

**McENEANEY, William P.** William P. and Elizabeth Jane Harper McEneaney bought the Tom Berkin place from the Federal Land Bank in 1938.

In 1916 the McEneaneys had followed the trek of homesteaders to Montana settling in the Box Elder Valley 30 miles east of Roy. They resided there for about 20 years. Later they moved to Flatwillow Creek where they lived until 1945. They leased their place to Big Timber Land and Livestock and moved to Roundup, Montana. Later their property was sold to R. M. Melby. W. P. McEneaney died in 1956.

Children were: Philip, Edith, Elizabeth, Margaret Mary, James Thomas and Alice Veronica (See also McENEANEY — Blakeslee).

**McFADDEN, Harvey** Harvey A. McFadden and wife, Cora Sipes McFadden, came to Montana in 1911, and lived near Judith Gap. They moved onto the Shaw Ranch in 1928. They lived there until 1935, when they moved to the Stillwater Valley.

Harvey, son of Richard and Mary McFadden, was born in 1874 at Cove Gap, Pennsylvania. In 1902 he married Cora Sipes. She was born in 1884 at Harrisonville, Pennsylvania. She died in 1949; Harvey, in 1958.

The McFadden family consisted of Melvin R. (1913), who married Wilma Stroup in 1934 and they had three children: Billie Ray (1938), Jimmy Lee (1939), and Betty Jean (1941); Eugene McFadden (1903) who never married; and Montana Clara McFadden (1918) who married Bob Clark in 1934 and had one son, Jack. Montana and Bob were divorced, and Montana married Tom Guy in 1958.

**McFARREN, Margaret Johnson** (Sec 34-14-25) Margaret Johnson came to Montana with other members of her family in 1914. (See MINK and JOHNSON) She took over an unproven homestead near the rest of the family's land. A 12' by 14' house was built on her property, but she did not prove up on her claim until after she was married, so the land was registered under the McFarren name.

Margaret worked as a cook and waitress. She cooked for Charles and Sara Hasset at Petrolia when their baby daughter was born. She also cooked for the Blackfords in



*The McFarren family: (Back row) Esther, Elin, Edith, Ethel, Evelyn (Middle row) Margaret and Otto (Center front) Carl*

Lewistown, Montana, and on the Dillon Ranch near Lewistown.

Otto McFarren and his brother Horace came to Montana from Nebraska. They had a threshing machine which they took around the country to thresh for others. Margaret was working in a cafe in Hilger, Montana, when she met Otto who was threshing in the area.

Margaret and Otto were married on July 4, 1917 in Grassrange, Montana. The town was celebrating the Fourth of July with a rodeo, parade and picnic so the McFarren's wedding became part of the celebration!

For a few years the McFarrens made their home on Otto's homestead near Dovetail (See also McFARREN — Dovetail), but in 1926 the family moved back to Grandpa Mink's homestead near Yellow Water. They moved Margaret's original homestead house and William Scott's abandoned house to Grandpa Mink's place and put them all together in order to have a larger house. There were four children in the family by this time — Edith, Ethel, Elin and Esther. The three older children went to the Stroup School which was located on the school section just north of present-day Yellow Water Reservoir. Their first teacher was Audrey Holmes.

The family had a milk cow and raised chickens and turkeys. The turkeys had to be "herded" in order to keep them from wandering away. They stayed together in a flock eating grasshoppers and seeds but if they began to stray too far from the buildings someone would herd them closer to home.

Margaret sometimes helped a neighbor, Peter Kjersem, tend his bees. She enjoyed working with the bees and did not hesitate to help move swarms, gather honey, and change hives. In later years she kept bees herself and the family all enjoyed fresh comb honey.

The family moved in 1928. They farmed the Hopkins place north and east of Winnett about seven miles. The family spent weekends on the farm but stayed in Winnett during the week for school. Otto also worked on road construction when work was available. He furnished a team and fresno and worked on the new road which was built from Box Elder to the Musselshell River.

In 1935 a CCC camp was established in Winnett. The influx of young men in the community added appreciably to the social life of the three teenage girls in the McFarren household. Though their house was tiny, it was cheery and homey. Many evenings it was crowded with young people popping popcorn, pulling taffy, fixing hot chocolate after toboggan rides, playing cards and singing.

The McFarrens moved to Shepherd, Montana in 1936.

**McGILL, Artie** (Sec 10-12-25) (Sold to USA)

**McKOU, Clarence** (Sec 31-13-26) (Sold to Berven)

**McMILLAN, Edward** (Sec 32-12-27) (Land to Matteson-Gaylord-USA) Edward McMillan was a bachelor. In 1922 he bought a barbershop in Forsyth, Montana, and moved over there for a while. Later he moved back to Howard Coulee.



**MELBY, R.M.** R. M. Melby, wife Eli, and son William bought the Tom Berkin place from W. P. McEneany in 1946. In 1956 he made a contract for sale of the land with John Hughes. Before Hughes took possession, Mr. Melby decided he didn't want to sell. Hughes took the case to court and it was in litigation for four years. The decision was in favor of Hughes. Mr. Melby had an auction sale and vacated the property in 1960.

**MELICHER, Edward** (Sec 28-12-27) (Land to Pet. Co.-Wilson Sheep-Neb.Feed-FCC) Edward Melicher was a bachelor. He had an auction sale in 1927 and moved back to Northern Minnesota.

**MERKEL, Clara** (Sec 31-12-25) (Land to Bryant-Zimmerman)

**MEYER FAMILY** (Musselshell County) the following is quoted from "Memories of Yesteryear" by Hazel Gamel: "When we had been on the homestead about three years, a wonderful German family from Nebraska joined our community. They settled about three miles to the south of us in what is now Musselshell County. At first, only Mr. Meyer and his two sons came. The first we knew of them, Mr. Meyer and the younger son came to Sunday school.

"Elmer, the older son, was the black sheep of the family. He was not a bad character, he just didn't like church-going like the rest of the family did. In a few weeks they had gotten a house built and things in shape for Mrs. Meyer and Allan, Ada, Mary and Helen to join them. They were very faithful about Sunday school and church.

"When the school terms were out, the older Meyer daughters began to arrive — Elsie, Amy, Frieda and Hattie. They had all been teaching in different states, but the next year they all taught close to home. Elsie taught the Fassett School. Hattie, the Devil's Basin; Amy, the Joyce; and Frieda, the Home School.

"There were twelve children in the family. The oldest daughter had married and was living in Nebraska. One of the younger girls, Anna, stayed with her sister in Nebraska to finish high school, then continued on for nurses' training. The family turned out eight school teachers and one nurse. This is the way they managed it. The parents helped the first two, they in turn helped the next two, and so on down. I never saw better cooperation in a family.

"Their house was always spotless. The girls took turns during summer vacation at doing the housework, cooking and washing — two girls each week. When one was about to get married, she had to do all the cooking by herself for several months."

**MILLER, Louis** (Sec 35-13-25) The Miller family lived west of Bervens on Pike Creek. They moved to Wyoming and their land now is in the grazing district.

**MILLER, Newton Orville** (Sec 9-13-26) N. O. Miller was born in 1884. He and his wife, Sada, purchased land from Petroleum County in 1933. The land had formerly been owned by Isaac Tyson and George Bechner.

Mr. Miller was a state representative from Fergus County in 1926 and in 1928. He was a banker at Roy, Montana, before coming to Winnett where he acted as receiver for the defunct Winnett bank. Later the family moved to Bozeman and N. O. was manager of the Production Credit Association.

Mrs. Miller died in 1935. The Millers' daughter, Josephine, acquired the Petroleum County land and sold it to Joe King in the late 1940s.

**MILLSAP, Frank** (Sec 23-13-26) Frank was born in 1863 in Woodland, California. According to the Polk Directory, Frank Millsap and his daughter Blanche were in Flatwillow in 1904. Frank was running the saloon and was also on the school board. Blanche (1889) is listed in the 1904 census. He moved to Lewistown that same year, where he married Ella Moshner. Leone (1904) and Fern (1906) were born in Lewistown.

Millsaps moved back to Flatwillow in 1910, and Ella ran the hotel for Shermans; Frank ran the saloon. The family lived in Flatwillow until 1917, then moved to Winnett. Frank continued on the homestead until the home and buildings burned in 1925. Then he also moved to Winnett full time. He died in 1935.

Ella was one of the early school teachers of the area. She taught in Grassrange when school first opened there. One year she was hired to teach a half-blood Indian school just out of Lewistown. She had 18 pupils. The first day, she rang the bell to call the class together; no one came in for about a half-hour, and then they came straggling in one at a time. "When I ring the bell that means you are to come immediately to your seats," she said.

Noon came and at one o'clock she rang the bell again. One boy came in and solemnly went to the bell, drew a revolver out of his pocket and shot the clapper out of the bell. Then, just as solemnly, the rest of the pupils came in and sat down. She looked at them a moment, and then called the youngest and littlest boy to her desk. "I want you to go out to my saddle horse and bring me my quirt," she told him. When the boy came back with the quirt, she had them, one at a time, stand up, oldest first. She gave them each a whipping, except for the little one.

She said she had a few bad moments, as the oldest boy was 18 and much larger than she. They each took their whipping, however, and sat down. After that when she rang the bell, they came in and took their seats. She said they were the brightest pupils she had ever taught.

Fern Millsap Whitten contributed the following memories: "Mona Baker was one of my dearest friends. Once Mrs. Baker had a sewing party. Mona and I got under the table and listened to the gossip. Finally Mona got the scissors and asked me to cut her hair. (She had beautiful golden curls which were her mother's pride and joy.) I was afraid to cut them, so Mona started snipping. She got them all but the one in the back. Mrs. Baker nearly fainted, the party broke up, I got blamed, and mother took me sailing home!

"I'll have to tell you about a community picnic. There



were greased pigs, horse races, plenty of food and fun for all. I always rode Alex Fleury's horse. As I was mounted, he said, 'This buckskin starts a race with his back turned; I'll hold him down for you but be ready for a quick turn.' When the starting gun went off, the horse whirled, knocking Alex down!

"Someone, whose horse was in the race, got the bright idea of waving a blanket at the turn so his horse would have the edge, and start back for the finish line. Well he waved the blanket and all the horses bolted in every direction. My horse headed for the Fleury Ranch some 10 miles away, and Alex said, 'He'll run himself out in a few miles and she can handle him.' After awhile we all got back, but no one thought to cross the finishing line, so no one won. However, the man with the blanket was almost mobbed!

"Ed Fleury, a huge man, and brother of Alex, was the freighter from Musselshell through Flatwillow to Fort Benton. He was the only one I ever saw who could drive a 20-team freight wagon. He used to play the fiddle at the Flatwillow dances. Sometimes my dad played guitar. I don't remember much about the music as, most of the time, all the kids my age were put on tables, benches, etc. to sleep while the dancing went on until the wee hours."

**MINK, James** (Sec 34,35-14-25) (Land to Teague-Evans) James and Suzanna Mink came to Grassrange, Montana, in 1914 from Clairfield, Tennessee, along with their two nephews (Banks Russell and John Marlow) and their daughter and her husband (Roxanne and Amos Johnson). All of the group homesteaded land about two miles northwest of the present Yellow Water Reservoir. Margaret, the oldest daughter of Amos and Roxanne, also

took over an unproven homestead. (See also McFARREN-Flatwillow)

Suzanna ("Hannah" as her family called her) died on January 9, 1915 and was buried at Winnett. The family believe she was buried in an old cemetery east of Winnett around the end of the rimrocks on a road which led to Hassetts. It was such a cold and windy day, with the temperature near -40°, that only the men went to the cemetery.

James continued to live on his homestead until 1927 when he returned to Tennessee where he died in 1935 at the age of 92. (See also JOHNSON-Flatwillow)

**MINOR, Frank** (Sec 24-12-27) (Land to Pet. Co.-Anderson-USA) These fragments of information are all that is available concerning the Minors. Samuel and Elizabeth Minor are listed in the Wallview District #89 1914 school census. They had five children: Clarence (1896), Dorothy (1899), Anna Nell (1901), Samuel (1905), and Emily (1907). The Kelley school census of 1919 shows an Eliza Minor as the single parent of Samuel (1904) and Gerty (1907). Eliza owned land in Sec. 30-12-28.

**MLEKUSH, Anton** (Sec 11-12-26) Anton Mlekush was born in 1883 in Austria. He immigrated to the United States in 1902, coming to Montana where he worked in the Aldrich Coal Mine. He and his wife, Angelina Erzen Mlekush, moved to Flatwillow in 1910 with their three children: Angelina (1907), Anton "Tony" (1908) and Albert (1910).

Daughter Angelina married Mr. Racki and moved to Roundup, Montana, where she still lives. When her father left the ranch in 1949, he moved in with her and lived there until his death in 1952. Both Anton and Angelina (Mrs. Anton Mlekush) are buried in the Flatwillow cemetery.

Albert Mlekush worked for his father and helped run the threshing crew. He received severe head injuries in an accident with a horse and never fully recovered from them. He took his own life in a moment of depression.



Hannah Mink and granddaughter Margaret Johnson (later McFarren)



James Mink in 1925



Mlekush family in 1910: Tony, Angelina, Anton and baby Albert



Anton (Tony) Mlekush served in World War II. He took a homestead in Sec. 21 and 22-13-26 and later bought the Frank Millsap place. In 1952 he married Jane Babin. Jane, daughter of Milton and Clara Stinchfield Babin, had been born in 1921 in Truman, Minnesota. Jane and her daughter, Heather Hutton, came to live on the ranch.

Tony and Jane had three children: Monte Grant (1953), Randy Ruth (1954) and Reese Angela (1959). Tony spent many hours working on community projects. He served on the Hall board and was instrumental in promoting extensive repairs on the Hall and making improvements to the cemetery. He served as county commissioner for many years. Tony died in 1981. Jane died in 1976. Heather writes: "Alan Dale Hutton was my birth father, but Papa (Tony) was my father in life."

Heather married Martin Kenneth Olson. They have four children: Angela Ruth (1969), Michele Ingrid (1974), Kerry Elisa (1982) and Afton Joele (1984).

Randy Mlekush is presently (1989) in Portland, Oregon. Reese is in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**MLEKUSH, Monte** After graduating from Winnett High School in 1971, Monte Mlekush earned a degree in Agriculture Engineering Technology from Montana State University. Monte returned to the ranch his grandfather and father had homesteaded and worked for his father, Tony. Monte bought the ranch in 1977 and took full control of it at the death of Tony in 1981.

Monte married and brought his wife, Mela, and daughter Jennifer to live at the family ranch in 1979. Mela had been a licensed practical nurse in Billings at the time of their marriage.

In July of 1980 a daughter, Mariah, joined the family; and in August 1982, another daughter, Lindsey, was born.

The cattle were sold at auction in 1983, and the sagebrush ranges broken for farming with hopes of one day improving the grass production. To supplement farm income, Monte opened a machine repair and welding business at the ranch.

Monte served on the school board for three years. He also served on the Soil Conservation Board during the sodbusting controversy, which resulted in a landmark decision by county voters to require a conservation plan before breaking sod for farm ground. Landowner rights and other resource-related issues drew Monte into an active role in Northern Plains Resource Council, a grassroots farmer-rancher run group established to protect landowner rights and to oversee the responsible use of natural resources. In 1988 Monte was elected to chair the NPRC, where he was active in lobbying in Helena and Washington, D.C. Traveling throughout Montana and to various places in the United States has kept Monte busy in NPRC. He is serving a second term as chairman in 1989.

Mela has helped with ranch chores, been involved with arts and craft sales, along with guiding three growing girls. In 1988 Mela became the Petroleum County public

librarian. She is also chairperson of the Administrative Council of the Methodist Church, of which the Mlekushes are both members.

**MONROE, Dan** Dan Monroe was a manager for the Fraser Ranch. He and his wife, "Bobby" (Roberta Jackson Monroe) were excellent with horses — breaking and training them. They showed horses for Fraser and helped with the breeding program. They had two children: Christine (Butch) and Dan (Bud). Both children went into the professional rodeo life and have been highly successful. One year Bud Monroe won the National Rodeo Association saddle bronc riding championship.

**MONSMA, Edward** Edward Monsma moved onto the O. M. Green place in 1942. Four Monsma children were listed on the school census: Albert (1926), Tressa Louise (1928), Edna Grace (1929) and Clara Janette (1932). Tressa Louise married Paul Daugherty and they have two sons listed: Robert (1947) and John Paul (1949). The family moved in 1948.

Tressa Daugherty contributed this story: "In 1941 Ed Monsma, a widower with four children — Albert, Tressa, Edna and Clara — bought a ranch from O. M. Green on Flatwillow Creek. Ed Monsma was from 10 miles north of Pryor, Montana. He started moving by trailing about 70 to 100 head of cows and calves across country to Roundup. Starting early one morning, they (Ed, Albert, Tressa, and a hired man) began the slow journey down Pryor Creek toward Huntley. About a mile from Huntley a train came through, the herd scattered, and there were cows and calves everywhere. It took us four days to gather the herd again.

"We got them on the road to Shepherd just in time for another train to scatter them again. Again we had a gathering job and by the time we were on our way again the calves were tired out and moved at a snail's pace.

"We finally got almost to Roundup. We were over the railroad bridge just south of town when a troop train came through, its whistle blasting, and troops hanging out the windows shouting 'Ride em cowboy!' Albert and I were behind the herd, my dad and the hired man in the lead. All of a sudden the herd was stampeding again, only this time we were in the way. We rode, as fast as our horses could go, to try to hold them and turn back. They were in a blind panic. They took the porch off a little bar on the south side of town, and people were scattering everywhere. We finally got them circling and, after about an hour, they quieted down. They were a sad looking herd, some of them had lost half their tails, and they were all banged up. We finally arrived at Flatwillow three weeks after starting. We picked up calves, back along the trail, for almost a year.

"In the summer of 1944, my dad was putting up hay at Peterson Ranch up the creek. He finished a stack and was coming down on the stacker when the cable broke, and the stacker came down with him on it. He had both his legs and an arm broken. This meant a long time of con-



valescence in the hospital and a wheel chair. In the spring of 1946 he sold the place to Ed Daugherty of Texas."

**MORGAN, Steele** (Sec 12-13-25) (See MORGAN — Teigen)

**MORRIS, Ellen** (Sec 31-13-27) Ellen was an early school teacher and taught at Flatwillow. The homestead transferred to Thomas Morris.

**MOSHNER, Carl** (Sec 32-13-26) Carl Moshner and his wife, Bertha, are listed in the 1918 school census as having one child, Anna (1916). Carl was on the Flatwillow baseball team. He was a brother of Ella Millsap and a son of Frank Moshner.

**MUNGER, William** (Sec 7-12-27) (Land to Johnke)



*Munsons: Harry, Ellen, Morris, Celia, Swan and Anna*

**MUNSON, John** (Sec 30-13-27) (Land to Tripp) John Munson was born in 1841 in Blacking, Sweden. He married Catherine Fenning in 1882 at Black Hawk, Colorado. She died in 1898.

John Munson came to Montana in 1909 and homesteaded near Flatwillow west of Wiggins. He returned to Strang, Nebraska, where he had property, before moving back to Flatwillow. He died in 1928. He was the father of Morris (1883), Swan (1886), Harry (1890), Ellen (1890), Immanuel (1892) and Cecilia (1895). Ellen was Mrs. Tom Oliver. (See also OLIVER — Flatwillow)

**MUNSON, Morris** (See MUNSON — Kelley)

**MUNSON, Swan** (Sec 28-13-27) (Land to Tripp) Swan and Harry Munson came to the Flatwillow area in 1910 to "scout the land." They took homesteads in Sec. 28, 29 and 30-13-27. They returned to Nebraska to get their stock and belongings. They came back to Montana by emigrant car with tools, machinery, household goods, eight mules, and a team of light harness horses — used mostly for riding.

Harry Munson left the Flatwillow country in 1923 and settled in Hoquiam, Washington, where he married Mrs. Mooney and became the parent of two stepdaughters, Maxine and Eileen.



*Swan and Anna Munson and their two children, Orville and Magdalina*

Swan and his wife, Anna, had two children: Orville (1920) and Magdalina (1921). They left the Alkali ranch in 1924, and later lost it to taxes. They went to Tumwater, Washington.

**MURPHY, Elizabeth** (Sec 32-13-25) (Land to Pet. Co.)

**MURPHY, John** (Sec 5-12-25) (Land to USA)

**MYERS, William** (Sec 31-13-27) (Land to Tripp) Bill Myers bought the Morris Munson place. He had two daughters: Pearl and Isa, and a son, George. Pearl was the first teacher of the Upper Flatwillow School. Myerses were very active in the community and Bill was one of the ones who worked the hardest for the telephone line. (See also MYERS — Kelley)

**NASHEIM, Ed** (Sec 28-13-25) (Land to Anderson) Ed lived on Pike Creek, west toward Highway #87. He was an immigrant from Norway and never married. He ran sheep and lived in a log house. After he sold he moved to Lewistown, Montana.

**NAUJOK, Gus** (Sec 26-13-27) (Land to Tripp) Gus Naujok, a Russian gypsy, toughed it out on his gumbo claim at the bottom of the "Hogback Hill" on the Kelley road. He built up a horse herd and in the early 1930s sold his horses and bought sheep. He made a deal to herd sheep on the Mackrill ranch and run his sheep in the same band. Eventually he built his band into an independent business.

Gus loved children and would spend hours keeping them spellbound with his stories. He knew all the "Uncle Remus" stories and was very surprised when Ralph Tripp showed him that they were written in a book. Gus would not tell his stories if adults were listening, so the parents would pretend to read while they listened to the stories.

On the big hill just south of his buildings, there was a huge "shepherd's monument." It was about 15 feet square at the bottom and quite tall. It stood for years, but someone tore it down and hauled the rock away. What a shame to destroy such a landmark! To the east of the monument there were several Indian rings. You would



wonder why Indians would camp there so far from water, but Gus claimed that at one time there was a spring just below the hill. There were several other monuments on the hills around Gus's place and they were destroyed also.

Gus bought one of the early cars, and it seemed to land him in a lot of trouble. If he got excited and wanted to stop, he would pull on the wheel and yell, "whoa!" One time, on his way to Grassrange, he ran over a steer that was laying in the road. The car stopped right on top of the steer, front wheels on one side and rear wheels on the other. Gus felt terrible for having killed someone's steer, and he worked for hours moving the car off of it. When he finally accomplished the job, the steer calmly got up and walked off. Gus was roaring mad. He said that if the steer would have just moved a little, it would have helped!

One night he ran over Bradys' old brood sow and killed her. The animal was so thin Gus knew the meat would be no good, so he didn't wake the Bradys to report it. The next morning he went down to pay for the pig and came upon a real dilemma. Mrs. Brady was very angry about the dead pig and ready to kill the obscene person that had killed it. She just knew that Gus would never do such a thing, so he never did admit to the deed. However, he replaced the sow with another, and gave them one to butcher.

Gus would never go into a home unless the husband was there. He would stay outside, chopping wood or doing other chores, until the man of the house returned. In the winter he refused to remove his coat while in the house. He claimed it was a waste of heat. Gus sold out to Harry Tripp in the early 1940s and moved to Minnesota.

**NEBRASKA FEEDING COMPANY** The Wilson Ranch was purchased by the Nebraska Feeding Co. in 1946. This company was comprised of William Foxley, Ed Daugherty and Jim Hart. They owned a large feedlot at Omaha, Nebraska, and had ranches in several places. Their Montana ranches were located at Flatwillow, Helena, Deer Lodge and Lake Mason. They ran a steer operation at Flatwillow, usually buying from 2000 to 2500 steer calves in the fall of the year, wintering over on hay and cake, then fattening on grass. In the fall the steers would be gathered and shipped to Omaha for finishing. There were a couple of years that they tried a cow-calf operation. However, their facilities weren't set up for this and they abandoned it.

William Foxley was killed in a car wreck, and after his death the Foxley family bought the other partners out. The ranch and feedlot were managed by Bill Foxley Jr. During the 37 years that the Foxleys owned the place, they made many improvements and acquired a great deal more land. They had a large tract in Musselshell County in addition to the following homesteads in the Howard Coulee and Wallview area: Frank Joyce, Bryon Phillips, Otto Storm, Errol Koch, Edith McClure, Joe & Tom Oliver (desert claims), Joseph Melicher, Frank Wynhoff, Niels Nielsen, Charles Jackson, Seth Wilcox,

Lawrence Anderson and I. G. Maddon. They also acquired railroad sections 13-15-17-29-31- and 33 in T12N, R27E. The government had purchased some homesteads in this area and they got the grazing rights on them. They were the George Conrad, John Goetz, Arthur Kenneth, Daniel Hanley, Ralph Blee, Robert Hays and Edward McMillan homesteads.

Foremen for the ranch were, in chronological order, Elliott Trump, Nelson Babcock, Dick Rabern, Ben Thomas, John Johnson, J. B. Harbour, Don Correa, Bud Jones and Bruce Carpenter. The ranch was sold to First Continental Corporation in 1983.

**NEWBERG, Laverne** Laverne Newberg and his wife, Evelyn Wilkinson, leased the Henry Hawkins place for a few years after their marriage. They had two boys: Allen (1940) and William (1946).

**NEWMAN, Dean** Dean Newman was a manager of the Fraser Ranch. Dean and Linda and their family were very active in the local Rodeo Club, presenting and participating in rodeos all over the area. Dean also served on the **Winnett school board**. Their children are Jona, Mauri, Tara and Jamie. Justin Hanley, half brother of Linda, also lived with them.

**NIELSEN, Niels David** (Sec 28-12-26) (Land to Wells Dickey Co.-Corwin Co.-First Mpls Co.-USA) Niels David Nielsen married Ingo Lambert in Denmark. They came to Montana and took a homestead in the Wallview area. They had three children: Arner (1908), Jennie (1910), and Annie (1911). (Niels was also known as David Nelson.)

The following story came from Hazel Gamel's "Memories of Yesteryear." "Occasionally we had some surprise event which gave the neighborhood something to talk about for several days. One afternoon while we were having school, a car stopped in front of our schoolhouse. It was loaded with people. An elderly gent came to the door and asked for Arner. Arner was a Danish boy of about seven. The man said Arner was his grandson and they wanted him to go with them to show them the way to the Nielsen home. The family had arrived from Denmark, hired a car and driver in Roundup, and proceeded to come out to their daughter's home.

They were a large family — two grown boys, two grown girls, and several smaller ones. The driver had to make two trips to get everyone there. The next week one of the smaller children from Denmark started school. He wore a navy blue sailor suit and cap which looked very unusual to the rest of us. This was the Lambert family."

Niels died in the "Spanish Influenza" epidemic in January of 1919. He is buried in the Wallview-Richardson Cemetery. His wife and family moved away and she later remarried. (See also LAMBERT — Flatwillow)

**NOLL, Peter** Peter Noll was the son of Theodore and Anna Noll. He and his father came to the Winnett area in the 1920s to drill water wells. They were originally from Minnesota. He met and married Alma Rostad in 1928.

They lived in the area until 1935, when Alma died. There were four children: Theodore (1929), Anna (1930), Ruth (1932) and Violet (1934).

Theodore was raised by his paternal grandparents in California. The girls were raised by their maternal grandparents at Flatwillow. Anna Ramona Noll married Bud Theodore Shaw in 1957, and they have two children: Orval Duane (1958) and Brett Henry (1962).

Ruth Noll married Glen L. Sims in 1949 and they have five children: Doris (1949), Dorothy (1949), Alice (1951), Wesley (1952) and Dale (1953).

Violet Noll married Wendell Kincheloe of Melstone, and they have five children: Donna Kincheloe Pinkerton (1953), Art Kincheloe (1954), Renita Kincheloe Hert (1956), Robert Kincheloe (1959) and Wendy Kincheloe Saunders (1960).

**OATWAY, W.H.** (Sec 33-13-27) Mr. Oatway bought his land from the Home Ranch and sold it to Bill Wiggins.

**OLDEROG, Carl** (Sec 22-12-25) (Land to USA)

**OLDEROG, Harry** (Sec 34-12-25) (Land to USA)

**OLIVER, John** (Sec 3-12-27) (Land to Myers-Tripp) John Oliver was born in 1850 in Scotland, eldest son of Jeanette Kirkpatrick and William Oliver. Mr. Oliver left Scotland with his parents while he was a small child and settled in Illinois. In 1881 he married Helena Woody and they were the parents of nine children, two of whom died in infancy: Nettie (1882), Thomas (1884), Margret (1886), Joseph (1888), Cora (1891), Franklin (1893), William (1896), Claud (1898), and Mary (1901).

Mr. Oliver moved to Fergus County in 1917 where he lived until 1923 when his wife died. He bought the Will Hostetler place. Nettie, Thomas and Joseph all homesteaded in the Flatwillow area and Frank settled in the Kelley area. (See also OLIVER — Kelley)



*Joe and Hattie Oliver and young sons, Donald and Homer in the early 1920s*

**OLIVER, Joseph Pender** (Sec 31-13-27) (Land to Lepper-Tripp) Joseph Pender Oliver settled in 1911. Joe and his brother Tom were avid sports fans and played baseball with the Flatwillow team. They entered all activities and are remembered for their good humor. Joe married Hattie Hicketier, daughter of Fred Hicketier, at Musselshell in 1917. They had five children: Donald (1918), Homer (1919), Kenneth (1922), Lela (1922), and Mabel (1924), all born at Flatwillow.

The family moved to Wisconsin in 1926. When they got ready to leave, the community gave them a big farewell party. The Upper Flatwillow School was located on the Joe Oliver place in 1926.

Homer Oliver married Jeanette Hager in 1954, and they have two boys: Dennis (1955) and Ronald (1958).



*John Oliver*



*Joe Oliver family: Homer, Donald, Joe, Kenneth (Front row) Helen, Hattie and Lela*



Kenneth married Helen Hansen in 1944, and they have one son, Darrell (1949). Lela married Lloyd Severson in 1955, and they have a son, Michael (1956). Mabel married Don Poppie in 1947, and their children are Richard (1948), Sandra (1950) and Linda (1951).

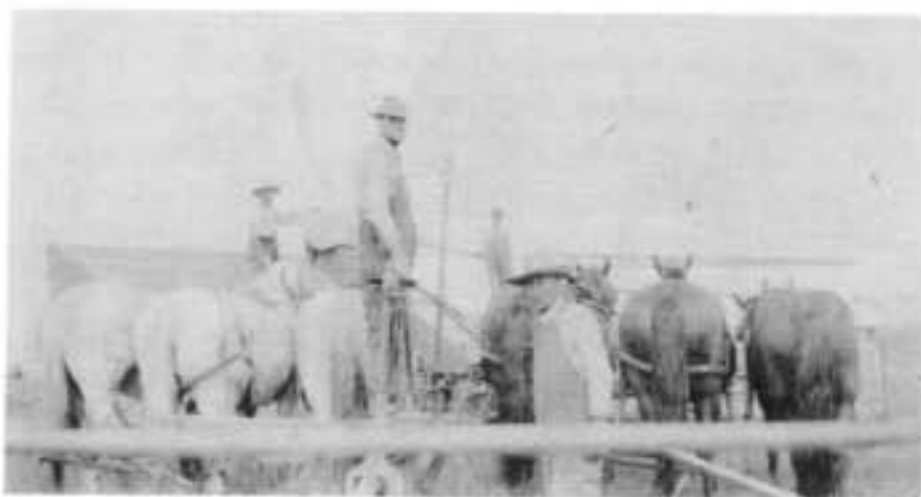


*Nettie Oliver*

**OLIVER, Nettie** (Sec 25-13-26) (Land to Tripp) Nettie Oliver came in 1917 and proved her homestead. She married a Mr. Bassett and they moved to Maysdorf, Wyoming. She leased her place to John Reams in 1922, and later lost it to taxes.

**OLIVER, Thomas** (Sec 32-13-27) (Land to Rhea-Tripp) Thomas Oliver married Ellen Munson in Nebraska in 1910. He and his brother, Joe, came to Montana in 1911, and took homesteads near Wiggins. Thomas and Ellen had three children: Earl (1911), Helena (1913) and Mildred (1915). The Oliver brothers had many enterprises. They were seed buyers, owned a threshing machine, raised cattle and sheep, and farmed.

Tom moved the Davis house from west of the hotel to across the road from the Hall and lived there a few years. They moved to Canby, Oregon, in 1924 by train from Roundup, Montana. Lois Pollock and Otto Johnke (then unmarried) took them to the train. They started a nursery business in Canby and became well known for their pansy plants.



*Tom Oliver (in front) with Joe and John Oliver heading grain*

**OLSEN, Jonas** (Sec 32-13-25) Jonas and Amelia Olsen were both born in Norway but did not know each other until they met and were married in the United States in 1908. The Olsens were early settlers in the Dovetail area. They lived near Cheadle for a time and also on Elk Creek. In 1933 they purchased the Rowley Ranch on Yellow Water Creek.

There were five children in their family — Ole, Agnes, Jonas, Arnold, and Rebecca. The four younger children went to high school in Lewistown, Montana. After graduation, Jonas chose to stay on the ranch with his father.

Jonas married Garnette Gregory in 1956. Garnette's parents both came from pioneer Central Montana families. Her father, Tom Gregory, was born at Straw, Montana, in 1893, where his parents were early settlers. Her mother, Margaret Neill, was the daughter of William and Garnette Neill. The town of Garneill was named for them — the first syllable of her name and his surname.

Jonas and Garnette had two children — Roy and Janet — and three grandchildren. Jonas died in 1986. Garnette, Roy, his wife and family continue to live on the Yellow Water property.

Jonas Sr. died in 1957; Amelia, in 1944. (See also OLSEN-Dovetail)

**OSBORNE, O.C.** (Sec 33-12-25) (Land to Arganbright-Owen-Iverson)

**OSTBY, Norman** Norman Kenneth Ostby and his wife, Jane Elaine Wilkinson Ostby, came to Petroleum County in 1978. Norman is the son of Olaf and Marie Ostby of Glendive, Montana. Jane is the daughter of Roy and Leola Wilkinson of Eugene, Oregon. Norm and Jane bought some land from Iversons near the highway and built a lovely new home there. They raise alfalfa seed, and Norman teaches in high school in Winnett. Children are Ethan James (1980) and Nathaniel John (1982).

**OTRIN, Leo** Leo Otrin homesteaded in the Yellow Water Basin. In 1924 he married Viola Youderian who had homesteaded on Pike Creek. They were charivaried at the home of her sister, Mrs. John Berven. They made their home on her homestead on Pike Creek.



*Bill Redd, Wayne Otrin, Harry Redd*



Viola was a schoolteacher and taught continuously for many years. They had one son, Wayne (1928), who presently lives in Port Orchard, Washington. They sold their place to Robert Raundal.

**OWEN, Ralph** (Sec 33-12-25) (Land to Iverson)

**PALMER, Addie** (Sec 8-12-26) (Sold to Peters)

**PALMER, Ray** (Sec 26-12-27) (Land to Ellis-Stauffacher-Neb. Feed-FCC) Ray was a carpenter and built a home for Harry and Hallie Tripp in 1917. This house was moved in 1987 up near what is known as the Bishop Trail in the Rimrocks. It is presently a summer home for Phil and Peg Thomson.

**PANCICH, Anton** (Sec 12-14-25) Anton "Tony" Pancich was born in Bribir, Yugoslavia, September 15, 1871. His wife, Frances Dobrotinich, was also born in Bribir on April 10, 1878. The Panciches came to the United States in 1898, and Tony worked in the copper mines in Butte, Montana. In 1916, they came to the Winnett area and settled south of Yellow Water Creek, along the present highway.

Tony was a short, stout, dark-complexioned man with a heavy mustache and a friendly disposition. He and his wife spoke very broken English, but their warmth and kindness overshadowed their foreign demeanor.

Tony was an excellent stonemason, and he built a barn with a fine stone foundation. They raised a few sheep and had a big garden and some chickens and goats. They made delicious goat milk cheese and sold it in Winnett. During the busy seasons, Tony exchanged work with neighbors, helping with seeding, threshing, etc. Mrs. Pancich used to pick wool off fences, card and spin it, and knit stockings and mittens from the yarn.

The Panciches never owned a car. They rode to town with neighbors or the mailman, and hauled water with a team. After 27 years on their farm, they moved to Lewistown, Montana. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1946. The Panciches were lifelong and devoted members of the Catholic Church. Frances died in 1948; Tony, in 1954.

**PETER, Frank** (Sec 20-12-25) (Land to Pet. Co.)

**PETERS, Gustav** (Sec 18-12-26) Gustav Peters came from Nebraska in 1915 with his wife, Blanche, and brother-in-law, H. C. Van. Gustav and Blanche had one son, Clarence Nile (1910). Blanche divorced Gus and married Vern Porter. Gus turned his land over to his son, Clarence.

**PETERSON, Peter** (Sec 24-12-26) (Land to Pet. Co.-Buxbaum-Buxbaum-Sharkey) Peter Peterson was born in 1845. He homesteaded in Howard Coulee in 1914. Mrs. Peterson was born in 1855 in Norway. She came from Norway with a son, Olaf Rasmusson, who died in 1927. In 1925 they leased their place to Art Williams and moved to Oregon for awhile. In 1927 they sold and moved to Grafton, North Dakota. Anne McLaughlin recalls that Petersons lived in a small white house with a

large house beside it that was never completed; in fact, years later, Anne's Dad bought the house and moved it to their place where it became a cow barn.

**PETTE, William** (Sec 29-12-27) (Land to Sullivan-Strickler)

**PHILLIPS, Bryon** (Sec 32-12-27) (Land to Matteson-Cole-Neb. Feed-FCC) The Phillips family came from Oklahoma. They had two boys.

**PLUMB, Joseph and Nellie** (Sec 3-12-26) (Land to Conrad)

**POLLOCK, Harley** (Sec 12-12-25) Harley Pollock and wife, Alma Ellis Pollock, had four children: Lois (1907), Clara (1912), Harley Jr. (1918) and Robert (1922).

Lois Pollock Johnke remembers their homestead days: "My dad, Harley Pollock, came here in 1914 with two teams of mules, milk cows, machinery and family in a railroad emigrant car. He was at once dubbed 'Mule Skinner Pollock' for no other mules were here.

"While the homestead house was being built, my mother Alma, sister Clara, and I slept at the homestead house of Mrs. Ida Walker, but we cooked our meals in a tent.

"Water had to be hauled over a mile from a spring belonging to Jacob Thum. Livestock had to be trailed to the spring for water. Houses had no insulation or storm windows so icicles formed on the bedding near our faces in the winter.

"Outings were few. The 4th of July was a big event; so was a drive to the Zimmerman school to enjoy a local rodeo or ball game or to dance at night on an open-air pavilion.

"We attended Lone Prairie School located on the Jim Markland place. We got our groceries and mail at the Flatwillow store which was run by George Davis. Grain was freighted to Roundup, and coal freighted from Roundup by team and wagon."

Lois was born in 1907, in Powersville, Missouri. She attended local schools and graduated from Winnett High School. She married Otto Johnke and they had eight children: Eugene, Martin, Arlene, Paula, Marie, Robert, Jim and Steve. (See also JOHNKE — Flatwillow)



*Harley and Alma Pollock*





*Pollock Family: Harley Jr., Clara, Robert, Lois, Harley and Alma Pollock*

Clara was born in 1912 in Powersville. She moved to Flatwillow when she was two years old. She married William Groves and lived in Winnett and Cat Creek for several years. Four children were born to this union: Lorraine, La Vonne, Lucille and Jean. She and William were divorced and she later married Mr. Pederson. They moved to Billings in 1948 and have resided there since. (See also GROVES-Cat Creek)

**PORTER, Russell** Russell and Icel Porter worked at the Clement Ranch during the 1930s. They had one boy, Willis (1919). He attended Lone Prairie Grade School and Winnett High School but did not graduate from Winnett. Both Russell and Icel are deceased

**PORTER, Vern** (Sec 11-12-25) In 1924 Vern married Blanche Peters. They held a free wedding dance at the Hall. Mrs. William Wilson and Mrs. James Wilson Jr. hosted a surprise parcel party for them.

In 1926 they purchased the Flatwillow store and moved into the living quarters. One night when they were gone, the building caught fire and was completely destroyed. They had no insurance and lost everything. They moved back to their ranch which their son, Clarence, had been operating.

In 1929 Clarence married Eva Marie Green. She became sick shortly after their marriage and died in 1930. In 1934 their home on the ranch was destroyed by fire. After this they left the Flatwillow area and moved to Stillwater County, Montana.

**PRIBYL, Anna** (Sec 29-12-25) (Land to USA)

**PRIBYL, Frank W.** (Sec 9-12-25) (Land to USA)

**PUGRUD, Lars** (Sec 25-13-26) (Land to Pugrud-Thompson-Tripp) Lars Pugrude and his cousin, Ole Berven, came from Norway to Flatwillow, Montana, in 1908. Ole's brother, John, had written of the opportunities here so they came to settle in the new land. Lars worked for B. F. Lepper while he learned the language and acquired sheep. He bought the Pleasant Spurlock



*Sigrid and Ole Pugrud with grandchildren Phil, John and Marie Pugrud*

place on Flatwillow Creek, and took a homestead on the land between it and the rims. He filed water rights and developed a hay meadow. In 1915, his father died in Norway and, since Lars was the oldest son, it was his duty to go home and take care of the family. He sold his place to his brother, Olav, and returned to Norway.

Olav Pugrud and his brother Dan Thomson came to Flatwillow in 1910, and stayed with their brother Lars. In Norway only the eldest son was allowed to keep the family last name; therefore, Ole dropped the *e* on Pugrude. Since their father's first name was Thomas, Dan took the name of Thom-son or Thomson. Dan worked on various ranches, finally going to Midwest, Wyoming, to work in the oil fields.

Olav Pugrud took a homestead located just north of where Pike Creek flows into Flatwillow Creek. He and Lars worked together and acquired a band of sheep. By working for established sheepmen, they could take part of their pay in sheep. When Lars had to return to Norway, he sold his place and livestock to Olav.

Sigrid Braaten, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Braaten, was born at Fla Hallingdal, Norway. She came to the United States in 1914, then to Bowman, North Dakota, where her sister and husband owned and operated a large dry good store. Sigrid spoke no English but she knew how to cook; thus she started cooking in a restaurant. In a short time she owned the restaurant and was also furnishing meals for a small hospital. It was there that she met Olav Pugrud. A year and numerous letters later, Sigrid met Ole in Forsyth, Montana, and they were married. It was November 1921. The neighbors got together and went to their home on Flatwillow for a charivari. It started with them sneaking in, fairly late at night, and shooting the stove pipe off. This custom was