

range. He sold Ford cars, insurance, and real estate. He came to our home that morning and asked my brother-in-law, Gust, if he and I would like to ride into Winnett with him. My sister could take the Peters' car and the rest of the family into Winnett. Mr. Putman was a very tall man. When he sat in his new Model T Ford car, his knees stood up about six inches above the doors of the car. He wanted to see someone at the Lepper Ranch on Flatwillow Creek. I will never forget the ride. On the small irrigation ditches, the bridges were made of small poles about four inches thick and then they laid on larger poles across the ditches. I do not think that he ever slowed down for anything! In fact, I believe that he picked up speed to cross those ditches.

"My younger brother, Maurice, went to high school in Winnett. He worked his way through school working for Mr. and Mrs. Doherty in the Winnett Times printing office.

"We got our mail from the Flatwillow Post Office. A man named George Davis ran the store, and it was also the post office. Most of our groceries were purchased there except when we went into Winnett or Roundup.

"We hauled hay out of Winnett during the winter of 1919, as that was the closest rail point. This was done with four horses and a wagon. The snow was axle deep to a ferris wheel that winter.

"I was born at a small town named Foosland in Illinois on January 7, 1898. My wife has been dead since 1957. We have five children living: Glen Erl lives in Cut Bank, Montana; Quentin lives at Riverton, Wyoming; Carol, the younger son, lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma; one daughter, lives at Sante Fe, New Mexico; the other, at Houston, Texas."

VLASTELIC, Mike Mike and Patti Vlastelic worked for Jack Hughes, living on the old Berkin place. When they left there, they went to work for Bud Jones at the Nebraska Feeding Co. (See also VLASTELIC — Winnett)

VON LINDERN, John (Sec 1-12-26) Cecile Von Lindern submitted the following narrative: "We, John and Cecile Von Lindern, were both born and raised in Nebraska.

"In 1917 we were married in Roundup, Montana, and bought a relinquishment of Jon Jorgenson just east of Flatwillow. We had 196 acres. The four acres contained in the Flatwillow Cemetery was a part of the original 200 acres which was at first the size of the farm.

"We were blessed with some fair crops, and managed to keep the wolf from the door, but drought, hail and one year of grasshoppers and wind prevented us from making much progress. When our oldest child was ready for high school we moved to Buhl, Idaho, to be close to higher education for the children.

"We had eight children born to us in Montana, and one more after moving to Idaho, in 1931. John continued farming in Idaho until his retirement. We have three children buried in the Flatwillow Cemetery, twin girls and one son. Our other two sons are deceased. Boyd was lost in World War II in an air raid over Holland, and Warren

was killed in a train-car accident. Boyd was unmarried but Warren left two boys and one girl. I have four girls — Doris Sumner, Ruth Martens, Lois Morgan and Mona de Porter (Mona was born in Idaho). We have 13 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren.

"John passed away May 25, 1985, after an extended illness. In spite of our adversities in Montana, I will always remember and appreciate all the grand people who were our neighbors and friends. There was always a helping hand in a time of need, be it farm problems, sickness or whatever. Special thanks should be given to two ladies in our immediate neighborhood — Mrs. Henry Johnke and Mrs. Oscar Rutledge — who brought many of our babies into this world. Many times we were snowbound to the extent that no doctor could have gotten to us.

"The community hall proved to be a number-one gathering place for everyone for miles around. There were dances, etc. for the grown-ups and programs for the young.

"The spring below our place was rarely without someone filling their barrels with good sweet water. Many people were unable to procure drinkable water on their homesteads. We hauled coal from the mines at Gage, a two-day trip, and gathered wood in the rimrocks and along the creek."

The Von Lindern children were: Kenneth Boyd (1918), Orvin (1919), Doris (1921), Dean Warren (1923), Barbara and Elizabeth (1924), Ruth (1925), Lois (1928) and Mona (1931).

Doris Von Lindern submitted the following memories: "In February of 1917, John Von Lindern moved from Bruning, Nebraska, to his property at Flatwillow, Montana, traveling by railroad to Musselshell, Montana. He brought three cows, two horses, two mules, two hayracks, farm machinery and household goods all loaded on a rail car. When arriving at Musselshell, he, and several others who came from Nebraska with him, loaded their farm machinery and household goods on their hayracks and continued their journey to Flatwillow through snow and blizzards, driving the cattle and horses ahead.

"On April 4, 1917, Cecile Leona Crawford, from Strang, Nebraska, arrived and became the bride of John Von Lindern. They were married in Roundup. The Von Lindern home was a one-room house located one mile east of Flatwillow. It was 'built on to' in 1918, making it a three-room house with a front and back porch. A small cave-cellar was under a portion of the house for storing food stuff. The house stood on the edge of the hill with a well just below the hill to furnish water for the household and livestock. A straw shed was located near the well. It was used for a shelter for the cattle until the barn was built near the house on the hill.

"Flatwillow at this time consisted of a store which housed the post office. It furnished the community with a center of communication, with its 'pot-bellied' stove in

the center. It served us well, furnishing life's essentials such as groceries, drugs, dry goods, etc. The store was the shipping center for cream and eggs. The weekly newspaper was available through the store.

"A one-room schoolhouse was located across the road from the store. All eight grades were taught by one teacher in the one room. The schoolhouse had a large heating stove, a small library, a coatroom and a beautiful bell tower. Water was carried by the bucket, and we all drank from one dipper. There was a one-room teacher's shack, a barn for the horses, and two outside toilets on the grounds.

"I remember my desk, my first grade teacher, the blackboard and also the sweeping compound that was used to hold down the dust when we swept the floor. I remember the odors of the school — the books, the chalk, the odor of sage that clung to our clothing after we had played tag on the grounds at recess, and, in the winter, the odor of our lunches warming up by the stove in tin cans.

"My brother started school under Mr. Fred Grodeon and I started under Miss Lemmon, with the second and third grades under Mrs. Sterrett. The schoolhouse was used for school board meetings and presidential elections, as well as social events until the community hall was built.

"The cemetery tells a lot of the history of the community. I have a brother and twin sisters buried there. Funerals were sometimes officiated over by ministers from Winnett or Roundup, but many times by the immediate family who lovingly laid their loved ones to rest.

"The Community Hall was built by the community for gatherings and social events for the community. There were Saturday night dances which drew crowds from surrounding towns with the proceeds going to support the building. My parents helped on these projects. We would open the hall early Saturday evening, start the light plant, fire up the furnace (if it was winter) and always fire up the big stove in the kitchen area and carry water to fill the copper boiler for coffee. Then my mother would start preparing the lunch that was to be served at midnight. It was sandwiches, pickles, potato salad, cookies or cake and all the coffee you could drink. My job was to stand on a box (so I could see above the serving bar) and serve the pickles or cookies to the people as they filed through the lunch line. The little children slept on quilts, laid on the shelves in the serving bar.

"We had a little theatre group that put on some plays (all with local talent) and the proceeds went to support the hall. There were volleyball teams, and school Christmas plays, and parties held there. A tree would be cut from the rimrock and decorated with real wax candles, and they were lit! Memorial Day potluck was held in the basement of the hall with everyone bringing their hoe, rake and shovel, and after lunch we all walked up to the cemetery to groom the grounds together. We had no community doctor, but were blessed with two

'special nurses,' Mrs. Alice Rutledge and Mrs. Theresa Johnke. They were kept busy with the medical problems of the area. Some mothers went to Roundup to the hospital to deliver their babies, but many delivered at home assisted by the gentle hands of these special ladies.

"My parents farmed 196 acres plus 200 acres rented land, and raised wheat, oats and seed corn. It was dry land farming and many years we had so little rain, the crops were short. The cattle and horses were put on open range in the hogback to graze. Then in the fall of the year, they were rounded up and brought back to the farms for branding and shipping.

"The wildlife in our area was abundant and beautiful to see — whitetail deer, antelope, skunk, porcupine, ground chuck, prairie dog, and cottontail rabbit. The deer and the rabbit was a source of food for many of the settlers."

WACKER, Gus Gus and his wife, Florence Barperiger Wacker, worked for Nebraska Feeding Company. They had one daughter, Marlene (1947).

WADE, Joseph (Sec 20-12-26) (Land to Lambert-FLB-USA) Joseph Wade homesteaded in the Wallview area in about 1910. Before he was married he used to provide board and room for the male schoolteachers who were teaching in the Wallview School. Fred Grodeon and Harry Tripp were among them. Hazel Richardson Gamel tells in "Memories of Yesteryears":

"One time Joe Wade borrowed the Richardsons' new platform spring buggy, and was going to go into Roundup the next day. It was nearly dark when he hooked up. He had hooked his new team of black horses to the buggy and had laid the lines down and walked to the back of the buggy for something. The horses decided to take off, and take off they did. They made it out of the gate without trouble, turned to the east, went a quarter of a mile, then turned the corner and went north.

"This road was very steep and hilly. Standing in the gathering dark you could hear them running. Joe cut across the pasture and hills to get to them as soon as he could. In their minds, Richardsons could see their new platform spring buggy being torn all to pieces. Well, the buggy had a steel tongue but the breast yoke came loose, letting the tongue drop to the ground. The tongue ran into the ground and bent into a loop. That seemed to be the worst damage done, and it stopped the horses."

Joe married Jennie Lambert and they had two children while living in Flatwillow: Bert (1917) and Esther (1921). In 1926 they sold to the Lamberts and moved to Billings where Joe returned to his profession as a barber. The land is now grazing district.

WALKER, Delbert (Sec 14-12-25) Delbert, son of Ed and Ida Walker, was born in 1889 in Garland, Kansas. He married Christine McCartney, and they had one son, Ron Delbert, who is a Baptist minister in Palisades, Colorado. Delbert was mentioned quite often in the local news of the Winnett Times, and it usually was because he had built someone a radio.



Rolla Carter and son Jim, Dick Thum, Frank Emick, Del Walker, Ed Walker, Jake Thum

Nina, Del's sister, remembers: "We had the first radio in the country. My brother Del made it and it was called a crystal set. You had to wear headphones to hear, and only two people could listen at the same time. There was a lot of advertising and several good programs. One of our favorites was 'Ma Perkins.' The neighbors would come in the winter and listen."

Nina also remembers: "Mother and I came by train and arrived, after a long ride, on Saturday the first day of May 1913. Homesteaders were coming in so fast that there was quite a community built up. My dad had found a job for me, so on Monday morning I went to work at the grocery store and post office in Flatwillow."

"My boss was a man by the name of George Davis. The stage came in with the mail three times a week. I worked in the post office on those days and in the store the rest of the week. The Davises lived just across the street from the store. I would go over and clean their house when it wasn't busy at the store . . ."

"The Saturday following my arrival, there was a dance. The Davises said, 'Oh, you must go to the dance and get acquainted'; I went and during the evening I met a young man by the name of Rolla Carter. He had been driving stagecoach in Yellowstone Park for four years. His father had written him from Missouri, and told him that one of their neighbors was locating people on homesteads in the Flatwillow area, and why didn't he check into it. He came to Flatwillow in 1909. It certainly wasn't love at first sight, though, for we did not do any dating for six months or so."

"I had not intended to file on a homestead, but everyone said that I should, so one day I boarded the stage for the trip to Winnett where you had to go to do the filing. The driver's name was Herb Clayton, and he knew that country like a book. There was a little creek on the way called Elk Creek. It usually ran very little water."

"When we got to the creek this day, however, there had been a hard rain up above and the creek was really swollen. Herb looked the situation over and finally said he was sure he could make it across. He took the mail out of the back and stacked it up front and then set me on top of the mail. He stood in front of me and told me to hang

on to him and not to be afraid. He didn't really need to tell me either one — I was hanging on for dear life, and I was terrified! Into the swift running water we went — the horses were swimming with the current. The water sloshed around our feet but didn't come in any further. Finally the team pulled out of the water on to dry ground on the other side. What a relief!

"Many years later, when we just walked off and left the homestead (like so many did), I had to remark, 'I had to swim Elk Creek to get my homestead, and here I am walking off and leaving it!' My homestead was across the road, to the south, from the Flatwillow Hall. I married Rolla Carter and had three children — Roberta Jacque (1916), Zella Louise (1918) and James Fairman (1927)."



Ida and Ed Walker

WALKER, James Edward (Sec 11-12-25) Ed Walker was born in the year 1858 in Vandalia, Illinois. He and his wife, Ida Emerick Walker, moved to Flatwillow with son Delbert in 1912. After proving his homestead, Ed and his wife worked on many of the big ranches up and down Flatwillow Creek. Ed worked as a ranch hand and Ida was the cook. Ida also cooked for oil drillers' camps. They moved into Roundup, Montana, and ran a boarding house.

WALKER, John H. (Sec 6-13-26) **WALKER, Minerva J.** (Sec 35-14-25) John and Minerva Walker each took out homesteads north of present day Yellow Water Dam. They had come to Central Montana from Mound City, Missouri, in 1910. They spent several years on Beaver Creek, west of Lewistown, where Minerva Walker's sister, Mrs. Annie Tyson, and her husband had a home. The Tysons also acquired land in the Yellow Water area.

The Walkers built a three-room house (with plastered walls!) on John's homestead property, and the family lived there for seven years. Madalyn, their only child, attended school in a newly built school known on the of-

ficial records as the Yellow Water School but sometimes referred to as the Teich School, because it was so close to the Teich house. Madalyn remembers the school was so new it was not equipped — no desks, no furniture, no books. The first day of school the teacher, Isabelle "Belle" Davis, outlined the alphabet on the floor and the children practiced tracing their ABC's on the floor with navy beans.

Madalyn also recalls a near tragedy which happened when she was in about the third grade. She was riding home after school on her horse, accompanied by her teacher, Joe Langshausen. There had been a spring chinook, and they came to a coulee where the water was running over the road. The road was newly graded and very slippery. Madalyn's horse fell, throwing her into the rushing water. She was wearing a long riding skirt and a heavy coat. The water washed her down the coulee to a fence where Mr. Langshausen was able to rescue her.

Madalyn attended one summer session of school at a school held in an abandoned shack just north of Elk Creek, not far from the Percy Story property. The teacher boarded with the Storys and walked to school. Madalyn rode her horse over the Yellow Water hills and forded Elk Creek. When the water was high, however, she had to ride an extra couple of miles in order to cross the creek on a bridge near the Roy Matson place.

After the disastrous drought of 1919, with the hard winter following, the Walkers moved to Winnett, where John was employed by Earl Wallace in his dray business. Oil was discovered in Cat Creek in 1920, and soon John found work as a pumper in the oil field for Continental Oil Company. Mrs. Walker continued to live in Winnett until Madalyn graduated from high school in 1925. Then she moved to Cat Creek where the Walkers lived until retirement.

John died in 1931 and Minerva in 1965.

After graduation, Madalyn moved to Great Falls, Montana, where she attended business college. She became a medical secretary. She married and had one son, John. Madalyn is past president of the Wesleyan Service Guild, has been secretary of the Rebekah Lodge, and is still active in the Methodist Church. Though widowed from her second husband, she continues to make her home in Great Falls.

WALSH, Florence (Sec 3-13-27) (Land to Roe)

WARNER, Mildred Mildred Warner taught the Walker School near Yellow Water in 1925-26, and from September to the end of March the following year. Dorothy Lancelle recalls staying with her when a skunk came in the house. Mildred or "Bill," as she was nicknamed, shot the skunk and the smell was unbearable!

WEAVER, Amos (Sec 15-12-26) (Land to Trask)

WELLER, Mark As equipment foreman for First Continental Corporation, Mark was transferred from the farm in South Dakota to the Flatwillow farm in 1988. He was born in Lewistown, Montana, in 1958, and received his

education there. He married Jody Weidiger, a native of Billings, in 1985. They live in the original town of Flatwillow.

WESLYN, Mike (Sec 32-12-25) (Land to Lesnick)

WEST, Albert (Sec 10-13-27) (Land to Miller)

WIGGINS, Ella (Sec 33-13-27) Ella Wiggins homesteaded near her son, William, at Flatwillow. She was a midwife and delivered most of Bill and Alma Wiggins' children, as well as attending other women. She ran a nursing home in Winnett for a time. (See also GROSBOLL — Petrolia)

WIGGINS, Stanley Stanley is the son of William and Alma Wiggins. He grew up and was educated in the Flatwillow community and graduated from Winnett High School in 1938.

With the exception of the time Stanley spent in the service in World War II where he served on the USS *South Dakota*, Stanley has spent his entire life on the family ranch. He helped his father build from a homestead to a compact efficient family unit. He served several terms as a county commissioner and has maintained the U. S. Weather Station as his father did before him. He helped his parents build their nice new home.

Stanley was married to Shirley Jeanette Barker in 1951 in Hardin, Montana. Margaret Miller was matron of honor and Rudy Glatz was best man at their wedding. Shirley came to Winnett from Missouri in 1950 and gave private music lessons. She also assisted with the public school's music program and physical education program. Shirley has remained active in many school activities.

Stanley and Shirley have four boys: Jody Barker (1948), Shirley's son by a previous marriage, adopted by Stanley in 1951; Shayne (1952); Marcus (1957) and Brian (1960).

Jody Lynn Wiggins was born in 1948. He received his primary education at the Flatwillow School and high school at Winnett. He married Roberta Kober in 1972, and they have two children — Rachael (1974) and Audrey Jean (1976). Jody has worked as a miner in various locations for the past 20 years.

Shayne Edward Wiggins was born in 1952, and attended Flatwillow and Winnett Schools. He entered the Air Force upon graduation from high school, and served four years. Part of his service was in Guam. While in service (1973) he married Angie Candler and they have one son, Kevin James (1976). Shayne attended a vocational training school in Kansas City, Missouri, taking mechanics. In 1975 Shayne and family moved back to the ranch. Later he and Angie were divorced, and she joined the Air Force. Shayne has remained on the ranch working with his father, Stanley.

Marcus Kevin Wiggins was born in 1957 and attended Flatwillow School until it closed, then finished his education in Winnett. He took vocational training in Billings and became a welder and mechanic. He married Glenda Dutton in 1980, and they have two children: Kerry Lee (1980) and Erin Rene' (1983). Following their divorce,

Mark worked in Billings for several years. He returned to the ranch in the spring of 1988.

Brian James Wiggins was born in 1960 and educated in Winnett. He attended vo tech school and became a diesel mechanic. He has been employed in Rock Springs, Wyoming, for several years. In 1988 he married Veronica Hafner.

WIGGINS, Volney (Sec 4-12-27) Volney Wiggins was born in Buffalo, New York, in 1848. He married Ella DeLong in Genoa, Nebraska, and they had six children — William C., Martin, Wealthy (Mrs. William Skaggs), Bernice (Mrs. Walter Brahs), Edward W. and Max.

Volney worked for 15 years for the U. S. Indian Service. During that time he visited nearly every Indian Reservation in the United States. In 1911 he moved to Montana and made his home with his son, William (Bill), a Flatwillow homesteader. He died in 1926 and is buried in the Flatwillow Cemetery.

WIGGINS, William (Sec 33-13-27) Bill was born in 1887 in Genoa, Nebraska. He was educated at the Lincoln Business College in Lincoln, Nebraska. The following is an account of his life taken from the Winnett Times: "I arrived in Lewistown about April 1, 1910. The month was cold and backward and after two weeks of that, I thought I had enough of Montana and decided to return east.

"Fate must have intervened, because my landlady failed to call me in time to catch the train, and committed the error twice! The second day I overheard three men talking about Nebraska. I made their acquaintance and decided to homestead with them. These young men were Harry and Swan Munson and their brother-in-law, Tom Oliver, all fine, vigorous men.



Bill and Alma Wiggins' wedding picture (1918)

"A locator, Arthur Collins, took us by rail from Lewistown to Roundup, and thence by livery rig to the Shaw Ranch on Flatwillow Creek. Incidentally, there was nothing but open country between these points.

"Mr. Collins tried to locate us in the Pike Creek hills without success, then took us to Flatwillow Crossing where Frank Millsap showed us our future homesteads. Returning to Lewistown, we filed on homesteads and so-called desert claims April 17, 1910.

"Our shacks and buildings were rather primitive and required a rather rugged physique to stand the strain of winter storms that managed to seep through the batts and tar paper covering.

"Our first crops were a good yield and had excellent quality. They filled us with high hopes of a glorious future. There is a big difference in farming clean virgin soil and competing with Russian thistles, fanweed, sunflower, cockle and cheat grass."

Alma Hansen was born at Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, in 1893. She came to America before her seventeenth birthday to visit her brothers, Ernest, Herman, Pete and Emil. She took a homestead when she was 21. Her place was about six miles south of Ernest's ranch. She cooked for her brothers, and they worked her land.

Alma and Bill met at a dance in a home, and after several months of courting, they were married at the Weede home in Lewistown in January 1918. In Germany, Alma had taken voice and piano lessons, and she could always be counted on to help entertain on any occasion. She loved to entertain and was an excellent cook, so there were many parties held at their home. After Bill's death, Alma made several trips to Germany to visit family and friends.

The Wiggins had four children: William (1919), Stanley (1920), Margaret (1924) and Tommy (1933). William died in 1930 of polio. Tommy was killed in a car wreck in 1939



Alma Hansen at about 16, before she came to the United States and married Bill Wiggins



W. C. Wiggins family: Billy, Alma holding Margaret, Bill and Stanley — in about 1925. (Below) Son Tommy Wiggins in 1935



at the age of six. Margaret went to Upper Flatwillow grade school and Winnett High School. She took a business course in Billings and went to work there. She married Walter Miller and they made their home on a ranch near Lodge Grass, Montana. They had two sons: Paul (1949) and Wade (1951). Walter was killed in a car wreck in 1973. She is presently married to Walter Torske and lives in Hardin, Montana.

Stanley continues to reside on the Flatwillow ranch and is written up in a separate article.

William C. Wiggins served several terms as a county commissioner and ran the U. S. Weather Station starting in 1912. He died in 1961 and his ashes were scattered on the ranch.

WILCOX, Seth (Sec 26-12-26) (Land to Wilcox-Mittlestedt-Johnson-Pet. Co.-USA) Wynona McCollum Wilcox wrote the following account: "Seth and Martha Wilcox and their children, Dwight Harold (1901), Leonard Marston (1903) and Leone F. (1906) came to Fergus County, Montana, in 1913 and took a homestead.

"In the spring of 1931, I started going with Dwight H. Wilcox. He was from a neighborhood about eight miles south and west of Flatwillow. I knew his sister, Leone, and brother, Leonard, and his mother. Dwight had been out

on his own working in Nevada, Mexico, California and Idaho. He came back to the homestead when his brother Leonard wanted to leave. We were married January 1, 1932, and rented the Porter Hays place. Porter Hays had bought the Herman Bott place on Flatwillow Creek to raise hay, after Mr. Bott's death.

"We had a flock of nice sheep and a few cattle. The first year I had a beautiful garden and young chickens. Then a plague of army webworms came through and covered everything, eating as they went. I put some poison on the garden — this proved to be a mistake — the worms ate the poison — the chickens ate the worms — the chickens died. Dwight was away helping Porter hay, and I was alone with our small son, Jimmy.

"Next the sandstorms came, cutting off the young wheat and piling weeds and sand on all fence rows. To get some money, Dwight did road work for the county. He ran the grader, and Paul Hays drove the Caterpillar. Paul was Porter's nephew. The next year the grasshoppers cleaned us out.

"In 1933 we sold what we could and bought a small house in Winnett. We had to do a lot of work on it before moving in. Dwight sold a team of horses for enough to buy our first electric washer, a new copper boiler and an electric iron.

"Dwight worked in the assessor's office. The next election he ran for the office and lost.

"My brother Glen stayed with us to start high school. We had another baby son, Robert Paul, October 27, 1934. Dwight drove a cattle truck for a rancher east of town, and took a load of cattle to Omaha and brought back a load of baled hay. He took a side trip to see his mother in Storm Lake, Iowa.

"Our baby daughter was born January 14, 1937. All three children were born in Roundup, Montana. I stayed at Mrs. Crowell's home, as did other new mothers. In March of 1937, Dwight and my brother George went to Idaho looking for work. They went to the Woodland area and looked up the Pope Adams' and Bill Myers' families. Both families had left the Flatwillow area earlier. Dwight and George didn't get work until May. They worked a month at the Tromel Logging Company at Pierce. They earned enough for George to drive back to Winnett.

"I traded our home for a truck and we loaded what we could on it. George drove the truck and had sister, Verna, and our son, Jim, with him. Brother Lloyd drove the Dodge coupe with me, son Paul, and daughter Mary Jane. We arrived at Lewiston, Idaho, June 8, 1937, to begin a new venture. The boys worked all summer to earn enough to go back to Winnett in late August to move the rest of the McCollum family to Idaho."

WILCOX, Thomas Thomas and Anna Wilcox came to Montana from Mound City, Missouri, with two of their three children — Rebecca (1888) and Arthur (1893). The Wilcoxes homesteaded near present-day Yellow Water Dam on property close to the Kindschy and Rowley ranches. They struggled on their homestead for several

years and then moved to Lewistown, Montana. Thomas died September 11, 1924, and Elizabeth continued to live in their home in Lewistown. In later years she lived with her son, Art, on Upper Beaver Creek. She died in 1938.

The children, Arthur and Rebecca, also took out homesteads near Yellow Water Dam. Rebecca's land included the two lone buttes often referred to as "Becky's Buttes." Rebecca moved to Lewistown before her parents did and worked in that area until she married Louis Dieziger. Louie was a Swiss emigrant who freighted into Central Montana during the 1890s. He was freighting from Fort Benton to Cottonwood town when the railroad came into Lewistown in 1903. Louis and Rebecca lived in Glengarry for thirty years. They had two children, Pauline and James.

Arthur's homestead joined Rebecca's. He married Anna Friedalena Jenni, who had homesteaded nearby. They had four children. After they left the homestead, Arthur and Anna were divorced. Arthur worked on ranches, the cement plant and eventually bought the Danyothy ranch on Upper Beaver Creek. He was killed in a farm accident on August 30, 1963.

WILKINSON, Harry (Sec 17-12-26) (Land to Redd) Evelyn and Leone Wilkinson contributed the following memories: "My parents, Harry and Tillie Wilkinson, came to Flatwillow in 1914, and settled in the Lone Prairie area. I had two brothers and three sisters, all born in what is now Petroleum County.

"We rode horseback three miles to school at the Lone Prairie School for several years. We walked after they put a school about 1¼ miles away. In the winter my father took us by team and wagon or sled, if the old car wouldn't start. We went to church at Wallview, about five miles south of our homestead. There was a steep hill, and lots of times, I remember, my dad had to back the old Model T up the hill.

"My father had one of the first horse-drawn combines which he used for many years. Then he used a binder and had a threshing machine come around. All the neighbors gathered to help, and the women came and fixed big dinners for all the men.

"We all went to the Flatwillow Community Hall for dances, rodeos, Christmas programs, funerals and



Wilkinson family: Harry, son Clare, Tillie (Front row) Robert, Evelyn, Anne and Lola

potluck dinners. Our nearest neighbors were the Vern Porter, Tom Berkin, Ed Lambert and Harley Pollock families.

"We all had outdoor 'plumbing', carried water from wells, and heated water on wood and coal stoves for bathing and washing clothes. Our drinking water had to be hauled from a spring near Flatwillow, as the well water was not good to drink.

"My father raised wheat and corn. He hauled the wheat to Winnett in a wagon with horses. It seems like a hard way to live, but when we were growing up, we seemed to be happy — had lots of good times and friendly neighbors always willing to lend a hand. I remember well the grasshoppers and the dust storms, and one year in the 1930s, the army webworms. In 1936, we moved down the hill into the Berkin house."

Wilkinsons moved to Fairfield in 1938, as a part of the resettlement program of the Bureau of Reclamation. Children of Harry and Tillie were: Clare (1915), Arval (1917), Evelyn (1919), Anna (1921), Robert (1924), Lola (1926), Leone (1930).

WILLIAMS, John and Evan (Sec 29-13-27) John Williams and his grown son, Evan, came from Iowa in about 1912. Evan was a coach and later went back to Drake University as a coach. He played on the Flatwillow baseball team. In 1928 they had a sale and returned to Iowa. They sold their places to Harry Tripp.

WILLIT, John (Sec 12-12-27) (Land to Koos-Pet. Co.-USA)

WILSON, Albert (Sec 32-12-25) (Land to Britton-Weslyn-USA)

WILSON, George (Sec 15-12-26) George, a son of Jim Wilson, was born at Billings on July 26, 1902. He graduated from Billings High School and went on to Denver Law School, where he attained a degree in law. He returned to the Flatwillow ranch and lived at the headquarters. He married Doris Lemmon, a local school teacher, in 1928 at Roundup, Montana. They had one child, a daughter Jerra Lee, born in 1930.

George was a partner of his father on the ranch until Jim's death in 1938. He then took over control of the place and continued in the sheep business. George didn't seem to have his father's temperament and wasn't very active in the community. At one time he was arrested for attempted manslaughter. However, the charges were dropped and the case never went to court.

George died suddenly of heart failure in 1945. His estranged wife, Doris, was named administrator and she petitioned the court to sell the ranch so the estate could be divided. It was sold to Nebraska Feeding Company in 1946.

WILSON, James (Sec 15-12-26) James Wilson was born at Huntly, Scotland, in 1867. He married Christina Perrie in 1895. In 1896 they purchased some land from David Perrie and moved to Flatwillow. They had three children: James Jr. (1897), Ethel (1899) and George



Lambing at Wilsons: (Left to right) Frank Millsap, Jim Wilson, Bill Coburn, Ole Berven, Tom Oliver and George Davis

(1902).

The Wilsons purchased a home in Billings in 1904, and moved there so their children could go to school. Their home was always in Billings, with them coming to the ranch for short stays in the summer. Although they didn't live in the community, they always supported its activities.

According to the *Polk Directory* (1904-05), James Wilson owned 480 acres of land and ran sheep. The 1908-09 directory lists him as owning 640 acres of land. In 1922 he purchased the Sherman Ranch. It included most of the Flatwillow town site and about two sections of land north of Flatwillow on the creek. The ranch has second water rights on the creek, filed by Fred Lawrence.

The headquarters are located about two miles up the creek from the town of Flatwillow. The large house could be made into a duplex, one side for the manager, and the other for the cook. There was a large kitchen with a bedroom and a large pantry to the west; a long dining room was to the east, with two bedrooms off of it. The other half had a large living room, one bedroom, a kitchen and bath. There were two large porches.

The Wilsons employed large crews for lambing, shearing, haying and fencing. There were also several sheepherders and one full time camp tender. One year they sold 10,000 lambs. There was a large sheep shed, icehouse, shop, horse barn, bunkhouse and William Wilson's home.

One time when Hallie Tripp was on her way to the store, Jim Wilson came out and stopped her. He explained to her that one of his sheepherders had passed away, and that he felt it only proper to do "the Christian thing," and give him a service. He prevailed upon her to come and do what she could. She obliged by playing hymns and saying the "Lord's Prayer." Though she played for many funerals and gave other services, she never forgot that funeral — there was a pine box, no flowers, two mourners, and no one knew the man's full name or where he had come from.

Jim died of pneumonia in 1938 in a Billings hospital. While he was in the hospital, his wife, Christina, fell on

their back steps and broke her leg, so she was also in the hospital.

WILSON, James Jr. James, son of James and Christina Wilson, was born in Billings in 1897. He graduated from Billings High School. He spent a great deal of his time on the Flatwillow ranch. In 1922 he married Eva Ellis at Denver, Colorado. She was the sister of Roy Ellis, who was a homesteader in the Howard Coulee area. They made their home in Billings until 1927 when they moved into the old Sherman house in the town of Flatwillow. In 1936 they moved to a ranch near Beehive, Montana.

James Jr. died of cancer in 1939, and Mrs. Jimmie Wilson moved back to Flatwillow for a few years before going to California. There were no children from this marriage. Everyone called the house at Flatwillow, "Mrs. Jimmie's house." They had piped water to the house from the big spring on the Wintermute place. There was a faucet in the yard that provided the only tap water many children were to see for many years. It was quite easy for parents to persuade their children to go to "Mrs. Jimmie's" when water was needed at the school or hall.

WILSON, William (Willam) William was born in Huntly, Scotland, and married his wife, Margaret, there in 1898. He came to Flatwillow to his brother Jim's place in about 1918. There is no record of him owning land, but he was a partner in the Wilson sheep business for many years. His family lived in Billings, but William spent most of his time on the ranch.

Upon the death of his nephew James Jr., William and his wife moved to the Beehive place. They remained there until Margaret's death in 1941. William then moved back to Flatwillow where he stayed until the ranch sold. At the time of his death in 1950, he was living with his son, James, in Shepherd, Montana. Other children of this marriage were: William (1900), Anna (1902), Alexander (1905), Gordon (1908) and Margaret (1913).

WINDSOR, William Gordon (Sec 18-12-27) (Land to Sharkey) Gordon and wife, Claire, settled near Flatwillow in 1913. They had one son, Richard. They left Flatwillow, and Gordon became a contractor in Billings and Lewistown. Their company built the Milwaukee depot, Bank Electric Building, telephone building, and the Odd Fellows Hall in Lewistown, Montana.

The Windsors were unlucky enough to arrive in London just a few days before a war was declared in 1939. They were unable to secure passage back to the United States for two weeks. During this time, they were issued gas masks which were to be carried at all times. They finally secured passage on an American merchant ship that took ten days through submarine-infested water to reach the United States.

WINTERMUTE, Winnie (Sec 1-12-26) (Bought from Carter and sold to Redd)

WIPF, David and Katherina (Sec 5-12-27) (Land to McCollum)

WISE, Oliver Wendell (Sec 20-13-25) (Land to Korslund-USA) Oliver Wise, the son of Henry and Linnie Wise, was born in Sedalia, Missouri, in 1894. The family came to Grassrange in 1898, where Mr. Wise worked on the George Kinnick Ranch. Later, the Wises moved to the head of a tributary of Yellow Water Creek, where Oliver grew up. He attended school in Grassrange and Helena Business College. He married Elizabeth Powell of Lewistown, and they worked on various ranches in the Grassrange and Winnett areas.

In 1951 they operated the Stroup and Hegarty property which Pete Tunnicliff had purchased. These properties were located below Yellow Water Dam.

The Wises also operated cafes in Grassrange and Winnett for a time. Poor health forced them to retire to Lewistown. Oliver died in 1957, leaving two sons — James of Whitehall, Montana; and Robert of Tacoma, Washington.

WISER, Frank Emil (Sec 25-13-25) Frank Emil Wiser was killed in action while fighting with American forces in World War I. He had immigrated to the United States from Switzerland and had never married. His estate passed to his father who had died in Switzerland. It then passed to his mother, who couldn't pay the taxes. She asked the county to sell the property and send the money to her in Switzerland.

WITTE, Thomas (Sec 6,7-12-25) (Land to USA)

WOOD, Buck Buck, son of Charles and Sylvia Gunter Wood, was born in 1938. He became manager of the Fraser place in 1986. Buck served in the Vietnam conflict, where he attained the rank of captain in the Marines. He has served as cow boss for Carbon Acres Ranch at Columbus, was on the police force in Laurel, and is a farm and ranch real estate broker. He has two sons: John (1959) and Brad (1960). In 1988 he married Ellen Phipps, daughter of Ambrose and Annette Carrell. Ellen has three children: Michael (1962), Rene (1963) and Cole (1965).

WOOD, Ralph John (Sec 12-12-26) John and Pearl Wood bought the Fred Hansen and the Mohar Drobuich places. The school censuses of 1909 and 1912 show three children — Myrtle (1909), Hazel (1910) and Edna (1912).

WOODWORTH, Tom Tom and his wife lived on the Canfield property below Yellow Water Dam in 1948 and 1949. With a new tractor, they reworked the alfalfa meadow and reported a good seed crop. They also raised 900 baby chickens.

WRIGHT, George (Sec 19-12-25) The *Lewistown Democrat News* printed the following account of George Wright: "George Franklin Wright was born in Brownsville, Pennsylvania, April 18, 1865. In 1882 when but a youth of 17, he came west and for several years was located in the Utica, Montana, area. He worked for a large cattle outfit and with famed cowboys of those days, such as the late Charles Russell, noted cowboy artist.

"Later, he started large-scale ranching operations of his own — first on McDonald Creek, next in the Forestgrove

section, and then on Flatwillow Creek where he purchased the former Jim Willowdale Ranch. For many years the George Wright Ranch was one of the largest and most successfully operated outfits in this part of Montana. In 1919 he sold the operation to Cyril and Mary Wibaux.

"George was married in May, 1893, in old Philbrook (near Hobson), to Ruth M. Fisher. They had two children, Gladys and Lois. In 1908 Mr. Wright moved with his family to Lewistown, and in 1918 he was elected county commissioner.

"George Wright's quiet, reserved nature, and his great love of the outdoors was exemplified in his lifelong hobby of fishing and hunting. 'His loyalty to wife, family and friends, were three outstanding characteristics that made him beloved and respected by all,' said the Rev. George Hurst, in addressing the large throng which turned out February 22, 1939, to pay their last tributes of love and respect to this man."

WYNHOFF, Frank (Sec 28-12-26) (Land to USA)

WYNHOFF, Leo (Sec 17-12-26) (Land to Pet. Co.-McEneaney-Melby-Hughes)

WYNHOFF, Theodore (Sec 21-12-26) (Land to Wynhoff-Trask-Melby-Hughes) The following was submitted by Meryle Wynhoff: "Theodore and Rose Wynhoff, and Theodore's brothers, Frank and Leo, came to settle in Fergus County, Montana, in 1912 or 1913. My father (Theodore) was married, but Leo and Frank weren't. My father's cousin lived across the rimrocks from us (Elsie and Gus Hoppe). All three brothers farmed together. Frank and Leo had a bunkhouse but ate many of their meals with us. Uncle Frank was in the Army in World War I and Leo may have been also. They left Montana before we did.

"Wheat was the main crop raised, but we also had horses, cattle, pigs, chickens and sheep. I remember the granary where we sometimes played and ate raw wheat. There was a windmill by the creek and a barrel sunk into the creek for drinking water. My little brother fell into the barrel once, headfirst, and my older brother had to pull him out. On that side of the creek, there was also a barn and other sheds and pens. A section of the shed was for our Ford car. Our first car was an eastern car, which was pretty fancy for its day. It was yellow and had a jump seat between the front and back seat. (An Elcar, I think).

"Our four-room log house sat back across the creek from the other farm buildings. A large sandstone made the step by the front door, and on the sunny side of the house was the door to the kitchen. In the winter, we banked dirt up two or three feet deep to insulate the large logs of the house. A huge kitchen wood stove must have heated the whole house. I can't remember a heater in the living room. Two of us children could stand on the large oven door at one time to dress.

"My mother baked all of our bread in that oven, with good Montana hard wheat. Besides four small children, sometimes a hired man, and my uncles, there were harvesters to cook for. From the kitchen there was a long

pantry across the back of the house. On the opposite side of the kitchen range, a door to a bedroom. I remember the piano, the oak dining room set and china closet with its pretty dishes in the living room.

"We had to watch for rattlesnakes in the summer, because they often crawled from the rimrock to the creek. Once I jumped across a sandstone in our yard and almost landed on one. Once we walked up to the rimrocks to look at the Indian hieroglyphics there, and we found a petrified snake in the rocks where a slab had broken off.

"I remember many good times, good crops and community affairs, but also snowstorms, thunder and hailstorms and the grasshoppers. I remember very well the tragic day my little brother, Kenneth, died of accidental poisoning.

"My father's family homesteaded in Washington State in 1888, near the Colville Indian Reservation.

"My mother's parents, James and Sally West, moved to Washington from North Carolina in 1905. They settled on Indian Creek, near Davenport, where my grandfather had a blacksmith shop and small saw mill."

Theodore and Rose Wynhoff had three children born at Flatwillow — Meryle (1915), Kenneth (1916) and Leo (1918) — and they brought Gerald (1912) with them. The family moved back to Washington State in 1922.

YOUDERIAN, Viola (Sec 3.4-12-26) (See also OTRIN) (Ed. Signature on teacher records was "Youderin.")

YOUDERIAN, William P. William P. Youderian was born in Marion, Wisconsin in 1887. Other known members of the family were three brothers — Henry, Herbert, and Edward. "Bill" came to Lewistown, Montana, in about 1900 and married Verna I. Harris in 1906 at Cottonwood Creek. The couple had six children — George Frank, Walter P., Theodore Richard, Wilma, Janice, and Roger.

Roger will be remembered by many as the young missionary who was killed by a tribe of Auca Indians in Ecuador in 1956. He was a graduate of Fergus County High School, a paratrooper in World War II, and a member of the Gospel Missionary Union.

Bill was separated from his wife and spent most of his later years in Musselshell and Petroleum counties. He ranched, trapped, hunted coyotes with greyhounds, herded sheep, traded horses, and knew everyone in the country.

In December 1956 Bill went to Ecuador to visit the area where his son had been killed. The news account of his trip stated he did not go with any intent to revenge the death of his son, but rather to better understand the Auca Indians. He did not feel they were "savages" or "head hunters," but rather that they had perhaps killed the missionaries because the missionaries had in some way offended them.

Bill lived on the old Oliver Stroup property at Yellow Water during the 1940s. He purchased the original William Stroup homestead from the county, as well as some land which had belonged to Isaac Tyson. Later, the property was sold to Joe C. King, III. Bill died in 1963.

YOUNGQUIST, Carl and Sigrud (Sec 19-13-26) Carl and Sigrud were brother and sister. Between them they owned an entire section of land in Yellow Water Basin.

Sigrud married Leo Youderian. Leo was a brother of Ed, Josie, Lillian, and William Youderian. (This is not the same person as William P. Youderian.) Leo and Sigrud had three children — Leonard, Vernon, and Allan. They left Petroleum County in 1929 and made their home in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

ZIMMER, Albert (Sec 8.9-12-25) (Land to Zimmerman)

ZIMMERMAN, Emil Sr. (Musselshell County) The following narrative was submitted by Emil Zimmerman Jr.: "Emil Zimmerman, Sr. came from Shield, Illinois in 1909, to locate a homestead in Fergus County, just south of the present Musselshell-Petroleum County line. In 1910 he brought his wife, Mary Houtrouw Zimmerman, and his oldest son, Walter, to the homestead.

"They faced all the hardships that most homesteaders faced, such as living in a tent until a house was built, hauling water until a well was dug, etc. There were droughts, grasshoppers and, in 1923, a devastating hailstorm. Rodeos were held at the Zimmerman School, District #24 (Fergus County), from about 1920 until 1933. Dances were held for a few years longer.

"In 1919 an oil company came out from Spokane, Washington, and drilled for oil on the homestead. The lease money was a shot in the arm for a poor homesteading family. The oil company was known as the Spokane-Roundup Oil Company, and they drilled for two years before going broke and leaving the country. In two years they only drilled to 2400 feet.

"In 1926 the Federal Land Bank of Spokane owned the Shaw Ranch (now owned by John and Pat Iverson), and they asked Emil Zimmerman to operate it until they could get it sold. He ran it until about 1929, when it was sold to R. E. Bowen and Harvey McFadden.

"In 1929 Emil had a chance to take over the George Wright ranch. He lived there until his retirement in 1954. Emil Zimmerman Jr. and wife Lorene took over ownership and operated the ranch until their retirement in 1979. It was then run by their son, Jack, and wife, Connie, until it sold to John Hughes Jr. in 1987. The original homestead was retained and is still owned by Emil and Lorene Zimmerman."

Emil Zimmerman Sr., son of Gustave and Margaret Reuster Zimmerman, was born in Shiloh, Illinois. He married Mary Elizabeth Houtrouw, daughter of Fokke Houtrouw and Mary Hartmann Houtrouw. She was born in Germany in 1884, moving to the United States in 1892 with her mother. They had three children — Walter L., born (1900), in Shield, Illinois; Emil Jr., born (1915) at Roundup, Montana and Ruth Margaret (Stoltz) born (1918) at Roundup.

Ruth Margaret Stoltz had three children — Anita (1938), Linda Ruth (1940), and Koren Lee (1944).

Emil Jr. married Lorene Basinger, daughter of Noah and Frona Prollock Basinger of Darrell, Montana, in 1938. They had five children: Lawrence Keith (1939), Jimmy Dale (1942), Mary Lynn (1946), Jack Lee (1949), and Debra Lu (1953).

From Julius Heuschkel's "Fifth Interim Report" the following is taken concerning the hailstorm of 1923: "Bernice (Johnson) Smith reported, 'July 4, 1923, there was a rodeo and a dance at the (Emil) Zimmerman School. Lots of people from all over the area were there, and we had a good time. They built an open outdoor floor to dance on. The old log school stood there beside the new school. Along in the evening a black cloud showed up. Dad decided we better head for home. We reached home at 10 p.m., just as it started to rain. A terrible hailstorm hit the Zimmerman School area and along the Flatwillow Creek. We did not have hail but a lot of rain.

" 'Next morning people went by going southeast of our place to get home. We wondered why they had come by our place. We learned that Little Wall Creek was flooded and they had to come by this route to get home. People crowded into the two schools and the Zimmerman home during the storm. After it passed, they swept all the hail off of the dance floor and danced till morning. Car tops (note: Fords then had canvas tops) were shredded and magnetos were flooded, so cars would not start. We looked over the hill to the Flatwillow Creek northwest of home, and it was white with hail the fifth of July morning.' "

Emil Zimmerman Jr. states, "Yes, I remember the storm of July 4, 1923. My father and I walked home after the hail stopped, a distance of ¼ mile, and the ice and water were knee deep on me, all the way across the prairie. Of course, I was only eight years old at the time. Mother fed 27 people for breakfast, and when she opened the oven door of the old cook stove, the oven was packed with magnetos that people were trying to dry out. Our corn crop was pretty good that year, but after the storm we couldn't even see where the rows had been. Others that were at the dance were: Otto Johnkes, M. C. (Pat) Mang, and I'm sure that Ben Zimmerman must have been there."

ZIMMERMAN, Ernest Fredrick (Musselshell County) Ben Zimmerman contributed the following information: Ernest Zimmerman came to Montana with Julius Max Heuschkel in March of 1910. They had land locators take them around to look for a homestead. They filed on their land and went back to Illinois to get their families. In August 1910 they shipped out to Montana by railroad. Julius and Ernest went with the stock in the freight cars, and the families went by passenger train. We were all located on the wrong land. Our first house was one-half mile east of our land."

Ernest Fredrick Zimmerman was married to Katie Kuntz Zimmerman and they had three children — Benjamin E. (1902), Katherine Zimmerman Nowlin (1899) and Emma Otilie Zimmerman Purdem (1897).

Ben E. Zimmerman married Regina L. Swingle at the ranch in 1939. To this union two children were born — Walter Ernest (1939) and Ben Edward (1941).

Katie Kuntz Zimmerman is buried in the Wallview-Richardson Cemetery.

Katie Zimmerman Steiger Nowlin wrote these memories: "We were living in a small town in Illinois. Papa was Justice of Peace, and he and Mama were operating a small meat market.

"They heard about the government allowing people to take up a homestead in Montana for just filing on it and improving it, and it was all yours after three years. Papa and a neighbor left for Montana in February 1910, leaving Mama, my sister Emma, my brother Ben, and myself at home.

"They filed on a homestead of 160 acres, and came back to Illinois to get us. When we arrived in Roundup, Montana, we stayed at a hotel for a few days before starting out to the homestead. The hotel had no running water or electricity. The town had a corner pump where everyone got their water.

"When we started for our new home there were no roads at all. We just headed in a general direction 30 miles north, but we arrived. Papa had put a tent right on the prairie and had it ready for us. The neighbor who came with Papa had a team of mules, so he helped us get started. He let us drive the mules to some timber 20 miles away to get logs for our first home. They worked really hard to get the house done before winter. We had arrived in August and had a snowstorm while still in the tent.

"That morning a sheepherder knocked on our tent and called Papa outside. There he had a sheep all butchered for us. At that time, sheepherders worked alone, each with a band of 3000 sheep. They lived in covered wagons and were wonderful to us. Their camp tender would supply them with groceries and other things they needed, and they always stopped by and shared a lot with us.

"Our only fuel at first was sagebrush and buffalo chips, which we children gathered. Then there was our first 'outhouse.' Papa had brought the seat of a two-seater 'chic sales' with the rest of the things, so he dug a hole, put four poles around it, and the seat on top. It served the purpose, but talk about 'air conditioning!'

"Papa dug a well right away, but the water was so alkaline we couldn't drink it. There was a spring about two miles away along a creek, so after chores, Papa and my sister would take pails and go after water. If they didn't get back before dark, I would go out and hold a lantern up high, and keep our tent in sight to guide them home.

"It wasn't too long before others started moving in. Families with children came and, as there weren't any schools, one of the new ladies said she would be the teacher. A miner had taken a homestead and left to work in the mines, so we were allowed to use his shack for a schoolhouse. At that time there were six pupils.

"The bad lands were four miles east of us and almost

every Sunday we would walk over there. Papa would say, 'We'll stay until I get a rabbit for each of us.' He usually did, and they were always such good eating. I had never seen an animal trap. One of the new settlers had put a trap on the rimrock to trap rabbits. I saw one and, dumb me, I put my finger on the round metal to see what it was and bang — I got caught!

"On cold winter evenings we would sit around the fire, and Mama would tell us stories of her childhood in Germany. We'd sing and she would teach us German songs. We would have so much snow that it was as high as the fences. The snow would have a crust on top and we could walk on it.

"The large ranchers were so different than what you generally read about. They welcomed us and gave Papa quite a bit of carpenter work. One ranch family lived in Flatwillow, the small town where we got our groceries. The lady wanted my sister to come help her, which she did. One day the lady drove a horse and buggy and brought sister home to visit. After they were there a while, the lady asked Mama to let me go home with them for a visit. I wanted to go but I didn't have any shoes, so I went without shoes. The lady said she would find some for me, which she did.

"The storekeeper's wife, who lived across the street, wasn't feeling well, so I helped for a while. Her husband said I could have anything in the store for helping them. I said, 'Please, if I could just have a pair of shoes for my brother, I would be so happy!' I got the shoes.

"I was married in 1917 and moved to Oregon. When I left Montana all homesteads were taken, and it looked prosperous. Things got pretty bad, but the folks stayed until in the 1940s, when they sold everything and moved to town."



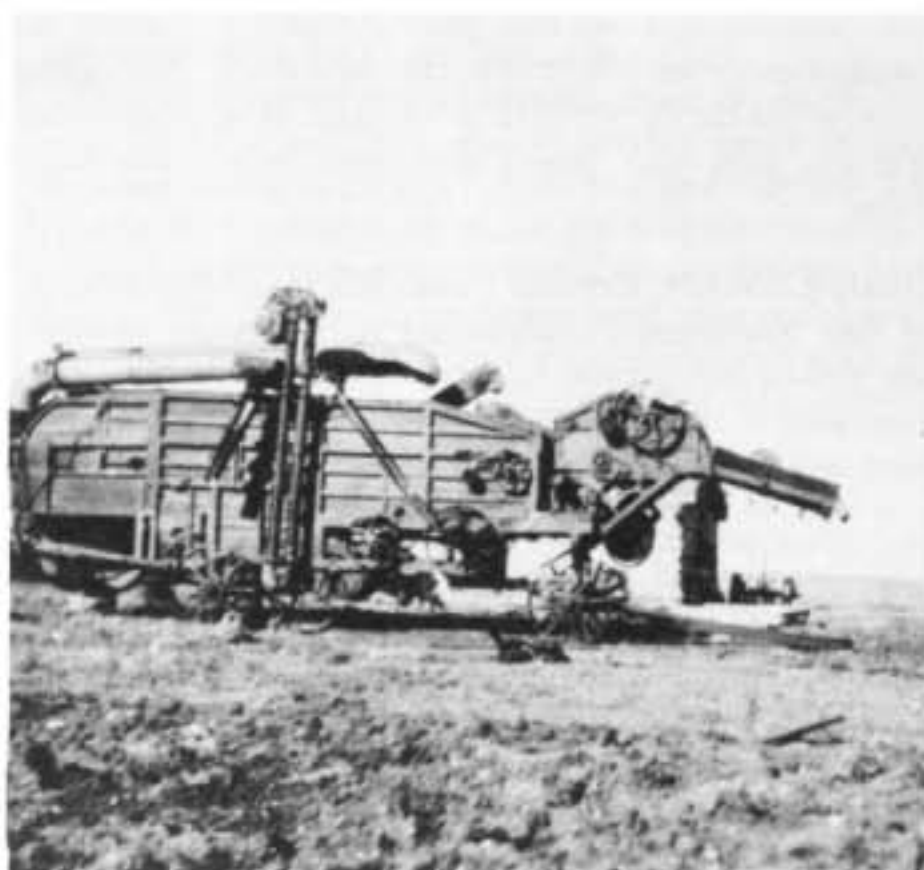
Binding grain



Wheat shocks ready to be threshed with a corn field in the background



Homestead wheat



Threshing machine