Teigen Ranch about 1905. The left section of the low log building served as living quarters before the two-story house was built.

The town of Teigen in 1915

Teigen Hotel, elevator and lumberyard in about 1918
Introduction

McDonald Creek heads in the foothills of the Judith and Snowy mountains, and Elk Creek, a smaller stream, heads in the foothills of the Snowy Mountains. Elk Creek has a much smaller drainage area. The two creeks run parallel about four miles apart after they enter Petroleum County. A ridge of low pine-clad hills separates the creeks until they near Winnett.

McDonald Creek joins Box Elder Creek about ten miles east of Winnett, and Box Elder Creek meanders southeastward another five or six miles before flowing into Flatwillow Creek. Elk Creek flows into Flatwillow at Petrolia Reservoir about nine miles west of the confluence of Box Elder and Flatwillow creeks.

There is an interesting story in the book Wandasong about the naming of McDonald Creek. Wandasong was written by Eleanor Banks, the daughter of Henry Macdonald. She writes of one of Henry's trips through central Montana at the time the town of Carroll was being built in 1874. "Little Mac" (as Henry was known) came upon a detachment of troops from Camp Lewis who were resting by a pleasant creek. The stream was full of beaver whose pelts were in prime condition, so the group spent the day catching beaver. Henry caught the most beaver, and at the end of the day, the captain of the troops complimented him and asked if he knew anything about the stream. Henry replied, 'Yes, sir. It is the Kailo Itawapi Tuktai—'Bear Wags His Tail Creek' of the Indians. It flows into the Box Elder.'"

"Too much Talkai (too many words)," said the Captain. 
"This is white man's country now and the creek should have a white man's name. What do you say we name it for our hunter-scout, McDonald Creek?"

Little Mac believed the Captain was joking, but the pretty stream is still known as McDonald (Macdonald) Creek.

Henry McDonald spelled his name McDonald during his early years in Montana; but, according to his daughter, he later resumed the original Scottish spelling of Macdonald. Small wonder there is sometimes confusion today over the spelling of McDonald Creek!

James Stuart wrote briefly about McDonald Creek in his book Pioneering in Montana. In the spring of 1880, Mr. Stuart rode down McDonald Creek (from Chamberlain near present-day Grassrange) searching for a ranch location. He says, "There is a fine hay bottom about nine miles below Chamberlain's on the north side of the creek. It is about two miles long and one-fourth to one-third miles wide... There is good grama and buffalo grass on the bottoms and benches, also some stunted sage among it and some greasewood." After camping for the night on McDonald Creek, Mr. Stuart rode northeast a few miles and crossed the ridge between McDonald and Ford Creeks, but he wrote, "Do not like the country north and east of McDonald Creek. Too much sage."

And so Mr. Stuart continued his search for a ranch and ultimately settled in the lee of the Judith Mountains near Fort Maginnis leaving the valley of McDonald Creek to be settled by someone else.

Teigen, the Ranch and the Community

If you are streaking along Highway #200 going east from Lewistown past Grassrange, along McDonald Creek and halfway to Winnett, you will see a large abandoned two-story building with the windows boarded up. In this quiet spot, where now the peace and solitude is disturbed only when a big truck goes booming by or a noisy airplane flies low, you will find it hard to believe that once a little boom town started up, and people came for miles by wagon, by foot, or by horseback to do their trading.

Homesteaders could buy beans and flour, dried fruit and canned goods at the grocery store; they could choose between two restaurants for a meal. There was a hotel for those who wished to stay overnight, and a livery stable and blacksmith shop for their teams. The saloon offered its entertainment, and a large hall provided a gathering place for dancing, visiting, debating and programs.

There was an orange-painted house close to the railroad tracks for the section boss and a bunkhouse for the men who worked on the section. The Western Grain Elevator stood near the tracks, a red tower against the smoky green of Rattlesnake Butte. The lumberyard nearby sold the boards that went into many a thin homestead shack.

A little white schoolhouse stood on the hill about a quarter of a mile west of the hotel. It once was filled with eighteen children, from first graders to man-sized boys. Now Highway #200 lies close to the hills like a long stretch of licorice, where once was only a trail rutted by wagon wheels, and where, before that, there was no trail at all.

This story begins in the early 1880s when the country was very sparsely settled. Cattle from distant ranches grazed along the creek bottom, and deer, elk and antelope were plentiful. Buffalo herds had once roamed the country, but by 1882 most of them had been killed, their skulls and bones scattered here and there among the cactus and sagebrush.

It was in July 1884 that Mons Teigen and his partners, Knute Opheim and Ole Opheim, trailed a band of 3200 sheep from Gallatin County down McDonald Creek to the place where the Teigen Ranch is now. They had bought the sheep the fall before from a Mr. Kirk. They wintered south of Bozeman, near Anceney. In the spring, they trailed the sheep down the Musselshell Valley and skirted the east side of the Snowy Mountains, searching for a place to settle.

They liked the country around Wilsall, or that near
Careless Creek, but it was already settled. They would have stayed in the valley of Flatwillow Creek, but others were there before them. One of the partners went ahead and found the present location on McDonald Creek. They liked the broad valley and rolling hills on each side, so they each took a pre-emption claim of 160 acres and let the sheep spread out over the open range.

These were the first sheep east of the Judith Mountains, although Ashmier (Ed. probably Eschmeyer) on Fords Creek also had sheep about the same time. Cattle from the Dovenspeck, Sieben (not to be confused with Sibbert), DHS and Circle Bar were grazing along the creek bottoms. The Cattle Roundup Association had built round-up corrals at convenient locations where members could gather their cattle for branding and sorting. There was no trouble among the settlers — no war between sheepmen and cattleman. There was enough land for all, so there was no dispute. One cattleman, however, did circulate the story that he had scattered saltpeter around for his horses, as a warning to keep the sheep away, since saltpeter is poisonous to sheep.

Teigen and Opheim set about making a home for themselves. They camped while they built log cabins. They lived on beans and bacon, and drank strong alkali water from the creek. Later they dug a well and found the well water to be just as strong. They worked hard, building up the beginning of a ranch. They cut some hay on a bench about three miles southwest, using scythes to cut it. They fenced a small pasture for the horses, with brush for shelter.

At this time Montana was still a territory and Meagher County included the land that is now Fergus, Judith Basin, Petroleum and part of Musselshell counties. Thus their location was in Meagher County, Montana Territory. The county seat was at White Sulphur Springs, and it was necessary to make that long journey in order to attend to the business of filing on land and other civil or legal business.

The nearest trading post was at Fort Maginnis, Montana, 25 miles to the west. An old account book shows bills of goods bought at the store of Broadwater, McNamara, and Co. In 1888, T. A. Marlow, later a prominent banker in Helena, was the bookkeeper and manager. A wide variety of goods, including flour, sugar, salt, lanterns, coal oil, kettles, tin plates, overalls, boots and mittens, could be bought there.

One invoice shows they bought 100 cartridges, 45-70 caliber, for $3.75; 100 pounds of Arosia coffee for $23; 3000 pounds of tobacco for $330; 750 pounds of tobacco for $82. This was a lot of tobacco, but it was boiled and used in dipping vats to treat scab on the sheep. The first few years, Broadwater and McNamara sold the wool and held the money on credit. The wool was freighted to Fort Benton or to Billings.

Dr. Willard was the Army doctor at Fort Maginnis. Later he had a ranch called Willard’s Crossing just above where the Hutterite Colony Ranch is now (1989). He raised the first alfalfa in this country. It was then called lucerne.

Sullengers’ and George Ayers’ ranches were just east of Dr. Willard, and Swend Holland’s ranch was several miles west.

The main traveled road for this part of the country was the one from Custer Junction, past the town of Musselshell, to Flatwillow Crossing, through Chamberlain, then northwest to Fort Maginnis. Chamberlain was a stage stopping place, and a post office named Grassrange was officially designated there on March 27, 1883. Flatwillow Post Office received designation the same day.

The closest neighbors to Teigen and Opheim were the Bowens. They lived about four miles west, and were the earliest settlers in this part of the county. (See also BOWEN)

Other early settlers on McDonald Creek were the Moulton Brothers (Ben and Charles) who settled on their ranch west of Bowens the same year that Teigen and Opheims came. Walter Winnett came in and was trapping in this country, acquired land and then ran a freightline. Winnett, Stein and Goos settled at Edmond’s Bluffs, where the town of Winnett now stands. Dave Foreman came in and later married Mrs. Bowen’s daughter, and lived near Bowens. Over on Elk Creek, Dovenspeck and Bean had places. Bean sold to Henry Sibbert. John Olson came into the country about that time, too. He settled west of Dovenspecks. John Rowley was one of the first settlers on Yellow Water Creek.

The creek bottoms were grazed off by the hundreds of cattle that roamed at large, so the sheep fed mostly over the hills. Opheim and Teigen searched for wild hay to cut and had to look far off some years. In 1884 they cut hay with scythes on a bench two miles southwest of the ranch, and in 1885 they went over to the dry fork of Elk Creek, east of where the highway to Roundup now crosses it.

The summer of 1886 was very dry, and they went as far away as the Becket country, where they camped on government land and cut hay with a second-hand mowing machine they had bought.

It is a well-known story that the winter of 1886-1887 was unusually severe, following the dry summer. The sheep belonging to Opheim and Teigen wintered fairly well, however. Mons Teigen told of the many carcasses of cattle to be seen the next spring. One coulee that he saw was so filled with the carcasses that one might have walked on them for several hundred yards.

In 1890 Knute Opheim sold his interest in the ranch and moved to Helena. In 1897 Ole Opheim drowned in the creek. His father came from Chicago to settle his estate, and Mons Teigen bought Ole’s share, making Teigen the sole owner. Later that year, Mons went to Helena and married Else Bordsen, and they moved into the two-story log house which had been built on the ranch. (See also TEIGEN)

One day Mons was returning from a trip to town, and when he came to the place in the road where the first glimpse of home could be seen, there was only smoke and rubble left. The family had to crowd into the
bunkhouse until a new house could be built. In 1908 a
carpenter by the name of Billy Howe built the house that
now stands on the ranch. Later, in 1910, he built the barn
and the sheep sheds.

In 1908 Bill Briggs settled on his homestead just north
of the bridge that marks "Briggs Coulee." In 1910 more
homesteaders started coming in and taking up land —
Tom Francis, John Devault, William Seute and Ed Daniels.
Melva Bolles and her two sons settled on a place about
three miles southwest of Teigen. One son, Lawrence, also
took a homestead. Julia Erickson and son Ross, Austin
Johnson and George Wilson also came that year.

Stanislaus Schultz and his wife and children moved in.
Three of his sons settled joining homesteads. Ole Vinge
came from Norway about 1910, working on the Teigen
Ranch after he arrived. The peak years for the homestead
boom around Teigen were 1913 to 1916.

The Luebke family settled about four miles northwest of
Teigen. Frank Bassett lived near Luebkes, and Jim Reed
and his sons were about three miles north. Mr. and Mrs.
Shepherdson and Don were east of Reeds. Further north
Andrew Eckland and Sven Holmgren. Bill Smith, A. C.
McKnight (later Lewistown's Chief of Police), Post,
Martino, Walker, Cusimano, Shuster, York, Mansell and
Barnes had their land. South of the Teigen townsite lived
the Carboneaus. Ahlers, Archers, Schultzes and Roy
Marks.

By 1912, surveys were started for the Milwaukee and
the Great Northern railroads. The Milwaukee Land
Company laid out the townsite of Teigen and the building
started. Tom Peterson built a store in 1914 and the
Teigen Post Office was officially designated on November
24, 1914, with Mr. Peterson as postmaster. John
Ferguson built a hotel and restaurant. Across the road.
Bill Beedie had a livery stable and blacksmith shop.
Peckham's saloon was in business — for a short time Mr.
and Mrs. Peckham lived in a tent next door!

In the fall of 1916 the Western Lumber and Grain
Company built a lumberyard and elevator. There had been
a bumper wheat crop in 1915 and 1916, so there was
wheat to take care of and a demand for lumber.

In 1917 a community hall was built on land donated by
Mons Teigen and the Milwaukee railroad. It was a large
building, 30 feet by 60 feet, and was first used in July
1917. Mrs. Bolles was a leader in the community and she
helped promote the building of the hall. She also helped
organize a debating society which met regularly.

The Polk Directory for 1918 listed George W. Conrad as
postmaster and manager of the Western Lumber and
Grain Co. The directory also listed T. A. Falliehe as prop-
rietor of a general store, T. A. Peterson as owner of a
general store, and J. P. Rutledge as blacksmith.

The Doughty store and post office sprouted up about
four and one-half miles to the west of Teigen at the
Doughty farm. The post office officially operated from
July 22, 1918, until June 30, 1919. A school, with a large
enrollment for a few years, was located there as well.

The Ferguson Hotel burned and Ferguson took up a
homestead. People were coming through the country in a
constant stream, and many stopped at the Teigen Ranch
asking to stay overnight. The house was often crowded
with sometimes as many as 14 unexpected guests! Mons
Teigen built the hotel (which still stands) in the fall of
1917. Boyds ran the hotel until 1924, when they moved in
a building and started a store. Nels and Martha Oswick
took charge of the hotel for a short time, and Mr. and
Mrs. Clarence Carr ran the hotel and fed the Campbell
Drilling Company crew while the Teigen No. 1 well was
being drilled in 1925. Pete and Edna Teigen and boys
were the last occupants of the hotel.

Schools

With so many families in the community, there was
need for a school. The nearest school was Grassrange
where eighteen children were crowded into a log cabin
with one teacher. The Teigen area residents made
application for a school district, but the regular process
of getting school started was slow, so Mons Teigen had a
schoolhouse built on the hill near the ranch, and he hired
the first teacher — Miss Louise Smith — in the fall of 1914.
Some of the first children to attend the school were:
Beatrice, Cecelia, Helen, Victoria and Frank Schultz; John,
Henry and Amelia Luebke; Alfred and Serena Mansell;
Dean and Nova Reed; Don Shepherdson; Georgia
Hanneuse; Frances and Johnny Ferguson; Angeline and
Nettie Wipfli; and Bard Teigen. The students walked or
rode horseback, through bitter cold sometimes, carrying
their noon lunches in tin pails. They sat in double desks
with all the restlessness, the mischief, the comradeship
of any country school.

The first teacher was young and pretty, and some of the
older boys liked school better than they had expected to.
Bill Beedie was among the young men of the community
who were interested, and he soon changed Miss Smith's
name. Melva Bolles taught the following two years (1915
and 1916) and later came back again to teach from 1923
to 1929.

School District #134 was officially created on August
21, 1914. It included not only the Teigen area on
McDonald Creek, but also an area south on Elk Creek. For
many years two schools operated in the district — the
Teigen School and the Kinnick School. (More is written on
the Kinnick School in the Elk Creek introduction.) Other
schools in the area, but outside the district, were the
Doughty School (about 4½ miles west of Teigen), the
Slack School north of Briggs Coulee, and later, the Reed
School which was built near War House Lake.

Community Halls

Early-day dances were held at several different places.
Ledbetter Hall was about ten miles north of Teigen;
Bowen Hall was at the Bowen place to the west; and Bill
Beedie fixed up a place to dance at the back of his livery
stable before the Teigen Hall was built.
A dance was a happy get-together for the many scattered families. The entire family would get into a big wagon and ride ten to fifteen miles. Babies, toddlers, and all ages of children went along. The little tots had a good time playing and trying to dance, and when they tired out they fell asleep on the benches along the wall. Married couples had a great time, too, but the young people were the ones who enjoyed it most. It was the time and place where boys met girls; fun and gaiety were contagious.

George Wilson and Bill Briggs were the fiddlers for many of the dances. Sometimes Bill played the drums. He went to a dance almost every week, and usually his "Missus" and the "Little Briggses" went too. As soon as they could toddle, they learned the rhythm of the dances. Square Dances, Two-Steps, Waltzes and Fox Trots in a lively tempo were the favorites.

The wives usually brought cakes and sandwiches for the midnight supper, and coffee was brewed in a copper wash boiler. Outside, along the rows of hitching posts, some of the men had their rowdy fun. Sometimes they played pranks on some young fellow who was going with a girl, such as putting his saddle on his horse backward, or smearing axle grease on his saddle. The bottles and jugs were often passed around out there, too, and now and then, sad to say, there would be a fist fight. By daylight, the music would stop and all would start home, a strange weariness stealing through their very bones, yet with the fun and excitement lingering in their memories.

**Railroad**

The building of the railroad took several years, from the first surveys made in 1911, until it was finally completed. Three different surveys were made before building of the grade was started in 1916: the rails were laid in the summer of 1917. Then the section house and bunkhouse and small depot were built. Bill Rozell was the first section boss. The train came three times a week at first, then every day except Sunday. During the Cat Creek oil boom in 1920, two trains a day steamed by!

What a wealth of excitement and thrill it brought each trip — the black smoke belching out of the engine, the whistle echoing along the valley, the bell clanging as the train slowed to a stop at the station, bringing mail and freight and passengers. The coach was often filled, the men wearing long overcoats and wide brimmed hats, the women in bulky skirts and high-topped shoes, children in quaint little outfits. In cold weather they would try to get close to the little coal heater in one end of the coach.

Sometimes the snow proved too deep and heavy for the plows they then used, and the train would be stalled for hours. The coming of the railroad made a big difference in life along its route, but the irony of the story is that it came just about in time to start moving homesteaders and their household goods out, because already they were finding that it was impossible to make a living on a few acres of barren land that they had claimed.
War — Oil — Drought

The bumper crop years of 1915 and 1916 did not continue. The drought came and stayed. It became a bitter joke that "next year’s" crops were the only good ones. Homesteaders tried to find jobs — on section crews, ranch work — anything to make a living. Some mortgaged their land and spent the money, then left.

During World War I many young men from the Teigen community were in the service. Ole Vinge, Andy Eckland, Nels Nelson, Leonard Eld, Herman and Frank Luebke, Ted and John Schultz were just a few of the boys that went. At home the Teigen community formed a Red Cross Chapter, and they knitted, rolled bandages, and raised money to help in the Red Cross work.

Teigen Red Cross Chapter shows its spirit!

(L to R) Mrs. Mons Teigen, unknown, Mrs. William Briggs, little girls Jennie and Happy Briggs, Mrs. Tom Peterson, behind her Marie Aflerbach, standing on log — Louise Charbonneau, Gladys Tilden (teacher), and Mabel Peterson

The oil strike in Cat Creek in 1920 caused excitement all around the area and there was drilling activity in every part of the county in the next few years. Teigen was no exception.

Gordon Campbell (the geologist who was instrumental in drawing the first attention to the oil potential in Cat Creek) mapped the geological structure around Teigen in 1920. He conducted another survey in 1924, and on May 22, 1925, the Winnett Times quoted Mr. Campbell as saying, "The structure is perfect, with an excellent enclosure. It is enclosed with a igneous dyke such as found in Mexico and is an entirely new condition in Montana. I have thought that it contained oil for several years and have now made arrangements for the test." The site of the test was near the Teigen railway station.

Several other tests were being, or had been, made in the Teigen vicinity. "The Teigen Truth-Teller," published by the Teigen School students, contained this ditty on April 17, 1925:

"North, South, East, and West
Everywhere they’re going to test.
And then we’ll sing
‘When Dreams Come True!’

The little paper also reported: "Mr. Peter Dolsman has bought two lots in Teigen and moved in his ranch house. The Teigen boom has begun. Someone should take pictures of the townsit now and again in six months. Buy a lot and beat the boom, that’s our slogan."

Mrs. Mons Teigen visiting at the Campbell well drill site

Unfortunately, like so many other oil wells drilled in the 1920s, the hole was P/A — plugged and abandoned.

The thirties were the driest years yet seen in Montana, and prices were so low that livestock was not worth shipping. Most of the homesteaders left, some went back to the states they came from — Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas. Many followed the lure of California. Some now live as near as Lewistown or Billings, Montana. Now and then someone comes back to look at the old homestead, and, no doubt, each one holds vivid memories of those long ago days.

The buildings that once made up the townsit of Teigen are gone. The community hall burned early in 1920; Peterson’s store burned in 1924. The elevator was torn down and moved away in the early thirties. The section house was bought and moved to the Harry Dengel place. The Teigen Store, which was first owned and operated by Mrs. Boyd, was sold to Mark Kelley in 1928. After he died, his second wife, Jennie Meserve, ran the store and post office for five more years. She sold to Bill and Katherine Tait in 1946. The Tait’s operated the store and post office until 1970. when the business was sold to the Huffs. They operated it until its closing in 1986. In the spring of 1987, the store building was burned, leaving only the hotel at the old townsit.
The Teigen School held its final term in 1934-1935. Bard Teigen had been a pupil during the first term of the school in 1914; Peter Teigen Jr. was a student during the final term. The schoolhouse was donated to the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1973 and moved to Symmes Park in Lewistown, Montana, to be used as a memorial to the one-room school.

The railroad schedule dwindled to an occasional train and the line was finally abandoned in 1972, and the tracks were taken up. The post office became a Community Post Office of Roundup in 1983. Even the sheep are gone. In 1976 the Teigens replaced their bands of sheep with cattle. In 1984 the Teigen Ranch celebrated a century of operation on McDonald Creek. The beautiful ranch is still in the hands of the Teigen family.

(The foregoing Teigen introduction is taken almost entirely from an article written by Bard and Ann Teigen for the Lewistown News Argus on December 21, 1963, and is used with the permission of Ann Teigen.)

**Elk Creek**

Settlement on Elk Creek began with the coming of the large cattle herds. Headquarters for these ranches were generally closer to the foothills of the mountains where water and wood were readily available, but the cattle grazed freely the length of all the eastward flowing streams to the Musselshell River. Line camps were often established along the streams.

Before 1900, water rights were filed on Elk Creek by Nelson Doven and Willard and Lillie Bean. Shortly thereafter rights were filed by Fred and Mary Stein and Emma Kinnick. This would indicate they were the earliest permanent settlers on the creek. Others with early claims for water on the creek were Ora Clement, John Johnson, Emma and George Egerly, Thomas Cruse, Jon Single and Frederick Finkbeiner.

The people on upper Elk Creek were served by the Grassrange Post Office and the Teigen Post Office. Lower Elk Creek was served by Winnett. A post office never existed along Elk Creek nor was there ever a strong sense of community or neighborhood. In the early 1920s, a Pineview column in the Winnett Times furnished the local news and occasionally in the 1930s news concerning the Elk Creek residents was written under the heading of Livewire Flat, Longview, Possum Holler or Owl Creek.

**Schools**

The earliest school on Elk Creek was east of the area encompassed in this chapter, but children from lower Elk Creek attended the school. It was known as the Bratten or Beer School (See Petroia Introduction). For perhaps a year or two, children from the area were transported to Winnett via a team and covered wagon. (See MORGAN)

Lillian Story Hough (See STORY) wrote of another early school on Elk Creek. It was located about five miles west of present Highway #244. The school was under the jurisdiction of District #159 and probably operated for three or four years.

South of Elk Creek, closer to Yellow Water Creek but within T14-R26, three other schools operated at various times. The earliest of these was the Yellow Water School in Section 34. It opened in 1914 with Belle Davis as teacher (See DAVIS). Gineva Van Tassell, Joe Langshausen and Dora Beer were later teachers. Most of the students came from the Yellow Water area. It is doubtful if the school operated after 1917.

Records seem to indicate the Pineview School in Section 21 had only one teacher. Mrs. Guy Schellenger taught a summer session of the school in 1921, a regular term in 1921-22 and another term in 1922-23. The school closed in 1923. Pupils in the school included the Redmond, Davis, Ringo and Schellenger children.

The last school to operate in T14-R25 was located in Section 36. It was referred to as the Yellow Water or Stroup School, and it opened in the fall of 1927 and closed in the spring of 1929. It served the McFarren, Lancelle, Stroup and Barnes children.

Just west of T14-R25, near Elk Creek, the Kinnick School served children in Petroleum and Fergus counties for almost 50 years. The school opened in 1914, was moved several times, and except for several brief interruptions, operated until 1962. Some of the families it served were Wards, Turners, Kjersems, Schultzes, Archers, Kinnicks and Gjerdes. The school was under the jurisdiction of District #134. After Petroleum County was formed, the district became a joint district with Fergus County. The Teigen and the Kinnick schools were both within the same district.

**Oil!**

During the summer of 1921, wild cat oil wells were being drilled all over Petroleum County. The Cat Creek strike in 1920 had spurred activity to a feverpitch. Perhaps no drilling drew more attention in the town of Winnett than the drilling of the Oregon-Montana well in 1921. The property, six miles southwest of Winnett, was within sight of the town and had been heavily promoted both in Montana and in Oregon. Shares and royalties for 2500 lots were sold by Lloyd Addington and Lee Hoselton in the name of Oregon-Montana Oil and Gas Company.

One can well imagine the excitement when word reached Winnett on August 26, 1921, that oil had been struck on the site! The Winnett Times reported, "The excitement surpassed any like experience in the history of the city, even more so than the news of the discovery well at Cat Creek... when the tools were pulled up, heavy oil was dripping from them...and as the news swept the city, a stream of automobiles visited the well and brought back samples of the oil."

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The excitement was short-lived, however. It was contended the oil could not be commercially produced without drilling deeper, and the operation was plagued with every imaginable problem. In December the Winnett Times reported, “Manager Addington, a driller of long experience, since taking charge of the well after the fiasco under the management of Lee Hoselton . . . assures he will give the well his closest attention.” In spite of the bold promises, the well was never satisfactorily completed. There are still those who remember seeing oil from the Oregon-Montana. The fact remains, however, no oil was produced. On February 3, 1928, over 2200 of the Oregon-Montana lots were advertised for sale by the county because of delinquent taxes. In 1976 Red Carnell drilled a well immediately adjacent to the original well. It proved to be a dry hole.

AHLERS, Henry (Sec 7-14-25) Henry and Lydia Ahlers owned land just east of the Fergus County line north of Elk Creek. Lydia was clerk of School District #134 in 1922. In 1925 Henry served on the school board for the district.

The Ahlers had four children — Wilbur (1910), Raymond (1916), Albert (1917) and Lucille (1920). Little Raymond Ahlers wrote the following poem for the Teigen School paper, the “Teigen Truth-Teller.” It was printed in January 1925.

“Ah, when I see the pretty candle light,
Shining in the window, oh, so bright,
And I see it every night
For jolly Christmas time is here.”

Mr. Ahlers found work in Grassrange in 1925. Mrs. Ahlers and the children lived in Teigen, where the children attended school that year. In April Mrs. Ahlers moved to Grassrange.

Records show the Ahlers’ homestead reverted to the county in 1926. It was purchased by the Archers.

ANDERSON, Sophia (Sec 28-15-25) Sophia Anderson was a sister of Mrs. Mons (Elsie Bordsen) Teigen. Sophia took up land down the creek from Teigen. She did not remain in the area, however, but returned to Helena to make her home.

When Peter Teigen started school in about 1906, he lived with Sophia for the school term. Peter stayed with her each year until she died in 1912.

ARCHER, William Floyd William and Ella Archer came to Montana from Washington on their honeymoon in 1916 with a team and wagon and a horse and buggy. Ella drove the horse and buggy. All of their belongings, including Mrs. Archer’s piano, were hauled in the wagon. (The piano, incidently, is still owned by the family!) The Archers settled on a place about eleven miles east of Grassrange near the Fergus-Petroleum county line.

Shortly after they arrived in Montana, Ella was asked to teach the Kinnick School, and she taught the school again in the early 1940s. Through the years she taught the Gjerde, Kinnick, Stolle, Kelly, Remillard, Schultz, and Ward children, to name a few.

The Archers raised six children — Deane (1917), Jack (1919), Victor, Nell, Peggy and Nancy. Deane, the oldest, still lives in the community. He served in the Civilian Conservation Corps during the late 1930s and then returned to farm the land his parents owned in additions to parcels which were added when early homesteaders sold or abandoned their property. Deane married Hazel Grosser at the Grosser’s home in Winnett in 1941. The couple had two children. Larry and Tim, both of whom graduated from Winnett High School. Hazel died in 1972. (See also GROSSER — Cat Creek)

Jack, the second son, was killed in a horse accident when he was only seven years old. Victor and Nell both attended the University of Montana in Missoula. Victor went to Northwestern Medical School and became a doctor. Peggy attended school in Grassrange and Lewistown and now lives in Townsend, Montana. Nancy lives in Dansville, New York.

Ellas V. Archer wrote a small book based on her life — Miles and Miles Behind Me. It is a candid and sometimes philosophical account which begins by saying, “Sometimes I wonder if the world will ever again change as rapidly as it has during the last sixty years — from the horse-and-buggy days of my early years to the wonderful and awesome trip to the moon of these later days.”

She also observed, “Perhaps some day soon, a woman will no longer be a second-class citizen (the short ribs of the Adams of this world) but will stand side by side with her man and not only vote, but hold as many public offices as he does, where she can have just as much say as he exercises.” A copy of the book is available for checkout in the Petroleum County Public Library.

ARVOLD, Ole (Sec 25,26-14-25) Ole Arvold bought eighty acres from Homer and Idah White in 1917. Six months later he sold the property to Henry Sibbert. Ole was not married.

AVEN, Anders M. (Sec 27-14-25) Anders Aven, a single man, received a homestead patent to 160 acres of land south of Elk Creek in 1914. He deeded the property to Henry Sibbert in the same year.

BAKER, Dan Dan Baker herded sheep for the Teigens. Ann Teigen wrote the following account of Mr. Baker in an article for the Lewistown News Argus titled “Sheepherders — A Vanishing Breed.”

“Dan Baker was a newspaper man. He had run a newspaper in a small town and had at times worked at the Lewistown Daily News office. He liked to write poetry and had plenty of time to think and write while out with the sheep. He was handicapped with a speech difficulty.

He was on the Lewistown paper staff when word came that World War II was over. The phones were ringing wildly. People wanted to hear all about it.

After answering quite a few inquiries, his patience was worn out. A caller asked, ‘Is the war over?’ Dan said
scathingly, 'What war?'"

**BANGS, Viola** (Sec 22, 27-14-26) Viola Bangs received a patent on 200 acres from the U. S. Government in 1920. In 1924 the land reverted to the county for taxes. Dell Huotte bought the property in 1928 for $280. Again it reverted to the county for taxes, and John Hill bought it. In 1942 he sold it to King and Petersen. It is now part of the Joe C. King and Sons Ranch.

**BARBEE, M. J.** "Buster" Barbee was born October 27, 1923, in Lewistown, Montana. His mother, Alta Fields, was the daughter of Ed Fields, an early-day Fort Maginnis settler. His father, Martin "Mart" Barbee, ran a poolhall in the old mining town of Maiden in 1916. There were five children in the family — Montana June "Monte" (1915), Marta (1920), Buster (1923), Bill (1927) and Ronald, the youngest. Their mother died in 1936. Her sister, Bertie Fields Milnschmidt, helped care for the school-age boys during the school terms. The boys spent most of their summers on their grandfather's ranch near Fort Maginnis.

Buster served in the infantry in Europe during World War II. After the war he returned to central Montana where he worked on ranches, trained and traded horses, trapped and hunted. He killed a huge grizzly bear in 1960. He also did some prospecting for uranium and gold in the State of Washington. Incidentally, he is no slouch as a pool player!

Buster has always liked well-trained dependable horses, dogs, men and, yes, children! He has no patience with a horse that will set him afoot, a man who will break his word, or a child who will not try to do his best. Some of Buster's well-trained horses helped a lot of kids win ribbons at rodeos and horse shows.

Buster enjoys writing poetry, and from time to time, the poems are printed in the paper. The following is a sample of his humorous rhymes.

### The Expert

"Now when it comes to calving cows,
I guess there is nothing I don't know.
I've calved cows on a hundred spreads,
From Montana clear down to Mexico.

I've pulled calves that had six legs,
With two heads and upside down.
Yes, old horse, they are lucky to have me,
For I'm a man that has really been around.

Now take that cow right over there —
Just listen to her beller.
See how upset she is, old horse,
I know she has lost her little feller.

Her hips are sunk, her belly's flat,
There's dried blood upon her tail.
The hair is curly where it's sucked,
The quarter is shiny as a new milk pail.

Don't worry old girl, I'll find him —
I sure hope that it's not dead.
Now I remember your calf, old girl.
It's that heifer with the real round head.

I bet that's her right over there.
It's gant as my uncle's brother.
Here comes a cow like her tail's afire
Darn! That calf has a mother.

Well I've looked this whole pasture over, horse.
Everything seems to be a pair.
I bet some two-legged varmint stole him —
There's not even a carcass anywhere.

That old cow has quit her bellering.
That's her laying in that tall grass.
Why, I can't believe my eyes, old horse.
She just had herself a calf!"

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Buster Barbee and his record-sized grizzly bear

Buster spent a good many years on the Teigen and the King ranches. He married Orene Raundal in 1971. (See also BARBEE — Winnett)

**BEAN BROTHERS** Dolphus Bean (1824-1908) and his second wife, Ann Eaton (1829-1901), came to Montana from New Hampshire in the early 1880s with two of their grown sons — Benning and Willard. Another son, Daniel, came later. They settled on Elk Creek and upper Yellow Water Creek and took out water rights on both streams.
Land records show Benning M. Bean and his wife, Mary, transferred 80 acres of land on Elk Creek to Willard E. Bean in 1898 (Sec 14,15-14-25). Benning and Mary acquired land on Blood Creek near Valentine in 1899 and lived there for a number of years. (See also BEAN — Dovetail)

Willard Bean recorded the purchase of 120 acres (Sec 23,24-14-25) on Elk Creek from the U. S. Government in 1898 under the Cash Entry provisions of the 1820 Land Act. Lillie acquired 320 acres of land (Sec 24,25-14-25) in 1903. They also recorded purchases of land from Barney Higgins and Thompson Letchworth (Sec 15-14-25) in 1901, from Edwin Lont (Sec 30-14-26) in 1900, and from Lewis Hovland (Sec 29,30-14-26) in 1904. In 1906 the Beans sold their entire Elk Creek property consisting of approximately 1200 acres to Henry Sibbert for $8400.

Willard and Lillie had one son, Willard (1895). The Grass Range Review reported the following on May 14, 1925: "Mrs. W. D. Bean and son arrived in Grass Range on Tuesday from Hardin en route to Valentine to visit B. W. Bean and family for a short time. Mrs. Bean's husband, who formerly owned what is known as the Bean Ranch six miles south of Grassrange, died last February. The Beans own an eight-hundred-acre ranch near Hardin, which they have leased. On their return, they will make their home in Billings in the future."

Daniel Bean (1856-1928) and his second wife, Carolyn Colby (1859-1922) farmed with Dan's father, Dophus Bean, south of Grassrange for several years before moving to Lewistown. Daniel Bean is listed as the first postmaster in Forrestgrove from March 19, 1904 to May 15, 1908. Dan had one child, Edith, by his first wife. Edith died in Lewistown in 1892. "Carrie" had two children, Charles and Ida Mae, by her first marriage. The children took their mother's maiden name of Colby.

Two daughters were born to Dan and Carrie — Marion "Hazel" (1889-1955) and Martha Lenora (1900-1952). Hazel married Charles Foran in 1909. Charles came to Montana in 1899 and worked on various ranches before taking up land near Forrestgrove. The couple had six children — Anne Caroline (1910) who died as an infant, Daniel John (1911), Dorothy Hazel (1914-1937), Charles Herbert (1917), Florence May (1922-1970) and Benning Albert (1924).

Of these children: Daniel did not stay in the area: Dorothy married Phillip Baird; Charles married and raised a family in the Grassrange area: Florence married Matt Vlastelic and the couple raised a large family near Grassrange. Their daughter, Dorothy (Kovach), furnished information for this article. A son, Michael Vlastelic, is mentioned in both the Flatwillow and Winnett chapters of this book.

BEANBLOSSOM, Marvin (See HUFF)

BECK, Rudolph (Sec 14-14-26) See BECK — Winnett

BEEDIE, William William Beedie built the first livery stable in the little community of Teigen. Later Mr. Beedie married the schoolteacher, Louise Smith, moving off north to start a family and raise sheep. (See also BEEDIE — Blakeslee)

BERGE, Isak (Sec 29-14-26) Isak was a single man, who it is believed, worked for Henry Sibbert. In 1913 Henry deeded certain water rights to Isak Berge. Isak received a desert land patent on 160 acres which he later deeded to Henry Sibbert.

BOHN Families Albert and Hattie Bohn, Charlie and Louise Bohn, and William and Florence Kindt came to Montana together from Illinois in 1912. A more complete history of the families can be found in the Petrolia section of this book, since it is the area where they all permanently settled.

It is interesting to note, however, the land agent mislocated them and they spent a summer (from April to October) living on Elk Creek until the error was discovered. Their first shelter consisted of 25 railroad car doors which formed the walls, tarpaulins which formed the roof, and horse blankets which were used for doors. Their nearest neighbors were the Henry Sibberts to the east and the George W. Kinnicks to the west. This would indicate they were misplaced three townships to the west of their proper location. Their first location was approximately Sec 7-14-25; their final location was Sec 7-14-28.

The families found the Sibberts and Kinnicks to be kind considerate neighbors, and their friendship lasted all of their lives.

BOLLES, Melva Melva Bolles and her two sons, Lawrence and Henry, settled about three miles southwest of Teigen. Lawrence also took out a homestead. Mrs. Bolles taught the Teigen School from 1915 to 1917 and again from 1923 to 1929. During the 1925 term, her pupils published a community newspaper known as "The Teigen Truth-Teller." A copy of the winter issues of the paper can be found in the Winnett library.

Mrs. Bolles and her son, Henry, lived in a house just south of the Teigen Hotel while she was teaching school in 1925. Henry married, however, and was living in Butte in 1929. Later he was a professor at Montana State College in Bozeman.

Mrs. Bolles died from pneumonia shortly after school opened in 1929. She was a sister of Judge E. K. Cheadle of Lewistown.

Great friends! Elsie Teigen and teacher Melva Bolles
BOWEN, D. W. The Bowens were very early settlers west of Teigen on McDonald Creek. W. C. Burnett of Gillette was a top hand working for the DHS Ranch in the 1880s. In the story of his life which was published in the Montana Magazine of History, Spring 1953, he is quoted as saying:

"The first settler to come on the open range was in 1882. We were working a roundup on McDonald Creek where Mons Teigen's ranch is now. A covered wagon drove up and I rode out to see what he wanted. He had a wife and a couple of kids and said his name was Bowen. He said he got burned out in California and lost all he had and had come to Montana looking for a ranch. He asked me who the land belonged to and I told him, 'Uncle Sam.' He drove down on the creek and camped.

(Later) "Coming from Miles City with the outfit, on Willow Creek north of Musselschell, we spied a couple buffalo and thought we would kill one and get some fresh meat. We lit into them on our horses. Going over a rise on the prairie right in front of us and the buffalo, was a man on the running gears of a wagon; one of the buffalo ran across the wagon, broke the reach, and the team ran away with the front wheels leaving the man with the rear axles. We quit the buffalo, caught his team, roped up his reach and he went on his way happy. It was Bowen on his way to Junction for lumber to build his cabin."

In later years a school was opened at the Bowen Ranch, and in 1917 a new building was built for the school and Miss Ward was the teacher. There was also a community hall at Bowens. Mrs. Bowen served as midwife and nurse in the neighborhood. The Bowen's daughter, Mary, was married to David Foreman. (See also FOREMAN)

BOYD, Frank (Sec 6-15-25) Frank Boyd was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1850. During his childhood, he lived in several states including Missouri and Ohio. While still a young boy, he served as an aide to his father who was a captain in the Civil War.

Frank married Mary McElroy in 1872 and they lived for many years in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, where Frank was employed by the Burlington Railroad. The couple had three children, two of whom died in young womanhood. Their son, F. L. "Roy" Boyd, came to Montana and was a mechanic at Cat Creek for a time. (See also BOYD — Cat Creek)

The Boyds came to Montana in 1913, and Frank homesteaded near Teigen. They became proprietors of the Teigen Hotel after it was built by Mons Teigen in 1917. An incident at the hotel was reported in the Grass Range Review on February 17, 1921. It seems Mr. Boyd objected to the peddling of moonshine at the Teigen dances, and he ordered two young men off the premises for being involved in such doings. The men, Elmer Minor and Oscar Hagen, proceeded to beat him up. According to the newspaper article, "Roy Boyd appeared on the scene about this time and as a last resort, threw his flashlight through the windshield of their car at which time he became the object of a wild shot. This happened about 2 a.m. Saturday morning.

"A posse, organized by Mr. Boyd, who had no idea of stopping until he got them or had aided in their apprehension, guarded a few of the roads they would be likely to travel, but the fugitives wisely headed for Winnett, passing through there about 4 a.m. Deputy Sheriff Turner, who was in Grass Range at the time, joined in the chase Saturday morning, being joined by Sheriffs Smith and Shepherdson.

"It was learned that Minor and Hagen had crossed the Musselschell and after an all night drive they were finally taken at the Bill Powell Ranch on Lodgepole in Garfield County. Both men were asleep when taken and though the trouble had been forgotten by that time... both men are now in the county jail."

In 1924 the Boyds moved a building to the Teigen townsite and opened a store. Mary Boyd had been appointed postmaster in 1919 and the post office was moved into their store. (The post office remained in that location until 1986 when, as a Community Post Office, it was moved to the Teigen Ranch headquarters.

Frank died in January 1925. Funeral services were held for him in the Teigen Hotel, and he was buried in the Winnett Cemetery. Mrs. Boyd sold the store to Mark Kelley, and he became postmaster in 1928.

BOYD, Thomas J. and William R. (Sec 13-14-25) ("The Boyds in Montana," submitted by Roul (Boyd) Tunley. Mr. Tunley is a professional writer who has had several books published and numerous magazines articles printed.)

"Growing up in New York City, I always looked upon Montana as a place brushed with magic. It wasn't just that it was a part of the Far West, although it certainly had that appeal to a small boy. No, it was because that was where my two uncles, William and Thomas Boyd, were living out a dream life. Or so it seemed to a younger forced to find his pleasure on the mean, madam streets of a huge city.

"The Boyds, my mother's brothers, never achieved success in the conventional sense, but they certainly knew how to live. At least to my way of thinking. Born in Chicago, they took off for the Klondike to find gold several years after the Gold Rush. They were too late, of course, but that didn't matter to them. Success wasn't necessarily the goal; it was the pursuit of success that mattered. Montana was very much a "pursuit." Sometime after the Klondike adventure and before World War I, they decided to homestead 320 acres in Petroleum County. For the first several years, crops were bountiful — as they were for everyone. After all, the rich soil had never been tilled. And there was sufficient rainfall to help. But after that, crops became so scarce that agriculture was no longer possible. That didn't mean the end of the Boyds in Montana. They decided to divide their time between Eugene, Oregon, where their mother and sisters lived, and their Montana home near Winnett. They engaged in various enterprises to make this lifestyle possible."
BRIDGES, Cola (Sec 21-14-26) Cola homesteaded about a mile north of Elk Creek, three miles west of present Highway #244. "Cola," as everyone called him, was born in Monroe County, Missouri, on March 1, 1876, and came to Montana in 1901. On April 30, 1902, he married Julia Crosswhite at Pony, Montana. The couple, with their two children, Zeta (1907) and Alberta (1909), came to the Winnett area in 1916. Cola was known as a cheerful handyman in the community who was always able and willing to help his neighbors.

The Bridges moved to Lewistown in 1920 and back to Winnett in 1941. (See BRIDGES — Winnett)

BRIGGS, William William Briggs homesteaded west of Teigen about four miles, just north of the highway crossing known as Briggs Coulee. He and his wife had five daughters and two sons — Jenny, Velma, Verna, George, Helen, Hazel and James (Iggs).

William was a popular fiddler in the community who played for many a dance. He also played the drums, and, as his children grew up, they too played musical instruments for dances. Jenny played the drums and Velma (Happy) played the piano. Velma married Raymond Carr. (See also CARR)

The Briggs family moved to the Bitterroot Valley.

BRITTON, Columbus (Sec 7-14-26) Columbus Britton filed his final homestead papers in 1919. After he died, his widow, Ida, married Alfred Davis, whose homestead joined theirs. (See also DAVIS)

CARR, Clarence (Sec 25-15-25) Clarence Carr homesteaded north of McDonald Creek about six miles east of Teigen. He and his family moved to Teigen in about 1925. Clarence carried the mail from the train to the post office, and he and his wife operated the Teigen Hotel and fed the Campbell drilling crew which drilled the Teigen No. 1 well during the summer of 1925.

Clarence and Helen celebrated their eleventh wedding anniversary in February 1925 while living in the hotel. The Carrs had three children — Merritt (1915), Lawrence (1916) and Irene (1919).

In June 1926 the Clarence Carrs moved to Washington, where they made their home the rest of their lives. (Clarence and Thomas Carr were brothers.)

CARR, Sam Sam and Jessie Carr had the following children listed on the school census — Thomas (1905), Donald (1906), Harold (1908), Roy (1910) and Ivan (1915). It is not known if they were related to Clarence and Thomas Carr. Two other Carr names appear on land deeds in the county — Oliver and Edward. Their relationship is not known either.

CARR, Thomas A. (Sec 4-14-25) Viola Carr Hill submitted the following article. "My parents, Thomas A. and Addie Knapp Carr, came from Webster, South Dakota, to Moore, Montana, in 1910. They lived there for a year, and my father worked for Venge Long. A son, Raymond (1909), had been born in Webster, South Dakota, before they came to Montana. While they lived in Moore, a
second son, Joseph (1911), was born.

"In about 1912 Dad took up a homestead 3½ miles west of Winnett. That is where Glenn (1913), Opal (1914), Viola (1915) and Frances (1920) were born.

"My dad started building roads in about 1913. He built the streets in Winnett and many roads in the country. (Note: W. T. 9-2-1914 — 'Winnett streets have all been graveled from end to end, and a crew of twenty teams are now working on Broadway.') During this time my dad also operated a livery stable in Winnett. This barn was in the area between the present (1988) Times Office and the Jim Davis house.

"We children went to school at a country school about a mile north of the homestead. Another family by the name of Dalsmon had children in the school also. When I was in the third grade, we went to Winnett for school. We rented a house in town during the school term and moved back to the country in the spring.

"My dad did a lot of road contracting in the 1920s. (Note: W. T. 3-30-28 — 'Local contractor enters successful bid for a big State Highway contract. Tom Carr, who has built miles of good road in Petroleum County and Fergus, gets contract for road between Lewistown and Grassrange. The contract calls for 9,381 miles in Fergus County on the Lewistown — Grassrange road at a contract price of $30,266.01. Mr. Carr’s friends are congratulating him on securing the contract.')

"We would all go with him in the summer when he had a road job. Mother and we girls cooked for the men. We had two houses on wheels. We used one for cooking and one for sleeping. (Note: W. T. 4-20-1928 — ‘A new and roomy sleeper has been added to the already extensive layout belonging to Tom A. Carr and will be used in connection with his road work this summer. It has all the necessary fixtures, even to a fine coat of paint. This road sleeper was built by the Carrs at the Monarch Lumber Co. yard during the past week.’) The three boys helped on the road crew. That was the day of horses and fresno scrapers, a lot different than it is now.

"(Note: W. T. 12-13-1929 — ‘Tom Carr has completed his State highway contract and has returned to his ranch west of Winnett to spend the winter. Tom states competitive bidding on highway contracts has brought the profit down to a very small margin.’) The last job we worked on was from Geyser to Raynesford in 1931. The heavy equipment was starting to come into the construction business at that time.

"We came back to Winnett to live. Dad worked for the county for awhile. He also went to Fort Peck and worked up there for about a year. When the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) came to Winnett, he worked for them as foreman. In 1938 when the camp moved to Lewistown, my parents moved there, where he worked until the camp closed.

"After moving around a bit, they returned to Lewistown and Dad worked for the Lewistown Transfer. After an illness of 18 months, Dad passed away in 1947. Mother continued to live in Lewistown for awhile, then moved to Winnett. She lived in Winnett until poor health forced her to live in rest homes. She passed away December 10, 1966, in Lewistown.

Raymond married Velma "Hap" Briggs in 1930. They had three children, two girls and a boy. Ray passed away August 15, 1954, of a heart attack. Hap was killed in a traffic accident December 1, 1957.

Joseph married Evelyn Martin, who was a music teacher in the Winnett School for several years. They lived in Great Falls and had two boys — Richard and John. Evelyn had a bad heart for most of her life and died after heart surgery in 1968. Joe is presently (1989) living with his younger son in Carnation, Washington.

Glenn married Alyce Kinnick Heggen on August 11, 1933. Alyce was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Kinnick, who homesteaded near Elk Creek. (See also KINNICK) She had a son from a previous marriage who was killed in an auto accident while serving in the Army.

Opal married Edwin Colver in 1934. They were divorced about ten years later and she married Thomas G. Johnston. They live in Freeport, Texas, where he is retired after working as a pipe fitter for Dow Chemical for many years.

Frances attended nursing school in Lewistown. She received her license as a registered nurse and worked in Cut Bank. She married Art Tetrud, but they were divorced and she enlisted in the service during World War
II. She took training in evacuating wounded soldiers and served in that capacity until the war ended. She returned to Great Falls and married Walter Tynes Jr. They had a son and an adopted daughter. Frances and Walter were divorced, and Frances worked in the Deaconess Hospital in Great Falls for many years. She is now retired and still lives there (1989).

Viola still lives in the Winnett community. She and her husband, Floyd Hill, ranch southeast of town. (See also HILL — Kelley and Winnett)

Tom Carr’s road crew moving. Notice the cookhouse and the bunkhouse on wheels at the end of the line

Addie and Tom Carr with their children. (L to R) Opal, Glenn, Joe, Frances, Raymond, Viola

CHARBONNEAU, Napoleon Napoleon Charbonneau (1860-1929) and Rosanna Sharron (1866-1945) were married in Illinois on August 12, 1883. They were early homesteaders south of Teigen. Their property is now (1989) owned by Deane Archer.

There were fourteen children in the Charbonneau family — Sam (1884-1965), George (1886), Oscar (1888-1974), Evelyn (1890), Fredia (1892), Lucy (1894), Louise (1896), Lillian (1898-1988), Irene (1900), Arthur (1902), Albert (1904), Esther (1906), Sophia (1909) and Nellie (1912).

Oscar married Zella Remillard (1884-1963), daughter of John and Minnie Remillard of the Teigen-Grassrange community. They had the following children — Emmett (1909-died at birth); Myrtle Irene (Drake) (1911-1962); Amos Alfred (1912) who settled in Forestgrove; Marie Elia (Terry) (1913); and Leah Minnie (Fitzgerald) (1917).

Fredia married Elric Remillard. (See also REMILLARD)

Louise married Elmer Inglebert. (See also INGLEBERT)

Louise and Sophia both helped with the cooking at the Teigen Ranch at various times. Sophia married Pete Daniels of Grassrange in 1927. Irene married Bert Orwick. (See also ORWICK)
"One of his friends would take him home and let him stay until he healed enough to go back to the ranch and work again."

"He had gone to school for a while at Fort Shaw (he called it college), so he could write letters when he needed to. Here is one of his old letters:

"Sir, just a few lines I now filling very good I bin sick about a month now I like for you to send my male to Lewistown if I got aney at rach. and also send me my stamp Book Nober 4 I need it l cant get my shoger and also if you come to town to look me up I want see you for my income tacks I cant go no ware I not fill like it I am at Tom Wells pase just now

I remen Truly
Louis J Chearette"

"Louis often told about his wedding. He said they were at the altar, and the preacher said 'Do you take this woman for your wife?' and I said 'No,' so that was the end of the wedding.

"Once when Louie had his band of sheep near the highway, some tourists stopped and asked if they could take moving pictures of him and the sheep. He was very excited about the incident, saying that he was going in the movies. He would have been an interesting and colorful star."

Louis was born in 1883. He died in 1948. He had worked for Telgens for 40 years.

CLARK, George George and Rita Clark had four children — Marjorie (1911), Glennie (1914), George (1917) and Homer (1920). Rita died in 1925 just before Mr. Clark and his children moved to Teigen, where he worked on the section crew. Though the youngest child was only five, the teacher allowed him to go to school with his brother and sisters.

COMSTOCK, Charles (Sec 24-14-25) Charles Comstock and Ole Olson constructed a ditch in 1910 to divert water from Elk Creek to their land which joined Henry Sibbert to the east. They applied for and received a water right for 480 inches of water in 1914. Mr. Comstock sold his 160 acres to Henry Sibbert in 1918.

CONRAD, George W. The 1918 Polk Directory lists George Conrad as the postmaster and the manager of the Western Lumber and Grain Co. in Teigen. He served as postmaster from July 30, 1917, until February 12, 1918.

DANIELS, Ed Ed Daniels and his mother had property just north of the Teigen townsite. Ed worked in the store for Mr. Peterson until the store burned in 1924. Later he worked for Mr. Seute in Lewistown in his grocery store.

DAVIS, Alfred T. (Sec 7,8-14-26) Alfred T. Davis owned 240 acres of land about a mile south of McDonald Creek near the pine ridge between McDonald and Elk Creek. On April 11, 1919, the following account appeared in the Winnett Times:

"A. T. Davis, who lives southwest of Winnett, came to town Friday for some seed wheat and enough supplies to
last through spring work. Returning home that evening he
took the road through the Winnett meadow and started
across the bridge over McDonald Creek just above the
upper sheep shed and had gotten just halfway across
when the structure gave way letting the wagon, team and
driver into the water, which was about five feet deep at
this place. The entire load consisting of 35 bushels of seed
wheat and a large bill of groceries was lost, and it was
only by hard work that the wagon was gotten out."

After Columbus Britton died, Alfred married
Columbus's widow, Ida. The Britton property, consisting
of 320 acres, joined the Davis property on the north and
west. The Davis property sold at a sheriff's sale for
$1981.92 in 1926.

DAVIS, Charles A. (Sec 21-14-25) Charles and
Elizabeth Davis owned 320 acres of land on "Redmond
Ridge" about three miles west of the Sibbert Ranch. The
ridge runs between Elk Creek and Yellow Water Creek.

The Davis children went to Pineview School in 1921 and
1922. Their teacher was Mrs. Guy Schellenger. Appear-
tly there was a summer session of school in 1921 because
the August 1921 Winnett Times reported that Mrs. Davis
entertained the eighth grade graduating class and the
junior Sunday school class at a Sunday supper following
graduation. Edith (1905) and Veda (1907) Davis entered
Winnett High School in September 1921. Gwendolyn
(1912), Ruth (1914) and Ida (1918) were younger
members of the family. The Davises also had an older
son, Stanley, who was born in 1898.

The August 10, 1923, Winnett Times carried a genuine
"fish story" involving the Davis Ranch. The full account
follows:

"Upon reading the story in the Times last week in
regard to the queer fish caught near Miles City, Mr. C. A.
Davis, residing about three miles west of the Sibbert
Ranch, brought to the Times office Wednesday the
queerest fish or animal that ever frequented water. It has
four legs and feet, four toes in front and five behind. Like
the Miles City fish, it has a long fin running down its back
and is covered with a kind of slimy down. In place of fins it
has a sort of featherly contraption that it extends while in
water and folds to its body when removed from the
water. With a head like a cat fish and eyes like a bobcat, it
would make a fisherman 'swear off' for keeps if it should
come up on his hook. Those who have viewed it proclaim
it to be the original and dyed-in-the-wool dry-land fish.
Due to its lizard-like appearance no one cares to test it in a
frying pan. With its featherly fins, downy hide, and four
feet and legs, one could imagine it being a conglomera-
tion of sago hen, catfish, and lizard. Don't take our word
for it — come and see it."

The Davis property became part of the Ted Schultz
Ranch.

DAVIS, Wallace (Sec 25-14-26) Wallace Davis was
born in 1876 in Pennsylvania. He served in the Spanish-
American War and married Isabelle (Belle) Moreland in
Minnesota in 1901. The couple came to Montana with
their two little girls. Mildred and Alice, in a railroad
"emigrant" car shared with the Storys and the Faragthers
and all their belongings.

The Davises settled four miles south of Winnett just
west of the present highway, where they built a nice
home. Mr. Davis was known as "Turkey" Davis, because
he ran a large flock of turkeys on his farm. Mrs. Davis
taught several terms of school in Petroleum County — one
at the Yellow Water School near the Teich and Johnson
property northwest of present-day Yellow Water Reser-
voir. She taught the first year the school was established
in a new building. One of her former pupils, Madelyn
Walker (Grey) remembers the first day of school because
everyone was so happy to have a clean new building to
begin the year. The only drawback was the fact there
were no furnishings or books!! Mrs. Davis quickly solved
the problem — she drew the alphabet in large letters on
the floor with chalk and the children, on their hands and
knees, traced the letters with beans and began to learn
their ABCs!

Mildred and Alice attended school one summer in a log
cabin not far from their homestead. Amanda Swift was
their teacher. A younger sister, Jewel, was born in 1916.
Jewel attended school in Winnett because her parents
moved to Winnett for the winters so the older girls could
attend high school. Mildred and Alice graduated from
Winnett High School in 1921 and 1922 respectively. The
Davises left the community before Jewel was high school
age.

Mildred worked in the Marti Bros. store in 1921 and
Alice worked in the Winnett Mercantile for a short time.
After graduation, Alice took teaching credits and taught
school at Cat Creek for several years. In 1924 she married
Edward L. Canady at the Methodist parsonage in Billings,
Montana. Mr. Canady worked for the California Oil Com-
pany in Cat Creek where the Winnett Times stated, "he
holds an important position."

Wallace and Belle Davis made their home in California
after they left Montana. Mrs. Davis died there in 1935.
Mr. Davis died in 1950. They are both buried at El
Cerrito, California.

DODGE, E. C. (Sec 34-14-26) E. C. Dodge, a widower,
acquired 160 acres from the Flatwillow Land Co. (B. F.
Lepper) which he sold, or willed to, Edward S. Dodge in
Wisconsin. Edward sold the property to John Hill in 1940,
and in 1942 King and Petersen purchased the land.

DOUGHTY, Roland N. R. N. Doughty ran a store and
post office about 4½ miles west of Teigen. The Doughty
Post Office was established in 1918 and only operated for
one year. There was a large school known as the Doughty
School at the same location. It was under the jurisdiction
of the Grassrange school district.

After his own store closed, Mr. Doughty worked for
Clark's General Store in Grassrange. Mr. and Mrs.
Doughty celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in
1949. They were living in Minneapolis at that time.
The Doughtys had one son, Neil.
DOVENSPECK, Nelson J. Though the Dovenspeck ranch headquarters were about five miles west of the Petroleum County line, it seems important to include their history in any account of the area, since they were among the very earliest settlers on Elk Creek. They filed water rights on the stream in November of 1882. In the early days their cattle grazed down the creek all the way to the Musselshell River.

Nelson Dovenspeck was in the process of moving permanently to the Elk Creek ranch in 1890 when he was accidentally drowned in the Snake River. His obituary states, "Mr. Dovenspeck had sold his interests in Butte and was about to move to his ranch on Elk Creek. He went to Idaho early in May to drive in some cattle he had sold and while crossing the above named stream lost his life. The river was high and, the current being swift, his horse could not make the opposite shore and in floundering about, horse and rider became separated. From a small island, Mr. Dovenspeck attempted to swim ashore, but the swift current bore him under before he could make the opposite shore. The funeral took place in Deer Lodge last Wednesday. Mr. Dovenspeck was fifty-two years old. For the last twelve years he has been in the butchering business in Butte and at the time of his death, he was worth in the neighborhood of $100,000. He leaves a wife but no children."

Mrs. Dovenspeck chose to live on the Elk Creek property after her husband's death. With the help of her able foreman, John Rowley, an excellent ranch was developed.

Lucy Dovenspeck died in 1928 at the age of 74. The Grass Range Review wrote of her, "Mrs. Dovenspeck has been the active head of the fine ranch property near here. The estate has been variously estimated at from $150,000 to $200,000. Included in which is fine Butte property. Big Hole Basin land and the 2000-acre ranch here. Mrs. Dovenspeck was a stockholder in the First National Bank of Grass Range. She was loved and respected by all who knew her. Otis Mudd will have charge of the ranch."

The ranch headquarters later became the property of Martin Olson and a portion of the hay land was sold to Ted Schultz.

DOW, Frank (Sec 11-14-25) and DOW, George (Sec 12,13-14-25) George and his son, Frank, each homesteaded 320 acres of land between Elk Creek and McDonald Creek west of Winnett. George died in 1918. Apparently he was a widower and he died without leaving a will. Frank was appointed by the court, over the objection of several of his brothers in Indiana, to administer the estate. This was during a very difficult time, and eventually the property was sold to pay creditors.

Frank and his wife, Ella, came to Montana shortly after their marriage in 1910. Frank coming first and building a house on their homestead, and Ella joining him six months later. Ella had been raised in the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, and life on the homestead was very different and sometimes very difficult. Frank sometimes worked in Grassrange leaving Ella alone. She had a faithful collie dog for company and to protect her from rattlesnakes. Once a rattlesnake got in the kitchen, however, and she hurriedly put the children up on the table and killed the snake with a hoe!

The Dows lived on their homestead for seven years during which time four children were born to them. Stanley was born in Lewistown, but died in infancy. Harold and Everyll were also born in Lewistown. Myrtle was born during an April blizzard with only a neighbor to assist as midwife.

About 1918 the family moved to Lewistown, where Frank was employed by the W. S. Smith Furniture Store and later by the county in the courthouse. The Dows celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 15, 1960, in Lewistown. Both of them died in 1970.

DUDLEY, James James and May Dudley homesteaded west of Teigen on McDonald Creek. They had three children on the school census for District #13 — Doris (1910), Ida (1915) and Ohma (1919). Mrs. Dudley was a daughter of the George Kinnicks on Elk Creek.

EHLEN, Charles Charles Ehlen homesteaded at the head of White's Coulee. After proving up he went to the service. On his return from the war, he did not come to his homestead but stayed in Minnesota working for the railroad. When he did come back, he did not stay very long. He rented the place to Mr. Eld and returned to Minnesota and his job with the railroad. Pete Teigen rents the property now (1988).

ELD, Leonard (Sec 24-15-25) Leonard Eld, born in 1890, homesteaded on the west side of White's Coulee. He served in World War I and after the war returned to his homestead. He worked part time in the Cat Creek oil fields and helped other farmers harvest their crops when he did not have work at home.

Leonard married Inez Anderson in 1931 and they moved a house to his homestead. The couple had one daughter, Lenora. They were separated and Inez married Clinton Hassett.

Leonard was secretary of the Winnett Irrigation Project. He held 80 acres on the project. He was also secretary for the Winnett State Grazing District for a number of years. In 1955 he married Pearl Shay Bastian. In 1959 he sold his property to Peter M. Teigen Jr. and moved to Lewistown, where he lived until his death in 1976. Pearl lives at the Eagles Manor (1988).

ELIASON, Carl (Sec 23-14-25) In about 1912 or 1914 Carl Eliason, who had purchased 160 acres from the U.S. Government under the Cash Entry Act, filed joint water rights with Marie Sibbert and entered into a joint venture on a ditch to irrigate his land. In 1916 he sold his property to Henry Sibbert.

ERICKSON, Julia (Sec 5-14-25) Julia Erickson with her three children — Alice (1896), Elmer (1898) and Ross — homesteaded on the bench south of Teigen. Her younger son used to visit with the two Teigen boys while she
would cook for Mrs. Teigen during the busy seasons. Elmer worked in Lewistown, and Alice went to Seattle. She became ill with cancer and returned to her mother's home. After a long illness, she passed away.

Mrs. Erickson was loved and respected by the Telgens. After she sold her homestead, she moved to Lewistown to live with her oldest son.

**FALLISHER, T. A.** The Polk Directory for 1918 lists a T. A. "Fallilee" as owner of a general store in Teigen. However, a Myrtle A. Fallisher was the postmaster in Teigen from February 12, 1918, until January 11, 1919, and there is reason to believe the name in the Polk Directory was misspelled.

**FARAGHER, Archibald H.** (Sec 17,20-14-26)

**FARAGHER, Stanley A. H.** (Archie) Faragher owned 360 acres of land south and west of Winnett about six miles. For a few brief years in the early 1920s, the land received a great deal of attention because it was the site of the Oregon-Montana oil development. A brief account of the development can be found in the introduction to this chapter.

Archie and his brother, Stanley, came to Montana from Minnesota. It does not appear that Archie spent very many years farming. For a time he was cashier in a Winnett bank and later was a partner in the Broadway Garage with Mr. H. A. Stenson. He and his wife, Margaret, had two adopted children — Dale (1919) and Jean (1922). The family returned to Minnesota in the 1930s, and Archie was employed by Ford Motor Company. (See also FARAGHER — Winnett)

Stanley and his wife, Agnes, had two sons — Robert and Thomas. They also returned to Minnesota. (See also STORY)

**FERGUSON, John** John Ferguson built a hotel and restaurant in Teigen in about 1914. Several years later the building burned, and Mr. Ferguson took up land north of Teigen.

There were five Ferguson children listed on the petition for School District #134 — G. C. (1895), Ruby (1897), Mabel (1899), Frances (1905) and John (1907).

**FOREMAN, David** David and his wife, Mary Bowen, were among the earliest settlers on McDonald Creek in the Grassrange area, near Doughty. In 1897 David was a member of the Finkbeiner school board, the first school in the Grassrange area. He was instrumental in building the first school in Grassrange. He donated logs and hauled them to the site for an 18 by 24 foot building. The Foremans were parents of eight children — Clarence (1887), Julia (1893), Margaret (1894), George (1896), David (1899), Charles (1902), Arthur (1906) and Marion (1914).

In the very early 1900s, David Foreman acquired property north of Elk Creek about three miles east of the present Fergus-Petroleum county line.

The younger David served in World War I. After the war, he lived on the Elk Creek property of his father. He was married to Roxie Redmond on June 24, 1920. She was a daughter of B. M. Redmond, who homesteaded a couple of miles south of the Foreman place. (See also REDMOND) The trees along Elk Creek provided a favorite picnic spot for the families.

The older David died in 1919, and his estate sold the Elk Creek ranch to L. E. Torinus about 1922. The Foreman brothers owned a threshing machine which was used for custom harvesting. Mr. Fagerland bought the machine in 1921. The same year David Jr. and his family moved to Lewistown. One of Mrs. Foreman's sisters, Jimmilue, went to Lewistown with them to go to school and to help them with the new baby which was expected. A baby girl was born to David and Roxie in December 1921.

In later years, the Foremans lived in Monroe, Oregon, where David was mayor. They occasionally returned to visit family (George Foreman and his wife lived in Ennis, Montana) and friends and to hunt.

**FRANCIS, Tom** (Sec 18-15-25) Tom Francis held a homestead just north of Teigen. He did some farming and had some livestock. He was a hard worker, working his land till he took sick. He died in the hospital in Lewistown, Montana.

**GJERDE, Frank** Frank Gjerde was the oldest of the eight children of John and Margaret "Retta" Gjerde. His father came to the Teigen-Grassrange area in 1900 and married Margaret Degner in 1907. She was the daughter of Frank and Elizabeth Degner, who were pioneer settlers on Yellow Water Creek. (See also DEGNER — Flatwillow) The Gjerdes lived west of the Fergus-Petroleum county line on a branch of Yellow Water. The children attended the Kinnick School and Grassrange High School.

Frank married Louise Berven in 1942 (See also BERVEN — Flatwillow) He acquired the former David Foreman place on Elk Creek. The couple had three children - Frances, Sylvia and John K.
Frank and Louise were separated, and Frank continued to live on his Elk Creek property until the 1970s, when he moved to Winnett. Later he retired to Lewistown, where he died in 1985.

**GOOS, Fredrick** According to Mirth Winnett Hedman, in an article written for the Winnett Times in 1942, Fredrick Goos was the original owner of the Eager Ranch two miles west of Winnett on McDonald Creek. A brand is listed for Fred Goos in the *Directory of Marks and Brands*, 1872-1900 with an address of Fort Maginnis. This would indicate Mr. Goos was a very early settler. E. C. Abbott is quoted in the *Lewistown Daily News* in December 1963 as remembering Bill and Fred Goos as being the first settlers on the north fork of Fords Creek which is now known as Brickyard Creek.

**HALEY, Cliff** Mr. and Mrs. Halesy lived west of Teigen. Little bits of information from the school newspaper, "The Teigen Truth-Teller," indicated Cliff also supplied milk for the community. On January 23, 1925, the paper reported, "The Teigen milk supply was cut off for two days this week while Mr. Halesy's cow went visiting." and on March 6, 1925, the following ad appeared: "Teigen Sanitary Dairy added to their livestock this week and are prepared to supply all customers. Fresh milk at all hours. No delivery, no rebates."

The Halesys were often guests for social affairs in Teigen.

**HALL, Ansyl** (Sec 6-15-25) Ansyl Hall visited the Teigen community in 1949. He recalled his homestead days north of Teigen and some of the ranches he worked on. Mr. Hall made his home in Indiana.

**HANSON, Victor** (Sec 1-14-25) Victor homesteaded between Elk Creek and McDonald Creek about six miles west of Winnett. He proved up on his homestead in 1915, served in the Army in World War I, and returned to the area. He went back to his original home in Wisconsin in 1923, however, and worked there as a carpenter all of his life. He visited his Montana property in 1953, coming from Siren, Wisconsin. Members of the Hanson family still own the land (1988).

**HENNUM, Leofred** (Sec 3-14-25) L. A. Hennum owned 320 acres between McDonald Creek and Elk Creek not far from Teigen. In 1921 the Winnett Times reported he had a "milch cow for sale — 3 miles northwest of Sibbert Ranch."

Leofred and his wife, Rosa, had four children on the 1925 school census — Burton (1914), Harvey (1917), Leroy (1919) and Rosella (1921)

**HOLMGREN, Sven** (Sec 3-15-25) Sven Holmgren was born in Ostersham, Sweden, in 1885. In 1904 he came to America and was a lumberjack for the B. C. Railroad cutting ties. He came to Montana in 1914 and homesteaded northeast of Teigen where he raised cattle. One time he shipped a carload of cattle to Chicago. He also raised some good crops of alfalfa seed.

While on the homestead, his niece, Ellen Holien, her husband, Harry, and their daughter, Twila, came to help him. They stayed about seven months. They went to work for the Teigen Ranch in November of 1949, and Twila went to school in Winnett. They worked there until July of 1950. The family returned to Minnesota where they now live.

In 1953 Sven sold his property to the Benes Brothers and moved to Minnesota. He bought 200 acres of land and raised cattle. He lived on his farm until he was 91 years old, when he retired and moved into his own apartment. Two years later (in 1978) he was killed in a pickup accident.

**HUFF, Lester** Mr. and Mrs. Lester Huff purchased the Teigen store from the Taits in 1970. Their son, Robert, came out later from Mason City, Iowa, to help his folks run the business. Robert’s two daughters had come out with their grandparents. Rose and Penny finished their schooling in Winnett. Rose graduated from Winnett High School in 1976, Penny in 1978. The Huff’s ran the store and post office until they passed away.

Rose served as clerk and recorder for Petroleum County and later as secretary-treasurer for the Senior Citizens of the county. She married Marvin Beanblossom, an employee of Teigen Land and Livestock Co. They moved to Phoenix, Arizona, along with their three children — Christy, Jennifer and Sam.

Penny went to school in Bozeman and married Craig Davis, a serviceman, moving overseas with her husband for a few years, and now resides in California. They have one child.

Robert and his wife, Erica, closed the business and moved to Phoenix in the fall of 1987. The post office was taken over by Mrs. Joseph O'Meara in 1986 and is now housed in a small building in the Teigen Ranch yard.

**HUNT, Dominick** (Sec 20-14-25) The *Grass Range Review* reported on July 12, 1917: "Dominick Hunt is soon to wed an unknown sweetheart who does not reside in this locality. We wish him and his assistant homesteader much happiness."

Dominick and Bridget lived on the ridge between Elk Creek and McDonald Creek not far from the Fergus-Petroleum county line.

The *Grass Range Review* also reported Dominick’s brother, Patrick, returned to Ireland to make his home.

**INGLEBERT, Elmer** (Sec 32-15-25) Elmer Inglebert homesteaded on the bench south of Teigen. He later purchased a large steam engine and threshing machine to harvest the grain throughout the area. He married Louise Charbonneau, a daughter of a neighboring homesteader. In 1925, he moved out of the country a few years later.

**JENKINS, Jesse** (Sec 12-14-26) Jesse Jenkins was a brother of Mary Jenkins Winnett (wife of W. J. Winnett). He came from Missouri to visit in the early 1900s and liked the country so well that he came back and took up land. He also made arrangements to bring his parents.
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Jenkins, to the community, where they also took up land.

JOHNSON, Austin (Sec 5-14-25) Austin Johnson was a one-armed man who homesteaded on the bench between McDonald Creek and Elk Creek. Occasionally he did work for the Teigens.

JOHNSON, Carl Carl Johnson came to the United States in 1908. He worked for Henry Sibbert and then took up land near Teigen. He worked for Teigen Land and Livestock off and on. Carl married Edna Ditzler.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kelley shortly after they purchased the Boyd Store in Teigen.

KELLEY, Mark Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kelley purchased the Teigen Store and Post Office from Mrs. Boyd in 1928. The Kelleys had two children — George and Lucy.

Mark was an excellent storekeeper. Following the death of his wife in 1935, Mark ran the store and post office by himself. Later he married Jennie Meserve. (See also MESERVE — Musselshell River) Mark and Jennie were married for five years when Mark died. Jennie continued to run the store and post office. She learned to drive so she could meet the mail, and she did all of the necessary chores by herself. She was a fine lady and was remembered with love and respect by all who knew her.

In June 1946 Mrs. Kelley sold the store and post office to Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Tait. She moved to Spokane, Washington, to be close to her daughters. She lived to be over 100 and died in 1979. (See KELLEY — Blakeslee)

KELLEY, Oscar (See LUEBKE)

KELLY, Gurn Gurn Kelly was born in 1894 in Barada, Nebraska. He married Vera Creech in 1914 in Pender, Nebraska. The couple came to Montana in 1915. In 1932 they leased the Thomas Ward place on Elk Creek, just east of the Petroleum-Fergus county line. The family lived there for five years. Six of the nine Kelly children went to the Kinnick School — Gurneva, Pat, Agnes, Alta, Bud and Bob. In 1937 the family moved to Winnett, where the high-school-age boys boxed under Shorty Saylor, all with enviable records. Alta graduated from Winnett High School in 1941 and Bud graduated in 1942, the year the family moved to Lewistown.

Mrs. Kelly was known as an excellent cook, and as her daughter wrote, "she almost had to be a good cook with all nine of us to cook for!" She also did sewing and cared for sick people in the community.

Three of the Kelly boys served in World War II. Pat served in Germany; Bud was in Arabia and the Middle East; Mike stayed in the United States. Dick served overseas during the Korean conflict.


Alta married Art Meserve. He died in 1987. (See also MESERVE — Musselshell)

Gurn died in 1954, and Vera lived to be 90. She died in 1987.

KIBBE, Harry (Sec 22-14-25) In 1914 Harry Kibbe received a homestead patent for 160 acres of land about a mile southwest of Henry Sibbert’s ranch home. The land reverted to the county in 1937, and B. F. Lepper bought the land for $80. King and Petersen purchased the land in 1942.

KING AND PETERSEN Joe C. King of Lewistown, Montana, and J. C. Petersen of Spencer, Iowa, purchased the vacant Sibbert property from the Lepper estate in 1942. King and Petersen had been in partnership running sheep on a lease of the O. M. Greene place on Flatwillow Creek and were looking for a ranch to buy. After they purchased the Sibbert Ranch, they operated it as a sheep outfit until 1943 when the pressures of the war, hired help, and prices made them decide to go into the cattle business.

In May 1943, King and Petersen purchased 400 longhorn steers for $52.50 per head and brought them to Petroleum County by railroad. Witnesses say the doors of the railroad car were opened, and the steers took out in every direction regardless of fences! Though most of them were driven to the Elk Creek ranch, several of the
steers were eventually gathered from the open range near Melstone.

K & P added to the original ranch by purchasing from people who had tried to hold on to their Petroleum County property in the vain hope of an oil discovery. Much of the land King and Petersen purchased was without mineral royalty rights. Owners were willing to sell for as little as fifty cents an acre, if they could retain the mineral rights.

Roy Long was hired as foreman for K & P. He and his wife, Gladys, moved into the big, old empty ranch house in 1942. It is questionable whether Gladys would consider those the "good old days!" There were ten to twelve hired men in the summer — occasionally those with wives shared the big house with the Longs. The rest of the men lived in the original log bunkhouse. Sometimes there was a cook to help Gladys, sometimes a hired girl, and sometimes she had the sole responsibility of running the house and kitchen. One cook, who had a feud with a hired man, took a butcher knife and chased the hired man around the yard threatening to kill him. Another woman, who was the wife of a hired man and who was supposed to help in the kitchen, spent most of her time reading movie magazines and pasting the covers from the magazines on the bedroom walls.

These were not easy days. The electric plant, which had furnished power in earlier days, had been dismantled and there was no electricity until 1948. Water was pumped into the house with a gasoline motor from a shallow well, but the water was not drinkable, so drinking water was hauled in barrels from Winnett, Lewistown, or any other handy place. The lovely yard and garden of former years had deteriorated into a maze of dead trees and sagebrush and, worst of all, the house was unbearably hot in summer and cold in winter. A coal furnace was supposed to heat the hot water system, but the bad plaster in much of the house (with cracks and holes open to the board siding), the lack of storm doors and windows, and the uninsulated walls and attic made the large house virtually impossible to heat.

Most of the ranch work was done with horses which necessitated a crew three or four times the size it would take today. King and Petersen gradually began to acquire the necessary tools and equipment to fully operate a ranch. Roy "made do." He cobbled together old equipment, repaired sheds and buildings, and tried in every conceivable way to "get by."

Gladys worked hard to create a home in the barren, empty house. Michael was a baby when they moved to the ranch, and Pat was born in 1942. As kids always seem to do, they thrived and grew. Not only did Gladys have her own boys to mother, but the King boys (Joe, Bob and Dave) were summer workers, and often three or four other young fellows were hired. The war years brought all of the problems common to everyone — rationing of gas, sugar, meat, and shoes, plus the difficulties of finding and keeping hired help. Roy used to say for every hired man actually working, there was one coming and one going!

These years also brought a measure of prosperity, however. Land values increased and the prices received for cattle, sheep, and produce improved. After the war, tractors largely replaced horses, and all kinds of more sophisticated labor-saving machines hit the market. King and Petersen bought the first four-wheel drive Marmon-Herrington car in the county. There were four-wheel drive pickups and station wagons, but the five-passenger Ford coupe was a novelty. Gladys remembers driving to Winnett in heavy snow, with chains on the front wheels. The men in the local pub snickered behind her back because they thought she had made a mistake and put the chains on the front where they would not do any good. The laugh was on them, for they did not realize it was a four-wheel drive car. "High-Pockets" is still in the Kings' old car collection.

In 1949 the first hay baler was purchased. There were days when Roy must have questioned whether it was a "labor-saving" machine. He spent endless frustrating hours in the shop rebuilding weak parts and repairing broken ones!

The cattle ranged in summer on the largely unfenced grazing district. They ran in common with neighbors' cattle to the north as far as Highway #200 and to the south as far as Pike Creek. This meant many days of riding to gather and to cut out one's own stock in the fall. A full-time cowboy took care of the horses, scattered bulls, and doctored cattle for pinkeye and other common ailments. Two or three extra hands were hired to ride in the fall before shipping.

In the summer of 1950, Joe C. King III was married, and he and his wife, Marjorie, came to the ranch to live. It was like living in a boarding house. Gladys, with the help of Joan Solf, efficiently managed the house and kitchen. The house bulged at the seams. Gladys and Roy had an upstairs bedroom, their two boys another. Marjorie and Joe had a room. Bob and David King had another, and two California boys hired for the summer had another. Joan had a small downstairs bedroom. Only one of the seven bedrooms was not occupied. But that was not all — in the bunkhouse five more men slept. Mealtime was regular and orderly — everyone trooped in and took his place and ate heartily!

The Long boys were school-age by this time, and in the fall of 1950 Gladys rented a house in Winnett so the children could more easily attend school. Roy continued on the ranch until spring, but obviously he wanted something more gratifying, and in 1951 he leased the Fuhs place north of Winnett, where the Longs made their home until 1974. (See LONG — Blakeslee)

Joe III became foreman for King and Petersen, and he and Marjorie began to establish a home for themselves in the big, old house.

**KING, Joe C., III** Joe C. King III was the oldest son of Joe and Hazel King. His great grandfather, Chris King, came to Montana from Switzerland in 1869 and to Central Montana in 1881. Chris and his sons, Joseph and
Anton, developed a fine ranch west of Lewistown on Little Rock Creek, only to sell it as so many others did in the 1930s. Joseph’s son, Joe, and his wife, Hazel, and three sons moved from the old King Ranch to Lewistown in 1935. Joe became a wool, sheep and cattle buyer, traveling extensively over all of central and eastern Montana.

Joe III (1924) graduated from Fergus County High School in 1942 and served in the Army Air Corps in World War II. He returned to Montana State College after the war and graduated in electrical engineering in 1949.

Marjorie Wiegenda (1927) grew up in the ghost town of Maiden, where her father was a gold prospector from 1896 until his death in 1957. She attended the Maiden Elementary School, Fergus County High School, and graduated from Montana State College. She and Joe were married in 1950.

In 1954, Joe and his brothers, Robert and David, bought the Petersen half of the King and Petersen ranch partnership. Joe continued to serve as foreman as he had for K & P. Gradually improvements were made to increase the productivity and the livableness of the ranch. An artesian water well was drilled in 1957. It was a blessing for the yard, garden and house. A J-3 Piper Cub airplane, along with improvements in farm machinery, contributed to labor-saving efforts. A pasture rotation grazing system with fenced pastures affected a major operating change. A certified scale was installed at the ranch corrals, so it would no longer be necessary to trail cattle to Winnett to be shipped on the railroad. Not too many years after the scale was installed, the railroad was abandoned, making the home scales even more important. Today, in 1988, the ranch is run virtually without hired help, as compared to the 12 or 15 men who were employed in the 1940s and 1950s. In 1963 Joe purchased his brothers' interest in the ranch corporation.

Joe and Marjorie’s three children — Karen (1951), J. Chris (1953) and Jill (1957) — are graduates of Winnett High School. Through Karen’s early interest in cattle and showing 4-H livestock, she built up a small herd of Shorthorns. This interest in livestock eventually led to her graduation from Colorado State University with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Karen has two children — Michael and Dixie — and she is currently practicing veterinary medicine in Australia.

Chris graduated from Montana State University with a degree in Mechanical Technology. He shares his father’s weakness for antique and classic cars. Gari Robertson became his wife in 1982. They make their home on the ranch. Both of them are actively involved in school and community affairs. They have one daughter, Kylie Marie, born on March 31, 1989.

Jill played basketball for Winnett High School and had the honor of being chosen a first-string member of the All-State Girls’ Class C basketball team in 1974. She graduated from Montana State University in 1980. She is still an avid sportsperson with skiing, backpacking, and hiking high on her list of priorities. She lives in Missoula.

**KINNICK, George** The Kinnick family migrated from North Carolina to Iowa. One son, George, married Ida Emma Briggs (whose brother, William Briggs, homesteaded west of Teigen). George and Emma came to Montana in 1901 and settled west of what would become the Petroleum County line on Elk Creek. George’s brothers, John and Saul, and a sister, May Hathron, came to Montana a few years later and homesteaded south of Grassrange.
The George Kinnicks had five children — Les, William, May (1890), Alma (1898), and Alice (1905). Les was killed in a tractor accident; William did not marry but lived and worked in the Petroleum County area most of his life; May married James Dudley who homesteaded west of Telgen; Alma married Francis Linsley, and they lived about five miles south of Grasrange until retiring to Lewistown in 1958; Alice married Joe Heggen and, after his death, married Glenn Carr (See also Carr).

Alma Linsley lives in Lewistown in a senior citizen home (1989). She recalls her school years as being hit and miss. School was held wherever there were enough children to make it practical. For a time she attended a school in the Randolphi's bunkhouse southeast of Grasrange, then the Battick School about six miles southwest of her home. She was too old to benefit from the Kinnick School, which was established on her parents' property in about 1915, but her sister Alice attended the school.

Alma and her husband raised a family of four girls — Ruth (Stevens), Helen (Jennings), Beulah (Rossell) and Mary (Boback).

**LANGSHAUSEN, Nick** (Sec 30-14-27); **Joseph** (Sec 18-14-26); and **Angelina** (Sec 26-14-26) Nick Langshausen, his sister, Angelina, and brother Joseph, homesteaded south of Winnett in about 1910. They were natives of Alexandria, Minnesota. Angelina and Joe did not stay in the community many years, but Nick lived in Winnett until his death in 1942.

Joseph's 320 acres were three miles south and five miles west of Winnett. Joseph taught one term of school at the Yellow Water School in 1916-17. One of his students recalls that he chewed tobacco. She had never seen a person who chewed tobacco and was alarmed to see something dark dripping from his mouth. Her mother had to explain it was a kind of tobacco he was using! Joseph left the community in 1917 but returned for a visit from Minnesota in 1921. He was impressed with the remarkable change in the community due to the discovery of oil.

Angelina's property was also south of Winnett. Records indicate an Eva K. Langshausen owned property south of Winnett as well. Unfortunately her relationship to Nick, Angelina, and Joseph is not known.

Nicholas made his home in Winnett most of his life. (See also LANGSHAUSEN — Winnett)

**LAVERDURE, Tommy** (From 'Shepherders — A Vanishing Breed,' by Ann Telgen, Lewistown Daily News, December 23, 1979)

"Tommy Laverdure was a small, neat man, always good-natured and extremely generous. If anyone admired something he had, he would quickly insist on giving it to him.

"When he was a boy he was sent to Fort Shaw to go to school. He did not like it there, with good reasons. He and another boy decided to run away. They escaped without trouble and walked all the way back to Lewistown. Fort Shaw is on the other side of Great Falls — so they had a long walk.

"They were afraid of being caught and returned to school, so they followed the road at a distance, hiding whenever anyone came in sight. They were hungry, but dared not ask for food at any house along the way. They were so happy to see home again! They never did go back to school. Tommy never learned to read and write.

"One of the other herders, Ed Wells, did stay at school in Fort Shaw. Ed learned to read well and enjoyed reading. He was a large man — tall, broad and ruddy-faced. He was a good herder and would stay on the job for several months, then like many others, would go to town and be relieved of his money in a short time.

"One winter Tommy and Ed were together at the winter camp. Tommy herded and Ed would feed hay to the sheep. It was one of those bitterly cold winters. At evening time they would be together in the crude cabin. No two people could have been more opposite.

"Ed, big and hearty, had a keen appetite, while Tommy, so neat and spare, ate very lightly. He was often disgusted to see Ed eat. Since Tommy couldn't read, he was impatient with Ed's absorption in his magazines and papers.

"'He won't talk, he just sits there and reads.'

"Ed had been educated enough to make him look critically at his relatives and acquaintances, who were ignorant and lived in squalor. He wanted to deny his kinship with the half bloods. This made Tommy indignant.

"'He's ashamed of his own people.' Tommy was a friend to all and freely shared everything with them. Ed wanted to lift himself up and rise above the way of life that seemed distasteful to him.

"One winter day in 1951, when the snow was falling and it was very cold. Tommy was out with his band of sheep, faithfully looking after them. He fell face down in the snow and never moved. He was found that evening, among the sheep that he had tended until his last moment of life.

"I have known many herders, each very individual and special.

"I want to pay a tribute to all good herders and the service they have given. They contend with dust and mosquitoes, hail and thunder and lightning in the summer, and bitter cold and snow in the winter, always mindful of the welfare of their band of sheep.

"The weather is not always disagreeable. They know the splendor of the sunrise, the soft stirring of the air in springtime, the vastness and quietness of the hills, and the early evening sounds of hundreds of sheep settling down on the bedground.

"Even the solitude has its merits."

**LEE, Fay** (Sec 33-14-25) Fay Newton Lee owned 320 acres of land north of Yellow Water Creek not far from the Yellow Water School. The 1916 school census showed Newton and Anna Lee had the following children: Flossie (1899), Phrena (1901), Lyle (1905). Newton Dale (1907) and Paul (1909). The boys attended
the Yellow Water School. They had a pet jackrabbit which was allowed in the house. It was the envy of all the other school children.

**LONG, John** More than 35 years after leaving Camp Lewis on a 60-day leave, John Henry Long, age 70, a shepherder for Teigen Land and Livestock, applied for a discharge. In 1959 John told the story of his problems with the Army. In 1924 he was a private in the 3rd Signal Corps when his left arm was badly crushed by a team of horses. After spending 50 days in the camp hospital, he was given a 60-day furlough. His enlistment expired while he was on the 60-day furlough and he couldn't see why he should go back to Camp Lewis just to get a discharge.

Thirty-five years later, however, he decided to try to settle the matter, so he wrote to the Secretary of the Army and explained his case. A major was sent to interview him and the news account of his story stated, 'He will probably get an 'administrative discharge' rather than an honorable discharge...Long said, 'It's a good life here. If I can get this discharge straightened out, it'll all be fine!'"

**LONG, LeRoy** (See KING AND PETERSEN — Teigen; LONG — Blakeslee)

**LUEBKE, Edward Herman** (Sec 35-16-24) Edward Herman Luebke was born near Berlin, Germany, in 1863. He came to Wisconsin where he married Wilhelmina Ernestine Beyer. The couple had nine children, all of whom were born in Wisconsin — Frank (1889), Verena (1890), Rosalina (1892) Elda (1893), Lydia (1895), Herman (1897), Henry (1899), John (1901) and Amelia (1902). The family moved to Fessenden, North Dakota, in 1911 and to the Teigen area in 1914. Frank, Verena and Rosa came in 1913 and took up the first homesteads. In the spring of 1914 the rest of the family followed. They had two boxcars of possessions. Frank and Herman rode in the boxcars to take care of the animals. Amelia remembers that she and her mother rode from Grassrange to Verena's homestead in a one-horse, rubber-tired buggy.

Amelia wrote: "My dad bought 320 acres of land from Raymond Berger in the fall of 1914 for two horses and $150. The horses were worth $75 each. Raymond Berger was a half-blood Indian. The Indians could file additional land for their children which he did. The land my father bought was part of that. So our father could hold this land, he got logs and built a log shack. We piled sod around the shack and on the board roof to keep the rain and snow out. The floor was dirt, which I used to water down at times to keep the dust down.

"The schooling was poor — we went to the different homestead shacks in the summertime. When the Teigen School was built, Henry, John and I started to go to it in January of 1915. Henry quit in March, which was the end of his schooling. John and I batched at Verena's homestead shack which was three miles from Teigens. We walked to school. It was a very bad winter — one morning it was 45 degrees below when we walked to school. Some nights Mr. Teigen would have us come and stay at his home when the weather was bad. I went to the Teigen School until the fall of 1917. Then I went to Lewistown."

Amelia married Oscar Kelley in 1923. The couple had five children — Nathan (1924), Marval (1926) (See also MANUEL — Cat Creek), Erwin (1927). Kenneth (1929) and Melvin (1934).

Amelia continues: "I spent my summer vacations with my folks through different years. In the winter of 1928 and 1929 I lived in my sister Verena's homestead shack until June 1929. I went to Washington and had my son Kenneth. In 1938 or 1939 I stayed with my folks and worked for Mrs. Kelley at the Teigen store. That fall I moved to Winnett and lived in Freed's house so my children could attend school. I cooked for the Lalonde's road crew from Sidney and lived in the Zimmermans' house between Winnett and Roundup in the early spring. We left as soon as school was out. Oscar worked for construction in Wyoming. That fall we came back to Winnett and lived in the Morgan house and the children attended school. Oscar worked as a herder for Sibbert Land and Livestock. In the spring we moved again. (Amelia and Oscar were divorced in 1944.)

"I came back in the summer of 1944 and ran the Town Cafe. That fall I ran the school dormitory. I married Harry Barnett in the fall of 1945 and ran a dormitory at the Montana Hotel. During those years also worked for Bard Teigens, Wilson Sheep Ranch, Miss Rose, and the Butch Gershmels. In the spring of 1946 we moved to the Barnett Ranch in the Valentine area and lived there until Harry took sick and we moved to Lewistown."


**LUEBKE, Henry** Henry Luebke, son of Edward and Wilhelmina Luebke, submitted the following information:

"I went to school at the Slack School in 1914 a couple months and then to the Teigen School a couple of months in 1915. That ended my schooling.

"I worked for Slacks in 1915 and 1916, getting $30 a month plus board and room. In the wintertime, I was with
my folks. I worked for other farmers in the summer in the Judith Basin until 1929. Then I took over the folks' farm with my brother John. We farmed with horses at this time and had 320 acres. We farmed 160 acres on which we grew spring grains. We had a few milk cows also at this time, and we sold cream at Teigen and Grassrange.

'1 got my first car in 1922 — a Model T which I paid $500 for brand new. We got our first tractor in 1948 and still farmed with horses some. I worked for Teigens off and on until about 1955. My brother John lived with me all his life and he worked part time for Teigens. Our folks were living with us until our father died in 1940 and our mother died in 1949. Our father was bedridden most of this time with arthritis and mother took care of him.

'John and I lived on this farm until my grandnephew bought it in 1978. At that time we had 1360 acres we had bought. We had mostly cattle and dry-land hay. We moved to Lewistown, and I live with my sister now, as John died in 1979. Brother Frank also died in 1979.'

MANSSELL, Alfred (Sec 17-15-25) Alfred Manssell and his wife Catherine homesteaded about a mile and a half northeast of Teigen. The following children were listed on the District #134 school census in 1915 — Beatrice (1903), Alfred (1906) and Irene (1909). Irene was also listed as Cerena or Serena.

MARKS, Roy (Sec 7-14-25) Roy Marks and his mother, Victoria Marks (Sec 8-14-25) homesteaded north of the Elk Creek road near the Fergus-Petroleum county line. In about 1929 Roy married Nettie Seefluth, the widow of William Seefluth. (See also SEEFLUTH — Winnett) Nettie had a daughter, Marian, who attended the Kinnick School in 1930. Roy and Nettie lived in Cat Creek for a time where Roy was employed. (See also MARKS — Cat Creek)

MARTINO, Rafael (Sec 32-16-25) Rafael Martino came to this country from Italy and worked for the railroad in Chicago for some time. He came to Montana and took a homestead just north of Reeds. During the tough years he worked on some of the irrigation projects that were being put in by the government. He came home after things got better and started working his homestead again. Later he went in the sheep business, but his poker playing kept him in trouble.

Rafael worked for Teigens off and on when he did not have sheep of his own. Finally he took social security and ran a few sheep. He sold out to Walkers and moved to Lewistown and made a trip or two to Italy. He had a stroke and lay in the hospital for two or three years before he died in 1969.

MATSON, Roy (Sec 33-14-26) Roy Matson owned land south of Elk Creek about three miles west of Highway #244. One of the few bridges on Elk Creek was on his property.

Roy and his wife, Clara, had the following children listed on the 1916 school census: Robert (1907), Kenneth (1908), Clarence (1910), Verda (1911) and Vilda (1912).

It is believed the family returned to Canada after a few years on their homestead.

McCLATCHEY, Robert Bob McClatchey was section foreman at Teigen for many years.

McCLINTOCK, Ora (Sec 32-14-26) Ora and Ruth McClintock owned 320 acres south of Elk Creek. They had two children — Jerrell (1914) and Jasper (1917) — on the 1917 school census.

In September 1919, a notice was posted stating that Ora and Ruth McClintock, Nick Langshausen, and O. H. Badger, acting as an association, in accordance with the mining laws of the United States, located and claimed for petroleum, oil, mineral, and natural gas, a mining claim to be named the Yellow Water Placer Mining Claim. It encompassed 80 acres in section 4 of township 13, joining McClintock's land on the south.

In January 1920, an "affidavit of discovery" was filed in the courthouse. The affidavit stated that Mr. McClintock had been employed by the locators to sink an oil well on the Yellow Water Placer Mining Claim, and that "in the prosecution of said work, oil or petroleum was discovered in said well and upon said claim and in sufficient quantities to justify a prudent man in the expenditure of money and labor in the further development and exploitation of said claims ... and that said discovery was made at a depth of 26 feet below the surface of the ground."

The McClintocks sold their property, including the 80 acre mining claim, to R. A. Sawyer in October of 1921, reserving a certain percentage of mineral rights. Mr. Sawyer leased the land to Henry Sibbert for oil exploration and a series of assignments of royalties followed.

Through the years a number of wells have been drilled in the general area of this property, but all have proved to be dry holes.

McELHANON, Jane (Sec 21-15-25) The McElhanon homestead is one of the few homesteads which is still in family hands though the original owners left many years ago. One of the sons in the family visited the Teigen area in the 1930s. He was a doctor at the time in Chicago. The land is rented by Teigen Land and Livestock Company.
McLAUGHLIN, Al This story was taken from "Sheepherders - A Vanishing Breed," by Ann Teigen.

"Al McLaughlin was a large and powerful man. He had owned land in Oklahoma but gave it up and came to Montana just before oil was found on that land.

"His sister lived in Texas where she had 11 producing wells on her land. She offered to buy land and cattle for her brother, but he refused. He wanted to be independent. He herded for several seasons at the Teigen Ranch. He had a band at the upper camp in the spring just before lambing started.

"He began to feel sick, with a high fever all over his body. Bard took him to the hospital and suggested that he might have tick fever.

"The doctors said, 'Oh no, it couldn't be.' They took tests and found that he did have spotted fever. In a short time he died.

"A giant destroyed by a little tick. His sister was notified. She sent word that she, herself, was too ill to come, but she had her see come from Tampa, Texas, to take him there for burial. The next summer, she and her husband came, just to see the place where he had lived and worked.

"Pointing to the hills south of the creek, she drawled, 'I'd like to just set and gaze at them mountains all day.'"

MIKICH, Katerina (Sec 18-15-25) Katerina's husband, Matt Mikich, came to the United States from Birbir, Yugoslavia, at age 16 with two cousins — John and Matt Mikich. (See also MIKICH — Ashley) They arrived in Anaconda in 1900 and found work at the smelter. Matt worked there for seven years. He returned to Yugoslavia in 1908 to visit his parents, and while there he met and married Katerina Martinicich. Matt returned to the United States and found work in the mines at Kendall, Montana. He saved his money so he could send for his bride.

In 1909 Katerina came to Kendall, where Matt had a house waiting for her. She baked bread and sold it to the miners and Matt worked for the Barnes-King mine. Four children were born to the couple while they lived there — Mary (1910), Anne (1911), Helen (1912) and Stavona (1913). In 1915 the family returned to Yugoslavia for a visit and another daughter was born there — Louisa (1915). When World War I broke out, Matt returned to the United States, saying he preferred to serve the United States, if necessary, rather than be drafted in the Yugoslavian army.

Mail was interrupted during the war, and it was not easy for Katerina to communicate with Matt in America. When Matt arrived back in Montana, he took out a homestead north of Teigen; but before he had proved up on the land, he was drowned in an accident. Marcus Matovich tells this story of the tragedy.

"Matt, who had been out looking for horses to buy, decided to cross Blood Creek near the Miller place when the creek was flooding. Carl and Lyman Miller advised him against trying to cross, but he went ahead anyway. His horse made it out of the water, but Matt was lost. After several days searching, Lyman and Carl Miller and Norm Taylor found his body down the creek near Nigger Miles' place at the mouth of Blood Creek. Nigger Miles wasn't at home, but they put the body in his cabin until they could notify relatives and arrange to move his remains. Nigger Miles came home and when he saw the body, he immediately packed up and moved to Lewistown. When the men returned to move Matt's body, Nigger Miles was gone with everything he owned."

Katerina had the flu in 1918, and it left her in a very weakened condition. Anne (her daughter) wrote in the Heritage Book of the Original Fergus County Area "Mother got us together (the five daughters) and we came back to Lewistown in 1920 to stay. We had no money or no home, nothing but our beloved country."

Apparently Katerina was able to finish proving up on Matt's homestead, because a homestead deed was issued to Katerina Mikich for 320 acres of land north of Teigen. (An additional 80 acres of adjoining land was deeded to Katerina Tuss.)

Katerina married Peter Francis Tuss in about 1920. They made their home on a farm southeast of Winnett. (See TUSS — Musselshell River) There were two Matt Mikiches and two Pete Tusses who owned land in Petroleum County, and therefore it is very easy to confuse the families.

MOLL, Ray (Sec 22,23-14-26) Ray Moll received a U. S. patent on land east of the old road between Yellow Water and Winnett. It was sold to Burette E. Nolen and W. Ford Nolen in 1917 for $1700. Ray and Beatrice Moll had a son, John (1918), and a daughter in 1921. (See also MOLL — Winnett)

MONGER, Perry (Sec 6-14-25) Perry Monger and his wife Ida homesteaded between Teigen and Elk Creek very near the county line. The property became part of the Archer farm. The Mongers had three children listed on the District #134 census — Marie (1897), Joe (1902) and Everett (1910).

MORGAN, Joseph (Sec 33-14-26) Joseph Morgan was born in Ohio in 1861 and moved to Illinois as a child. When he was nineteen, he moved to Hall County, Missouri, where he met and married Nancy Ellen Thompson. The couple had eight children, all born before they came to Montana in 1914 — Grace (1887), Steele (1891), Royal (1893), Virginia (1896), Charlotte (1897), Russell (1899), Frances (1902) and Dorothy (1913). They homesteaded along the old Winnett-Yellow Water road on Elk Creek. Their daughter Dorothy remembers their house was rather tall, but not two story. It had a sort of shed, which was used as a kitchen, on one side.

D. Y. Wilson Jr. recalls that 1916 was the first year children were transported to the Winnett School. According to him, Russell Morgan drove a "bus" (a team and a covered wagon) for the children south of town. They included Russell's sister, Frances, the two Davis girls and the Feaster children.
When Dorothy started school, however, Mrs. Morgan moved to town in the winter, only going home weekends when weather and roads permitted. The eight-mile trip to Winnett was by horse and buggy until 1926, when the Morgans purchased their first car. Frances graduated from high school in 1921 and Dorothy in 1931.

Steele, the second oldest child, was old enough to homestead when he came with his parents from Missouri. He took up land on Yellow Water Creek, which later was flooded by the waters of the dam. Dorothy Morgan Elde, his sister, wrote of his tragic death.

"Steele had just finished serving in France (in World War I) when he was killed. One week my folks had word he was to be home, and the next week Mrs. Gorschuk, the postmaster, brought out the telegram that he was dead. I was only five, but I remember my dad went down in the field, and we could hear him sobbing clear up at the house. Spot (Royal Morgan, a brother) had just gone over to France to serve, and he and Steele had met for a visit. Steele stayed a little too long, and when he got back, his train was just pulling out. He tried to run and jump on it but fell, and the train ran over him and crushed both his legs. They had to be amputated, and he bled to death. He was buried in France but was later brought to Custer Battlefield. We have visited his grave there."

In 1921 Mrs. Nancy Morgan participated in the sod-breaking ceremony for the new Victory Memorial Church, which was erected in Winnett during the summer of 1921. She represented the mothers of veterans who gave their lives for their country.

After graduation Frances worked at the Aristo confectionery for the summer of 1921. Later she worked for the Frantz Oil Co. in the office in Winnett. In June 1924 she married Archie McGlenn in the Methodist parsonage in Lewistown. Rev. John R. Esias performed the ceremony. Archie worked in an office at the oil field in Cat Creek. They moved to Kevin in the 1930s.

Russell married Dorothy Shaw, the Yellow Water schoolteacher. In 1922, she graduated from Winnett High School in 1921. Russell and Dorothy lived for a time on the Yellow Water property which had belonged to Steele. When Russell’s parents moved to Winnett in 1929, Russell and Dorothy lived on the Morgan place on Elk Creek. The couple and their family of six children — Jean, Joe, Leon, Mary, Charles, and William Ray — moved to Oklahoma in 1937. Russell was a house painter there. Russell died in June of 1976.

While serving in France, Spot met his future wife, Tess. From reading the news in the Winnett Times, one might think Royal “Spot” Morgan was accident prone. In October 1930 he was burned in a gas well explosion at Elk Basin, Wyoming, oil field. Fortunately he escaped serious injury. In December 1931 he was driving a truck loaded with coal when the drive shaft broke on a hill coming out of Roundup, and the truck went out of control. Again he escaped serious injury!

In 1933 Spot hauled material to the new Fort Peck dam site. The Winnett Times reported he was “in on the ground floor.” Reportedly he hauled the ‘first’ load of materials to the dam site and the ‘first’ load of beer (after prohibition) into the city of Glasgow. Spot secured work on the Fort Peck project, and he and his wife, Tess, moved to Fort Peck.

Dorothy received all of her schooling in Winnett. After graduation, she worked for Nels Fradd in the FERA (Federal Emergency Relief Act) office, and later she was deputy clerk of the court for Dorothy Bowen. Dorothy married Adolph “Abe” Elde in 1934. Both had graduated from Winnett High School in 1931. They lived for a time in the Winnett area but moved to Billings in 1936, and eventually settled in Moses Lake, Washington. They raised five children. One son, Russell, died at age 27 from encephalitis, leaving two small daughters. (See also MORGAN — Winnett)

MORSER, Gilbert (Sec 12-14-26) Gilbert and Agnes Morser had joined homesteads just west of the town of Winnett along present Highway #200. The Morser moved to Aberdeen, Washington.

MORSER, Vivian Vivian “Viv” Morser and his wife, Carrie, lived on the south side of the Teigen-Winnett road about two miles west of Winnett. They did not have any children and often got together with the Carr family for holidays. Viola Carr Hill remembers they had a couple of beautiful sorrel horses and a fairly large barn with a lot of pigeons which the children liked to catch for pets.


MUD, John Otis (Sec 14-14-26) Otis Mudd and Frank Boeckman acquired the slaughter house property south of Winnett from Rudy Beck (See MUD and BECK — Winnett).
NELSON, Nels (Sec 35-15-25) Nels Nelson was a nephew of Mrs. Mons (Elsie Bordsen) Teigen. He homesteaded about five miles east of Teigen on McDonald Creek. Later he moved to Canada.

NEVILLE, Hattie (Sec 8-14-26) Hattie Neville owned 320 acres of land southwest of Winnett. She also owned a business in Winnett. (See also NEVILLE — Winnett)

NOLEN, W. Ford (Sec 14-15-14-26) W. Ford Nolen homesteaded about two miles west of the present highway on the old Yellow Water-Winnett road. On September 15, 1915, the Winnett Times reported his wedding.

'An event both unique and interesting occurred at the parsonage last Thursday evening. Unique because of the fact that it was the first wedding ceremony performed here by the first pastor of the first church in Winnett. Interesting because of the fact that one of the best known bachelors in Eastern Fergus County made a hasty farewell to the old, free ways of single blessedness and eagerly took upon himself the vows that placed him at once in the sweet bondage of matrimony.

'Wm. Ford Nolen, rancher of Winnett, and Nina Mae Curlin of Dallas, Texas, have known each other since they played together in the sunny south. Until the bride arrived here about two weeks ago, the young couple had not seen each other for ten years. However, when cupid has his victims in the toils, he does not readily let them escape, and now he leads his willing victims to the altar.

'For five years, the groom has pioneered here and is to be congratulated for having taken himself a wife who will brighten very considerably Glen Acres Ranch, which the Nolen Bros. have been developing so successfully. Mrs. Nolen is a gifted musician. Mrs. Emma F. Nolen and Mrs. A. P. Alton were matrons of honor, and after the ceremony, a light lunch was enjoyed. We extend to Mr. and Mrs. Nolen the very best of all good wishes. Rev. Alton officiated.' (See also NOLEN — Winnett)


'Sam Olson was a different type. He was a tall sandy-haired Norwegian, very quiet and sober. He was a good herder and withstood the hardships of both winter and summer. He was very fond of oatmeal, and camptenders knew that they dare not forget to keep him supplied.

'One week Bard took out a supply of food including a large round box of Quaker Oats. There was a drawer under the bunk of the camp wagon, so he stowed the 'grub' in the drawer and left, since Sam was quite a distance away with the sheep.

'The next week Art and Bard went out with another supply and a barrel of water. As they came near the wagon, they saw Sam tramping toward them with his head down and eyes on the ground.

'Ooh, oh,' Art said, 'here he comes with his head down. He's mad.' When he came close enough he looked up and said, 'I like oatmeal, but I like something else with it. All week I had nothing but oatmeal, not even any milk.'

'Why, Sam, I brought you everything on the list!' Bard said. He went into the wagon and pulled out the drawer. It had a divider, and behind that were the cans and boxes of food. Sam had pulled it out only far enough to see the front compartment, where the oatmeal had been.

'Sam looked surprised, felt foolish and disgusted to think that he had been eating nothing but oatmeal for a week, when all the time the grub was in the back part of the drawer.'

O’Meara, Joe Joe O’Meara is a native of Lewistown, Montana. He began working for Teigen Land and Livestock in 1968. Two years later he married Laura Staples, a graduate of Roy High School.

Joe is still employed by the Teigens in 1989, and Laura serves as clerk in charge for the Teigen Community Post Office.

The O’Mearas have one son, Joseph Jr. (1977), who attends school in Winnett.

ORWICK, Bert Bert Orwick, a relative of Elsie Teigen, worked for the Teigens. He married Irene Charbonneau. The couple moved to Canada in the 1920s.

OSWICK, Nels Nels Oswick married Martha Teigen in Norway. Martha, a niece of Mons Teigen, had come to Montana to help Mrs. Teigen with her work on the ranch in the early 1900s. She returned to Norway and married Nels. Shortly thereafter the Oswicks came to Teigen and took up adjoining homesteads just north of the Teigen buildings.

Nels and Martha had one child — Sigurd (1920) — who attended the Teigen School.

The Oswicks ran the Teigen Hotel for a short time before they moved to Seattle in April 1925.

PETERSON, Charlie (Sec 17-14-26) Charles Peterson owned land near the Oregon-Montana townsite southwest of Winnett. He was a veteran of the Spanish — American War and a gold seeker in Alaska in the earlier days. In 1929 the Winnett Times reported a visit from Mr. Peterson, who was making his home at the Soldiers’ Home in Kalispell. At the time, he still retained his property in Petroleum County. In later years, it was acquired by the Teigens.

Lillian Story Hough remembers Mr. Peterson. She recalls the children all called him 'Old Peterson.' He was a frequent visitor at their house because he loved Lillian’s mother’s cooking! He had a long-handled mustache and a beard which collected icicles in the winter and, as was true of many an old bachelor, he didn’t always smell very sweet!

PETERSON, Thomas Tom Peterson built a store in Teigen in 1914, but it burned in 1924. He served as the first Teigen postmaster from November 24, 1914 to July 1917.

Thomas and his wife, Sophia, had two children — Mabel (1895) and Mollie (1896). The 1917 school census for District #134 showed Sophia Peterson as guardian for
Norman Stone (1917). It is believed Norman’s parents died in the 1918 flu epidemic.

Mabel and Mollie Peterson board the train at Teigen

PUTNEY, Roland Roland and Sarah Putney had the following children listed in the school census for District #14 in 1920: John (1897), Margaret (1900), William (1909), Martha (1911), Nellie (1913), Charles (1915) and Dorothy (1918).

RAUGSTADT, John (Sec 29,30-14-26) John Rauagstadt homesteaded land on Elk Creek several miles east of the Sibbert buildings. He signed a quitclaim deed to Henry Sibbert for the land in February 1912.

John married Bertha Washburn, whose mother ran a restaurant in Grassrange. In 1920 the Grass Range Review reported the small son of Mr. and Mrs. Rauagstadt drank a good-sized dose of iodine. However, Dr. Freed reported that quick medical attention prevented serious effects.

REDMONT, Bert M. (Sec 21-14-25) The Redmonds lived on the high ridge between Elk Creek and Yellow Water Creek about three miles east of the Fergus-Petroleum county line. The neighborhood was sometimes referred to as Redmond Ridge. They raised grain and exchanged work with neighbors to stack and thresh, as was common in that day.

Bert and Ada had a large family — Elmer (1896), Roxie (1899), Verna (1902), Julia (1904), Jimmielue (1906), Rowena (1908), Jaspur Ray (1910) and Bert M. (1918). The oldest girl, Roxie, was married to David Foreman, and they lived on Elk Creek a couple of miles north of the Redmonds. Verna worked for neighbor ladies during the busy seasons, cooking and caring for children. She attended high school in Lewistown. Julia graduated from Winnett High School in 1922.

Jimmieelue graduated from the eighth grade at the Pineview School in 1921 and went to Lewistown to go to high school and to help her sister, Roxie, and her husband.

In September 1921 Bert traveled to Oregon to see if he could make satisfactory arrangements to move his family there. The last article in the Winnett Times mentioning the Redmonds was on December 2, 1921. It reported B. M. Redmond delivered a number of boxes of Oregon prunes to people in the Teigen area.

REED, James (Sec 17-15-25) James and Nancy Reed brought a family of boys with them when they came to Montana to homestead — Buell, Spencer, Ralph (1895), Nova (1901) and Dean (1903). It is believed the couple had one daughter, but records do not show whether or not she came to Montana.

The Reeds came from Tennessee in about 1913. James took up a homestead as did two of his older sons — Spencer (Sec 6-15-25) and Buell (Sec 7,13-15-25). The family had a threshing business at one time. Buell and Spencer ran the crew; Ralph (who was not in very good health) took care of the house and did the cooking — no small task. Nova went to work in the dirt moving business. He worked for the State Water Conservation Board and other irrigation projects.

After grain raising decreased and the need for threshing outfits dwindled, Dean worked for other farmers. Buell worked for Teigens in later years. Spencer died in 1943, Ralph in 1947, Dean in 1948 and Buell in 1973. None of the men ever married. The only known survivor at the time of Buell’s death in 1973 was a niece, Mrs. Moris Binkley, of Bloomington, Indiana.

REED, Webster School census records indicate Webster and Effie Reed had the following children in District #14 in 1915 — Virginia (1907), Roland (1909), Jack (1911), Stanley (1913) and Deloris (1915).

REMILLARD, Erlic Erlic and Fredia (Charbonneau) Remillard had two children on the 1919 school census for District #14 — Leah (1914) and Archie (1918). Fredia was a practical nurse in the community. Later they moved to the Forestgrove area.

REPLLOGE, Albert B. (Sec 28,29-14-25) Albert (Bert) Replogle and his brother, Leslie, came from Arkansas to homestead in 1914. They took land on the high bench between Yellow Water and Elk Creek, which was sometimes known as Redmond Ridge or the Pineview area. They were neighbors of Peter Kjersem, the Redmonds, and the Davies. In the 1920s, the Winnett Times makes reference to the Replogles visiting for the afternoon at the Redmonds and other places in the community.

Bert was in the infantry in World War I, and his brother remained in Montana to care for their property. The following letter to another brother dated October 15, 1918, gives a glimpse of Bert Replogle as a 25-year-old wounded soldier.
Reploge homestead on the bench between Elk Creek and Yellow Water Creek

"Dear Brother — You may have been notified of my having been wounded. Judging by my condition, I shall probably be back in the States in a couple of months. In view of this fact, I hope you will hold onto the ranch, as I desire to continue in this occupation when I get home. Especially hold the cattle. In case Leslie is drafted, get some reliable man to take care of them until I get there.

"The last fight I was in I got eleven wounds. I got five bullets in my right leg below the knee, so that it had to be amputated. I got one in the left leg, but it is O.K. I have lost the thumb of my left hand and middle fingers on the right hand. Do not think I am so disabled that I cannot run the ranch.

"Later on the Government will provide the best artificial leg obtainable, which I will be able to use almost as well as my original; besides, I will get paid for wearing it.

"The night before I was wounded, I was commanding the outposts of the Company. I had 20 men in 10 shallow pits 15 yards apart. After bombarding us with all kinds of shells for half an hour, they sent over a raiding party. I shot three of them myself, so I feel partly square with them.

"Give my love to the kids. Write me c/o Base Hospital 67, AEF. (signed) Bro. Sgt. Albert B. Reploge"

In the spring of 1919, Bert returned to a hero’s welcome in Grassrange. The Grass Range Review reported, “It was planned here, if the Sergeant (Reploge) came down by train, to meet him at the depot with a parade and the brass band, but he came from Lewistown Wednesday afternoon with W. C. Weber in his car. Thursday morning a parade was soon formed of school children and citizens which met him at Young’s Hotel and then counter-marched back on Main Street to the Grass
Bert hired someone to care for his homestead property, and as his daughter, Louise, wrote, 'We would go out to the place sometimes on weekends. It seemed an all-day drive. There was never any talk about losing the place. Things were not discussed around the children, and while we knew things were rough, everyone seemed to be in the same boat, so we didn't notice anything except we no longer went there.' Eventually John Schultz and Ed Degner each acquired part of the property.

Mr. Replogle was appointed as one of Montana's official representatives at the funeral of the "Unknown American Soldier" in the Arlington National Cemetery. When he died in 1950, he too was buried there.

**RHONE, George** (Sec 12-15-25) George Rhone and his wife, Goldie, had three children listed in the District #134 school census — Mildred (1908), Otis (1909) and Milo (1912). It is believed they had another child, Garrold. (W. T. 5-27-21) "George Rhone was in Winnett from the War House Lake district on Friday of last week. Mr. Rhone states that everything is going along well in his section of the county, that the farmers are all busy getting in their crops and that he thinks it will not be long before the oil development reaches over into his immediate vicinity."

A few years later, George became section foreman for the railroad in Grassrange, and the children attended school there.

**RILEY, Richard** (Sec 13-15-25) Richard Riley is remembered by Viola Carr Hill. He operated a little store along the road halfway between Teigen and Winnett. To the children he seemed like an old man, and they referred to him as 'Ol Man Riley.' He sold candy, gum, tobacco, etc. in his store and was said to be a bootlegger on the side. He died in 1928, a ward of Petroleum County, at the poor farm in Lewistown at the age of 62.

**RINGO, Alva E.** (Sec 22-14-25) Alva Ringo had 160 acres south of Elk Creek about a mile west of the Sibbert buildings. He married Eva Redmond, who had four children from a previous marriage — Velma (1902), Benjamin (1904), Mayme (1907) and John (1910). Alva had a daughter, Rispo, born in 1907. She attended the Pineview School. Mayme graduated from the Pineview School in 1921 and went to Winnett High School in the fall. Velma worked in Billings and in 1921 went to San Francisco to take training for the Salvation Army.

**ROUP, Grant** (Sec 32-14-26) Grant Roup and his wife, Anna, received 320 acres of land from the U. S. Government in 1917. In 1919 they deeded the land to Thomas Moore. The county acquired the land in 1932.

**ROZELL, William** William Rozell was the first railroad section foreman in Teigen. He and his wife, Grace, had two children — Virgil (1912) and Esther. After seven years in Teigen, he was transferred to Heath, near Lewistown, Montana, in the spring of 1925.

**RUNNALLS, John** (Sec 8-14-26) John J. Runnalls (1867-1957) and his wife, Birdie Zelphia Stark (1879-1951) came from Nebraska in 1913. For eight months they lived in Moore where the children — Ruby (1900), Percy (1903) and Jewette (1906) went to school.

Ruby wrote of their arrival: "When we arrived, the sky seemed so clear and so big, it felt like we were in heaven. One couldn't see very far in Nebraska for all the trees. One of my brothers said, 'Oh, Mamma, let's go over and see that mountain!' An old gentleman nearby said with a grin, 'Son, I wouldn't try it today. That mountain is 25 miles away.' We were truly greenhorns as to the vast west."

In the meantime, Mr. Runnalls moved to the homestead he had filed on south of McDonald Creek, about five miles west of Winnett, and put up a tent. Ruby recalls the tent was about twelve feet by ten feet, boarded up three-feet high all around. A pot-bellied stove stood in the middle of the tent which served as a cooking stove and a heating stove. There was a bed for Mr. and Mrs. Runnalls and a cot for each of the children. Construction on a house was started, and the family moved to the area in the spring. They spent their summers on the homestead but lived in Grassrange during the school term.

Mr. Runnalls went back to Nebraska during the summer to work, conditioning threshing machines for harvest. The money he received had to support them for the coming year. The family stayed on the homestead during his absence, doing chores, mending fences, caring for stock and raising a garden. Before they had a team, they walked seven miles to Winnett and back for groceries and mail.

Tall sunflowers provide the background for this picture on the Runnalls homestead. (L to R) Ardith and Fay Story, Birdie Runnalls, Ruby Story, Fred Story (holding Audrey), Jack Runnalls and Jewette Runnalls.

After two winters in Grassrange, the family moved to the newly completed house on the homestead. It even had a picture window! Ruby believes the window came from an old hotel which was being dismantled. The
children attended one year of school at the Carr School north of McDonald Creek. The teacher was qualified to teach ninth grade, so Ruby was able to go an extra year in the country school. The next year, however, a house was found in Winnett, so the children could complete their educations. Each worked as best he could to help pay expenses. Jewette said he put himself through high school setting up bowling pins.

The older Runnalls boy, Percy Lee, left Winnett when he was eighteen to take a job with the city bus company in St. Louis. He remained with the company until he retired.

Jewette worked for an oil company after graduating from Winnett High School in 1926. He died in 1962 in an accident.

Ruby married Fred Story in 1918. (See also STORY — Winnett)

RUTLEDGE, James James and Edith Rutledge had one child listed in the 1917 District #134 school census — Gladys (1901). The Polk Directory lists J. P. Rutledge as a blacksmith in Teigen in 1918.

SCHELLINGER, Mrs. Guy Mr. and Mrs. Guy Schellenger were both teachers. Guy owned property in the Kelley area. (See also SCHELLINGER — Kelley) From January 1921 until August 1921 Mr. Schellenger taught the Carmichael School near the Fergus-Petroleum county line. The same year Mrs. Schellenger taught the Pineview School which was located between Elk and Yellow Water creeks in western Petroleum County not far from the Carmichael School.

The Schellengers had two boys — Bernard (1915) and Ben (1916). The boys started school in the Pineview School while their mother was teaching there. She taught in addition to the 1921 summer school session, the regular 1921-22 year and the 1922-23 school year. The school closed in 1923.

Mrs. Schellenger must have been popular with the young people in the community because the Pineview news in the Winnett Times often mentioned young people calling on the Schellengers.

Mr. Schellenger was elected the first senator from the newly formed Petroleum County in 1924. He served during the 1925 legislative session. Mrs. Schellenger taught the Wilson School for two terms in 1923-24 and 1924-25. In the spring of 1925 the family moved to Selby, South Dakota.

In 1931 the Winnett Times reported the following: “Mrs. Guy Schellenger of Glad Valley, South Dakota, is here to look after the Schellenger interests. Since leaving, Mr. Schellenger bought a mercantile business at an inland point in South Dakota, is enjoying a flourishing business, and is satisfied with his location.”

SCHULTZ, Stanislaus (Sec 3-14-25) Stanislaus and his wife, Pauline, were both born in Germany. They came to the United States shortly after their marriage in 1885. They settled in Buffalo, Erie County, New York, where they owned a meat market. In 1900 the family moved to Butler County, Pennsylvania, where they settled in Lynndora. In 1910 two of Stanislaus’ sons, Theodore and John, went to Fergus County, Montana, and the family followed later the same year, first settling on a small ranch at Hanover, Montana. A few years later they moved to the Teigen area.

The Schultzes had eight children — Joseph (1887), Theodore (1894), John (1895), Frank (1897), Helen (1900), Beatrice (1906), Cecilia (1907), and Victoria (1909). The older boys, Joseph, Theodore and John, as well as Stanislaus and Pauline, took up land south and east of Teigen about two miles. The younger children attended the Teigen School. Ted and John and their mother, Pauline, were the only members of the family who stayed in the area permanently after Stanislaus died in 1923.

In 1930 Ted bought 840 acres of hay land on Elk Creek from the Dovenspeck estate. Late the same year he lost the barn on the original homestead in a fire. He was three miles from home when he noticed the smoke. All he was able to save were four calves and two wagons which were parked nearby. It was a heavy loss to him.

Ted married Ethel Degner, the daughter of Frank and Elizabeth Degner, early residents on Yellow Water Creek. (See also DEGNER — Flatwillow) Ted and Ethel had two daughters — Patricia (1931) and Marylee (1932). In 1932 Ted moved his house from the homestead to the Elk Creek property. Ethel died in December 1933 and Ted’s mother, Pauline, kept house and helped raise the children. Both girls graduated from Grass Range High School. Patricia married Frank Stolle and lives in Rapid City, South Dakota; Marylee married John Kaufman in 1952 and now lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.


As a young man, John Schultz worked for Henry N. Sibbert, a sheeprman on Elk Creek. On March 11, 1939, he married Marie Sibbert, the Sibbert’s oldest daughter. (See also SIBBERT) The couple operated the Sibbert 'up-
per ranch" south of Grassrange. Marie died November 1949, when their only son, John Jr., was 10 years old. John Schultz died in February 1976.

The younger John married Nancy Anderson in 1960. John not only operates the original "upper ranch" where he grew up, but he purchased the Ted Schultz Elk Creek property where he and Nancy make their home. They have four children — Vivian, Laurie, Sonya and Nicholas. All three daughters have graduated from Grass Range High School. Vivian graduated from Eastern Montana College, married Mike Fosjord and lives in Billings. Laurie will finish a master's program at Purdue University in 1989. Sonya and Nicholas are at the family ranch.

SCOTT, William (Sec 27-14-25) and SCOTT, Walter (Sec 26, 27, 31-14-25) William Scott and his son, Walter, had adjoining homesteads midway between Elk and Yellow Water creeks and north of today's Yellow Water Dam. Walter was a kindly bachelor who used to walk to James Mink's homestead and read to the old man.

In July of 1921 Walter reported to the Winnett Times that he was busily engaged in putting up hay and reported a good crop. However, he said the grain had been damaged because of the hot winds, and he felt unless rain fell within a few days, the crop would be lost.

The Scotts had 640 acres, 85 of them cultivated. Most of the farming was done with a tractor.

SEUTE, William (Sec 21-15-25) William Seute made many improvements to his homestead. There were a number of small reservoirs on the property and nice buildings.

William married Alec Young's widow, Linda Young. (Alec Young was proprietor of the Young Hotel in Grassrange.) William left the homestead and moved to Lewistown. He opened a grocery store at 122 West Main — the present location of the Snow White Cafe (1989). Mrs. Seute was cashier in the store, and Mr. Seute was known for his fairness to employees and customers alike. He kept his store open longer hours for the convenience of his customers; and during the fruit season, he often bought ripe fruit at the end of the week from local wholesalers, carefully culled the overripe fruit, and sold the balance cut rate for canning.

The Seutes owned a small farm less than a mile southeast of Lewistown. William sold his grocery business in 1935 and later moved to Arizona.

SIBBERT, Henry Henry Sibbert came to the Petroleum County area in 1894, long before Petroleum County was dreamed of, but he and others like him were to be instrumental in the growth and development of the country and the ultimate formation of Montana's last county.

Henry's early life was typical of many immigrants looking for better opportunities in the United States. Born in Germany, one of 10 children, Henry and his family came to Iowa in 1887, where they took up farming. Though Henry's formal education was scant, he learned self-sufficiency very young, and after having worked on farms in Iowa, he came west when he was only 18. He found his first work on a large sheep ranch owned by one of the earliest sheepmen in eastern Montana — Le Feldt. He not only learned every phase of sheep ranching, but he did some wolfing, trapping, stage-driving, and traveling with a shearing outfit over much of Wyoming, Nevada and Montana. He worked for the Bean Brothers at various times, and in 1906 he purchased their 1200-acre Elk Creek ranch. He stocked the ranch by taking 1400 sheep from B. F. Lepper on share.

Henry married Marie Olson in 1902. Marie was the daughter of John Olson, early homesteader on Elk Creek. Ole Olson of Grassrange was her brother, and Mrs. Lena Lindstrand of Lewistown, her sister. They had two little girls, Marie and Lillian, when they moved into their two-room log cabin on the ranch which was to grow and prosper and become one of the garden spots of Petroleum County. Three more children were born to the couple — Oscar (1906), John (1908) and Gladys (1910).

Marie Olson about the time of her marriage to Henry Sibbert in 1902

SHUSTER, Albert (Sec 22-15-25) Albert Shuster and his wife, Lulu, had one child listed on the 1914 school census for District #134, Richard Clement (1905). (See also SHUSTER — Petrolia)
was watered from an irrigation system out of Elk Creek. Alfalfa meadows were planted and irrigated as well. Not only was hay produced, but many years the alfalfa yielded heavy seed crops. Reportedly the Sibberts were the first people in the area to use an airplane for spraying their meadows, and people came for miles to watch the operation. The ranch ran as many as 5000 head of sheep, and one season had a wool clip of 52,000 pounds.

The Sibbert ranch property not only expanded, but Henry’s interest in other enterprises developed. No one had greater faith in the potential of the area than Henry Sibbert. He promoted the drilling of numerous oil wells and was involved in the formation of several royalty and leasing companies. Unfortunately, the success of the Cat Creek field was not to be repeated in the Flatwillow-Elk Creek anticline. A number of the “dry” oil wells, however, were to furnish precious water for stock in the years to come.

Henry took out citizenship papers when he filed on his homestead and cast his first vote as an American citizen at Fort Maginnis, Montana. In 1919 he served on the District #159 school board. He worked for the formation of Petroleum County and became the county’s second senator in 1927. He served a four-year term, ran for office again in 1935, and served another four-year term. The following quote from the January 14, 1938, Winnett Times has a familiar ring 50 years later. It tells something of the man and of the times.

“Henry Sibbert, your Senator, says, ‘As a resident and State Senator from Petroleum County, I am more than in-
Wool ready for market at Sibbert Ranch

interested in the articles appearing in the Winnet Times concerning the oil industry.

"The serious situation of the oil industry in the state can little be realized until it has been reduced to statistics and various other facts.

"It is my opinion that few people realize what a state's industry, crops, and other production, means to us individually. They mean much in either increase or reductions of taxes, mean much in increase or reduction of payrolls, all of which in turn mean much to general business and our own happiness.

"Therefore, as Senator from Petroleum County, I urge all of my constituents to give full support to this movement of "Buying Montana Made Gasoline from Montana Crude" as it has so aptly been put, regardless if it is gasoline, oil, stock, coal, grain, or what have you. What Montana makes or produces, makes Montana."

School presented a serious problem for the Sibberts. When Marie was old enough for school in 1909, there were very few schools in the entire area. There are no records available to tell us exactly how the family coped with the problem, but newspaper accounts show that Gladys, the youngest child, attended at least a year or two of elementary school at or near their ranch (See also STORY). In the late teens, however, the family bought a house in Lewistown and Mrs. Sibbert and the children began living there during the school year.

Marie Madeline, the oldest daughter, married John Schultz in 1939. John, his father, and two of his brothers homesteaded in the Teigen area. (See also SCHULTZ) John and Marie made their home on what was known as the "upper" Sibbert Ranch on Elk Creek.

Lillian loved her parents' Elk Creek home and ranch. She was an excellent rider and all-around ranch hand. Pictures reveal that she was stylish and fashionable as well. She was ambitious, fun-loving, and had a wealth of friends in the community. She married William Doman in 1946 and the couple had one son, Donnis. They lived in Winnett, where Lillian was actively involved in many affairs — Eastern Star, Legion Auxiliary, Republican Woman, Garden Club, and Methodist Church. She often played the piano for club activities, funerals, etc. Lillian died in May 1966.

Oscar was killed in a tragic hunting accident when he was about 17.

John played football for Fergus County High School in Lewistown. After his high school years he returned to help his father on the ranch. He stayed on the ranch until the family moved in 1940. At that time, he and his father acquired the Porter Hays place on Flatwillow Creek where they lived for many years. John served in World War II, and in 1955 he married Emma Rabern. They purchased a home in Winnett in the 1970s, and Lillian's son, Donnis, took over the operation of the Flatwillow property.

Ice being hauled to the icehouse for storage

John Sibbert sports his fancy Studebaker

Gladys, the youngest child, graduated from high school in Lewistown and went to the University of Montana in Missoula. In order to receive a degree in library science, she transferred to the University of Washington, where she graduated. She was juvenile librarian in the Lewistown Public Library for three years before moving

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Henry Sibbert with three of his children — Lillian, John (behind the wheel of their 1927 Studebaker Commander) and Gladys

to Billings, Montana, to accept a similar position. She married Claire Cutter in 1940. He was a display advertising manager at Hart Albin in Billings. One year after they were married (in May 1941), Gladys was killed in an automobile accident on the road just south of Winnett. The Cutters had been visiting the Sibbert family on Flatwillow for the weekend when the accident occurred.

Drought and depression had forced the Sibberts to give up their Elk Creek ranch in May of 1940. Henry continued to live in the community until his death on August 31, 1954. Marie, his wife, preceded him in death in 1933.

**SIBBERT, Marx** (Sec 23-14-15) It is believed this was the father of Henry Sibbert. The name has been spelled "Max" on other records. He was a native of Germany who came to the United States in 1885 and settled in Crawford County, Iowa, as a farmer. He and his wife, Lena Schleuter, had ten children — Annie, Maty, Henry, Lena, Hans, Charles, Emma and Bertha. The names of the other children are not known.

Son Henry came to Montana before the turn of the century. (See SIBBERT, Henry) Daughter Lena also came to Montana where she married John Holmes of Benchland, Montana.

It has been reported a Helen Sibbert worked at the Flatwillow Hotel in the early days of its operation. There is a possibility the name Helen or Helena was shortened to be "Lena."

Marx and Lena Sibbert (living in the state of Iowa) deeded the above listed property to Henry Sibbert in 1913.

**STORY, Percy and John** (Sec 18,19-14-26) The Story family roots go back to England and Norway. The first Story came to America on the Mayflower. In the mid-1880s, one of the Storys moved west to Minnesota. Albert Lee Story was born on April 2, 1857. He married Sarah Elizabeth Southwick and they had nine children. Three of their sons, Percy, John and Fred, came to Montana.

Percy was born in 1884. He married Ethel Lillian Jennings in 1908. They had two children, Lillian (1909) and Leland (1910), born before they came to Winnett in 1914. John and Fred were younger brothers of Percy.

John and Percy acquired land seven miles southwest of Winnett. Fred worked as a mechanic in Winnett.

The Storys did not remain on the land long. After the oil boom in 1921, Percy secured work in Cat Creek. In 1936 he was in charge of the Hover-Schwarz operation of the West Dome Lease. (See also STORY — Cat Creek)

Lillian graduated from Winnett High School in 1927, Leland in 1928.

The following is an account of the Story homestead days written by Lillian Story Hough: "Percy Albert Story, his younger brother, Jack Story, Wallace Davis, and Archibald Faragher left Minnesota in early 1914 to homestead land near Winnett. They rode the boxcars loaded with stock, wagons and machinery, lumber to build, and household possessions. All was unloaded at Grassrange and hauled to the respective homesteads: Percy Story and Arch Faragher, seven and one-half to eight miles west of Winnett; Jack, about two miles farther west; and Wallace Davis, south of Winnett about four miles on the Flatwillow road.

"Ethel Lillian Story (my mother), Leland (my brother), and I were met at the Grassrange depot by my father on May 14, 1914, the day before my fifth birthday. I can recall the excitement of that train trip, meeting my father after so long a time and the ride in the wagon to our new home; the acrid smell of sagebrush and dust, the arid scenery compared to the green of Minnesota. My father and Arch Faragher had built two large homes (large for homesteaders, that is) a half-mile apart, and though the partitions weren't in, we had more room than most homestead shacks in that area. Dad soon built a large barn, corn crib, granary, and partitioned off bedrooms. The next two years he built on a kitchen-dining room, and a large screened porch, plus a huge sheep shed and large brick silo. Our house was one story, painted light blue, with white trim, and the sheep shed was a deep red.

"The picture is of the farm at the peak of production. That year we put out shade trees — they never matured, as the drought soon hit and no amount of water we hauled could keep them growing. We hauled water those first years from a creek 2½ to 3 miles away and kept the
drinking water barrel on the north side of the house. When it started getting stale with a green scum, Mother and we kids cut large cactus. chopped it up to get the slimy liquid, and put it in the water to make it clear for drinking until we could get fresh.

"Besides Faraghers as neighbors, we had Chet and Edith Strayer one-half mile south of us, moving in about 1916. They had two children: Glen (Leland's age) and a baby girl, born on the homestead, who died in infancy. Mother helped prepare the body for burial and the men nailed boards together for a casket. The baby was buried in the Winnett Cemetery. Strayers left before we did. I cannot recall Roy Strayer except as a brother of Chet, and presumably he lived with them.

"The Brittons lived two miles northwest of us and a bachelor, Charles Peterson, who we called 'Old Pete' lived about two miles north. The Runnalls family were about three to four miles north. Sibberts were about four miles west and Stroupers about three miles south on Yellow Water Creek, as well as Walkers.

"The first I can remember of the Elk Creek School is the year I was seven (1916). I started to school that summer with my six-year-old brother, Leland, and Glen Strayer, the same age. We three rode a gentle, old, fat horse, at least the two boys did! I, being the oldest, was expected to take care of them, and most of the time I was off that old horse retrieving their caps, books, etc., with no way to mount again until I found a rock or fence or dirt bank high enough to get back on the broad back. Mostly, I walked!

"Our teacher that summer, and probably the following winter, was Mary Feaster, who lived on a farm about a mile or mile and a half south of Winnett on Flatwillow road. I can remember walking to school through herds of cattle on the range, sometimes dodging behind low hills or going into gullies when those cattle began pawing the earth and lowing at us kids. Also, I recall one day starting home in a bad snowstorm, the wind coming up to a blizzard. We kids got so cold we cut across the hills instead of following the trail as our dads had instructed us. Needless to say, when we arrived home safe, our parents were in tears as they couldn't find us on the road, and we got a heck of a lecture. It was then I fully realized the danger of storms in that country. Never again did I let us stray off the trail.

"Our next teacher was Reba Hauk, a young normal school graduate from Indiana who was interested in finding out about the wild and woolly west! She came to our school in 1918, boarded and roomed with us, and, I assure you, she learned about the West the hard way. That year we had huge snowdrifts to walk through, and the teacher was expected to get the fires going in the schoolroom to be warm for the children when they arrived. That young girl stuck it out through the winter but didn't apply for teaching another year — I'm sure she had enough of the West!

"That must have been the last year for that school, as my mother drove us back and forth to Winnett School in our Ford touring car in my fifth year. I skipped the fourth grade. She drove the Britton boy, Glen Strayer, Leland, and I; and while we were in school. Mother worked at the Millsap Hotel as chambermaid.

"I can remember only a few pupils at the Elk Creek School: the younger Sibbert children — Oscar (the one who shot himself accidently while he was out hunting), Gladys, and John; Madalyn Walker; Ernest Britton; Glen Strayer; my brother and I. I think there was a family of several children on Elk Creek that also attended, but I can't recall their name."

STRANGE, George George and Maude Strange had three children listed in the District #134 school census — Helen (1913), Irma (1915) and Daisy (1921).

STRAYER, Chester and STRAYER, Roy (Sec 19,20-14-26) Chester and Roy Strayer were brothers who homesteaded north of Elk Creek about six miles west of Winnett. Chester and his wife, Edith, had one son, Glen (1910). (See also STORY, Percy)

SUNDVOLD, Anna (Sec 19-15-25) Anna Sundsvold cooked for the Teigen Ranch before taking up a homestead north of the ranch. She lived on her property by herself until she married Frank Luebke in the early 1930s. She sold out to the government after a few years, however, and the couple made their home in Lewistown.
TAIT, Lyman  Lyman "Bill" and Katherine Tait took over the Teigen Store and Post Office from Mrs. Kelley in 1946. They came from the Fort Maginnis area. Bill was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Tait. There were four other children in the family — Elden, Cecil (Dieziger), Stella (France), and Fanny.

Katherine was a Tognascioli. She had six sisters — Carrie (Clark), Mary (Bishop), Orsoline (Reed), Nellie (Perry) and Ann (Byfuglin). Katherine had been married to Frank Vogl and they had two children — Kenneth and Marie (Newlin). Both children were grown when the Taits moved to Teigen.

Bill supplemented their income by working for crop insurance. He was an enthusiastic hunter, fisherman and trapper. He also guided hunting parties.


TEIGEN, Bard  Bard Teigen, the second son of Mons and Elsie Teigen, was born in 1905 at the Teigen Ranch. He, like his brother Peter, began school in Helena, Montana, but due to the death of the aunt with whom the boys were living, moved to Belt to continue school with other relatives. In 1914, however, a school was opened at Teigen, and Bard was able to finish his elementary education there.

Bard married Ann Clark in 1935. Ann was a daughter of Sumner and Nellie Clark who came to Grassrange in 1914 and opened a general store. They managed the business until 1958, when their son, Archer, took it over. He sold the store in 1984 to Velma and Gene Daum. It was "Clark's Store" for over 70 years, serving people from a wide area. In the earliest years, people from Roy, Teigen and Winnett traded there. The Clarks had nine children — Luther, Frances (Hart), Mabel (Ryan), Rachel (Wood), Ann (Teigen), Archer, Robert, Albert, and George. (See also CARPENTER — Cat Creek; CLARK — Winnett)

Ann graduated from Grass Range High School and became a teacher. She taught one term at the Teigen School.

In 1936, because of the drought, the Teigens made arrangements to move most of their sheep to Ovando, Montana, to be herded on forest service land. Bard and Ann spent the summer in Ovando camp-tending and spotting fires which were a constant menace.

Bard and Ann were the parents of three children — Bard C. (1939), Ellen (1942) and Patricia (1949). They all graduated from Grass Range High School. Bard is a mechanical engineer working for Combustion Engineering in Enfield, Connecticut. Ellen is a registered nurse living in Billings, and Patricia is a certified public accountant in Helena.

Bard took over the presidency of the Teigen Land and Livestock Co. in 1962 and served in that capacity until his death in 1976. Bard suffered from lung problems for many years, but he faithfully tended camp for the bands of sheep and moved wagons from place to place. He probably knew more about where the early homesteads were located than anyone else in the area. He had a keen interest in history.

TEIGEN, Mons  (Sec 5,6,7-14-25) Mons Teigen was born in Voss, Norway, on July 12, 1851, and reared on a farm in his native country. His mother was an Opheim. He came to America as a young man, first to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he worked in a sawmill and then to Helena, Montana, where he worked on ranches. The story of the founding of the Teigen Ranch can be found in the Introduction to this chapter.

Mons married Elsie Bordsen in 1897 in Helena. Elsie was born in Bergen, Norway. She came to the United States in 1892 and earned her first American dollar as a seamstress in Helena, Montana. After her marriage, she came to the Teigen sheep ranch, where she made the
former bachelor's camp a home. She raised chickens, churned butter, baked bread, and cooked good food for the hungry men.

It was a pleasant change in the quiet days whenever a neighbor or traveler stopped, for many miles stretched out between ranches, and time grew long between these visits. When a rancher and his family set out to go to town, it usually meant a two-day journey, and so often they stopped overnight at some convenient ranch along the way. Mrs. Teigen was always happy to have visitors, and the aroma of coffee brewing on the big black range, or roasting meat, or bread a-baking keenly tempted the travelers.

Mons and Elsie had two sons — Peter (1900) and Bard (1905). They lived on their McDonald Creek sheep ranch all of their lives. When Mons died in 1931, the Winnet Times said of him, "Through his sturdy character, his integrity and his industry, Mr. Teigen became widely known as one of the most successful and influential citizens of Montana."

Elsie died in 1936.
TEIGEN, Peter  Peter was the oldest son of Mons and Elsie Teigen. He was born in Helena in 1900. Because school was not available near their McDonald Creek ranch, Peter began school in Helena where he lived with his aunt, Sophia Anderson, until her death. Then he went to school in Belt, Montana, where he again lived with relatives. When he was a sophomore in high school, he went to Fergus County High School in Lewistown and lived in the school dormitory.

Peter met his future wife, Edna Poetter, when he was a senior in high school and she was a sophomore. Edna lived as a child on a ranch in the Pig Eye Basin near Utica, Montana. She was the oldest of six children — Edna (1902), Arthur (1903), Edith, George, Lois, and Frank (1910). Peter courted Edna for several years, and in 1921 they were married. They both worked in Lewistown — Peter at the Bank of Fergus County, and Edna at the Power Mercantile Company. In 1922 their first son, Mons, was born, and 14 months later Peter Jr. was born.

The Bank of Fergus County closed in 1923, and Peter and Edna moved to the Teigen Ranch. For a time they lived in the upstairs of the Teigen house, then in the Teigen Hotel. Edna has fond memories of those days when neighbors and strangers alike gathered to enjoy cards or dancing or just an evening of visiting. In 1928 Teigens built the home where Edna still lives (1989).

Two girls were born to the couple after they moved into their new home — Elsa Mae (1930) and Lois (1932). The boys, Mons and Peter, went to the little white Teigen School which sat on the hill north of the Teigen homes, but when Mons graduated from the eighth grade, there were no longer enough pupils to keep the school open. The boys went to school in Grassrange for a year, but then it seemed best for Edna to move to Lewistown for the school term. Mons and Peter both graduated from Fergus County High School. The two girls began school in Lewistown but finished in Winnett. Elsa Mae graduated from Winnett High School in 1948, Lois in 1950.

Mons and Peter served in World War II and completed their education after the war. Mons graduated from Montana State College in Bozeman, and Peter received a business degree from the University of Montana in Missoula. Mons married Eleanor Assen. They have three children — Lloyd, Mons Jr., and Carla. Mons has been Secretary of the Montana Grass Conservation Commission, Commissioner of State Lands, and Executive Secretary of the Montana Stockgrowers Association. He is retired, and he and Eleanor make their home in Helena, Montana.

Peter Jr. 's history is written separately.

Elsa Mae took a secretarial course in Billings and worked for a law firm before marrying Robert Lenhardt. The Lenhardts make their home in Billings. They have three children — Lorraine (1952), Janice (1955) and Allan (1959).

Lois graduated from the University of Montana in marketing. She held a responsible position for a number of years with Hewlett Packard Company in Loveland, Colorado. She married Clifton Bryan and the couple had two sons — Lonnie (1953) and Kip (1958). Lois died in 1988.

Pete and Edna were active in community affairs and had friends statewide. Pete Teigen Sr. was chosen as a farm representative on the Draft Board in 1942 and served as Petroleum County State Representative for two terms, 1944 and 1946, in Montana’s House of Representatives. He died in 1962.

This tribute to Edna Teigen was written by her granddaughter, Carla Teigen, in 1989:

BEdtime at Teigen  "My grandma always had chenille bedspreads, always did, always will. I remember fondly learning how to make beds with those textured knobby designed yards of tasseled cloth. After getting the sheets and woolen blankets smooth, I would pride myself in the symmetrical placement of the spread. These particular spreads taught order amidst the infinity of their dots. Sometimes I'd get distracted by counting, which usually ended with a zillion (but which probably came to a hundred and a promise to pick up the count tomorrow).

"The picture of the flower basket, the latticed border and the curly-cued corners are still alive in my memory. It was the corners that guided my small efforts at centering the spread. You know, the bed wasn’t made unless the
corners came to the same place on each side and the 
basket was smack dab in the center of the bed below the 
pillow hump. Of course, evening up the pillows was yet 
another great feat of form and uniformity.

"Sometimes Grandma and I would do the beds 
together. This was like a walk in the mythical garden of 
the design, a time to share our dreams of the night 
before, plans for the day ahead, and wishes for the 
future. Other times I would do the beds alone, which 
naturally took more time going back and forth from side 
to side in an exaggerated ritual of an apprentice. Yes, I 
was Grandma's apprentice or 'lil grandma' as they called 
me.

"We took baths in the evening at Grandma's. The beds 
would obviously stay cleaner longer that way, but that 
didn't seem to matter, because they were changed Mon-
days regardless. Sheets, blankets, spreads were all line 
dried and aired. Ummmmmmmm, I've heard that our 
sense of smell is more closely linked to our memory than 
any other of our senses, and I believe it. When I occa-
sionally encounter that same fresh fragrance, I'm back 
there again. The first moment of my clean body hitting 
the fresh bed made me wonder if life could get any bet-
ner. Then lights out and prayers; Jesus, the Good 
Shepherd, or the 23rd Psalm hang above all the beds at 
Grandma's. The Teigens, historically sheep ranchers, 
seem to know Christ through the shepherd image.

"Bedtime traditions at Grandma's, the going to and get-
ning up from, have made indelible impressions on me. I 
cherish my Grandma Teigen, the family, home, and 
memories of her creation. She is a great woman, an artist 
of the simplicity and fullness of life. From my Seattle 
home and bed, I am transformed by the liturgy of bed-
time prayers and rituals that were spawned and nurtured 
through her love. On the occasion of her 87th birthday, I 
rejoice in her life. I love you, Grandma, Edna E. Teigen."

TEIGEN, Peter Jr. Peter Teigen Jr. graduated from 
Fergus County High School in 1941. He returned to the 
family ranch and herded sheep until the following year 
when he joined the Navy. After radio man's school at 
Texas A and M, he went aboard the DD 571 Claxton in 
January 1942. He stayed on the ship until mustered out in 
1945.

Peter returned to the ranch and worked until 
September 1946 when he enrolled in school at the 
University of Montana. He went two years, then stayed 
one year on the ranch, returning to school in the fall of 
1948 and graduating at the end of winter quarter in 1951. 
Because his father was not well, Peter decided to stay on 
the ranch to help out.

Peter and Gladys Stahler, daughter of Florence and 
Ferman Housel, were married in June 1954. They lived on 
the home ranch until they purchased the Leonard Eld 
place in 1959. They moved to their own place in the fall 
and have resided there since. Peter commutes to the 
main ranch almost every day.

Peter Sr. died in the spring of 1962. He had been presi-
dent of the Teigen Land and Livestock Company since the 
death of his own father in 1931. After Peter Sr. died, his 
brother, Bard, served as president of the company for 14 
years, and Peter Jr. took over as vice-president and 
manager. When Bard died in 1976, Pete Jr. became presi-
dent and young Bard became vice-president. Peter Jr. has 
continued to manage the ranch.

Peter and Gladys are some of Petroleum County's most 
loyal supporters. They both have served as officers of 
boards and fraternal organizations too numerous to men-
tion. They often use the excuse of a Teigen birthday or an-
iversary to entertain their many friends with fine food 
and dancing.

TEMPLEMAN, Elmer Elmer Templeman spent only 
a couple of years in Montana. He and his wife, Blanche, 
came from Webb, Iowa, with their two small children, 
Imogene and Josephine.

Blanche died during the flu epidemic and Elmer re-
turned to Iowa in the early 1920s, where he remarried 
and had three more children - Alice, Joyce and James.

Because Elmer had great faith that oil would be 
discovered on his Montana property, he faithfully paid 
the taxes and rented out the land for grazing. His heirs 
still own the land.

THOMAS, Marvin Marvin Thomas was a son of Ollie 
Thomas, who homesteaded in the Blakeslee area. Marvin 
got to Teigen in the spring of 1927 to run the elevator. 
Shortly thereafter he married Marguerite Meier from 
south of Grassrange. The elevator closed in about a year, 
and he and Marguerite moved to his father's farm for a 
time. After a few years they moved to Iowa, however. 
Marvin died in Iowa and Marguerite returned to 
Grassrange and married Joe Maddox. They farmed
southwest of Grassrange for a number of years and 
retired to Lewistown.

Marvin and his brother, Orval, both graduated from 
Winnett High School — Marvin in 1923, Orval in 1922. 
(See THOMAS — Blakeslee)

TRANKE, Julius In March 1929, the Winnett Times 
reported Mr. and Mrs. Julius Tranke and son arrived from 
Heilborn, Germany. The article stated, "Mr. Tranke is a 
relative of Mrs. R. P. Beck and expects to take over the 
Beck Ranch two miles south of Winnett. He is a trained 
agriculturist from Germany, a fact that stepped him up 
to the head of the quota list of emigrants and allowed him 
earlier entrance to the United States... He is twenty-
eight years of age and feels that life holds many good 
things for him in the United States. He contends that 
conditions in Germany are very unsatisfactory."

In 1930 two of Julius' sisters also immigrated to the 
United States. Klara and Emma Tranke crossed the 
ocean on the S. S. Bremen in six days. They came from 
New York to Winnett in four more days. It was considered 
record time for such a trip.

Julius and his family farmed in Whitehall from 1930 to 
1933 and then lived in Billings for ten years. He worked in 
defense work in Utah from 1943 to 1947. During this 
time, he was married to Etta Kabrich. At the time of
their marriage, Julius had two sons, Fred and Hans, and Etta had one son, Delmar Kabrich.

Fred was killed in France in 1945. He graduated from Billings High School in 1941 and held the state track record for the 880 and the mile run. He went to the University of Montana, where he continued to train. He was considered one of the best runners in the United States when he went to the Army in 1943. He received both the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

In 1947 Julius and Etta moved to the Beck farm, where the couple lived until Julius died while repairing an irrigation ditch in 1962.

His obituary states, "From a seemingly profitless farm, Mr. and Mrs. Trankle developed a fine farm, producing alfalfa and small grains. Utilizing run-off water entirely, Mr. Trankle had irrigation water reserves which have produced a succession of fine crops. The farmstead itself was developed into a garden spot with a fine windbreak and garden. During his spare time, Mr. Trankle served the community as a carpenter and builder."

Etta continued to live on the farm property until shortly before her death in 1982.

**TURNER, Earl** (Sec 20-14-25), **TURNER, Leo** (Sec 17-14-25) and **TURNER, Pearl** (Sec 20-14-25) The Turners — Earl, Leo and Pearl — owned two sections of land south of Elk Creek near the Fergus-Petroleum county line. Earl and his wife, Bertha, had three children listed on the District #134 school census in 1916 — Lorrell (1898), Mary (1912) and Elizabeth (1913). The family moved to Lewistown in December 1920, and Earl went to work for the county.

Pearl Turner moved to Longmont, Colorado, in January 1921. The property of all three men reverted to the government.

**VINGE, Ole** Ole Vinge came from Norway about 1910. He worked on the Teigen Ranch before taking up land of his own. He married Rosa Luebke, daughter of Edward and Wilhelmina Luebke, in 1919. Rosa homesteaded near her parents northwest of Teigen in 1913.

The Vinges had two children — Marian (1920) and Orville (1926). The family moved to Lewistown in 1936. Ole died in 1957. Marion lives in Lewistown. She is active in community projects such as Council on Aging and Community Cupboard. Orville lives in Denver, Colorado.

**vinger, Ole** Ole Vinger was born in Oslo, Norway, in 1853. He came to Montana in 1885 and worked for Teigen and Opheim for five years. Saving his money, he bought a ranch south of Grassrange which was later owned by Blaine Woodard. An early account book of Teigen and Opheim shows the following items charged to Ole: 1 saddle mare, $50; pr. overalls $7.75; shoes, $2.50; suit fancy clothing $18.00; tobacco, $.50; woolen drawers, $2.50; fancy shoes, $4; and 1 gal. whiskey, $6.

Ole was married and had three children — Jennie, Richard and Martha. Richard married Neva Washburn of Grassrange. After Ole’s first wife died, he married Julia Stay. She had two children — Even Stay and Helen (Dahl). Ole died in 1935, and Julia continued to live in the area for many years.

**WALKER, Ross** (Sec 15-14-25) Ross Walker homesteaded on Elk Creek between the Sibbert and the Foreman ranches. The Grass Range Review reported the birth of a baby to Ross and his wife, Carolyn, in May 1920. Dr. Freed of Grassrange was in attendance. The Walkers had two girls — Rita (1912) and Jessie (1920).

The Walkers moved to Grassrange, where Ross operated the Pioneer Garage. The business had a sign which boasted “fireproof garage.” Ironically the garage burned in 1930.

**WARD, Thomas** (Sec 18-14-25) Thomas Ward’s land was on Elk Creek very near the Fergus County line. He and his wife, Cina, had seven children — Mary (1904), Helen (1906), John (1907), Kathryn (1910), Delia (1912), Alice (1914), and Don (1917). The school-age children attended the Kinnick School.

Gurn Kelly leased the land in 1932 and the family moved to Grassrange. Several of the girls ran a restaurant in Grassrange.

**WILSON, George** (Sec 4-14-25) George Wilson homesteaded on the bench between McDonald Creek and
and Elk Creek. He was a popular musician, playing his violin and harp at local dances in the community. He lost his harp in the fire which burned the Teigen Community Hall.

In the years following World War II, he herded sheep for the Teigen Ranch. It is said he was married and his wife would send him loving, flattering letters and ask for money while she was having a good time in town.

WINNETT, Richard F. (Sec 10-14-26) Land records indicate Richard Winnett owned land southwest of Winnett.

WIPFLI, Louis Louis and Anna Wipfli reported three children on the District #134 school census in 1915 — Angelina (1909), Antoinette (1911) and Elizabeth (1914).

WOOD, Ben and Bertha (Sec 27,28,34-14-26) According to land records, Bertha Wood homesteaded 160 acres of land in Section 34, and Ben owned land in Sections 27 and 28. They jointly filed for water rights on Elk Creek in 1901. In 1905 Ben and Bertha deeded their 480 acres to B. F. Lepper.

Bertha Wood signed the creation papers when School District #26 was formed in 1899. She became one of the first trustees of the district. The school census indicated Mr. and Mrs. Wood had one son, James, born in 1891. (See also WOOD — Winnett)

WOODS, John W. (Sec 10,11-14-26) John Woods was born in Illinois in 1866. He came to Montana in 1895 and homesteaded several miles southwest of Winnett. The Polk Directory in 1904-05 lists John Woods as a woolgrower and 'W. J.' Woods as a taxpaying, paying taxes on sheep and 1,440 acres of land with a total taxable value of $7144. It is believed "W. J." and John W. are the same person.

John also worked for W. J. Winnett. He married Pearl McAllister while she was working for the Winnetts.

Pearl (1887) was a daughter of Charles and Florence McAllister. (See also MCALLISTER — Winnett) Pearl worked as cook and hired girl for Mrs. Winnett. After she married John Woods and was expecting her first child, she asked her sister Una to come take her place in the Winnett’s household. (See also HANSEN — Petrolia)

As the time approached for the baby to be born, Pearl wanted to go to Lewistown to be with her mother when the baby was born. Ernest Hansen, who had married Una, agreed to take her to Lewistown. According to an article written about Ernest in the 1978 Christmas edition of the Lewistown News-Argus, "They left Winnett with a team and spring wagon. It had been raining and snowing and the roads were awful. It took three days to make the trip and it was cold! They used buffalo robes and heated rock slabs (slate foot warmers) heated very hot, wrapped in sacks, to keep their feet warm. When they became extremely cold, they got off the wagon and walked. The first night was spent at the Sullenger (or Roy Ayers) Ranch, and the second night at a place just east of the divide. Ernest recalled, 'When we got to Lewistown, the streets were nothing but mud and water a half foot deep. It was a very tough trip on Pearl, but she made it alright.'"

This was the first child of ten which Pearl was to bear before she died following complications of childbirth when she was 38 years old. The children were — Myrtle (1909), Hazel (1910), Edna (1912), Leonard (1914), Evelyn (1915), Howard (1918), Henry (1919), Roy (1922), Jean (1923) and a baby boy Teddy "Buster" born shortly before Pearl’s death in 1925. In 1921 Hazel, who was only 11, died suddenly at the Woods home. Reverend Taylor of the Methodist Church conducted private services for the little girl.

After Pearl’s death, Pearl’s sister Essie, who was married to Kristian Egeland (See EGELE AND — Dovetail), helped care for some of the children. In 1926 Karl Egeland (Kris’ younger brother) married the oldest Woods girl, Myrtle.

Myrtle Egeland’s records indicate the three youngest children were put up for adoption. Years later Evelyn made contact with them in California where they had been raised.

John Woods, in partnership with Roy Hopkins, had an apiary just east of the town of Winnett. (W. T. 9-14-23) "John W. Woods ... reports that from his bee industry, he will have 2000 pounds of honey to market this fall. When asked by the Times man where he intended to market this, he asserted that he always is able to sell the entire output of his bees locally, which possibly helps account for the sweet disposition of our good people during the winter months."

John Woods died in 1945. He had been a resident of Petroleum County for more than fifty years. He lived with his daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Egeland of Lewistown, for several months before his death.

YORK, Dave (Sec 17-15-25) Dave and Ida York homesteaded northeast of Teigen. He was a railroad man working on the train running from Lewistown to Grassrange. His wife would take him back and forth to work by buggy. Ida and Elsie Teigen became great friends. Many times Ida would stop for coffee on her trip back from Grassrange. Their friendship lasted long after the Yorks moved to Lewistown.