

mined to make a clean victory of it. For half an hour the fight was even, Chris clubbing the wolf, the wolf snapping and endeavoring to eat his blonde adversary alive. Finally Chris dealt the wolf a fatal blow on the head, and his right hand was raised.

"The Jensen boys have the hide of the big wolf stretched before their fireplace and should you happen to stop at their cabin one of these evenings, you could undoubtedly induce Chris to relate his thrilling experience in a very interesting manner."

(W. T. 8-19-1921) "Chris Jensen, who resided on McDonald prior to his services in Siberia, is home from an extended visit with his parents in Denmark."

JENSEN, William (Sec 35-14-29) A child, Ellis, was born in 1908.

JERUE, Edward J. (Sec 33-14-27) Edward Jerue was an early property owner. (W. T. 10-14-1914) "Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Jerue will leave for Benton Harbor, Michigan, in a few days to spend the winter."

Another Jerue family made their home in the area.

The 1914 school census records reveal that Louis A. and Iva A. Jerue had two children — Edward D. (1904) and Lewis H. (1906). These children were not listed on the 1919 census.

A school was built to accommodate the homesteaders' children. It was known as the Jerue School for some years, later renamed the Pilgrim School.

JOHNSON, Charles (Sec 6-14-28) Charles Johnson was an elderly man who lived on what was known as the Underdahl farm, six miles east of Winnett on McDonald Creek.

His tragic death in one of the worst winters on record for this part of the country was described by Louisa Wilson. She was writing to her future husband, George Deethardt, under the date of November 23, 1919.

"One day Charles Johnson was over to Albert Bohn's and said that the next day he was going to town. That was November 7, I think. The next week, Wednesday, Mr. Bohn was going by Johnson's place and saw a horse hitched to a wagon by one trace, and another horse in the pasture with a harness on.

"He went to the house to see what was the matter and found no one. On examination, he found Charles' dead body under the snow about halfway between the house and barn. All that was visible were his feet. From examination, they found that he must have been hitching up the team, and they started to run, knocking him down, and pulling the wagon over him.

"His skull was fractured, and his body badly bruised, but from the condition of the snow, they decided he must have struggled quite a lot. There was a calf tied in the stable, starved to death, and so were all the chickens and pigs, and from the gaunt conditions of the horses, they decided that he had been dead since that day, over a week before, when he told Mr. Bohn that he was going to town."

(NOTE: Thanks to Inez Ruth Fahrman, Louisa's daughter, the library has a file of Louisa's letters that tell of other problems of that devastating winter.)

JOHNSON, Richard When Mr. and Mrs. Richard Johnson of Glasgow arrived as new employees on the Petrolia Angus Ranch, someone inquired about the size of their family. Said Mrs. Johnson, "Oh, we have no children, but we have two dogs and two cats." (W. T. 10-7-1971)

JOHNSTON, Ralph (Sec 7-14-27) Ralph Johnston was a neighbor of Ralph Bowen. Mr. Johnston signed as a witness for the final proof of Ralph Bowen's additional homestead on April 8, 1921.

KESSLER, John B. (W. T. 11-4-1921) "Mr. John B. Kessler expects to leave this week on a business trip to Chicago. Mr. Kessler and family are making their home at the Kistner Ranch house for the winter."

KIEHL, Charles J. (See KIEHL — Winnett)

KIEHL, Walter Jack Jack Kiehl is the son of Charlie Kiehl and Mirth Winnett Kiehl. In 1950 Charlie and Mirth bought the present Kiehl place from Clinton Hassett. Jack lived in a little tar paper shack on the newly acquired land until the bunkhouse at Cat Creek was acquired. This rather historic and well-used building was remodeled into a nice three-bedroom home with bath, hall and living room and the large kitchen and dining room. This became Jack's home when he and Janet Ann Weingart were married September 6, 1958, in Lewistown at the Methodist Church.

Janet's parents were Rita and Alex Weingart who lived in the Dovetail area. (See also WEINGART — Dovetail)

Jack and Janet, with their boys Dwane and Orren, have run the ranch since their marriage. They raise cattle, sheep, and Morgan horses. The horses are primarily for their own use, but they occasionally will sell one. They raise hay on irrigated land.

Jack has served on the Federal Land Bank Board and on the Petrolia Water Users' Board. He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War.

Dwane Kiehl graduated from Winnett High School in 1985. He married Patti Bevis on August 10th, 1986. Patti graduated from high school in 1986. They both attended Billings Vo-Tech Center. Dwane took a course in diesel mechanics. Patti graduated from a course in bookkeeping. Patti is the daughter of Burton K. Bevis and Judy Ziesmer Bevis. (See also BEVIS — Cat Creek and Winnett) Patti and Dwane have two children — Cassie and Preston.

Orren Kiehl was born November 11, 1967. He attended high school in Winnett and graduated in 1986. On July 30, 1988, he was married to Laura Kuhry in the Methodist Church in Grassrange, Montana. Laura is the daughter of Anthony and Betty Manuel Kuhry. Laura was born at Lemoore Air Base in California, June 23, 1969. She graduated from Grassrange High School in 1987 and attended college in Missoula for one year, majoring in pharmacy. Laura and Orren live in a house on the Hassett

place, just west of the home ranch. (See also BEVIS and KIEHL — Winnett)

KINDT, William F. (Sec 21-14-27) W. F. Kindt began his lifetime career of bookkeeping at the age of 15 when he was employed by a railroad company in Chicago. After starting employment, he attended night school and became a traveling auditor, being transferred to various eastern locations.

On April 12, 1912, he was married to Florence Hagedorn at Crown Point, Indiana. She attended teacher's training in Indiana and later switched to nurse's training where she completed two years training.

Their honeymoon was cut short, as on April 14, 1912, Louise and Charlie Bohn, Al Bohn and son, Ray, and W. F. Kindt came west. Florence Kindt and Al Bohn's wife, Hattie, and daughters, Hattie and Myra, joined the others in May 1912. Hattie Bohn, Louise Bohn and Florence Kindt were sisters and Al and Charlie Bohn were brothers, so the venture was a family affair.

The group was mislocated, and until the land locator gave each couple their proper place, they lived in a makeshift shelter made of railroad-car doors and tarpaulin near the Sibberts' place on Elk Creek. (See also BOHN — Teigen)

As with all homesteaders, times were difficult. The one crop which never failed, however, was babies; and seven children were born to the Kindts. One baby died in infancy. The other six were William F. Jr. (1913), Roy A. (1914), Helen M. (1918), Irene M. (1920), Fern M. (1923) and Raymond H. (1925).

Florence never cared for the homestead life, not because of the hardships for her, but felt that her children were being deprived of the essentials of life. When asked why she never had a fever thermometer in the house (particularly after having had two years nurse's training) she replied that she brought one from Chicago, but



Florence Hagedorn and William F. Kindt shortly before their marriage

stopped using it when a child was ill as "there was no doctor when we first came here, no way to get to him if there would have been, and no money to pay him. So one day I threw it as far across the prairie as I could and did the best I could in caring for illnesses." (Fern Kindt)

When Bill Kindt became Petroleum County's first treasurer, the family moved to Winnett.

KISTNER (W. T. 11-4-1921) "Mrs. Max Hagen, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Kistner, for the past six weeks, returned recently to her home in Chicago."

(W. T. 12-30-1921) "Manager Kistner of the Black Hawk (oil company) had a crew of men engaged the first of the week in dragging a road to a company well southeast of Winnett. This was necessary in order to permit the big trucks to operate."

KNAPP, Perry (Sec 8-14-27) Elizabeth Myers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Myers, and Perry Knapp, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Knapp, both of Lewistown, were married in Winnett at the Methodist parsonage February 20, 1943.

They worked and lived in Hobson until coming to Winnett in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Perry worked for the State Water Conservation Board on the Petrolia Dam project. Knapps purchased the former F. C. Merten home on top of the rimrock. While living there, a son Toby was born.

In 1952 Knapps sold the ranch to C. I. Knutson. (W. T. 7-10-52) "Mr. and Mrs. Perry Knapp and son left for Hamilton. Perry is employed there by the State Water Conservation Board." Knapps later settled in Helena until Perry's retirement.

Beth and Perry had two sons, Toby and Charles. Toby is married and has one son. Charles is married, lives in Billings, and has a son and a daughter. Beth and Perry currently live in Billings with Charles (1989).



Perry, Beth and son, Toby Knapp

KNUTSON, Charles I. (Sec 8-14-27) C. I. Knutson related: "I was born November 7, 1915, at home in Hiddenwood TWP, Ward County, North Dakota. I grew up and went to country school and then to high school in Makoti, North Dakota. I walked to school much of the time and used a horse and sled in the winter.

"I spent 1936-37 in a CCC camp in Priest Lake, Idaho, building roads, fighting fires, cutting firewood and driving truck. I spent 1938 in Wyoming and South Dakota, punching cows on cow and calf operations.

"I was drafted in 1941 and went to Fort Snelling at St. Paul, Minnesota. I enlisted in the Air Force and went to Sheppard Field in Wichita Falls, Texas, and was assigned to a B24 bomber group. Then I went to gunnery school in Las Vegas, Nevada. I flew to Hawaii in the fall of 1942, where I was on submarine patrol. Later it was on to the South Pacific and Guadalcanal where the action was. I was discharged in 1943 with malaria and asthma.

"In 1944 I came to Billings and went to work for R. B. Fraser. He had just acquired the Lepper Ranch and was in the process of moving up on Flatwillow Creek near Winnett. With five other cowboys, I trailed horses from Pryor Creek to that ranch in the fall and then stayed around Winnett.

"I married Lucille Merten in 1947 and went to Oregon for a honeymoon, but ended up staying there a year. We moved back to Winnett and worked on several ranches and on the county road crew. Then I bought the farm where Fred Merten homesteaded from Perry Knapp, and lived there until we purchased the Elliott Trump home in Winnett.

"I went to work at the courthouse as custodian and became county brand inspector. In 1963 I became the deputy sheriff and in 1970 became sheriff, a position I held until my retirement in 1975."

Lucille told her part of the story: "I, Lucille (daughter of John and Velma Merten), was born in Winnett in 1928, in the house that was my home for 19 years. Since the first born was a girl, it was hoped I would be a boy and the name Charles was picked for me. (I didn't find this out until after I had married a Charles.)

"Being a girl didn't stop me from getting to do boy things with my dad. I remember getting to carry a lunch box and go out on the job when he worked for the State Highway. The highways were still gravel at this time and there was not too much traffic. My job was to throw the big rocks off the roadway.

"When my dad had the Broadway Garage, I made several trips with him in the tanker truck to Laurel, Montana, from where he hauled the fuel for the garage. Sometimes it took a couple of days for the trip.

"My dad was very interested in railroading and got me a couple of rides on the engine of the local train while they were switching cars of grain and oil. Frank Bastian was in charge of the oil loading rack then.

"Much time was spent at my folks' farm south of town during the seeding and harvest time. Then the whole

family moved out there, when it was time for the threshing crew to come. Bill Youderian had the threshing machine, horses and wagons.

"For playmates in town, I had Bobby Nelson on the left and Ruthie Stormwind across the alley. In later years, Betty Bennett and Barbara Kauth went on the camping trips to South Fork with us. Dad would haul Mother and four to six kids plus the tents, groceries, etc. needed for one or two weeks of camping and fishing.

"In 1937 I, along with Mary Lou Bastian, Virgie Senst, Mabel Redd, and Betty Youderian, joined the Jr. Auxiliary girls here. The group was first under the leadership of Grace Waldrop and then Mother, Velma Merten. At 18, I graduated to senior membership in Legion Auxiliary and am still a member, having served as president two times. I graduated from Winnett High School in 1947."

Red and "Mert" raised two sons — Russell "Rusty" and Charles "Chuck." Rusty graduated from Winnett High School in 1967. (See KNUTSON — Winnett) Chuck graduated in 1972. After high school Chuck worked on several ranches. He also worked with Kenny Welter in gold mining at Ennis. In Livingston and Bozeman, he worked at a Ford dealership.

LONING, John (Sec 9-14-29) According to the Winnett Times, on May 23, 1930, John Loning "went to Lewistown and closed a deal for eight purebred heifers which he will bring to his Jitney ranch. Mr. Loning plans to make this little herd the start of a large herd of purebred animals."

Mrs. Loning was the school dormitory cook in 1932.

McBRIDE, John (Sec 15-14-28) John, his wife and daughter, Montana, homesteaded but left after the hard year of 1919.

McCONOCHIE, Hazel (Sec 24-14-27) Hazel Duvall came to the Lewistown, Montana, area with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Duvall in 1909. She taught school in Lewistown until June of 1913 when she was married to Stewart McConochie.

Stewart, the son of Robert Nesbit and Annie McConochie, was born February 29, 1880. He and Hazel acquired land in Hazel's name about three miles west of the present Petrolia Dam and south of Elk Creek.

Stewart served as deputy county attorney for this area in May 1914 and 1915 and as county attorney from January of 1917 to December 31, 1920. In December of 1934 he was elected District Judge of the Tenth Judicial District, a position he held until retiring in May of 1955. Stewart died in July of 1955.

The McConochies had two girls — Jean and Marilyn. The family made their home in Lewistown.

MERTEN, Fred C. (Sec 8-14-27) Lucille Merten Knutson wrote about her grandparents: "Fred C. Merten, son of Fredrich Christian Merten and Wilhemina Zimmerman Merten, was born in Lomira, Wisconsin, on February 13, 1859.

"He had been previously married to Theresa Ludtke, who was the mother of Rose and John. Theresa died soon



Fred Merten home on rimrock



Fred Merten

after John was born and Fred's sister took care of the children. In 1895 Fred married Emilie Hetzler, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Henry Hetzler of LaGrange, Missouri.

"Fred was a grain dealer and they lived in both Sisseton and Holmquist, South Dakota. It was in this business that he lost a leg. After loading grain railroad cars, he started them moving. In jumping from one car to the other, he slipped, fell, and his leg was crushed.

"He also had a general merchandise store in Holmquist, and there are still remnants of this on his original place — such as business papers from 1904 and shipping crates with the invoices and tags to Winnett from South Dakota. I have a package of needles with his store advertisement on it.

"While Fred was in Montana building a house for son John, he filed on his own homestead saying, 'Since you kids are going to Montana, I'm going too.' He got this homestead which is located east of town, near the rimrocks, from a relinquishment in 1912. The place had been homesteaded by Hazel McConochie, wife of former Judge Stewart McConochie. Fred added more land to it

and at one time had 680 acres. Emilie acquired 40 acres when they moved here in March of 1915.

"They farmed and had milk cows, chickens, and very productive gardens. An ad in the Winnett Times of 5-27-21 stated: 'Wanted — buyer for 40 quarts of milk to be delivered daily.' Grandma was a very conservative person, so much of the time she walked to town carrying cream and fresh eggs to customers.

"They were caretakers of the well and pipeline that supplied water to the city reservoir. In return for this service, the City Light Company, who were also in charge of city water, wired the Merten house and chicken house for electricity.

"I remember Grandma playing the organ for entertainment after Sunday dinners. In the 1940s they donated their organ to the Methodist Church.

"Grandpa spent many hours and days making baskets from willows. He supplied Brattens and our home with laundry baskets and a baby basket for Janet.

"Emilie died in 1942 and was buried in Lewistown. Grandpa's daughter, Rose Bratten, came and helped get ready for the big auction sale in 1942. The place was sold to Charles Bohn, and Grandpa Fred went to live with the Alvin "Shorty" Brattens at Corvallis. He passed away June 28, 1944, and was buried in Lewistown.

MERTEN, John (Sec 19-14-27) See MERTEN — Winnett

MILLER, Cecil Cecil Miller grew up in the Kelley community, attended the Kelley and Sheldon schools, and worked on several ranches. He also worked with his father, Roy, in Winnett when Roy had charge of the city water supply. Cecil did a lot of digging and repairing of old water lines.

He married Donna Marshall in Winnett. They had three children — Blanche, Ruth and Betty. Cecil worked for Clinton Hassett for a time, then went to Stanford, Montana, for about three years. He and Donna divorced.

Cecil married Lois Wilson at Stanford. They returned to Winnett to work for Clinton Hassett. Their three children — Clinton, Alvin and Bonnie — attended the Box Elder and Winnett schools.

In 1982 Cecil and Lois bought the Ernest Bump house and moved to Winnett, although Cecil continued to work part time for Clinton. Lois passed away September 9, 1985. Cecil retired in 1984 after working for Clinton Hassett for 50 years.

On July 17, 1988, Cecil died in a Billings hospital after suffering a heart attack at home. Services were held in the old Winnett School gymnasium, and burial was in the Winnett Cemetery. (See MILLER — Kelley and Winnett)

MILLER, Mahlon G. (Sec 5-14-28) (W. T. 8-12-21)

"Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon G. Miller and daughter, Leona, autoed down from Judith Gap Monday and are visiting at their ranch nine miles east of the city. They expected to return after spending several days visiting friends and relatives here."

MOORE, Arthur (Sec 32-14-28) See MOORE — Winnett

MORFORD, Ruben A. (Sec 24-14-27) (W. T. 4-1-21) "Ruben A. Morford, who spent the winter in Lewistown, returned to his farm east of Winnett the forepart of the week and will remain here for the summer."

MORROW, G. W. and Webb (W. T. 10-7-14; reprinted 11-4-21) "Webb Morrow, son of G. W. Morrow, general townsite agent for the Milwaukee, arrived Saturday with his household goods and established residence on his homestead, which joins the townsite on the south. He went to Lewistown yesterday after his family."

MURRAY, Arthur (Sec 32-14-28) Les Thompson remembered that Arthur, a homesteader, at one time owned a racing Model T Ford. Les challenged him to a race using the Thompson Model T.

MYRDAL, Swain K. (Sec 18-14-29) The Myrdal home was known as "The Bungalow," a place that became the community center after Myrdals moved away. Box socials, dances, and picnics were held there. It was on land now owned by Damschens.

Mrs. Swain "Esther" Myrdal was a daughter of Emma Hanson and a sister of Pearl Ingebo. Two of the Myrdal children were Evelyn and Bud. They attended the Circle Bar School.

NELSON, Carl (Sec 28-14-29) In 1914 Carl and Mae Nelson and their two children — Robert and Hulda — drove out from Minnesota in a Model T Ford. They were accompanied by Ed Loveland, Bob's half brother, and Grandmother Chubb. Their wagons, horses, household gear, etc. came to Melstone on an immigrant train.

They drove out to the homestead location north of Weede, took a look at the land, and Mae Nelson said, "No way will I live on such a place!" So they drove up Flatwillow Creek to Sam Smith's place.

Carl sold his Weede homestead land to a man by the name of Steiner. With the money he bought Sam Smith's place on Sec 28-14-29. It consisted of three miles of Flatwillow Creek bottom land.

Bob and his sister, Hulda, attended the Circle Bar School for a year or two, and the Thompson boys and the Nelson children became fast friends.

The family couldn't make a living on this land, so Nelsons bought the store at Weede from Rex Norman,



Headed home from school — Bob Nelson's Model T. Transportation was changing!

and Mrs. Nelson became the postmaster. When the store burned down in 1917, the Nelsons decided to leave.

After the fire, a man was sent out from Washington, D. C. to check the post office safe. He found that Mae had ten cents over what she should have, so they issued her a ten-cent check, which is still a keepsake of their family.

Bob and his wife, Irene, presently (in 1988) live in Roundup, Montana. Bob remembers hearing Alma Hansen (Wiggins) sing when she first came to live with her brother, Ernest, on the ranch.

NEWSOME, William H. (Sec 6-13-28) Mr. and Mrs. Newsome had four children — Fred W. (1896) and John E. (1898) Grace (1902), Irene (1909). (W. T. 8-19-21) "Mrs. W. H. Newsome and daughter, Irene, returned last week from a four-months visit with the former's son and sister in Canada. Their many friends welcome them home."

(W. T. 10-28-21) "Miss Grace Newsome, of the Winnett High School, spent the weekend with her parents at Hill Crest Ranch. She was accompanied by Grace Wilson of Winnett. The Hill Crest Ranch was about eight miles southeast of Winnett."

Grace Newsome graduated from Winnett High School with the class of 1923. She married E. B. Crane in August 1923. Grace was on the staff of the Winnett Times for three years, where she served as secretary, bookkeeper, proofreader and local editor. When she resigned in 1930, the Times complimented her by writing, "... we wish the young lady the very best of good fortune and recommend her as the most capable person who ever drew a Times check."

After leaving Winnett, she worked as a medical stenographer and nurse.

OGG, Albert (Sec 22-14-28) Albert Ogg lived on Race Horse Coulee, now part of the Welter land. Albert is thought to have been a real estate dealer. (See also OGG — Winnett)

PARSONS, James (Sec 1-14-28) James Parsons settled just east of the Gormans. He was "Turkey Red" Smith's father-in-law. This land is now part of the Larry Eike place.

PARSONS, John (W.T. 7-31-1925) "John Parsons, a farmer residing 13 miles from town, was bitten by a rattlesnake on Tuesday afternoon.

"Mr. Parsons was shocking his wheat with a fork, and as he raised one of the bundles from the ground, the rattler struck him in the shin. He had no warning, he stated, and did not see the snake until after he felt him.

"When asked what he did then, Mr. Parsons said, 'I killed him with the fork. He started away, but I guess I was a little angry, and soon brought him to a stop with the fork.'

"Mr. Parsons then took his pocket knife and cut the wound open in good shape, and hurried to the house and saddled a horse. Then he applied a tourniquet just above the knee, to shut the poisoned blood from the upper part of the leg as much as possible, and made his way to a

nearby place where there was a car that brought him to town with haste.

"Dr. Alexander treated the wound, though the lower limb was badly swollen. Mr. Parsons spent a restful night and was able to return home today.

"His presence of mind in opening the wound and applying the tourniquet and then hurrying to the doctor, no doubt saved his life."

PATTERSON, James James and his wife, Annie, were married February 2, 1926, in Nebraska. In the early 1940s the family, including Hubert, Norman, Marjorie and Sylvia, came and farmed on the Freed place in the Petrolia area.

Hubert graduated from Winnett High School in 1945 and entered the Army that same year.

Marjorie graduated from Winnett High School in 1947, attended Rocky Mountain College and taught in Wibaux. She married Charles Woods and they had four children — Betty, Bruce, and twins, James and John. Marjorie and her four children were drowned in the icy waters of the Yellowstone River on Thanksgiving Day in 1957, after her car went out of control on icy roads. A passenger on the train saw the car submerged in the river and notified authorities.

Sylvia graduated from Winnett High School in 1951. She attended Billings Business College one year, then married and had five children — Barbara, Rodney, Deanna, Rodger and Lynda Stoddard.

The James Patterson family later moved to Billings. Mrs. Patterson worked in the dietary department of Saint Vincent Hospital from 1955 to 1980. She died January 16, 1984.

PETAJA, Gordon Gordon Petaja grew up in the Devils Basin country. He married Elden Freed's daughter, Ruth, in 1938 and lived on the old Freed place. (See also FREED — Winnett) In later years Ruth and Gordon built a new home of concrete blocks.

Their children were Richard, Sharon and Candace. All graduated from Winnett High School and attended college.

Their ranch was known as the Petrolia Angus Ranch. They raised purebred Angus cattle and built a sale barn where they held several yearly sales, with the Ranchettes serving a lunch for them each time. Many ranchers bought bulls from them. It is thought to have been a very successful operation.

After the children were gone, Ruth and Gordon were divorced. Ruth is now living in Mesa, Arizona, and Gordon remarried and lives in Lewistown.

PETRAUSCH, Dr. William (Sec 30-14-27) Bill homesteaded about six miles south of Winnett, neighboring with the John Mertens. The Polk directory of 1918 listed William Petrausch as owning 280 acres with personal property worth \$1365.

Bill served as a soldier from this area in World War I. After being discharged he worked for a time for the Frantz Oil Co. in Cat Creek. Being a chiropractic doctor,



Dr. William F. Petrausch, World War I soldier

he later set up offices in both Winnett and Grassrange, caring for Winnett area people on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and going to Grassrange on alternate days. He discontinued this practice in October of 1925.

On June 27, 1930, the Winnett Times announced the wedding of Dr. William Petrausch to Ruth Ellen Rhodes at Basin, Wyoming.

When Mr. Petrausch died in February of 1958, he was survived by his widow, four sons and a brother, John, of Billings, Montana. Burial was in Basin, Wyoming.

POULTON, James James "Jim" Poulton, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Poulton, was born in 1912 in Miles City, Montana. He grew up near Hazny (north of Brusett in Garfield County). Jim was road foreman for Big Horn County in the 1930s. In 1933 he married Fern Lemming at Hardin, Montana, and the couple had one son, William.

In 1943 Jim moved to Winnett where he operated a trucking business and worked for local ranchers. He was a fun-loving practical joker who always had a smile.

In June 1946 he married Myra Bohn. Myra "Mike," daughter of Albert and Hattie Hagedorn Bohn, was born July 18, 1907, in Chicago, Illinois. She came with her parents to the Petrolia Bench area in 1912. (See also BOHN)

Mike's first two years of school consisted of two and one-half months during two summers. The teachers spent the summers homesteading.

She graduated from eighth grade at the Pilgrim School; since high school was not available to her, the country teacher taught her one year of high school.



Fern Kindt and Myra "Mike" Poulton

In 1925 Myra was chosen the Princess of Petroleum County and, as such, entered competition in Helena. The Winnett Times printed the following article about her: "Princess Myra Bohn, of Petroleum County, is a truly farmerette princess, possibly the only one of that status in attendance at Helena.

"This year she plowed, seeded and headed forty acres of wheat of her own as well as heading her father's entire crop, and 40 acres belonging to her sister.

"In handling of any farm machinery, she is as capable as her father, and has proven of inestimable value to him in his farm operations.

"Petroleum County is proud of its farmerette princess."

Myra didn't win the title of State Princess, and she always jokingly said she didn't win because she couldn't take a threshing machine to demonstrate her talent!

In 1928 some of the Bohns' eastern relatives decided that she and her sister, Hattie, should live in Chicago and become "civilized." Hattie and Mike worked three months there in a canning factory and, when spring came, packed their city clothes and returned to Winnett.

After Mike and Jim were married, they operated the Al Bohn home ranch until August 1962, when Jim's health made it necessary to sell. They moved to Lewistown with the intent of establishing a business. Jim died in October 1962 before they could become established, and Mike returned to Winnett.

Mike always enjoyed farming, whether with horses or machinery. For many years she did trucking to keep her hands in the ranch business.

She enjoyed shopping and playing cards and was always very stylish in her choice of clothes and jewelry. A local resident said of Mike: "Mike was a fine and helpful person. She could change a flat tire faster than most men."

Myra died in July of 1988 after a long battle with cancer. Bill, Jim's son, married Patty Sandaker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tillman Sandaker. (See also SANDAKER — Winnett) Jim's brother, Charles, was also a Petroleum County resident for a number of years. (See also POULTON — Winnett)

REYNOLDS, Glenda Glenda worked for several different ranchers in Petroleum County, among them Dorothy Bartlett, Kenneth Damschen, Terry Sandman and Les Thompson.

She had two children: Vesper, who graduated from Winnett High School in 1981; and James, who graduated in 1986. Glenda left the area in 1985, and Jim lived with Ken and Rosemary Welter the school year of 1985-1986.

RYDER, Frank Frank Ryder, his wife and daughter moved to Flatwillow Creek just east of the Smith place, on Sec 29-14-29. He built a frame house on the hillside above the creek on the east side.

The daughter married George Singley, a water well driller. They live in Lewistown and have two sons. Frank sold the place to Ray Bohn, and the family moved to Lewistown.

SAYLOR, Clarence Roy Clarence Roy "Shorty" Saylor was born November 28, 1912. Agnes Benson was born August 4, 1920. They were married on June 9, 1940. Clarence had been a barber in Winnett until after his marriage. He then bought a small cattle ranch and farm near the confluence of Box Elder Creek and McDonald Creek. This was in the community of Hoyle, but the Hoyle Post Office had been closed for many years.

Clarence and Agnes have two sons, Allen and Roger. They attended the Box Elder School for eight years, and both graduated from Winnett High School — Allen in 1960 and Roger in 1964.

Allen and Roger spent many hours on horseback. One time, however, Allen and his horse had an accident which resulted in a severe injury to Allen's neck and caused him to be placed in a body cast. While in the hospital he became exposed to the chicken pox. Imagine the torture endured when this gentle lad broke out with chicken pox inside that cast!! And Allen still wore a smile!!

The Saylor's leased the Shorty Thorsen place for a year or two before moving to the Garneill community in Fergus County. (See also SAYLOR — Winnett)

SENST, Otto (Sec 30-14-28) See SENST — Winnett

SHAFER, Albert and Fred (Sec 11-14-28) Albert Shafer and his wife and two children, Orville and Lulu, came to homestead in about 1913. They built a two-room house on the west side of the section. They lived there for about three years before they gave up and returned to Marshalltown, Iowa.

The homestead was then occupied by his brother, Fred Shafer, Fred's wife, Laura, and their children — Maude (1905), Dorothy (1907), Albert (1909), Laura (1911), John (1913), and Charles. This was quite a houseful for two rooms. But, as they say, "if there is room in the heart, there is room in the home." The children, with the exception of Charles, went to the Circle Bar School.

They farmed the 320-acre place with a four-horse team and a two-bottom plow, disc and a seeder.

The family gave up in the 1920s and moved to another part of Montana. Two girls, Maude and Laura, live at Harlowton and Lewistown, respectively. Laura is married to Service Finkbeiner. Her first marriage to Walter Jenkins gave her a son, Bill Jenkins, who runs the Engines, Etc. Shop in Lewistown.

The Shafer land was purchased by Thompson Brothers for taxes in the 1940s. The house, with modification and additions, is the house in which Les Thompsons now live.

SHUSTER, Albert (Sec 22-15-25) Albert was born June 4, 1884, at Miller, South Dakota. He moved to Montana in 1913, and from Fergus County to Winnett in 1932. He farmed in the Brush Creek and Petrolia area. He married late in life, but was later divorced. There was one son, Richard.

He worked for the Fred Henschel family for many years and died in July of 1958. Survivors were a half brother, Fred Archer, and a half sister, Mrs. Henry Caryl.

SKINNER, David David and Nancy Skinner moved to the Kenneth Welter Ranch (formerly Beck Ranch) in December of 1987. Son Stuart attends Winnett High School; daughter Rachel attends Winnett Junior High.

SKOGLEY, Duane C. Duane and Diane Skogley worked for Rex Bohn from June of 1980 until April of 1988. They then went to work for Thomas and Margaret Cummings on the former Pat Sinclair (originally Bennett) Ranch and reside there as of 1989.

SMITH, Sam (Sec 28-14-29) Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith settled on a homestead on the Flatwillow bottom land on a ranch that reached for three miles up and down the creek bottom. This was just below the present Damschen buildings. It is now part of the Damschen (formerly Ernest Hansen) place. Sam was probably there as early as 1896, and he served as the postmaster of the Smith Post Office. He was also a deputy sheriff for Fergus County.

Mrs. Smith had three sons by a former marriage — Billy, Fisher and Jimmie Calder. They were known to make life miserable for their stepfather.

In the fall of 1898, the Calder boys killed a sheepherder on the bench just west of the confluence of Box Elder and Flatwillow creeks. They tried to get rid of the body by burning it on the banks of the Musselshell River but were unable to destroy all of it. They also stole a band of sheep which they were driving toward Forsyth. Sam Smith led the posse that finally caught up with them.

Billy Calder was the first person to be legally hanged in Fergus County. Fisher and Jimmy served time in the State



Berry picking time on the Flatwillow Creek

Prison at Deer Lodge. The sheep were eventually returned to their owner.

Mr. Smith was also an inventor. Les Thompson remembers that he invented a hay loader and applied for a patent. Before the patent was granted, the International Harvester Company got hold of the invention and apparently pre-empted Mr. Smith on the patent. At any rate, they very soon came out with the loaders, and Sam got no credit. Mrs. Smith was a very fine person and at times served as a midwife.

Smiths sold their place to Carl Nelson and left the community. Mrs. Smith went back to Fergus Falls, Minnesota, where she later died. Sam Smith went to Indiana and died there. He had driven back to Indiana in the 1914 Model T Ford in which the Nelson family had traveled when coming to Montana in 1914.

SMITH, William (Sec 20-14-28) William Smith was known as a homesteader who proved up and left. He had two daughters, Gracie and Stella.

SOLF, Joseph (Sec 4-14-28) Anna Kleiman Solf contributed the following: "My folks, William and Elizabeth Kleiman, came from Kansas to Moore in 1901. Of my family, I was the seventh child but the first one born in Montana.

"We lived in the foothills of the Snowy Mountains until 1915 when our family moved to what was then Dawson County. It is now Garfield County.

"I received my education in the country school at Moore and in Dawson County. I went to high school in Winnett and graduated in 1922. I taught school in Petroleum and Garfield counties for seven years.

"Joseph Solf was born April 10, 1886, in Neustadt, Germany, not far from the Hartz Mountains. (The City of Neustadt was founded in the early 1880s when Jerome Solf built a dam and mill to grind grain for the neighborhood.) At 18, Joe was drafted into the army and served two years. Shortly afterward he came with his uncle to America and worked in Lake Andes, South Dakota. In 1911 he took up a homestead of 200 acres ten miles east of Winnett.

"Joseph Solf and I were married April 10, 1928, in the Catholic Church. We lived on his and his uncle's farm and raised our family for thirty-six years.

"We then moved to Winnett, trading houses with our son Leo. Joseph died in 1969 after seeing all of our children grow up and eight married. He was 83 years old.

"Our three oldest children graduated from Winnett High School in 1950. Mary Rose married Norman Wangseng on October 14, 1950. They moved to Watford City, North Dakota, and raised their family there. Norman worked for Texaco for 34 years and retired in 1984.

"Charles joined the Navy in June of 1950, just 20 days before the start of the Korean War. He crossed the Pacific four times. He graduated from Montana State College in Bozeman in 1959. He married Nancy Dawson of Roundup November 11, 1961. He works at Bremerton shipyards as an electrician.

"Leo ran for county commissioner and was elected in 1960. He married Darlene Jerke January 21, 1961, and bought the Winnett house I now live in. He now lives on the Solf home place.

"Joan graduated in 1952 and joined the Air Force for three years. She graduated from Montana State College in Bozeman in 1959 as a home economics teacher. She married Charles Allen (Al) Sampson, and they live at Ronan, Montana.

"Alice graduated in 1954, went one and one-half years to Eastern Montana College in Billings, and taught at the Matovich School near Mosby. She later worked for Frontier Airlines in Denver. She married Ralph Schwartz, a machinist, in 1960.

"William (Bill) graduated in 1956 and now farms on the home ranch. He married Willa Raundal in November of 1958. He is now a county commissioner.

"Joseph Jr. became a machinist after graduating in 1959. He married Elaine Smith October 23, 1972, and they live at St. Clair Shores, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit.

"Lurene graduated in 1961 and took a one-year course as a beauty operator. She married Ronald Olson in 1962, and they own the Olson Store in Winnett. (See also OLSON — Winnett)

"Clara graduated in 1964 and worked for Blue Shield in Helena. She married Thomas Siroky of Roy, Montana, Oc-

tober 17, 1964. She is the second cook for the hot lunch at the Roy School.

"Frank, our youngest of ten, graduated in 1965. He went to Bozeman for two years studying to be a veterinarian. He joined the fire fighters and smoke-jumpers in the summers. He joined the Navy in 1967 during the Vietnam War and crossed the Pacific four times. Later he went to college in Washington and finished in Portland, Oregon. He then went to medical school in Kansas City and became a doctor in 1980. He married Debra Byers in Pontiac, Michigan, May 22, 1982, and is now an anaesthetist in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

"My husband and I attended all the graduations and weddings until his death at 83 on July 15, 1969, and I attended the last four. We were married 41 years.

"We watched the country grow and improve each decade. All our children have nice homes, and most have celebrated twenty-fifth anniversaries. All the grandchildren have finished high school so far — three generations and twenty-one from Winnett High School.

"I am now 86 years old (1989), and I have had a long and interesting life. I am grateful for all my friends, family and blessings that have been mine throughout the years."

SOLF, Leo Leo Solf was born August 28, 1932 at his parents' ranch home. Lela B. Thompson assisted in the birth. He graduated from Winnett High School in 1950 and went to work on his father's ranch.

Darlene Jerke was one of a set of twins born to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jerke on March 9, 1936, in Gackle, North Dakota. Darlene graduated from Shepherd High School in 1954 and then worked in the First National Bank of Billings for seven years.

Leo was deferred from service in the Army because his brother, Charlie, and sister, Joan, were both serving. Darlene met Leo at a Flatwillow dance. She attended the dance with some Grassrange girls with whom she shared lodging in Billings.

Leo and Darlene were married January 21, 1961. They lived for three years in the house at 108 South Teigen



Solf family: Back — William, Joan, Alice, Leo, Mary Rose; Front — Clara, Joseph, Lurene, Mother Anna, Frank, Father Joe, and Charles

Avenue in Winnett. Then they traded houses; Mrs. Solf moved into Winnett, and Leo and Darlene moved to the ranch.

For 18 years, Leo leased land from his Uncle Joe Kleiman at Square Butte. It was difficult having to move machinery back and forth. Darlene is a fine gardener and freezes or cans her garden produce.

Besides being very busy with farming and ranching, Leo serves on the Fergus Electric Cooperative Board and is very active in many farm organizations. He has served as a member of the Box Elder school board and the Winnett school board.

Leo and Darlene have two children — Daniel Lee and Deanna Lynn. Daniel married Kim Wisecup and they have a daughter, Heather. Dan works for the street department in Billings. Deanna attends Eastern Montana College in Billings.

All of Leo's land is in the Petrolia Irrigation Project. Their ranch home has been remodeled, modernized and is very comfortable. Leo has also put up a new shop building, which greatly helps in farming operations.

SOLF, William Bill was born to Anna and Joseph Solf on August 22, 1938, in Winnett. Nurse Kathryn Rigg was the attending midwife. Bill attended his first three grades of school in Winnett. In the fourth grade, he went to the Solf School, which is now the bunkhouse on his ranch.

He finished his elementary education at the Box Elder School and graduated from Winnett High School in 1956. After graduation he worked on a drilling rig locally and at Chinook, where Jack Barisich was the driller. Then he worked on road construction in South Dakota with Roy Myers. Later, he came home and helped Hugh Brindley with dam construction work.

On November 29, 1958, he was married to Willa M. Raundal. She, the daughter of Orene and Robert Raundal, was born March 29, 1940, in the old Roundup Hospital. Willa entered first grade in Winnett in 1946. Daisy Shaw (Dutton) was her teacher. She graduated from Winnett High School in 1958. (See also RAUNDAL — Flatwillow)

Willa remembers a field trip to a creamery in Lewistown when she was in grade school. The children were given popsicles, which were then brand new on the market and "Oh, how good they tasted!"

Willa and Bill raised three children — Margie, Ronny and Barbara. All three graduated from Winnett High School. Margie is married and teaches in a Jordan, Montana, school. Ronnie graduated from Helena Vo-Tech as a machinist. He and Lisa Sluggett were married in the summer of 1989. They live in Winnett.

Barbara graduated from Western Montana College in Dillon with a degree in sports medicine. She is now teaching math and is the girls' assistant basketball coach at Winifred High School.

In 1972-73 Bill and Willa built a lovely new home on the hill above the original ranch home. Besides their farm and ranch work, Bill and Willa have served on many boards

and committees in their community. At present (1989) Bill is a Petroleum County Commissioner.

STOCKTON, William Murray (Sec 20-14-27) Patience S. Hillius submitted her family story: "In 1911 five single girls, in their middle twenties, came to Montana from Minneapolis to take up homesteads. Why they selected Petroleum County, which at that time was a part of Fergus County, I wish I knew. My mother once jokingly remarked that they came to Montana to marry cowboys. As it turned out, one of the group did marry a cowboy.

"The five girls were Daisy Morell (who married the cowboy), Bessie Black, Delia Halversen, Cora Halversen, and Julia Erickson, my mother. They came via the Chicago, Milwaukee Railroad to Musselshell, Montana, then by stage to Flatwillow, where they stayed at the hotel run by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Millsap.

"Fern Millsap Whitten stated that it was at her parents' hotel in Flatwillow that Julia Erickson and William Stockton (my parents) and Daisy Morell and Clyde Luke, a cowboy for W. J. Winnett, met. Delia Halversen later married Charlie Marshall, an attorney in Lewistown; Cora Halversen married Mike Halloran, an insurance salesman from Butte, and Bessie Black married A. L. Rasmussen, a grocer in Winnett. Of these five girls, only my mother had children.

"In order to prove up on their homesteads, the girls had to find work and earn some money. Mother found work in Lewistown in a telephone office, as she had had previous switchboard experience in Minneapolis.

"The trips she had to make between Winnett and Lewistown were made by horse-drawn stage. The stage stopped overnight, halfway, at Ben Moultons just east of Grassrange. After a one-room tar paper shack had been built on her homestead four miles southeast of Winnett, my grandmother, Sarah Erickson, came out from Minneapolis to live with her.

"Mother was born in Gilmonton, Wisconsin, in 1882. Her parents, Andrew and Sarah Erickson, came to this country from Norway about 1865 or 1866 via sailing ship to Canada and covered wagon to Wisconsin. Mother went to school in South Dakota and spent her teen years in Minneapolis. I don't believe she went to school for more



Julia Erickson's homestead shack