House built by Evan Holmboe. Nimmans, Sandmans, and Stewarts were later occupants. (Picture taken in 1985)

Snow on road in 1969

Rimrock on the Eager homestead. B. C. Stewart in his garden

Bobcats of the community caught by government trapper and B. C. Stewart

(L. to R.) Helen Johnson, Pearl Stewart, Bessie Kent, Clara Henton, Minnie Sandman, Veronica Bauer holding Jean, Inez Vogel, Mrs. Beckstrom, Ramona Stewart holding Mary, Ruth Owings and two girls, Else Baitis (?) holding Dick Vogel (?); Front David Vogel (?); George Stewart and dog, Scottie. (Picture taken in 1950)
This is an area completely contained in Township 15, Ranges 26 and 27. Township 15, Range 26 is bordered on the north with the Buffalo Creek drainage. The Winnett Irrigation Company ditch also cuts through the center. Box Elder Creek winds diagonally through T15-Range 27, the township most thought of as the Brush Creek country. Brush Creek itself is only about five miles long, and is a drainage from the Ohio well pasture in Sec 26-16-27 into Box Elder Creek.

A post office was never established in this section of the country, but eventually a delivery route was set up between Winnett and Cat Creek which went through the area. In 1927 a route from the Golden Rule Ranch to the Plutschack Ranch, then east to Ashley was started, with a return route over the steel bridge across Box Elder Creek.

This particular region was probably best known for its potential as an irrigated farmland. On January 27th and 28th 1911, ten gentlemen gathered in Lewistown for the purpose of organizing the Winnett Irrigation Company. They were Walter J. Winnett, William H. Tobin, Rudolph Von Tobel, George J. Wiedeman, C. E. Trawek, I. W. Hobensack, Ned Hardy, F. F. Attix, Abraham Hogeland, and David Hilger. This would have a very positive affect on the agriculture in the Brush Creek area and land east of War House Lake.

In an article in a 1921 Winnett Times, a history of the project is told with much credit given to the first president Walter J. Winnett. It said "Walter J. Winnett, foreseeing the possibility that existed in the Buffalo Creek Valley for the construction of a successful irrigation project several years ago, began to move in the direction of giving concrete form to the idea. He sought the advice and services of Mr. Abraham Hogeland, an official of the U.S. Land Office of Lewistown, Montana.

"Cooperation between these gentlemen and Mr. Winnett's vision, faith and genius for organization, resulted in the eventual completion of the irrigation project. The project is prepared to irrigate about 11,000 acres of land. It is proposed to ultimately water at least 15,000 acres. Most of the lands lie north and west of the town of Winnett. " Ditches were constructed from the project and all landowners along the way, would benefit. (See also WINNETT IRRIGATION PROJECT — Blakeslee)

According to several articles in the Winnett Times, the Brush Creek area was also very attractive to many of the oil companies during the 1920 "boom days." The Brush Creek dome was considered a very likely structure to explore. In 1922 one Times headline read "MANY REPORTS ON OIL SHOWINGS." There were many conflicting reports of oil from the 1600 foot level reached by the Republic well. Many were willing to issue affidavits to the effect that they saw oil running off the bit when it was pulled from the well. The Republic well was located in the northern part of the Brush Creek community, in the southwest quarter of section 28-16-28.

Another article in the July 7, 1922, Winnett Times tells of an oil company filing bankruptcy because of all the troubles it had while drilling, but the log states that there was a showing of oil. The company had spent $31,000 with the well at only 280 feet. Poor management was sighted for the cause of bankruptcy.

"BRUSH CREEK IS ATTRACTIVE" is another headline in the 1922 Winnett Times. It states, "Brush Creek is listed as one of the most perfect oil structures in Montana, a structure so evident that the novice can outline it with the naked eye." In the next few years, more deep tests were done in the area, but a productive well was never found. Pearl Henton Stewart remembers her father, Joe Henton, watching as they "brought in" a well. "He swore there was oil there," she recalled, "but they capped it anyway." There is still a free flowing artesian well about nine miles north of Winnett, known as the Ohio well, as a result of the oil drilling.

Brush Creek Dome — Ohio Well Crew: Mr. Zoolick, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Harris, Mr. S. Kyles, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Morgan, Mr. Rush; Mr. Jennings, Mr. Wilson, Joseph Henton; two children, Kenneth and Harold (last names unknown)
Schools

The two townships of this district were first under the jurisdiction of School District #26 (Flatwillow), but in February of 1916, Winnett School District #159 was created from part of the Flatwillow district. The first trustees of this new district were Samuel C. Pribble, Hammond B. Greene and George H. Deethardt. This was a large district, and included the Wilson, Schellenberger, Stage and Brush Creek schools. The first Brush Creek school had been held in 1914 in Henry Miss’s cabin with Harry Tripp of the Flatwillow country as teacher. Clara Shroder and Louisa Wilson taught in 1915, and in 1916 the new Brush Creek schoolhouse was built, with Mrs. Frank Jones as teacher. Louisa Wilson was also one of the first teachers of the Schellenberger School in 1914. Others known to have taught in this area were O. W. Lasater, Miss Van Tassell, Irene Quickenden, Mildred Henton, Anna Kleiman, and Blanche Good.

On April 17, 1931, the following item was in the Winnett Times: ‘Last Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Good of the Brush Creek School took the seven pupils, namely Gerald, Leona, and Irene Quigley, Evelyn Elde, Monrad Elde, Leroy Bailey, and Laura McCrery, to Lewistown to spend the day. Most of the pupils had never been in any town or city except Winnett or other very small places. ‘The mountains and scenery proved exceptionally interesting to the students. They discovered many sights they had never seen before. At noon hour they drove to the Moccasin mountains for a wiener roast, and most of the crowd climbed a high butte, which took one hour to do.

‘The afternoon was spent in Lewistown in various ways. The ‘dime store’ (F. W. Woolworth Co.) drew the children’s attention most of the time. They were taken for a ride on the elevator in Power’s store, and had so much fun that they wanted to ride all afternoon. One amusing remark among dozens of others just after a little girl noticed the street light bulbs was, ‘What are all those balloons on the street for?’

‘Other sights they noticed were the different windows filled with beautiful things, a telephone, water fountains, some trout, the courthouse, and so many other things it would be impossible to mention them. The crowd stayed to see the city with all its lights. They departed for home declaring they had a wonderful time, a day never to be forgotten by pupils or teacher.‘

Names of other teachers of this area will be found in the Winnett District #159 listing.

Church services were sometimes held in the schools. Reverend Alton would often come out from Winnett and preach at the Brush Creek School.

Sunday picnics were frequent, and would be attended by neighbors from all around, just the location would change from time to time. Dances were held often, usually in one of the community schoolhouses, or even in the homes. The music was provided by Tom Henton, Everett Cotton, and Mildred Henton. The children would gather and ride horses across the open hills, forming lasting friendships. Times were hard during the homestead era, but there seemed to be a genuine sense of community spirit and unity.
AKINS, Fred (Sec 10-15-26) Frederick W. Akins was born June 26, 1884, at Humansville, Missouri. He was trained as a civil engineer. In 1913 he homesteaded 4½ miles north of Winnett.

Elizabeth Crignton was born October 24, 1891, at Walnut Grove, Missouri. She became a school teacher in Missouri. She and Fred were married during the summer of 1914.

Fred was hired by a group of Lewistown businessmen as the fourth engineer of the War House Lake (or Winnett Irrigation Co.) project. Under his management the project was completed in 1916.

With the water thus available, the Akins built up a fine irrigated ranch, and acquired many dry land acres for the production of cattle and sheep. The brick house which was built in Sec 13-10-25 — on property belonging to Jefferson and Louise Akins — became the home of Fred and Bess and family. It serves as a residence today for Earl Brady, who now owns the property.

The Akins family moved to Helena, Montana, in 1936. Fred was employed by the State Water Conservation Board. Two children had become a part of their family while they lived on what was sometimes known as the Golden Rule Ranch.

Elizabeth (1915) and John (1919) attended Winnett Elementary School, and both graduated from Winnett High School — Elizabeth in 1932, and John in 1936.

Elizabeth attended Montana State College two years, Iowa State University two years, and the University of Iowa one year. Her specialty was dietetics. Before her marriage to George Downing, she served as a dietitian in the University of Iowa hospital.

She and George were the parents of four children — George (1940), Mary Elizabeth (1946), John Frederick (1950) and Peter Redfield (1952). Son John was killed in Vietnam April 16, 1970, at 19 years of age. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

John attended Iowa State University, graduating in 1940 with a degree in civil engineering. He worked for four years at his chosen vocation in Chicago, Illinois; four years at Helena; and from 1948 to 1985 in the State of Washington. He married Mary C. Immel, and five children joined the family — Barbara (1946), John (1947), Fred (1949), Marian (1950) and Ronald (1960).

The Winnett Times wrote proudly of John and Winnett High School in June 1940: "John C. Akins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Akins, accepted a position in the engineering design department of Standard Oil in Chicago. He graduated on June 10 from Iowa State College at Ames with the highest standing in the civil engineering department, and the second highest in the senior class of 700 students. John is a graduate of Winnett High School, class of 1936."

Mrs. Akins died in 1945, and Mr. Akins, in 1951. Both were buried in Helena.

AKINS, Halbert Jefferson Jefferson Akins was born September 16, 1867, in Cedar County, Missouri, the seventh of ten children. He and Louise Cresap were married in 1894 and in 1900 moved to Deer Lodge, Montana, then to Lewistown, Montana, in 1901. They built the large brick house on Lewistown's Main Street Hill, which had the distinction, for many years, of having a kitchen sink in the exact center of the State of Montana!

The Golden Rule Store of Lewistown was managed by Jefferson Akins. So it was that when Jefferson located in the Brush Creek area, the ranch which was built up on his and Louise's land holdings was also named the Golden Rule Ranch.

Jefferson was very prominent in the affairs of the Winnett Irrigation Company. He succeeded Walter J. Winnett as president and served in that capacity for many years.

Louise and Jefferson became the parents of five children — Bohnda, Jerrre, Marion, Willard and Bruce.

Bohnda (1898) married Ray Dockery, prominent Lewistown attorney. (See also CRESAP)

AMOS, Charles (Sec 13-15-26) Charles "Tom" and Sarah Amos of Harrisonville, Missouri, arrived here in February of 1946 to operate the Akins Ranch. Sarah contributed the following memories (excerpts from her history return):

"Receiving the history questionnaire brought up a lot of happy memories of three of the most important and memorable years of our lives. Even the air was wonderful and different! Thank you for that and for the special stamp and postmark!

"Fred Akins lived in Helena and was an engineer for the state. He used to come to the place once in a while and get his old tractor out of the shed. When it started, it often 'exploded' and scared all the chickens and animals to death.

"There were lots of antelope and deer. We bought Angus cattle from the N Bar Ranch at Grassrange and trailed them home. We had several horses to ride. It was
our first glimpse of ranches and real cowboys! There was a little two-room bunkhouse on the ranch. We brought a couple with us to work on the ranch. After they left, Jimmy Johnson came and lived with us.

"We didn’t have electricity. The mail man came Tuesdays and Fridays. Lots of times our mail bag would be full if we had not gone to town between mail days.

"We became real good friends with lots of people — the Vogels, Mr. Bennett, Betty and Bob Bennett, the Beckstroms, Stewarts, Johnsons, the Roy Manuels, the Bauers, and Sylvia and Harvey Ward.

"With the help of Betty Bennett and Myron and Irene Hegge, Ruth (my sister) and Leland Owings, we started a real good Sunday school, which was held in the high school. The Pangburns conducted our Bible study, and Wilbur, son of the Armagosts, gave chalk talks.

"We remember the Kenckes — the nice people in the drug store which had a form of ‘slot machine,’ the first one I’d ever seen or used. There was the grocery store which had received the first plastic glasses. The lady in the store said that she and her daughter had so much fun just throwing them at the sink! The other daughter of the store people was away at college. Tom carried a rattlesnake in a sack in the trunk of our car to give to her for a college class.

"The men stacked hay with a hay stacker and brought the hay up with a ‘bull rake’ made out of old cars. We irrigated the fields from the irrigation system from water in the mountains which came through a flume. All the men on the ditches would go up in the spring and clean and tar the flume. Sometimes there would be hot words and bad feelings between some of the neighbors, if they thought that they weren’t getting enough water.

"I still get lonesome for Montana. I can hardly believe we were there only three years!"

After leaving here in the fall of 1948, the Amoses became the parents of Donald (1950) and Kathy (1953). They now live at Amsterdam, Missouri.

ATTIX, Ruth Ruth Cresap married Fred Attix, prominent Lewistown physician and surgeon on March 24, 1903. They had two daughters, Zelda (1904) and Julia "Patsy" (1906).

Dr. Attix was one of the Lewistown promoters of the Winnett Irrigation Company. This interest no doubt led to Ruth Attix’s land acquisition in Brush Creek. The family did not live in the area, however.

Ruth died in 1939 and was buried in the Lewistown City Cemetery. Dr. Attix married a second time to Ruth Serruys. He died in 1948, she in 1959. (See also CRESAP — Brush Creek)

BADGER, John M. (Sec 26-15-26) John Badger was born in Putnam County, Missouri, September 5, 1864. He came to Winnett in 1912 and engaged in farming about three miles northwest of Winnett. He had three sons — James, Ray and Oscar; and two daughters — Audrey and Bernice.

He moved to Kevin, Montana, in 1930, where he made his home with his son, Oscar. He died there April 13, 1940, as the result of a heart attack following influenza. (See also BADGER — Winnett)

BADGER, Oscar (Sec 25-15-26) Oscar, son of John Badger, proved up on his homestead. In company with Walter Winnett, he opened the first general store in Winnett. (See also BADGER — Winnett)

BASTIAN, Edwin (Sec 21-15-26) Ed Bastian came into the country to work on W. J. Winnett’s Ranch. Both he and his wife, Edith, homesteaded in the Brush Creek area.

Mirth Winnett recalled that both Ed and his brother, Frank, were excellent baseball players as well as top hands on the Winnett Ranch. Ed was killed in some kind of a machine-related accident in the latter part of 1920. Edith was named administratrix of his estate.

BASTIAN, Frank (Sec 22-15-26) Frank Bastian, son of Louis and Carrie Bastian, was born in Bristol, Minnesota, in 1892. He was educated in Bristol, and in 1912 or 1913 homesteaded about 3½ miles northwest of Winnett. He also worked for W. J. Winnett. In 1918 he enlisted in the Army and became the bugler for Company C, 56th Machine Gun Battalion. After his discharge, he served for several years as bugler for the local American Legion Post. In 1924 he married Pearl Shay and moved to Cat Creek, Montana. (See also BASTIAN — Cat Creek and Winnett)

BAUER, Elmer (Sec 31-15-27) Elmer and Veronika Bauer and four girls — Delores, Lorraine, Bernice and Sylvia — came to the Winnett community in 1929. A son, Kenneth Elmer, had died in infancy, apparently due to the RH Syndrome. They had previously lived in Minnesota, North Dakota and Oregon.

Leaving Oregon, they planned to return to North Dakota, but stopped in Winnett to visit friends, Mae and Ted Hegna. While here they found that the homestead of
Ira Pierson, one mile north of town (then owned by Amanda Swift and run by her brother, Walter) was for sale. They decided to buy it and soon were furnishing milk to residents of the town of Winnett.

Their dairy was a family enterprise. Everyone milked cows and helped with the delivery of the milk. There were no machines to help with the milking operation. Their car was a van and served as a delivery wagon. A sled or wagon was used when necessary.

After a few years in this community, the Bauer family was blessed with a baby boy. Vernon was delivered at their ranch home by Dr. Hazel Freed of Grassrange.

The Bauers operated their dairy for 18 years. Like everyone else they survived the drought, grasshoppers, blizzards, Depression, and the war years. Their house was even struck by lightning at one time in the late 40’s. The family were congregated in their house and were just visiting. As a family member stated, “We were just yakking and sometimes making fun of people when someone said ‘yes, you do that and lightning may strike you!’”

Just about that time B-O-O-M!!

As Lorraine and Sylvia exchanged babies, smoke came off Sylvia’s fingers, and the bobby pins in her hair burned into her scalp. The floor came up and door jambs came out. Plaster exploded off the west wall and stuck to the east wall. Vernon was sitting on a metal trunk. He was so completely paralyzed that they took him to the doctor in Lewistown. However, by the time they got there, he was almost completely recovered. The family felt very fortunate in that they were not all killed.

After disposing of the dairy, Elmer farmed, ran range cattle and did some trucking. He was an avid conservationist and a Republican. He loved wildlife and the great outdoors. He completely disliked all facets of “The New Deal” and other Democrat programs. Taylor Grazing got under his hide; and one particular hatred of his was the “contouring” of the land, which he felt only formed a good bed for weeds. He was a kind and thoughtful neighbor. He died May 27, 1963, and was buried in the Winnett Cemetery.

Veronika, besides helping with the dairy, caring for her family and making all their clothes, was very generous with her time for her community. She was an ardent Republican and a self-taught pianist. She played the piano for community dances, as well as for the American Legion Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Rebekahs, Theta Rho, Winnett Senior Citizens and the Methodist Church. She also delighted a church youth group by playing “Oh, Johnny, Oh!” and other tunes for their circle dances.

Veronika died in June of 1985 and was buried next to Elmer in the Winnett Cemetery. Friends of Elmer and Veronika can picture them now in heaven with their daughter Bernice, son Kenneth, and grandson Kenny. They may see Veronika busy planning an angel potluck dinner or helping the Republican angels with an ice cream social. And they may see Elmer helping some angel farmer get a load of hay for a herd of phantom cows.

Delores graduated from Winnett High School in 1937. She worked in “Ma” Stewart’s Restaurant that summer for 50 cents a day. She then attended Montana State College. In summers she worked in Yellowstone Park for the Park Service. She later transferred to Chicago with the Park Service and there met and married Nickolas Osnik. Nickolas was office manager for Alexander Smith Rug Co. Later he was transferred to Dallas, Texas. Nickolas died in 1970. Delores still lives in Dallas.

Lorraine graduated from Winnett High School in 1939. She then worked for her board and room and attended Billings Business College. She worked part time for the Farm Security Administration and then went to Malta, Glasgow and Miles City for the same agency. She next went to work for Velma Merten in the Clerk and Recorder office and also served under Elden Freed, who was Petroleum County Superintendent of Schools.
She was school district clerk and also deputy county treasurer under Merlin Gershmel. Upon Mr. Gershmel's death, Lorraine assumed his responsibilities as Petroleum County Manager. Reportedly she was the only female county manager in the United States. She left that job in 1980 to be near her mother in Lewistown. During the time she was in Winnett, Lorraine was Theta Rho adviser for 20 years and also helped with Methodist Sunday school and youth group.

Bernice graduated from Winnett High School in 1940 and attended Montana State College for one year. She married Fay Story, a high school friend. She died of cancer in 1972. Sylvia graduated from Winnett High School in 1943. She married Harvey Ward, class of 1944. They were divorced. Sylvia lives now in Oregon. Kenneth Elmer died in infancy.

Vernon married Joan Pangburn, class of 1950. They were divorced and Vernon married Janet Phillips. Vernon has been engaged in ranching, trucking, running a hardware store, and running a bar and restaurant.


There are also the following great grandchildren: Ryan Reppe, Regan Reppe, Jenifer Story, Kent Story, Greg Story, James Story, Michael Hehr, Brent Roberts, Chris Roberts, Forrest Priest, Caitlin Marks, Fawn Ward, Melissa Myers, David Swing, Michael Swing, and Melody Myers.

**BAYER, Theodore** (Sec 11-15-25) See BAYER — Winnett

**BECKSTROM, Adolph** (Sec 10, 3-15-26) Adolph Beckstrom was born in Sweden on October 3, 1878. He came to the United States and settled in Michigan in 1897. He moved to Lewistown, Montana, in 1900. Edith Longmaid was born July 11, 1889, at Cottonwood, Montana. She attended school in Lewistown and at the Canyon Creek School near Helena, Montana.

Adolph and Edith were married June 19, 1912, at Canyon Creek, Montana, and ranched near there until 1921. In that year they moved to land northwest of Winnett where they established a fine ranch just below the War House Lake.

Beckstoms were parents of three children — Gladys, Frances, and Charles. They also raised Mr. Beckstrom's sister's three children — Helen, John and James Hopkins, whose parents were both killed in an accident.

Helen graduated from Winnett High School in 1927. She married Wilbur Robinson and they had two children — Wilbur Jr. and Donna Mae. Donna Mae died in 1958. Helen is also deceased.

John was connected with a gold mining operation in the Philippine Islands before World War II. He still hopes, in 1989, to go back and do some more mining.

Gladys Beckstrom graduated from Winnett High School in 1932. She and Seraph Greseth were married in February 1934. They were the parents of three children — Charles, Sonja and Sandra. Gladys lives in Portland, Oregon.
James Hopkins and Charles Beckstrom both graduated from Winnett High School in 1933. James attended Intermountain Union College for two quarters. He married Gerd Olsen. They were the parents of twin sons — Jim and Jerry, who were known as the Twinn Connexion, a singing duo; and a daughter Patti, who was a Playboy Bunny and who also skated in the Ice Capades.

Charles graduated from the School of Mines in Butte, Montana. He became an engineer in geology and a full commander in the Navy. He married Margaret McGuire, and they had four children — Lynn, Patti, Steve and Hal. Charles died in April 1967.

Frances graduated from Winnett High School in 1937. She married Arnold Olsen. (See also OLSEN — Dovetail and Flatwillow) Frances was appointed clerk of School District #159 in February of 1951. She and Arnold later moved to Silesia, Montana, and ranched until August 1968 when they moved to Tucumcari, New Mexico. They purchased the Leatherwood Manor in Tucumcari. They were the parents of three sons and one daughter.

BEDZYG, Anton (Sec 31-15-26) Anton Bedzyk, after his return from the war in 1918, decided to go west and homestead. His land was just south of the Mitchall Jozovich holdings. While proving up, he worked in a post office in Montana. He became discouraged and moved back to Chicago, Illinois. It is believed that he became a policeman there. On retirement he moved to Florida.

He and his wife are both deceased and his property is held by his son.

BEETSBA, Jacob (Sec 9-15-27) Jacob Beetsba was one of many young bachelors who filed on a homestead claim north of Winnett. Jake and Dave Henton, another young, single homesteader, became close friends and even entered the armed services together. Upon returning, Jake was here only a few years before he gave up his claim. He later married and had one son, Raymond, who lives in Walworth, Wisconsin, with his family.

BRADY, Earl: Earl Brady, the son of Evert and Myrtle Brady, was born February 13, 1924. He grew up in the middle of a family of 11 children on his father's homestead 17 miles north of Winnett. Earl finished high school in Fairfield, Montana, where his family had moved in 1938. After a tour in the Navy during World War II, Earl returned to the Winnett area and bought land near his father's old homestead. It was during this time that he met Virginia Hanson who was to become his wife.

Virginia was the daughter of Elmer and Doris Hanson who homesteaded near Valentine. She was born September 14, 1930. Earl and Virginia were married October 21, 1948. (See also HANSON — Dovetail)

The old Catlin house was their first home on Earl's new land. It featured so many mice and rats that they kept a
.22 rifle by their bed to eliminate the problem with bedside convenience.

Earl and Virginia had six children — Doreen, Jean, Jim, Evert, and twins Jerry and Gary — all born within five and one-half years. The Brady children have fond memories of growing up together so close in age, a camaraderie that has carried on in their adult lives. Virginia once said that her favorite years were those when they had six teenagers at once. When she wasn’t nurturing children, Virginia was nurturing trees, flowers, and a big garden.

Virginia died in 1984. Earl continues to live on their ranch four miles north of Winnett. Throughout the years Earl has been an active member of the school board, FHA committees, ASCS county committee, and several local service organizations. (See also BRADY — Ashley)

BRADY, James Jim Brady, the son of Earl and Virginia Brady, grew up in the Winnett area. He graduated from Winnett High School in 1970 and attended the Forestry School in Missoula before joining the Army. Jim assumed he would be joining the Viet Nam Conflict, but was diverted to Okinawa, where he spent 18 months. While in Okinawa, Jim was involved in motorcycle competition. Much to the amusement of Corky Ziesmer (who was then postmaster in Winnett), Jim sent home a motorcycle piece by piece through the mail.

After three more years of college at the University of Montana and Montana State University, Jim met and married Diana Milburn from Lewistown. They bought some land and cattle from Earl and settled into ranching on Box Elder Creek, six miles north of Winnett. Diana taught school at the Ayers Hutterite Colony for a year. Since then she has been teaching kindergarten and then art at the Winnett schools.

Jim and Diana have three daughters — Brenda, Laura and Carrie. (See also BRADY — Ashley)

BRANCH, Claude M. (Sec 21-15-27) Claude M. Branch was born October 6, 1869, at Kent, Ohio, and came to Winnett in 1917. He filed on a homestead four miles north and east of town. Before coming to Winnett he had been engaged in the photography business in Iowa and Lewistown.

While Mr. Branch lived in Petroleum County, he was active in the development of the Winnett Irrigation Company and served as secretary. In April 1930, Mr. Branch leased his land to Peter Kjersem, then moved into the town of Winnett. He later sold his land to B. C. and Pearl Stewart. (See also BRANCH — Winnett)

BRANDEN, Rudolph (Sec 29-15-26) (W. T. 5-3-29)
"Rudolph Branden of Teigen, Montana, and Emma Palmer of Winnett, were united in marriage in Roundup, Montana, by Justice of the Peace O. R. McVay. They visited briefly in Roundup before departing for their home in Teigen."

BRINKMAN, Irene Quickenden Irene Quickenden was a teacher in the Brush Creek School and wrote this article: "I taught Brush Creek School. District #159, which was eight miles north and east of Winnett, for two years (1921-22 and 1922-23). B. F. Tanner was superintendent of the Winnett schools.

"I lived and boarded in the Martin Gavel home. There were 14 pupils in all grades. Grace Gavel was one of my first graders. Other students were the Henton children — Pearl, Earl, and Elsie; the Quigley children — Leo, Tom, Lewis and Gerald; and the Kramer children." (See also QUICKENDEN — Winnett)

BUSBY, William (Sec 10-15-27) In October of 1926, according to the Winnett Times, W. J. Busby of the Valentine country, leased the Eager Ranch on Box Elder Creek. "He is now moving his household goods and farm implements thereon," the article reads. "The Eager Ranch is considered one of the best farm properties north of Winnett."

(W. T. 10-10-30) "Mrs. W. J. Busby, who has been living on the Eager farm for the past few years, is selling out at auction, Wednesday, October 15, 1930. Mrs. Busby plans to leave soon for Washington where she will make her home."

The auction was a success and the family planned to leave for their old home near Seattle. (See also BUSBY — Dovetail and Winnett)

CAMPBELL, A. Mr. Campbell farmed the Bryan Hardy land in Sec 32-16-26 in 1921. The land was under the Winnett Irrigation Company ditch. Fifteen acres of alfalfa netted him 1400 pounds of seed, which had an approximate value of $1500. Besides, this same 15 acres produced enough feed for five cows.

CARR, Sam (Sec 21-15-27) Sam and Jessie Carr came to the Winnett area in the 1920s. They rented land from Harry Eldridge. The Carrs had previously homesteaded north of Sand Springs. They had five boys — Tom, Don, Roy, Harold and Ivan. Sam farmed a little and had some livestock. They first lived in a small house near an irriga-
tion ditch, but later a larger house was built up on the hill. "They had a dance there, after it was built," Pearl Stewart recalls. "a big housewarming, and all the neighbors came and had a good time. Nine of us got in B.C.'s old Buick and went to it, and John Marty would dance around playing the mouth harp."

In June of 1929 a Winnett Times article tells about a twenty-fifth anniversary celebration held at their home: "The home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Carr, residing north of Winnett, was the scene of a delightful occasion last Sunday, June 16th, when 82 of their friends and neighbors gathered at their home to celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. The guests brought well-filled baskets and served the lunch at noon. A box of silverware was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Carr to commemorate the occasion, and the guests then departed wishing them another twenty-five years of happy wedded life."

"Sam's arthritis started to bother him," Pearl remembers, "so they had a sale and moved to a different climate, Sugargrove, Pennsylvania, then later into New York State. Sam and my mother were first cousins." Pearl continued: "My sister, Millie, and I went to Sand Springs with Don and Tom Carr in his Ford car. There wasn't a good road yet, so it seemed like it took a long time to get there, and only to find there wasn't any dance at all. We stayed overnight with a relative and next day visited friends, killed a couple of chickens, and had a big dinner!"

CHRISTOPHER, Alvin (Sec 26-15-27) "I remember the Christophers homesteading here," Pearl Stewart recalls. "They had a daughter, Rozella, who went to high school when I did."

A 1921 issue of the Winnett Times tells about the large produce Mr. Christopher raised in his garden: "A squash weighing 33 pounds is on exhibition in the offices of the Winnett Land Company. This huge vegetable is the product of A. F. Christopher's garden located six miles northeast of Winnett."

"Mr. Christopher also had a watermelon weighing 38 pounds and a big variety of other garden stuff of equal size. Mr. Christopher makes a specialty of truck gardening and has for this purpose a tract of land under the ditch on the Winnett Irrigation project. He finds that this kind of agricultural produce can be raised with ease and is also very profitable."

The story reads on: "A visit to this farm will increase faith in the country. It proves conclusively that at Winnett's door lies an undeveloped asset far greater in wealth than the tremendous pools of oil which surround the city. Without expensive fertilization and without difficulties, Mr. Christopher raised a truck garden that cannot be equaled on any high priced lands in eastern states. There are 30,000 acres of this same land now under water and 30,000 more acres that can easily be placed under water."

"It does not take a dreamer to look ahead and see the garden spot which this territory is certain to develop into within a few years. The oil is here in tremendous quan-
tities and has only been touched. Estimating the miles of undeveloped territory, it will be years before the last well will have been spudded in."

"But of far greater and more lasting value, is the great agricultural wealth which will fill a country with modern homes, big barns, churches, schoolhouses, paved highways, and a city teaming with people, factories, and a thousand industries."

In 1930 Rozella Christopher married Fred Horner of Lewistown. She was a 1923 graduate of Fergus High School and had been employed by the Eager Mercantile in Winnett. In November 1930 Mr. and Mrs. Christopher had an auction and left the Winnett area for a fruit farm located near Seattle, Washington. "Both are advancing in age," the Winnett Times reads, "and the milder climate of Washington holds out an appeal to them that they could not resist."

COLER, George H. George "Harry" Colver, the third of 13 children of George L. and Ida Colver, was born December 17, 1887, in Missouri Valley, Iowa. In 1908 he was married to Minnie Weatherly and they moved to Montana in 1916, settling in the area east of Roy, Montana.

In 1928 the family rented the Wilson Brothers Ranch in the Brush Creek country. Harry became a bus contractor for the Winnett public schools using his own touring car as a bus. Transportees were his own two sons, Edwin and Harold; the Fred Akins children, Elizabeth and John; and Elton Hansen.

When construction began on the Fort Peck Dam, Colvers went to work there until returning to Missouri Valley to work at carpentry and other construction in 1942. In July of 1948 they came back to Montana to live in Lewistown. Harry died there in October of 1948. Edwin died in May of 1950.

COTTON, Erwin J. (Sec 28-15-27) Erwin Jerome Cotton was born February 28, 1862, at Joliet, Illinois. Mr. Cotton was united in marriage September 21, 1885, to Miss Allaretta Whitney of Belle Plaine, Iowa. To this union five children were born — Everett, Richard, Florence, Helen, and Katherine.

Mr. and Mrs. Cotton came to Montana in 1912. Mr. Cotton was well known throughout the county and was highly respected by those who knew him. He was a blacksmith by trade, working in this line in Winnett for many years. (See also COTTON — Winnett)

COX, Reeves (Sec 24-15-26) Reeves and Phoebe Cox were married on January 1, 1910. After their marriage they left Sparta, North Carolina, and homesteaded in Montana north of Winnett. They had one son, Carl, who attended Winnett High School. Carl married Rena Brady, daughter of Evert Brady.

A 1928 newspaper had this account of a near disaster the Coxes experienced: "What might have proved a serious accident occurred at the Charles Hill in east Cat Creek Sunday night. Mr. and Mrs. Reeves Cox were
returning from Winnett. In arriving at the bottom of the hill in their car, they missed the bridge and the car went over a high bank. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cox escaped with minor injuries, but the car was utterly demolished.

"Viewing the wreck, one wonders how they could come through it alive. A passing car took them into Winnett, where their bruises were dressed by Dr. Alexander. Although regretting the loss of their car, they are thankful to have escaped so fortunately from the wreck.

"The Charles Hill has long been known as one of the longest and steepest in the country and always caused autoists and truckers more or less worry. During the Cat Creek boom days, teams were always kept handy to aid in pulling cars and trucks up the hill."

The Coxes moved to the upper Flatwillow Creek area in 1940 and ranched there until Reeves passed away in 1950. Phoebe then moved to Grassrange where she made her home until 1973. when she moved to Lewistown, Montana. Phoebe died in 1980.

CRESAH, Beulah (Sec 7-15-27) Beulah was Mrs. Will Cresap. Will was one of six children who were born to William P. Cresap and Julia Porter Cresap in Missouri. The other children were: Louise, who married Jefferson Akins; Min (Mrs. Robert Gentle); Ruth, who was the first wife of Dr. Fred Attix (married in 1902); Kate (Mrs. Jane McCracken); and Bob, who was involved in construction work and built the Akins house in Lewistown.

Because Bob was a builder of fine homes, and also because of his relationship to Louise (Mrs. Jefferson Akins), one can assume that he was probably the builder of the brick house in which the Fred Akins family lived while residing in Petroleum County. (See also Akins)

DALSMON, Ludvig (Sec 30,31-15-26) Ludvig and Pauline Dalsmon are recorded as early owners of the described land. A Clara Dalsmon married Mitchell Jozovich.

DALSMON, Peter Peter and Helga were married in Minnesota in 1904. They moved to Montana in 1909 and settled on their homestead. They were the parents of nine children — Hazel, Florence, Eleanor, Norman, Walter, Clarence, Arnold, Percy, and Arthur. Three news items of the Winnett Times reveal some family history:

(W. T. 12-26-1919) "Considerable excitement prevailed in town Saturday when the rumor spread that gold in paying quantities had been found on the Pete Dalsmon farm about eight miles northwest of Winnett. The truth of the rumor is that a considerable body of rock close to the surface has been found to bear gold, one sample having assayed $2.30 per ton. It is probable that prospecting will be carried on to see of what extent the body may be and other assays made."

(W.T. 2-24-28) "Elsie (Ed. Eleanor) Dalsmon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. Dalsmon, died at Ft. Maginnis Sunday, February 19th at the age of 8 years and 13 days. Funeral services were held at the Austin Saylor home, Rev. Harmon, of Grassrange, Montana, officiating. Inter-

ment was made in the Winnett Cemetery. Deceased leaves a mother and father, two sisters and five brothers to mourn her loss."

The Dalsmon children attended the Schellenberger and Teigen elementary schools and Grassrange High School. The Dalsmons moved into the town of Grassrange in 1934.

(W. T. 6-22-44) Arthur married Lorraine Roane in 1938. He died in June of 1944, leaving the wife and a small daughter, Dorothy May.

Walter Dalsmon (sometimes spelled Dolsman) worked in a sawmill after the war and lost part of his foot at the mill. He worked at the Montana Lumber and Hardware Co. of Lewistown, Montana, until retirement. He is a cabinet maker. He and his wife, Jean, still reside in Lewistown.

Percy worked in maintenance for government agencies and now lives in Spokane, Washington. Arnold was a brakeman for the Union Pacific Railway in Utah and Nevada. Norman drove cab in both Billings and Butte. Florence, Hazel, Arnold and Norman are all deceased.

Helga died in Lewistown in 1955 and was buried in the Lewistown Cemetery. Peter is also deceased.

Hans Dalsmon, brother of Peter, worked at the Teigen Ranch for a time.

DEERE, Jean or DIERE, Jean (Sec 28-15-26) See McDANIEL and THIEL — Winnett.

DEETHARDT, Benjamin (Sec 35-15-26) The Deethardt family, including daughter Johanna and son George Henry, homesteaded a whole section of land two miles west of the town of Winnett. Known children of Benjamin and Anna Deethardt were Johanna, George Henry, Gertrude (1897), Dena (1900) and Theodore (1903).

Johanna married Harry Knapp of the Jitney community. (See also KNAPP — Cat Creek) Gertrude married George Pullin who had also homesteaded in the Jitney area, and who later owned a store in Winnett. (See also PULLIN — Cat Creek and Winnett) Dena and Theodore were both students of Winnett High School in 1918-1919.

Some items of interest from the 1918-1919 Winnett High School Annual reveal: "Dena Deethardt was the Good Fairy, who came to the aid of two lovers, and with her troop of little fairies helped create a very beautiful scene."

Among the Nonsense pages of the 1919 annual: "Theodore Deethardt (alias Ted) A cunning villain; very smooth with pencil and ink. Has a very bad record among police courts of several Montana towns. Is tall, slim, chalky-faced individual. Arrest at once if found over county line. One of his favorite masks is that of Santa Claus; Dena Deethardt (alias Nancy Hanks) Fond of all fruits — especially dates. Has been accused of flirtation but never convicted. . . ."

In 1919 the Deethardt family, with the exception of the two married daughters, Johanna and Gertrude, moved to South Dakota.
barn which was a familiar landmark on the Winnett — Lewistown, Montana, highway for many years. It was sorely missed when finally demolished in the early 1980s.

Henry moved to Raymond, South Dakota, in the early winter of 1919. He and Louisa Wilson were married in February of 1920. (See also WILSON — Brush Creek and Winnett)

DEETHARDT, George H. (Sec 35-15-26) George H. "Henry" Deethardt was the oldest son of Benjamin and Anna Deethardt. He homesteaded with his parents and was responsible for building the beautiful large red dairy barn near Winnett — Barn built by George Henry Deethardt in 1915

DEETHARDT, Johanna (Sec 35-15-26) See KNAPP — Brush Creek)

DOTY, Levi (Sec 10-15-27) Levi Doty and his wife took a homestead north of Winnett before 1917. He farmed and had hogs. In the fall when the threshing was done, they would blow a big pile of straw over beside the barn; then the hogs would bury themselves for warmth in the winter. Mrs. Doty was a fine seamstress.

On April 3, 1931, the Winnett Times picked up an Associated Press report from Riverton, Wyoming: "Levi Doty, 58, was frozen to death while attending sheep during a severe blizzard. Many pioneer Winnett folks will remember Levi Doty as having homesteaded near the steel bridge over Box Elder and having married while there. His wife died shortly before he left Petroleum County. Mrs. Doty had homesteaded near the Swift Ranch. Elmer Eager bought the homestead which adjoins him."

DUNN, C. E. (W. T. 6-24-21) "C. E. Dunn, who taught school at Plankinton, South Dakota, returned to Winnett early this week and will spend the summer here. Mr. Dunn has a farm on Buffalo Creek."

DUNN, William (Sec 6.8-15-27) William Dunn was born at Ft. Logan, Montana, in 1880. His father was a non-commissioned officer in the 18th U.S. Infantry stationed at the fort. The family moved to Ft. Maginnis, Montana, in 1881. After First Sergeant Owen Dunn was discharged from the Army, he located on a ranch on the east slope of the Judith Mountains near Gillette where William was raised.
Katharine Wieglenda was born in North Dakota in 1890 and came to the Maiden, Montana, mining camp in 1900. She and William were married in 1909. They raised four children — Susie, Wilma, George and William.

It is not known exactly when "Bill" and "Kate" came to the Box Elder Creek area, but Kate filed a desert claim on 320 acres which was patented in May 1920. Bill bought 160 acres from August Van Lake in 1919. The couple did not remain in the area long, but returned to the foothills of the Judith Mountains where they developed a fine cattle ranch near Gillette.

**EAGER, Elmer** (Sec 10-15-27) In about 1915, Elmer and Lillie Eager accompanied by daughter, Nell, moved from Beaver Crossing, Nebraska, to their homestead in this Brush Creek area. They were also owners of a store in Winnett. Mrs. Eager, in later years told of how much she enjoyed her life on the Box Elder homestead.

The Brush Creek Eager Ranch is now owned by Eugene and Marcia Stewart. (See also EAGER — Winnett)

**ECKLAND, Andrew** (Sec 5-15-25) Andrew Eckland, the son of Mr. and Mrs. August Eckland of Sweden, was born November 23, 1886. Andrew was educated in Sweden. He immigrated to America and before coming to Montana in 1910, he lived in Delaware and Chicago, Illinois.

He homesteaded and, with Teigen as his address, served his country in World War I. Upon his return, he profited from several years of good crops. In 1930 his sister, Anna Johnson, her husband, Arthur, and son Eric emigrated from Sweden and lived on his ranch for a time before locating their own place.

Andrew ranched until 1960 when he sold out to Arthur Kamrath (or Monty Price, as he was also known). He moved to Lewistown, Montana, and passed away there in 1971.

**EDWARDS, Posey** (Sec 24-15-26) Posey Edwards, it can be surmised, was very interested in education — so much so, in fact, that he ran away with Clara Schroeder, the teacher of the Brush Creek School, and she became his helpmate on his homestead in 1915.

**ELDE, Sivert** (Sec 1-15-27) Sivert and Elide Elde were both born in Norway. They came to the Brush Creek area in 1912 and homesteaded 12 miles northeast of Winnett. Lumber to build the family home was hauled from Lewistown with a team and wagon. Sivert and Elide
raised four children — Adolph, Esther, Evelyn and Monrad. They lived in the Winnett area for 24 years, then moved to Chinook, Washington.

Esther (Elide) Hansen, second child of Elide and Sivert Elde, was born in Winnett and attended Brush Creek Grade School and Winnett High School. "I was 18 years old," she recalls, "when we had an auction sale in the summer of 1935 and moved to Chinook, Washington, in August." She married Walter Hansen, and they had three children — Walter, Donald and Arnold. Esther still lives in Chinook, Washington, in 1989.

Adolph Elde was the oldest son of Sivert and Elide. Adolph was born at Telgen a year after his parents settled on their homestead north of Winnett. Adolph attended grade school at Brush Creek School and graduated from high school in Winnett in 1931.

The family received their mail on the Cat Creek route after it was established, and Adolph recalls someone “rifling” one of their packages and taking some of the things his folks had ordered for him to wear to school.

He recalled: "We were a little over a mile north of the school, so I wore out lots of shoes going back and forth through the sagebrush and cactus. Winters were not so pleasant, but in the spring we always managed to find a few birds’ nests and watched them hatch and grow and finally take off. Finding a few wild flowers, too, brightened the way."

He also wrote: "I started to school there in 1919 — I believe that was the year the flu epidemic took so many. Somewhere along about that time, they struck oil at Cat Creek, so there was a lot of activity in the area. As they moved closer to our place with the drilling, at night it was quite a sight to see the rigs all lit up."

In 1927 Adolph started to high school in Winnett, boarding with the Oscar Houges. "I used to enjoy going down to the store," he writes, "Grocery stores don’t smell good like they did then! There was a fragrance in the store that I couldn’t get enough of. Now everything is boxed up and canned up so tight. Even the new shoes smelled so good!"

Adolph and Dorothy Morgan were married in 1934 and moved to Billings in 1936. They had five children — Florence, Lillian, Virginia, Beverly and Russell. (See also MORGAN — Teigen)

Eldridge, Harry (Sec 21-15-27) Harry Eldridge was born in 1887 at Cottonwood, Montana. He was a son of the pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Eldridge, who had themselves been the first couple married in Fergus County, Montana.

Harry attended Lewistown schools, and in 1912, married Elsie Hobensack. They lived on his homestead, which was about three miles northeast of Winnett, until 1917. At that time they moved into Lewistown where Harry worked as an accountant. He later served as Fergus County Treasurer.

When Harry died in October of 1946, his wife, Elsie, and sons, Douglas and Robert, were named as survivors.

FELDT, Ed (Sec 4-15-27) Ed Feldt was born in 1849 in Sweden, where early in life he learned the carpenter trade. He immigrated to America in 1909 and received his naturalization papers at White Sulphur Springs, Montana, in 1913. In 1914 he homesteaded in the Brush Creek community north and east of Winnett.

Mary Magdalene (last name unknown) was born at LaCrosse, Wisconsin, February 12, 1872. She was a trained nurse and a brilliant woman, graduating from the West Side Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago. She came to Montana in 1911 and took up a homestead in the Brush Creek area. At the same time, she pursued her nursing profession in the mining town of Gillette and also in Lewistown.

She and Ed Feldt were married at Cat Creek in May of 1924. Ed worked his farm and also did a lot of carpentry work in the town of Winnett. In 1916 he built the new Eager Mercantile Store at the corner of North Broadway and West Main Street. Among many other projects, he built the large cisterns at the schoolhouse. On his farm he provided Percheron stud services during the times when good horses were a most valuable asset.

Mary died in September of 1949, and Ed, in July of 1955. Both were buried in the Winnett Cemetery. They had no children.

GAVEL, Martin (Sec 11,12-15-27) Martin Gavel moved to Montana from Iowa in 1899, and was employed on the Teigen Ranch, working for his uncle, Mons Teigen, Sr. At the same time he filed on his own homestead just north of the Teigen, Montana, town site.

Lena Brown was born in Sparta, Wisconsin, September 12, 1889. She graduated as a registered nurse in 1905. She eventually came to Montana and pursued her nursing career at Butte, later homesteading in the Brush Creek area. She and Martin were married in 1915 and took up residence on Lena’s homestead.

At Mrs. Gavel’s homestead: (Back row) Martin Gavel, Ingrid Teigen, Julia Vinger, Lena Gavel, Edna Teigen; (Front row) George Gavel, Grace Gavel, Mons Teigen, Peter Teigen
The Gavels raised two children — an adopted son, George, and a daughter, Grace. Both attended the Brush Creek School.

From the Brush Creek news of the Winnett Times of November 27, 1922: “The Brush Creek School was treated to a hot chicken dinner with all the trimmings at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Gavel in honor of their daughter Grace’s birthday. Those present were Elsie Henton, Adolph and Esther Elde, Lewis and Gerald Quigley, John Nelson and Grace Gavel. The beginners class enjoyed blowing out the candles on the birthday cake. Mr. Gavel conveyed the crowd to and from dinner in his car. Mrs. I. N. Parker assisted Mrs. Gavel with the serving.” The Gavels often boarded the school teachers.

Martin Gavel farmed and raised a large amount of sweet corn and sold it in Winnett. And, in another Winnett Times article: “Martin Gavel, of the Brush Creek country, makes a specialty of capons. Last week (December 23, 1927) he sold 50 to the Cash Produce and received in return a check for $107.00, or 28 cents a pound. Last year he sold the choice ones to the Enterprise for 30 cents a pound. Mr. Gavel believes there is more money and less trouble raising capons than any other kind of fowl.”

George Gavel graduated from Winnett High School in 1932. He served in the Signal Corp of the Army in Australia during World War II, then became an accountant in Washington, D. C. He and his wife, Isabelle, had two sons, Richard and Robert.

Grace graduated from Winnett High School in 1934, attended Billings Business College and worked as a stenographer in Billings, Montana, for six years. She married Paul Temple in 1941 and they became the parents of nine children — Edna, Janet, Joseph, John, Frank, Paulette, Tom, Steven and Michael.

Mrs. Gavel, a quiet, hard-working lady, and a strong member of the Christian Science faith, died quietly in December of 1939, never having burdened others with her health problems.

Grace and Paul helped Mr. Gavel on his ranch for a time after that. Paul also worked in the courthouse in Winnett for various government programs. When Grace and Paul moved to Great Falls, Montana. Mr. Gavel sold his place to Wayne Bratten and lived with the Temples in Great Falls. He passed away February 26, 1956.

GLAZIER, Albert M. Albert M. Glazier was born January 5, 1892, in North Dakota. Gladys Jennings was born June 6, 1895, in Albert Lea, Minnesota. They were married in 1915 in Lewistown, Montana, and homesteaded in the Musselshell River country. They moved to the Brush Creek area in about 1923.

Albert had previously been involved in the dairy business for fifteen years while living in Minnesota. In March of 1925 he took over the dairy business of Walter Swift. Later Glaziers lived on the Deethardt place west of Winnett. They moved to Laclede, Idaho, in 1938.

Glaziers were the parents of eleven children — Alberta, Hazel, Phyllis, Joyce, Barbara, Janice, Harley, Gerald, Keith, Gene, and Milton. The children attended the Brush Creek and Winnett Schools.


Hazel graduated from high school in 1937 and married Marvin Jackson in Idaho. They had five children and lived on a farm near Moses Lake, Washington. Marvin was also a mechanic, and Hazel, at times worked in a potato plant. Hazel always said that her work was her hobby.

Harley was killed in a hunting accident at Laclede, Idaho, in July of 1958. He had served in the Navy during World War II and was a heavy equipment operator. He was married, and the father of two children. Milton married Lorna Sindelar. The couple had two children, Del and Marvin, both born at Sandpoint, Idaho.

No information was obtained on the other members of the family. Albert died in October of 1971, and Gladys in July of 1975.

HALE, David David and Patricia Weingart Hale purchased the J. K. Smith Ranch — the former Beckstrom Ranch in May of 1964. (See also HALE — Dovetail)

HALE, Raymond Raymond Anthony Hale, son of David and Pat Hale, was born in 1960 at Sand Point, Idaho. Karen Kimmell, daughter of Donald and Jean Kimmel, was born in 1960 at Bozeman, Montana.

Raymond and Karen were married in 1980 in Lewistown. They lived in Bozeman and attended college there until Raymond graduated from Montana State University with a degree in Mechanized Agriculture in 1983. They moved to the Hale Ranch just north of Winnett in 1984 and have lived there since.

They have two sons — Tony Lynn, born in 1980; and Tyler Bo, born in 1982. These children are students in the Winnett School.

Karen is an accomplished piano player. Besides the students she teaches, she is also very willing to help out with accompaniments for any activities at the school. (Submitted by Raymond Hale) (See also KIMMEL — Flatwillow)

HANSEN, Fred William Will and Ida Hansen settled on land about five miles north of Winnett on the Dovetail-Valentine road. They had three children — Minnie, Elton and Larry. Also living with them, Pearl Stewart recalls, was another young girl, a relative of Will’s. "She was a pleasant good-looking girl and always had a smile for you. She played the piano very well and went to school. She was a little older than Minnie."

The Hansens and the Ninnemans were good friends, visiting each other often. "I remember going along, when I worked for Ninnemans as a girl, to visit the Hansen girls. One time we crept into a bedroom to see a mother cat
and her kittens, and she had a tiny baby skunk she was raising with her kittens!

The Hansen’s daughter, Minnie, finished high school and normal school in Billings, becoming a teacher at Winnett School. The 1930 Winnett Times had this account of Minnie Hansen: "Minnie C. Hansen, age 23, well-known and popular Winnett school teacher, passed quickly away Monday afternoon at the Lewistown hospital about 4:30 p.m. Miss Hansen was taken to the Lewistown hospital Monday about noon by her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Hansen, who are well known in this section and reside on their ranch five miles north of Winnett. Death was attributed to an overdose of medicine, and as soon as the young girl’s condition was known, she was rushed to the hospital in Lewistown where every effort was made to bring about her recovery."

Elton attended Winnett High School and Larry entered elementary school in Winnett before the family moved away.

HARDY, Bryan (Sec 32-16-26) The Bryan Hardys owned land near Buffalo Creek north of Winnett. Mrs. Bryan Hardy was a daughter of Frank and Della Wilson of Cat Creek. (See also WILSON — Cat Creek)

Hardys’ land was later owned or leased by a Mr. Campbell. (See CAMPBELL — Brush Creek)

(W. T. 7-22-21) "A bright baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Hardy Tuesday evening."

HARDY, Ned (Sec 32-16-26) Ned Hardy shared a section of land with Bryan Hardy, John Callahan, and Bert Porter. Ned died before 1921. His land was under the Winnett Irrigation project, and he had served as vice-president of the company.

HENTON, Joseph Mitchel Pearl Henton Stewart reminisces: "Joseph Henton was three years old, when he came with his parents to the United States from Cornwall, England. They settled in Iowa, where Joseph became a young man and met and married Clara May Thomas on November 24, 1887.

"My father (Joseph) ran a coal mine near Carbon, Iowa, and we kids went to school at Fairview School, two miles away. There were eleven of us, eight boys and three girls. John, William, David, Edward, Alvah, Tom, Mildred, Frank, Pearl, Earl and Elsie. Later, John went to South Dakota and took a homestead. Bill, Dave and Ed came to Montana and took land near Winnett. They had good crops and plenty of rain: things looked good, so they thought the rest of us should move out here too.

"Two of my brothers had died in Iowa, but the rest of us all came on the train. Tom had come earlier in an emigrant car with all our belongings. Dave (Sec 35-16-27) had a team of mules, some horses, nine head of calves, and our Jersey milk cow. Since Grassrange was as far as the train went, they had to trail the stock to Winnett, with a stopover at Teigen. A man from the river, by the name of Taylor, used his lumber wagon to deliver us to Brush Creek. We arrived in April of 1917.

"Brother Bill (Sec 15-15-27) built an addition onto his house for us, and was hammering away when we arrived about dark. Ed (Sec 15-16-27) was very ill the summer we came and died in August. Dad had to 'prove up' on Ed's
homestead, and we lived with Bill part of the time and on Ed's claim five miles north of Bill's. We stayed with Bill during the school term because he lived closer to Brush Creek School. The first teacher I remember was Mr. Lasater in 1917.

"We had lots of neighbors when we came. Quite a few homesteaders with their families. There were lots of picnics, dances and quilting parties. Mom would have Ladies Aid and would have to set the table several times.

"Dad died in the summer of 1924, and that fall we moved into Winnett to go to school. In December, Mom, my brother Earl, and sisters Elsie and Millie went to California to live with my grandmother. I didn’t want to go. Stayed behind, and in 1925 married B. C. Stewart."

(See also STEWART — Brush Creek and Winnett)

HILLIUS, Edward C. Edward Hillius was born in 1888 in Nevelitt, Bessarabia, Russia. Isabella L. Lewis was born in South Dakota in September of 1889. They were married December 26, 1905, and in 1911 came from Napoleon, North Dakota, to Winnett. They brought three small children — Edward, Edna and Irvin — with them and homesteaded about five miles west of Winnett. Arnold was born in Lewistown on October 27, 1913. The children attended the Schellenberger School before the family moved into the town of Winnett. (See also HILLIUS — Winnett)

HOBENSACK, Sarah (Sec 20-15-27) Some of the wives of the Lewistown promoters of the Winnett Irrigation Company filed homesteads under the irrigation project although they did not live on the land. Sarah Hobensack's husband, Isaac M. Hobensack, was a vice president and secretary of the company.

The Hobensacks came to Lewistown, Montana, from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, in 1887. Isaac started the Judith Hardware Company and also invested in farm land in the Benchland, Montana, area.

The couple raised a family of four daughters and one son, who all lived in Lewistown for most of their lives. Ella (Mrs. Frank Hagen) had one son; Bernice (Mrs. Cecil Moore) had two sons; Horace married Hazel Reiley and they had no children.

HOLMBOE, Evan (Sec 15-15-27) On August 14, 1911, Mr. Holmboe, a Lewistown businessman, became the secretary of the Winnett Irrigation Company. He replaced Mr. Hobensack who resigned.

Though the Holmboes did not make their home on the farm property they owned north of Winnett, a very fine brick and tile house was built on the land. The Winnett Times of July 25, 1924, had this to say of the property.

"Go about six miles north on the North Cat Creek road and you will see a large two story brick house about one mile east off the main road. This property is owned by E. E. Holmboe ... it is now rented and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Will Ninneman ... Six years ago Mr. Holmboe erected the beautiful two-story brick residence on his ranch and urged the Ninnemans to lease the place. The ranch is irrigated from the Winnett project. War House lake reservoir.

HOPE, James (Sec 33-15-26) James Hope was born at St. Mary's, Minnesota. His wife, Margaret, had been born in Ireland in 1878. She came to America in 1893. She and James were married in 1912. Following their marriage, they homesteaded in this area. James Hope, previously married, presented Margaret with two stepdaughters, Katherine, and one who became Mrs. White, and two stepsons, Patrick and James.

James became involved in raising turkeys on a large scale, and in November of 1921 was offering for sale, young turkey toms — purebred bronze from a 50 pound tom. In November of 1925 and 1926 he was delivering shipments to Winnett and other markets. Mr. Hope was well gratified with the returns from sales and felt that Petroleum County was an ideal location for the venture.

James always liked to "make-do" with whatever he had on hand. He had a Ford of rather ancient vintage, but in 1928 he attached a transmission and belt wheel to the front end. The contraption did not interfere with the operation of the car while traveling. So, to help his neighbors, and to gain a little extra cash, he would throw a mill into the back of the car and drive to a farmer who wished to have grain ground. He would then lift the Ford, attach a belt, say a few magic words and grind the grain.

He later took the agency for Ward products with Petroleum And Musselshell counties as territory.

Neighbor Viola Carr Hill added some of her memories of Margaret Hope: "Mrs. Hope was a slender lady with a good heart. She was the first one to make waffles for us children after she got her first waffle iron. Of course, it was not electric, but worked on a wood-coal range. Mrs. Hope was a very dear person, and we used to get a big kick out of her. If someone came unexpectedly and she had on a soiled dress, she would run into the bedroom and slip on another dress over the one she was already wearing!"
After a short illness, which had not been considered serious, James passed away in March of 1930. His body was buried in the Calvary Cemetery in Lewistown, Montana.

Following his death, Margaret moved to Red Stone, Montana, near some of the children. She later moved to Plentywood, Montana, where she died in June of 1946. She was also buried in Calvary Cemetery.

**HOPKINS, Roy Alvin** (Sec 12-15-26) Roy Hopkins was born in 1886. The family lived at Garneill, Montana, at the time. According to some sources, they raised produce for sale in the mining towns. Roy was a member of the first graduating class at Fergus County High School. His father and the three boys — Roy, William and Marion — operated a store. Hopkins and Sons, on Main Street in Lewistown, Montana. When they were unable to collect accounts, they sometimes took farm property as payment. Roy acquired land on Buffalo Creek as a result of such a settlement.

Hazel Remington was born in Michigan and later lived in Miles City, Montana, where her mother ran a boarding house. Later they moved to Lewistown and she again operated a boarding house with the help of her five daughters — Jessie, Susan, Jo, Hazel and Mollie. Hazel married Roy Hopkins in 1912. They were parents of two children, Patty and Ralph.

Roy started a 25-acre market garden under the Winnett Irrigation Company system. Ellis Brothers from Hanover, Montana, were put in charge of running a daily truck to the fields to pick up produce for delivery to Lewistown. Roundup and Winnett. The Winnett Times of May 27, 1921, gave their nod of approval to the new business: "Winnett, being the center of the oil fields of Eastern Fergus County, is a small-sized city, and the need of market products is quite apparent. The town now has 11 eating establishments, and together with an estimated population of 1600 people, it would seem that a business of this kind would be a paying proposition."

Ralph, son of Roy, says "I remember when we were on the farm at Winnett. Dad worked for an organization that ran an irrigation project which distributed water from a lake ... I enjoyed going with him when he patrolled the ditches and turned the access gates on and off."

A few years later. Roy had a bee business and lived in the town of Winnett. Roy and Hazel are both deceased. (See also HOPKINS — Winnett)

The children of one of Roy’s brothers were orphaned at an early age and raised by Adolph and Edith Beckstrom. (See also BECKSTROM — Brush Creek)

**JOHNSON, Arthur** Arthur Johnson was born in Sweden. Anna Eckland was born in Mariestad, Sweden, November 30, 1890. She was the daughter of August and Josefine Eckland. She and Arthur were married and lived in Sweden until 1930, at which time (accompanied by son, Eric) they came to America.

Anna’s brother, Andrew Eckland, had invited them to help him on his ranch. In October of 1941 they purchased their own ranch — the Henry Thayer holdings just below Little Bear Lake. While living with Andrew, Johnsons sent Eric to the Teigen School. Later he attended school in Winnett as did his sister, Helen, who was born in about 1936. Eric entered the service of his country during World War II, then returned to work on his parents’ and uncle’s farms. Helen graduated from Winnett High School in 1954. She married Hubert Heaton.

Arthur did well at farming and stock raising, and was recognized as an excellent blacksmith. He died June 21, 1950. Eric then assumed the care of the ranch and his mother and sister.

In 1982 Anna moved to Sedalia, Missouri, to be near her daughter, Helen. She died in January of 1986. Eric continues to operate the Johnson Ranch. (See also HEATON — Winnett)

**JOHNSON, James E.** James E. Johnson, son of John Johnson, and Ramona May Stewart, daughter of B. C. Stewart, were married February 14, 1948. They lived on a farm northeast of Winnett. To add to his farming profits, Jim also installed a sawmill in the southeast part of the town of Winnett. His first business consisted of sawing 5000 board feet of lumber for the Jacob Vogel and Sons Ranch.


Ramona, after valiantly fighting a heart condition, died there in 1985.

Mary married John Edwards and has two boys — Daniel and Philip. They live in Belgrade, Montana. Jack is married. His wife is Cheryll and they have two boys.
and Logan. Douglas married Linda Marie Kemp. Their children are Amy and Brook. Norma married Steven Stewart and had two girls, Jamie Jo and Tonya. Tim works at the college in Bozeman cleaning at night. Sally married Clinton Dahlhausen and they have one girl, Corina, and one boy, Joseph. Mark works at a shoe store in Great Falls.

James was recently re-married.

JOHNSON, John E. John E. Johnson was born in Maiden, Montana, January 20, 1895. From 1920 to 1926 he worked in the oil fields of Midwest, Wyoming. He married there in 1923. In 1927 the family moved back to Lewistown and Gillette, where John was engaged in farming and ranching.

Johnsons, with daughter Vivian and son James, moved to Petroleum County in 1942 and lived on a ranch five miles north of Winnett. They were there for about five years. Vivian rode horseback to school in Winnett.

In October of 1947 John became manager of the Montana Elevator in Winnett. While waiting on a customer there on September 21, 1953, he went to his desk and died instantly of a heart attack.

Vivian married Tom Addy. James entered the military service and upon his return, married Ramona Stewart, daughter of B. C. and Pearl Stewart.

JOZOVICH, Mitchell (Sec 30-15-26) Mitchell Jozovich homesteaded in the same area as the Dalsmons, and he was married to Clara Dalsmon. The following Winnett Times articles reveal some history: (W. T. 7-26-21) "Among the other resources of this city a gold discovery on the land of Mitchell Jozovich six miles northwest of Winnett is the latest attraction."

"The discovery which is on section 30-15-26 was made by Mr. Jozovich in the fall of 1919. A little excitement was stirred up at that time but on account of the low grade of placer mining it was not found to be profitable; and due to the financial situation, no attempt has been made to develop it. Recently, however, several mining men have made trips out to the land and after making a thorough examination have submitted propositions to take it over and develop it.

"The vein is about 50 feet thick and is open for 500 feet and can be traced for over a quarter of a mile. Some authorities pronounce it to be five miles in length. From several assays made of the ore, it will average from $1 to $4.88 per ton with about 50 cents of silver.

"Mining men state that this is an ideal proposition for development on a large scale and it will not be long before gold and silver mining will be added to Winnett's many industries."

(W. T. 9-15-21) "The two-year-old boy of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Jozovich, living north of Teigen, died Monday."

(W. T. 10-19-23) "A sample of perfect popcorn ears were delivered to the Times office by M. J. Jozovich who farms northwest of Winnett."

The Jozovich family eventually moved back to Butte where Mr. Jozovich became involved in mining.

KNERR, Homer Homer and Mabel Knerr lived for a time on the Fred Hansen place which was just north and across the road from the Fred Akins Ranch. Homer and Mabel were the parents of: Alice, who died at age 22. Agnes. Letha. Marian and Howard.

Knerr were living on the Hansen place when Tom and Sarah Amos arrived to live on the Akins Ranch in the spring of 1946. Sarah Amos spoke of the Knerr's: "The Knerr's lived in the green house the first year we were there. She had us down for Thanksgiving dinner, which was our first home-cooked meal (other than my own) we had had since we left home. It was our first goose, and was delicious!"

Howard became acquainted with Frances Sutton, and they were later married. (See also KNERR, Howard)

KNERR, Howard Howard Knerr (1917), son of Homer Knerr, and Frances Sutton (1928), daughter of Ed and Amelia Sutton, were married. When Adolph Beckstrom sold his property to J. K. Smith in 1955, Howard and Frances were chosen as managers of the ranch.

They became the parents of three girls — Carolyn (1944), Patsy (1948) and Roxie (1950). Carolyn married Tom Hanson, son of Elmer Hanson. They had three children — Keith, Kim and Sue Ann. Tom works at construction and raises and sells horses. Carol has been a Avon dealer and a volunteer school librarian aide at Highland Park School in Lewistown, Montana. She is now receptionist for Doctor Dernbach, a surgeon in Lewistown.

Patsy married Martin Elke, and they had a daughter, Tammy. Patsy works for a yard-service company in Billings.

Roxie married Melvin Elke. (See also EIKE — Cat Creek) Frances and Howard live in Harlowton where Frances is a dispatcher for the sheriff department. Howard retired from mechanical work and enjoys rawhiding — making beautiful leather articles.

KREINER, Edward Alvin (Sec 2-15-27) Ed Kreiner and his wife, Margaret Ann Cameron Kreiner, came to Petroleum County in 1918 from Brown City, Michigan. They settled on the Herb Jones homestead. The Kreiners had a large family, and the older children attended the Brush Creek School. They were: Helen, Jim, Carl, twins Jack and Bill, Dan, Kay, and Pat. There were two other children who were stillborn.

After three years in the county, the Kreiners left and traveled to Wyoming, Colorado and Texas. In an article in the October 6, 1922, Winnett Times, it was stated that they came back from Eastern Washington: "Mr. Kreiner is convinced that Central Montana land is of better quality and if farmed in the same manner, will produce more per acre than the land of Eastern Washington... Mr. Kreiner is making plans to rent a farm here and start farming with scientific methods on a large scale."

The dry years came and the Kreiners left the Winnett area again, but remained in Montana.

Helen Kreiner Shafer lives in Billings, Montana. Jim and
Carl were both killed in World War II — Jim in 1944, and Carl in 1945. John (Jack) Kreiner still works on Saturdays and Mondays at his old business, which his son-in-law now owns — Kreiner Opticians of Billings. He was an optician for 41 years. Jack’s twin brother, Bill, died in 1973. Dan and Kay Kreiner McArty both live in Billings. Pat Kreiner lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mother Kreiner died in 1951, and the father in 1952.

MARKS, Hans Tammie Rowton Marks submitted the following family story: "Hans, the son of Pete and Erna Marks, was born on May 17, 1963, in Lewistown, Montana. He graduated from Winnett High School in May of 1981. He attended college at Montana State University for two quarters. Hans has been working on the ranch since then.

The daughter of Vernon and Donna Rowton, was born on October 17, 1963, in Lewistown. I graduated from Winnett High School in May of 1982 and attended one quarter of college at Eastern Montana College that fall.

"Hans and I were married on August 20, 1983, in the First Lutheran Church of Winnett."

"I started work as Deputy Clerk and Recorder and Clerk of Court for Petroleum County on June 4, 1984, and work there to date (1989).

"Our first child, Chad Vernon, was born May 2, 1987."

(See also VOGEL, Fred)

MAXWELL, William (Sec 31-15-27) A number of years ago Bill Maxwell came to Winnett to visit friends. He liked the country and has been back many times to hunt and visit newly acquired friends.

When Vernon Bauer left Winnett and placed the Bauer home and land on the market, Bill purchased the holdings. The Maxwells make their home in California but return to Winnett regularly for the enjoyment of the country, to hunt, and to make improvements to their newly purchased Montana home. In his endeavors to improve the property, Bill recently was forced to demolish the old Winnett Milwaukee depot. It had been moved to the Bauer Ranch and used for storage and livestock shelter. In bad state of repair, it could no longer be utilized so it was burned. For sure no train will come to a whistle stop at his ranch now!

Bill and his wife, Doris, are planning to spend more time in Montana in future years.

McCREADY, Sam and Clifford Earl (Sec 1-15-27) Sam and Clifford McCready, father and son, filed on a homestead north of Winnett in the Brush Creek area. They came to Montana from Monmouth, Illinois. Clifford married Louise Jenni of Lewistown on March 24, 1915. Three girls were born — Margaret Emma (1915), Laura Mildred (1917), and Helen Louise (1918).

Clifford’s wife, Louise, died in childbirth when Helen was born. The three little girls were raised by their mother’s sisters. Margaret was raised by Marie Jenni Reuss. She became a primary teacher, married Levi Toulouse, and resides in Havre, Montana.

Laura was raised by Clara Jenni Young. She was a secretary, married Lowry Risdahl, and resides in Missoula, Montana. Helen was raised by Hulda Jenni Reis Clark. She became a kindergarten teacher, married John Warden, and resides in Bellingham, Washington.

Clifford continued on the homestead. His father, Sam McCready, lived with him. In later years Sam became ill and they moved to a small home in Winnett. Clifford spent the last five years of his life in Havre, Montana. He is buried in Lewistown beside his wife.

McCREADY, J. W. (Sec 7-15-27) Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McCready arrived in Petroleum County from the Gallatin Valley in the fall of 1925, having purchased the Valley View irrigated farm from Mr. Williams. The Winnett Times of September 1926 reported:

"The McCreadys had leased irrigated land in the Gallatin Valley and though successful in their farm operations, preferred a location where they could own their own farm and not be subjected to the high rentals of the Gallatin Valley. Petroleum County offered the greatest inducements and resulted in the location of the McCready family on the Valley View irrigated farm where they are meeting with success."

One day in the fall of 1925, William Hayes Smith, proprietor of the Cash Produce Company at Winnett, made the following statement to a group of farmers: "I would like to build, free of charge, for a farmer in this community a modern poultry house and will do so for the first farmer who will agree to purchase the material — provided he permits me to build the house according to my own plans and specifications."

One of the group was J. W. McCready, and he stepped forward and notified Mr. Smith that he would accept the proposition and that he was ready to start any time Mr. Smith was. The agreement was fulfilled, the Times tells, and a large community picnic was held in the fall of 1926 at the farm, so all could view the poultry house.

Mrs. Theodore Ille gave a talk on "Making Poultry Pay on the Farm," and Mr. Ed Mack spoke on "Feeds and Feeding." Ice cream was served by the Fergus County Creamery and lunches were served. A great day for all, and the Winnett Times described the modern chicken house in detail, but alas!

On August 2, 1929, the Winnett Times reported: "Tues-
day night a fire of unknown origin destroyed all the buildings on the J. W. McCrorey Ranch northwest of Winnett. The fire started in the house with such rapidity that the McCrorey family had to leap from windows to save themselves. It quickly spread to the chicken house, destroyed it and the chickens, then leaped in the high winds to the barn and destroyed it. Only the ice house remains. Two quilts, the harness, and an automobile were saved.

"The loss will be heavy as but a small amount of insurance was carried on the buildings which were considered among the best farm buildings in the county. Mr. McCrorey plans to rebuild as soon as possible. A shortage of water and the high wind prevailing accounts for the total loss of the buildings."

But in the Winnett Times two weeks later, August 16, 1929: "J. W. McCrorey, whose ranch home, barn and other buildings were destroyed by fire two weeks ago, will sell at auction all his farm implements, livestock, and what household goods were salvaged from the burning building. The farm itself he plans to hold, putting it up for rent at the sale after selling the hay and other crops now standing.

"Mr. McCrorey has not made known his plans for the future, but it is expected he will return to the western part of the state, where he operated a farm before coming here."

McDANIEL, Clarence (Sec 3-15-27) See McDANIEL, Robert — Musselshell River; McDANIEL, Clarence — Winnett

MILLAR, Phelps (Sec 33-15-28) See MILLAR — Winnett

MISS, Henry (Sec 24-15-27) Before the Brush Creek School was built, Henry's homestead cabin served as a schoolhouse.

MOSBY, Marvin Marvin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Mosby. (See also MOSBY — Musselshell) He was born in Jordan, Montana. They lived on a ranch at Mosby, Montana. He has two sisters. He went to school in Mosby, Hobson, Montana, and Jordan. His folks are retired and live in Lewistown.

Betty is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry McDonald. She was born in Lewistown. They lived on a ranch at Garnell. She has two brothers. Her folks are retired and live in Hot Springs, Montana. She went to school in Garnell, Montana, and Judith Gap, Montana.

Marvin and his folks brought their cows to the Hobson area for grass, as it was too dry at Mosby. Marvin and Betty met at the Hobson School prom. Betty went on to Butte Business School and Marvin went back to Jordan to school. In the summer of 1963, Marvin got a job at Judith Gap, and in August, Betty and Marvin went to Idaho to get married.

They lived for a year working on ranches in the Judith Gap area, moved to Great Falls in December of 1964, and Marvin worked for the smelter until May of that year. Then they moved to Mosby and he worked at the refinery. Brett was born in Lewistown in June of 1964.

They lived at Mosby until May of 1971. Blaine was born in Lewistown in February of 1969, and Karleen was born in Lewistown in December of 1971.

In May of 1971 the Mosbys moved to Winnett, and Marvin worked for Dave Hale until December, at which time he started working for the State Highway Department. Betty started working for the library in 1972 as the evening librarian.

They lived in town until 1981, and then moved three miles out of Winnett, where they raise cows and sheep. Brett graduated in 1983, then went to Glendive to college for two years. When he graduated, he took a job at Jordan. He is now employed by Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative at Circle, Montana. He married Susan Hanson in September of 1984, and they have two daughters, Misty and Tanya. Blaine graduated in 1987 and is currently attending Montana State University. Karleen is a senior in high school (fall of 1989). (Submitted by Betty Mosby)

NINNEMAN, William W. (Sec 15-15-27) William Ninneman was born October 23, 1883, in Minnesota. Cecelia Strissel was born April 11, 1886, in South Dakota. They were married September 23, 1908. Around 1914 they traveled from Minnesota to Montana and filed a homestead north of Winnett on the Brush Creek structure. In 1918 they leased the nearby land and the brick house owned by Mr. E. Holmboe, while retaining their original homestead. (See also HOMBOE — Brush Creek)

A Winnett Times article of July 25, 1924, described the beautiful Holmboe home on an irrigated tract. "The ranch is irrigated from the Winnett project, War House Lake reservoir... They have a fine grove, well started, which was planted four years ago by Mr. Ninneman (1920). He dug up small saplings along Cat Creek and transplanted them and has not lost one in the move. A large garden plot will take care of all the family needs in vegetables and leave much for sale.

"Everbearing strawberries, currants, gooseberries and raspberries fill the basement with winter canned goods. Mrs. Ninneman also has a very nice flower garden and meets with much success growing a variety of flowers. As there are no dry seasons for an irrigated tract. Mr. Ninneman has enjoyed good crops ever since his arrival on the place and is well satisfied with the returns of his labors."

Will Ninneman Ranch (June 20, 1917)
The house was elegant indeed, in its time, with beautiful polished wood beams, hardwood floors, and stained glass windows in the living room. It is one of very few homes built during the homestead era still standing in 1989 in the Brush Creek area.

Pearl Henton Stewart worked for Mrs. Ninneman for three summers during her high school years. "They raised geese." Pearl recalls, "and I'd herd them in the field south of the house, where there was lots of wild lettuce."

Sometimes Pearl worked in the hay field along with Charlie and Ruby Preston, who helped mow and rake their hay. In 1925 Will and Cecelia adopted a son, Raymond J. Ninneman, and in 1926 a daughter, Hazel, was born.

Raymond Ninneman is now living in Okinawa, and Hazel is in Alaska. Hazel married Norman F. Steen, who passed away in 1967, and is currently married to Wilfred Knutson. Hazel and Norman became the parents of six daughters — Darlene, Diane, Betty, Janet, Sandra and Judy.

In the August 28, 1931, edition of the Winnett Times, the following article was written: "William Ninneman returned Friday from the Huntley project near Billings, Montana, where he secured a location. He was accompanied on his return by his brother Paul, who has been on the project for some time. Paul is assisting William in removing his livestock, farm machinery and household goods to Huntley. The Ninneman family are pioneers of Petroleum County and have a large circle of friends who will miss them, but wish them the greatest success in their new home."

Cecelia died June 20, 1965, and William, October 19, 1972. Both were buried at Ortonville, Minnesota.

OWINGS, Leland Leland Owings son of Edgar and Hattie Grubb Owings married Ruth Branton. In 1945 Leland and Ruth operated the Fred Akins Ranch (sometimes known as the Golden Rule Ranch) for Mr. Akins. Their daughter, Claudine, was born December 31, 1952.

Leland had a sister, Mildred, and a brother, Harold. Ruth Branton Owings and Sarah Amos were sisters. The Amoses were also connected with the Akins property. (See also AMOS — Brush Creek)

The Owings family left the area in 1954.

PEDDICOART, Flora (Sec 7-15-26) Flora was the second oldest daughter of Dick Wilson Sr. and Mary Puckett Wilson. Her homestead was in the area very near that of her parents. (See WILSON — Brush Creek and Winnett)
PIERSON, Ira (Sec 26-15-26) Ira Pierson was born January 23, 1885, in Charles City, Iowa, and lived on a farm there for eight years. He moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, with his parents and graduated from a business college there. In 1910 he came to Montana and homesteaded. He and Helen Marie Castner were married. She had also acquired land in Sec 31-15-27. In 1921 Ira built a home for his family in Winnett. (See also PIERSON — Cat Creek and Winnett)

PIETROSS, Viggo Viggo was a railroad man, but not having steady work, preferred to spend his time on ranches. Having previously been employed by Fred Akins, in 1933 he was again hired during the lambing season.

Although in apparent good health, Viggo was found dead in one of the lambing sheds. No family could be located. County Coroner, Jack Runnals, had Viggo’s body shipped to the Eagles Lodge of Lewistown, of which Viggo was a lifetime member.

PRIBBLE, Savell (Sec 14-15-27) “Sam” Pibble was born in Kentucky. He married Rose Heffner, and they had four children — Forrest, Leone, Minnie and Mary.

Sam came to Montana in 1910, from Hillsdale, Wisconsin. He found a job working on the W. J. Winnett Ranch where he was foreman for a few years. He filed on a homestead in the Brush Creek area.

The rest of the family left Wisconsin on April 1, 1912. “They came by train to Lewistown.” Minnie Pibble writes. “and visited a couple of days there with the Dan Heffner family. (Dan was Rose Pibble’s brother.) My dad loaded supplies in the covered wagon for the Winnett Ranch and we were on our way to our new home. We arrived at the Winnett Ranch a couple of days later and made our acquaintance with the Winnett family. This friendship lasted for many years until we all went our separate ways years later.

“Rose and the children moved to the homestead for the summer months, then back to the Winnett Ranch to attend school in the fall of 1912, returning to the homestead in the spring of 1913 for the summer months. In the fall of 1914, a teacher had been hired to teach in our neighborhood. School was held in Henry Miss’s homestead cabin. Harry Tripp of the Flatwood community was the teacher. [In 1915 Sam Pibble was trustee of Flatwood School District #26. He was in charge of the school affairs for the Brush Creek area of the county.] The pupils that year were the four Pibble children. Wynn Parker (our cousin), Vera Smith, George and Pearl Myers.

Clara Schroeder was hired to teach the 1915 fall term. The pupils were the same as in the previous year. Clara married Posey Edwards before the school term was completed, so Louisa Wilson was hired to finish out her term. (The next year when Winnett District #159 withdrew from District #26, Sam was elected as trustee of the District #159 board.)

“A brand new schoolhouse had been completed for the fall term of 1916. just a half mile from our homestead. This was Brush Creek School. The pupils were the four Pibble children. Vera Smith, Wynn Parker, and the four Rodman children (whose parents were Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rodman).

“I’m glad I lived and had a part of the ‘homestead era’ — life was never dull. There were school activities and programs, baseball games, dances and what have you to attend, and a mutual friendship among all of the people.

“My father held a farm sale in the fall of 1917. My mother and sister Mary had moved to Virginia earlier that year to live with my grandmother and grandfather Heffner to help care for them. My sister Leone and I moved to Winnett with my father to attend high school. Leone was advised to quit school in her second year by the eye doctor, because of a serious eye problem. She later married Earl Harlan, who was lucky enough to have some oil wells drilled on his farm during the oil boom in the early 1920s.

“I graduated from Winnett High School in May of 1921. Later that year I married Archie Manuel and moved to the Cat Creek Basin. We lived there until the fall of 1935 when we moved to an irrigated farm on the Fairfield, Montana, Bench. Our two older boys attended the Shy School during the years of 1927-1934. (See also PRIBBLE — Winnett: MANUEL: Archie — Ashley)

QUILTER, Dean (Sec 3-15-26) Dean homesteaded and also was a fine carpenter and painter. Etta Nichols homesteaded in Sec 9-14-28 and worked as a stenographer for Continental Oil Company for eight years. She and Dean were married May 17, 1930. Etta died Aug 15, 1965. (See also NICHOLS — Winnett and QUILTER — Winnett)

REES, Tom (Sec 22-15-27) The following account was taken from the May 15, 1936, issue of the Winnett Times: "Tom Rees, prominent Petroleum County rancher and road building contractor, was Central Montana's first 1936 victim of spotted fever, when he died at the St. Joseph's Hospital in Lewistown at 6 p.m. Wednesday, following a week's uphill and unavailing battle against the dangerous bite of an infected tick.

"The deceased had a wide circle of friends in Winnett as well as throughout central Montana. He was a long time and active member of Lewistown Lodge No. 27 A. F. and A. M.

"Tom Rees was born in Dresden, Missouri, May 18, 1875. He came to Lewistown in 1906 and until 1912 was associated with Hal Akins in the old Golden Rule Store. In 1912 he was married to Anna Morrison, and the same year they took a homestead in the Sand Springs country where they resided until 1922. In the spring of 1922 they moved to a ranch north of Winnett where they have resided ever since, carrying on successful farming operations. Mr. Rees was a man of fine character, respected and admired by all who came in contact with him.

"Tom's wife was born Anna Bell Hubbell in Missouri, November 2, 1883. She married Benjamin Morrison, and in 1912 they moved to Montana, near Tindall where they
settled on a homestead. After only a year, Mr. Morrison was killed in a cave-in. Later she married Tom Rees. Tom and Anna Bell together had one son, Leonard; and Anna had a son, Edgar, by her previous marriage to Mr. Morrison. Following Tom's death in 1936, Anna had a sale and moved into Winnett. In the summer of 1937 she moved to Oroville, Washington. In 1948 she married Ernest Truax, and he preceded her in death in 1954. Anna passed away on November 29, 1958."


Waneta is the daughter of Walter and Hazel Jones, who filed on 640 acres of land 20 miles northwest of Jordan in 1916. "We lived there until moving to Oroville in 1937." Waneta writes, "Walter, known as 'Casey', was a carpenter and worked in Jordan as well as having the farm and animals."

"We went to Hell Creek School for many years, and I graduated from Jordan High School in 1934. I met Leonard in Oroville and we were married in the fall of 1937."

**RIGG, Ole S.** (Sec 32-15-27) Ole S. Rigg, wife Ida, son Ole G. and daughter Aileen bought the Ben Wood farm September 2, 1927 and took over the water delivery service for the town of Winnett, which had earlier been handled by Ben Wood. Ole and his son, Ole, both delivered water around town by horse-drawn wagon tank and, when a truck became available, by tank truck. They had the contract with the City of Winnett for the furnishing of these services, and, depending on the supply or demand, collected 5 cents or 10 cents a pail. A barrel of water was sometimes available for 50 cents — a real bargain! A water card in a window indicated the need for water.

Ida Rigg also owned or leased a house in town at 202 East Jenkins Street. Ida served as Petroleum County's clerk of the district court from 1924 to 1932, and then as public administrator from 1933 through 1938. Ole S. was appointed City of Winnett Clerk in November of 1929.

After many years of serving the public, the Riggs moved to Billings in 1942. Ole S. died there in 1952. Ida then made her home with daughter Aileen in Arizona and passed away there in September of 1956.

Aileen and Ole both graduated from Winnett High School in 1926. Aileen was employed at the courthouse, and had been serving as deputy clerk and recorder when she married Donald Anderson of Mankato, Minnesota. They became the parents of one son and three daughters. It was said of Aileen, "If you want something done well, get Aileen to do it." She died in 1972.

Ole, after graduation and having been a "whiz at foot-

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**ROBINSON, John** (Sec 3-15-27) John Robinson was a young bachelor who filed a homestead claim north of Winnett. He apparently didn't stay long and went back to his home in Iowa, as this article from the 1921 Winnett Times implies: "Mr and Mrs. John Robinson of Carbon, Iowa, left for home Saturday after spending several days visiting friends here. Mr. Robinson homesteaded on Brush Creek several years ago, and his recent trip was in the form of a honeymoon and business trip combined."

**ROHR, Ora M.** (Sec 19-15-27) In May of 1921 a group of old timers were invited to the Rohr home for a surprise party honoring Mr. Rohr's birthday. (W. T. 8-12-21) "Mrs. O. Rohr and Mrs. Ira D. Pierson successfully entertained a number of old timers at a social gathering at the high school building last Saturday night. They danced till the wee hours of the morning, only stopping at midnight for refreshments."

Rohrs and Piersons were homestead neighbors north of Winnett, and Rohrs were the parents of Mrs. Ira Pierson. Mr. Rohr did heavy hauling in the early oil field days with horses. They lived a few miles north and west of Winnett. Mr. Rohr died in February of 1946 in Great Falls, Montana.
Mr. Ora Rohr, Mrs. Rohr and daughter, Helen

**SANDMAN, Albert (Sec 31, 32-16-28)** Albert and Minnie Sandman came to Montana in 1926 and moved to the Ed Quigley homestead. They had seven children, all born in South Dakota, before coming to the Winnett area. They were Alberta, Lloyd, Harold, Helen, Harriet, Carl, and Howard.

Those early days are remembered by Helen Sandman Lamont: "Our family moved to Montana, in Petroleum County, when I was eleven years old, and remembering back to that period of time, I felt I'd never adjust to living there and I'm sure some of the rest of the family felt the same. The Dakota area we came from was quite different — farms close together, green grass, creeks, and lakes. For us it was really the wide open spaces here."

"The first crop was hailed out, and our house burned down. Through the kindness of the neighbors who brought food, clothing and miscellaneous items, we did survive that period, but it must have been a really bad time for our parents. Children can adjust. I guess, more than adults. It was a real change, and, perhaps a challenge for the greenhorns from South Dakota."

The Sandmans eventually bought the brick home that had been built by Evan Holmboe and occupied by Ninnemans. With this move, Sandmans were neighbors of B.C. and Pearl Stewart. Helen recalls "Have often thought of the time B. C. fixed up an old car of George's for Mom and I to use to go back and forth to work in the garden near the creek on their place."

"The first time I drove it from their place, (the car could really go), B. C. said, 'all I could see on the road was dust all the way to the folks' place!' We had a lot of laughs about that. Oh yes, the passenger door was wired with bailing wire, and Mom, being as nervous as she was, didn't mind one bit — the wild ride, nor the wired door. For a few weeks that summer, that was our transportation to go to the garden, thanks to B. C."

"We have also enjoyed the time we have spent visiting with friends at the Winnett Senior Citizen luncheons these recent years. It is a very nice place, and those who live there are fortunate to have such a place."

Helen Sandman married Tony Lamont, and they have one daughter, Janet Lamont Maitland. They all live in Ohio. (See also SANDMAN — Ashley, Cat Creek and Winnett)

**SCHENK, Albert (Sec 32-15-27)** Albert "Mike" and Ann Schenk arrived in the Petroleum County area in 1961, bringing with them Wes (1956), Carla (1957) and Robin (1959). They leased and lived on the Pat Sinclair Ranch in the Petrolia area until 1966. then moved to the Eager Ranch west of Winnett.

Ann became clerk in Winnett Post Office holding that position until February 1978 when she was appointed Winnett Postmaster.

Schenks purchased the former Ole Rigg Ranch in 1981, built a fine new home, and reside there as of this Montana Centennial year.

Due to injuries suffered as the result of a car accident, Ann retired from her position as postmaster in 1986. She now keeps busy with her family, home and garden. Mike operates the ranch and likes to hunt and trap.

The Schenks are parents of three children who attended the Petrolia and Winnett grade schools and graduated from Winnett High School. Wes was valedictorian of his high school class. He married schoolmate Tammy Jones. They are the parents of two sons — Will and Clay. Wes is the proprietor of Schenk Saddle Shop in Harlowlton, Montana.

Carla married Lon Loff and lives in Billings, Montana. Lon works for the City of Billings. Carla is head secretary of Montana Title. Robin married Russ Olson, a rancher, near Monarch. Their two children, Amber and Steven, are their ranch helpers.

**SEARLE, Albert** Albert Searle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Searle, was born in 1889 in England. Marie Mortensen was born November 16, 1883, in Denmark. Albert and Marie both immigrated to North America. Marie homesteaded with her brother in Canada.

Albert and Marie were married in 1914 and filed on a homestead near Winnett. After making final proof on their original homestead, the Searle family moved to an
irrigated farm in the Brush Creek area. Their neighbors were the Jacob W. Vogels and the Elmer Eagers.

On the irrigated farm, Albert raised alfalfa and produced registered alfalfa seed. He also managed a seed house in Winnett. Later he and O’Dillo Rogge bought the Frantz warehouse and installed machinery for cleaning, loading, and unloading seed grains of all kinds.

The Searles were the parents of four children — Marie “Mollie,” Samuel, Albert, and William Walter.

Mollie entered first grade in the Winnett School and attended through the seventh grade. She finished her elementary schooling in Lewistown, Montana, graduating from Fergus County High School in 1934. In 1935 she started working for the Lewistown area Chamber of Commerce and is working there in this Montana Centennial year of 1989. Mollie has served on the Fair Board, the Airport Board, and is involved in several organizations of her community. She enjoys bowling.

Samuel was born in January of 1919 at Winnett and passed away at one year of age in January of 1920.

The Winnett Times of May 26, 1949, reported: “Albert V. Searle Jr. was born December 6, 1920, at Winnett, and attended first grade in Winnett. He graduated from Fergus County High School in 1938, attended Montana State College in Bozeman, and the University of Washington. He completed his education at the Curtis Wright Aeronautics School in Los Angeles, California. He enlisted in the Air Corps and, after completing his training, was sent overseas to Italy.”

“Sgt. Searle went to his death March 22, 1945, over Vienna when his bomber was shot down. He had been serving as a bombardier and radio man. Six of the ten-man crew were killed in the crash. Four others parachuted to safety. The crew had successfully completed 43 missions from their base in Italy. Sgt. Searle was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Air Medal with two oak-leaf clusters. He served with the Fifteenth Air Corps.”

William Walter, at the age of seven months and nine days, passed away in Winnett in February of 1924. Funeral services were held from the school gymnasium with Rev. T. T. Fike officiating. Both Searle babies were buried in the Winnett Cemetery.

The Searle family moved to Lewistown, Montana, in 1921. Mr. Searle operated a seed house in Lewistown until his retirement in 1950. Mrs. Searle passed away in January of 1977 and Mr. Searle, on January 19, 1979.

SKINNER, Rev. J. O. (W. T. 4-29-21) “Rev. J. O. Skinner, who for the past year has been pastor of the Moccasin church, has given up his work there and will spend the summer on his farm on Buffalo Creek and is busily engaged now in getting in a large acreage of corn. Rev. Skinner will remain here until he makes proof on his additional entry and will then take up the ministry again.”

SMITH, Isaac (Sec 8-15-27) Isaac Smith filed a homestead claim between the Vogel and Eager homesteads. The Smiths had a son, Lyle, who went to the Brush Creek School.

SMITH, William (Sec 12-15-27) William Smith homesteaded close to the Brush Creek School. “He raised corn, and had the straightest rows I ever saw, and a half mile long,” Pearl Stewart remembers. They had one daughter, Vera. The family left and moved back East.

STAGE, Clarence The Clarence Stage family settled on what is known as the Wadman place now (1989) — a little north and east of Winnett. He farmed and raised cattle and also had Shetland ponies. They had a daughter, Elnor, who always rode to school on horseback. The Morningstar or Stage School was located on their property.

STEWART, B. C. B. C. and Pearl Stewart both came to Montana in 1917 with their parents. Pearl is the daughter of Joseph and Clara Henton, and B. C., the son of George and Mary Stewart.

Pearl wrote this account of their beginning together: “My father died in June 1924, and my youngest brother, Earl, was ready for high school. We rented a house in Winnett that fall. My sister, Millie, had graduated from

[Photo: Pearl and B. C. Stewart (1924)]

B. C. Stewart family (1947): B. C., Fred, Gene, Grandma Clara Henton, Pearl, Ramona, George
high school and college at Dillon and was a teacher at
Brush Creek School, but she stayed with us part time, too.
In November, or earlier, Mom went to California to visit
her mother, who was aging. She sent us three girls and
Earl to come to California to live, but I stayed behind.
"I lived with Bessie Stewart and her parents until
January 20, 1925; then B. C. and I got married. We went
to Lewistown on the train; I remember there was lots of
snow and it was cold. Eva, another of B. C.'s sisters, went
along with us. 'Dad' Tuttle, a family friend, was waiting for
us there. We were married in the hotel that evening, with
Eva and 'Dad' as witnesses. Next day, we ate at a Chinese
restaurant, something special for me.
"We soon moved out to the Smith house to live, near
the Brush Creek School. The owner had the house plastered and fixed up for us. We took B. C.'s eight-year-old
nephew along with us, as his mother was leaving for
Wyoming where her husband was. LeRoy went to school
at Brush Creek, just one half mile away.
"When we started out, B. C.'s dad made a table and a
cupboard for us. They also gave us a kitchen range, a bed
and a dining room table and chairs. We bought a new
heating stove for $16.00 and a second-hand dresser for
$16.00. His folks made the first payment on a linoleum for
the front room and we made payments on it every month.
I had my mom's sewing machine and each family
gave us some dishes, so we did okay! I made my curtains
for the front room, they had pretty bluebirds on them.
One time we ran out of bread (I did learn to bake it), so
B.C. and I made biscuits. Boy, were they rich! Eventually,
I learned to can fruit and vegetables in the fall for winter,
and we had 30 head of cattle and raised wheat. We used
horses then, didn't have a tractor.
"B. C.'s folks lived on the Pribble place, a half mile from
us. When we were first married, his dad gave us a choice
of white Plymouth Rock hens or Rhode Island Reds. We
took the Plymouth Rocks and whites, and didn't get any
eggs. His dad sold eggs all winter! In the early 1930s we
sold cows with calves for $25.00, eggs were 12 cents a
dozen and wheat was 25 cents a bushel. Under the W. P.
A. work program, B. C. and many other men helped build
dams in the winter with horses for extra money.
"In 1932 we moved to the Eager place and went into
the hog business with Mr. Eager, but it didn't pay that
year. One spring in the 1930s, the army worms came and
cleaned everything to the ground. Late in 1940 we got
electricity, which was great! We bought the Eager place
and started in the sheep business.
"Our first son, Fred, was born in January 1927,
daughter Ramona in 1928, Gene in 1931 and George in
1937. The children all graduated from high school, Fred
at Great Falls and the other three from Winnett. Fred is
married and living in Hobart, Oklahoma. Gene and his
wife, Marci, bought the ranch and live north of Winnett
on the Eager homestead site. Ramona married Jim
Johnson, and she passed away in 1985 of a heart condi-
tion. George and his wife, Lana, live in Bozeman.

"We retired and moved to town in 1970. We continued
to raise big gardens, and B. C. would help on the ranch
when he could. He passed away in 1974. I'm still (1989)
enjoying my home, Senior Citizens, and church every
Sunday."

STEWART, Gene (Sec 10-15-27) The following was
submitted by Marcia Stewart: "Gene, the third child of B.
C. and Pearl Stewart, was born in Winnett, Montana.
Gene and I met through mutual friends while Gene was
going to college in Havre. We were married in December
of 1958. Gene worked on road construction the first ten
years of our marriage, and we lived in several different
towns in the state, with home base at Havre.
"We have three children — Jay, born at Havre; Scott,
born at Ennis; and Sandy, born at Havre. We bought the
ranch from B. C. and Pearl and moved to Winnett in 1967.
We currently (1989) have our home on the old Elmer
Eager homestead, about eight miles northeast of Winnett.
"All of our children graduated from the Winnett public
schools. Jay is at Winnett; Scott, at Great Falls; Sandy
lives in Bozeman."

STEWART, George George Stewart and Mary Gwin
were both born in Michigan. They met, married, and had
five children — Leo, Eva, Ida, Benjamin C., and Bessie
Mae. The family spent several years in Virginia. Two of
their children died while living there — Leo from append-
citis, and Ida from diphtheria. Eva married Vern Bailey.
About 1915 George and his young son-in-law, Vern
Bailey, came west to look for homestead land. The best
land was taken, however, so George went to work for
Sam Pribble north of Winnett. Vern hauled freight from
Winnett to Grassrange.

Mary and their children — Eva, B. C. and Bessie —
moved from Williamsburg, Virginia in 1917. Also, Mary's
aging mother, Sophronia Gwin, and Eva's new young son.
LeRoy Bailey, made the trip to Montana. George con-

Mrs. B. C. (Sophronia) Gwin and her grandson, B. C. Stewart
(1906)
SWIFT, Amanda (Sec 29-15-27) Amanda Swift and her brother Walter homesteaded in the area in about 1911, having come from Maine. They settled about three miles north of Winnett near the hogback which distinguishes two drainage areas. (At some time each of them also owned land in Sec 26 and 35-13-25.)

Amanda, although a homesteader, was primarily an educator, and records indicate she began teaching in Winnett in 1913, serving under District #26. She taught in the town of Winnett during the regular school term and in numerous rural areas during the summer months. She became Petroleum County's first county superintendent of schools. (See also Tribute).

While living on the homestead near her brother Walter's dairy, Amanda had the following experience which she related for the Winnett Times of 11-28-41. The article is edited slightly for clarity.

'While I as teaching in a rural summer school, my brother was unexpectedly called to Lewistown by illness. His two hired men, having a weekend vacation occasioned by an unusually rainy week, were supposed to appear on Sunday to care for the dairy, but they did not. The neighbors who usually came to our aid seemed afraid of the cows and just couldn't extract the milk. Fortunately the girl who did the housework was a native of Canada where women do the milking."

'I, too, had learned to milk in my New England childhood, so we met the situation. For fear we might dry the cows by not getting all the milk, we stripped most persistently and then delivered the milk from 15 cows by utilizing the double-service saddle horse, the buggy and trailer. Since the hired men still hadn't appeared on Monday, the problem on Monday morning was to corral the cows, milk them, separate for cream, deliver the milk, unhitch the horse from the buggy, saddle him, and then make the seven-mile ride to the rural school I was teaching by 9 o'clock.'

'Donning the overalls of my brother at 3 a.m., I rounded up the cows, helped milk, harnessed, got ready for school, and took the milk to town where I found a boy to help in delivering — also getting some aid from interested bystanders, some of whom were timing and speculating

George and Mary Stewart as newlyweds

continued to work on the Pribble place. In the early 1920s, Mary became involved in restaurant work in Winnett, eventually operating her own.

"Gramma Gwin" stayed in town with Mary. In 1929 on December 21, Mrs. B. C. Gwin died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Mary I. Stewart. She had been failing in health for several months.

Mrs. Gwin was loved and admired by a large number of friends and had spent a very active life. She was a devoted wife and mother. Mrs. Gwin entered fancy work and baked goods in the county fair and always took many prizes.


STONE, Wallace Anson Wallace Stone homesteaded near the Beckstrom Ranch in Township 15, Range 26 in what was, in 1916, Fergus County. Besides being a professional stone mason, he also secured leases in this area for the Black Panther Oil and Refining Co. of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

In May of 1921, the Stones were unfortunate in losing their six-year-old son, Mourell, from an unusual complication of throat and lung trouble. Funeral services were conducted at the home by Rev. A. P. Aiton, and interment made in the Winnett Cemetery.

When they left here, they moved to Casper, Wyoming, later moving to Amarillo, Texas. There they lost their son, Gordon, when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver.

Wallace died in Amarillo in 1953. His wife was the former Dyle Johnson, a resident of Winnett before her marriage.

Mrs. Mary Wadman and Amanda O. Swift
as to my ability to make the seven-mile ride to school without being tardy, all of which didn’t improve my equanimity. However, a swift but safe ride brought me to the school door at ten to nine. An unusually large rattlesnake had appeared nearby so the extra few minutes were used in dispatching that one of seven we killed that summer close to the school.

‘With no wish to duplicate so long and arduous a day, I came back to town to find an undersized youth looking for work. Finis Darnley stoutly claimed his size was no criterion of his ability to do any and all farm work, especially the milking. I hired him on the spot and took him home only to find my brother just arrived from Lewistown, and also the two sheepish hired men bearing signs of evident recent dissipation. Finis proved his assertions and insisted on staying; a school teacher couldn’t possibly break her word. We found he could always find something that needed doing and did it well, showing the same spirit that the conscientious objectors of today do in their camps, so that the managers are hard put to find work enough to keep them busy, so industriously cheerful are they.’ (See also SWIFT — Winnett)

SWIFT, Margaret (Sec 33-15-27) Margaret Swift filed on her homestead as Margaret Allen while unmarried. Before she had taken final proof, however, she had married her homesteading neighbor, Walter Swift. (See also SWIFT, Walter)

SWIFT, Walter (Sec 29-15-27) Walter Swift came to Montana in 1910 or 1911 and took up land north and east of Winnett, Montana. Walter ran freight wagons from Lewistown, Montana to Winnett, bringing lumber and supplies to other homesteaders as there were no trains as yet. His daughter, Dorothy Swift Beckwith submitted the following account of her parents sojourn in this part of the country:

‘Margaret Allen visited her married sister and husband, Dr. and Mrs. Asher Biddle, in Lewistown, Montana. While there she learned of the opportunity to acquire land under the homesteading act and, with some encouragement by the Biddles, decided to file a claim. The land she claimed was near Winnett, Montana, which she describes as consisting at the time of a saloon, school and grocery situated in a county the size of Pennsylvania.

‘To get from Lewistown to Winnett she rode a wagon loaded with lumber for 65 miles over open country supposedly following a trail which she says was frequently indistinguishable from the surrounding countryside. There were no fences nor marked roads. On her way in she met the man she later married who lived on an adjoining claim.

‘To acquire land under the homestead act she had to live on it for at least seven months of each year. Keeping busy was no problem. Having attended Ohio University she got a job as the local school teacher. As companion and protector she acquired a large white bulldog, which she named ‘Si’ in honor of a favorite uncle back in Ohio.

‘Shortly before proving up on her claim she married Walter Swift. They were married in 1914, July 2, and announced it at a rodeo and dance at Mosby. In 1920 the house burned and they moved to a farm a mile north of Winnett and ran the dairy from there.

‘In 1925 we sold our dairy to the Glazier family so we could take a trip by car back to Maine and Ohio — my parents’ native states. It was for a well-earned vacation (for a year from the dairy). However, we left Montana permanently in 1930. Father sold all his property and dairy to Elmer Bauer intending to retire to a small farm in the East. He planned on leaving Montana in the spring after we children had finished school. That proved to be a mistake! The bank went bankrupt, and with it twenty years of savings!

‘I can still recall my father’s remark to us all, ‘We will be O. K. if we have our health.’ Mother had some savings which she wouldn’t bank and so we made our trip and located in Pennsylvania. After much adjusting and lots of work, they prospered on the farm and several outside jobs. This is the ‘spirit of the West.’

‘When farm work became too much for Dad, they moved to New Jersey and bought a chicken farm — large scale egg production, shipped to New York market. It was hard for Dad to retire, but he finally did. They retired in Albany and Chauncey, Ohio, where my father passed away at 81 with a stroke. Mother lived to the age of 92 — just frail but alert and capable until her death.’

Swifts were the parents of three children — Dorothy (1916), George (1917) and Dean (1921). Dorothy Swift Beckwith has one son and one daughter. George and Dean are both deceased.

VOGEL, Fred Fred, son of Jacob and Inez Vogel, was born June 4, 1920. He graduated from Winnett High School in 1938 and served in the Army during World War II, from June 24, 1942, to November 7, 1945.

Erna Wolschneck from Klein, Pelskerau, Germany, had come to visit her sister, Elsie Baits, whose husband was employed on the Vogel Ranch. There she met Fred, and
on Christmas Eve in 1954, they were married. She had one son, Norbert, by a previous marriage, and she and Fred became the parents of two sons — Curtis and Fred "Rudy."

Fred Sr. died of poliomyelitis in September of 1960, at 40 years of age. Erna later married Peter Marks. They had a son, Hans, who now, with his father, runs the former Vogel Ranch.

Curtis graduated from Winnett High School in 1973, and now, having earned a doctor's degree, teaches at Montana State University at Bozeman, Montana. Frederick Rudolph "Rudy" graduated from Winnett High School in 1975 and attended Montana State University at Bozeman, then joined the Navy. He and his wife, Sherry, are the parents of three children — Joshua, Jeremy and Jennica. Rudy works in a nuclear power plant near San Diego, California.

Erna died in April of 1981. (See also MARKS)

VOGEL, Jacob (Sec 5-15-27 and Sec 8-15-27) Jacob and Inez Vogel were both born in 1880. Jacob took a 320-acre homestead claim five miles north of Winnett in 1911. In 1912, he and Inez Nickely were married. Two sons were born of that union. Fred and William. These stories of life on the Vogel Ranch were written by William "Bill" Vogel:

"One of my most pleasant memories is of the big dinners we men of the threshing crew were given by the people for whom we were threshing. When it came our turn to host the threshing crew on our place, we gave them the same neighborly treatment. After about 1937 most grain harvest was done by combine. However, alfalfa seed was still threshed by threshing machine, however, well into the 1950s. We did custom threshing of alfalfa seed in our neighborhood, since we were the only ones in the immediate area with a special alfalfa huller."

"I particularly remember an old steel-wheeled Fordson I had to crank by hand in 1936 when I was in high school. Even with cranking and a six-volt hot shot battery, it was hard to start. It would pull a two-bottom disc plow."

"About that time we also had a horse-drawn binder that would cut a six-foot swath of grain and kick out a tied bundle (usually tied) onto the carrier every half a minute. After the carrier was filled with about five bundles, I would trip the foot lever and the five bundles would slide off. Later we would set those bundles upright into shocks, and when threshing time came, pitch the bundles one by one onto the bundle wagon and then onto the threshing machine to reverse the process."

"I planted a field of wheat in the spring of 1936. It was a beautiful green carpet in May, but then came the grasshoppers from every direction. The beautiful green disappeared gradually on each side each day, changing back to the grey-brown soil until at last the whole field was gone.

"Lambing was the busiest time of year during the years when we had sheep. All members of the family took part and usually two others were also hired for a month or so to help out. It took a lot of close attention on the part of all."

"In the 1920s our domestic water supply consisted of a cistern that held melted snow water and rain water for culinary purposes. For laundering water, a two-horse team (pulling a stone boat with two barrels) hauled water ¼ mile from a stock-water pond to the house. In later years we hauled from the town well."

"Between 1918 and 1933 Dad irrigated our hayfields from the Winnett Irrigation Company ditch, a company Walter Winnett, my dad, Fred Attix, E. K. Holmboe, and others started around 1915. There was no water for irrigation from 1933 to 1942, however."

"During the dry years we built, at a great expense, a big reservoir across a badland creek, hoping to hold water to irrigate our hayfields. A cloudburst washed it out and we lost all the water just after the dam was completed. The same cloudburst washed out the county bridge across Box Elder Creek. After the dam was repaired, there was not enough rain the next two years to fill the dam again."

"I saw the thermometer register 108 degrees Fahrenheit in July 1930 and -54 Fahrenheit in February 1936. The incessant spring and fall winds were a factor in keeping the country dried out."

"One night in 1936 before we had telephones in our country area, a blizzard with high winds and below zero temperatures struck. Our elderly neighbor stumbled into our front door, gravely ill, after a ¼ mile struggle in the storm. As we were 60 miles from a doctor, and the roads to town were impassable, my mother doctored this old gentleman for a week, doing everything possible to save him. Finally we were able to get him to town, where he died shortly after."

"Our springtime tonic was sagebrush tea — very bitter, but it seemed to do the trick."

"I remember once when there was a neighborhood picnic on the Fourth of July on our ranch. Several other school and church picnics were held there because it was on a creek with trees and scenery, and a nice place to have a picnic."

"Names of families who occupied what was later to be the Vogel Ranch, and who all lived in this land, are as follows: Searle, Smiley, Crawford, Phillips, Feldt, McCrorey, Rezba, Perry, Brumberger. They left the land for other areas of endeavor, after finding that it was not suited for successful farming results."

"Jacob and Inez Vogel, my parents, who were schoolteachers in the 1905-1920 period, lost their lives in a fire that destroyed their ranch home in February 1962, during a cold stormy wind."

Bill Vogel was married to Louise Callewaert in 1945. They had seven children — David, Dick, Donald, Ardella, Dennis, Robert and Roger — all born in Lewistown. Bill and Louise sold the ranch to Fred Vogel and Earl Brady in 1960 and moved to Corvallis, Montana.

William is now deceased. He was very interested in the compilation of this book and contributed several items of interest.
WACKER, Gus
Gus Wacker, his wife, and daughter, Marlene, came to this area in about 1964 and worked for Ray Bohn. They lived on the Dell Huette place.
Marlene graduated from Winnett High School in 1965. She graduated from Kinman Business College at Spokane, Washington and was employed by Empire Steel in Billings, Montana, and for Transwestern Life Insurance Company. She married serviceman Robert Dooley in Tacoma, Washington, in 1969.
Gus was a brother of Ed Wacker, a Milwaukee agent in Winnett.

WILSON, Dick Yates (Sec 5,8-15-26) D. Y. Wilson was born February 4, 1862, in Mercer County, Illinois. Mary M. Puckett was born March 9, 1868, in Ohio. They were married February 21, 1889, and became the parents of six children — Louisa (1891), Flora (1894), D. Y. Jr. (1902), Ressa (1904), Alberta (1906) and Mary Alice (1908).
Dick Y., a staunch Republican, served as county clerk in his own Republic County in Kansas, and also served two terms as chief clerk of the House of Representatives in Kansas.
The Wilsons moved to Montana in 1914. Alberta died at a young age. Louisa and Flora each filed on their own land — Louisa in Sec 9-15-26, and Flora in Sec 7-15-26. The new homesteaders found the prairie life quite demanding and difficult. Excerpts from letters written by daughter Louisa to her fiance, George Henry Deethardt, give us pictures of the family's joys and hardships:

"(November 2, 1919) The folks have been reading aloud in the evenings, the book Michael O'Halleran, by Gene Stratton Porter. I have worked at my tatting while they read, and certainly enjoy it!"

"The folks were going to town Wednesday for coal. They borrowed some from Uncle Frank, but are clear out now. D. Y. (jr.) told them there wasn't none in Winnett. There is none in Lewistown, either, so they are opening up those coal mines out of Lewistown."

"(November 17, 1919) Well, I am in Winnett — and from the looks of things I may be here for a while. We were all out of fuel and eats. Can't get a lump of coal in town — guess we will have to use the post pile for fuel. This is far worse than it ever has been since I've been here. I'm afraid we won't have a cow left by spring, or in a little while. There is from 6" to 18" of snow every place, then a 1/2 inch crust of ice on that. Every bit of grass or sagebrush is covered with ice. We didn't have much hay hauled, and now that's gone..."

"(November 30, 1919) Daddy plans to go to Winnett and haul some hay and mill feed to the Deethardt Ranch, also some coal. They will move over there. It will be better there because of the water supply and the barn. Viv Morser will help them when I leave."

"(January 2, 1920) We had a jolly time here New Year's Day. The day before, Daddy caught one of the geese. Mama and I were both about ready to back out of having her killed. I came into the house — I just didn't want to see her killed. We had goose, oyster dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, casserole sweet potatoes with nuts and marshmallows, cabbage slaw, baked apples, cranberries, mixed pickles, doughnuts, bread and butter."

Wilson did not lose all their cattle, but did lose, besides some range stock, a few old treasured pets. As Louisa said about an old saddle pony — "We couldn't bring her in the house."

Louisa, torn between love and the feeling of duty to her parents, and her desire to get on with her own married life, did leave, and moved to Raymond, South Dakota. She and George Henry Deethardt were married February 4, 1920, in the log house of former owners, Benjamin and Anna Deethardt, parents of George Henry. Her parents, at that time, were living on the Deethardt Ranch.
Dick and Mary Wilson moved into the town of Winnett in 1921. Flora married L. R. Peddycoart and moved to Sidney in 1920. Ressa eventually married Ben Ranum, an oil field worker. D. Y. Jr. attended Winnett High School, while working in Scotty Spears restaurant at times, in Oscar Badger's Clothing Store, and also in George Pullin's Grocery. He graduated in 1920, and was employed by Mordecai J. Boyd, agent at the Milwaukee depot, until 1924, when he was transferred to Great Falls, Montana. He returned to Winnett in the spring of 1932.
Mary Alice graduated from Winnett High School in 1928 and from Montana State College. She later taught and coached in Winnett High School. She married Herbert DeVries. They were parents of four children — Noel, Gordon, Gall and Kathay — all of whom also graduated from MSU. (See also WILSON — Winnett)

Mother (Mary), Alberta
WILSON, Frank (Sec 3-15-27) Frank made final proof on his homestead on January 10, 1917. Louisa Wilson, as witness for the proof, recalled the experience: "I don't remember just how much snow fell the night before, but it must have been eight inches or more. It was 0 temperature with wind when I woke up in the morning. Snow had sifted through the cracks in the roof and around the door and windows, so everything, including my long hair, was covered with a light snow. I got up and tried to get a fire going in my heater — went back to bed — had to try a third time — used all my kindling and couldn't get a fire going. I was terribly cold then — even in bed.

"About 10:00 a.m. Uncle Frank came to get me. It didn't take him long to kick some pine wood out of the snow and find some pitch pine knots, and have a roaring fire. Then he went home, came back later, and we went to Winnett — with team and wagon, of course.

"After the proof was made at Oscar Badger's place, I went over to Rasmussen's store to do some shopping. Uncle Frank had given me a $10 bill which I had stuck in my pocket. The wind was fierce — my $10 bill was gone! We started home — it was so cold that we walked most of the nine miles home to keep from freezing." (See also WILSON — Cat Creek)

Flora Wilson and son, D. Y. and Gayle Fredene; Ressa and Bobby; Louisa and Ruth Inez

Moll building, a pool hall...

"I follow with pride and interest the activities of your Senator Kenneth Cole, who was once one of my students. ...

"One summer I walked from my homestead to Winnett on Sunday mornings to teach a Sunday school class. Quite a hike out of the little valley up over the 'hog back' and into town! I didn't have a saddle horse that summer and would rather walk than ride one of the workhorses.

"The longest hike I made was one Saturday morning in an October when I was teaching the Beck School at the Circle Bar Ranch. I walked all the way to Winnett.

"I worked at the Winnett Ranch house one summer while my father, with the help of some of the homestead boys, built my cabin. On the Fourth of July we fed over 250 people at noon. It was quite a day. I was waiting tables and Etta and Ethel Parker were working in the kitchen. There was no other place to eat, so W. J. fed people. Many, I am sure, never paid him for their meals."

Louisa married George Henry Deethardt in 1920. They were the parents of two children — Albert Wilson (1921)

Louisa Wilson, teacher and homesteader (1916)

WILSON, Louisa (Sec 9-15-26) Louisa wrote in the November 26, 1964, issue of the Winnett Times: "I had a homestead on Dry Creek northwest of Winnett. I taught my first term of school in 1914 at the Schellenberger School west of Winnett. I taught school in Winnett the winter of 1916-1917. The school had always been a one-room school with Miss Amanda O. Swift as the teacher. That term I taught the first six grades in the white schoolhouse, and Miss Swift taught seventh and eighth grades. Also ninth and tenth grades were added that year. She taught those grades in the upstairs of the Ray

Mary Alice, Louisa, Mother Wilson (80 years), D. Y. Jr.
and Ruth Inez (1925). Albert died in 1970. Ruth Inez Deethardt Fahrman paid a visit to the Winnett Public Library in 1986 and presented the library board with some historical pictures and several letters written by her mother, Louisa, during the winter of 1919-1920. Those letters have been a source of great help to the history committee. Ruth Inez lives in Great Falls, Montana.

Louisa passed away in January of 1986.

WOODARD, Pratt E. (Sec 33-16-27) After working in the Eager Mercantile Store in Winnett, Mr. and Mrs. Woodard moved to their homestead in 1919. They had two children — Velma and Homer. Homer attended Winnett High School and graduated with the class of 1921. Velma married John Merten in 1919.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodard took an active part in affairs of the community. When the first Methodist Church board was established in Winnett, Pratt served as treasurer, and Mrs. Woodard took part in all the Ladies Aid activities.

To supplement a rather meager income from farming, Pratt often worked at various jobs in town. He sometimes clerked in Pullin's store. In September of 1921 while working there, someone stole his keys out of his jacket and robbed the store that night. To make matters worse, the next month, while the family was in town, probably the same thieves visited the Woodard farm and took away nearly everything moveable — a wagon load of oats, two sets of harnesses, bridles, halters, etc. They carried off practically everything but the homestead! They were traced for 35 miles, but then the track was lost. The goods were never recovered, nor were the thieves apprehended.

In December of 1921 Homer worked in R. J. Woods drugstore during annual inventory.

In 1925 the Woodards moved back to Winnett. (See also WOODARD — Winnett)

YOUDERIAN, Bernard L. Bernard farmed north of Winnett. On August 9, 1926, he married Maude Shafer. They were married in Lewistown by Judge Ed Martin.

YOUNG, Jim Jim Young is the son of Willard and Marion Young of Pittstown, New York. Pittstown is near Albany, New York. Willard Young has a registered polled Hereford ranch.

Jim has one brother and one sister, both in New York.

Jim met Rick Hanson when Rick worked on a dude ranch in New York. Rick returned to Winnett, and Jim came to visit in 1983. He got some part-time work and then went to work for Earl Brady until the fall of 1988.

On September 21, 1985, Jim married Terrena Lund, daughter of Monte and Donna Lund of Roy. Terrena was assistant city clerk, and assistant city maintenance person in Winnett. She also did day work in a variety of jobs. In November of 1988 Youngs took a job near McLeod, Montana, and moved there. (Submitted by Donna Lund)

ZINGMAN, Jose W. (Sec 26-15-26) "Jose W. Zingman from Ryegate moved onto his homestead two miles northwest of town last week. (W.T. 9-30-14)