

when, in 1924, the family was quarantined with smallpox.

Their home was a popular gathering place for the social events of the community — Fourth of July celebrations, dances, and whenever a large space was needed. Young neighbor children were intrigued by the electric lights and other modern conveniences of the home.

In 1925 Gladys Biehl married Frank Dixon, brother of Ora Dreisbach, the Kelley postmaster. That occasion called for the big charivari with a dance following.

In 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Biehl, accompanied by the rest of their family (with the exception of Gladys), moved to Moore, Montana. The community was sorry to lose this hard-working and sociable family.

BLACK, Lynne W. (Sec. 6-11-29) Lynne was born January 16, 1894, in Clinton, Minnesota. As a young man he came to Melstone, Montana, where he clerked in a grocery store. While there he met Gladys L. Pfaff who was working as a stenographer in her uncle's land office. She had been born Oct. 29, 1894, at Invergrove, Minnesota. They were married May 29, 1916. The first addition to their family arrived March 5, 1917, when a girl named Muriel Alison joined them in Melstone. A little over a year later Jack L. made his appearance. He was born in Miles City, Montana, October 28, 1918. The family moved to Lynne's father's homestead. There James K. joined them on February 9, 1923 — born in his grandfather's homestead house.

Due to the great distance from school and other circumstances, the Black family moved to the John Mc-Colgen homestead before the winter of 1927-28. There they were only a little more than a mile northeast of the school. Here Wayne Joseph was born at home on October 23, 1929.

An article in the *Winnett Times* of May 17, 1929 honored the artistic ability of Muriel: "Muriel Black, a pupil in the Kelley school, is gifted with much artistic ability. Her work in drawing and water colors is outstanding for a ten-year-old child. One medium which is probably original with her is native gumbo. She makes a thin paste of gumbo and water, smears it evenly over a stiff paste-board and when the mixture has dried, she tints it variously to make sky and ground. With this as a background, she skillfully arranges native mosses, weeds, and thin, flat pebbles in the semblance of trees, shrubbery, and mountain ranges.

"We have never seen anything like these landscapes and they struck us as being both remarkable in composition and beautiful in appearance." (Quote by Mae Vontver, Petroleum County Superintendent of Schools)

December of 1929 found the Blacks moving to the Kroetch place, as Mr. Kroetch wanted to go to Spokane, Washington, for the winter and wanted someone on his place. When he returned, Blacks moved to the Flannigan homestead. Here Joan Elizabeth was born September 1, 1932. (See BLACK -Winnett)

Muriel Black contributed the following memories: "Our school days were quite enjoyable. Besides those

necessary lessons, we played Dare Base, Last Couple Out, Tag, Baseball, and in the winter there was always Fox and Goose in the snow and Snow Bawling (sometimes Bawling!).

"We had track meets in the spring with other schools. One time my mother and Mary Kroetch's mother made twin dresses for us. We wore them to one track meet and took first and second in the race, but because we looked so much alike, the judges said they couldn't tell who was first and wouldn't give us our 1st and 2nd prizes! We were just a little bit put out over that.

"Once in a while we would stay overnight with one of our friends. What fun that was. Of course we would really be 'buddies' with each other all that day and the next, at least.

"When my brother and I started school in the fall of 1928, I was seven and he was five years old. My folks held me back a year and started Jack a year early, as we had to ride horseback four and a half miles over a prairie trail and they didn't want me to go alone.

"Most of the Kelley pupils rode horseback to school. We would put our horses in the barn and sometimes let them loose to clean up the grass in the school yard. Of course the yard gate was always supposed to be closed. But one day someone was a little careless and our horse got out and went home! Well, four and a half miles was quite a way to walk, so Carl Andersen and John Kroetch were kind enough to take us most of the way home on their horses. Everyone was pretty careful about the gate after that!

"One day we came home to find our folks had gone to town or to a neighborhood sale some distance from our place. We put our horse away, then played outside with the animals until dark. The folks still didn't come, so we went into the house and waited. We weren't allowed to light a lamp or fire. I don't remember of being afraid until we heard a knock on the door. We were about to crawl under the bed to hide, but I finally got nerve enough to ask, 'Who's there?' A voice answered, 'Howard Hodges'.



Jim Black on stilts and the Black water supply hauled from some distance

Were we ever glad to see him! We knew him as about our nearest neighbor of three or four miles away.

"He came in and lit the lamp and started a fire and made good company for us. I asked him if he would like some coffee, as I had heard my Mother ask people that. I knew nothing about making coffee and I'm sure Howard knew it too, as he kindly said, 'No Thanks'!

"The folks soon arrived and I wonder what went through their minds when they came over the hill and saw a light in the house. When they saw the situation, they were very glad that Howard had stopped in. They were so much later getting home than they had planned. We had a pleasant evening all safe and sound; and I'm sure my mother made coffee!

"We had hard times and dry years and dust storms, outdoor plumbing (two and three holers), good old 'Monkey' Ward and Sears catalogs, and a shoveled-out path in winter. But we did have some great times, too. I'm glad to have lived in that period of time in Petroleum County. We learned to cope!"

BLACKSTONE, Thomas (Sec. 11-11-28) These homestead neighbors were industrious farmers and had one of the best flowing springs in the community. Mr. Blackstone was a catcher for the Kelley Baseball Team. In 1925 the Blackstones decided they could do better for themselves elsewhere. They had an auction sale and the community lost some good neighbors. They moved to Billings where they later operated a dairy farm.

BRUMMETT, John Wesley "Hardy" (Sec. 34-13-28) Mr. Brummett was born December 22, 1884 in Longwood, Missouri. On August 20, 1912, he was married to Marie Sylvia Manseau, who had been born on August 29, 1885. In 1915 they moved to the new little town of Winnett where Mr. Brummett was in the insurance and real estate business. The first Catholic church service was held in their home on May 9, 1916. On January 22, 1918, Marie Louise came to enhance their home.

In 1919 or 1920, they bought the homestead of Rasmus "Swede" Nielsen and Tony Nielsen of Kelley and lived in Rasmus' two-room cabin. They later built a much better house on the hill southeast of the cabin. Mr. "Hardy" Brummett went into the sheep business. He had a bad stroke of luck one winter when his band was caught in a blizzard and drifted before the storm to the Hodges home. Throughout the storm, the sheep had to be left there; and because of the scarcity of feed, many of the sheep weakened and died. Hardy told the Hodges boys that they could have the pelts of the sheep that died if the boys would do the skinning. When the boys reported that they had gotten six or eight pelts one day, Mr. Brummett (always liking to give young folks a break) said, "That's nice."

Mrs. Brummett was a classic lady who loved young folks and music. She was a most gracious hostess whatever the occasion. She spoke French fluently and never conversed with her daughter, Louise, in English. What a wise lady

she was to so educate her daughter! In later years Louise's son attended school in France, and Louise and her husband, Thurman, visited him there.

The Winnett Times of December 21, 1925 stated that Mrs. Brummett translated a French letter which Treasurer Kindt had received. This helped to settle an estate of an American soldier who was killed in World War I.

Brummett's home was a gathering place for many occasions. They had an RCA Victrola and many records of the finest classical music. Louise recalled a dance that was held in their home one time when someone suggested that if soap flakes were sprinkled on the floor it would make it more slippery for dancing. This was done, and it wasn't long before Mr. Brummett had to go up on the roof and take the coffee can off the chimney and open all the doors and windows before people could even breathe, let alone, dance! Mr. and Mrs. Brummett were the first in the community to dance the "Charleston."

Seventh and eighth grade examinations were sometimes given in the Brummett home. Mrs. Brummett was the teacher of the Sheldon School for part of the year of 1920-21. Because she became ill, Maude Hawkins completed the school term.

Except for two brief periods during the winter when Brummetts were feeding their sheep on a ranch at Flatwillow (where Louise attended the Glaze School), all of Louise's elementary education was received at the Sheldon School. She rode her trusted and beloved pinto pony, Nellie, or Tony, a white horse. She attended Winnett High School for a time, but graduated from the Sacred Heart Academy at Missoula, Montana. She graduated from the University of Montana School of Pharmacy in 1941.

Louise married Thurman English who was a lifetime employee of the Great Western Sugar Company. They lived in Billings, Montana, and their four children — Leslie, Martin, Linda, and Donald — were all born there.

On September 11, 1942, Mr. Brummett died very suddenly at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lewistown from a blood clot. Burial was in Lewistown. Mrs. Brummett later took an apartment in Billings.



M. Gabrielle Sterret and Marie Sylvia Brummett



Young folks enjoying the barrel stave hammock made by Mr. Brummett. Standing — Anna Mildred Green, Marie Dreisbach, Louise Brummett. Sitting — Ruth Hodges, Muriel Black, Mary Kroetch, Erma Dreisbach, Kathryn Hodges, Louise Berven and June Hodges.

In 1956 Thurman was transferred from Billings to Fort Morgan, Colorado. Here Louise went to work as a pharmacist for Yates Drug and later City Pharmacy, until starting the pharmacies at the Fort Morgan Hospital and Valley View Villa. She also became a broker and realtor with Realty World.

Mrs. Brummett died on June 1, 1974, at Wheatland Memorial Hospital in Harlowton, Montana. She had lived there since 1966 with her sister M. Gabrielle Sterret.

Knowing that treatment for her lung cancer was going to be necessary, Louise retired in 1986. Thurman had retired from his company several years previously. They moved to Denver, where in spite of all medical advances, Louise passed away August 16, 1987. Louise wrote in her history response, "Living in Kelley provided me with a very good childhood."

BURGE, Charles (Sec. 30-13-28) Charles and Vida Burge were early homesteaders. Mr. Burge was postmaster of the Burgeton Post Office, which was operated in his home from February 28, 1917 to January 15, 1919, and then closed. The census showed one son, Leonard Edward, born December 15, 1903. There may have been other children.

CALDWELL, Archibald (Sec. 32-12-28) Caldwell's had three children: Inez, Frank and Vernon. Kelley was fortunate in having the Caldwell's — especially when it came to dancing. Mr. Caldwell was the community's first square dance caller, and many learned to do the allemande-left and the dos-a-do under his tutelage. He also taught the waltz quadrille, a beautiful dance done square-dance style with the caller singing the words to waltz time. Mrs. Caldwell also enjoyed dancing and helped many young folks learn. Everyone had a talent and they shared theirs to the exquisite joy of others.

A school was conducted in a small building on their farm in 1915. When Kelley School District #138 was established, Mr. Caldwell was Clerk of the Board of Trustees for the years 1915, 1916, and part of 1917. Mrs.

Caldwell taught the Dixon School from October 20, 1919 to June 4, 1920.

Frank and Inez both attended Winnett High School. Inez graduated from there in 1926. She married Theodore Bachman and moved to Kirkland, Washington.

Caldwells later lived in Winnett for a short time where Mrs. Caldwell was active in the Methodist Church and Sunday school. They left Winnett in 1938.

CARR, Oliver (Sec. 4-12-29) The Carrs were wonderful community people and tried their best to make a good living but the land they owned was not very productive. Mrs. Carr was a charter member of the Kelley Social Club and Mr. Carr was an important member of the Kelley Baseball Team, as well as a school trustee of District #149 when that district was first created from District #138 in 1915.

Bill Carr, born September 18, 1900, was a son of Oliver and an excellent drop-kicker on the Winnett High School football team. Anna Carr was born December 28, 1902.

CARSON, Armour (Sec. 28-13-29) Armour lived in the Kelley community but in 1921 he moved to the Weede area where their daughter, Elizabeth would be closer to school. Mrs. Carson was a local mid-wife. Elizabeth was born February 18, 1915; James, in 1918; and Armour Jr. in 1922.

CARSON, Charles (Sec. 2-12-29) Charles was born in Hebron, Indiana, in 1878. He homesteaded first in North Dakota. In 1912 he came to Montana and spent a year working around the Melstone section. The following year he came to central Montana and settled in the Mud Springs area. He never married. Charles died in Winnett in March of 1939. The funeral service was in the Methodist Church. Rev. Ellen Rose was the minister.

CASSWELL, Russell (Sec. 28-12-28) Russell married Marvel Flannigan, daughter of another homesteader. They were active community members. Russell was a school trustee of District #138 in 1919. Like many others, their hard work didn't offer enough returns. So on November 21, 1924, a surprise party was given, as Casswells were on the move to Minnesota.

CHESLEY, Seth N. (Sec. 12-13-29) Clara was a charter member of the Mud Springs Social Club. She was also teacher of the East Burgeton School in 1914 and 1916. The Fergus County census reveals a daughter, Rose, born February 7, 1920.

CLEVELAND, John (Sec. 2-11-28) John was a bachelor who visited in the community and often attended the community club. He, as some others, lived in Musselshell County, but was within the circle of the Kelley community.

COOLEY, Claude There was not information to be found on this family, but a news item in the Winnett Times affirmed their existence in the community by stating that "they moved on to the Pete Edwards' place September 27, 1929."

CULBERTSON, Harriet Mrs. Culbertson taught the Kelley School the term of 1927-1928. The Culbertsons owned a farm on the Musselshell River near Mosby. They had a son, Harold. Mrs. Culbertson taught first and second grades in Winnett during the school year of 1952-53.

DALY, John E. (Sec. 20-13-28) John filed on his homestead in the Kelley area on January 19, 1918. On April 29, 1921 he filed his intent to make final three-year proof to establish claim. His witnesses were Anton Schwarz, Christian L. Schwarz, Charles L. Burge and Leo C. Bachman — all of Winnett, Montana.

DEAN, Lester W. (Sec. 34-13-29) Mr. Dean lived on what was known to many inhabitants of the community as the "wood road." If anyone went east to the Musselshell River to get firewood or posts, they went by the Dean place.

He was somewhat of a local veterinarian because he was good at taking care of sick animals — horses especially. It is doubtful that he received much, if any compensation for doctoring sick animals, but he was a fine neighbor to anyone who needed his help.

He owned many fine horses and always used a beautifully matched team to pull his buggy. A portly man, he nearly filled the buggy seat, and how his well-trained horses did step!

Mr. Dean was a gentleman in every sense of the word — even to having exquisite table manners. Young folks were awe-struck at the very neat way in which he could line peas up on his knife and get them to his mouth. And he did not use honey as did the unknown poet of the verse:

"I eat my peas with honey,
I've done it all my life.
It makes the peas taste funny,
But it keeps them on my knife."

For all of his kind neighborly acts, he was not always fairly treated. During his absence in the fall of 1924, someone stole all of his poultry. However, nearly all people of the Kelley and Weede communities congregated at his home in the fall of 1926. It was his sixty-fifth birthday and they came to show their respect of a very fine gentleman.

Lester shipped some of his beautiful horses to Wisconsin in November of 1926, then traveled during the winter of 1926. His daughter, Mrs. Willbrook, and her husband and child of Payette, Idaho, returned home with him in March of 1927. In 1927 his sister-in-law, Mrs. Clara Bradner, entertained the Kelley community club at his home in honor of his sixty-sixth birthday.

In spite of acquiring very poor soil for his homestead, he stuck it out to the very end. He was reported to have been very ill and is believed to have passed away in 1928 or early 1929. School census reports a son of L. W. Dean whose birthday was January 10, 1900.

DEFRANCE, Guy Erwin (Sec. 10-12-29) Guy was a neighbor to the south of Otto Moore and was one of the men who left their land to serve in World War I.

DILLON BROTHERS, Joe and Bill (Sec. 27-12-28) These two men certainly had high hopes and much faith in the country's ability to produce. They were not homesteaders. They purchased a railroad section. Then they built a house, a barn and their own private grain elevator which was powered with a diesel engine. It is very doubtful that it was used very much. They were bachelors and the Winnett Times makes note of a brother Mike visiting them frequently. Joseph was a trustee of District #138, Kelley, in 1922.

DIXON, John W. (Sec. 32-12-28) John and Anna Dixon came to Montana from Kansas in 1913. Mr. Dixon was an energetic farmer and also a member of the first Kelley baseball team. Being interested in the school system, he served as one of the first trustees when Kelley School District #138 was created in 1914. He was clerk of the District in 1917.

Mr. and Mrs. Dixon were the parents of thirteen children — Clay, Ed, Ora, Olive, John, Blanche, Lewis, Willie, Everett, Charles, Albert, Frank and Leroy.

Olive, John, Blanche and Charles went to California to live. Everett returned to Kansas to work and to go to high school in April of 1923. John homesteaded southeast of his folks in Musselshell County. Albert and his wife and their baby Alma lived in the Dixon schoolhouse for a short time after that school closed. Willie was in the service at Hoboken, New Jersey, and was just ready to go overseas when he contracted the flu and died. Lewis homesteaded in the Kelley area in 1911 or 1912, even before his folks arrived. In later years, he was working around Lewistown, got sick and died within a month of his brother Willie's death.

Ora married Ray Dreisbach in Kansas. Then they, too, homesteaded in the same section as the Dixons. Frank married Gladys Biehl in April 1925. In 1926 they moved to the Biehl place near Kelley, but soon thereafter rented it to Mr. and Mrs. Otto Karstedt, and he and Gladys moved to Danvers. Frank worked on the Sisson and other ranches. In 1931 they moved into Lewistown where he was shop supervisor at the county road department. Frank worked there until his retirement. He passed away at 81 years of age on November 3, 1981.

Frank and Gladys had three girls — Muriel, Ruth and Ann.

Mr. John Dixon passed away at his Kelley homestead on March 27, 1923, just after his 73rd birthday. After his death, his wife Anna moved to California to be near her California children. She died there and was buried near Hemet, California.

DREISBACH, Clarence and DREISBACH, Earl

(Sec. 8-12-28) Clarence Dreisbach wrote his biography, "From Pioneer Days Toward the Close of a Victorious Life." Excerpts and quotes were taken from it to compose this history. It is hoped that his book can be bound in some form and placed in the Winnett library.

Clarence and his brother Earl came by train from Kansas and arrived at Kelley on February 9, 1913. As Clarence said, "We are seeking a home, and though we may meet with considerable trouble and hardships, we're going to toil diligently and make the best of it. There are hundreds of sections of land without a house on them but in our location (known as Mud Springs), we have quite a number of houses, from a 10 x 12 to a three-room house. The distance to town is 20 miles and there are no bridges or macademized roads, so we will have experiences that will never be forgotten.

"Arriving at Joseph Holecek's little dwelling February 9, 1913, after traveling by wagon road for nine hours, we felt rather weary and much disgusted with the looks of the country. It looked at first to us like a hard place from which to select a home; but after talking with our friend, Lewis Dixon, his companion, Mr. Brucher, and some of the neighbors, and tramping over the country for several weeks, we came to the conclusion it was a good enough place for anyone to live, even though our mail box was 20 miles away and there were bad roads and no telephones."

The two brothers brought no stock of any kind with them — no chickens, cows or even horses. When they wished to go anywhere, they walked or caught rides with someone else. From Clarence's story, it seems that other people in the Kelley area at that time were: Roths (at the post office), Kocers, Arthur Millers, Sluneskos, McColgens, Lewis Dixon, Joseph Holecek, Mackrills and Hodges.

Bunking with their friend and shoe-string relative, Lewis Dixon, they first worked at building a house for Earl. Clarence, at the same time, began planting trees for his future home. He would get a few small ones each time they went to the "woods" for firewood or poles. For protection, in case of a storm, Earl had built a small cave. They carried water for drinking, or watering trees from a spring they dug out about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from their claim.

At the end of May, 1913, Earl and Clarence, who still didn't have a house, left all their belongings in the care of Mr. Slunesko who was going to build Earl's house. They then caught a ride to Lewistown with a drayman. There they hoped to find work so they would have money to purchase what they needed to run a farm. At the Lepper Ranch they became bogged in the mud as they crossed the creek. However, with the help from the ranch hands and an overnight stay, they arrived in Flatwillow by noon. The next day they bought food from the only store for the rest of their journey. The second night out they camped near Forest Grove.

Clarence found work on the McMillan ranch near



At Earl Dreisbach's homestead "Since we now had horses, we could haul water by the barrel." New wagon and matched set of grays purchased in 1913

Glengary. There he even milked cows — a task that he'd sworn never to do. Earl found other work. At the end of four months, they prepared to return to their claim. They had money to purchase a team of horses (a matched set of grays), a new wagon, and a wagon load of machinery, groceries and supplies.

Upon arriving home, they found that Mr. Slunesko had completed Earl's little two-story 12'x14' house. It was nearly filled by the time they got all their purchases into it. They had no barn for their two new horses but had purchased blankets for them. Their next order of business was to go to the "woods" after poles for a barn. Clarence went to get the load of poles. It took longer than he thought it would, so it was dark when he traveled home. Without any track, he became lost. He would never have found his way but for the fact that his brother knew of Clarence's tendency to get lost and so he had put a lantern on a pole as a beacon for him.

They found a spring $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from their house and could now haul water in a barrel with their horses.

Earl had brought a Graphophone with him from Kansas. People enjoyed it, so they often took it with them when they were invited to parties.

Clarence was anxious to have a house of his own so he dug a little basement. In December of 1913, he purchased a small building from Mr. McColgen. Clarence said, "It looked more like a buggy shed than a dwelling."

On Christmas Day 1913, the two brothers were invited to a big Christmas dinner at Roths — at the Kelley Post Office. Clarence had to walk the $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles to get there. Earl had gone earlier with the team and wagon to the Ray Dreisbach home. There were 29 guests. After dinner a well-decorated little Christmas tree, lit with candles, was placed on the table. The shades were pulled while the children of the community presented a short program. In the afternoon the older people and youngsters went home. The young folks were invited to stay for supper and games.

Clarence worked again in the Judith Basin in the summer of 1915, and by that winter had finished a very nice barn for his homesite.

The two men were doing well but they were getting very lonely. They wanted to have a family and they both made up their minds to get married. As Clarence wrote, "Neither of us had any special one chosen, but we both got busy, and in a little less than two month's time, I made a long-distance trip to Kansas, got married, and landed back at the claim." Clarence met and married Mable Miller Stambaugh on November 20, 1916. Mable was a widow who had one small girl, Bernice Stambaugh, eight years of age. Clarence wrote back to Earl at Kelley of Mable's friend, Minnie Lay, and encouraged him to come meet her. "Unknown lovers met and their plans were set. Six days later they were married." Both families returned to Kelley — Clarence at Christmas, and Earl a few days later.

Clarence reminisces: "I will first mention a few things briefly of some of the things we did after the first year of homestead life. We started to raise a family. We worked long days and every day looked forward with great pleasure to the great day to come when we could have about everything to our heart's desires, added to the 240 acres of land that Uncle Sam gave us. Besides the many long days of hard labor for thirteen years, however, we had many good times together in our home life as well as in social gatherings with our so-called neighbors as far as 8 miles away.

"We walked or drove a team hitched to a farm wagon until we purchased a Model-T that was almost ready for junk. We gave a man \$150 in trade (composed of corn and livestock) besides some cash. He said he wanted to treat us right as he expected to deal with us again sometime, but he never did. After the deal was made, he said to me, 'Come over and drive it home.' I tried to follow the instructions he gave me. He had a wire gate a half mile from the house to go through. I thought I could get it under control before I drove that ½ mile's distance, but I didn't. I just opened the gate with the car, jumped a small ditch on the other side, and got it stopped finally. Then after giving it a good cranking up, I started down the

road. Before I hardly knew it, I was a ½ mile's distance down the road and found myself parked on a small bridge with a front wheel hanging over the edge of it. I don't know how I stopped it, but it stopped. After getting it back again in line with the road, I mended a tire the wire gate had punctured and on down the road I went. I'll just finish this part of my story by saying — though the distance was only 10 miles, I didn't make the entire distance that day, but went back a half mile's distance and pulled it in with a team of faithful horses the following day.

"Speaking of long days, I tell folks sometimes I worked some 26 hours a day. Of course that is impossible, but sometimes it took that long to make a round trip to town with a four-horse team with grain, counting the time I left my bed till I was back in it. Just the same, I loved the dear old homestead until the time came for us to leave. Three precious children had come into our home to accompany our girl Bernice — Erma 11, Marvin 9, and Sylvia 3. The older ones dreaded to leave the 'grand old' saddle ponies that they rode to and from school and over the free range country.

"We had a lot of horses, cattle, hogs, and sheep, besides our poultry and farm implements. We talked about having a public sale. Then we just talked and talked, until one day we just got our bills posted. We had a very good public sale. With some of the proceeds, we purchased a small solid tire, two-wheeled trailer to load on all we had left except a small amount of cash, after paying our honest debts. We didn't know where we were going, but we had our 'dear old Sunflower State, Kansas' in mind, where my wife and I both had spent our childhood days with our parents and loved ones. Yet we didn't know each other while we were there.

"Dropping back to the old unfinished homestead shack, I will say that I never had much desire to go back. We didn't look back after we started; just looked straight ahead. The solid rubber tires on the trailer didn't stand the jolt very far, but we got nearly to Billings and there



Clarence Dreisbach



Mable Dreisbach



Bernice Stambaugh

had to get another set of wheels for it. It was rather a difficult task and made a long day of it on our first day's journey, yet indeed we felt very fortunate in securing the wheels to fit our trailer.

"After a good night's rest in Billings, we continued on our 'don't know where' journey! It was a wonderful trip for all of us over the mountains. God has certainly planned a great world for us to live in. We can go any direction we wish to, and see things we had never ever dreamed of. We enjoyed the scenery at Thermopolis, Wyoming, very much — the hot springs and other things of nature. We stayed overnight there and traveled on in the direction of our old home state, sunny Kansas, but somehow we ran into the grand old city of Cheyenne, Wyoming. We stayed there overnight. This was during the month of August in 1930.

"Folks in Cheyenne are like folks in other places. They wanted to sell us a house the following day after our arrival. We didn't have enough to make the man's required payment, so he just took what we had, leaving us with the empty house, a small trailer load of things to put in it, several gravel piles, and \$100 cash. There was myself, wife, three children, and the fourth one, Mary Jane, who came to us seven months later — six of us and almost an empty house. I had no job and couldn't get one in town."

Clarence did obtain work on a farm, and very soon thereafter secured a job with the Union Pacific Railroad. He worked for them until he was of retirement age. Mable died in March, 1949; Clarence in May, 1971. Both were buried in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Bernice attended both Sheldon and Kelley schools and graduated from the eighth grade in 1926. She married Wesley Hansen of Petrolia. He was killed in a truck accident near Lewistown, Montana, in 1931. Their baby, Zula, was only two months old. Bernice and the baby moved to Cheyenne to be near Clarence and Mable. Seven years later Bernice was killed when her car was hit by a drunken driver. Zula then made her home with the Dreisbachs until she married in 1948.

Erma attended Sheldon and Kelley schools until the fall of 1930 and finished elementary and high school at Cheyenne, Wyoming. In 1942 she married Roy Hoffman, who was in the service and who later worked for Mountain States Telephone Co. until retirement. They had one daughter, Peggy, born in 1945; and twin sons, Randy and Ronald, born in 1949. They have been active workers with many church and youth groups. They live in Arizona.

Marvin also attended Kelley and Sheldon schools and graduated from Cheyenne High School. He worked a few years, then joined the Marines, serving with them during the war. After the war he went to Alaska for a few years to earn enough to go to Oklahoma A and M, where he studied and became a veterinarian. He established his own hospital just out of Salinas, California, where he practiced until his death by heart attack in 1975 at fifty-five years of age. Marvin and his wife Joy had no children.

Sylvia is now Sylvia Mills. She has one child, Kim. Mary

Jane Holmes has three children — Jerry, Patty, and Tom. Zula Samuelson has three children — Michael, Lynn, and Peter. Earl and Minnie had no children. Minnie became ill, and in 1922 they had an auction sale and moved back to Kansas.

DREISBACH, Daniel Raymond (Sec. 32-12-28) Daniel Raymond Dreisbach was born November 12, 1881 in Nebraska City, Nebraska. He married Ora Dixon of Kansas on October 22, 1902. On April 1, 1905, Mabel Isabel didn't fool them when she cried. She was really there. She was born in Grantville, Kansas; and on December 31, 1908, Orval arrived just in time to usher in the New Year.

In 1913 Ray and Ora and family left Kansas and filed on a homestead in Montana. Ray's two brothers, Clarence and Earl, and Ora's brother, Lewis Dixon, had already filed on claims in what was to be the Kelley community. There in a tar-paper shack, Marie Alice was born on September 19, 1915. Her grandmother, Mrs. John W. Dixon, was in attendance. Also, a nurse, Mrs. Oscar Rutledge of Flatwillow, came and stayed a few days.

In about 1918 the Roth family, who had been in charge of the Kelley Post Office since it's beginning, left the area. Ray Dreisbach then took over their place and Ora became the postmaster. Ray was trustee of the Kelley School District #138 in 1915. Ora served as School District Clerk for five years, from 1918 to 1923.

October of 1923 found Ray suffering with stomach ulcers so the family decided to go to California for special treatment. The Clarence Dreisbach's moved onto Ray's place to care for the Kelley Post Office. Mabel had married Warren Storer of Musselshell. Marie wrote of the trip: "That was an exciting trip for an eight-year-old. We started out in rain. Between Billings and Livingston there was one set of tracks in the mud, axle deep to our Chevy touring car with isinglass curtains. When we met a car, the men would lift one car out to the side until the other got by and then lifted it back into the ruts.

"We camped along the way in a tent. My bed was the back seat of the car. My brother slept on the running board, with a board attached to make it wider, which was folded up during the day. Mama and Daddy had folding canvas cots. Mama cooked on a little folding stove using 'canned' heat. We had lots of Campbell's pork and beans.

"We came back in July of 1924. Then we stayed on the homestead for a while. We had a good barn there with room in the end for hay. I can remember how good the smell of hay was when we went into the barn. We cut hay with a horse-drawn mower, raked it with a dump rake, then pitched it on a wagon by hand with a pitchfork; and then we pitched it off with a fork onto the stack and the person on the stack put it in place.

"When we harvested, we used a binder pulled by horses. The binder tied the wheat in bundles and kicked it out. Then we'd go along and shock several bundles together to keep the heads off the ground. When it was all cut it had to be hauled in and pitched into the

threshing machine. Usually many neighbors came and helped. Then the threshing machine would move to another farm and the men went there to help.

"In the spring of 1926 we moved back to the Kelley Post Office and Mama became postmaster again. Dad put in a gas pump when cars became plentiful. The gas station was installed and periodically checked by Vic Weiloff of Winnett. We also kept a few groceries for the convenience of the neighbors.

"When I was little, we got a Sears Roebuck catalog. I would spend hours looking through it. I'd make out an order — I'm sure it was never more than fifty cents, but they always sent what I ordered. One time I got a pair of isinglass glasses for my doll.

"I remember that at Christmas time Fannie Slunesko would get a package from relatives in Chicago. If Fannie came after the mail, she would open the package and give me some of the candy that was always in it."

In the fall of 1925 Ray hauled a whole truckload of pumpkins and squash into Winnett and had a ready buyer for the Enterprise Meat Market. Ray owned his own threshing machine and was one of the community threshers.

The Ray Dreisbachs kept the Kelley Post Office until its closure on July 1, 1938. They then sold their land back to the government; and in April of 1940, they had an auction sale of farm implements and household items. They left Kelley for good. Their home was moved to Roundup.

The Dreisbachs took another trip to California, this time just the two of them. They went in a pickup with a house built in the box and visited the San Francisco Fair and traveled throughout Southern California. On returning, they moved to Roundup, where Ray passed away December 13, 1945 and Ora on January 30, 1960. Both are buried in Miner's Cemetery in Roundup.

Mabel, their daughter, was born in Kansas in 1905 and came to Montana with her family in 1913. She and Orval both attended the Flannigan School. Mabel graduated from eighth grade there in 1921. She did not go to high school. She and Warren "Bud" Storer were married September 6, 1923. They had four children — Betty Louise, Mary Alice, Doris Raymond and Robert. Bud was a dance musician and was well known as he played for dances all over this part of the country.

Orval was born in Kansas December 31, 1908. He attended Flannigan and Castle Rock schools and graduated from the eighth grade at Dixon School. The next year Amanda Swift taught at the Kelley School and taught Orval his first year of high school subjects. From 1923 and 1924 he attended high school in Hemet, California. There Orval spent weekends and after-school hours picking oranges. When his folks returned to Kelley, Orval attended Winnett High School. He graduated from Winnett High School in 1926 and from the University of Montana in 1933, with a degree in accounting. He became a CPA in 1946, ending up as a tax specialist when he retired. He married Marion Butchart in 1934. They had two sons — Warren Glen and Leroy Earl. Warren Glen was drowned

at age twenty-nine in a sailing accident.

When Orval retired in October 1971, he and his wife Marion spent four months visiting Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific Islands. Marion died of cancer in 1975.

In 1977 Orval married Jovita McEachern. They took a trip to Jasper, Lake Louise, and Glacier Park. They went to Winnett, across to where Dreisbachs used to live at Kelley, and on to Musselshell. Orval stated on his history return: "Whereas there used to be 100 families in the Kelley area, I saw only one house as we came through. That was up where the Munsons used to live. What a change!"

In answering his history questionnaire on October 8, 1985, Orval stated that he was 77 and having to slow up a bit. He passed away on January 7, 1986 after suffering a heart attack on Christmas Eve. Committal was in the Mausoleum of Acacia Memorial Park in Seattle, Washington. Marie attended the Dixon School her first two years. Orval and she drove the buggy in good weather and a sled in the winter. The teachers (Emma Johnke in 1921-1922, and Amanda Swift in 1922-1923) boarded with the Dreisbachs and rode to school with them. Marie's third year was spent in Hemet, California. Marie graduated from the eighth grade from Kelley School in 1929. She went to Musselshell High School for her first two years of high school.

Because Orval was going to Missoula to college, he and Marie rented an apartment there and they both worked. Marie wrote: "I went to a lady's house every night after supper. I washed up all the dishes and looked after their two kids. That year I started high school in a beautiful building about three blocks from our apartment. Before the end of September a fire broke out and gutted the school. We high school students went to a grade school for some classes, out to the university for some, and



Ora Dreisbach



Ray Dreisbach



Tar paper homestead house where Marie was born

wherever they could find a vacant room. So that didn't turn out so good. Lots of walking!"

For her senior year, Marie attended Winnett High School and graduated in 1933. She and Emmett Eden were married in June of 1933. They lived in Musselshell for a time and then moved to Joseph, Oregon where they operated a motel. Emmett was killed when struck by a car while getting his mail in the fall of 1988. (See also EDEN — Cat Creek)

EASLEY, Thomas (Sec. 4-12-28) Thomas "Dad" Easley was an early settler, coming here from Lewistown. He had been a friend of Charles Russell. He had a son, Jesse Lloyd, who lived with him and a daughter who was married to James Chapman of Lewistown. She and the children visited "Dad" and Jesse often.

Jesse wasn't happy with farming in an ordinary manner. He fixed up a horse-drawn outfit and, with the help of a carpenter's level and sticks, did a very good job of terracing the hills on their farm. He plowed furrows and had a machine made of lumber that would slip the furrow out.

Jesse had to be put in the hospital in Lewistown because of an illness which eventually affected his mind. He was also admitted to the hospital in Warm Springs for a time. In 1927 "Dad" had a sale of his property and leased the land to the Holeceks. He then went back east, stopping first in Warm Springs to visit Jesse. Jesse was dismissed from Warm Springs after a short time. He became a right-hand man for Ray Bohn of Winnett for many years.

Jesse Easley died in May of 1972 in the Roundup hospital. Listed as a survivor was a nephew, Bruce Chapman.

EDWARDS, Pete When this family left the community. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Cooley moved onto their place.

FLANNIGAN, George (Sec. 32-12-28) George homesteaded 3½ miles east of the Kelley Post Office.

FLANNIGAN, John (Sec. 26-12-28) John and Jessie Flannigan homesteaded one and one-half miles northeast of the Kelley Post Office. School District #138 paid one dollar to them for the Flannigan schoolhouse site.

The family consisted of eight children — Darell, Marvel, Bernice, Lulabelle, Eleanor, Arnona, Donald and Evelyn. Marvel married Russell Casswell.

GRAY, Morty (Sec. 23-11-28) The Grays moved onto the Fred Biehl place in the spring of 1930.

GROSS, Ellwood Mr. Gross taught the first school in the community — the Mackrill School — for 3 months starting January 14, 1914. This school was held in a 10' x 12' homestead shack located west of Musselshell Hill, north and west of the Mackrill ranch. Clarence Dreisbach in his book of memories stated: "Earl and I walked to one of our neighbors' homes on a Sabbath Day, January 11, 1914. On the way we stopped at a little schoolhouse. There hadn't been any school in it yet, but it started three days later. The schoolhouse is the same size as my shack, and like my shack, looks like a buggy barn. It will seat a dozen pupils by putting them close together."

Among students who attended this school were: John, George, Mildred, and Henry Holecek; Perry Miller; Howard and Ivan Hodges. The teacher sat in the middle of the room and could reach each student with a yard ruler!

HANSEN, Emil (Sec. 30-13-29) Emil was born on June 6, 1885 in Germany. He acquired land in the Kelley-Weede area and married Martha Larsen, daughter of a neighboring homesteader, in 1922. They had four girls — Virginia, Margery, Viola and Freida; and one son, John. Virginia was born in Mrs. William Wiggins Sr.'s Rimrock Hospital in Winnett; Margery on the ranch at Kelley; Viola and John at Melstone; and Freida at Musselshell.

Sadness overcame the family and the whole community in the winter of 1928-1929 when John, the only boy of the family contracted flu which developed into pneumonia and snatched his life at only one year of age. His little body was laid to rest in the Winnett Cemetery.

Emil was a rancher and sheepman and had as quite close neighbors his brothers, Pete, Ernest, and Herman. He also had a sister, Alma, who later married her homestead neighbor, William Wiggins, and moved to the Flatwillow community. Ernest built up a fine ranch on



Mr. and Mrs. Emil Hansen



Emil, Herman; Ernest, Alma and Peter Hansen in America 1915

Flatwillow Creek in the Petrolia community. Peter returned to Germany and Herman eventually ran a bar and restaurant in Winnett.

Because the Emil Hansen family lived so far from any established school, they moved to Musselshell, Montana, every winter and then back to the ranch in summer.

Emil bought some irrigated land near Dillon, Montana, in 1942 and ran a few head of sheep. By moving there, the girls could attend college at Dillon. In 1947 the family moved to Spokane, Washington. Virginia married Roy (Bill) McCaffree of Musselshell. They had four girls — Virginia, Diana, Karen and Mona — and two boys, Marlin and Ernie. Margery married Nelson Lutey. She lives in Salem, Oregon, and has two daughters. One, Viola, has three daughters — two are twins. The other, Freida, died January 8, 1978 and is buried in Spokane. Emil passed away April 9, 1952, and was buried in Spokane.

Margery (niece of Alma Wiggins) and the family of Marlin McCaffree (Alma's grand nephew) came to Winnett December 11, 1988, to help Alma celebrate her 95th birthday.

HANSEN, Herman Herman, born March 18, 1883, in Germany, came to the United States in 1899.

Herman Hansen homesteaded near his brothers in the northern part of the Kelley community. He married his homestead neighbor, Irene Boyer. They later moved to Winnett where they operated a cafe. (See also HANSEN — Winnett)

HANSEN, Peter (Sec. 14-13-28) Peter Hansen homesteaded a half section next to Seth Chesley in 1915. He spent thirteen years here with Brother Ernest Hansen on Box Elder Creek. He returned to Germany in 1928 when his father was failing in health and needed Peter's help on the farm. When he was about sixty years of age, Peter married a neighbor girl. The couple had no children. He died in 1979 in the same bedroom in which he had been born ninety-seven years before, on July 1, 1882.

HARDING, Frank and Leslie (Sec. 6-12-30) The only news found on this family is the following obituary taken from the Winnett Times in 1923: "Alexander P. Harding — The death of Alexander P. Harding occurred at the home of his son near Kelley on January 21, 1923. Death was the result of pneumonia and heart trouble. Deceased was born in Iowa, February 17, 1847, and would have been 76 years of age on his next birthday. He served three years and nine months with the 18th Missouri Regiment during the Civil War. In 1871 he was married to Susan Ross, to which union one son was born — James S. — who died at the age of two years. In 1879 Mr. Harding was united in marriage to Amanda J. Lute. Their home was blessed with seven children, four boys and three girls. Mr. Harding resided in Montana for six years — three of which were spent on a farm near Flatwillow. For the past three years, he and Mrs. Harding have made their home with their son, Frank, at Kelley.

"Mr. Harding took sick about two weeks prior to his death. Mrs. Harding and three sons were at his bedside when the end came.

"Funeral services were held at the home. J.O. Neff officiating, and burial made in the Flatwillow cemetery. Besides Mrs. Harding, the deceased is survived by his sons, David and Arthur in Iowa; two daughters, Mrs. Fred Taylor and Mrs. Maggie McManigal of Blair, Nebraska; one daughter, Bertha Flynn of California Junction, Nebraska; two sons, Frank of Kelley and Roy of Winnett."

HARRIS, Bob Bob was the mail carrier on Musselshell — Kelley Route in 1934.

HILL, Floyd (Sec. 8-12-28) As of the publishing of this book in 1989, Floyd and Viola Hill are the only residents of what used to be the Kelley community. (See also HILL — Winnett)

HODGES, Harry (Sec. 12-12-28) William "Harry" Harrison Hodges, son of William and Mary Ann Hodges, was born in Wisconsin July 4, 1867. Jessie Ann Nokes, daughter of Charles E. Nokes and Julia Congdon Nokes, was born August 13, 1877 in Palmyra, Wisconsin. Harry and Jessie were married October 18, 1894.

They came to Montana from Platte, South Dakota, in March 1913. A former neighbor, Bert Mackrill, had moved to Montana, acquired many acres of land, and asked Harry to come be foreman of his ranch. Harry could, at the same time, file on his own homestead. Accompanying them to Montana were Esther, 16; Howard, 13; Ivan, 6; and Forrest, 3. An older boy, William, age 18, came later. They lived at the Mackrill Ranch, and Mother Hodges cooked for the hired men until the Hodges' homestead house was completed. For four happy years all went well with the family. Ruth was born at the home of a midwife, Mrs. Oscar Rutledge of Flatwillow, on March 19, 1916, and broke her older sister's nineteen-year reign as the only daughter of the family.

Harry built a dam on Mud Springs Creek and was an excellent gardener and farmer. On a hot, dry June day