

Jennie made a living for her family by riding horseback to Winnett and cooking for W. J. Winnett. The older children stayed home and cared for the younger children. The Meserve kids saw their first automobile around 1919-1920, when W. J. came out to their home in his new Ford Model T to pick up Jennie and take her into Winnett. This was an exciting event in their lives, one that was talked about for many a day.

The Meserve kids received their schooling at the Welter School until they moved to Winnett, where Jennie continued to cook for W. J. and the children attended school.

In later years, Jennie married Mark Kelley, and they ran the Teigen Store until his death in 1940. (See KELLEY — Teigen)

Henry and Jennie had six children. Wilbur "Webb," born in Illinois, worked around the Winnett area and married Vesta Potter in 1930. They moved to Washington in 1958, where they raised several children. Webb died in February 1989, and Vesta passed away in March 1989.

Beulah, born in Illinois, grew up around the Winnett area, married Jack Keays, and moved to Oregon where they raised a large family. Beulah died in the late 1940s.

Myrtle married Tom Richardson in the late 1920s and they settled on part of the old Brady place with his brother, Harv Richardson. They had a daughter. Myrtle and Tom moved to Oregon to make their home.

Ethel married Harv Richardson and also settled on the old Brady place before moving to Washington to make their home. Ethel passed away in 1987.

Cosby was born and raised around the Winnett area. He started first grade in Winnett. It seems the first day of school Cosby proudly went to school. Well, instead of the excitement of beginning something new and wonderful, Cosby found himself the butt of much teasing and howling. You see, Cosby had the most beautiful dark ringlets covering his head. Although this didn't make any difference out in the country, when he became "citified," he was embarrassed and outraged to learn ringlets were not the "in" thing in the Winnett schools. Needless to say, Cosby's mother placed much value in his ringlets.

After school was finally over that day, Cosby went down to the Winnett Ranch and cajoled a hired man into taking him downtown to the barber shop, where the barber proceeded to cut away those ringlets, his mother's pride and joy. They got a candy box and gingerly layed each ringlet into the box as it was forever snipped away. When the barber finished to Cosby's satisfaction, he proudly carried the ringlets home to his mother. He can still remember the shock and rage his mother felt when he presented her with the candy box of remembrance. Both he and the hired man were scarce around the supper table that night and for several nights thereafter!

Cosby finished school and worked as a teamster for the W.P.A. in the 1930s, notably, helping to build the Valentine Dam. He married Dorothy Jackson in 1933.

Dorothy was the daughter of Frank and Catherine

Jackson of Casino Creek, near Lewistown. Early recollections of her life include riding to school in one of the earliest school buses. It was an old sheep-wagon looking affair that was pulled by a team and had a wood stove in it to keep the students warm during adverse weather. Emblazoned across the side in large letters was "School Bus."

"Coty" and "Dot" began their life together on the Musselshell River, living on the old Healy place. Cosby worked the river bottoms, using 15 horses and a mule. This was an unusual sight in those days, and people came from around the neighborhood to watch the proceedings. Later, Cosby and Dot moved to Lewistown, where he worked various jobs, including construction work on the highway from Lewistown to Grassrange using draft horses. It was in Lewistown, in 1935, that their only child, Bill, was born.

Cosby continued to work on ranches for many years, including Teigens' and Eagers' near Winnett. While his parents were working for the Eager Ranch, Bill started to school. He rode a horse to and from the Eager place to the Winnett School. Bill especially remembers the cold winter of 1949-50 when it was 40° below zero for almost two weeks straight. One evening as he was traveling home, he froze his face, with both eyes turning black and his skin peeling.

In 1952 Cosby became foreman of the Petersen - Fair Ranch near Jordan, where the Hooker Ranch is today. Every fall he would ramrod a trail drive to Ingomar, where 1000 head of steers would be shipped to market. It was on one such drive that Cosby earned his "claim to fame." It seemed the owners of the ranch, who were from Iowa, had some connections with the *Farm Journal* editor. With much fanfare, the magazine crew arrived to interview, take pictures, and write an article about the cattle drive. Cosby was in the limelight throughout the entire event, and when the story appeared in a subsequent issue of *Farm Journal*, he began receiving fan mail from all over the United States. In fact, it got so bad after much teasing and humoring by his family and hands, that whenever he got mail from some young, single female who just knew Cosby was the man of her dreams, he no longer opened the mail but instead tossed it into the wood stove. Alas, his notoriety came to a smoky end.

Cosby, Dot, and Bill then moved to the Musselshell River, buying the old Bowen place, where they lived until retiring in 1970. They leased their land to Carl Petersen and moved to Winnett, where they still reside (1989). Cosby is 77 years old, and Dot will tell you she is 75 years young.

Their presence on the river was greatly missed by all their friends after their move to Winnett. It seemed Dot was known for her outstanding culinary charms, as well as her warm hospitality. Cosby could spin yarns by the hours with acquaintances and was a favorite with all the young people. Today, many old timers spin yarns about the way Cosby could break just about any horse around. He was

adept at training rope horses as well. (For an account of son, Bill, see MESERVE, Bill — Winnett)

Art, youngest son of Henry and Jennie, attended schools at Winnett and then worked around the area before enlisting in the Marines in World War II. He served in the South Pacific. Upon returning to Winnett after his discharge from the service, Art enjoyed rodeoing as a hobby.

In 1947 Art married Alta "Brownie" Kelly in Miles City. Art and Brownie had a daughter, Kathy. They ranched in the Big Timber and Winnett areas for many years before buying a ranch in the Melville area in 1981. They were living there at the time of Art's death in 1987. Brownie still resides in Melville. (See also KELLY — Teigen)

**MESSIER, Joseph** Roberta Messier Donovan submitted the following family story. "Joseph Messier and his wife, Melina Benoit Messier, natives of Canada, moved with their children to the Missouri River Breaks in the fall of 1902. They traveled by team and wagon from their former home at New Year, in the Judith Mountains, where Joseph had been a superintendent of a gold mine.

"Because winter was close at hand, they settled first in an abandoned cabin on the north side of the river, near the mouth of Fourchette Creek. The following spring they moved to a place known as Frenchman's Bottom, near the mouth of the Musselshell River in the UL Bend. The land had not yet been surveyed, and so, unable to file a homestead claim, they had only squatter's rights.

"They lived at several other locations along the river in the years that followed. During the winter of 1906-07, Mrs. Messier and the children lived in a dugout on land belonging to Mr. Leedy, so the children could attend the Leedy School. Mr. Leedy had built the school and hired a teacher for the benefit of his own children and some others in the area.

"At that time, Mr. Messier was away on one of his frequent excursions to prospect for gold in distant places. When he was still gone the following fall, Mrs. Messier took her children and moved to Missoula, Montana. Mr. Messier returned to them there, and they once more moved to the river in the fall of 1908, where they lived for several more years.

"The Messier children, all of whom are now deceased, include Agnes Messier Tripp (1890), twins, Ike and Joe (1891), Richard (Slim) (1896), Art (1900), Alma Messier Atwood (1903), Blanche Messier Foster (1905), and Georgianna Geis (1910). Agnes, Ike, Joe, Richard and Art were all born in South Dakota, where the family lived before coming to Montana. The others were born in the Missouri River country. There were other children who died in infancy.

"When Messiers came back in the fall of 1908, they settled on the south side of the Missouri River on the old Kismet bottom near the mouth of the Musselshell, across from the UL Bend.

"The Kismet store, post office, and ferry boat flooded and washed away that spring of 1908, also the 'Hauser

Dam' washed out, causing more water with all the rain.

"Then the spring of 1912, the government surveyed these lands and opened them up for homesteading. Messier walked to Lewistown, 100 miles, as did the rest of the homesteaders to file his homestead entries. It was not unusual those days to walk such distances."

In about 1914 Messier sold to a Frenchman from Malta who had the property for about a year and then sold to Ed Anderson. Ed sold to the Corps of Engineers in 1937, and the land is now under the Fort Peck Reservoir.

**MILES NICK, John** (Sec 5-19-30) "Big John" Milesnick was born in 1889 in Brlog, Austria. At the age of 17, he and a friend, Louis Doctovich, came to Colorado to work in a mine. From there they went to Alaska, finally settling on the Musselshell River in 1913. They took up homesteads and formed a partnership, which lasted until about 1925, when they dissolved it.

In 1918 John married Rose Beaubien (Matovich), young widow of Martin Matovich. (See also MATOVICH) To this union six children were born — one son, John Stanley, and five daughters. The children attended grade school on the river, and for high school the family moved to Lewistown.

The court records of 1936 describe an interesting and complicated case of John Milesnick, plaintiff, vs. Evelyn and Henry Gauthier, defendants, involving ownership of about 20 acres of land west of the Musselshell River in Petroleum County. This land was alleged to have been created by a change in the channel of the Musselshell River and an accretion of alluvial soil brought down by the wash of the river.

The court found the plaintiff to be the owner of the lands created by the gradual change of channel. It added approximately 20 acres to the plaintiff's holdings.

John sold to the Corps of Engineers in the late 1930s and moved his family to Belgrade, Montana.

The Milesnick's son, John Stanley, was the subject of an article published in the *New York Times* during World War II. The battalion in which John served was under siege on the western front in Europe when their captain was killed. Lt. Milesnick gallantly led his outnumbered company against a fierce tank and infantry attack.

The *Times* article stated: "At one critical moment, he (John) fought a personal duel with a Mark V-2 tank. He picked up a bazooka that had been dropped by a wounded man and fired five rounds at the tank while it sprayed around him with machine gun bullets but somehow failed to hit him."

**MILLER, William** William and Bertha Miller are listed as parents of Tillie (1900), Henry (1903), and Dorothy (1908), in the 1916 census of District #107. They were also listed in the census record of District #198 for 1921.

**MOSBY, William Henry** Mrs. George Mosby wrote the following article: (W. T. 7-16-64) "William Henry Mosby was born on 'Mosby' Creek, Pettis County, near Sedalia, Missouri, January 18, 1855. The family lived

at Sedalia for many years.

"When a young man, he went to visit an uncle who resided at 'Mosby' Creek near Cottage Grove, Oregon. Here he met and married Miss Mary Ellen Dunn and they made their home at Cottage Grove for a few years. In 1891 he came east over the Rocky Mountains by team and wagon to Montana and settled on the Musselshell River, near where Melstone is located. The family came later by train to join him. His brother-in-law, Bryon Dunn, and family came with them.

"A post office was established at the Mosby residence and was known as Baldwin. Mary Mosby served as postmaster. The family lived at Baldwin until 1902, when they moved farther down the Musselshell and again a post office was opened at the residence, with the name 'Mosby' being chosen by the U. S. Post Office Dept., Washington, D. C." (They also established a saloon. Before the Postal Department named it Mosby, it was known as "Half Breed Crossing.")

"Bill Mosby was engaged in cattle and horse raising. Alfalfa was grown for winter stock feed. Cattle roundups would come through the country, going out east to graze the stock, also herds of sheep. While the cattle could swim across the river when the water was high from melting snow or heavy rains, a narrow bridge was built to make it possible for sheep to get over.

"Geologists and prospectors from the eastern part of the United States would come out that way and would need a saddle horse to ride out into the hills. Not knowing their way around or how to ride a horse, the family pony, Jimmy, was assigned to them, as he always knew his way back if the rider did not.

"The family lived at Mosby until Bill Mosby passed away in April 1913. Mrs. Mosby later made her home at Miles City and passed away in 1918."

Children of William Henry Mosby and Mary Ellen Dunn Mosby were: Millie (1884), Herbert E. (1886), Anna (1889), Wade (1890), Walter (1892), James (1895), Lena (1898), and Roy (1900).

Herb carried mail from Melstone to Mosby between the years 1904 and 1918. This started as a once-a-week route and ended with three trips a week. In 1917 there was a big ice jam on the Musselshell River. Herb heard something near his bedroom door. He got up to investigate the noise and discovered an ice block coming in the door. Some mighty cold water was coming in, too! Dave Petersen was visiting them at the time. Dave and Herb got up on the stove and pried some boards off the roof; they helped Herb's wife, Susan, and Mamie Hennessey, the teacher, to the roof. They stayed there all night, but luckily, the water never got very deep.

Herb built a hotel at Mosby in 1921. This lasted only two years before it burned to the ground from unknown causes. A son, William, married Faye Heath of Hardin in 1925.

Roy married Jewel Leona Mitchell in 1927. He delivered mail and sold suits and cars. One time Roy traded a suit of

clothes for a load of cedar posts which he later sold. They lived in the Mosby area for several years before moving to Portland, Oregon, where he was a carpenter. He had one son, Richard G. Mosby, born in 1928 in Sacramento, California. He fought in Vietnam and Korea with the U. S. Army. He specializes in polka dancing. Before retirement Richard worked in a bank.

Walter married Margit Harriet Amanda Nordahl, daughter of Carl and Marie Nordahl. The couple ranched near Mosby until Walter's death in 1934. They had four sons — Lou, Everett, Kenneth (Babe), and George.

Lou was born in 1916 on the river. He lived in the Mosby area until he enlisted in the Army in 1942. He served in the cavalry in Burma, India, and China. Upon his discharge, he moved to Nevada, where he married and had a son, Jack. He returned to the river area in 1962, marrying Audrey Wilkinson McDaniel in 1967. They ranched on the river until Lou's death in 1982.

Everett was born September 2, 1918, near Mosby, Montana. He worked for the CBC outfit when he was young. He married Ina Marks, daughter of P. D. Marks, in 1941. They had three children — Donna, Marvin, and Arlene. Donna married Billy Dutton; Marvin married Betty McDonald; and Arlene married Dick O'Connor. Everett and Ina lived in the Mosby area until 1974, when they moved to Lewistown.

Kenneth (Babe) married Lucille Hamilton, daughter of Clara Bump, in 1945. They had five children — Walter Ira (1946), Kenneth Guy (1947), Judy Faye (1948), Stephen Wayne (1950), and Michael Justin (1954). Kenneth and Lucille were divorced and Kenneth married Sharon Petek. They lived on the Healy place and worked for Bub Nunn. To this union three children were born — Cy, Micky, and George (Buck). Kenneth died in Roy in 1980.

George married Donna Dundom, daughter of Pearl Dundom, in 1948. They had a son, Harold Kent (1949). They divorced and George married Faye Bump, daughter of Ernest and Clara Bump. They have two children, Billy Bump and Cindy Lou. They lived in Petroleum County for many years working for the Bratten Ranch and other ranches. When George's health started failing, they moved to Miles City.

**MOSS, Robert L.** (Sec 21-15-39) Robert L. Moss, son of D. C. and Georgia Ledford Moss of Clay County, North Carolina, resided in the Mosby area most of his life. He worked on cattle ranches for eight years before acquiring his own ranch in 1927.

Mr. Moss married Velma Smith of North Carolina in 1936. They had no children. Two items in the Winnett Times on March 12, 1959, reveal some of the difficulties of ranching on the river. "Only very few of the old timers say they ever saw the high water come as quickly and quietly down the Musselshell River as it did this year. One thing that was heard frequently among the ranchers was how valuable a telephone would have been to warn them of the river condition."

"An ice jam, Monday, on the Musselshell River at the

old Charles Place near Cat Creek endangered approximately 125 head of cattle, owned by Lyle Kimble and R. L. Moss, before the gorge was broken up with dynamite and the high water was relieved.

"The jam developed so rapidly with resultant high water that little could be done for the cattle which were trapped on an island formed by the present river channel and an old channel. Dynamite finally got the ice moving and the water level lowered rapidly.

"Lyle Kimble, Lee Shaw, and Bob Ostler used their trucks to haul the R. L. Moss cattle that were trapped by the high water from the Cat Creek side of the river to the end of the gravel road near the Hanlon Camp. The cattle were then trailed the rest of the way to the Moss Ranch."

Robert and Velma moved back to Clay County, North Carolina, in 1980. Robert Moss died in 1983. Velma still lives in Brasstown, North Carolina.

**MULHALL, Charles J.** (Sec 10-14-30) Charles Mulhall's homestead was near Weede. His father was a dentist in Melstone, Montana, who sometimes helped Dr. Knight in Winnett. Charles, who was known as Jack, married Iva Park, daughter of K. E. Park in 1918. While they lived in this area, three children were born. The children were: Logan Joseph (1919), Lyle Cecil (1922) and Martha Elizabeth (1923).

They had a large truck garden, selling produce to the towns and camps. They also raised corn for their turkeys and for sale. In 1924 they shipped turkeys to Chicago, Winnett, Roundup, and Melstone.

When Petroleum County was formed, Iva helped her father, K. E. Park, transcribe the records from Fergus County.

In 1925 Charles brought in 1400 head of cattle, belonging to Mr. Hyndman, of Sheridan, Montana. He pastured them for the summer, then helped trail them to the Cheyenne Reservation. While looking after the cattle that winter, he got lost in a blizzard. After wandering around the hills for several hours, he at last let the horse bring him home.

He leased his place to Easton Rowton and went to Washington state looking for work. He found employment with the Fox Film Company, as an extra, in Western movies. In a letter to the Winnett Times in 1927, he said he was working on the picture *Wolf Fangs*, and stated that the day before he had roped a bear for the picture.

**NAVE, Ed** Ed Nave had a cattle ranch on the Musselshell River above the mouth of Calf Creek, he and his wife moved to Lewistown in 1923, when he was appointed deputy sheriff for Fergus County.

Ed was killed in 1941 when the car he was driving collided with an oil tanker. He and his wife had gone to Billings to pick up their daughter, Marjorie, who was driving home from Alaska. They were on their way back to Lewistown when the accident occurred. Both Mrs. Nave and Marjorie were hospitalized.

Ed was usually the officer sent to the river area if there was need for a law man.

**NILES, Warren C.** Warren Niles was born in 1870 at Belleville, Illinois. His mother died when he was a small boy. He came to Montana with his sister, Katherine, when she came west to Absarokee in 1883 to be married to Ed Adam. He lived with his sister and her family for several years; then he ran sheep near Melville, Montana.

While at Melville, Warren married Maude Dale from California. The couple moved to a ranch on Calf Creek in 1902. They had one daughter, Katherine, who married Art Winnett. Warren died in 1954 from cancer. He was 83.

This family raised some independent women, as proven by an article that appeared in the August 27, 1926, issue of the Winnett Times! "Lady cowpunchers are the order of the day in this part of Montana. Several hundred head of cattle, belonging to women ranchers, are being driven to the railroad for shipping. The herd is being chaperoned along their 40 mile trek entirely by women, with the exception of one man, who is serving as trail cook. Those in the party are Irene and Guy Bump, Eline Adam Warner, Katherine Adam, Mrs. Duff, and Katherine Niles."

Eline Adam Warner and Katherine Adam were daughters of Ed and Katherine Adam. Katherine (Kay) married William Stroup. (See also STROUP)

**NORDAHL, Carl** Carl Nordahl was born in Norway in 1866. He came from Norway to Montana in 1889 and settled in the Cascade area. There he met and married Marie Suzanne Sjholt (1874), also from Norway, in 1894. Carl and Marie moved into the Musselshell Valley and settled on the east side of the river in 1900. They built a cabin and moved in with their children — Clara (1895), Knute (1896), Oscar (1898), and Margit (1899). A daughter, Dagmar, was born in 1900. She was the first white baby born that far downriver. Other children to come later were Anna (1901), Cora (1903), Harold (1905), Edward (1908), Guy (1911), Roy (1914), Clarence (1916), and Edna (1917).

Nordahls were active in getting school started, and in 1906 school was held on the Usher place, with Miss Belcher of Lavina as the teacher. When started, the school was in Dawson County; however, a shift in the channel of the river resulted in that land and several log structures being located in Petroleum County.

The Nordahls were hard-working, honest people, and it was a great concern to Carl that people might think that the infamous Ole Nordahl might be related to them. He told that although Ole came from Norway on the same boat, Ole's name was not Nordahl. He took the name, Nordahl, when registering as an immigrant.

Carl and Marie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the homestead in 1944. Hosts of friends and family came to honor them and spend the day. Their family bought them a new stove as a gift. They both passed away the next year.

Clara Nordahl died in 1912.

Knute Nordahl served in the Army in World War I. In

1923 he married Pearl Gibson. They made their home on the river until his death in 1976, and Pearl continued to live on the river with their son, Fred. They had five children — Fred, Evelyn, Clara, Kay and Rose Marie. Fred has stayed on the family place with the exception of time spent in the service during World War II. He served in the 41st Battalion and saw action in the European theater, where he earned three battle stars. As a hobby, Fred makes violins. One violin, he has on display, was made from any suitable wood he could get, including a piece from a car, a part of a sewing machine cabinet, and a piece of old mop board. It has an attractive appearance, neatly carved and sanded, well put together and varnished.

Oscar Nordahl married Mabel Wangsness in 1926. They had four children — Raymond, Alice, Freda, and Margit. As a young man, Oscar suffered a severe illness that left his health permanently impaired. They stayed on the river and made their living farming and ranching. Oscar died in 1956. Raymond never married. Alice married Kenneth Fogle. Freda married a man named Stinebaugh.

Margit Nordahl married Walter Mosby. Their children were Lou, Everett, Kenneth, and George.

Dagmar Nordahl married Bert Keith. They had one son, Jack. Anna Nordahl died as an infant. Cora Nordahl married Art Preston Busby. (See also BUSBY — Dovetail)

Harold Nordahl married Winona Kelly Meador, a school teacher from South Dakota. Winona, with her twin sons, Charles and Robert, came to the mouth of the Musselshell in 1927 to teach school. She and Harry were married in 1928. They had three girls — Clarice, Winona and Jessie. Charles Meador Nordahl was serving in the Air Force when taken prisoner by the Japanese. He lost his life aboard a Japanese prisoner-of-war ship that was torpedoed. Robert was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and served eight years in the Army. He now makes his home in Michigan. Clarice married Grover Dundom and Paul Sims. Their children were Georgia, Harold and Sheila. Winona married Ralph Davenport and Gerald Nunn. Jessie married John Dee Davenport. Ed Nordahl married Shirley May Rowton, and they lived in Choteau. Guy Berg Nordahl married Neva Rowton, then May Ziesman. His home was at Helena. Roy Ernest Nordahl died at the age of 23 from injuries received when the horse he was riding stepped in a gopher hole. Roy was thrown to the ground, and the horse fell on top of him. He was taken to the hospital, where it was disclosed that he was suffering a severe concussion and a broken neck. He passed away the following day.

Clarence Kermit Nordahl passed away in 1929. Edna Nordahl was delivered by Dr. Lon Keith and only lived one hour.

There is a cemetery overlooking the Carl Nordahl homestead, called the Nordahl Cemetery. Most of this family are buried there.

**NORDAHL, Ole** Ole Nordahl was born in 1873. He came to the United States in 1889. According to Carl

Nordahl, Ole came on the same boat as Carl did. He was just behind Carl as they went through the immigration line at Ellis Island. When Carl came to the officials, they asked his name and he told them, "Carl Nordahl." When Ole was asked the same question, he replied, "Ole Nordahl." When Carl asked him why he took Nordahl when they were not related, Ole just shrugged.

Ole worked on farms in Minnesota and came to the Sun River County in Montana in 1889. He bought a small ranch and a bunch of cattle near St. Peter's Mission in Cascade County. In the spring of 1900 he got married and sold that place to come to the Musselshell River country. His wife died in 1902.

In the fall of 1907, after the death of Fred Schleuter, Ole called on Mrs. Schleuter and four children and suggested that she should move to his place and stay. She refused, so he asked for Martha, the 14-year-old daughter, and was again refused. Mrs. Schleuter spoke only German and didn't understand much English; therefore, the daughter, Martha, translated for her. They told the neighbors that Ole came back later and made improper advances to both mother and daughter, then told them of the dire consequences if they told anyone what he had done. Mrs. Schleuter told her neighbors that she feared for her life and the lives of the family, if he came back.

In mid-January, neighbors spotted a fire at Schleuters' and dashed over to see if they could help. None of the family were around, so the men thought she had taken the children and gone to a neighbor's place for shelter. They knew the cabin had been built so that no one could be trapped in it by fire.

The next morning they went back to the cabin to assess the damage and to try to locate the family, as they hadn't reached any of the neighboring places. They were horrified to see severely burned bodies in the wreckage. They notified the authorities in Fergus County, who came as soon as possible. It was determined there were five human bodies and one dog that had been through the fire. The evidence they found pointed to Ole Nordahl, who was arrested and charged with murder of the Schleuter family. He was found guilty and given a life sentence. (The above information was collected from articles about arrest, investigation, and trial of Ole Nordahl in the *Fergus County Argus* 1-24-08 through 6-26-08. For those interested in more details on this affair, check the Ole Nordahl file in the history section of the Winnett Public Library, where copies of the articles from the *Fergus County Argus* are filed.)

Nordahl served about 11 years of the lifetime sentence, returned to the river to straighten out his affairs, then left for an unknown destination. Ole Nordahl is no relation to the other Nordahls along the river.

(W. T. 6-23-39) "Word has been received here of the death in Burns, Oregon, on June 3, of Ole S. Nordahl, a former resident of what is now Petroleum County, who left Central Montana in about 1910, under a cloud of some kind of criminal conviction.

The information was received by officials in the form of a letter of inquiry regarding the whereabouts of a son said to have been adopted in this state. Nordahl is said to have left a small estate."

**NORDQUIST, August W.** (Sec 13-18-29) August "Gus" Nordquist, a Swede, came to the Lower Musselshell River in the early 1900s. He was in partnership with Andrew Hotledahl, a Norwegian. They ran horses and cattle.

Viola Nordquist (married in 1920 to August Nordquist) was born in Iowa in 1894. Before her marriage, she was a pioneer school teacher, first coming to Montana from Missouri in 1918.

Gus and Viola lived on their river ranch where the old 79 Trail crossed the Musselshell, directly across the river from the mouth of Lodgepole Creek.

After Nordquist and Hotledahl dissolved their partnership, Nordquist built a large, siding-covered log residence and later set up a country store. The first stock for the store was hauled by freight team from Roy, and later hauled by truck. Nordquist owned one of the first motor trucks brought into the neighborhood, which was noted for narrow, unimproved roads over steep hills and gumbo flats. Viola's nephew, Clarence McMains, helped run the ranch while Gus was busy with the store.

In 1929 Nordquists sold their store and moved to Winchester, Idaho. Their place is now part of the Marcus Matovich Ranch.

They had two children, Esther and Louise.

August died in about 1949, and Viola died in 1959.

**NORMAN, Rex** Rex Norman had a store in Weede which he sold to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Nelson in 1917. (See NELSON — Petrolia)

**NOVAK, Stanley** (Sec 31-21-28) Stanley and Josie Novak moved from their homestead to Hamilton, Montana. She died of cancer. Stanley remained at Hamilton. (Marie Zahn)

**O'DEA, John** (Sec 21-15-30) John O'Dea was born in Kearney, Nebraska, in 1870. He moved to Montana in 1892, where he worked on the Louie LaFelt Ranch. In 1896 he settled on the Musselshell River, about four miles north, downstream of the present location of Mosby. He watched the settlement of the river and was one of the respected "old timers." He was a good friend and neighbor, assisting them, not only with labor, but often with money. John enlarged his place with desert claims and land purchases until he had an extensive cattle ranch in Petroleum and Garfield counties. He told about hauling to Billings, with 16 and 20 horse hitches, in the early days.

In 1940 John built a new, four-room house to replace his old log cabin. When he got the house finished, according to the W. T. 8-9-40, some 200 friends decided to celebrate the event in a very unusual way. Having reached the venerable age of 70 years without succumbing to Cupid's bow, John was informed that every good man should marry at least once in a lifetime. Since John

had no bride in mind, his friends produced one. Bill Stroup appeared properly costumed and ready to serve as the blushing bride, and D. Y. Wilson Jr. was resplendent as the deacon, ready to perform the ceremony. The wedding was followed with a dance that lasted until 4 a.m. Mr. O'Dea felt that the experience was an enriching event; however, he was well pleased that the marriage didn't last as long as the wedding dance.

In 1941 John was forced to move to Lewistown, where he could receive medical attention. During his stay there, he enjoyed the company of Lorne Boston, a former homestead neighbor. John died in February of 1942. He left his place to his only survivor, a sister, Francis McGuire.

**OSTLER, G. Alvin** (Sec 8-14-30) G. Alvin and Mary L. Ostler purchased the ranch holding of Homer Mays, the Parkinson-McDonald Ranch, in 1945. The land was located on the Musselshell River in Petroleum and Garfield Counties; included was the Hegna residence in Winnett, where the family made their home for the next six years (See also OSTLER — Winnett). The Mays land holdings totaled about 60 sections.

In August of 1946, thieves completely ransacked the Ostlers' ranch home sometime between 5 p.m. Monday and 10 a.m. Tuesday. Included in the loss were two iron bedsteads, springs and mattresses, cot, white enamel range, dinette set, davenport, several tables, end tables, coffee table, one antique and one wicker rocker, mirrors, 30 to 40 boxes of miscellaneous items which had not been unpacked, and a barrel of gas. This was formerly the Jim Parkinson home. No arrests were made.

In 1952, fire of unknown origin burned to the ground the same house. The log house was built in 1912 by Jim Parkinson. None of the Ostlers were there at the time, the house being used as a camp. Assumed burned were all their saddles, bridles, horse blankets, and other tack that had been stored there. The fire marshall investigated and concluded that the fire was caused by arson. No arrests were made.



The Ostler family: (Back row) Dick and G. Alvin; (Front row) Harold, Mary, Bob and Leona

**PALMER, Henry** (Sec 20-14-30) Henry and Leona Palmer homesteaded in 1914. They had two girls, Leona (1911) and Zola Fay (1914). The girls attended the Weede School from 1915 to 1918. Palmers sold out to James Reed.

Jim McGiboney tells, "One time a bunch of us young folks went over to Palmers to spend the evening. In the group was a young man whose parents were very strict. They lived within sight of the Palmer house. As the evening progressed, we got out the phonograph and started dancing. This young man had never danced before because his folks were against dancing. Well, he didn't dance much that night either. He was so worried about being caught that he spent most of his time looking out the window toward home."

(W. T. 1921) "Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Palmer and two daughters, Leona and Zola, returned Saturday from Kansas City, where they had been visiting for some time. They are now living on their ranch near Weede, but expect to move to Winnett this winter, in order to take advantage of the school facilities."

**PARK, Kuyphausen E.** (Sec 20-13-30) K. E. Park (Why do you suppose they called him K. E.?), his wife, Martha Elizabeth, and two children set up camp on the Musselshell River in the year 1899. In 1902 they registered three children in District #26 school records. They were Ivy (1895), Custer (1899) and Cecil (1900). In later years they had two more children — Opal (1907) and Lee Norris (1915).

Lizzie Park was listed in the Polk Directory as Weede postmaster in 1904-05.

Park bought some railroad land to enlarge his holdings and raised cattle and sheep. In 1925 K. E. assisted in trailing 1600 head of cattle from the Mulhall place to the Cheyenne Indian Reservation. While they were on the reservation, they witnessed the killing of 200 Indian ponies by hide buyers who were paying the Indians \$2 a hide and returning the carcass to the owner for his winter meat supply.

K. E. was elected the first county assessor for Petroleum County in 1925. He and his daughters, Opal and Ivy Mulhall, went to Lewistown, where they transcribed the records for the new county. Opal Park, acting deputy assessor, married Everett Blose in 1926 and moved to Billings, where he was employed as a mechanic.

Cecil Park married Veneva Morsbach, and they moved to the Park Ranch to operate it while K. E. was absent performing the duties of county assessor. Cecil and his wife stayed on the place for several years, trying various enterprises, such as turkeys, pigs, strawberries, etc. However, Cecil's health wasn't good, so they left in about 1927.

(W. T. 1-2-25) "Lee Norris Park was coasting on his new Christmas sled when he coasted under the heels of the stage horses. One of the horses kicked him in the head, rendering him unconscious. He was apparently not seriously hurt, and no mention was made of the condition

of his parents."

The original Park homestead now belongs to the State, and the railroad land belongs to Alvin Clausen.

Parks moved to California in 1932 and often came back to visit.

**PARKINSON, Edward J.** Ed Parkinson made several trips into Montana during the 1890s, but came back with a trail herd in about 1900 and settled. He homesteaded in 1901 (as soon as he was 21) on the east side of the Musselshell River, in what is now Garfield County, but was then Dawson County. He punched cows for the NR and the N—, and broke horses for the RL, where he and his pal, George Gates, earned the reputation of being a real salty pair of hands. He also worked with another longtime river resident, George Christenot, whose family now resides on the hi-line. About 1901, he worked for the engineers who laid out the railroad through Pryor Gap, and in 1907 he worked on the Huntley Project.

He was selling real estate and settling homesteaders in 1909 when he met Edna Love. She had recently come to Melstone where her stepfather was station agent for the Milwaukee railroad, and her mother ran the railroad cafe. They were married in 1909 in Roundup. For a time, they continued to live in Melstone, where he worked hard to get Musselshell County carved out of Fergus County. When this was accomplished, he became Musselshell's first county surveyor. The family, consisting of Ed, Edna and daughter Evelyn, then moved to Roundup. Here, Olive and Virginia were born.

About 1914 E. J. bought a place on the Musselshell River, just south of Mosby, on the west bank. (Interesting sidelight: In 1916 he and Edna, with some friends, travelled by car through Yellowstone Park. It was the first year that motorized vehicles were allowed within the park's boundaries.)

Ed bought top quality Hereford bulls to build up his herd, and in 1918 he shipped a trainload of grass-fed cattle, which topped the market in Chicago that fall. Also that fall, their fourth child, Eileen (Billie) was born in Melstone.

They ranched on the river until the terrible winter of 1919-20 wiped them out, along with most other ranchers in Montana. After watching their cattle die by the hundreds, they lost heart in ranching, and E. J. turned to his real love, engineering.

Their last child, Zoe, was born in early spring in a blizzard, at Edna's folks homestead south of Melstone. The weather was so cold and stormy that it was early May before Edna and Zoe could return to the ranch.

Ed was instrumental in getting Petroleum County established, and served as its first county surveyor, although he was not the first to be elected to that office. For a time he worked for Homestake Oil in Cat Creek, ran the Savoy Hotel in Winnett, and then worked for the State Highway Department in Great Falls.

Returning to Petroleum County in 1928, he again worked as county surveyor, then for the State Water Con-

ervation Board. He built the first county road down the river to Fort Musselshell, where a two-day celebration was held to open it. At that time, there was a ferry across the Missouri at the mouth of the Musselshell.

In 1934 he ran the Civil Works Administration for Petroleum County, then built the diversion dam and canal for the Dead Man's Basin project. In 1935 he went to work for the Emergency Conservation Work (later the Soil Conservation Service) and was named camp superintendent and project manager for the Civil Conservation Corp camp at Winnett. He continued to work for the SCS until he retired in 1950.

He and his brother, Jim, opened a cafe in Ryegate, which Jim ran with the aid of his wife, Blanche. Ed was not an active partner.

The Parkinson family is well-represented in Winnett High School history, as four daughters — Olive and Virginia in 1931, and Eileen (Billie) and Zoe in 1937 — graced their graduating classes.

Virginia and Olive started high school in Great Falls in September 1927, transferring to Winnett in about February 1928. They lived in the dormitory their first year; then Olive worked for her board and room for Mrs. E. S. W. Abbott, and Virginia for K. E. Parks.

Billie started high school in September 1932, but became ill and left after Thanksgiving. The following fall, Zoe and Billie were freshman together, staying at the dorm, where Mrs. Parsons and Mrs. Gotzinger held sway.

After selling everything on the river, Ed and Edna Parkinson moved into Winnett. (See also PARKINSON — Winnett) (Eileen Parkinson Potter)

"We had a half brother, Eugene Perry, born in 1906 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He left the river in the 1930s to go to Texas, where he worked for the laboratory division of Shell Oil, a position he held until he died in 1965. He married twice, having a son, Eugene, by his first wife.

"Evelyn Louise was born in Melstone. At the age of 10, she contracted tubercular meningitis and died in 1921 in Roundup.

"Olive Fern was married in Great Falls on September 30, 1935, to Jerrell B. Scott. They lived in Cut Bank, Montana, until after World War II; then Jerry went to work for the U. S. Border Patrol, serving in El Centro, California; Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan; Fargo, North Dakota; and Opheim, Montana. Olive worked at secretarial and book-keeping jobs, except in Fargo, where she was undersheriff. They had one daughter, Dianne. Jerry died in May 1976, and Olive three weeks later. They had moved back to Winnett just a year before their deaths.

"Virginia Lucille graduated from Winnett High in 1931, marrying Howard Cox a year later. They lived for a time in Cat Creek, then moved to Cut Bank. They had three children. They were later divorced, and Virginia married Rolland Leischner. They live in Seattle, Washington, where they are both retired. Rollie was a carpenter, and Virginia an accountant. Their daughter, Vaughn, is deceased. Their two sons, John and Ed, live in

Washington.

"Zoe Inez graduated from Winnett High and attended Billings Polytechnic before serving in the Women's Army Corps for three years. Zoe married Raymond Graham in 1947 and has four children — Susan, Carrie, Jeff, and Bruce.

"I, (Eileen 'Billie'), was born September 5, 1918, in Melstone in the house provided for the station agent. I started school in Cat Creek, was in 2nd and 4th grades in Winnett, and finished the grades at the old Weede School on Flatwillow Creek. Graduating from high school in Winnett in 1937, I married Clarke Potter in 1943 at Cut Bank. Clarke and I lived for four years in Rapid City, South Dakota, where Clarke was farm store manager for Sears, and I raised kids. We have been in Cut Bank since 1950. Clarke has worked most of those years in the oil field. We have five children — Pharooby Ann (1944), Claire Jeanne and Claudia Jane (1946), Dennis Bradley (1951) and Lester Andrew (1955)." (See PARKINSON — Winnett).

**PARKINSON, Silian** (Sec 28-14-30) "Silas" Parkinson and his wife, Florence Chambers Parkinson, were married in Willow, Illinois, in 1875. They had eight children: Edward (1880), Delora Rolla (1882), Deane (1884), Robert (1887), Florence (1889), James (1892), Blanche (Zoe) (1894) and Carol (1897). (As listed in 1902 school census of District #26)

The Silian Parkinson family came to the Musselshell River in 1902 to join their eldest son, Ed, who was already settled there.

S. D. Parkinson was known up and down the Musselshell as "Dad" Parkinson. Dad's place was about three or four miles south of the HT, Ed's cattle ranch. Dad did a little desultory farming, and Florence worked as a practical nurse.

S. D. and Florence moved to California in the 1920s. They lived there until they passed away.

Delora Rolla married George Gates. They ranched on the Musselshell, where she died in a few years, leaving two small children. George took the children and moved to the Flathead Valley.

Florence married Horace McGiboney. She homesteaded just west of her folks' places and taught school until forced to retire due to illness, from which she died in the early 1930s. Horace lived there for some years, and then moved to the Southwest, where he became a real estate agent. Marvel was their only child who survived past infancy. She is living in California.

Deane lived in Montana only a few years. He spent the rest of his life in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he worked for the railroad until he retired. He and his wife, Ethel, had three boys and four girls. Deane died in the 1970s at the age of 89.

Robert spent most of his life in Montana, except for a brief sojourn in Mexico and seven years running a sugar plantation in Cuba. He ran a few sheep, but generally preferred to let someone else take the risks. Because of his expertise with the language, he usually tended camp



for sheepmen who had hired foreign-born herders. In later years, he had an apartment house for the elderly in Roundup. He finally retired to a home near Helena, where he died in 1977 at the age 91. He was married briefly to a young woman on the Musselshell, and they had a son who died at the age of 11. He has another son, Robert, who lives in Blythe, California.

Blanche married Claude Renshaw. They lived in Roundup, where he was mayor. They had two children, Downer and Roberta. In 1926 Claude and Blanche moved to Miami Beach, where he was city manager for 30 years, retiring in 1956. Roberta is deceased, and Downer is retired from Pan American, living in New York. Claude and Blanche both died in Florida a few years ago.

James left Montana with Deane, but went on to California, where he met and married his wife, Blanche Moody. They returned to the Musselshell in 1915 or 1916. He was just 21. They continued to live on the river, eventually living on the HT, Ed's former ranch. In the 1940s they moved to Ryegate, where he operated a bar and cafe until he retired. He died in 1968, Blanche a few years later.

Carol, the baby of the family, lived with her big brother, Ed, and his wife for a time. She left the Musselshell with her folks when they moved to California. There she worked as a private secretary. She met and married Jack Bailey, of "Queen for a Day." Although they had no children of their own, they raised Florence and H. E.'s daughter, Marvel. Carol died in the early 1970s in Hollywood. (Eileen Parkinson Potter)

**PETERS, William T.** William Peters married Edith E. Pound in 1897. They came to the Lower Musselshell area in 1918 and bought the relinquishment right from Ellie Ueck on her place about seven miles north of Mosby. They lived there until 1923, when Mr. Peters started working for Continental Oil Company at Cat Creek. In 1934 they moved to Rice, Washington, where they spent the rest of their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Peters had eleven children — Robert (1899), Carson T. (1900), Mary Nada (Veglahn) (1902), Leslie (1905), Nannie Louise (Wiegert) (1907), Anna Dale (Rowton) (1908), Maude Elizabeth (Snook) (1910), Ivan E. (1912), William L. (1913), Paul Warren (1914) and Allen Rex (1919).

Anna Dale married Russel Rowton and is the only one of the children who stayed in this area (See also ROWTON)

Mr. Peters died in 1958, and Mrs. Peters died in 1959. (Anna Dale Rowton)

**PETERSEN, David** David and Solomon Petersen arrived in Montana, Garfield County, in 1915. They took up homesteads northeast of Mosby about a mile apart. Solomon went to the service in World War I, so David used both homesteads.

Dave was born in 1885, in Atlanta, Kansas. He received his education there, then as a young man moved to Galveston, Texas.

Dave was a small, thin man. It always amused him to tell how, when he moved onto the homestead, the neighbors said he was too little and skinny to last until spring. Then he would smile and say, "I outlasted all of them." He built his home on a hillside. He had been caught in a tidal wave in Galveston, Texas, and he never wanted to get caught in water again!

Dave married Nora Nell Hetrick in 1917. She was born in Aliceville, Kansas, in 1898. The Hetrick family had come to the Mosby area in about 1900, settling in the Calf Creek area.

Dave and Nora had seven children — Carl Vernon (1919), Daniel Ernest (1921), William David (1923), Florence Leona (1925), Fern Elizabeth (1927), Elmer George (1929) and Elsie Marie (1931). The children were educated at Mosby and Winnett. All the children were trained in hard work and did their bit to help survive the disasters common to homesteaders.

Harvest and branding were special; all the neighbors turned out to help, and it turned into a social event. The family loved to dance and went to every dance they could. They were never too young or too old to go to a dance.

In 1965 Dave and Nora bought a home in Winnett and retired. Dave died in 1967. Nora lived in Winnett until 1980, when she entered the Yellowstone County Nursing Home where she died in 1983.

Daniel Ernest married Edna Manuel. He was a veteran of World War II. They had three sons — Daniel, Arthur and William. Dan was killed in a hunting accident.

William David married Frances King and moved to New York. They had seven children. He died of a brain tumor. Florence Leona married Bob Eike and they live in Melstone (See also EIKE — Cat Creek).

Fern Elizabeth married Carroll Hough and they had two sons, Glen and Neil. After Carroll's death, she married Russell Kesterson. Elmer George married Maureen McCormick and lived at Helmville, Montana. They had two children — Christine and Tom. Elmer died of cancer in 1981. Elsie Marie married Henry Bentley, who had two daughters, Toni Kay and Debra. Henry and Elsie had three children — Judy Marie, Mike and Ben. After Henry's death, she married Wade Hunter and they had one daughter, Tina. Elsie is now living with her brother, Carl, on the river.

Carl Vernon married Alice Barker in 1940. Alice, daughter of Emil and Ina Barker, was born at Sand Springs in 1919. They worked on various ranches along the river before taking over the home place. Alice was the correspondent for the Winnett Times for many years. Her homey items were enjoyable to read and chuckle over, even though you might not know the people she was writing about.

Carl and Alice had four children — Larry, Donald, Vernon and Diane. Alice died of cancer in 1983. Carl still lives at the river place. Larry married Carol Aspholm. They live at the East Mosby Dome, where Larry works

part-time, and they run cattle on the homestead which he now owns. They have one child, Staci. Donald lives in Grassrange, Montana. Vernon lives in Heath, Montana. Diane married Larry Ahlgren and lives on the Pete Dobson place.

**RAGLAND, Nellie** Nellie Garrity was born in 1866 at Winchester, Illinois. Robert Smyly Ragland was born in 1883 at Coolidge, Kansas. Nellie and Robert were married and moved to Colorado. While in Colorado, they had three children — Alice Mae (1910), Ray Clinton (1913) and Doris Myrtle (1915).

Robert died in 1916 and is buried at Pueblo, Colorado. Nellie and her children came to Montana. In 1924 she married Chris Weingart at Lewistown. Alice Mae married Roy Hanson (See also HANSON) Doris Myrtle married William McNair.

Ray Ragland attended school with the Matovich boys. They were riding home from school one day. The Matovich boys had turned off to their place and Ray continued on. He went under a tree limb and was pulled off his horse, but his foot hung up in the stirrup. Mr. Mayberry, who was riding in the area, saw the accident. He caught the horse and freed the boy. He then hurried to the Nordquist place and got Mr. Nordquist and his truck to take Ray to Lewistown and the doctor by way of the 79 Trail. Ray died of head injuries a few days later.

**RAUNDAL, Amund** (Sec 24-17-29) Amund Raundal was born in Telemarken, Norway, in 1874. He came to Minnesota with his parents at the age of two. Later the family moved to the Red River Valley in North Dakota. Amund came to Straw, Montana, in 1895 and later homesteaded west of the Musselshell River.

In 1913 he married Willa Snortland in Lewistown. She was born in Glyndon, Minnesota, and came to Montana in 1912 and homesteaded near Roy. Amund and Willa had one son, Robert. The family moved to the Henry Algra place near Flatwillow in 1937. They retired in 1940 and moved into Lincoln Washington Hamilton's house in Winnett. Amund died in 1944, Willa in 1962.

**RICH, Charles** Charles P. Rich married Pohney Hill on December 13, 1947 at Miles City, Montana. (See also



*The Rich family: Pohney, Charles, Charlene, Alvin, Bonny, and Kenny*

HILL) They had four children. Kenneth (1950) married Linda Hafra in 1971 and they have two children, Kirk and Shani. They live on the old Sam Pollard place, near Dripping Springs. Charlene (1951) married John Garoutte in 1970 and they have two children, Brandon and Jay R. John and Charlene live in Lewistown, Montana. Alvin (1953) married Denise Clark in 1972. They live at Fishtail and have two children, Donna and Toby. Bonnie (1960) married Chuck Jessen of Jordan. They live in Arizona.

Chuck and Pohney live on Lodgepole Creek and own the original Hill Ranch at Dripping Springs.

**RIPLEY, J. S.** (Sec 5-16-30) J. S. Ripley died in 1929. Lizzie Ripley was named administratrix, and his land was deeded to M. W. Ripley and his wife, Gladys. Lizzie was the mother of Alfred and Calvin Ripley, early day homesteaders near Calf Creek. Lizzie died in 1953.

(W.T. 11-21-24) "Cal Ripley is now trapping. The woods are full of coyotes, and also trappers. We wish the trappers all the luck in the workd." (W. T. 12-15-24) "Mrs. Ripley spent the weekend with Mrs. Bowers." (W. T. 12-15-24) "J. W. Bowers has purchased a herd of cattle near Gage, and is enroute home with them. Alfred Ripley is helping him."

**ROBERTS, Andrew Berry** (Sec 24,25-18-29) Berry Roberts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Roberts, was born in 1888 at Denton, Texas. He came to Montana in 1907, accompanying a trainload of cattle shipped over the Burlington Railroad to a station just west of the present town of Hardin, Montana.

Berry worked for the H Cross Ranch and the following wolf story was told about him. (Wolves were bad in those days and took their toll in livestock.)

"Josh McCuiston had about fifty head of saddle horses he wanted to take out of an H Cross pasture in the winter of 1911, so he sent Berry, with two big stag hounds, to do the job. When they got to Hay Stack Butte about five miles out the head of Curry Coulee, the dogs spotted a big gray wolf standing across the coulee and the dogs started across. Berry had to go about a quarter of a mile up to get across. When he got across . . . he found the old wolf giving the stags a pretty good fight.

"When Berry showed up, the wolf took off with the dogs after him. Berry said the dogs caught and threw the wolf thirteen times in deep, loose snow that was about a foot and a half deep.

"The dogs would catch the wolf and both would get on his head and neck. The wolf would get his wind, reach over with his hind feet and kick both of the dogs off and run with Berry after them. The last time they threw him, Berry had his jackknife open, stepped off his horse, and got the wolf by the hind foot and cut the wolf's belly open. If it hadn't been for Berry, the wolf would have surely won the battle.

"Berry got the horses out and rode back to camp. He told Josh the story about the dogs and wolf . . .

"It was a clear moonlit night. Josh couldn't wait to see where the wolf/dog fight had occurred, and thinking that