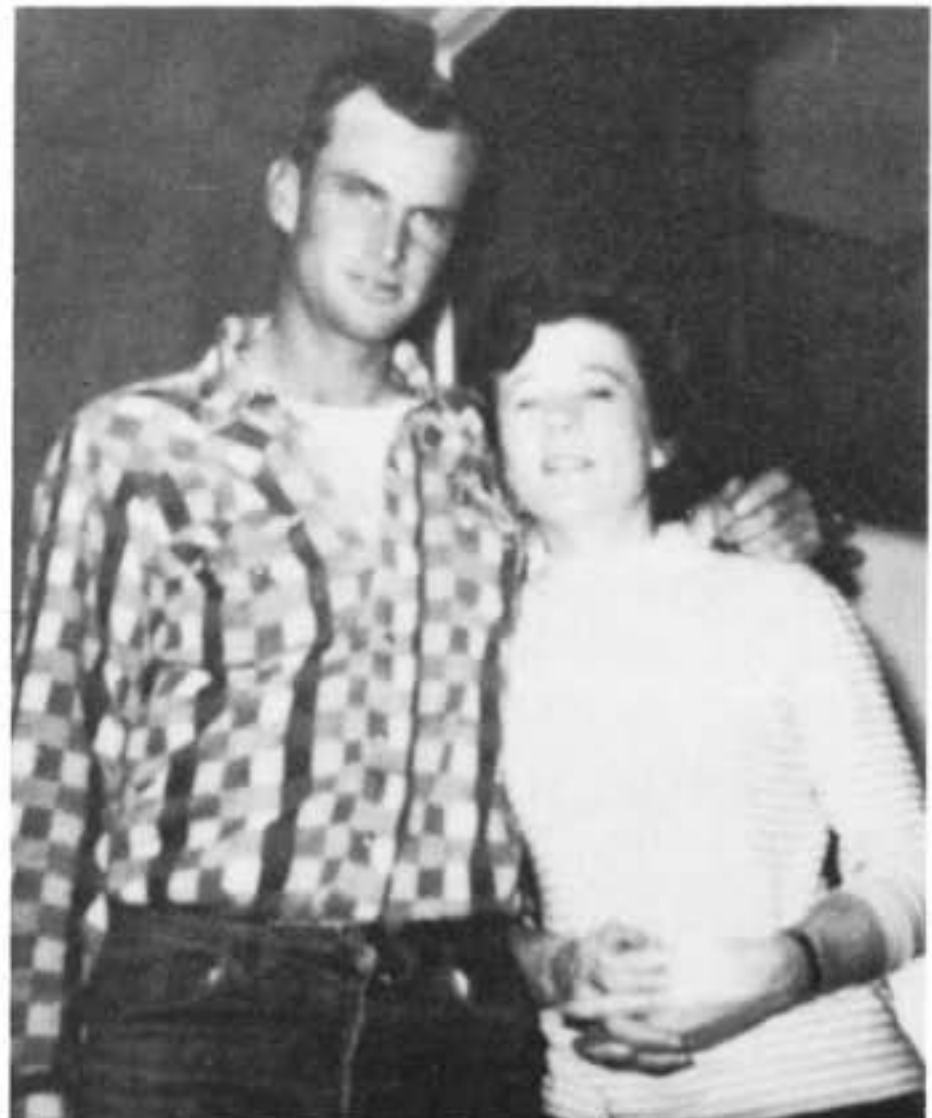
few miles were elevated and sparsely graveled. Then the road changed to a narrow country road. When it rained the road changed into a slippery, muddy mess of gumbo, and being unelevated, the snowdrifts in the winter made travel impossible. Now the roads are elevated and graveled to both Winnett and Roy.

"There has been no change in the mail route or schedule. Mail is delivered twice a week, but the improved road has made it much easier for the mail carriers to drive the route. The first mail carrier I remember drove a Model A Ford. He had evidently learned to drive when he was elderly, and probably was more sure of his driving with horses. Quite often he would get stuck or had other problems of all sorts, and would leave traces of car paint on gate posts, on dirt banks and on snowbanks all along his route. He did get the mail delivered though.

"In 1951 there was no telephone or electricity in the community. Our house was wired for electricity and power was supplied by a gasoline motor generator that seemed to always need repairs. R.E.A. came in 1954 and was indeed welcome. Mid-Rivers Telephone Co-op service followed soon, and we all felt pretty 'up town.'

"Bob and I have both served as county commissioners. Bob served from 1968 to 1974. I have served since 1975 and am now completing my fourteenth year. We have both found county government very interesting.

"Two of our three children live out of Montana. Our daughter, Sidonie, lives in Levitt, Canada, and has two children. Ki lives in Pierre, South Dakota, and has one son. K. C. and his wife, Teri, are partners in the ranch and live here.



*Bob and Pat Weingart*



"The children attended the Dovetail School until Sid was in junior high. By that time the attendance had dwindled to our three children. It was impossible to hire a good teacher who would move to an isolated area, live in a teacherage, and be able to teach all grades. We enrolled our three in the junior high and grade schools in Winnett. We rented an old house in Winnett and called it the 'Town House.' We stayed in town when weather prevented us from driving back and forth to school functions. When it got cold, we found we shared the 'Town House' with a large family of skunks that lived under the building. Needless to say, we stayed only when we had to, otherwise we drove the thirty-three miles, each day, twice a day.

"We drove to Winnett for school for three years. By then there were several little students in the Dovetail and Valentine areas ready to start school. A bus route was established and the yellow school bus took over the twice daily drives. This bus route is still in operation.

"One of the biggest changes in the Dovetail community is the decrease in population. About thirty years ago there were twenty-nine members in the Chain Buttes Grazing District. Now there are only nine. Many of the ranches were sold to neighbors or were bought by out-of-state absentee owners.

"We have always had cattle, changing from Herefords to Black Angus in the fifties. Our lowest price for calves was thirteen cents a pound, and the highest was \$1.05 per pound for calves from this area this year. For the last fifteen years we have had a cow/calf operation, keeping the calves over to yearlings. This year (1988) because of the ongoing drought we will be selling our calves too.

"The only farming we do is dry-land hay. Because of the drought and the severe grasshopper infestation the last several years, we have done very little in the way of haying. Like the homesteaders used to think 'It will be better next year,' I'm sure it will be and I guess we will stick around and see if it is."

**WELCH, Elmer** (Sec 22-19-29) Elmer and Pearl Welch had two sons: William (1910) and Vernon (1913) as listed in the District #169 school census for 1919-1920.

**WEST, Everett P.** (Sec 24-18-27) Everett P. West, son of Mary Loesch by a former marriage, was born in Park City, Montana, on September 19, 1891. His father Fred West, died at Fromberg in 1901, and is buried there.

Nellie June Moody was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in June 1893. Everett West and Nellie June Moody were married in July 1912. They moved to the Dovetail area, sometime after 1913, as homesteaders. They did some farming and had a few cows. Their homestead was near the George and Mary Loesch home, and as their children were born, the youngsters developed very close ties to their grandparents.

To get extra money for necessities, Everett worked away from home quite a bit. He did considerable work building roads for the county. He helped build many of

the roads in use in the area today. He also helped build stock dams for neighbors. All this work was done with teams of horses. He broke horses for his neighbors, both for riding and for work.

The Wests had five children — Curtis C. (1915), Ethel A. (1917), Hazel G. (1918), Altha M. (1925) and Mary A. (1927). Following are excerpts from the memories of these children. Curtis West: "When I used to stay with my grandparents, I had to help with the livestock. They had sheep and cattle. As we got older, there were other things we could do to help, like carry water, chop wood, and all the other things Grandma needed.

"Easter was a great day at Grandma's house. We could color eggs all day long, then take turns hiding them. We used to have a lot of fun at our grandparents' home, and we didn't need a lot of toys to entertain us. We made different things out of tin cans, sticks, and bottles and played with them."

Curt married June Creighton, who is deceased.

Ethel West Peters: "We didn't have a lot of things, but we always had LOVE. We had to help Mama, especially after her health began to fail. We baked all of our own bread, rolls, doughnuts and pies, and churned all our own butter. On weekends it was the job of all of us kids to take a team, wagon, saw and axe and go get a load of wood for the week. There were times when we all went to cut extra wood for winter.

"Dad broke horses to ride or drive. It was a big thrill to ride with Dad in a wagon pulled by a bronc being broken. Mama used to fret about us getting hurt, but we never did.

"On Saturday nights when we got to go to Dovetail or to Valentine for a dance, we really had fun. Everyone danced, adults and children alike. We went either by horseback or in the wagon. It was seven miles to Dovetail where we went to school.

"I will never forget those wonderful years, great times and the nice folks who lived just as we did."

Ethel married Chris Peters and now lives at Bridger. They had five children — Clifford E., Curtis C., Delores J. (deceased), Jack W., and Carol M.

Hazel West Haworth: "We got our mail at the Dovetail Post Office. One of us kids had to go after it horseback, about seven miles. We did a lot of riding because that was the only transportation at that time. Later we moved to the Bill Gomer place and then our mail came to Valentine. Sam Conolly was the mail carrier for many years."

Hazel married George E. Haworth and now lives in Kent Washington. They had six children — Barbara F., Raymond C., Patricia A., Jennifer J., Deborah J., and Margie M.

Altha West Meserve Garrison: "I was born October 2, 1925, in the bedroom of my grandparents home. Mrs. Lillian Carrell attended the birth.

"My earliest memories are when we lived on the Dan Gomer place about one mile from the Bill Gomer place. When Mr. Gomer passed away, my folks looked after his

wife. She left the place to my Dad and we lived there until my mother passed away in September of 1938. After several moves, we ended up in Lewistown and my dad worked in the mines at Hanover until his death.

"I hated town, so I went to my grandparents at Dovetail, where I stayed until I married. I loved that old place and had hoped to be able to live there again one day. The years there with my grandparents were the happiest of all my life."

Altha married George Meserve, and they had three children — Gerald W. Meserve, Ronald E. Meserve and Rella Meserve. Altha later married Edgar O. Garrison and now lives in Edwall, Washington.

Mary Alice West Crowley: "My grandparents lived in the Dovetail area until their deaths. Curtis inherited their ranch. He operated the ranch a few years and then sold it to Bob Weingart.

"After Mother's death, we moved around quite a bit. We were on the John Sinclair place, close to the Long School. Then we were in Valentine, living in the old store and residence and going to the Valentine School. We also lived for a time in the Sam Conolly house at Valentine. We moved to Lewistown in 1940."

Mary Alice married George P. Crowley and they lived in Spokane, Washington. They have three children — L. Daniel, Gail R., and Colleen V.

**WILLIAMSON, Alexander** (Sec 13-19-28) Alexander "Sandy" and Blanche Williamson, parents of Mrs. Tony Weingart, took up a homestead about 46 miles north of Winnett in 1913. On the place was a spring of good water, called Barrel Springs by the early settlers. Sandy and Tony were partners and worked together to build the nucleus of the ranch and herd that were known as the "Swinging H" Ranch.

In 1918 Sandy and Blanche returned to Ohio to manage a dry-goods store. Blanche returned frequently to help out when the Weingart children were born, and at other times when extra help was needed by the family. Both Sandy and Blanche returned to help in the mid 1930s. (Pat Hale, granddaughter) (See also WEINGART)

**WILSON, William** William and Josephine had two children — Gene (1899) and Blanch (1902) according to the 1915 school census for District #122 Fergus County.

**WRIGHT, Robert** (Sec 7,8-17-27) Robert Wright came to Montana from Missouri, where he was a judge for some years. He was a Civil War veteran and had resided in the Dovetail area for some years. He died at the Battle Mountain Sanatorium at Hot Springs, South Dakota, in 1927. He was survived by three children — Mrs. Lillian Whitsett, V. R. Wright and J. T. Wright. (W. T. 6-10-27) (See also WRIGHT — Ashley)

**YAHN, Albert** (Sec 20,29-18-27) Albert and Irene Yahn had five children — Irene (1906), Albert (1907), Helen (1909), Ethel (1910) and Vivian (1913). The children are listed in the District #169 school census from 1918 through 1921.



*Alexander and Blanche Williamson*



**YATES, James** (Sec 30-18-25) James and Mildred Yates and family came from Canada. They homesteaded on the old south Roy-Valentine road, southwest of Valentine, near the Clifford Clark homestead. The Yates had three children — Teddy, Mildred and Myrtle.

The Yates family returned to Canada after they had proved up on their homestead.