

Howard Hodges relates one of his memories of the McColgen family: "McColgens had been a childless couple and were so very happy with the birth of their first child, Wilmer. Mother helped when he developed pneumonia, from which he could not recover. He died at 6 years of age. A dance had been planned for Saturday night at the schoolhouse, and we had just started dancing when word came that the little boy had died. Some wanted to continue the dance, but Mr. Petersen called everyone to attention saying 'There's no way we can continue to have a jollification here, just a short way from a home where our neighbors are besides themselves with grief.' He was so right! The little fellow was buried on the McColgen homestead."

John and Ella McColgen had two other children — Margaret, born Feb. 27, 1915; and John, born July 17, 1918.

McDONALD, Dan (Sec. 12-12-29) Dan worked for Mr. Mackrill and proved up on his own place. When Clarence and Earl Dreisbach were going to leave for Kansas to get their wives, Mr. and Mrs. McDonald went to the Dreisbach place to buy Dreisbach's chickens. They stayed for dinner, and Clarence was very nervous, as this was his first experience of cooking for a lady! School census: Daughter, Edna Turner, born 1908.

McGUIRE, Charles Charles and Myrtle McGuire lived in School District #138 and had one son at that time — Freddie J., who was born June 15, 1918. They were only on the Kelley School census one year — 1918. In 1919, School District #149 census listed Freddie as being born May 23, 1918.

McKAY, Alice (Sec. 20-13-29) Mrs. McKay was a life-long friend of Mrs. Harry Hodges. They grew up together in South Dakota. Mr. Mackrill encouraged Mrs. McKay to move to Montana and claim a homestead, promising her that he would then buy it from her for \$1000. She proved up on it, and then moved to Melstone, Montana, where she washed clothes for the railroad men and ran a little home bakery. She was famous for her delicious home-baked bread. In this manner she supported herself and her family. School census of 1919 listed children as follows: Vera, born June 26, 1897; Ethan, June 12, 1908; and Edward, June 10, 1910.

MELIUS, Evelyn Evelyn was a teacher in the Kelley School during the years of 1930-31, 1931-32 and 1932-33. She was a niece of Lawrence Kroetch, and lived with them while teaching at the Kelley School. During her three years of tenure that school was raised from Rural to Standard to Superior (the highest rating offered Montana rural schools at that time).

Evelyn became an active member of the Kelley community, taking part in all the "doings." During many of these affairs, Ivan Munson was her companion. Later they both married other partners. Evelyn's first husband died. Ivan also became a widower. At the Winnett High School reunion and the "Kelley Kids" reunion of 1979, every ef-

fort was made by the other "kids" to get these two thrown together as much as possible. Ivan and Evelyn were married before the year was over. They are now living happily on a farm near Stevensville, Montana. During Evelyn's first marriage, she and her husband were foster parents to several children. Ivan has one son, Kenny, who is now attending college at Glendive, Montana.

MILES, Lunsford Lun Miles, a banker in Musselshell, Montana, married Lisle Mackrill, a daughter of B.C. and Helen Mackrill. In 1927 Lun decided he would like to quit the office life and try his hand at farming. Lun and Lisle moved to the Mackrill ranch. (The widowed Mrs. Mackrill returned with them.)

Lun was a good baseball pitcher for the Kelley ball team, and the family entered into all the social events of the community. In 1934 Lun ran for Petroleum County Commissioner and was a successful candidate at the primary election. However, he had a change-of-mind and declined the nomination in October, as he had decided to go into partnership with his former neighbor, Lawrence Kroetch, in opening a butcher shop in Billings, Montana. The Lun Miles family turned the management of the Mackrill Ranch over to the Hodges brothers.

In the fall of 1935 Lun purchased a ranch in the Rock Creek Valley. The Mackrill Ranch was sold to the Goffena family from Delphia, Montana.



Lunsford (Lun) and Lisle Mackrill Miles

MILLER, Arthur (Sec. 14-12-28) Arthur Pinkney Miller was born in Clay County, Kansas on May 3, 1862. Amanda Jane Downing was born July 1, 1870 in Kentucky, the only child in her family. Arthur, however, was one of twelve children, namely — Arthur, Henry Clarence, William Emmett, Perry Wesley, Eva Ellen, Emma Frances, Nora Ann, Vina, Senia, Ara Elmer, Sylvia and Cora Nettie.

Arthur and Amanda were married July 14, 1888. They raised three boys — Harry, born February 2, 1889; Royal, born on Christmas Day, 1893; and Perry, born July 29, 1899.

The family came to Montana in either 1912 or 1913 and homesteaded 3½ miles north of the Kelley Post Office.

They evidently proved up on their homestead and then went to Melstone, Montana, to live in 1918. A news item in the Winnett Times of 1921 stated that they returned to their homestead from Melstone where they had lived for 3 years.

The Millers were good gardeners. They planted apple trees that bore them much fruit. In 1987, one tree still produced apples.

Grandpa and Grandma Miller generously shared their home with others. Many were the dances and oyster suppers that were served there. Grandma pumped the organ and Perry played the fiddle, and everyone had a glorious time until daybreak.

Arthur died April 5, 1947. Amanda died October 4, 1943. Both were buried in the Lewistown, Montana, cemetery.

MILLER, Perry Perry was the third son of Arthur Miller, and came with his parents when they homesteaded. He attended whatever Kelley school was most near to his home. In the early 1920s he married Pearl Rosaziella Schuler. They had four children — Chestina Amanda, born March 21, 1923 in Lewistown, Montana; Gladys Louise, born July 16, 1929 at Kelley, Montana; Mirtha May, born June 8, 1937 in Winnett, Montana and Arthur Isaac, born April 24, 1942 in Lewistown, Montana.

Perry was a very good mechanic, and was capable of taking the parts from two or three different makes or



Perry Miller, Amanda "Grandma" Miller and Arthur "Grandpa" Miller, and two unknown "lovers"

models of cars and coming up with one in good working order. He was also a well-driller, and the whole Kelley community was excited and happy when he drilled a good water well for John Loffel.

Somehow, in some of his mechanical work, Perry lost some fingers on his left hand, but that didn't keep him from fiddling! He just re-strung his violin and played it the other way! That was lucky for the community, because his fiddling set many a toe to tapping.

Perry died December 14, 1965 and was buried in Richfield, Utah. He was preceded in death by his daughter "Tina" on March 1, 1948. She was buried in Lewistown, Montana. A son, Arthur, died on 6-29-1965 and was buried in Salt Lake City, Utah.

MILLER, Royal J. (Sec. 28-12-28) "Roy" was born December 25, 1893, in Canfield, Colorado. Daisy Starkweather was born August 28, 1895, in Castila, South Dakota. Roy and Daisy were married September 11, 1915, and lived on Roy's homestead. Their four children — Cecil, Floyd, Chris and Mildred — attended the Dixon, Kelley and Sheldon schools. Roy and family moved to several different locations in the Kelley community and helped many different neighbors.

The family moved to the Neff ranch in January of 1925, and the children attended the Sheldon School, which was about three miles east of there.

In 1933, when the boys were all through with grade school, Daisy, Floyd and Mildred lived in the Sheldon school teacherage during the very cold months, so Mildred did not have to travel alone so far in the cold. In the meantime, Roy had gone to Winnett to work for the water department, and the family, later, all moved there.

Mildred reminisced: "I remember the winter we lived in the teacherage at Sheldon and Mom had typhoid fever. She was really sick, and Floyd went into Winnett to get medicine for her. Floyd built the fires in the school before school started in the mornings and kept the schoolhouse warm that winter. The stove was fired completely with wood." (See also MILLER — Winnett).

MINOR, Clyde (Sec. 14-12-29) Clyde Minor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Minor, was born at Marysville, Missouri. He had five brothers and six sisters. He enlisted in Company B, First Regiment of Nebraska Infantry Volunteers, in 1898. In 1906 he married Mary Robinson in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska. They moved to Hobson, Montana, in 1909. The Minors homesteaded in the eastern part of the Kelley community and were somewhat isolated. They had no children of their own, but adopted a girl, Bernice, and a boy, Dale.

The family eventually moved to the Starkweather homestead, where they were only 1¼ miles from the Sheldon School.

While living and farming on the Starkweather place, Mr. Minor was victim of some foul play. He was seriously injured while plowing. Someone ran up from behind and hit him on the head, knocking him unconscious. A Melstone doctor came out at a neighbor's bidding, and Clyde was

rushed to the hospital in Lewistown. Mr. Minor eventually recovered, although his one eye was permanently damaged. The Deputy Sheriff of the very new Petroleum County investigated, but the case was never solved.

Bernice graduated from Sheldon elementary school and attended Winnett High School for a time. She drew the nickname of "Speed" because she never wasted time going anywhere. She and Henry Holecek were married in 1929 and had one girl. The marriage failed and Bernice later married Mr. Houde. No information could be gained on what happened to Dale Minor. The Minors later moved to the Kocer place that Hodges left. Clyde died in 1963 and was buried in Custer Battlefield cemetery.

MINOR, Eliza (Sec. 30-12-28) Eliza shared a section with the Anton Andersens. She had three children — Anna, born 7-17-01; Samuel, 1-19-04; and Gertrude, 3-24-07. Prior to the building of the Dixon School, these children attended the Castle Rock School.

MINOR, Robert Robert and Rachel Minor, whose address was Flatwillow, were listed in the Kelley District #138 census in 1919. At that time they had three children — Clarence, born December 19, 1911; Dewey, March 18, 1916; and Woodrow P., July 20, 1918.

MOORE, Otto (Sec. 32-13-29) Mr. Moore worked his land to prove up, played ball with the local Kelley ball players, but did a lot of contract carpenter work to obtain an income for his family. He was awarded the contract to build the Dixon and Flannigan schoolhouses in 1917-1918. Although he had homestead quarters and continued to farm his land, he built a permanent home for himself and family in Winnett on Lot 1 Block 32. In the 1932 Petroleum County election, he was chosen as Petroleum County Sheriff. (See MOORE — Winnett).

MUNSON, Morris (Sec. 8-12-28) Morris Munson, born 2-20-1883 in Geneva, Nebraska, and Lydia Otis Munson, born 3-12-1881 in Nebraska, homesteaded in 1911. They brought with them John (2 years of age) and Ivan (an infant). Carroll was born at Flatwillow, delivered by midwife, Mrs. Ella Wiggins, on 11-6-1913. When Carroll was six weeks old, the family left for Strang, Nebraska. There Virgene was born 3-17-1917. In 1920 they returned to Montana and bought land in Sections 8 and 9-12-28.

John and Ivan both started grade school in Nebraska, but upon coming to the Kelley country, they, along with Carroll and Virgene, completed eighth grade at the Sheldon School.

Gayle was born 11-21-1925 at Kelley. His sister, Virgene, at first wanted to send him back because he wasn't a girl! She did so want a little sister!! But it only took about two minutes before she loved him dearly.

Munsons, like nearly everyone else in the community, were diversified farmers and most excellent gardeners. Also at Munsons there were tame pigeons, and many a young person was given the thrill of holding one of them or one of the squabs. Many folks remember Munsons'

nice dining room with the spoonholder on the table. Theirs, too, was a very hospitable home.

After several discouraging years, the Munsons moved to a farm near Florence, Montana, later moving to Hamilton, Montana. Here they both passed away — Morris on March 24, 1973, and Lydia, November 16, 1975.

John wrote of his Kelley remembrances: "When we moved to the community, it was the most wonderful experience we kids could have. We made the trip from Winnett in a spring wagon. Our first house consisted of two parts-of-houses nailed together. The central building, known as the Sarvis house, was quite spectacular, in that it consisted of a steep, four-sided roof meeting at the peak. Later there were additions.

"I suppose by modern standards, we and many of our neighbors would have been considered 'deprived.' But none of us thought of this, and so all lived happy, normal lives to the fullest. On cold nights our schoolhouse turned into a block of ice. Even the ink bottles and wells froze. So we would all have to huddle around the stove until we got thawed out.

"When I was a sixth grader, I had the misfortune to take a tumble from our saddle horse and broke my leg. Drs. Berry and Alexander came out from Winnett to set my leg, getting there about midnight, and setting it by lamplight. It took me three months to recover from that one!!

"The Kelley community was a little kingdom unto itself and living there was a tremendous experience. When I think of 'the good old days,' I think KELLEY!"

John graduated from Winnett High School in 1929. He graduated from Montana State College in 1935 as a teacher; and he received his Masters Degree in Education from University of Montana at Missoula. In 1936, he married Grace Sauer of Tolley, North Dakota. As a teacher, administrator, and farmer, he also became the father of three girls — Karen J., Dorothy G., Sheryl L.; and of twin boys — John L. and James F.

Ivan went to Winnett High School and Billings Polytechnic. In March of 1942 he went into service in the Army. After the Army days, in 1946, most of the Kelley land was taken up, so Ivan settled in the Bitterroot Valley.



The Morris Munson Family; Back: John, Carroll, Gayle, Ivan; Front: Mrs. (Lydia), Mr. (Morris) and Virgene

Montana. He married and had one son, Kenny. (See MELIUS — Kelley).

Carroll married Muriel Black, formerly of Kelley. (See BLACK — Winnett).

Virgene attended Winnett and Musselshell High Schools. In 1936 she moved to Florence, Montana, with her parents. She later worked in Missoula, Montana, and in 1942 went to Seattie, Washington, where she worked for Boeing during the war, and then for Sears Roebuck & Co. She met and married Harold Gamble (a Navy man) in January, 1950. They lived in Portland, Oregon, and later moved to Amity, Oregon. Harold passed away August 12, 1982. Virgene now travels a lot, but keeps her home in Amity.

Virgene remembers the time that she and Ruth Hodges cleaned the Sheldon schoolhouse and teacherage before school "took up" in the fall. Riders going through and using the teacherage dishes always left them sticky dirty. Virgene enjoyed the social life of the Kelley community and was the best babysitter in the country!

Gayle went to Sheldon School until its closure in October 1935. He went to Musselshell to complete that year. He attended Florence School and graduated from Florence-Carlton High School. After service in the Navy, he married Beverly. They had two children — Robert D. and Jody Craig. Beverly passed away in 1979. Gayle is now married to Carol and lives in Victor, Montana.

Gayle wrote some of his remembrances: "At club meetings Earle Hodges and I would try to keep up with our heroes — Jim Black and Walter Andersen — much to their disgust, I'm sure; but we were there anyway.

And then, of course, there's the time that Earle and I set our icehouse on fire. We sure packed water to get that out!!

"It's a good thing that people were strong and had lots of courage, because they certainly were tested to the limit. They left a lot of hard work here, and about all they ever got was the growth of their kids. But I'll never know when I've ever known a better bunch of people. The families were really tops and all in just one little community!! Those were good days with lots of love and friendship."

MYERS, William (Sec. 6-11-28) Mr. and Mrs. William C. Myers homesteaded in Musselshell County. They also lived for a time in the Brush Creek area. In 1922, they moved to the Schellenger farm in what was then Fergus County. Four years later, they moved to the Oliver place in the Flatwillow community. In December of 1931 they moved back to the Schellenger farm where they lived until they moved to a farm south of Roundup, Montana, in 1934. At the end of that same year, they moved back to their original Kelley homestead in Musselshell county.

There were three children in the Myers family — Isa, George, and Pearl. Mrs. Myers was a midwife and helped bring many babies into the world, including some of her own grandchildren.

Pearl married Pope Adams. When Mr. and Mrs. Pope



Mrs. William Myers and grandchildren

Adams moved to Idaho in 1936. Myers accompanied them. (See also ADAMS — Kelley and MYERS — Flatwillow).

NEFF, Jacob (Sec. 3-12-28) Jacob Otis Neff was born Sept. 8, 1879, in Iowa. His wife, Bertha Blanche Scarborough, was born Nov. 17, 1881 in De Soto, Iowa. They were married in 1912. They had two sons — Otis, who was born in Lewistown, Montana; and Paul, who was born in Melstone, Montana. There was also a baby sister who didn't survive her birth. She was buried on their Kelley homestead. Paul wrote his memories: "We lived in an old shack Dad built with black felt paper on the outside and lath nailed to it to hold it on. Our barn was built into the hill with stone walls and large beams and hay piled on them for a roof. Our well was a dug one, but I can't remember it ever going dry. We had a root cellar dug into the side of the hill where we stored our vegetables.

"I remember Dad going to Winnett in the middle of the winter to get coal and groceries. He, of course, went with a team of horses and took in some wheat to pay for the groceries and coal. He made it to Winnett, loaded what he needed, then started home. Darkness overtook him, so he stopped in the lee of a hill and slept in the snow until daylight.

"Our nearest neighbors, the Morris Munsons, lived about ½ mile up the coulee from us. Others to the south and east were about 2½ miles down the coulee.

"I well remember going up the trail to Dad and Lloyd Easley's place and Lloyd teasing Otis and I about wearing dresses when we were little. Of course, we strongly denied it! But, of course, it was true that even boy babies wore long dresses in those days. I also remember about some boys of the community who came to our place — went in the chicken house, took eggs, and put holes in the

ends and sucked out the insides. I know later that Otis and I tried it, but Mother caught us, and for good reasons we didn't do it again."

After a sale on a cold wintry day in January 1923, all the neighbors in the community came to bid a sad good-bye to these people.

In the absence of ministers, Mr. Neff had often been called upon to conduct funeral services. Each member of the family was an asset to the community.

A time after they left, the editor of the paper received the following letter from Bascom, New York: "You will find enclosed \$2 for subscription to the Winnett Times. We cannot get along without the paper from HOME. We have been under quarantine for scarlet fever. Hope our paper will reach us next week. Wishing the Winnett Times and Montana in general great prosperity, I remain, J.L. Neff."

Mr. Neff passed away in 1943. Mrs. Neff passed away in 1970. They were both buried at Clarence, New York.

No information was available on Otis Neff. Paul married Doris Weaver. They adopted three children — Timothy, Terry and Nancy, and have a beautiful home in Granville Summit, Pennsylvania.

NELSON, Mr. Mr. Nelson had the Kelley mail contract during the spring of 1930.

NIELSEN, Anton and NIELSEN, Rasmus (Sec. 26-13-28) Howard Hodges had these remarks about these two homesteaders: "Rasmus was always known as 'Swede' Nielsen, although he was of Danish origin. He gave me my first paying job when I was 15 years old — \$25 a month, seven days a week, and bachelor grub. He had been a subcontractor for "Pick-handle" Burke in building the railroad to Grassrange. The railroad grade was all built with horses or mules pulling fresnos. He had four big horses and four mules, and I usually got the mules to work with. One time while breaking sod with the mules, they refused to work and I couldn't get them started. I went to the house and told Swede about it and he said, 'That's because you don't know how to cuss — I'll get them going!' So he came out and let out a string of oaths! XO!!X! — completely unprintable — and the mules twisted their tails and took off. So I learned to cuss right then!!

"Swede and his brother, Tony, were good friends and neighbors for all their rough ways. When our father passed away, Swede was the one who came and prepared him for burial — bathed him, cut his hair and shaved him. He later would bring us a quarter of beef now and then, and it was certainly appreciated. He left after the bad year of 1919. He had proved up on his homestead. Before going he gave me his chest of carpenter tools and a writing desk, which I still have. It is a real antique. Swede and Rasmus were tough and wonderful people in the toughest of times."

OLIVER, Frank Cliston (Sec. 8-12-28) Frank was born Sept. 15, 1893 at Geneva, Nebraska, son of Hellena

Woody Oliver and John Oliver. He had four sisters — Nettie May Oliver Bassett, Margaret Allen Michaels, Cora Grace Oliver and Mary Gertrude Oliver; also four brothers — Thomas, who married Ellen Munson; Joseph, who married Hattie Mae Hicketier; William Earl; and Claude Logan.

He left the Kelley community in 1924 and moved to Canby, Oregon. There he married Elsie Larsen in 1925. They had three children — Evelyn, Leland, and Donna. Frank died in 1981 and was buried in Canby, Oregon. (See also OLIVER — Flatwillow).

PARK, Joe S. (Sec. 6-13-28) Cora Park was a native of Pennsylvania. Joe Park was born October 4, 1868 in Portland, Ohio. He and Cora were married February 2, 1894 at Brighton, Pennsylvania. They came to Montana in 1894, living first at Butte where Mr. Park was a millman, and later in or near Basin, Montana, where he was a miner. They had no children.

They moved to their homestead in the Kelley community in 1913. There they built up a fine farm, reaping good crops of grain and unparalleled dry-land gardens. In 1922 their watermelon vines of fifteen hills produced over 100 melons that averaged 22 pounds each.

Mrs. Park passed away at her Kelley home October 14, 1929. Mr. Park died in St. Joseph Hospital in Lewistown on August 17, 1940, after a three year hospitalization. A Mrs. Eliza Erwin was mentioned as a survivor.

PASSEY, Winnifred Miss Passey taught the Kelley school in 1926-27. She had an important part in the home talent play "Cyclone Sally," presented by community members. This play was also presented to the Flatwillow community. Winnifred was Cyclone Sally.

PEEBLES, John C. (Sec. 28-13-28) Howard Hodges remembered this family: "He and his wife, Fanny, came from Lewiston, Idaho. A fine and neighborly couple and good friends of our family.

"At the time of my father's death, he went with me to Musselshell for a casket. We left about 2:00 p.m. and got to town long after everything had closed. But we went to George Handel's house, and he came down about 10:00 p.m. and we picked out a casket and rough box. After feeding the horses and letting them rest, we headed for home and arrived about 11 a.m. The funeral was at 2 p.m. Later, I remember Jack putting his hand on my shoulder and telling me that I must be the head of the family now. For a 17-year-old boy, that was a big order and responsibility. He always helped us when he could. Jack and Fanny left after proving up and went back to Lewiston, Idaho."

John Peebles was clerk of School District #149 in 1916.

PETERSEN, Herbert (Sec. 24-12-28) Herb leased the Mackrill ranch for a period of time. He married Mildred Straight. They had three children — Herbert, Ruth E., and Mildred. Petersens were active in school and community affairs. Mrs. Petersen was a charter member of the community club.

PHILLIPS, Louis According to the 1915 school census, Louis and Sarah Phillips were the parents of three children — Tony, born October 21, 1902; Frank, January 14, 1901; and Ralph, December 18, 1904. Tony died during the terrible flu epidemic of 1918. He was buried on their home place.

PHILLIPS, Walter (Sec. 8-13-29) In 1921 the Walter Phillips family moved to the Lester Sheldon house to be near the Sheldon School. The family also lived for a time on the Starkweather homestead.

PURVIANCE, Roscoe They were a strongly devotional family who didn't believe in dancing or Sunday baseball. It appears that they were repaid for this strong character trait. They were able to raise enormous and beautiful truck gardens. They peddled these products, not only in their own community, but also in the towns of Winnett and Roundup. Their children at various times went to Kelley, Dixon and West Side schools.

RAY, David Otto (Sec. 14-12-29) The school census of 1920 revealed that there were three children belonging to David and Martha Ray: Sayne, born 1906; Jessie, 1910; and D.O., 1913.

REESE, Laura B. (Sec. 35-12-28) Laura bought the east half of a Northern Pacific Railroad section. Charles Roth owned the other half, which was just west of the Kelley Post Office.

RODE, John Mr. Rode homesteaded a flat gumbo section. The 1914-1915 Polk Directory revealed that John owned 160 acres of land and owned personal property worth \$900. He only stayed long enough to prove up on the land which was not profitable for farming.

ROTH, Charles (Sec. 34-12-28) Charles Roth was the first postmaster of the Kelley Post Office, which was located in his homestead house. Mrs. Roth did most of the post office work. They were of the German Lutheran faith, and in the early years, church services were often held in their home.

Charles and Hannah Roth had five children — Elizabeth, Theodore, Walter, Paul and Carl. Charles served as school trustee for Kelley School District #138 in 1915. The Roth family left Kelley in 1918 or 1919.

SARVIS, Herbert C. (Sec. 8-12-28) Mr. Sarvis was an early homesteader. Reportedly, he came to his claim with a wind-powered high-wheeled cart, and was leading a cow. Having no horses, he invented this contraption, and with it, hauled his wood long distances. He also devised a wind-powered apparatus to pull a breaking plow. His was not the conventional homestead house, as it was tall and square with a four-sided peaked roof.

Originally he had been a missionary in China, and in the Kelley community, he became an active Sunday school and church leader. He taught the Rocking Chair Butte School in 1915. This school was very close to the butte. The carpenter who built the school left a ladder there. The butte was on top of a rather steep hill which sloped



Sarvis house with additions by Munsons

to the north. This created an excellent tobogganing opportunity for the pupils. Using the ladder, they all piled on, and had great fun until one of them raised up too soon going under a barbed wire fence and nearly lost his tongue!

It is reported that this school had no outside privies, but that there were lots of large rocks!

Mr. Sarvis taught the pupils to sing "Jesus Loves Me" in Chinese. The chorus was as follows:

Oh, A so I su

Oh, A so I su

Oh, A so I su

Me foo me siing ah she

According to former pupils, Mr. Sarvis was an excellent school teacher, and somewhat before his time with his inventions.

SAUER, Esther Esther was a teacher in the Sheldon School during the years of 1931-32 and 1932-33. She was much appreciated in the Kelley community, not only for her teaching ability, but also for her talent at the piano.

SHELLENGER, Guy (Sec. 18-12-88) Guy and Clara Schellenger were early homesteaders in the western section of the community. They both were school teachers. Mr. Schellenger taught the Dixon School the year of 1916-1917, and one month in the fall of 1917. He was the Sheldon School teacher in 1922-1923. Mrs. Schellenger was a fine musician and gave some of the local children voice lessons.

When Petroleum County was formed in the fall of 1924, Guy Schellenger was the first elected senator from the new county.

Schellengers had two boys — Bernard, born July 2, 1915; and Ben, December 10, 1917. When Schellengers left this area, they moved to Selby, South Dakota. (See also SCHELLENGERS — Flatwillow and Teigen)

SCHWARZ, Anthony (Sec. 18-13-28) "Tony" was born December 7, 1892, at Beaver Crossing, Nebraska. He homesteaded in the northern part of the Kelley community; and while the Burgeton Post Office operated, he

received mail service there. He married Rose Beck of the Petrolia community. They had two children — Loron and Lavina. Tony and Rose were divorced.

Later Tony married Pauline Holmes, and they had a daughter, Patricia. Pauline was a sister of Mrs. Glen Stroup. Tony was a fine carpenter. He plied his trade in the Petrolia, Kelley, and Winnett communities. He died December 16, 1930.

SCHWARZ, Christopher (Sec. 18-13-28) "Chris" did not homestead, but purchased the southern half of section 18-13-28.

Ivy Rice was music instructor and study hall supervisor during the 1929-30 school term in Winnett. She met Chris Schwarz, and they hit it off just fine!

A former student reminisced: "Glee Club was always held in the old music building after regular school hours, and it came to be that in the spring of the year, Chris' car would always appear somewhere close to the school yard near the end of the singing period. Naturally, some of the less reserved students decided that the next time Chris appeared, and Miss Rice's baton signaled to start a song the singers would all launch into 'I Love You Truly.' But Miss Rice was a fine teacher and a rigid disciplinarian; and when the opportune time presented itself, the perpetrators of the intended mischief lost courage and, instead, became possessed with uncontrolled giggling. After delivering a fine lecture on music appreciation, Miss Rice dismissed the class."

After Ivy and Chris were married, they lived on Chris' ranch until 1937, when they moved to Winnett, and Chris worked for the Soil Conservation Service and other alphabetical government agencies. In 1942 he was employed by Continental Oil Company, and they moved to Cat Creek. Later they moved to Nebraska.

Chris died December 14, 1977. Ivy lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, in her own duplex in a group of town houses which are reserved for the use of those over fifty years of age.

SHELDON, Frank Frank and Bess Sheldon lived on the Mackrill ranch for a time in the 1920s. Bess was a former Busby girl, and her sister, Amy, sometimes came to stay with the Sheldons.

SHELDON, Walter Howard Hodges relates: "Walter Sheldon homesteaded in the same section as our family. After father died in 1917, I was behind with the plowing in the spring of 1918. After Walter finished his, he let the fence down and started plowing in the same field as I was. He came every day until it was finished. Such good neighbors."

Walt was clerk of the Sheldon school district in 1919.

SIPPY, Stephen (Sec. 24-12-28) Stephen and Winifred Sippy homesteaded the SW ¼ of Section 24-12-28 for Mr. Mackrill. They were beautiful dancers, and attending the kitchen dances, helped young folks learn the art. They did not stay long after proving up. Young children, in fun, called them Mr. and Mrs. Big River instead of Mr. and Mrs. Sippy! Mrs. Sippy was a very good

scribe and printed the specifications for the construction of the Dixon and Flannigan Schools. They had two children — Edward, born 9-26-1910; and Dorothy, born 7-8-1914. They left the community in 1916 or early 1917.

SLUNESKO, Joseph (Sec. 22-12-28) Mr. Slunesko was a carpenter by trade and he helped many of the homesteaders build their houses, barns, and sheds. Mrs. Slunesko was a fine housekeeper, gardener and cook. They had a daughter, Fannie, and son, Frank. They homesteaded in 1914. According to the Polk Directory in 1922, they owned 480 acres.

Mrs. Slunesko did not leave home very often. She may have become very lonely when Fannie was gone, and Frank and her husband were gone working. At any rate she must have become most despondent. In March of 1928, she decided that life wasn't worth the living. Howard Hodges related his memories of what happened: "She took her life by drinking battery acid. John and George Holecek came and got me and we were the first to see her. She was sitting in a chair moaning and the acid was cutting her throat. George went to Winnett after Dr. Alexander, but she was dead when he arrived. John and I just had to watch her die. I never heard so much moaning and screaming in my life.

"In compliance with her request, we dug her grave in the corner of her beloved garden. Services were held the next day. Mr. Brummett read some of the Catholic burial service; then Fannie, the daughter, asked that some Bohemian say a few words, so Mr. Holecek responded. With tears running down his cheeks, all he could say (in English) was, 'Well, boys, she was a good neighbor.' It was a beautiful tribute to a good woman."

Mr. Slunesko, in later years, put a box on his corner post and had Jack and Muriel Black deliver his mail to him on their way home from school. He rewarded them with raspberry candy. Mr. Slunesko and Frank moved to a small farm near Billings, Montana, in June, 1932.

SMALL, William (Sec. 14-11-28) Mr. and Mrs. William Small had four children — William Jr., Mary Ellen "Ella," Pearl and Ted. Ella was married to Bly Masten, and Pearl married George "Bogue" Howard. Pearl died Feb. 20, 1920, leaving two children, Blanche and Astle. The Winnett Times of 6-25-26 states: "The house of Mr. and Mrs. Small was totally destroyed by fire. Her son, William, built a very hot fire to bake bread. The fire started from a defective flue. Only a few articles were saved."

At 65 years of age, Mrs. William Small died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bly Masten, near Gage, Montana. She was buried in the Musselshell cemetery.

SMITH, Clyde (Sec. 28-13-28) Farming was a completely new experience to Clyde Smith. He had been a shoe salesman before coming to Montana. He and his family didn't stay long after proving up. Mrs. Smith, "Minnie," was a charter member of the Mud Springs Social Club. They had two children — Virginia M., born 12-16-1914; and Robert, born May 14, 1916. Clyde was Clerk of School District #149 in 1917 and 1918.

SMITH, Frank (Sec. 8-12-28) Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith purchased the original Sarvis homestead in July of 1944 from Carroll Munson. Smiths had previously operated a sheep and cattle ranch in Golden Valley county, but wanting to get out of the sheep business, they decided to buy the 1500-acre ranch in the Kelley area. They hoped to devote their time exclusively to cattle raising.

In November of 1947 they moved from the Sarvis residence to the farm most recently occupied by Clyde Minor, the former Kocer place, which Frank leased. They only lived there a short time, and moved back to the Sarvis location.

In December of 1951 they decided to dispose of the Sarvis ranch and arranged to have a sale on December 18, but a winter storm struck and the sale was not held until March of 1952. The real estate was sold to Floyd Hill.

SMITH, John K. "Dutch John" (Sec. 10-11-29) Dutch John was a bachelor who enjoyed the Kelley community club dinners. He was found dead in his home, supposedly of a heart attack, August 20, 1926. He was buried in a Roundup, Montana, cemetery.

SMITH, Walter (Sec. 18-12-28) Walter Smith and Ellwood Gross were college friends in South Dakota who decided to homestead in Montana. Mrs. Walter (Evelyn) Smith was the sister of Mrs. Guy Schellenger. The two families shared the same section. At the time they were here, they had one son, Robert George, born May 14, 1916.

SNIFFEN, Charles (Sec. 32-13-28) Charles was a confirmed bachelor and shared one-half section with John Wingo. He proved up on his claim and then moved to Melstone, Montana, returning to the Kelley community sometimes to visit the Easleys.

SPAULDING, Azalea Azalea taught the Sheldon School 1927-28. Winnett Times news items tell us that "Horace Manseau was hired to do some carpenter work around the school and teacherage." It makes one wonder if that helped lead to the marriage of Azalea and Horace. Horace was an uncle of student Louise Brummett and a brother of Mrs. Brummett. After marriage, Azalea and Horace made their home in Harlowton, Montana.

STARKWEATHER, William (Sec. 6-12-29) William Starkweather was born March 19, 1863 in Keokuk, Iowa. Belle Ashley was born June 5, 1867 in Elkhart, Indiana. They were married April 26, 1890. They had 12 children — Edith, Cora, Joseph, Daisy, Clarence, George, Emma, Harold, Howard, John, Abbie and Asa.

They homesteaded in the Kelley community in 1913. The children attended the Kocer, Rocking Chair Butte, and Sheldon schools. They were hard workers and considerate neighbors. When Harry Hodges died, it was the family's good neighbor, Mrs. Starkweather, who sat up with the body and kept it packed in ice throughout a hot summer night.

After proving up on their homestead, they were forced

to leave it because of the hard economic conditions. In 1919 they moved to Melstone, Montana, where Mr. Starkweather worked for the railroad, and Mrs. Starkweather worked in a restaurant. They returned often to visit their homestead neighbors. Daisy later returned to the community when she married another homesteader, Royal J. Miller. Abbie Starkweather was first married to Bob Field and had two boys. She now lives in Roundup, Montana, and is married to Aaron Holliday. Harold lives in Laurel, Montana. Emma lives in Billings, Montana.

STRAIGHT, Ruth Ruth was a teacher of the Dixon School during 1917-1918, completing the term of Guy Schellenger. She was a sister of Mrs. Herbert Petersen. She also taught the East Burgeton School in the fall of 1918.

SWIFT, Amanda Miss Swift taught the Kelley School from April 9, 1923, to July 27, 1923. A little later, as County Superintendent of Schools, she visited and inspected all the Kelley schools. Miss Swift either walked or rode her faithful horse, Brownie, as she went from one school to the next. She offered help to the teachers and constructive criticism to students. She shared food of some form wherever she stayed for the night. Miss Swift was dearly loved in the Kelley community.

TAYLOR, L.H. L.H. and Jewel May Taylor were listed in Kelley School District #138 census of 1921. At that time they had one child — Lawrence A., born May 17, 1920.

THOMPSON, Dave (Sec. 24-13-28) Mr. Dave Thompson and wife, Pearl, were early Kelley settlers. While living there, they had a son, Cecil, born November 1, 1915. Other children listed were Clayton, born August 29, 1907; and Harold, born August 16, 1911.

TILLER, Wilbur (Sec. 22-12-27) Tillers lived in the extreme west side of the Kelley community, but were considered part of it. They attended the Kelley Community Club and took their turn at hosting it. Before they left the community, they sold their beautiful pump organ to the Kelley School for \$15.00. (See also TILLER — Flatwillow)

WAGAR, Cordelia Miss Wagar taught the Sheldon School in 1928-29, and was a sister of Helen Wagar, who was teaching the Dovetail School the same year. For language and grammar lessons, the two teachers established pen pals between their respective students. This resulted in some good friendships, although the students did not know one another by sight.

While Cordelia Wagar was teaching, the students had their first hot lunch program. They brought potatoes to school and Miss Wagar would put them on a shelf near the firebox within the stove. Sometimes they were a little overdone or underdone, but HOT — and so much better than a cold sandwich that had gotten frozen in the lard lunch pail or smashed and frozen in the sack fastened to the horse's saddle. Cordelia and Helen were married in a double wedding ceremony the summer of 1929. Cordelia



Double wedding for two Petroleum County teachers: Cordelia Wagar and Frank Donnally; Helen Wagar and Andrew Iverson

married Frank Donally of Missoula country. Helen married a Dovetail farmer, Andrew Iverson.

WASHBURN, Roy According to the Winnett Times this family was "rejoicing over the arrival of baby boy at their home October 14, 1921."

WEEKS, Jet B. (Sec. 28-12-29) Jet and Leo Weeks were in Kelley School District #138. While living here they had one son, Orren D., born 7-17-1915.

WINGO, John F. (Sec. 32-12-28) John was a bachelor homesteader. Howard Hodges reminisced about John: "While working for Swede Nielsen, I plowed the sod John needed to prove up on his claim in the fall of 1916. John's mother was visiting him at the time, and she was a real southern cook. I'll never forget the good meals she provided."

John was one of the first trustees of the Sheldon School District #149.

Kelley Remembrances

The following are some of the remembrances from respondents of the history questionnaires:

— A monthly Community Club was a potluck get-together at different homes each meeting. The host family provided the hot food and coffee. Others provided the cold dishes, salads, cakes, pies, etc. This was first held on a Thursday, but in later years on Sunday. Charter members of this popular club in 1917 were Mrs. Thomas Blackstone, Miss Blair, Mrs. Oliver Carr, Miss Clara Chesley, Mrs. Anton Andersen, Mrs. John Dixon, Mrs. Dale Dixon, Mrs. Ray Dreisbach, Mrs. Jessie (Harry) Hodges, Miss Esther Hodges, Mrs. Karel Holecek, Mrs. Peter Hoven, Mrs. Joseph Kocer, Mrs. Martin Kozumpleck, Mrs. Lawrence Kroetch, Mrs. John McColgen, Mrs. Alice McKay, Mrs. Jacob Neff, Mrs. John Peebles, Mrs. Herbert Peterson, Mrs. Charles Roth, Mrs. William Starkweather, Mrs. Straight, Miss Fannie Slunesko, Mrs. Guy Schellenger, Mrs. Walter Smith, Mrs. Clyde Smith and Mrs. Bye.

Chief reasons for money-making activities of the club were to buy Christmas treats and presents for Santa's sack for the Christmas programs or, later on, gifts to present to families leaving the community. Everyone looked forward to "Club" day — it was truly a family-fun day. Men, young men, and older boys played baseball, horseshoes, and mumbletypeg. Younger boys and girls played all kinds of games and ate lots of pie, cake and cookies. Women usually had a very informal meeting, raved over new clothes made without even a pattern, exchanged recipes, and visited their throats dry.

Older girls took complete care of the babies, tried to attract the attention of the older boys, and shared with each other their hopes that another dance would

materialize soon. Also, as the girls matured, they sometimes heroically took over the washing of all the dishes — no small effort, as water had to be used sparingly; and, of course, no paper plates, paper cups, or plastic silverware were used. Folks from the communities of Flatwillow, Petrolia, Musselshell and Winnett were often very welcome visitors.

— Once a month church was held at the Kelley schoolhouse with Rev. Leege of the German Lutheran Church preaching.

— Sunday School was held at each of the separate schools at different periods of time, depending on the shift of the population. There were pretty Bible picture cards with texts which children were encouraged to collect to give to missionaries to China. Once a couple of girls timidly sang "Jesus wants me for a Sunbeam," while at least one of them believed that a sunbeam was a particle of dust you saw in the sun's rays when you swept the floor. She wondered why He wanted her to be that, but she was willing so to be.

— Catholics worshipped in Winnett where Fr. Müller was leader of the flock.

— Pie socials, box socials and kitchen dances were held, in spite of grasshoppers, hail and drought. How the married men did bid the young fellows up on the school marm's box!

— One mother had to watch two young sons die while her husband was away working to make a living; and she had to live with their bodies a day or two until a cowboy happened by. It was the flu epidemic of 1918.

— Going to Kelley after the mail on Tuesday and Saturday became a special treat for families after cars were in use.

— What fun it was watching young folks and women learn to drive cars on two-track roads — in and out of ruts!

— People sat for hours in their cars in the gumbo at the bottom of the "hog back" until a team of horses could pull them out.

— Teachers were their own janitors and lived in lonesome little teacherages or boarded with families.

— There was agony for those who forgot to drain the car radiator or who believed that blankets thrown over the hoods would prevent freezing!

— People would often get "kicked" when they cranked their Model T's.

— Singers of the community, including men and boys, gathered around the piano with Effie Kroetch, Sylvia Brummett, Gladys Black, Helen Mackrill, or Jessie (Mrs. Howard) Hodges at the keyboard. Their rendition of "The Bulldog on the Bank" with the basses and tenors coming in strong couldn't be equaled by any singing group. They could take you to heaven singing "The Old Rugged Cross" or return you to lovers' lane with "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" or "Carolina Moon."

— Two boys were independently walking home from school after a heavy wet snowfall. The first one thought he would drag his feet over a well-known small cutbank filled level with new-fallen snow; thus, he hoped to trap his brother who would follow in his tracks. But the brother didn't fall for it, jumped across, and dragged his tracks also. They apparently forgot about the rather large lady teacher who would also be following in their footsteps in the dark! Wonder why she quit boarding with that family?!

— There were no regularly running streams, only coulees that could become raging rivers after a cloudburst or rapid chinook.

— Sometimes Model T's had to cross coulees on planks.

— Holeceks had a wedding anniversary party every year.

— There were beautiful fields of poppies at Kocers and Holeceks.

— Dances were held at the Arthur Miller home. Younger teen-agers, who were too bashful, practiced in a room upstairs. Folks would get home from these dances in time to milk the cows in the morning.

— One could see sheep wagons on the hills and herders and well-trained sheep dogs rounding up the sheep.

— It was a thrill to hear music from the first 5-tube radio at the Kelley Post Office home of Clarence Dreisbach in 1924. It seemed unbelievable that the music originated in Des Moines, Iowa, or Denver, Colorado!!

— Gus Naujok from the Flatwillow Community visited and told fortunes by reading palms. How fortunate you were if you had a long, unbroken life line!

— It was comforting to hear the curlew's sweet mournful call in the evening and see the horned lark's neat little nest in the ground, often over-stuffed with baby birds. These true larks no longer exist in what was the Kelley community. They seemed to have left when the people

did.

— One could hear the howl of the coyote and the mimicking answer of the farm dogs, as the moon slipped over Musselshell Hill, Rocking Chair Butte, or the gumbo flat.

— Young folks skated and rafted on Lun Miles' lake.

— Christmas programs of combined schools were held, using sheets strung on a wire for curtains. Children got nervous giggles, so they couldn't say their "piece." There were real candles on the Christmas tree and Santa arrived in a Model T.

— Young folks swam in Brummett's dam and rode in Louise's "canoe."



Sherman Sterrett and Louise Brummett enjoy Louise's lake and her sheep-trough canoe

— The community was divided north and south for rabbit hunts. The side with the least rabbits had to furnish the winning side with an oyster supper and dance the day after the hunt. The following morning red spots in the snow bore testimony to the carnage of the previous day. The rabbits were frozen and shipped back East to be made into fur-lined gloves and mittens.

— Charivaris were awesome and noisy. The neighbors quietly slipped in after dark, then serenaded the "honored" couple by banging tubs and throwing cans on the roof. Then the lady was given a ride in the dark in a wheelbarrow. She was left on the lonesome prairie and her husband had to go find her. Gifts (including a carefully folded diaper!) were given to the couple at a dance and lunch after the charivari.

— One school teacher from back East had been hired; but getting as far as Musselshell and seeing the country, decided not to go on to Kelley.

— A mail-order bride was rejected after arriving at her proposed husband's domicile. She was a very beautiful lady, too.

— People waited impatiently for the packages to come from the mail order catalogs.

— There were Sunday baseball games between teams from Kelley, Flatwillow, Winnett and Musselshell; or games between the single men and the married men. One of the Kelley players had a hernia, but he didn't let that stop him. He would just lay down flat on his back in the field, stuff it back in, and go on with the ball game.



Kelley baseball team in 1916: Back: Harry Hodges, John Dixon, Bly Masten, George (Bogue) Howard, Oliver Carr; Front: Knute Johnson, Lawrence Kroetch, Otto Moore, Ray Dreisbach

— Young folks enjoyed pum-pum-pull-away and steal sticks, or Annie-I-over the schoolhouse or granary.

— In winter neighbors teamed together to saw ice out of coulees and water holes. The ice was sawed into chunks that could be handled with ice tongs. The blocks were hauled to an icehouse or cave and packed with straw or sawdust. The energy expended was well worth the effort when the hot and dry days of summer arrived.

Ice for ice boxes and for crank ice cream freezers was one of the niceties of living!

— With the scarcity of water many families were forced to use the "Order Of The Bath" for the weekly body wash in the metal washtub. Baby was first, with an added teakettle of hot water for each successive older member of the family.

— Telephones were installed in the western section of the community in 1925.

— There were many sad farewell parties until finally, there was no one left to present the pyrex dish, or to give the party.

Kelley had a post office for only 25 years, and for that length of time, earned a spot on the map. A route to boxes was established for those few who were still in the community on July 1, 1938, when the post office was closed. The mail carrier for that route was Louis Plum. Before another ten years had passed, there was only one original land owner in the community, Forrest Hodges. In 1965 he left. All had persevered through happiness and sorrow, years of plenty, and years of nothing. Then, as William Wadsworth Longfellow so aptly stated in his classic poem:

"The Day is Done"

they had all

"Folded their tents like the Arabs, and as silently stolen away."

Kelley Epilogue

On July 16, 1989, 23 Kelley kids and 17 "satellites" gathered for a reunion in Roundup, Montana. Present were Walter Andersen and his wife "Shorty"; Joan Black Kuster and her husband Douglas; Joe Black; Erma Dreisbach Hoffman and her husband Roy; Earle Hodges; Esther Hodges Gross, her daughter-in-law Dorothy, her granddaughter Susan, and great granddaughter Erin; Forrest Hodges; Howard Hodges; Ivan Hodges, his wife Inez and daughter Sylvia; Kathryn Hodges Keebler and her husband Jean; Ruth Hodges Freburg, her husband Ernest and their two daughters, Mavis and Nancy, and Mavis' husband Bob Shotwell; George Holecek; Mary

Kroetch Poetter and her husband Rupert "Red"; Carroll Munson and his wife Muriel Black Munson and son Paul; Gayle Munson and his wife Carol; Ivan Munson and his wife Evelyn Melius Munson; John Munson and his wife Grace; Virgene Munson Gamble; Paul Neff and his wife Doris; and Mrs. "Cotton" Worthington.

After dinner at the Tastee Freez of Roundup, all gathered in the city park for visiting and picture taking. Paul Neff and his wife had come the farthest. Eldest there were: Esther Hodges Gross (1897), Howard Hodges (1899) and George Holecek (1901).



Munsons return (1989). Back: Paul, John, Gayle, Carroll; Middle: Ivan, Grace, Carol; Front: Evelyn, Virgene, Muriel



George Holecek



Paul Neff



Some of the Blacks (1989): Paul Munson, Douglas Kuster, Joe Black, Carroll Munson, Muriel Black Munson, Joan Black Kuster



Hodges bunch (1989). Left to right: Kathryn Hodges Keebler, Nancy Freburg, Howard Hodges, Ernest Freburg, Earle Hodges, Ruth Hodges Freburg, Mavis Freburg Shotwell, Robert Shotwell, Sylvia Hodges Maffit, Ivan Hodges, Esther Hodges Gross, Forrest Hodges



Walter and "Shorty" Andersen