

unheard of in Norway so Ole and Sig, especially Sig, were quite alarmed. However, when they realized that no one was in danger, they invited everyone in to meet the bride and had an enjoyable party.

In this ten year period, Ole had accumulated quite a lot of land and had four to five hundred sheep. His hay meadow provided plenty of feed for winter and he had good grazing. He had a two-room house, barn, sheep shed and granary. They had a car, horses, milk cows and chickens.

On July 3, 1922, they had just finished shearing their sheep and the wool was stored in the granary until it could be shipped. The sheep were still in the shed yard. They decided that since the sheep were shut in and didn't require herding and the work was caught up, they would go the mountains with some of their friends and celebrate the Fourth of July.

The night of the Fourth, a terrible rain and hailstorm went through the area. When they came home on the fifth, the whole flat was under water; both Pike and Flatwillow Creeks were flooding. Sigrid stayed at Bervens while Ole and John took horses and worked their way down to the Pugrud place. An awesome, heartbreaking sight awaited them. Dead sheep were floating everywhere, the buildings that hadn't washed away were in water, the wool sacks were completely soaked, and they couldn't even get to the house. The horses and milk cows were alive but standing in water, and about 20 sheep had survived by standing on a knoll.

As soon as the water receded, they were able to go home. They went down and, with the help of neighbors, took care of the dead animals, sold the live ones, loaded their remaining belongings, and left for Kelso, Washington. Although they never returned to Flatwillow to live, they continued to own the land until 1946. They sold part of the Lars Pugrud place to Dan Thomson and the rest was taken by Nebraska Feeding Co.

Ole died in 1962, and Sig died in 1966. They are both buried in the Flatwillow Cemetery. They had one son, O. Thomas Pugrud (1927).

PUGRUD, Olaf Thomas Olaf Thomas Pugrud, son of Olav and Sigrid Pugrud, was born at Midwest, Wyoming. He received his education at Cut Bank, Montana, where his father was employed in the oil fields. He served in the Navy during World War II and upon discharge went to work for Bill Hanlon in the oil field.

In the spring of 1947 he was sent to Winnett on a six-week job to install a power plant at Mosby Dome. He never returned to Cut Bank to live. Tom and Angelu Tripp were married in 1948, and their first home was at Mosby Dome. They followed the oil field work until moving to the Tripp Ranch in the spring of 1951. Their first six years on the ranch, they lived in the old John Reams homestead shack, and Tom worked as mechanic-welder for road construction.

In 1956 they bought some land on the rimrocks and moved a Klein Mine house over to live in. They gradually



The Tom Pugrud family: Lu, Tom, Phil, Sig and John

took over the operation of the ranch and livestock. In 1965 they finished purchasing the cow herd and leased all the land. In 1975 they purchased the land.

Tom had not had any experience in farming and livestock, so he was open-minded about new ideas and methods. They attended seminars and schools, read books and magazines, and talked to successful people. In the spring of 1967, Tom attended a school on artificial insemination and they started inseminating and performance testing the cow herd. Breeds tested were Angus, Hereford, Charolais, Beef Master, Limousin, Murray Grey, Maine Anjou, Santa Gertrudis, Chianina and Simmental.

The Simmental-cross performed the best, under their conditions, so they concentrated on breeding up to a purebred herd. For seven years they, and partners, took a semi-load of steer calves to Ohio each year where they held a "club calf sale." 1985 was an extremely dry, grasshopper year. Lack of feed and money forced the sale of the cows and all but fifty head were loaded on the semis and trucked to Mexico.

When the Flatwillow School closed, they bought the schoolhouse and had it moved up to their place. It became a recreation center for the family and friends. Many hunters have spent the night there through the years. Like most people who live in sparsely populated areas, Tom and Lu served on boards, joined organizations and helped on projects at both the local and state level. It was through this work that they made lasting and valued friendships. These friends were always there for them, in good times and bad, and made life enjoyable and troubles bearable.

Tom and Lu had three children: Philip Thomas (1950), John Ralph (1953) and Sigrid Marie (1956). They all attended Flatwillow Grade School, graduated from Winnett High School, and received their bachelor degrees from Montana State at Bozeman, Montana.

Philip Thomas became a Certified Public Accountant

and works in Boise, Idaho. He married June Little, daughter of Kazako Little in 1978. In 1980 they took a trip to Korea and Japan. While in Korea they selected two children to adopt: Angela Kozako (1979) and Scott Naum (1980). Three months after selection, the children were brought to the United States by an airline stewardess, and Phil and June met them in Seattle.

Phil says "Dad had a very unusual way of getting a point across! One time it was raining and we had to gather cows. As we rode in the cold rain, all of us kids were griping about having to work and discussing the merits of living in town. Dad quietly told us 'remember if you were town kids, you would be paying \$3 an hour for the privilege of riding these horses.'"

John Ralph is a major in the United States Air Force and has a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice Administration. He is commander of the 351 Missile Security Squadron at Whiteman AFB, Missouri. John married Carol Sandstrom in 1972, and they had one child, Christopher Thomas (1973). They were divorced in 1975.

"John's memories: "Shortly after I had learned to drive, we had company at the ranch. Dad told Merv all about his buckrake he had just built. (It was a pickup frame with motor and drive train, but the drive faced the rear wheels, so all the pedals and steering had to be turned around. It had a hay head mounted on the back, which was now the front, and the head was hydraulically operated so you could pick the head, with its 10-foot-long hardwood teeth, about one foot off the ground). I was sent to go out and drive it back into the shop so we could all look at it. After inspection at the shop, I jumped aboard to take it back out. Forgetting to take it out of gear, I hit the starter and the motor took off. I panicked and froze as the buckrake leaped across the yard, driving the teeth into the front tires of the combine. It was a perfect hit, and I punctured both. Having just destroyed over \$800 worth of tires, I was none too proud. Dad didn't get mad, he never seemed to get mad, he just gave you that look which said how much you had disappointed him.

"There was the time Jim Senst and I were flying styrofoam airplanes. It was near the 4th of July so we had plenty of firecrackers. Of course the desire was to launch the plane and have it blow up in the air. Montana being a windy state made it very hard to do this outside, so Jim and I went into the shop. Dad was leaned over welding, down by the front doors, and had his back to us. Well the airplane went up and soared perfectly down between Dad's legs just as the firecracker went off. As Dad came down off the wall, you could see the fire burning in his eyes. All I could say was, 'Dumb, really dumb, really, really dumb.' He looked at me and said, 'Yes it was, now get outside and play.'

"Mom was notorious for picking up the things you left lying around, wrapping them up, and then you got them for Christmas. She also could find the neatest little toys, usually the type that wound up. Even now, I wait eagerly

for each Christmas and Mom's selection of toys for me. She was a great horsewoman and could make a horse do anything she wanted it to. Mom surprised us all by taking up chasing cows with motorcycles. (She surprised us even more the night she rode Sig's little pony into the house and around the kitchen counter)."

Sigrid Marie got a degree in Farm Economics and went to work for Cattle Fax in Denver. She did not care for city life, so she returned to the ranch and worked with her parents. She married Mike Greytak in 1983, and they live in Billings. In 1986, she was severely burned in a butane explosion in Winnett. As a result she spent almost three months in the burn center in Seattle, Washington, fighting for her life. Mike, Tom and Lu got an apartment in Seattle and stayed with her. Her will to live won, and she fully recovered.

PURVIANCE, Ernest (Sec 26-12-27) (Land to Tiller-Kesselhiam Inc.-Doman-Neb. Feed.-FCC)

RABERN, Dick Dick and Emma Rabern came from South Dakota with their son, Bud, and daughter and son-in-law, Ben and Dulcie Thomas. They took over management of the Nebraska Feeding Company in 1950. The Raberns were rodeo enthusiasts and entered all the local rodeos in various events. They were very good community people, participating in all activities.

Dulcie had a paint barrel horse that would bolt. After crashing Dulcie into the arena gate at a rodeo, she refused to ride it again. Dick was very upset about this, insisting that she just needed to show the horse who was boss. To prove his point he mounted the paint and rode off.

The horse threw his nose into the air and took off on a dead run. The creek and three fences later, he broke onto the highway, just ahead of a semi truck. The truck's squealing brakes and air horn didn't even break the horse's stride as he ran across in front of the truck, through the barrow pit and yet another fence. Dick finally rode him out, and got him back to the ranch headquarters. There was no more talk about who should ride the horse.

Dick became sick, so he and Emma went back to Dakota where he passed away. Emma later married John Sibbert. (See also SIBBERT — Winnett)

RAMSEY, Albertina Jenni (Sec 7-13-26) Albertina was the third child of John and Albertina Jenni of Beaver Creek, west of Lewistown, Montana. She homesteaded land next to her sister, Emma (Jenni) and brother-in-law, Edwin Kindcschy. It bordered what is now Yellow Water Reservoir.

"Nina" married William Leland Ramsey in 1914 and received a patent to her land in 1918 under the name of Albertina Ramsey. Her husband was employed by the Milwaukee Railroad on a run from Lewistown to Harlowton, Montana. The family lived in Lewistown, but Albertina and the children lived on the homestead during the summer while proving up. They had a cabin near the Kindschy buildings.

In 1918 Nina and Bill were divorced. They had two small children, Virginia and Erle. Nina remarried, and she and her husband, Pearl Williams, moved to Oregon, where she died in 1921. The grandparents, John and Albertina Jenni, took the children and raised them. Virginia graduated from Fergus County High School. She married a musician who played with Henry Bussey's orchestra, and later he was a staff musician on the Matson Cruise Lines. Erle is a retired Army career man.

RATH, Ervin Ervin and June Wardien Rath are listed in the school census for District #26. The children listed are: Sheryn Augustine (1942), Karen (1949), Terry (1951) and Lorrie (1953).

RAUNDAL, Robert Robert and his wife, Orene, came to Petroleum County in 1939 and bought the Leo Otrin place on Pike Creek. They lived there until March 1944 when they purchased the Cheeseman property located between Elk and Yellow Water creeks where the two streams join near Highway #200. Bob had the mail route from Winnett to Flatwillow in the early 1940s. Mabel Redd was the postmaster at Flatwillow at that time.

The Raundals had three daughters — Jo Ann (1938), Willa (1940) and Mary (1943). The children went to school in Winnett and graduated from Winnett High School. Jo Ann married Jack Clark and the couple has three children, Laurie, Jay and Christopher. Willa married Bill Solf. Their children are Margie, Ronnie and Barbie. Mary married Charles Rude. They have two sons, Jim and Jason. (See also CLARK — Winnett and SOLF — Petrolia)

Bob served as Petroleum County State Representative from 1959-1965. He was active in many community affairs. Bob moved to Helena to become assistant to the Montana State Land Commissioner. The ranch was sold to Keith Reynolds.

REAMS, John (Sec 25-13-26) (Land to Tripp) John Reams, son of Alfred and Kittie Reams, was born in 1880 at Fairmont, Nebraska. John came to Flatwillow in 1912 from Nebraska. He purchased a relinquishment on the Floyd Tripp homestead from Harry and Howard Tripp. He drilled a good well, built a two-room house and granary, and planted a windbreak. He worked around the area, exchanging labor and working for wages.



Reams homestead house



Actors in the play "Deacon Jones": Sheriff, Tom Oliver; Deacon, John Reams

In 1923 he leased the Nettie Oliver place and farmed it. In 1924 he leased his holdings to Frank Smith and moved to Idaho. The bank foreclosed on the place the following year, and Harry Tripp bought part of it in 1926.

John married Muriel Ricketts in 1928 and had three children. He died in 1959 in Sterling, Colorado.

REDD, Oscar Harris Oscar Harris Redd was born in 1888 in College Mound, Missouri. He took a homestead in Roy, New Mexico, and lived there for awhile before joining the Navy in World War I. In 1922 he came to Winnett and a year later married Mabel Doman, daughter of Charles and Vida Doman.

O. H. worked for Elmer Eager and, after the Flatwillow store burned, he and Mr. Eager went into partnership on stocking the new store built by Ted Svindland and owned by Jim Wilson. Mabel and O.H. operated this store and the post office until 1933. Some of the time they lived in the basement of the store, and the rest of the time they



Mabel and O. H. Redd



O. H. Redd, son Rex, and Lloyd Doman



Mabel, Helen, Rex, Harry and Bill Redd in front of the Davis House across from the Flatwillow Hall

made their home in the old Davis house across from the Hall. While living in the Davis house, it burned to the ground and, although no one was hurt, they lost everything.

In 1933 they purchased the Oscar and Bud (King) Rutledge places and moved their home and the post office up there. They still stocked a few supplies for emergency. In 1943 O. H. went to work for the hardware store in Winnett. That fall their home at Flatwillow also burned. They operated the post office for one more year, out of the Doman home, then the mail was put on a rural route.

O. H. and Mabel had six children: Harry (1924), William (1926), Mabel (1927), Florence Helen (1929), Rex (1931) and Mary Jo (1943). They all attended local schools and graduated from Winnett High School.

Mabel Gladys recalls how her father bought the Wilkinson and Berkin places for taxes, and they used to camp up there while they put up hay. O. H. sold the places and the livestock, hoping to make enough to build a new

house. They borrowed a truck to take the livestock to Billings, Montana, to sell; and on the way home, Bill wrecked the truck by running into the Ford garage in Roundup. By the time the fines were paid and the truck was fixed, there was no money left.

She remembers her grandmother, Vida Doman, going to the pork barrel and getting meat for the meal. She says, "Now days if you went somewhere and saw the woman reach down through the lard and pull out the meat for a meal, you probably wouldn't eat. However, that was the accepted way of keeping meat at that time."

Helen (Doll) Redd Sims remembers that before she was old enough to go to school, she used to get to go to the rodeos that were held up by the cemetery. The people would make a large circle of their cars to use as a corral and all events were held in this circle. She feels that two teachers left a lasting impression on her life. One was Nellie Cvelbar (Matovich). "She instilled in us a love for the arts. She directed the finest stage plays, puppet shows, dance reviews and art shows. Mrs. Eline Warner was the other one. She left me with a deep interest in history and politics, and most certainly a great love of country — a sense of patriotism."

O. H. and Mabel always kept a few cows on the place and O. H. used to brag that they were especially bred to be drought resistant. Redds never dehorned, and they weren't around the cows much, so the cows naturally turned out to be long-horned and honky. When the state required that all cows be tested for bangs, Redds took their cows over to Tripps to have Carl Sandman bleed them. When they opened the squeeze wide enough to let the horns through, the operation had to be real fast to catch the neck.

Each cow came through snorting and blowing, and when they were released from the chute, they would double back and fence everyone working in the corral. This had been going on for sometime when O. H. said, "Better watch this old gal, she's a rip!" When she was turned out, everyone was as high as they could climb. She let out a loud bawl and took off for home, the only one of the bunch that ignored her hecklers!

Rex Redd presently owns the Redd place.

REED, Ralph (Sec 27-13-25) (Land to USA)

REISATER, Thomas (Sec 3-12-26) (Land to Berven-USA) Tom Reisater was born in 1871. He came from Norway in 1898. Tom Reisater and John Berven were partners in the sheep business until Tom's death in 1916. They had come over from the old country together and had settled on Pike Creek. Tom married Lillian Youderian in 1913. He is buried in the Flatwillow Cemetery.

REYNOLDS, Keith Keith and Mae came to Petroleum County from Molt, Montana, in 1977. They purchased the Robert Raundal property on Yellow Water and Elk Creek. They built a new home north of Elk Creek and have developed the irrigation system on the meadows in order to more effectively raise alfalfa seed.

The Reynolds have four children: David (1954), Linda (1955), Jolene (1959) and Mark (1962). The three older children received their elementary education in Molt and graduated from Rapelje High School. Mark began school in Molt but completed his education in Winnett. He graduated from Winnett High School in 1981.

David and his family currently live in Reedpoint, Montana. Linda has a master's degree in counseling from Eastern Montana College and is presently employed in Seattle, Washington.

Jolene graduated from Montana State University with a degree in agri-business. She is married to Orval Shaw and lives near Mosby, Montana. They have two sons.

Mark attended school at Montana State University and also the Vocational Technical School in Billings where he completed a welding course. He and Kyla Kimmel were married in 1987. They are currently (1989) living in Klamath Falls, Oregon, where they own and operate a trucking business.



Rhea Family: Claude, Rose, Helen, Ruth, Inga Eliasson (youngest daughter of Carl and Mattie Eliasson), Jane, Clemence, Virginia.

RHEA, Claude (Sec 22-12-26) Claude Rhea settled in the Wallview area and while there married Rose Lancelle. They purchased the Tom Oliver place in 1925 and continued to live there until 1936. They had five girls: Helen (1920), Ruth (1921), Clemence (1923), Virginia (1930) and Jane (1931). The children attended Upper Flatwillow School. Rheas moved to Washington.

RICHARDSON, Jennes (Sec 29-12-26) (Land to Hanley-Berger-Sharp-Cook-Harms-Eliasson) Jennes J. Richardson married Emily Jane Haw in 1896 in Canton, South Dakota. They had eight children: Homer (1897), Hazel (1900), Edith (1905), Doris (1908) — all born in South Dakota; Ava (1911), Lee (1913), Edna (1916) — all born in Flatwillow; and Alice (1918) born in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin.

The following are excerpts from Hazel Richardson Gamel's "Memories of Yesteryears": "I don't know just what caused the homestead fever to hit this part of South Dakota. There was still a little homestead land in eastern South Dakota, but it was 'Montana' fever. I believe it was

in October 1909 that this group got together to go to Roundup, Montana, to file on homestead land. I don't know how many went, but can recall several: Mr. Braithwaite, Mr. Williams, Mr. Glaze, Mr. Scott, Mr. Carter, Papa and Grandma Haw.

"After filing on the land, a person was given six months to start living on his 160 acres. The best I can recollect, the law stated that you must be on your land, build a house, put ten acres in cultivation, fence your land and dig a well. If you stayed on for fourteen months, you could then prove up and for \$1.25 per acre you would get your deed to the land. If you did not meet these requirements, you were subject to claim jumping. In that case someone else could file on the same land, and move in. The law did grant a leave of absence for about two months if the person needed to go away to work. Widows and single ladies could file on land, but not married women. We knew of one couple who got a divorce so that both of them could file. If you lived on your homestead for five years, I don't think there was any charge when you got your deed.

"The winter of 1909-1910 was a busy one for all who had filed. They had to get everything in shape in order to be on the land on which they had filed by April 1910. Box cars were rented to haul stock, household goods, machinery, etc. Mama and Grandma made apple butter that fall in big quantities for they knew we would not have an apple orchard on the claim. One man had to accompany every boxcar to look after the stock, and their ride was free. Mr. Braithwaite, Roy, Ray and Vern were among those who rode in the boxcars.

"Papa went on the passenger train with us. At last we reached Roundup, Montana, about 2 a.m. after a long, slow, tiring journey. Mr. Braithwaite was there to meet his wife and children. A few other men were there, as well. We all went to the Grand Hotel to spend the night. The next day we moved to a cheaper place to stay until all the plans could be made to get out to our homesteads.

"It took several weeks for the men to get things in shape so that the women and children could move to the claims. The Braithwaite family was moved first. The household goods necessary for living had been taken out of storage and hauled to the claims. Finally the day rolled around for Grandma Haw, Mama, Homer, Edith, Doris and I to be taken to the homestead.

"We reached the bench land late in the afternoon, and drove due east over a brand new dim trail that had only been made about two months earlier by Papa and Mr. Braithwaite. We passed by Bergsings' new two-room tar paper shack, and about a half a mile farther on we could see Braithwaites' tent. It was about supper time when we reached there. Our tent would be $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile farther to the east but was not set up yet.

"We were to spend the night at Braithwaites' camp and set up our tent the next day. There were eight Braithwaites, Grandma Haw, and six Richardsons to spend the night in an 18' by 24' tent — and only four

beds. The Bergsings knew there was a bunch of us there. Mr. Bergsing walked over and took three of the boys back to his two-room shack. There were four in the Bergsing family, so you can see they were crowded too.

"In the night it started snowing and turned into a real blizzard which blew for two days and nights. Everyone wore their coats and the women had real problems trying to fix food for all of us. The second morning we woke up to find bright sunshine, lots of snow, and our cattle gone. As soon as Ray and Roy had breakfast, they took the two saddle horses and struck out to search for the cattle.

"A short time later a young boy came riding up — Roy Fassett, a neighbor from about five miles away. His father had sent him to warn us that we had better get our cattle if we could, for Slim Powel was branding and would brand anything without a brand. Our cattle were not branded at this time, so the men got excited and decided to get in the search, too. By the middle of the afternoon all four were back with the cattle. This was a pretty warm afternoon, nearly all the snow had melted off, and we were ready to get our tent put up so we could move.

"Now that we were on our claim, it was a busy time to try to make things livable. The wells all had to be hand dug, which was very slow. A windlass was made and put over the well to bring the dirt out. One man would be in the well digging, the other at the top running the windlass to pull the dirt out. Our well was 40 feet deep and had hard alkali water. Grandma's well was 25 feet deep with good water, so we used hers for drinking and washing and our well was stock water.

"The first Fourth of July that we lived there, the settlers got word around to meet at the bridge across the Flatwillow Creek, for here there were pretty shade trees and running water. Some people drove about 15 miles in wagons. Everyone carried lunch along. We spread our tablecloths on the ground and had a real picnic. We children had a few firecrackers to shoot.

"There was a deserted, one-room, small log cabin about a mile from us which must have been built by a very early-day settler. There was a small stove and table in it. On the door-facing was written: 'Tom Brown, the horse thief, stayed here last night.' This was always a mystery to us. The cabin set out on a hill in the open, overlooking a water hole.

"The first Christmas we were on the claim, the Sunday school had a Christmas tree at Fassett's house where we had been having our Sunday school. I thought this was the most beautiful tree that I had ever seen. Mr. Fassett went to the mountains after it. I expect it was about seven feet high, a beautiful cedar with berries and decorated with lovely tinsel and red tissue paper balls and a beautiful bird, way up on top.

"In the winter, it was quite a ritual getting ready for bed. We stood around the fire of the big heater until we had our gowns on and our night caps. Earlier, the flat irons, soapstone, and a flat rock or two had been put in the oven to warm. Now each one was wrapped in a newspaper or piece of an old blanket and Mama issued

them out to us to take to bed for our foot warmers. The one who got the soapstone always felt like they got the prize, because it was bigger than the flat irons or flat stones and held heat longer.

"Getting our mail was quite a problem. The first few months Roundup was our post office; then Flatwillow, for it was so much closer. Getting our mail at Flatwillow called for someone to go to Flatwillow on horseback every week. The next improvement on the mail was a new post office, Fermus, about a mile from us, which was run by Otto Hill. After this, they put in a mail route from Flatwillow, and a mail carrier brought the mail and delivered it into the boxes.



The Clay Brown family at the Richardson house

"In the summer of 1914, Mr. Koch, from Howard Coulee, remodeled and added on to our house. We had to live in the house while the work went on, but by the time it was finished, we had a very different looking house. It had four bedrooms upstairs, and downstairs there was a large kitchen and dining room combination, and a long pantry with shelves on one side and a working cabinet across the end. The living room was large and had a built-in bookcase. There was a full basement and a furnace was put in the basement. Of course it burned coal and was vented up to every room, which made even the upstairs comfortable. We also had a 'dumbwaiter' built in the dining room area. It was run on pulleys and we would pull it up and load it with food that needed to go to the cellar after meals. (There was no icebox.)

"Grandma Haw had lived with us since I was born. She

was full-blooded French and a good cook. She made hot cakes about 10 inches in diameter and would stack them on each other until they were about six inches deep. Between each, she would put plenty of butter and powdered sugar. Then they were cut like you would cut a pie. Her name for these were 'cramps.' I know Grandma was a big help with all of us children. She always said she wanted to live to see all her grandchildren grown, but she didn't make it. She is buried in the Wallview-Richardson Cemetery.

"I don't know exactly when this moving fever hit Papa again, but in the early spring of 1917, he began to talk about leaving Montana, very much to the displeasure of Mama and us children. We were happy right where we were, liked our new house very much and had no desire to move. When Papa had an idea, he didn't consult the family, however, but made the decision to suit himself. He didn't know where he wanted to go but finally thought he would like Minnesota.

"Papa had his sale bills printed and he bought a 1914 Model T Ford with the brass radiator. In a couple of weeks, he also bought a 1916 Ford, which was in good shape. It was second-hand, but was nice, shining black, with a top. We knew we would need two cars for the move, for there were nine of us now in the family, and he planned on carrying a camp outfit — tent, bedding, chuck box, etc. On August 13, 1917, we left, saying good-bye to neighbors and friends. It hurts to leave people and land behind that you thought so much of, but we said farewell to Montana's beautiful sapphire blue skies and gorgeous sunsets. How much living we had crowded into seven years and three months on this homestead!"

Hazel Richardson Gamel's book is on file under the Richardson name in the Petroleum County Community Library. It is a very complete history of the family.

RIEMANN, Matthias (Sec 28-12-25) (Land to Hayden)

RILEY, Mathew (Sec 15-13-25) Mathew homesteaded west and a little south of the present Yellow Water Dam. Mathew was blind. He had a wife and daughter. (See also JELINEK — Flatwillow)

RINE BROTHERS (Sec 23-13-27) (Land to USA) Murray and Lulla Rine lived in town in the winters, so the children could attend school. They boarded high school students who lived in the country and needed a place to



Gerald Rine and Stanley Wiggins

live. They had four children listed on the school census: Gerald (1920), Mildred (1922), Dorothy Jean (1928) and Grace L. (1930).

Jim and Murray Rine had an auction sale in 1934 and moved to Lewistown, Montana. They sold the land to the government. They later moved to Nebraska.

Bill Rine filed for sheriff in 1934, but lost the election.

Joe S. and Louise Bachman Rine had five children listed on the school census: John Norman (1921), Ruth I. (1927), Jean E. (1927) and Helen (1931). Twins, Ruth and Jean, were born on January 14 and 15. One was born just before midnight and the other just after.

Joe Rine's son, Norman, fell from a horse in 1930, and suffered a concussion. He appeared to be improving, but died. In 1935 Joe was severely burned when he opened the cap on an overheated car. The Joe Rine family moved to Harlowton, Montana.

RITCH, John B. (Sec 20-12-26) (Sold to Tom Berkin)

ROOT, George (Sec 14-12-26) George and Anna Root had a daughter, Mary, and a son, Garland. They attended grade school at the Joyce School. They finished school in Billings. In 1928, Roots sold their place to Frank Joyce and moved to Gardiner, Montana, to work in Yellowstone Park.

ROSTAD, Bernt (Sec 29-13-26) (Land to Jensen) Both Bernt and Anna were born at Trondheim, Norway, he in 1881, and she in 1883. They became acquainted there while attending Sunday school.

Bernt came to the United States in 1902, to West Superior, Minnesota. He later moved to Minneapolis where he was engaged in steel work.

Anna Neilson came to Cottonwood, Minnesota, the same year and later visited friends in Minneapolis. While there she once again met Bernt.

The love bug bit and they were married in 1906 in Minneapolis. In 1910 the couple came to Flatwillow and took up a homestead on Pike Creek, where they spent the rest of their lives. Bernt worked for Henry Sibbert and Mons Teigen to help get started. They had six children: Alma (1908), Benone (1911), Andrew (1915), Iver (1918), Sigrid (1921) and Annette (1925).



Bernt and Anna Rostad on their 50th Anniversary in 1956

They were very active in the Lutheran church. Bernt hauled all the rocks for the foundation of the present church in Winnett. Anna passed away in 1963 and Bernt in 1970. They are both buried in the Flatwillow Cemetery.

Their daughter Alma died, leaving four small children: Theodore (1929), Anna (1930), Ruth (1932) and Violet (1934). Theodore went with his father, Peter Noll, and the girls were raised by their grandparents.

Benone (Robert) was born at Flatwillow. He married Katherine Blazicevick in 1942, at Great Falls, Montana. He worked in the oil field. They had three children: Theresa Ann (1943), William Charles (1946), and Nancy Lee (1948). (See also ROSTAD — Cat Creek)

Andrew was born at Flatwillow. He married a German girl named Ursula. They have one son, Michael. They live in Orangevale, California.

Iver was born at Flatwillow. He spent two years in the CCC corps and five years in the Army. Two years were spent overseas. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant of Company B, 803 Tank Division. In 1942 he married Edna Lanoue, daughter of Aselard and Leandra Defresne Lanoue. They have eight children: Ray A. (1943), Richard A. (1946), Sharon M. (1947), Judy K. (1949), Melvin (1952), Marsha (1953), Brenda (1954) and Debbie (1956).

Sigrid was born at Flatwillow. At the time she was born, her sister Alma was helping Mrs. Pugrud with some housework. Mrs. Rostad asked Mrs. Pugrud if she could name the baby after her and Sigrid Pugrud said, "yes." Sigrid married William Drinkard in 1940. They lived in Washington and had four children: Robert (1941), Marilyn (1946), Linda (1947) and Sharon (1950).

Annette was born at Flatwillow. She married Ambrose Carrell in 1942 at Lewistown. They had four children: Anna Ellen (1943), Charles Duane (1944), Gladys Marie (1945) and Kenneth Wayne (1948). Amby is deceased. (See also CARRELL — Cat Creek and Winnett)

ROWER, Joseph (Sec 18-12-26) (Land to Clement)

ROWLEY, John (Sec 4-13-25) John Rowley's obituary, taken from the *Lewistown Democrat News* in August 1923, not only gives an account of his life, but it also represents a typical obituary written in the style of the 1920s:

"Jack Rowley died suddenly Sunday at 12:30, at his home in Lewistown, after a short illness of not more than 10 days' duration. He had not been confined to his bed for more than a week — hardly long enough to be missed from the places he was wont to frequent. His death will come as a shock to his many friends here and in the east end of the county, where he has lived for more than 40 years.

"Jack Rowley was truly a son of the west, having first seen the light of day in a covered freight wagon near Salt Lake City, February 18, 1858, his father at that time engaged in freighting in that section.

"In 1876, he came to Deer Lodge. He was an expert cattleman and shortly after coming to that section, became a general manager of the John Dovenspeck Ranch, one of the large cattle outfits in that part of the



Martha Josephine Rowley



John Rowley

state in the early days. On several occasions, he trailed in large herds of cattle from Utah and Oregon. In 1882, he brought the Dovenspeck cattle to central Montana, locating at Elk Creek in Eastern Fergus County. He continued as manager of the Dovenspeck ranch on Elk Creek for a number of years and then engaged in the cattle and sheep business for himself. He acquired the McDonald place on Yellow Water Creek, and at the time of his death, he operated a 2500-acre ranch on Yellow Water.

"Of a quiet, retiring disposition, Mr. Rowley was always very reluctant to discuss the thrilling experiences which he passed through in the early days of this state with roving bands of Indians, cattle rustlers, and outlaws. A stockman of the old school, it is said by those who have been closely associated with him for nearly half a century that he had few superiors in his chosen business. His character was of the highest, and throughout his life he won and held the full confidence, respect, and esteem of all who came to know him well.

"He was married in Lewistown in 1889, to Miss Josephine Skaggs. Besides the widow, he is survived by three children — Lancelot of Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Harvey and Hyacinth of this place."

The McDonald place which Mr. Rowley bought had been a stage stop on the old Junction City-Ft. Maginnis road in the 1880s. McDonald filed water rights on Yellow Water Creek in 1883. The old Rowley house burned in 1936. The Rowley Ranch had the distinction of having one of the few early-day rural telephones. A line ran from the Yellow Water ranch to Grassrange.

The Rowleys did not make their permanent home on the ranch, but moved to Lewistown, Montana, when their children were school age. John's wife, Martha Josephine Rowley, died in April 1951.

The three Rowley children were educated in the Lewistown school system. John Harvey married a teacher, Mary Stoller, who taught several years in Lewistown. They moved to Portland, Oregon, where he lived until his death, December 12, 1961. Lancelot

Charles attended the University of Michigan and married a Grand Rapids girl, Margaret Creswell. They lived there until his death September 19, 1971.

Hyacinth graduated from the University of Wisconsin. She taught school in Winifred, Montana, and married Burl Blackwelder on November 1, 1924. They lived on a ranch northeast of Winifred until 1960 when they moved to Lewistown. Burl passed away on March 28, 1976. Hyacinth then lived at the Eagles Manor in Lewistown until she died on April 26, 1988, at the age of 91. The couple had one daughter, Jean, born May 21, 1928. She married Bruce Wente and lives on a ranch on Cottonwood Creek near Lewistown. They have one son, Mike, who married Carla Morris in February of 1978. They also reside at the Wente Ranch. Their son, Hal, is five.

RUNG, Adam (Sec 29-12-25) (Land to Rung-Pet Co.-Wainscott)

RUSSELL, Banks (Sec 33, 34, 27, 28-14-25) (Land to Jamieson-USA) Banks Russell and his wife, Mary, came to Montana in 1914 from Tennessee with other relatives. (See also MINK — Flatwillow.) The couple did not remain on the homestead very long. They moved to Lewistown where they lived for a short time before returning to Tennessee.

RUTHERFORD, George (Sec 3-12-25) (Land to Walard) George had a daughter, Thelma, whose name appears in the 1916 census of School District #158. She was born in 1910.

RUTLEDGE, Oscar (Sec 6-12-27) (Land to Redd) Oscar Rutledge, son of John Rutledge and Mary Hawthorne Rutledge, was born in Albany, New York, in 1869. There were twelve children in the family, and they remained very close. Four of them were homesteaders. Oscar and Alice came to Montana and lived in a tent on their homestead. Fern Whitten remembers going up to their tent for doughnuts almost every Friday.

Oscar and Emerson Grow ran a blacksmith shop, and Oscar was an early mail carrier. Alice Rutledge was a midwife and a nurse. She delivered many of the homestead babies, as well as taking care of the sick and injured. Never being able to have children of their own, they kept an open door for the school children to rest, with milk and cookies, on their way to and from school.

Other Rutledge homesteaders were Harry Rutledge at Gage, Montana; Mary Rutledge King at Flatwillow; Mary's daughter Hallie at Flatwillow; Lu Ella Rutledge Grow at Flatwillow; Lu Ella's sons, Carl and Charles, at Flatwillow; John Rutledge Jr. at Gage; John's son King (Bud) at Flatwillow. Also related were these Flatwillow homesteaders: William De Haven (brother of Mrs. Bud Rutledge) and Tom Holland (brother of Alice Rutledge).

All the survivors, except the Kings, moved to California in the late 1920s.

SCHELLENGER, Guy (Sec 24-12-27) (Land to Pet. Co.) (See also SCHELLENGER — Teigen)

SCOTT, LeRoy (Sec 28-12-25) (Land to Nelson)

SERGEANT, Marshall (Sec 4-13-27) Marshall Sergeant came to the area in 1919 as a foreman for the Home Ranch. He took a homestead but lived at the ranch that he managed. He was married and had one son, Jack. According to the articles in the Winnett Times, he was an officer of the Army Reserve and spent time each year as a training officer. He enjoyed gardening and was always in the competition with produce, winning many awards. The family left the area in 1927.

SHAMMEL, Frank Frank Shammel was the manager of the Home Ranch, from 1927 to 1930, following Marshall Sergeant. (See also SHAMMEL — Winnett)

SHARKA, Andrew (Sec 12-12-26) Andrew Sharka came to Montana in 1896 from Austria. He lived in Livingston, Montana, and worked in the mines until 1910 when he moved to Flatwillow. He married Louisa Bajt in 1903 at Livingston where she cooked for 25 miners, made lunches and washed all their clothes. Andrew and Louisa always spelled their named "Sharka," the children changed it to "Sharkey."



Andrew and Louisa Sharka



Sharka family: (Back Row) Anne, Margaret, Mary, Frances, Andy, Louise, Rosie, Dorothy; (Middle row) Louisa and Andrew; (Front) Victor

Their children were all born at home and usually without even a midwife: John (1904), Rosie (1905), Rudolph (1907), Andrew (1908), Louise (1909), Annie (1910), Mary (1913), Margaret (1914), Dorothy (1916), Frances (1917), Victor (1919) and Virginia. Both John and Virginia died as infants. Virginia is buried at Flatwillow.

In 1924 Rudy and Mary Sharkey were on their way to Claude Rheas' to pick potatoes, when their horse slipped and both children fell off. Rudy landed on his head, causing injury resulting in a concussion of the brain. Although medical aid was immediately summoned, he died without regaining consciousness.

In 1915 Sharkas built a large five-bedroom home, which had beautiful, hanging carbide light fixtures in every room. They had a large barn and a windmill that pumped the water for the house and the animals. They also had a big "three hole" toilet with the usual Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogs. With ten children in the family there were many times that all three holes were needed.

Almost all their food was raised in the large garden and preserved for the winter. Louisa was proud of her garden and always sent her guests home with produce. Hallie Tripp recalls that one time Louisa was working in the garden when she lost her false teeth. Although she and the children searched everywhere, they were unable to find them. That fall, when they were making kraut, they found them in a head of cabbage.

Wheat was taken to Roundup to be milled, and the money was used to buy staples such as coffee, sugar, etc. Peanut butter was purchased in five-gallon containers. Andrew raised hogs and butchered them for meat. He had a smokehouse and smoked the hams, bacon and sausage, using soaked corn cobs for heat. Before smoking, the meat was soaked in a saltpeter brine for at least six weeks. After smoking, it was wrapped in burlap and buried in a wheat bin to keep. He was known for his garlic and blood sausage.

They raised as many as 1000 chickens, hatched under hens. The eggs were washed and kept in large wooden egg crates in the basement. In the winter they were kept in crocks filled with a solution called "water glass." Sharkas also raised cattle and sheep and all the feed for the animals. The girls did the milking and the family had lots of milk, cream and butter. The sheep ran on open range.

One day when Louise went after the milk cows, she had to pass the old house that had been the Windsor home. She peeked through the window and saw a person hanging from the rafters. She ran home to tell her folks. When they went back, they found one of the older Boggess boys.

When the ice on Flatwillow Creek got to be 18 inches thick, a crew would start cutting ice for everyone. It was cut in squares to fit the icebox, hauled home and placed in a pit filled with sawdust and covered over. This way it would keep all summer.

In the summer when the grasshoppers were bad, Louisa gave the kid sticks to beat the clothes on the clothes line to keep the hoppers from eating them.

Louisa died early in the year of 1936, and Andrew died six weeks later. They are both buried in Flatwillow Cemetery.

Rose helped take care of the younger children until she was old enough to work at the Wilson Ranch, helping with the cooking. She married Bill Cook, whom she met when he was part of the local threshing crew. They later moved to California.

Louise helped in the fields. Pete Duncan always made the girls use a fork to shock grain because of the danger of rattlesnakes. Louise, now a widow, lives with her daughter, Virginia, in Red Lodge, Montana.

Ann married Phillip Kozeliski in 1930, and they lived in Roundup, Montana, all their married lives.

Mary went to California to visit her sister Rose, and while there she met and married Pete Gallo.

Margaret was her mother's helper. After Louisa became ill, Margaret took care of the house. She had considered becoming a nun; but after her mother passed away, she moved to Billings, Montana, where she met and married Pete Schonian.

Dorothy married Joe Wanchena and has lived in Roundup since that time.

Frances loved the outdoors and would rather herd the sheep and cows than work in the house. She married Ernie Henschel in 1937 and moved to Fairfield, Montana. She presently lives in Roundup. (See also HENSCHEL - Petrolia)

Victor was only fifteen when the family raised enough money to send him to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, to have a tumor removed from behind his eye. There was only enough money for one ticket so he had to make the trip alone. Vic became a meat cutter and worked in Great Falls, Montana. He spent several years working in Alaska. He now lives in Roundup.

Andy quit school in the seventh grade to go to work. After trying many ventures, he ended up in Augusta, Montana, working on a ranch. He met and married Susan Keys in 1935. Susan contributed the following account:

"Andy and I moved to Flatwillow in 1936 due to the illness of his parents. It was a dry year, with dust blowing and covering fence lines, and grasshoppers so thick they ate everything, including fence posts. Tumbleweeds were the only feed.

"Margaret, Dorothy, Frances and Victor were still living at home, and I soon became the non-Catholic American girl trying to become part of an Austrian Catholic family. The first morning they fixed 'stertsus' for breakfast. A big skillet held a batch of what looked like scrambled hot-cakes. It was a dough made richer with lard or bacon grease. They would take two knives and chop it and stir until brown. A big coffee pot full of coffee was on the coal and wood range. Each would get a bowl and spoon and dip into the stertsus and then dip it into the coffee. After