

there was no disease danger. We knew that we could never stomach the meat even if we did cut out the boils before cooking the meat. Also, information that the jackrabbits carried the deadly disease of tularemia was common knowledge.

"I had also shot a sagehen, but I had shot an old one, and the taste of sage was so strong in the meat in spite of several boilings, we couldn't force ourselves to eat the meat. We then learned that it was best to shoot the smaller hens, remove the head of the bird as soon as possible, take out the crop (that would be full of sage and the longer left in the bird the stronger the sage taste), and then immediately skin the bird, taking skin, feathers and all.

"One day my mother suggested that I take the shotgun and see if I could kill a sagehen that would be fit to eat. For meat, we had been living on salt pork, bacon, and canned salmon. I loaded both barrels of the shotgun, and with her instructions on how to prepare the bird, and an admonition that I be sure to shoot a 'small one,' I left the sheepwagon. After walking not more than a quarter of a mile, I shot a sagehen. I ran to the bird, wrung its head off, took out the crop, and with aid of a paring knife that mother said I should use to dehide and defeather the bird, I soon had the task completed.

"In my left hand, I grasped the bird by the legs, picked up the shotgun with my right hand, and started trotting for home. My mother had said that the sooner she got the sagehen in salt water and vinegar probably the better it would taste.

"I ran most of the way home in spite of carrying the sagehen and the shotgun. I opened the door of the sheepwagon and stepped inside. I was all out of breath and I well remember my 'split' tasted sweet. My mother was lying on the bed, reading. With my left hand, I laid the sagehen on the lid of the grub box. With my right holding the barrel of the shot gun, I set the butt of the gun on the floor. There was a blast noise, a flash of light, and heat on my cheek! The shotgun had gone off.

"After three or four seconds, the horror of how close I came to ending my life came through the scream that my mother uttered. My ears rang. The smell of gunpowder was strong and my eyes burned. I remember that I was shaking so much when my mother asked, 'What in the world did you do?', that I couldn't answer. She was off the bed and shaking me. Then she hugged me. Then she cried. She made me put the shotgun in the storage box on the back of the sheepwagon and forbid my use of it again. I never did. The next time the banker came out, she returned the gun to him.

"I eventually was able to explain what had happened and why. The fall before, while living with the Elliot DeLapps, Mr. DeLapp taught me how to shoot a twenty-two rifle and a twenty-gauge, single-barrel shotgun. He had taught me to always break open the shotgun so as to eject the used shell and to leave it open, and then not put another shell in the gun unless I intended to hunt some

more.

"My going hunting with the twelve-gauge shotgun was old hat. I had already shot a jackrabbit and a sagehen. So my third hunting expedition was no big deal. However, the other two times, I had loaded only one barrel of the old double barrel. This time, though, to make sure of getting the bird, I had loaded both barrels. When I saw the sagehens in a group, and expecting them to fly, I pulled both hammers back. In other words, I 'cocked both barrels.' In the excitement of having shot the hen and wanting to get out the crop and skin her, I made the terrible mistake of not letting down the hammer and 'breaking open' the gun and removing the unspent shell.

"The near life-taking accident proved to be a good lesson. In fact, in later life, on occasion I was accused of being a 'regular grandmother' in my care and handling of guns. Perhaps I was over cautious at times, but I was a safe person to go hunting with. In addition to learning to be extra careful when handling a gun, I also learned the sheepwagon had four thicknesses of canvas for the roof. When the gun went off, it blew a hole about the size of a dollar in the canvas, so I was able to count the layers of canvas.

"Awhile ago I talked to Peter Teigen about the size of a sheepwagon and the material used because I did not have the info in my head. He informed me that usually when the sheepwagon was constructed, it was covered with one layer of canvas and as it grew older in years (when needed), another layer of canvas was added on top of the one then in place. Peter suggested that if the 'wagon' that I lived in had four thicknesses of canvas, it had probably been around for some time. Peter told me that he still has three of these early-day travel trailers around in various stages of decay.

"My mother, faced with having to feed herself and two growing children, would sometime lament about the fact that my father was not providing any financial assistance as he had agreed to do. Although my sister and I were living life to the fullest and enjoying the freedom of doing almost as we pleased, my mother was deeply concerned about what to do when the bankers largess came to a halt. Several times I found her crying over the dead-end-street-like situation that she faced. Those were unhappy times when she explained how helpless she felt.

"One day, a man by the name of George Ingebo showed up and ate with us. He took us riding in his Model T automobile. He seemed to be a pleasant man, and I was impressed with his kindness and the new Model T. After he had gone, my mother explained that she had known him in South Dakota before she married my father. She explained that he was a bachelor and a rather 'well-to-do' rancher near Winnett. She also told me that he had courted her for a short time, but her parents, brothers and sisters, and other family members looked at him with jaundiced eyes because he was a Lutheran.

"Her family members were dyed-in-the-wool Catholics and believed that she should marry a Catholic man. My father fit the bill to a T. He had served as an altar boy,

played the church organ, took part in home talent plays, and was a catcher on the town of Britton, South Dakota baseball team. My mother married him in 1906, and he was the father of George and Margaret Jelinek (my sister and me).

"George Ingebo appeared on the scene several times that summer and in the fall invited me to work for him as a member of the threshing machine crew which he owned. My mother and I both thought it was a great idea. About the first of September, I started to work for him as a sort of general flunkie. My first experience with the threshing 'rig' was when we threshed for Walter J. Winnett. I was with the threshing crew until the end of the season, about the 15th of November.

"My mother married George Ingebo sometime before Christmas. His ranch became my new home, and my homestead days were over." (See also JELINEK — Petrolia)

JENNI, Anna Friedalena (Sec 3-13-25) Anna Friedalena Jenni, the first of eight children of Fred and Emma Flueckeger Jenni, Swiss emigrants, was born on Beaver Creek eight miles west of Lewistown on April 8, 1893. The other children were Louise, Fred, Marie, Hulda, Lena, Clara and Sam.

Anna applied for a homestead in the Yellow Water country and proved up on it after she married Arthur Wilcox in 1916. She and Arthur had four children — Ernest (1917), Evelyn (1918), Judith (1921), and Wallace (1923).

Anna and Arthur lost the homestead and moved to Lewistown. She worked at the Judith Laundry, the Burke Hotel, and other places for as little as twenty-five cents an hour. In 1935 she and Art were divorced. In 1937 she married Andrew Peterson. They moved to Yakima, Washington, where they ran a small hotel and feed store. In 1955 she and Andrew retired in Eureka, California. Andy died in 1975, Anna in 1986. (See also WILCOX)



Theresa and Henry Johnke

JOHNKE, Henry (Sec 7-12-27) The following account is taken from information supplied by Lois Pollock Johnke. A complete family history is on file in the Petroleum County Community Library.

The Henry Johnke family came from Germany in 1900 and settled in a German-speaking farm area in South Dakota. It was very difficult for them to understand English when they came to Flatwillow in 1914. Many neighbors were not friendly at first because of the World War I anti-German feeling.

Theresa Johnke (Mrs. Henry Johnke) was trained in nursing and delivered many babies as a midwife. She would walk as far as seven miles to deliver a baby, cook meals, and wash for the family. Soon she had a legion of friends. A city-raised German girl, she had to learn to milk cows, plow, and stack hay. After she was 65 years of age, she started to quilt many beautiful masterpieces.

When the Johnkes arrived here, a barn was built first; then the family cooked and slept in the barn while a house was built.

In 1955, Grandma Theresa Johnke died at the age of 86. Lois Johnke says of her mother-in-law: "When she died, I lost my best friend. She had taught me to cook, can, patch and sew. Once I had made curtains and had put them up on the windows. The hems didn't suit her, so she took them down, ripped out the seams, and said, 'Do them over.' I did. Grandpa Henry Johnke died in 1959 at the age of 96. He was alert and enjoyed going to town until the last few weeks of his life."

Hilda Johnke Rapp contributed the following account: "In 1915 my father, Henry Johnke, my youngest brother, Otto, and a friend moved our belongings from Freeman, South Dakota, to Grassrange, Montana, by freight train. On account of a serious hoof disease, they were not allowed to bring their cows into Montana, so they had to leave them in South Dakota until the disease cleared up. My oldest brother, William Johnke, brought them out later by freight train.

"Just before this, my mother, Theresa Johnke, and her three daughters Emma, Hilda (me), and Martha came by train. My father met us at Grassrange and we drove by horse and buggy to our new prairie home. We followed my father who was driving a team and wagon loaded with some more of our belongings and lumber.

"The men had built a low barn with a partition through the center of it. The house was not yet finished, so a large tent had been put up and the adults slept in it. We two smaller children slept in a large wooden box, in which they had shipped the bedding, using a 'feather bed' as our mattress. Our box was put on one side of the partition in the barn, and our horses were on the other side of the partition. Our side was used for temporary cooking, etc. Since we had no cows at that time, there was no butter for our bread. We used lard instead and had some delicious lard and onion sandwiches. Later on we bought butter from our nearest neighbors, the Charlie Grows.

"On Sunday there were church services and Sunday school in the Flatwillow schoolhouse. I attended the country school at Flatwillow for about one year. Harry Tripp was my teacher, and his wife, Hallie Tripp, substituted at times when Harry had farm work to do.



Lois and Otto Johnke on their 60th Wedding Anniversary in 1985

"My mother was midwife and doctor whenever there was sickness. She was always willing to help when she was needed and was known as 'Ma Johnke.'

"My oldest sister, Elsie, who was married and living in South Dakota, came to Montana to visit us. I went back with her to South Dakota and attended a parochial school and graduated from the eighth grade. I came back to Montana and attended Fergus County High School in Lewistown, Montana."

The Henry Johnke family consisted of Elsie (1892), William (1897), Emma (1900), Otto (1902), Hilda (1904) and Martha (1906).

Elsie was born in Germany. Her mother was Henry's first wife.

William married Evelena Hawkins. They lived in Great Falls, Montana, until 1925, when they moved to Flatwillow. They took over the Royal Hawkins place and lived there until 1938 when they moved to Fairfield, Montana, under the resettlement program. Evelena died in childbearing in 1940. William died in 1974. Their children were Phyllis (1921), Farrel (1922), Evelyn (1924), Shirley (1925), Rozella (1930), Dale (1932), Jeanine (1933), Corrine (1933), Gwen (1936) and Richard (1940).

Emma Johnke was a country school teacher in the area before her marriage to Dewey Smith. They lived in Great Falls where she was cook in the Deaconess Hospital. They had one child, Walter Parock.

Hilda Johnke married Al Rapp of Marion, South Dakota.

Martha Johnke married Alexander Robbie Wasinger and they had one son, William (1931). They also helped raise Richard Johnke, infant son of William Johnke.

Otto married Lois Pollock. The following account is taken from Lois' family history: "We were married on a cold, snowy day in Roundup, Montana. The date was January 16, 1925. We went by train to Minneapolis-St. Paul on a honeymoon. After that we went to Scobey, Montana, to live and work.

"In the fall, Otto's parents wrote that they needed him to do farm work. In November 1925, with a new son Eugene, a wooden rocker, and our clothes, we drove home in a Model T. The Davis family, who had been the old Flatwillow storekeepers, left about that time. The old hotel was no longer used. By 1929 a lot of the homesteaders were gone. They had either gone broke or had sold. Banks failed and checks bounced.

"We moved to our present home in 1930. It had no insulation, no storm windows, but lots of bedbugs. The milk froze on the kitchen table if it was too close to the window. The bread sponge was started with dry yeast the night before baking. A crock of starter was wrapped in a blanket and set on a warmed Sears Roebuck catalog near the coal heater overnight.

"As soon as the weather turned cold, butchering was a big event. Neighbors helped, and everything but the squeal of the pig was used. Grandma Theresa was a master maker of blood sausage, liver sausage, and head-cheese. The men cleaned the casing which was stuffed with summer sausage. We fried down pork chops and covered the full crocks with hot fresh lard for storage in the root cellars. The cured hams were stored deep in the oat grain bins. By the mid-thirties, glass-top and zinc-top Mason jars were in common use to can meats and vegetables.

"In 1938 we bought the place we were leasing, and planted shade trees in the yard and fruit trees in the garden. We actually had some crested wheatgrass in the yard that was green.

"Our family consists of: Eugene (1925) married and living in Ferndale, Washington, with two daughters, Connie and Terry; Martin (1928) became a math teacher, is married and has four children — Elizabeth, Craig, Mark, and Peter; Arlene (1930) married Bill Bernhard and has five children — Sandra, William, Linda, Michael and Dale; Paula (1931) married Bill Gallagher and had three children — Karen, Jack and Randy — and is presently married to Vern Kinn; Marie (1933) married Dick Daum and had three children — Rodney, Daniel, and Gary — and is presently married to Tim Fitzgerald; Robert (1943) married and has five children — William, Terie, Timothy, Tamie, and Benjamin; Steven (1947) unmarried; and James (1945). (See the following account submitted by Jim):

JOHNKE, James "I graduated from Eastern Montana College in 1967 with a bachelor of arts degree in math education. I taught school in Winnett for two years and in Winifred, Montana, for three years. I started buying the home ranch in 1968 and moved here to stay in 1972. I became a Star Route mail carrier in 1972 on the Flatwillow route, and on the Cat Creek route until 1975. In 1975 the Cat Creek route was dropped, but we still have the Flatwillow route.

"I was elected as supervisor of the Soil Conservation District in Petroleum County in 1975 and still have that position. I was chairman twice and played an active roll in

drafting the 'Sodbusting' ordinance for the county. I was appointed, by the county commissioners in 1985, to serve on the community library board; elected chairman in 1987. I was a member of National Farmers Organization from 1973 to 1983, serving as treasurer of the county unit for several years. I joined the Northern Plains Resource Council in 1983, and was elected chairman of Musselshell Agriculture Alliance, an affiliate of NPRC, in 1988.

"I married Deloris (Dee) Sites in 1970. She was music teacher at Winifred, Montana, at that time. Three children followed — Tracy (1973), David (1975) and Linda (1980).

"I am a member of the First Lutheran Church and have served as chairman and treasurer at different times.

"I am a member of Flatwillow Hall and have been a board member since 1974; also elected chairman in 1987. I have belonged to the Yellowstone Wool Growers Association since 1968 when Lower Musselshell Wool Pool joined the Yellowstone Pool. I was elected a director in 1973 and served as president from 1978 to 1983."

JOHNSON, Amos and Roxanne (Sec 34, 35-14-25) (Land to Johnson-Replogle-Pet. Co.-Pennock-King) Amos and "Roxie" came to Montana in 1914 with other members of the family from Clairfield, Tennessee. (See also MINK-Flatwillow). There were nine children in the Johnson family: Mary (1893) who did not come to Montana; Margaret (1896) who took up a homestead; Rose (1898); Doris (1901); David (1903); James Richard (1905); Floyd (1908); Evelyn (1910); and Claude (1913). Richard, Floyd and Evelyn went to school in a new school which was built on Margaret's homestead land in about 1915. It was known as the Yellow Water School.

Amos and Roxie did not stay in Montana very long. They returned to Tennessee, taking their younger children with them. Rose was a good waitress and worked in cafes in Grassrange and in other small towns in the area. Eventually she worked her way back to Tennessee. She married Clarence Baudaru and lived in Billings, Montana, in later years. Doris married Chester Curtis and moved to Seattle, Washington. Margaret remained in Montana. (See also McFARREN — Dovetail, Flatwillow and Winnett).

In 1933 the Winnett Times reported the tragic death of Mrs. Floyd Johnson, the three Johnson children, and Richard Johnson in a fire at LaFollette, Tennessee where they were living.

JOHNSON, Ben (Sec 28-12-26) (Land to Harms-Eliasson) Bernice Johnson Smith contributed the following history: "About the first of May in 1911, we arrived in Roundup, Montana, where we stayed while my father, Ben Johnson, walked over the country looking for a homestead. Alternate sections were open to homesteaders; the railroad owned the intervening sections. Many homesteads were already taken, but Ben found one on the Flatwillow Bench, 25 miles north of Roundup, in what was then Fergus County. We were one mile north of the Musselshell County line.



Last sod broken by Ben Johnson



The Ben Johnson homestead

"In mid-June we moved into a temporary building while Dad built a 12'x16' house. Water for the house was hauled in a barrel from 'Grandma Haw's' well three quarters of a mile west, or from a spring at the Red Sheds, 1½ miles south. A dirt dam in a coulee furnished water for the stock. In 1918 a well was drilled, and after that we had plenty of water on the farm.

"Flatwillow was our post office. It was about eight miles northeast of the homestead and the neighbors took turns going after the mail. A few years later, a circular thirty-mile mail route out of Flatwillow served the area.

"In 1911 a tar paper covered school building was built one mile west of us. It was District #89 and named Wallview. Miss Dora Skipper was the teacher for that summer with eight pupils. They were: Edith, Hazel and Homer Richardson; Hazel and Valentine Braithwaite; Sylvia and Clarence Bergsing; and myself, Bernice Johnson. Miss Lena Houtrouw taught the term of 1911-12 with nine pupils. In 1912-13 Harry Tripp was our teacher. Fred Grodeon was the teacher for several years starting with eleven pupils in 1913-14 and increasing to twenty in 1914-15.

"From 1915 to 1918 we lived in Kansas and Billings, Montana, where I attended school. In 1918-19 I finished grade school at Wallview with Magdalene Conrad as the teacher. I attended high school in Roundup and Lewistown where I graduated.

"There were people on many of the quarter sections. Some of our early neighbors were the U. C. Davises, Mrs. Davis's sister Miss Wenrich, Frank Joyces, A. Townsleys,



Bernice Smith, Ben Johnson, Mrs. Ben Johnson, Frank Smith (1948)

Vern Braithwaites, Frank and Leo Wynhoffs, Margaret Haw, J. J. Richardsons, Chris Braithwaites, and Anton Bergsings, all in a three-mile area. The community had a literary club and Sunday school with church. The cemetery was next to the church.



The Gust Johnson homestead with Vernie and his dog, Finna, and Frank McAllister

JOHNSON, Gust (Sec 20-13-25) Gust Johnson was born September 16, 1884, in Verderslov, Sweden. He came to the United States in 1900. On October 3, 1907, he was united in marriage to Vivian Linder at Langford, South Dakota. In 1914 he homesteaded in Montana, where he lived until 1918. He then returned to Langford, South Dakota, where he engaged in farming until 1965. He passed away July 30, 1967.

His wife, Vivian, was born in 1887 and died in 1971. They had two children — Vernie (1909) and Allyce (1915). Vernie married Hazel Johnson at Langford, South Dakota, on October 21, 1933. They lived and farmed in that area for 43 years. They had no children. Vernie died in 1988. Allyce and her husband had three children, all of whom are still living.

A number of years after the Johnsons returned to South Dakota, Mrs. Gust Johnson wrote to the *Winnett Times*. In

her letter she wrote few memories of the family's years in Montana. She said they filed on 160 acres of land and bought an additional 80 acres. When they left they sold their house to Mlekushes, and later sold their land to John Hughes.

She mentioned the fact that their son, Vernie, was six years old at the time they were on the homestead. She said Gust went to Lewistown, Montana, and talked to people in the courthouse to persuade them to provide a school. Arrangements were made for the community to use the vacant homestead house of Joe Hallen, and a school was provided.

JOHNSON, John John Johnson and wife, Mary Alt Johnson, were managers of the Nebraska Feeding Company for a few years in the 1950s. They had two children: Katherine (1942) and Terry (1957).

JOHNSON, William (Sec 27-13-27) William had the weather station before Bill Wiggins. He transferred it to Wiggins in about 1913, and it has been there ever since. Mr. Johnson had a peg leg. There was a large barn on his place. Harry Tripp was farming the land in the area and he would lease the Johnson place for the use of the large barn and pasture for the horses.

One day Lu Tripp (Pugrud), who was about ten years old at the time, was delighted to find a discarded peg leg. A weather-beaten leather knee harness was still attached to the peg. When she showed her prize to her mother, it was not greeted with the expected enthusiasm. In fact she was finally, firmly, convinced that her treasure belonged in the trash.

Mr. Johnson moved to Butte, Montana, and his place went to an insurance company and later to Bill Wiggins.



Ruby and Bud Jones

JONES, J. R. "Bud" Bud and Ruby Jones and their children moved onto the Nebraska Feeding Company in 1970 where they remained until 1982. Bud, son of James and Iva Harbour Jones, was born in Roscoe, Texas, in 1925. Ruby, daughter of Carl and Emma Gehring Giesler, was born in Roundup in 1931. Bud and Ruby were married in 1949 at Roundup, Montana.

Bud took over management of the ranch when his uncle J. B. Harbour became sick. They immediately became an

integral part of the community by participating in everything that went on.

They say that they wish they had kept a diary of their various hired men, telling their actions, excuses, habits and conversations. One man they remember was part Indian with long black hair which was always dirty. Ruby finally told him that if he was going to put his feet under her table, he would have to bathe at least three times a week and get his hair cut. After they had gone back to work, he said to one of the older men, "Who the Hell does she think she is — my mother?" The seasoned hired man answered quietly, "You'd better believe it, if you want to work here."

During haying season there were always a lot of extra short-term hired men. One year a Hutterite from South Dakota came and got a job. Ruby felt sorry for him and offered to do his washing for him. When he came for his clothes, she told him to go to the basement and get them. When he came up he was wearing Bud's brand-new jeans and a shirt. Ruby said, "Those are Bud's jeans and they don't even fit you." The man couldn't understand why she was upset!

He hadn't been there long when two more men showed up from the same colony. Bud made arrangements with Tom Pugrud for them to live in the old Richard Tripp house. Each day more Hutterites walked in; no one could figure out how they found their way since the ones in residence never left the ranch or mailed any letters. Bud finally discovered that the Mid-Rivers Telephone Company had failed to disconnect the phone in the house, and they had been calling home regularly.

Bud will not forget the day he met John Sibbert. He and Ronnie Daum were riding in the north pasture when they saw John over in his meadow. Ronnie suggested that this would be a good time for Bud to meet his neighbor, so they rode over. As they got nearer they could see that John had a tripod set up and was butchering a beef. Ronnie introduced Bud; and John's first words were, "Hell of a time to meet someone when you are butchering one of his critters!" Bud's first lesson in John's humor.

Bud and Rudy have four children. Steve (1950) married Penny Goffena and they have four children — Mike, Michelle, David, and Jeremy. Carla (1953) married Doug Darkenwald and they have two children, Teal and Maya. Jim "J. J." (1957) married Renee Gerris and they have two children, Bryson and Kallen. Tammy (1959) married Wes Schenk and they have two children, Will and Clay.

JONES, Catherine Morris (Sec. 31-13-27) Miss Morris was one of the first Flatwillow teachers. She later married. The homestead went for back taxes and is now owned by Tom Pugrud.

JORGENSEN, Jens (Sec. 1-12-26) (Relinquishment to Von Lindern)

JOYCE, Frank (Sec. 35-12-26) (Land to Neb. Feed-FCC) Mary E. Joyce Stager submitted the following information.

Frank Joyce was born in 1880 in Bonville, Illinois. In 1907 he married Huldah Maude Littell. They moved to Lewistown, Montana, in about 1910, and then moved to the homestead in 1911. They had two children: Bernard, born 1909 in Danville, Illinois; and Mary Elizabeth, born in 1924 in Roundup, Montana.

Mrs. Joyce was a music teacher and gave lessons while living on the homestead. She moved to Roundup in 1932 so that Mary could attend school and, while there, she continued her music lessons.

Hallie Tripp recalls the following: "The year Harry taught at the Joyce School, we (Harry, Ralph age five, Ruth ten months, and I) moved into the teacherage in the school yard. It was one room about 12' X 14'. Winter began early and the snow was belly-deep to a horse by Christmas. Harry had been helping Frank Joyce 'tail-up' cows, night and morning. One day he came home and said that Frank had a very sore foot. He had had a blister on his heel and it had broken. He had worn a black sock next to the sore and the sore was infected. He refused to let me see it, but finally he had to come for help. By that time red streaks were running up his leg. He told me later that there were lumps in his groin.

"All I had as medicine was boric acid, and I knew heat was good, so we started wringing out towels in hot water and applying them to his foot. By this time Frank was semi-conscious. We kept hot towels on his foot 24 hours a day; Harry helped when he wasn't teaching. At the same time, our son, Ralph, had an infected ear. Finally Frank began to get better. The foot started sloughing but the stench was almost unbearable.

"Ralph's ears broke at last and started draining; Frank's foot started healing; the weather started moderating; and a few people started moving around. I have wondered since how we managed with two very sick people. We couldn't go for help — the nearest doctor was 40 miles away over closed roads. When spring finally came, a lot of animals that had stuck it out all winter just gave up and died."

Frank Joyce stayed on the ranch and built it into a sizeable place where he ran sheep in partnership with Harry Tripp. In 1941 Mrs. Joyce died and was buried in Illinois. Bernard was in Illinois working for the State, and Mary was in nurses' training. Finally in 1947, Frank decided to retire and go to Illinois. He sold his ranch to the Nebraska Feeding Company and his sheep to Andrew Iverson. Involved in the transaction were ten sections of deeded and leased land. The ranch was well-watered, having 12 stock water dams and three drilled wells. Eight hundred acres were seeded to crested wheatgrass. Farm and ranch equipment sold at auction

Bernard and his wife had one daughter and one son. Bernard died in 1987. Mary Elizabeth became a registered nurse working in Illinois, Colorado, Kansas, and Michigan. She had four daughters and one son.

KAISER, Lena (Sec 10-13-27) (Land to Oliver Brothers)

KARSTEDT, Adolph (Sec 2-13-27) In 1923 Adolph sold his place to H. D. Diessner, had an auction sale and left.

KARSTEDT, August (Sec 1-13-27) (Land to Pet. Co.-Hill-Fraser) August Karstedt married August Bachman's widow, Florence, in 1919. The couple stayed here until 1931, then moved to Lewistown where he died in 1949.

KELLER, Walter (Sec 2-13-25) (Land to bank-Barnes-USA) Walter Keller was the oldest of nine children. His parents, Robert Keller and Aloysia Ruegg, came to the United States from Switzerland in about 1880. The family settled on Beaver Creek near Lewistown, Montana, where they built a fine stone house. They later sold their property to I. F. Tyson. Walter worked for Mr. Tyson for a time on the Beaver Creek farm.

Walter was a licensed steam tractor operator and was often hired to do such work. Mr. Tyson had property in the Yellow Water area, and perhaps he encouraged Walter to homestead in Petroleum County. At any rate, Walter came to the Yellow Water area about 1913. He worked for Tom Carr on his road crew in addition to farming his 320 acres.

Walter was nicknamed "Dutch" by his friends and neighbors. He spoke a Swiss-German, and no doubt the nickname came about because of this fact. Germans were often referred to as "Dutchmen." Though a bachelor, Walter took part in school and community affairs and was well respected by all.

Walter served in the field artillery branch of the cavalry in World War I. He returned to Petroleum County for a time after the war. The Winnett Times reported on a school picnic in May 1926 at the Yellow Water-Stroup School. "Dutch" Keller gave a talk on "School Days" at the picnic.

Walter returned to the Judith Basin during the depression. He worked for George Machler and his brother-in-law, Fred Bucher. He died in 1962 at the age of 76.

KENNETH, Arthur (Sec 14-12-26) (Land to bank-USA) In 1924 Arthur leased his place to Bob Bessey and moved. In 1926 the bank foreclosed on the property.

KEPFORD, Charles (Sec 4-12-25) (Land to Pooler)

KETELHUT, William A. (Sec 33-13-27) (Land to Bill Wiggins)

KIMMEL, Don (Sec 21-12-25) Don Kimmel, son of O. E. and Mary Heath Kimmel, was born in 1935 at Ronan, Montana. He attended Western Montana College on a football scholarship for one year, then entered the Army where he served during the Korean conflict. Upon discharge he attended Montana State University at Bozeman, Montana. He received his degree in Engineering Physics in 1962. In 1959, he married Jean L. Shields (1939), daughter of Warren and Verna Sessions Shields. Jean graduated from Montana State University in 1962, with a degree in Music Education.

The Kimmels moved onto the former O. M. Green Ranch in 1962, and took over its operation when Jean's parents retired to Roundup, Montana. They now own the ranch. In 1975, Don was elected to the Winnett school board, and during his time on the board he was able to present diplomas to all but his youngest child. Don has served since 1978 as a director for the Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative. Jean gives private music lessons and is also an accomplished seamstress and cake decorator. She has designed and sewn the wedding dresses for all her children's weddings and also made all of the wedding cakes. She was a 4-H leader for 20 years.

There are five children in the Kimmel family, all graduates of Winnett High School. Karen Kay (1960) married Ray Hale. Warren Evin (1962) married Yon Hui Chong, and is in the service. Carl Vernon (1964) married Melissa Ludwig and is working on the ranch. Kyla Jean (1966) married Mark Reynolds. Andrew Franklin (1969) married Vikki Retterer on December 3, 1988. Andy works at Central Feed in Lewistown, Montana, where Andrew and Vikki make their home (1989).

Jean recalls that it seemed every time Don had to go to a meeting, things went wrong on the ranch. One time, when both Don and Jean were gone, Andy, who was about 10 at the time, decided to plow a field. He got the tractor backed up to the old horse plow and chained the plow to the drawbar. Luckily the endeavor was halted when the plow buried itself in the ground and the tractor couldn't pull it.

Carl has always been interested in cattle and started at an early age breeding up his own herd. When he was about 14 years old, one of his prize bull calves was gut-shot by a bird hunter. The calf, weighing about 600 pounds, was in the creek in an inaccessible place. Jean worked all day trying to get the calf out of the creek. Finally in the evening, she, the children, and some hunters succeeded. He was in bad shape, so they left him until morning to try to load him and take him to the veterinary. When they went back in the morning, he had gotten back in the creek and drowned!

KINDSCHY, Edwin (Sec 7-13-26) Edwin Edward Kindschy and Emma Albertina Jenni were married in Lewistown, Montana, on January 16, 1913. They were both children of Swiss parents. In the fall of 1914, Edwin and several others from the Lewistown area began freighting supplies and materials to the Yellow Water area where they had taken up homesteads. It was a two-day trip with team and wagon, and Edwin often stayed at Leo Diezger's "half way house" located about six miles west of Grassrange where the present-day Ayers Hutterite Colony is located. Leo furnished bed, meals, and horse feed to settlers freighting to their homesteads.

Ed got wood and poles from the Flatwillow area, lumber from Grassrange, and soon had a two-room cabin and some fences built. When he and Emma moved to their new home, it took them three days to journey from Rock Creek west of Lewistown to their Yellow Water



Emma (Jenni) and Edwin Kindschy, (January 16, 1913)

homestead. Ed drove a four-horse wagon and Emma, a two-horse wagon, with their furniture, more lumber and various supplies. Emma held their small daughter, Grace, on her lap under a slicker as it was raining. An event to be remembered for years concerning the trip was the fact a rattlesnake was found coiled up under their bedroll which had been laid out on sacks of feed in a tent!

Finding good water on their homestead was a problem. Ed had a well drilled before building their cabin and it had good water, but the drillers failed to case it as they said they would, and it caved in. He dug a well by hand near Yellow Water Creek. The water was black and shaley and could only be used for stock.

Emma often hauled the water for the chickens and pigs. She used a stone boat to haul the barrels which were covered with canvas held in a place by a barrel stay. Her two little girls used to stand on either side of her, each holding onto one of her legs, as they rode along on the stone boat. The drinking water was hauled from Flatwillow about eight miles away.

Ed and Emma worked very hard getting their homestead livable. Sometimes in the summer, Georgia Berkvam, a neighbor girl, would stay with the little Kindschy girls while Emma helped Ed in the fields. It was a long time before some of the neighbors realized that the "little fellow" helping Ed was actually his wife!

These were difficult times for the homesteaders proving up on their claims. However, when the Milwaukee railroad came into Winnett in 1917, supplies were more easily obtained, and the small town which grew there made a market for produce. The Kindschys raised Shorthorn cattle, milking some of them. Emma churned butter, made cottage cheese, sold eggs and fryers in season, and had honey for sale to customers in Winnett. They also butchered hogs for the meat market. They raised corn for feed, cutting it with a binder, and stacking it in the hay shed.

Using flat rocks for footings and floors, a barn was built into the sidehill. A hay mow was added above it with a calf shed beside it. They also built a machine shed with a cistern to collect the water off the roof. The cistern provided soft water for washing dishes, clothes and bathing. All water was heated in boilers on the coal and wood range, and the water carefully saved after it was used so it could be put on the garden, a few flowers, or given to the pigs.

The families in the neighborhood cooperated and opened a school in the abandoned Joseph Hallen house. Grace Kindschy started school there.

In March 1923 Ed bought the Ed Gottlieb Jenni Ranch and part of Emma's father's ranch on Beaver Creek near Lewistown, Montana, and the Kindschys left the Yellow Water area. They rented their homestead to Russell and Dorothy Morgan for several years and then to Glen Stroup. After Glen left, Ed sold part of the ranch to Jim Hegarty, part to Lancelles, and the rest to the BLM.

The older Kindschy girl, Grace, finished grade school at the Jenni School and graduated from Fergus High School. In 1937 she married Frank Deffinbaugh. They farmed for several years on rented ranches before buying a farm on Upper Cottonwood Creek. They raised three sons — Edwin Frank, Fred, and John.

The younger girl, Marie Helen, born while the Kindschys lived on Yellow Water in 1916, also attended the Jenni School and Fergus High School. She married Wayne Janney. The couple had two children, Carole Diane and Richard Wayne. In 1956 Wayne was killed in an airplane crash and Marie Helen remarried. She is now Mrs. Harold Johnson.

KING, Hallie Marie (Sec 35-13-26) Hallie was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 14, 1890, and died in Lewistown, Montana, December 12, 1977.

From Hallie's "Memoirs:" "I finished my teaching year near Brainerd, Minnesota, and was spending the summer with friends at Pine River and Minneapolis; the year was 1912. I got a letter from Mother (Mary King) telling me that they were building a new schoolhouse at Flatwillow, Montana, and I could have the job of teaching it. The salary was \$60 a month! Who could resist such an opportunity to make their everlasting fortune? I packed up and headed west. When I got off the train at Musselshell, I looked around and thought, 'I'll stay a year, teach, prove my homestead, then I'll leave — I won't stay in this God-forsaken country.' Famous last words.

"There were about thirty children in the school. After I taught a month, the school board raised my wages to \$70. During the year the county superintendent from Lewistown came down and tried to get me to break my contract and come to Lewistown to teach. By that time I was established, had friends and Harry Tripp. I didn't want to leave him — it's been that way ever since.

"Harry and I were married on May 20, 1914. We had had a lot of rain and the road to Musselshell, where the preacher lived, was a quagmire of gumbo. There was no

guarantee he would make it but he did. Mother had made a big turkey dinner, with all the trimmings; only relatives and Joe Oliver, Harry's best man, were there. Uncle Oscar Rutledge spent his time telling stories and trying to catch the preacher with his mouth full of food so that when he laughed he'd choke. A worthy ambition, and typical of Uncle Oscar. Harry hired an orchestra from Roundup and a lady to serve lunch for the wedding dance held at the schoolhouse." (See also TRIPP — Flatwillow).

KING, Nora Rutledge Nora was born April 4, 1893, in Brainerd, Minnesota, and died in 1970 in Vancouver, Washington. She came to Flatwillow with her parents, Sam and Mary King, in 1912. She was a joyful person and helped around the neighborhood in any way she could. She married Albert Cox on December 23, 1919, in Lewistown, Montana. They lived in Petroleum County until the late 1920s, when they moved to Washington state.

As a long time resident of Vancouver, she received the Silver Bowl Honor award for 10,000 hours of volunteer service at the Vancouver Veterans Administration Hospital. She was a member of the Daughters of the Union Veterans, the DAV Auxiliary, the Navy Mothers and the American War Mothers.



Sam and Mary King

KING, Sam Singer (Sec 35-13-26) (Land to Harry Tripp) Sam and Mary King and family lived in Brainerd, Minnesota, where he worked in the big Northern Pacific locomotive repair shops. Some of his wife's (Mary Rutledge King) relatives had gone to Montana to take up homesteads. This fired Sam's imagination. He got passes on the railroad and the family came out to look things over. It was all very different from anything they had ever seen.

Oscar and Alice Rutledge had a homestead shack and a tent where they cooked; Charlie Grow and Iphe had a shack. Regardless of the living conditions, Sam was sold on the idea. They went back to Minnesota and Sam started burning bridges. Mary was against it, but in the spring of 1912 they left for Montana.

According to Hallie Tripp: "It was a big blow to Mother when Dad quit his job and came west. I couldn't understand her concern then, but I certainly do now — no certain income - a new land - no money to speak of - up in years. They lived in a tar paper shack . . . a far cry from her nice home in Brainerd! She became adjusted later and she wouldn't have gone back east."

According to Harry Tripp: "Hallie's parents, the Kings, became more like my parents than my own. We practically lived with them until after we built our own house in 1917.

"In the 1920s, when Dad King got cancer and his health failed, they moved over to the Ream house which was practically in our yard. After Dad's death in 1927, Mother King did live with us and helped raise our children and kept house while Hallie taught school. I respected and loved her. She was a wonderful woman. Mr. King was 'Dad' to everyone — you never met a kinder, gentler man. I was proud to call him 'Dad.' "

In 1924 Sam King leased his place to the Cassidy Brothers. When the land bank foreclosed on it, the house was sold to the Olsens of Yellow Water Basin. Harry Tripp later bought the land.

The Kings furnished board and room for school teachers and some outlying students.

Mary King died in 1946, and both she and Sam are buried in the Flatwillow Cemetery.

KIRTLEY, Roy (Sec 2-13-27) (Land to Anderson)

KJERSEM, Peter (Sec 29, 30-14-25) Peter Kjersem and his wife, Anna Olsen Kjersem, had two children: Ingwald (Peter) born September 12, 1907; and Gudrun (Emilie) born September 15, 1909.

The family lived in a two-story house near the Fergus County line north of Yellow Water Creek. They raised bees, milk cows and chickens; and Peter was a carpenter by trade.

The Kjersem children went to school in the Kinnick School. Gudrun married Kenneth Zachary. They lived for a time in the Yellow Water area but then moved to Lewistown where Kenneth worked at the Hanover cement plant, did construction work, and rented farm land from Roy Boettger until about 1945. They made their home in Norris, Montana from 1945 until 1972. The Zacharys had one son, William Charles (1936), who lives in Billings, Montana.

Anna died in 1946 and Peter died in 1953. They are both buried in Virginia City, Montana.

KLEZKA, Stephen (Sec 5-12-26) (Land to Raundal-McCarty-Melby-Hughes) Stephen and Dora Klezka escaped from Russia in the early 1900s. Stephen came to



Mayme Dugan, Dora Klezka, Louise Berven (Note: woven willow fence in the background)

the United States first, and Dora was able to join him later. They had children, but it was necessary for them to leave their children behind. They felt sure they would be able to get them later. [In 1914 some of the children did come and were enrolled in the Wallview School: Epnat (1895), Naste (1898), and Elena (1906).]

The Kleskas came to the Flatwillow area in the early 1900s and settled on Pike Creek. While Stephen was building his house, he dug a cave in the bank of Pike Creek to live in. It being the spring of the year, there was a big rain, the creek flooded, and he was flooded out of his cave.

They built their barns and fences by weaving willows around posts. There is a picture of their barn and fence that shows how it looked, and John Hughes, present owner, says that part of it is still there.

The following is an excerpt from Julius Heuschkel's Flatwillow story: "In the winter of 1918-1919 a newly married young couple rode out from Roundup with Dad after one of his trips there. She was the daughter of a Russian-origin family who lived on Pike Creek, some distance from the post office. She wanted to visit her parents, and to introduce her newly acquired husband. I was given the job of delivering them safely from our homestead to her parents' home. This was done by hitching 'my' team of mules to a homemade sled with a wagon box on top. The box portion, one board high, was filled with straw for warmth.

"The daylight period was still short. The snow was deep and drifted. It took all day to get there. The three things I

remember most vividly were that (1) the farm-animal sheds were built of woven willows cut from the creek bottom, almost like baskets, (2) he fed his stock green-cut and dry-cured Russian thistles, and (3) I had to sleep on the floor."

Stephen died in 1926 and is buried in the Flatwillow Cemetery. Dora survived for another 11 years, living on the homestead alone.

KLINGER, Fred Fred Klinger was born in 1885 at Carydon, Iowa. In 1907 he married Edith Blanche Zimmerman, a hometown girl. She was born in 1889 at Carydon, daughter of Peter and Martha Zimmerman.

Fred and Edith lived in Iowa until after the birth of their first two children, Lewis George (1908-1985) and Harley William (1909). They then moved to Missouri, where their next two children made their appearance, Eleanor Irene (1913) and Viola Pauline (1915).

When Pauline was three months old, they packed up and moved to Montana. It was the spring of 1915. They were on the same emigrant train as the Doman family. They came to the Flatwillow area and moved in with Jim Markland. Fred worked for various farmers helping with the haying, threshing, fencing and other jobs. The children went to the Lone Prairie School that was located on the place at that time.

The family later leased the Hansen place and moved into the log cabin that was on the place. This was just on top the rim from Flatwillow so the children were able to walk to and from school. Fred had eleven siblings and Edith had ten, so they were used to "making do." The family remembers that they rarely had any money but they always had food, clothing and a roof over their heads. In the spring of 1922, the family moved to Roundup, Montana.

Fred died in 1927 at Roundup. After Fred's death, Edith married George Evans. George passed away in 1967, and Edith in 1985.

Lewis George Klinger married Clara Peggy Harris in 1936. They moved to Portland, Oregon, where Lewis worked in the shipyards during the war. They had three children: George Lewis (1937), Gerald Fredrick (1942) and Glenn William (1944).

Harley William Klinger married Julia Ann Keosky in 1937. Julia was born in Roundup and raised in the Bull Mountains. They have always made their home in Roundup where Harley worked in the coal mines for 30 years. They built and operated the Ideal Motel for 23 years, and at the present time Harley helps their son, Larry, in the cement business. Harley and Julia have kept their ties to Flatwillow mostly because of their love of dancing. They still (in 1988) go to a dance at least once a week. They have two children: Maria Mae (1942) and Larry David (1947). Julia was a telephone operator for many years.

Eleanor Irene Klinger married Dwight Harmon in Roundup in 1933. A pleasant lady to visit with, she laughingly recalled walking to school at Flatwillow, and