A branding bee

Back: L. C. "Shorty" Thorsen, Roy Manuel; Middle: Gen Brady, Edna Bridger, Mrs. Roy Manuel, Bessie Barden Thorsen, James Bridger, Allan "Bill" Bridger; Front: Willie and Leonard Bridger

Clay buttes of the community

A fine hay crop in 1944
Ashley Community and Post Offices

The section of Petroleum County denoted as the Ashley Community is comprised of about five townships. Dry Blood Creek, as it drains in a northeasterly direction into Blood Creek, cuts across the northwest corner. Blood Creek, as it twists and turns, but always in an easterly direction, most nearly defines the northern boundary.

Due to hilly plateaus, two creeks originate within the Ashley area. Cottonwood Creek begins its journey as a coulee in Sec. 19-16-27, finds its downward way by first heading northeast, then worming southeast through the country before finding its escape in the Musselshell River.

Cat Creek also takes form just about one mile southeast of Cottonwood's point of origination. It rambles off immediately to the southeast, meandering through the community for only a distance of about five miles.

Large sheepmen completely controlled the greater share of this area until the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 made homesteading arid lands more attractive. Some hostility arose between the first settlers and the homesteaders.

Homesteaders found many areas of tillable land where small grains and other crops thrived. One large bench between Blood Creek and Cottonwood Creek was especially adaptable to the growth of corn and beans. Pasture, gardens and crops, however, in all areas were either plentiful or scarce, dependent, always, on the amount of natural rainfall, hailstorms, and/or the invasion of the land by pestsilences.

Much of the northeastern and eastern part of the Ashley Community is composed of very high ridges and deep coulees — a prelude to the greater breaks of the Musselshell River.

The Ashleys were already settled on their fine ranch on Cottonwood Creek before the land was invaded by the homesteaders. When all their new neighbors flocked in, the need for a post office and store became evident. The Ashley Post Office was established in their home September 8, 1913. Ashleys also stocked a store for the convenience of the many new arrivals.

When Mrs. Ashley became ill, the post office was closed May 14, 1921. A valiant attempt was made in July of the same year to open an office in another building near the same site. The plan did not succeed. Established mail routes from Winnett finally served some of the people of the community.

In 1917 a post office named Druell was established in the northwest corner of the Ashley area in Sec. 7-17-27. This met the postal needs of those who were far removed from any other office. Robert F. Wright was the postmaster who served until the office closed in 1921.

The Ashley Community was not overlooked by those in quest of oil. In 1921 the E. G. Lewis Development Co. drilled two wells — one in Sec. 15-16-28, and the other in Sec. 32-16-29. Both produced only water which did not even rise to the surface. There were probably other drillings but there is no record of any production in the area.

The Ashley family had their own cemetery which also became the last place of repose for many of their neighbors.
Some residents recall that there were many bachelors who homesteaded or settled in the Ashley Community but there were also many families. When there are families, schools become an immediate necessity. The very, very early settlers arranged for the education of their children in their own home — either by older family members or by personally paid educators.

The first school of record in this area was at Ashley. Valentine District #122 was the governing body. Elizabeth Barsness was the teacher from January of 1915 to July of 1915.

With the great number of homesteaders, came the need for more locally organized school districts. A group petitioned for a district to be formed from Valentine District #122. On the same day, February 28, 1917, another group of petitioners asked that School District #183 be formed from School District #181.

So it was that the entire Ashley Community was divided into two school districts — #181 in the eastern half, extending to the Musselshell River; and #183, the western half.

Two schools operated in District #181 in 1917. They were the Blood Creek and Ashley Schools. Fae Serry was teacher in one from May 28 to July 20. Stella Martin had a longer term at the other school from February 12 until July 20. William Abbott was a second teacher in one from September 3 to December 23, 1917.

Two schools commenced in District #183 — the Hubert and Wood.

On May 6, 1920, Brady School District #78 was created from District #183. Mr. L. C. Malcolm, C. E. Brady and Charles Tunncliff were the first trustees. Mrs. C. E. Brady was clerk. Miss Gladys McLean was the first teacher of that district.

For the school term of 1930-1931 at the Kid Hollow School of District #183, a teacher by the name of Marjorie Worsell was hired. She has submitted her interesting remembrances of that year, which are entitled "Kid Hollow School":

"The sun was shining warmly on the brown rolling hills that Saturday before Labor Day in 1930 as we came in sight of the little white schoolhouse which was to be the site of my first school-teaching year. The happiness and excitement which I felt was to last the whole school year.

"The yard was fenced and included the two usual outhouses and a horse shed. Along the fences and the road were goldenrod and sunflowers (I could imagine them in vases on the desk inside) and many shiny bunches of the yellow flowers of gum weed, which in the heat of the day were strongly scenting the air.

"We made a short visit inside the school and the cloakroom. The water jar sat on a corner stand, and a coal and wood room was at one side. The schoolroom itself was bright and clean and furnished with desks, bookcases and blackboards. Just perfect and I longed to linger!

"However, from the school we went to the home of the Wood family where I was to live for the year. I could not anticipate what a wonderful home it was to be for me. To share their tiny home must have been somewhat difficult for them, but I never knew it. They included me as a part of their family. It was a joy to live with them.

"After two delightful days of exploring and arranging the schoolroom (and reading many of the books which I had used in my own school days), the Kid Hollow School was ready for its six pupils — Laddie Harold Wadman, grade seven, his brothers Lincoln, grade five, Victor, grade three; and three Coffman children, Edith, grade seven, her fourth grade sister, and brother Donnie, a first grader. Altogether I would be teaching five grades.

"As the pupils appeared over the hills I was truly nervous, but acquaintance was easy and school began. I hope it was as happy a time for my pupils as it was for me. I learned many things that year. Hopefully the children did too.

"When the weather turned cold, I went earlier to school to build the fire. The stove was in the center of the room and on very cold days the desks were pushed up close to the stove. Even so that was not too comfortable as one's face would be too warm and one's back would shiver. Many times at noon the children would open their sand-
wiches and place the meat on the top of the stove to warm. The schoolroom smelled like the kitchen all afternoon.

"When Christmas came, Laddie brought a pine tree which he placed on a stand, and the children made the paper decorations. It was a beautiful tree. Parents and the board were invited to a program on the last afternoon before the holiday. The children couldn't wait for the visitors, so we had the program early. The program was repeated when the visitors arrived. It was a very happy day.

"In the spring Laddie and Edith worked very hard to prepare for the seventh grade examinations which were administered in Winnett. Mrs. May Vohter, the county superintendent of schools was very helpful to me at this time. Since she had been my own first grade teacher (Miss May Anderson), it was especially delightful to work with her.

"1930 was an election year, so there were several parties given by the candidates. The Ashley home, a large log cabin, had room for the crowd of neighbors and room for dancing, after speeches and delicious foods. These were a very special treat. Edna Ashley became a good friend and I often rode to her home on an old horse provided by the Woods. The horse was usually poky, but in the spring she would often break into a gallop and jump the coulees or tear down into them as I clung for dear life to the saddle horn.

"At one time, the snow was so deep that there was no travel. After several weeks Paul Wood rode horseback to Winnett for mail and batteries for the radio. During this time the Wood family entertained me with photographs and stories of their family and with reading, but we did not miss any school days.

"Sometimes I would find that the stove in the school had warm ashes. Some kind person had either used the building during the night or had built the fire early that morning.

"During the spring many little lambs were born who had to be fed by bottle. I learned to feed them and rose early to do this before going to school. I think there were about thirty before school was over. When I left, Mrs. Wood sent home with me one of the lambs, thirteen yellow chicks and a kitten.

"Of course the last day of school was picnic day. My sister came from Lewistown with many goodies and Edna Ashley was there to help with games. It was a happy ending to a very special year."

So went the story of one school teacher of one year's experience in one school. Her splendid sampling of teacher-community relationships could be repeated o'er and o'er.

There were eventually seven individual schools at separate locations within the Ashley area. Some, on the same site but at different periods of time, were known by various names. The schools by district number, names, and locations were as follows:

- District #78 Brady
- District #181 Ashley
- District #181 Blood Creek, Rice
- District #181 Dryland No. 1
- District #181 Dryland No. 2
- District #183 Hubert, Killian, Quigg-Sutton
- District #183 Marty
- District #183 Wood, Kid Hollow, Sunnyside

History and stories concerning some of the students and teachers of the above named schools will be found throughout the pages of this book.
ABBOtt, William J. (Sec 28-17-29) Bill was an early homesteader in the northeast area of the Ashley community. He was a teacher in the Ashley School from September 1, 1917 through December of that year. The Winnett Times of October 19, 1919, contained a news item regarding his farm activity:

"Wm. Abbott of Ashley left Monday for his old home in Maine where he will spend the winter. Mr. Abbott this year experimented with raising sweet potatoes and broom-corn and in both cases was very successful. Shortly before he left he invited in a number of his friends to a feed on the sweet tubers, and they vouch for the fact that they had a real 'down south' flavor and size.

"His success in raising broom-corn opens a way for some farmer to make a little money making brooms during the winter months. A small broom machine is not expensive, and a crop of broom-corn made into brooms is a valuable one indeed."

Bill married a lady attorney from Maine. (See also ABBOTT — Winnett)

Anderson, Samuel (Sec 12-16-27) Sam and Ethel Anderson homesteaded in the Ashley area, and were the parents of one daughter, Elva Ellen (1900). They lived in Petroleum County until 1937, when they moved to Fairfield, Montana. They both passed away there and are buried in the Fairfield Cemetery.

Elva graduated from Winnett High School in 1922. She and Warren Brady were married in 1924. (See also Brady — Ashley)

Arnold, Payne (Sec 18-17-28) Payne Arnold married Edna Tunnicliff, daughter of Charles Tunnicliff. They had a son born in 1924.

Ashley, Eben (Sec 14,15-16-28) Eben Ashley, a son of Edward Phillip and Harriet Newell Havens Ashley, was born in Cornish, New Hampshire, March 28, 1861. Eben was a descendant of Jacob Ashley who settled at Freetown Furnace, Massachusetts in 1717. Through his mother, he was also a descendant of the Arms family, who were pioneer settlers of Old Deerfield, Massachusetts. An ancestor of Eben, who sailed to America on the Mayflower, was Prudence White.

Mr. Ashley came to Montana in 1894 to visit some of his relatives in White Sulphur Springs, Montana. So impressed was he with the country, he took up a homestead on the south side of the Snowy Mountains, where he raised sheep.

He did not live there long, and his next move was to the Miller place about four miles east of Winnett.

Not satisfied there either, he moved to a place on what was known as Wood Creek (name later changed to Cottonwood Creek), about 23 miles northeast of the town of Winnett, Montana. He bought squatters rights from Henry Orance (known as "one-arm Henry") on about 320 acres of land. Under the Desert Land Act, he laid claim to several springs on forty-acre tracts in the area. He ran about 5000 head of sheep at that time. Mr. Ashley was to have grazing rights on any land south to Box Elder Creek. This was open range and had not been surveyed.
After about two years he returned to Boston and was married to Sadie Burrows. They returned to the ranch and started building a large log house. It was completed in about 1904. He ran sheep until people started coming in and taking up homesteads in the area, and he had to reduce his sheep herds. This caused him to finally turn to cattle.

Mr. Ashley was a very respected man and was never called anything but "Mr. Ashley." Mrs. Ashley was a school teacher and taught the grades in a school on the ranch and later taught high school in the town of Winnett.

Their daughter, Edna, was born on September 29, 1906. About 1914 the Ashleys started a general store and post office in their home. This was done for the convenience of the homesteaders in the area. The first mail carrier was Mr. Enos, a homesteader. He used a team and wagon, or rode horseback in bad weather. Later the mail carrier was Demond Woods.

Ashley, as the ranch was called, became the social center for the homesteaders in the area. There were many dances, picnics, and baseball games held on the place. At one dance the musicians failed to show up. One man who was there said that he could play the fiddle for dancing. It turned out he knew only one tune and he played that tune for waltzes, fox trots, or whatever all night; but it was still fun for all. Once Mrs. Ashley thought it would be fun to have a daytime dance. It started about 2:00 p.m. and lasted until 4:00 a.m. the next day.

The store and post office was closed in 1921. Many of the people had left the area because of hard times. Also at that time came the arrival of the automobile, and people were able to go to Winnett to do their trading. The Ashley house was still used for dances and was the social center for picnics and games. The house is still used as a ranch home (in 1988).

About this time Mr. Ashley went back into the sheep business in a small way and was being financed by a group from the oil fields. Oil had been discovered at Cat Creek, and the town of Winnett was booming. The sheep business lasted for only a matter of three or four years.

Mrs. Ashley died in 1921.

In 1934 daughter Edna was married to Allan "Bill" Bridger. They remained on the Bridger homestead for a few months and then moved to Fort Peck, Montana, for work on the Fort Peck dam project. In 1935 Mr. Ashley sold the last of his cattle because of drought and grasshoppers and also due to the fact that open range was about over, with grazing districts being formed.

In 1936 he died of a heart attack. Two days later he was found in his favorite chair by Mr. Ed Healy, who notified the authorities, who then contacted the Bridgers at Fort Peck. Mr. Ashley was what was called "an old timer," if there ever was one.
The Bridgers returned to the ranch, which was barren of stock at the time. With the help of Uncle Sam, the ranch was stocked with cattle. Additional land was purchased and the ranch was eventually more than doubled in size.

Three boys were born to Edna and Bill — William, Leonard, and James. The boys didn’t want to take over operation of the ranch, so it was sold in 1969. The Bridgers moved to Lewistown, Montana. Edna died in 1981 and is buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery. (From Allan Bridger and W.T.)

**BAILEY, Joseph** (Sec 18-16-28) Joseph and Cassie Bailey were the parents of four children: Clarence (1907), Leonard (1910), Florence (1910) and Howard (1913).

Mrs. Bailey died in November of 1918 with the flu, leaving a newborn baby boy. Mr. Bailey moved back to Minnesota.

He and his family came back to Montana several years later. In the meantime he had remarried. The son who had been born in 1918 died from a ruptured appendix. He was buried in the Ashley cemetery.

**BARRETT, Lawrence** (Sec 3,10-16-28) Maude and Lawrence Barrett had two children. Maude and Jennie.

**BENGSTON, Carl F.** (Sec 31-16-27) Carl and Pauline (or Perlina, as sometimes reported) Bengston homesteaded north of Winnett in 1915. Sheep raising was their main interest. The family left this area in 1920 and established themselves at Evanston, Illinois, where they operated an apartment house. The family was still operating it when some of the relatives visited Winnett in 1966.

When Elbert Bengston visited in July of 1968, he remarked that while Carl was proving up on his homestead he also helped build the present courthouse and several other buildings in the town of Winnett.

A school very near their ranch was named the Bengston School for a period of years.

**BENNETT, Henry** (Sec 18-16-29) Margaret and Henry Bennett were parents of four children: Ernestine (1901), Josephine (1901), Margaret (1909) and Genevieve (1911).

**BOOS, Conrad** (Sec 32-17-28) Mary and Conrad Boos were parents of a daughter, Margaret.

**BRADY, Charles Evert** (Sec 29,30-17-27) Charles Evert Brady was born in Bridgeport, Missouri, December 17, 1886. Callie Myrtle Haynes was born in Cape Fair, Missouri, August 13, 1896. They were married in Missoula, Montana, on March 31, 1914. They lived at Dixon, Montana, for those first few months until June of 1914, when they, along with Evert’s folks, Charles Wilford and Sarah Jane Brady, decided to move to the homestead area near Winnett.

The group included Evert’s three youngest sisters — Pearl, Alice, and Helen — who rode in the spring hack wagon; his brothers — Warren and Harvey — who rode horseback, keeping watch on the 17 loose horses; and his youngest brother Rondall, who rode in the wagon with C. W. and Sarah behind a four-horse team. Evert and Myrtle drove another wagon with a six-horse team.

As this procession was going through Missoula, one of the loose horses got away and while Harvey was retrieving it, the train went by with the whistle blasting. C. W.’s lead team reared up and fell over backwards, tangling with the team hitched behind them. Several men from the street ran to help quiet the horses and straighten them out. Before long they were on their way again.

When they camped on top of the Continental Divide, bears had been sighted nearby so all the workhorses were tied to the wagons. Then the front and rear wheels were tied together so if the horses spooked in the night they wouldn’t drag the wagons down the mountainside.

(Deanmar Cole, Helen’s husband wrote: “From Missoula the group traveled east through Hell’s Gate. Drummond and Garrison. From Garrison they went on to Avon and Elliston and crossed the Continental Divide on the old Priest Pass road to Helena. From Helena they turned south-southeast and crossed the Missouri River at Townsend. They then turned east again up and through Sixteen-mile Canyon, north to White Sulphur Springs, east and over another pass to Martinsdale. Two Dot and Harlowton, north through Judith Gap to Moore, then east to Lewistown.”)

Seventeen days after leaving Dixon, the Bradys camped at the Box Elder Creek bridge north of Winnett. They stayed there about a week while Evert and C. W. looked for suitable homesteads. They chose sites next to each other about 17 miles north of Winnett.

Logs were cut and hauled to the sawmill for Evert and Myrtle’s house and for his folks’ house. In 1915 they built the Brady School on Evert’s homestead. Evert was a member of the school board for several years.

Myrtle and Evert had fourteen children — Rena, Eula, Eldon, Leta, Earl, Roy, Doris, Alvy, Irene, Dale, Lyall — and three others who died and are buried at a burial site on the homestead.
Evert, along with his father, did construction work with their teams, building county roads and dams. One such project was the Valentine Dam.

For recreation, the Bradys often organized baseball games that were played on the flat above their home. Dances were also a source of enjoyment for the whole community. Most people used horses to get to the dances, so there were always a lot of saddle horses tied up most of the night. Harvey remembered that at one dance in the wee hours of the morning as people were mounting up to ride home, he watched eight horses bucking at once. He figured it was their way of warming up for the ride home.

Farming and ranching went well for the Bradys until the drought years of the 1930s. By 1937 the only available feed was slough-grass hay shipped in by railroad from South Dakota. Even that had to be rationed among the farmers in the area because there was not enough to go around. Sheep weren’t worth the money it cost to get them to market. When the government opened a new farming project on the Fairfield bench, Evert and Myrtle moved their family there in the spring of 1938. The rains started in the fall of 1938 and the next two years were good ones for those who had lasted out the drought in Petroleum County.

**BRADY, Charles W.** (Sec 29,30-17-27) The following interesting account of her family’s move to their Montana homestead was written by Helen Brady Cole.

“The C. W. Brady family spent the winter of 1913-1914 in Dixon, Montana. We moved there from the Palouse country in Washington State. Our family consisted of Mama, Papa, and their four sons and three daughters. Two older daughters were married and lived in or near Dixon.

“The last of May 1914, we left Dixon in a two-seated hack and two wagons, one of which was covered. My brother Evert had gotten married that winter so there were ten of us. Mama, Papa, and Rondall rode in the covered wagon, and Evert and his wife, Myrtle, in the other wagon. We three girls rode in the hack, and Warren and Harvey were on horseback, driving 17 head of workhorses with a colt following. They were using 10 head of horses on the wagons and hack. We traveled about 400 miles in close to two weeks.

‘Arriving in Fergus County, we camped at the ‘Steel Bridge’ on Box Elder Creek for 10 days to two weeks while Papa and Evert looked for land to homestead. They filed on land 17 miles north of Winnett. Evert filed on land joining Papa’s on the south, and Evert’s land was joined on his south by a school section on which later the Brady School was built. I believe the first building was a log house for Evert and Myrtle, then a dugout for us. Our first home had about five or six logs above ground, with two windows.

**Brady family leaving Dixon for Winnett (1914): Alice, Helen (little girl), Pearl, Sarah, Rondall, Wilford, Myrtle, Evert, Warren, Harvey**
The "Parlor"

"Dad built a fireplace from rocks and mud, and it worked beautifully; the first and only fireplace he ever built. The schoolhouse, one-half mile south of our home, was built in 1915. Henry Cassidy was the first teacher and he taught more than a year. Dad and my brothers built a small log house (the parlor) to hold our furniture, which came by rail to Grassrange in 1915. Dad hauled it to the homestead. It included a piano — the only one in the vicinity. In 1916 they built our two-story log house, complete with cellar. At the present time (1985) this house still stands, and is the home of the Gardner family who purchased the ranch from Rondall and Gen Brady in 1980.

"My Dad broke sod and built fences for several homesteaders who had other work to do, or who did not have the proper machinery and horses. The one I remember was R. I. Woods, the druggist in Winnett, whose homestead was north or us. Dad fenced and broke 40 acres for him. He would take one of my brothers with him, usually Harvey, and they would batch, leaving Warren to help Mama. He also would haul for people, but I don’t believe he did too much hauling.

"When Pearl was 21 years old, she homesteaded; but she didn’t have a full half-section. Her place was south and east of us. Dad built her a log cabin and fenced all of her place and grew a crop on 40 acres. Pearl worked as a cook for Mr. Leslie and paid Dad for all his work. Later on she worked in Lewistown for the manager-owner of the Power Mercantile.

"Alice also worked for the Leslies and she spent two years cooking at a dairy in Colfax, Washington, which was owned by our sister Clara. Warren also homesteaded when he was 21 years old. His place joined Dad’s on the north and east. He bought and moved in a teaccherage to live in.

"Both my parents were hard-working people. Mama always planted a big garden. Sometimes it was hailed out or didn’t get enough rain, but she seemed to always have enough root vegetables to last us through the winter. She always tried to have fried chicken, new peas, and new potatoes for the Fourth of July. Often she succeeded; although a number of times we were hailed out near the Fourth of July.

"During the first few years we were on the homestead, a few of our neighbors died. Dad made many caskets, and Mama lined them with cotton batting and sheets. I remember going to the Ashley Cemetery in the wagon. It was ten miles there, so it was an all-day trip. In early days there was no preacher, so they read from the Bible and sang songs. Sometimes we had bread and butter on the way home.

"We drove to Winnett in a wagon when the railroad tracks were brought into Winnett. I believe Grace Woods drove the 'golden spike.' It was a big event for Rondall and I to go to town.

"Alice married Phillip Hubert in 1921, and Warren married Elva Anderson in 1924. The same fall, Harvey, who had graduated from high school in May, was given funds by Dad to attend a technical school in Los Angeles, California. He was accompanied by Max Woods. Pearl married Chester Vought in 1925 and moved to Taft.
California. Both Alice and Warren and spouses lived close by.

"The first year I was in high school (1923-24) my folks rented a four-room house in town. Pearl kept house for us. Harvey was a senior, and Warren worked at a grain elevator. Some of the time Rondall was in town going to school, as the Brady School always seemed to run out of money. During the next three years I stayed at the old dormitory. Part of one year Margaret Jelinek and I batched. Rondall and I batched most of the year I was a junior. My senior year I spent full time in the dormitory. I graduated in 1927." (See also COLE - Winnett)

BRADY, Harvey C. Harvey Brady was born May 14, 1903, in Spokane, Washington. Irene Neal married Harvey on October 12, 1929, in California.

Harvey related in a sketch of his life that his dad was renting land and farming it. "The landlord was given one third; so when Dad Brady (C. W.) learned of land in Montana to be homesteaded, he moved his family to Winnett." Helen, his sister, related the story of the move by wagon to the homestead.

"My brother, Warren, and I had to look after the loose horses. We camped at the steel bridge on Box Elder about 10 days, while Dad and Evert, my oldest brother, scouted for land. The family experienced their first Montana hailstorm while camped there. The wind and rain were really severe. When we arrived on the land chosen by Dad, we were welcomed by another storm. Harvey said, 'This storm's a real go-getter.' The tents leaked like a sieve and the water was belly deep on a horse in the coulees. Grandpa Malcom, Lawson Malcom, and Harvey Richardson, our new neighbors, visited us.

"The first thing we did was plant a garden and it produced an abundance of vegetables. Then we had to get logs cut and to the sawmill of Ernest Barden, who lived north and east of us, for our home and for a school. I helped cut the logs along with Dad, Warren and Evert." Harvey attended grade school in Washington. Later, in the winter of 1914, he attended school in Dixon, Montana. Then, when the Brady School was completed, he went to school there. Harvey went to high school in Winnett and graduated in 1924. Harvey stayed home on the ranch for a year; then he went to Los Angeles and enrolled in the National Automotive and Electrical School. He worked for different companies putting in electrical services and later burglar alarm services.

Harvey had his own burglar alarm business in Los Angeles. He sold this and moved to Yuba City in northern California, where he ranched a short time. He went back into the burglar alarm business in Yuba City. Upon retirement, he sold his business and resided there until his death on February 3, 1981. Both Harvey and Irene are buried in Yuba City, California.

BRADY, James (Sec 27-17-27) James Brady, brother of C. W., homesteaded or owned land about three miles east of the Charles Brady homestead. His daughter, Adeline Brady, attended Winnett High School from 1922 through 1925. During this period of time she lived with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Moreland, Sr. in Winnett. Her brothers, James and Henry, worked in the Cat Creek oil field.

In the fall of 1924 the Winnett Times sponsored a Petroleum County Queen Contest. Participants were required to have been residents of the new county for at least six months and were to be between the ages of 18 and 25 years. Nominations were made from ballots which were printed only in the Winnett Times. Seven girls were nominated by popular choice. Five of those seven chose to run. Ballots were then printed in the Winnett Times for the final selection, each ballot submitted being worth 100 points to the girl named on the ballot.

The winning girl was to receive an all-expense paid trip to the State Fair in Helena where she would compete with girls of other counties for the title of Queen of the State. Adeline was Petroleum County’s contestant for the state title. She emerged the local winner with a 9100 - 6100 victory over her nearest competitor. The Winnett Times of 8-15-24 reported:

"The Queen of Petroleum County Contest came to an end Monday evening at eight o’clock when the ballot box was taken to the Chamber of Commerce headquarters, opened by Dr. I. L. Alexander, who with Rudy Beck and Perry Gorsch, acted as judges, while J. A. Dugan, B. F. Tanner, and C. J. Doherty acted as tellers.

"The following morning, Wm. G. Ferguson, manager of Queen of Montana Contest was wired as follows:

‘Congratulations Adeline Brady, Winnett, Montana, first Queen of Petroleum County. Winnett Times.’

Warren, Harvey, Pearl and Alice Brady
"The judges’ certificate of election was also forwarded to Mr. Ferguson as was one of the tally sheets showing the actual count. He was also asked to take the matter up with Miss Brady as regards to credentials, transportation, and expenses to and from the State Fair in Helena."

"So ends the first Queen of Petroleum County Contest. Next year another charming young lady, elected by popular accord, will be honored as Queen of Petroleum County and given a free trip to the State Fair in Helena." Adeline did not win the contest at the state level, but she had a wonderful time and reigned as Queen of Petroleum County until the next year when she moved to Midwest, Wyoming, where her two brothers were working.

\[Image\]

The Brady family (1946): Helen, Pearl, Warren, Clara, Evert, Alice, Rondall, Mother Sarah Jane, Harvey, Dot

BRADY, Pearl Pearl Brady was born on May 8, 1895 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which at that time was called Indian Territory. Pearl came to Winnett with her parents, brothers and sisters in 1914. When Pearl was 21, she homesteaded one mile east of her mother and father. She had acquired 160 acres or a half section. Her dad built her a log cabin fenced the land, and farmed 40 acres of it. Pearl worked some at the Leslie Ranch and later on went to Lewistown to work in the home of the Symmes family. Mr. Symmes was the manager and owner of Power Mercantile.

Pearl married Chester Vought and moved to Bakersfield, California. Chester was employed by an oil company. When the couple retired, they bought an airstream trailer and visited in most all the National Parks in the U. S. They made a trip into Mexico, as well, with the Wally Bynum Travel Troupe. Pearl passed away on May 10, 1962. She gave her body to medical research. Chester is buried in Oklahoma near his relatives.

BRADY, Rondall (Sec 29.30-17-27) The following was submitted by Genevieve Brady: "Rondall was born in LaCrosse, Washington, on April 15, 1911. Rondall and I (Genevieve Hamill, a teacher) were married in 1935. We resided on the Brady homestead north of Winnett until 1980 when we retired and moved to Lewistown.

"Rondall came with his parents to the homestead when he was very small. He attended the Brady School when it operated. Some of the school terms were short, due to lack of funds. In those years, Rondall went to Winnett to grade school. He graduated from the grades in Brady School and went on to high school in Winnett and graduated in 1929.

"Rondall's graduation was given special attention in the January 1930 Winnett High School paper: 'at noon on January 24, Rondall Brady, the only mid-year graduate, was presented with his diploma by superintendent Fred J. Ward. Edythe Hamilton and Kefa Sikveland rendered speeches for the occasion. Mr. Ward appointed two fellow seniors, Huldia Wadman and Elton Hansen, to bring him forward while he was presented with his diploma.'

"In 1929 Rondall and his dad bought a combine for $1,575.00. They did custom combining with horse power. The first year they cut 650 acres and nearly paid for the combine. However, conditions steadily declined. In 1930 only 25 acres of their own land was worth harvesting. In 1931 no wheat or hay was cut.

The following are a few figures Rondall and his father kept concerning their own grain harvests: 1932 — 20 bu/acre wheat, 45 bu/a barley; 1933 — 10 bu/a wheat; 1934 — 5 bu/a wheat; 1935 — no crop due to drought and grasshoppers.

"The following is an account of cattle marketing: 1930 — 12 cattle, $411.00 in Chicago; 1931 — 14 head, $333.25; 1932 — 4 head, $58.00; 1933 — 50 head, $1,300.00; 1936 — 29 head for $750.00.

"The years of 1933 and 1934 the government began to help the people. Roosevelt initiated public works programs and Rondall, along with other farmers, was hired to build dams for livestock as well as for irrigation. This was done with horses.

"I taught school in our area at both the Brady and the Welter Schools. Welter School was about 15 miles from home. Later I wasn’t allowed to teach the Brady School due to nepotism laws, as I was related to the trustees.

"In the spring of 1937, Rondall put some crops in; then he went to Anaconda and worked in the copper smelter. My folks lived in Anaconda and with the influence of my dad, Rondall got work. In August we learned of the good rain received at home, and so we returned to the ranch. We lived and worked there until we retired in 1980.

\[Image\]

Rondall and Gen Brady

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"We secured a P. C. A. loan and began to buy small calves in Billings. We sold them as yearlings. I taught school. Rondall began buying land, some only costing 50 cents an acre. Land and cattle prices increased; by 1943, we owned about 19,000 acres.

"We lived on a county road — the home on the west side and the barn, granaries and chicken house on the east. Rondall helped many of the neighbors at different times when they were stuck in the mud or had car trouble. One time he helped a neighbor whose vehicle broke down. He and the neighbor left Monday a.m. after breakfast for Winnett. That morning a fast moving blizzard hit our county and it was three days before he was able to come home — and then he walked in the snow and zero weather.

"Luckily we had a good helper then in Lynn Kelley. He did the chores when the wind would subside enough so he could see where to go.

"Our social life revolved about the neighborhood with card parties and dances in the schools. On Sunday there were ball games, then lunch together. We looked forward to this — the teams were made up of men in Dovetail and Valentine area versus men from Flatwillow, Cat Creek, Mosby and sometimes east of Roundup.

"Rondall and I really enjoyed all this, plus the times that neighbors would stop in and visit. As per usual, there would be a card game. We enjoyed the dances and were disappointed if the weather interfered. Roads were not graveled; when it rained, we stayed home.

"Rondall and I sold our ranch in 1980 to Dick and Ivy Gardner and we retired in Lewistown. Rondall suffered a massive stroke and passed away March 26, 1981. He is buried in Lewistown, Montana. Rondall was an active member of the Montana State Grazing Association. He and I both helped out in our churches as well as with local functions. At the present (1989) I live in Lewistown and winter in Arizona."

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BRADY, Warren (Sec 20-17-27) Warren Brady was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on March 28, 1901. He and his parents, brothers and sisters lived in and farmed in the Palouse country in Washington State. In 1913 the family moved to Dixon, Montana. In 1914 they moved to Winnett and settled on a homestead. Warren attended school in Washington and completed grade school in the Brady School in Petroleum County.

Warren elected to stay on the family homestead. When he was 21 years old, he filed on a homestead north and east of his parents. He and Elva Anderson were married September 4, 1924. They lived on the homestead for a time: then moved to his father-in-law’s homestead which was near Ashley, Montana. There he farmed and raised sheep. In 1937 Warren, Elva and family moved to Fairfield, Montana, onto an irrigated resettlement project sponsored by the government. Warren passed away January 20, 1974 and is buried in Fairfield Cemetery.

Elva Anderson Brady was born September 28, 1900, in Moore, Montana. In 1910 she and her parents moved to Winnett and filed on a homestead. Elva attended school in Moore and in the rural area of Winnett. She went on to high school and graduated from Winnett High School in 1922. After Elva and Warren were married in 1924, they had four children: Arthur (1925), Evelyn (1935), Samuel (1938), and Dorothy (1942). Arthur and Evelyn are deceased and Samuel and Dorothy live in Great Falls, Montana (in 1988). Elva passed away November 22, 1975, and is buried in Fairfield Cemetery.

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BRIDGER, Frank (Sec 5-16-28) Frank Bridger immigrated to the Winnett area from England and homesteaded near Ashley. He married Laura Ellen Combs Moore. She was the widow of Thomas Evert Moore who died in 1921. They were the parents of Aubrey Moore.

Aubrey graduated from Winnett High School in 1923. During his high school years he played the violin in the Catlin dance orchestra. His mother operated a dressmaking shop in Winnett while he was in high school.
After graduation Aubrey became a grocery clerk, accountant, and a personal flight equipment handler at Paine Field near Everett, Washington. He served his country in the Philippines. Music was still important to him, and he became a violinist in a jazz orchestra in Washington. He was married to Mary Jane Johnson. They did not have any children.

Frank and Laura Bridger had a daughter, Eileen. Laura Ellen Bridger died in 1972.

BRIDGER, Samuel (Sec 6-16-28) The following was written by Allan Bridger: "My parents, Samuel and Emily Bridger, were born and raised in England. They married and had a family of ten children — Sidney, Ivy, Frank, Norman, Eric, Leonard, Gwen, Myrtle, Allan and Ernest. All were born in Croydon, England. My brothers Sidney, Eric, and Leonard and sister Ivy were the first to leave England and come to Canada. Ivy, Eric and Leonard remained in Canada for life. Sidney and Gwen came on to Lewistown, Montana. A short time later my father immigrated to Canada and then on to Lewistown. My father homesteaded in what was then Fergus County.

"My father's homestead was located 23 miles north and east of the town of Winnett in an area known as the Ashley Community. My brothers Frank, and Norman, also came to the Winnett area, and they and brother Sidney proved up on homesteads. In 1919 my mother, brother Ernest, sisters Myrtle and Gwen, and I came to Montana. I was 13 years old at the time.

"We left England on the Saxon ship and were ten days on the trip. We had one bad storm during which time we were confined to the lower deck for two days. At that time there was still great danger from German mines that had been left over from World War I.

"We arrived at Halifax, Canada, in eight days, but did not remain there. We went on, and after two more days arrived at Ellis Island. For some reason we did not disembark at Ellis Island but went on to New York City. We drove in a hansom cab from the dock to the railroad station. It took two hours of driving through the city and we almost broke our necks staring at the tall buildings. We boarded the Milwaukee train at a huge station in New York City. It took three days traveling by train to reach Lewistown.

"We were met at the station by my brother Norman. It took one whole day, by horse and wagon, to arrive at my father's homestead. Since it was December, there was two feet of snow on the ground. There was a half-inch of ice on top of the snow and this caused cuts on the legs of the horses, so it was not an easy trip. My father was a carpenter, as were my brothers Sidney and Frank. They worked in Lewistown during the summer months and spent the winters on the homestead.

"After a couple of years, brothers Frank, Norman and Sidney left and went to the West Coast. After about five years my brother Ernest joined them there. My sister Gwen married Ephraim Lee, a homesteader. They later settled in South Dakota. My sister Myrtle married Henry Dick. They lived in Lewistown where he was employed at the Glass House until they moved to Seattle in 1941. Henry died in 1974 and Myrtle remained in Seattle and still lives there (in 1988). Other than myself, she is the only one of the ten children who is still living.

"My mother and I remained on the homestead. My father died in 1928 and was buried in the Ashley Cemetery on the ranch. My mother was a practical nurse and was called upon many times when there was sickness, or to help at the arrival of a new baby at the home of a neighbor. In 1934 I married Edna Ashley. We stayed on the homestead a few months and then we moved to Fort Peck, Montana, where I worked on the Fort Peck dam project for a period of three years. In 1936 Mr. Ashley, Edna's father, died and we came back and took over the Ashley Ranch, where we raised cattle.

"Mother stayed with us on the ranch during the summers and spent the winters in California with my brother Frank. Mother died in 1942 in California and was buried there. Ranching was hard in those days. We had to contend with drought, grasshoppers and very low prices.

"Edna and I had three sons — William, Leonard and James. William lives in Bozeman, Montana (1988), and has three children. Leonard lives in Garden Grove, California (1988), and has one daughter. James lives in the Kalispell area (1988) and has two children. In 1969 we sold the ranch, as the boys were not interested in taking it over, and we moved to Lewistown, Montana. Edna and I were divorced in 1976. Later that year I married Genevieve Osburnsen Price. At the present date (1988) we live at the Lewis Willows apartments in Lewistown."
BRIDGER, Sid (Sec 25,26-17-27) Along with his brothers, Sid homesteaded in the Ashley territory in 1918. A carpenter by trade, he left here in 1923, moving to San Francisco, California. He died on September 4, 1964, and he was buried at Fall City, near Seattle, Washington.

BROWN, Charles (Sec 9-16-28) Several newspaper articles recall some of the history and legends of Charles Brown. The Winnett Times printed the following account on July 6, 1917:

"Very few Montanans will fail to recall some of the horrible incidents of the early 1860s in which Mr. Brown and his famous partner, 'Liver-Eating' Johnson played important parts. The names 'Sure Shot' and 'Liver-Eating' were won by these men a few years after the sinking of the steamer, 'Laughing Water,' at Seventh Point on the Missouri River. Mr. Brown, who was a passenger on the vessel, soon afterwards established a woodchopping camp at the mouth of the Musselshell, which was attacked by a band of Blackfoot Indians.

The wood-choppers fought like demons for several days before Johnson discovered a wounded Indian concealed in some bushes, skillfully picking the white men off with poisoned arrows. He watched in amazement as he saw one of the arrows gracefully arch into the arm of his partner, rendering the arm of the best shot in the camp useless. Johnson ran to the Indian through a volley of bullets, stabbed him, cut out his liver, and put a portion of it on his mouth. This was too much for the Indians, who in turn fled, while Brown, even with his useless arm, demonstrated his marksmanship!

"Since that day the names 'Sure Shot' Brown and 'Liver-Eating' Johnson have stayed by these sturdy pioneers. Johnson died about eight years ago near Red Lodge, Montana. Mr. Brown worked for a number of years for the 79 Ranch, and while there taught the floating sheep outfits to respect the 79's range. He is now raising horses on his ranch on Cottonwood Creek, and is hale and hearty except for the arm the Indian crippled. 'Tis said by the men who related this story to us that life-sized portraits of these two men hang with other famous old-timers in the state house at Helena.'

In November 1928 the Winnett Times reported, "Charley Brown, familiarly known as 'Horse Thief' Brown, has left his ranch in the Ashley country for his first vacation in 29 years. Charley has left for his old home in Iowa and expects to spend the winter there with friends and relatives.'

In 1931 the Winnett Times had this to say about Charlie, "Charlie (Horse Thief) Brown, arrived here from Garfield County Sunday and celebrated his 76th birthday among friends in the Ashley country. Although the nickname 'Horse Thief' seems to appeal to the old man, he has lived in Montana for 53 years and has never been arrested or confined to jail. He has spent the past two years herding sheep in northwestern Garfield County and is now on his vacation.

"His appearance and actions belie his age. He is alert, agile, and has perfect eyesight. Not only is he physically and mentally sound, but at his age he aspires to develop a beef herd and is buying young beef stock for his ranch north of Winnett. In conversation he is probably one of the most entertaining talkers in the Northwest, and no one but 'Horse Thief' knows when he is stretching things a bit! Here's wishing the old boy many happy returns on his birthday.'"

Carroll Manuel added these tales of Charlie: "Nobody ever called Charlie by his right name. They called him 'Horsethief Brown.' He seemed to like that name the best. He came up from Texas on a cattle drive and stayed. He had been shot in the left elbow so he couldn't bend it. He sorta swung it around while he was talking. He liked horses, so he put together a bunch of saddle brood mares and kept a saddle stud or two and raised horses. He filed a claim in the late 1880s on a piece of land on Cottonwood Creek that turned out to be a school section.

"A lot of young bucks in the country that wanted a good horse would hang around Horsethief's place. I'm sure they probably kept track of all the slicks, too! After Crazy Horse Johnston came to the country, he brought in a bunch of French Coach mares. Crazy Horse bought a stud from Horsethief and, of course, they became good friends. One time Horsethief went over to Crazy Horse's place and visited a couple of days.

"On the way home, he stopped at Bill Spellman's. Now Bill Spellman was a moonshiner and quite entertaining. Well, those guys got to partying a bit, and after Horsethief was on his way home, he became ill. He got off old Badger, his horse, and took out the brand-new set of gold teeth he had recently purchased. He got rid of some of his problem and decided to take a nap.

"When he woke up, he climbed back on old Badger and went home. He wasn't used to putting in his teeth so he just rode off and left them. When he got home, all of a sudden it dawned on him what he had done. He went right back, but he never could find that tree where he had rested — or the new false teeth!

"Several years later, after the homesteaders took up a lot of his range land, he sold his horses to Carl Hedman. They were gathering them and had gotten ahold of a jug of moonshine. Denny Brunson was a fella that liked horses and had fallen in with this outfit. After Denny had a couple of drinks, he got abusive as hell. Carl was sitting across from Denny at the poker game, and he and Denny got into an argument. Carl got quite upset so he pulled out this old 44 pistol he had and threatened to shoot Denny. Just as he leveled the gun at Denny, Horsethief grabbed the end of the barrel.

"He didn't really want all that mess in his cabin. Carl pulled the trigger, though. It blew off all three of Horsethief's fingers about in the middle, and the bullet struck Denny right square in the brisket. It caused quite a turmoil and, after the dust settled, they decided they ought to take old Denny to town to see Doc Alexander. My uncle, Elmer Coffman, lived up the creek and he had
an old Chevy car. They got Denny up there, but the car lights wouldn’t work so Ted Wadman sat on the fender and held a kerosene lantern while they drove Denny to Winnett.

"Horsethief wouldn’t go to the doctor with them. The gun had blown his fingers off clean. The others had to travel fairly slow with that dim light, and they didn’t get Denny to town until three o’clock in the morning. Doc looked at Denny and said, ‘Well, I guess he ain’t gonna die or he’d have done it by now. Just take him on back and we’ll see what happens.’ Denny carried that bullet until the day he died; it was lodged against his spine.

‘I asked Henry, Carl’s brother, about the incident. He said, ‘Brother Carl didn’t really mean to shoot Denny; that old pistol had a hair trigger and in the excitement it went off.’

‘A couple of months after this happened, Jack Dunphy happened to be talking with Horsethief, and Horsethief said, ‘If you had been down to my place this morning you would have heard some yowling,’ Jack said. ‘How come?’ Brown replied, ‘I pulled the ends off those bones that stuck out where the meat on my fingers shrunk up.’ That Horsethief was sure a tough cuss!’

BRUMBERGER, Alfred (Sec 24-17-27) Emma and Alfred Brumberger were parents to Edward Stauffacher (1905). (See also STAUFFACHER — WINNETT)

BURKE, Oren (Sec 31-17-28) Alberta Burke Kovacich wrote her family’s history: “My father, Oren Burke, was born October 9, 1870, in Brookfield, Missouri. My mother, Gladys Miriam Scott, was born February 14, 1870, in Mills County, Iowa. The children born to them were Mildred (1893), Hattie Pearl (1895), Clara Gwendolyn (Dottie) (1897), Nina Gladys (1900), Carl Oren (1904), Bernard Marcus (1908), Brison Morris (1908) and Alberta (1910).

‘The family lived on the 320-acre homestead three miles northwest of Ashley from 1916 to 1926. We received our mail at the post office at Ashley or from a neighbor. Mr. Wood. Ashley also had a small store, and about twice a year we drove a pair of mules and a wagon to Ashley to get needed supplies. Schools we attended included Ashley, Olson, Bridger, Kid Hollow, Winnett and Blood Creek.

‘Crops raised were rye, wheat, corn and white beans. We had a few cattle and Mother raised turkeys and chickens. My dad hauled water on a stoneboat in two fifty-gallon barrels, a half mile, for household use. For livestock, he dipped water out of the spring into a trough he had hewed out of a log. We did the family washing on a scrub board or in an old wooden washer that we ran by hand.

‘Once in a while there would be a dance at one of the neighbors, and we would dance all night to a one-piece band — a fiddle. Of course my brother Bernard and I rode horseback. There was no other entertainment, except an occasional Sunday baseball game. At one of these games a neighbor’s horse got loose. My brother and another fellow tried to catch it. The horses they were riding collided and when my brother’s horse went over backward, Bernard struck his head on a rock. He was rushed to the hospital in Lewistown, where he passed away early Monday morning.

‘We were very poor people. Mother made all our clothes from hand-me-downs. I never had a ‘boughten’ coat until I was 16 years old. Our nearest neighbor lady lived 1½ miles away so Mother must have been very lonely.

‘In 1926 we had a farm sale and sold everything but a few things from the house. We loaded what we had left into a covered wagon and drove to Lewistown. The mules and wagon were sold to Ed Roehl. We went by train to Mt. Vernon, Washington, where we found work picking strawberries and cherries. From there we went to Oakland, California, for some time, then back to Mt. Vernon and then back to Lewistown a year later.

‘In Lewistown, Dad worked as elevator operator in the Bank Electric Building. Mother was employed at the Burke Hotel, and I took whatever jobs I could get. Father died in Lewistown in January of 1953. Mother died August 16, 1943, in Lewistown. I am the last member of the Burke family.’

BURROWS, Isabelle M. (Sec 14,15-16-28) Isabelle Burrows was the mother of Sadie Burrows. Sadie Burrows married Eben Ashley. When Isabella died, Sadie bought her mother’s desert land homestead claim.

CASSIDY, Frank (Sec 5-16-27) Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cassidy and son Henry all homesteaded in the Ashley country — Mrs. (Ella) in Section 3: Frank in 5-16-27; and their son, Henry, shared section 26 of the same township with Henry Hubert.

Ella Cassidy taught two terms in the Ashley School, District #183, from September 4, 1917, through December 24, 1918. Henry Cassidy taught the Harts School of District #122 for three terms from April 5, 1915, through December 22, 1916. He also taught two terms in District #183 from April 23, 1917, to July of 1917 and from February of 1919 to June 27, 1919.

Cassidy lived in the community for at least fourteen years. The Winnett Times of April 10, 1931, told of their departure:

“Henry Cassidy is offering his farm equipment, livestock, and household goods at auction sale Thursday, April 16th, with L. W. Hamilton, auctioneer, and E. S. Booth, clerk. Mr. Cassidy and his parents will move to Boise, Idaho, where a sister resides and where they expect to make their future home. Mr. Cassidy’s parents are advanced in years, and it is his desire to locate in a more thickly settled country and in closer proximity to a town or city. Hosts of friends of the Cassidys will regret their departure but wish them well in their new location.”
CATLIN, Irvin (Sec 9-16-27) A Winnett Times obituary of January 9, 1931, tells of Mr. Catlin's death: "I. Catlin, pioneer rancher of the Ashley country, passed away suddenly Sunday evening of heart failure. He had finished milking and sat down to rest while Mrs. Catlin was making preparations to separate the cream. While seated in the chair, he quietly passed away. Funeral services were held Thursday at the Aristo Theatre, with Rev. Swisher officiating. Interment was in the Winnett Cemetery. He leaves to mourn his loss, his wife, a daughter Mrs. Mable Towne, and a son Vane."

The Catlin's daughter, Mable Towne, also homesteaded nearby in Sec. 15-16-27. She had a son, Olin.

Vane homesteaded in Sec 10-16-27. He married Winnifred Smith of Winnett and they had a son, Larry. (See also CATLIN, DUGAN, SMITH, TOWNE — Winnett)

CHADD, James H. (Sec 4-16-29) The Winnett Times of June 7, 1929, reveals some history of Mr. Chadd: "Between twelve and one o'clock Monday noon, James H. Chadd dropped dead in his cabin on his ranch in the Ashley country. He had been feeling ill for the past week but on the morning of his death he had made a statement to a neighbor that he was feeling fine and intended to get his garden in shape. It is presumed that he overworked in the garden and while preparing his dinner dropped to the floor with heart failure, dying instantly.

"Neighbors found him at one o'clock and immediately arranged to have remains brought to Winnett. The deceased was a member of the local Odd Fellows Lodge, and the Order took charge of funeral arrangements. Efforts to locate relatives brought word from a niece in Kansas who was unable to attend the funeral. Deceased was 78 years of age and came to the Ashley country about 33 years ago. He was born in Iowa. Records of his birthplace and where he resided before arriving here are very meager. Pending location of close relatives, practically no information can be obtained.

"Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon in the M. E. church, Rev. Belle Harmon, Grassrange, officiating due to the absence of Rev. Swisher. Interment was made in the Winnett Cemetery.

"James H. Chadd was a fine old gentleman of the pioneer type. He was never curious about other people's business and gave out no information about his own. His neighbors vouch for him as a man of honor and one who was generous to a fault."

CHANTRY, William (Sec 13-16-28) Three children were born to William and Daisy Chantry: Wyona (1897), Ralph (1903), and Allen (1905).

COFFMAN, Elmer (Sec 17-16-28) Elmer Coffman married Stella Manuel in 1917. They moved to Elmer's homestead in the Ashley area about four miles west of Ashley. They were the parents of nine children — Edith (1918), Thomas (1919), Doris (1921), Don (1924), Fern (1925), June (1928), Joan (1931), James (1932), and Bill (1935). They moved to Fairfield to farm in 1931. Stella resides there to this day.

The Winnett Times of April 8, 1927, reported the following tragic incident in the lives of the Coffman family: "While playing at the base of a rimrock at his father's farm about 18 miles north of Winnett. Thomas Coffman, age 7, was instantly killed Wednesday afternoon when a slab of sandstone eight feet long, two feet wide, and sixteen inches thick, weighing about 1600 pounds, fell upon him crushing out his life instantly. The child's parents, Mrs. and Mrs. Coffman, were in Winnett for supplies and left Thomas and the two younger children at home.

"Upon returning and noticing the absence of the child, the father first shouted and then made a search for him. So completely was the unfortunate youth covered by the slab, the father passed him without noticing he was under it. The finding of his cap close to the scene of the accident led to the discovery. The parents had to use pries to remove the rock from the crushed remains of the child.

"In the springtime frost and weather often break loose large slabs from the sandstone rimrocks in this section. Mr. Coffman, being aware of this, had taken note of the dangerous overhanging slab and the day previous had attempted to break it loose with a crowbar, but was unable to do so. The following day it fell and crushed the life out of his oldest son." (See also MANUEL — Cat Creek)

All Aboard! Wilma Manuel, Edith Coffman, Thomas Coffman, Carroll Manuel, Doris Coffman, Merle Manuel, Don Coffman, Fern Coffman

CUTRIGHT, William (Sec 27-16-28) Stella Manuel Coffman submitted the following on the Cutrights: "William Cutright was cooking for a cattle roundup for the McCauley Ranch of Grassrange, Montana, and was camped on Cat Creek near my dad's cabin. My brother Archie helped him stake out a homestead. The next spring (about 1915), Bill and his wife moved to the homestead. They were the parents of a daughter, Inez.

"Bill played the violin and made a few dollars playing for dances. I had a sewing machine, so made dresses for Inez.
"As a little girl, Inez rode an old gray mare named Bessie to school. As an adult she married 'Pinky' Gregg. They worked in the Cut Bank oil field and also trucked in Winnett for a time. Pinky died in Cut Bank. Inez now lives in a rest home in Conrad, Montana." (See also GREGG — Winnett)

**DUNN, Sterry** (Sec 2, 25-17-28) Sterry Dunn was born October 10, 1897, at Loska, Michigan. He came to Dovetail in 1915. The Dunn Ridge was probably named for him. He moved to Winnett and, with James Shipton as a partner, set up a confectionery in the lobby of the old Savoy Hotel. He never married and died May 9, 1938. (W.T. 5-13-38)

**ENGEL, Henry** (Sec 34-16-28) (Submitted by Carroll Manuel) "Henry was a bachelor who came to the Cat Creek country from the Gallatin Valley. He homesteaded north of Shay a couple of miles. The government built a dam on his old place in 1938. It is one of the best dams I know of. It has never been dry since it was built. Henry farmed with mules on his homestead. He served a stretch in World War I and brought back a collection of shells from the war.

"Some time after the war, he went broke. He was the first person I ever knew that took bankruptcy. At that time people frowned on people who beat their debts that way. After he lost his place, he lived on the Thorsen place. Shorty had moved to the Cat Creek oil field and was working there. After the bankruptcy, Henry got to keep a few horses, a little machinery and his Model T Ford. He was a good blacksmith and could make anything he needed.

"Shorty Thorsen quit the oil field and moved back to his place in about 1929. He and a group of people who worked in the oil field started the Cat Creek Sheep Company. Henry then moved to the old Frank Corbin place. At that time, lots of places were just being abandoned. Henry didn’t have a lease or anything, he just moved in. The place had been foreclosed on by Mabel and Minnie Wintemute. They had loaned homesteaders a lot of money and ended up with their places. They eventually got the land all sold after the big depression, but they took quite a beating. Henry kept the fences up and fixed up a horse barn.

"The place had a drilled water well and windmill. Hank farmed some and had a nice bunch of laying hens. He raised a hog to butcher now and then, but never a cow. Of course, his credit was not good. He had stuck Mr. Eager pretty bad so he had to pay cash for his groceries. He lived mostly on sourdough bread, chicken and eggs. He kept his old Model T running all the time he lived there and went to Winnett about once a month.

"Henry trapped every winter, too. He never caught many coyotes but he always got a few. That really interested me. He taught me how to trap. He was always breaking a colt to drive so he tended his traps with a team and a light wagon he had made. He also built a sheep wagon out of junk he gathered up around the country. He sorted through the old homesteads when people left, and took what he needed. He hauled off some of the old log buildings for wood. He used the sheep wagon he had built to camp in while he worked on the W.P.A. building dams. I traded my old Model T to him for the wagon after the W.P.A. was over.

"After everyone moved away, it was a problem getting grain threshed, especially if you only had a little dab. After Lane and Bailey burned Barber’s thresher up, Henry took the cylinder and straw walker and rigged up a thresher in Orlie Cox’s old house that he had dragged in. He borrowed Shorty Thorsen’s old tractor to pull it with. Shorty had a 10-20 International tractor that had the rear end out of it, but the motor ran and the belt pulley worked so they used it to saw wood and grind feed. Henry would borrow it to thresher his grain. He pulled it where he wanted it with a four-horse team.

"The neighbors traded work and borrowed machinery all the time. That way, the bachelors got a good woman-cooked meal now and then! When the W.P.A. quit, Hank went lambing every spring. By the early 1940s, however, people were buying up land again. Hank didn’t want to buy or lease, so in the spring of 1943 he had a sale and left the country. He went back to the Gallatin Valley and got a job on a chicken farm. He eventually married the woman he was working for."

**ENOS, Alonzo** (Sec 1, 12, 13, 14-16-28) Alonzo, besides being a farmer, was a rural mail carrier from Winnett to the Ashley Post Office. His wife, Fern, was clerk of School District #181. They were the parents of four children: Merna (1914), George (1917), Bethel Annie (1919) and Donald Edward (1925).

Donald Edward passed away in Winnett at the age of one month and nine days. Services for him were held from the Methodist Church with the Rev. Redfield officiating. The family moved to Dowagiac, Michigan, after Mother Fern died in 1928. Merna graduated from Dowagiac High School in 1933. She developed peritonitis and died in June of 1933.

**EVANS, Joseph M.** From the Winnett Times of 11-21-1930: "Service officer, Otto Moore of the local American Legion post was sorely disappointed Tuesday when the government headstone for Joseph M. Evans arrived, and was found to be broken through the middle. As service officer, Mr. Moore orders the government headstones for deceased soldiers buried in this country. "There are a great number of forms to fill out, and red tape to handle, to get a government headstone. When the first one arrived broken, Otto could see another six month's delay. The deceased soldier was a member of the 16th Michigan Infantry during the Civil War, and is buried in the Ashley Cemetery. The slab is of white marble, four feet high, five inches thick, and about 14 inches wide."
EVANS, Mary (Sec 7-17-28) "Mrs. Mary Evans, aged 72 years, was found dead in her bed at the home of her son a week ago Thursday at Blood Creek, 26 miles north of here. Old age or heart trouble is given as the cause. The body was buried in that vicinity." (W.T. 8-5-21)

EVANS, Richard (Sec 7,8-17-29) Myrtle and Richard Evans were parents of two daughters, Florence (1907) and Laura Pearl (1912); also two sons, Floyd (1908) and Lloyd (1910).

FAIRBAIRN, John John Fairbairn was born March 20, 1860, in Scotland; Fannie Massangale was born in St. Joseph, Missouri. They were married in 1900. The family moved to a farm in the Blood Creek area in 1919. Groceries and supplies were purchased in Winnett. The schools their children attended were Blood Creek, Cat Creek, Valentine, Winnett and Killian. Transportation was by horseback, wagon, or sled. Their first house was a dugout and a log cabin. Later a frame house was built by Tom Fairbairn in Sec 1-17-28, nearer to the school. Farm neighbors were Ed Rice, Jennie Lewis, Suttons, Bridgers and Martyrs.

There were eleven children: George Robert (1904), John Okland (1906), Thomas Vern (1907), Peter William (1909), Ruby Jane (1911), Richard Ernest (1914), Ethel Grace (1917), Bessee "May" (1919), Stella March (1921), Fannie Cecil (1924), Henry Alvin (1928). The family lived in the Straw, Montana, area from 1904 to 1919 so only the three youngest children were born in Petroleum County.

May Fairbairn Allison, who was only eight months old when the family moved to Blood Creek in 1919, lived in the area until 1940. She remembered lots of snow some years, and storms, particularly one bad hailstorm. Her mother and the older children used buckets and tubs to put over their heads to protect themselves, as they tried to save the turkeys. The frightened turkeys were just sitting with their heads back, letting the water and hail run down their throats, drowning themselves.

In addition to turkeys, the family had horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and chickens. May remembered that horses were used to haul water on a stoneboat from a dam a mile from the house. On one occasion, one of the horses balked at pulling the load up the bank. Tom had to unhook the horse. Then he, Tom, helped the remaining horses pull the load up! After the balky horse was hooked again to the stoneboat, he pulled willingly the rest of the way home.

May worked for Mrs. Jennie Lewis during her school years. Later she was employed by various neighbors for $10.00 a month. Except for two years spent in Iowa, she has lived in Lewistown since she left Petroleum County in 1940. She and her husband, James Allison, raised three daughters. One of the girls, Fannie Bell, was the daughter of George and Beulah (Tillet) Fairbairn, but was raised from birth by the Allisons. The other girls were Grace Marie and Alma Rose.


FISHER, Charles Blanche and Charles Fisher were parents and/or guardians of the following children: Clifford Lane (1925), Betty Lane (1926), Mary Ann Fisher (1930) and Patricia Mae Fisher (1930).

GARDNER, Richard (Sec 30-17-27) Richard Gardner, the son of Paul and Isabelle Gardner, was born in Valier, Montana. Leaving Valier by covered wagon when he was two years old, his family traveled to the Ronan, Montana, area. He attended grade and high school at Ronan. In 1957 he joined the Army and served two years. Upon returning from the Army, Dick began building his cattle herd. He married Ivy White from Hot Springs, Montana, in 1959.

Ivy was born in Shelby, Montana. Her parents were D. L. and Irene White. As a child she lived in Bozeman, Big Timber, and in 1950 her family moved to Hot Springs, Montana. There she attended grade and high school.

After Ivy and Dick were married, they ranched in the Hot Springs area, and in 1960 they moved to Arlee, Montana. They were engaged in ranching at Arlee until they moved to the Winnett area, where they purchased the Rondall Brady Ranch in June of 1980.

Gardners are the parents of four children: Raymond, Teri, Scott and Cindy. Ray is on the ranch at Winnett. Teri is married to K. C. Weingart and lives in the Dovetail area on a ranch. Scott is presently buying cattle for Black Hills Pack at Rapid City, South Dakota. Cindy is a senior at Winnett High School (1989-90).

Gardners own and operate a ranch sixteen miles north of Winnett on the Dovetail road. They raise commercial and registered Black Angus cattle.

GEIS, Homer (Sec 27,28,33,34-17-27) (See GEIS — Winnett)

GIBSON, Harry (Sec 18-17-27) Flora L. Hays and Harry Gibson were parents and/or guardians of: Harry Gibson (1915) and Estelle Gibson (1916).

GILCHRIST, Louie (Sec 10,11-16-28) Louie Gilchrist was evidently a bachelor landowner. The Winnett Times of March 21, 1930, offered some information:

"Louie Gilchrist, rancher of the Ashley country was found dead beside his wood pile Sunday by John Fairbairn, who had called to visit him. A pan full of chips with a rope attached to it to enable Louie to drag the chips to his cabin indicated that he was getting kindling when he dropped dead, likely from heart failure. He was 77 years of age and was living alone at the time of his death. "

Sheriff Anderson and Coroner Hamilton were immediately notified and drove out to the Gilchrist ranch and brought the remains to Winnett where they were laid to rest in the potter's field, the deceased being without means. A nephew in Indiana was notified."

GRINDY, Henry (Sec 27-17-24) (See GRINDY — Blakeslee)
GRINDY, John (Sec 22-17-24) (See GRINDY — Blakeslee)

GROVES, Earl Earl Groves owned land and farmed in the Ashley-Blood Creek area about 25 miles northeast of Winnett. He was born April 1, 1889. Ethel Harris was born October 30, 1887. They married and became the parents of two children, William A. and Laura E.

Earl and Ethel were later divorced, and Ethel married Matt Mikich, a homesteader of the locality.

Son William "Bill" Groves married Clara Pollock, a girl from the Flatwillow community.

Laura graduated from Winnett High School in 1931. Laura was always good-natured, and had a wonderful sense of humor which she used to brighten the days of others. She completed nurses training in Butte, Montana, married, and became the mother of two children, Marilyn and William Riley.

Earl Groves died April 30, 1952. Ethel Mikich died August 13, 1969. Laura is also deceased. (See also MIKICH — Ashley) (See also POLLOCK — Flatwillow)

GUHRT, Emma (Sec 30-16-29) (Submitted by Robert J. Garriston) "Emma came to the Winnett area in 1916, from Minnesota, to be with her sister Minnie Spaulding who was about to have a baby. Her sister died four months after the baby was born. Emma took the baby, Gard Spaulding, to raise. Her brother (George Guhrt) who had a homestead northwest of Cat Creek, said, if she stayed, he would help her till she married. There was some land next to his so she homesteaded it. In 1923 she married Robert Garriston. He came from Kansas in 1921 to work in the Cat Creek oil field. The couple had a son, Robert, and a daughter, Eileen. (See also GARRISTON — Cat Creek)

"In 1925 the family moved to Ollmont, Montana, and in 1927 they moved north of Ferdig, Montana, to pump a lease known as the P. M. K. In 1935 they moved to Billings to start a trucking business hauling oil. In 1944 they sold that to start hauling livestock. They quit the trucking business in 1964 but their son and son-in-law continued the business until 1984.

"Robert Garriston passed away in 1980 and Emma Garriston passed away in 1987."

GUHRT, George (Sec 31-16-29) George Guhrt was born in 1894 in Rochester, Minnesota. He came to the Cat Creek area in 1916. He served for 18 months in World War I. In 1924 he married Lois Hamilton. Lois was born in Illinois in 1895. Her sister Florence married James Cox who also resided in the Cat Creek area. About 1927 the Guhrts bought a place on the Musselshell River.

George and Lois had two sons — George Jr. (1928) and Don (1930). The boys started school at the Brown School which was about two or three miles from their ranch. They always rode horseback to school no matter how cold it was or how deep the snow.

The Guhrts had a remarkable collie dog. George Guhrt Jr. wrote the following about her. "The collie is one dog I'll never forget. I remember one time the river was so high that nobody could cross it on horseback to get the milk cows. Dad worked and worked with the dog until she finally swam the river and started the cows across all by herself!"

The Guhrts left the river in 1939 to make their home in Joliet, Montana. George was killed in a tractor accident in 1951. Lois died in 1973.

George Jr. has lived in the Bitterroot Valley near Darby, Montana, since 1954. Don is retired and spends his winters in Arizona and his summers in Alaska. (See also GUHRT — Cat Creek)

HAMILL, Genevieve Miss Hamill came to this area of the country in the fall of 1933. She submitted the following history of her teaching experience:

"I was born in Anaconda, Montana, January 19, 1912. That was where I received my elementary education and graduated from Anaconda High School in 1930. My teacher training was at Dillon Normal School where I graduated with a two-year diploma which certified me as a teacher in elementary schools.

"I taught school in several rural areas. 1933 — the Warren Brady School where there were four grades with one pupil in each grade. The pupils were: Arthur Brady, Helen Quigg, James Quigg and Lyle Phillips. 1933-1934 — the Brown School east of Cat Creek. Pupils were Betty and Margery Shaugnessy and Alvin Fail.

"1934-1935 — Brady School. Students were Earl and Roy Brady; Claudia, Harvey and Gloria Hubert; Opal, Cliff and Betty Fisher. 1935-1936 — Welter School. Students were Evelyn, Marvin, Floyd and Lester Lewis; Donna, William and Burney Marshall; Helen and Mary Leslie.

"As the years went by I taught in the Marty School from 1937-1938. The pupils were Francis Sutton and Joan Marty. The Long School was next from 1939 to 1940. The students were Stanley Phillips; Roy and Austin Barnett; William, Dick, Virginia Hanson; Benny, Martha and June Marlinoff. The school year of 1943-1944 took me back to the Marty School and the students were Joan Marty; William and Leonard Bridger."
"My wages varied from year to year due to the amount of State aid a school district was allotted. I received wages from $75 to $80 to $100 per month. I finally received $120 a month when Bridgers and Marty's paid $20 from their own pockets.

"I substituted quite often in the Winnett School. Remembering these schools brings back good memories of pupil relationships which continue between former students and myself.

"We had no expensive gym equipment — only a teeter-totter built by John Marty; balls and bats for baseball; marbles and jump ropes.

"I became a part of the Ashley community when I married Rondall Brady March 23, 1935." (See also BRADY, Rondall — Ashley)

HUBERT, Phillip (Sec 2-16-27) This is written by Gloria Hubert Johnson. She relates some fond memories of her childhood and family while living in Petroleum County.

"My mother, Alice Sarah Brady, was born on October 5, 1897, in what was then called Indian Territory. It is now near Tulsa, Oklahoma. The family moved often to wherever work was available, moving to Montana in 1914 by horse and wagon. Mother had finished eighth grade before moving to Montana. She played the piano, but I do not know who taught her to read music.

"Mother worked at the Forbes Leslie Ranch and married Phillip Hubert on September 16, 1921, in Lewistown, Montana. They lived on my grandfather's homestead (Peter Hubert Sr.) and the Dyer place. The Peter Hubert homestead is located southeast of the Rondall Brady Ranch, now a part of Dick and Ivy Gardner's Ranch.

"The Dyer home is located southwest of the Rondall Brady Ranch. We lived most of the time at the Dyer home where I was born June 28, 1924. Claudia, the oldest child, was born on June 8, 1922, on Grandpa's homestead and my brother (the youngest) was born on the homestead, August 24, 1927.

"I remember the Dyer home. It was a large home for that period of time — a two-story frame house with full-sized cement basement, hardwood floors and plastered walls. It even had a room for a future bathroom, but that was never installed. We had to carry every drop of water from a well in a coulee about a fourth of a mile from the house. Full buckets of water all had to be carried uphill. To keep milk, butter, etc., fresh, we put it in a bucket and dropped it into the well far enough to hit the cold water in the well.

"Mama never had a doctor for any of her pregnancies; all three of us were born at home. She had a midwife, Mrs. Bridger, trained in England, to help. I was born two months premature and weighed two and one-half pounds. Mrs. Bridger didn't think I would survive, and she put me in the oven to keep me warm while attending Mama.

"My father, Phillip Hubert, was born May 20, 1898, in Russia, but of a German settlement. His family came to America in 1907 when Dad was a young boy. They moved to Winnett with my grandfather, Peter Hubert Sr., Peter Hubert Jr., and a brother-in-law, Phillip Stumph. They received their citizenship papers in 1918 in Lewistown.

"All but my father and his brother Peter, moved to California after proving on their homesteads. My father farmed and raised cattle and sheep on the Dyer place and Hubert homestead. During the 1930 depression, Dad worked for the W. P. A., and Uncle Pete worked on the Fort Peck Dam. In 1938, my parents moved to Fairfield, Montana, on government land, and my Uncle Pete went to California.

"The Dyer place was located on the county road and the folks were called upon for any emergencies — car trouble, stuck in the mud or snow, even broken legs. I can remember a different kind of trouble — during the depression, the county was working on the road. My dad and Dad's older brother, Peter Hubert Jr., were fixing the fence at one of our fields. There they found gas barrels covered by thistles by the fence.

"They reported it to the sheriff, Otto Moore. Mr. Moore
asked my Uncle Pete to keep an eye on the barrels to see who came for them. I don’t know how long it was before Ike Killian came. Uncle Pete had to testify at the trial. As Ike Killian was being led away to begin serving his sentence of fourteen years, he swore he would kill Uncle Pete. I was so worried for Uncle.

"There was an artesian well located southeast of the Rondall Brady Ranch. It was a miracle to me to see all that water gushing. I understand it is now a small flow.

"Harvey, Claudia, and I went to school by horse and buggy, driving three miles. When the weather was too cold or snow too deep, Dad or Uncle Pete, who lived with us for a time, hitched a team of horses to the sled and drove us to school. I remember a heated, wrapped stone or brick we warmed our feet on.

"Our favorite teacher was Miss Hamill, who was my fifth grade teacher. She became our Aunt Gen when she married my mother’s youngest brother, Rondall Brady. At that time, there were five students at the Brady school: my sister, Claudia; my brother, Harvey; and my two cousins, Carl and Roy Brady. Leta, along with the Sims children, Howard, LeRoy, Claude, and Dean; and Betty Lane and Opal Fisher also attended earlier. They all moved in approximately 1932-34.

"I don’t recall all my teachers’ names: some were Miss Scherle (now Mrs. Albert Adams) and Mrs. Nora Lund. Mother taught my sister, Claudia, and me piano. We never had formal lessons.

"Brady school was used for many social affairs, church and Sunday school, dances, box socials, and baseball games on the school grounds. The school was warmed by a big pot-bellied stove. We roasted on one side, and froze on the other.

"My parents moved to Fairfield, Montana, on government resettlement land in 1938. They moved to Bremerton, Washington, in 1943 and returned to Fairfield, Montana, in 1967 when they retired. My father died and was buried in Fairfield. My parents had a rough, but memorable, life together, and I’m sure they would not have changed any of it even if possible.

HULBERT, Henry (Sec 26-16-27) Henry Hulbert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hulbert, was born March 25, 1893, at Redwood Falls, Minnesota. The family later moved to Ladysmith, Wisconsin. Henry moved to western Montana in 1919, and reportedly, homesteaded there.

He also owned a piece of land that was explored for oil during the boom days of Petroleum County. From the drilling, came the flowing artesian well that is still known as the Ohio well. It produces good, soft water, and many of Henry’s homesteading neighbors hauled their water from this well. "There was a little building over it." Pearl Stewart recalls, "and people would go up there to bathe in the summertime."

Henry married Hazel Bell Blakeman at Ladysmith October 16, 1922. They moved to Billings, Montana, in 1922, where Henry was employed as a carpenter. Mrs. Hulbert died February 14, 1967. Henry died December 22, 1969. At the time of Henry’s death, one daughter was noted as a survivor — Mrs. Cliff Weller.

IVERNSON, Jens (Sec 15-16-29) Jens Iverson made final three-year proof on his homestead May 23, 1921. He also acquired an additional homestead in section 10 of the same township.

JOHNSON, Samuel Eva and Samuel Johnson had one son Merle (1917).

JOHNSTON, Charles W. (Sec 29-16-29) (Submitted by Carroll Manuel) "Charlie came to this country from the Big Hole Country. I don’t know what brought him here. He homesteaded in the breaks about five miles northwest of Cat Creek, and built a set of buildings by a little spring. He brought a band of real nice French Coach mares with him. French Coach horses are carriage horses, bigger than saddle horses but just as agile and trim.

'*Horsethief' Brown had these kind of horses, too, so Brown and Johnston got to be buddies and sold each other studs. About all the good saddle horses in these parts came from one or the other. Jack Dunphy also got a
couple of mares from Charlie and raised some saddle horses. Boy! Those old mares were tough to round up in the breaks. They knew every ridge and coulee and if they ever got the jump on you, you just never got them.

"Charlie didn't stay too many years in the breaks as his spring didn't put out enough water. Also, he had a neighbor who was in the moonshine business that he was deathly afraid of. There were a couple of bachelors over on Cat Creek by the name of Post. Jim Post died in 1924, and his brother Neil couldn't get around too well as he had a hip joint that wouldn't stay where it was supposed to. After Jim died, Neil sure needed someone to look after him, so Charlie moved in.

"They had a one-room log cabin and a nice barn in the bank, and a team or two. Charlie nor Posts never had a cow till later, but they did have a nice bunch of laying hens. Charlie farmed a little and raised enough for chicken feed. He also raised a hog or two to butcher, and he had a good garden — the first big Hubbard squash I can remember seeing.

"Charlie was getting old and didn't ride much when I can first remember him. The neighbors branded his colts (and not all for Charlie either!). Neil had some money as their place was a 'hot spot' in the oil boom that was taking place at the time. It really didn't take much for a couple of old bachelors to live on. Charlie had one old team. He hauled wood from the breaks and drinking water from the Kuhry spring about a mile north of where they lived. Charlie put up a little hay every summer to feed his team. I can remember him cutting hay with a scythe along the creek where he couldn't mow.

"Neil's niece from back East came out and took Neil back with her in 1931. He never was back after that. Charlie then got a milk cow and lived on milk and eggs, mostly. I remember how he smoked Union Leader tobacco that came in a square can, using newspaper to roll it in to make his cigarettes.

"In 1935, Charlie's arthritis became very bad, and he moved to Winnett that winter. He sold his cow and his old team. He still had a little bunch of range horses. Then, he moved to Montaquia, down by Jollet, Montana, where there was a big hot mineral spring. He lived there till he passed away in 1943.

"The fall of 1939 Charlie sold his horses to Ralph Harvey. Ralph had a little place south of Musselshell, Montana, that he stayed on in the summer. His wife taught school in Chicago and Ralph was a brakeman on the Milwaukee railroad with a run out of Chicago. I broke three of the geldings to ride for him.

"Charlie was quite a storyteller and loved to talk about horses. Some of the natives nicknamed him 'Crazy-Horse' Johnston."

KENNEDY, Hugh (Sec 10,11-16-28) Ethel and Hugh Kennedy had one son, Lemuel (1908).

KILLIAN, William D. (Sec 11-16-27) The Killians were early settlers in the Ashley country. "They lived just north of Ed Henton's place." Pearl Stewart recalls, "and my brother, Earl, and I hoed corn for them one summer. They had a good well for drinking, so we hauled some of our water from there."

The Killians had a grown son, Ike, who had a "knack" for getting into trouble. In June of 1930 the Winnett Times reported: "Clever detective work on the part of the sheriff's office resulted in the apprehension of Ike Killian and Glen Sullenger. Monday night as they were about to load up on county gasoline which had been stolen from the Brush Creek Basin road camp about three weeks ago."

"Sometime prior the sheriff's force located the cache of gas and oil in a thicket of sage about six or eight miles from the road camp. The sheriff and deputy set up a stakeout and the two were caught coming back for the stolen items. They both plead not guilty, so a hearing and trial followed later."

A week after the capture, the Winnett Times story continued "Just before dawn Wednesday morning, neighbors were attracted to the Ike Killian ranch in the north country by clouds of smoke and leaping blazes. The entire ranch was razed by the fire with a total loss of all personal property, including harnesses and saddles. The Killian family were absent, being in Winnett to be present at the preliminary hearing of Killian and Sullenger, charged with theft of county property. The fire was of strange and unknown origin."

In 1931 the Times reported: "Ike Killian, charged with stealing county property was found guilty in district court, and was sentenced to ten years in the state penitentiary.

"Glen Sullenger, who was jointly charged with the crime turned state's evidence and told the whole story with such telling effect that the jury was out but a short time before returning the verdict with the sentence included."

KLOCK, Charles (Sec 27-16-27) Charlie Klock was one of the many young bachelors who homesteaded north of Winnett in the early 1900s. He, Dave Henton, Jake Beetsaha and Henry Hulbert were great friends. Charlie's mother and sister came to visit one summer.

After Charlie left, he went to Hadlock, Washington, where he owned an oyster farm.
had my uncle Arch do his farming for him. Otto never did raise much of a crop. He never even had a granary that I can remember. He would do carpentry for the other homesteaders and that was how he lived. He would stay with the different ones for a month or two and fix up their place. He was an expert at building swings. Otto never used any ropes for the seats. He fixed them so you could sit in the swing cage — some would hold two or three people. You pulled on a rope and this made the swing go.

"About 1930, Otto bought a new Plymouth coupe. Boy! Did he ever have a time trying to drive the thing. He never did tip it over, but he ran over and into many things! His friend, Bill Wadman, wouldn't ride with his wife, Mary, but he would ride with Otto. These two liked to venture down to Bill Spellman's place and drink a little moonshine now and then. One time, the party got a little rough, and Otto got the corner of his eye torn down about a half inch. He didn't go to the doctor to have it sewed up. It sure didn't improve his looks any!

"Otto talked very broken. One time he was down at my Uncle Arch's place and he said something I thought was really funny. Those Scandinavian's all have their V's and W's mixed up so they sound funny. Otto said to one of the Wadmons, 'Ho! Ho! Vodman, if the vimen chopp the wood, it lasts longer!'

"When the depression hit, Otto went down to A. B. Mitchell's place on the Musselshell River and stayed there and chopped posts out in the cedar timber. He got tularemia from eating a diseased rabbit, and died."

**LONG, John** (Sec 20-16-27) Two Winnett Times articles furnished some history on John Long: "John Long, residing about ten miles north of Winnett, has just completed a gigantic dam over 400 feet in length and running from 3½ to 7 feet in height. Mr. Long states that this dam will cover an acre of land with water and will assure him an ample supply for irrigating his garden and watering his stock. Another dam, nearer the building, will supply water for general purposes.

"Mr. Long estimated that the large dam required six weeks work with four horses and Fresno with an additional man about half time. From a distance the big dam appears like a railroad grade. With both dams now complete, Mr. Long never expects to be short of water." (W. T. 9-3-26)

"John Long returned from Bozeman sometime ago where he has purchased 160 acres of land. Mr. Long loaded a car of farming implements last week for shipment to his purchase near Gallatin Gateway. He left Monday morning by auto and planned to make a stop in Billings on business before going on to the Gallatin Gateway, where his ranch is located.

"We hate to see Mr. Long leave this territory as he had been a much respected citizen here for many years, but we join his many friends in wishing him all the success in the world on his new ranch." (W. T. 1-8-32)

**LONG, Walter** (Sec 3-16-28) Elva and Walter Long were parents of Floyd (1918) and Mildred (1916).
LUKE, Clyde (Sec 5,6,7,8-16-29) Clyde was a newcomer to Montana in 1911. He worked for Walter J. Winnnett and, with John Luke, homesteaded in the Ashley area. He and Daisy Morrill, a homestead neighbor, were married in July of 1921. An account of their wedding appeared in the Winnnett Times of October 14, 1914:

"Mr. Clyde Luke and Miss Daisy Morrill were married at the Winnnett home at eight o’clock Sunday evening by Justice Ira Pierson. The bride and groom came expecting a quiet wedding, but were surprised to find about 50 guests gathered to spend the evening with them.

"After the ceremony, the guests were entertained with music. Miss Morrill is from Grassrange, and has recently filed on a homestead near Winnett. Mr. Luke has been here for several years and is well known in this country. His many friends wish him and his bride many anniversaries of this happy event."

The Lukes were active members of the community until March of 1928 when they moved to Lavina, Montana. Although they had no children of their own, they were very popular with the young folks of the neighborhood. When Clyde died in 1936, many of his young children friends attended the services. It was reported that Daisy Morrill had come west in the first place to land herself a cowboy. And she did!

MALCOLM, Jeff In the school census of 1914, Jeff was noted as being the father of Cara (1907). A notation indicated that the mother was dead.

MALCOLM, Lawson (Sec 32,33-17-27) Mae and Lawson Malcolm were the parents of three children: Lloyd (1908), Holt (1909), and Gaten (1916).

MANUEL, Archie (Sec 34-16-28) Archie was working on a telephone line near Tulsa, Oklahoma, when he received word from his father, James, and his brothers, Martin and Roy, about eastern Montana opening up for homesteading. He came to the Ashley area and filed for a homestead next to his father’s in 1911. Together, James and Archie built a house on James’ land and a barn on Archie’s. For several summers, Archie worked in the Judith Basin on threshing crews and other jobs.

In July of 1921, Archie married Minnie Pribble. They had three sons: Eugene (1922), James (1923), and Rex (1930). In the fall of 1935, Archie and Minnie moved their family to an irrigated farm near Fairfield. Archie died in 1969, but Minnie still resides in Fairfield. Their son, Rex, has always made his home in Fairfield, where he and his wife, Jeannine, have raised five children. Rex has served in the Montana House of Representatives since 1973.

(See also Pribble — Brush Creek)

MANUEL, James (Sec 35-16-28) James Manuel was born November 13, 1845. He married Margaret E. Hale in 1872. To this union thirteen children were born: Walter, Lenton, Van, Arthur, Austin, Jennie, Oscar, James Marion and John Martin (twins), LeRoy, Archie, Charles Orion (Mick), and Stella. Margaret Manuel died in Oklahoma in 1900.

In 1910, urged by two of his sons, Martin and Roy, to come to Montana to homestead, James arrived in Moore with his two youngest children, Mick and Stella. In 1911, he homesteaded 16 miles northeast of Winnett in the Ashley area. Oscar, Martin, Roy and Archie homesteaded nearby. Later Mick homesteaded in the Cottonwood Creek area. James died September 25, 1930, and was buried in the Cat Creek Cemetery.

Stella, although she was only fourteen, became the cook for her father and whatever crew of neighbors happened to be there. She talked of dressing chickens twice a day because of no refrigeration and of baking bread, pies, and cakes in a little fourteen inch, sheet-iron sheepherder stove.

The Shays, who had been Manuel’s neighbors in Oklahoma, were also their neighbors at Cat Creek. When a school was established on the Shay homestead, Stella was asked to attend so they would have five students — a requirement for establishing a new school. The Shay School was a log room about 16 feet square. The teacher was Harry Tripp.

Stella wrote of an incident that she remembered from her Shay School days. "A little first grader, Clarence Bailey, was learning to spell 'acorn.' The teacher asked him how he would remember it. The boy replied 'My ma has a CORN on her toe and takes Pa's razor to cut it off!'"

Dances were a popular form of entertainment. Stella wrote about a time when her brothers Archie and Mick hitched four horses to a bobsled and took Stella and several neighbors to a dance in Winnett. "On the way, we rounded a down-hill curve, and over the sled turned, throwing us all into a snow bank. We gathered ourselves up and went on our way only to discover our stockings were torn and my blouse sleeve had ripped. When we got to Winnett, we borrowed needle and thread to patch our clothes.

"The dance was well under way when I discovered my boyfriend was drunk. Another friend came along and offered to be my partner, but only an hour had passed before he too, was drunk. My brother Mick took the two drunks over to W. J. Winnett's barn and bedded them down. After the dance, we three girls and the two small children crawled into one bed in the Winnett Hotel. The next day being Sunday, we had all been invited to dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Israel E. Thomas, a very religious couple. I am sure we were a sad-looking bunch."

Stella married Elmer A. Coffman in 1917. (See also Coffman — Ashley; Manuel — Cat Creek)

MANUEL, Martin John Martin Manuel was the ninth child of James and Margaret Manuel. Born November 30, 1890, he was a twin of James Marion who died in 1891.

Martin married Etta Johnson of Red Oak, Oklahoma, in 1912. He and Etta along with their first baby, Maxine homesteaded in the area. Etta did not care for the homestead life, so Martin sold his homestead relinquishment to Ford Follette and moved to California.

Four more children were born: Twila, twins Bobby and
Betty, and June. Bobby died at two years of age. At this time (1989), Twila is the only surviving member of this family.

**MANUEL, Oscar C.** (Sec 26-16-28) Oscar had previously gone to North Dakota, married, and had a family. Like his brothers Archie, Martin, Charles and sister Stella, he was lured to this country by the homestead fever.

The family came with two wagons, and drove a few horses and a few cows. They were the parents of Rena (1907), Don (1909), Ted (1911) and Clover (1912).

Oscar homesteaded near the post office of Ashley, Montana. He worked with his horses for the oil company in the early boom days. Two more children were born on the homestead—a girl Coleen, and a son Wendell.

The family moved to Winnett so the older children could attend high school, and Oscar worked as janitor at the school. Oscar and his wife separated and he left home. He was never heard from again.

**MARTY, John** (Sec 6-16-28) Joan Marty Smith, daughter of John Marty, contributed the following: “It is with great pride that I submit the following article about my parent, John and Nan Marty.”

“John Marty was born at Sherrills Mount Iowa, on May 4, 1888. His father was a farmer and when he died, John was needed to work on the family farm. Consequently, John’s schooling ended at about the fourth grade. At the age of fourteen, he left home and bummed his way west on freight trains, working on farms and in lumber camps. When he got to Spokane, Washington, around 1907, he helped build the Monroe Street Bridge which spans the Spokane River.

“Many years of wonderful stories which he told to anyone who would listen. His grandchildren were especially eager to hear ‘Grandpa’s stories.’ In 1912 he came to Montana looking for land on which to homestead. Before he found such a place, he worked for W. J. Winnett raising hogs. Until 1917 when the railroad came to Winnett, the hog crop was sold to Grassrange for shipment to market. The drive was made along McDonald Creek with an overnight at the Teigen Ranch. When the hogs were allowed to roam at large during the winter, some would burry under the haystacks for warmth; but, still, many froze to death.

“John also freighted between Winnett and Grassrange using horses on the freight wagons. In winter it was necessary to walk along with the horses to keep from freezing. He rode the first train to Winnett in 1917.

“After filing on his homestead eighteen miles northeast of Winnett in 1914, he went there to live permanently in 1915. One of his favorite sayings was ‘When I lived on the homestead, I ate so many jack rabbits that every time the dog barked I ran under the porch!’ During World War I he spent a brief stint in the Army, stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, and Camp Presidio, California.

“It was after ten years alone on his homestead that he met Annie Harbert, who would become his bride. She was from Sanderstead, England, where she had been born on May 20, 1889. A sharper contrast in backgrounds could not have been imagined by a writer of fiction than that of John and Nan.

“After eight years of schooling, she had been employed first as a housekeeper and then as a parlor maid for a total of sixteen years. The desert climate, the sagebrush, and cacti of Montana must have seemed a strange environment compared to the lush green hills of England aglow with a vast number of beautiful flowers. To say nothing of the rattlesnakes!

“They were married on March 15, 1923, at the Methodist Church parsonage in Lewistown. After the ceremony the couple headed back to the homestead in their Model T. Upon arriving, they stored the car in the barn, but even so, the motor froze solid overnight. John had forgotten to drain the water from the radiator. That particular car had cost him $40.

“The years on the ranch meant long hours of hard work with few material benefits resulting. John and Nan raised grain, kept hogs, turkeys, chickens, and milk cows. It was not until the early 1940s when they turned to beef cattle that ranching became more profitable. Prior to that they
were plagued by grasshoppers, hail, lack of rain, and low prices for grain. During the Roosevelt administration, John went out to work with the resettlement crews building dams and tearing down homesteads.

"Their only child, Joan, was born on May 28, 1931. She presently lives with her husband, Ken Smith, in Tonasket, Washington. There are four grandchildren — Jeffrey, Molly, Brent and Kelly."

"Many years were to go by before John and Nan saw their childhood homes. In 1936 the two of them, with Joan, made a trip to Iowa to visit. The journey was begun by car but due to rain the roads became a quagmire, so from Hettinger, North Dakota, they continued by train. Joan was ecstatic with her first train ride, her first glimpse of a Negro, and indoor plumbing. In 1951 Nan spent the summer in England, and in 1964 both she and John spent several months there. On the way home, they attended the World's Fair in New York. John complained that Nan 'walked his legs off' in London.

"Montana blizzards have long been a legend and in the winter of 1950, John was caught in town during such a storm. For a week he stewed and fretted about Nan, alone at the ranch, and his cattle. So even though it was still storming, he hired a bulldozer and several trucks loaded with hay, and set out for the ranch. Eighteen hours later they finally arrived. John had often walked ahead of the bulldozer when they lost their way. Nan was all right, having fueled the oil stove with cupsfuls of oil when the main tank went dry. After this harrowing experience, he sold most of the ranch and stock to Wayne Bratten, keeping a small amount of land and stock to manage.

"School for Joan presented interesting problems and equally interesting solutions. Several years, school was held in the bunkhouse which had previously housed the turkeys. For three years she boarded at the Bill Bridgers by the week when their boys started school. Since most of the original homesteaders were long gone, there were very few children to attend any school. There were never more than three enrolled, and one year Joan was alone in school, with Eulalie Winter from the Musselshell River as teacher.

"After Nan had a stroke in January of 1967, John and Nan spent their winters in Lewistown, returning to the ranch in the summer. Thus, life flowed on until 1974, when Nan fell at the ranch while attempting to kill a snake with her cane, and fractured her hip. After three months in traction, she moved to Valle Vista Nursing Home, where John was living after a car accident. Here, in her usual 'take it on the chin' attitude, Nan became known as the 'Mitten Lady,' knitting dozens of pairs of mittens for the staff's children and grandchildren.

"John sorely missed his active life on the ranch and found little to brighten his days. On February 22, 1981, he passed away. Although Nan eventually lost her hearing, sight, and ability to walk, she was never to complain. On October 10, 1987, she died at the age of 98."

Joan added her own memories: "I feel a great sense of pride in being a part of the history of Petroleum County. By the time I was born in 1931, most of the homesteaders had left for 'greener pastures,' so our nearest neighbors were the Bill Bridgers, five miles to the southeast. I remember riding to Winnett in our Model T Ford and having to back up some of the hills so the carburetor would remain full of gas. School was 'God's gift to earth,' to me, and I always looked forward eagerly to attending.

"Gen Brady (Mrs. Rondall Brady) was my first grade and eighth grade teacher, and a finer teacher I've never encountered. There were never more than three of us in school in a term, a fact some of my friends can hardly believe. I went to school with Frances Sutton, Lucille Hamilton and William and Lennie Bridger. I lived with Bridgers three years to attend school which was held in their bunkhouse.

"The terribly black dust storms of the 1930s and the annual hallstorms made a lasting impression on me as a child. As I look back, it seemed the weather completely controlled our lives. If it rained the crops grew, but you couldn't travel until the roads dried. If it hailed you lost your year's work, and the winter drifted us isolated as long as six weeks at a time.

"It was a hard, harsh life, but I know my parents, especially my father, felt a great sense of accomplishment in the ranch he had built, one stick at a time. Coming from a fairly genteel life as a parlor maid in London, I admire my mother for being the best helpmate my dad could have found. What an adjustment that had to be! I think she lived out some of her hopes for a 'better life' through

John and Nan Marty and daughter Joan
me, as she urged me to practice the piano and get an education."

The Winnett Times of September 24, 1946, paid fine tribute to the Martyrs:
"One of the outstanding successful farmers of the North country is John Marty, residing about 18 miles north of Winnett. Mr. Marty homesteaded his present location in 1913, coming here from Iowa. His farm is located on the edge of the Missouri Breaks, which gives him timber for building as well as shelter. With the exception of his granary, all the buildings, including the comfortable Marty home, are built of logs which were hewed on his own land by Mr. Marty.

"Due to the fact that Mr. Marty has a warm, well-ventilated hog house, he has been successful in raising winter hogs which brought him fancy prices when placed on an early market. He recommends the building of good hog houses and raising winter hogs.

"Two pastures fenced with woven wire and seeded with winter rye supply the bulk of his hog feed, although corn and skim milk is also fed. He markets about one hundred hogs annually.

"Mr. Marty is far from being dependent upon grain crops; along with his hogs he also has a fine herd of Guernsey-Jersey dairy cows and receives large cream checks monthly.

"Advantage of his timber land for shelter and pasture is obtained by ownership of a fine herd of white-face beef stock which add to the financial returns of the ranch each year.

"Mrs. Marty successfully handles a large flock of turkeys and chickens and is very well satisfied with the checks she receives for eggs and fowl.

"A sixty-foot well supplies a large volume of pure water which is elevated to a storage tank by a windmill. From the elevated tank, the water is piped to the house, garden, and hog house. The hogs are watered by turning a valve. The garden is irrigated likewise. Mr. Marty has endeavored to copy the conveniences and systems of the Iowa farmers where he was reared; his ranch is not only a place to live and prosper, but it is an ideal home as well.

"One of the things that first attracts a stranger as he approaches the premises is the bird houses built and erected on posts by Mr. Marty. One large and prettily painted one has sixteen rooms. In the nesting season all the rooms are occupied. Mr. Marty is enthusiastic about the number of insects and bugs the birds destroy each year. They keep his garden free from these pests."

McCARTY, George (Sec 24-17-28) George McCarty's wife, Rebecca, homesteaded in the Ashley Community. The McCartys were the parents of three sons — Don, Guy and Glenn; and two daughters, Muriel and Marie. The three brothers lived in the community in the 1920s and 1930s. It is believed that the sisters lived in Lakeside, Montana. The three brothers eventually moved there, also.

Don served in the Air Force during World War I. After his discharge, he farmed in the Ruby Valley near Virginia City, Montana, before moving to Lakeside.

McGRAW, Roy and John (Sec 32,33-16-28) There were apparently two families of McGraws. One of the McGraws had a wife, Elizabeth, who taught the Kid Hollow School of District #183 from September of 1917 until May 15, 1918; again from September 3, 1918, to December 13, 1918. Former residents recall that a young boy came crying to their door that December in 1918. His mother, Elizabeth, the teacher of the school, had died with the flu. Consequently, there was no more school that year at Kid Hollow.

The next year the daughter of Elizabeth, age 17 years, was hired to teach. Her name was Esther. Older and larger boys were inclined to heckle the young, inexperienced teacher. The father of one of the hecklers, who just happened to also be a member of the local school board, heard of the trouble. He made a trip to school, and in no uncertain terms gave all the pupils a good sound lesson in discipline! Esther, the grateful teacher, had no more problems after that.

There are also memories of the McGraws and their large herd of 200 horses. During the horrible winter of 1919 when all the prairie was covered with ice, most of the horses perished and their carcasses could be seen in many of the coulees when spring finally arrived.
MIKICH, Matt (Sec 32-17-28) Matt Mikich was born October 16, 1883, in Bribir, Yugoslavia. He immigrated to the United States in 1904 and worked in the Lewistown, Montana, area in the coal mines. From there, he moved to Butte, Montana, to work in the copper mines until 1916. When he moved to his homestead 25 miles northeast of Winnett.

In 1923 he married Ethel Groves, who also lived on a homestead north of Winnett. In 1936 they moved to Homes, Montana, southwest of Missoula, where they had a truck firm. In 1948 they retired and moved to Billings, Montana. Mrs. Mikich died August 13, 1966. Matt died June 24, 1975. (See also MIKICH — Telgen)

MILLER, Lyman (Sec 10-17-28) Lyman Miller lived in a very isolated area on the banks of Blood Creek. Pete Larsen was his only neighbor to the west — also on the creek; John C. Miller’s land joined him to the east. There were no neighbors to the north or south for many miles due to rough land and high ridges.

The Winnett Times of March 24, 1933 reported: “Fire caused from an overheated stove completely destroyed the ranch home of Lyman Miller a week ago Thursday, March 16th. Mr. Miller had built a fire in the stove and was outside doing his morning chores and did not discover the fire until it had too big a start to put out.

“Besides completely destroying the ranch home in the Ashley vicinity, many other articles were burned beyond use, including a complete sheep-shearing outfit, a circular saw wood-cutting outfit and work harness. All the household goods and personal belongings of Mr. Miller were destroyed, leaving him with only the clothes he wore on his back.”

It is believed that Lyman rebuilt his house, and lived there for several more years.

MINETTE, susan (Sec 9-17-27) “Miss Susan Minette, who has been cook for the E. G. Lewis Company near Ashley, returned to Lewistown last Tuesday.” (W. T. 5-27-21) The E. G. Lewis Co. was an oil drilling crew who drilled some wells in the hope of discovering oil in the area.

Florence Minette was attending Winnett High School in 1919. The “Nonsense” page of the school annual stated: “Florence is fond of rats and mice. Is said to have expressed a desire to teach Filipinos in their native haunts, but this is not thought to be true. She intends to train men to help with the housework.”

MINNICK, Robert (Sec 9-17-27) and MINNICK, Alice (Sec 32-16-27) The Minnicks made final proof on their homesteads in October of 1921.

MOCK, Orval Virginia and Orval Mock were parents of three children: Alvin (1906), Thelma (1909) and Viola (1912).

MOORE, Aubrey (See BRIDGER — Ashley)

MULLIN, Rock (Sec 11.12-16-28) Rock Mullin held a sale at the I. N. Parker place in June of 1922. Rock and Gladys were parents of a daughter, Evelyn (1917).

NAVE, Edward Laura and Edward Nave had three children: L. Ruth (1898), Marjorie (1900) and Constance (1911).

Marjorie Nave attended Winnett High School in 1919. The “Nonsense” page of the annual stated: “Marjorie Nave, alias ‘Mugs’ says, ‘I want a man — I want a man — I want a mansion in the skies.’ Well known stroller. A maiden tall in stature and a lover of books and small boys. She wants to be a dressmaker.”

Mrs. Laura Downing Nave was a teacher in School District #181 from April 22, 1918, until August 19, 1918; also from April 28, 1919, to July 19, 1919.

NETTLETON, Alfred Carrie and Alfred Nettleton were parents of two daughters, Mamie (1911) and Ruby (1914); also one son, Arthur (1919).

OLSEN, Sam (Sec 4-16-28) Hartvig and Sam Olsen were parents of a daughter, Maud.

PATTERSON, Charles (Sec 4.5-16-28) The Winnett Times of August 4, 1949, stated: “Mr. and Mrs. Charles Patterson homesteaded in the Ashley Community near the county road and west of the John Marty ranch. The hill there, which was sometimes troublesome to motorists, was known as the Patterson hill.”

The school census revealed that Charles M. and Minnie F. Patterson were parents of one daughter, Addie (1910), and one son, Leonard (1911). Leonard Patterson came back to this country and paid a visit to the Marty family in 1949.

PLUMMER, James (Sec 25-16-28) Although there is no information on James, who was an owner of land, there was an Anna and William Plummer, who had two children on the school census: George (1900) and Mable (1902)

PRATT, Charles Charles and Elizabeth Pratt were the parents of Hazel (1898) and Gertrude (1909), Mabel (1900) and Bertha (1902). Mabel was one of the first four graduates from Winnett High School in 1919. She was literary editor of the first high school annual and was vice-president of the senior class. After graduation she attended summer school in Lewistown, Montana, and taught at Plum Creek, Montana, in the fall of 1919.

She married Lloyd Rost in December 1919. They became the parents of four children: Jean, Kenneth, Lou and Merle.

Bertha Pratt was also in high school in Winnett in 1919. The “Nonsense” pages of the annual said of her: “A business woman she’ll be. Too wise to be (very) foolish.”

PRATT, Charles (Sec 8-16-28) Charles and Mary were the parents of Ella (1908), Hazel (1911), Goldie (1912), Melvin (1913), and Irene (1916).

PRATT, Jasper (Sec 19-16-28) Jasper and Della were the parents of two daughters — Gladys (1901) and Eunice (1911).
QUIGG, Farrell (Sec 14-16-27) The following was contributed by Erma Quigg Arthur: "My parents came to Petroleum County about 1912 or 1913 and homesteaded about 16 miles north of Winnett. Dad was the son of Dr. Horace H. Quigg and Elizabeth Quigg of Booneville, Missouri. My mother was Amelia V. Kechart, daughter of Henry and Caroline Kechart of Marshall, Missouri. Dad was a university graduate from St. Louis, and Mom graduated from school in Marshall. They had one son, Clinton, when they came to Winnett.

"Russell H. Quigg, Erma B. Quigg, James E. Quigg, and Helen R. Quigg were all born on the homestead. When I was five years old. Mom and we children went back to Missouri in the old Model T. I attended school there along with Clinton and Russell. We lived with my Kechart grandparents. That was the only time we ever saw our grandparents (the Quiggs) and only for a Sunday afternoon.

"The folks had built a log house of two rooms. They had a couple horses and two milk cows. They borrowed an extra horse and machinery to do a little 'sod bustin' and plant a few acres. A big garden was a necessity for such a big family. The trip to town was made by horse and buggy. Mrs. Killian, a neighbor, and Mom would go together to town a distance of 16 miles. They would take us as far as Hentons and we'd stay there till they returned from town. We'd get a sucker if we were lucky!

"Mom had an old wooden washer that you pushed the handle by hand. We packed the rain water from the coulee so she could heat it on the wood stove. Our soap was made from cracklings and grease and lye. We all had the measles at once, even Mom. Dad would drive the milk cows up to the porch so Mom could milk them.

"We were in Missouri about a year and came back. Mr. Killian met us in the wagon and took us up to the homestead. Our dad had pulled out and I never saw him again till I was ten years old and then never saw him again. He went to Alaska and got a small place and trapped. One spring he was lost while taking his furs to Anchorage, and his body was not found until the next fall. (That was in 1954).

"Times were so bad that in about 1927 or 1928 Mom got a divorce and married E. F. Sutton. We moved about three miles to his place. Mom and Ed had a daughter, Frances M. Sutton. We raised three big gardens, herded sheep and raised cows. We harnessed out 14 head of horses in the morning (for field work), and at 5:00 a.m. we were up and out milking 23 head of cows.

"Then we separated the milk, fed the calves, ate breakfast, washed the separator and the dishes, and were off to school. After school we'd clean the barn, put hay in the mangers for the cows, and then get the milk pails. Then came supper, dishes, homework, and bed. Once or twice a week, it was up at three in the morning to churn (in the old barrel churn) while it was cool. Mom sold butter in the hotels in town.

"The teachers stayed with us, so there was always extra to do. We had two schools in the district. Erma Dunlap taught one and Mary Pierce, the other one. Then we had Erma Copeland and Miss Younk, and Bea York. When Helen and Jim finished school, one school had been moved to John Marty's. They and Joan Marty, Frances and the Brady boy finished there. Gen Brady was the teacher then, and stayed in a little cabin at Marty's. My sister, Frances, stayed with Marty.

"We worked hard as kids, so knew what work was when we had to do for ourselves. We had terrible sandstorms then, and we were going to the other school which was seven miles away. When it was nice we would drive a horse and buggy, but walked otherwise. When a storm would hit, Paul Wood would ride horseback to school and guide us to their place, where we would spend the night and go to school next day. He would ride and tell Mom we were okay. There were the Coffman children, the Wadmans, Alberta Burke, Leonard Patterson and us that went to that school (Kid Hollow).

"Everyone helped everyone else with workhouses, machinery and harvest. We even had time for a dance now and then.

"There were Marty's, Bridgers, Pattersons, Brown, Burkes, Killians, Sullengers, Goodwin, Templeton, Phillips, Bradys, Huberts, Catlins, Stumpfs, Andersons, Wadmans, Woods, Coffmans, Manuels, McDonalds, Ashleys, Coburn, Dyers, Booses, Margaret Haly and numerous ones from W. J. Winnett's cowboys, Hentons, Gavels, Stewarts, and Hannahs. I can't recollect them all, but when one went to town, he got the mail for all. It was a rough time, but we made it and maybe the better for it!

"Clinton is deceased; Russell deceased; James is at Twodot, Montana; Helen is at Sagle, Idaho; Erma at Winifred, Montana; Frances is at Harlowton, Montana. Amelia V. Quigg Sutton is deceased." (See also SUTTON — Ashley; QUIGG — Winnett)

RAMSEY, Harry (Sec 14-16-28) An item in the Kelley news of the Winnett Times dated October 21, 1921 stated: "Dr. Ramsey of Ashley made a professional call in this vicinity last Saturday." From that news, it could be assumed that Mr. Ramsey was either a medical doctor or a veterinarian (Ed. veterinarian). Harry and Elizabeth Ramsey were the parents of a daughter, Helen.

RICE, Edward T. (Sec 18-17-28) Edward Thurmond Rice was born in 1872 at Highland, North Carolina, and worked as a carpenter all his active life. He and Katherine Pauline Landrum were married in 1903. Their oldest child, Dorothy, was born there in 1904.

In 1905, they moved to Englewood, Kansas, where four of their seven children were born: Juanita (1906), Marle (1908), Edward (1909), and Arthur (1911).

In 1913 the family moved again. This time from Kansas by train to Moccasin, Montana, where the sixth child, Ralph, was born in 1915.

November of 1916 brought another move by covered wagon, from Moccasin to their homestead at Blood Creek, about 25 miles northeast of Winnett. A two-week
layover at Grassrange was necessary because of deep snow. The family stayed in the covered wagon and tents during this time.

Their seventh child, Katherine, was born at Blood Creek in the log cabin built by Ed. Later Ed built a log schoolhouse at Blood Creek to educate his children and children of other families in the area. Several different teachers taught there. The log schoolhouse is still standing, and the school was called the Rice School. Filing fees for homesteads, at that time, were about $150.00.

Among other things, watermelons and muskmelons were grown in large quantities to the delight of everyone. Underground cellars were used to store the winter food. Food supplies, except for the garden produce, were bought in Grassrange and hauled home by wagon. These trips were made about twice a year.

Most of the Ed Rice children were grown and married by 1935, so Ed decided to move to Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Ed passed away in 1957, and Katherine passed away in 1956. (By Evelyn Lund Steuve, granddaughter)

RICE, Lake C. (Sec 27-17-28) Lake Rice, brother of Ed Rice, lived on a homestead about four miles southeast of his brother, Ed. Lake’s farm was in an area sometimes called the Ashley Bench. Lake and his wife, Elsie, as remembered, had at least two children — Clarence (1902) and J. Kenneth (1903).

Lake raised cattle and farmed. The following article taken from the Winnett Times of April 25, 1924, described his bean crop one year:

"Another bumper and profitable crop being raised in Petroleum County has just come to light by the marketing of 11,000 lbs. of Great Northern white beans in Winnett by L. C. Rice, of the Ashley country.

"During the winter months Mr. Rice has sacked and sold to Eager Mercantile Company 110 sacks of Great Northern white beans, each sack weighing 100 lbs. Naturally such an amount of beans could not be consumed in this section, so the Eager Mercantile Co. shipped the surplus to wholesale houses at Great Falls, Montana, and on to the coast.

"The beans bring $5.00 per hundred, and from twenty-five acres, Mr. Rice sold 11,000 lbs. and has not yet cleaned out his surplus over return seed. Reckoning from these figures, it will readily be seen that a minimum of $22.00 an acre will be the returns of the bean crop. At the present time land in the Ashley country can be purchased outright for that price.

"Apparently there is a long strip about four to six miles wide, known as the Ashley Bench and running east to and across the river, where the Great Northern white beans thrive better than in any other section of the country. All the farmers in that section plant from one to twenty acres of beans, and seem to prefer raising beans to corn, although their corn crops are also very good.

"One cannot ask for better returns on a crop than Mr. Rice received from his twenty-five acres of beans, on land at present value.

"Mr. Rice reports that the acreage planted to beans this year in the Ashley country will very likely be double that of last year in that practically all the farmers are planting the same variety bean, which will assist in marketing and bring greater returns.

"The bean crop through the Ashley country last year averaged about 550 pounds to the acre; with real care and attention this yield could be increased at least twenty-five per cent.

"Mr. Eager, of the Eager Mercantile Co., states that the Ashley bean found ready sale due to its unusual color, size, and weight, and that he was positive if entered at fairs, it would easily capture all first prizes in the state, and possibly, the national sweepstakes.

"There will be many photographs taken of the bean fields of the Ashley country this summer. The photographs taken will be used to advertise to the nation the wonderful bean crop possibilities of Petroleum County."

SANDMAN, Carl (Sec 31-16-28) Carl filed on a homestead about five miles southwest of Ashley. He went into the service of his country in World War I and paid the supreme sacrifice. The local Sandman American Legion Post #95 was named in his honor. Carl was a brother to Albert Sandman. (See also SANDMAN — Brush Creek)

Carl Sandman

SANDSTROM, Victor Victor and Ellen Sandstrom were parents or guardians of two children: Martha and Dale.

SEEFLUTH, William (Sec 24-16-26) William and Nettie Seefluth were parents of a daughter, Marlon (1921). (See MARKS — Teigen; SEEFLUTH — Winnett)

SERRY, Earl A. (Sec 8.9-17-29) On July 15, 1921, the following ad was placed in the Winnett Times:

"Lost — On Ashley oil field road, a small rocker. Reward. Finder please notify E. A. Serry, Winnett."

Fae Serry taught in Ashley School District #181 from May 8, 1917, to July 20, 1917; also from May 20, 1918, to July 20, 1918.
SNYDER, Melvin L. (Sec 8-16-27) Melvin L. Snyder married Elenor Philibert on May 24, 1904. They came to Montana in 1914 from Missouri and with their three young daughters — Thelma, Ruth, and Ruby — filed a homestead ten miles north and two miles east of Winnett. They farmed the land for a living. Melvin became a charter member of the Winnett Masonic Lodge, and both he and "Della" were members of Eastern Star. Two sons eventually joined the daughters — Henry in 1915 and Glen in 1919. The Schniders eventually gave up their homestead and moved to the Flathead Valley in western Montana. (See also SNYDER — Cat Creek) Thelma was only six years old then, but recalls traveling to their homestead by wagon from Grassrange, Montana. Her early years of schooling were at the Brady country school, with Henry Cassidy as the teacher. She left with her parents in 1926, and graduated from Ronan High School. Thelma married Ralph C. Willcuts, and they have one son, Melvin L. Willcuts, born at Alhambra, California.

SPELLMAN, W. A. (Sec 30-16-29) "Bill" Spellman was born in 1894 in Illinois. He homesteaded land north of Cat Creek, about six miles west of the Musselshell River. The following information was contributed by Carroll Manuel.

"Bill Spellman homesteaded the place Fulcher had squatted on in the breaks. Fulchers left for some unknown reason and Mr. Ashley kept people off their place, as they had told him that they were coming back. Bill was a remittance man who had been run out of Chicago. His family paid him to stay out. There was a nice spring on the place, and about the time Bill took over, the oil activity started. This was a great setup for Bill and Lillian. They went into the moonshine business.

"Bill was a rough character and was involved in many brawls. His neighbors were all pretty much afraid of him. In his business, he drove an old Star roadster and had a six shooter mounted on the steering wheel. The federal agents got word of his activities and tried to catch him but never did.

"Bill butchered the neighbors' beef, and Lil stole chicken feed out of the neighbors' granaries. After the Star coupé gave up, Bill had a light, black team that he drove to a two-wheel cart. Bill would take the wheels off the cart and soak them in the spring to tighten them up before he went to town. He would go after supplies, get drunk and usually end up in a fight. He would arrive back home about three days later — broke and without any grub.

"Spellmans had an old milk cow with a real good bell that you could hear for miles. Lil had an old white saddle horse she rode everywhere. I never did see Bill and Lil go anywhere together. Every now and then, they would have a party. Bill had a baby grand piano that he played really well.

"For the most part, Bill was quite mean to Lil. and she was sort of a slave to him. I would bet that she hadn't been to town in fifteen years. She wore Bill's discarded clothes all the time. Her family lived in Texas, and they finally sent her enough money to escape. In about 1940, she caught a ride to Winnett on the mail truck, bought a ticket on the train, went to Texas, and never did come back."

"After she left, Bill moved to Winnett and herded sheep for different people. His last eight years were spent in the State Home for the Aged in Lewistown, Montana. He died there April 27, 1968.

SPHOON, Ray Ray and Nina Spoon were parents of two children. Lesley (1922) and Paula (1929).

STINGLEY, George (Sec 21-17-27) Laura and George Stingley were the parents of three children while living in the area — Bernard (1909), Willard (1911) and Edna (1915).

STUMPF, Phillip (Sec 1-16-27) Phillip and Mary Stumpf homesteaded in the Ashley area, 15 miles from Winnett in 1914.

Both Phillip and Mary (Hubert) Stumpf were born in Warnberg, Russia, and were married there February 5, 1906.

Of the nine children in the family, four were born before Phillip and Mary came to the homestead — Mary Stumpf Brown (1907), Anna Stumpf Christiansen (1909), Phillip Stumpf (1911), and Henry T. Stumpf (1913). Four children were born on the homestead — Pete (1914), Alice Bell Stumpf Hale (1918), Esther Alma Stumpf Dew (1920), and Harold James Stumpf (1922). The youngest, Robert Preston Stumpf (1924) was born after they moved to Napa, Idaho.

The children’s Uncle Pete Hubert lived with the family on the homestead until he went off to World War I in 1918.

Schools attended by the Stumpf children were the Brady School and various other schools near Ashley.

Mail was occasionally picked up at Ashley by someone who rode in on horseback, usually Phillip Hubert who lived with Grandpa and Grandma Pete and Mary Hubert.


SUTTON, Ed F. (Sec 10-16-27) Articles from the Winnett Times provide some history of the E. F. Sutton family.

"Mrs. Bell Sutton passed away at her home in the Ashley country Tuesday morning February 26, 1921, after a lingering illness of four years. Death was due to cancer. Interment was made in the Winnett Cemetery with Rev. Fike officiating.

"Deceased was born in Monroe County, Wisconsin, and was married to E. F. Sutton in 1891. To this union four boys were born, only one surviving the mother, J. J. Sutton, of Winnett."

"Ten years ago the family moved to Montana and located on a homestead in the Ashley country where they have made their home since."
"During the illness everything possible was done to obtain a cure for the dread disease. The best of medical attention, including Mayo Brothers at Rochester, was obtained but no human aid could offer cure. The distressed and sorrowing husband called every means at his command to her assistance, without avail." (W. T. 3-6-25)

Their son, Austin, was killed when a team of horses hitched to a wagon ran away.

Ed was a progressive farmer as illustrated by the Winnett Times news item dated October 9, 1925: "E. F. Sutton, residing north of Winnett, has just received a carload of lumber for a new barn which he will have built immediately. The barn will be 40' X 50' with hip roof. It will be modern throughout and will prove of great value as well as convenient to Mr. Sutton.

"The erection of such farm buildings speaks well for the future of Petroleum County and is evidence of success in agriculture and ranching."

In 1926 Ed was elected as Petroleum County's representative to the State Legislature. "Senator Sibbert and Representative Sutton are now seated in the Montana legislature serving their first terms in the highest offices as the gift of the citizens of Petroleum County. Both gentlemen are successful ranchers, are square shooters and have good judgment. They can be depended upon to always consider the best interests of their constituency." (W. T. 1-7-27)

Ed Sutton later married Amelia Quigg, a divorcee of Ferrrel Quigg. They were parents of a daughter, Frances.

Son J. J. Sutton and his wife Sheila continued to live in the community. They were the parents of six children who attended the local schools: Earl (1923), Robert (1924), Anna (1927), Elizabeth (1929), Margaret (1930) and Allen (1932). (See also QUIGG — Ashley; QUIGG — Winnett; KNERR — Brush Creek).

TAYLOR, Fred W. Fred W. Taylor homesteaded in the Ashley country in 1916. He entered the armed services in 1917 during World War I. Fred did not return to this country but sold his land to Bill Bridger, retaining the oil royalties. He followed oil refinery construction for many years in Maine. In 1961 he and his wife moved to California to make their home.

TEMPLETON, John (Sec 24-16-27) East of the Ohio well lived another bachelor, John Templeton. He was a neighbor of Henry Hubert. John served with the U. S. Marines during World War I. John left Petroleum County and moved to Shepherd, Montana, in the early 1940s.

THOMAS, Alfred (Sec 35-16-27) "Alfred Thomas was my cousin from Iowa," Pearl Stewart remarks. "He and his wife Maude and two young sons, Howard and Don, homesteaded northeast of Winnett. They couldn't make it, so they left the land and moved into Winnett for awhile, then went back to Iowa." They had another son later.

TOWNE, Mabel (Sec 15-16-27) Mabel Towne filed her claim on land about 16 miles northeast of Winnett. She bordered the land owned by her brother, Vane Catlin, and the two of them shared a home. (See also TOWNE — Winnett)

TUNNICLIFF, Charles (Sec 18-17-27) Charley Tunnicliff was born in 1877, to Henry and Ellen Tunnicliff, at Plaski, Michigan. He came to Montana with his parents and family in 1895.

He worked on ranches in Montana and in logging in Oregon. He married Goldie Handly at Eugene, Oregon in 1903. They had one daughter, Edna, born in 1904. In Walla Walla, Washington. They came back to Montana in 1917, to the Grassrange area; then took up a homestead next to his brothers north of Winnett.


TUNNICLIFF, Harold H. "Pete" (Sec 19-17-27) Harold H. "Pete" Tunnicliff, the son of Henry H. and Ellen Tunnicliff, was born July 28, 1894, at Fergus Falls, Minnesota. He and his parents moved to Montana and homesteaded in the Roberts area in 1895. He attended school in Roberts and Red Lodge. In 1912 he married Mary Butler. They had one daughter, Mary Idamae, born April 7, 1913. Mary and Pete separated and Pete went to Grassrange to work on a railroad bed. (The roadbed was never finished).

Pete homesteaded north of Winnett in 1920 and, with his brothers, raised horses and cattle. Pete married Merry Lynne Conway in 1929, and they
lived in Winnett for many years. Pete kept his homestead and ranch until he sold it to Alex Weingart. Alex also bought the property on Yellow Water that Pete had acquired. (By Mary Ida Gill, daughter) (See GILL and TUNNICLIFF—Winnett)

TUNNICLIFF, Henry
Henry H. Tunnicliff and Ellen Graham were married in Michigan. They moved to Huntley, Montana, in 1892, then back to Fergus Falls, Minnesota. They returned to Montana in 1895. They homesteaded in the Roberts area in Carbon County in 1910. Henry died in Anaconda in 1911.

Ellen and family moved back to Red Lodge and she was a nurse there until 1919, when she moved to the homesteads of Charley and Pete, her sons. Charley’s wife had died and left Charley with a little daughter to raise. Ellen helped raise Edna, the daughter, and also took care of Bobby Orr. She moved to Roundup to put these children in school.

Henry and Ellen had five children: Jay, born in Michigan in 1875, homesteaded north of Winnett; Charley, born in Michigan in 1877, also had a homestead north of Winnett; Mabel, born in Michigan; Jennie, born in Michigan in 1891; and Harold H. "Pete," born in Minnesota in 1894, also had a homestead north of Winnett.

Ellen died of cancer in 1926, and is buried at Roberts. (By Mary Ida Gill, granddaughter).

TUNNICLIFF, Jay
(Sec 24-17-26) Jay Tunnicliff was born in 1875 in Jackson, Michigan, to Henry and Ellen Tunnicliff. He came with his folks to the Roberts area of Montana in 1895.

Marie C. Kelley was a native of Newfoundland. As a small child, she moved to Boston. At 17 years of age, she came to Montana.

In June 1907, Jay and Marie were married at Missoula, Montana. They homesteaded north of Winnett in 1920 in the same township as the homesteads of Charley and Pete. Jay’s brothers. They later moved to Sheridan, Wyoming—then to Lodge Grass, Montana. In 1943 they moved to a ranch northwest of Kalispell, Montana.

They had two children: Howard (1917) and Irene (1909) who attended the Winnett schools. Irene later lived in Winnett in the 1950s.

Marie died in 1959, and Jay died in 1961. They are buried at Kalispell. (By Mary Ida Gill, niece)

TUNNICLIFF, Mabel
(Sec 19-17-26) Mabel Tunnicliff was born in 1885 in Michigan to Henry and Ellen Tunnicliff. She came with her family to the Roberts, Montana, area in 1895.

She married Thomas Carr, and they farmed at Roberts. They had two children: Marjorie Jean (1913) and Norman (1926). (By Mary Ida Gill, niece) (See also CARR—Winnett)

VAN HEEMST, John
(Sec 35-17-28) John Van Heemst was born in Sommelsdyke, Holland, October 6, 1864. Also born in Holland was a girl by the name of Helen Bakker. Their friendship developed into love and marriage. They became the parents of six sons: Dick, Leonard, Arthur, Jack, Abram and Henry.

The family emigrated from Holland, and in 1914 took up homesteads and acquired land about four miles northeast of Ashley. The older sons filed on their own homesteads.

Son Leonard passed away while living in the area. The father, John, died in September of 1925. Both were buried on the family homestead. Mother Helen died in 1956 and was buried in Taft, California.

Henry helped with the cattle on his father's farm. In 1922 he went to Los Angeles, California, and eventually to Taft, California. He and Alice Welch, daughter of Anna and Fred Welch of Winnett, were married and had one son, Wallace, born August 14, 1931. Alice, who had been a cheerleader in Winnett High School, graduated in 1925, and then attended Western State College at Dillon.

Henry worked for Standard Oil in the oil fields near Taft, California, for twenty-eight years. Montana must have beckoned, as in 1950 the Van Heemst family moved to Columbus, Montana. Raising registered hogs became their specialty. Alice passed away July 29, 1982, at 76 years of age. Henry continued to live on the farm at Columbus. (See also WELCH—Winnett)

WADMAN, Walfred
(Sec 20, 21, 28-16-28) Walfred was born in Sweden and came to South Dakota with his family when he was nine years old. He later married Mary Johnson from Osakis, Minnesota. Five of their eight children were born before Walfred and Mary brought their family from Belle Fourche, South Dakota, to Montana. These children were: Alice, Ted, Lillian, Hulda (Tille), and Mildred.

Walfred Wadman had come to the Winnett area alone in 1914 and homesteaded near Ashley. He built a two-room log cabin and cut a pile of wood before going back to South Dakota for his family. The trip in late November was a hard one. Wrong trails cost them several days of travel. While crossing the Musselshell River, with ice hitting the wheels, a horse cramped up and had to be dragged out by the other horses. To get up the steep hills
off of the river bottom, all of the horses had to be hitched
to one wagon. They pulled each wagon up the hill, one
wagon at a time.

Of their arrival at the homestead, Tillie said: "There
wasn't much snow, but it was cold. We arrived at our
destination fifteen miles northeast of Winnett, the day
before Thanksgiving in 1915. We were all sick. Of course,
there was no running water or electricity, but we survived
some way or another."

Three more children were born on the homestead:
Harold, Lincoln, and Victor. A neighbor, Mrs. Lavender,
and an Indian woman, helped deliver babies, care for the sick,
and fix meals. Tillie remembered Mrs. Lavender rubbing
a herbal mixture in the children's hair that smelled like
sagebrush and evidently made their hair healthy and
beautiful.

Homestead life left a lot of memories for the Wadman
children. Once a bull snake fell through the sod roof
of their cabin onto a bed.

None of the Wadman children will forget the time they
decided to raid the Rogge's watermelon patch. The
Rogges raised a huge garden and sold produce
to the Cat Creek oil field people. Just as the Wadman kids
had filled the sack on Ted's back with watermelon, one
of the Rogge brothers fired blank shots over their heads.
When their father learned of the escapade, he told his
children to eat a good breakfast, and then loaded them
up in the wagon and took them over to the Rogges to dig
potatoes all day on that cold fall day. Tillie says to this
day, she still doesn't care about watermelon.

Community gatherings were a highlight to the Wadman
children. Their father would tuck them into a wagon filled
with straw and blankets and take them to the dances.
Baseball games and political dinners were favorite
events, too.

Life on the homestead was hard for a mother of eight
children. Mary Wadman's days were spent washing
clothes, hauling water, baking, sewing, cleaning, and
managing with very little with which to manage. She
could fix jack rabbits in more ways than one would think
possible. And yet, she found time to do those extra things
for the pleasure of her children. Tillie told about her
mother making "Yankee Boys" — little puffy men made
out of bread dough — for their lunches. The lunch boxes
were made from tobacco boxes that bachelor neighbors
had given them.

To help out, the children had responsibilities, too.
About once a week, they pulled a little cart five miles to
Ashley to get groceries. More than once, they scrambled
up a tree out of fear of the longhorn steers that Mr.
Ashley pastured near there.

They also helped milk the cows and work in the garden.
Tillie said, "None of us were too little to pull weeds. And I
can remember that bean patch! How I hated that bean
patch."

As the children grew older and the Kid Hollow School
had closed, they worked in Cat Creek or Winnett,
sometimes just for their room and board, while they
attended school.

Wadmans later moved to another farm in the Brush
Creek area about six miles northeast of Winnett. Walfrid
passed away there in 1943. Vic was called home from the
Army to help his mother on the farm. Mary later moved
into Winnett, where she passed away in 1969. Both
Walfrid and Mary were buried in the Winnett Cemetery.

Alice worked for Mrs. Bowers in Cat Creek and later, in
1927-1928, was telephone operator for Matty Burt in
Winnett. She married E. J. MacDonald, an oil field worker,
and moved to Cut Bank, Montana. They were the parents
of a son. Don, who now lives in Great Falls, Montana.
Alice became ill with a rare nerve disease, leaving her an
invalid the last few years of her life. She died in 1947 at
the age of 41 years.

Ted married Blanche Alexander and they lived most of
their life in Cut Bank, Montana, where he worked for an
oil company. They had three children: Mary, Douglas and
Bill. Mildred graduated from Winnett High School in
1934, attended a salad-making school, and worked for
4 B's Cafeteria in Billings for four years. She and Lew
Shelton were married and had one son, John.

Harold attended Kid Hollow School in the Ashley Com-
unity. In 1934 he was working on a government project
when he became ill and died. An obituary in the Winnett
Times dated 2-23-34 stated: "Funeral services were held
in this city last Thursday, conducted by Rev. E. D.
Swisher, and attended by a large gathering of friends
who paid their last respects to this splendid boy. Burial
was made in the Winnett Cemetery."

Lincoln attended Winnett High School and was very
active in the boxing club. He. Kenny Ingalls, and the three
Saylor boys (all members of the Winnett Boxing Club)
entered the armed services together. Linc married and
has four children. There is a separate entry for Vic
Wadman. (See also BOHN — Petrolia) (See also
WADMAN — Winnett)

WAGONER, Jacob The account of Mr. Wagoner's
death in the Winnett Times of December 13, 1929, fur-
ished some history of this gentleman: "Another pioneer
Montanan died on Monday of this week in a lonely cabin
north of Ashley. Jacob Wagoner was found dead in his
cabin by Lyle Wood on Tuesday. Mr. Wood immediately
notified Sheriff P. J. Anderson, who with Percy Story,
went to the cabin. They drove as far as the Bert Wood
ranch and had to make the remaining 16 miles with a
team and bobsled. The remains were taken to Winnett
and buried in the local cemetery Thursday. Death was
caused by apoplexy and was instant, according to the
report of Dr. Alexander.

Deceased was wintering about 30 head of saddle
horses in the north country and was using the cabin on
the Bert Minnick place for a residence. Lyle Wood had
the place rented and made regular visits to it. On the last
visit he found Mr. Wagoner lying dead on the floor of the
cabin. Every indication pointed to instant death. The old
man had been in good health for his advanced years, as it was estimated that he was at least 87 years of age. “His hobby in late years was raising saddle horses, and two or three times a year he would ride into Winnett on such a beautiful animal that it attracted the attention of every one as he rode it down the streets.

“Jacob Wagoner came to Montana with the first pioneers. He was held up at Fort Phil Kearny for five days due to Indian troubles, while enroute. He was among those early prospectors in Last Chance Gulch at Helena. On his person when he died was a large gold nugget that he had found in the vicinity of Harlowton, Montana, many years ago. He lived in the Bitterroot Valley for 30 years. He had an ample estate to see that he was properly buried. No known relatives exist. Later his personal belongings will be examined, and more of the old pioneer’s history may be brought to light.”

WILSON, J. “Mrs. J. N. Wilson of Ashley was in town a few days this week visiting her daughter, Mrs. L. A. Hoyle.” (W. T. 7-1-21) (See also HOYLE — Winnett)

WOOD, Bert S. (Sec 20-16-28) Bert S. Wood was born October 12, 1868, in Rochester, Minnesota, which was also the birthplace of Catherine Brannon. She became his wife June 16, 1894. The family, including five sons — Demond (1895), Max (1899), Paul (1901), George Lyle (1902), and twin brother, Wales (1902), settled on the homestead near Ashley in 1914. The school-age children attended the local Kid Hollow School.

The Winnett Times of May 19, 1925, described an accident which involved the family:

“Bernard Burke and Paul Wood, two young men of the Ashley country, met with a serious accident last Sunday while endeavoring to catch a bronco. Riding at a terrific rate of speed, both riders collided. The impact resulted in Mr. Burke’s horse being thrown nearly fifteen feet and the boy hurled to the ground unconscious.

“Bert S. Wood placed the Burke boy in his car and rushed him to Dr. Alexander in Winnett. Dr. Alexander ordered him immediately taken to the hospital at Lewistown. Robert T. Hogg drove him in his Dodge taxi. Examination at Lewistown disclosed a fracture at the base of the skull. Death occurred the following morning.” Paul Wood had not been seriously injured.

The closing of the Ashley Post Office in 1921 created problems for the people of the community. Demond and the Wood family volunteered their services as mail carriers and distributors. In May of 1923 the Winnett Times reported:

“The country home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Wood was the scene of a happy gathering Sunday, May 6th, when their friends and neighbors all arrived there at eleven o’clock. To say Mr. and Mrs. Wood were surprised is putting it mildly. They were almost speechless. It was such a complete surprise! The ladies all brought good things to eat, and although the wind howled outside, all sat down to a table that was piled high with goodies.

“After dinner the Wood family was presented with a beautiful set of silverware, given by those who have been having their mail brought from town by the Wood family since losing the Ashley Post Office over a year ago. Only those who have been benefited by this service can appreciate what it has meant to them.” Mr. and Mrs. Bert Wood left this area in 1936.

Max attended high school in Winnett, graduating with the class of 1924. He went to work in the Cat Creek oil field. In 1929 he was married to Rachel Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sumner Clark of Grassrange. Rachel and Max were the parents of three children: Donna, Arnold, and Glenn. Max was an electrician in a paper mill in Washington before retirement. He passed away in 1981.

Paul passed away in March 1974 and was buried in Port Hill, Idaho. Lyle rented the Bert Minnick place in the Ashley area for a time. July of 1933 found him shipping a carload of household goods and some livestock to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, where he had purchased a farm. He was going where there was plenty of water up in the panhandle country, and in the heart of the timber region.” (W. T. 7-21-33) He married Juanta Rice, and now lives in Port Falls, Idaho. The school census reported a daughter, Twila Marie (1928).

Wales graduated from Winnett High School in 1925, and became a lawyer. He married Ruth MacFarlane. He graduated from Northwestern College of Law after attending Intermountain Union College in Helena and the University of Washington. He was manager of Title and Trust Co. in St. Helens, Oregon, until he retired in 1968.

Wales and his wife had a beautiful hobby — growing flowers. Rhododendrons were their specialty. Their flower displays won many prizes. Wales died in February 1978, and is buried in St. Helens, Oregon.

Bert Wood died in October 1936, and his wife, Catherine, in March 1964. Both are buried in Port Hill, Idaho.

WRIGHT, James T. (Sec 6.7-17-27) James Wright settled near the Drulett Post Office on Blood Creek during the homestead days. He may have been a brother to Robert Wright, the postmaster. In the 1930s he entered into a partnership with an old friend, Dudley Whisonant, and they ranched on Blood Creek. In 1940 they moved their headquarters to a new location on Box Elder Creek.

For several years James made his home with the Whisonant family. In the winter of 1942-43 he froze one of his feet quite badly, and although a leg amputation took place, gangrene set in and could not be controlled. He died in St. Joseph Hospital June 30, 1943. The Reverend Ellen Rose conducted services from the Winnett Methodist Church and James was buried in the Winnett Cemetery.

WRIGHT, Robert (Sec 7.8-17-27) Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wright homesteaded when their daughter, Lillian, was a small child. From 1917 to 1921 Robert was the postmaster of Drulett, a post office which was located on the land owned by him. The office may have been in his home. (See also WRIGHT — Dovetail)