

Evelyn was born that year with the able assistance of mid-wife, Emma Barkdoll. The Bouldens added a filling station to the store, and Pearl was named postmaster in 1929. The children attended the Mosby School and Winnett High School. In 1928, while Pearl was clerk of the school district, the school burned, destroying everything. The district had no money for the purchase of new texts, and that caused quite a dilemma.

Francis Boulden was a bookkeeper by trade, and he went to western Montana looking for work in 1929. The family did not join him but stayed at Mosby where Pearl ran the business and post office until her death in 1952.

In 1948 the boys had built a new home for the family, and the neighbors gave them a big housewarming. The following year they erected a new station. Upon the death of Pearl, Allen became postmaster, a position he held until he retired in 1976. Kenneth then took it over until it became a community post office, at which time he bid it in on contract and still operates it.

Allen served in the Army from 1943 to 1945, then came back to Mosby. He never married.

Faye married John Killian and they had three children — John L. (1940), Faye A. (1943), and Marilyn (1944). When she retired, she moved back to Mosby. (See also KILLIAN — Winnett)

In 1943 Kenneth went to the west coast, where he worked in the shipyards for the duration of the war. He was one of a team of five riveters to win the title of "World Champion Riveters Crew," of the Oregon Ship Builders Corporation. After the war he returned to Mosby. Kenneth never married.

Evelyn also worked in the shipyards during the war. She married Ray James, and they had three children — La Marr (1946), Mike (1948) and Laurie (1951).

**BOUTIELLIER, Charles** (Sec 34-13-30) Charles Boutiellier, known as "Frenchy," was a trapper. He lived on the east side of the Musselshell, but owned land on both sides of the river. He is remembered for the dugout he built to live in, using cedar poles and branches for the roof. The dugout is still there after all these years, because the cedar he used is still growing!

Frenchy bought the original Horace McGiboney homestead. He later sold to John Benson and moved to Melstone, Montana.

**BOWEN, Dean** (Sec 5-15-30) Dean Bowen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bowen of St. Charles, Illinois, was born in 1903. He came to Montana with his grandmother, Mrs. Mary Bowen Sheets, who had raised him and his brothers, Dow and Albert, after their mother died.

Dean moved to the Lower Musselshell area and lived on the Bill Stroup homestead across the river from his brother, Dow Bowen.

A news correspondent wrote in the Winnett Times: "Dean Bowen is driving a custom built roadster, which he designed and built from his old coupe. As yet, no muffler has been fitted, so neighbors who hear a motor that

reminds them of a churn, know that Dean is within hearing distance and will soon be in sight. The headlights are substituted by a side light and a flashlight, which is useful at gates. In order to utilize full benefits of the sunshine and fresh air, no top is cluttering up the overhead of Dean's model.

"As Mr. Bowen is very practical-minded, chains rather than an umbrella are chosen for rainy days. The small fry insist that the windshield frame is devoid of glass, but ye correspondent overlooked that item and is prone to believe that the glass is so meticulously clean that it can't be easily seen. The upholstery is not exactly of the eye-catching variety, however, may at some future time be renovated to harmonize with whatever color the body paint shall be. (Ye correspondent recommends yellow.)

"The proof of the pudding lies in the eating," and in the case of an automobile, lies in the performance. Anyone who has ever traveled — whether afoot, horseback or via car in lowest gear — the so-called 'road' along the breaks on the Petroleum side of the river between the two Bowen ranches, will agree that route is a severe test for any car — and Dean's new model has successfully scaled all the hills, slopes, and turns without difficulty."

Dean left the river in 1959 and moved to Arlee, Montana, where he stayed for a couple of years. He married Helen Kirnak in Arlee. They moved to Beaverton, Oregon. They had no children.

Dean died in 1982 and is buried in Beaverton, Oregon.

**BOWEN, Willis Dow** (Sec 4-16-30) The following memories were contributed by Irene Bowen Rosetta. "My mother, Katherine Kleiman, moved to Montana from Atwood, Kansas, in 1901, at the age of eight. She and her family traveled by covered wagon, taking five weeks for the trip and settling in the Judith Basin, near Garneill.

"Later her mother filed on a desert homestead in Garfield County, north of Mosby, where the Kleimans lived from then on. My mother was next to the oldest of eleven children. She graduated from Moore High School (not too many were getting that much education in those days) and taught school for several years — in fact, until she had four children of her own. She was my first grade teacher when I started school at the age of five. We were living near Benzien on Lodgepole Creek that year; she had previously taught at the Canyon School, nearer where we lived.

"My father, Willis Dow Bowen, grew up in Hammond, Indiana, and came to Montana as a young man. He had been raised by his grandmother and his Aunt Dorothy Bowen, as his mother had died when he was three weeks old. When they came west to take up homesteads, and for Aunt Dorothy to teach school, he came, too. He first worked on a ranch near Grassrange and later homesteaded in Garfield County, near the Kleimans. My mother had also homesteaded in the area. They were married in 1916 in Lewistown, and during the following nineteen years, eleven children were born — my oldest sister, Dorothy, in 1918, and my youngest sister, Audrey, in 1935.

"When I was ready for the fourth grade (it must have been in 1927), we moved from the homestead, which was up in the hills, to the Musselshell River where the Brownings presently live — a move of about ten miles. My father wasn't able to raise hay for the cattle at the homestead as there was no water available. Our house, after we moved down to the river, was in Garfield County, but part of our land was in Petroleum County.

"We first lived in a small, one-room log building which was already on the place; this later became 'the bunkhouse,' after my father built a larger log house, which was added onto a couple times. However, it was always crowded with our large family. The boys (and hired man, when we had one) always slept in the bunkhouse.

"My father had grown up in cities or towns in Indiana and Illinois, so he learned the ranching business while working as a ranch hand near Grassrange. It was all new to him, but he learned quickly and became a good horseback rider, roper, machine repairer, etc. He always called himself a 'rancher,' as we raised Hereford cattle for sale, but there was lots of farming involved, too. We raised alfalfa for both hay and seed.

"There was always a huge garden, and we had quite a few milk cows. They grazed out on the open range, except during the winter months, and it was the job of the older kids to ride after them every afternoon. Rounding up thirteen cows was sometimes quite a chore as they could wander over a wide area. They all had names, but I can remember only Blackie and Molly.

"After moving to the Musselshell, we rode horseback 5½ miles to the Ross School, which was about midway between our house and Gilfeathers'. There were four of us in school then — Dorothy, Eline, Don and myself (Irene). The other children attending school there were Gilfeathers, Nordahls, Gibsons and Ripleys. We had summer school, six months out of the year, for several years. When I was ready for the seventh grade, the present Ross School was built, which was about one and one half miles from our house. Incidentally, it is still being used, but has been upgraded with carpeting and an indoor toilet. The small teacherage has been replaced by a good-sized trailer house and the old teacherage is being used for storage.

"Most of the time when I went to the Ross School, the teacher took turns boarding with different families. Dances are no longer held in the schoolhouse — the carpeting took care of that — also, a hall was built farther down the river, which became the social center of the community. There are way fewer families down there now, however, so I'm not sure how much it is used anymore. I started high school in Winnett in the fall of 1932.

"I almost forgot to mention that our schoolhouse burned to the ground in the spring of 1927 — the year we moved to the Musselshell. It was raining and cold that morning, and Dorothy, Eline and I all wore the new coats

that our mother had just made for us. Also, Clarence Nordahl had just gotten a new saddle and used it that day for the first time. Because it was raining, he put it in the entryway of the schoolhouse, where everyone had their coats, instead of in the shed.

"The teacher (Ruth Viall, who was only 18 years old herself and teaching her first school) had built a fire in the stove. As I remember it, the piece of wood wouldn't quite fit, so she took it out of the stove and put it in the entryway. When it was time for the morning recess, she opened the door for us to go outdoors and the flames just shot in. I can still visualize it. This was the only door to the outside, and in her panic, she took her bare hands, broke the windows and got us all out of the building. Remembering that she had some money in her desk, she then went back in; she had just gotten back out when the roof caved in. Then, she fainted! We all rode back home in the rain without any coats, and Clarence without his new saddle. I still remember the coats — Dorothy's was black, mine was plaid, and Eline's was red.

"For the rest of that school year, we used the shed, which the men fixed up. They rebuilt desks, using the burned wrought iron from the old ones. The next couple years, we had school in a log building on the Piper place nearby. In fact, that is the location of the present community hall.

"My mother made all of our clothing, either from old things or from material from Montgomery Wards or Sears, and, of course everything was handed down to the next in line. It was always exciting getting a package in the mail. Living forty-two miles from the nearest town (Winnett), only the essential trips were made and they were usually by my dad. Mosby was our post office and was run by Mrs. Boulden. Her daughter, Faye, and sons, Allen and Kenneth, still run the Mosby Post Office.

"Dorothy, Don and I all graduated from Winnett High School. Eline was in her junior year there at the time of her death. Jean went for one or two years; at that time the county stopped paying transportation money, so she and the rest of my brothers and sisters all went to Jordan High School. We lived closer to Winnett (42 miles); but Jordan was the county seat of Garfield County, and it was about 75 miles from where we lived.

"Mother and Dad lived on the Nave place, near Cat Creek, from about 1950 to 1959. They then moved to another ranch on the Milk River, near Hinsdale. My sister, Donna, and her family have lived on this place since our dad's death in the fall of 1964. Also, my uncle Dean Bowen (my dad's half-brother) lived on the old Bill Stroup place on the Petroleum County side of the Musselshell River. I can't remember when he started living there, but he also left in 1959 and moved to a small ranch near Arlee, Montana, and later to Portland, Oregon, where he lived until his death in 1982.

"My mother died at Hinsdale in 1979. She spent most of her time with Audrey and Donna, and some with Laura. I think she felt closer to the younger members of

the family — also, they all had young children, and she felt more needed with them. I always thought it must have been very hard for her, though, to suddenly give up her home. She really wasn't in good enough health to live by herself (or so we all thought).

"Now to get to the statistical report on the Bowers, which I find rather uninteresting: Dorothy (1918) lives in Los Gatos, California; Irene (1919) lives in Helena, Montana; Eline (1921) died in 1935 while attending Winnett High School; Don (1922) lives in San Carlos, California; Jean (1925) lives in Portland, Oregon; Russell (1927) lives in Seattle, Washington; Esther (1929) lives in Goleta, California; Donna (1931) lives near Hinsdale, Montana; Lowell "Buddy" (1932) died in 1956 while serving in the Army in Korea; Laura (1933) lives at Woodburn, Oregon; Audrey (1935) lives in Billings, Montana.

"Dow died in 1964. Katherine died in 1979."

When Katherine died in 1979, the following "Tribute to Mom" was printed as part of her obituary in the Winnett Times:

"There are so many wonderful things to remember about our mother! When I think of her, I see her sitting in the kitchen, peeling potatoes or apples — the thinnest peelings you could find anywhere — a reflection of the hard times she's lived through, where nothing was wasted.

"I remember her giving the kitchen and front porch one last mopping, while the rest of us waited in the car for her for a rare trip to town when I was young. (No one would ever come while we were gone and find the floors needed cleaning!)

"It is Christmas Eve: the rest of the family is anxiously waiting in the living room for her so we can begin the carols, recite the 're-runs' of our school program pieces, and open the presents. Mom is finishing dishes, making another batch of fudge, divinity, or panocha for us to devour.

"I remember how she never liked to wear her glasses at home, but how she always went to her dresser and put them on the last thing before we'd leave to go anywhere.

"I can still hear her at mealtime when I was young, as she went out to call my dad to dinner. 'Dow-woo-hoo,' she would call over several times, until he'd hear and answer.

"I recall the homemade ice cream she used to make and then, how we'd help my dad freeze it. No matter what picnic we went to, I can remember the pride I felt when I'd hear people making sure they got 'Bowen's' ice cream. It really was the best.

"Mom's hair was growing thin as she grew older, and in my memory, she had thought 'it would all be gone soon,' for the past thirty years. But it always looked so nice when it was curled.

"Buying a dress for Mom wasn't easy. She wanted a dress without a belt, that fastened up the front, and it had to have a pocket. Also, it must be washable.

"Her obvious delight at viewing grandchild number

thirty-eight through the nursery window was almost unbelievable. You'd think she'd be getting used to that, and she acted like it was her first!

"Mom believed in hard work and expected it in others. Sleeping in late wasn't in her schedule, and I remember so well how she liked to get the rest of us up. If it was five minutes after six, she would call, 'You kids, get up, it's going on seven o'clock.' In fact, as I grew up, I can almost always remember her being up. She was up when I woke up in the morning, and still up when I went to bed. She would be sitting up late in the kitchen, mending socks, or making braided rugs — taking advantage of the quiet of the late hours when everyone else was in bed and she wouldn't be interrupted.

"Her passing was peaceful, and I think, welcome. Her overworked heart had been greatly enlarged and she had been surviving on digitalis for many years. She was over 86 years old; she deserved a rest. But, how we miss her!"

**BOWERS, James W.** (Sec 5-16-30) James W. Bowers, son of James H. and Emma Bowers, was born in 1882 at Finksburg, Maryland. With an urge to go west, in 1899 he journeyed to Muscatine, Iowa, where he worked for ten years. Early in 1911 he came to Montana, locating and proving up on a homestead in the Bull Mountains.

In 1915 he married Leta Aikens at Melstone, Montana. In the fall of 1916 the family moved to a ranch near Weede, where Flatwillow Creek joins the Musselshell. For a time, the Bowers carried the mail from Melstone to Mosby and ranched along the west side of the Musselshell.

In 1925 they moved to Cat Creek, where they ran a store and carried the mail from Cat Creek to Winnett. They also raised livestock until 1938, when they moved to Winnett. (See also BOWERS — Cat Creek and Winnett)

**BRINDLEY, William M.** William M. "Bill" Brindley, son of Carl and Tiny (Matovich) Brindley, was born in 1957. He attended school at Winnett and graduated from Winnett High School in 1975. He attended Western Montana College and later Montana State University.

In 1978 Bill returned to work full time on the family ranch owned by his grandparents, Marcus and Ruby Matovich. As he was growing up, he spent most of his weekends, holidays and summers on the ranch, so it was really his second home.

Sarah Lee Shaw, daughter of Lee and Gunda Shaw, was born in 1960. She attended school at Winnett, where she graduated from Winnett High School in 1978. She went to Montana State University, and in 1980 went to work for the USDA Soil Conservation Service for four and one-half years.

Bill and Sarah were married in 1982. This was a case of marrying "the girl next door," as Shaws and Brindleys lived across the alley from each other for seven years.

In 1984 Bill and Sarah moved to the Matovich Land and Livestock Ranch, since Marcus and Ruby were retiring and moving to Lewistown.

Bill and Sarah have two sons — Miles Cameron (1985) and Evan Michael (1988). (Sarah Brindley)

**BRINDLEY, William S.** (Sec 17-15-30) William "Bill" S. Brindley was born in 1888 in Washington County, Iowa. Margaret S. Reichenback was born in 1889 in Perry County, Pennsylvania. She received her schooling there and taught school in the area for a time before moving, in 1912, to Fall River County, where she homesteaded and taught school.

William Brindley and Margaret Reichenback were married in 1922 and remained in Fall River County until 1943, when they moved to the John O'Dea Ranch on the Musselshell River.

In 1941 my father, Bill Brindley, and Harold and Violet Wilson purchased the John O'Dea property on Cat Creek, at its confluence with the Musselshell River. Harold died of injuries received in a truck accident near the Cat Creek Camp in the spring of 1942. During the ensuing year, my parents sold their property in the Oelrichs (South Dakota)-Chadron (Nebraska) community and we moved to the O'Dea Ranch.

In 1945 Bill Brindley, Joe Murphy, Daryl Spencer and Axel Livingston formed the Poor Boy Oil Co. and drilled a wildcat on the O'Dea Ranch. They tapped an oil pool above the Morrison formation on New Year's Day, 1946. Being more gamblers than functional oil men, they left the last 60 feet of the hole uncased; the well was plagued with cave-ins and other technical problems and was finally abandoned. In a three and one-half month history, Poor Boy No. 1 produced 32,000 barrels of crude and a like amount of discord and disillusion.

"Old Man" Brindley sold his ranch, lock, stock, and oil well, to a group headed by R. C. Tarrant, and retired to Mulino, Oregon, where he died in September 1948. He left in Montana a geological formation, the "Brindley Sand"; and in South Dakota, a geographical feature, "Brindley Creek."

Bill and Margaret had three sons: Henry, who served in the South Pacific during World War II, died in 1984; Hugh, who married Mary Ostler, lives in Winnett (See also BRINDLEY, Hugh — Winnett); Carl, who married Tiny Matovich, lives in Lewistown, Montana (See also BRINDLEY, Carl — Winnett).



*William and Margaret Brindley*

After Bill died in 1948, Margaret lived with her sons, Henry in Oregon, and Hugh and Carl at Winnett, for some years before she moved to Lewistown to make her home in Valle Vista Manor until her death in 1966. Bill and Margaret are both buried in the family plot at Chadron, Nebraska. (Hugh Brindley)

**BROWN, Harry** (Sec 17-15-30) Harry and Roberta Brown were homesteaders in 1916. They had two children listed in the 1916 school census for District #107 — Samuel (1913) and Ruth (1916). They sold to Robinson.

**BROWN, James** James Brown's obituary (W. T. 1-15-26) gives this scant information. "James Brown, familiarly known as 'Side-Hill Brown,' had resided in this section for the past thirty years, spending his time in the Weede country and along the Musselshell River, herding sheep. He had no known relatives and was without funds at the time of his demise. Nothing whatever could be learned of his past. The county buried the remains. He earned his nickname because he lived in a dugout in the side of a hill when he was not working. He died at the home of John Badger."

**BUMP, Ernest** (Sec 4-16-30) Ernest Bump, son of Nels and Etta Bump, was born in 1883 at Townsend, Montana. He came to the Lower Musselshell in 1931 to help his brother, Guy, who had a homestead there. He bought the Duff place, near Guy, and engaged in ranching.

Clara Brock, daughter of Calvin and Lee Anna Brock, was born in 1895 at Mount Vernon, Missouri. She and her family moved west to Idaho in 1900. Clara married Bill Hamilton in 1914. They moved to Rock Creek, Montana, in 1923. They had four daughters — Maryanna (1920), Betty Jo (1923), Shirley (1924) and Lucille (1925). Bill died of a ruptured appendix in 1926.

Clara had met Ernest Bump at Townsend and, at his suggestion, she came to Petroleum County alone and signed up for a homestead about six miles west of the Musselshell River. (Hers was one of the last homesteads to be taken before the homestead activity stopped.) After signing up for the homestead, Clara went back to Townsend where her daughters were attending school. In 1932 she and her daughters started for the homestead and got initiated into the wonders of rain and the famous "Tin Can" hill gumbo.

Clara and Ernest were married in 1933. They lived at Clara's homestead since it was closer to school for the girls. Clara helped with the riding to keep the cattle from straying too far, because there were no fences to keep the cattle contained. She would also ride back and forth to the river and help with the haying. Bumps also rode to the river to get their mail at the Knute Nordahl place, on the Mecaha route. All the farmwork was done with horses as Bumps never owned a tractor. The first automobile Ernest had was a new International pickup that he and his brother, Guy, bought in 1937 for \$700.

In 1935 a daughter, Faye, was born to them at Jordan.

Since it was winter, they had a wild and worrisome ride home, thanks to the icy river hills.

In 1939 Clara moved with her girls to Winnett, so they could go to high school. She made her home a boarding house for teachers and kids as there was no longer a school dormitory. She was March of Dimes chairman for the county for fifteen years, served as justice of the peace for six years, distributed Rawleigh products, and took in washing and ironing.

Ernest Bump died in 1971. Clara continued to live in Winnett until 1981, when her health forced her to go to Lewistown, Montana, to stay with her daughter, Shirley Ballance. She is now 94 years young (1989) and is living at Central Montana Nursing Home in Lewistown. (Clara Bump, Shirley Ballance and Maryanna Davis)

**BUMP, Guy** (Sec 4-16-30) Guy Bump, son of Nels and Etta Bump, was born in 1878 at Diamond City, Montana. He attended the Canton Valley School in Broadwater County. Irene Wells, daughter of Albert and Davidella Wells, was born in 1884 in Canton, Montana. Guy and Irene were married at Helena in 1911. They came to the Lower Musselshell after their marriage.

Irene taught school for several years in the area and then served as clerk of the school district. She was a musician and helped out at various functions.

Guy was a native Montanan who delighted in telling unsuspecting listeners that he was a "Missourian" (he lived for some of his younger years near the Missouri River in the Townsend, Montana, area).

Guy and Mrs. Bump saw this area change in many respects. Most of the dirt-roofed log homes were replaced with less primitive structures. Draft horses were largely replaced with tractors, automobiles and trucks. Battery radio newscasts and entertainment programs greatly lessened the isolation of rural listeners. Although they lived in town at the time, Mr. and Mrs. Bump were very interested in the electrification of the area in 1954. They also shared their old neighbors' desire for a telephone exchange.

Guy and Irene lived at their homestead until they moved to Winnett in 1948. They did not have any children. Guy died in 1959, and Irene died in 1963.

**BUNCH, John and Joseph** (Sec 24-14-29) John and Joseph Bunch were both homesteaders in section 24. Joseph Bunch is listed as the guardian of Lester Blackman (1902). Lester went to school at Weede for several years.

**BURGESS, Chester** (Sec 8-13-30) Chester and Anna Burgess bought the Sarah Smith homestead from George Lane. They had three children — Mary (1908), Leo C. (1911) and Lester (1913). They are listed in the Weede School census for the years of 1915-16-17. Burgess sold to Harold Robinson.

**BUSIC, Gid** (Sec 1-17-29) Gid Busic, son of Dan J. and Drucie Busic, was born in 1884 at Independence, Missouri. In 1903 he enlisted in Company H of the 21st Infantry of the United States Army. He received an

honorable discharge after three years of service, part of which was in the Philippine Islands where he took part in a number of engagements.

Tina Bagwell, daughter of Winfield and Gincy Bagwell, was born in 1889 in Weaversford, North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Bagwell and children moved to Galax, Virginia, where Tina was reared and attended school.

Gid and Tina were married in 1908 in Bristol, Virginia. In 1913 they moved to Montana and homesteaded near the site of what later became Mecaha, on the Musselshell River. They carried the mail from Mosby to Mecaha for several years and Tina had the Mecaha Post Office in their home. In the early 1920s they bought the Herb Mosby Ranch near Mosby and lived there until 1936 when Gid died.

A clipping from the Winnett Times in 1927 states: "When the west approach of Mosby Bridge was endangered by high water, the ranchers and farmers on this side of the river gathered, and under the direction of Gid Busic reinforced the approach with rocks and sand bags to keep the river from sweeping it out. They did the work without orders and without pay."

After Gid's death, Tina sold the ranch and moved to Winnett. She was the matron at the school dormitory for several years. In 1941 she was stricken with tick fever early in May but was one of the few who recovered. She moved to Billings in 1941 and ran a restaurant for some time, then moved to Lewistown. Tina died in 1972.

**BUTLER** In May of 1917, Mr. and Mrs. Butler, homesteaders from east of the river, made the trip to Winnett to get supplies and groceries. When they, accompanied by Mr. Mitchell, got back to the river it was in flood. Since it was evening, they spent the night at the John O'Dea home. The following morning Mr. O'Dea and Mr. Mitchell tried to discourage the Butlers, who were determined to cross the river and continue home. When they had the team hitched and the wagon ready, Mr. Mitchell said, "Don't try it. You'll drown for sure."

Mrs. Butler replied, "Well, if I'm going to drown, I'd better tell you good-bye."

With that they entered the river. The current swept the wagon and horses away while their friends watched, unable to help. Mr. Butler reached the shore, but the horses, Mrs. Butler and supplies were lost.

Down river, the Adams family were crossing a herd of horses when they saw a body floating in the current. They got a boat, went out, snagged the body and pulled it to shore. They recognized Mrs. Butler, and Albert rode up river to get her husband. When they returned to the body, they buried her on the east side of the river where she was recovered. (Marcus Matovich)

**CAMPBELL, George Grant** (Sec 26-14-29) George Grant Campbell was born in North Ogden, Utah, in 1859. In 1879 he married Mary Denning. They homesteaded on the river and lived there until his death in 1926. At the time of his death, his sister, Mrs. Wells, of Cat Creek, was the only relative that could be located. Services were

held in the Methodist Church in Winnett, with Rev. Fike officiating.

**CAMPBELL, William K.** (Sec 36-14-29) William and Ruby Campbell are listed as the parents of Thelma (1909), Willie (1910) and Eliza (1912) in the 1917 school census of District #107.

**CARTWRIGHT, Charles** (Sec 6-13-30) Charles and Julia Cartwright homesteaded in the Weede area. In 1913 they had the following children listed in the school census for Weede: Charley (1893), Ada (1895), Ezra (1897), Teddy (1901), Olive and Margaret (both in 1904).

Charles worked in the Cat Creek oil fields for awhile. They moved to Kevin, Montana, to continue the oil work. They lost the place to taxes.

In the 1940s a son, Bill, came back to this area, and in reminiscing, told of his father making "moon" out of barley meal. He said that the only thing he remembered was that the milk cow got into the mash that had been dumped in a coulee. She got drunk and sick, and dried up, leaving them without milk for the house or for her calf. He said the incident very nearly caused a death in the family when his mother found out!

**CHRISTENOT, George** (Sec 32-14-30) George and Ella Christenot homesteaded near Weede prior to 1913. They stayed on the homestead until George went to work in the oil fields in 1924. They moved to the Charles camp and enrolled their children in the Cat Creek School. The 1924 school census for District #198 lists them as follows: Mildred Annette (1910), Martha Blanche (1912), Charley George (1913), Harley Ray (1915), Helen Wanda (1916), Albert Ray (1918), John Darrel (1920), Fred (1921) and Kenneth (1924).

They sold their homestead hay ranch to S. D. Parkinson in 1925 and moved to Cut Bank, Montana. Some members of the family still live there.

**CLAUSEN, Alvin E.** (Sec 5-12-30) Alvin E. Clausen lived in Forest City, Iowa. It is unknown why he decided to buy land in Petroleum County, but whenever there was a sale of tax land, he would have a representative bid for him. In one such instance, J. W. Brummett picked up 2300 acres for him. He never lived on the land or stocked it, but always leased it out to others. Upon his death, the land passed to Bethel College and Seminary.

When First Continental Corp. was buying land in the area for farming, the president of Bethel College and Seminary, a personal friend of John Greytak, tried to interest John in their holding. After checking the land out, John reported back that the Clausen land was not suitable for cultivation.

**CLAVITTER, Rudy** Rudy Clavitter drowned in the Musselshell River. (For complete story — see the Fred Fox story)

**COLLIER** There were several Colliers that came to the area about the turn of the century and settled on the river in the Rosebud, Musselshell, and Petroleum County

areas. Listed in Petroleum County are: Benjamin F. (Sec. 29-12-31); Elmer S. and Fern (Sec 9,5-12-30); Frank and Katherine (Sec 29-12-31); John (Sec 14-12-30); and Leo (Sec 24-12-30). An item in the Times tells us that Mrs. Elmer Collier was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Joyce, homesteaders in the same area. All of this land, with the exception of two small parcels sold to James Maxwell, are presently in the Collier Trust.

According to the Winnett Times, in August of 1930 "Glen Collier was drowned in the Missouri River while a crew of men looked on, unable to help him. Glen came to the river riding a bronc and visited with the road crew for awhile. As he left, he told them he would give them an exhibition of fording the stream. About 100 yards from the far shore, he entered the main channel of the river and his horse began drifting downstream. He attempted to rein it in, causing the horse to roll over, throwing Glen into the river with his heavy chaps on. He attempted to swim but was unable to do so and sank, coming up once before finally disappearing. The horse turned about, returned to shore, and left.

"The road crew was unable to reach Glen before he disappeared. Immediate action was taken to drag the river, but the body was not recovered until several days later. It was caught in a snag near the spot he disappeared.

"The young man had been reared on the river and was an excellent horseman. He had forded the river countless times, and the knowledge he must have had was contrary to the action he took. His evident attempt at showmanship cost him his life."

**COON, Albert Royal** (Garfield County) A. R. "Royal" Coon came to the Musselshell River in about 1907 and filed a claim at the mouth of Lodgepole Creek.

His son, Ed, filed a claim about six miles above the mouth of the Musselshell. In 1914 he sold his claim to Everett Thompson and moved to Benzien, Montana. He later moved back to live at his dad's place.

Royal and his wife had six daughters and one son, Ed. Ada married Bill Olmstead, Ossie Mae married Lloyd Olmstead, Bessie married Kale Olmstead. (The three Olmstead boys came from farther east in Garfield County.) Ivy married Glen Faulkerson. Pearl married Frank Mann and later married L. M. Blaine. Violet married Eric Forsberg. (See also FAULKERSON) (Marcus Matovich)

**COON, Ivy** Ivy Coon was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Coon. She was born in 1871 at Monticello, Illinois.

"Aunt Ivy," as she was known by her friends and relatives came to the Musselshell Valley from Missouri in 1910 and homesteaded on the east side of the river between Ross and Mecaha. She took her brother William Coon's three children into her home to raise. They were Harley, Melvin and Opal.

Ivy never married. She stayed on her homestead until 1942, when she and the children moved to Lewistown. In



*Sheldon, Violet and Ivy Coon*

about 1959 she moved from Lewistown to Billings to live with another niece, Mrs. Inez Adams Peterson. Inez took care of her for five years until her death in 1964.

**COON, Sheldon E.** (Sec 36-18-29) The Sheldon E. Coon and Ezra Adams families came to the Rosebud Country in Montana in 1896. They came to the Musselshell River near Mecaha in 1898, but went on to the Giltedge and Lewistown area, where there was mining going on. In 1901 they came back to the Musselshell and picked out land on the east side of the river. Adams chose the area that now is the headquarters of the Matovich Ranch, and Coons set up just south of them, across from the mouth of Dovetail Creek.

Sheldon "Sheck" Coon filed a pre-emption claim for the land he wanted. When the government survey was done, it was found that the Coon place was in section 36, which was supposed to be a school section. However, since Coons had their buildings up and the land fenced, the government allowed them to stay there. They filed a homestead claim as soon as possible.

Sheck raised horses and farmed there. He also raised lots of watermelons (the good old-fashioned kind). He used to tell of the "good" and the "bad" of living on the river. He told how it was in flood years (when they couldn't cross the river from three to six weeks), and he also told how it was when no water ran in the river for a year.

Sheldon married Elsie Olmstead in 1916. Elsie was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Olmstead of the Brussett area in Garfield County.

They had seven children. The first girl, Edith, lived only two days. May (1918) married James Coslet and lives in Oakdale, CA. Lee (1920) married Marjorie Sandaker, and they live in Glendive. They have two sons, Larry and Terry, and two daughters, Linda and Judy. Lee was a veteran of World War II. He died in 1988 and is buried in Glendive, MT. Clarence (1922) lives in Grays River, WA. Vance (1926) lives in Boulder. Twin girls, Helen and Hazel, were born in 1929. Helen married Scotty McAdam and lives in Casper, WY. Hazel married Jack Bayers and lives in Billings.

The children attended grade schools on the river and

then went on to high school in Winnett.

After Sheldon died, Elsie married Earl E. Adams in 1948. Earl was a son of Ezra and Violet Adams. Elsie died in 1974.

**COON, William T. Sr.** (Sec 1,2-18-29) William Thomas Coon Sr. was born in 1823 at Circleville, Ohio. He was a veteran of the Civil War and spent 13 months in the Confederate Prison at Tyler, Texas. He had spent all his life on the frontiers of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, and came with his wife, Pricella, to Montana in 1911, at 89 years of age.

When Mr. Coon filed on his homestead, there was considerable surprise that a man of his age would have the courage to take up new land. He cut the logs and built their house himself.

Mr. and Mrs. Coon had eight children — Harvey, Elmer, Albert Royal, William Jr. (1864), Catherine (1870), Ivy (1871), Violet (1873) and Sheldon (1874).

No further information was available for Harvey (perhaps named Harley).

Elmer married Janey Walters in 1894 in Beardstown, Missouri. She died in 1901. He and his son, Marion H., came to the Musselshell area in 1914. He moved to Bozeman, Montana, and was living with his son when he died in 1946.

Albert Royal has a separate account written about him, as do Ivy and Sheldon.

William Jr. came to the Musselshell in 1914 with his three children, Harley, Melvin and Opal. His wife had died before they came to Montana. His sister, Ivy, raised the children.

Catherine married Wesley Atwood. (See also ATWOOD) Violet married Ezra Adams (See also ADAMS, Ezra)

Mrs. Coon died in 1919. Mr. Coon died in 1923 just 21 days before his 100th birthday.

All of the Coon lands now belong to the Matovich Ranch. (Clarence and Harley Coon and Marcus Matovich)

**DAVIS, Guy Arthur** Guy Davis was born in Vernal, Utah, in 1891. He married Nessie Cleator in 1924 in Buhl, Idaho. They had one son, James, born in 1925. Guy had three children by a previous marriage — Reah Rose, Gerald Glenn and Raymond Orrin. In 1929 Nessie began having trouble with her legs. The problem was diagnosed as a pinched motor nerve. By the end of the year, she was in a wheel chair, where she was to spend the next 36 years.

Guy, Nessie and Jim came to the area in April of 1943 and leased the Ed Healy place on the river. They quickly became friends of the neighbors, and it soon became a practice to stop at the Davis home for a snack, meal, visit, cuppa (coffee), card game, or all of the preceding. Nessie did all her own work, as well as beautiful fancy work. They gave large community parties and the place was always busy. They later bought the Brug place, located on a back road to town, about six miles from the river.

How did a person in a wheelchair cope — no near

neighbors, no telephone, and very unimproved roads? Nessie coped and she did it with a smile. Guy's saddle horse fell with him on some ice, twisting and breaking Guy's leg. Guy managed to hold onto the frightened horse while he crawled all the way home, leading the horse. He got into the house, and he and Nessie managed to straighten the leg and apply splints. Jim, who was helping a neighbor fence, came home in the afternoon, borrowed Bumps' pickup, and took Guy to the doctor in Lewistown, Montana. X-rays revealed that both bones were broken, but the splint applied at home had held them straight.

Guy passed away in 1950, and Nessie lived with her son Jim and his family until she passed away in 1965.

Jim Davis married Maryanna (Hamilton) Meserve in 1950. They lived mainly on the ranch until 1965, when they moved to Winnett and started "Davis Trucking." (See also MESERVE — Cat Creek; DAVIS — Winnett)

**DOBSON, Adam McIntyre** Adam Dobson was born in 1866 in Richmond, Cache County, Utah. His wife, Aurilla Etta (Hatch), was born in 1873 in Smithfield, Cache County, Utah. They were married in 1888.

Adam and Aurilla operated a hotel in Burlington, Wyoming, until it burned in 1905. They moved to Montana and lived near Moore before coming to the Musselshell River in 1910.

The Dobsons had 15 children (several of whom died shortly after birth) — Henry Oran (1890-1970), Annie Belle (1892-1892), Marion Lee (1894-1951), Nanella (Jones) (1896), Aurilla Etta (1898-1898), Jeremiah (1899-1917), Alva Alexander (1901-1901), Clyde (1902-1902), Adam LeGrande (1904-1964), Thelma "Peggy" (Duncan and Czyzeski) (1906), Charles Robert (1908-1930), Earle (1910-1911), Norris "Pete" (1912), Edna Arva (1915-1970), and Wilma Eldine (Moss) (1918).

In 1917 Henry Oran and Marion Lee filed on homesteads (Sec 32-16-30) on the Musselshell River about four miles below the mouth of Cat Creek. Oran married Grace Miller, a schoolteacher who had homesteaded in the Cat Creek Basin (See also MILLER — Cat Creek). Marion Lee served in World War I. He acquired more river-bottom land (Sec 5-15-30) in 1922. This was the area which became known as Dobsons Flat.

Adam and Etta lived on the river property of their sons, and their younger children went to school in a log cabin a short distance from the house. It is said they paid the salary of the first teachers and also provided the building. Two of the early teachers were Nels Fradd and Selma Curtis.

When the Dobsons' baby, Earle, died in 1911, they buried him on a hilltop near the homestead. Another son, Jerry, was killed in a horse accident in 1917 and was buried in the Shay Cemetery.

Adam died in 1919, leaving Etta with small children — one barely a year old. She married L. C. "Shorty" Thorsen in 1921 and the couple made their home in Cat Creek, where Shorty worked and the school-age children

attended school. Etta and Shorty were divorced in 1929 and Etta took the younger children (Edna, Wilma and Norris) to Michigan and on to Independence, Missouri. A son, Charles Robert, died in Independence in 1930.

Norris "Pete" married Esther Arleta Dell in Missouri. In December 1934 they came to Montana to make their home. They operated an implement business in Malta for many years. In 1973 Pete and Arleta bought Lorenz Thorsen's (Pete's stepfather's) ranch property and moved to Petroleum County.

The Pete Dobsons had four children — Lee Reynold (1932-1963), Arleta Anne (1937), Janet Elaine (1942) and Daniel Joseph (1947).

**DOCTOVICH, Louis** (Sec 10-19-29) Louis Doctovich was born in Brlög, Austria. He came to the United States with John Milesnick, of the same place. They worked in Colorado and in Alaska before coming to homestead on the Musselshell River in 1913. They set up a partnership deal, then dissolved the partnership in 1925.

Louis sold to the Corps of Engineers and moved to Billings, Montana. He never married. He died in Billings at the age of 95. (Marcus Matovich)

**DRINKARD, Melvin** Melvin "Bones" Drinkard was born in Alabama in 1867. In 1902 he came to Montana to work as a cowboy. Bones was well known throughout the cattle country as a good hand. He received his nickname in his early days in the country. He was hospitalized for pneumonia in Miles City and was very sick. He was 6 feet 3 inches tall and had lost a great deal of weight during his illness. When he returned to his cowboying job, his friends remarked that he was all bones. The nickname stuck from then on.

Bones died in a Billings hospital on February 7, 1949, at the age of 81. He had cancer of the throat. His only known survivor was a half-sister in Texas.

**DUFFNER, Albert B.** (Sec 17-16-30) (W. T. 4-13-28) "Albert B. Duffner of Piper, Montana, arrived here with a carload of emigrant goods, including four head of cattle and 12 hogs. Mr. Duffner has leased the Ed Healy Ranch on the river, 35 miles northeast of Winnett. The means of getting the hogs to the ranch puzzled Mr. Duffner, until he hit upon the idea of driving them with the cattle. The 25-mile trip was made in 24 hours of actual road travel, and the hogs came out at the finish in as good a condition as the cattle. Mr. Duffner states that he experienced no difficulty in taking the herd through, and that at night the hogs remained close to the camp, making no effort to stray away.

"Mr. Duffner's family will join him on the ranch this summer. Petroleum County folks join the Times in extending a cordial welcome to the new family."

The Duffners had a large family — Paul (1914), Homer (1916), Ralph (1918), Nora (1920), Esther (1922), Lawrence (1924), Raymond (1925), Robert (1927), Vereen (1929) and Edgar (1931).

(W. T. 1-9-31) "Court case — In civil case of Healy vs. Duffner. Ed Healy sued Duffner for rent and cancellation



of lease. Healy had given Duffner a five-year lease on his Musselshell River ranch. Healy was to have 1/3 of the crop of hay and seed for the first three years and 1/2 for the last two years of the lease. Healy also sold Duffner hay, which Duffner declared was not as represented. Duffner wanted the hay payments credited to the rentals.

"The jury brought in a split verdict, awarding Healy \$175.00 rentals and permitting Duffner to hold the ranch until the expiration of the lease. Justice Wilson followed the lead of the jury and assessed each of the parties 50 per cent of the costs." (See also DUFFNER — Winnett)

**DUNCAN, C. K.** (Sec 29-16-30) C. Kenny Duncan lived on the Musselshell River a few miles north of Cat Creek. He was married to Thelma Dobson. The couple had two children — Arnott and Dolly.

(W. T. 8-16-29) "Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Duncan from McMinville, Oregon are here to visit their son, C. K. Duncan, on the Musselshell River. They are former residents. Mr. Duncan is superintendent of schools for Yamhill County, Oregon, and his wife is deputy superintendent."

**DUNDOM, Harry** (Sec 5-15-30) JoAnn Dundom Ostermiller contributed the following article. "Pearl Beal was born in Pierre, South Dakota, in 1911. The Beal family eventually settled near Roy, Montana. Pearl met and married Harry Dundom on July 5, 1929, in Lewistown. They lived and worked around Roy and Winnett, raising and riding horses with Harry's stepfather, Sam Sherman, and several of his brothers and step-brothers. Sometime around 1935-36, we moved to the Brown (Ed. Charles?) Lease six miles east of Cat Creek, where Dad worked for Continental Oil. We kids went to a little school close by, up a pretty steep hill and across a big coulee. In the wintertime, Dad would hook his saddle horse up to a toboggan-type sled and pull us to school, all four on one sled. His saddle horse was a raunchy little blue roan, and Dad said, 'Aw, it's good for him.'

"In August of 1942 Daddy went with a man, Harold Wilson, who was moving onto the John O'Dea place, just below where we lived. The new neighbor had a friend driving his truck to move their belongings, and Daddy was helping. They were on the way back with a load, and when they started down into Cat Creek, the truck lost its brakes. The driver told Daddy and Mr. Wilson that they had better jump out, which they unwisely did. The owner of the load was killed instantly, and Daddy was injured so badly that he died in the Roundup (Montana) Hospital early in September. The driver stayed with the truck and only got a broken finger.

"Mother had to move off the oil company's property after Daddy was gone, so with his insurance money, she went downriver and bought the Willette place. Mama tried to keep the school going, but we kids were the only ones going there, and we tormented the teacher so much that she quit. Then we had to go to Cat Creek for school. Mama rented a house from Continental Oil and we kind of roughed it (batching), except when Isabelle Fail came up

and cleaned house a little and cooked us something to eat. We were kind of mean to her, too. Donna and Grover went down to California and lived with Grandma and Grandpa Sherman and went to school for a year. We all moved to Winnett then and lived in a little house across the street from the Dunlaps. We batched most of the time. There was a nice lady who lived close by that everybody called 'Ma Green' (Ed. 'Ma Weaver'?) and she looked out for us some. Mother spent most of her time down on the Musselshell at our little ranch.

"Donna and Grover both quit school, and Grover helped Mama at the place for a while till wanderlust took over and he left. Donna got married. Micky (Medric) and I stayed at the dormitory in Winnett. Amelia Kelley was the matron then. She married Harry Barnett while she had the dorm. Later, Mrs. Ambrose Carrell did the cooking. She made the best baking powder biscuits!

"Mother decided to stop ranching, so she turned the place over to Floyd Barkdoll, a good neighbor who had a place just upriver from us. He later bought the place. Mom moved to Winnett and worked for Lil Wadman in the restaurant. She took over the Mint Cafe, and we kids would go down to the cafe and help her during rush hour. After school we'd go back and help. Mama used to make 'maple sticks' on a certain day, and word got out what day it was. People would come and eat them warm, freshly iced with maple-flavored frosting. They ate them as fast as she fried them. She seldom had any left for us when we came after school, except when she remembered and saved some back. Aw, but they were delicious! Mama quit the cafe then. It burned down, but I don't remember if that was why she quit or not. Anyway, she moved to Lewistown where she met and married Mike Barnes in 1950.

"Mama and Mike moved to Billings, Montana, in 1979. Mama passed away from chronic bronchitis August 23, 1983. Mike still lives in Billings.

"I remember one time back in about 1946 when we lived on the Willette place. We had a big black gelding called Jack. Jack was a young bronc, and Mama decided to break him to work. She teamed him up with our tame, long over-worked mare, so hopefully she could show him how it was done. Mama then hitched the team up to a large stoneboat, and all of us kids piled on so there'd be a load to pull. Mama said, 'Get up' and slapped the mare with the reins. Things were going along about as well as one could expect, until the load proved a little too heavy for the chain and it broke.

"Jack, being a green horse, must have figured the best thing to do was to get as far away as fast and as quickly as he could, so he took off. The mare didn't have any choice but to go, too. Well, Mama hung on to those reins for about forty feet, on her belly, and then let go. The team ran out the gate, down toward the river, and parted company around a tree. When we finally got them rounded up, all they had left of their harness was the collars. Mama decided that Jack was too tough for her, so she let

Floyd Barkdoll work him. Floyd was a 'tuff ole knot'; he didn't have any trouble with Jack."

There were four children in the family: Grover (1930) went into the Navy and later to California; Donna (1931) lives in California; Medric (1932) lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma; JoAnn (1933) married Duane Ostermiller and lives in Billings, where they own a housemoving business. They have four daughters — Leah, Sallie, Kathy and Mary.

**DUNDOM, William I.** Edna Dundom Kizer wrote this family account in the *Central Montana Heritage Book of Original Fergus County*. "My father, William I. Dundom, was born February 15, 1870. The family were ranchers in Washington State. In 1884 they traded the ranch for 275 head of horses and in covered wagon and trailing the herd of horses, started for Montana Territory.

"The drive was slow, and many of the horses were lost, but after traveling for five months, they at last found land to their liking, and they settled near what was later to become Hanover, Montana.

"My mother, Pearl Cora Davis, was born February 27, 1888, at Vernon, Missouri. She and Dad were married in Lewistown, Montana, September 22, 1904, and they lived for a short time at the Dundom Ranch. In 1905 they moved to the Musselshell River country and lived on several farms until they filed on the Dad Hickman homestead on the east side of the river. Mother filed on land adjoining the Hickman place.

"Our post offices were Ross, Mecaha, and Fort Musselshell, Montana. We lived there from 1905 to 1917. There were seven children in our family. They are as follows: Pearl Edna Dundom Kizer, Grassrange, Montana; Harry W. Dundom, deceased; Nora Dundom Smith, deceased; Dorothy Dundom Thompson, Susanville, California; Lucille Dundom Hay, Susanville, California; James Dundom, Boise, Idaho; and Ellen Dundom Gardner, Trout Creek, Montana.

"In 1912 I attended part of my first year of school in Moore, Montana, and the remainder of the term at Mecaha School. We attended both the upper and lower Musselshell schools in the years that followed. We would drive to school with a buggy or sled, or we would ride horseback. I also attended schools at Roy, Giltedge, and Lewistown.

"My father died in March 1914, and Mother passed away at Grassrange in November 1968."

**DUNWALD, Harry** (Sec 4-16-30) Harry Dunwald left Roundup, Montana in 1944 and went to the Guy Bump place on the Musselshell. He ran cattle and also helped Ernest Bump with the work on his place.

In 1946 he married Helen S. Cercle (Ed. Cecrle?) of Roundup. Their children were Henry Lee and Linda Sue.

He was highly esteemed by the residents of the community as an industrious and honest young man.

In 1951 his wife sued for divorce and got custody of the children. Harry sold his ranch to W. G. Roberts and left the community.

**DUTTON, Bruce Allen Jr.** Bruce A. Dutton, son of Bruce and Margaret Dutton, was born in 1916 in the Melstone, Montana, area. Bruce raised sheep on Little Breed Creek, near H. C. Shaw's first homestead.

Daisy Shaw, daughter of Henry and Mary Shaw of the Mosby area, was born in 1927.

Bruce and Daisy were married in 1948 and lived on Bruce's place until 1969, when a large prairie fire consumed the grazing land. They purchased and moved to the John O'Dea place on the west side of the Musselshell River that same year. Their son, David, remained on the original place when Bruce, Daisy and Glenda, their daughter, moved to the O'Dea place. Glenda attended junior high and high school in Winnett.

David Bruce (1949) married Nancy Wiley (who taught school in Winnett for several years) in 1974. They have one son, Dean David, who attends school at Sand Springs. Glenda Rae (1957) attended Eastern Montana College and took teaching credits. She married Marcus Wiggins in 1979. They have two children, Kerry Lee and Erin Rene'. Glenda is now teaching at Ryegate, and the girls are attending school there.

Bruce and Daisy continue to ranch and raise hay at the place on the Musselshell.

**ELLIOTT, Walter** (Sec 20-12-31) Walter Elliott, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Elliott, was born in 1876 in Toronto, Canada. In 1885 his family moved to the Melville area, where Walter was a blacksmith. He married Eva Mae Weston at Garneill, Montana, in 1901. Eva Mae, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Weston, was born in 1883 at Fort Knox, Kansas. Walter and Eva moved to the Weede area in 1906.

They had three children — Alice (1902), Thelma (1904) and Walter Glen. The children were educated in the Melstone schools, and Melstone, Montana, was also the business center for the family.

Alice Elliott married Clarence Songer, and Thelma married Alvin Songer.

Vera B. Songer Phillippe writes: "When my grandparents, Eva Mae and Walter Elliott, lived on the homestead, they lost a baby girl, six months old. I remember my grandmother telling about the baby having convulsions and dying in her arms. My grandfather built a tiny casket and my grandmother dressed their baby for the last time. The two little girls, Alice and Thelma, stayed at the house, and watched their parents carry the tiny casket across the field and over the hill."

**EVANS, Richard** (Sec 7,8-17-29) Dick Evans and Myrtle came in with a string of horses and took over the Miles' relinquishment at the mouth of Blood Creek. The Evans had at least five children — Floyd, Lloyd, Laura, Lela and Florence. Florence was married to Loren Hines and they lived in Cat Creek for a time.

Mrs. Myrtle Evans and Bessie Barden Thorsen were sisters. Their maiden name was Massengale.

Myrtle died while living on the Musselshell River. Dick sold the property to the government in 1936.