



*A gathering at the Berken Ranch in 1936. Evelyn Wilkinson, Edith Klinger, Mrs. Harold Green, Lillian Berven, Tillie Wilkinson, Evelena Johnke, Mary Brown*

trying to avoid some of the neighbor children. She says, "I don't know why they loved to beat on us." She wanted very badly to take piano lessons but, as she put it, "when we had a piano we didn't have any money; and by the time we got the money, we no longer had a piano."

Like all the children who lived within walking or riding distance of the Hall, they made the trip to the Hall the morning after any function to see if they could find any money or other valuables that had been lost. Pennies were great, but dimes you could dream on.

Eleanor and Dwight had two children: a daughter, Donna Belle, who died as a child; and Louie Alber (1940).

Viola Pauline Klinger married Wayne Jones in 1932. They had three children: Donald De Wayne (1934), Harley Eugene (1939) and Mickey Linn (1950).

**KOCH, Errol** (Sec 34-12-27) (Land to Knapp & Ferguson-Knapp-Pet Co.-Wilson Sheep-Neb. Feed-FCC) Errol Koch was a carpenter. He and his sons built and added onto many early homes. They built the Wallview Church and School. Early school records show three sons: Norman (1895), Vernon (1909) and George (1911).

Rhea Storm McDermott remembers them as running a post office in their home (Verneil) which was on the stage trail in Howard Coulee. She says there were five boys who joined the Navy in World War I. They were very proud to be Americans but conscious of their German name.

**KOHEN, Morris** (Sec 4-12-26) The Morris Kohen family returned to Minneapolis after proving their homestead. They were of Jewish faith and had several children, including twins. This information was supplied by Louise Berven Cook; however, there are no Kohen children listed in the school census reports. The place was lost to the county for taxes and Robert Raundal bought it.

**KUEHL, Herbert** (Sec 15-13-27) (Land to Ogg)

**LAGESCHULTE, Donald** Donald Lageschulte, son of Earl and Marion Hansen Lageschulte, was born at Libertyville, Illinois, in 1946. In 1970 he married Sunny Wright, daughter of William and Monica Moran Wright. They sold their farm in Illinois and moved to Arizona. On a trip to Montana hauling horses for a friend, Don found work and decided to stay in Montana.

In 1984 the couple went to work for John Iverson on Flatwillow Creek, and they have been there ever since. They have cattle of their own, and Don operates the Sky Hook Ranch for Helen Iverson and the Square Root Ranch for John Iverson. Sunny works part time in the accounting department of the Roundup hospital.

**LAMBERT, Adler** (Sec 2-12-25) (Land to Bowen-Iverson)

**LAMBERT, Albert** (Sec 3-12-25) (Land to Bowen-Iverson)

**LAMBERT, Anton** (Sec 10-12-25) (Land to USA) Lillie Lambert Olsen contributed these memories: "My folks, Anton and Annie Lambert, and we kids came to Montana in October 1915 from Denmark — a nice long trip! We came here because my brother, Ed Lambert, and my oldest sister, Ingo, and her husband, Dave Nelson, were already living here. They had sent pictures from Montana, and they looked real good, so the folks decided to sell their farm and come here for some free land.

"We came by train from New York across Canada to Great Falls and on into Roundup. We went first to Ingo and Dave's place at Wallview. The folks thought Montana looked dry after they got here, but my sister said, 'Wait til you see Ed's place.' On Sunday, Dave got a team hitched to the box-wagon (he had a couple of seats to sit on) and we all started for Ed's place. Dave would use his foot on the brake down hill — it looked so easy. Ed had come on horseback from the Clement Ranch where he worked. We went by some homes — one was Pollocks' place where they had been threshing that day. Mrs. Walker had been helping with the cooking. The women were wearing sun bonnets. I thought it the right thing in the Montana sun.

"Then we came to Ed's place. He had his cabin right in the hillside, and below was a fairly big lake caused by a dam across a small stream. All that water looked nice, and the green pine trees looked good to the folks. That fall my folks took up a homestead of 160 acres, and an additional 160 for grazing land. Another brother, Arthur Lambert, took up a homestead joining ours to the south. The folks built a house on Ed's place, and some of us lived in his cabin till Christmas time. From the cabin we could watch muskrats in the lake below. They made long ripples in the water, so nice and peaceful in the sun.

"There was a ridge of hard rock on our place. The folks decided to use it for houses on the homestead to save money. They needed the money for horses, wagons, plow, harness and lots of other things. They cut the rock into suitable pieces and put them together with cement mix. Thus they built our house and other buildings. Later we added a pantry and cellar with steps from the pantry to the cellar. We could keep milk, cream, butter, eggs, and vegetables real fresh in the cellar because there were vents for fresh air.

"We got our first chickens from Dick and Jake Thum, and the Thums also put in our first crop as they had a seeder and horses. They were always good neighbors.



"In the spring of 1916 my dad, Harley Pollock and Fred Hansen went to the Lewistown courthouse to see about getting a school started in the district. By now there were quite a few youngsters in the neighborhood. They got enough money to rent Frank Brinegar's house; to buy desks, blackboards and books; and to pay a teacher for three months of school. Our first teacher was Miss Chandler. Her father, George Chandler, had a place close to the Rostad farm. She boarded at Mitchell Brinegar's right next to the school.

"In June, on our way home from school, we were caught in a bad hailstorm and barrels of rain, but we got home. Dad and Arthur had been working on the house on our new homestead. When the storm got bad, they started home, driving along the hills, then down across the dam. Just then the dam washed out — all the water and mud rushed over the wagon and horses. Art said he really had to whip the horses to get the wagon and themselves up the steep bank where the dam had been. He thought they were goners for awhile, but they made it up the hill, wet, but happy to be home. After that there was only a creek below our place and sometimes enough water to wash away a couple of bridges that the men built across there.

"There was a time when we had a lot of traffic. In 1922 a company leased some land right west of our place and drilled for oil. A lot of people came by to see how they were doing. I guess the company ran short of money, but anyway they got water. It was good drinking water and there was quite a stream. The people drilling this well were Abe and Ben Share and Cass from Roundup.

"Dad and the other homesteaders went to Lewistown to get their land papers, as we were in Fergus County. Later the county was divided, the one part called Petroleum County with the county seat in Winnett.

"We were busy and, being a big family, didn't have much time to get lonesome. One sister, Jennie, married Joe Wade. He had been a barber but went to farming. They lived a mile west of my sister's place. My brother, Arthur, was called into the service in the fall of 1917. He was killed over in France. Art's pal, Carl Olsen, came to visit us and I married him.

"Ingo's husband, Dave Nelson, died of the flu in 1919. He is buried in a little cemetery (Wallview) up on the bench. Later she married an Anderson. Ed Lambert got married, and they rented the Berkin place. They were in partnership with Tom and Mabel Berkin.

"Albert Lambert, my youngest brother, was a good worker. He and Dad built more houses. We had one with galvanized roofing and pipes from there to a cistern, so we had soft water. We had some cattle, sheep, and horses. When Albert got married they moved a house out from Winnett to live in.

"We used to sell our eggs and cream and get our groceries and mail at the Davis store in Flatwillow. When we got a car we went to Winnett where there were several stores and also a high school where some of the

youngest in the family went to high school.

"Harry Draper, a neighbor to the north, told the folks they could farm his place as he was going back to Missouri to live. Albert had corn and oats growing on his place. There were a lot of years that it was so dry there was no feed for the cattle.

"Hard times hit in the thirties. Somehow the house the folks had lived in caught fire and there was no insurance. My dad passed away in 1933 — he had been in poor health for a while. Around 1934 my mom sold the place to Albert and his wife, and my sister Erma and her husband, Tom Calif. Tom worked in the oil field at Cut Bank, but they came down and stayed at times to help with the work."

The Lamberts sold in the 1950s and the place now belongs to Iversons.

Adelia Basinger Lambert lists the following children of Anton and Annie Lambert: Ingo Lambert Nelson (1884), Leonard (1886), Arthur (1887), Jennie Lambert Wade Reeder (1898), Ed (1899), Erma Lambert Calif Smith (1900), Lily Lambert Olsen (1902), Albert (1904), Harriet Lambert Snelling (1906) and Esther Lambert (1909).

**LANCELLE FAMILY** (Sec 10-13-25) Nicholas Lancelle was born in Belgium in 1861. He came to the United States as a young man and settled in Wisconsin. His wife was injured in an accident at an early age and permanently incapacitated. Their three small children — Joseph, Rose, and Josephine — had to be cared for by others. Another son had died in a drowning accident at a young age.

In 1912 Nicholas came to Montana and homesteaded just west of present-day Yellow Water Dam. In the next several years, his now grown children joined him and each took out a homestead in the area.

Rose, the youngest, born in 1894, was a teacher. She taught the Weede School in 1914-16, a school in District #158 in 1916, and the Carmichael School in 1918-19. She married Claude Rhea, who homesteaded in the Flatwillow area, where they lived after being married. (See also RHEA — Flatwillow)

Josephine, born in 1884, married Lawrence Barrett. They lived north of Winnett on his homestead.

Joe, the only boy, was born in Luxemburg, Wisconsin, on March 29, 1887. As a young man, he worked in St. Paul, Minnesota, as a fireman. He was crippled when a brick wall fell on him during a lumberyard fire, and he was no longer able to work as a fireman. He went to a watch-making school, a trade he engaged in for several years. In Tower City, North Dakota, he met Amelia Enderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Enderson. She was born in Moorehead, Minnesota, on December 17, 1886. She attended school in Tower City, North Dakota, and worked with her father in his jewelry store there. On February 17, 1915, she married Joe Lancelle and came to Montana with him in 1916.

Joe and Amelia had two children, Dorothy, born in 1918, and Donald, born in 1920. When Dorothy was old



enough to go to school, the family moved into the abandoned homestead of the Sam Clines so they would be closer to school. School was held in the vacant Walker house. Mildred Warner, nicknamed "Bill," was Dorothy's first teacher. Dorothy had to stay with her during threshing season. (The Lancelles had a threshing machine and threshed for other people as well as for themselves). Dorothy remembers being afraid and homesick; to make matters worse, a skunk got into the house and "Bill" shot it while it was still inside the house!

The school was moved to the school section in 1927 into a flimsy single-board building which was hauled onto the site. (It eventually fell apart and blew away!) The move was necessary in order to have school more centrally located for all of the children. The McFarrens had moved onto the Mink homestead south and west of the school section; Wilma Stroup and the Barnes children lived to the east; and Dorothy and Donald lived south and west. The school only operated for two terms because Wilma graduated, and the other families moved away. It was necessary for Mrs. Lancelle to move into a house in Winnett to keep the children in school. When weather permitted, they returned to the ranch for weekends.

In 1936 Donald contracted spinal meningitis and died. He was buried in the Flatwillow Cemetery.

Dorothy graduated from Winnett High School in 1937. She married John Bartlett who had come to the community with the CCCs. The couple had three children — Connie, Joe, and Jim. The children all attended school in Winnett. Connie was married in 1955 and had three boys — Dan, Leslie, and James.

Joe Bartlett was married and had three children. He died in a car accident in California in 1973. The youngest Bartlett boy was killed in an automobile accident in 1963, when he was only sixteen years old.

In spite of many adversities, Dorothy has continued to operate the Yellow Water Ranch her father and grandfather established. Her mother died in 1962, her father in 1965. Additional land was acquired through the years as other homesteaders left. With the exception of the old Rowley Ranch now owned by the Olsens, no other ranches are occupied in the entire Yellow Water Basin.

**LANDIS, Fred** Fred and Sophie Landis appeared in the school census. They had three children in school: Fred (1922), Floribel (1924) and Roy (1926). They leased the Oscar Rutledge place and lived there for several years.

**LANDUSKY, Powell** "Pike" Landusky is a legend in Central Montana history. He was a wolfer, woodhawk, trader, saloon keeper and miner. He hunted, trapped and traded throughout a large area along the Missouri and Musselshell Rivers, operated a saloon in the early gold camp of Maiden in the Judith Mountains, and mined gold in the Little Rocky Mountains where the town of

Landusky was named for him.

So many tales have been told and retold about his escapades with the Indians and his death at the hand of Kid Curry, it is no longer easy to distinguish fact from fiction. Two documented events, however, substantiate the fact Pike owned and operated a trading post at Flatwillow Crossing near the mouth of the creek which now bears his name — Pike Creek.

First, Granville Stuart camped overnight at Landusky and Hamilton's stockade in May 1880 and described the trading post in his diary. (See introduction to Flatwillow).

Second, Pike and his partner, Joe Hamilton, sold the Flatwillow property to Fred Lawrence in 1882. The deed recording this transaction is on file in the Petroleum County Courthouse. A portion of it is reprinted in Fred Lawrence's history in this book.

Although some local historians have speculated about the name and location of "Lucky Fort," an article published in the *Fergus County Argus* on October 29, 1920, would seem to leave little doubt that Lucky Fort was located on this land at Flatwillow Crossing. The newspaper article quotes J. H. Boucher as saying, "At the time of my story (December 8, 1880), we were on Flatwillow Creek, at the old Lucky Fort trading post."

Boucher's story is of additional interest, not only because it relates Pike's near fatal clash with the Indians who were trading at the post, but also because it makes specific mention of the well-known Metis leader, Louis Riel. His story continues: "Pike's worst fault was his uncontrollable temper. He was honest beyond question, and during his life, his credit was always of the best. Had it not been for his temper, he would have had a quiet and prosperous life, undoubtedly, and would probably be alive today. But his temper led him into many difficulties, and when aroused he seemed to lose all judgment; and it was during a passion of this sort, on December 8, 1889, that he was crippled and almost lost his life. At that time he was in partnership with Joe Hamilton, who was the only man I knew who could do anything with Pike when he was in a heat of passion. . . ."

"There were four white men at the trading post and a hunting party of about 150 Piegan bucks and 20 squaws, with whom we were driving a good trade . . . Pike and Bob Heart had been up all night dealing with the Indians . . . when Bob stuck his head in the door (of the living quarters) and said, 'Joe, come over to the store right away!'"

A general shooting fracas developed and Pike was shot, although the Indians were driven off. Boucher continued: "Pike was plainly getting weaker and soon commenced to stagger. 'Joe, I'm gone,' he said, as he grabbed the counter for support. Then we helped him into the house. Just after we had done so, he put his fingers into his mouth, and we could hear the broken bones grating against each other. Then he threw something hard upon



the floor, which I afterwards picked up and found to be a piece of jawbone with four teeth fastened to it. . . what was to be done? Pike would undoubtedly die unless he got surgical attention quickly, and there appeared no very easy way to get that . . . After a consultation, we decided that one man must guard the fort and be ready to treat with the Indians if an opportunity offered. That was clearly a job for Joe, and Joe only. Another must take care of Pike, and the third must try to reach medical assistance. Bob offered to do the nursing, so I was left to get a surgeon from Fort Maginnis, where the nearest one was located . . . I was to make my way as best I could to a half-blood camp at the mouth of McDonald Creek, 15 miles below. This half-blood Metis camp was presided over by Louis Riel, who was afterward hanged as a rebel by the Canadian government, and who, let me say, was a fine-looking, well-educated and courteous man . . . The half-blood camp was composed of about 100 log cabins and in each of them there was a family, and in some of them, two, so that it was quite a settlement." Boucher managed to catch a horse and ride to the camp to get reinforcements should the Indians return, and to get a fresh horse to proceed to Ft. Maginnis.

"I immediately presented the situation to them, but it was not until 3 o'clock — and then only by Riel's arguments — that they agreed to the relief of the unlucky fort . . . It was 34 miles to Fort Maginnis and the thermometer had gone down to 20 below (so Boucher did not look forward to the trip by himself and was glad for a Metis companion). At midnight we arrived at Chamberlain's. There we changed horses and went on to the fort, arriving there at 4 o'clock.

"Getting breakfast, we were ready to start back again at 7:30. We would have started before, but the doctor wanted to wait until daylight. In fact, he appeared very much opposed to going at all, and my patience was never more sorely tried than it was that day by the army doctor, astride his big, fat government horse, which never seemed to go faster than a walk.

"The day got warmer as it passed, and at one point we ran right into a band of moving Indians, among whom I recognized one or two who had taken a hand in the undoing of Pike. They noticed the doctor's uniform, and that made them more anxious to go along than to enter into conversation.

"A little after 3:00, we arrived at the post. Pike was still alive but very low. The place was alive with Riel's men . . . The doctor's examination showed that Pike had been hit in the jaw, just above the point of the chin, and that the jawbone had been broken completely in two. A remarkable fact was that the bullet had been split in two by the bone, one part lodging in the neck below the ear, the other piece going clear around and lodging back of the neck.

"The next day, after fixing Pike up, the doctor returned to Fort Maginnis. For 10 days there was no apparent im-

provement, and we were about to give Pike up. Something appeared to be wrong, and we sent for Dr. DePalm of Lewistown, Montana. He decided that the jaw had been wrongly set, and it would be necessary to re-break it and set it again before it would heal. Pike said, 'Go ahead and break it; if I die, I die, that's all.'

"The second operation was over in a day or two, and soon there was improvement, but it was the following April before he left his bed. Then he went to Maiden and together with Joe Hamilton opened a store."

Another story written about Pike Landusky, which took place some time before the previous episode, appeared in the *Lewistown Democrat News* dated March 29, 1931. It was written by Oscar Mueller and is typical of the stories told about "Pike."

"One of the Reed and Bowles' near neighbors, who operated a similar trading post on a branch of Flatwillow Creek, known as Pike Creek, about 50 miles east (of present-day Lewistown where Reed and Bowles were located) was a notorious character. His name was Pike Landusky. (Pike was later killed at a mining town named after him, Landusky, in the Little Rockies, by Kid Curry, a notorious bandit and train robber.)

"Pike came over to see his friend, Bowles, one day, unannounced, since there was no means of communication, except by saddle horse, and found Bowles was at Fort Benton, the trading center of this territory at that time. Pike stuck around for awhile waiting but, his friend not showing up, in caveman style, Pike took Bowles' squaw back home with him. When Bowles arrived home, he continued his journey to Pike's place to get his squaw. After a flourish of guns, the two made up and went on a big spree.

"A drinking party in those days among men of this character, was a real carousal. They would drink until they were unconscious and would sleep until finally one would become aroused out of his stupor sufficiently to realize the situation and pull out his gun and shoot holes through the stovepipe to awaken his drunken pals. They would then start in again and continue until the liquor was consumed."

**LAWRENCE, Fred E.** In the Flatwillow Cemetery there is a very distinctive grave. There are four granite corner posts with pipes between them. The large tombstone reads: Fred Lawrence born 1853, died 1890. A small stone reads: Mattie Sawyer Martin born 1860, died 1949. In the Petroleum County deed book is the following recorded deed:

"THIS INDENTURE, Made this 2nd day of May, 1882, between JOSEPH HAMILTON AND POWELL LANDUSKY, of Maidenville, Meagher County, Montana Territory, the parties of the first part, and FRED E. LAWRENCE, of Helena, Montana, the party of the second part,

"WITNESSETH: That the said parties of the first part,



for and in consideration of the sum of Fifteen Hundred Dollars, then to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold, remised, released and forever quitclaimed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, remise, release and forever quitclaim unto the said party of the second part, his heirs, and assigns forever:

"The ranch known as the Hamilton Ranch, situated on Flatwillow Creek, Meagher County, Montana Territory.

"The parties of the first part to retain possession of said premises until July 1, 1882, and the party of the second part to have the privilege of making such improvements on said premises, as he may desire to make . . ."

The deed book also tells us that Mattie Lawrence, widow of the late Fred Lawrence, advertised the land for sale at public auction, for the purpose of paying debts, in 1891. The land sold to one Alvah Sawyer from Michigan. In later transfers we find that Alvah Sawyer and wife Josephine, of Michigan, sold the land to Mattie S. L. Sherman, widow of Fred Lawrence, in 1896.

Fred Lawrence came to Flatwillow from Helena. As the deed shows, he bought the Hamilton Ranch from Joe Hamilton and Powell (Pike) Landusky in 1882. The sale included all land and buildings. An additional deed on the same day transferred one mowing machine, one sulky horse rake, one plow, one wagon, one cook stove and fixtures, one box stove and one shovel.

Amanda Swift, one-time county superintendent of schools, wrote of Mrs. Lawrence: "Fred Lawrence brought his bride, Mattie Sawyer Lawrence, an eastern teacher, to the home he had bought from Pike Landusky, located on Flatwillow Creek and known as Flatwillow Crossing. They built a large house and started a hotel and trading post. Mrs. Lawrence (later Mrs. Sherman) had much to do with formulating the early school systems of central and eastern Montana, also in Billings, Montana. Her optimism visualized a fine future school system for the east half of the to-be-state. She was instrumental in the formation of School District #26."

Fred Lawrence was born in 1853 and died in 1890. His was the first grave in the Flatwillow Cemetery. Mattie was born in 1860 and died in 1949.

**LEACH, Percy** (Sec 24-13-27) (Land to Pet. Co.)

**LEMMON, Darrell** Darrell Lemmon started working for First Continental Corporation in 1980 as a tractor operator. He worked at Conrad, Snowy, and Fly Creek, moving to Flatwillow in 1983 when First Continental bought the Nebraska Feeding Co. and the Bratten places.

In the fall of 1983, he became the machinery foreman responsible for the breaking, summer fallowing, seeding, and controlling of pests and weeds. His area included the farms in north and south Winnett, Grassrange, Custer, Rickner and North Lavina. He was promoted to farm manager for this area in 1988, and Mark Weller took over as machinery foreman.

Darrell was born in 1959 at Conrad, Montana, and in

1979 married Robin Zeier, daughter of Bob and Jessie Sterling Zeier of Ryegate, Montana. They have two children: Curtis Jess (1985) and Jyll Kyla (1988). Robin worked in the Billings Post Office for four years and is presently employed, part time, at the ASCS office in Roundup, Montana. Robin's grandfather, Fred Zeier, was a house mover and moved the present Pugrud home from the Klein Mine to Flatwillow in 1957.

Darrell has always been interested in flying, so he took lessons, got a private pilot license, and purchased a small plane in 1988. He uses the plane to oversee the farming operations for which he is responsible.

**LEMMON, Doris** Doris came to Flatwillow as a teacher. Her first school was the Upper Flatwillow School in 1926-27. She boarded and roomed with Sam and Mary King at the Reams house. Her students were the Tripps, Wiggins, Brady and Carter children. The next two years she taught the Flatwillow School.

Doris was an accomplished musician — playing for dances, funerals, hall programs and giving lessons.

Doris married George Wilson in 1928. (See also WILSON). After her separation from George, she and her daughter Jerra Lee moved to Missoula where Jerra Lee attended school and Doris earned a degree in music.

**LEPPER, Benjamin Franklin** Benjamin Franklin Lepper came up the Missouri River on a steamboat in the early 1870s. He located near old Ft. Buford and established a wood yard to sell fuel to the steamers. Later he moved to Ft. Benton, Montana, where he was engaged in freighting for a time. After a time he journeyed south of the Big Snowies where he secured work on the well-known Severance sheep ranch. He saved his money and bought a band of sheep, but he met a hard winter and lost practically his entire flock. Discouraged, he sold out and moved to what is now the site of the city of Roundup.

B. F. again entered the sheep business and met another hard winter. Selling out again, he secured a job shearing for the N Bar Ranch. After the shearing season he located upon Flatwillow Creek and started to build a ranch. He lived there 35 years before returning to Ohio.

The 1904-1905 *Polk Directory* lists Lepper as owning 9288 acres with an evaluation of \$47,378.

In 1911 B. F. Lepper and William Garl put their land together and sold it to a Wisconsin-based company called the Flatwillow Land Company. Locally it was known as Lepper-Garl, so it appears Mr. Lepper and Mr. Garl continued to operate it.

The Flatwillow Land Company leased their holdings to J. A. Maloney of Baraboo, Wisconsin, in 1914. Mr. Maloney renamed the place the "Home Ranch" when he made a contract of purchase in 1919. He hired Marshall Sergeant to manage the property for several years. When Marshall left, Frank Shammel was manager. B. F. Lepper carried the contract of purchase and in 1930 he started foreclosure proceedings.

In 1940 the ranch was again listed for sale. At this time it was listed as containing 4200 acres and a nine-room



house. It also had several sections of leased state land.

Mr. Lepper died in 1941, survived by a sister, Margaret Swartz, and a number of nieces and nephews. At one time he controlled 13,800 acres of land and ran 20,000 sheep. He was a partner in the Flatwillow store and stage stop for about ten years. In later years he became owner of the building that now houses the Petroleum County Courthouse. (The building was sold to the county in 1943.) He also owned the Broadway Garage, the Sibbert Ranch and some coal land at the time of his death.

B. F. Lepper never married but he sponsored a nephew, Howard W. Lepper, to come to Montana to live. (See also LEPPER — Winnett)

When the Flatwillow community decided to build a Community Hall, B. F. Lepper contributed \$1000 and asked that it be named Lepper Memorial Hall in honor of his nephew.

Even as early as 1921 people were aware of Mr. Lepper's benevolent nature. The following article appeared in the Winnett Times and is quoted in part: "Among the stories that are told of this kindly gentleman is one that touches the financial condition of the country. After locating near Flatwillow, not many years rolled by before he was financially able to assist the more recent arrivals in the country. He was known to lend money to people with practically no security and never charged over 8 percent interest. This was at the time when interest rates were exorbitant, going as high as 25 percent.

"He was also known to take note of the poor and needy and many poor families have received sums of money from him monthly to tide them over a stringent period. It is believed that in the early 1920s, he had about \$200,000 loaned out, and most of that to people who did not have the collateral necessary to borrow from the banks."

**LIENESCH, Mary** (Sec 14-12-27) (Land to Pet. Co.-Wilson Sheep-Neb. Feed-FCC) Mary Lienesch came from Illinois.

**MADDEN, I. G.** (Sec 34-12-26) I. G. Madden moved to Roundup in 1923. Julius Heuschkel writes, "Mr. Madden was the man who spent a day in his pickup truck driving around looking for a shepherd to get me a brown-eared, buck lamb. He was rather stout so he used a 'fat-man saddle' when he rode, and needed a 'strong' horse. He was relatively affluent and had his own Delco electric generating unit. Also he became the first local Ford dealer when the Model T first came on the western market." Mr. Madden lived on the Joyce place.

**MANG, Frank** (Sec 33-12-26) (Land to Blatchford-Pet. Co.-Harms-Eliasson) Frank Mang leased the Madden place in 1925. Frank Mang was Pat Mang's brother.

**MANG, Martin Charles** (Musselshell County) Martin Charles (Pat) Mang was born in 1909 at Aberdeen, South Dakota, son of Martin George Mang and Rosa Anna Marquet. He married Helen Ethel Brown, daughter of

Raymond Smith and Verna Sessions, in 1958. She had two children: Sherry Kathryn (1946) and Gloria Jo (1956).

**MARKLAND, Millie** (Sec 32-13-26) (Land to USA)

**MARKLAND, Walter (Jim)** (Sec 4-12-26) (Land to USA)

**MARKLAND, William (Jesse)** (Sec 11-13-26) (Land to Berven) William J. (Jesse) Markland was born in 1857 at Greensburg, Indiana. In 1878 he married Nancy Reed who died in 1888 leaving Jesse with three boys: Millard, Stanford, and Ira (a daughter Anna had died in infancy).

In 1891 Jesse married Millie Hardesty, and they made their home in Powersville, Missouri. They were blessed with three more sons: Walter James (1892), Willard (1894) and Ivan (1900).

In the fall of 1910, Jesse made the trip to Montana and filed on a homestead in the Pike Creek area. He built a two-story house and then returned to Missouri to get his family. His wife, Millie, and sons Jim, Willard and Ivan returned with him, and the boys were enrolled at the Flatwillow School. The family did their trading at the Flatwillow Store.

Marklands were devout Methodists and didn't condone working on Sunday. Millie ordered a new churn through the Davis store at Flatwillow. It arrived on Saturday. Millie picked her treasure up that evening, took it home and unpacked it. By Sunday morning she could stand the suspense no longer. She carefully cleaned it up, filled it with cream and started churning. For some reason, the pressure built up and blew the lid off. It sprayed cream all over the kitchen! She felt terrible with a mess to clean up, a whole batch of cream lost, and she couldn't figure out what had caused it. Jesse's comment, "It serves you right — churning on the Sabbath!"

Jesse died in 1929 and Millie died in 1936. Their services were held at the Flatwillow Hall, and they are buried in the Flatwillow Cemetery.

Jim Markland worked his homestead until 1938 when he moved to a farm he had purchased in Absarokee, Montana. He died in 1950 and was buried at the Flat-



Marklands: Jim, Willard, Ivan, Charley Turner (Mrs. Markland's brother), Jesse and Millie





*Markland Brothers: Millard, Stanford, Ira, Jim, Willard and Ivan*

willow Cemetery after services at the Hall.

Jim never married but was a well-liked friend of many. Jim and his brothers used to hunt coyotes with hounds. They ranged all over the country, working for various sheepmen, helping to rid the range of these predators.

Robert Ivan Markland died at the age of 32 from a severe attack of double pneumonia. He is buried in the Flatwillow Cemetery, and there were services at the Hall.

Willard J. Markland married Bertha Atwood in Roundup, Montana, in 1929. They lived in the Flatwillow area with Millie Markland, running the home place until Millie's death. In 1937, they were part of the resettlement program and moved to Fairfield, Montana. They had no children. Willard passed away in 1953 and was buried at the Flatwillow Cemetery following services at the Hall. It was noted that this was the fifth Markland to have funeral services at the Hall, and that Hallie Tripp had played for all five. Bertha later married William Johnke.

**MARLOW, John** (Sec 33-14-26) John Marlow and his wife, Isabel, came to Montana from Tennessee with several other family members. (See also MINK) The group settled in an area north and west of present Yellow Water Dam. According to the school census, John and his wife had two children: Lela (1913) and James (1915).

The Marlows did not stay and prove up on their homestead but moved to Lehigh, where John found work. He worked for the railroad and later moved to Harlowton, Montana.

**MASON, Delos** (Sec 22-12-26) (Land to Asbury-Golda-Corcoran-Neb. Feed-FCC) In "Memories of Yesteryear," Hazel Gamel tells of Mr. Mason's homestead: "Delos Mason homesteaded on the top side of the rimrocks in a beautiful spot. Close to his claim shack were several rocks about eight to ten feet high, shaped just like toadstools. After two years, when he left his claim to go work in the mines and the place was left vacant, our school district decided to start another school over there. It was decided that one of these toadstools rocks was dangerous. It was too top-heavy and it appeared to sway in the breeze. The teacher, Homer Richardson, and his biggest student tied a barbwire around it and sawed it off."

Another story Hazel Gamel tells in her book concerned Mr. Mason's daughter: "One of the half-blood Indian cowboys who was working on the Clement Ranch had consumed way too much liquor. He got on his horse and rode over to the Masons' homestead. At that time, Mr. Mason's daughter was staying with her father. She was an artist and had her paints with her. While the cowboy was there, he passed out; she hit upon the idea to paint his face like an Indian going to war. While he slept soundly, she painted. When he came to, he apologized for his behavior and left, unaware of his appearance."

**McALLISTER, Frank** (Sec 20-13-26) (Land to Pet. Co.-McAllister-Hughes) Frank was born in 1876 at Grand Lodge, Michigan. He served in the Philippines in the Spanish-American War and was later employed by the Northern Pacific Railroad in Spokane. He married Grace Hickey on June 14, 1911, in Moscow, Idaho. In 1913 the couple homesteaded several miles east and south of Yellow Water Dam.

Frank was an avid fisherman and he built a sailboat after the dam was built in 1938. The wind came up while he was enjoying his boat for the first time, and he was forced to take it out of the water on the opposite shore. The Winnett Times reported the incident, and his good-humored fishermen friends refused to let him forget the venture.

The McAllisters were active, respected members of the Yellow Water and Flatwillow communities. Though they had no children of their own, they obviously loved children and young people. Their thoughtfulness is reflected in a number of small incidents remembered by others. Grace Kindschy Deffinbaugh, whose parents were homestead neighbors, recalls that Mrs. McAllister gave her and her sister their first dolls. Grace still has the doll!

Hallie Tripp wrote in her memoirs, "I believe that Grace McAllister came from a family of affluence. Their home here was never large enough for her to unpack all of her



*Grace McAllister, Velma Merten, Mrs. Charles Doherty (In front) Pat Doherty, Lucille Merten*



boxes of linen, crystal, silver and china. Whenever a neighborhood girl was to be married, Grace would give her a party. She would have a tea served on linen, using all her beautiful tableware."

Eva Doman Lengemann wrote, "Mr. and Mrs. McAllister only lived a mile from us. She was a registered nurse, and a darn good one. Whenever anyone was sick, they sent for 'Mrs. Mac' as she was called. She always went and helped; sometimes it was days that she stayed and helped. I'm sure she saved many lives and brought many babies into this world. She was with Mom when Lloyd (Doman) came along . . . she was a wonderful person and was loved by everyone, and I am sure she got very little pay — in most cases, none. People gave her vegetables, meat, eggs, etc. I'm sure she saved my life when I had tick fever. She stayed for days at our house. Dad took her to Winnett, where Dr. Alexander gave her instructions and medication for me. She pulled me out of it. I'll never forget her!"

Grace served on the Flatwillow District #26 school board in 1918. Her interest in the American Legion Auxiliary and the Red Cross was lifelong, and she served in every imaginable position for both organizations.

The McAllisters moved to Winnett in 1938. Frank's health was not good, and he made frequent visits to the veterans' hospital in Helena, Montana. When he was forced to go into the hospital on a permanent basis, Grace found employment at St. Peter's Hospital in Helena. Frank died August 16, 1943, and Grace continued to work at the hospital.

In a few years, she moved to Wisconsin. She wrote, "I am nursing at the Winnebago County Asylum . . . I have enjoyed Wisconsin, but the west still exerts a great pull for me that I am not sure I can resist."

Grace did not return to Montana to make her home, however. She died in 1970.

**McCLURE, Don** (Sec 22-12-27) (Land to Damico-Parente-Neb. Feed-FCC) There were two McClure children listed in the District #106 census, with Thomas and Carrie Morris listed as guardians. Their names were: Marion (1908) and Bertha (1909). Don and Edith McClure moved to Winnett in 1921.

Fern Whitten remembers that the McClures always kept to themselves and, therefore, people speculated about them. One time McClures invited Frank and Ella Millsap for dinner. Although the home wasn't impressive, Millsaps were served an excellent meal. The table was set with linen, bone china, cut glass and silver. Everything was beautiful.

The McClure home was located on the first ridge of the hogback. At the time they decided they couldn't make it, they were building a new home. They put in two large cisterns so they would always have a supply of water. The floor plan called for several rooms plus bathrooms. The house was never finished.



*The McCollum family: James, Wynona, Esther, Sam (In front) George and Otis Lloyd*

**McCOLLUM, James** Wynona McCollum Wilcox wrote the following account: "James Samuel McCollum and wife, Esther Dobson McCollum, moved from Severy, Kansas, in the spring of 1912, by immigrant train. The family consisted of children Wynona, age four; J. Donald, age two; and my Uncle Harry McCollum. The folks rented a place south of Lewistown where we lived while our dad built a house on the 160-acre homestead, two miles east of the Flatwillow, Montana, Post Office and Stage Depot.

"In the next spring, May 1913, a new baby brother, Lloyd, arrived. Mom's friend, Virgie White, (also from Severy) came to help Mom. I recall that summer Ringling Brothers' full colorful circus came to Lewistown. Our dad drove us to town in a spring wagon buggy. I remember sitting in the back seat holding my little parasol over my shoulder.

"During this year, 1913, Mom's sister, Mae Dobson, and their mother, Polly Dobson, arrived from Severy, Kansas. That Christmas we kids got a High Flyer sled. There was quite a steep hill south of the house. Dad decided he'd better try the slope out first, so down he went — he broke through the icy snow at the bottom and that pitched him forward, getting his face all scratched by the icy crust.

"Dad didn't move the family to the homestead until August 1914. He put a tent over the hayrack and he, Mom, and we three kids rode in it. I recall a space for us to play and sleep, left in the middle, with household things packed around. Aunt Mae drove the grain wagon, Grandma Dobson was with her, and they had two cows tied on behind to follow. I recall one of the overnight stops was on the "Divide," where a railroad survey camp was. Men folks slept in the cabin where a hungry bunch of bedbugs lived. The bugs got into the bedding, and Mom had to fight them a long time after we got to the homestead.



"When we arrived at Flatwillow, it must have been around 4 or 5 p.m., the last part of August. The first building we saw was the Yellow Dog Saloon — then the post office-general store on the east side. On the west side lived the George Davis family, who owned the store. All along the front of the store was a high platform porch that the overland stage drove up to. Across from the store was a log building that was called 'Millsap Hotel,' also a stable to house an extra team for the stage. Drivers were also changed here.

"Frank and Ella Millsap and two daughters, Fern and Leone, ran the hotel. My Aunt Mae Dobson later got a job at the hotel. A country schoolhouse was also nearby. In the school yard was a barn to shelter the horses and ponies we kids rode to school. There were 30 or less children coming to school — a teacherage was later built for teachers to stay in.

"We arrived at the homestead house later that evening. The house consisted of an all-purpose room on the south end and the other half was a bedroom and clothes closet. There was also a pantry and a built-on kitchen. That was all, except an outdoor 'outhouse.' The folks had to haul water from the neighbors southwest of us ½ mile. Dad had to build a barn for the animals, with winter coming.

"Being so young and shy, the folks didn't send me to school. The next fall I was 7½ when I went to school. I had to walk two miles across the fields. I already could write and knew the ABC's and could read some. Mr. Harry Tripp was my first-grade teacher. The Tripp family lived north of us one or two miles. Mrs. Hallie Tripp taught music and she'd teach while Mr. Tripp did spring farm work. Her folks (Sam and Mary King) lived nearby — also Oscar and Alice Rutledge. I think Oscar was a brother of Mrs. King. Kings were also related to the Grow families.

"Alice Rutledge was a nurse. She helped many new babies enter the neighborhood, including my brother George. The Rutledge home was halfway to school, and we always found a welcome, warm kitchen range with oven door open for all of us to warm up by. Usually there was something warm to drink. A mile east of the folks was a family, Rolla and Nina Carter. They had two little daughters, Jacque and Zella.

"South of us a ¼ mile, a new family of homesteaders from South Dakota moved in. They had five children. One March day that next spring, one of the older boys made a kite and was flying it. I was eight, and I'd never seen such a thing in the sky before. I was ever so frightened.

"The Johnkes were of German descent. 'Ma' Johnke was also a nurse. She came to be a blessing to our family. In November 1917 our folks expected their sixth child; Helen arrived and Mrs. Johnke was the nurse. Mom was not able to nurse the baby, and the baby couldn't tolerate cow's milk so Ma Johnke made a formula out of barley water. I don't know what else was in it. Mom was in bed all winter with rheumatism and 'Ma' came every morning to care for her and the baby. Sometime during the spring, Mom was able to be up and about again.

"Dad had a well drilled; it turned out to be quite deep and took a 12-foot windmill to lift the water. He had an engine on it to pump when the wind didn't blow.

"There was a national 'flu' epidemic the years 1918-1919. It didn't hit our neighborhood until winter 1919. All of us were down with it except our dad and little brother Glen. Dad got Grace McAllister (a nurse from another neighborhood) to help him. He also had to go to the Carter family to do their chores, as they all had the flu. Some people in the area died that year.

"Dad was a fiddler and Aunt Mae would chord on the pump organ. They played songs like 'Red Wing,' 'Golden Slippers,' and others. Mother played hymns and sang.

"Our dad and Rolla Carter got the first Ford trucks in the area. Ours had tires and tubes, and Carter's had solid rubber tires. Before that the men in the neighborhood used team and wagons to haul grain to Musselshell or Roundup. They would bring back a load of winter coal and sometimes some apples. They later hauled into Winnett. Sometimes crops were good if we had enough moisture. Most raised pigs to butcher for the miners in Roundup. They usually had regular customers.

"The fall of 1922 I went with Dad and his load of wheat to Winnett, and Dad put me on the train to Lewistown, Montana. I was to start my freshman year in Fergus High School. I was only 14½ years old, and I now realize how Mom must have felt to let her shy, country daughter go alone. When I arrived I went to the school's dean of women to be assigned to a home and family to stay with. All country girls got homes to stay in to work for room and board. Sometimes we got good families and sometimes not. I had two families before I got the Joe King family after Christmas.

"Mom had our youngest brother, Vernard, in October that year. I didn't see him until Christmas break. Also in November that fall, a doctor in Roundup sent our dad to the clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, to see what his problem was. I didn't know he was ill. He was told he had pernicious anemia and was given three months to live. He lived until January 23, 1926. I wonder where the money came from to go to the clinic. They let me go back to Lewistown to school and I didn't get back home until school was out in the spring.

"The year Petroleum County was taken off of Fergus County making Winnett the county seat, I stayed with the Hamm Greene family. He was the town banker where the folks banked. I only stayed for the first semester. I got to visit home more often than when I was in Lewistown. A few times I rode with whoever came for Gordon Wilson. I attended the first grade with him. He was on the football team. I started the second semester and was staying with Mrs. Harley Pollock and her two daughters, Lois and Clara. Henrietta Hawkins stayed there, too.

"I left school however to help Mom — Dad was needing more care, some of the kids were in school; it was too hard to catch up, and Winnett High didn't have a program like Fergus High, where one could take the last semester





*Esther (Dobson) McCollum in 1963 at age 78*



*Wynona McCollum Wilcox in 1988 at age 80*

at the beginning of school to catch up.

"After Dad's passing, all of us kids came down with the German measles. I was pretty sick as it settled in my already weak eyes. Later, I helped Mrs. O. M. Green at haying time for \$1.25 a day, and with the money I got my first glasses. Mrs. O. M. Green was our 4-H leader. When I got older, I helped her out during haying and shearing, still for \$1.25 a day.

"After our father's death, a cousin, Herman W. Puller from Portland, Oregon, came to help Mom for a year. He later rented the Root place for a while, trying to farm. He had a Model T Ford touring car and used to take me with him to the schoolhouse dances. He was always special and lots of fun. Grandma Dobson had bought 40 acres on the southwest corner from our homestead and built a small house. She lived there until she had to go to Uncle Bob's.

"When Grandma became ill, she came back to Mom's, and we took care of her until her death July 31, 1931. Mom took our youngest brother, Vernard, and Aunt Mae took a child and they took Grandma's body back to Kan-

sas for burial. I was left in charge of the home place.

"In 1932, I married Dwight H. Wilcox, son of Seth and Martha Wilcox, of the Wallview area. We moved onto the Porter Hays homestead, added a room, and set up housekeeping.

"Mother, Esther McCollum, had to let the homestead, plus some other acreage they'd bought, go for taxes. My brother Donald was using a team of horses and scraper working on the building of the Fort Peck Dam. Glen joined the CCCs after his sophomore year. Verna stayed with us the fall of 1936. Mom and the rest of the family moved into Winnett. She had a job cooking at the Montana Hotel for Mrs. Millsap. In the fall of 1937 my mother moved to Lewiston, Idaho."

From Hallie Tripp's memories: "The McCollums were a hard-working Christian family. I recall driving over to visit Esther one afternoon. Sam had just installed a new gate into the yard and as I drove up, the sun was just right that I couldn't see the wires. I drove right through the gate! Needless to say I wasn't Sam's favorite neighbor that day." (See also WILCOX — Flatwillow)

**McDONALD, Charles W.** Charles McDonald is credited with being one of the earliest settlers on Yellow Water Creek. He filed water rights on the creek in 1883. He may have acquired the property through "squatter's rights" as some others in the area had. The land laid along the route of the stage road from Junction City to Ft. Maginnis. It is reported there was a stage stop for changing horses at his corrals. His property was bought by John Rowley and later became the Jonas Olsen Ranch.

**McDONALD, John** (Sec 30-13-27) (Land to Tripp) The following account is from Harry Tripp's memoirs: "John McDonald was an older man so we built our shacks close to his place for water. He had an arrangement with the Experiment Station in Mandan, North Dakota, to try various fruits in this climate. He had an orchard of apples, plums and pears as well as several varieties of berries.

"Because of the circumstances, everyone kept an eye on everyone else. It was the winter of 1927, and John had been feeling poorly, so I had been trying to keep a check on him. I told him that if he needed help to hang a white cloth out on the house. By going up on the hill to the east, I could see his house. I hadn't seen him, or a flag, for several days so I went up to check on him. There was a flag hanging out all right — but it was so dirty I couldn't distinguish it from the house. He was very sick and had written a note saying what he wanted done in case he died.

"I went over and got Alice Rutledge, a practical nurse; then I went to Yellow Water and got Mrs. McAllister, a registered nurse. The ladies gave John a bath, in spite of his protests, and we got the doctor. They wrote to his daughter and she came, but he died of pneumonia on February 4, 1927. His daughter, Mrs. Keiner, took the body home to York, Pennsylvania, for burial.

"I later bought his holdings from B. F. Lepper who held the mortgage."