Mowing hay in early days. Note height of uncut hay.

Lady in riding skirt helps brand! (L to R) Sadie Hagen, Art Busby, Emil Hayfield, Mr. Busby, Nick Hayfield, William Busby Jr., Mrs. Busby (outside fence)

Sam and Zell Conolly with their children out for a Sunday drive at the Coffey homestead in 1923.

Doc Jackson, Mrs. Dobner, Anne Gotzinger, Carl Jackson, and John Gotzinger in the car
Dovetail and Valentine are being combined in this chapter because these communities have always had close ties.

Valentine had the first post office in the area. It was officially designated on May 10, 1903, with Maud Lorimer as postmaster. There were very few other post offices in all of eastern Fergus County at the time. Grassrange and Flatwillow had opened in 1883, Roy in 1892, Edgewater in 1900 and Weede in 1901. Winnett did not have a post office until 1910.

The Dovetail post office was designated on April 18, 1916, with Martin Rigg as postmaster. A mail route ran from Valentine to Dovetail for many years. The mail carrier dropped off mail at the various homesteads along the route between the two post offices. The other people had to go to one or the other post office to pick up their mail.

Many of the homesteaders came to Lewistown, Hilger or Roy by emigrant train with all their belongings. (The railroad came into Lewistown in 1903, to Hilger in 1911 and to Roy in 1914.) They would load up their wagons and set off for Valentine where they could replenish supplies before going on to their homesteads in the Dovetail area. Stores and services at Valentine supplied many of the things needed by the homesteaders and often saved them long hard trips to Roy, Winnett or Lewistown.

School District #169 was created November 14, 1916, and it served both Dovetail and Valentine until 1920 when Valentine became part of a new district. One set of trustees hired all the teachers and took care of the business of all the schools for a very large district.

From Dovetail North to the Missouri Breaks

The Dovetail Butte has always been a well-known landmark, especially from the north side. There is still part of a travois trail on its flanks made by the Indians before the settlers moved into the area. They used the butte as a lookout point because from the top they could see so far in every direction. From the south, the butte looks like a tall hill and is not really noticeable among other hills.

From the north, however, it shows up for many miles—from the Little Rockies across the Missouri, up to the ridges by Roy, and east to the far side of the Musselshell Breaks. The butte was named because of a large triangle of trees and brush near the top that show black from a distance. This triangle divides the butte so it looks like a dove's tail, hence "Dovetail Butte."

Dovetail Creek was named because of the way the head of the creek was formed by two separate branches that came together in the shape of a dove's tail. Naturally the area around these landmarks became known as "Dovetail."

The Heritage Book of Original Fergus County says "The '79
outfit (named for 1879, the year they began running cattle) was started on Sweetgrass Creek by John R. Murphy, using 79 for his brand. 79 Coulee, 79 Springs, and 79 Trail were names of places used by the outfit. 79 Coulee was their horse camp. They trailed thousands of cattle and sheep along the 79 Trail, across the Musselshell and back as they needed fresh grass.” The road that runs from Valentine, past the Dovetail School and on down to the Musselshell River is a part of the Old 79 Trail.

The influx of homesteaders came to the Dovetail area about 1912, and soon there were settlers on almost every 160 acres trying to cope with a land that averaged 10 to 12 inches of moisture each year. There were no running streams in the area except the rivers that bound it on the north and east. Some of the homesteaders were lucky enough to find springs of good drinking water, but the others had to dig wells, or haul water from the springs.

Much of the water from the wells was too alkaline for people to drink, so they had to continue hauling their drinking water, and used the water from the wells for the livestock and cleaning. Later they built stock dams to catch the runoff from rain and melting snow. This helped take care of their water needs, at least part of the time.

Meat was not a big problem for them as there were deer, antelope, rabbits, sage hens, and grouse in abundance. The homesteaders all grew big gardens of vegetables to eat fresh. and to can or preserve for use in the winter.

The best gardens were the ones that could be watered. Bucket after bucket after bucket of water was carried to the garden and carefully applied to do the most good. This chore came around every week or more often and to the kids who had to help, even the thought of the good things to eat didn’t take away all the irritation.

Fruit and jams were not readily available, but the homestead mothers and kids picked the wild fruits of the area when they were in season and made jams and jellies that were delicious. The fruits found in the area were chokecherry, buffalo berry, and wild plum. Have you ever tried chokecherry jelly or syrup on hotcakes or hot bread? M-m-m-good!

The corner grocery store was from 30 to 50 miles away so supplies had to be bought to last about a year as the trip to town took two days each way, and people couldn’t afford to go very often. The trips were usually made in the fall so they could take in a load of grain to sell.

Imagine the grocery list! It must contain all the staples needed such as kerosene for lamps, flour, sugar, salt, dried beans, rice, dried fruits, spices, soda, baking powder, etc. Then remember, you still have to figure out how much of each you need. Oh yes! Don’t forget the ingredients for the home remedies needed for sickness. And what about clothes, or at least material so mother can make them?

Dad usually brought home a treat of candy to top off the load. It was a red-letter day when the family spotted the wagon coming home, and all were waiting anxiously for Dad to get there so they could find out what he brought.

Besides the garden, most of the homesteaders had at least one cow for milk, chickens for eggs and meat, a hog or two so they would have home-cured bacon, ham and sausage for winter. The rest of the meat was either canned or eaten right away so it didn’t spoil. The sausage was usually kept in large crocks of lard in a cool place, and the hams and bacon were hung where they would stay cool and dry.

Unlike much of the rest of the county, wood was quite readily available because there were pines and cedars in the draws and cottonwoods along the creeks and rivers. The homesteaders hunted out the dead wood as it was cured and ready to use. It had to be hauled home, chopped into stove lengths, then carried into the house as needed. Since wood was the only source of heat, it meant a lot of chopping and hauling.

Cottonwood is a clean burning wood, but the pitch in the pine created a lot of soot which meant that the stovepipe must be taken down often and cleaned out to get rid of the unburned soot. Many a cabin burned down because the soot in the stovepipe started to burn and the intense heat started the cabin on fire. The shortage of water made it almost impossible to put out a fire once it got started.

The homesteaders settled on the lands where there were flats and rolling hills. They picked the areas that looked workable, and basically avoided the sharp breaks along the rivers. A lot of them settled on the river bottoms and raised good hay crops and later, alfalfa seed. The breaks were mostly used for grazing because of the steepness and roughness of the land. As one homesteader said, “You get more land (in the breaks), because it all stands on end and they can fit more in that way.”

The soil in the area ranges from heavy gumbo to sand to gumbo. When gumbo is wet it is called the “friendly mud” because it all wants to go with you. Walking through it, your feet get bigger and bigger until your tracks look like elephant tracks. As it dries it forms a crust, like cement, that plants can’t get through. If you peel off the top crust, it is often muddy underneath.

From Crooked Creek to the Missouri Breaks one can find bits of petrified wood, pieces of petrified fish, etc. The most spectacular rocks, however, are the granite boulders of all sizes and colors — blues, yellows, orange, reds and greens. Many a fireplace has been made with these rocks, and they are beautiful.

The first priority of the homesteaders when they arrived was shelter for their family. Some of them built tar-paper shacks. Most of them built log houses, some of which never had a floor. Some used “dug outs” — holes dug into the side of a hill as far back as they wanted to go, the walls shored up to prevent caving, then roofed over and a front fitted with a door for an entrance. Later rooms could be added to the front for additional space.

There were some sod huts. These were built with layers of sod laid like bricks, with walls up to three feet thick.
Marguerite Coffey at Dovetail Post Office

One "soddie" in the area was still a home in the 1940s.

The first post office at Dovetail was at the Martin Rigg home. It was established on April 18, 1916. Riggs also ran a small store, the only one in Dovetail. In about 1921, due to ill health, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Rigg left Dovetail. The post office was moved to the A. G. Coffey place, and Mrs. Coffey was appointed postmaster. Coffeys kept the post office until the government closed it on July 31, 1945. In the early days, mail came on a route from Valentine twice a week, but for the last 35 or 40 years, it came on a route out of Winnett, still twice a week.

There were no doctors in the area. The closest one was in Winnett, some 30 to 40 miles away. The homesteaders had to find remedies for the illnesses that beset them. Many of the ladies had brought recipes for assorted home medications and these were all put to good use. Some of the remedies used for colds and coughs by Mrs. Loesch and Mrs. West were: onion syrup, egg whites whipped with alum, oil of eucalyptus, kerosene with sugar or lard. For the bad chest cold they used a mustard plaster on the back, and rubbed the front with Mentholatum or goose grease, then to bed to try to sweat the sickness away. Lard and sulfur were used for the itch.

Midwives helped the mothers have their babies. They came on call and stayed as long as their help was needed — cooking, washing and caring for other children. Among the ladies who served Dovetail as midwives were: Mrs. Percy Jeffery, Mrs. Charlie Myers and Mrs. Lillian Carrell. Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Jeffery were both nurses and a great help with illness or accident.

The schoolhouses were the community centers in each locality. The school Christmas programs were one of the highlights of the year, and well attended by everyone in the community whether they had kids or not. Dances were held regularly and drew people from all over the country. Some came as far as 20 to 30 miles to go to a dance.

To make money for community projects, box socials were held. The ladies fixed up beautifully wrapped boxes filled with enough food for two people, and these were raffled off to the highest bidder. Of course, part of the prize was the opportunity to eat the lunch with the lady who prepared it. Some of the love-smitten young men had to pay a hefty price for the box he thought his love had prepared, or sit glumly by while someone else dined with her! Sometimes he got the box he wanted only to find it was the wrong one. Love was hard at times like that.

Many communities had baseball teams made up of the local residents. Great rivalries existed and baseball was played each Sunday of the summer, usually with a potluck picnic to feed the people who came to cheer on their team and to visit.

The people put on many home talent plays. Everybody went to the plays and it was great fun for the players and the audience. There were picnics and potluck dinners. Any excuse for gathering was a good one, as long as people could get together with their neighbors for a visit.

Church was held at the schools when a preacher was available. Sunday school was held at the same time. The services were greatly enjoyed, and the people liked to lift their voices and sing the old hymns they had grown up with. The youngsters usually had a week of Bible school shortly after the regular school had closed for the summer. Young men and women from the Bible colleges would come, teach Bible school for a week, have a program to show how the children had learned, and be off to the next school.

Times were tough. The people worked hard, but they seldom had much money. There was little desire to "keep up with the Joneses" as Joneses didn’t have any more than anyone else. The children helped with the work and chores and accepted what their parents provided. Speaking as a homestead kid — I didn’t know we were poor until I went into Winnett to high school and some of the smart-mouthed town kids informed me we were poor. I feel we got something from the homestead that couldn’t be bought. We had pride in ourselves and our family, and we knew that we could find a way to weather whatever came along. (Ruth Iverson Laugeman)
Valentine

Valentine was formerly the headquarters of the Benning Bean Ranch. When Mrs. Mary Bean succeeded in getting a post office designated, she named it Valentine Post Office after the Valentine Springs a short distance away. For details see the Bean story.

It was not until 1914 that the Polk Directory listed any businesses in Valentine. At that time five business people were mentioned: B. M. Bean, U. S. Commissioner; Mary Bean, postmaster; G. F. Budweiser, land attorney; Eugene Becotte, blacksmith; and Bunnell and Gotzinger, general store.

In October 1914 J. E. Galloway surveyed a plat for a townsite, and in January 1915, Benning M. Bean donated the surveyed plat for use by the public as the Valentine townsite. By 1916 the Polk Directory listed several additional businesses — another general store, a newspaper, another blacksmith shop, a lumberyard, and Dr. T. W. Nickel’s doctor’s office.

G. F. Budweiser was a land attorney. He also started a newspaper, The Valentine News, which thrived for several years. It filled the requirements for the homesteaders to advertise their intention to file. In about 1922 there was no more land to file on and many homesteaders were leaving, so he closed his office and printing shop and moved away.

W. E. Bunnell was the owner of the first general store in Valentine. He sold tobacco, whiskey and supplies. C. G. Kiamelof was also listed as a general store operator in 1916.

The Stage from Valentine to Grassrange

Ole Lunn (or Lund) — in addition to Eugene Becotte — had a blacksmith business. Ole lived northeast of Valentine on land adjoining Adolph Lashat. Later Forrest Tindall was the “smithy.”

McCain and Johnson had a lumber business.

The Rigg Brothers opened a general store in 1917 or 1918 and sold groceries, tools and some clothing. Most of the clothing came from Sears Roebuck or “Monkey” Wards, however.

The 1918 Polk Directory listed tri-weekly stage fare to Grassrange for $3.00.

There was one old boy that used to bake bread there, too. He used to be called “Kill-a-man-off.” No one remembers what his name was or what kind of bakery you’d call it, but the oven he baked the bread in was like a dugout. It was good bread, too, even if it didn’t look good.
There was a schoolhouse, a line of log cabins set end to end to form a hotel, a building called the Annex for storage, a dormitory (run by Mrs. Clyde Stevens for a time, then taken over by Mrs. Addie Bevis) and numerous cabins and homes.

Community spirit was not lacking. The Winnett Times reported the following item October 28, 1921: "The high school football squad and a number of local businessmen spent Thursday working on the roads in the Valentine country. This is the start of a movement that will eventually assure us of a good north road." (It says something good about "kids").

The people of the area used to hold dances and plays at the schoolhouse. They also had a fair in the fall where everybody would take their vegetables, grain and flowers to show. The prizes were furnished by the businesses in Winnett and some of the local people, too. The prizes and donors would be listed in the Winnett Times, along with what the prizes were for — the biggest pumpkin, the best peck of wheat, etc.

The fair always brought in a big crowd and all of the Dovetail people would come too. Then there was a dance after the fair. The schoolhouse was just too small to handle the crowds, so they decided they needed a community hall, and that they would build it onto the schoolhouse.

They started taking donations for the hall. They gave pie socials, box lunch dances, baseball games, rodeos and anything else they could think of to raise more money for the hall. The Winnett Times gave recognition to the project with this article in 9-24-26: "The Valentine community appreciate the value of a community hall and are cooperating and working hard to erect such a structure at Valentine.

"All the rough boards have been sawed out of native timber at the Neil Harris sawmill, which brought the costs down to very little. Finishing lumber, windows, doors, and cement is all the material that will need to be purchased to complete the building. Men of the neighborhood plan to do the carpenter and concrete work themselves, and thus save on labor costs."

Lester Bevis was a young man in the community at the time. These are some of his memories of the building project.

"The men went up to the hills on the Harris place to cut logs. They sawed the logs into rough lumber right there, then hauled the lumber down and started building the hall. The only lumber they had to buy was the finish lumber and, of course, doors and windows. I remember helping lay the hardwood floor. They had a carpenter who was very particular. If you happened to smash a groove or a lip on the hardwood, he would get pretty hostile.

"The groove had to fit over the lip of the last row put down. You used a piece of scrap hardwood and tapped the new one into place, then tap the end to make that seam tight. You nailed your new piece in with special nails that went into the board on a slope from the top of the lip. The nail had to be flush or the next board didn't fit. It was a heck of a job, but we sure had a nice smooth floor to dance on."

The schoolhouse, attached to the hall, was opened into the hall, so it could be used as a kitchen and food served to crowds easily. A nursery was set up in the west end of the school building so the little ones could sleep while Mom and Dad danced. A stage was built across the north end of the hall. It came in handy for home-talent plays and other entertainment."

Les continues, "The hall was finished in 1926 or 1927; it measured 40 x 60 feet. It was initiated with a bang up, wall-to-wall dance. People came from all around for the celebration — Dovetail, Winnett, Roy and all the other communities near enough to come — and I can tell you that was one humdinger of a dance."

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In late 1933 work was begun on the construction of a dam on Blood Creek just west of Valentine. It was started under the Civil Works Administration but the CWA was canceled in the summer of 1934. Other programs took its place, but there were many delays in the funding for the dam. It was eventually completed under the WPA in late April 1936.

This brought in a great many men with teams to build the dam. The hall was lined with cots for the men, and food was served cafeteria style from the kitchen. Many families came with the men and lived in the hotel or available houses at Valentine. There was already an operating school for the children so it worked out well for the families.

The dam was to be used for irrigation for the places below, but due to the drought, most of the homesteaders had been forced to leave before it ever filled with water. Very little irrigating was ever done from the dam as the irrigation project was dropped when the people left. The dam was used for fishing, boating, and water skiing for many years until it washed out on June 15, 1962. A five to six inch rain took out a 200' section of the middle of the dam, washing out fences, roads and bridges all the way to the Musselshell River.

As more and more homesteaders left, the businesses also left, and “Valentine” faded away to once more become the headquarters of a ranch, this time owned by Sam Conolly. Paul Pitman owns the ranch now, but lives about ½ mile north of the Valentine site. (Memories of Bernard Lewis and Lester Bevis)

Schools of the Dovetail Area
District #169

One thing the homesteaders were particularly determined about was the education of their children. A joint school district including Dovetail and Valentine was formed in 1916 and numbered 169. In the Dovetail area, the first school was held in the one-room log cabin that had been the Iverson home until Tom Iverson had time to build a larger house for his family.

The first teacher was Geneva Galloway, who had a homestead west of Valentine. She was an artist and several of her paintings hung in the Gem Cafe in Lewistown for many years. The first pupils were: Altha and Blanche Payne, Rhea and Raymond Dobner, Andrew and Isaac Iverson, and Jeanette Hedman who stayed at Iversons and attended school there for a time. Mrs. Sam Conolly taught the school the next few years.

As more families settled in the area, and more children were old enough, there was a need for more schools. In 1917, one school was built on the ridge south of Dovetail Creek and was named the Gomer School because it was on land owned by Bill Gomer. Another school was built near the Dovetail Post Office and called the Rigg School because Rigg owned the land it was on. In 1919 the Rigg School was closed and another school was built right on Dovetail Creek, surrounded by the Conolly families, and called the Carrell School.

A new school was built in the northeastern part of the district. It was on the William Franklin place and called the Franklin School. The Conolly School was also built at this time. It was located about three miles west of the present location of the Dovetail School and was close to the border between present-day Fergus and Petroleum Counties. It was called the Conolly School because Zell Conolly was the teacher. About the same time, the Gomer School was put into a different district.

Families began to leave the area and teachers were hard to find. At least one year, Zell Conolly taught four months at the Carrell School and four months at the Conolly School so children would be able to attend in each area.

In 1923 it was decided to move one of the vacant schools to a midway point between the Carrell School and the Conolly School. Tom Iverson donated the land for the school and the Franklin schoolhouse was moved to the site. This school was known as Dovetail from then on.

It became easier to get teachers as there were many young girls just out of college who were eager to find a school to teach. The first year at the new Dovetail School, the teacher was Peggy Spicer from Lewistown. She boarded with Conollys.

Not only did a teacher have to teach all eight grades, she also had to get to school early enough to get the fire built and the schoolroom warm for the students. She was the janitor, too, and had to keep the room swept out and clean. She had to make all the busy work for the students as there were no workbooks in those good old days.

Many of the children rode horseback several miles to get to school. Each brought a bag of oats to feed their horse at noon. A barn was built at the school for shelter for the horses through the day.

A woodshed was built, and the different families took turns furnishing the wood for the school term. Drinking water for the children was furnished in the same way.

The children brought their lunches in lard pails, syrup buckets and even pretty metal cans that looked like baskets and had come filled with tobacco. When the weather was bitter cold, all the lunches were set around the stove to keep the food from freezing. There were days when the pupils had to pull their desks as close as they could to the stove so they could stay warm. If the
The last Dovetail School as it is now

School at Dovetail after the Franklin schoolhouse was moved to a central location. Students (L to R) Guri Ann Iverson, Ole Olson, Robert Walsh, Agnes Olson, Andrew Iverson, Kefas Sikveland, Merle Pickard, Kenneth Walsh, and Isaac Iverson

The first Dovetail School in Tom Iverson's one-room homestead house. Students (L to R) Raymond Dobner, Blanche Payne, Andrew Iverson, Geneva Galloway (teacher), Isaac Iverson and Altha Payne

Moving the Conolly schoolhouse to the Dovetail School location
weather was really bad, either their folks would come to meet them, or they would stay over at Iversons which was only a quarter of a mile from the school.

The school board had a swing erected (two tall poles with a heavy crossbar on the top, and two swings suspended from the bar). This was the first swing most of the kids had ever seen, and they kept it swinging any time they had free time.

The year Marie Kintzi taught, the school board found out she could play the piano, so they bought a piano for the school. The piano afforded much enjoyment for the community for many years.

The teachers boarded at Conollys until Conollys moved to Valentine. After that they boarded at Iversons.

The many young bachelors of the community were greatly attracted to the young lady teachers. Some won

the girls' hearts and after marriage, these teachers became part of the community. For example: Helen Waggon and Andrew Iverson, Alzora Prewitt and Clairmont Clark, Virginia Huffman and George Carrell, Nora Kinsella and Lars Lund, Norma Powell and Richard Jeffrey, Mae James and Carl Jackson, and Inez Houts and Dennis Jackson.

In the summer of 1928, the school board decided to bring in the Conolly School to add to the Dovetail School in order to have more room for school activities and community functions.

In the early days, where there were kids, there was school. There was a school near the Kirkendall place about eight to ten miles from the Dovetail School, known as the 79 School. Old tales tell of a school near Mecaha that was moved from one side of the Musselshell River to the other, depending on where there were the most pupils. Some families were so isolated that they hired tutors for their children. No matter where they lived, the homesteaders saw to it there was schooling for their families.

The children went from these country schools to high school and then on to college for the ones who desired and could afford to go. They ranked right up with the 'townies,' as far as education went. We all owe many thanks to the dedicated teachers who came in to teach these country schools. Without them, a lot of kids would have been hard put to realize their full potential. (Ruth Iverson Laugeman)

Valentine Schools

The first schools listed in the Valentine area were the Valentine School and the Stephens School. The Valentine School was always close to Valentine, although it was moved several times. The Stephens School was held at the Stephens home, and Mrs. Regina Stephens was the teacher. There was another school about seven miles to the west of Valentine called the Sage Creek School. This school was near the Clifford Clark place and Mrs. Clark was one of the first teachers there.

In 1914 Charley Long gave the land and built a school near his home, so they could have a school for all the children in that area. The school was called the Long School. This school was burned down in the late twenties, so another school was built to replace it. They called the new school the New Long School. It served generally the same area.

None of these schools are operating now.
AARCHUS, John (Sec 34-19-27) John Aarchus was an early homesteader in the Dovetail area. He married Altha Payne, daughter of Guy and Mamie Payne. His land is now owned by Lee Iverson.

ALLEN, Conrad I. (Sec 24-18-25) Conrad I. Allen homesteaded four miles west and one mile south of Valentine. Mr. Allen was a bachelor who moved to Washington after he proved up on his land.

ARNEY, Edward Edward Arney was a bachelor who lived on Sage Creek about six miles southwest of Valentine. In the fall of the year, he ran a threshing rig to thresh for the neighbors around him.

ATKINSON, George F. (Sec 28-18-26) George Atkinson lived near Edward Arney on Sage Creek.

BARNETT, Harry A. (Sec 3-17-26) Harry A. Barnett was born in 1880 at Greene, Iowa. Grace E. Gallagher was born in 1895 at Leavenworth, Kansas. Harry and Grace were married in 1916 in Lewistown, and came to the Valentine area where they took up a homestead.

Harry supplemented their farm income at different times by hauling freight with team and wagon.

Harry and Grace had three sons — Edwin, Austin and LeRoy. The boys went to school at the Long School and all graduated from Winnett High School.

Harry acquired several adjoining homesteads as the neighbors left the area. Grace died in 1936. Harry married Amelia Luebke Kelley in 1945. He died in 1949. Both Grace and Harry are buried at the Winnett Cemetery. At Harry’s death, the three sons inherited the place, then formed a partnership to run it.

Edwin Barnett married Lola Mae Appel in 1950 and they lived at the homestead. In 1963 Ed and Roy bought out Austin’s share in the partnership, and in 1967 Edwin sold his share to Roy and retired to Lewistown. Edwin and Mae are both buried at the Sunset Memorial Gardens near Lewistown.

Austin Barnett was a medic in Germany during World War II. He married Carol Tull and they have four children — Ronnie, Wanda, Lester and Lonnie. They are now (1988) living at Kalispell.

Leroy Barnett was in field artillery in Germany through the Korean War. He married Nikki Brading and they have four children — Tom, Laura, Ted and Harry. In 1967 LeRoy bought out Edwin’s share of the partnership so he had full ownership of the ranch. He and Nikki retired, leased the ranch, and are now living in Winnett. (LeRoy Barnett)

BEAN, Benning M. (Sec 28-18-26) Bennington M. Bean was a skilled carpenter from Vermont. Mr. Bean met and married his wife, Mary E., who was from Boston, Massachusetts. The Beans were early settlers in the Grassrange area. (See also BEAN — Teigen) Mr. Bean was a sheepman as well as a U. S. Commissioner.

Bean’s ranch house was long, made of huge logs, whitewashed, and had red trimmed windows and doors. There was one building just to store groceries and it was well stocked. There was a large bunkhouse for the men and a blacksmith shop.

Ben built a large windmill of wood and had rigged it to saw large logs into firewood. It worked very well. Bernard Lewis remembers seeing it in operation many times.

In the dining room, Mrs. Bean had a pigeonhole case for the few mail patrons. The dining room table was always set with at least fifteen places, as the Bean Ranch ran many sheep at that time, and had a big crew of men working there. One of Mrs. Bean’s hired helpers was Elsa Murphy, who later married Harry McLaughlin and lived west of Valentine on the north Roy-Valentine road.

Mrs. Bean told young Bernard Lewis in 1912 how she started the post office at Valentine. Bernard quotes her as saying, "Bernard, you remember what I tell you, always. This is how I started the post office. I was a young woman and could ride sidesaddle with the best of women. I had a horse named Cody and he could run with the best of horses.

"We had settled here on Blood Creek at 'Blood Creek Crossing' on the old freight road from Musselshell's steamboat landing which took off goods bound for the gold fields in southwestern Montana after gold was discovered in the 1860s. I would pick up the mail at Edgewater, some fifteen or so miles south and bring it back here for the neighbors. The government required a time like that before they would let a contract with government pay. I did this free for several years. The government finally asked me what name I wanted to call my post office. I thought, 'I'll name it Valentine, since the Valentine Springs are only a little way north in the pine"
hills on the old freight road where teamsters camped and watered their stock in the freight days. I understand the Valentine Springs were discovered by explorers years ago on Valentine’s Day but the date has been forgotten.”

Mr. Bean died in the early 1930s in Rochester, Minnesota, and Mrs. Bean returned to Boston, her old home, and spent the rest of her life there.

BEVIS, Harlan M. “Harlan M. Bevis, originally from Indiana, and Adeline Summers, originally from Wyoming, were married in Washington. In 1913 my dad came from Washington to the Valentine area to visit friends to check on ‘Free Land for Homesteaders’ and to see if he wanted to get some of the land. He liked what he saw and filed on a homestead about 4½ miles northwest of Valentine. The next year we all moved to the homestead — my parents and five kids. We came by train to Roy and then by team and wagon to Valentine. We only brought our baggage, no furniture, no machinery, no livestock. Later the folks ordered some things they needed and we would go to Roy to haul them home.

“I can still remember that 12‘ by 16‘ cabin sitting in grass about three feet tall. It was a tar paper shack with a box-car roof. By tar paper. I mean the cabin was constructed of boards, covered on the outside by tar paper that was kept on by lath. The best that could be said was that the tar paper did hold out the wind, but the cold came right on through. Later we added another room built the same way.

“Many a time, I woke up in the morning and the bed clothes would be frozen to the wall. Your breath would condense and freeze against the boards. Of course there were enough of us kids that I usually slept with the brothers and on the outside of the bed.

“We used to burn wood for heat, and those cold winter days sure took a lot of wood to keep any warmth in the house.

“There were six of us kids — James (1903), Lester (1907), Charles (1909), Oscar (1913), John (1915), and Mona (1918).”’ (Lester Bevis)

BEVIS, Lester Lester Bevis, son of Harlan and Adeline Bevis, and Dorothy Messenger, daughter of Frank and Della Messenger, were married in 1925.

They lived on the Johnson place, near Ray Marr, when they were first married. Later they moved back to the homestead near Valentine, and then to a place about ¾ mile from Valentine when their children began to reach school age. The children walked to school most of the time as they were so close.

The following was submitted by Lester Bevis: “When we were living on the Johnson place, I was hauling building supplies from Winnett for the hall they were building at Valentine. When I got back to Valentine, my brother told me that I had been hauled out. I lost a beautiful field of rye, all the grass, and the roof was torn up. The hall didn’t hit anyone else, but it sure wiped me out. Since I didn’t have any hay to cut or grain to harvest, the neighbors, who had promised to work on the hall, hired me to work in their place while they got their harvest taken care of. I spent the rest of the summer and fall working on the hall.

“I always did a lot of hauling for the neighbors, first with teams and wagon, later with a Model T truck, and, as I could afford it, with later bigger models of Ford trucks. I
liked cars and trucks, and guess I sort of grew up with them, and learned how to keep them running. I still like 'mechanicking,' and do quite a bit of it.

"One time Dorothy and I decided to go to a dance over at Little Crooked Creek. We started out about dark, and as we started down into Antelope Creek, a thing loosened up on the tie rod and turned over, which reversed the direction of the steering wheel so that I was steering left and going right, so of course we ended up stuck. A guy came along on a horse. He tied a rope from the car to the horse and pulled the car out. We went slowly on to the dance.

"In the morning, just about daybreak, we started for home. There was a big old pitch post sitting out on the flat all alone, and darned if that jigger didn't slip again and we ran smack into that post! Dorothy was so mad she threatened to get out and walk home, but I finally fixed that problem. I slid the jigger back where it belonged, found a piece of pipe that I fastened below it so it couldn't slip again, and we went on home.

"One time we decided to go to a dance at Dovetail and it was muddy. The car didn't have any lights so we hung a lantern on the front and took off. We would get stuck on those sharp little hills, and then would have to get out and push.

"By the time we got to Dovetail we were mud from head to toe. We had a great time at the dance, but going home the lantern fell off and we ran over it. I could tell you lots of stories about the trials and troubles with cars or trucks, as I think I lived through a lot of them.

"We moved to Cat Creek in 1941, and took over the Cat Creek to Winnott mail route. We carried the mail for over thirty years. I set up a repair and welding shop at Cat Creek and repaired machinery and tractors and all manner of things for many years.

"I was County Commissioner from 1966 to 1978, and was an instigator to get a bridge across Flatwillow Creek at the mouth so that people could travel up river without wondering if they could cross Flatwillow. They might have to worry about the mud, but they now can cross the creek, if they can get to it."

Dorothy and Lester had six children: Marian, who married Forrest Tindall, now lives in Las Vegas; Joe, who married Mary Lou Coffey, and they now live at Bowman, North Dakota; Earl, who married Leila Moir and lives in Lewistown; Burt, who married Judy Ziesmer and lives in Winnott (See also BEVIS. Burt — Winnott); Harry, who married Betty Darden, died of cancer, wife Betty still lives in Winnott (See also BEVIS. Harry — Winnott) and Helen, who married Arvon Fielding and lives at Kalispell, Montana.

When they decided to retire, Lester and Dorothy moved into Winnott in about 1982. They were getting to the "bragging age" and had enjoyed good health most of the time. Les died in 1989. (See also BEVIS — Cat Creek)

BEVIS, Walter (Sec 20-18-26) Walter and Stella Bevis and family came to the Valentine area from Washington in about 1915. They had six children — Paul (1900), Esther (1902), Francis (1904), Fern (1905), Della (1906), and Gladys (1916). When they left Valentine, they returned to Washington.

BONINE, John (Sec 20-19-28) Mr. and Mrs. John Bonine homesteaded in the Dovetail area. In 1920 they moved to Winnott where John set up a dray business.

BROWN, John T. (Sec 3-18-27) John T. Brown (February 4, 1887, in Idaho) and Freda Carolyn Berg (August 8, 1887 at Salmon River, Idaho) were married in 1916. They moved to Dovetail in 1916 and farmed there until 1936 when the government bought the farm. They had two children, Margaret and Billy. Margaret went to school at Dovetail through the eighth grade, then graduated from Winnott High School in 1936. Billy attended the Dovetail School for seven years, at which time the family moved to Colville, Washington. (Margaret Brown Berg, daughter)
BUSBY, William J. (Sec 32-18-25) William J. Busby and wife, Mary, moved from Valdez, Alaska, to Auburn, Washington, then moved to the Valentine area to homestead in 1912.

They had seven children: Elizabeth (1902), William (1904), Amelia (1906), Arthur (1908), Cecili (1910), Raymond (1912) and Wayne (1920). (School Census in 1915 for District #122, Fergus County) William moved to the Brush Creek area in 1926. (See also BUSBY — Brush Creek and Winnett)

Amelia "Amy" married Robert Covert in 1927, Elizabeth "Bessie" married Frank Sheldon. They lived in Winnett and Cat Creek before moving to Spokane, Washington. William C. married Katherine Donkolar in Washington. (W. T. March 1930) "Arthur Busby and Miss Cora Nordahl were married in Lewistown. The bride is the popular and talented teacher of the Mitchell School in east Cat Creek, and the groom is a popular local youth who attended the Winnett High School a few years ago."

BUSENBARK, Albert Merlin (Sec 29-18-26) Merlin Busenbark was born in 1911, at Collinston, Utah, to Albert and Mary Busenbark. Ruthelma Adams was born in 1921, at Sun City, Kansas. Merlin and Ruthelma were married in 1939.

They moved from Halfway, Wyoming, to the Bohemian Corners in 1947. Later they bought the Trimble place at Valentine and have lived there for many years. Merlin and Ruth have five children: Merl Lee (1941) served in the Army in 1959 in Germany. He married Gladys Carroll and they live at the ranch. (See BUSENBARK) Merlin Samuel Alfred (1945) served in 1964 in Germany, in Korea and in Vietnam. He married Judy Habutzel. They have two children, Joshua and Bree, and live in Billings. Robert Richard (1949) served in the Army in 1967 in Vietnam. He married Pat Shatzer. They have one child, Sara Ann. He is the sheriff of Petroleum County (1989). Julia Rae (1962) married Larry Van Dyke. They have one child, Charisse, and live in Bozeman. Linda Nan (1964) married Justin Brennan, and they live in Circle, Montana.

The last few years Merlin and Ruth have spent the winters in Arizona and enjoyed living on the ranch the rest of the year, until their house burned in December of 1988. They began building a new house in Lewistown, Montana, in the summer of 1989. (Merlin and Ruth Busenbark)

BUSENBARK, Merl Lee (Sec 6-17-26) Merl Lee Busenbark, son of Merlin and Ruthelma Busenbark, was born in 1941 at Garland, Utah. He came with his parents to the Bohemian Corners in 1947. In 1949 his father bought the Bill Trimble Ranch in the Valentine area, so they moved to the new home. Merl attended the Bohemian School for one year, then finished the grades at the Long School. He graduated from Fergus County High School at Lewistown.

Merl joined the Army and served in Germany during the Korean War. After he returned from the service in 1962, he married Gladys Carroll (1945), daughter of Ambrose and Annette Carroll.

After working on several different places, the young couple returned to the home ranch in 1970 to help Merl's parents and now they manage the place for them.

Merl and Gladys have one son, Ben Merl. Ben attended school at Winnett, graduating from high school in 1986. He went on to Vo-Tech at Helena, and now has his own agricultural equipment repair business, based at the home ranch. (Gladys Busenbark)

BYHOLT, Arthur (Sec 35-19-27) Arthur Byholt returned to the East after he had proved up on his homestead. He continued to own this land and his brother's land until his death, when Lee Iverson purchased it from his heirs. Arthur never married.

BYHOLT, Sam (Sec 34-19-27) Sam Byholt proved up on his homestead. He joined the group of young men who left Dovetail to join the service in World War II. He was killed in action in France. He willed his homestead to his brother Arthur.

CARRELL, Charles (Sec 13-18-27) Charles and Stella Carrell and family came to Dovetail in 1915 and homesteaded on Dovetail Creek just south of the post office. They were joined the next year by Charles' parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Carrell, and Charles' brother, John A. Carrell and his family.

The Carrells had a large family — James (1910), William (1912), Lawrence (1914), Rosella M. (1916), Charles E. (1918), Margaret (1920), Robert (1923), Della (1925) and Dorothy (1927).

When oil was discovered in Cat Creek the family moved to the Brown lease on the Musselshell River. (See also CARRELL — Cat Creek)

CARRELL, John Ambrose (Sec 13, 14-18-27) John Ambrose Carrell, the son of William and Mary Carrell, was born May 29, 1880, in South Carolina. Minerva Ellen Rowden was born January 12, 1892, in Osage County, Oklahoma. Ambrose and Ellen were married February 12, 1910, at Hominy, Oklahoma.

In 1916 the couple came to Roy, Montana, in an immigrant train and to Dovetail by team and wagon. (See also CARRELL-GARRISON TRIP TO DOVETAIL) They lived in a one-room log cabin until 1921, when they moved to the Cat Creek oil field where John Ambrose worked until 1930. They returned to the ranch at Dovetail until they moved to Winnett in 1938. Farming had been Ambrose's principal occupation.

Ambrose and Ellen had seven children: Charles (Amby), Doris, George, Altha, Archie, Harold and Leta.

Charles Ambrose (Amby) married Annette Rostad. Doris died of burns in a fire and is buried at Winnett. George married Virginia Huffman. Altha married Ralph McKnire. They lived at Thermopolis, Wyoming, and have three children — Eddie, Myrna and Marilyn. Ralph is deceased and buried at Thermopolis.

Archie died at age 20 and is buried at Winnett.
Harold married Hazel Yount and lives at Casper, Wyoming. They have two children, Pamela and Tammy.

Leta married Elwood Ihde and lives at Worland, Wyoming. They have three children — Daryl, Dennis and Regina. (Altha Carroll McKinre) (See also CARRELL — Cat Creek and Winnett)

CARRELL, Theodore (Sec 19: 31-18-28) Theo Carrell was born in February 1870. Lillian Garrison was born January 15, 1870, in Burke County, North Carolina. Theo and Lillian were married in 1912. They came to Montana in 1916 in an immigrant train to Roy as part of the Carrell — Garrison colony. (See also CARRELL-GARRISON TRIP)

"Uncle" Theo Carrell was the sage of the community. He was a great nature storyteller, gardener, and very successful in trueling and trapping predatory animals. One time he trapped a lynx cat that netted him $20.00; $10.00 for the pelt and $10.00 for preparation of the pelt as premium from the fur house. (Ida Rigg — W. T. 3-6-42)

"Aunty" Lillian Carrell was a midwife and available to anyone who needed her help. Theo and Lillian had no children. After Theo died in 1934 and Mrs. Edgar Garrison died in 1935, she moved in with her brother, Edgar Garrison, to help care for the nine motherless children. She died December 12, 1946, and she and Theo are both buried at Winnett.

Carrell — Garrison Trip to Dovetail

Ida Rigg related the following story in an article in the Winnett Times 3-6-1942) "Mrs. Lillian Carrell and Mrs. Ambrose Carrell tell some interesting bits of their experiences in emigrating from the South to Dovetail, Montana, that makes one think of the covered wagon days and the Indians.

"Those that came to Roy by train in one colony awaiting to be transported to their new homes in Dovetail were: Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Carrell; Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Carrell and two children; Mr. and Mrs. William G. Carrell (father and mother of Ambrose and Theodore); Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Garrison and two children and Grandma Senora Garrison; Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Whisenant and eight children; and Mr. and Mrs. Guy Fox and one child — in all 26 persons.

"Charley Carrell, one of the brothers of Ambrose Carrell, who had come to Montana the year before, met this company at Roy with team and wagon. It being in the early spring and the horses having foraged all winter, the team was weak and not able to travel very fast. One wagon was hardly adequate to accommodate so many. The older persons and small children rode in the wagon, and those who were younger and stronger walked. They walked almost as fast as the horses, and sometimes even preceded the team, and then would rest and wait for the team to catch up, and change about with those who rode in the wagon.

"Lillian and Ellen walked most all the way from Roy to Dovetail, some 40 miles. It took three days to make the trip from Roy to Dovetail in the manner described, and some of them, Lillian and Ellen included, slept on the ground. It was early March and frost was still in the ground.

"On August 17, 1916, at Dovetail, in an improvised bed out of doors with a tarp canopy, a boy was born to Ambrose Carrell and his wife Ellen. The boy was named William George. On August 19th, two days later, (Grandpa) William G. Carrell, ‘old and full of days,’ passed away and was laid to rest on the plain where there was as yet no graveyard . . .

"It would take a more versatile pen than mine to do justice to some of the characters that traversed the Dovetail valley a quarter of a century ago. Among the unforgettable characters were Grandma Garrison and Carrell (you seldom saw either of them without having a baby in arms). Grandmother Carrell counted the days of sunshine as against those that were overcast, and once said to me "this country is hard to beat for sunshine." Grandmother Garrison could stop bleeding of man and beast by reciting a verse out of the Bible by heart, and I never heard of anyone that she didn’t cure. When the babies were asleep and the day’s chores done, these two grandmothers would beguile the hours by playing Seven Up.

CASTEEL, Archie (Sec 4-17-25) Archie Casteel lived near Sage Creek, about five miles southwest of Valentine. He and his wife had three sons, George, Roy and Harry.

(R. T. 2-15-24) "’Dad’ Casteel, from the Valeninte country, was in Winnett Tuesday evening with a load of fat hogs which he disposed of to the Enterprise Meat Company. When asked as to the conditions of the roads, Dad stated that there were no roads, and that he encountered difficulty in making the trip."

"Dad Casteel will be remembered by many Winnett men as one of the staunch supporters of county division in the North country, and also one of the sections’ most successful farmers."

CLARK, Clairmont Clairmont Clark, son of Clifford and Maude Clark, attended the Sage Creek School and then graduated from the Winnett High School in 1928. In 1933 he married Alzora Prewitt, born in 1909 to Alfred W. and Alzora Prewitt in Great Falls, Montana.

Alzora was the teacher at the Dovetail School. She reflects, "He always says he was just a green and gawky country boy when he met me, but that wasn’t true. I think
he had gone with every available girl in the area.'"

Clairmont and Alzora started their married life at the Sanford place in Dovetail and lived there several years before returning to the Valentine area. In 1950 they left the ranching business and bought a small grocery store in Roy.

They have two sons — Robert Wayne (1937), who now lives in Missoula; and Gerald Roy (1945), who now lives in Miles City.

In 1953 Clairmont and Alzora moved to Missoula so the boys could attend college there, and have remained in Missoula. (Clairmont Clark)

CLARK, Clifford G. (Sec 20.21-18-25) Clifford G. Clark was born in 1881. Maude Perkins was born in 1883, both in Goodland, Indiana. Clifford and Maude were married in 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Clark — 50th Wedding Anniversary

In 1913 Clifford and Maude, with their two children, came west and homesteaded southwest of Valentine on the old Roy-Valentine road. Maude taught school at Sage Creek, District #122, for several years, and Clifford was a Petroleum County Commissioner in the 1930s. They lived on their ranch of 2400 acres for forty years. Clifford and Maude had two children born in Goodland, Indiana — Thelma (1906) and Clairmont (1909).

Clifford and Maude left the Valentine area in 1951 and moved to Roy. In 1961 they moved to Missoula to be near their son, Clairmont and family. Daughter Thelma Clark Caulkins now lives in Alaska.

Clifford Clark died in 1968 and Maude Clark died in 1977. They are both buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery. (Clairmont Clark)

COFFEY, Albert G. (Sec 6-18-28) The following was taken from letters and articles written by Marguerite Coffey Cook, daughter.

Albert Coffey was born January 7, 1884, in Kentucky. Lois Garrison was born March 2, 1891, in North Carolina. They were married June 20, 1911, at Pawhuska, Oklahoma. In March 1917 or 1918 with their two small daughters, they loaded their possessions in an immigrant car and headed toward Dovetail. "It's a homesteaders paradise," wrote the Garrisons and Carrells, who had ventured forth a year or so earlier. They said, "Spring is here and we are plowing in February."

The train took them to Roy, Montana. At Roy they were met by a typical Montana blizzard, still forty miles from home, and the plow was buried in a snow drift.

A Mrs. George had relinquished her 160 acres after she had built a frame house, not finished inside but liveable. Mr. Coffey took over the place, and this was to be the Coffey home for many years. The Davis Spring was to the north of them. That was where they got their drinking water, along with many of the homesteaders from a large area around the spring.

The house was enlarged by a log house addition later. Marguerite wrote, "I remember getting the house ready for winter. We were not energy conscious, just 'try and keep warm conscious,' although I'm sure it saved on the woodpile to some extent. The first task was to daub the chinks and cracks between the logs. Some people used mud for this, but my dad always bought a sack of cement for daubing, because cement withstood rain and snow better, and was also harder for mice to work out or dig around.

On a warm fall day, he would mix cement, sand and water to make a stiff thick mixture. Using a trowel, he filled every crack full, smoothing it off even with the logs. He worked cement carefully in and around the window and door casings. It dried to a hard, durable, windproof finish. Then he hauled several wagon loads of dirt and banked up the house all the way around. Covered with a heavy waterproofed brown paper, the screen doors became storm doors. The outside of the house finished, the men and boys turned their attention to cutting and hauling a mountain of firewood for the stoves.

Meanwhile the ladies were busy on the inside. They cut strips of discarded overalls to tack along the window

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Coffey

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edge, with a roll between where the windows met. Having no money to buy wall paper, we used brightly colored pages from catalogs and magazines to paste on the inside walls to keep the cold winds from blowing in. The brightly colored pages not only made the rooms bright and cheery, but warmed the cockles of our hearts over and over as we read tidbits here and there."

Martin Rigg had the post office at his place which was near Coffeys. Around 1921 Mrs. Rigg's health was failing, so they had decided to close their little store and have the post office transferred to the Coffey home. Mrs. Coffey was appointed postmaster and the post office remained at the Coffey home until it was closed in 1945.

Coffeys had eight children — Marguerite (1914), Alberta (1916), Joe (1920), Twila (1921), Dale (1923), Madeline (1925), Robert (1927) and Mary Lou (1929).

Mrs. Lois Coffey died in November 1929, about two weeks after Mary Lou was born. Albert Coffey died in 1967. Both are buried in the Winnett Cemetery. Marguerite "Deat" married Vern Cook. (See also COOK)

Alberta "Corky" married Stanley Ziesmer. Alberta later lived in Winnett (See also ZIESMER — Winnett). Joe married Margaret Livingston. They live at Harrison, Montana. (See also COFFEEY — Winnett) Dale died in 1940 and is buried at the Winnett Cemetery. Madalene died in 1926 and is buried at the homestead.

Robert married Winnie Hill. They still live at Winnett. (See also COFFEEY — Winnett) Twila married James McCue and they have four children. (See also McCUE — Winnett) Mary Lou married Joseph Bevis and they have four children — Nancy Kay (11-9-50), Stephen Dale (4-17-53), Lester John (7-14-58), and Karen Dorothy (6-20-65). They live at Bowman, North Dakota.

COLD, Elmer (Sec 14-19-27) Elmer and Alice Cold and three children — Dan, Richard and Nancy — came from Ainsworth, Nebraska, to live and work on the Jim Jackson Ranch at Dovetail in April 1952. Jim Jackson was Alice's uncle. In November 1957 they moved to Lewistown where they still live. They had three more children after they moved to Lewistown — Shonnie, Trent and Keith. (Elmer Cold)

COLE, Lee Lee and Maude Cole had two children — Vernon (1903) and Marie (1907) — according to the school census of 1915 for District #122 in Fergus County.

COLLIER, B. M. B. M. Collier lived about four miles west of Valentine. He was a chiropractor before homesteading at Valentine.

COLLIER, Fred "Fred Collier, well-known resident of the Valentine country, who was brought to Lewistown for medical attention, died yesterday. Death was caused by complications developing from pneumonia. Mr. Collier was about 67 years of age. He is survived by a son residing at Casper, Wyoming; a son in Arkansas; and a daughter."

CONOLLY, John S. (Sec 27-19-27) John S. "Sam" Conolly was born July 27, 1891, at Elk Point, South Dakota. Zell Doughty was born June 4, 1899. Sam and Zell were married May 23, 1913, at Pierre, South Dakota. Zell was teaching at Pierre when she met Sam. They had a son, Franklin, who died at three months old.

"They moved to Idaho where Zell got a job teaching, then on to another school in Wyoming, where Donald was born. He was a tiny baby (weighed less than two pounds), so Zell spent several weeks in bed with him to keep him warm. This was long before the advent of incubators. The baby gained strength and grew so they no longer feared they would lose him.

Conollys came to the Dovetail area in 1916 with Zell's parents, the Wallace L. Doughtys. Zell continued teaching in the local schools, and Mrs. Doughty took care of the Conolly children until they were old enough to go to school. Zell taught at the Dovetail School, the Carrell School and the Conolly School.
At least for one year, she taught four months at the Carrell school and four months at the Conolly school, so that she would be able to offer the chance of school to more children of the area. Getting to the schools could be a problem for the teachers. Zell went on skis, horseback, or with a buggy, depending on the weather. She taught school for 25 years before retiring.

They were good neighbors and always willing to help out their neighbors. Later Sam had a truck and did quite a bit of trucking to help bring in more cash for the family. He also ran the mail route from Valentine to Dovetail at first, then added the route from Valentine to Roy. These routes were run by the Conollys for over 30 years.

There were three more children born to Sam and Zell — Theron, Wayne and Edna Margaret. Zell’s mother delivered the babies. Edna died at birth and is buried at the homestead.

Donald, Theron and Wayne went to school at the schools their mother taught. Donald and Theron graduated from the Lewistown High School. Wayne started high school at Winnett, but died of spinal meningitis during his freshman year. He is buried at Winnett. In about 1929 Conollys sold their homestead on Dovetail, bought up some land, including the old townsite, at Valentine and moved up there. Zell was appointed postmaster, and Sam continued to haul the mail from Roy.

After Don’s death in a car accident in 1961, Conollys left Valentine and moved to Winnett. Their health deteriorated and they moved to the Valley Vista in Lewistown in April 1966. Sam died November 2, 1966, and Zell died December 9, 1966. They are both buried at Winnett.

Don Conolly was born October 9, 1915, at Teton, Wyoming. He worked with his father on the ranch. He was a World War II veteran and returned to the ranch when discharged. He married June Marinoff (born July 15, 1930) on July 23, 1948. They lived in one of the houses on the old town site of Valentine. Don died January 10, 1961, from a car accident.

They had three children — Vern, Gail and Arlee — who all live in Lewistown.

Theron joined the Navy after graduation. He was a retired lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy and had served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He held six commands at sea and two on shore during his 23 years in the Navy. He had been awarded 13 medals and decorations, including the Legion of Merit and the Secretary of the Navy Commendation Medal. He had one son, John. Theron died of a heart attack at a Navy base hospital in Elkton, Maryland. “(June Conolly)

**COOK, A. D.** (Sec 21-18-25) A. D. Cook and wife came from Washington and homesteaded near Valentine. They had one son, William F. Cook. William was killed at Pearl Harbor. (Clairmont Clark)

**COOK, Clifford** (Sec 33-18-28) Guri Ann Iverson Cook submitted the following: "I, Guri Ann, was born January 9, 1914, to Tom and Annette Iverson of the Dovetail area. I grew up on the ranch on Dovetail Creek. I always liked the outdoors and was happiest when I could help my father with some task.

"One of my fond memories, while growing up, was when my mother and I went in our ‘one-horse’ buggy on sunny afternoons to visit the neighbor ladies of the community. I remember how neat and pretty these matronly ladies were. They wore long dresses that reached to the top of their ‘high top’ button shoes, crisply starched aprons, with their hair neatly pinned up in a bun on top of their heads. I also remember what a chore it was to iron those aprons and finish without any wrinkles.

"My first year of school I rode horseback with my brothers, Andrew and Isaac. When I was in the fourth grade, a schoolhouse was moved to the present location of the Dovetail School which made it very easy for me to get to school. Helen Wagar Iverson was my eighth grade teacher.

"I attended Fergus County High School. I had to leave home to stay to go to school at this big school when I was used to going to a school with only 15 students. It was a BIG change!

"I wanted to be a teacher, so after high school I attended Eastern Montana College at Billings. At that time it was a Normal School, with classes scattered in several buildings. While in Billings, I boarded with Delia Cook.

"I taught school two years at the Long School near Valentine.

"I had met Clifford ‘Bus’ Cook when I boarded with his mother, Mrs. Delia Cook. He was born in Corinth, Montana, August 9, 1913, and got his schooling at the Ballantine schools.

"Bus and I were married July 7, 1937, in Billings. Bus had worked on construction for several years. In July of 1938, Bus became partners with my father and my brother, Isaac. This was the beginning of our sheep business. In 1942 we moved the Lars Lund house to our
land on the creek about 1½ miles west of the home ranch. This was the first home of our own.

"We continued to raise sheep, some cattle, and did some farming. During this time, I taught the Dovetail School for several years. The coyotes were terrible and really took a toll on our sheep. It didn’t matter how close we watched them, the coyotes were always sneaking in and killing the best lambs. It was just more than we could manage, so in 1960 we sold the place to Isaac and purchased the Dunlap Garage in Winnett, which we renamed 'Cliff's Auto Service.' Bus also ran the Conoco Bulk Plant, and drove the Flatwillow school bus for two years.


"Our children and grandchildren hosted a 50th Anniversary Celebration for us in July 1987. So many relatives and close friends came to help us celebrate that it was a real RED LETTER Day for us.

"There was always plenty of entertainment in Dovetail: dances, baseball, picnics, card parties, school programs, and family gatherings. Sunday school and church services were held at the Dovetail School quite regularly."

COOK, Vern (Sec 6-18-28) Vern Cook, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vance Cook, was born at Sandpoint, Idaho in 1907.

Marguerite Coffey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Coffey, was born in 1914 in Soper, Oklahoma. She moved to the Dovetail area with her parents and attended schools in the Dovetail-Valentine School District.

Vern and Marguerite were married May 22, 1943, in Winnett. They lived in Arizona for six years. They moved back to the Coffey homestead in 1950, where they farmed until 1964, when they retired. Upon retirement they moved to Lewistown.

Vern had one daughter by a previous marriage, Audrey Vigus, of Butte. Vern and Marguerite had two daughters — Linda (Peterson) of Lewistown and Lois (Carpenter) of Laurel, Montana.

Vern died in December 1978 and Marguerite died in April 1981. They are buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery.

COVERT, E., and COVERT, Robert Mr. and Mrs. E. Covert lived two miles northwest of Valentine. They had three children — Ruth, Nancy and Robert.

Robert Covert married Amy Busby. They lived one mile north of Valentine until they moved to the Bitterroot Valley in 1936. They had four children — Bill, who lives at Corvallis, Montana; Scott, who lives at Hamilton, Montana; Jerry, who lives at Lewistown, Idaho; and Janet, who lives at North Bend, Oregon. Robert died in 1970, and Amy died in 1976. They are buried at Corvallis.

COX, Sam (Sec 1-18-27) Sam Cox, born on Trout Creek, was a son of Samuel and Alice Cox. He was raised in Fergus County and attended schools at Lewistown and Gillette. He homesteaded in the Dovetail area about 1913. In 1917 he enlisted in the Navy and served for ten years, including World War I. He secured his discharge in 1927 and returned to the Roy area, but never came back to Dovetail. He lived around Roy for several years. In September of 1937 he entered the hospital at Billings, where he died. He is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Billings. (Obituary, Lewistown Democrat News, September 19, 1937)

CTIBOR, John (Sec 5-18-27) Mr. and Mrs. John Ctibor had a daughter. Agnes, born April 19, 1919, according to the District #169 school census for 1920.

DAY, Charles M. (Sec 8-17-20-27) Charles M. Day was born November 22, 1879, near Beagle Kansas. He left Kansas in 1916 to homestead on the ridge between Crooked Creek and the Missouri River. He married Helena Cormen in 1918. They lived on the homestead for six years and then moved to Hanover, Montana, where he worked for many years. They returned to Kansas after retirement. He died in March of 1956.

DOBNER, Thomas H. (Sec 9-4-18-27) Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Dobner had two children — Raymond (1908) and Rhea (1909). (District #169 school census for 1917-1918-1919)

Mrs. Dobner and newborn baby died in 1920 from the flu. They are buried in Lewistown.

DOUGHTY, Wallace (Sec 29-19-27) Wallace L. (Vern) Doughty was born July 19, 1866, and married Edna Bell, born June 6, 1870, in Bay City, Wisconsin. Originally from Minnesota, they came from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to Dovetail in 1916. They were accompanied by John S. and Zell Conolly, their daughter and son-in-law.
When they arrived at their homesteads, they pitched a tent to live in until the men could get their cabins built. A high wind came up, blew the tent down and scattered many of their belongings. They dug a cave back into a hillside and lived in the cave until the cabins were ready. They lived at the homestead until 1937 when they moved into Winnett.

Mrs. Doughty died February 26, 1940, and Mr. Doughty died in 1942. They are buried at the Winnett Cemetery. (June Conolly)

**DRAKE, Arnold C.** Arnold Drake, son of Edith and Arnold Drake, was born in 1893 at Plankton, South Dakota. He received his schooling at Plankton, and attended the University of South Dakota at Vermillion. He served with the supply division of the infantry during World War I. In 1926 he moved to the Valentine area in Montana.

Isadeen Sinclair was the daughter of John and Lola Sinclair. (See also SINCLAIR)

Arnold and Isadeen were married in 1928. They lived at Valentine until 1937 when they moved to the Bitterroot Valley with their five children — Lola (1928), Donald (1929), Delmar (1931), Melvin (1933), and Maxine (1935).

Arnold Drake died in 1953 and is buried in the Hamilton Cemetery at Hamilton, Montana. (Isadeen Sinclair Drake Pewitt)

**EGELAND, Christian** (Sec 20-19-27) "Chris" Egeland was born in Norway on August 12, 1891. He came from Bergen, Norway to Big Timber, Montana, with his father in 1907. They worked on several sheep ranches near there. He served in the Army during World War I. After his discharge, he filed for his homestead in the Dovetail area.

Essie McAllister was born at Two Dot, Montana, November 30, 1895. Chris and Essie met in Lewistown and were married in 1918. Their only child, Clara, was born January 26, 1920. Chris got the deed to his homestead, November 9, 1920, signed by President Woodrow Wilson. (See also McALLISTER — Winnett)

Chris ran sheep with his brother, Karl, who lived on an adjoining homestead. Chris and Karl sheared sheep for many of the neighbors when the shearing was done with hand clippers.

When Clara was in the first grade, they wintered the sheep on the Trusty Ranch, so she went to school there along the river. She attended the Dovetail School for grades 2, 3, and 4. Her fifth-grade year was the year of the big drought when everything was so dry that the winds blew the soil and, in places, covered the fences. The family went to Roy to find grass for the sheep and Clara went to school at Roy that year.

Clara finished grade school at Dovetail, after staying part of the time at Iversons where she was closer to the school. Since the school district paid transportation to the students over three miles from school, she received the transportation money, $15.00 per month. She paid this money to Mrs. Iverson for her board and room. She attended one year at Winnett High School (1936). Egeland left Dovetail in 1937 and lived at Forbes Leslie Ranch at Staff. at Hobson, at Maiden Canyon, and retired to Lewistown in 1959.

Essie Egeland died in 1972 and Chris died in 1986. They are buried at Lewistown. (Clara Egeland Hill, daughter)

**EGELAND, Gustav** (Sec 32-33-19-27) Gustav Egeland was born February 14, 1900, in Norway. He arrived in the Dovetail area in 1922 and joined his brothers, Chris and Karl, in the sheep operation.

Maria Indrebo was born December 16, 1899, in Norway. She married Gustav on May 6, 1925. They had two daughters, Katherine (1926) and Gladys (1933).

They lived on the Hervatn place (Sec 4-18-27). They were north of the junction of the Valentine road and the road from Winnett. They left the Dovetail area about 1928 and moved to the Forestgrove area. Marla Egeland died in April 1973 and is buried at Lewistown. Gustav still lives at Lewistown. (Katherine Egeland Johnson, daughter)

**EGELAND, Karl** (Sec 20-19-27) Karl Egeland married Myrtle Woods in Winnett in 1926. Myrtle was a daughter of Pearl McAllister and Johnnie Woods of Winnett. (Pearl and Mrs. Chris (Essie) Egeland were sisters.) Karl and Myrtle had two daughters, Patty and Carlita. Patty went to school one year at Dovetail. The family moved to Lewistown in 1937.

Karl died in 1980 and Myrtle died in 1987. They are buried in Lewistown. (Clara Egeland Hill, niece)

**ESTES, John** (Sec 14-19-27) John and Viola Estes moved to Dovetail in May of 1964 from Springview, Nebraska, where they had lived since their marriage in 1945. They had two daughters — Sandra, who had married just before they came to Montana; and Evelyn, who, with a niece, Amber Smith, came to Dovetail with them.

They moved onto the John L. "Jim" Jackson place, purchasing the ranch after Jim’s death. The ranch included the homesteads of three uncles — John L., Carl and Dennis Jackson. They had homesteaded in 1913.

John and Viola enjoyed their years at Dovetail raising
cattle. John was a very avid cattlemen and continually tried to improve his herd.

They made their home there until John’s death in March of 1985. Viola sold the place to Ed Socha. She now lives at Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

Sandra, the oldest daughter, married Roger Phillips. They have four sons and also live at Kingfisher.

Evelyn married William Kastner, son of Fred and Edna Kastner of Winnett. They lived at Dovetail for several years. They have three daughters and two sons and live in Union City, California.

John’s mother, Mary Jackson Estes, taught at the Dovetail school during the 1946-47 term. (Viola Estes)


**FRANKLIN, William B.** (Sec 31-19-27) Willilam B. Franklin and wife Marsha had four children: Louis, born December 6, 1904; Grover, born September 19, 1905; Erland born June 29, 1908; and Belva, born June 9, 1910 — as listed in District #169 school census for 1917 through 1920.

The Franklins lived in a cabin with a dirt floor. They allowed the school district to build a school on their land in 1917. This school was closed about 1920. Later, in 1923, the schoolhouse was moved to the center of the district near Iversons.

**GALLAGHER, Martin** (Sec 3-17-26) Martin and Eva Gallagher came from Kansas with three of their five children. Edna and Florence stayed in Kansas. Grace (1895) married Harry Barnett (See also BARNETT). Mary Josephine married Anton Stein. After his death, she married Nicholas Hayfield. (See also HAYFIELD and STEIN) A son, Joseph (1901), also came to Montana.

**GALLOWAY, James J.** M. and Elizabeth Galloway were the parents of Mabelle (Peoples), a teacher; William; Carrie Belle (Daniels); and Geneva “Gene,” an accomplished artist.

**GARRISON, Edgar O.** (Sec 19-18-28) Edgar O. Garrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Garrison, was born in 1885 in Burke County, North Carolina. He received his schooling in North Carolina. The family moved to Kansas where he met Mary E. Carrell, and in 1912 they were married in Oklahoma.

In 1915 they set out for Montana with their two little girls and Edgar’s mother, Senora K. Garrison. They arrived at Roy, Montana, in March 1916. (See also CARRELL-GARRISON TRIP) They homesteaded on Dovetail Creek near the post office.

Edgar farmed on Dovetail until 1922 when the family moved to Cat Creek while he worked for Continental Oil Company (See also GARRISON — Cat Creek). He worked for the Tip O’Neill Refinery in Sunburst, too. Garrison moved back to Dovetail in 1930.

Edgar played the banjo and violin, and often helped play for the dances in the early days. His brothers, Olin and Joseph, spent several years living with him on Dovetail Creek and helping him with his family.

Edgar retired in 1947, and moved to Winnett with his family, where he worked part time for John Sibbert.

Mrs. Garrison died in February 1934, and Edgar died in November 1961.

The Garrisons had nine children: Lula married Robert Killham (See KILLHAM). Mary died at 14 and is buried at Winnett; Albert, veteran of World War II, lives at Winnett; Senora married Floyd Grosser and now lives near Missoula; Joe, veteran of World War II, now lives at Kevin; Grace married Claude Allen and lives at Winnett; Orval lives at Edwall, Washington; Lewis lives in Nevada; Gilbert lives at the Solf Ranch east of Winnett. (Grace Allen, daughter)

Grace Garrison (one of the schoolchildren at the time) tells this story. "When I was about eight years old, I heard the adults talking about Inez Adams Barnett shooting her husband. Barnett’s place was down the river. A few days later, in late fall, I had to stay an hour after school. It was beginning to get dark when I started home, and I had about three miles to walk. I heard a car coming. I knew it was Inez’s car, so I dived into the ditch, hoping she wouldn’t see me.

"She stopped, however, and told me to get in, that she would take me to our turnout. I couldn’t think of a reason to tell her ‘no’ so I got into the car. I kept a close watch on the glove box as I wondered if she had the gun in there. She drove right past our turnout and kept going! I was sure that I would never see my family again, but suddenly she stopped and said, ‘I drove right past your turnout, didn’t I?’

"She got me out of the car and walked me up a hill. I was really shaking in my boots. When we got to the top of the hill, she pointed out a light to me and said, ‘That is
your house over there. If you walk to the light, you will be home."

"She turned back toward her car, and I took off running to keep her from catching me again. I did walk to the light, and it was my home, but I was still so scared I was shaking when I got there!" (See also BARNETT — Cat Creek)

GARRISON, Willis (Sec 30,31-19-28) Willis "Jack" Garrison came to the Dovetail area in 1916 and took up a homestead near his brother, Edgar. He was a great banjo player and helped with the music at the dances. He was a veteran of World War I. After the war, he and his family went back to North Carolina for a few years, then came back to the Harlowton area. They had three daughters — Katherine, Portia, and Ellen.

In 1935 Mr. Garrison went to Fort Harrison, near Helena, Montana, for treatment. After the earthquakes had damaged numerous buildings, the patients were moved from the fort, and he was one of the ones who were sent home. He was upset and depressed by the quakes and his own worries, and died of a self-inflicted gunshot. He is buried at the Winnett Cemetery. (Grace Allen, niece)

GOTZINGER, John R. Ladonna Gotzinger Mohar submitted the following information. "John R. Gotzinger was born in 1878 in Germany, and Anne Dobner was born in 1891 in Hungary. John and Anne were married in the United States in 1912. Gotzingers homesteaded in the Valentine area in 1914.

"My dad had mail route for the area for a time. Traveling by horse and buggy, he delivered and picked up mail for Dovetail, Valentine and Roy.

"I was told our meat was mostly antelope, deer, rabbits and sage hens.

"In 1922 our family left the Valentine area and moved to Cat Creek where my Dad worked in the oil fields."

John and Anne Gotzinger had three children: Rayburn (1912), Josephine (1914) and Ladonna (1916). They went to school at Valentine and Cat Creek and graduated from Winnett High School.

John Gotzinger died in 1932 and is buried at Lewistown. Anne Gotzinger died in 1977 and is buried in Spokane, Washington. Josephine Gotzinger Reynolds died in 1981 and is buried in Las Vegas, Nevada. Rayburn Gotzinger died in 1983 and is buried in El Paso, Texas. Ladonna Mohar presently lives in Las Vegas, Nevada. (See also GOTZINGER — Cat Creek and Winnett)

HAGEN, Paul (Sec 33-18-26) Jeane Hagen Keller submitted the following account of her family.

"Paul Hagen was born May 27, 1885, at Cherokee, Iowa. Sadie Lind was born January 4, 1894, in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. They were married March 2, 1913.

"My parents, Paul and Sadie Hagen, came to Montana from Wisconsin in 1913. Their homestead was located about three miles south of Valentine. In the fall of 1919, they sold everything except their farm, and moved back to Wisconsin to help my dad's parents on their dairy farm. They had learned that the older brother, who had intended to return to the farm, had died in France in World War I.

"They remained in Wisconsin, where all of us children were born. In 1922 they decided to return to the homestead in Montana. Having spent most of his younger years on a dairy, my dad had a liking for that kind of farming. A year or two after he returned to the homestead, his dad had six Jersey heifers and a bull shipped to Winnett for him.

"My dad never took to horseback riding, so he hitched a ride to Winnett with a neighbor (team and wagon, of course) and walked back to his farm, accompanied by the seven calves. They all seemed content to walk the twenty-five miles with him. He kept his dairy herd until the fall of 1937 when he sold them before moving to an irrigated farm in the Fairfield, Montana, area.

"I was four when my parents moved back to the homestead. We lived in a one-room cabin, later adding an extra room. Our only means of transportation was horseback or horse-drawn wagon, until the late 1920s when my father bought his first car. As I recall, homestead days were happy ones for the most part, even though no one had much money."
Pat's parents were old timers in the area. Her father, Tony Weingart, and grandfather, Alexander Williamson, homesteaded 50 miles north of Winnett. (See also WEINGART and WILLIAMSON)

"The Dovetail area at Magnus Tackle's homestead (later purchased by John Jackson) was where we began ranching. In 1964 we purchased the Beckstrom place which placed us closer to town and schools. "With the two places some 25 miles apart, many trail drives were necessary. Usually yearlings were taken north in the spring and returned during Christmas vacation so the young cowboys could help.

"While in the Winnett area, Dave was on the school board. Winnett and Chain Buttes grazing boards, ASCS, Winnett Irrigation Company and Winnett Livestock Association. He was secretary a number of years. It was during his tenure that the Livestock Association took control of the stockyards and scales.

"We remember War House Dam dry, then in flood stage and now totally dry again (1988).

"1978 and 1979 were winters we won't forget, nor will our school bus driver, Ron Olson. Yes, we had the north school bus route for eight years. The temperatures dropped, the snow piled up and the winds blew. We spent day after day plowing to hay stacks, feeding cattle and then having to do the same thing over again.

"Our cattle herd began with a few Hereford cows that we bred to Angus bulls. In the early 1970s, artificial insemination was becoming popular and many breeds from Europe were being presented in the United States through this method. Simmental was our choice, so our herd was predominantly Simmental crossbred cattle when we sold in 1982.

"At that same time we leased our place and moved to southwestern Montana.

"We lived in Petroleum County for 20 years. Our four children — Jeff, Sandy, Ray and Steve — graduated from Winnett High School. Two of them married local people. Sandy and Dana Glatz were married in 1972. Ray married Karen Kimmel in 1980.

"Two offspring still call Petroleum County home. Ray lives on the old Beckstrom place. Steve is on the Musselshell River on the former McGiboney place. Jeff and Sandy left Petroleum County — Jeff to Maryland and Sandy to Helena, Montana."

HALLICKSON, Lewis Lewis and Hanna Hallickson had six children listed in the school census for District #122 of Fergus County in 1915. These children were Ida (1896), Mabel (1898), Lincoln (1899), Ober (1903), Olga (1906), and Evelyn (1908). (See also HALLICKSON — Winnett)

HANSON, Elmer N. (Sec 19-18-27) Elmer N. Hanson, son of John and Rachel Hanson of Lake Benton, Minnesota, was born in 1899. He served in World War I and returned to Minnesota after the war.

Doris Ellen Wells was born in 1900 at Early, Iowa. Elmer and Doris were married in 1921 at Pipestone, Minnesota.
They came to the "Doc" Jackson homestead near Dovetail Butte in 1934, then later moved to the B. T. Myers place just north of the Dovetail School. In 1939 they moved to the Valentine area and bought a place to raise cattle and to farm. Doris taught school at Valentine for a time. In 1950 Doris died of severe burns in a fire at the ranch home. Elmer retired and left the ranch in 1951. He moved to the Blue Creek area near Billings.

Doris and Elmer had six children. John E. "Jack" (1925) bought the ranch when his father retired. (See also HANSON, John — Winnett) Richard Irving "Dick" worked on several ranches in the area and is now the custodian at the school in Winnett. (See also HANSON, Richard — Winnett) Charles William "Bill" worked on construction for many years and now lives in Lewistown. Keith Thomas "Tom" (1939) lives in Lewistown. George Harrison "Harry" (1940) died in 1957 and is buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery. Virginia Clare married Earl Brady and ranches about five miles north of Winnett. (See BRADY, Earl — Brush Creek)

Doris died in 1950 and Elmer died in 1977. They are buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery.

HANSON, Roy E. (Sec 26, 27-20-27) Roy E. Hanson and John Matheson were partners and first settlers on the property known as the Crooked Creek Horse Camp. Both Roy and John preferred to raise horses. Roy Hanson was involved in promoting and providing livestock for rodeos all around the area.

Alice Ragland, daughter of Robert and Nellie Ragland, was born at Pinnacle, Colorado, in 1910. Roy Hanson married Alice Ragland. They had three children: Robert Hanson of Quincy, Washington; Lee Hanson of Tillamook, Washington; and Katherine Gairrett of the Blue Creek area near Billings.

Roy and Alice eventually moved to the Blue Creek area and lived there until Roy died in 1966. Alice moved to Winnett to retire and lived there until her death in 1985. (Mrs. Dick Hanson) (See also HANSON — Winnett)

HARLAN, Margaret (Sec 30-19-28) John and Margaret Harlan had three children listed in the District #169 school census from 1917 through 1922. They were Foster (1902), Robert (1903) and Ruth (1904).

HARRIMER, John John and Beulah Harrimer had two children — Charles (1908) and Nellie (1909) — as listed in the 1915 school census for District #122 of Fergus County.

HARRIS, Nell Nell Harris was a very old settler in the Valentine area. The Valentine Springs was on his land. Mr. Harris was a sheep rancher, and Mrs. Harris worked in the superintendent of schools' office. She gave the final examinations to the students in the eighth grade. Harris donated the timber for the Valentine Hall.

HAUGE, Andrew (Sec 2, 3-18-27) Andrew Hauge was born near Haugesund, Norway, April 18, 1872. He came to the United States in 1909 and lived with his uncle, Ben Hill, near Piper for a few years before homesteading at Dovetail in 1914. He farmed and raised cattle there for 31 years before selling to Tony Weingart in 1946. Andrew was never married. He died January 17, 1951, and is buried at Lewistown.
ride a bronc so they could watch!

Nicholas married Mary Josephine Gallagher Stein after her first husband died. (See also GALLAGHER and STEIN) Her son Anton "Clarence" attended the Valentine School. Nick and Mary had three children — Walter Eugene (1923), Ernest (1925) and Ina Marie (1928). The family moved to Midwest, Wyoming in 1929. After two years they went to northern Idaho to make their home. (Gene Hayfield, son)

HEDMAN, Carl (Sec 20.29-20-28) Carl Hedman, oldest son of John and Emma Hedman, was born in Norway in 1902. He came to Montana in 1912 with his parents and five brothers and sisters. His father, John Hedman, took up a homestead in the Blakeslee area, northwest of Telgen. (See also HEDMAN — Blakeslee)

In 1932 or 1933 Carl took over a delinquent homestead on Crooked Creek and ran horses and cattle. His brother, John, came to Crooked Creek a few years later, and they formed a partnership called "Hedman Brothers." acquiring more property as it became available, and more livestock to stock it. Their partnership lasted until they sold their places in 1960.

Carl married Mirth Kiehl in 1964. They lived in Winnett for a few years, then moved to Harlowton, and finally to Billings. Carl died in Billings in 1980.

HEDMAN, Henry (Sec 25-21-28) Henry Hedman was the youngest son of John and Emma Hedman, and the only child to be born to them in Montana. He lived with his folks in the Blakeslee area and got his schooling in the Blakeslee and Grassrange schools.

Henry served as an aircraft maintenance man in the Navy during World War II. When he returned from the war, he bought land from Ray Henneman and the Machler brothers at the head of Soda Creek and near the Chain Buttes north of Crooked Creek and raised cattle there. He had Dave Hale build a new log house for him several years ago to replace the old house and dugout which was left from homestead days.

Henry died in 1989 and is buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery.
HEDMAN, John (Sec 26.26-20-27) John Hedman, second son of John and Emma Hedman, was born in Norway in 1907. He came to Montana in 1912 with his family who homesteaded in the Blakeslee area northwest of Telgen. (See also HEDMAN — Blakeslee)

John bought the Horse Camp on Crooked Creek and moved there. Later he formed a partnership with his brother, Carl, known as “Hedman Brothers.” They raised horses and cattle. They both liked horses, and the rivalry between them really came out when it was time to brand the colts.

John was a veteran of World War II.

In April 1950 John married Margaret Umstead Baucke. She had three children — Patricia, Donna and Byron Baucke. They lived at the Sanford place and the children attended school at Dovettail. John and Margaret had one son, David.

In 1958 John bought the Dow Bowen place on the Musselshell River and they moved there, later moving to a ranch on Fords Creek in the Blakeslee area.

In 1960 John and Carl broke up their partnership and sold most of their Crooked Creek holdings. That ranch is now known as Two Crow.

John died in 1977 and is buried in the Lewistown Cemetery.

Margaret lived at Grassrange for many years and is now retired and lives at Winnett. David Hedman lives on the Fords Creek property in the Blakeslee area. (See also HEDMAN — Winnett)

Margaret Hedman submitted this story of Carl and John titled “Dividing a Herd of Horses.”

“It was a cold and windy day at a camp on Crooked Creek, in the late 1950s, when the Hedman brothers, Carl and John, rounded up a beautiful bunch of mares to be divided. There were about eighty mares — some blacks, some bays, some buckskins, but mostly they were palominos. There was one special bay mare, called the Biggerstaff mare. I had observed, for several years, a sort of jealousy between Carl and John over the colts that this mare raised.

‘After sorting these horses into two corrals, and dividing them by the one-two method, everybody seemed happy. The bachelor who was cooking that day yelled ‘Come and get it!’, meaning the food was ready. John motioned me not to go in and eat. I thought that was stupid, because I was hungry, but nevertheless, I did as he asked.

‘ Hold this gate open and close it when I tell you,’ were his instructions as he was running mares around and back and forth. I was glad when we could go to the house and eat. The crew were finishing their meal, but politely waited and enjoyed a cigarette while John and I ate.

‘Back to the corrals we go, and then they had to decide who was to get which pen of mares. Carl finally said, ‘How about flipping a coin?’ John said, ‘O.K., O. K.’ The next problem was to find a coin.

‘The men were all digging in their pockets and finally a nickel was found beneath a quarter inch of silt and tobacco in the glove box of a truck. The coin was flipped and Carl got the pen with the Biggerstaff mare. (We could just as well have eaten with the rest of the crew!’)

HEDMAN, William G. (Sec 29-20-29) William G. “Bill” Hedman, third son of John and Emma Hedman, was born in 1909 in Norway. He came to Montana with his parents in 1912 and lived on their homestead in the Blakeslee area northwest of Telgen. He received his schooling at the Blakeslee and Grassrange schools.

He served in the United States Air Force in the South Pacific during World War II. After the war he came back to Montana and worked with his brothers for several years. He bought a house in Winnett for his retirement and worked part time as a ranch hand. He died in 1975.

HILL, Benjamin (Sec 12-18-27) ”Benjamin Hill was born April 1, 1858, at Hauge, Norway. He came to the United States in 1880 and stopped at Sioux City, Iowa, where he was employed in a railroad office. He came up the Missouri River to Montana in 1886 and settled on a ranch about 3/5 miles north of Piper, Montana.

‘Sigrid Berge was born August 22, 1884, at Trondheim, Norway. She came to the United States in the early 1900s and worked for the Swend Holland family until she married Ben Hill. They homesteaded in the Dovettail area, probably from 1914 to 1918. They were extensively engaged in raising sheep and cattle. Hills returned to the ranch at Piper, where they had two children — Martha and Ben Jr.

Ben died in November 1920, after an appendectomy. After Ben’s death, Sigrid married John Berg and they had one daughter, Eileen. (Heritage Book of Original Fergus County)

HOGAN, Hattie (Sec 8.17-18-27) Hattie came from Idaho with her nephew, Charles Earl Steele, and homesteaded adjoining Ray Marr. She later married Tom Hogan and they continued to live on her homestead until he died in the 1940s.

Tom and Hattie Hogan lived on the Alex Weingart place on Crooked Creek and took care of the livestock while Alex worked on the Valentine Dam in 1935 and 1936.

Hattie was one of Janet Weingart’s teachers at Valentine. She was also matron of the dormitory in Winnett for awhile.
After Tom died, Hattie leased her place to different people and lived in a little house in Valentine. She later sold her place to Torger Sikveland.

Earl graduated from Winnett High School in 1931, received his B. S. degree from the University of Oregon, and did graduate work at the University of Southern California and the University of California. He was later director of sanitation for the Ventura County Health Department. He and his wife had no children. Hattie and Earl are both deceased.

HORNSETH, Henry (Sec 6-18-28) Henry Hornseth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ingmar Hornseth, was born December 9, 1897, in Norway. After Mrs. Hornseth's death, Ingmar and children (Henry, Rachel and Ingrid) left Norway and moved to Lewistown in 1911. In Lewistown Ingmar remarried and four children (Louis, Marie, Ruth and Arnie) were added to the family.

In 1950 Henry bought the Johannes Jensen homestead about 1½ miles from the Dovetail Post Office. He had a house moved in and spent the next year remodeling and repairing the house. He moved into it in 1951. He lived there until his death in 1971.

Henry never married, but was a good friend to the whole community and a very special friend to all the children. They loved him whole heartedly, because he talked to them, played with them, and taught them new and interesting games. All those children surely have a very special place in their hearts marked "Henry." (Arnie Hornseth, brother)

HOUTS, Enoch (Sec 25-18-25) Enoch Houts and his family lived about four miles southwest of Valentine. He had been a miner at Butte. He and his wife had six children, including daughters Evelyn (1909) and Inez (1904), and one son, Harold (1906). Inez married "Doc" Jackson, and they had seven children.

HOVE, Erik (Sec 32-19-28) Erik Hove was a homesteader of note. His great herd of beautiful horses ranged freely on the plains. He would assert, in his characteristic Norwegian brogue, that “He was not borned yesterday.” (Ida Rigg – W.T. 3-6-42)

Erik Hove ranched in the Dovetail area for about 30 years, raising sheep and horses. He died of "tick fever" in March of 1929. (See also HOVE – Winnett)

HUGHES, Anthony Anthony "Snowball" Hughes and wife, Mary, lived three miles west of Valentine on the Horse Shoe Bar Ranch, where he was the manager. They ran longhorn cattle.

Les Bevis remarked, “They had a lot of longhorn cattle and quite a few cowboys there at the Horse Shoe Bar. Those cattle were pretty miserable and mean characters. They ran all over the country and on our homestead too, until we finally got the fence up to keep them out.”

INGVALDSEN, Ingvald (Sec 8, 17-18-28) Ingvald Ingvaldsen was born in 1891, came from Norway, and filed on his homestead near Dovetail. After he had proved up on it, he sold it to Swend Holland and went back to Norway before World War I. He changed his mind, came back to the United States and went into the Army. He served in France close enough to the front to be gassed. He spent a year on the Riviera recovering, while his family and friends thought he had been killed.

He returned to Montana in 1920, but again returned to Norway. He corresponded with Jennie Holland, daughter of Swend Holland, born July 8, 1905. A romance developed and he came back to Montana. Ingvald and Jennie were married December 12, 1921.

They moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where he had relatives. They had three daughters — Martha Josephine, Elaine Virginia and Beverly Jane. Jennie is in good health, living in a retirement home in Omaha. Ingvald died in 1975. (Martha Josephine Nicol, daughter)

IRISH FAMILY (T18-R28) Glen Irish Jr. submitted the following account. "P. J. Irish, my grandfather, brought his family from Beloit, Kansas, to Beaver Creek in Montana in 1896. My father, Glen Irish Sr., was one year old at the time and my uncle, Perry Irish, was two years old. They lived on different ranches in and around the Lewistown area until the 1920s.

"My father, Glen Irish (Sec 20), Uncle Perry (Sec 21), their sister Gladys (sec 20), and a cousin, Bill Irish (Sec 21), took out homesteads in the Dovetail area in 1917.

"My dad left the homestead and went into the Army during World War I, where he served with the U. S. Cavalry. When he returned from the Army, the Irish family moved to California for a few years in the early 1920s then moved to Washington.

"My grandfather, P. J. Irish, moved back to Montana, where he and my uncle, Bill Irish, bought the Kaaro Ranch in 1939. They lived there until the time of their deaths.

"We had a dairy farm in Washington. We moved back to Montana in the mid 1940s and settled at Fergus, Montana. My folks owned and operated the Fergus store for a few years, then moved back to the ranch until their deaths.

"My family and I live at Fergus where we are in the ranching business on my late Uncle Bob Irish's ranch. I married Esther Wright and we have five children — Dorlene, who died in 1978. Douglas, Christine, Robert, and Gary.

"My brother, Jim Irish, lives in Lewistown where he is in the real estate business, and my sister, Frances Conwell, and her husband live in California where they are retired.

"My grandfather, P. J. Irish, was born in Kansas in 1871. He married Eliza Deffinbaugh (born in Kansas in 1872) in 1893. They had six children — Perry J., Glen, Gladys, Bob, Nona, and Babe. Eliza died in 1922 and he died in 1960. They are both buried at Lewistown.


"My father, Glen Irish (born at Beloit, Kansas, in 1886)
married my mother, Lois M. Noonan (born in Illinois in 1904) in 1925. They had three children — Glen R. (1928), Frances (1930) and James (1933). Mom died in 1973 and Dad died in 1971. They are both buried at Lewistown.”

(Glen Irish Jr.)

IVERSION, Isaac (Sec 3-18-27) Isaac Iverson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Iverson, was born February 20, 1910, in Lewistown, Montana. At the age of two he and his folks went to the homestead at Dovetail. He attended the schools around Dovetail, namely Dovetail, Carroll and Conolly. The first school was in the cabin Tom first built for his family. When more people settled the area with more children, the school in the cabin was closed and two schools, Carroll and Conolly, were opened. The Carroll School was about three miles east of Iversons on Dovetail Creek, and the Conolly School was about three miles west. Teachers were not very plentiful and, for at least one year, Zell Conolly taught four months in one school and four months in the other.

The Iversons children rode horseback and attended four months at each school, since the terms were set with one school open in the fall and the other open in the spring. Ike attended Fergus High School and then went on to Montana State College for several quarters. He was county surveyor of Petroleum County for several years. He went into partnership with his father on the ranch.

Ruth Tripp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tripp of Flatwillow, was born December 24, 1920. She had attended the Upper Flatwillow School, then Winnett High School, and had just returned from one year at Iowa State College when she met Ike. (See also TRIPP — Flatwillow)

Ike and Ruth were married August 21, 1940, at her parents' home in Winnett. After a summer-long honeymoon on the West Fork of the Bitterroot River, where Ike was hired as a surveyor on a big dam, they returned to the ranch at Dovetail to make it their home.

Tom and Ike had both sheep and cattle. The sheep were summered on the Wartzenluft place and surrounding area. The Wartzenluft house was the "sheep camp" for years. The sheep were trailed over to the camp in early spring before lambing, returning home in the fall. Annette usually moved to the sheep camp to cook for the lambing crew, a job that lasted for four to five weeks. Ruth stayed at the ranch to take care of the chores and the children.

For shearing, Ruth was the chief cook and bottle washer for the crew, usually about fifteen men. One year when they went out to shear, they discovered that someone had vandalized the cook stove that they had always left there. There was absolutely nothing to cook on, so Ike made a rush trip back to the ranch for something to cook on.

The only thing he could find was a two-burner kerosene camp stove. Ruth had spent the previous week baking pies and cakes for desserts for the crew, and felt very lucky to have that taken care of, because with only two small burners, it was quite a job figuring out how to cook meat, potatoes, vegetables, and to have plenty of hot coffee ready. After that they got a propane range for cooking, and hauled it back and forth to the camp as they needed it.

Ike and his dad were very good friends and were able to work together amicably, so they had a very good partnership. After his dad died, Ike had control of the land and ran sheep and cattle in partnership with his mother.

Ike and Ruth loved to dance, and they didn't miss many of the dances around the country. They went to the Dovetail Hops, the Valentine Stomps, and the Flatwillow Bashes. At that time all these dances were well attended by the people around the area. Sometimes the crowds would be so big that the people had to move out to make room for others to dance. Believe it or not!

Ike and Ruth had five children — Lee (3-8-1942) Anne (1-23-1944), Zell (12-24-1945), Tom (3-24-1948) and Hallie (11-21-1950).

Isaac died in April 1961 and is buried in the Tripp Family Plot at Flatwillow, as he had requested while helping Mr. Tripp with some landscaping there. Ruth later married Fuller Laugeman, of Malta, and they live in Winnett. (See also LAUGEMAN — Winnett)

Isaac Lee married Marcia Neil of Townsend. They are the third generation of Iversons to live on the homestead. (See also IVERSION, Lee) Ruth Anne married Warren Weaver, who lived with his parents on the Ray Marr place. (See also WEAVER, Warren) Rozella Marie died of leukemia in July 1964. She is buried next to Ike in the Tripp Family Cemetery at Flatwillow. Tom Harry married Maureen Carpenter of Great Falls. They live in San Diego, California, and have two children, Ryan and Jennifer. Hallie Annette married Robert Schram of Glendive. They live in Billings and have two children, Randy and Kimberlee. (Ruth Iverson Laugeman)

IVERSION, Lee (Sec 3-18-27) "I, Lee Iverson, am the oldest son of Isaac and Ruth Iverson. I was born in Lewistown, Montana, and have lived all my life at the ranch on Dovetail. The ranch started during homestead days with the homestead of my grandfather, Tom Iverson, in 1912. Other homesteads were added to the
In June of 1963 I married Marcia Neild at Townsend, Montana. Since that time, we have lived on the ranch at Dovetail, continuing as the third generation of Iversons living on the original homestead of Tom Iverson.

In the later 1960s, the communities of Dovetail and Valentine decided to start running a school bus to Winnett. A few years later, the local school district was consolidated with the Winnett district. Since that time, all the kids of the Dovetail and Valentine communities have ridden the school bus to Winnett. With the coming of the school bus, there was an immediate push to get the roads upgraded so the bus could be sure to get through, so now we have a gravel road to our driveway. The winters when the roads were so clogged with snow that the only time you could use the road was when you crossed it to get to the higher ground on the other side, are now gone. Thank Goodness!

We have four children. Craig Brian (1964) graduated from MSU and is now married and living with his wife, Leslie, at the ranch. Marlee Kay graduated from MSU in the spring of 1989, where she studied fashion merchandising. Our twins, Andrea and Angela, were born Christmas Day in 1970, and graduated from Winnett High School in 1989, where they were honor students and outstanding athletes." (Lee Iverson)

**IVERTON, Tom** (Sec 3-18-27) Torbjorn Nasen was born June 2, 1872, at Vass, Norway, to Mr. and Mrs. Ivar Tvinde Nasen. He came to America in 1897 and changed his name to Tom Iverson. He came to an uncle in Iowa, then to the Teigen Ranch in Montana, to work. The Teigens had been neighbors to the Nasens in Norway.

Annette Rutieg was born April 19, 1878, in Oslo, Norway. She and her sister, Amelia, came to America in 1905, to the Swend Holland Ranch, near Lewistown, to work. The Hollands and the Rutiegts had been close neighbors in Norway.

Tom and Annette were married November 2, 1906. After they were married, they lived on a farm five miles north of Lewistown. Tom hated farming, but liked sheep, so when he found out there was good grazing in the Dovetail area, he went to check it out in 1910. He was so impressed with the Dovetail country that he fled for a homestead there at the site of the present Iverson Ranch buildings.

He trailed a band of about 1000 sheep from the Lewistown area to his homestead at Dovetail, a trip that took at least a week. He built a one-room log cabin to live in until he had time to build a larger house for his family. In 1912, he moved his wife, Annette, and two sons — Andrew at four years old and Isaac at two years — to the homestead with a team and wagon. They all moved into the one-room cabin Tom had built.

Tom was one of the first homesteaders in the Dovetail area and ran sheep there the rest of his life. He had a big well with a large pump that he got the water from for his livestock and family.

To deliver his lambs or cattle to market meant that he
had to trail them to the railroad at Roy. These trips meant a slow pace going to Roy so that the animals didn’t lose too much weight, so it took three to four days to go to Roy, but the trip home went faster. Wool was also hauled to Roy for shipment. It was hauled in large burlap bags, especially designed for the wool. The lambs and the wool were usually contracted and paid for at the loading area, but the cattle were put on the train and shipped to Chicago, where they sold for whatever that day’s price happened to be.

Iversons didn’t go to Winnett very often in the early days, because Tom picked up all the supplies needed on the trips to Roy with the livestock or the wool. When a trip to Roy took up most of a week, you can be sure he didn’t care to make any extra trips.

It took about a week to shear the sheep in the spring. In the early days the shearing was done by the neighbors, Karl and Chris Egeland, Karl Sikkvaland and Kjetl Ness. They sheared by hand. After Tom acquired the Wartzenbluft place, the sheep were moved there early in the spring where they were lambed out and later sheared. He hired a shepherder to take care of the band through the summer, and the sheep were brought back to the home place in late fall for the winter.

Annette was ‘chief cook and bottle washer’ at the sheep camp, for the lambing and shearing crews. They usually had outside crews for shearing at the Wartzenbluft place, which was located on the edge of the Missouri Breaks. Cliff and Grant Emery and crew sheared the Iverson sheep for many years.

Tom and Annette had three children — Andrew (1908), Isaac (1910) and Guri Ann (1914).

Tom died in 1947 and Annette died in 1962. They are buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery.

Andrew Iverson married Helen Wagar, who taught the Dovetail School for two years. They lived on the Myers place for several years with their children, Louise and David. They left Dovetail and moved to the Hamilton area where son Thomas was born. They came back to the Flatwillow area and leased the Clement Ranch, then later bought it. (See also IVERSON — Flatwillow)

Isaac Iverson married Ruth Tripp of the Flatwillow area and they remained on the Iverson Ranch. (See also IVERSON, Isaac)

Guri Ann Iverson married Clifford E. Cook and lived for a time on a place near Iversons. (Guri Iverson Cook and Ruth Iverson Laugeman) (See also COOK — Dovetail and Winnett)

JACKSON, Carl (Sec 26-19-27) Carl Jackson was born in Nebraska and attended school there. He came to Montana in 1913 by team and wagon with his brothers, Jim and Dennis.

Mae James, daughter of Hezekia and Maggie James, was born in 1901. She taught at the Valentine School in the early 1920s and had 24 students in a one-room schoolhouse.

Carl and Mae were married in 1924 and moved to the homestead at Dovetail. Carl was a farming enthusiast and raised cattle which were marketed in Kansas City.

Entertainment was provided by the people of the Dovetail community. Carl used to play the violin and Mae chorged on the piano. They played cards and participated in picnics which were held almost every Sunday in the summer months. They played baseball and threw horseshoes, among other things.

In the 1930s Carl built dams which made it possible for them to have water to drink as well as to irrigate part of the crops. Carl raised a beautiful orchard which furnished fruit for them for many years. Mae taught school off and on for seventeen years to help out with the place and the family.

Carl and Mae had three children. Floyd Carl Jackson (1931) is still on the ranch. He is unmarried. Lois Ann Woodard (1932) lives at Roy and runs the grocery store there. Shirley Mae Eden (1941) lives in Billings.

Carl is deceased, and Mae now lives in a retirement home in Billings. (Mae Jackson)
JACKSON, Dennis (Sec 23-19-27) Dennis "Doc" Jackson, son of John A. and Elizabeth Haley Jackson, was born in Nebraska in 1894. He came from Nebraska in 1913 with his brothers, Carl and John, and cousins, B. T. Myers and Charley Myers. They came to Montana by team and wagon, and homesteaded in the Dovetail area. Doc left for a time to serve overseas in World War I, then returned to Dovetail. In 1924 he married Inez Houts at Butte. She had been teaching in the area at the time.

After Inez's death in 1930, Doc moved back to Nebraska with his four small children so his other brothers and sisters could help him with the children. When the children were nearly grown, they moved back to Dovetail for a few years.

Doc was living with his daughter, Marcella, at the time of his death in 1965.

Marjorie Wynn is a retired school teacher, living in Woodburn, Oregon. John R. Jackson is deceased and buried at Crawford, Nebraska. Marcella Jackson is a doctor in Anchorage, Alaska. Evelyn Vogel lives with her husband on a ranch in Nebraska. (Elizabeth Myers Knapp, niece)

JACKSON, Floyd Floyd Jackson is the son of Mae and Carl Jackson, who homesteaded in the Dovetail area in 1913. He attended the Dovetail School. Some of his classmates were from the Carrell, Coffey, Garrison, Sikveland, Hanson, and Whisonant families.

Floyd is presently living on the home place, where in the 1930s they raised sheep. They went into the cattle business in the 1940s.

He is known for his mechanical abilities as he learned from reading motor magazines. (Floyd Jackson)

JACKSON, John L. (Sec 1.14-19-27) John L. "Jim" Jackson, son of John A. and Elizabeth Haley Jackson, was born in 1891 at Springfield, Nebraska. He attended Nebraska schools. Then in 1913 he came to Montana with his brothers, Carl and Dennis, and took up a homestead in the Dovetail area. Jim was a veteran of World War I.

Jim's sister and family, Alice and Elmer Cold, came out to Montana in 1952, to help Jim on his ranch. They stayed until 1957, when they moved to Lewistown. (See also COLD)

When Jim decided to retire, he sold his ranch to a nephew, John Estes, and John's wife, Vi. He returned to Nebraska and got married. His wife died in 1963, and Jim came back to Montana. He died in 1968, after a short illness, and is buried in Lewistown. (Elizabeth Myers Knapp – W.T. 1-10-68)

JEFFERY, Percy W. (Sec 1.12-18-26) Percy Jeffery was born May 11, 1882, in Rotherfield, Kent, England. He received his early education in English church schools. He served in the Royal Navy for a number of years, then decided he wanted to find a drier country. He came to Canada in 1913 and then to Montana in 1914 to take up a homestead on Crooked Creek north of Valentine.

Isabella Mansley was born April 6, 1883, in Ainstree, Liverpool, England. She was a registered nurse and ran a hospital in London during World War I. She came to Montana in 1919.

Percy and Isabella were married August 30, 1919, at Valentine and moved to Percy's homestead north of Valentine. They lived on the homestead until 1925, when they moved to a place about 1 ½ miles south and west of Ray Marr's. They lived there until the fall of 1951, when they retired and moved to Lewistown, Montana.

The following anonymous letter appeared in the Winnett Times at the time of their retirement: "Apropos of the paragraph in your last Times re Percy Jeffery, why not a few words of appreciation of Mrs. Jeffery also? She came here from England in 1919, was married in the Valentine country and has lived there ever since. There was hardly a family in the early days that she did not help with her nursing knowledge at sometime or other. Sometimes she was paid and sometimes not even thanked for her work, but those days and most of those people are of the past.

"I have known Mrs. Jeffery a long time. She served three years in World War I earning many decorations and being mentioned in dispatches. These last few years have been years of pain and suffering for her, and I hope and pray she will derive benefit and better health in this new move they are making. So wish her LUCK, she deserves it.

"This is from one who knows her well indeed." (W. T. 9-20-1951)

Percy died March 3, 1953, and Isabella died December 23, 1958. They are buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery.

Jefferys had two children. Dorothy Isabella (1920) died in 1928 and is buried at their place on Dovetail. Richard W. (1924) attended the Dovetail School through the eighth grade. He took high school courses by correspondence through the college at Missoula and graduated from Grays Range High School. He stayed at home, helping on the place and working for neighbors. He married Norma Powell from Roundup, Montana, who had come to Dovetail to teach school. After his folks retired in 1951 and moved to Lewistown. Richard and Norma moved to Roundup, where Richard got a job driving trucks for the oil rigs. They still live in Roundup and Richard is retired. They have one daughter, Deborah Susan. (Richard Jeffery)

JENSEN, Johannes (Sec 6-18-28) Johannes Jensen left Dovetail for service in World War I. He wrote back to tell of being in New York City with a contingent of soldiers when the New York papers came out with big front page headlines "MONTANA COWBOYS HAVE ARRIVED IN NEW YORK." (Ida Rigg – W. T. 3-6-1942)

His homestead was purchased by Henry Horns in 1950.

JOHNSON, Ernest The 1915 school census for District #122, Fergus County, indicate Ernest and Isa Johnson had two daughters — Florence (1898) and Josephine (1908).
JOHNSON, Fred, Henry and John  Fred and Henry Johnson had adjoining land near the Ray Marr homestead about four miles northeast of Valentine. John’s homestead was about four sections away. The three were brothers.

JONES, G. L. (W. T. 12-6-29) "Word was received here today that G. L. Jones, also known as ‘Buffalo Jones,’ of Valentine, died in a Great Falls hospital on Thanksgiving Day. He had recently been working in the mines at Hughesville, where he was taken ill and removed to Great Falls.

"Deceased was a pioneer of the West, having made three trips up the Missouri River as a cabin boy on river steamers before finally homesteading in the Valentine country in 1912. He has made his home at Valentine ever since.

"He had one son and one daughter. Both live in Seattle, Washington."

KAMRATH, Arthur (Sec 13-18-28) Arthur Kamrath was better known as "Monty Price" after a character in a book he had read. Monty rode from Hardin to Winnett in the spring of 1936, leading two saddle horses. Two weeks prior to this cross-country ride, he had made a saddle horse trade with Bill Hedman. Confidentially, Monty claimed he had won the horse in a game of Twenty-One. On arriving in Winnett, he found the Hedmans (including Bill with a cast on his leg) playing cards at the Town Tavern.

As told by Monty: "Carl mumbled after a cigar. ‘You might as well join us, as the day is shot anyway. We’ll all ride tomorrow.’ I agreed to stay and help ride, not knowing the horse we were going after was the one that had broken Bill’s leg. After a useless two weeks of riding, they decided I could take my pick of the horses, so I picked a pacer that lived for twenty-seven years.

"During the days we were hunting that special horse, they gave me a snaky, unpredictable, half-broken gelding to ride. Apparently this was to test me, as they knew I had rode a rough string in the early 1930s while working for Chappell Brothers Company of Rockford, Illinois. This company was better known as the CBC who trailed horses from Mosby to Miles City, and from Mosby to Rosebud to be shipped east on the railroad. Needless to say, their trifling form of aggravation gave me further incentive to stay."

Monty worked for many years for the Hedmans and eventually bought the Herb Killham place in the late 1930s. He ran a bunch of cattle and still worked part time for Hedmans. After about 20 years, he sold his ranch to Carl Hedman. This enabled him to buy a house in Winnett for his retirement and to remain there until his death. (Margaret Hedman) (See also KAMRATH — Winnett)

KASTNER, Robert H. "Bert" (Sec 19-18-29) Robert H. "Bert" Kastner was born in 1878 in Iowa. He came to Montana in 1902 and homesteaded in the Dovetail area in 1908. He married Inda Marks. They had four sons: John married Wilma Manuel and was killed in a hunting accident; Robert: Edward died of a self-inflicted gun shot wound; and Fred. (See KASTNER — Winnett)

Bert lived on Dovetail Creek until Inda died, then moved down on the Musselshell, where he lived until his death at home. Inda died in 1927 and Bert died in 1952.

KAUREN, Hawkins S. (Sec 30-18-28) Hawkins and Clara Kauren had four children listed in the District #169 school census for 1919, 1920, 1922. They were Roger (1-26-1904), Earl (6-9-1906), Robert (1-6-1911), and Eugene (8-22-1912).

KELLEY, Mark (Sec 15-17-26) Mark and Lettie Kelley had two children — Lucy (1901) and George (1902) — listed in the 1915 school census for District #122, Fergus County. (See also KELLEY — Blakeslee and Teigen)

KILLHAM, Clement C. (Sec 13-18-28) Clement C. "Noisy" Killham, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Killham, was born in Ault, Colorado on August 21, 1906. He came to Dovetail with his family in 1917. He married Myrtle Johnson in 1927. They moved to the Old Samples Cross-Ranch on the Judith River in 1938. They had seven children: James and Clayton of Lewistown, Montana; Joseph of Miles City, Montana (Joe was manager of Montana Lumber and Hardware Company at Winnett for several years); Anna M. Goladay of Orofina, Idaho; Beverly Kerr of Lewistown; Betty Killham and Barbara Grindheim of Danvers, Montana.

Clem died January 15, 1978 and is buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery. (See also KILLHAM — Winnett)

KILLHAM, Herbert (Sec 13-18-28) Herbert Killham was born August 29, 1884, at Weldon, Colorado. He came to Dovetail with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Killham, and family. He filed for a homestead in 1917, where the James Killham family also lived. Herbert was a World War I veteran. (Taft Killham, brother)

"Herbert Killham, one of the four Killham brothers who were overseas, tells about breaking horses for the cavalry officers in Germany. Herb rode 'em before the officers all right, but when the mount was turned over to the officer, it was different — Let 'er Buck!" (Ida Rigg — W. T. 3-6-1942)
Garrison. was born September 15, 1913, at Hominy, Oklahoma. She came to Dovetail with her parents in 1916. (See also GARRISON)

Robert and Lula were married December 22, 1934. In 1938 they moved to Fairfield, Montana. In 1950 they moved to Seattle, Washington, where Bob worked for the Boeing Company until he retired in 1961 and they returned to Winnett. They had no children.

Robert had one daughter by a former marriage — Audrey Hegge of Kirkland, Washington.

Lula died in 1963 and is buried at Winnett. Robert died In 1973 and is buried in Lewistown City Cemetery.

KILLHAM, Sidney L. (Sec 24-18-28) Sidney Killham, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Killham, was born in 1892 in Weldona, Colorado. He attended school in Colorado. He filed on a homestead near Dovetail in 1917. He served in the Army in World War I. He returned to Lewistown, Montana, and on May 2, 1921, married Caroline Lewis. They lived at Danvers, Montana, until 1945, then moved to a ranch east of Denton, Montana. In 1960 they moved to Lewistown.

They had four children — Sidney (Seltzad) of Winifred, Montana; Viola (Donaldson) of Denton; Hazel of Lewistown and George of Moccasin.

Sid died December 13, 1975, at Lewistown and is buried in the Lewistown Cemetery.

KILLHAM, Wilford L. (Sec 7-18-29) Wilford Killham was born at Greeley, Colorado, on October 22, 1888. He came to the Dovetail area in 1917 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Killham, and family. He was named "Champion Amateur Bronc Rider of the World" at the Cheyenne, Wyoming Rodeo in 1915. He was crippled later at a rodeo at Greeley, Colorado. He had one daughter, Wanelda. He died in March of 1964 and is buried at Miles City, Montana.

"I saw Bill Killham trudge off to war with a cow skull painted on his satchel, with the words 'Hook Em Cow,' inscribed on it. They'd know he was a real Montana cowboy all right." (Ida S. Rigg — W. T. 3-6-42)

KISKA, Vendell Vendell and Catheron Kiska left Czechoslovakia in 1905 and came to the United States. They moved from Mississippi to Wisconsin and finally to Montana. They settled west of Valentine on the Spirloff place.

They had seven children — Anna (1895), Emily (1898), Mary (1900), John (1902), Margaret (1905), Vendell (1906), and Andrew (1908).

Mary Kiska married Ilio Phillips, who had a homestead just east of Valentine. (See also PHILLIPS)

KRAFDEN, Egnatius (Sec 19-20-27) Egnatius Krafden was born in Odessa, Russia. He settled north of Crooked Creek and south of the Wartzenlauft place after coming over from Russia. He had been herding sheep for many years and was working for Tom Iverson when he died. Brooding over his ill health and conditions in Russia, he committed suicide with a 30-06 rifle. His body was
found by Vane Phillips in the cabin he was living in at Iversons. He died in October 1941 and is buried at Lewistown.

LAMBERT, Edward G. (Sec 29-18-25) Edward G. and Anna Lambert and family moved from Indiana to Montana about the same time as the Clifford Clark family. They lived about nine miles southwest of Valentine. Their holdings were later acquired by Clifford Clark.

The Lamberts had three children — Elsie, Clarence and Hartley. Hartley had homesteaded about three miles east of his parents. Elsie married Leonard Martz. (See also MARTZ)

LANE, William E. (Sec 22-17-27) William E. Lane, son of Peter and Mary Elizabeth Lane, was born November 6, 1870, in West Plains, Missouri. He came to Butte, Montana, from Missouri in a covered wagon in 1892. He homesteaded in the Valentine area in 1898 and was one of the earliest settlers of that area.

In 1906 he got the bid on the first mail route between Valentine and Edgewater (known now as the Forbes Leslie Ranch).

Blanche May Long was born in 1886 in Woodland, Washington. She and William were married in Lewistown in 1912. They had five children — Peter, Elwin, Homer, Franklin and Nettie — all born at Valentine.

They lived on the homestead for many years before moving to Winnett. William helped with spring lambing at the Wiggins Ranch near Flatwillow for several years. In early spring of 1952 he moved back to the homestead alone. He died of a heart attack on June 4, 1952, at his cabin. He was buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery. Blanche Long died in 1967 and is buried in Woodland, Washington. (Franklin Lane, son)

LEROY, Charley (Sec 25-19-27) Charley Leroy was a bachelor, a mysterious and secretive fellow. He left his cabin every spring, returning to it late every fall. If there was a stranger at the post office, Charley would hide around the hill until the stranger left. He would then come in after his mail and ask who it was and what he wanted.

Sometimes he would mention Chicago gangsters or G-men from Chicago. One such time was on a late fall day. He came after his accumulation of summer mail and remarked that he thought the Chicago gangsters had him for sure that morning. When asked why, he told of putting some eggs on to boil. When the water got hot, they started popping just like a bunch of shots. He was very indignant at the neighbors who had guaranteed the eggs to be fresh when sold to him in the spring, just before he left for the summer. He insisted he had put them in a cool place so they should have been okay if they had been fresh to start with.

One fall in the late 1940s he didn’t return. Word came from up north of a mysterious drowning and all that was found was the name Charley Leroy in the pocket of his clothes. (Marguerite Coffey Cook — W. T. 7-16-64)

LEWIS, Andrew Andrew and Emma Lewis lived east of Valentine. They had one son, Andrew E., born in 1901. (W. T. 1-2-25) "Andy E. Lewis and Florence Mae Messenger were married in Lewistown December 16th. The groom is son of Mrs. Emma Lewis and the bride is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milo Messenger. The couple are well known in eastern Fergus County and will make their home on his mother’s place east of Valentine."

LEWIS, Bernard Bernard Lewis, son of William and Jenny Lewis, was born in 1906 in Albia, Iowa. He came to Valentine with his brother and parents in 1912.

Bernard tells the story of how he saw Montana for the first time. "I had been seeing long passenger trains and 100-car freight trains going at high speeds through our town of Albia all my life. They were headed from Chicago, Illinois, to Denver, Colorado, on the Burlington route. You could hear the whistles for eight miles.

"My first view of Montana country looked to me to be a land of cutbanks, many colored buttes, sage brush, and buffalo grass prairies. Valentine was very small, and the country didn’t look like Iowa. It seemed very vast and open."

Bernard and Ronald stayed on the homestead and farmed until the dry years of the 1930s made them decide to leave the Valentine area. Bernard and his mother moved to a ranch east of Lewistown, Montana, known as the Welingart place. In 1959 he married Ethel Kerns and they have one daughter, Monica. Bernard and Ethel still reside on a part of the ranch just east of Lewistown. (Bernard Lewis)

LEWIS, Marvin (W. T. 12-9-21) "Last Friday at Lewistown, Lucy Kelley and Marvin Lewis were married. They are well liked in this community and everybody wishes them a long and happy life. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis had a dance last Saturday night in honor of the newlyweds." (See also LEWIS — Blakeslee)

LEWIS, Ronald Ronald Lewis, son of William and Jenny Lewis, was born in 1903 in Albia, Iowa. He came to Valentine with his brother and parents in 1912. He farmed with Bernard, his brother, on the farm at Valentine for many years. They acquired quite a bit of land as other homesteaders gave up and left for other areas. In 1922 they purchased a new Fordson tractor and later bought a used one, to be able to farm more acres.

In the dry 1930s the Lewis brothers decided to leave Valentine. They leased land in the Snowy Mountains in 1936, but by 1938, after the dry years, they found that crops no longer matured so near the mountains. Ronald, who by now had married Helen Houseal, leased the Houseal Ranch near Casino Creek. (Bernard Lewis)

LEWIS, William H. (Sec 35-18-26) William H. Lewis and wife, Anne Jane "Jenny" came from Albia, Iowa, in 1912, to take up a homestead at Blood Creek about four miles east of Valentine. William and Jenny Lewis traveled by Burlington Railroad from Albia, Iowa, to Judith Gap
junction which was the end of the line. With them were their two sons — Ronald aged nine, and Bernard aged six — and Mrs. Lewis’ father, Archie Sinclair.

After many weary days on the train, they finally arrived at Judith Gap junction, where they changed to the Jawbone Line to go to Lewistown. John and Robert Sinclair, Mrs. Lewis’ brothers, met them at Lewistown. After a few days rest in Lewistown, the men loaded the Lewis’ belongings and supplies in the Sinclair wagon drawn by a four-horse team, and they started off to their new home about eighty miles east. After better than two days, they finally arrived at the John Sinclair homestead.

William staked out a flat area near the Sinclair homesteads. He wanted land that looked as much like Iowa as possible. To make it legal, he had to go back to Lewistown to file on it as his homestead. He completed their cabin in 1913.

Mrs. Lewis was a school teacher and taught her sons at home until the Long School was constructed in 1914. There were many homesteaders in the area by then so now the children had a new school to attend.

William and Jenny Lewis and their family continued to ranch and farm on their homestead. They enjoyed their work, their neighbors, their community, and above all “life” in the homestead years.

William Lewis died in 1930 at his homestead. Jenny Lewis continued to farm the homestead with her sons until about 1936, when she moved with her son, Bernard, to the Lewistown country and spent the rest of her life there. (Bernard Lewis, son)

**LIND, Clyde** Clyde Lind was a brother of Mrs. Paul Hagen. He served in the horse brigade in France in World War I. He lived on the Newman place near Dovetail for a few years, then moved to the Valentine area where he ran horses.

Clyde married Mrs. Addie Bevis in 1926, and they made their home at Valentine for several years.

(W. T. 6-2-1927) “Clyde Lind was in from the Valentine country last Tuesday. He drove a four-horse team hitched to a wagon. Arriving at Buffalo Creek he found it nearly bank full. He remembered the days when he swam artillery horses through the rivers in France, so with a shout and a crack of the whip, he sent the team plunging in. After swimming about a block downstream, the team made shore with Clyde and the wagon not much worse for the swim.

“Clyde stated that it looked like forty bushel to the acre in the Valentine country, and that he may yet go to Paris with the American Legion next fall.”

The Linds left the Valentine country and went to the west coast for several years, then came back to Cat Creek and to Winnett where they lived about 15 years. (Les Bevis)

**LOESCH, George** (Sec 23, 25, 26-18-27) George Loesch was born in Columbus, Indiana, in 1886. He came from Indiana where his family had a tin shop. He worked on road jobs at the time roads were built with teams of horses.

Mary Chaffin was born March 8, 1867. She came as a small child with her parents in a covered wagon from Missouri to Park City, Montana. She was married to Fred West and they had one child, Everett West, born in Park City (9-19-1891). Fred West died at Fromberg, Montana, in 1901 and is buried there.

Mrs. West worked as a cook on a number of road crews. She met George Loesch on one of these jobs, and they were married in 1914. They moved to Dovetail when the country was opened for homesteading and picked out a place for themselves probably in 1914.

They were a hard-working couple and ran cattle, sheep and some horses. They always had time for a cup of coffee and a visit if neighbors came by, or if a young cowboy stopped for a drink of cold water from the well for himself and his horse. They remained at the ranch at Dovetail until their ill health forced them to move to Winnett in 1946. They turned over the operation of the ranch to Curt West, their grandson.

George Loesch died in 1949 and Mary died in 1950. They are buried at the Winnett Cemetery.

Curtis West inherited Loesch’s ranch and ran it for several years before selling it to Robert Weingart. (Ethel West Peters, granddaughter)

**LONG, Charley W.** (Sec 35-18-26) Charley W. and Anne Long came to the Dovetail area in 1913. They had been neighbors of the William Lewis family and of the John and Robert Sinclair families in Iowa.

Charley, being an accomplished horseman, decided to make the trip with three covered wagons pulled by two teams of large draft horses and one team of large mules. He drove the lead team himself and got two venturesome young men (David Craft and Charley Major) to drive the others.

They came by way of Jordan, crossed the Musselshell River at Mecaha, then up the 79 freight trail to Valentine.
As they came down out of the Valentine hills and approached the flat lands, they saw three men, William Lewis and sons, digging postholes. Charley drove the wagon up to them and said, "Hiya Bill. So this is the Promised Land. It sure is beautiful grassland."

Longs picked a homestead close by, just south of Blood Creek, and built their home there. They gave land to build the first schoolhouse, which was known as the Long School, District #168. The school was finished in the spring of 1914, just in time for a dance on the eve of St. Patrick's Day. Charley also helped lay out the roads in the area. In 1922-23 Longs sold their homestead and livestock and moved to the growing town of Winnett. They owned a hotel building and a livery stable in Winnett for many years.

Charley and Anne had six children — Blanch, Pearl, Myrtle, Lloyd, Maggie, and Susan. Lloyd was killed in a riding accident in his teens. The other children married and are living in other places in Montana. Charley, Anne, and Lloyd are all buried in the Winnett Cemetery. (Bernard Lewis)

**LONT, Edwin** (Sec 35-18-27) Ed Lont and his wife, Maggie, lived close to the Lon Turner place. They had no children. They moved back to the Lewistown area and Ed herded sheep for ranchers around that area for many years. They both passed away and are buried at Lewistown. (Myrtle J. Lefferts, niece)

**LUND, Kjestine** (Sec 34-19-26) Kjestine Lund was born in Denmark in 1890. When she was twenty-one, she came with her brother Peter to the home of her dad's cousin in Iowa. The cousin helped her find work. She worked as a hired girl on farms in Iowa. The farms where she worked usually had a sickly person to care for.

In 1912 she and Peter heard about the free land in Montana, so they left Iowa to come to Montana. They found land in the Valentine area. Peter built a house and Kjestine stayed with him and did the cooking and washing for six months out of a year. During the other six months, she would work for wages either on the Dengel Ranch near Grassrange or in a boarding house called Huffman's in Lewistown. Peter fenced Kjestine's homestead for her and broke up the required number of acres in exchange for her help.

After five years, when the homestead became her own, Kjestine went to Kansas City and to California to work. She worked as a maid for rich people. She told about the little cap she wore and of eating in the kitchen away from the family.

When she was about forty-five years old, she went to work as a cook at the Masonic Home in Helena. She retired from that job after twenty years.

Kjestine loved to travel. She made at least nine trips back to her native Denmark. Sometimes she would take side trips which took her to many of the countries in Europe.

After her retirement she made her home with her sister Nikoline and brother-in-law, Ray Marr. During this time she resumed her hobby of painting landscapes. She also learned china painting for an additional hobby, giving away her plates to her many friends. She also enjoyed growing flowers.

Kjestine remained active until about five months before her death, when it became necessary for her to go to a nursing home. She passed away shortly before her 96th birthday in 1986. She kept her land until her death. It is now leased to Monte Lund (no relation). (Gunda Silveland Lewis)
LUND, Lars (Sec 25-19-26) Lars Lund, youngest brother of Peter Lund, Kjestine Lund and Nikoline Marr, was born in 1899 and came to the United States from Denmark in 1919. His older brother, Kristian, had returned home from World War I. Lars was not needed on the family farm. Kjestine, his sister, was home for a visit, so Lars decided to go back to America with her. At this time, Kjestine was employed in Kansas City, Kansas. Kjestine worked as a maid for well-to-do people at this time. Lars found employment in a factory. Between factory jobs he came west to visit his sister, Nikoline, and to work for his brother-in-law, Ray Marr, during harvest. At one time, he had decided to go back to Denmark, but a stroke of fate prevented him from doing this. He was robbed of the money he had saved, so he had to stay and work longer in Kansas City.

After some years of working, he decided to buy some land near Ray Marr's place. He bought a small tract and began farming in 1926.

In 1929 Miss Nora Kinsella, born in 1903, came from Minot, North Dakota to teach the Dovetail School. She boarded at Tom Iverson's. She met Lars at Iverson's. Helen Wagar, the teacher Nora replaced, and Andrew Iverson had just been married. Kjestine and Lars Lund came to visit them. Consequently, Lars and Nora were introduced and began keeping company. Nora continued to teach at Dovetail, and in the spring of 1931 she and Lars were married in Lewistown.

After Nora married Lars, she was not permitted to teach school at the Dovetail School, so she taught the Rice School on Blood Creek.

Farming was not very profitable during the 1930s, so Lars sold his farm to Ray Marr in 1939 and resettled at Kinsey, Montana. Nora started teaching the Kinsey School in 1944 and taught there for the next twenty-five years. In 1969 they sold their place at Kinsey and bought a house in Miles City, Montana. Lars passed on in 1976. Nora still lives alone in her house in Miles City. (Gunda Sikveland Lewis)

LUND, Monte (Sec 1,14-19-27) Fred and Agnes Bauman came to Montana in 1907. They arrived at Hinsdale on the train. They had an uncle in the area and stayed with him for awhile. They lived in various parts of the state before coming to the ranch 20 miles east of Roy, Montana, in 1913. They homesteaded there. They had two children, Harold and Alice. Harold Bauman never married and still lives at the home ranch.

Alice married Gus Lund in 1927. They had one son, Monte. Gus died in 1929. In 1934 Alice married Earl Adams and lived on the Musselshell River. They had one daughter, Dolly. Alice and the children later returned to the home ranch.

In 1959 Monte Lund rented the Jim Jackson place on Dovetail Creek and lived there for five years. In 1962 they bought the Eldon Phillips place in the Valentine area.

In 1961 Monte married Donna Williams, who was teaching at Valentine. They have two children. Ty is working on the ranch with his folks. Terrena married Jim Young. They worked for Earl Brady for several years and are now near Big Timber. (See also YOUNG — Brush Creek)

Fred died in the late 1940s. Agnes passed away in 1966. Alice died in August of 1986. The home ranch has been in the family for 75 years and four generations. Over the years they neighbored with the people of the Valentine and Dovetail area. They often did business in Winnett and participated in many events in Petroleum County. (Donna Lund)

LUND, Peter (Sec 34-19-26) Peter Lund, born in Denmark in 1888, came from Denmark in 1911 to the home of his father's cousin in Iowa. In 1912 he and his sister heard about the free land in Montana, so they left Iowa to come to Montana. They picked out homesteads about half way between Valentine and Dovetail. Peter built a house and Kjestine stayed with him, doing all the cooking and washing.

In 1928 Pete married Dorothy Rice (1904), daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rice. (See also RICE — Ashley)

Around 1935 they moved from Dovetail to Sand Point, Idaho, where they raised their family and remained for the rest of their lives.

They had seven children — Pete Jr., Dorothy, Evelyn (deceased), Rita, Jerry, Ray and Rodney. Jerry drowned and Ray lives in Alaska, but the other four live in Idaho or Washington. (Gunda Sikveland Lewis)

**MARINOFF, Chris** Chris Marinoff was born in 1895 in Bulgaria. He and his brother came to homestead in the Valentine country in 1913. His brother returned to Bulgaria. Chris was naturalized in 1920.

Elzie Boneff came from Bulgaria, with her brother when she was fifteen. They met their father in Waterloo, Iowa, where he had come several years before.

Chris Marinoff ordered Elzie as a bride from a mail-order catalog. Elsie took a train to Harlowton and Chris met the train. They were married at Harlowton, took the train to Lewistown, then walked out to Chris' homestead near Valentine. Shortly after she filed on a nearby homestead, they moved to Great Falls where Chris worked in the smelter. They had three children born in Great Falls — Rose Mary (died shortly after birth), Ben and June. When June was a baby they returned to the homestead.

Elzie’s father, Ben Boneff, and brother, Yrdan Boneff, came from Waterloo and filed on adjoining homesteads.

Chris raised sheep for several years. They moved into the Greyhairs house which had three rooms and two cellars. There were four more children born to the family — Martha, Jim, Joe, and Janie. These babies were all born at the ranch with the help of Mrs. Shaughnessy, who was a midwife.

The children went to a country school 2½ miles away. Ben, June, Martha, Jim and Joe went to Winnet High School, and Janie went to Roy High School.

Chris went to work for the railroad at Winnett in 1946, then transferred to Lewistown, Montana, where he was hit by a train and killed in 1951.

Elzie continued to live with her boys on the ranch almost until her death in 1986.

Ben served four years in the armed services during World War II, then returned to the ranch where he, Jim and Joe still live. None of the boys ever married. June lived with her husband, Don Conolly, at Valentine until after Don’s death. She now lives in Lewistown. She had four children. (See also CONOLLY) Martha lived in Great Falls, then the Fort Benton area. She has five children. Janie lives in Tacoma, Washington, and she has three children. (June Marinoff Conolly, daughter)

Arlee Conolly Richards wrote this about her grandmother: "My grandmother, Elsie Marinoff, gardened, canned and preserved all the family's food. One of my fondest memories is of her root cellar chock-full of food. I can still see her six-foot braids of onions hanging there."

**MARR, Frank** (Sec 30-19-27) Frank Marr came from Utica, Nebraska. He had been around Lewistown working as a timekeeper for "Pick-handle" Burke. His brother Ray and he decided to take up a homestead. (See also MARR. Ray) Ray Marr said the first year that he and his brother batched on the homestead, they ate 400 pounds of sugar. Besides all of that sugar, they also ate a lot of molasses. They would have molasses pie for dessert. When asked how he made the pie, Ray said with molasses and cornstarch baked in a pie shell.

While Frank was on the homestead he met Ione McDougall whose family also came from Nebraska to homestead. Ione and Frank were married in Butte in 1917. After a while, Frank and Ione moved to Lewistown. Frank owned and operated the Empire Cigar Store until he retired. Frank and Ione had two children — Frank S. Marr, now of Sun City, Arizona; and Betty Jane (Dowler) who died in 1983.

Frank's homestead was bought by Ray Marr and is now in the Warren Weaver Ranch. Frank and Ione both passed away within one month of each other in 1969.
MARR, Ray (Sec 31-19-27) Ray Marr was born to Bill and Lauren Marr in Utica, Nebraska. He was one of six boys. He went to grade school in Utica and worked on the family farm.

In 1912 he came to Montana. His brother Frank Marr was already in Montana. They decided to take up a homestead. They went to Grassrange and a man there offered to locate them. After they were located they went back to Nebraska. In the spring of 1913 they brought in an emigrant car full of machinery and other necessities. Ray remembered that his mother sent a bushel basket of homemade buns with them on the train.

Nikoline Lund was born in Denmark. She came to Iowa in 1913 to a cousin of her father's. She worked as a hired girl in Iowa for a year. Her brother Peter Lund, who had a homestead in the Valentine country, wrote to her about homesteading. Nikoline and her sister Kjestine decided to get a homestead near their brother, Peter. Nikoline came to Montana in 1914. She proved up on a homestead and also worked as a hired girl on the Dangel Ranch and as a hired girl for different people in Lewistown. When she worked on the Dangel Ranch, she had to cook for 24 people, besides doing the washing for the current schoolteacher. She and the schoolteacher shared a cabin on the ranch. Because she homesteaded near where Frank and Ray Marr had a homestead, she soon met Ray. Ray and Nikoline were married in Lewistown on October 23, 1916.

Ray and Nikoline built a fine ranch on Dovetail Creek. Their ranch included the homesteads of Ray and Frank Marr, Nikoline, and Peter Lund. Monte Lund (no relation) leases Kjestine's homestead.

The Marrs lived on Dovetail Creek until 1950. At this time they leased their place to Torger Sikveland and moved to a smaller place on Casino Creek out of Lewistown. They continued to live there until 1970. In the fall of 1970 they moved into Lewistown.

Ray and Nikoline lived long active lives. Ray passed away February 28, 1988, four days before his 97th birthday. Nikoline at age 96 is still living in her home.

Roy Weaver bought the Marr place in 1960 and later sold it to his son Warrren. Warren and his family make their home on the property. (Gunda Sikveland Lewis)

MARSH, Clifford and Samuel (Sec 27-18-25) Clifford Marsh and his father, Samuel, homesteaded seven or eight miles south of Valentine on Sage Creek. Two brothers, Otto and Raymond, also homesteaded nearby.

Clifford and his wife, Opal, had two sons and two daughters. One of the daughters, Irene, married Webb Stephens. Opal, now widowed, lives at Livingston, Montana.

MARSH, Otto (Sec 33-18-25) Little is known about Otto Marsh. The following clipping demonstrates just one more problem faced by the homesteaders.

(W.T. 6-24-21) "On Monday of this week, a lost ad was inserted in the Times for a white-faced, bay gelding, by Otto Marsh of Valentine. Tuesday evening, Carl Bjorhus met a short, heavy-set man, about 38 years of age, wearing good clothes with a white collar, and with a six shooting gun on his hip. This was south of Jitney near Smith Crossing and Box Elder Creek.

"The horse he rode corresponded to the description of the bay gelding advertised by Marsh. The man stopped Bjorhus and asked him several irrupted questions as to where he was going, what he was doing, and where had he come from. He was also driving three other saddle horses ahead of him, all of which were lathered from the terrific speed he was driving them. He stated that he had to make thirty miles the other side of Moishby that night, but Bjorhus was of the opinion that from the condition of the horses he would be unable to do so.

"Inasmuch as Winnett has not been selected as a point for a deputy sheriff, and it was impossible to get telephonic connection with Lewistown, no action was taken.

"It would seem that the sheriff of the county should appoint a resident deputy to be located in Winnett to handle such rush affairs in the eastern part of the county. The way things now stand, a horse thief could hit the North Dakota line before there would be any possibility of getting the proper authorities on his trail."

MARSH, Raymond (Sec 27-18-25) Raymond Marsh and his wife, Viola, lived on Sage Creek near the homesteads of his brothers and his father. They had one son, Verle, who lives in South Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Marsh

MARSHALL, Richard (See TWO CROW RANCH)

MARTZ, Leonard R. (Sec 30-18-25) Leonard R. Martz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Franz Martz, was born in 1891 at Le Roy, Minnesota. He homesteaded with his folks in 1913. He served in World War I. In 1921 he married Elsie Lambert, daughter of a neighboring homesteader, and they moved to Olympia, Washington. They had two children, Ann Chadwick and Merle Martz. (Lewistown Daily News — 10-10-65)
MATHESON, John (Sec 26,27-20-27) John Matheson was the first settler on the place now known as the Horse Camp on Crooked Creek. Roy Hanson went into partnership with him. They were both horsemen and ran horses. Roy bought the place later. In 1932 or 1933 John Hedman bought the horse camp property. (Henry Hedman)

McBRIDE, Eli (Sec 28,29-18-27) Eli and Blanche McBride homesteaded in the Dovetail area in about 1914. Blanche was a sister of Mrs. Chris Egeland. They had 12 children. They moved from Dovetail to the Forestgrove area, probably in 1919.

In the Dovetail-Valentine school census for 1917 and 1918 were found the names of four of the children: Dolores born in March of 1912; Fay born in April of 1913; Byron born in May of 1914; and Dona born in March of 1917. (See also McALLISTER — Winnett)

Mrs. McBride died in 1962, and Mr. McBride moved to the Havre area. (Clara Egeland Hill, niece)

McDONALD, Augustus (Sec 23,24-17-26) Augustus McDonald married Jennie Tunnicliff, daughter of Henry and Ellen Tunnicliff, in 1907. In 1917 they bought a place north of Winnett, next to Charley and Pete Tunnicliff, Jennie’s brothers. (See also TUNNICLIFF — Ashley) They moved from the homestead to California in about 1932.

They had six children — Mabel (1908), Pauline (1910), Margaret (1912), Ruth (1916), Helen (1921) and Ronald (1925). (Mary Ida Gill, niece)

McDOUGALL, Katie H. Katie H. McDougall came from Nebraska with her three children, Ione (9-21-1894), Dewey (6-2-1899) and Harry (10-9-1893) and homesteaded on the ridge above Valentine, across the road from Nikoline, Kiestine, and Peter Lunds’ places.

Ione McDougall married Frank Marr in Butte, Montana, in 1917. Frank and Ione both died in 1969. (See also MARR) (Gunda Sikveland Lewis)

McENEaney, T. B. (Sec 6-17-25) T. B. McEneaney lived ten miles west of Valentine on the old south Roy-Valentine road. Mr. McEneaney’s place is now part of the Southworth Ranch. T. B.’s brother, William, lived on Box Elder near the Staff School.

McFARREN, Otto (Sec 33-18-27) Otto McFarren was born May 7, 1888. In Nebraska. In 1914 he came to Grassrange on an immigrant train. He filed for a homestead south of Dovetail.

Margaret Johnson was born June 23, 1896, in La Follette, Tennessee. She came to Grassrange in 1914 with her parents and grandparents when she was eighteen. She filed on an unproved claim in 1916 near Yellow Water. Her family went back to Tennessee in 1917.

Otto and Margaret met in Hilger where Otto was working on a threshing crew, and Margaret was working in a cafe. They were married July 4, 1917.

Otto and Margaret had seven children — Edith, Ethel, Elin, Esther, Evelyn, Chester Carl, and Floyd Robert. Esther was the first baby born (November 5, 1924) in the new Petroleum County.

McFarren’s homestead was at the base of the Dovetail-Valentine Ridge on the south, on the Dovetail road to Winnett. The hill to the top of the ridge was a tough one when muddy or icy, so many times Otto had to take his team of horses and pull people up the hill. This hill is still known as the McFarren hill.

One cold bitter morning, about 25 below, Mr. McFarren jumped out of bed and started up the fires, put a big teakettle of water on to heat, then went back to bed to wait for the house to warm up. After a time, they heard an odd noise, sort of a splat-hiss, so they got up to see where the noise came from. They found that as the water in the teakettle boiled, the steam had risen to the ceiling and formed icicles. As the house warmed the icicles were melting and the water drops were falling back on the stove!

Edith attended the Dovetail School for one year and the Long School for one year before her folks left the Dovetail area. They moved to Winnett for one year, then to Yellow Water for a time where the children went to the Stroup School, then back to Winnett.

Mrs. McFarren worked for a time at the Leader Hotel, then leased the hotel for three years. (The story is told when the first train came to Winnett in 1917 the hotel was full, so they hung a blanket between the beds to divide the room and then charged $3.00 for each bed.)

Otto helped build a road from Winnett to Mosby across the Musselshell River, using teams of horses. When the bridge across the river was built, a dance was held on the bridge as an opening celebration.

They left Petroleum County in 1936 and moved to Shepherd, Montana. Otto died July 23, 1976. Margaret lives with her daughter, Evelyn Lile, in Billings, Montana. Ethel and Esther have both passed away. Edith McFarren Hunter lives at Shepherd. Elin McFarren Wambolt lives in Billings; Carl McFarren and Floyd McFarren both live in Billings, also. (Floyd McFarren, son) (See also JOHNSON — Flatwillow; McFARREN — Flatwillow and Winnett)

McGUIRE, Perry A. (Sec 21,22-18-27) Perry McGuire homesteaded in the Dovetail area about 1917 or 1918. He sold out his holdings and left in about 1923. About a
year later, he returned, bought farm machinery, livestock, and additional land adjoining his homestead. He had intended farming on a larger scale than he previously attempted.

Mr. McGuire died in the fire of his log cabin home in 1926. He had attached a frame kitchen to the log cabin. The fire evidently started in the frame addition and trapped him in the cabin. Karl Sikveland was working in a field nearby and tried to break into the log cabin to rescue him, but was unable to get through the walls to help. Mr. McGuire is buried at Winnett.

McKENNA, Paul Paul and Sue McKenna were married in May of 1981. Paul was from the Jordan area, and Sue was born and raised in Miles City, Montana. They moved to Petroleum County in 1981 when Paul was employed by the Nebraska Feeding Company on Flatwillow Creek. Nebraska Feeding Company was a big steer operation until it was purchased by John Greytak and converted to farming.

In January of 1983 Paul and Sue moved to the Gardner Angus Ranch, north of Winnett on the Dovetail road. In September of 1983, Sue was employed as the clerk of the Winnett School District and worked there for four years until July of 1987, when their daughter, Chelsea Anne, was born.

Just before Chelsea’s birth, Paul and Sue moved to the Two Cow Ranch in the Dovetail area where Paul works as a ranch hand and Sue remains home with Chelsea. (Sue McKenna)

McLAUGHLIN, Harry Harry McLaughlin married Ella Murphy, a sister of Joe and Andrew Murphy. They lived four miles west of Valentine on the north Roy-Valentine road.

MESSENGER, Franklin H. Franklin “Frank” H. Messenger was born in 1884 at Fort Scott, Kansas. Delila Rebecca “Helen” Covert was born in 1889 at Fort Scott, Kansas. Frank and Helen were married in 1905. In about 1912 they set out for Montana and homesteaded near Valentine.

They had two daughters — Dorothy (Bevis), born in Kansas in 1906; and Irene (Potter), born in Fergus County in 1909. The girls attended school near Valentine. Irene Messenger Potter reminisced:

“Mail was delivered by a man with a horse and buggy to our mailbox, which was on the main road near our house. The mailman would also deliver groceries and supplies to us. For most of the supplies, my folks would go with team and wagon to either Roy or Winnett. In 1925 the folks got a Whippet, so then we could go by car for the groceries, and even made trips to Lewistown.

“My folks continued to ranch for many years. Frank Messenger died in 1946 and Helen died in 1976. They are both buried at Lewistown.”

MESSENGER, Milo Milo and Elsie Messenger lived about three miles northwest of Valentine, and were community leaders. Milo and Frank were brothers. Milo and Elsie had two children — Russell (1903) and Florence (1907). Florence married Andy Lewis and they now live in Washington.

MINTER, E. P. E. P. Minter lived on the Crooked Creek drainage northwest of Valentine. Mr. Minter had gone to the Alaska Gold Rush and told a very interesting tale of his experiences there. Mr. and Mrs. Minter had no children.

The Winnett Times of July 15, 1921, tells of a neighbor’s experience in “coming through the rye”:

“Minter, who lives on a ranch six miles north of Valentine, has a 200 acre field of rye planted last fall on summer fallow. More than a week ago the rye stood taller than Minter, who stands more than six feet in his socks.

“One of his neighbors went to call on Minter, and as the rye field stood directly in his path, he decided to cut across it, as he later related, but after making his way for a considerable time, found he was unable to see in any direction. The day being cloudy, he wandered around until dark.

“The following morning, his wife, becoming worried over his absence, started out in search of her husband. Not finding any trace of him at his intended destination of the previous afternoon, she sought the aid of neighbors who found his tracks where he had entered the field but no trace of where he left it. A few lusty shouts were answered by the lost man within, who was then rescued by men on horseback.”

MORRISON, J. V. J. V. Morrison, also known as “Ham,” lived on the Crooked Creek-Blood Creek Divide, about seven miles northwest of Valentine. Through the Montgomery Ward ads, J. V. ordered a wife. She left him the day after their wedding dance at Valentine.

MYERS, Benjamin T. (Sec 27-19-27) B. T. “Tiff” Myers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Myers, was born December 4, 1892, in Salem, Indiana. He received his education in Indiana. He came to Montana in 1913 by team and wagon from Nebraska, and took up a homestead in the Dovetail area. He left for a time to serve in World War I, then returned to Dovetail.

Lillian Cooper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cooper, was born February 12, 1912, at Giltedge, Montana. She received her schooling in Valentine and Lewistown and spent her early life in the Valentine area.

“Tiff” and Lil were married August 10, 1931, at Lewistown. They lived on his homestead until 1948, when they sold the ranch and moved to Winnett and bought and ran “Tiff’s Bar” in the historic Hover building. They ran the bar until 1958 when they retired and moved to Lewistown.

The couple had three sons — Roy of Winnett, Lee of McAllister, Montana, and Paul of Harlem, Montana.

Lil also had one son by a previous marriage, Earl E. Atkinson of Edmonds, Washington.

NELSON, Margaret (Sec 18-18-28) Peyton and Margaret Nelson had two children listed in the District #169 school census in 1919. They were Peyton (1-19-1914) and Elma (8-5-1917).

NESS, Kjetl (Sec 9-18-27) Kjetl Ness was born in Norway. He came to the United States in 1913 and homesteaded in the Dovetail area. He sold his homestead to Tom Iverson when he went off to World War I. Karl Sikveland bought the Ness homestead from Iversons in 1919.

Kjetl came back to Dovetail after the war and bought a place just south of Sikvelands. He was called the "Happy Norwegian" because he was full of fun and entertained the children with acrobatic tricks. He also played the accordion and sang at the dances. Gurl Ann Iverson Cook says, "When I was a little girl, Kjetl taught me to dance. He would grab me up, put my feet on top of his and we would dance all around the room. It was great fun!" He married Blanche Payne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Payne, soon after he returned. They had two children, Dorothy and Harold.

The Ness family moved to Coos Bay, Oregon, in 1927, where Harold died in a diving accident. Dorothy still lives in the Portland area. Blanche and Kjetl are both deceased. (Gunda Sikveland Lewis)

NITCHMAN, John (Sec 22,23,24-18-18-27) John and Dessie (Moody) Nitchman moved into the Dovetail area around 1914 and each took out a homestead. They raised corn and had a few cows and chickens. Mrs. Nitchman and Mrs. Everett West were sisters. John helped Everett West build stock dams for neighbors. They left Dovetail in 1925 for the Pine Ridge area near Pompeys Pillar. They had five children — Vernon (1-3-1919), Sheldon (5-4-1917), Lila (12-5-1915), Virginia and Sidney. (Sidney Nitchman, son)

NUNN, Gerald "Bub" (Sec 26,27-20-27) Gerald "Bub" Nunn was born during a raging blizzard on December 28, 1923, in North Dakota about eight miles from the Teddy Roosevelt home. He came to Petroleum County in 1964 to the John Hedman place on the Musselshell River. He had also purchased the Horse Camp on Crooked Creek from John and leased the Two
Crow holdings for five years. The family moved to the Sanford place in 1966 so it would be easier to get the children to school on the school bus. Mrs. Nunn died while they were at the Sanford place, leaving Bub with four sons: Jess, now in Odessa, Texas; Jerry, who married Jane Delaney and lives on the old Skibby place; Jay, now in Sacramento, California; and Joel, who is also in Odessa, Texas.

Bub married Nona Nordahl Davenport. She had six children — Kelly, Patty, Nicky (died in a car accident), David, Darrell (died in a car accident), and Gordon.

When Bub bought out John Hedman, he called the ranch the Ox Yoke. The deal included John's herd of Angus and Hereford cows. Bub started experimenting with a shaggy, longhorned Scotch Highland bull. He also ran some buffalo for a while, but the cattle didn't like them and neither did his neighbors. In the late 1960s he brought in his first Texas Longhorns and developed a herd of Longhorns.

The Nuns had a new house built at Horse Camp, about a quarter of a mile north of the original homestead buildings. They put in a telephone but did not have electricity. They sold the Ox Yoke in 1986 to Ed Socha of Manchester, New Hampshire. He is a businessman and an avid hunter. Bub stayed on as a manager until the spring of 1988, when they moved to the Miles City, Montana area. (Excerpts from Lewistown News Argus 2-22-87)

**OLSEN, Jonas** (Sec 5,6-18-27) Jonas Olsen was born June 6, 1877, in Stavanger, Norway. He came to Central Montana in 1886.

Amelia Rutleg was born at Holmestrand, Norway, on June 7, 1887. She came, with her sister, to Lewistown in 1905 and worked for Swend Holland for a time, and later for Perk Burnett at Gillette, Montana.

Jonas and Amelia were married at Lewistown on November 22, 1908. Mrs. Olsen and Mrs. Tom Iverson were sisters.

Jonas and Amelia took up a homestead in the Dovetail area about 1914. They engaged in ranching and livestock. They left Dovetail in 1921 and after several moves settled on a ranch just west of the Yellow Water Lake, where they spent the rest of their lives.

They had five children — Ole R. (1910) deceased, Agnes (1913) deceased, Jonas A. (1915) deceased, Arnold (1917) deceased; and Rebecca (1920), who lives at Joliet, Montana.

Amelia died of cancer in 1944 and Jonas died in 1957. They are both buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery. (See also OLSEN — Flatwillow)

**PARRISH, Elton G.** (Sec 23-20-27) Elton G. Parrish, son of Thomas and Harriet (Doty) Parrish of Lake City, Iowa, was born in 1899. He homesteaded just north of the Horse Camp on Crooked Creek, probably in about 1917 or 1918. After he left the homestead and moved to the Lewistown area, he married Vinette Bell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bell, who homesteaded in Dawson County (now Garfield County).

They had two children — Bradley B. (1938), who is an attorney in Lewistown, and Marilyn P. (1941). Elton Parrish died in December of 1987. (Vinette Bell Parrish Fisher)

**PAYNE, Guy** (Sec 9,10-18-27) Guy and Mamie Payne had two daughters — Blanche (5-10-1901) and Altha (6-6-1902). They were listed in the District #169 school census for 1918 and 1919. Mr. Payne and son-in-law, John Aarchus, had a threshing machine to thresh not only their own grain, but also to thresh for the neighborhood.

Blanche Payne married Kjeti Ness, and Altha Payne married John Aarchus.

In the fall of 1921 John and Altha took care of the Payne place while Guy and Mamie went to the oil field to work for the winter. (W. T. 11-25-21)

**PETERSON, Alfred** (Sec 35-18-25) Alfred Peterson homesteaded five miles southwest of Valentine. He later moved to Valentine and operated the Valentine General Store and Post Office. Alfred was married and they had one son, Vernon.

**PHILLIPS, Ilio** (Sec 27-18-26) Ilio Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Cotchoff, was born in Sofia, Bulgaria. He received his schooling in Bulgaria and came to the United States in 1907. He came to Montana and homesteaded in the Valentine area in 1912.

Mary Kiska, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vendell Kiska, was born in 1900 in Czechoslovakia. She came to the United States with her parents in 1905. She received her schooling in Mississippi, Wisconsin and Montana. They came to the area west of Valentine sometime before 1915.

Ilio and Mary Phillips with Lewis (1919)
Ilio and Mary were married in 1917 and lived on his homestead near Valentine, where they farmed and raised cattle until they retired in 1959.

They had four sons who went through the grades at the Long School and then went on to the Winnett High School.

The sons were: Lewis (1918) graduated from Winnett High. In 1936 and went on to college at Missoula, Montana. He married Maxine Winkes of Winnett. They have five children and live at Lewiston, Idaho. George (1919) married Winnie Gardner, and they live in Maine. Eldon (1921) returned to the ranch after school. (See PHILLIPS, Eldon — Winnett) Stanley (1929) married Katherine Christianson of Roy and had two children. He died in 1968 and is buried in Billings.

Ilio and Mary moved to Lewistown in 1959. Ilio died in 1963 and Mary died in 1972. Both are buried at Lewistown. (Eldon Phillips, son)

PHILLIPS, Vane (Sec 4-18-27) Vane Phillips was born September 15, 1886, in Macedonia, Greece. He came to the United States in 1906 and returned to Macedonia two years later. He was married in Macedonia but his wife died a few years later. He came back to the United States in 1910 and lived in St. Louis, Missouri, until 1914.

Vane came to Montana and lived and worked around Lewistown until 1917. From 1917 until 1936 he was ranching with his brother, Ilio, near Valentine. For several years he operated the Dovetail service station. He was a master stonemason, and the walls of many wells in the area show his handiwork. In later years he worked around Winnett as a carpenter until his retirement. Vane died September 15, 1961, and is buried at Winnett.

PICKARD, Willard (Sec 16-17-19-27) Willard and Mary Pickard had one daughter, Sylvia (1-3-1901). Mr. Pickard was a good blacksmith.

PITMAN, Paul Paul is the oldest son of Alvin and Ada Pitman. He has three brothers — George, Steve and Dan. Pitmans moved to Winnett in 1945 and they lived there until 1947 during which time Paul moved to Grassrange. Paul did not live in Petroleum County again until he leased part of Pat Sinclair’s place on the Petrolia bench from 1955 to 1965.

In 1957 Paul married Luella Sims from California. In 1959 they moved out to the August Ihde Ranch at Cat Creek; which they leased until 1961. They then moved to their present location at Valentine, on the old Conolly Ranch, where they have resided since that time.

The Pitmans have four children — Kim (1962), Don (1964), Brad (1970) and Lura (1973). Kim is married to Robin Lewis of Claresholm, Alberta, Canada, and has two children.

All of the Pitman children had their schooling at Winnett. (Luella Pitman)

POTTER, Aaron Aaron Potter was born in 1870, Clara Adams was born in 1876 at Isadore, Missouri. Aaron and Clara were married in 1894. They homesteaded in the Valentine area in 1913. The Potter children attended schools in Valentine, Roy and Winnett.

Aaron and Clara had nine children — Charles (1896), Paul (1899), Harold (1901), Goldie (1903), Vesta (1906), David (1908), Bernice (1911), Esther (1915) and Harry (1918).

Aaron Potter died in 1928 and is buried at Los Angeles, California. Clara Potter died in 1966 and is buried at Bellevue, Washington. (Irene Messenger Potter) (See also POTTER — Cat Creek)

PURYEAR, Elmer (Sec 7-18-18-28) Elmer and Verna Puryear had one son. Walter (9-7-1917) listed in the 1918 school census for District #169.

QUINLAN, Pat (Sec 31-18-27) Pat and Emma Quinlan had one child, Edward (1902) who was listed in the District #169 school census for 1917 through 1920.

RIGG, Leonard (Sec 7-18-28) Leonard was a son of Martin Rigg. According to the school census for the Dovetail-Valentine district, he had a daughter named Florence, born March 3, 1904.

RIGG, Maren (Sec 1-12-18-27) Maren Rigg was the mother of Ole Rigg. She came to Dovetail in 1916, bought relinquishment rights from John Acharus, filed and made settlement the next spring.

RIGG, Martin (Sec 1-18-27) In the spring of 1916, the Dovetail creek and its many branches overflowed with melting snows and freshets from the surrounding hills. The verdure of the valley was appealing to all who saw it then.

Martin Rigg and wife, Emilie, arrived in the spring of 1916, with daughter Laura and four sons — William, Leonard, Fred and Herman. Herman served with the armed services overseas. Laura Rigg married Arthur Carlson at Seattle, and later they moved to Dovetail, too.

Martin Rigg was the first postmaster at Dovetail, and he and his sons also ran a small store in connection with the post office. In about 1921 Mrs. Rigg’s health was failing, so they closed the store and transferred the post office to Mrs. Albert (Lois) Coffey.

RIGG, Ole (Sec 5-18-28) Ole Rigg, born in 1875, was a nephew of Martin Rigg. His wife, Ida, was born November 20, 1874, in Ludveka, Norway. She came to the United States and Minnesota when she was 14. She married Ole Rigg on October 16, 1901. Ole came to Dovetail in 1916 and filed on a homestead near Martin Rigg. Mrs. Ole Rigg, (Ida S.) came from Minnesota with their two children, Aileen and Ole Jr., in 1917 to join Ole in proving up on their homestead.

The following are excerpts from "Dovetail Valley" written by Ida S. Rigg (W. T. 3-6-1942). "Among the settlers from other states were young unmarried men, who with their neighbors, proceeded to put their hands to the plow and change the topography of the land from buffalo grass to fields of grain and tall corn.

"One time we filled a double wagon box with ripe melons of all kinds and took them to the market at Winnett. When we got there, the market was glutted with
melons and vegetables. To save us from taking them home, Mr. Hayes Smith took them off our hands and was going to send them to Lewistown. There was not much profit in that deal. On our way home, we were caught in a rainstorm in the Blood Creek area and had to stay all night as one of the horses had jumped and broken the wagon tongue. The four of us crept under the wagon for shelter until dawn, but we got pretty wet.

"At 4 o'clock a.m., Ole Jr. and I got up and with some hewn chips from a log we had spied near the Brady place plus some new movie magazines I had bought in Winnett, we succeeded in starting a fire. We had a big fire blazing by 6 o'clock, by which we dried our clothes. It had stopped raining and after repairing the broken tongue, we hitched up and started home. It was high noon when we got home. The heat was terrific. My face was swollen and my lips were cracked and bleeding when we got home and into our log cabin. It was cool inside and the perfume of the freshly hewn pine logs had a soothing effect upon my tortured soul.

"Remnants of herds of Texas Longhorns still roamed the plains. and antelope in large numbers cavorted across our homestead. Small game was plentiful. We had no automobile nor radio; instead the lonesome howl of the coyote and the weird hoot of the owls stirred our imagination at nightfall. We got up early enough to see the glory of the sunrise, and at night the sunsets and the aurora borealis eclipsed everything else in the world that we had ever seen.

"It was a rich experience, this homestead life we had drifted into. but all too soon we realized that it was not ordained to be a life of peace and plenty, as the war progressed abroad and we had to curtail our rations.

"In February 1920 the flu came to Dovetail. At one time there were 14 people sick with the flu in the one-room cabin of Ambrose Carrell. One of the neighbors, Ike Moody, came to help care for the sick. In three days he took sick and had to go home to bed. A transient, George Featherman, was staying at the Irish cabin, caring for Charlie Carrell's horses. He went to the cabin with all the sick people and he, too, got the flu. When Charlie Carrell came to the Irish cabin to look after things, he found Featherman all swelled up from having drunk kerosene to try to cure himself. Featherman recovered and journeyed on from there to no one knows where."

In 1922 or 1923 the Rigg family moved to a small place near Winnett. (See also RIGG — Brush Creek)

**RIGG, William P.** (Sec 6,7-18-28) William P. Rigg was a son of Martin Rigg. (All information on the Rigg families came from Winnett Times 3-6-1942. "Dovetail Valley" by Ida S. Rigg.)

**ROTHROCK, Earl F.** (Sec 28-18-25) Earl F. Rothrock married Edith Lambert and they had one son, Claude. Earl traveled from Indiana with Clifford Clark in an emigrant car in 1913. His wife, Edith, came by way of train with Clifford Clark's wife, Maude.

The Rothrock and Clark party rode from Hilger (the end of the railroad line at the time) to the homestead in a lumber wagon pulled by a span of mules and a team of horses. The Rothrocks homesteaded near Valentine in 1913.

**SANFORD, Ethelbert** (Sec 24-19-27) E. J. Sanford is quoted in the Heritage Book of the Original Fergus County Area as saying "I was a wrangler boy the first time I came up the Chisholm Trail from Texas to this part of Montana, and there wasn't a sign of anyone living here. The second trip a few years later, I was a full-fledged cowhand, and when we got here there was one lone cabin, the Davis cabin. Well, this trip I came looking for me a place and the Davis cabin was still the only cabin, but it had been moved from the top of the hill down by the spring that was dug out. It sheltered many different families until their own log houses were built, and that was about 1904."

Clairmont Clark bought the Sanford place in 1933. He says, "Mr. Sanford was a very well-liked southern cowboy of the old stock. He had a 'Texas' line of talk like no one else ... His last trail herd had 300 Texas steers for himself, and the first winter was the worst they ever experienced. The next spring he rounded up 30 head, which was all he had left. He had a beautiful set of guns, and by all reports knew how to use them."

Mr. Clark also tells this story. "A family came through the country in the very early days in a covered wagon, and stopped at Sanfords because their baby girl was sick. The child died and Mr. Sanford made a casket for it."
Mrs. Sanford made a pretty dress for the babe, and then lined the casket so it would be attractive. They buried her east of the house, near the root cellar. After the funeral the parents went on their way. Sanfords couldn’t remember their names."

Mary Elizabeth ‘Beth’ Myers Knapp relates: “The E. J. Sanfords were our nearest neighbors, and we can be thankful to Mrs. Sanford for her snapshots. She was not only the photographer, she also developed the film. She was an outstanding gardener and had a lovely apple orchard. I remember her telling about the time she took some of her apples to the fair, but they wouldn’t accept the apples because they didn’t believe she actually grew them.

“Mrs. Sanford was the one who named the ‘Devils Kitchen’ which is a white rock formation that was just to the north of their house on the north side of the rim.”

The Hedman Brothers bought the Sanford place from Clairmont Clark, and kept it until they sold all of their holdings in the area to the Two Crow Ranch.

**SCHOENECH, Amelia**

Amelia “Molly” Schoen
eche was a Dutch lady who came from an Oklahoma cotton farm to homestead in the Valentine area in about 1912 or 1913. Her homestead was about a mile north of the homestead of Harlan Bevis.

She had three daughters (listed in the 1918 school cen
cus for District #168 Dovetail-Valentine). They were Pauline (1901), Theresa (1902) and Elsie (1905). She also had an older son, Otto.

She was a hard worker, and after living on a cotton farm where the cultivating was done by a mule-drawn plow and the weeding and picking were done by hand, she was not afraid to do any job that would help provide a living for herself and her children. She would even pull the wool from the dead sheep she found on the range. She acted as a midwife for several women in the community and babysat the children for parents who had to leave for business. Later she married James Turner, better known as “Coyote Jimmy,” who ran the mail and stage route to Valentine. She also drove the mail and stage at times. Molly returned to Oklahoma when she left Valentine. (Les Bevis)

**SIKVELAND, Karl** (Sec 8-18-27) Karl and Guri SIKVELAND were both born in Norway. Karl came to the United States for the first time in 1905. He came to the Forest Grove area to herd sheep for Swend Holland. He returned to Norway in 1909. In 1909 he married Guri Sandve. Their first child, Kefas, was born in 1910. In 1911 Karl returned to the United States and filed on a homestead near Forestgrove. He sent for his wife and son in 1916. The family lived on the homestead until 1919. In September of 1919 they moved to Dovetail. Karl had bought some land from Tom Iverson. The place where they lived was originally the homestead of Kjetil Ness.

The SIKVELAND family grew to include Kefas, Bertha, Torger, Jennie, and Gunda. The children all attended the Dovetail School and later they all graduated from Winnett High School.

Life was hard during the depression of the 1930s, but the family survived and later enjoyed better days.


Bertha married Howard Foster. They had one son, Raymond. Howard passed away in 1967. Bertha lives near her son and family in Reno, Nevada.

Torger and his wife, Linda, with their children — Torger and Mike — live on the family ranch.

Jennie married Paul Runsvold. They live in Lewiston, Idaho. They had four children — Jim, Nancy, Karl and Julie.

Gunda married Lee Shaw in 1949. They had three children — Gail (Wilkinson), Sarah (Brindley) and Lafe Shaw. Gunda and Lee were divorced in 1966. Gunda married Dave Lewis of Grassrange in 1975.

Karl SIKVELAND and his wife, Guri, lived on the ranch until Karl passed away in 1960. They enjoyed several years of “good times.” They visited with their neighbors and enjoyed playing cards. They enjoyed the Church and the coming of the telephone. In 1955 they returned to their native Norway for a visit. At this time many of their brothers and sisters were still living. After Karl’s death in 1960, Guri moved into Winnett. She lived there for fourteen years. Guri passed away in 1974. Both Karl and Guri were fortunate to be able to lead active lives until nearly the time of their deaths. (Gunda SIKVELAND Lewis)

**SIKVELAND, Torger S.** (Sec 8-18-27) Torger SIKVELAND, son of Karl J. and Guri S. SIKVELAND, was born in 1921 at Dovetail. He attended the Dovetail School and then went to Winnett High School, graduating in 1939. He stayed at the dormitory while going to high school. He was a member of the Winnett Boxing Club and was the Montana State AAU Light Heavyweight Champion in 1941.
Torger served in the Marine Corps in the South Pacific during World War II. When he returned home, he took over the Ray Marr Ranch on a share-crop deal. He bought the Hogan place, then in 1961 bought the home place from his mother, Guri Silveland. Later he bought part of the Elmer Hanson place and part of the Brady place.

Torger served on many boards throughout the years including: Petroleum County Soil Conservation District, Association of State Grazing Districts, Chain Buttes Cooperative Grazing District (he was secretary from 1953 on), Petroleum County Tax Appeal Board, Winnett State Cooperative Grazing District, and Bureau of Land Management Livestock Advisory Board.

Linda Rae Lobdell, daughter of Wray and Clara Lobdell, was born in 1943 at Rapid City, South Dakota. She got her education in the South Dakota schools. Torger and Linda were married in 1967. They have two sons — Torger Wray, born in 1967; and Michael Stein, born in 1973. (Torger Silveland)

SINCLAIR, Archibald (Sec 25-18-26) Archie Sinclair was born in Tyrone County, Ireland, on February 2, 1847. At the age of seven, he came with his parents to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where they lived three years and then moved to Monroe County, Iowa.

Archie Sinclair served two years in the Army in the Civil War in Company H, 1st Cavalry, from which he was honorably discharged in March of 1866.


Archie Sinclair had a good stock farm in Iowa, but he said he could take a homestead and give it to his two sons, John H. and Robert J. He had veterans' rights and he could use them for proving claim patents more quickly.

So, in 1912, Archie traveled to Montana and homesteaded on land which joined his sons' in Valentine, Montana. He was a good neighbor and was ever ready to lend assistance in any way. He returned to Iowa after proving up on his homestead.

Archie Sinclair died April 26, 1916, in Albia, Iowa, where he is buried. His wife, Hannah, continued to visit her children in Valentine and died years later. (Viola Welter)

SINCLAIR, John H. (Sec 35-18-26) John H. Sinclair, son of Archibald and Hannah Sinclair, was born in 1873 at Albia, Iowa. He grew up with his family in Albia and worked on his father's stock farm.

Lola Belles was born in 1880 at Blakesburg, Iowa. In 1900 John and Lola were married. In 1910 John and Lola left Albia and came to Montana where they homesteaded in the Valentine area.

When they first settled, they had a small one-room log cabin built by John and a neighbor. They cut the trees and pulled the logs to the site. When John built a larger log house for the family, they used the small cabin as a chicken house.

John and Lola had three children — Emmett (1901) died in 1905 and is buried at Albia, Iowa; Isadeen (1907); and Lavelle (1910). All the children were born at Albia, Iowa.

Isadeen and Lavelle attended the Long School through the grades and went on to Winnett High School, where they both graduated — Isadeen in 1926 and Lavelle in 1929.

Isadeen married Arnold Drake in 1928. She now lives at Corvallis, Montana (See also DRAKE). Lavelle married Sakuichi Sakai, and she now lives in Kapaaau, Hawaii.

John and Lola enjoyed their ranch life for many years before moving to the Bitterroot Valley in western Montana.

John Sinclair died in 1959, and Lola Sinclair died in 1969. They are both buried in the Riverside Cemetery in Hamilton, Montana. (Isadeen Sinclair Drake Pewett)

SINCLAIR, Robert J. (Sec 25-18-26) Robert Sinclair, son of Archibald and Hannah Sinclair, was born in 1886 at Albia, Iowa. He grew up with his family in Albia and worked on his father's stock farm.

Della Chidester, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Chidester, was born in 1888 at Albia, Iowa. She received her schooling at the Albia schools. Robert and Della were married in 1910.

In 1911 Robert and Della Sinclair came from Albia to Montana, where they homesteaded four miles southeast of Valentine. Their homestead joined the homestead of John Sinclair, Robert's brother.

The Sinclairs were farmers and ranchers throughout their years on the homestead. Robert and Della had five children — Viola (1913), Wanda (1918), Pat and Mick, twins (1920) and Robert (1928). The children went to the Long School for the grades and to Winnett High School.

Robert and Della enjoyed their homestead days and
were well liked in the community. They especially enjoyed their ranch life, their neighbors and raising children.

The Sinclairs moved into Winnett in 1935. (See also SINCLAIR—Winnett)

Their daughter, Viola, has some memories of homestead days to share: "One of the first things I remember was when my sister was born in 1918. Mama brought the new baby home. The influenza was bad and Mama caught it. I was taken to my Aunt Jennie's and stayed all winter. My Grandmother Sinclair from Iowa moved in and took care of Mama and the new baby. The baby had to be fed a gruel made out of oatmeal. Mama's doctor was Dr. Freed, a lovely lady, who was known far and wide. She showed my father how to give Mama quinine and whiskey, and told him they could pull Mama through, which they did.

"I remember when everyone had to register all guns, when World War I was going on. My father, and other men his age, had to answer the summons to have a physical and be classified to go to the war, but the Armistice was signed before they got back home. They had a big celebration and danced until daylight, then went home, changed their clothes, milked a bunch of cows, before they got any rest.

"In the fall, the men of the area all had cattle roaming the hills to the Missouri River. There were no fences, so the men went on big roundups, which sometimes lasted for a month. The women and children took care of things at home, and helped each other. The wolves were so bad the chores had to be done before dark. Lots of times we could see the wolves' eyes shine in the lamp light.

"Mama liked to speak 'pieces' and be in the home-talent plays. My father played the violin for dances all over the country, playing with Bert Thorshiem and Jess and Tony Brooks. My uncle John was the square dance caller." (Viola Sinclair Welter)

SLUGGETT, Lester Lester and Carol Sluggett were married in Big Sandy, Montana, June 2, 1962, and lived on a ranch there for ten years. They have four children — Levi (1964), Lisa (1966), Lana (1969) and Lari (1971). In August of 1972 they moved to the Blood Creek Ranch (the former Horseshoe Bar Ranch). The headquarters are located four miles west of Valentine, Montana, or twenty-nine miles north of Winnett, Montana. They are engaged in farming and cattle raising. Levi and Lisa graduated from Roy High School. Lana and Lari graduated from Winnett High School. (Carol Sluggett)

STEIN, Anton (Sec 33-18-27) Anton Stein came from Kansas and homesteaded southeast of Valentine. He married Mary Josephine Gallagher (See also GALLAGHER) and the couple had a son, Anton Clarence, born in 1913. The family returned to Kansas because Anton Sr. was in poor health, and he died there. Mary Josephine returned to Montana with their child and married Nicholas Hayfield in 1922. (See also HAYFIELD)
TACKLE, Magnus (Sec 14,15-18-28) Magnus Tackle was born July 17, 1879, at Arendal, Norway. He came to the United States in the early 1900s and settled in the Winifred area. He moved to the John Munkeby place near Dovetail in 1929. Henry Hornseth was his nephew. Magnus never married and died August 14, 1966.

TALBOT, Hazel (Sec 1-18-28) Hazel Talbot not only homesteaded but was also a schoolteacher. According to Hugh Groves, one of her students, she taught the 79 School which was located along the 79 Trail near the Killham places.

TERNAN, Isaac According to the 1915 school census for District #122, Fergus County, Isaac and Jennie Ternan had six children — Delbert (1895), Archie (1898), Charles (1901), Clifford (1906), Arthur (1907) and Clyde (1908). Arthur married Merle Grove from the Dovetail area.

TERNAN, Merle (Sec 14-18-28) Merle Killham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James William Killham, was born September 25, 1894, at Weldon, Colorado. On January 10, 1915, she married Earl Grove, born October 14, 1894, in Kansas. They had two children — Hugh (3-25-1916) and Vera (12-16-1918). Earl Grove died in 1918, and Merle and children came to Dovetail, Montana, to be with her family who had come out in 1917 to homestead. (See also KILLHAM)

Her family talked her into taking up the homestead that Herb Jacoli had not finished proving up on. So taking up where Jacoli left off, she finished proving up on the homestead. She and her children lived with her folks most of the time.

In 1923 Merle married Archie Ternan, who came from the Valentine area. They had one daughter, Sidney (9-1-1924), with Merle’s mother as midwife. Ternans left shortly after that for Butte, Montana. Vera Grove died at Butte, February 8, 1927, and is buried at Butte. Mr. Ternan also died at Butte in 1928 and is buried there. Merle, with son Hugh and daughter Sidney, moved back to the homestead. Hugh finished elementary school at Dovetail.

Daughter Sidney Ternan Walsh adds her memories: “I was born at Gordon Coulee on my mother’s homestead with my grandmother, Lucy Killham, as midwife. Gordon Coulee is about eight miles east of the Dovetail Post Office. At that time there was a two-room log cabin, plus other log outbuildings at the homestead.

“At one time there were a lot of homesteaders out there. I can remember hearing these names: Wetzig, Massey, Crawford, Desilva. By the time I was in school, all these people were gone. I guess the depression chased them out.

“The depression years were very tough — very dry years and the grasshoppers were bad. There was little feed in the hills for the livestock and water was scarce. Everyone was poor, but no one noticed because we were all in the same boat. We always had enough to eat and clothes to wear, nothing fancy.

“The whole country would get together at the Dovetail schoolhouse for dances and for picnics on the Fourth of July. It was a lot of fun, and people would come from as far away as Valentine, Winnett and even Lewistown. The musicians usually came from Winnett. I think. The dances would last all night, and everyone would dance, from the old folks down to the little tots. Baby-sitters were unheard of then.

“Once we went to a Fourth of July celebration at Valentine, driving a team and wagon all the way. We stayed there a couple of days, picnicking and catching up on all the news. There was a rodeo and two of my uncles, Taft and Herb Killham, rode saddle broncs. Very exciting.

“Those were good days as far as I was concerned. I loved that country and hated to leave it. I tried to get out to the Dovetail country three years ago, but it was a rainy time of year and the roads were bad. I will make it sometime, or try trying.”

Merle Ternan died March 6, 1979, and is buried at Twisp, Washington.

Hugh Grove married Blanche Saylor. They have one daughter, Betty, and one grandson, Todd. "Red" and Blanche owned and operated the Northern Hotel in Winnett for 30 years. They are now retired and living in Billings to be near Betty and Todd. (See also GROVE — WINNETT)

Sidney Ternan married Ray Walsh and they have one daughter, Jean Anne. They live at Twisp, Washington.

TILLET, Ceril (Sec 33-18-26) Ceril and Mary Tillett had three children listed in the Valentine-Dovetail school census for 1919. The children were Freda and Beulah, twins (1907) and Gerald (1911). Beulah married George Fairbairn. She died in 1989.

TILLET, Henry (Sec 33-18-26) Henry A. and Elvira Tillett came from Redfield, South Dakota. In 1913, to homestead in the Valentine area. After proving up on their homestead, they moved to Winnett where Henry worked on the railroad section crew.

They had two sons, C. E. Tillett and James Tillett.

Henry died in 1922 and Elvira died in 1930. They are both buried in the Winnett Cemetery.

TRAPP, Ora (Sec 25-20-28) Ora Trapp (3-18-1900) homesteaded on Crooked Creek in the early 1920s as a very young man. His cabin was near the Horse Shoe Bar which had been a big cow camp. The Roy Hanson Horse Camp was nearby and neighbors Charlie and Alex Weingart and the Carl Hedman Camp were only a few miles down the creek.

Mail was delivered to the Mecaha Post Office in Garfield County — then delivered to Joe Barisch’s where Ora picked it up. All the mail came by wagon or horseback.

Ora lived the better part of his life around Grassrange, and south to Flatwillow Creek where his children were raised. After losing his wife in 1942, Ora went to work for the Milwaukee Railroad at Grassrange as a section man, later moving to Piper, Montana. It was while working at Piper that he had a massive heart attack.
died at work on October 30, 1956.
Ora had married Eva Lu Waneffisher (1905) in 1927. They had six children — Helen Marie (1927), Esther (1929), Wanda (1931), Harold (1932), Norma (1935) and Peggy (1941).
Eva died November 15, 1942. Both Eva and Ora are buried in the Grassrange Cemetery.
Helen Marie Carpenter now lives at Ennis, Montana; Esther Nelson lives at Grassrange; Wanda Trapp lives at Ryegate, Montana; Harold Trapp lives at Lewistown, Montana; Norma Gantz lives at Ryegate; Peggy Knight lives at Riverton, Wyoming. (Harold Trapp, son)

**TRIMBLE, William** (Sec 6-18-25) William J. Trimble was born in 1885 at Jefferson City, Missouri. Della Mead was born in 1892 in Kansas. (See also MEAD — Blakeslee) Bill and Della were married in 1913.

They came to Montana in 1914 and picked a homestead in 1914. They raised grain, hay and cattle there. They stayed on the homestead until they retired and moved to Lewistown. They had three children — Grace born in 1915, Eva born in 1916, and George born in 1919. These children attended the Valentine and Roy schools.

William Trimble died in 1973 and Della died in 1980. They are both buried at Sunset Memorial Gardens at Lewistown. (Grace Trimble Hill)

**TURNER, James** (Sec 31-18-26) James Turner, well known as “Coyote Jimmy,” lived with his wife about five miles southwest of Valentine. “Coyote Jimmy” was the mail carrier in the early days after Mrs. Mary Bean got the Valentine Post Office started. Mail came twice a week from Edgewater, now known as the Forbes Leslie Ranch.

He married Amelia Schoenecke. (See also SCHOENECKE) She also drove the stage part of the time.

**TURNER, Lon** (Sec 26-27-18-27) Lon Turner and his brother, Lone, came to the Dovetail country in the early 1900s with horses and cattle that they ran south of the George Loeisch place.

Lon’s wife, Dana, had a son, Humphrey. After Dana died, Lon moved to the Lewistown area. He later married Edna Patterson, who had a daughter, Ruby. Lon spent the rest of his life near Lewistown and is buried there. (Jennie Lefferts, niece)

**TURNER, Lone** (Sec 26-18-27) Lone Turner was born May 24, 1890, in Emmons County on a homestead about 40 miles northwest of Bismarck. North Dakota. He came to the Dovetail country in the early 1900s and ran cattle and horses with his brother, Lon, south of the George Loeisch place.

Effie Ellen Sullenger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Sullenger, was born January 9, 1898, in Fergus County on McDonald Creek. Lone and Effie were married September 14, 1914. They had seven children — Myrtle (Jennie) (1915); Forrest (1918) died at birth; Florence (1920); Esther (1921); Gloria Effie (1930); Dwain (1931) and Naomi Gladys (1941).

Lone, Effie and Jennie, their three-year-old daughter, left Dovetail in 1918 and moved to Washington. After three years they returned to the Valentine area to the Lambert place near the Jim Sullenger place.

Myrtle Turner Lefferts and Dwain Lone Turner contributed the following: “We had a log cabin with windows low to the ground. There had been a skiff of snow one evening when Mama was alone. They had brought in supplies and an order had come in from Sears and Roebuck. She lit the kerosene lamp and was unpacking the order when she felt that something was watching her, so she hung a quilt over the window and went back to check the order.

“The next morning when she went out to take care of the chickens and milk the cow, she checked the window. There were cougar or mountain lion tracks. It had sat down and switched its tail back and forth while looking in the window. It must have been getting ready to jump in when she covered the window.

“When I was small I kept running away. One time I went to a water hole at the bottom of a coulee. The pool was deep and poles had been put across it to keep the stock from falling in. When Mama found me, I was on a pole over the middle of the pool that was full of water. Another time I ran away down a coulee from the house. From then on I was tied to the clothesline. The rope was long enough I could go in and out of the house but couldn’t get out of sight.”

Effie Turner is living at Valley Vista in Lewistown. Lone Turner died May 18, 1969, and is buried at Sunset Memorial Cemetery at Lewistown.

The following story, “A Trip to Dovetail,” was contributed by daughter Gloria Ewell:

“When Dwain and I were ten and twelve, we were still asking Mom to tell us stories about the homestead in the badlands. What was life like there? Lots of things that occurred there were interesting to us. We were growing up in Lewistown and felt we had missed out on all the action. Mom had a real knack for telling stories and never had to improvise or make them up because lots of things happened in her life. But this time was different. She had a surprise for us. The very next week we were going to Dovetail to see all the neat places and visit the people who were still there.

“It was a very hot day when we arrived at the George Loeisch home and Mrs. Loeisch had prepared a big fried chicken dinner for all who had gathered there to visit with my parents. Lone Turner was known for his sense of humor and jokes — Effie for her good cooking and hospitality. I looked around at the crowd and thought Mrs. Loeisch must have killed the whole flock of chickens for us.

“I had wheeled a pair of English riding boots from Mom for the summer’s use, and, many blisters later, I decided it was time they lived up to their name. I waited till Dad got a response to one of his tall tales and I asked him (loud enough for our host to hear, of course) ‘Do you
VON LINDERN, Samuel H. (Sec 6-17-27) Samuel Von Lindern was born in 1878 at Crete, Nebraska. Floy Shull was born in 1886 at Salem, Idaho. Samuel and Floy were married April 17, 1901, in Kansas. They came with three children to Lewistown, Montana, in 1914. In the spring and summer they built a covered wagon, put all their belongings in it, and headed for the homestead they had claimed east of Valentine. Several days later they arrived and began building a sod house. Half of the house was built back into a hillside. They used this house for a year or two and then built a log house.

They had three boys — Norman (6-18-1903), Earl (3-3-1905) and Doyle (6-10-1907). All had been born at Wakefield, Kansas. The boys attended the Dovetail School.

The family stayed at the homestead until 1927, then moved to Suffolk, Montana. They had twin girls (5-14-1928) at Suffolk. They moved from Suffolk to Sand Point, Idaho, in 1931. Von Linderns lived in several areas in Idaho and retired at Post Falls, Idaho.

Samuel died in 1957, and his wife Floy died in 1967. They are both buried at Post Falls.

The three sons are deceased: Doyle, in a logging accident in 1951; Norman, in 1981; and Earl, in 1987. The twins, Dorothy and Betty, are still living. (Mabel Von Lindern, wife of Earl)

WALKER, Roman (Sec 30-18-26) Roman Walker and his wife lived on Sage Creek, four miles southwest of Valentine. They came from the South and were part Black. They were well-thought-of people. Mrs. Walker was a nurse.

WALSH, John (Sec 18-19-27) John and Ada Walsh had four children — Robert (1910), Kenneth (1914), Nellie (1917) and June (1919) as listed in District #169 school census 1918 through 1920.

WARD, Hervey According to the 1915 school census for District #122, Hervey and Eugenia Ward had two children — Orville (1905) and Mary (1907).

WARE, Harold (W. T. 5-10-29) "Harold Ware, of the Valentine community, was taken to the Lewistown hospital last Sunday, suffering from a severe attack of spotted fever, presumably caused by a tick bite.

"Friends who saw Mr. Ware just prior to his departure for the hospital stated that he was covered with small eruptions even to the soles of his feet, and that he had swollen so it was difficult to remove his clothing at the hospital.

"This is the first case of spotted fever to be reported from the north country. Last year a case was reported from the Flatwillow section, and the year prior from the river country.

"Ticks are more numerous this year than for many years past. Horses are being severely punished by the ticks which gather in bunches on the lower lips, bellies and hind legs." (See also WARE — Blakeslee)
WARTZENLUFT, Edwin (Sec 5-20-27) and
WARTZENLUFT, Paul (Sec 3-20-27) Edwin Wartenluft was born in Pennsylvania. He moved to Illinois, then came to Montana with his son, Paul, and took up a homestead on the southern edge of the Missouri Breaks.

Paul took up a homestead next to Edwin. Paul married Mae Williams Pipes in 1938, and they lived in Lewistown, Montana.

Wartenluft house, with Mrs. Tom Iverson and Elise Gryemark, her sister from Norway, cooking for a lambing crew

Edwin built his house of hand-hewn logs fastened together with pegs, no nails. The house was a story and a half tall with one large room for kitchen, dining and living room on the lower floor and one room on the second level for sleeping quarters. All of the lumber used in the house was hand-hewn — even to the shingles. After seventy-some years, this house still stands on the edge of the Missouri Breaks, as a monument to Mr. Wartenluft's expertise as a builder.

He also built a large two-level barn the same way. The lower level was built into the side of a draw to the west of the house and back into the hillside far enough to put the upper level at the same level as the house. The animals could enter the lower level into their stalls. Hay and supplies could be put in the upper level without extra lifting and then dropped down to the animals below. The logs that were used in the lower level and into the hill have rotted out and the barn is now caving in from the loss of support.

When Edwin left the homestead, he sold his place to Tom Iverson. Tom used the house and barn for lambing and shearing for as long as he had sheep — probably about thirty years. This land and buildings now belong to the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM has agreed to preserve and take care of the house. (Ruth Iverson Lauge man)

WEAVER, Raymond (Sec 34-19-26) In 1960 Raymond Weaver and his wife, Lola, moved to the Dovetall area. When the Pete Lund house had been modernized, Raymond and Lola moved into it. Ray worked with his father, Roy, and brother, Warren, and spent a couple of years working at Iversons.

In 1966 Raymond and Warren bought the ranch from their parents and, dividing the place, continued to ranch separately. In 1973 Raymond sold out to Merl Lee Busenbark and left the area. They had lived there for 13 years.

Ray and Lola had three children — Saunda (1960), Tracy (1962) and Lincoln (1964).

Raymond died in 1986 in Buffalo, Wyoming, where he owned and operated a saddle shop. He is buried at Buffalo. (Alice Weaver)

WEAVER, Roy (Sec 31-19-27) The following was contributed by Alice Weaver: “Roy and Alice Weaver, from north of Wolf Creek, bought the Ray Marr Ranch on Dovetall Creek in August of 1960. There were two sets of buildings. Ray Marr's and Pete Lund's, on the ranch, and both were older than we were used to.

'There was no electricity or telephone. Roy had signed up for electricity when we bought the place, at an additional charge of $2200. So the power was there when we moved; but we had to wait quite awhile for the telephone.

'We had three sons — Dan, Warren and Raymond. Dan did not come with us to Dovetall, but Warren, and Raymond with his wife, Lola, came with us. We all moved into the Marr house, and since it was a dry fall, we cleaned out wells, dug ditches, and put water and bathrooms in both houses. We got it all finished just before Christmas, and soon Raymond and Lola moved into the Lund house.

'We had bought Ray Marr's cattle and had brought our own down from Wolf Creek. We were lucky that first winter was dry and warm, as we had very little hay for them.

'1961 was a very dry year. We spent most of it cleaning springs and putting in tanks to water the cattle. There was no hay to put up, so we had to buy hay to get the stock through the winter. We spent our spare time fishing and

Ray and Alice Weaver
water skiing on the Valentine reservoir.

"The old reservoirs on the ranch had been built with team and scraper and were not very deep, so Roy and Warren bought a Cat and scraper and built seventeen large dams. 1964 was a hard winter and Roy was kept busy plowing out the haystacks so we could feed the cattle. All the reservoirs got full that spring.

"Some of the nicest things I remember about Dovetail were the branding parties and the shipping parties. All the neighbors would gather at first one place then another for these big jobs and kept at it until all the calves were branded, or all the sold animals had been delivered.

"Fantastic meals were furnished at each place for branding (wives were also invited), and usually there was a shipping party, with drinks at the bar and a steak supper at the cafe in Winnett, after the cattle had been paid for and loaded into semi's for the rest of their journey. We had never been any place where the neighbors worked together to help each other like that. They had a lot of fun, and it made the big jobs easier for everyone. We really enjoyed that.

"We split the ranch in 1966 and sold it to Warren and Raymond. Warren got the Ray Marr buildings and land surrounding, while Raymond got the Pete Lund buildings and the land around them.

After moving to several different places, Roy and I now live just west of Lewistown, Montana."

**WEAVER, Warren** (Sec 31-19-27) Warren Weaver, son of Roy and Alice Weaver, was born February 9, 1941, at Big Sandy, Montana. After living in several different places, they moved to the Ray Marr Ranch on Dovetail Creek in September of 1960. (See also WEAVER, Roy)

Anne Iverson, daughter of Isaac and Ruth Iverson of Dovetail, was born January 23, 1944. (See also IVerson, Isaac)

Warren and Anne were married at Winnett, February 25, 1962. After their marriage, Warren worked with his father on the place. Warren was chosen as local and state "Outstanding Young Farmer" in 1974, and won a trip to Illinois to compete in the National contest.

In 1966 Warren and his brother, Raymond, bought the ranch from Roy and Alice and split it up between them. One part, with the Pete Lund house and buildings, went to Raymond; the portion with the Ray Marr house and buildings went to Warren.

Anne relates: "Warren took flying lessons and bought his first plane in 1962. Warren made two trips to Georgia to bring new planes home. On the first trip, he went alone. On the second trip, he took the family with him. The second plane wasn't finished when he got there, so we toured the factory and watched them finish building our plane, then watched as they did all the necessary flight tests.

"Visibility was very limited in the southeast when we started home. We ran into a thunderstorm and found that radio communications were very difficult, since we couldn't understand the 'Deep South' accents. We finally got around the storm and were very relieved and happy to get back to clear skies, good visibility, and a radio we could understand.

"We have two sons — William Warren (1962) and Edward Isaac (1964). We hope they will take over the ranch when Warren and I retire."

**WEINGART, Alex** (Sec 20, 29, 20-29) Alex Weingart, son of Henry and Catherine Weingart, was born February 22, 1897, in Lewistown, Montana. The Weingarts lived on Spring Creek and later moved to a 160 acre homestead just east of Lewistown. They built a new home out of stone, which is now headquarters of the Saddle Butte Ranch.

Alex "Sonny" Weingart wrote the following family story. "My grandfather, Henry, would gather neighbors together, and with his sons, go for a two-week hunting trip to the Crooked Creek breaks. That was when Dad fell in love with that country. He was eighteen years old when he homesteaded down in the breaks, along with his brothers, Tony and Pete. Chris came along later. When they first went to Crooked Creek, there was a store, post office, saloon and ferry at Fort Musselshell.

"One evening Dad was lighting a gas lantern that evidently had a gas leak as it caught on fire. The flames were shooting up, so he threw it out the door to save the house from burning. His hands and face were severely burned. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Plumr, Indian friends who worked for the government trapping wolves, lived nearby and came to help him. Mrs. Plumr made a poultice of horse manure and other ingredients to put on the burns. The burns healed up and left no scars.

"Dad married Rita Rider September 26, 1926. Rita, daughter of Egbert and Mary Rider, was born May 8, 1906, in Bradford, Pennsylvania. They moved west to Spokane, Washington, when she was three, and then moved to Lewistown when she was six.

"Dad and Mom didn't move down to Crooked Creek."

The Warren Weaver family: Ed, Anne, Warren, and Bill
until the spring of 1927, although they did go down the winter before to put up ice for the coming summer. Dad bought the Spears’ homestead next to his, as it had a larger log cabin with a sod roof. The rooms were very small, so later he added a large living room.

The spring the folks moved down to Crooked Creek. Dad had a large wagon, called a grain tank, that took four horses to pull. They loaded up enough supplies to keep them for six months. It took them three days to make the trip as they had to cross and recross Crooked Creek. In one stretch they had to cross the creek five times in a mile.

Early one morning, about 3:00 a.m., the dog began to bark and Mom got up to see what was wrong. The creek was flooding up around the house, so they moved most of their belongings, including the big piano, to the blacksmith shop, which was on high ground. They stayed there for two weeks waiting for the water to go down and for it to dry up enough for them to clean the house and move back.

They built an ice house where the ice kept all summer because it was packed in sawdust and hay. They had a root cellar where they kept their spuds, milk, cured meat and butter. In the summertime the drinking water was kept in a barrel buried in the ground to keep the water cool. This barrel had a hand pump.

In the winter they kept a large iron barrel behind the heater, next to the fireplace on the cook stove, and melted snow in it for the drinking water. They sometimes had to use this water for the horse and milk cow, as the water in the creek got awfully stout.

There was a small reservoir not far from the house, and when the water was good, we hauled it from there with a stoneboat and team. When that water got bad, we had to haul water from the Missouri River eight miles away. We usually hauled five to six barrels per trip.

Most of the time, our ice for the summer came from the Missouri River by team and sleigh. We would chop a hole in the ice and then with an ice saw, saw out the ice blocks which were about 24”x 24”, with the depth depending on how cold the winter was. We could haul 12 blocks each trip, and made at least ten trips during January and February. It was hard work, but the rewards were great. Iced tea in the summer and delicious homemade ice cream for Sunday dinners. Mom raised chickens, so we had fried chicken to go with the ice cream...um-m-m good!

The folks had to go five miles for the mail, which was brought down into the breaks on horseback to Rukavinias. The folks took the bobsled to get the mail one time when I was about six months old. Mom wrapped me up in several blankets and put me in a clothes basket at their feet.

On the way down there was a steep drop off, the bobsled tipped over, and the basket slid out and down onto the ice on the creek. Mom dashed down to me, knowing I had been killed, but when she reached me, there I was sleeping and didn’t know I had been on a wild ride alone.

In the early 1930s the county was building a highway east from Winnett to Mosby. Dad had twelve head of fine horses, so he and Tom Olmstead loaded up a wagon of bedding and supplies and headed for Winnett to work for the Tobin Construction Co. The boss was tough on men and horses. Many a horse died on that project, but Dad said he wouldn’t abuse his horses and didn’t work there very long.

He went into Winnett to pick up the bare necessities at the Eager Mercantile on his way home. Mr. Eager asked Dad, ‘Don’t you need more groceries than that?’ Dad said, ‘Yes, I need a lot more, but I don’t have the money to pay for them.’ Mr. Eager said, ‘Alex, back your wagon up to the door and load up what you need. You can pay me when you can.’ Dad finally got paid for the work on the road, broke and sold some horses, and paid Mr. Eager off. Dad often said, ‘There isn’t a better person walking the streets of Winnett than Elmer Eager.’

Tom and Hattie Hogan lived at our place on Crooked Creek and took care of our cattle while Dad worked on the Valentine Dam in 1935 and 1936. Jerry and I started the first grade of school there. Our teacher was Grace Trimble, who is now Mrs. Fred Hill. She had twenty pupils. My folks lived in a hotel there. It was made of six small log rooms joined end to end. Mr. and Mrs. Tiff Myers lived there; also, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Lind. Mrs. Schoeneche was the one who rented out the rooms.

After we moved back to Crooked Creek, Mom taught us for two years. Dad broke horses for the neighbors. Some of these horses were snaky creatures, so he would
use one gentle broke horse along with the unbroke one. One time we had a runaway among the big cottonwood trees along the creek. The horses tried to go through one place with one horse on each side of a tree. The gentle horse pulled the bronc's head into the tree and knocked him out.

'Grandpa Bert Rider brought the first drilling rig into the country. He drilled the first artesian well for John Milesnick in 1930. He sold the rig to Floyd Lute, who drilled wells for the Goachees, Andersons, Rukavinas and Matoviches.

'In 1938 we moved to the John Milesnick place on the Musselshell River, later referred to as the Big John Place. We moved because the government had built the Fort Peck Dam and had bought all the places that would be under water as the dam filled. Dad leased the Goachee and the Big John places, as there were beautiful alfalfa fields there and a nice two-story house.

'Phil Cameron, a teacher, lived with us and taught us for two years. School was held upstairs in our home. My cousin, Tina, of Great Falls, stayed and went to school one year with Jerry and me. Phil is married and lives at Cains, Montana. Phil Crane, a Mormon, also lived with us and taught us one year. Jerry and I rode seven miles up the Missouri, to the John and Bill Town Ranch, for two years to finish our schooling. Town's daughter, Karen, also attended this school.

'While we were having school at home, Elden Freed, superintendent of schools for Petroleum County, would come down to our home at least twice a year to give us achievement tests, and at the end of the school year, we would go to Winnett where he gave us our final tests for the year.

'Christmas was always a big event. Mom made candy and all those goodies, while Dad rode into the Missouri Breaks for the tree. I'll never forget those Christmas trees with the candles all lit early Christmas morning with all the gifts under it. It was beautiful.

'One Christmas, Tom Olmstead played Santa Claus. Mom said that when I looked out the window and saw Santa, I just stood and stared at him, trying to say something, but I couldn't make a sound. Talk about a thrill! We knew it was Santa because we found the sleigh and reindeer tracks out behind the barn.

'In the spring of 1943 Crooked Creek got awfully high. It washed away our house up the creek and took out the big bridge that crossed the creek. We salvaged four big planks from the bridge and made a raft with a couple of oars from boards. Jerry and I would load the dogs, cats and milk-cow calves and paddle around on the lake. We didn't have much luck keeping the calves on the raft, but we did have a lot of fun.

'We used to tie our fish lines to trees out in the lake. Talk about cat fish . . . we sure caught them! Swimming, fishing, hunting and riding horses were our pastimes. The summer the lake backed up Crooked Creek, we would take off our clothes, take our ponies and jump them off the bank into the water. The ponies used to go out of sight and come up swimming with us on their backs. We did this time after time.

'In the summer of 1943 Dad and I loaded the hayrack with the haying machinery, hooked it to the little Ford tractor we had. tied the four workhorses to the hayrack and headed for the Charles and Pete Tunnicliff places to put up hay for our cattle for the winter. Dad drove the car and I drove the tractor. A storm came up and we got as far as Vanes Phillips' gas station but could go no farther, so we took the horses down to corral them, and stayed the night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Iverson.

'The next day we made it to the Tunnicliff place. We would go home weekends where Jerry had stayed with Mom and Janet. Jerry took care of the stock while Dad and I were haying. That fall we moved the cattle to the Tunnicliff Ranch and leased the Brooks place at Valentine so we could stay there that winter.

'In the spring of 1944 we bought the Tunnicliff Ranch and moved away from Crooked Creek. Dad and I took six head of horses and the tractor to haul the furniture, piano and the rest of our belongings. We had to go two miles up the creek, at the head of the lake to get across the creek. We crossed the creek and pulled the load to the top of the Crooked Creek Hill. Bill Trimble came with his pickup and hauled the piano, and Rex Harris came with his Model A Ford truck and hauled the furniture on over to the Tunnicliff place.

'Dad and I went back for the rest of the machinery. It started raining and we were stuck there for two weeks. One day we started out, and when we got to the crossing, a heavy rain came up. We stayed under the hayrack until the storm was over. We knew we had to get our stuff across as this might be the last time we could get across.
"The water was over three feet deep and too high to run the tractor across, so Dad hooked the six head of horses to the front of the tractor and sat on the hood while I steered the tractor. The water came up over the transmission on the tractor but the horses pulled it across. We went back across to get the rack of machinery, and by this time the water was almost swimming depth for the horses. We started across and got to the far bank, but the bank was muddy.

"The chain broke and the lead team broke loose, leaving the back end of the wagon submerged in the water. We thought we would lose it all. We swam the horses back across the creek and went back to the house for the night. The next morning we could see that we wouldn't be able to pull the wagon forward, as it was so bogged down; so Dad hooked up the six horses to the back end and pulled it back across the creek.

"Then we hooked the team to the front of the wagen and with all six horses working, we made it across. My dad was a great teamster and could handle horses even in deep water. We finally had everything on the south side of Crooked Creek and were on our way to our new home.

"Janet received her schooling at home. Mrs. Hattie Hogan was her first teacher and Janet finished the first and second grades in one year. The third through the eighth she took through the correspondence school from Missoula.

"Dad died in 1965 and Mom moved to Lewistown in 1967 and lived there until she died in 1982. They are buried at Lewistown, Montana."

Alex "Sonny" Weingart Jr. was born in 1927 in Lewistown. He married Norma Pospisil in 1953. They lived at the Tunnicliff Ranch that Alex bought in 1944 until 1988. Sonny has the H hanging W brand now that has been in the family for three generations.

Jerry Weingart was born in 1929 in Lewistown. He married Dorothy Marks in 1951. They have three children — Gerald, Judy and David. They moved to Canada in 1963 and live in the area of Williams Lake, British Columbia.

Janet Weingart was born in 1939 in Lewistown. She married Walter Jack Kiehl in 1958. They have two sons — Duane and Orrin. They live in the Petrolia Bench area in Petroleum County. (See also KIEHL — Petrolia)

WEINGART, Anthony (Sec 18, 19-19-29) In the early 1900s, Anthony "Tony" Weingart and Alexander "Sandy" Williamson worked in the Power Mercantile in Lewistown — Tony in groceries and Sandy in dry goods. They talked about going out to the "badlands" and homesteading, as many others were doing at that time, because the land around Lewistown was already taken up. Tony had a desire to raise beef cattle, so they would need range land for pasture and farm land for hay and some grain. There was an area, in rolling hills about seven miles from the Musselshell River and a life distance from Crooked Creek, that looked especially good to them. In 1913 Tony and Sandy homesteaded there, each taking 320 acres, about 45 miles north of Winnett. From that nucleus the "Swinging H" grew to control 125,000 acres. This expansion came from an abundance of ambition, some right ideas, and of course, lots of good luck.

The early years were busy with "proving up" on the homesteads. In 1914 the first herd of cattle was driven in. What was to be the headquarters of the ranch was built on Sandy's homestead at Barrel Springs. Barrel Springs was a fine spring that produced good water in good quantity and was named by the early settlers. Tony's father, Henry Weingart, who was a stonemason, rocked up the spring for them. The spring dried up in the dry 1930s and
water for the house was always a problem after that.

Tony and Lillian "Dot" Williamson, daughter of Sandy and Blanche Williamson, were married at Roy in 1918.

The early years were abundant, with lots of grass and huge gardens. In 1917 Tony's horse fell with him and Tony's leg was broken, which prevented him from going off to World War I. That year Dot and Blanche dug and sacked seventy sacks of potatoes and carried them to the root cellar.

Life in those days required careful planning. They made only one trip to Lewiston for supplies of food, hardware, fabrics, garden seeds, etc. This three-day trip, with horses and wagon, took them through Gillette. Some of the basics purchased were: 1000 lbs. of flour, 500 lbs. of sugar, coffee, boxes of fresh apples, and cases of canned fruit. Then there was the special treat — a large sack of peanuts which would be shelled and roasted through the year.

Of necessity, people in those days were self-sufficient. They raised a large garden, canned many jars of vegetables and meats, and stored the produce in root cellars. They also raised beef, pork, chickens and turkeys. They smoked the hams and bacon and made a barrel of sauerkraut in the fall. Huge blocks of ice were cut from dams or the river in winter and stored in an icehouse built in the sidehill. The ice was then covered with sawdust. When the weather warmed up, the icebox could be supplied with a block of ice each day.

About 1920 Tony was able to lease some hay ground on the Missouri River. He rode a horse and led a team down each day to put up the hay. He wintered some cows there on the hay and had artesian water for them.

In the mid 1930s, Fort Peck Dam was being built, and the Musselshell River ranches were bought up by the government before they were flooded. Tony leased some of those places annually for hay ground. Hay equipment, milk cows and supplies had to be taken down the seven miles to these river bottoms. Some years the Musselshell was quite shallow and easily crossed with horses and wagons. Other times the water was high and the supplies and machinery had to be trucked around by Winnett and Sand Springs. Cattle were wintered down there, but they had to be driven back across the river before the ice started breaking up in the spring.

Hereford cattle were Tony's dominant breed. Ahead of his time, Tony chose bulls by looking at the herd and progeny, rather than the sires themselves. Bringing cattle into the ranch and shipping cattle out were major projects. The cattle had to be trailed into Winnett and loaded onto railroad cattle cars to go to Chicago, where they were sold. During the depression years, cattle died with their mouths full of hay. It was learned that the hay lacked necessary nutrients.

A continual chore was gentling one or more of the range cows so she could be milked to provide milk for the family. It was also necessary to raise quite a few horses and train them to harness or to the saddle. Horses were used for most of the work, such as gathering cattle, haying, feeding, etc. Tony purchased a tractor in the mid-1940s to use in the haying operation, but horses remained a vital part of the ranch operation. He purchased one of the first balers, but it required four men to operate it, and there were many mechanical problems with it. It was given a fair trial, but Tony soon went back to stacking the hay loose.

Many good ranch hands were involved in the building of the ranch over the years. There were often four or five men at a time.

There weren't any close neighbors, so it involved a full day to do any visiting. Lots of riders came by and often stopped for a meal or for a night, including salesmen and politicians.

The log cabin was expanded into an L-shaped house, with three bedrooms, living room, dining room, large kitchen and pantry. Under the kitchen was a cellar for the canned goods. The cabin was built with no nails. The daubing between the logs was a plaster made partially of bentonite, and daubing was an annual chore. The house was heated with three wood stoves.

Tony and Dot had four children — Nan, Sue, Pat and Bob. Of course, the children had to be educated. Since there was no school close to the ranch, other arrangements had to be made. Nan was sent to Wisconsin to live with Dot's aunt, so she could start school there. This didn't work out very well, so she came home in March, and Dot taught her how to read. The next year Dot and the children moved to Valentine, near the school; but this wasn't satisfactory, either. They returned to the ranch, got some home-study courses from the county superintendent, and had school at home. Later a young teacher was hired to live at the ranch and teach the girls, but she got so homesick she had to leave. Nan again went east, this time to her grandparents. Sandy and Blanche, and attended the eighth grade. She then returned home and after that, Tony rented a house in Lewistown, and Dot and the children moved to town for the school year. That house was sold, so before the 1935 school term started, they purchased a house on Hawthorne Avenue in Lewistown. The family moved between the house in Lewistown and the ranch for the rest of the time the children were in school. Had those yellow school buses been making their daily trips to the Dovetail area back in those days, my folks’ lives might have been simpler.

In 1959 Tony sold the northern portion of the ranch to Wellington D. Rankin. Tony died in 1965.

Lillian continued to live in Lewistown. She was an artist and needlecrafter and made countless sweaters, coats and afghans for family and friends. She was a founder of the Montana Institute of Arts and the Lewistown Art Center. Lillian died in 1981.

Nan married Wilbur Lindstrand and they made their home in Lewistown. Sue married Leonard Mayer and lives in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Pat married Dave Hale and
although they moved many times, they ranched for twenty years in Petroleum County. (See HALE) Bob married Pat Feeler and they have the "Swinging H" brand and the southern portion of the old ranch. He and Pat have added many acres to that, and they still raise beef cattle. (See WEINGART, Robert) (Pat Hale, daughter)

**WEINGART, Charles** (Sec 28,29-20-29) Charles Weingart was a son of Henry and Catherine Weingart of the Lewistown area. In 1913 he, with his brother Alex, homesteaded in the Crooked Creek area. He returned to Lewistown in the 1920s and married Rita Simonfy in 1929 in Great Falls. They moved to Minneapolis, where Charles entered the building trade. The couple had two children — one son, Dr. Richard C. Weingart of Livermore, California; and one daughter, Eugenia Risdal, of Dallas, Texas.

Charles died in 1981 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery at Lewistown.

**WEINGART, Chris** (Sec 32-18-28) Chris Weingart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weingart, was born in 1883 at Crystal Lake, Minnesota. He came to the Dovetail area about 1915 with his brothers, Tony and Alex. He married Nell Ragland in 1924 in Lewistown, then bought the Eric Hove place in the Dovetail area. They raised a big flock of turkeys, had dairy cows and sold milk and cream. They moved to the Fred Machler place, then the Henry Goahee place, to the Thorheim place near Valentine, and finally to the Blue Creek area near Billings, Montana.

Nell had two daughters — Mrs. William McNair, of Casper, Wyoming; and Alice Hanson of the Blue Creek area near Billings, Montana.

**WEINGART, Robert E.** (Sec 2,3-18-27) The following account was submitted by Patricia Weingart. "It is my understanding, if you live in the same community for twenty years, you are considered an 'Old Timer.' We have lived on our ranch on Dovetail Creek for thirty-seven years, and Bob grew up on his father's homestead about fourteen miles north of our place. This should qualify us as 'Old Timers,' and we have seen quite a few changes in the Dovetail community during this time.

"Bob's father homesteaded in 1913 and called his place Barrel Springs. As the years went by, he acquired more land. One of the parcels he purchased belonged to Andrew Hauge. This land was located on Dovetail Creek, about two miles southeast of the Dovetail schoolhouse. When we were married in August of 1951, we moved to the Hauge place and this became the nucleus of our ranch.

"Through the years we have acquired several homesteads and small ranches through estate sales, or when the owners wished to retire and move to town, or in land trades. Even though we have lived here for thirty-seven years and named our ranch the 'Swinging H Cattle Company' when we incorporated about ten years ago, some people still call it the Hauge place.

"When we moved here the road was mainly unimproved from Winnett out. Driving from Winnett the first few miles were elevated and sparsely graveled. Then the road changed to a narrow country road. When it rained the road changed into a slippery, muddy mess of gumbo, and being unlevel, the snowdrifts in the winter made travel impossible. Now the roads are elevated and graveled to both Winnett and Roy.

"There has been no change in the mail route or schedule. Mail is delivered twice a week, but the improved road has made it much easier for the mail carriers to drive the route. The first mail carrier I remember drove a Model A Ford. He had evidently learned to drive when he was elderly, and probably was more sure of his driving with horses. Quite often he would get stuck or had other problems of all sorts, and would leave traces of car paint on gate posts, on dirt banks and on snowbanks all along his route. He did get the mail delivered though.

"In 1951 there was no telephone or electricity in the community. Our house was wired for electricity and power was supplied by a gasoline motor generator that seemed to always need repairs. R.E.A. came in 1954 and was indeed welcome. Mid-Rivers Telephone Co-op service followed soon, and we all felt pretty 'up town.'

"Bob and I have both served as county commissioners. Bob served from 1968 to 1974. I have served since 1975 and am now completing my fourteenth year. We have both found county government very interesting.

"Two of our three children live out of Montana. Our daughter, Sidonie, lives in Levitt, Canada, and has two children. Ki lives in Pierre, South Dakota, and has one son. K. C. and his wife, Teri, are partners in the ranch and live here.

Bob and Pat Weingart
"The children attended the Dovetail School until Sid was in junior high. By that time the attendance had dwindled to our three children. It was impossible to hire a good teacher who would move to an isolated area, live in a teacherage, and be able to teach all grades. We enrolled our three in the junior high and grade schools in Winnett. We rented an old house in Winnett and called it the 'Town House.' We stayed in town when weather prevented us from driving back and forth to school functions. When it got cold, we found we shared the 'Town House' with a large family of skunks that lived under the building. Needless to say, we stayed only when we had to, otherwise we drove the thirty-three miles, each day, twice a day.

"We drove to Winnett for school for three years. By then there were several little students in the Dovetail and Valentine areas ready to start school. A bus route was established and the yellow school bus took over the twice daily drives. This bus route is still in operation.

"One of the biggest changes in the Dovetail community is the decrease in population. About thirty years ago there were twenty-nine members in the Chain Buttes Grazing District. Now there are only nine. Many of the ranches were sold to neighbors or were bought by out-of-state absentee owners.

"We have always had cattle, changing from Herefords to Black Angus in the fifties. Our lowest price for calves was thirteen cents a pound, and the highest was $1.05 per pound for calves from this area this year. For the last fifteen years we have had a cow/calf operation, keeping the calves over to yearlings. This year (1988) because of the ongoing drought we will be selling our calves too.

"The only farming we do is dry-land hay. Because of the drought and the severe grasshopper infestation the last several years, we have done very little in the way of haying. Like the homesteaders used to think 'it will be better next year,' I'm sure it will be and I guess we will stick around and see if it is.'

WELCH, Elmer (Sec 22-19-29) Elmer and Pearl Welch had two sons: William (1910) and Vernon (1913) as listed in the District #169 school census for 1919-1920.

WEST, Everett P. (Sec 24-18-27) Everett P. West, son of Mary Loesch by a former marriage, was born in Park City, Montana, on September 19, 1891. His father Fred West, died at Fromberg in 1901, and is buried there.

Nellie June Moody was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in June 1893. Everett West and Nellie June Moody were married in July 1912. They moved to the Dovetail area, sometime after 1913, as homesteaders. They did some farming and had a few cows. Their homestead was near the George and Mary Loesch home, and as their children were born, the youngsters developed very close ties to their grandparents.

To get extra money for necessities, Everett worked away from home quite a bit. He did considerable work building roads for the county. He helped build many of the roads in use in the area today. He also helped build stock dams for neighbors. All this work was done with teams of horses. He broke horses for his neighbors, both for riding and for work.

The Wests had five children — Curtis C. (1915), Ethel A. (1917), Hazel G. (1918), Altha M. (1925) and Mary A. (1927). Following are excerpts from the memories of these children. Curtis West: "When I used to stay with my grandparents, I had to help with the livestock. They had sheep and cattle. As we got older, there were other things we could do to help, like carry water, chop wood, and all the other things Grandma needed.

"Easter was a great day at Grandma's house. We could color eggs all day long, then take turns hiding them. We used to have a lot of fun at our grandparents' home, and we didn't need a lot of toys to entertain us. We made different things out of tin cans, sticks, and bottles and played with them."

Curt married June Creighton, who is deceased.

Ethel West Peters: "We didn't have a lot of things, but we always had LOVE. We had to help Mama, especially after her health began to fail. We baked all of our own bread, rolls, doughnuts and pies, and churned all our own butter. On weekends it was the job of all of us kids to take a team, wagon, saw and axe and go get a load of wood for the week. There were times when we all went to cut extra wood for winter.

"Dad broke horses to ride or drive. It was a big thrill to ride with Dad in a wagon pulled by a bronc being broken. Mama used to fret about us getting hurt, but we never did.

"On Saturday nights when we got to go to Dovetail or to Valentine for a dance, we really had fun. Everyone danced; adults and children alike. We went either by horseback or in the wagon. It was seven miles to Dovetail where we went to school.

"I will never forget those wonderful years, great times and the nice folks who lived just as we did."

Ethel married Chris Peters and now lives at Bridger. They had five children — Clifford E., Curtis C., Delores J., (deceased), Jack W., and Carol M.

Hazel West Haworth: "We got our mail at the Dovetail Post Office. One of us kids had to go after it horseback, about seven miles. We did a lot of riding because that was the only transportation at that time. Later we moved to the Bill Gomer place and then our mail came to Valentine. Sam Conolly was the mail carrier for many years."

Hazel married George E. Haworth and now lives in Kent Washington. They had six children — Barbara F., Raymond C., Patricia A., Jennifer J., Deborah J. and Margie M.

Altha West Meserve Garrison: "I was born October 2, 1925, in the bedroom of my grandparents home. Mrs. Lillian Carroll attended the birth.

"My earliest memories are when we lived on the Dan Gomer place about one mile from the Bill Gomer place. When Mr. Gomer passed away, my folks looked after his
wife. She left the place to my Dad and we lived there until my mother passed away in September of 1938. After several moves, we ended up in Lewistown and my dad worked in the mines at Hanover until his death.

"I hated town, so I went to my grandparents at Dovetail, where I stayed until I married. I loved that old place and had hoped to be able to live there again one day. The years there with my grandparents were the happiest of all my life."


Mary Alice West Crowley: "My grandparents lived in the Dovetail area until their deaths. Curtis inherited their ranch. He operated the ranch a few years and then sold it to Bob Weingart.

"After Mother's death, we moved around quite a bit. We were on the John Sinclair place, close to the Long School. Then we were in Valentine, living in the old store and residence and going to the Valentine School. We also lived for a time in the Sam Conolly house at Valentine. We moved to Lewistown in 1940."

Mary Alice married George P. Crowley and they lived in Spokane, Washington. They have three children — L. Daniel, Gail R., and Colleen V.

WILLIAMSON, Alexander (Sec 13-19-28) Alexander "Sandy" and Blanche Williamson, parents of Mrs. Tony Weingart, took up a homestead about 46 miles north of Winnett in 1913. On the place was a spring of good water, called Barrel Springs by the early settlers. Sandy and Tony were partners and worked together to build the nucleus of the ranch and herd that were known as the "Swinging H" Ranch.

In 1918 Sandy and Blanche returned to Ohio to manage a dry-goods store. Blanche returned frequently to help out when the Weingart children were born, and at other times when extra help was needed by the family. Both Sandy and Blanche returned to help in the mid 1930s. (Pat Hale, granddaughter) (See also WEINGART)

WILSON, William William and Josephine had two children — Gene (1899) and Blanch (1902) according to the 1915 school census for District #122 Fergus County.

WRIGHT, Robert (Sec 7, 8-17-27) Robert Wright came to Montana from Missouri, where he was a judge for some years. He was a Civil War veteran and had resided in the Dovetail area for some years. He died at the Battle Mountain Sanatorium at Hot Springs, South Dakota, in 1927. He was survived by three children — Mrs. Lillian Whitsett, V. R. Wright and J. T. Wright. (W. T. 6-10-27) (See also WRIGHT — Ashley)

YAHN, Albert (Sec 20, 29-18-27) Albert and Irene Yahm had five children — Irene (1906), Albert (1907), Helen (1909), Ethel (1910) and Vivian (1913). The children are listed in the District #169 school census from 1918 through 1921.

YATES, James (Sec 30-18-25) James and Mildred Yates and family came from Canada. They homesteaded on the old south Roy-Valentine road, southwest of Valentine, near the Clifford Clark homestead. The Yates had three children — Teddy, Mildred and Myrtle.

The Yates family returned to Canada after they had proved up on their homestead.