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*A Brief Historical Review of Life and Times  
on the Northeastern Montana Prairies*



*Dedicated to the*  
**PIONEERS AND HOMESTEADERS**



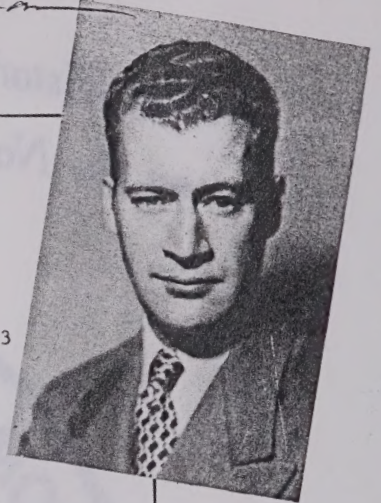
Compliments of Daniels County Jubilee  
Committee  
R. V. Walker Chairman  
Summer Student



TIM BABCOCK  
GOVERNOR

State of Montana  
Office of The Governor  
Helena

June 18, 1963



Homesteaders Golden Jubilee Association  
Jubilee, Box 128  
Scobey, Montana

Dear Homesteaders:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to extend best wishes to the many hundreds of you who will be gathering at Scobey to celebrate Homesteaders Golden Jubilee Week.

Having grown up on my father's homestead in northeastern Montana, I know how much all of you enjoy renewing old acquaintances and reliving experiences of the past in the prairie country.

This is certain to be a memorable jubilee, celebrated as only Montana people who have shared both good fortune and hardship over many years know how to celebrate such an occasion.

I wish you continued success in all your undertakings.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Babcock".  
Tim Babcock  
Governor

TB:rm



*A Brief Historical Review of Life and Times  
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## *Foreword*

At various times over the vast range of centuries, this prairie has been a lush tropical jungle inhabited by prehistoric animals, the bottom of an ocean, and a massive bed of glacial ice.

And yet, although the land bears the mark of countless centuries, the history of its people is new. There are no ancient ruins here to attest to vanished civilizations. There are only the teepee rings of Indians, lost arrowheads and hammers, the marks of Indian travel on the prairie ground, the deserted and weatherbeaten shacks of homesteaders, to remind us of those who were here before.

In the following pages we are trying to tell, in words and pictures, as much as limited space will enable us to tell of the history of the Homesteaders Golden Jubilee area, which generally is now Daniels County and some of the area surrounding, including part of Canada.

This book is the combined effort of many people, who have done their best to present a colorful and accurate account of the days that used to be, and the days that are.

Since human memory is a variable and unreliable thing, and some errors are inevitably copied from previous historical accounts, this book will undoubtedly have many errors. Much is not included that should be, and some things are possibly included that should not be.

From the hundreds of pictures that were submitted we have tried to select those we thought would be of the greatest interest to the most people, and most representative of each community. Many could not be included because of inadequate identification, poor reproductive quality, or because there simply was not room for even all of the good ones.

To all of those people who submitted pictures and write-ups, whether they could be used or not, we give our profound thanks. They all helped give us a better understanding of life as it was in this area, and this information was used in compiling this history.

## *Dedication*

As indicated on the cover, this book is dedicated to the pioneers and homesteaders—with particular respects to those who “stuck it out” and made these northeastern Montana prairies home country; who helped to establish institutions; raised families, nurtured faith in their heritage of freedom, and today still survive here—always willing to lend a hand, in the best spirit of those old days on these prairies when every abode was a hotel, restaurant and first aid station to the wayfarer.

Published at Scobey, Montana, A.D., 1963  
by the  
HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE ASSOCIATION  
Dorothy Rustebakke, Editorial Supervisor



# THE EARLIEST OF ALL

This vast and inspiring prairie was once populated by one of the largest, boldest, most picturesque, most individualistic and iron-willed of all of the northern Indian tribes—the Assiniboines (stone-boilers). The tribe received its name because of its practice of heating water by dropping heated stones into the pot.

The Assiniboines, who were once lords and masters of the most prodigious realm on the American continent, are now considerably reduced both in numbers and holdings. Their once-huge domain, extending from the Missouri River to the Saskatchewan River in northern Canada, has now shrunk to small reservations. The number of people in the tribe has fallen from an estimated 28,000 in the early 1800's to less than 4,000 today.

In Daniels County the history of Indian activity is quite recent. In many places the stone teepee rings of the Assiniboines are plainly visible where the native sod has not been turned. Many hammer heads, arrow heads, and other relics are still found.

The Indian trail across the county from the Yellowstone river to the Woody mountains in Canada was used for decades. The deep travois and wagon wheel ruts can still be seen in parts of western Daniels County.

The trail was much in use during the early homestead days, with Indians still following this route during the 1920's. It was on this trail, near the present town of Scobey, that Chief Sitting Bull and his Sioux warriors surrendered to General Miles, and were taken to a reservation. Chief Sitting Bull and his warriors had moved to Canada fearing punishment after their successful battle against the 7th U. S. Cavalry under General Custer.

In overcoming the difficulties of living and rearing their families in our rigorous northern climate the Assiniboines displayed a high sense of personal responsibility and initiative that modern civilization could well note.

Long before horses were introduced to the American continent the Assiniboines used dogs as beasts of burden. Each family owned several, which were hitched to poles to form a travois. In this way belongings could be dragged about as the tribe followed the buffalo herds.

Foot travel with dogs was slow, and contacts with other tribes were slight. When horses were acquired the Assiniboines often engaged in pony raids on the Blackfoot and Gros Ventre tribes on the west and the Crows and Sioux of the south. In addition to bows and arrows, the Assiniboines carried spears and stone-headed clubs for close fighting. Most carried shields of painted buffalo hide, treated to become tough enough to turn aside an arrow and sometimes a bullet. These shields, which were thought to give their owners supernatural protection in battle, rested beside the warriors in their graves.

Before they had horses the Assiniboines hunted buffalo by calling them into a trap where they could be surrounded and killed, or by stampeding them over a cliff. After horses were procured the favorite method of hunting was to charge into a herd and ride alongside the stampeding animals, killing them with arrows. This required considerable skill.

The introduction of fire arms was stimulated when, in 1829, Fort Union was established by the American Fur Company at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers.

Order was maintained in the Assiniboine camp by a military society composed of warriors. The chief could express his wishes, but could not enforce them unless the society agreed.

The principal gods were Sun and Thunder, regarded to be manifestations of the Great Spirit, ruler of everything. Both received worship in the sun dance festival.

Funeral rites were quite elaborate, with the dead usually being placed in the branches of a tree or on a scaffold. When the bodies would decay and fall the relatives would bury the bones.

The smallpox epidemics of 1780 and 1837 almost exterminated the tribe, and were largely responsible for its reduction in numbers.

Because of their friendliness toward the whites, the Assiniboines are probably not as well known to historians as some other tribes. No troops have ever been needed against them. They committed fewer depredations against the whites in the fur trade, cattle ranching, and early homesteading periods than any other tribe. History should give this long neglected credit to the Assiniboines, the earliest residents of all.

## The First White Man

"The level, fertile, open and exceedingly beautiful plains" of northeastern Montana, to use the words of Captain Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition, were first viewed by white men in the year of 1805, when the expedition visited the area on its historic exploration trip. Captain Clark ascended several miles of what he termed to be a "bold and beautiful stream," which is now known by the present name of Poplar River. This historic visit is entered on the official logged records of the expedition on Friday, May 3, 1805.

The northeastern Montana prairies were a paradise for wild life, according to the journals of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Vast herds of buffalo, elk, deer, antelope "surrounded" the party according to Captain Lewis. The buffalo, particularly the bulls, were so tame that they would scarcely make way for the party to pass. The elk were also very tame. The largest elk and the largest grizzly bear of which the expedition made record were found in the area. The elk measured 5'3" from the tip of the hoof to the top of the front shoulder. The grizzly weighed between five and six hundred pounds, was 3'11" around the neck and 8'7" from the nose to the tip of the tail. In addition to these animals the expedition made account of many big horn sheep, brown bear, white bear, beaver, geese, swans, ducks, wolves, coyotes, and prairie rodents.



# THE FUR TRADE

Until well into the 19th century the fur trade was the principal business of this territory. As elsewhere in the United States, the trapper and trader preceded the cattleman and the frontier farmer.

In 1829 the American Fur Company, under the powerful leadership of John Jacob Astor, established a trading post, Fort Union, on the Missouri at the mouth of the Yellowstone river. This was a stockaded post with bastions, and was constructed to withstand attacks by strong war parties of Indians. This was the first white outpost in what is now Montana and was located approximately 85 miles southeast of Scobey.

In 1833 the company had listed on its payroll at Fort Union 12 clerks and 129 men. Here the trades of tailor, gunsmith, blacksmith, tinner, cooper, carter, hunter and trapper were represented.

At first most of fur hunting and trapping was done by white trappers. With the fall of beaver fur prices in the 1840's the white trappers were no longer interested, and the trade was conducted mostly with the Assiniboine Indians.

Each year the company sent out its Indian trade goods, stocking the stores with from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars worth of goods. The most popular items indicated in the Fort Union inventory in 1831 were awls, half axes, beads, hawk bells, blankets, combs, flannel shirts, pantaloons, kettles, lead, powder, gun worms, bar iron, rifle balls, gun flints, vermilion and coat buttons. Sugar and coffee also later became popular. Whiskey, although never authorized by law, was also a principal and lucrative item of trade.

The principal currency at the fort was buffalo robes. A robe was worth about \$4. The price of coffee was \$1 a pound. Brown sugar was the same. Calico was \$1 a yard. An agent could realize 100 percent profit but the business expenses and hazards were immense.

The Indian trade at the post was conducted with much ceremony. When a trading party approached the flag was hoisted and the cannon discharged to signal that trade was about to commence.

Gifts were exchanged and the Indian guests were seated, fed and given drinks by the Company. This was followed by an exchange of oratory. After dispensing with the ceremonies trade began. When trading began only six or seven Indians were allowed in the store at any one time to prevent the situation from getting out of hand.

During the 1860's much of the Indian trade came to be conducted at the army posts or by the authorized traders at the Indian agencies rather than the old trading posts. Fort Union was abandoned in 1867, and with the extermination of the buffalo in the 1870's and 1880's the Indian fur trade disappeared entirely.

—Compiled by Ben Shennum

## Days of the OPEN RANGE

The beef industry of Montana did not get going until about 1866, and the northern plains were at first ignored by the cattlemen because of the legendary bad winters. But with the Indians restrained and the buffalo killed off (the last record of a buffalo kill in old Valley County was in 1885), the northern grassland began to look attractive to stockmen who needed a summer range.

Stockmen from western Montana and from as far south as Texas began trailing cattle by the thousands to northeastern Montana to be "finished" before shipping.

Cattlemen began to put pressure on Washington to open the Indian reserve, and in 1888 this was declared an unreserved public domain. There were no provisions for selling or leasing the land. It was to be used, but not owned, by the ranchers.

The brands of several large ranches were soon to be found on the range. Some of northeastern Montana's most respected, and also some of its most notorious residents came as cowboys and range bosses for the big cattle companies.

By 1895 there was talk of irrigation and smaller farms north of the Missouri. But the area of what is now Daniels County

was a blank place on the map, bearing only the names of rivers and creeks, and the name Whiskey Buttes where the four buttes rise above the surrounding prairie.

A few adventurous ranchers and land-seekers began to come into the area to settle. Among them were Canille Bonnabel, Taylor Green, the Tande family, Henry and Ole Shipstead, the Manternach family, the Joe Bonnes family, Bill Crone, Julian Erickson some of the Marlenees, Charles Woodley, Frank Hughes, Sr., and the colorful "Hominy" Thompson. The oldest white man born here (1904) and still lives here is Roger Von Kuster.

They settled mostly along the Poplar river and its branches. Most of those on the Middle fork of this river raised cattle. Those on the west fork raised sheep. The settlers drove across the unfenced range with horse and wagon to Poplar to buy their groceries and supplies, to get their mail and to buy the lumber they needed to build their homes.

Like later settlers, they braved the dangers of severe winters and of prairie fires, and of outlaws.



# THE EARLY OUTLAWS

The existence of Fort Union, and later Fort Buford, created a need for horses. And the coming of settlers to northeastern Montana added to the need. This made horse ranching, and also horse rustling, a lucrative business.

Some of the men who had come to Montana with the large herds of Texas cattle turned to horse rustling. Undoubtedly some of them had been in trouble previously in the south or other areas. Drastic action of the vigilantes along the Missouri, and the Johnson County war of Wyoming, may also have contributed to making this the last outpost of the rustlers.

## JONES and NELSON

"Red" Nelson was one of the early gang-leaders of the district. His name came from his flaming bushy beard and hair. He was known as a rustler and killer. In 1894 he freed two men from the Valley county jail at Glasgow, with some gun play. One of these men, by the name of Seffick, later became a member of the well known Dutch Henry gang.

By the time Frank Jones, thought to be from Nevada, entered the picture Nelson already had a price on his head. The two men joined forces in 1899, and carried on a busy rustling business in Montana, Saskatchewan and North Dakota. Later Nelson dropped out of the picture and another gang, known as the Jones Carlyle-Henry group, or the "Dutch" Henry Gang, was formed.

## DUTCH HENRY GANG

Dutch Henry, who is still remembered by many of the old-timers, came to Montana with cattle trailed up from Texas. Early in his career he rode for a man called Dad Williams. It is said that he would get a bill of sale from Williams for 25 head of horses, then run off with a bunch more into the Dakotas or Canada and sell them. Finally Williams went broke. As many as 400 head of horses were stolen in one drive, hazed across the border into Canada, sold, restolen, and brought back to Montana or the Dakotas to be resold.

"Dutch" Henry, as his name indicates, was from Holland. His real name was Henry Jauch or Jech. He had two brothers. One of them, Chris, was a respectable rancher who would have nothing to do with his brothers' illegal activities. The other, who was in the gang, was known as Coyote Pete.

Among the other members of the gang were Duffy (a little Irishman), Tom Reed (who quit, and was later dragged to death by a horse), "Kid" Trailer, Frank Carlyle, Seffick, and Ernie Stines. Carlyle had been a Canadian Mounted Policeman before he turned to horse-stealing. He was also one of the gang leaders.

Most of the local early settlers had no trouble with the outlaws, and on some occasions the rustlers were persuaded to bring back horses they had stolen. Sometimes they "rustled up" meat to present to homesteaders who had fed them. Many can recall having members of the outlaw gang stop for meals. They were courteous to the women, and if they sought shelter and food at a homestead shack while the owner was away they left things as they found them.

### Named Town

"Dutch" Henry is credited with naming the town of Plentywood. According to the story he and his companions were camp-

ing on a little creek. The cook was trying unsuccessfully to start a fire with damp buffalo chips. "Dutch" Henry suggested going two miles farther up the creek where there was "plenty wood." The creek was thereafter called Plentywood creek, and when the town was established it took the name.

Long after the other members of the gang had prices on their heads "Dutch" Henry was able to roam about in the open, and could go to town to buy supplies for the others.

## THE JONES SHOOTING

Jones was an outlaw of the Jesse James type, being liberal and friendly with most people and leading a gang which operated on a large scale only, never dealing in any petty thievery. The gang was known to have on hand as many as 600 or 700 head of stolen horses at one time, sometimes holding them for several months while the brands were healing and the herd was being enlarged. They they were trailed to North Dakota railroad shipping points.

An intensive manhunt for Jones began shortly after the Kid Curry gang, of which the law suspected the Jones gang was a branch, had staged a train holdup near the present site of Dodson and made off with \$40,000 or \$50,000.

In 1902 a group made up of Tom A. Davis, Bill Endersby, Elmer "Hominy" Thompson, Frank King and George LaPorte were deputized to round up the outlaws.

King rode to Thompson's shack near Whitetail to tell him the plans. The deputized ranchers were to make a circle around the outlaws while King was to ride to Canada to enlist the aid of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, who would close in on the north and prevent them from crossing the border.

Jones had seen King ride up to the Thompson abode, and climbed on the roof and heard every word. While King was en route to Canada Jones waylaid him and took him prisoner. The gang kept him for 14 days before releasing him.

Many men were tempted by the big rewards. Jim Moore a barber and constable living at Culbertson, heard that Kid Trailer was at a dance near Redstone, and that there was a price of \$800 on him.

Moore made the capture. The dancers tried to persuade him to allow Kid Trailer, who was the fiddler, stay to play for the dance. Moore refused, and started out with sleigh and team for Glasgow.

Jones, who was also at the dance, told the people that he would get some music for them. He overtook the constable and freed and took the constable's fur overcoat and his horses. This later proved to be a fatal action.

Two deputized possemen, looking for the reward money, posed as cowpunchers on the Si Merrill ranch in 1903, knowing that the outlaws had a hideout north of Scobey.

After hunting cattle one stormy January day they stopped at the Tande ranch to spend the night. A short time later another rider came. Tande, knowing that the man was an outlaw, tried to persuade him to ride on to the Timmons place, fearing there would be trouble. The outlaw, Frank Jones, stated that his horse was too tired to go on.

The men spent the evening in quiet conversation, although Bird and Moran had recognized the fur coat and the horse Jones was riding as those stolen from Moore.

The three men slept together on a large camp bed on the cabin floor—each with his hand on his gun.

### End of Jones

Bird offered to make the flap-jacks for breakfast while the other men sat at the table. When Jones was off guard Bird grabbed up a .30-.30 rifle and ordered him to put up his hands.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

Jones laid down his fork and suddenly threw himself over backward, drawing his gun as he fell. Bird shot him in the shoulder, with the bullet ranging down into his lungs, and Moran, who had his .45 under the table, shot with the bullet grazing Jones' head.

Jones was wrapped in bedding and covered with a big canvas, and placed in a sleigh. The two deputies, accompanied by Andrew Tande, started for Poplar with the wounded man. On the way Jones told them reproachfully, "I knew right away who you fellows was, but I thought you'd give me a chance."

Jones died that afternoon at Give-Out Morgan spring, twenty miles southeast of Scobey.

The body was taken to Poplar, where George Robinson, now a Scobey resident, then working in a Poplar store, was called upon to identify the body of what the bounty-hunters had mistakenly believed to be Carlyle.

Ellen Scobey, daughter of Major C. R. A. Scobey after whom the town was named, insisted that the Indian police provide a clean shirt for Jones' burial.

Nearly a year after the Jones killing a big, red-headed man rode up to the Tande ranch and wanted to know the details of the killing. After hearing the story the man — Red Nelson, Jones's one-time partner—disappeared again.

### Dutch Henry's Fate?

What happened to Dutch Henry is still not certain, as there are several reliable, but conflicting, accounts of how he met his death. The Mounties claim that he was killed in Canada—on two separate occasions. John A. Davis, who knew him well, positively identified the body of a murdered man found in a brush heap in Minnesota as "Dutch" Henry. He is also said to have been hanged in Mexico for his rustling activities, and his brother, Cris, is said to have believed this story. But it is also said that he married and lived peaceably until 1928 or 29, when he died in Stillwater, Minn., of a gunshot wound.

"Kid" Trailer disappeared for a while but, it is said, later returned, reformed, and offered to pay for his past transgressions.

### PIGEON-TOED KID

Back in the ranching days when the branding iron singed the hides of countless heads of stock, men drifted into the country in search of unbranded horses and cattle, and as second choice took those which had brands that could readily be changed.

One such man was the Pigeon-toed Kid, who operated his business by himself. He was despised by the other horse rustlers because, unlike most of them, he was quarrelsome and cruel. He insisted on burning the homes of his victims.

The Kid stole some horses from Ole Shipstead. Schuyler "Sky" Small, sheriff of Valley County, took his two deputies, Sid Bennett and Hugh Calderwood, and went in search of him.

George Baker, who lived at what was later the Wesley Howard ranch, went to Glasgow to get some supplies for the Kid. Learning there was a reward out for the horse thief, he told the sheriff that there was to be a birthday party for the Pigeon-toed Kid at Bonnabell's, and said he would ride ahead up to the house. If the Kid was there he would lead his horse to the post and tie it. If he was not there he would tie the horse in the barn.

The officers watched with the aid of field glasses. Baker tied his horse in front of the house. Sid and Sky went inside. When the Kid saw Salderwood, whom he recognized, he went for his guns and Calderwood shot him. He died a few minutes later.

### TOM RYAN

Another outlaw remembered by a few old-timers was Tom Ryan, who traveled about the country with a partner of the name of John Woodruff

Tom Ryan, according to Ellis Hurst, an Outlook rancher who knew him, was a man who hated petty larceny. Empty mail bags laid around his cabin and he made no effort to hide them. If strangers approached the cabin Ryan met them with his guns on. He refused to hide, saying, "They're not going to find me hiding behind a bed or in the cellar." Once Ryan came to the Hurst ranch to treat an injury he claimed to have received when his horse fell on him. Afterwards it was learned that the injury was a gunshot wound received in a bank robbery.

He gave the money from this robbery to a homesteader, asking him to give it to some poor people.

Mrs. Lon Desonia, whose home was a stopping-place for most travelers in the Redstone vicinity, declared that Ryan was the most gentleman-like man she ever knew.

One time when she was chasing chickens he rode up and offered to fetch the chickens she wanted. She pointed out two, and he drew a pistol with each hand and shot the heads off of both of them at once.

He also left a motherless colt with the Desonias for their unborn daughter (he was sure the child would be a girl). Mildred, the child, kept the horse for 29 years.

We have no record of what finally happened to Tom Ryan.

### THE NORSE BROTHERS

Nobody knows where the Norse brothers "hailed" from, but it's no secret where they went. Where they went and why they went is the story.

During the early days when Scobey was known as a "pretty rough" town, Ed Norse and his kid brother didn't do much to improve the reputation of the booming and sprawling little city. Quite the contrary. It is said that it took Ed Norse to get the Scobey cemetery started. No one has ever proved this one on him, but the first burial in the Scobey cemetery has been credited to him by people who were around the town at the time.

A man met his death in 1916 by being shot on the main street of Scobey while passing from the saloons on the west side of the street to the pool hall on the east side. The gunplay didn't happen in just the manner that the gunsmoke television western shows like to portray such incidents. No show-down in the middle of the dusty street. In this case a shot rang out from between two of the saloons, and Scobey had the first candidate for its new cemetery.

Ed Norse did not leave the Scobey territory immediately, but pursued his trade of rounding up horses and cattle. He did not own a ranch, however, and later drifted out of the Scobey territory and went to North Dakota. There he shot and killed a man. This one they pinned on him, and he wound up his days as a "lifer" in the North Dakota State Penitentiary at Bismarck.

That's where the first Norse went. The Kid's story is a little different. He also was self-employed in the cattle and horse-stealing business, doing pretty well in the territory west of Scobey. Like so many of the old-time badmen, there were those who would testify to his fairness and courtesy under most circumstances. He was a chap of 21 years, somewhat likeable in his own way.

John Shennum, Sr., pioneer farmer of the Coal Creek community, tells of counseling with the young outlaw, encouraging him to give up his thieving ways, and warning him that he would very likely get his neck straightened. For in those days little time was wasted in stringing up a horse thief.

The Kid replied, "There is one thing that you can be sure of: they will never take me alive."

The Kid knew what he was talking about. Some time after this conversation the sheriff from Glasgow came looking for the Kid. The sheriff was riding one horse and leading another. He expected to find the Kid and bring him in.

He found and arrested him in the true tradition of early day law enforcement. But the Kid had his own plans. At the first stop, when his hands were freed, he slipped a cyanide pill from his pocket into his mouth. They didn't take him alive, but the sheriff did take him in—tied across the saddle.

Nobody knows where the Norse brothers hailed from. But where they went is now history.



# FIRST FAMILIES

The very first settlers in what is now Daniels County arrived about the turn of the century. They were ranchers, and in most cases they came because rangeland was becoming scarce in their previous locations.

We do not have histories of all of the early families. Some left many years ago, and in other cases the living members

have never written down the accounts of their families' experiences.

We present in this chapter some of the information available on our first citizens who were here by 1905. For convenience of arrangement we are also including sketches of the husbands and wives of these settlers, even though the latter may have arrived at later dates.

## MANTERNACH FAMILY

It was a wild and lonesome country, full of antelopes and coyotes and dotted with the bones of the vanished buffalo, when John Manternach came from Velva, N. D., in 1900 to pick out a claim on Poplar Creek, three miles south of the present town of Scobey.

He returned to Velva and brought his wife and 11 children back with him in the spring of 1901. He was also accompanied by the Joe Bonnes family of four.

The trip across the prairie took eleven days. Two carloads of farm equipment and lumber were shipped to Poplar.

The only others living on the Poplar Creek at that time were Bill Crone and Charlie Woodley.

It was too late to plant a crop when they arrived, but John broke 20 acres for the next year's crop and dug ditches for irrigation. They built a house, which was first plastered with adobe and later with lime plaster. Wood was scarce and the coal mines had not yet started, so buffalo chips were used for fuel.

In 1902 John Manternach sowed 20 acres of oats to feed his 75 head of cattle and 50 head of horses. It was an open winter and the stock did well on the long prairie grass.

In 1902 August Jevnager, Frank Marlenee and Henry and Ole Shipstead and the Tande family joined the small group of first settlers along the river.



The John Manternach family in 1901. Standing, left to right, are: George, Ida, Augusta (Mrs. Jevnager), Lena, Frank. Middle row: Elizabeth (Mrs. Downing), Kate, Mrs. Manternach, John Manternach. Front row: Oscar ("Whoop"), Gertie, Henry and Bill.

Tragedy struck the Manternach family in that year when young Henry was dragged to death by a broncho. As there was no cemetery he was buried on a hill on the Manternach ranch.

Three Manternach children, Bill, Gertie and Oscar, attended a school located where the present Earl Norman farm is. Florence Spafford, who later became Mrs. George Robinson, was the teacher.

The winter of 1906-1907, one of the hardest winters ever known in this area, resulted in a loss of 300 head of cattle for the Manternachs because of scab, cold weather and a feed shortage. Only about 35 head were saved. Al Tande and Frank Manternach plowed snow on about two thousand acres so that the cattle could follow and eat the grass. According to the late Frank Manternach there was snow from November 8 until June, and it stormed continually from November until April. In February alone, he claimed, it stormed 56 days!

He also claimed that in the fall John Manternach went east to ship cattle, and bought three tons of barbed wire, which the hungry cattle ate before spring!

One time, an assessor from Valley county came out to assess the Manternachs. He asked John how many cattle he had. John said 150.

"Mr. Manternach," said the assessor, "You haven't given half your cattle. I'll assess you for twice that many."

"Go ahead," agreed Mr. Manternach. "You didn't get half of them then."

Both Mr. and Mrs. John Manternach died in 1918 while their sons Bill and Oscar were fighting in France in World War I.

Of the 11 children born to the John Manternach family, only three are living today. They are Mrs. Gertie Hansen, Wolf Point; Mrs. Bill (Lizzie) Downing, Central Valley, Calif.; and Mrs. Augusta Jevnager, Billings, Mont.

Two Manternach boys who spent their lives in Daniels County, and were well-known citizens, were Frank, and Oscar or "Whoop".

Frank was 22 years old when he came with his father in 1901, and in 1905 he squatted on his own homestead. He hoped to be a rancher, but when the country began to fill up with settlers he turned to mixed farming instead.

Frank married Esther Chelgren in 1915, and one of their three boys, Dale, is farming the home place. Frank died in 1950.

Oscar, better known as "Whoop," was also a well-known citizen of the community. He received his nickname in the 30's, when he called many of the lively dances at the old Odd Fellows Hall in Scobey. While dancing he would stamp the floor vigorously and let out a "whoop-tee-do."

His widow, Bertha, is a Scobey resident.

## MANSFIELD DANIELS

Mansfield Daniels, for whom this county was named, came from Iowa in 1896 to settle in Poplar. He became identified there with the government services as a carpenter, and his wife served as a government nurse at the Fort Peck agency.

After making a trip north to the present site of Old Scobey in 1901 he conceived the idea of starting in the ranching busi-



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Mansfield Daniels, the first community builder in what is now Scobey area. He painted on a broad canvas, but was heart-broken when the rails would not come down to the town he founded.

ness. He persuaded his brother-in-law, Jake Timmons, to come from Iowa as partner and manager in the new enterprise.

He evidenced his faith in this area when in 1912 he built a beautiful home on the west bank of the Poplar river at a cost of \$20,000. Every bit of the material had to be freighted sixty miles overland from Poplar. The old mansion had waterworks, fixtures for gas lighting, a ballroom, and a total of more than 20 well-finished rooms.

He and Jake Timmons started a store at Old Scobey. He asked his friend and associate, Charles Robert Anderson Scobey, who was Indian Agent for the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, to obtain a post office for the fledgling town. He named the post office after Scobey.

Originally prospects were entertained for the building of the railroad from Poplar to the location of Old Scobey. But the program was changed, and the town was moved.

Daniels was known as a big-hearted frontiersman who was always willing to lend a hand to those in need.

He died on April 15, 1919. Services were held in Old Scobey. When the county was formed it was named Daniels County in his memory.

### JACOB C. TIMMONS

Jake Timmons of Iowa brought his wife and daughter Blanche to Old Scobey in 1901, to ranch in partnership with his brother-in-law, Mansfield Daniels.

They later started a general store, and owned and operated a blacksmith shop, rooming and boarding house, implement shop, livery barn, undertaking parlor and real estate business. Many years later settlers spent their first night in this county at the Timmons and Daniels Hotel.

Seeing the need for water conservation, Daniels and Timmons dammed the Poplar river with twigs and brush, storing enough water to flood many acres of hay land.

When it became apparent that East Scobey was actually to be the real town Jake Timmons was unfaltering in his efforts to build up the new place. He was secretary for the old Commercial Club and also was chairman of the board of county commissioners for Sheridan county before Daniels was created.



Adele Timmons Daniels, first wife of Mansfield A. Daniels, and sister of Jake Timmons. She died in 1907. In 1909 Mr. Daniels married Mable Brooks.

### LOTTIE PARSHALL

Lottie Parshall was one of the first citizens of Old Scobey. Born in Poplar of Indian and French parentage, she was orphaned at an early age and raised by Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield Daniels. She also spent much time with Mrs. Daniels' brother and his wife, Jake and Mrs. Timmons, who were then living in Iowa.

She came here with the Timmons family in 1902, and often stayed with them. She found life in Old Scobey busy and enjoyable. Other children in the area were the Manternachs, the Marlenees and the Tandes.

Because her mother was an Assiniboine, Miss Parshall received land on the Fort Peck Reservation. She traded this for a farm southeast of Scobey.

She was one of Scobey's first telephone operators and also worked for several years as a clerk in the post office. She still is a resident of Scobey.

### TANDE FAMILY

Andrew and Helene Tande left their home in Minnesota to move by covered wagon to the Williston, N. D., area in 1890. When the influx of new settlers to that area made rangeland for their cattle scarce they moved with their family to the Sco-



Five children of the Tande family that came to the Scobey area in 1902. From left to right are Mrs. Oscar Torkelson, Mrs. Mac Drummond, Mrs. Anna Tingley, Albert, Claude. All but Anna still live here. Albert is deceased.

bey vicinity in 1902, starting their ranch three and one-half miles northwest of Scobey. They lived in two tents until a house could be built.

Later Andrew Tande also started a store and sold supplies to the new settlers.

As was customary in the early days, the Tandes gave food and shelter to anybody who happened along. Sometimes their guests were well known outlaws, but no questions were ever asked and they were never molested.

In 1903 the notorious outlaw Frank Jones was shot in the Tande kitchen by two deputy sheriffs while he was eating breakfast. An account of this shooting in the section on early-day outlaws.

### AL TANDE

The late Al Tande hauled mail from Poplar to Scobey in 1906, making one trip a week. He started a stage line in 1910, charging travelers \$15 for the round trip, which took two days.

He helped new settlers locate claims, and with a four horse outfit he would plow a furrow around the squatter's claim. This was the only method of surveying until Harry Gibbs was brought out to survey the claims in 1912.

Al Tande claimed he had located as many as 75 settlers, many of them in the Ukrainian community north of Scobey.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

In 1914 he went to Taude (now known as Peerless), where he had the livery, hotel and blacksmith business. Jim Collins was his blacksmith. He moved back to the farm in 1919, and in 1920 established a dance hall and swimming area, known for many years as Tande's Beach.

As a young man he was adept at riding, roping and shooting, and gained a reputation through roping coyotes (and at least on one occasion a wolf) on the open range.

He married Miss Bertina Lien in 1910 at Glasgow, and to this union were born a son, Robert, now of Scobey, and three daughters, Mrs. Wilfred (Ruth) Nelson, Mrs. Beatrice Johnson, and Mrs. Ed (Lucille) Koser, all of Whitefish. Mrs. Tande also lives at Whitefish.

### MR. and MRS. CLAUDE TANDE

Claude Tande still recalls helping his father bring his cattle to the Scobey area from their ranch near Williston in May, 1903. A May blizzard made it necessary for them to seek shelter in the breaks north of Culbertson, and several cattle were lost. Later he learned that the same blizzard had taken a heavy toll of sheep in this area.

Another blizzard, in the winter of 1906-07, also caused a heavy loss of cattle. Joe Bonnes lost 100 head of sheep when they drifted over a cutbank south of the present Alvah Shaw place.

He also recalls night-herding cattle, and trying to hold them during electric storms. Sometimes they stampeded and scattered all over the country.



Mr. and Mrs. Claude Tande in 1962. He came in 1902. She came in 1908. They are still here.

On Jan. 3, 1910, Claude Tande married Clara Nelson at Glasgow, Mont.

Clara was a homesteader-school teacher, who had come from Illinois with her family to take up homesteads on the other side of the Missouri river, south of Poplar. Her father, two sisters, and herself each filed claim on 160 acres and built their shacks on adjoining corners to be close together.

Mr. Jevnager persuaded her to leave her homestead to teach at the Bonnes school in 1908. This was held in a shack on the Bonnes place. Her pupils included Oscar and Gertrude Manternach, Ethel, Cecil and Leonard Marlenee, the Javenager girls, two Bonnes children.

The next year she taught at the Hughes school, where her pupils were Clara Tande, the Colby children, Stella Hughes and Louise Davis.

School was held during the summer months, and was dismissed when the weather became too cold in the fall. Cow chips were used for fuel.

Mr. and Mrs. Tande are the parents of two children, Ronald of Scobey and Mrs. John Berry of McLean, Virginia.

During the past year Mr. Tande has been spending much of his time at the Lutheran Retirement Home in Wolf Point. Mrs. Tande lives in Scobey.

### MR. and MRS. J. M. (Mac) DRUMMOND

Another member of the Tande family is Nora Drummond, who was about 13 when the family moved to the Scobey area.

School was a problem in those days, and Nora attended school in Poplar during the winter months, and at local schools during the summer.

One school she attended was in the stone house once occupied by Charles Woodley. The walls of the house still stand at Old Scobey. Mrs. Woodley was the teacher. Later the Woodleys built a two-story house and they used the upstairs as a school and lived downstairs. This school was attended by the Manternachs, Marlenees, Bonneses, Blanche Timmons and Frank, Daisy and Dot Hughes. The children rode horseback to school.

Another school was in a granery by the Hughes place. Later the Hughes school was built.

Mrs. J. M. "Mac" Drummond remembers that her father had a hired man in North Dakota, known as "Kid" Traylor. One day it was discovered that the "Kid" had been stealing wine from her father's cellar.

"If you don't change your ways you are going to become an outlaw," her mother warned him.

The prophecy came true, for soon afterwards "Kid" Traylor became a well-known member of the Dutch Henry gang.

About 60 miles from Williston, on the trip to the new ranch, the parents had to leave the children at a cattle camp while they returned to Williston on business.



Nora and Mac Drummond, also still here. She came in 1902 and Mac came in 1909.

While the children were waiting a group of outlaws stopped at the camp to corral their horses. The girls cooked dinner for them and received high praise for their cooking.

"The outlaws were always polite to women," Mrs. Drummond says. They often stopped at the Tande ranch to corral their horses.

Dances were the chief amusement of the young people of the day. They were held at various homes—with the furniture carried out to make more room. People came from miles around and danced until daylight, when they ate breakfast and went home. Sometimes they danced at Albert Tande's store, with the counters pushed against the wall.

### See First Airplane

A trip to Medicine Lake on July 4, 1911, to see their first airplane, is remembered by Mrs. Drummond. The Mose Tingleys, the Marlenees and others also went, all riding on a wagon reach, and camping along the way.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

The airplane, which was little more than a bunch of bamboo sticks with a motor, belonged to a man known as "Lucky Bob". It flew for about a quarter of a mile, about 100 feet high.

On the plains it was odd enough at that time to see an auto—to say nothing of an airplane!

In June, 1912, Nora Tande was married to Mac Drummond, who had come to this area in 1909. Mac Drummond was raised in North Dakota and Saskatchewan, and worked as a blacksmith at Dundurn, Sask., for three years before coming here. He homesteaded 15 miles northwest of Scobey on the Middlefork, and moved to Scobey two years ago.

In the early days he was known as a fiddler, and played for many dances.

Once Mac came down with a severe case of smallpox. He was kept isolated in a tin bunkhouse on the Tande place, which was almost unbearably hot in the July sun. Nobody was allowed near him except Dr. Belljea, an old doctor from Williston who had taken out a homestead south of Flaxville, and a Mrs. Page, a homestead nurse, also from Williston, who took care of him.

The doctor died a few years later, from infection, after performing an operation on himself.

One time when Albert Tande had pneumonia, Mac Drummond rode to Plentywood to get the doctor. The doctor headed for Scobey in his Model T, and the roads were so muddy that Mac, on horseback, got back as soon as the doctor.

### MRS. OSCAR (Clara Tande) TORKELSON

Mrs. Torkelson was the youngest of the Tande children, and was only a baby when the family came here. She recalls that gopher hunting was a favorite entertainment for the early-day children, and she still has a scar on her knee to prove that gophers were not the only things to get caught in the trap.

The children had to work, too, and when her father put up hay on the site where Scobey now stands she and the other children had to tramp it down.

Clara was the only one of the Tande girls to take a homestead. She picked out a claim in the western part of the county, and she and Claude staked it out. When they returned the next day they discovered that a man had put a shack on it.

"I could have shot him," she declared.

She took another claim on Lost Child creek, so named because two children once became lost in the timber by the creek in Canada and were never found. The claim was 14 miles north-east of Peerless.

While attending school in Poplar she roomed with the late Mary McLeod.

In 1916 she was married to Selmer Fladager, and they had one daughter, Mrs. Clifford Demnick of Yakima. His homestead was two miles northeast of Peerless. He died of a heart attack in 1939.

For a time she worked in the government laundry at Ft. Peck, and then ran a laundry of her own.

In 1940 she married Oscar Torkelson, and they still spend the summers on their farm north of Peerless.

### ANNA (Tande) TINGLEY

Mrs. Tingley shares the memories of her brothers and sisters.

In 1909 she married Mose Tingley, early-day homesteader who was born at Ft. Benton, and who first homesteaded at Big Sandy. He took a homestead on the Middlefork in 1904, and then moved farther up the river. In 1924 they moved to Big Sandy, going by wagon and trailing the cattle. Mrs. Tingley still lives at Big Sandy.

### SHIPSTEAD FAMILY

Henry, Ole and Oscar Shipstead came to Montana from Minnesota in 1895, where they worked on ranches near Fort Benton, and later in the Judith Basin.



Thomas Henry Shipstead in 1930. Recently deceased, he came in 1902.



Ole A. Shipstead and his bride, Willimina Louise Smith, in 1916.

In 1901 Henry and Ole, who had saved about \$2500 and had a horse apiece, bought a wagon, hitched up their horses, and headed for the rich and unsettled grasslands of northeastern Montana.

They wound up just south of Whiskey Buttes (Four Buttes). They spent the winter there, but did not like the location, and moved to the West Fork of the Poplar river in the spring. The only other rancher on the West Fork was Taylor Green.

The Shipsteads found the new location ideal for sheep raising as the grass was tall and there was plenty of range and water. They operated their sheep ranch for ten years. Then Ole sold out his interests and went into farming. Henry added cattle to his ranching and in 1945 sold out his sheep, continuing to raise cattle and grain until his death.

When homesteaders came into the country, fencing up the range, it is said that Henry often gave a helping hand to the newcomers, hiring them to work on his ranch in preference to drifters. He also gave his herders orders to keep his sheep off of the homesteaders' property.

Henry, over the years, became one of the wealthiest men in the county. In addition to extensive ranch holdings, he was at one time a stockholder in banks in Roosevelt and Valley counties, and in the Sherman Hotel in Wolf Point. He was the major contributor to the establishment of the Faith Lutheran Home in Wolf Point. He was a bachelor until his death.

A brother, Ole, married and had a family of five children. Two sons, James and Milton, still live here and operate some of the old Shipstead ranch properties. The daughters, Eunice (at Nashua) and Gladys, live elsewhere.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

### OSCAR SHIPSTEAD

Oscar Shipstead, who still lives on his farm in the Silver Star community, came to work in the Fort Benton and Judith Basin areas of Montana in 1895. In 1903, at the suggestion of Henry and Ole, he struck out with team and wagon and some extra horses to join them on the West Fork.

Henry and Ole had only three horses they could work in harness. Oscar had more horses, so he did the mowing, breaking two or three horses on the mower. In 1904, homesick for his old range, Oscar sold his horses to his brothers and went back to the Judith Basin. There he bought a bunch of horses from a sheep rancher who needed money and brought them back to Henry and Ole, and he decided to stay, too.

"I was always after adventure and finding something new. Henry and Ole wanted to stay put and work," he states.



Oscar and Rosie Shipstead, still here.

On one occasion he was fixing dinner for himself when a rider mounted on a beautiful white horse appeared. The man was Andy Duffy, an outlaw who had just acquired a bullet hole through the upper part of his leg in a brush with the Canadian Mounted Police.

Oscar told Andy that he should make himself at home, but he had to make a trip and wouldn't be home until the following day. The next day, when he returned, the outlaw was gone but Oscar's few valuables were still there, including a gold watch which hung plainly on the wall.

He says that one of the most popular places for the outlaws was the "Hole in the Wall." The excavation of that hangout can still be seen at the sight of Old Scobery. Almost any night one could find such characters as Dutch Henry, Pidgeon-Toed Kid, George Baker, and other tough ones there.

He recalls a blizzard that came up while he was at the sheep camp. A man named George Baker, who was working for Taylor Green came to call for help.

Oscar went out to assist an elderly sheepherder, who he found crouched in the snow with a buffalo robe wrapped around him. The herder used this method of stopping his sheep, along with his dog. Oscar gave him his horse so he could go back to camp and rest. He spent the rest of the night in the sheep wagon and almost froze.

The next day it was learned that another sheepherder, by the name of Conly, had been out with a band of sheep and had not returned. They searched all day without success. The next spring the missing herder was found, sitting beside the trail (he had taken the wrong one in the storm). There he had sat frozen all winter.

### ROSE (Sibbits) SHIPSTEAD

In 1911 Oscar married Rose Sibbits, who was born at Wolf Point in 1895. Rose's father was a Sioux and her mother, who died four days after Rose's birth, was an Assiniboine.

Rose was raised by her mother's sister and her husband, Kittie and William Sibbits.

William Sibbits, who was sub Indian Agent under Major Scobery, had come west in 1867 with the U. S. Cavalry. He participated in General Crook's first expedition against old chief Cochise. He came to Wolf Point vicinity in 1880 as a teamster with part of the government forces engaged in bringing old chief Sitting Bull to Poplar from the Woody Mountains in Can-

ada, where the chief had fled after the Custer massacre. Many of the Indians froze to death during the march in bitterly cold weather.

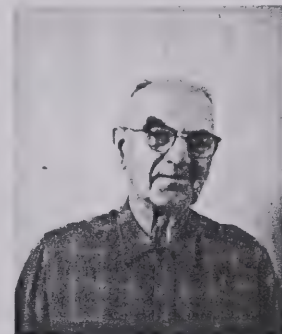
Rose can recall how her grandparents used to camp nearby, and she and her cousin, Minnie, would sleep there and listen to the stories their grandparents could tell.

Mrs. Sibbits used to cook dinners for the ranchers who came down from the Scobery area. That is how Rosie met Oscar Shipstead, whom she married when she was 16. They had seven children, Doris, Eula, Elsie, Ralph, Leonard, David and Harold, nearly all of whom still live here. Rosie was chosen to be queen for the Homesteaders' Golden Jubilee—a most fitting selection, and the honor going to a fine lady.

### ALBERT SHIPSTEAD

Albert Shipstead first came out in 1904, at an early age, to visit his brothers, Henry and Ole. He like the country immediately, and spent his time riding the saddle horses and hunting antelope. There were big herds of them at that time. He came out every summer, and in 1910 he came out to stay. He took out a homestead, and in 1925 was married to Alma Stege.

Albert Shipstead has been shearing sheep as a side-line, and still practices this trade during the summer months.



Albert Shipstead, still here, who came in 1904.

### MRS. ALBERT (Alma Stege) SHIPSTEAD

As a former teacher and county superintendent, Mrs. Shipstead is well known throughout the county. She first came to this area in 1916 to take out a homestead on the Fort Peck reservation, 33 miles from Scobery. She has taught in several county schools, and was County Superintendent of Schools from 1945 until 1953, and from 1959 until 1963, when she retired.

The Shipsteads have one daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Hagen of Redstone.

### ELLEN (Shipstead) FROSLAN HAMANN

Mrs. Hamann came in 1904, with her sister, Tilda, and her brother, Albert, to visit brothers Henry and Ole Shipstead.

She recalls, on that first visit, that they were met in Poplar by Henry, who took them to the ranch by team and wagon.

"There was a stream where we camped for dinner and rested the horses," she recalls. "Henry pitched a tent for us and cooked a delicious meal over the campfire."

At the time of that first visit Henry and Ole were living in a dugout. The sisters slept in tents. Housekeeping chores were light, and the girls had time to ride horseback, pick berries, and visit the few neighbors.

"I still have a picture in my mind of that country the way it looked then—so big, quiet and peaceful," says Mrs. Hamann. "There were no highways, no fences, no plowed fields, and no dust blowing. It had a lonesome look, but the scenery was wonderful. I used to enjoy watching the long dark shadows on the hillsides in the late afternoons, and the white fleecy clouds that seemed to float so high."

The first family they met in the area were the Bonneses, who has the post office where the Chet Murphy farm is now. Mary and Cassie McLeod were the first girls they met.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

Mrs. Hamann enjoyed Montana so much that she decided to stay in the state. That fall she taught school south of Great Falls. Later she taught schools in Daniels County, and was the first teacher at the sod schoolhouse at Coal Creek.

In 1913 Mrs. Hamann and two of her sisters homesteaded on land which later became part of the Henry Shipstead ranch. In



Ellen Shipstead Hamann, taken in 1919.

1922 she married Martin Froslan, a Flaxville area homesteader. He died in 1942. She cared for her invalid sister, Tilda, for several years in Scobey. In 1953 she married Louie Hamann, a retired rancher she had known since her school-teaching days in Cascade County, and they live in Scobey.

### JULIAN ERICKSON

Julian Erickson was a lad of about 16 when he came from Velva, N. D., in 1902 with his brothers. Soon Julian was working for various ranchers in the vicinity.

He recalls that, while hauling hay with Charles Woodley, they were startled by the sound of shots. They rode to the top of a hill and saw, on the flat below them, 15 or 20 Indian police from Poplar riding around and shooting. The Indians were in search of the Dutch Henry gang, and were pretending that they had the outlaws surrounded at a place called Stony Point. Not finding them, they decided to play at it.

In the fall of 1903 a steam threshing machine set fire to the prairie grass and the resulting blaze burned a large area of rangeland. It burned 100 tons of hay and a barn at his brother's farm, and jumped across creeks. He fought the fire most of the night, along with the Bonneses, the Tandes and the Manternachs. He can recall the late Oscar "Whoop" Manternach sitting on a cowhide that was being drug along to smother the fire, to hold it down.



Mr. and Mrs. Julian Erickson on their farm in 1962. He came out in 1902. She came in 1912. They still live on their place.

The fire destroyed much land, and the following winter (1903-4) was a tough one. The shortage of feed was disastrous to a band of 3,000 sheep being wintered there by Bill Shannon, who later built the Shannon Hotel in Glasgow. Only 300 of the 3,000 sheep survived the winter, and these were sold to Bonnes.

Julian Erickson also worked for Henry and Ole Shipstead, then living in a dugout on the West Fork. The Shipstead brothers had frozen a quantity of cranberries in a small dugout behind the one in which they lived, and they enjoyed cranberries and cream as a special treat all winter.

In 1912 Mr. Erickson and his new bride, the former Ellen Arthurs of Minot, N.D., set up a homestead 10 miles northeast of Scobey. That community was named the Julian community after him, as he helped his mother, who was postmistress.

Mr. and Mrs. Erickson still live on their farm near their original homestead. Their son, Arthur Erickson, lives in Scobey, and his children all have had college educations.

### ALFRED and ARNE THOMAS LARSON

Before setting in the Scobey area, Alfred and Arne Thomas Larson traveled to the area near Ubet, Montana, to work for sheep ranchers. Tom also served as a guide in the mountains near Livingston, and later worked for a time at Poplar. He and Alfred bought a shack on the Middlefork from a man school teacher, and in the spring of 1903 the two young men attempted to "improve" their claims. They found farming almost impossible. There were too many cattle at large. The XIT spread from Texas and the CK spread from Conrad were both using this region for summer pasture. But by digging irrigation ditches and breaking the required acreage they obtained water rights.

Tom recalled a hideout built by the outlaws in a coulee about seven miles northwest of their place. To obtain lumber for the hideout, which was about 20x30, with logs on top and places to shoot through, the outlaws stole shacks of absent homesteaders.

The Larsons saw the place in the spring after the outlaws had left. There had been a prairie fire and the outlaws had fought it and managed to save a patch of grass around their place. There were several carcasses of cattle with the CK (Conrad Koors) brand. The outlaws had eaten the best portions and left the rest. There were also dead horses among the cattle.

The Larson brothers lived on bacon, prunes and beans bought at Poplar, and on ducks and jackrabbits. They washed their clothes by attaching them to a wire hung across the creek. The running water did the rest.

In January, 1913 Al married Edith Luella Knudson, daughter of a homesteader who had come in 1910.



Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Larson at their homestead in the summer of 1962. He passed away less than a year ago. He came here in 1903. Mrs. Larson came in 1913.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

Tom married Alma Rongley in August, 1913 and brought her to share his life on the Montana prairie.

With his "steamer" Al did custom work throughout the Ukranian settlement, and also broke the land where the airport now stands.

Al Larson died in 1940. He was the inventor of many farm implement devices, but never bothered to patent them. He preferred just to make them work.

Tom (A. T.) Larson died last winter. His widow, Alma, now lives in Scobey. Two sons, Kenneth and Harry live in Scobey, and their son Sylvester lives at Conrad.

### THE HUGHES FAMILY

The Frank Hughes family came in 1904 because Mrs. Mellie Hughes was in poor health and it was hoped a change of climate would be good for her. She was a cousin to Mrs. Mansfield Daniels and Jake Timmons. The climate was very beneficial, and Mrs. Hughes, Sr., is now 91 years old.

The Hughes located two and a half miles north of the present town of Scobey. There were no fences, few farms, and the country abounded in wild jack rabbits, swifts, coyotes, antelopes and ducks.

Many outlaws passing through the district slept at the Hughes ranch with their guns for pillows. They asked Mrs. Hughes if she needed any meat, assuring her that they would rustle her some if she did.

Frank Hughes, Jr., still here, recalls that an Indian outlaw, named Old Bloody Knife, apparently drunk, came through their place and met up with Frank Kief, who was driving two mules. Bloody Knife shot his luger into the air and the frightened mules broke loose and ran away. Bloody Knife chased them but fell off his horse and lost his Luger in the tall grass. Three years later Lee Craig, working at the Hardenberg ranch, found this Luger while he was breaking sod with four head of horses and a walking plow. He picked up the gun and pulled the trigger—and it went off, almost shooting one of the horses.

Another outlaw, Old Scarface, had breakfast with them one morning. Jake Davis was there, having just ridden in on a nice sorrel horse. Scarface looked at Jake's horse and said, "Mr. Davis, how would you like to trade horses?"

Jake said, "No, I don't care to."

To which Scarface declared, "Well, I generally trade whether the other guy wants to or not."

Frank Hughes, Sr., and Jake Davis looked at each other, as if to vow that Scarface would never take that horse without a scrap. After breakfast the outlaw left without attempting to conclude his proposed "bargain."

Frank Hughes, Sr., was deputy sheriff under Jack Bennet in 1917:



A 1916 picture of the Frank Hughes, Sr., family. From right to left are Frank Hughes, Mellie, Daisy, Dot, Estella, Frank, Jr., and J. D. Mellie now is 91. They came west from Indiana for her health in 1904.

In 1920 he took an active part in the division of this county from Sheridan to Daniels, being chairman of the board of county commissioners at that time. T. A. Esva and Eugene LaRoche were the other members.

Frank Hughes, Sr., died several years ago. His place is still operated by his son, Frank.

### MR. and MRS. JAKE DAVIS

Jake Davis came to Old Scobey in 1904 and got a job herding cattle for Daniels and Timmons. He was the first undertaker in Old Scobey, simply because there was nobody else to do the job. In 1919 he dammed up the Poplar river with a 70 foot dam, to make a recreation area known as Davis Beach. A dance hall was built there in 1922, and picnic grounds established. Canoe races and swimming events were held there for many years.

Jake also started the first fur farm in the county in 1936. He had as many as 70 minks, and sold the pelts for \$10 apiece.

Some of Jake's experiences in the early "undertaking" business are still remembered. One time a man who died suddenly at the old "Hole in the Wall" saloon in Old Scobey was placed in a box and left overnight on the hill near where he had died. The next morning body and coffin had disappeared. They were found in a coulee where the wind had sent them. The body was replaced in the coffin and buried.

On another occasion a bereaved father gave the wrong measurements for a coffin for his son who was an accidental gunshot victim. The boy was buried with his feet sticking out of the end of the box.

On April 10, 1912, Jake married Louise Butler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Butler, who settled here in 1905. The wedding, which took place at the Lee Butler home where the TV tower is now, was performed by Justice of the Peace Sid Bennett. Mac Drummond and his violin furnished the music for the reception and dance after the wedding. This may have been the first wedding in the area.

Louise Davis came from a pioneer family, her grandparents having traveled to Oregon by wagon. When her parents came to Montana they settled on the "old Levang" place where the television tower now stands.

Her father worked for Si Merrill for four or five years. She attended school in Poplar during the winter, and later attended a school near the Hughes place, and the Bonnes school. Mrs. Claude Tande was one of her teachers.

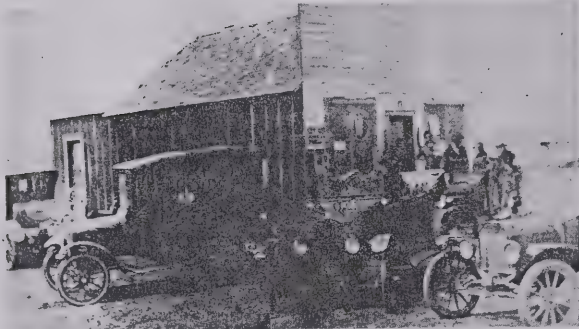
Mrs. Davis' father, Lee Butler, was driver for the Knapp-Crandell store, driving an eight-horse team to Poplar and back regularly.

Jake Davis died several years ago. Mrs. Davis lives in Scobey. Their son Tom Davis, is a well-known county farmer and member of the board of county commissioners. Their daughter, Evelyn (Mrs. Bob) Hames lives in Seattle.



Louise and Jake Davis and son, Tom, taken in 1915.

## COAL CREEK OR CARBERT



The first Coal Creek store, started by A. B. Carter, pictured in about 1918. The store also housed the post office, which was named Carbert because there was another Coal Creek in the state.



Grace Daniel's homestead shack, 14 miles north of Peerless taken in 1915. Note the neat appearance of this shack in contrast to the usual unpainted or tarpaper covered abode.



The sod school house at Coal Creek in 1916. This school, built under the supervision of Sam Richardson, was the center of community life. It is pictured in the book, "Montana in the Making". Standing in back are the teacher, Miss Heart, Frank Richardson, Genevieve Fuller, Isabel Harris, Hazel Henderson, Laura Richardson, Vernon Dodge. In front are Ellsworth Richardson, Richard Jacques, Mabel Fuller, Helen Jacques (Hodges), Irma Richardson Hodges, Ruth Dodge, Florence Henderson, Clark Dodge.

The Coal Creek community, 10 miles north of Peerless, received its name because of the coal deposits everywhere along the creek. The name was later changed to Carbert because there was another Coal Creek post office in the state.

Ed Carroll built the first log cabin there in 1900. Soon settlers began to come in and became land squatters, as the land had not yet been surveyed for homesteading. They earned their livelihood by raising cattle, horses and sheep.

Some of the earliest settlers were Dan Henderson, Bert Michels, Fatty Wilson, Sam Dodge, John Fuller, Jack Reed, Walter Reid and Otto Erstad.

Soon the country began to fill up with people who came to be farmers instead of ranchers. This new migration included D. C. Knapp, George Crandell, Kilgore Crandell, J. V. Bennett, George Skerritt, Scraphin LaPierre, Jack and Tom Conboy, Al Daniels, Lex Lewis, Walt and Monty Golden, Harvey Wager, Lee McCann, Tom and Russell Lovel, Sam Richardson and family, A. B. Carter, Tom Lovel, the Humberts, Oscar Halvorson, Minnie Nelson, Joe and Herbie Jacques, Tom Hughes, John Kemp, Dick McConnen, Oliver Ralston, John McCall.

The Walter Reid family, which came in 1908, lived in a hill-side dugout, with a tarp hung over the entrance. When the weather became too cold they brought their horse in the dugout with them to help keep them warm. Later they built a house.

Sam, Clint, Noel and Neil Richardson and Herb Jacques used a team and wagon with a walking plow snubbed behind to mark out their claims. A red flag was tied to the rear wheel of the walking plow in such a way that the number of times the flag came up could be counted. The plow marked the land boundary and the flag measured the distance (number of flag revolutions times circumference of the wheel). They started at the Canadian border, which had been surveyed, and counted from there, with Noel Richardson and Herby Jacques driving. When the land was officially surveyed the sections were found to be off only about 30 feet.

A. B. Carter started a country store in 1915. Sam Dodge carried the mail from Scooby and was postmaster of Coal Creek. Neil Richardson, Clayte Hodges and Bert Howe drove their



The Sam Richardson family, photographed in Indiana in about 1900. The family came to Coal Creek in 1913, after also living for a time in Nebraska where Sam Richardson learned the art of sod-house construction. Back row: Byrl (Jacques), May (Wilkinson), Neil, Clint, Leta (Porter), Mrs. Richardson, Sam Richardson. Front: Grace (Daniels), Noel, Madge (Lovell), Florence (Carney). Not pictured are Charles, Laura, Frank and Ellsworth, who had not yet been born.



**HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR**



A close-up of the children at Coal Creek school. Back row, Miss Heart (teacher), Isabel Harris, Hazel Henderson, Laura Richardson, Vernon Dodge. Second row: Frank Richardson, Genevieve Fuller, Florence Henderson. Front row: Ellsworth Richardson, Richard Jacques, Mabel Fuller, Helen Jacques, Irma Richardson, Clark Hodges, Ruth Dodge. Laura Richardson died shortly after this, of burns suffered when some gasoline caught fire.



This early-day picture of neighbors and family members at the Sam Richardson farm (note sod house) includes, from left to right, D. C. Knapp, Sam Richardson, Clifford Knapp, Robert Knapp, unknown, Mrs. Sam Richardson, Mrs. D. C. Knapp, Fay Knapp, unknown, Laura Richardson, Esther Knapp, Charlie Richardson, Florence Richardson (Carney) and Jack Conboy.



One of the first tasks confronting the homesteader was the digging of a well. This 1916 photo of a high derrick, taken by a traveling photographer, shows one of the methods used. Ben Larson, an unidentified man, and George Skerritt are on the scene.



A 1924 oil pull Remely with Bob, George and Roy Larson.



The "dirty thirties" were not noted for abundance of garden produce, but this pile of watermelons, musk melons, squash, pumpkins, cantaloupes and cucumbers was grown by Mrs. Ben Larson in 1937 without irrigation. Marie Larson sits beside the garden harvest.



A 1927 self-propelled combine mounted on a Fordson. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Larson, a nephew, Bob Larson, Bill Davis, A. B. Larson and a parts man look on.

## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Laughlin, early Coal Creek residents, sit in front of the Coal Creek post office. The date is 1922, and Harry Woodley is the postmaster.



Mrs. Grace (Richardson) Daniels, whose memories of pioneer life supplied much information for this history. Among her many memories is a prairie fire in 1915, believed to have been set by a man called Fatty Wilson, who would often fall asleep and lose his pipe while driving his democrat back and forth to Glasgow. She can still recall her brother, Neil Richardson, whooping and hollering as he plowed fire breaks with the gang plow, horses on the gallop.



A recent picture of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Halvorson. They had only \$75 when they came in 1913, and spent \$73 of this to buy squatters rights from Ted Tollefson. Oscar took his fiddle across the line and played for dances in Canada to raise money for groceries. Their house, which was 14 x 30 (larger than most) and all one room was the scene of many dances.

The Halvorsens also recall a prairie fire that burned the Coal Creek area while Oscar was in town. Mrs. Halverson and others managed to save their homes, but when Oscar came close to home the next day he could see only the blackened prairie because the tarpaper-covered shack did not stand out. He thought he had lost everything, including his wife. After the fire, parched with thirst, Mrs. Halverson had tried to find the well—but a two-hour search in the inky blackness was unsuccessful.

horses over and through high snowdrifts in order to give patrons a rural mail service. When the Dodge family returned to Arkansas in 1917 Harry Woodley became postmaster and Neil Richardson was mail carrier. After A. B. Carters opened his store he took over the post office.

It was while Carter had the post office that the name was changed from Coal Creek to Carbert by request of the postal department, as there was already a Coal Creek in Montana.

The store and postoffice changed hands several times, and in September, 1923, Noel Richardson took over the post office. In 1927 he also took over the store and continued to serve the community until the 1940's.

Faster modes of transportation left little need for a store, and mail was delivered by carrier from Scobey. Jim Wolfe had this route for many years.

In 1915 the men of the community built a sod school house under the direction of Sam Richardson, who had learned sod construction while living in Nebraska. It was a structure 16'x24' and seemed like a mansion to the settlers. For several years it was the scene of dances, elections, basket socials and community gatherings.

Ellen Shipstead, now Mrs. Louie Hamann, was the first teacher. The grass around the school was so high that the youngsters would play run-sheep-run and hide any place in the grass and buffalo wallows. The first pupils were children from the Jacques, Richardson, Dodge, Henderson and Fuller families.

The 1918 flu epidemic affected every family but the Lee McCanns and Neil Richardsons, but there were only five deaths from flu at Coal Creek even though people seemed to be dying like flies all around. Many were extremely ill, but survived. Dr. Collinson made the long trip from Scobey to take care of some patients even though he had just recovered from the illness himself.

The homesteaders managed to survive the cold winters because of the ample supply of coal in the community. The men would strip the dirt until they reached the coal underneath, and then every family would dig its own.

In about 1924 the coal mine was set on fire by some men who were burning an accumulation of Russian thistles in order to get at the coal. They left the mine, not realizing the coal had caught fire. This mine burned underground for years. At times in the evening flames could be seen shooting up in the sky.

When coal wasn't available the homesteaders would gather cow chips instead.

Community picnics, held at different homesteads, often included horse races, bucking broncs and horse quadrilles. Baseball was also a favorite entertainment, and games were played with Scobey, Butte Creek and Canadian teams.

Many Coal Creek homesteads are still being farmed by their original inhabitants, or by the descendants of the homesteaders.

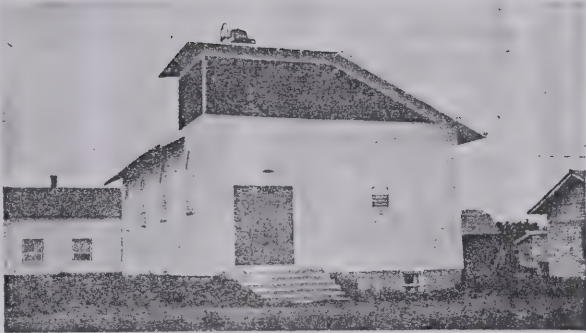
Compiled by Grace Daniels and other homesteaders.



The Jim Collins family on their Coal Creek homestead in 1915. This picture was used on the official Homesteaders Golden Jubilee emblem.



## WHITETAIL



Missionary Alliance Church building, which was formerly a Methodist Church, has served the Whitetail area since 1914.



Sylvia (Mrs. Jess Drury), Jim and Glen Hanrahan enjoying a favorite sport of homestead children.



William Barez on his homestead near Whitetail in 1917. Mr. Barez built his shack in 1911. His wife's mother, Mrs. Mary Potter, was the first woman to ride on the first train out of Whitetail to Crosby, N.D. in 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Barez now own a custodial home for elderly people at Osage, Iowa.

The town of Whitetail was named after Whitetail Creek, which in turn was named after the white-tailed deer that inhabited this territory.

This town has the distinction of being at the end of the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Saint Marie Railroad (commonly called the Soo Line).

Probably the earliest settler of this area was Elmer "Hominy" Thompson, who came north trailing Texas cattle in the '90's, and for several years was almost the only settler in northeastern Montana between the Missouri river and the Canadian line.

The first white woman to set up housekeeping near Whitetail was Mrs. Len Stagg. She was followed by Mrs. Jess Wiley, Mrs. Asa Dunn, and Mrs. Doc Dunn. Their husbands had come shortly before to pick out homesteads.

The original town was south of the present railroad track. Gus Vahl and Esther Vahl Davidson (later Mrs. Emil "Swede" Johnson), started a store in a tent on Jess Wiley's farm in the spring of 1912. Harry Brown had a pool hall, Emanuel States had a livery barn, Bill Endersby and Bill Hurst had saloons, Ted White had a hotel, and there was a cafe and drugstore.

The first post office was in Doc Dunn's home. The mail was carried by saddle horses and later by team from Redstone by Ida McArthur and Anna Wilkes. Other early carriers were Mrs. Mary Stagg, H. P. Kins, and her daughter, Henrietta (New).

The first public school was started in 1914, and the early teachers were Lizzie Dirks and Emma Crone.

A customs office was established in 1915, and an immigration office in 1931.

The coming of the railroad caused new businesses to spring up. John Murray had the Monarch Lumber Yard, in which Gilbert Overland was employed. J. P. Nelson also had a lumber yard; Peter Hanson, a store; Dan Colgan, a butcher shop; Faucett Bros., a garage. John Grendal owned a blacksmith shop; Schlechter Bros., a hardware store; Lee and Bakken, a bank; Hendrickson and Ted White, hotels. Gus Vahl had an implement shop in connection with his store, and Irving Doer published the Courier. Later Otto Fiskim and Joe Haubrick bought Gus's implement shop, and Joe still owned it when it burned. At one time there were five eating establishments in the town.

Whitetail people still remember a nurse and midwife, Effie Duck, who lived with her parents about three miles east of White tail. She took care of the medical needs of the community when no doctors were available.



Claude Hanrahan hauling water in 1914. Claude came in April, 1912, and brought his family in 1913. He homesteaded seven miles west of Whitetail.

HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Bill Endersby, early homesteader who also owned a saloon in Whitetail, looking over an airplane during a Whitetail celebration around 1915 or 16. He was one of the first ranchers north of the Missouri.



Edna Wiley (Mrs. Paul Kostnick), daughter of one of the Whitetail pioneer families who are still living in the area.

The first baby in Whitetail was delivered by Doc Dunn, an osteopath. The baby was his daughter, Gertrude.

The Whitetail Cemetery was started in 1915.

There were many dances and social gatherings in the community. One of the highlights of the year was the Fourth of July celebration. At one of these, in 1915 or 16, the local citizens witnessed an unscheduled bit of Wild West action. An outlaw by the name of Rawleigh Bigley attempted to make a getaway by making his horse jump a fence. The horse balked and Bigley was fatally crushed between the horse and the fence.

In May, 1926, Hans Heinrichson, proprietor of a hotel and restaurant at Whitetail, undertook to pump his well dry in the hope he could improve the quality of his water, which had been oily and murky and unfit to use in his restaurant since the well was dug. After pumping off a couple barrels of water, which kept getting darker, a heavy, black, oily substance filled the pail. About three quarters of a barrel was brought up before the oil became lighter and clearer.

Soon every lot in Whitetail was sold, most of them to outside purchasers. Oil stock, royalties, units and leases soared. The well was spudded in October, 1928. Nothing came of the venture, but hopes remain in the Whitetail community that a future oil well may be more successful.

It was the well-known Brother Van Orsdel who called a meeting of Whitetail residents to explain why the county should be divided.

A fire in Feb. 28, 1929, burned the post office and hotel.

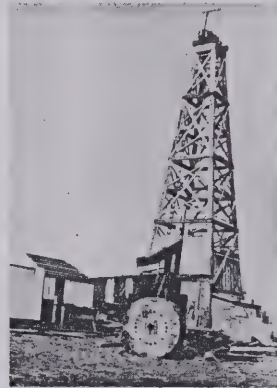
At one time Whitetail had the only factory in the county, the Truck Grain Blower Co., makers of a labor-saving power take-off truck grain blower. George and E. J. Schlechter, owners of the company, came to Whitetail in 1913 and started a hardware store. In 1919 they added farming as a side line, but in 1929 they sold the hardware store to Gus and Pete Kellas and increased their farming operations.

Out of an old barrel and other scraps picked up around town, and with a hammer, hacksaw and a file for tools, the first truck grain blower took shape in 1930. In 1932 two blowers were sold in the community for experimental purposes.

After several improvements a U. S. Patent was taken out on the invention and a temporary workshop was set up in the basement of Swede Johnson's building to cope with the ever-increasing demand. In 1940 the brothers erected a modern concrete and steel factory building with a lawn in front, shrubbery, and nice driveways.

The grain blower was sold all over the United States and Canada.

The invention of the portable auger power unit caused a substantial decline in sales, although the grain blower still remains popular in Canada. The Schlechters made a substantial success as long as they were connected with the business. A few years after it changed hands and attempts were made to convert it to other products the factory became defunct.



The oil rig at Whitetail, which resulted from the discovery of oil in a water well in a whitetail basement.



A typical small town country store owned by Gus and Esther Vahl at Whitetail in 1913. Notice the gas lights from the ceiling, the bunch of bananas. The store was originally housed in a tent at the old town site. The doors of this store were left unlocked, especially during the flu epidemic after World War I, so that people could obtain needed drugs and supplies any hour of the day or night. People were honest and the Vahls were paid. Esther Vahl, now Mrs. Esther Johnson, still lives in Whitetail.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

In the 30's the Whitetail Creek was dammed by the W.P.A. to form a lake for recreational purposes. It has been used since then for swimming, boating, fishing and picnicking. An island in the middle of the lake is used for firework displays sponsored by the American Legion on the Fourth of July.

The town of Whitetail diminished in the '30's, as many farmers were driven out by drought and dust. But it is still a busy community. It boasts an American Legion post and auxiliary, a sports club, the Whitetail Community Home Demonstration Club, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, baseball teams, and the Christian Missionary Alliance church with its Mission Circle and Young People's Group.



The crowd at a Whitetail celebration, about 1916. Note the dresses of the women, the acrobat performing on a trapeze, the band in the street.

### MISSIONARY ALLIANCE CHURCH

In 1914 a church building was erected at Whitetail under the leadership of the Scobey Methodist pastor, R. H. Stone, and of Miss Laura Jones, deaconess pastor at Whitetail. In 1915 Reuben Dutton was given an appointment to Whitetail, and a parsonage was finished in May, 1916.

The church building was later purchased by the Christian Missionary Alliance, and services are held regularly.

### ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Residents of the Whitetail community, with the help of the Catholic Extension Society, built a Catholic church in the spring of 1916 and placed it under the patronage of St. Thomas. This church still stands today but is no longer in use.

### WHITETAIL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Whitetail Baptist Church was built in the early years of the community, but was discontinued about two years ago.

### WHITETAIL SPORTS CLUB

The Whitetail Sports Club was organized in March, 1949, by a group of Whitetail residents who wished to incorporate all sports activities in the town into one organization. Other activities of the club were to sponsor programs for the betterment of the community.

The first Sports Day held by the club was on July 4, 1951. There were horse races, foot races, and other sports events. Sports day was held every second year until 1953, when the largest and last Sports Day race meet was held.

The Whitetail Sports Club has sponsored the Whitetail Volunteer Fire Department, purchased a fire truck, built a firehall, contributed to the repairing of the American Legion Hall, sponsored and donated labor in repairing the Whitetail Reservoir spillway, sponsored the Whitetail baseball and basketball independent teams, taken over the Whitetail Community Christmas tree sponsorship, and was instrumental in having street lighting installed and in bringing telephone service to the community.

Since the discontinuance of Sports Days the Whitetail Sports Club is financed entirely by voluntary contributions of members of the community.

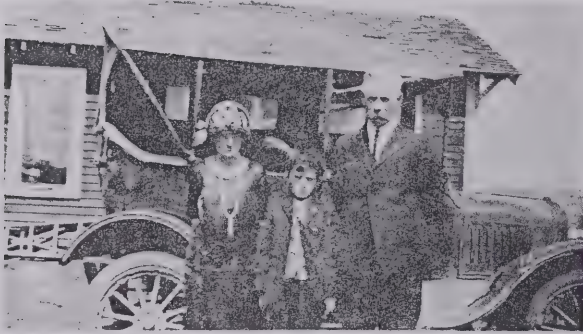


Whitetail school under construction in 1915. This school is still in use.



The Mint Saloon forms the background for a Fourth-of-July scene in early-day Whitetail.

HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Mr. and Mrs. Len Stagg and son Leonard on their homestead in about 1923. The Staggs were among the first settlers at Whitetail, and Mrs. Stagg was the first white woman to set up housekeeping there, in 1910. She drove a team from Crosby, N.D., with Asa Dunn and her husband each driving other teams. They had to go to Old Redstone, about 17 miles for food and mail.

She recalls a prairie fire, which burned all the way into Canada, that was set by somebody who wondered if the grass would burn after a heavy frost.

Mrs. Stagg is still a resident of Whitetail.

EARLY INCIDENTS

Arthur M. Hagan, Sr., of Redstone, homestead resident for 53 years, recalls the following two incidents.

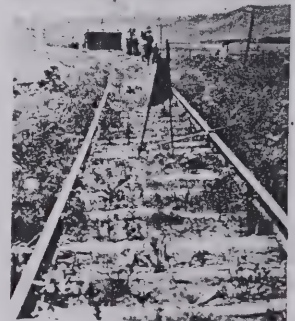
"Earl Randall, prosperous homesteader still here, came along in August, 1911, and wanted to know if he could stay overnight. I told him there were three in my bed, but that I would make him a hay bed in the horse stall joining our bed in the oat bin. The bed bugs had driven me out of my 8'x16' shack. He said that would be fine.

"He had eaten some drouth green cucumbers in the cafe in Redstone and had a real case of cholera morbus (bellyache) and was in terrific pain. Dave and Joe McCann, sleeping with me, couldn't go to sleep with his moaning. He got so bad he said, "Oh, Art, get up. I'm going to die!" And Dave McCann said, "die then so we can go to sleep." That woke me up and I got him a hot brandy and took the belly ache out of him pronto."

"Another incident, in 1913 I shipped the first carload of wheat out of Redstone. I helped the dray man unload a carload of lumber to get the car for the wheat. I had the car doors and lumber to cooper it up and we went to supper. Another fellow with flax in wagons dumped a sack of flax in the car and thought that would hold the car for him. He started a big rumpus and socked me with a lumber board. A big wagon load of men came over from town and unloaded by wheat, and two men slept on the wheat pile overnight. I had the man pinched and it cost him \$50."



A group of Whitetail Boy Scouts in about 1926 or 7. Left to right, Arley Wilfong, unknown, Merle Sandon, unknown, Raymond Wiley, Alfred Bureau, unknown, Floyd Richert. First row, unknown, Jerome Dickman, Donald Pomerleau. The last boy is Leonard Stagg.



The shack (Mary Huddleston's barn) placed on the track by "Hominy" Thompson to stop the train. Note the flag flying from the roof.



The Soo depot at Whitetail, which is the western end of the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Saint Marie Railroad. It was built in 1913—end of the line.



Whitetail today



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Mary Huddleston, homestead school teacher, who now lives at Whitetail. Miss Huddleston taught 38 years in Daniels and Sheridan counties, as well as two years in Iowa before she retired in 1950. She came to the Whitetail community in 1913, and took out a homestead. Her close neighbor was "Hominy" Thompson, who once helped himself to her barn to block the Soo Line Railroad tracks. She can recall walking long distances through deep snowdrifts to the schools she taught, boarding at a home where the diet was potatoes and milk gravy, and undergoing many other hardships to receive her salary of \$60 a month.



Carl Berger, who for 36 years was employed by the Occident Elevator Co. of Whitetail. In 1903 he drove a herd of cattle from North Dakota to the Jacob Muus ranch south of Wolf Point. In 1910 he squatted on land in Outlaw Coulee, northwest of Whitetail. While he was working for Jack Wagner at Daleview somebody stole his shack.

His wife, the former Emily Knabe, was a school teacher. They still live at Whitetail.



Elmer "Hominy" Thompson, standing guard before a shack he put on the Soo Line Railroad track near Whitetail in 1923 to prevent the train from crossing his land. He was not satisfied with the settlement offered by the railroad for disrupting his irrigation system. This action resulted in a short prison sentence, for disrupting the mail service, and also caused him to lose his land because of a mortgage purchased by the railroad company and foreclosed.

Thompson, who earned his nickname from living on nothing but hominy one winter when he was hard up, was at various times on either side of the law. He was probably the earliest resident of the area, having come in the 1890's with a trail herd from Texas.

In the early 1900's he sold some rustled horses for the Dutch Henry gang, but neglected to return with the money. The gang destroyed his machinery and threatened his life. Even after he had moved to Plentywood, where he died in 1949 at the age of 87, he refused to divulge much information about his early life.

### THE AMERICAN LEGION

#### Ancel Fassett Post No. 121

Post No. 121, organized in Whitetail in 1924, was named after Ancel Fassett, first member of the armed forces from that community to be killed in action in France in World War I.

It first consisted of World War I veterans of the Whitetail area, but in following years the membership comprised the additional towns of Flaxville, Madoc, Navajo and Redstone, Montana, and also Big Beaver and Buffalo Gap, Sask. Now the membership is scattered through other states and Saskatchewan, and includes veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict.

A Ladies Auxiliary Unit was organized a few years after the post was formed and has been active in community affairs.

In early years the Post held Amature Hour Programs and other events to promote and finance school bands and drum and bugle corps in the communities. These were very popular.

In recent years the main source of income has been raffles and pitch tournaments, with occasional dances and card parties. Receipts have been ear-marked for an extensive baseball program, American Legion Junior, Little League, and lately a Babe Ruth team are sponsored. In 1958 the Legion Team was District Champions and the Little League and Babe Ruth teams have had at least their share of the honors.

Other programs sponsored by the Post are the American Legion school awards to outstanding eighth grade boys and girls of Redstone, Flaxville, Madoc, Rural Westby and Whitetail. Post No. 121 is a charter post in the American Legion Boys' State and is proud of the delegates it has sponsored. The Flaxville Commercial Club has also sponsored candidates the last two years.

Off and on for many years a July Fourth fireworks display has been sponsored by the post. It began in town, and since then has been fired from an island in the Whitetail Reservoir. It is considered one of the best in this part of the country.

The Post owns a hall in Whitetail that is available for all community activities. It has a set of colors and rifles which are used for Memorial Day services each year at the Redstone, Flaxville, Orville or Whitetail cemeteries, as well as military funerals and other events.

The Post has actively supported Legion policies and has had one member elected to the office of Department Vice Commander, and four of its members have held the office of District Commander, District No. 1 of Montana. In 1938 the Post Color Guard was given the honor of being the Department Color Guard at the State Convention in Helena. In 1939 five members of the Post attended the National Convention of the American Legion in Chicago and was cited for having the largest percentage of membership at the Convention of all Posts from Montana that year.

In 1960 Walter L. Holle received the first Life Membership Card conferred by Post 121. Three charter members of the Post, Carl Berger, James Kins (both of Whitetail) and Herb Myers of Scoeby, are current members still residing in the area. Herb, always the first to pay his dues each year, has missed only one Memorial Day service since 1924.

Membership for 1963 is 49. Albert P. French, Flaxville, is Post Commander and Gerald E. Owen, Whitetail, is Adjutant. Both are World War II Veterans.

# SILVER STAR



Pleasant Valley Sunday school in 1914, with Pastor Stone.

Early settlers of the Silver Star community were Oscar Shipstead, Ed Martinson, Frank and Bill Manternach, Ole J. Olsen, Theodore Imbs and Jim Rouse.

The Kahle Post Office was established in 1918 on the Otto Krause ranch and Lillian Fadness Krause was the first postmistress. In 1922 the location of the post office was changed to the O. E. Susag ranch. It was discontinued in 1932 after Highway 13 was completed. Early mail carriers were Christ Jensen, Lige Crawford, Richard Utter, Charles Ekbald, Knudt Christensen and Ralph Peters.

The Lekvold school was built in 1914, and Jeanette Shipstead was the first teacher. The Liberty school was built in 1917, with Joshua Williams, Celeste Sackett and Jean Thomas Karlsrud as early teachers.

The Silver Star underground lignite coal mine supplied coal to the settlers in the community for many years. In 1931 coal gas fumes in the shaft of the mine killed Tom Merrick, head miner.

Jim Johnson and his brother, Menford, taken in 1961. Jim came out and squatted southwest of Scobey in 1909. He left, coming back in 1910 from Velva, N. D., to work for Billy Kraft, later staying with Leo Von Kuster. In 1911 he built a shack on his claim, getting married the following winter. He recalls waking up one June morning to find the bed covered with snow, which had come in through the yet unshingled roof.

He freighted lumber from Poplar to Old Scobey for Sid Bennett, who had a lumber yard. One time, with 15 other men, they had stopped at a half-way place when a big storm came up. The 16 men stayed a whole week, sleeping on the floor in a 14 x 16 room.



Otto Sorenson, who homesteaded near Silver Star in 1916, with Pete (on horse) and Louis Sorenson. This was taken on Scobeys Main Street in July, 1924.



Mr and Mrs. Soren Veis and Marvin, Ragnhild, Arlie, Lillian, Richard and Andrew, taken on the homestead in 1928.



The Lekvold school in 1918 when Ellen Shipstead (Hamann) was teacher.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

In 1917 a group of energetic young farmers in the "Police Creek" community, between Silver Star and Four Buttes, organized a baseball club.

Members of the team were James Rhodes, M. A. LaMotte, Robert Rhodes, Sherd Wilcoxon, Julius Lekvold, Earnest Gampp, Rex Rhodes, Ted Rustebakke, Elmer Olson.

Many good games and a few good arguments took place on the baseball diamond near the Rex Rhodes farm.

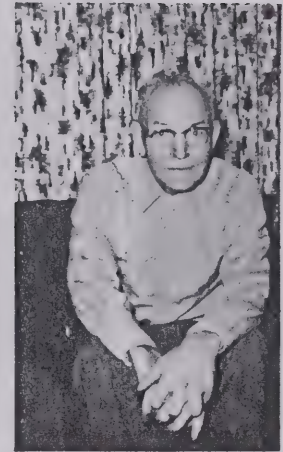
The official umpire was Jim Jenrose, who may be remembered as the owner of a large barn in the community where people flocked on Saturday nights to dance to the music of Oscar Shipstead, Albert Horind and Jim Penrose.



Mrs. Alvah Shaw (Hazel Parkhurst) and her sister, Mrs. Keith Miller (Marjorie Parkhurst) out for a buggy ride in 1915. Carl Chelgren is accompanying them on horseback.

Mrs. Shaw, pioneer school teacher and homesteader, came in 1912 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Parkhurst. She and her husband now live on her father's homestead, nine miles south of Scobey.

Before there was a school house in the area she held classes in her home for the neighborhood children. Later she attended normal college at Dillon, and then taught in several county schools. One day while she was teaching in the Bonnes school lightning struck and killed the horse she had ridden to school.



Eddie Lund, who died in 1962, was one of the original stockholders of the Grain Growers Oil Co. in Scobey, and served as president and director of the Farmers Elevator in Four Buttes for 33 years as well. He came from North Dakota in 1913, trading a Reo car for squatters rights on a homestead in the Silver Star community.

### Silver Star Hall

In January, 1925, a group of Silver Star area residents decided to build a community hall.

A non-profit organization to sponsor and promote the building was organized, \$600 in pledges were made and later collected, and the name "Silver Star" was selected for the building. In a short time 373 memberships at \$5 each were sold, and Allie Olson donated one acre of land as a building site, and sold 10 acres of additional land to the corporation.

The total cost of the hall was approximately \$4,500.00.

Throughout the years the hall has been used for dances, elections, political meetings, church services, and other events. The club has managed to keep itself in the black, although in recent years it has been nip and tuck.

The hall has helped to hold the community together, and the residents of Silver Star are justly proud of this achievement.

—Compiled by O. E. Susag.



Ladies gathered at the Parkhurst home in 1918 to work for the Red Cross. They include (1) Mrs. Bill Lindsay, (2) Mrs. Hans Offett, (3) Mrs. Adolph Tweet, (4) Ethel Mornley, (5) Hazel Parkhurst, (6) Mrs. George Thompson, (7) Mrs. Frank Marlenee, (8) Mrs. Frank Robinson, (9) Mrs. Harry Hagfeldt, (10) Mrs. Lucy Parks, (11) Mrs. Frank Fardyce, (13) Mrs. Parkhurst, Sr.

HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Hans Offett breaking sod on his homestead 12 miles south of Scobey in 1915.



House moving on the John Farrell homestead in 1919. From left to right, Sylvia Farrell, Mrs. John Farrell, John Farrell, Olaf Petersen, Soren Veis, John Nielsen, Mose Farrell.



Mr. and Mrs. Soren Veis standing in Richard Veis's wheat field in 1944.



The Krassin and Sorte lignite coal mine at Silver Star in 1936. Left to right are Selma Veis (cook), Chris Veis, Al Barker, Alvah Shaw, C. Sterritt, Frank Maher, Laurence Anhalt, Joe Johnson, Bert Songstad.

The Peter Lekvold children, photographed shortly before the family homesteaded at Silver Star in 1913. From left to right are Mrs. John (Millie) Poyner, Louis, Oscar (who died in 1916); and Mrs. Chris (Selma) Veis. The children were left fatherless when Peter Lekvold died in 1921, and the mother, Betsy, supported the family by working in cook cars, doing housework for others, and weaving carpets. She also had the care of a crippled child, Beatrice. She and her daughter, Beatrice, died in 1948 just six weeks apart.

B. J. Lekvold, who is still farming the homestead he picked out in 1913, recalls a trip he made to Medicine Lake for lumber with Peter Thorem and Allie Olson. They left Medicine Lake on July 3, and set up a tent that night for camp. The next morning, July 4, a hard rain prevented them from resuming their journey. To celebrate the Fourth, they



took their cooking utensils and marched around their wagons as a band. Peter Thorem climbed up on a load of lumber to make a speech, and went, "Ten thousand years ago this was a howling wilderness. And it still is!"



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

O. E. Spear, Richland Bench homesteader, was a dapper young man when this picture was taken. Mr. Spear came to Redstone in 1912 and moved to the Bench in 1916.

He claims responsibility for placing the two west townships in Daniels County. Since the election took place on a stormy day, few made the trip from the west precinct to vote at the Coal Creek school. Mr. Spear did make the trip, and the matter was settled by a one-vote majority.

When he secured his location in the fall of 1916 there was a Soo line survey staked from Whitetail to Opheim, and also a Great Northern survey from Poplar to Opheim. The two surveys came together about where the town of Richland is and ran side by side out west. But in the spring of 1917 the country entered World War I, and the railroad construction was stopped. He was left sitting 30 miles to market until the railroad was extended farther west. To solve the school situation he



rigged up a school house half way between his place and Bert Michel's and hired a private teacher for the three-month summer term. Later the children attended a school across the Canadian line where they could get ten months of schooling instead of three.

## RICHLAND BENCH

The Richland Bench is located about fifteen miles northwest of Richland and twenty-one miles northeast of Opheim, north of the west fork of the Poplar river.

Among the first settlers, who came in about 1912 or 1913, were Carl Nelson, Jake Fischer, Hjalmer Johnsen, Elaine Finkenhagen Solberg, Ruth Ward Shattuck, Eugene Archibald, Alex Rutger, Carl Flaten, Lee Steeles, Arthur, Charles and John Zok. Others soon followed.

Many lived in tents until lumber could be freighted in for permanent houses. Some built houses of sod and others built single board wall shacks with tarpaper on the outside and building paper on the inside.

Dances were a favorite entertainment. Ole Kravick was often the fiddler. A tent would be set up for the kitchen and there was always plenty of good. Sometimes a cake would disappear—someone couldn't wait until lunch time.

The first post office on the Bench was on the Lee Steele place. The mail was hauled by anyone making a trip to Glentana. The wheat was hauled to Scobey, a trip which usually took three or four days. While the men were gone on these trips the women did the chores. In 1918 a storm came up which lasted for three days, with temperatures around 45 below zero, and all of the men in the country on the trail.

Rev. T. L. Rosholt of Opheim held Lutheran Services about once a month in homes or the schoolhouse. Ruth Ward taught the first school on the Bench.

The first Happy Valley school was built in 1916 with lumber hauled from Scobey, and financed with dances and rodeos. The first teacher was Severena Weeum, who taught for three years. One of the teachers on the North Bench was Hannah Travland, who walked seven miles each morning and evening to get to the school.

For medical care the area was served by "Doc" Rogers, a homesteader south of the Poplar River.

There were no regulations concerning travel over the Canadian border, and cattle were herded accordingly.

Few of the original homesteaders are living today, but many of their farms are now owned by their children.

### Canille Bonnabel

The earliest, and probably the most colorful man to settle in the Richland Bench area was Canille Bonnabel. Born near Gap, France, in 1872, he came to Montana at the age of 15, and arrived on the Poplar creek about two and a half miles north



Elmo and Chester Solberg in 1920. Elmo was killed in Panama in 1941 while serving his country on air patrol. Chester, who farmed for a while, has been a businessman in Scobey since 1944.



Two 1913 homesteaders on Richland Bench, Elaine Finkenhagen (Solberg) and Ruth Ward (Shattoch). Elaine worked as a stenographer in Fargo, N. D. before coming to Montana to homestead, and later marrying Ben Solberg.



A group of Richland Bench homesteaders with their sleighs, ready to take off on the long trek to market in Scobey in 1920. Left to right are Carl Nelson, John Zook (father of Mrs. John Fuchs), Neptune Boe (now living at Boulder), Ben Solberg (who died in 1955), John Olson, Frank Bailey and Arnt Travland.



The Richland Bench homestead shack of Elaine Finkenhagen (Solberg) in 1913.

## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

of the present town of Richland in about 1900, with a partner, Felix Martin. They obtained sheep on shares.

The two men faced many adventures and hardships. In the winter of 1903-04 they lost their flock of 3,000 sheep in a blizzard. When they located the dead animals they pulled the wool on as many as possible and took the pelts to their boss, who stocked them with another band.

The Pigeon-toed kid, notorious outlaw, was shot at Bonnabel's place, (see section on Outlaws).

In 1929 Bonnabel married a young Polish woman he met through a friendship correspondence club. They were later divorced.

Some people wanted to name the town of Richland Bonnabel, but others thought he was too tough a character, and campaigned successfully against the name.

—Compiled by Mrs. John Fuchs and others.



Thrashing at the rate of 2500 bushels a day on the O. E. Spear farm.

## FOUR BUTTES



The Doyon and Audet families of Four Buttes in 1913. The 7 Doyon children, Emery, Leona, Laura, Alixina, Sedonia, Doris, Aimee Rose, Emil Audet's parents and three sisters in plaid, Mrs. Seraphin LaPierre, Mrs. Donald Audet, Mrs. Harvey.



Two early Four Buttes settlers, Mrs. Langden and his daughter, in 1915, hauling water with oxen.

The four buttes that rise like small mountains above the surrounding rolling prairies west of Scobey were known to early fur traders and map-makers as Whiskey Buttes. They are to be found by that name in old geography books and also on an 1859-60 map that was produced at the behest of the War Department.

It is believed that the buttes received this name because they were a rendezvous point where fur traders exchanged "fire water" for the furs brought by Indian trappers. The small caves in the buttes provided an excellent place to cache the illicit whiskey.

Henry and Ole Shipstead spent one winter near the Buttes when they came in 1901, but moved to the West Fork the next spring. Among the early homesteaders in the locality were the Bill Reik family, the Elmer Gilchrist family, the Phillip Kerstein family, the Charles Shrank family, the William Meridith family, the Herman Wagner family, the Alfred Ostby family, the Robbin family, Bill Bernard, Joe Nadeau, Jim and Art Beebe, Charles, Arthur and Leo Chicoine, William Haenk, Mrs. Annie Little, Lulu and Mike Manley, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shrank, Hans Kjos, Iver Ferestad and others.

The town of Four Buttes began in 1926, a few months after the railroad was extended west from Scobey. Construction on the Four Buttes Farmers Elevator began the last of June, 1926. It was receiving grain by August, 1926, and had a capacity of 35,000 bushels.

Another elevator was built by a line company, and was purchased by the farmers in the early '40's. It is the one now still in use, the other one having burned in September, 1944. An oil station owned by the Farmers Elevator burned in November that same year.



These charming young ladies of 1921 are Alma Parent (Mrs. Aime Carrier) and Lydia French (Mrs. Lydia Lemieux). Mrs. Carrier, who contributed many pictures to this book, came to Flaxville in 1910 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Parent. She and her husband now live on a farm seven miles northwest of Four Buttes.



**HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR**



Leo and Mabel Chicoine all set for a trip to town. Leo came from Montreal in 1913, and played the fiddle for many old-time dances in the vicinity. Mabel homesteaded south of Four Buttes in 1915. She recalls setting out for a neighbor's place after being isolated in her shack for three days during a blizzard. She took her cat and some clothing along, and ended up in a strawstack because of the storm. She managed to get her bearings, and arrived at the Blattner residence exhausted. Leo died in 1958, and Mabel resides in Wolf Point.



The Four Buttes have been the scene of many picnics, and were especially popular in the early days. This July 4, 1915, picture shows the Elmer Gilchrist family, the Bill Reiks family, the Hans Olsons, the Johr Robbins, Sam and Fred Smith, the Halvor Tollefsons, the Charles Shrank, the Leo and Art Chicoines, and the Andrew Olsons enjoying a typical outing.



Four early-day musicians who used to play at all public gatherings at the Scobey Methodist Church. They are Estelle Johnson (Clark), Phyllis Johnson (Norman), Norman Johnson (who now operates the Four Buttes store), and Adelaide Johnson (Larsen). They were directed and taught by their mother, Julia Johnson, a graduate of Concordia. This was taken in 1920.

E. A. Enochson was the first manager of the Farmers Elevator. He continued in that capacity until May, 1943, when he was fatally injured in an accident at the elevator. He was replaced by Dale E. Roberts.

Several men have managed the elevator since then, and it has been enlarged by the addition of an annex. Government storage bins a mile east of Four Buttes provide additional storage.

The Four Buttes store was built in 1926 by Herman Wagner. Assisting Mr. Wagner in the operation of the store, and also handling the post office, was Hans Kjos.

Mr. Wagner died suddenly in November, 1928, shortly after having been elected chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. Shortly afterwards Art and Lydia Scarseth took over the business.

In 1947 the store was purchased by Earl Norman and Norman Johnson, with Norman and Hilma Johnson managing the business. The Johnsons bought the business in 1949 and have been operating it ever since.

The Four Buttes school was originally located on Doyon's farm, two miles north of Four Buttes. Mrs. Lulu Audet was the teacher. Later it was moved two miles south of Four Buttes. When the town came into being the school was moved there, and Leo Zuch was the first teacher at that location. The school is still in operation, with the building having been enlarged and modernized. A school bus is operated by the Four Buttes District.

Another school in the vicinity was the Gilchrist school, located on the flat about five miles southwest of Four Buttes.

In 1915, when no schools were located in their immediate vicinity. Mrs. Alfred Ostby obtained some school books and taught some of the neighborhood children in her home. Some of them had had no previous opportunity to attend school. Mrs. Ostby had been a school teacher before coming to the Four Buttes area. Some of her pupils were Sigurd, Alvin and Myrtle Olson and Art and Myrtle Shrank.



A harvest in 1924, with Joe Nadeau over the truck



A 1917 version of a "horseless carriage". The mule driver is Marion LaMotte, well-known Four Buttes area homesteader, who is still on his homestead.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



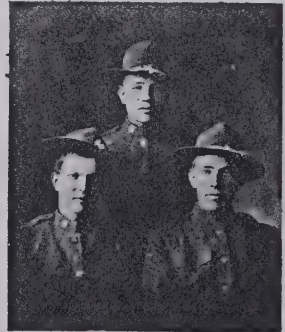
Often large crowds would gather for a branding party at the Nelson Bros. ranch. In this picture, taken in 1951, there are five calves down at once. Mike Mueller, Jr., and Sonny Halverson are holding the first one. Carl Danelson and Lansing Eichorn have the second, as Norman Nelson is ear marking the calf. Ray Pomerleau and Donald Gilmore have the third calf. Carl Miller, Sr., and Claude Tande are vaccinating it. George Downing and Clarence Wrona have the fourth calf down, and Dominic Bonneau and Richard Nelson have the fifth calf. Selmer Nelson is doing the branding and Emil Pomerleau is waiting to vaccinate it. Mac Drummond and his horse, Socks, are at left, and Ronald Tande is on the horse at the right. Selmer Nelson came in 1914, and is still in the ranching business with his brother, Norman, who came in 1915.



Mr. and Mrs. Aime Carrier in 1927. Mrs. Carrier came in 1910 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Parent. Aime came in 1915 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Nadeau.



Most of the people in this gathering are still around. Left to right are Mrs. Louie Ferestad, Eddie Lund, Selmer Nelson, Mrs. Selmer Nelson, Mrs. Eddie Lund, Inger Ferestad, Norman Nelson, Mrs. Iver Ferestad, Iver Ferestad holding Healy Ferestad. The children in front are Theolyn Lund (Tong), Gilman Lund, Volga Ferestad (Garshey), Irene Ferestad (Morris).



Three World War I doughboys from the Four Buttes community. On top is the late Mons Tonjum. Jonas Tonjum is on the left, and Inger Ferestad, who is still farming south of Four Buttes, is on the right.



This is how Aime Carrier appeared in 1915 when he came with his parents, the Joe Nadeaus, to homestead north of Four Buttes.



Alexina Doyon, Joe Bernard, Laura Bernard and Albert Bernard out for a walk in 1927.



Emil Audet, as he appeared in 1917, in uniform. Emil came with his parents from Forget, Sask., in 1912, to homestead northwest of Four Buttes.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



This is all that remained of one of the two Four Buttes elevators after the fire of 1944. Note the pile of wheat and rubble.



The Four Buttes School, one of the few one-room schools left in the county.



B. Paulson, Al Ostby and M. Ostby on the road to build Alfred Ostby's shack and barn in 1914.



The Farmers Elevator and storage tanks in Four Buttes.

The Four Buttes community has been held together by various local organizations. In 1918 the ladies met to do knitting and other work for the Red Cross. In 1926 several families met to organize a club to further community enterprise.

A Home Demonstration club was organized in 1936, with Mrs. Art Scarseth as president, Mrs. Ivar Ferestad as vice president, and Mrs. C. O. Enochson as secretary-treasurer. Some of the meetings were all-day affairs with dinner served at noon. Since few of the ladies were able to drive cars at that time the husbands and children came along—the husbands visiting in the shade outside in nice weather while the ladies held their meeting.

This club was disbanded in the early '40's because many of the members moved away. Another Home Demonstration Club was organized in the fall of 1953, with Mrs. Kermit Ferestad as president, Mrs. Russell Steen as vice president, and Freda Kaul as secretary-treasurer.

This club is still in operation, and meets monthly to work on projects.

At various times the community has had baseball and softball teams. The Little League team won first place one year, and the Mens softball team won second place in county competition.

Uniforms for the Little League were donated by Selmer Nelson in memory of his son, Richard, who was killed in an automobile accident.

The first oil well in this area was drilled on the Otto Nuhring farm, six and a half miles southwest of Four Buttes. It was sealed over as a dry hole in January, 1953. Other wells in the vicinity have suffered the same fate.

Although Four Buttes is a small town it has fared better than many of similar size, having kept most of its initial businesses.



In 1910, Art Chicoine was one of the first settlers on the flat north of Four Buttes. His wife, Pearl (Gilchrist) homesteaded in 1914.

Art can recall reaching Old Scobey in 1910, and asking directions to his uncle's (Zabe Chartier's) place. Jake Timmons pointed west and said, "Go in that direction. You'll see the buildings." Chartier's place was the only farm with buildings. Charles Chicoine, who had come a year before to pick out the homesteads had a shack.

Two miles from the Chartier place Art saw two men behaving strangely. When he got closer he saw that the men, Mr. Gilbert and Arthur Moses, had snared some gophers and had harnessed up three of the animals and were trying to drive them around.

One time, after helping a neighbor named Amos Presnel dig a well, Art started riding home by horseback in a snowstorm. The storm soon became a full-fledged blizzard, and Art, who had worked up a sweat while digging the well, was so close to freezing that he was unable to get off his horse when he finally reached the Otto Smith place. They heard his calls for help and took him in. Another event Art remembers is a fire in the fall of 1910, believed set by an outside sheep outfit that was in the habit of burning off the old grass when it left the country in the fall. It was only with great effort that Art managed to save his buildings.

Mrs. Chicoine and her sister, Effie (Mrs. Dan Murphy) homesteaded together in 1914, spending a winter alone in a homestead shack heated only by a laundry stove, which they also cooked on. For amusement they played cards and went to dances. Mrs. Bill Reik entertained the young people, and there were dances and parties. Mrs. Chicoine remembers how the mail carrier, the late Jim Wolfe, used to pick up various items in town for the homesteaders on request and leave them in the large sack hung from a post that was used for a mail box. Mrs. Chicoine often left a note asking for sewing supplies, and left the money to pay for the supplies in the bag. When spring came and the snow thawed she discovered to her dismay that there was a hole in the sack and all of the money she had been leaving in the bag had slipped into a snowbank. All winter, Jim had been paying for the supplies himself!

## MADOC



Mr. and Mrs. Sig Forbregd on their homestead near Madoc in 1906. Brother Herman still farms near Madoc.



Mikkel Barstad homesteaded in the Madoc area in 1915, after a previous trip in 1913. He returned to Norway in 1922, came back in 1923 intending to sell his holdings. Instead, he sent for his wife and daughter, who were in Norway. When he first arrived in 1913, Plentywood was so crowded he couldn't find a place to eat. Finally he managed to scrounge a bottle of beer and a box of crackers, and took his supper to a cool, quiet place. Later found out he had eaten in the cemetery. He was 19 when this photo was taken. Mike in his youth was a skier of near-championship skill.

In 1909 early settlers began to move into the fertile bench area commonly known as Madoc. Among the first to stake out claims and build their shacks on the prairie were Herman and Sig Forbregd and Gabe and Marie Foss, brother-sister team from Norway. The following months brought others, among them "Dad" Morrison, Ernest and Dave Henderson, Shorty Robbins, Art Gordon, Grandpa Bourassa, Bill and Joe Lapke, Kale Aldrich, Bill Woods, the Carl Fjelds and the Ferdinand LaRoche family, whose sons, Emory and Fred, also homesteaded. The years of 1912 and later brought in Jim and Louise Morrison, John Fagan, George Boyd, John Lapke, M. J. Barstad, and others who came to settle. Many did not stay.

With the coming of the railroad in 1913 the townsite was to be named Flaxville because of nearby fields of blooming flax. It was then mistakenly called Boyers Siding, which was to be the name of the present town of Flaxville as a tribute to a man at whose place the railroad crew had boarded. Orville was then the name considered for the town but this didn't last with the postal department because of the old Orville post office and community located a few miles south. In 1914 at a meeting, the people chose the name of Madoc.

In December, 1914, the financial foundations began with two lumber yards opening for business. "Dad" Morrison started a yard for Bonnes and Oje Company and J. C. Madsen started one for E. W. Palutzke. Shortly Henry Kanning started an elevator, buying grain from the early settlers. Following these leads other establishments began, such as B & M Bourassa Mercantile, E. J. Renwald Store, L. C. Curtis Hardware, Duncan McDonald Hotel and Livery. Art Brunelle, as proprietor of the Washington Hotel, began to enjoy a fine trade, as did Jerry Madsen's Pool Hall, "Shorty's Place," owned by Shorty Robbins, and a second saloon ran by John LaFrance and Fred LaRoche. Madoc wasn't without a blacksmith, A. J. Woods, and a barber, Walter Zimmerman. "Sunday boiled shirts" brightened the town with the help of laundryman, Mr. Jackson. Harley Mayer's Line and Drayage, Lockrems Store, and Frank & Suttons Meat Market added to the town's conveniences.

In January, 1915, the State Bank of Madoc began a successful year. Simultaneously a law office was opened by George T. Springer. The Madoc Messenger, edited and published by P. A. Paulson, added itself to Main Street. The County of Sheridan built a jail for the town. Harry Batterton, as town constable, still found time to take over Mayers' Drayage in this law-abiding town. In 1917, the Madoc Garage, ran by Samuel Montgomery, installed an electric light plant. This public improvement stood but prominently!

Businesses often changed hands in this epoch of Madoc's business boom. New ones to join the parade were an oil company, Will Conlan's Harness Shop, Farmers' Cafe, H. P. Larsen Implement, Burley Bowler's Jewelry and T. J.'s Dray Line



Jim Morrison with an eight-horse team on a tandem disk in the early days of farming on the Madoc Bench.



John A. Lapke in 1929, with the first combine pulled by a team.



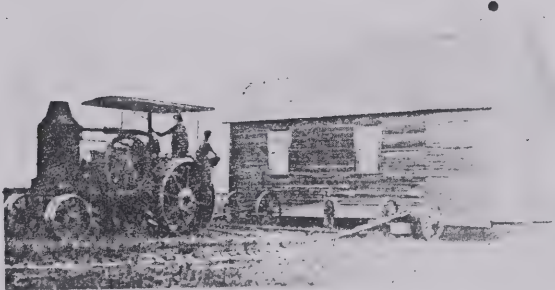
HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Dave Henderson, Jim Morrison and Ernie Henderson in 1912.



A gathering of the ladies (and their husbands) at Old Orville.



It wasn't unusual for schools, or houses, to go for a ride in the early days. Here the Lauzons school house is being moved closer to the Fjeld farm. Carl, George and Clarence Fjeld are doing the moving.



The Ferdinand LaRoche family, which came to the Madoc area in 1910, pictured in 1915. In back are Lucian, Emery, Eugene, Fred, Veda, Elias. In front of them are Elveda (Lapke), Eugenia (Marsh), Alice (Lapke), Clara (Primeau), Cecelia (LaFrance). Seated are Mrs. Ferdinand LaRoche, Louie, and Ferdinand LaRoche.



The west side of the Madoc Main Street. Buildings pictured are: (1) Kanning Elevator, (2) Bonnes and Oie Lumber Yard, (3) B & M Bourassa's Mercantile Co., (4) McDonald Hotel, (5) Washington Hotel, (6) Madsen's Pool Hall, (7) "Shorty's" Saloon, (8) La France & LaRoche Saloon, (9) printing office, (10) school house, (11) Sam Montgomery's Garage, (12) Jim Morrison's homestead.



**HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR**



Bourassa Bros., threshing rig in 1915.



The Madoc Recorder, published by Sig Forbregd, in 1915. Note Woodby sign.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Fjeld, early Madoc homesteaders, with George, Larry, Clarence "Ole", and Caroline (Mrs. Tommy Davis). Larry, "Ole" and Caroline, as well as Mrs. Emma Fjeld, are still residents of this area.

Carl Fjeld came out in 1909 to find a homestead. In 1910 he loaded up his livestock and worldly goods in an emigrant car, and his wife and son, George, came on the train. While Carl Fjeld and Albert Jallo went to locate homesteads the womenfolk were left in Culbertson to look after the livestock—which roamed at large on the Main Street. Carl built a lumber shack and the Jallo had one of sod.

When they were ready to leave Culbertson to go to their claims one ox had disappeared. They searched for it for three days, and finally gave up and hitched a milk cow to the wagon to replace the ox. Later the ox was found in a Culbertson livery barn.

The Indians claimed that half of their farm was Indian land (which was not true), but they moved to another location two miles away. One day in 1911 a young man came to the sod barn and took their horse, leaving a note in the barn window warning them not to make any alarm. He said they could have his homestead claim in exchange. Since his was a better place they moved over there. Their horse was later turned loose, and they got it back. The young man was never heard of again.

Carl Fjeld died in 1956, and his son, George, died shortly afterwards. Mrs. Fjeld lives in Scobey.

operated by T. J. Premeau and Elmore Rowe. The efforts of the citizens lead by George Springer convinced the Great Northern Railway to build a fine new standard depot. In December a new post office opened with modern all-steel equipment, featuring automatic Reyless locks. Citizens were proud of Madoc School, progressive through the efforts of the trustees and the people themselves. As one of the last big towns in Sheridan County on the branch line, center of some of the finest agricultural land, and northern entrance to Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Madoc, the Hub City of the Big Bend was enjoying some golden years!

Madoc's growth reversed when it lost its bid, in a hot race, for the county seat of the newly-formed Daniels County. Added to this disappointment were others—poor crops, the highway by passing the town, and automobiles becoming the mode of transportation. Business moved to Flaxville or to Scobey to enjoy trade in the new county seat.

By 1921 very few businesses remained, of which the Madoc Cash Store, owned by H. J. Schaeffer was one. The post office equipment was installed in the store with Mrs. Schaeffer as postmistress. They discontinued the store in 1940 and they kept the post office until their death in 1945. Mrs. Louise Morrison then continued until her retirement as postmistress with the post office in her home. The elevator closed its doors in 1949.

Presently, Madoc is not entirely a ghost town. Ramon Trower re-opened the elevator business in the fall of 1959, under the name of Daniels County Farmers Elevator, and is doing a successful business. In 1953, a six-day mail route began to serve the Madoc area, now a community with interests elsewhere. The only other organization at present is the Madoc Home Demonstration Club. The club was formed in October, 1952 with 22 charter members.

—Compiled by Mrs. Earl LaRoche.



Mrs. J. B. Morrison and her daughter, Ruth, in 1911, the summer before they came to Montana. One of her most thrilling moments was the appearance of a man on horseback who informed them that they were to have a town (Madoc) across the road.



Madoc school in 1924. In the first row, left to right, are Nancy Gordon, Maria Merrick (Mrs. Eddie Wahl), Pearl Dunn, Charles Crabtree, Willard Crabtree, Mabel Lee. In the second row are Mary Batterton, Lajina Dunn, George Fjeld, Harry Jacobson, Howard Schaeffer, Cal. Aldrich, Lillian Lee.



# THE WEST COUNTRY PEERLESS



Ben Lien and his outfit, in 1910, breaking some of the first land in the Peerless area. Ben was one of nine men who squatted in that vicinity in 1910.



A 1914 picture of Carl Lien, early Peerless resident, harvesting.



Carl Lien, one of the first Peerless pioneers, harvesting in 1915.



This is how Loren Fladager, the first, farmed in the Peerless area in 1912.

In 1909 a party of land seekers drove from Williston to the Woody Mountains and back by way of Poplar with horses and wagons. Carl Lien, a member of the party, came back in the spring of 1910 with Ben Lien, Christ Sorum, Andrew Jacobson, Fred Kvenrud, Nels Brenna, Fremman Gregerson, Anton Julson and Manick Skogen. They staked out their squatters' claims as the land was not surveyed until 1913.

Some later settlers were T. A. Esval, Ray Cheney, T. Leroux, George Jacobson and Loren and Selmer Fladager.

In 1914 Andrew Tande started a store and post office called Tande Post Office, and the same year Al Tande built a hotel and also a feed barn for horses. For this reason the town was originally known as Tande.

Luke Murphy also built and operated a barn. These barns at times fed 200 freight horses. The town soon had two hotels, two stores, a post office, two feed barns, a blacksmith shop, a pool hall and a saloon.

Among the first businesses were Epler Store, McCarthy Cafe, Art Olson's loan office for the Biesieker Bank, and Albert Levach's Blacksmith shop.

When the railroad was extended west from Scobey in 1925 the town of Tande was moved to the present townsite and named Peerless. There was a rush to set up new business places in the boom town.

Battleson Company had a hardware, clothing, grocery store and a filling station. Bert Nelson had a hotel. There was also Happy Francines store, Working and Krassins Pool Hall, Manleys grocery, Frank-Lewarton Meat Market and Grocery, Pauline Brockway's store and post office, the Furestnow Drug Store, Keithly's Hardware, Bratton Hotel, Bill Knudson's Barber Shop, Shrank garage and light plant, Carl Bingham's Continental Oil Station, Hellerson and Egland Lumber yards, Jim Rays Livery Barn, Levach's Blacksmith Shop, Halvorson's Machine Shop.

## Peerless Business

By the time the first train went from Scobey to Peerless on Monday, Nov. 8, 1925, the town of Peerless had built and filled three elevators. The east elevator was built by the farmers and was operated by Pete Karlsrud. In the 30's the farmers lost it and the Battleson Co. bought it for taxes, at a cost of slightly over \$1,000. The Victoria Company bought it in the early '40's and it is now operated by Bill Quackenbush.

Winter, Truesdaell and Derricks built the center elevator and it was operated by Ernie Kittering. The west elevator was built by a man named Sorenson. In the '40's these two elevators were purchased by the farmers, and in the 50's an annex was built between them. These elevators are now known as the Farmer's Union Elevator and are operated by Clarence Sterett.

Otto King built the present Farmer's Union Oil Station in 1926, and the farmers purchased it in 1929. The local farmers still maintain control of the building, and purchase through the Farmer's Union Central Exchange. Roland Willson was the



Florence Brudie and Perry Fladager driving to Highland school in 1923.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kleeman, Butte Creek homesteaders in 1916, are some of the oldest residents in the western half of the county. Pete was 90 when this picture was taken last February. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 1960.



The Peerless Pirates Independent Basketball Team, sponsored by Percy Lewarton's I G A Store in Peerless, 1939. This team was one of the outstanding basketball aggregations in Northeastern Montana, having won tournaments in Montana and Canada. Standing, back row, Reese Puckett, captain; George Tiny Puckett, Jimmy Hansen, Richard Halverson, Edwin Puckett. Front row, Angelo Sprango, Clarence "Indy" Halverson, Dick Corum.



A group at Success School, first school in the Ossette community, in 1921. The school was so named because of the long struggle to get it established. As it was only an unfinished shack, school could be held only during the summer. Two years later a new building was erected, which also served as church, Sunday school and community center, until 1941.

Back row: Leo Spangler, Mrs. Peder Foss, Jacob Trang, Berniece Foss (Willason), Mette Foss (Kegel), Borghild Trang, Marjorie Miner (Solberg), Alethera Johnson, Boyd Miner, Max Miner.



An Avery engine pulling three binders on the Loren Fladager homestead at Peerless between 1910-14. This is one of those big steam outfits. It is said that a spark from this steam engine started a prairie fire one time that burned as far as Coal Creek, where the creek stopped it. A settler on the other side of the creek saw the fire coming and decided to set a back fire to protect his buildings. The back fire got out of control and burned all of his buildings.



Buffalo on the Walt Truax ranch west of Peerless in 1926. Walt bought these buffalo from the Scotty Phillips ranch at Fort Pierre, S. D. They were wild and would break down fences and get into the neighbors' crops. Walt finally butchered them and sold the wild meat to Scobey patrons.



A proud day in 1921 for the F. W. Miner family as they pose with their newly-purchased Model T Ford truck. The drive to Scobey from their farm at Ossette took three or four hours. In the picture are Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Miner and their children, Boyd, Max and Marjorie (Solberg).



**HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR**



The home of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Miner and family (taken in the 20's) was the center of the Ossette community, which was named after Mrs. Miner. The post office was in one corner of the three-room house. The center building was a blacksmith shop operated by Mr. Miner. The barn in the corner sheltered a fine herd of cattle during bad weather.



This group of Peerless sixth graders in 1935 includes, first row, Ardys Anderson, Lorraine Anderson, Arletta Hergan, Maria Motschenbacher, Virginia Puckett, Goldie Knudson. Second row: Wayne Greenup, Maurice Knudson, Ernie Halverson, Edna Bjarko, Leota Feltis. Third row: Helmut Stannebein, Albert Bjarko.



First and second graders taught by Mary McLeod at the Peerless school in 1939. Back row, Mary McLeod, Arlene Neiskins, Phyllis Erickson, Verlaine Brandt, Anton Dighans, Eddie Hawbaker. Second row: Phyllis Ann Drummond, Leona Whipple, Agnes Dighans, Jeannette Suchy, Betty Lou Johnson. Third row: Nickey Founy, Tommy King, Beulah Motschenbacher, Merle Lien, Wallace Edland, Dolly Knudson, Jimmy Drummond, Rock Brandt, Delbert Gilchrist. Fourth row: Delbert Lien, Darlene Grove, Vivian Thieven, Elaine Erickson.

first manager. He was followed by G. A. Estvold, and then by Lalon Jones, who has been manager since 1936. Last summer the original building was replaced with a large steel, completely modern building.

On Nov. 14, 1929, a disastrous fire broke out in the Battleson buildings and the entire holdings, which included the oil station and big store, went up in flames. The following year another fire broke out in the garage and light plant, causing its destruction and leaving the town without electric lights. Six business places were burned.

Percy Lewarton ran the Peerless store from 1925 until 1946, when Tiny Puckett purchased it and operated it for two years. Charlie Motchenbacher had it from 1948 until 1956, Martin Grove from 1955 until 1957. It stood empty for one year, and Tiny Puckett has operated it from 1958 until the present. He has also enlarged and modernized it.

Lester Estenson and his father-in-law, Julius Kasseth, opened a garage in an old building east of Peerless main street in 1940. Two years later they built a new garage, which burned in 1946. Lester moved in a granery, which he converted to his present shop. His son, Alan, is now helping him.

**Depot**

The railroad depot was moved in by flat car from the Sweet Grass branch line in 1926. It was brought in three sections, and the joining marks are still evident today. Bill Trumbull was one of the first depot agents. The present agent is Tom Prewett, who has held the position since 1953.

**Post Office**

The post office in Peerless was moved in from Butte Creek when the railroad came through. Mrs. Brockway was the first postmistress. Reese Puckett has been postmaster since 1940.

Reese Puckett had the mail route before becoming postmaster. He was followed by his brother, Ed Puckett, and now Mrs. Ed



A group of some of Butte Creek's earliest residents in 1913. Robert Fouhy, Charles B. Jones, Scotty, Fred Jones, Alec Loney. Robert Fouhy was the first to come. The others soon followed.



Frank Miller, Butte Creek homesteader, (right) on his homestead in 1915.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

Puckett is the mail carrier. George Feltis was carrier for the south route until the two routes combined into one. Tiny Puckett is the carrier from Scobey to Richland.

The Reese Puckett family has developed the lot between the store and post office into a well-kept yard, with a tree-lined wall. This is the closest thing to a park the town has ever had.

### Fire Department

The Peerless Fire Department was organized about 10 years ago when the town purchased the old 1934 chemical fire truck from the Scobey Fire Department. This was done through community projects and solicitation. A fire hall was built at the same time with volunteer labor.

In 1957 a one-and-a-half ton fire truck with high pressure water pump was purchased. Lester Estenson has been fire chief from the beginning. All of the expenses of the Fire Department are handled through community organizations.

### Organizations

Peerless organizations include the Lutheran Ladies Aid, Catholic Alter Society, Elwood Lien Post 107 of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the West Daniels Community Club, a Home Demonstration Club, and a 4-H Club.

### Schools

The first school in the Peerless community was started in 1918 with three children, in Andrew Jacobson's homestead shack. Mrs. G. A. Esva was the teacher. One of the children was Violet Skogen, the first child to be born in the Peerless community.

In 1924 a school was built a quarter mile east of Peerless on land owned by Loren Fladager. A few years later the community hall from Old Peerless was moved in and used for a school for two years. A large school was then built, and is now used for a high school.

In 1930 a two-year high school was begun with Miss MacDougal as superintendent. In 1932 F. R. Puckett started an accredited four-year high school. Under his administration a high school dormitory was started, and his system of operating the dormitory was copied by other state school administrators.



This group of fellows at Frank Miller's homestead at Butte Creek in 1926 includes Dan Chapam, Carl Hammerberg, Frank Miller and Pete Hansen.



The West Fork school in 1914 when Ellen Shipstead Hamann was teacher. Mrs. Hamann now lives in Scobey.



This Shepherders Monument, which was placed on Wild Horse Butte before any settlers came to this area, may be seen for miles. Some say that the early shepherders built it as a marker, but the story told by shepherders to some of the first residents is that it marks the grave of a shepherd who spent much of his time watching his sheep from atop the lonely butte. When he died, he requested that his friends bury him there.



A Fourth of July outing in 1917 at the favorite "resort" of west county pioneers, the West Fork river near the McLeod ranch. The Jules Draz and Fay Miner families traveled 14 miles in a horse-drawn lumber wagon to enjoy the water.



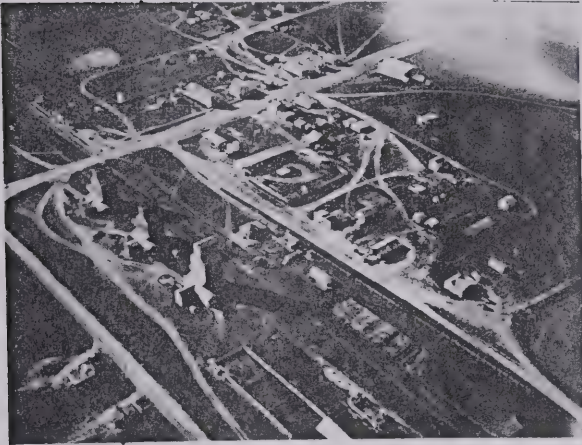
When Mrs. Florence Kiser came in 1913 to squat on a homestead north of Peerless, her chief pastime was shooting gophers and badgers, and riding horseback eight miles for mail. She remembers the boys who used to hang around the post office in Scobey dressed in cowboy suits and carrying guns in their holsters.

One time a buggy in which she, her husband, Alfred, and her three-year-old daughter, Katherine, were riding was overturned and dragged on its side by a team of runaway colts through Fred Jones' yard. The Kiser family was thrown out on the rocks but suffered only bruises. County (Valley) taxes in 1915 were 57 cents, and the homestead filing fee was \$25.

Mrs. Kiser recalls that Brother Van (William Wesley Van Orsdel) came to Butte Creek and helped organize a Sunday school and preached several sermons. He preached all through Montana, riding circuit. He passed away in 1919.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



An aerial view of Peerless in 1941.



Mary McLeod, beloved pioneer school teacher, was the first teacher at West Fork, and in Wolf Point. She taught in Peerless for several years, as well as in other country schools in the neighborhood.

After her two brothers, Walter and Harry, died in the early 50's, Miss McLeod was owner and manager of one of the largest and most historic ranches in this corner of the state. For many years the McLeod ranch supplied wild horses for the Wolf Point Stampede.

The McLeods could tell many stories of their adventures. One anecdote concerned a tall pole on which they used to hang their meat—a method of preserving meat used by local Indians and settlers. One day a stranger rode up to the ranch.

"What is that pole for?" he inquired. Miss McLeod's mother, who had a ready wit, replied, "It's for hanging horse thieves." The stranger left rather hurriedly, and they discovered afterwards that he had had a herd of rustled horses hidden behind the hill.



The Fred Jones Family. When the Jones family came to Butte Creek the only other homesteaders there were Albert Watt and Frank and Bob Fouhy. Mrs. Jones, now living in Spokane, recalls how she and her sister, Florence (Kiser), and Mrs. E. Gregorson used to ride on horseback to Coal Creek, 10 miles away, for the mail. They used grain sacks behind their saddles for the mail. The sod house post office managed by Mr. Dodge had cigar boxes tacked on to 2 x 4's for post office boxes.

She also recalls a Shorthorn milk cow she had that would always bring home its calf, and an extra one, after following the range cattle that roamed at large.

During a blizzard one night when the men were returning from a trip to Scobey for supplies, Mrs. Fred Jones and Mrs. C. P. Jones hung lanterns on each corner of the shack facing the trail, and stayed up all night to keep them lighted. The men arrived at 4 a. m. with frosted feet and faces after having lost the way.



An eight-horse outfit used by the late Leslie J. Grey of Richland, when freighting to Scobey. This was taken in 1920. Mrs. Etta Gray still lives in Richland.



Oliver Arveson in 1926. Note the early type pickup "camper", with its curved top.



The Main Street of Peerless in 1940.

## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

### PEERLESS LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Rosholt of Opheim began holding Lutheran services occasionally in private homes in the Peerless community in 1917. In 1925 services were held in Blessing Hall, a community hall owned by John Blessing.

More regular services were held, beginning in about 1929, when Rev. Simonson of Scobey held services in the old Hawbaker store building. The only resident pastor was Rev. Arthur Mathison, who came in 1940 and left in 1942. He had services in the Peerless school. O. B. Eglund donated a two-story house to be used as a parsonage, and it still stands today.

An old granery was brought into Peerless in about 1948, and was converted into the present-day church. Pastor Stanley Knudson of Scobey serves the Peerless congregation at present.

In the early days the Scobey Methodist minister, Rev. Kistler, held occasional services. A circuit-riding Baptist preacher who came on horseback sometimes held services in and around Peerless until 1921.

A Lutheran Ladies Aid was organized in 1917, and has been going almost continuously ever since. Sunday School was organized in 1927 with Mrs. Hans Offett as the first superintendent. It has also continued.

### PEERLESS CATHOLIC CHURCH

The first Catholic services in the Peerless community were held in 1917 at the Butte Creek School and at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Klccman, Mr. and Mrs. George Monahan, and at the home of an Erickson family. The priest, Father Gerald Dillon of Scobey, came every month or two by horse and buggy to conduct these services.

After the coming of the railroad, services were held at Peerless in the Jim Ray home and later at the school house.

In 1949 a building in Richland was purchased and moved to Peerless, and an addition built on. It is now the St. Ann's Catholic Church. New pews, tabernacle and alter were added in 1956.

Father Whalen of Scobey served the parish and helped organize the first regular Altar Society. Peerless was a mission of Scobey until 1950, when it was attached to Glentana. Priests from Glentana have been Father Gilhooley, Father Gedvilla, Father Mears and, at present, Father Kenny.

Peerless history compiled by Lois Fladager and others.

## WEST FORK

### WEST FORK

The West Fork of the Poplar river still winds its way through the prairie country south of Peerless. But the town of West Fork, which once consisted of a bank, a mercantile store, a saloon, a cafe, a lumber yard, two blacksmith shops and a school, has almost completely disappeared. A lonely school house with boarded-up windows is all that remains.

The first settlers in the West Fork community were Mr. and Mrs. James Meade and Harry A. McLeod, who came in 1909. Other early settlers were Walter McLeod, Joe Hansen, Henry, John and Hugo Hayenga, Wesley A. Howard, Luther and Clark Greenup (Luther was the first state senator from Daniels County), Guy and Fred Holliday, Mary McLeod, the Peter Neiskins, the Frank Beachlers, the Gus Whipples, the George Hances, Eric Grosseth, Andy Woods, John Oglesby, the John Hoepners, Mr. and Mrs. Bond, the Ross Farmer family, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Allen and the John Machart family.

The first post office was established in West Fork in 1916. George Seaton was the first postmaster and Joe Hrabick was the first mail carrier. When he quit J. O. Jacobson, Harry Hansen and then Jim Wolfe hauled mail from Scobey.

George Seaton built a store and had a post office in connection. Later Frank Beachler had the store, and he sold out to Harry J. Hansen, who continued in business until the store was destroyed by fire.

The First State Bank of West Fork was established in 1918. It was a branch of the Williston, N. D. bank, and remained in business about four years.

The Hayengo sisters, Anna and Delia, started a restaurant. Farmers who freighted from Avondale, Glentana and Opheim obtained meals there. The business was sold to Mrs. J. O. Jacobson, who ran it until a fire destroyed the building.

In 1918 the people of the West Fork community built a school, a building 36'x36'. Mary McLeod was the first teacher. Dances and entertainments held at the school, under Mary McLeod's direction, furnished money to buy a furnace, 14 desks, hot lunch equipment and several paint jobs.

The school house was the social center of the community, and the annual school picnic, attended by everybody, was the big event of the year.

The Wesley Howard ranch was the scene of many rodeos. West Fork also had a baseball team.

The West Fork graveyard, located about four miles east of the town, on the old John Machart homestead, was started when a little Machart boy died. It was in the spring and the high water made it impossible to go to Scobey. The family planned to move the grave to Scobey later. That same spring a son of Joe Hrabick died and was buried close to the other boy. In 1916 a daughter of Luther Greenup died and was buried there, eventually 37 graves were in the little graveyard. The last burial there took place 10 or 12 years ago. The graveyard is about four miles from the townsite of West Fork on land now farmed by the John Hoepners.

Most of the original West Fork settlers have gone, but many of the farms in the area are now owned by their descendants.



## BUTTE CREEK

In the early 1900's the Butte Creek area north of present-day Peerless was known as Butte Valley, and was the domain of wandering sheepherders and cowboys. The first settlers in the area were Frank and Robert Fouhy, Fred C. Jones, Charles Jones and Frank Miller, who squatted in 1913. Others soon followed.

In 1915 the drawings for homestead land were made at Glasgow, and by 1918 all of the land had been taken.

When the first settlers came the prairie was dotted with sheep wagons and cattle. Homestead wives, often left alone in their unfinished cabins while the menfolk went to Scobey for lumber, were frightened by the range cattle who shook the shacks as they rubbed against them in the night.

On one occasion a cyclone struck the community. Mrs. Fred Jones grabbed her children and rushed to the sod barn, where they spent the night. Mrs. Pete Kleeman, who had set the sponge for bread, is reported to have called her family to hang on to the bread as she thought the house was flying away.

When George Monahan looked out of his door, just in time to see a shack fly over his head, he knelt in prayer by a big boulder called the "barney stone."

A woman on the bench above Butte Creek crawled under her bed when the cyclone struck, and when she peeked out the shack was gone, and she found herself facing 500 head of cattle on the open range.

The Ben Battleson family and Isabel Battleson handled the Butte Creek mail in their home on Isabel's homestead, and anyone who made a trip to Scobey carried out the mail bags. Later Frank Roseberry and Carl Hammerberg opened a store on what is known as the Merrill Chapman farm, and the post office was transferred there. The first mail carriers were Clayton Hodges, Burt Howe, Sam Dodge and Neil Richardson.

Carl Hammerberg and Frank Roseberry had the first Ford truck in Butte Creek. This was used to haul store freight, do hauling for the neighbors, and to haul large groups of people to picnics and distant gatherings. Benches were placed lengthwise in the truck box. In this manner many Butte Creek residents rode to the sod school house at Coal Creek to vote.

In true pioneer tradition the Butte Creek area residents constructed most of their buildings by holding big building "bees." The Butte Creek school house was constructed in this manner, and is one of the few school houses to have had continuous school since 1915.

It has been the place of community gatherings, Sunday school, card parties and celebrations. Dances at the school were often all-night affairs, which included breakfast, as people liked to travel by daylight. One family, 10 miles away, used to leave home at 4 p.m. by ox-drawn cart in order to arrive in time to the dances.

During the lonesome winter months riders from the Dan Henderson, McLeod, Fadness and Humbert ranches, looking for strayed horses, were welcome visitors.

The community also had a circulating library. Mail order, telephones, attached to barbed wire fences, provided telephone service over a six mile area. The arrival of mail at the Roseberry store was signalled by one very long ring. When this happened people would hitch up their teams, load the baseball equipment, and flock to the store. The men and boys played baseball while the ladies visited and shopped.

During the summer months herders would sometimes come to the settlers' shacks and put on exhibitions with their bucking broncos. Fourth of July celebrations featured horse racing and other entertainment. In 1918 a horse quadrille was organized.

In 1922 the Butte Creek school was the scene of a community Thanksgiving dinner. Wyman Feltis pulled his cook car close to the school to provide cooking facilities. A long table the length of the school house was loaded with roasted turkeys, chickens, vegetables, pies, breads, cakes, jams, pickles and other delicacies. The crowd stayed all afternoon.

After supper the men went home to take care of their chores and then returned to dance all night. Mouth organs, violins and guitars provided the music. A midnight lunch was served, and in the morning there was breakfast. Tired, but happy, the crowd went home after breakfast, taking the left-over food with them.

A community club, which was originally organized in 1917 as a Red Cross, has continued through the years. During the 1920's, when Walter Warden was county agent, he brought specialists to the club meetings to teach the arts of sewing, home decorating and furniture upholstery. He also organized community fairs, the first of which were at the Carl Hammerberg home. Carl allowed his new garage to be used for the booths, counters and shelves. In 1924 Earl Vance, the Westland pilot, came to the fair with his airplane. Everybody took turns having a ride at five dollars a turn. Mr. Hammerberg had to send his truck to town for more gas while the homesteaders took their first birds eye views of their land.

Later the community fairs were held in Peerless in what is now known as the old Hawbaker store. Early store proprietors were the Manley brothers.

On one occasion a prairie fire, which started in Canada, threatened the Butte Creek area while the residents were on their way to the fair in Peerless. The smoke was seen by the Lowthians, who turned their car around and headed for the Oliver Wyman ranch. Phil Lowthian plowed firebreaks until the people in peerless observed the smoke and hurried back by the truckload to fight the blaze. Lunches and coffee were served to the crowd at the Wyman home.

Some of the early settlers are still farming in the Butte Creek area. They have seen many changes, and have known all the hardships and joys that have confronted our other area pioneers.

—Material compiled by Mrs. Phil Lowthian,  
Mrs. Fredree Jones Battleson and others.

## OSSETTE

Out in the southwestern corner of Daniels County lies the rich farming community of Ossette.

In 1914 the land was opened for homesteading and the drawing was held in Glasgow.

The first post office was established in 1916 with Fay Miner serving as postmaster. Clarence Seton took over the post office when he set up a country store to supply the farmers with their groceries, clothing and hardware. He moved the store to Larslan in about 1918, and Mrs. Miner took over the post office for the next 18 years.

Mrs. Miner's name is Nettie Ossette, and the post office was named Ossette after her. The farmers took turns hauling the

mail from Avondale until the government gave the contract to Carl Caserman.

Fay Miner started a blacksmith shop. A community hall, church and school house were also built.

Ed Estenson and George Kramer were the earliest settlers. They came in 1913. Most of the homesteads were taken up by 1917 by the following settlers: Albert Estenson, Miles Erwin, Fay Miner, Harvey Anderson, Minnie Hicks, Carl Hanson, Martin Day, John Oglesby, Ole Trang, John Nordstrom, William Kegel, Fred Belsvig, Ole Clumstead, Tom Sletten, Frank Bastine, Mrs. Bushay, Ben Benjamin, Chris Olson, Robert Strand, C. J. Heeter, Forrest Tucker, Ben Youngcon, Ed Bergner, Fred Cool, Charlie and Jim Holiday and Clarence Day.

## DANIELS COUNTY

### DANIELS COUNTY

From Big Horn County, which covered most of the eastern expanse of the State of Montana in 1875, through the formation of Dawson County in 1889, Valley in 1893, and the division which formed Sheridan County in 1913, the political boundaries of eastern Montana were in a constant state of change.

In 1920 an election was held which resulted in the forming of Daniels County out of that section of Valley County lying west of the line between Range 45 and Range 46, and that portion of Sheridan County lying east of said range line.

This election was coupled with one for the selection of a county seat. Madoc and Scobey were the contenders. In preparation for this event Scobey had installed electric lights, a water and sewage system, and other improvements to make it a logical contender.



Daniels County Courthouse.

Scobey won the coveted county seat by a vote of 964 to 358. On August 30 of that same year Samuel V. Stewart, governor of Montana, officially proclaimed that Daniels County "be attached and made part of the Twentieth Judicial District for the State of Montana."

George Springer, early postmaster at Madoc and later a Scobey attorney, was an enthusiastic supporter for the establishment of Daniels County. He covered the territory with Lou Boyd, circulating petitions and trying to convince the citizens that they should support Scobey for the county seat. There was some opposition from the west end of the county led by Judge Arnold.

Gus Oie was in Minneapolis at the time the matter was decided. Springer sent him the following telegram:

"Up from the soil with the Leaguers rich,  
Close by the G. N. railroad ditch  
The thriving town of Scobey stands  
With a county seat within its hands.  
For on this day the board select  
Has ruled that we can now elect.  
The judge thought he was very stout  
But he took the count by the kayo route."

Three commissioners served to help form the new county. They were Frank Hughes, Sr., G. A. Esval and Eugene LaRoche. A slate of county officials was also voted in in preparation, and two lots were purchased from John Fuller, with the Commercial Hotel building. The hotel was remodeled and equipped to serve as County Courthouse. In 1927 it was doubled in size, and fire-proof vaults were installed to house the county records. In 1934 a concrete addition was added to the back, and in 1954 a new vault was built on the south side to enlarge the vault space of the Clerk and Recorders office.

The building stands on Scobey's Main street, one of the few still exhibiting the facade of its early years.



Daniels County Officials—Front row: Elizabeth Stephens, Deputy County Treasurer; Carol Ann Molone, Clerk, County Clerk and Recorder; Mildred Clausen, County Treasurer; Claire Hillstrom, County Superintendent of Schools; Bernice Sorte, Clerk, County Superintendent and County Librarian; Janet Kerstein, Secretary, County Attorney; Warren Harrison, Undersheriff.

Back row: Earl G. Brackee, County Commissioner, District 3, Chairman; J. Edward Carney, State Senator; Clifford I. Hanson, County Assessor; Arvid Carlson, Custodian; Lillian Hylland, Clerk, County Assessor; Alexander Haburchak, County Extension Agent; Lorraine Jerome, Clerk, County Treasurer; Jordan A. Fosland, County Attorney; Lorie Dunbar, Clerk, County Extension Agent; Morris Billehus, County Commissioner, District 2; Joyce Halvorson, Deputy County Assessor; Mabel A. Burget, Deputy Clerk of Court and Public Administrator; Tom W. Davis, County Commissioner, District 1; Carl Faanes, County Clerk and Recorder; Dean Christensen, Deputy County Clerk and Recorder; Ernest Sell, Sheriff; Arthur E. Lund, State Representative; Melfred Eide, Clerk of District Court. Not pictured: G. J. Waller, County Coroner.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

## EARLY SCHOOL DAYS



Girls from the Hughes school class of 1911 had a reunion in October, 1957, at the home of their former teacher, Mrs. Nora Watts Burgett. Many of these ladies are to be found in the Hughes School picture. From left to right are Carrie Colby Fossen, Fern Grant Flick, Edna Grant Waller, Louise Butler Davis, Nora Watts Burgett (teacher), Estella Hughes Colby, Mabel Pittenger Burgett, Josephine Grant Hanson.



Miss Mabel V. Thayer (now Mrs. O. K. McDowell), first Daniels County Superintendent of Schools.

The history of the early day teachers is one of many brave young people, who ventured west to take advantage of free land offered to homesteaders. Many taught school in sod houses and claim shacks. The salaries were small, the classes often large as schools were not plentiful, and many older children attended because they had missed schooling in moving westward. The facilities were few, the teacher handicapped for want of equipment. But the three R's were taught and conditions improved with time. They embedded in the youth of that day of love of knowledge.

A school was located one mile south of the Joe Bonnes place and was taught by Mrs. George Robinson, (Florence). The pupils had to walk or drive to school and the winters were severe. The enrollment included the following: Bill and Oscar Manternach, John Upsahl, George Marlenee, Kate Manternach, Lizzie Manternach, Lena Upsahl, Else, Leonard and Ethel Marlenee. School was held for seven months.

In 1913 Gulick Fadness financed and built the Fadness school. Miss Anna Horvick, now Mrs. Mark Clayburgh, was the first teacher. The school was held for seven and eight months. The following were enrolled: Martin, Todd, Andy, and Edith Fadness, Wilmar and Harland Knudson, Jewel and Ben Horvick.

The sod school house at Carbert was built in 1916. Miss Hart was the first teacher. The following were enrolled: Isabelle Harris, Hazel Henderson, Laura Richardson, Vern Dodge, Frank Richardson, Genevieve Fuller, Florence Henderson, Clark Dodge, Ellsworth Richardson, Richard Jacques, Mable Fuller, Helen Jacques, Irma Richardson, Ruth Hodges.

The Smoke Creek School, located 9 miles south of Flaxville, was built in 1912. Miss Elsie Phelps, now Mrs. V. E. Wilberg, was the first teacher. The students sat around home made tables and shared textbooks.

Mrs. Orr Burgett (Miss Nora Watts) taught school which was located on the Charles Benjamin farm north of Scobey. Frank, Stella and J. D. Hughes and the Hardenburgh children attended.

## FIRST COUNTY OFFICIALS

State Senator .....	Luther Greenup
State Representative .....	B. D. Templeman
County Commissioners—	Frank Hughes, Eugene LaRoche, G. A. Esva
Clerk and Recorder .....	Mrs. Carroll W. Spurrier
Sheriff .....	David J. Martin
Clerk of the District Court .....	John Shippam
County Treasurer .....	Al H. Fowler
County Attorney .....	John S. Nyquist
Assessor .....	Frank M. Robinson
Supt. of Schools .....	Mabel V. Thayer
Surveyor .....	Harry A. Gibbs
Public Administrator .....	W. J. Riek
County Coroner .....	James T. Sparling

Pepper School House in 1914. Left to right, Ralph Von Kuster, Elihue Pepper, Roger Von Kuster, Harold Belnap, Homer Cabarett, Richard Pepper, Ruth Pepper, Charles Marlenee, Everett Cabarett. This building is now part of the Grain Growers Oil Co. in Scobey.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

The old Scooby School was located one-half mile south of Old Scooby. Mrs. Ward was the first teacher. Attending this school were: two Poorman boys, Howard Robinson, Manan Hanson, Gladys Hanson, Herman Hanson, Carol Hanson, Carol Bonnes, Ralph Carter and the Nuhring children. Miss Hall and Miss Stangeware were early teachers there.

Unfortunately, space will not permit a listing of all of the early teachers, many of whom married local farmers and businessmen and are in the community today.

When the county was created the County Commissioners appointed Miss Mabel V. Thayer (Mrs. O. K. McDowell), a teacher and homesteader who had done post graduate at Heidelberg and the University of Berlin to fill the office of County Superintendent of Schools. Superintendents who followed her were Mrs. Alice D. Knapp, Mrs. Zelpha T. Martin, Mr. Leo M. Lattin, Mrs. Helen Colby Sickles, Mrs. Alma Shipstead, Mrs. Alvina Crandell, Mrs. Alma Shipstead and Mrs. Claire A. Hillstrom.

It is a coincidence that the first superintendent, Miss Mabel Thayer, had as her pupil, when she taught in the public schools in North Dakota, the present county superintendent of schools, Mrs. Claire A. Hillstrom.

—Compiled by Mrs. Claire A. Hillstrom



Mrs. Claire A. Hillstrom, present County Superintendent of Schools.



The Huges School, one of the earliest in the county, in 1910. This school building still exists, as the Full Gospel Church in Scooby. Pictured are Miss Finley (teacher), Elmer Hardenburg, Frank Hughes, Hank Grant, Lucien Cyrr, Mabel Colby, Estella Hughes, Aaron Grant, Linell Cyrr, Josephine Grant, Carrie Colby, Edna Grant, Glen Davis, Theodore Colby, Helen Colby, Rene Cyrr, Wilbur Hardenburg.

In 1911, this school was taught by Orr Burgett, and in 1912, by Nora Watts (now Mrs. Orr Burgett).

### THE GREAT NORTHERN BRANCH

There was great rejoicing when it was learned that the Great Northern railroad was extending a branch north from Plentywood, and even greater rejoicing when the line was complete and the first train rumbled into the new town sites of Flaxville, Madoc and Scooby. Gone were the days when lumber and other supplies had to be hauled in horse-drawn lumber wagons, from Plentywood or Poplar, and when wheat had to be hauled by the same method to these then-distant markets.

The location of the railroad line did bring disappointment and inconvenience to many. Mansfield Daniels had built his \$20,000 mansion at the site of Old Scooby, in the expectation that the railroad would cross the Poplar flats. Other people with homes and businesses at the old Scooby site faced the same situation. Most of them moved to the new town, which at first was known as East Scooby.

It was the same situation in the Madoc and Flaxville areas. Some homesteaders found themselves unexpectedly close to one of the new towns, but businessmen at the town of Orville were forced to move to one of the new town locations.

In 1925, when the line was extended west to Opheim, the town of Peerless also found it necessary to change its location in order to be serviced directly by the line.

### SOO LINE

The Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Saint Marie Railroad, commonly known as the Soo Line, came into Whitetail in 1913. This gave Whitetail the distinction of being the end of the line for this railroad. The establishment of this last part of the line was somewhat hampered by the actions of one "Hominy" Thompson, a colorful homesteader who once managed to stop the train for several days by tearing up the tracks and placing a shack, guarded by himself, on the right of way. Thompson resented the train's trespassing on his property and interfering with his irrigation project. He landed in prison for a short term, and the train has continued to run.

### A HALFWAY STOPPING PLACE

Before the rails were extended west from Scooby, homesteaders from the vast and flourishing territory now known as the "Richland Country" hauled their grain to Scooby. The long trips to market with teams and wagons were much too lengthy to be completed in one day. Thus, of necessity, a unique rural business developed, known as the "half-way stopping place." At the "half-way" house, the grain freighter, or other traveler, could find accommodations for himself and his horses for the night. "Supper," breakfast, and a place to sleep for himself and his horses were furnished at this unique local Inn at an approximate cost of \$3.50. The trip to Scooby could be completed the following day.

One such "half-way" house was operated by Mr. and Mrs. John Sheenum, Sr., whose farm is located some twenty miles northwest of Scooby—about halfway from Scooby to the north-Richland community. Mr. and Mrs. Sheenum, themselves pioneer homesteaders, enjoyed the company provided by the overnight visitors, and the business income helped them to make a success of their farming and to prosper in the Scooby community, where they are still actively engaged in farming their homestead and adjoining acres. Principal entertainment during the evenings was cordial conversation, and many friendships were established that have endured throughout the years. The freighters carried



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their own bed-rolls which were spread on the floor. It was not uncommon for six or seven freighters and from thirty to forty head of horses to be at the stopping point over night.

In the morning the freighters would make their bedrolls up, harness their horses, have breakfast and be ready to go by six o'clock in the morning. The large tandem grain tanks moving out behind six head of horses was an impressive sight. When winter set in, sleighs were used but never hooked in tandem. Getting the sleighs moving in the morning required good pulling teams as well as some work around the runners with crow-bars to loosen them up from the ice and snow beneath.

After arriving in Scobey for an overnight stop and the necessary marketing, the trip home was begun. Sometimes by "trotting" the team, a freighter could make it all the way back to the Richland community in one day, but more likely would arrange another stopover on the way home at the half-way house.

Although memories are dimmed after forty years, the Shennums remember many regular visitors from the Richland community. Among those mentioned were Ole and Andrew Fossum, Carl Nelson, John Fuchs, "Little" Frank Bailey, "Big" Frank Bailey, Ole Krevick, Fred Swift, Ole Olson, Ben Solberg, Vic Strand, Art Travlin, Joe Travlin, Grizzley Nelson, John Olson, Bill Sublinski, Pete Ostmonstad, and Frank Miller.

Two other overnight stopping points were in operation at the same time. One was operated by William Bernard, one half mile west of Shennum's and the other by a Mr. Mcusic, about eight miles farther east.

### COUNTY FAIR

A County Fair Board, appointed by the County Commissioners, has been in existence for several years. The board took care of the fair grounds, and was in charge of annual exhibits of Four H projects and other items. These exhibits were held at various places in Scobey, often in the high school gym.

Earlier, many communities had their own fairs, and some of these were large and well-attended celebrations.

In August, 1954, representatives from several county organizations met to make plans for the formation of a Fair Association, to work in connection with the Fair Board. It was decided that the Fair Association should consist of 21 trustees, elected to represent all parts of the county. In January, 1955, the group joined the Rocky Mountain Fair Association. It was placed on the "B" Circuit.

The first Annual Daniels County Fair under this arrangement was held in August, 1955. An afternoon rodeo, a night show, and a carnival added to the festivities. A quonset, previously erected by the Fair Board, housed the commercial exhibits, but other exhibits were still displayed in the high school gym.

A 36x100 frame building to house exhibits at the fairgrounds was constructed in time for the 1958 fair.

In 1961 a livestock scales was purchased, and a new stage, mounted on wheels, was built in 1962.

The fair has been a popular and successful venture, attended by large crowds. Afternoon shows, at various times, have included a rodeo, automobile daredevils, home-made fun (races, pie-eating contests, rolling-pin throwing contests) and a talent show. Evening shows have featured a variety of acrobatic acts and typical vaudeville acts. A Four H style show has been shown at one night show each year, and the Four H beef auction takes place following one of the afternoon shows.

This year the 11th annual fair is being held in connection with the Homesteaders' Golden Jubilee.

### COUNTY LIBRARY

The County Library, housed in the new Credit Union Building, contains over 5,000 books. Volumes from the State Library at Missoula are also ordered, on request, for library patrons.

The library was begun by the Scobey Woman's Club in 1945. Members collected books from donors throughout the county and catalogued them. Club members took turns serving as librarian.

The Board of County Commissioners then took over the library, and it is now supported by the county. At first it was located in the basement of the courthouse. Later it was moved to the Credit Union Building on Main Street.

The first librarian was Mrs. Marie Brady. Mrs. Bernice Sorte is the present librarian.

### FOUR H

There are at present six clubs in Daniels County with 92 members. Young people in these clubs work on a variety of educational projects, using material supplied through the County Extension Office. Projects are displayed at the Annual Daniels County Fair. Four H girls have an annual style show each year in connection with the fair night show, and a livestock auction takes place following an afternoon show at the fairgrounds.

There is an annual Four H Camp, usually in Canada. The club Achievement Day, with a banquet and the distribution of awards, is held in the fall.

### HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUBS

Home Demonstration Clubs have provided instruction in household arts and handicrafts, educational information on a wide variety of subjects, and an opportunity for rural women to work together on projects for community betterment, since they were first organized here in the 1920's. Some of these clubs are a continuation of World War I Red Cross units, or community clubs that were in existence in earlier days.

Over the years the clubs have assisted in many worthwhile community efforts and health and charity fund drives. When there is a job to be done in a rural area the Home Demonstration clubs are there to help. In many cases, now that good roads and automobiles are causing people to seek their entertainment in larger towns, Home Demonstration clubs are instrumental in keeping their communities together.

At present there are 12 Home Demonstration Clubs with 159 members.

### DANIELS COUNTY SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

The Daniels County Sportsman's Club was organized in January, 1947, for the purpose of promoting sportsmanship and increasing game and fish in the county. This has been accomplished by obtaining game birds and fish from the State Farms and Hatcheries, by feeding and sheltering game and fish, by destroying predators, by obtaining equitable hunting and fishing seasons, and by assisting neighboring sportsmen organizations in matters of interest to sportsmen.

The first officers were Clarence Fjeld, president; Carl Faanes, vice president; H. H. Ames, secretary; Carl Lindquist, Walt Holle, Roy Killenbeck and Irwin Jacobsen, directors.

An annual banquet is held, with programs of interest to sportsmen.

In 1948 the club affiliated with the Northeastern Montana Wildlife Association and the Montana Wildlife Association.

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# SCOBEY



A Fourth of July Parade in Scobey in 1922. Irving Davis, on left, is officer of the day. Next to him is Paul Crum, veteran of the Spanish-American War. Freddie Brunet is carrying the Veterans flag.

In 1902 Mansfield Daniels, then residing at Poplar, persuaded his brother-in-law, Jacob C. Timmons, to leave his home in Iowa and come to Montana and go into a ranching partnership with him. The site chosen for this enterprise was on the Poplar river, at the site that was soon to become Old Scobey.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Timmons and their daughter, Blanche, were soon established at their new home. Mansfield Daniels continued to live in Poplar for several years, while Jake Timmons took over the active management of their herd of between five and seven hundred whiteface cattle.

Soon settlers began to come into the area in ever-increasing numbers. Many of them stopped at the Timmons ranch, and extra rooms had to be added to the original house in order to accommodate the many over-night visitors. Later the Daniels-Timmons store was opened to supply the homesteaders or squatters with supplies.

Mansfield Daniels asked his friend, Major Charles Robert Anderson Scobey, agent for the Fort Peck Indian Reservation at Poplar, to obtain a post office for what seemed to be growing into a town. In those days an Indian Agent took over many of the duties now belonging to a senator.

The post office was obtained, and Mr. Daniels named it Scobey in honor of his friend.

In a short time the Daniels-Timmons partnership owned a blacksmith shop, a livery barn, undertaking parlor and real-estate business, as well as the store and boarding house. Other businesses began to move into the fledgling town.

In 1912 Mr. Daniels built a \$20,000 mansion at Old Scobey, hauling all materials 60 miles overland from Poplar. The mansion had waterworks, fixtures for gaslighting, a ballroom, and a total of more than twenty rooms.



A 1913 picture of the new Scobey town site.



Birds-eye view of Scobey in 1920, taken from an elevator.



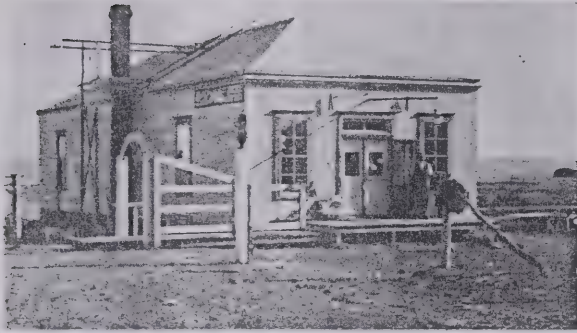
The old bank of T. Anderson-Oie and Co., which became the Citizens State Bank in the early 20's.



Scobey, three months old; winter in the new townsite.



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The Daniels-Timmons store under construction in the boom days of Old Scobey, long before the move to the new townsite in 1913.

It was a great disappointment to Mr. Daniels when, a short time later, he learned that the Great Northern railroad which he had believed would come to his townsite, announced that it would not come any closer than the east edge of the Poplar flat.

In 1913 businesses from the old Scobey location began to move their buildings to the new townsite.

Businesses at East Scobey (the new town was called East Scobey to prevent a mail mix-up) in 1913 included the following: T. Anderson Oie Bank, First State Bank, Hub Store, Nelson Hardware, Smith and Boyd Saloon, Kahl Pool Hall, Burton Cafe, Cusker and Bennett Lumber Co., Hellekson Lumber Co., Wohler and Bonnes Lumber Co., Scobey Oil Co., Continental



Jake Davis, who came to Old Scobey in 1903 from Iowa to work for Daniels and Timmons. When he was 21 he staked out a homestead. He raised cattle and sheep and later had a dairy and mink farm. He started Davis Beach, a popular resort, in 1919. In this picture he is standing at the spot where he dug his first dug-out abode, and all of his belongings are on the horse. His widow, Louise, still lives here.



Down by the Scobey depot in the busy days of 1918.



Scobey Main Street in 1914



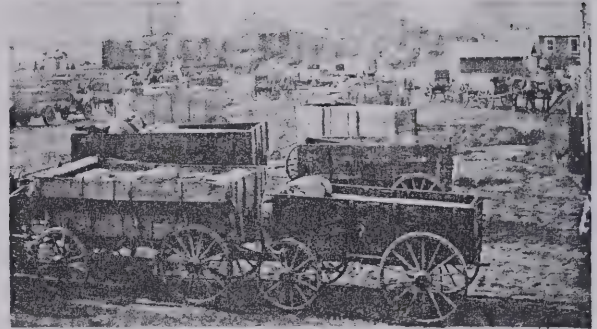
Scobey Main Street in 1920.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



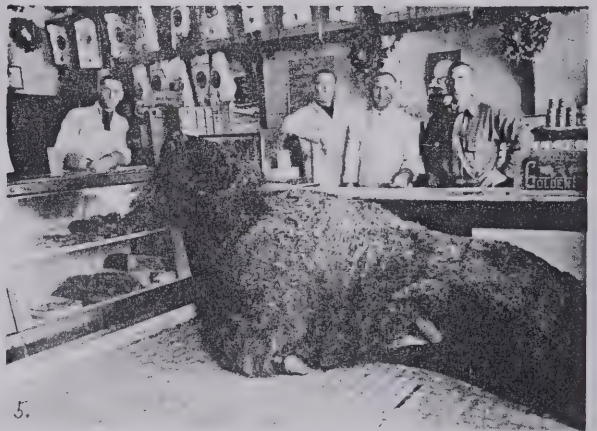
Scobey Main Street in 1928.



Grain market jam at the Scobey elevators.



Scobey as seen from the water tower in 1927. Note the lack of trees and the seven grain elevators including the mill.



This buffalo, shot by Bill Stephens, came from the Scotty Phillips herd at Pierre, S. D. Instead of giving calenders, the meat was sold as a novelty at Frank's Meat Market in 1924. Hamburger and stew meat were 75 cents a pound, roasts \$1 a pound, and steaks \$1.50 per pound.

Standing behind the counter are Irish Walker, Joe Walker, Bert Moyer, O. L. Frank.



Corn and Wheat Crop in Scobey area.



This group of young gentlemen, taken in front of a shack they shared in Scobey in 1915, includes Martin Manton, Frank Nye, George Crandell, Dick McConnen, Jack Conboy, Clint Richardson.



Interior of the Battleson and Co. Hardware in 1924. This was one of the old western hardwares where you could buy anything from a sewing needle to a threshing machine. Notice the buggy whips hanging near the skylight.

Art Hanson, second from left, and his brother, Adolph, behind the counter. Usually open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., the store sometimes operated 24 hours a day in the busy season.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



The late Henry Shipstead stands in front of a snowmobile used by the Battleson Co. from 1923 to 1926. Built in the Battleson shop by Dwight Swenson, the snowmobile used a Hall-Scott Airplane engine and propeller.

The buildings next to the Battleson Co. were the Leland Hotel, the Battleson warehouse, and C. P. Henry's Laundry, all later acquired by the Battleson Co. and all destroyed by fire in 1928. (See photo in 1936 of new structure built right after the fire). In the winter and spring of 1917 Battleson and Co. expanded into the automobile, hardware and farm machinery business along with the original machine shop. Also in 1917, Battleson and Co. signed their original Chevrolet contract with the Chevrolet Motor Co. This contract is still in force, and is one of the oldest in the United States. In the years of 1917 to 1920, Ernie Peterson was a partner with the original partners. Art Hanson, who started working with them in 1916, purchased Ernie Peterson's interest in 1920. After the death of E. W. Battleson in 1945, he purchased all of the stock of Battleson and Co. and took his son, Gordon, into the business. Today, Gordon operates the business.



Top picture is Selmer Nelson with his Rumley engine pulling six wagons of grain to Scobey in 1921.

Lower picture is Gust Jensen hauling flax for P. G. Peterson in 1921. Six teams are pulling three wagons.



This is the interior of the Peoples Meat Market in Scobey in 1922. There are 14 halves of beef hanging on the meat hooks. Bert Wenzil at the left, and O. L. Frank, owner, at the right. Early day threshing outfits who ran cook cars would buy a half a beef at a time.



Battleson and Co., in Nov., 1936 and the structure built right after the fire. From left to right, John Poyner, Alfred Getschel, Louis Lekvold, Frank Schindler, Willie Haagenso, Tillie Battleson, Irvin Davis, Stener Hanson, and owners Art Hanson and Ed Battleson.



The staff of the Reiner Bakery in the 1930's. Left to right are Jeannette Suchy, Ernie Halverson, Christina Suchy Veis, Roman Suchy, unknown, unknown, Aaron Grant and Margaretha and John Reiner. Originally the bakery was owned by John Fleming, then by the Hoffs. In 1925 it was purchased by John and Margaretha Reiner, and in 1945 it was purchased by Ernie Halverson. Reiner's Bakery in the '30's had a northeastern Montana bread route.

Margaretha and John Reiner homesteaded south of Scobey in 1916, but poor crops and increasing debts forced them to move to Scobey in 1920, where they worked in Burton's restaurant. By careful saving they managed to pay off their debts, and buy the bakery. Mrs. Reiner now lives in California.



The old Scobey high school and grade school buildings.

## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

Oil Co., Larsen Hotel, Libby Lumber, City Livery Barn, Bishop Lumber, Knapp and Crandall Store, Chapin & Erickson, Scobey Drug, Coughlin Garage, Lennon & Davis Elevator, Joe Thomas Blacksmith Shop, Brown Blacksmith Shop, Harry Smith Locality Office, John Gibney Pool Hall, Fleming Bakery. Dr. Needles was the doctor, and Paul Crum the attorney. P. B. Burke operated a newspaper called the Scobey Sentinel.

The coming of the first railroad train, on Thanksgiving Day, 1913, was the occasion of much celebration throughout Scobey, as well as other towns affected.

It was a cold and snowy day. The last rail was laid at noon by the large crew of Greek workmen. They were given their pay checks and were soon imbibing freely at the Smith and Boyd Saloons. One of the workmen was struck by a flying railroad spike and was taken to Dr. Needles for medical attention. Some of the others, hilariously drunk, began fighting with knives. Charlie Smith, one of the two owners of the saloon, was carrying two guns and threatening to run the whole lot out of the place.

The first depot agent in Scobey was Harry Hansen. He was succeeded by Fred Haun, who served for many years. Tom Kittcock was the first section foreman.

The late Peter Gritz of Scobey was the engineer on the first train into Scobey, and Frank P. Miller was the fireman on the first train.

Before the depot was built business was transacted at a portable depot. There were no warehouses for freight, and large merchandise shipments were left outside in the weather until they were picked up. Occasionally, when the agent went to get merchandise for a merchant it would not be there. The night covered up many irregularities in the new town.

Scobey was incorporated in 1916. Sid Bennett was the first mayor. Largely through his persuasion the city put in water, sewers, street lights, and sidewalks to prepare for the day when there would be an election to decide which town should have the new county seat.

When the election was held in 1920, Scobey defeated Madoc for the county seat by a vote of 964-358.

Until the railroad line was extended west to Opheim in 1925 Scobey was the wheat marketing center for a large area, and soon became the world's largest primary wheat market. In 1924 over 2,750,000 bushels of wheat were shipped from Scobey elevators. Hundreds of wagons, many of which had traveled 50 or more miles, stood for days waiting to be unloaded. Tickets were handed out to the farmers to record the order in which they had arrived.

Before the elevators were built competition was very keen among buyers, who would often meet the farmers two or three miles outside of town. The buyers possibly had a bottle of whiskey and a good sales talk. The grain would be purchased at the market price plus the freight charges. Among the early buyers were Cliff Soles, D. C. Knapp, Jack Conboy and Shorty Russell.



Fishbeck and Jarvis of the Glentana territory used this method of hauling their grain into Scobey when Scobey was the world's greatest primary wheat market in 1924. This is a Hart Parr engine pulling 7 wagons of grain.



The Marquis Flour Mill in Scobey, built in 1913 by H. H. Ames, father and Jesse Smith of Hutchinson, Minn. The mill shipped Miss Montana Flour by boat to Buffalo, N. Y., and on by train to New York City. It commanded a premium market.

The daily output of flour was 120 barrels, or 250 98-lb. bags. Early homesteaders would exchange three bushels of wheat for 100 lbs. of flour.

Hub Ames took over the mill in 1926.



A 1916 picture of the Scobey Motor and Machine Co., which was purchased by Battleson & Co. in the winter of 1915-16. The company consisted of E. W. Battleson, Ben Battleson and Dwight Swenson. It was operated as a machine shop in 1916, with Dwight Swenson, manager. Art Hanson, who now owns and operates the company with his son, Gordon, started with Battleson and Co. in the fall of 1916. The late Dwight Swenson is shown standing by a Maxwell auto.



First Ford garage in Scobey (1914) was owned by Joe Kavan and managed by Harry Shook. This scene shows the arrival of seven new Fords. Note that the First National Bank building is up, and across the street is the Pioneer Realty Company, which was replaced in a few years by the big Turk store, later Peterson-Battleson-Haagenson, now Getschel's Super Valu.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Scobey's first gun club, in 1923. Standing, left to right, Art Hansen, J. V. Bennett, Jim McIntire, Dwight Swensen, Harry Hansen, unknown, Bob Sandvick, unknown. Seated: Adolph Funk, Shorty Sickles, Orlo Woodan, F. A. Sunderhauf, unknown.



The 35th Anniversary Jubilee Committee: Gordon Marlenee, Kenneth Larsen, Don Ryder, R. V. Walker, Marvin Veis, Dick Coughlin Jr., Jimmy Buer Sr. is driving the stage coach.



Gorham Hotel, constructed in 1928, standing on the site previously occupied by the city hall, fire hall, and jail.

In February, 1944, a chain of events which started by accident at the Gorham Hotel had wide-spread repercussions.

A trucker, delivering oil to the hotel at 3 a.m., was told to go behind the hotel, where he would find a metal covering over the intake. He shoved his hose in the opening, made sure the pump was functioning, and then headed for an eating house.

Three hours later the hotel janitor, Pete Damkjer, went to the basement. The stairway was dark, and on the second step he felt a squish underfoot. One more step and he was standing in ten inches of cold, thick oil.

The tanker pump was just pumping the last dregs of 4500 gallons of black, sticky oil, through the opening where the coal man used to dump his loads.

Extra mattresses, paper cartons of bedding, boxes of frozen chickens that had just been received, liquor cartons containing hundreds of bottles of brandy, were all saturated.

The oil was within an inch of flowing into a small opening for examining the flames in the furnace front.

Dropper R. Gorham hooked a hoseline to a steam outlet of the furnace. The hot steam directed at the oil over the sewer outlet liquified it sufficiently to let it flow, slowly but steadily, on its way to the city cess pool a mile away, near the bank of the Poplar river. This process continued for several days.

Since the river was frozen, a large share of the oil remained in the big septic tank until the ice broke up and the water began to move. Residents downstream noticed the big globs of oil on the ice cakes and floating on the surface. It was mistaken for crude oil.

Some enterprising citizens of Poplar, along with some prosperous farmers, quickly formed a syndicate and began securing oil leases. Thousands of acres were leased at from ten cents to twenty-five cents per acre. (These leases were later sold at a good profit for cash and a one-percent royalty basis.)

In 1950 the Murphy Oil Company, after seismograph tests, spudded in a well north of Poplar and struck a 150-barrel per day flowing producer at 6,200 feet.



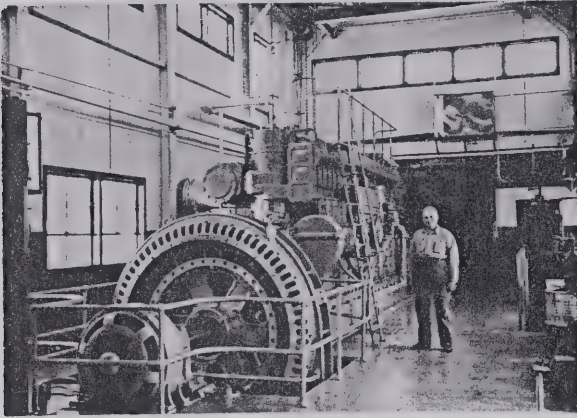
The winners of the 35th Anniversary beard growing contest: Harold Edlund, Schyler Hill, Fred Haun and Robert Rhodes, Sr.



These Indians are Lynn Hanrahan, Whitetail homesteader, leading the 35th anniversary parade, followed by Fred Leader with the Indian travois.



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Auxiliary MDU plant in Scobey built in 1948. Wm. Gallagher, engineer (pictured) died at work here several years later.

The days of the '20's were lively days in Scobey, as well as in the surrounding towns. Those were the days of prohibition, and lawmen had a busy time raiding "moonshine" joints, which popped up everywhere. Illegal liquor was stored under haystacks, in stove pipes, in secret cellars. Shootings sometimes occurred as a result of arguments over the price of liquor.

The hiring of a team of professional, but black-balled, big league players in the 1920's added its own chapter to Scobey's interesting history.

The '20's were a period of growth and vitality.

In the drought and depression years of the '30's, Scobey faced the same problems as other prairie towns. Many homesteaders, who had come with such bright hopes fifteen or twenty years before, were forced to leave the country. Those who remained had little money with which to buy groceries and clothing, and business men found it difficult to keep going.

Things picked up in the '40's, but war added its own measure of concern and heart-ache, as many local boys were placed on the the casualty lists. Also, the booming defense industries on the Pacific Coast drew many people away from the country.

In general, times have been more prosperous since World War II. But the trend to larger farms and more mechanized operations has meant fewer farmers, and a smaller market for some businesses. However, with more money, more farmers are able to buy new homes, town residences, and luxuries undreamed of in bygone days.

The late Charlie Tong, father of several sons and daughters, of whom Ed, Albert, Carl and Adolph still live here, is shown in an early day photo with a swan he shot accidentally on the Poplar river near the old Billy Kraft place. The swan measured seven feet eight inches from wing tip to wing tip.



A 1928 picture of the city park in Scobey, with the band stand.



Old settlers, who came from 1901 to 1905, rode in the parade. From left to right, standing, Jake Davis, Bill Manternach, Oscar Shipstead, Frank Hughes, Frank Manternach, Roger Von Kuster, George Marlenee, Oscar Manternach and Oscar Von Kuster. Seated, Mrs. Jake Davis, Mrs. Ellen Hamman, Mrs. Mac Drummond, Ethel Marlenee Linderman, Selma Fonk and Kate Von Kuster.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Baseball was a big thing in the 1920's, and so was the rivalry between Plentywood and Scobey.

Sparked by a rumor in 1925 that Plentywood had engaged John Donaldson, noted colored pitcher, to provide some real competition, the Scobey manager, H. J. Hansen, and other interested persons began to look around.

A group of 1919 Chicago White Sox, who had been barred for life from organized baseball, were discovered to be available. Swede Risberg, shortstop was signed up at \$600 a month plus expenses; and Happy Felsch, on the field one of the finest hitters and center fielders the Major Leagues ever saw; Honey Guyer, Johnny Meyers, Porky Dallas, George Eastman, Wally Hinden and others, who had played in the leagues, were signed.

With this set-up home games grossed as high as \$1,200. Scobey businessmen subscribed \$3,015 to start the team off. Of some 30 games played it lost one with Plentywood—when the roistering Scobey team took the field still groggy from dissipation of the evening before. This team barnstormed as far east as Minnesota and as far west as Havre, sweeping everything. They played one game at Moose Jaw in which every player pitched for awhile, and, for further diversion, no opponent was thrown out at first without at least two Scobey players handling the ball.

In one game against Plentywood it is said that Scobeyites came home with about \$6,500 of Plentywood money. Plentywood was then the headquarters for a group of gamblers and they went all out. Happy Felsch, who still holds some kind of record as an outfielder for the great 1919 White Sox, spelled the difference between defeat and victory for the Scobey Club.

Scobey businessmen were putting up \$4,300 per month to meet the team payroll and expenses, and they kept it up for three months. The Scobey team of 1925 made baseball history in northeastern Montana.

Scobey had about three years of this kind of high-priced baseball. Glorious as it was, it was soon found not to be worth the price in more ways than one. But it was a colorful period while it lasted.



When Gutherie Construction started west with the steel, telegraph poles were also set. This picture, taken in 1914, shows F. A. Sunderhauf, driver and owner of team, and from left to right, unknown, Carl Renner, Fred Bates, Ed Bulondie, (line man), unknown, Jack Harvey (line man).



Outlaw cave just across the line in Canada. The man in the picture is Ted Greedy.



A Fife Lake hunting party, in 1915. Left to right, Pete Larsen, Jim McIntyre, Matt Brady, Ambrose Chapin, hired cook, and J. R. McCurdy, now all deceased.



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This Plainsman baseball team took the Nemont League championship in 1949. Left to right, seated: Dallas Gaines, Indy Halvorson, Vern Veis, Don Brayko, Ken Larson, Harry Larson, Jack Reiner. Standing: Elmer Gilchrist, Harvey Eide, Jiggs Humbert, Al Schammel, Tom Wright, Don Christensen.



George Robinson and his daughter, Grace Holter, taken in 1947.

When George Robinson was 15 he tried to join the militia for the Spanish American War, first in his home town, and then by running away to St. Louis. He was unsuccessful, however, and was not able to fulfill his wanderlust until 1899, when he came to Montana.

He worked on the ranch owned by the well-known "Doc" Atkinson, south of Poplar, for three years. In those days, he said, there was no farming. They didn't even raise potatoes.

There were many cattle on the ranch, but the milk used came from cans.

Once, during his cowboy days, he and some other men had to cross the Missouri River to get the doctor. The ice was buckling at that time, and he went through in a thin spot. He clung to the rope of the sleigh, and the others got him out.

He worked for the Cosier and Shaw store in Poplar for awhile, and was there when the body of Frank Jones, the outlaw, was brought to Poplar. He was called on to identify him.

Like other old-timers, he knew the outlaws who roamed the country. He describes Dutch Henry as a "rough and tumble sort of man", but thought he was a pretty good fellow until it turned out that he was a go-between between decent society and outlaws.

One time he lost a saddle horse, and Frank Cusker lost two horses. A couple of days later Dutch Henry strolled into their place for supper.

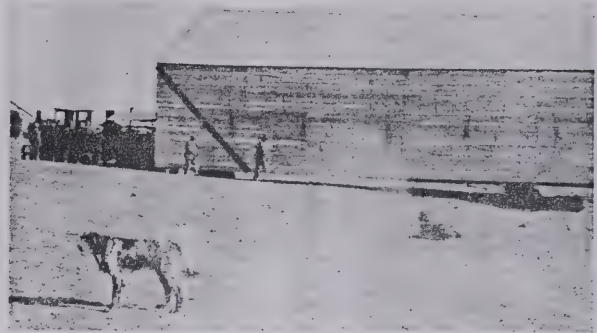
"Do you suppose your bunch took our horses?" they asked Henry. "They didn't take them, but if you think they did I'll give you three of our best horses.

"No, if you say they didn't we believe you", they told him. A short time afterwards Dutch Henry came again and said, "I have 20 horses at my place. You can come and take your pick." Mr. Robinson states that he saw a letter with Dutch Henry's signature after he had been reported killed in North Dakota. This letter came from South America.

Daniels and Timmons offered Mr. Robinson a job in their store in Old Scobey. However, he became ill and the doctor advised him to do outside work. Then he started farming.

He married Florence E. Spafford, a school teacher from Illinois, in 1904 at the home of Mansfield Daniels in Poplar. She taught the first school in old Plentywood. She also taught the Bonnes school in Old Scobey, and had taught the Indian school at Poplar. His wife's sister was married to Luke Sweetman, well-known Montana author.

Mrs. Robinson died several years ago, but George still lives in Scobey.



Pete Larsen moving the (Rex) Lyceum building from Old Scobey in 1913. His widow, Blanche, who survives, came in 1914. Her niece, Blanche, Kathryn and husband, Pete Dale, continue the H. P. Larsen Company.

Livery barns have been replaced by modern garages and the clang of the blacksmith hammer has been replaced by the sound of high-powered machinery. Grain now comes to the elevators in trucks instead of horse-drawn wagons.

Although its pleasant, quiet appearance may be deceptive to the casual visitor, Scobey has never been a "sleepy little town." There is an energy and a spirit in its people that keeps life as busy and as exciting here as in many a far larger city.

It is impossible to chronic the entire history of a town such as Scobey in the space we can allot to it here. But the following pictures and articles may give a glimpse of the past and the present of this Montana town.



The Theophile Rheault coal mine north of Scobey in 1925.



Carl Kilgore, with St. Philip's Catholic Church under construction in the background. The date is 1916.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

### CHARLES ROBERT ANDERSON SCOBEEY

After Mansfield Daniels and Jake Timmons built their store at the site of Old Scobey they went to Major Charles Robert Anderson Scobey, Indian Agent of the Ft. Peck Agency, and asked him to get a post office for them. In those days an Indian Agent did many of the things a senator would do today. They asked that the new post office be named Scobey.

Major Scobey's wife owned a 160-acre water rights claim at the location of Old Scobey, which she later sold to two men from Willmar, Minn. This claim was probably taken in her name



Major Scobey after whom the town was named. He was the last military man to be Ft. Peck Res. Indian Agent.

to protect the flow of water. The river water was used to irrigate the Agency gardens and there was the fear that someone might dam the creek and shut off the east fork entirely. The water right claim would assure that at least 50% of the water must be let through.

Major Scobey was graduated from Upper Iowa university in 1876. After graduation he was a railroad clerk for several years, and came to Montana in 1880. He worked on the range for a time. He was county superintendent of schools for Dawson county, and served in the 15th territorial legislature as representative from Dawson County. In 1887 he married Elizabeth Jane Strachen at Fort Buford. She was the first white child born at Fort Sill, Oklahoma territory. When her father, an army sergeant, was stationed at Fort Buford she and her mother had made the trip from Oklahoma by ox cart, as far as Camp Supply in Dakota territory, and from there by boat to Fort Buford.

In 1889 Major Scobey was commissioned as agent for all the Fort Peck Indians by President Benjamin Harrison. In 1898 he received the commission from President William McKinley. In 1902 Major Scobey was called to Washington, D.C., to receive his commission in person from President Theodore Roosevelt, a personal friend.

Major Scobey died at Morris, Minn., on Sept. 2, 1923. Mrs. Scobey died in October, 1961.

### SCOBEEY POST OFFICE

According to the available records, Mabel B. Daniels was the first Postmaster at Old Scobey. However, old timers say that the first post office was at the Woodley home.

Pat Burke was the first Postmaster in the new town of Scobey, originally known as East Scobey, in 1913. He held this position until 1921, when Sid Bennett became postmaster. After Mr. Bennett died in September, 1933, Albert W. Schammel became postmaster, and has held this office up to the present time.

The first mail contract was let to Dave Tingley and Al Tande, who were partners in the stage line between Poplar and Old Scobey at that time. This contract was let on August 26, 1909, and a copy of it is still on file in the post office. They were succeeded by Fatty Merrill, Andrew Upsal, Martin Mitchell, J. S. Robinson and George N. Robinson, up to the establishment

of the post office in the new town. James A. Wolfe served as contract mail carrier for over 30 years out of Scobey to West Fork, Carbert, Line Coulee, and north to the Custom Office.

During his many years as mail carrier Mr. Wolfe traveled with horses, snowmobiles, and various types of automobiles. In the early days he had a small stove in his sleigh during the winter months to protect him from freezing on his long journey with the mail. Many times he walked all day to keep warm, and the horses bits would sometimes be frozen to their mouths. In a blizzard in 1929 the trip from West Fork to Scobey took him 16 hours. It was his custom to change teams at the Bill Gilchrist place.

In addition to handling the mail Mr. Wolfe, like other rural mail carriers of those days, was often asked to buy and deliver groceries and other needed items for his mail route patrons.

The present post office personnel consists of Albert W. Schammel, who will have served in the post office for 30 years on Sept. 1, Bob Tande, who has been clerk for 22 years, Lucille Helton, clerk for 12 years, and Kenneth Lekvold, clerk for five years.

Arthur Aldrich has been the Star Route carrier for over two years.

The post office was originally located in the old outlet store building near the present bank building. It was moved to the present Service Drug building, and in 1928 was moved to the Gorham Hotel. In 1940 it was moved to the building where the Leader office is now, and from there it was moved to the present Bernard Building on June 29, 1955.

### ROSELAND PARK

Roseland Park, located in the center of the west side of Scobey, was started in 1914. It still wasn't much to speak of in 1917 when Mrs. Irene Heppner first came to Scobey with her mother. They came to join her father, Daniel Scott, who had written that he lived one block from the park. They searched in vain for the park, but finally found Mr. Scott's house. He explained that for the present time it was just plowed up ground. Sid Bennet contributed the land for the park area. He also was responsible for the water works of Scobey and the start of the fair grounds.

Daniel Scott became park custodian in 1917, and also cared for the cemetery and dump grounds. For two years potatoes were planted in the plowed area of the park to ready it for planting. Then shrubs, trees and a row of rose bushes extending east to west where the present path is today. Residents living near the park recall the beauty of the pink and red roses in bloom. However the rose bushes soon died out and were never replaced. In 1919 a bandstand was built and local bands offered weekly concerts to the public.

A wading pool was constructed in 1952. In August, 1954, a \$50,000 swimming pool, the first steel tank type pool in this part of the country, was opened. The water is kept at a pleasant temperature by a heating system.

Playground equipment, picnic tables, and well-kept grass and trees also help to make the park a popular place throughout the summer months.

### HOSPITALS

Daniels Memorial Hospital, located just off Main Street in Scobey is the culmination of the hopes and efforts of many long-time residents of the community. Its beginnings back in 1944 were due to the endeavors of the Scobey Lions Club, which directed its efforts toward a goal of \$275,000.00. The hospital became a reality in 1952, after numerous fund-raising drives, personal donations and group endeavors were supplemented by a government grant.

Today it boasts the facilities of a fully-equipped operating room with surgical and anesthesia equipment, a complete emergency room, modern delivery room, X-Ray and medical laboratory, special sterilizing room for all equipment and fully equipped laundry and kitchen.

This is a far cry from the not so modern early hospitals of the county. One of the first such hospitals was run by Mrs. Stella Redfield Harris, for eight patients. Mrs. Harris, a regis-

## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

tered nurse, had the aid of such fine doctors as Dr. Collinson of Scobey and Dr. DeWayne of Wolf Point, who was quite active during the flu epidemic of the First World War. The Harris Hospital was located in the southeast part of town.

The Dahlquist Hospital, located in the northeast part of Scobey, was run by Mr. Dahlquist. Dr. Deifenbaker had patients here.

The Aasness Hospital, located just north of the Lutheran Church was managed by Mrs. Aasness and run primarily as a maternity home. Another maternity home was run by Mrs. Humbert and known as the Humbert Hospital.

In 1936 the Clinic, owned by Dr. Collinson moved from the Harris Hotel, where it had been located for five years, to the Arlington Hotel building. Dr. Collinson started his clinic with Miss White as first R.N. After she left his sister-in-law, Mrs. Martha Collinson, ran it until Mrs. Julia Rener Paulson came in 1933. She managed it until it closed as a home for the aged in 1957, the year Dr. Collinson died. Among the doctors practicing there were Dr. Furnish, Dr. Everet Johns, Dr. Morrow, and Dr. McDade. Dr. Collinson was aided in surgery by Drs. Jones and Knapp from Wolf Point.

Located on the Main Street of Scobey is the Olson Hospital, new an old folks home, but formerly an aptly-managed hospital. Serving here were doctors T. M. Morrow, D. B. Healy from Flaxville, and in later years, Dr. Krogstad. It was owned and managed by Mrs. Ester Olson Lynene from April of 1935 to April of 1952. Dr. Benson of Plentywood served here and Dr. Knapp of Wolf Point aided in surgical cases.

Today the new hospital has a full staff of nurses and a Superintendent and two doctors serve, Dr. M. D. Fitz and Dr. C. H. Norman. Early day doctors who served this area without benefit of hospitals included Dr. Needles and Dr. Tucker.

### BEFORE THE HOSPITALS

In the early days of this area the entire territory north of the Poplar River into Canada, east past the North Dakota line, and west "as far as he was needed", was served by Dr. C. A. Atkinson, better known as "Doc" Atkinson. He was the agency doctor in Poplar, and was called Pazuta Wasicun (medicine white man) by his Indian patients. His wife was called Pazuta Winyan. He faced many hazards in his calling, not the least of which were occasional trips across the Missouri River during the treacherous period of the spring break-up.

During the early homestead years there were occasionally doctors among the homesteaders.

Midwives and other women skilled in the healing arts, as well as trained nurses who had turned to homesteading, took care of the medical needs of the community when doctors were unobtainable.

Most of them relied on simple home remedies, which were sometimes surprisingly effective. One of these was a tea made of pumpkin seeds boiled in water.

No records exist to name these often-heroic women, but a few whose names have been mentioned by contributors to this book are Mrs. Louisa Watts, Effie Duck, Miss Page, Mrs. Henry Herried.

Sometimes they risked contracting dangerous diseases by caring for their patients, and also bore the additional risk of bringing these diseases home to their own families.

During the flu epidemic of 1918 many lives were saved by these women, who assisted the over-worked doctors in caring for the great number of patients.

### SCOBEY CEMETERY

The Scobey cemetery, which was started on July 4, 1914, is said to have been the result of a shooting on Main Street.

Before that time, when there were no doctors or graveyards, people were buried on the prairie, and some homesteaders had their own private burial places. Most of the graves were moved to Scobey when the cemetery was established.

In recent years there has been an addition that doubled the size, and a cemetery association was formed at that time.

During the flu epidemic in 1918 there were so many deaths that it was necessary to dig graves both night and day.

One night as Hans Jorgensen and his helper, Big John Nuhring, were deep in the ground at the cemetery working on a

grave they heard a four-horse team coming with a load of grain from the west. Horses and driver were both half asleep, plodding along slowly.

Big John, who was over six feet tall and who happened to be wearing a white shirt, was bent over digging. He straightened up, stuck his head out of the grave, and hollered, "Hey, what time is it?"

The driver took one startled look, grabbed his whip and lashed the horses, presumably all the rest of the way into Scobey. At any rate, they disappeared down the road on the run, trace chains clanking and the driver frantically yelling, "Git up! Git up!"

Back at the cemetery Big John turned to Hans and asked in bewilderment, "What's the matter with him?"

—Compiled by Mrs. Farver.

### ST. PHILLIP'S CHURCH

The spiritual needs of the Catholics of the Scobey community were first administered by Father Delucies, who traveled through this vicinity twice in 1910, and by Father Hennessy, who drove a team of horses from Plentywood.

In 1911 Father Alphonse Peche, a Benedictine priest stationed at Culbertson, held services once a month during the summer and every three months during the winter. Mass was offered at the homes of Joe Paradis and Louis LaPierre, and often at the Lyceum Theater. Confessions were heard behind a piano or behind a cheesecloth hung across a corner of the room.

From 1915 to 1918 Scobey was served by Father Hennessy from Plentywood. It was during his ministrations, and through the generosity of the Scobey parishioners, together with a gift of \$200 from the Extension Society, that work was begun on the church. The main altar was donated by Louis LaPierre, carpets by Ed LaPierre, stations by John Gibney and two other parishioners, and the side altar and statues by R. J. Coughlin, Sr.

The 34' by 64' building was begun in October, 1915, and completed in December, 1916. In 1917 the church was dedicated to the patronage of St. Philip Bonitas, and the following year Father Gerald Dillon was appointed as first resident priest. He also attended to the outlying missions of Glentana, Peerless, Whitetail and Flaxville.

The P. E. Burke home was purchased as a rectory.

On August 16, 1918, the Rev. P. J. Conaty was appointed pastor of St. Philip's Church. During his service, in 1931, the Parish Councils of Men and Women, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and the CYC were organized. In that year, also, the church was enlarged and a parish hall built in the basement.

Father Conaty served until his death in 1937. He was laid to rest in the Scobey Cemetery following a Solemn Pontifical high mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara. Thirty or more priests were in attendance.

He was succeeded by Rev. H. B. Altmann of Laurel on August 26, 1937. Rev. J. L. McCarthy served the parish as interim priest for about six months. In 1942 the mission of Peerless was attached to Glentana.

The parish mortgage was burned at a parish dinner on Feb. 5, 1942, highlighted by an address of the Most Rev. W. J. Condon.



St. Philip's Catholic Church.



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The interior of the church was renovated in 1944. In 1947 Father Altmann was transferred to St. Raphaels in Glasgow, and on March 4 Father Anthony Sorger was installed as St. Philip's new pastor.

During Father Sorger's service the rectory was enlarged and remodeled. The Knights of Columbus were organized under the Plentywood Council.

On May 23, 1954, the parish witnessed the first Solemn Mass and High Mass of Reverend Raymond Lapke, at St. Louis church in Flaxville. (see Flaxville section.)

Rev. Sorger served until his transfer to Roundup in 1961. He was succeeded by Rev. Martin Whalen from Fort Benton. Rev. Whalen celebrated his 25th Jubilee this year in May.

### SCOBEY ALTAR SOCIETY

The Scobey Altar Society originated in the home of Mrs. P. B. Murphy, where the Wolfe Agency is now located. The first scheduled meeting took place in the home of Mrs. Charles Smith in October, 1914.

The dances, suppers and bazaars put on by the church ladies in the early days of Scobey are still remembered. Dances and suppers were held in the Lyceum Theater, where the seats could be moved and placed along the walls. The ladies brought their own kerosene stoves and tables and hauled water from the school. They used their own silverware and dishes, marking the silver with colored string. One such turkey supper and dance during World War I brought in \$825. Supper was 50 cents, and dancing was 75 cents a couple. Nearly \$1,000 was realized from meals served from 11 a. m. to 8 p. m.

The ladies held bazaars at the Odd Fellows Hall located across from Battlesons. Handmade quilts and tablecloths were raffled and suppers served.

Through the years the Altar Society has continued to aid and support the church.

### SCOBEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Scobey Lutheran Church, then known as the Middle Fork Lutheran Church, was organized by four Lutheran families



Scobey Lutheran Church.

on Aug. 6, 1911, with the help of Pastor S. J. Fretheim, who was then serving the Plentywood Lutheran Parish.

The meeting was held at a small school house on the Middle Fork of the Poplar river. Charter members were the John Bystrom family, the Theodore Colby family, the Theodore Evenskaas family, and the H. J. Christianson family.

Pastor Fretheim, who served the congregation between 1911 and 1918, drove to his many parishes from Plentywood in a black buggy drawn by two black horses named Kate and Spike. Later he had a new Hupmobile.

Services were conducted once a month, alternately in English and Norwegian. Sunday School was held on the same day, often after a picnic lunch.

After Scobey moved to its new location in 1913, the Lutheran congregation also began holding services in Scobey. In the fall of 1914 a new church building was completed.

The official laying of the cornerstone was held on Friday, Aug. 20, 1915. In the summer of 1916 the first vacation bible school was held with 15 children enrolled. It has been held almost every year since that time.

Pastor Fretheim gave his farewell service in Scobey on Sunday, July 28, 1918. His successor, Pastor L. P. Kjer, Scobey Lutheran's first resident, was installed the following Sunday.

In 1925 the church bell was purchased and installed by the Aid.

During the war years the lower half of the guild room was constructed, the chancel was redecorated, and celotex and wainscoating added. A new pulpit was also purchased. A rededication service was held on Nov. 1, 1942.

In 1948 the basement was remodeled and panelled with a wainscoating of knotty pine. The guild room was enlarged. A new 10-burner gas stove and hot water heater was installed in the kitchen.

A new annex was built, providing office space, a conference room and seven new Sunday School rooms. A dedication service for the Sunday School addition and a rededication of the church was held on June 15, 1952 at the morning service. In the afternoon of the same day the ordination service for Leslie Vanderpan was held.

In 1953 the parish, which had included Pleasant Prairie, the Zion Lutheran Church and Flaxville, was split, and those three churches formed another parish. Peerless was then accepted as part of the Scobey parish.

On January 1, 1961, Scobey Lutheran Church, which had been a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, officially became part of the American Lutheran Church after a merger that combined the Evangelical, the American and the United Evangelical Lutheran churches.

A balcony choir loft was built in the back of the church in January, 1963.

In July, 1961, the church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. At that time the church had a baptized membership of 1,156 and a confirmed membership of 681.

### AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The Lutheran Ladies Aid, first known as the Middle Fork Ladies Aid, was organized Aug. 6, 1911, the same day that the Lutheran Church was organized. It consisted of four women, Mrs. Theodore Colby, who was elected president; Mrs. Theodore Evenskaas, vice president; Mrs. John Bystrom, secretary; Mrs. Harris Christianson, treasurer.

In November, 1913, with ten members, the Aid held its first bazaar and dinner in the newly built school house in the new town of Scobey.

Money from the Aid treasury helped build the new church in Scobey, and money earned from an ice cream social went toward the purchase of the new altar.

At a special meeting on Oct. 15, 1924, the Aid members decided to join the Women's Missionary Federation.

Most of the fixtures of the new church were paid for by the Aid. From 1931 to 1936 the Aid paid the minister's salary every other month.

In May, 1939, with 72 members, it became officially known as the Womens Missionary Federation and was called the Scobey WMF.

In 1940 the WMF donated \$500 toward a new church addition and installed new cabinets and light fixtures. The members were divided into circles.

In 1941 a history book was started. Mrs. Soren Veis created a beautiful altar cloth.

One of the big money-making projects for the WMF over the first years was an annual lutefisk supper. This was discontinued in 1959, with a free will offering taking its place.

In 1960 when the church became part of the American Lutheran Church the WMF became the Scobey American Lutheran Church Women. All women of the church automatically became members.

### ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

On the evening of November 1, All Saints Day, in 1919, Rev. L. J. Christler, rector of the Episcopal Church of Havre, assisted by Mrs. T. W. Collinson, organized the Episcopalians of Scobey and vicinity into what is now known as All Saints Mission.

Services were held during the next two years in homes and rented halls. In 1922, thanks to the generosity of the members and the leadership of Bishop H. H. Fox of Billings, All Saints

## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



All Saint's Episcopal Church.

chapel was built and completed. Many of the furnishings of this rustic little chapel were made and donated by the members—the altar candlesticks of brass by Victor Hillstrom; the prayer book racks by Steven Crum. The altar was given by the members of the Church School; the brass altar cross by Atty George Springer, and the baptismal font by Mrs. M. Lile in memory of her daughter.

The first baptisms, by S. D. Hooker, took place on February 11, 1921, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. B. Davis. Those baptized at the time were Joan Winnifred Davis, John William Shook, and Kathryn Jane King.

The first confirmation class, consisted of Enid Margaret Skeen, Helen Isabelle Skeen, Samuel Smith and Frank Smith. They were confirmed on March 28, 1922, by Bishop H. H. Fox.

The first burial from the church was conducted by S. D. Hooker, rector, on August 17, 1923, for Gwynethea Lee Lile, age 19, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Lile.

The first marriage, conducted by T. Malcolm Jones, rector, was on November 28, 1930, when Edwin David Carpenter and Dorothy Susan Sunderland, both of Opheim, were united.

All Saints Guild was organized in 1920, with Mrs. Jennie B. Davis as president; Mrs. Estelle Bennett, vice president; Mrs. Winnifred Haun, secretary; and Mrs. Helen Shook, treasurer. The first-elected Vestrymen were George Case, Tom Smith, Atty. Paul Crum and Atty. George Cudahy.

The following clergymen have been in charge of the Mission: L. J. Christler, S. D. Hooker, A. W. Frost, T. Malcolm Jones, H. P. Perkins, Stanley Welsh, Frank Squires, Joseph Turnbull, Eric Wright, Arthur Lord, Roy Oseison, Robert H. Owen, Gray Towler (Lay Vicar), Norval Curry and C. J. M. Bull.

### METHODIST CHURCH OF SCOBELY

The Methodist Church of Scobely had its beginning in 1910, in a school house two and a half miles northwest of the present town of Scobely, on unsurveyed land near the Frank Hughes, Sr., homestead.



Scobely Methodist Church. It was dedicated Thanksgiving Day, 1913.

Mrs. Frank Hughes had organized a Sunday school in 1909 for the few families then living in the community. The Sunday School nurtured by Mrs. Hughes was re-organized on May 1, 1910, with a membership of about 50. It was known as the Middle Fork Union Sunday School. Mrs. S. W. Watts was superintendent. Teachers were Roy Herd, Mrs. Frank Hughes, Sr., Mrs. S. W. Watts and Miss Nora Louise Watts (now Mrs. Orr Burgett).

The next spring Orr Burgett, a young teacher from Indiana, was superintendent.

Attendance increased, and services following Sunday School were conducted by ministers of various denominations. One of these was a Methodist minister, the Rev. W. D. Price, who traveled over 40 miles by team and buggy to the services from his homestead near Redstone.

In the spring of 1912 the District Superintendent, O. A. White, organized the church with a membership of 20. Among the names of the early members were the Hughes, Watts, Fergusons, Burgetts, Herds, Pittingers, Grants, Cluchays and Hardenbergs.

The first resident pastor was Rev. Reginald Heber Stone, who arrived in 1913 with his wife and three-year-old daughter. Rev. Stone was furnished with a saddle horse, on which he rode hundreds of miles to establish preaching points and to give spiritual comfort to his flock. He borrowed a team and wagon and hauled most of the lumber to build the parsonage from Poplar. It was ready for his family on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25, 1913.

A community Thanksgiving dinner was enjoyed at the new Hughes school house in 1913. Afterwards services were conducted by Rev. Stone, assisted by District Superintendent Brother Van Orsdel.

That evening the first Methodist services were held in the new town's first little school house while most of the town was celebrating the arrival of the Great Northern Railroad in true frontier style.

The pastor's son, Heber Pearce Stone, was the first white child born in the new town, Feb. 1914.

With money from the Board of Missions and contributions by members, and much donated labor, the church with full basement was completed and dedicated Aug. 14 and 15, with special services by Bishop Luccok. It was known as the Mac K. Fox Memorial Methodist Church, because of a \$250 memorial gift from Mr. and Mrs. George W. Betts of Philadelphia in memory of their daughter. The name later became the First Methodist Church of Scobely.

First trustees of the church were Frank Hughes, Sr., W. K. Ferguson and L. D. Bishop. The pastor's salary was \$400 a year.

Church and Sunday School services were established by Rev. Stone in Whitetail, Flaxville, Madoc, Julian, Pleasant Valley, Line Coulee, Parkhurst, West Fork, Peerless, Butte Valley and other communities.

Rev. Stone was transferred to Glasgow in 1916. Rev. R. T. Cookingham served until 1919.

During the winter of 1922-23 the church was badly damaged by fire and services were held in the Rex theater until repairs were completed.

Under the support of the church, and with the cooperation of public-spirited individuals and business concerns, a community hall adjoining the church was built in 1924. It was dedicated on Oct. 26, 1924, by Bishop H. L. Smith, and is still in use.

In 1941 an extensive renovating program was begun. Stained glass windows were installed, the metal walls and ceiling were replaced with modern wallboard, and the arched and recessed altar was built at this time. In the 1950's the church and hall were painted and re-shingled. The parsonage was remodeled and an adjoining garage built. Sunday School rooms were added in the church basement.

The Rev. Roger Green is the present pastor of the church.

### METHODIST AID HISTORY

The Methodist Ladies Aid began to hold meetings in 1914. The meetings were held in private homes, some of which were in the backs of stores along Main Street. Sometimes the meetings were held out of doors. Babies and small children attended



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

with their mothers, and the size of the crowd could be guessed by the number of baby carriages parked in front of the meeting place.

In 1940 the Ladies Aid was revamped from the previous loosely knit organization to a well-planned group of circles. Since then it has been called the Womens Society of Christian Service, or WSCS.

### FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

In 1923 Rev. D. R. Miller of Noonan, N. D., came to Scobey to begin what is now known as the Full Gospel Church. The first services were conducted in the old Legion Hall.

About a year after Rev. Miller came he was instrumental in purchasing a rural schoolhouse (originally the Hughes school), which was moved into town for use as a church.

In the fall of 1947 a full basement was constructed for additional Sunday School facilities, and the church was moved to its corner location.

An addition to the front of the church was completed in the early '50's.

This church was the first Assembly of God church in the State of Montana.

Services are held here regularly, and there is a ladies' Missionary Council and a Young People's group associated with the church.

### SCOBEY SCHOOLS

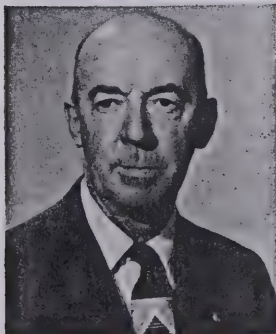
A school election in 1913 put Frank Hughes, Sr., George Robinson, Sid Bennett and Rev. Stone on the first Scobey school board. The first school term was conducted in a one-room shack with Miss Stange as teacher.

In 1914 a new \$14,000 schoolhouse was constructed and the faculty was increased to five members. Clifford Knapp was the first Scobey high school graduate, in 1917.

A new school was built in 1931 at an estimated cost of \$80,000. The gym was completed in 1938 at a cost of \$30,000.



Full Gospel Church.



Earl Burgett, first superintendent of Scobey schools, from 1916 to 1918, a brother of Orr Burgett, pioneer of this community, still on his farm.

A new, modern grade school was built in 1956.

The school now has a faculty of 30 teachers, with 17 in the elementary and 13 in the high school. A hot lunch program serves students. Home economics, band, agriculture, shop, a foreign language and commercial training, are a few of the subjects that are available in addition to the three R's. The school keeps up-to-date on the latest practical teaching aids, with motion pictures and film strips and other supplementary devices being used to aid the instructors.

Six school buses are operated by the district, this year they were equipped with two-way radios.

Scobey students have done well in all fields of scholastic and artistic endeavor, bringing many honors to the school.

The school has also turned out several outstanding football and basketball teams.

Scobey school superintendents, starting with Earl Burgett, have included Mattie Olson, John Q. Zuck, John Miner, Samuel Smith, Henry Bruehl, William MacDougal, Elmer Skeie, J. E. Danielson, George Hayes and Kedric Flint.

The school has a chapter of Future Farmers of America and Future Homemakers of America. Both of these groups have won many honors and prizes for their outstanding achievements.

A Parent Teacher Association and a Music Parents Association have also been organized in recent years.



Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Scobey high school gym in the spring of 1938. Standing left to right, M. J. Sorte, Rev. Ranheim, Bill Stephens, R. Greengard, unidentified, Leo Lattin, Glenn Hansen, Larry Bowler, C. Lindquist, Pat Murphy, Supt. Skjje. The Scobey band is seated.



Divisional basketball champions from Scobey high school in 1948. Seated, left to right: Buddy Faanes, Richard Roland, Chuck Kittock, Harvey Eide, Don Christensen. Standing: Lee Von Kuster, Mgr., Ronnie Fjeld, Jim Sorte, Ramon Trower, Don Brayko, Clay Gilchrist, M. G. Butter, coach.

## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

### SCOBEY BOY SCOUTS

First organized in 1918 by Mrs. D. C. Knapp and Mrs. T. W. Collinson, the Scobey Boy Scout troops were the first in north-eastern Montana.

Several troops were started, usually with a minister or a member of the U. S. Customs or Immigration patrol serving as leader. These men were often transferred to other places, and the local scout movement suffered from lack of leadership.

In 1936 Troop 98 was sponsored by the Scobey Lions Club under the leadership of R. V. Walker. This troop, one of the most outstanding in the country, gained national and international recognition for its outstanding accomplishments and membership. A Scobey history book published by the group in 1936 has provided valuable information as a basis for subsequent histories.

Membership of Troop 98 was at one time 67. A standard troop should be 32 boys.

R. V. Walker, who was Scoutmaster, was also Scoutmaster of Troop 26 at the First National Boy Scout Jamboree at Washington, D.C., in 1937. He was accompanied on this trip by Harlan Johnson, Vernon Vanderpan, Robert Brunet and Rudolph Leer, Jr.

In less than four and a half years, under Mr. Walker's leadership, Scobey had 13 Eagle Scouts. Harlan Johnson was the first to attain that rank, and Ormand Paus, Jr., was the youngest scout ever to attain that rank at that time.

Scouts Carol Erickson, Ormand Paus, Jr., and Robert Lee received Merits of Recognition from the National Court of Honor for saving the lives of others.

Edmond Karlsrud was chosen the American Boy Scout of the year in 1944 by the National Veterans of Foreign Wars, for saving Lowell Burgett from drowning. He received a Gold Medal and a \$500 scholarship.

Lyle Gustitus, a life Scout, was chosen to represent North-eastern Montana at the Wilderness Canoe Trails trip in Minnesota in 1948. He was the first and only Scobey Scout to make this trip.

One hundred and ten members of Scout Troop 98 served in World War II. Four lost their lives. They were Ormand Paus, Jr., Wyman Jones, LeRoy Bystrom and Lloyd Battleson.

R. V. Walker, who served as vice president of the Great Plains Area Boy Scout Council, was awarded the Silver Beaver Award for Distinguished Service to Boyhood in 1947.

Later Scout leaders were Red Schenbley, Vic Clark, Larry Fjeld, Adrian Waller, Chester Jensen, Gene Shepherd, Dale Smith, Reid Grayson, John Reynolds, George Peck and Claude Hartgrove.

In 1950 Scoutmaster Chester C. Jensen, accompanied by Scouts Harold Girard, Terry McIntyre, Bryce Johnson, Lyle Gustitus, Clifford Hegfeldt, Kenneth Tonjum and Jim Quackenbush, attended the second National Boy Scout Jamboree at Valley Forge.

At the present time troop 98 is known as troop 298, and has 19 Scouts under the leadership of Claude Hartgrove. It is sponsored by the Lutheran Brotherhood. Ronnie Blomquist, George and Randy Peck are members of the Arrow, National Camping Fraternity. Hal Halverson is the latest Scobey Boy Scout to receive his Eagle badge.

The Cub Scout program was also organized by R. V. Walker in 1938, with the assistance of Lloyd Larsen and Charles Daniels. Later Cub leaders were Adrian Waller, Dale Manternach, Ober Spear, and Erwin Nelson. The present organization has 46 active members under the leadership of Joe Dickson.

### GIRL SCOUTS OF SCOBEY

The Scobey Girl Scouts were organized in October, 1924, at the home of Mrs. J. Seger. She was elected captain and Mrs. F. C. Bydeley was elected First Lieutenant.

The original Troop II, for the 30 younger girls made camping trips to such places as Old Scobey, Davis Beach, Sidney, and Fife Lake and Lebrét in Canada. Cooking, sewing and first aid work were the main activities. For Thanksgiving and Christmas the girls made up baskets for the needy people of the community.

In 1935 Wietske Bydeley received the Golden Eaglet award, which was then the highest Girl Scout rank.

The Great Northern Railway Company gave the Scobey Girl Scouts a freight car in the early 1940's, to be used as a club house. This was later sold to the Golf Course.

In 1940 the girls made a camping trip to the Black Hills in South Dakota.



Troop 98, Scobey, Montana, 1937. Part of 67 member troop—Back row left to right: Stanley Conroy, Vernon Vanderpan, Dennis Yarmey, Willard Halyk, Wyman Jones, Andy Hertoghue, Kenneth Thomas, James Shipstead, Ray Helton, Harlan Cheneweth, Harlan Johnson, Milton Shipstead. Second row, left to right: Gordon Hansen, Donald Gilmore, Donald Mahler, Paul Darchuk, Haydn Thomas, Jr., Donovan Working, Earl Turner, Norman Harris, Barry Brunet, Norman Olson, Dale Smith, Lloyd Battleson, Jack Ethier, Ralph Kestin. Third row, left to right: LeRoy Bystrom, Clifford Brasen, Ben Shennum, Bobby Brunet, Ellsworth Skeie, Gerald Anderson, Lloyd Kestin, Vernon Hansen, Andy Beeks, Earl Sorsdahl, Billy Conroy, Kenny Working, Leslie Vanderpan, Stephen Tkachyk. Front row, left to right: Billy Rutherford, Ormand Paus, Jr., Boyd Tymofichuk, Dale Manternach, Leo Brown, Bernard Eithier, Willis Jensen, Ervin Nelson, Harry Olson, Charles Anderson, Harry Shennum, George Gile and Merle King.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

During the war years it was impossible to get new leaders, and girl scouting was suspended until the spring of 1945, when it was resumed under the leadership of Mrs. Mildred Poyner, with the assistance of Mrs. Bennie Dahl. The American Legion Auxiliary became the sponsors of the Scobey Girl Scouts, and has continued to sponsor the organization ever since.

Colleen Christensen and Gayle Brenden earned their curved bars in 1952. This is the highest award that can now be obtained in Girl Scouting. This award was also received by Judy Paus, Lorraine Haugerud and Mary Ann Hellickson in 1956.

The Brush Lake Bible Camp was designated as Girl Scout Camp in 1960.

The annual Brownie Tea and Girl Scout Banquet, with the Court of Awards, are the hi-lites of the year for the Girl Scouts.

In June, 1962, the Treasure State Girl Scout Council, which covers an area from Lewistown east to North Dakota, was formed. All municipal and Lone Troop Councils were dissolved in favor of the Larger Area Council.

Before relinquishing their funds to the Area Council the Scobey Girl Scouts secured an equipped canoe for the Girl Scout Camp at Brush Lake.

Scobey is represented in the Area Council by Mrs. Jack Sprague, who is on the Area Camp Committee, and Mrs. Stanley Knudson, who is one of the three training instructors. Mrs. Emil Jackson is the neighborhood chairman for Daniels and Sheridan counties.

### SCOBEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

The first method of fire-fighting in the new town of Scobey in 1913 was the Bucket Brigade. In 1914 the Scobey Volunteer Fire Dept. was organized with Bob Little as fire chief. Members were Irving Davis, Louis Ferestad, Selmer Nelson, George Ruth, Thomas Thompson and Lester Shook.

In 1929 a new fire truck was purchased. At that time the firemen were paid one dollar for each call. They still are. Modernization last year resulted in a new lower fire insurance rate for Scobey.

### SCOBEY LIONS CLUB

The Scobey Lions Club was organized and received its Charter on May 28, 1936. First officers were R. Leer, president; Carl Lindquist, first vice president; Elmer Skeie, second vice president; Burley Bowler, O. L. Frank and Frank Christensen, directors; H. L. Hitsman, secretary-treasurer; Otto R. King, lion tamer; and J. F. Haun, tail twister.

Charter members were R. Leer, H. L. Hitsman, Carl Lindquist, Elmer Skeie, Otto R. King, J. F. Haun, F. H. Christensen, H. J. Hansen, E. T. Peterson, Burley Bowler, Otto L. Frank, John Reiner, Dr. T. M. Morrow, E. H. Olsen, T. Lundevall, H. E. Nustad, E. W. Battleson, A. W. Schammel, George L. Hart, O. W. Paus, W. P. McDaniel, S. J. Sleight, W. T. Stephens, R. V. Walker, C. T. Swenson, R. H. Greengard, A. R. Hanson.

Major projects of the Lions Club over the years have been the modern hospital, swimming pool, and they spearheaded the formation of the Homesteaders Golden Jubilee Association.

### JAYCEES

The Scobey Junior Chamber of Commerce was first organized on Feb. 7, 1947. The Plentywood Jaycees sponsored the club, and R. V. Walker was chairman. Officers were R. J. Coughlin, president; Kenneth Larsen, vice president; J. E. Carney, treasurer; Marvin Veis, secretary. Frances Brasen, Don Ryder and R. V. Walker were directors.

The organization received its charter on April 7, 1949, at a banquet and dance at the Catholic Hall.

This group of Jaycees was active in putting up street signs, numbering houses in Scobey, and other civic activities.

The Jaycees put on a benefit minstrel show for the Daniels Memorial Hospital, and sponsored and organized the celebration for Scobey's 35th anniversary.

When the Korean War broke out the club disbanded as many of its members were called to active duty.

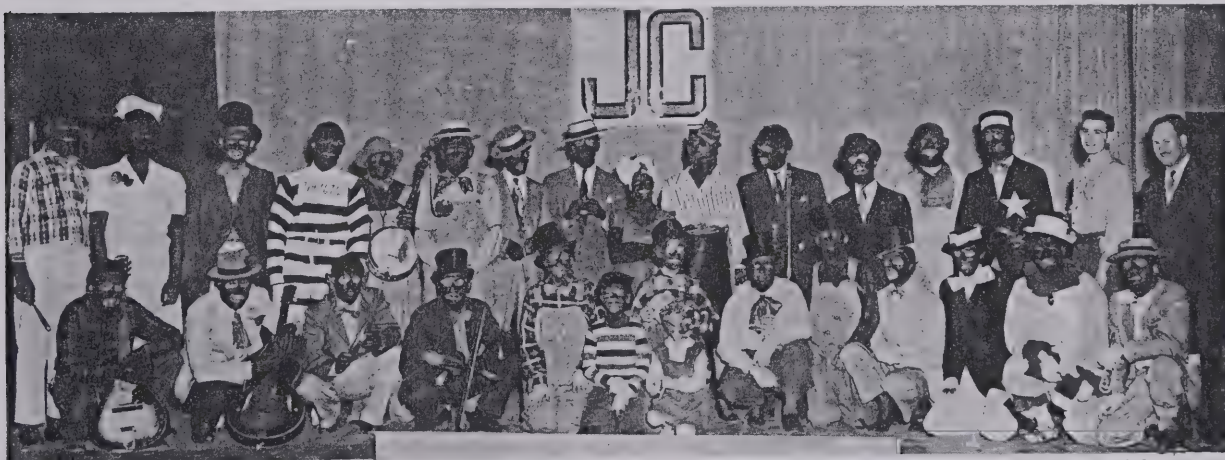
The Jaycees were re-chartered on May 1, 1962, with 26 men between the ages of 21 and 36 on the rolls. First officers were Ronald Audet, president; Edgar Richardson, first vice president; Gaylord Ulstad, second vice president; Tom Halvorson, treasurer; Warner Harrison, secretary; Rex Ferguson, Kenneth Lekvold and Gerald Wolfard, directors.

During the summer of 1962 the Jaycees constructed boat docks, fences, picnic tables, and other buildings at Killenbeck Lake. They also organized a Fourth of July Celebration, which was sponsored by the Scobey business men. The day included street events, stunt paratroopers, and a gala fireworks display.

Last fall and winter an extensive community survey was conducted. This will influence further club projects.

On national and local holidays the Jaycees post over 70 flags on Scobey streets.

Other activities of the group include a public speaking instruction program for Jaycees, a rifle raffle, holding a bosses'



The Scobey JayCee Minstrel Benefit Show given for the benefit of the Daniels Memorial Hospital in 1950. Back row: left to right, Red Olson, Lloyd Edland, Don Kincannon, Bob Tande, Leonard Anderson, Winnie Moulds, Harold and Stanley Forbregd, Nellie Lapierre, Virginia Bundren, Harold DeSilvia, Art Bernard. Arnold Frederickson, R. V. Walker, Clay Gilchrist and Jim Downs. Bottom row: Gordon Blomquist, Chet Jensen, Dick Coughlin, Martin Leibrand, Arlys Ocker, Beverly Halverson, the Knoor children, Indy Halverson, Jake Davis, Jerome Loucks, Russell Halaas, Rev. Knoor and Jack Dulenty.

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night to honor Jaycee bosses and other civic leaders, Christmas caroling and sponsoring special events.

During the first year the Scobey Jaycees have increased their membership to 51 strong. At the recent state convention they were named the top Jaycee Club in Montana, and received a trophy for having the best community development projects of any club in the state. Henry Bernard was recipient of the Spoke award as the outstanding first-year Jaycee in Montana, and Ronald Audet was elected state vice president.

### JAYCEENS

Organized on May 11, 1962, the Scobey Jayceens is probably the youngest organization in Scobey. There are 21 members.

The organization is an auxiliary of the Jaycees, and is devoted to assisting the Jaycees in projects to better this community. Membership is limited to wives of Jaycees.

Officers are Patti Audet, president; Phoebe Ferguson, vice president; Dorothy Fjeld, secretary; Beverly Ulstad, treasurer.

An installation banquet was held jointly with the Jaycees on June 30, 1962. A float entered by the Jayceens in the 1962 Saddle Club Day parade won first prize.

Last summer the Jayceens provided potluck lunches to the Jaycees as they worked on their improvement project at Killenbeck Lake. They also put up a booth at the Daniels County Fair, selling pronto pups, lemonade and snowcones.

Sponsoring the 1963 Heart Fund, contributing toward a part scholarship to Junior Citizens Camp, and also to Little League baseball, are some of the projects of this group. On December 1, 1962, the Scobey Jayceens extended a new club, Plentywood, at an installation service in the Plentywood Armory.

The Jayceens are in charge of housing reservations for the Golden Jubilee, and have also compiled a Jubilee Cookbook, with recipes, from Daniels County women.

### HISTORY OF SELMER OIE POST NO. 173, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS—SCOBEY, MONTANA

#### Montana's First Veterans of Foreign Wars Post

The organization that is known today as the Veterans of Foreign Wars was formed by combining several veterans' groups that came into being soon after the Spanish-American War.

During the early months of 1919, Paul Crum, a member of A. R. Patterson Post No. 7, VFW, worked diligently to form a Post in Scobey. It was decided, when formed, that the Post would be named after Selmer Oie, a soldier from Scobey who lost his life in France during the first World War.

Chief of Staff Taylor also wrote, "I wish to congratulate you upon the formation of this, the first Post in Montana, for I think it will be the nucleus for more from the state."

The Post was mustered in on August 4th, 1919, with forty-two charter members. The first Commander was Paul Crum and the first Adjutant was Fred Irving Davis. Mr. Davis still resides in Scobey.

The first members of Post 173 were nearly all from Northeastern Montana, although some were from Helena, Minot, Great Falls, and Saskatchewan. Several members from the county had post offices that ceased operating years ago—Julian, Tande, Battleson and West Fork.

Two Civil War veterans of Scobey, John A. Davis and W. H. Woodward, were given honorary memberships. Gustav Oie, a brother of Selmer Oie, was also made an honorary member.

In the years that followed, the Post quietly performed its functions, but during the dry, dusty years of the 1930's, membership dropped. Through hard work, the organization maintained strength enough to retain its charter.

On December 7th, 1941, the United States was thrown into war again.

The added work necessitated by the war caused the Post to become more active, and late in 1944, nearly \$400 was donated to the Department Relief fund by the local VFW.

Ormand W. Paus, Jr., nineteen years old was killed in action in Belgium on January 11th, 1945. He was the first member of the Selmer Oie VFW Post to give his life on the field of battle.

In the years following the second World War, the Post became involved in various enterprises, and on April 4th, 1949, donated \$1,529 to the Scobey Swimming Pool fund.

Articles of Incorporation were filed in January, 1950, and, soon after, the Post purchased the Reiner Building and organized the VFW Club. However, it was sold not long afterward.

When Paul Crum, the organizer and first Commander of Selmer Oie Post, died, delegates from Scobey attended the funeral at Custer National Cemetery.

For a number of years, the Post has been sending a local high school youth to Montana Boys' State at Dillon.

Veterans and veterans' families have been assisted in their hour of need.

In this, the summer of 1963, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post is sponsoring the Scobey Babe Ruth Baseball team.

—Compiled by Charles Cassidy

### V.F.W. AUXILIARY

Selmer Oie Auxiliary to Post 173, Veterans of Foreign Wars, was instituted December 28, 1945, by Margaret Green, Department Chief of Staff.

The purpose of the V.F.W. Auxiliary is fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational. Its aims are to assist the veteran, his widow and orphan; to maintain true allegiance to the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American Freedom and equal rights and justice to all men and women; and to preserve and defend the United States of America from all her enemies whomsoever.

Charter members were Ruby E. Billehus, Beth Bowler, Mildred Clausen, Catherine Darchuk, Delores Danelson, Hazel Fosland, Clara Gilmore, Marietta Helton, Esther Holom, Mildred Hillstrom, Doris Kilgore, Marie Larson, Adelia LaPierre, Junice LaPierre, Nellie LaPierre, Dorothy Lien, Ella Miller, Joan Miller, June Murphy, Ethel Musuranchan, Kathleen Sorsdahl, Gertrude Suchy, Margaret Stagg, Shirley Turner.

The auxiliary works as an aid to the V.F.W. Post to aid the veteran, by gifts to veteran hospitals and old soldiers homes. To further patriotism, books on flag etiquette are presented to schools and libraries. Several flags have been supplied by the group, including the flag and standard used in the waiting room of the Daniels Memorial Hospital. Montana flags have also been presented to the school and library.

Almost from its beginning the Auxiliary has sponsored the Brownie Scouts in Scobey. It has donated playground equipment to Roseland Park, furnished a public address system to the ball park, and donated to the hospital, swimming pool and nurse's scholarship fund. It also gave a substantial donation to aid the Plainsmen Ball Team to go to Kansas City.

Presidents of the Auxiliary have included Mildred Clausen, Marietta Helton, Beth Bowler, Mildred Hillstrom, Hazel Audet, Beulah Edland, Carolyn Holyk, Laura Dahl, Catherine Darchuk, Bernice Sorte, Alene Forchak, Junice LaPierre, Phyllis Peck, Frieda Erickson.

Mrs. Mildred Modine is the current president

### AMERICAN LEGION—POST NO. 56

The Scobey Legion Post No. 56 was chartered in 1920, with 14 charter members. Dr. A. S. Needles was the first commander.

One long-time member of Post No. 56, Earl Fairbanks, was a member of the group that held the first meeting to organize the American Legion, in Paris, France, in 1919.

In 1936 the Scobey Post purchased a building to be used for meetings. Previously they had been held at various places in Scobey.

Henry Schauer is the only member of Post No. 56 to have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, and one of two Montana men to receive this country's highest award during World War II.

Throughout the years the Post has participated in Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs, together with the V.F.W.

Community service projects have included Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Fourth of July celebrations, Boys' State, Junior Legion



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Baseball, a veteran's memorial plot at the Scobey cemetery (jointly with the V.F.W.), and aid to the families of deceased veterans, and to hospitalized veterans and their families.

It is, and always has been, the goal of the American Legion to remember those who helped defend our country in time of peril, and to make our local community a better place to live.

### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

On Feb. 25, 1931, Post Commander F. Brunet called a meeting of Legionnaires, their wives, mothers and sisters, for the purpose of organizing an auxiliary. Dr. McDaniel was chairman of the meeting, which was held at Reiners Cafe.

Charter members still with the group include Mrs. Fay Brunet, Mrs. Olive McDaniel, Mrs. Lillian Bystrom, Mrs. Hazel Shaw, Mrs. Laura Dahl, Mrs. Laura Lekvold, Mrs. Elsie Eichorn, Mrs. Bertha Greengard, Miss E. Helen Hansen, Mrs. Laura Davis, Mrs. Lydia McIntyre, Mrs. Hulda Chenoweth, Mrs. Anna Thompson and Mrs. Gertrude England.

Over the years the Auxiliary has sponsored many worthwhile projects and assisted many needy families. Outstanding projects include the Scobey Girl Scouts, blood bank, Sabine and T.B. clinics, delegates to Girls' State, keeping in touch with service men overseas and in veterans hospitals, and generous contributions to local fund drives.

It has also sponsored a boy in the Industrial School at Miles City, and contributes money and Christmas gifts to many state institutions. Contributions are also given to Care, Radio Free Europe, and similar overseas projects.

To raise money the group has sponsored cedar chest raffles, food sales, dances, poppy sales, and a hamburger stand at Scobey celebrations.

### COMMERCIAL CLUB

The Commercial Club is an organization of Scobey business men. It was a strong, active organization in the '20's, then became defunct. It was organized again in the '50's.

Among the activities of this organization are the annual Krazy Daze event in the fall, when business people dress in a variety of comical costumes and hold special sales, often with their counters and clothing racks on the sidewalk.

The organization also holds a Farmers Stag Nite banquet, to honor farmers of the trade area.

### SCOBEY WOMAN'S CLUB

Noted for its ability to get things done, the Scobey Woman's Club has promoted and financed numerous civic projects in the 17 years of its existence.

The group was organized on January 14, 1946, as a member of the Montana Federation of Women's Clubs. Charter members were Mrs. George Hayes, Mrs. V. Hillstrom, Mrs. E. T. Peterson, Mrs. P. T. Karlsrud, Mrs. C. A. Brenden, Mrs. C. J. Marsh, Mrs. Burley Bowler, Mrs. Martin Fossen, Mrs. Rasmus Nelson, Mrs. John Poyner, Mrs. Hulda Chenoweth, Mrs. Robert Ferguson, Mrs. Gerald Melena, Mrs. Albert Shipstead, Mrs. C. J. Waller, Mrs. Gordon Crandell, Mrs. O. W. Paus, Mrs. R. B. Humbert, Mrs. E. L. Fairbanks, Mrs. M. E. Nelson, Mrs. R. V. Walker, Mrs. Chris Veis, Mrs. M. J. Sorte and Mrs. Larry Bowler.

The club's first project was to start the county library. Funds were raised by a public tea, and the women collected books from all over the county. They catalogued the books themselves and took turns acting as librarians. The next year the county agreed to take over the project, which has been a great asset to the community.

Among the many other worthwhile projects of the club have been sponsoring the T.B. X-Ray unit, benefit dances, sponsoring a Girls' State candidate, receptions for teachers, contributing \$1,000 worth of equipment to the county hospital, supporting Little League baseball, paying for a lifeguard at the swimming pool, financing a heating unit for the pool, buliding park tables and chairs, and many others. The most recent projects include sponsoring a kindergarten course each spring, and financing a cement slab at the hospital for wheelchair patients.

To raise money the group has put on benefit dances, talent shows, carnivals, and style shows, and has provided a lunch concession at the fair.

Speakers on many vital topics have addressed the monthly meetings.

Past presidents of the club include Mrs. George Hayes, Mrs. E. Fairbanks, Mrs. C. Brenden, Mrs. G. Waller, Mrs. J. Poyner, Mrs. H. Melinder, Mrs. L. Kleeman, Mrs. L. Bowler, Mrs. A. Brandvold, Mrs. A. Chabot, Mrs. N. Brekke, Mrs. Gerald Melena, Mrs. Roy Killenbeck, Mrs. Claude Hartgrove, Mrs. Harold Edland, Mrs. Jordan Fosland, Mrs. Edward Tong.

### SCOBEY SADDLE CLUB

Among the many activities of the Scobey Saddle Club are the annual Saddle Club Day show and parade, the Saddle Club queen contest, sponsorship of the District One High School Rodeo, and other social and community projects.

The Scobey Saddle Club was started in 1940, and reorganized in 1945, by a group of men interested in the development of the Daniels County Fairgrounds, the appointment of a County Fair Board, the sponsorship of autumn gatherings for 4-H and other livestock groups, and the promotion and advancement of quality in local horses.

In 1947 the club built a beautiful log clubhouse which has been a popular center for community activities ever since. Labor and funds for the clubhouse were donated by Saddle Club members and well-wishers. The building was constructed of natural logs, which were hauled 500 miles from the nearest timber.

The annual Saddle Club parade has gained recognition over the years as one of the outstanding events of its kind in eastern Montana. For several years Saddle Club Day was devoted largely to horse racing with local horses and riders predominating.

In recent years the club has sponsored the District One High School rodeo, and has been commended by state officers as a state leader in this field.

A public ham and egg breakfast at the Saddle Club house each June is climaxed with the selection of a Saddle Club queen to lead the annual parade. This year the Jubilee Homestead queen and the Modern Day queen were elected at the breakfast.

In return for being granted the use of the Daniels County Fairgrounds for its shows, the Saddle Club has invested much money and many thousand man hours of labor in improvement of the grounds.

The club house is maintained and operated by members, without subsidy, and is used by local civic, service and youth organizations for their major activities.

Among the officers leading the club over the years have been Jack Coughlin, Ken Marlenee, Maurice Murphy, George Rubin, Bud Hill, Sherman Johnson, M. A. LaMotte, Arlo Anderson, Elmer Halverson, Henry Danelson, Bud Gaustad, Al Cantrell, Willie Spear, George Severt, Cliff Buer, Gay Ulsta, Lansing Eichorn, and Doc Morrison.

### SCOBEY CURLING CLUB

Organization of the Scobey Curling Club, to date the only known club of its kind in the State of Montana, was begun early in the spring of 1958 by a group of local men that had been participating in the sport at nearby Canadian towns.

The building was erected in the fall of 1958, by volunteer labor, and financed by donations and membership dues, at an approximate cost of \$10,000. It has since been maintained and improved by annual membership dues and funds derived from bonspiels and other activities sponsored by the club.

The official Articles of Incorporation were drawn on May 22, 1958, the first officers and directors of the club were as follows: Larry Fjeld, president; Robert Willard, vice president, Walter P. Vanderpan, secretary; A. J. Girard, treasurer. Directors were Ernest Sell, Fred Leibrand, Lee McCann. Officers are elected annually.

The club continues to operate, dependent on enough cold weather to freeze and keep the ice through the season, with the ultimate goal, to someday be able to install a plant for making artificial ice, thereby getting better playing conditions and a longer season.

**HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR**

**SCOBEY LODGE, NO. 109 A.F. & A.M.**

The first communication of Scobey Lodge, No. 109 was held Thursday evening, May 30, 1916, with the following 23 charter members:

G. A. Dahlquist, Geo. N. Robinson, E. E. Nichols, Sid Bennett, D. C. Knapp, A. J. Lawson, D. A. Bostick, A. C. Lange, A. W. Chapin, A. S. Needles, H. G. Shippam, H. O. Nelson, H. J. Hansen, John A. Lawson, C. O. Humbert, L. D. Tucker, R. B. Chisholm, Ernest Woodward, Al Lindsey, H. W. Olson, Dailey Matthew, Paul Crum, R. M. Humbert.

Officers were: L. D. Tucker, Worshipful Master; Sid Bennett, Sr. Warden; D. A. Bostick, Jr. Warden; H. W. Olson, Treasurer; H. J. Hansen, Secretary.

Charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Montana, August 31, 1916.

Scobey Lodge has grown and prospered with the community. They now own their own Temple, and have a membership of 104.

**PRAIRIE CHAPTER NO. 75**

**Order of the Eastern Star**

Prairie Chapter No. 75 of the Order of the Eastern Star was organized in 1917. The first meetings were held in the old Odd Fellows hall, and later in the Masonic hall.

The first officers, were: Worthy Matron, Mrs. Jennie B. Davis; Worthy Patron, Sidney Bennett; Associate Matron, Mrs. Edith Humbert; Secretary, Mrs. Thora Chapin; Treasurer, Ambrose Chapin; Conductress, Mrs. Wilda Lindsey; Associate Conductress, Mrs. Mae Tucker; Chaplin, E. R. Dodds; Marshal, D. A. Bostick; Organist, L. D. Tuckery; Adah, Mrs. Winnifred Haun; Ruth, Mrs. Estelle Bennett; Esther, Mrs. Lily Dale Collinson; Martha, Mrs. Laura Dodds Warder, Al Lindsey; Sentinel, E. R. Dodds.

Three of the charter members still living in Montana are Mrs. Alice D. Knapp and Winifred and Fred Haun. Mrs. Lily Dale Collinson and Mrs. Inger Aanes Lear, who became members by affiliation, in 1917, are also state residents, and Mrs. Collinson is still active in the group.

**DEGREE OF HONOR**

The Scobey chapter of the Degree of Honor Protective Association, a national fraternal life insurance company, received

its charter on October 7, 1920. First officers were Mrs. Martin Smith, president; Minnie M. Peterson, secretary; Julia Gritz, treasurer; Margaret Smith Conboy, usher; Augusta Jevnager, I. Watch. The meetings were held in the old Odd Fellows Hall.

In 1927 the Juvenile organization was formed with Miss Elizabeth Fowler (Mrs. William Collins) director. Also in 1927 an active drill team was formed, with Magdalene Murphy as captain. In 1928, with Edna Waller as captain, it performed at the State Convention at Butte.

Mrs. Magdalene Murphy served as State President, and later as a member of the National Degree of Honor Welfare Board.

In 1961 the Degree of Honor Protective Association decided to give grants of \$150 to 15 deserving student members entering college.

Vaughn Bush of Scobey was one of those chosen the first year. In 1962 Alice Trower received a grant after entering Concordia College.

As of April 1, 1963, there were 290 members in the organization. Officers are Wilma Trower, president; Edna Waller, financial and recording secretary; Donna Lapke, treasurer.



Degree of Honor Drill Team in 1934. The ladies are Fay Brunet, Florence Faanes, Ella Mae Anderson (Evanskaas), Sadie Walker, Magdalene Murphy, Fern Trower, Ella B. Peters, Mrs. Art Nelson.



Family night at the IOOF in 1914. Front row, Mable Colby, Theodore Colby, Jr., unknown, Mrs. Fred Davis, unknown, Mrs. Ernie Thompkins, Gertie Manternach, Emily Davis, Bertha Colby. Second row, Mrs. Fleming, Mrs. Theodore Colby, Mrs. Harry Hansen, Mrs. Johnson, unknown until last, Helen Colby. Men, from left, Alfred Evenskaas, Harry Hanson, Jackie Davis. In back of him, Dr. Wm. Olson, Frank Marlenee, Frank Manternach, Oscar Manenach, Jim Fleming, two unknown, Noel England. From right end of picture near front, Jim Marlenee, Fred Davis and Theodore Colby.



# PEOPLE



Mrs. C. P. Fisher, as she appeared when she and her husband came to homestead five miles west of Scobey in 1910. She recalls attending a Fourth of July celebration at Old Scobey, riding in an ox-drawn wagon. She is the mother of eleven children, ten of them born at Scobey, and still here.

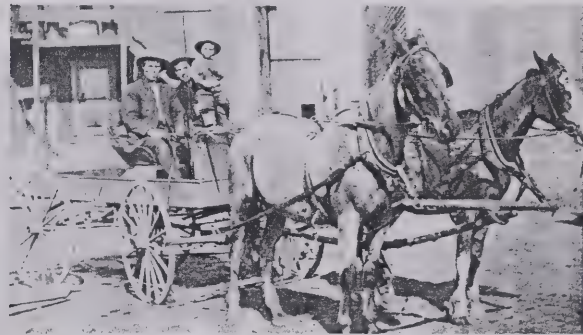


Adrian Bellanger, pictured with Winnie Moulds, in his favorite place—the garden. Adrian and his wife, Albertine, came in May, 1914. Adrian started a truck garden for Mansfield Daniels and his wife was cook at the Daniels house. Later they bought a relinquishment on French Lane, and raised a truck garden from the late '20's through the '40's.

Adrian proved that, with a home-made irrigation system, even such vegetables as cauliflower and celery, and a wide variety of fruits and berries can be raised here. Adrian, Albertine, and oldest son, Lucken, were all born in Orleans, France.



Blanche Brady Larsen and Charlotte Brady Holland, standing by the street entrance of the old Brady Hotel in 1917.



Ole Buer driving, with Ben Deering holding Jimmy Buer, Sr. The date, 1916. This was taken in back of the butcher shop owned by Frieda and Ole Buer in 1913.

Ole learned the butchering trade from Jake Timmons. He also hauled gas and fuel oil to Opheim and Glentana for Dick Coughlin when he first started the Westland Station. Six horses and a team of mules pulled the load. Frieda still lives here.



Lily Dale Collinson, wife of the late Dr. Collinson, came west with her parents and was graduated from high school in Butte, in 1901, where her father was an instructor. After graduating from the University of Michigan in 1905, she returned to Culbertson where her father was a school superintendent. She accepted a position as instructor and principal in Culbertson. She also organized the first basketball teams in the area. She also took out a homestead.

In 1911, she married Dr. T. W. Collinson. They moved to Scobey in 1916. She helped organize Prairie Chapter No. 75, of the Eastern Star in 1917, and is still an active member of the group. She has two sons, Bonar and Bryce, both in California.



Hard times in 1920 sent Ernie Peterson, Ed Battleson and Harold Edland into the Rainy River (Canada) country as lumberjacks to get cash for their spring work.

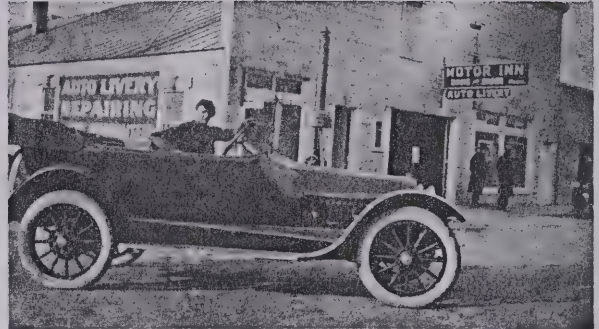
HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Mrs. Ernest. (Sophia) Halverson, Mrs. Muriel Horton and Roman Suchy at a masquerade in 1920. Only Roman is left.



Frank P. Miller, the first railroad fireman on the first train to Scobey in 1913. Pete Gritz was the engineer. Frank later took up a homestead in Butte Creek in 1915. He's still around. His wife, Vera, who came in 1910, is the daughter of pioneers.



F. A. Sunderhau, before the Davis and Shook Motor Inn in 1917. Now in Bremerton, Wash., Floyd has been helpful in supplying information and pictures for this book. He always was a helpful fellow.



Clarence Penn arrived in Old Scobey in 1910 and took out a homestead southeast of Scobey. He still owns it. In 1911 he went to work for Daniels and Timmons. When Scobey moved to its new location Mr. Penn moved too, to operate the Daniels Implement Co. Mr. Penn sold machinery until 1928, selling out to H. D. Nelson and sons. He is still a Scobey resident.



D. C. Knapp brought his family to Scobey in the spring of 1913, where they lived in a tent on the Andrew Tande farm until they could arrange more permanent quarters. Mr. Knapp and Ambrose Chapin operated a country store in a building rented from Mr. Tande. Later that year they built a store at Old Scobey, moving it to the new townsite when it was definite that the railroad was coming in.

George Crandell purchased the interests of Mr. Chapman and the business was known as Knapp-Crandell Mercantile Company. The store carried a complete line of dry goods, ready-to-wear, shoes, toiletries, linoleum, groceries, harnesses—everything. In the back of the store Mr. Knapp had an office where he ordered parts and sold tractors. The most popular tractor was the Rumley, and later the Hart-Parr.

Scobey was thriving, and the store usually employed at least eight clerks and a bookkeeper. Glen Jones was the manager until he went into the restaurant business. Other clerks included Art Scarseth, Vern Walters, Frank Nye, Keith Miller, Jack Conboy, Frank Goodman, Maude Lile, Catherine Conboy, Florence Kiser, Besse Peters, Mrs. M. C. Lack. Mrs. Knapp and a bookkeeper (for several years Mrs. Laura Ehlers) took care of the accounts.

As the Knapp boys grew older they helped in the store. Clifford delivered groceries and clerked, and when he left to attend the university, Bob took over. Old Dobbin waited at the back of the store to trot away with the groceries people needed. Later a Model T was used.

In 1921 the Knapps retired from the merchandise business and devoted their time to farming. Dana C. Knapp passed away May 19, 1948. Alice D. Knapp celebrated her 90th birthday in June. The daughter, Mrs. Ed Leibrand lives in Scobey.



A bunch of fellas—Jim Wolfe (deceased), Harvey Wager, Herman Neiskins, Pete Neiskins, Cliff Eayers and Pete Vanderburg.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Sid Bennett, a young Spanish-American War veteran, was a rancher with his brother, Jack, in the area between Daleview and Redstone. While serving as a deputy sheriff in the north-eastern Montana area he took a liking to the Scobey country and resigned to enter the lumber business of old Scobey with Frank Cusker of Poplar. He continued in this business after it had been moved to the new, and by then, thriving town. Here he was also interested with Charlie Smith in a saloon. Sid had some land near Madoc which is now owned by Lottie Parshall. He sold his interest in the lumber business in 1916 to J. R. McCurdy and became the first mayor of Scobey.

Under his administration he began an era of civic progress. When two council members refused to attend meetings, to block the movement for a city water and sewer system, Mayor Bennett brought ouster proceedings, appointed two new councilmen, and the water and sewer project then proceeded unhindered. Scobeyites wanted their city to be the next county seat of the proposed new county. Sid Bennett knew how to make it the most likely contender—by making Scobey the most desirable place with modern improvements.

He was re-elected in 1918 and resigned in 1920 to become postmaster for the city. Largely through his efforts, Scobey had its first light plant, the city park, the ball park (now the fairgrounds) the water and sewage system, modern fire-fighting equipment, the new school, the big hotel (Gorham), airport, and the oiled highways east and south from Scobey. His strategy was varied but successful.

Sometimes he appeared to be against a civic project. He did this purposely so that some leaders who opposed anything he was for, due to personal enmity, would be antagonized into accomplishing the project in spite of his apparent opposition. This was just what he wanted. Sid Bennett was unquestionably the greatest civic leader Scobey ever had.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bydeley in the front yard of their home in Scobey in 1931. A daughter, Elsie (Mrs. Charles) Daniels still lives in Scobey. He was the Hollam Co. man here for years, and an active civic worker. Fred was always a willing man with his car on school band trips.



A 1910 picture of M. J. Walker (standing) and R. V. Walker (sitting). They moved to a homestead on Butte Creek in 1917 with their step-father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Frank. In later years they were meat cutters in Frank's market in Scobey. Joe died in 1960. Maggie, his widow, is an institution in the community. "Irish" a one-time school teacher, and who in the '30's as scoutmaster instructed the county's first Eagle Scouts, has been in the insurance business in Scobey for many years. You can hear him any day on Main Street. His wife, Sadie, has been clerk of the Selective Service Board since World War II.



Mrs. Burley Bowler and Mrs. M. B. Lile in their Jubilee costumes. Mrs. Bowler, who came west from Ontario to Radville, Sask., in 1910, and to this county area in 1915, has long been active in civic work in Scobey and a longtime member of the Methodist Church board and the Eastern Star as well as numerous other organizations. At 71, she plays at

least a round or two of golf every week—she has been a great grandmother several times during the past six years.

Mrs. M. B. Lile, who came out in 1914, likely has had the longest continuous employment with the same business firm of anyone in the Jubilee area. At 78 she still works just as hard as ever, but not so often. She has been employed by the Daniels County Leader since 1924, before that even putting in some time with the Scobey Sentinel. During that time she used to walk from the Lile farm several miles west of Scobey, into town to and from work. In recent years she has been plagued by a back injury caused when she was thrown from a hay rake at the farm in 1917 and now has to wear a brace to avoid undue pain. She has broken her ankles, elbows, shoulders, wrists and hips in various falls over the years, but still her fragile body is tough as rawhide—a real westerner, this Missourian.



Dr. T. W. Collinson, a graduate of the University of Toronto, Ont., practiced in Culbertson for four years before coming to Scobey in 1916. Like most doctors of his day, he was on call with his little black bag 24 hours a day in all kinds of weather. During the flu epidemic of 1918 he practically lived in his car.

In 1918, with his brother, Alick, he established the Scobey Drug Company. He became president of the Citizens State Bank in 1935, and had many financial interests in residential, business and farm real estate. He also owned the Scobey Clinic Hospital. As a young man he was a semi-pro lacrosse player in Ontario.

HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

**GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**



Mr. and Mrs. Ivar Ferestad.



Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Waller,  
1962.



Mr. and Mrs. Lars Hammar,  
1963.



Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Susag.



Mr. and Mrs. Burley Bowler,  
1961.



Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kurtz, pictured with their children. Left to right, Bole, Loretta (Mrs. Joe Head), Daryl, Caroline, Frances (Mrs. Pat Maloney), Lyle, LeRoy, Dennis, Aquina (Mrs. Bole Larson), Donna (Mrs. McLaughlin), Joan (Mrs. Wayne Torno), Jedn (Mrs. Dick Schultz), Leo, Veronica (Mrs. Ray Pomaleau).



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Marlenee, 1957.



Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Miner, 1961.



Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Barron, 1959.



Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Collins.



Mr. and Mrs. William Bernard, 1955.



Mr. and Mrs. Earl Randall, 1963.



Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bourassa, 1962.

These are by no means all; but they are all who sent in pictures.

HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

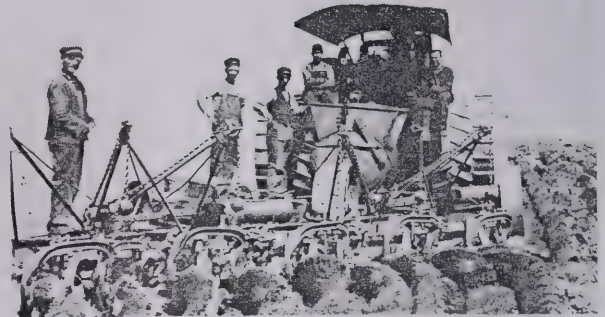
# UKRANIAN COMMUNITY

The prairies just north of Scobey up to the Canadian line attracted many Ukranian homesteaders who found sites close to each other. The homes were typical of all homestead shacks and included many sod houses.

Among the early homesteaders, who began coming in the year 1910, were the Wassyl (Bill) Stefanik family, the Peter Antonichuk family, the Wassyl Kinkzerski family, the Tkachyk brothers (John, Pete, Nick and Bill), Jake and George Darchuk and families, the Joe Skornogoski family. Joe Komarninski came in 1910 and built a sod house, and brought his father, mother and brothers to live on the homestead. Others were the Peter Hudyma, Andrew Tymofichuk, Joe Holyk, Dmytro Kytzor, Jake Kostenick, Bill Forchak families and Mike Saranchuk. Paul Kowcun and family came in 1914, and Petro Yarmey came in 1916.

The early Ukranian settlers came mostly from the Ukraine to Canada and then on to the United States. As with most people from foreign countries they brought their own customs and ways, which were soon blended with American ways.

In the old country Christmas was celebrated on January 7, and they were soon celebrating both the December and Janu-



Breaking prairie in spring of 1915. Pictured are Nick Tkachyk, Mike Saranchuk, who hauled water for the outfit, John Tkachyk, John Chapman, fireman, and Jim Touhy, engineer.



The late John Tkachyk and Joe Komarniski pictured after a trip hauling grain to town. Taken in 1912, background was a blanket nailed against a granary.



John Tkachyk and family taken in the summer of 1918 on their place north of Scobey. John, father, Joe, Tony, Eileen, Pauline, Rose, mother, Laura, Helen and Mary.



Coal mine crew, taken in early 1930's north of Scobey. Started in 1921. James Touhy was the first foreman. His wife was the cook. The ones in this picture will remember, but we could not get the names.



The Andrew Komarniski family in front of their sod house in 1912. Andrew, wife Amelia, John, Emil, Frank, Carl and Phillip. Not pictured was the eldest boy, Joe. Andrew died in 1913 leaving his wife and boys to carry on the homestead alone.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Greek Orthodox ceremony of blessing river water in about 1925. Taken north of Scobey, with Father William Drapak of St. Michael's Church officiating. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Albert Bjarko, now of Scobey.



John Tkachyk, Petro Antonicahuk, Dmytro Ktytor and David McGovern taken in 1954 in Ktytor home in Scobey. The late John Tkachyk was the first deacon of the old St. Michael's Greek Orthodox Church north of Scobey, and long afterward and until he died was a spiritual leader.



Wassyl Kindzerski with his third wife, who was widow of Peter Hudyma. Both had homesteads north of Scobey.



Mr. and Mrs. Dmytro Ktytor at farm, standing by touring car in 1933. They later moved their house to town.



St. Michael's Church and congregation taken in 1922. Church still stands today at same site.



Wassyl and Annie Stefanik and daughter Mary on way to church. Taken on homestead in 1924.

any observances. They visited each others' homes and danced to an old country xylophone, accordion and fiddle. Young men went caroling to the different homes at Christmas, and on the Feast of the Three Kings a priest would visit and bless all the homes.

Easter was celebrated for three days, services on Easter Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Between services on Monday the children would play games and receive Easter eggs, and on Tuesdays after services they would meet at the school house and dance. They brought their art in the form of intricate embroidery and Easter egg painting.

They purchased their fuel from the coal mine east of their homestead sites. In 1911, on the day before Christmas, Wassyl and John Kindzerski, father and son, set out for coal. Wassyl drove a team of horses and John lead a team of oxen. The day was a bright one, thawing what there was of snow and frozen ground. As is typical of Montana weather a severe blizzard blew up suddenly. Wassyl, with his horses, got safely home. John was caught in the rough of the blizzard. He never arrived home. The team of oxen was found loose in the shelter of a strawstack. A search party found John the next morning less than a half mile from his home. He left a pregnant wife and a small daughter.

**HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR**



Wassyl (Bill) Tkachyk ready to start harvesting with his first new binder in 1912. Picture by Joe Komarniski.



Wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Tkachyk, taken in front of sod house with frame addition. Pictured are, left to right, Dmytro Tkachyk, his wife, Eunice, Mrs. Komarninski, Mrs. D. Sopunieck, Mrs. Sopurtick, Mary Ktytor, Dick Ktytor, holding Nellie, Mrs. Antonichuck holding baby, Mrs. Pete Antonicahuk, Wasyl Kindzerski, Mrs. Wasyl Kindzerski, Mrs. Bill Tkachyk, Mrs. John Tkachyk, bride Ella and bridegroom Nick Tkachyk, Mrs. Stefanik, John Tkachyk, Pete Tkachyk, Mike Kawcun, Bill Ktytor, Clemintine and Stella Tkachyk, Pauline Tkachyk, Mary Tkachyk, Helen Tkachyk, Laura Tkachyk, Joanna Tkachyk, Helen Stefanik.

Margaret Darchuck, daughter of George and Eustena Darchuck, was the first baby born to homesteaders in this community.

**St. Michael's Greek Orthodox Church**

St. Michael's Greek Orthodox Church was started in the spring of 1917. The first parish priest was Father Symchuk. The first marriage united Mary Forchak and Peter Kindzerski.

Wassyl Kindzerski was the head contractor for the building of the church. He was assisted by all the families of the parish. The first elder was Dmytro Ktytor, and first decon was John Tkachyk. Paul Kowcum was second deacon. Masses were celebrated here by priests from Bellfield and most of them were itinerant with the exception of Father William Drapek, who rented the Anderson farm and lived for five years in this community with his wife and family.

Before the church was built masses were said in private homes. In 1913 Rev. Michael Skratski, a Catholic priest, celebrated mass in the home of Dmytro Ktytor. At this mass Mrs. Rose Tkachyk had her son, Joe, baptized. Another Mass was celebrated in 1914 in the home of Jake Kostenick.

St. Michael's Church still stands today, having been repaired in 1957. Masses are still said occasionally by priests from Minneapolis.

—Compiled by Mrs. Albert Bjarko



George Hudyma in front of Nicholas Shepard combine, taken on Marlenee farm north of Scobey in the twenties.



Dr. Olson, early Scobey dentist, Mike Hudyma, Dr. Olson's brother, unidentified boy, girl and two women, off to right Nick Kindzerski, Mrs. Mike Hudyma. Taken on a holiday on the Missouri River in 1925.



Early progress in harvesting shown with binder pulled by horse team. Tractor pulled second binder. Nick Tymofichuk drove tractor, sons John and Pete were on binders. The year, 1927. It was a good crop year.



**HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR**



Group get-together on sod house homestead in early twenties. Left to right, John Tymofichuk, Ann Hudyma, Anna Tymofichuk, Bill Hudyma, Helen Tkachyk and Mary Tymofichuk.



May, 1912, Joe Komarniski and three of their big oxen. These were likely out of the Texas longhorn strain. They are big.



Mary Stewanick Severt McGovern with accordion at age 4 in 1920. Mary, recently widowed by the death of David McGovern, is still a resident of Scobey.



Reaching for lunch, a pig suckles a cow on the Nick Tymofichuk farm.



Easter eggs painted in the Ukrainian fashion by Anna Drapak (Hudyma).



Dmytro Ktytor (right) and his first wife (on right) with son, Bill, and daughter, Nellie (Tkachyk) and in-laws William Speaniuk and wife, in 1911. Note how these ladies retain the "old-country" look of their native land in Eastern Europe.



A whitewashed sod house provides the background for the 1919 wedding of Mike Holyk and Pauline Stefanick, still living in Scobey today.



# NAVAJO

## NAVAJO

The little town of Navajo, located 18 miles east of Scobey, began with the coming of the Great Northern Railroad in 1913. The townsite was bought from Clarence Gunderson by the Northern Town and Land Co. The first restaurant was built and operated by William Roufs. He was also the first postmaster. In due time, a saloon was built by John Schlag, and the Kanning Brothers put up a grain elevator. Gilbert Borke was the first blacksmith, and a lumber yard, owned by Bud Bernier, moved in and was operated by John Gunderson.

The Roufs family moved to a farm and the Anton Witte family moved into the restaurant, Mrs. Mary Witte was the postmaster.

Nell McGowan was the first school teacher of Navajo. The old school house was sold and the saloon building was bought for a school house when prohibition came in. The school house was also used for community dances, parties, polling place, etc. The school was in operation continuously until 1946. The children from the Navajo community now are taken by bus to school at Flaxville.

In 1915 the late Otto King of Scobey built a general store in Navajo, which he operated until 1918. He sold out to the Navajo Merc., and it was operated by directors for many years. The late Gunder Sherseth was manager. In 1925 C. N. Gibbs bought the store, and took over the postoffice from Mrs. Witte in 1926. In 1955 Mr. Gibbs retired and closed the store. No one in the community wanted to operate the postoffice so it was also discontinued. The mail now comes daily on a route from Flaxville.

Among the many early settlers before the coming of the railroad were George and Milton Hatfield, Nim Gaines, Fred Holmdahl, Herb Brobst, Fred Jensen, Ernie Tomkson, Gunder, John, Clarence and Mrs. Anna Gunderson, Bert Spoklie, Frank Linder, William Murr, the Kanning Brothers, John Severson, Ole Rasmussen, John Brenna, William Kurtz, Fred Halverson, Mike Klos, Lew Longacre, the Hackmans, Dave Schneckloth, Joe Meyers, John Southland and the Beatkes.

In time of sickness Dr. D. B. Healy was called from Flaxville. He came, if at all possible, regardless of weather and roads.

Before World War I Navajo boasted an organization known as "The Sons of Rest." It consisted of George and Milton Hatfield, John and Clarence Gunderson, and Fred Jensen, all batchelors. It was unlawful to work between seeding and harvesting unless an emergency arose or a neighbor needed help. Summer-fallow and weed spraying were unknown at that time. During the summer they sat in the store. In winter they played smear in the store, with Otto and Mrs. King often joining in the game.



Clarence Gunderson, Walter Rogers, Fred Jensen and Guy Wigmore, after they returned from the famous Dempsey-Gibbons fight in Shelby in 1923.



Anna and Fred Halverson with their children, Henry, Paul and Alfred in 1915. Fred came to North Dakota from Norway in 1906, moved on to Homestead, Mont., and came to Navajo in 1910.

Anna Halverson, then Anna Paulson, worked in a luxurious mansion near Oslo, Norway. Her employers, Thordvald and Mally Lammers, were famous opera singers. They were related to Fridtjof Nansen, the famous explorer, and she once helped with a ball at his place. She exchanged her life in the mansion for a 12 x 14 tarpaper-covered shack at Homestead. In 1910, with their first baby, the Halversons started for the Navajo area with a wagon drawn by four horses. Mrs. Halverson still remembers how frightened she was when they crossed the Muddy river, then swollen by the spring run-off. The horses had to swim and the wagon floated across.

The flu epidemic after World War I claimed two of their children. Other children are Henry (recent outgoing chairman of County Commissioners) of Flaxville, Edward of Redstone, Paul of Oregon and Sigurd Mrs. Vernon Zettler) of Arizona. Fred Halverson died in 1957. His wife lives in Flaxville.



The Navajo Home Demonstration Club in 1936. Still very active. The men from the Navajo H-D Auxiliary.



The Herb Brabst horse ranch, one of the first in Daniels County, at Eagles Nest in 1914.



## BREDETTE

When George Hatfield came back from Tennessee in the spring of 1917 with a bride he was forced to stand on the counter in the store and publicly resign from the "Sons of Rest." One by one the members "got took" and naturally little responsibilities appeared. So the "Sons of Rest" joined the "rat race" of making a living—all but Fred. He escaped the clutches of the female species and is still enjoying single bliss.

Milton Hatfield passed away in 1933. The other four are retired. Fred and George on their old homestead; John at Kalispell; and Clarence on his home place. George's nephew, Eugene Hatfield, farms his place; John's son, John, Jr. and family, are on his old place; and Clarence's son, Milton and family, live on the home place with him. So the originals are again "Sons of Rest."

The Navajo Home Demonstration Club, which was organized in 1928, and reorganized in 1935, is still the hub of community social life. Men, women and children attend the monthly meetings. They sponsor showers, silver weddings, card parties and similar occasions. Their annual booth and project at the fair have won many blue ribbons.

During the depression of the "thirties" Eagles Nest Dam was built one mile east of Navajo as a WPA project. It became a popular recreation area and every Sunday during the summer people came from far and near to swim, boat and picnic. The dam is still intact but the spillway washed out and ruined the project.

All that is left of Navajo now is two families—C. N. Gibbs and the Eugene Hatfields. The grain elevator is again in operation with Eugene as manager.



The remains of the bridge crossing Eagle Creek south of Navajo after the storm of July 9, 1946, when 7 inches of rain was recorded in less than one hour.



A group of Hatfields and Gundersons at Navajo in 1923. Hatfields originally are from those famous, feudin' Hatfields. Must have been the McCoy's fault, because all the Hatfields we know are mighty good citizens.

Bredette is situated about twenty miles southeast of Scobey and some thirty odd miles northwest of Poplar. From the northeast the Morgan Creek flows to the forks of the Poplar river on the west. It was part of the Ft. Peck Indian Reservation in Sheridan County. A prairie trail, which supplied Old Scobey from about 1900, came through the community from Poplar.

From May 1 to July 1 of 1914 only those people with numbers could file on 160-acre homesteads. After that date any qualified person was eligible to file. Land was appraised at \$2.50 to \$7.00 an acre. This had to be paid in five annual installments in addition to the usual homestead requirements. Veterans of the Civil and Spanish-American wars could file a preemption or soldiers choice, which would keep off others for a period of time. Many did this but few completed their entries.

Many of the first settlers were Danish people. In the spring of 1916 a number of members of the Church of the Brethren, called Dunkards, came out from Indiana to homestead. For a while it seemed to be a question of which group would eventually take over. However, most of the Brethren stayed only a few years.

Only one family was in the community prior to the arrival of homesteaders. Frank Cusker operated a horse ranch on Morgan Creek where his wife and son had Indian allotments. They had been there since 1906.

On May 16, 1914, the first homesteaders, the Gribble family, came to settle. The second family was the Jim Mahers, who took a claim on Morgan Creek land. By fall quite a number came to establish residence. Some had hired their shacks constructed during the summer. Carl Miller and his brother, Pete, had built a barn that year. Heavy rains that season raised all coulees and caused many discomforts in the tent in which they lived. P. T. Peterson, John Klatt, Albert Grimm, Harry Bredette, Gert Petersen, Mrs. Christine Herness, Anton Anderson, Ler Brothers, Ezra Smith, Elias Paulsen and Pete Spaabeck were in the first year group.

Coal for winter use had to be dug at Cusker mine east of Morgan. The settlers put up hay, did some fencing and rock picking, and broke prairie into fire guards that first year. The mail was still being supplied to Scobey by a route from Poplar, but as soon as the railroad got a contract the homesteaders had to ask for post offices along the route to keep it. One was established half way to Scobey, with Bill Kraft as postmaster; another at Scips, ten miles southeast, with Robert Maxton as postmaster; and the Bredette post office with Mrs. Gribble in charge.



Homesteaders of the Bredette community gathered at the Poplar River for a Fourth of July celebration in 1915. This became an annual event.

## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

Early day carriers were George Abbott of Poplar, Steve and George Robinson of Scobey. They changed horses each trip at the Cusker ranch. Service was eventually cut to one mail day per week and the community was supplied from Poplar.

As in most communities in these early days, religious services were held in private homes. A minister of the Baptist faith resided for awhile at the home of Carl Miller and his sister, Mrs. Herness.

In April of 1915 the homesteaders witnessed their first prairie fire, said to have started at Brockton. It burned all the way to Opheim. Fortunately, no homes were destroyed and nobody was injured. Homesteaders saved some grass which was knee-high before the fire. It left the country jet black until new green growth appeared in a few days' time. In August, 1914, the first hail storm struck in the form of a torrential rain and hailstones the size of hens' eggs.



This team of oxen was used by Elias Paulsen in 1915 and 1916. Here it is in front of the Knapp-Crandell store in Scobey. Next to it was "Womens Shop," then on east side of Main Street. At left on west can be seen Scobey Drug, bank of T. Anderson Oie, forerunner of Citizens, and on down old Scobey State Bank, now the Leader Building.

In 1915 most settlers managed to break from twenty to one hundred acres. Being cool and wet, it proved to be a favorable year.

The first Fourth-of-July picnic was held on the banks of the Poplar river in 1915 and became an annual event. That year the Johnson Brothers of Flaxville brought their threshing rig for the harvest. Several of the neighbors worked on the crew. During this year many new settlers came. Among them were Iyar Stensrud, Ingeman Jensen, Pete Hansen, George Smith, Dagmar Reppien, Marius Paulsen, brother to Elias. Frank "Tell-a-Man" Gabbert and W. B. Humphrey settled just across Morgan Creek. Bill Humphrey built his stone house, which is still a landmark. Many of the bachelors were away that winter and missed what was undoubtedly the worst weather in the past fifty years.

In 1916 the Brethren came, settling mostly east of Morgan. George, Nathan, Joe and Aaron Swithart, sons and nephews Niles and Jesse, were among them. Ray O'Brien filed a claim on Mineral Bench hill. Charles Fleming and Knute Frieberg homesteaded here.

Settlers north of the community were Christ Hansen, Andrew Skoglund, Ed, Elmer and Cora Benson and Josie Stenson, Martin Knudsvig, J. P. Nasby and George Larsen. The 1916 crop, a good yield was threshed by Andrew Skoglund and Sons, with their steam outfit. The Jensen Bros. homesteaded on Morgan Creek and also had a steam engine.

Across the Poplar River the early settlers included Elizabeth Doran, Hughes Brothers, D. D. Sage and sons, the Sullivan brothers, Nick Langager, Fred Anderson, John Lee, Fred

Krauth, John Anderson, Bill Handran, Ibsen Ramstad, Frank Coue, Jim and Mary Maher, Lars Hammer, Neils Petersen, Christ Jensen. Coue and Lee had small stores and ran a post office for a while as they were along the railroad survey line to Opheim which was never built. On the Fourth-of-July, 1916, the Red Cross staged a celebration which was attended by hundreds of people.

The year 1917 brought the first power farming, mostly on leased Indian tracts. W. C. Rawson, Petersen and Strandkov, Massek and Krassine all made use of this new power, but a dry, hot year caused a near crop failure.

On June 5th the first registration for the World War I draft was held at Bredette before Registrar Gribble. Some 60 men, 21 through 31, signed up. Most were deferred from military service, but one man who registered that day was killed in action in France that following year.

The Brethren People established a church in 1918. A blacksmith shop was opened and Cusker school, the first in the community, was built east of Morgan. Mrs. Rush was the first teacher. Another church, financed by Baptists and built with labor donated by all, was put up two miles north of the Bredette post office. In 1918 the crop yield was better and grain sold at war prices.

The first road work in this country was done in the fall of 1916 when Sheridan County built some bridges and did some grading north from the post office. The first child born to homesteaders was Peter Petersen in the spring of 1917. David Nasby and Martha Knudsvig were born that same year. Mrs. Clara Mitchell, a very competent mid-wife, took care of the mothers.

The drought of 1919 saw many of the settlers leaving because of crop failure or because they had completed residence requirements of their claims. Mrs. Rush, as first teacher, started a Literary Society at the school. Many debates and spelling bees were held during the winter. Some dances and card parties took place, very often in small rooms. When a crowd attended they were really "kitchen sweats."

Now after fifty years, some good, some bad, not many people reside here. The land which was occupied by some fifty or more homesteaders now is operated by not more than a dozen or so of farmers and ranchers. Gert Petersen, Elias and Marius Paulsen still live on their lands. Pete Hanson, P. T. Petersen and Carl Miller live in Scobey and their sons operate the farms. The optimism and determination of the first settlers enabled many to succeed in what often has been termed a "next year" country. Most would not want to go through again the hardships of those days, but the memory isn't too bad.

—Compiled by John Gribble



Taking time out from a buggy ride in July, 1915, to relax are from left to right, Carl Miller, Anton A. Andersen, Elias Paulsen, Peter Spaabeck. The team was Carl Miller's, and the buggy was borrowed from the late Edward Benson.



# FLAXVILLE

## BREDETTE COMMUNITY CHURCHES

The Baptists organized into a congregation in about 1910. In 1918 they built a little church, 20x30x10, with all help donated. Then came the years of drought, crop failure and hardship. Some of these pioneers were compelled to quit their farms and go elsewhere. Consequently the church suffered. So many had left that the church building was offered for sale.

The Lutheran Church also suffered from these set-backs and in addition had internal conflict among the parishioners over the matter of language. Since many spoke Danish there was the problem of what language to use in services. However, with most of it being in English, Pastor Andreason faithfully kept on bringing the Bread of Life for the few who required the Danish interpretation. In 1923 the Norwegian Lutheran congregations of Scobey and Flaxville became an independent parish.

A Ladies Aid was formed, made up of Mesdames Tong, Knudsvig, A. Andersen, Miller, G. Petersen, N. Longager, I. Jensen and G. Barnes. This Aid, in the fall of 1925, bought the Baptist church for \$400. Now that they had a church building a Sunday school was started. On July 11, 1926, the Lutherans of the Bredette community organized. The Ladies Aid prepared a lunch and the Sunday school children put on an impressive program. This resulted in the American Lutheran Church of Bredette.

Today Pastor Novak of Flaxville serves the parish, traveling four of the twenty-one miles on the same prairie trails used by the early pioneers.

A country school built across the road from the church in 1935 has also been a factor in holding the community together.

—Compiled by Mrs. John L. Stentoft.

With the coming of the Great Northern railroad in 1913 the businessmen of the inland town of Orville moved their places of business to a site of land owned by Demoselle Gourde. The railroad surveyors were boarding at the home of a homesteader named Henry Boyer, and the new town was supposed to be named Boyer. It was named Flaxville, instead, because so much flax was being raised in the community at that time.

The railroad crew used 100 mules to put in the cut one mile west of Flaxville.

Pioneer settlers before the railroad were Frank, Joe and Bill Murr, Tony and Frank Linder, Fred Hansen, Harry Thompson, Alfred French, Joe and Wilfred Goulet, Frank Hardy, J. C. Bloodsaw, Gene LaRoche, Anna Rodene, Ida Longacre, John and August Roos, Owen Logan, Harry Tousey, Wilfred Parent, Henry Boyer, Mazel Gile, Louie, Tim and Martin Hendrickson, Andrew Modine, Pete Carlson, Jasper Duval, Jim and Art Dorwin, Pete Kurtz, Walt and Kirk Cox, Art Gourde, Julia Huff, Anna Woodwin, Nick Weber, Earl Randall, Emil Christensen, Olander Brothers, Ammond Holum, Adam Vaubel, and Jack Sample.

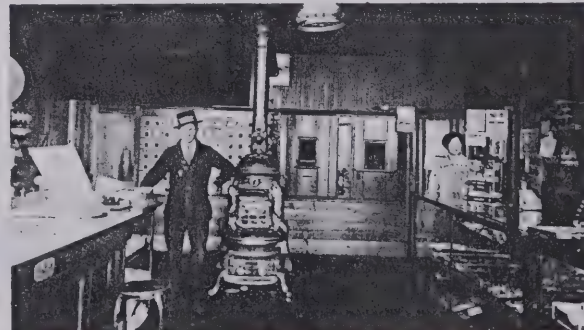
Business places in Flaxville were the Security State Bank, P. E. Johnson's store; Harry Sparling Hardware Store; Ed Molden and Frank Murr's saloons; Gene LaRoche, drayman; Wendell Kahabka and Slim Carlson, masons; Ralph and Glen Jones, cafe; Mrs. Glen Jones, telephone operator; Pooler's Drug Store; Greenbreg's Barber Shop, C. Lowe, blacksmith; Henry Pomerleau, butchershop; Mort Owsley, first cafe and livery barn; Rasmus Nelson, implements; Carl Gilbertson, land office; Kirkeby, Raffshaw and Hexom, General Merchandise; Mrs. Bliss Brown, millinery; Fred and Oscar Hansen, lumber yard; truck grain buyers, Kanning Bros. and Hanson Bros.; Farmer's Co-Op Elevator, Gene Schreiner; Miss Barnhart operated the hotel; Arnt Stafene, blacksmith, Swenson Bros. Garage.



Peter Hansen, who came to the Bredette community in 1915, is pictured hauling wheat from 25 miles south of Scobey. Note old wooden Scobey School building in background. He and his wife now live in town and their son operates the farm.



The Main Street of Flaxville in 1913. Sturdy then, sturdy now.



Flaxville's first post office, with Fred and Mary Tasa.

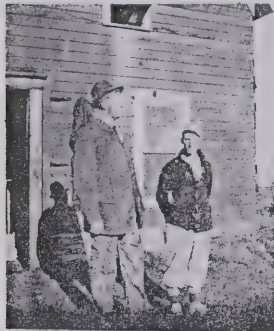
HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



A 1915 picture showing the Rasmus Nelson Farm Implement shop, and Hanson Bros. Lumber and Coal business behind the snow drifts at Flaxville.



The Frank Murr Bar in Flaxville in 1913. It looks here very much like an impassioned recitation of "The Face on The Bar Room Floor." Recitor unidentified.



The "long and the short", Paul Kanning and Jim Dorwin, taken at Flaxville in 1914.



Pete Kurtz of Flaxville and his team of mules, taken in Culbertson. Pete came to Flaxville in 1911 to work as a carpenter, and helped to build most of the buildings in the town. He also took up a homestead, and in 1915 he opened a hotel in Flaxville. Pete was the Flaxville policeman and deputy sheriff for many years. He is still a Flaxville resident.



Hauling grain to Flaxville in the bumper year of 1924.



Flaxville, about 1914, showing the post office, general store, drug store, barber shop, restaurant and hotel.



The Flaxville baseball team of 1914. Standing, Ed Molden (Mgr.). Back row: Pete Kurtz, Vick Merell, Thrunson, Lloyd Hanson. First row: Art Gourde, Alvin Ryarson, Tony Swenson, Fred Hanson.



**HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR**

J. C. Bloodsaw was postmaster and Alvin Ryerson was mail carrier.

There were two newspapers, both short-lived, the Flaxville Democrat and the Flaxville Hustler.

The Swenson Bros. opened an electric light plant in 1916. The first school teachers were Marion Estes and Hazel McCarty. A new school was built in 1916 and the faculty consisted of four grade school teachers. In 1921 a high school was started with John Q. Zuch as the first superintendent.

A new, modern school has been built. There is a large gymnasium, hot lunch facilities, and an up-to-date curriculum. Three school buses are operated by the district.

Fire protection to the community is offered by a volunteer fire department, financed by an annual dance in the spring.

The town has a ball park which has been the scene of many exciting games. Flaxville teams, both adult and Little League, have won many trophies.

The town has had a park for some time, and in the last few years it has been greatly developed.

The two churches in Flaxville are the Lutheran Church and the St. Louis Catholic Church.

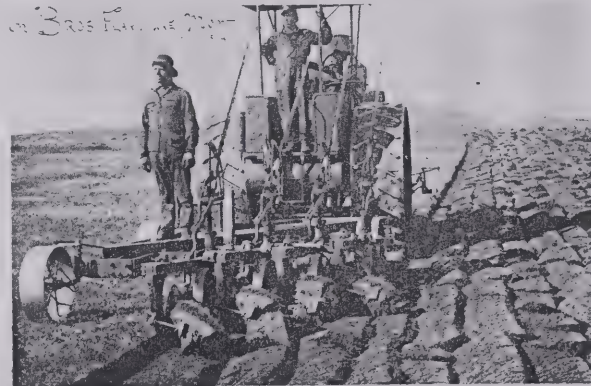
A bank robbery took place in Flaxville in October, 1927. The bandits made their getaway in a big Hudson Super Six, taking with them about \$4,500 in currency and silver and \$500 in liberty bonds.

Medical service in Flaxville was provided for many years by Dr. D. B. Healy, who established his office in 1914. He was one of those doctors who could claim that he had delivered babies in everything from a covered wagon to a Model T. Ford.

His first office was between two saloons that were open 24 hours a day, and often he found drunks who had stumbled into his office.



Busy days at the Flaxville elevator in 1924.



John and Bill Hinzman breaking sod south of Flaxville in 1914.



The Flaxville Hotel operated by Peter Kurtz in 1914. Pictured are Mrs. Peter Kurtz, Buck Peltier, M. L. Peltier, Eve McGinley, an actress, and Mr. and Mrs. Bliss Brown.



A busy day in Flaxville in 1916.



A scene on the L. H. Tousley farm south of Flaxville in 1914. Mrs. Tousley is driving the team on the hay mower, and Mr. Tousley is driving the team on the hay rake. In early homestead days, as today, the women often worked along with the men in the fields. Vaughn and Zada Tousley are standing in front. Note the water barrel on the stone boat. The water had to be hauled four miles. Vaughn now is Scobey's chief of police. His son, Clark, is cashier at the bank.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



A group of the surveyors and others connected with the Great Northern Railway in October, 1913. From left to right are an unknown surveyor; Stephen Field, Art Hilling (father of state senator Henry Hilling of Yellowstone County), another surveyor; Nurse Patterson (also a homesteader); the chief surveyor; Henry Boyer; Mrs. Boyer; below her, another surveyor; Charles Edwards, a surveyor; John Edwards.

Charles and John Edwards located near Whitetail and are still there.



The Henry Boyer homestead, two and a half miles southeast of Flaxville, with Mrs. Boyer, Nurse Patterson and Henry Boyer standing in front. The Boyer homestead was a place to stop for a meal. The railway surveyor crew ate here and slept in tents nearby during the summer of 1913. Later, Mr. Boyer put a cafe in Flaxville. The town of Flaxville was originally to be named Boyer, but the townsite was in the middle of a flax field. This picture, and one of the surveyors, was taken by a surveyor who had a camera. Townsite surveyors, (not to be confused with the rail surveyors) also boarded at Boyers.



200,000 bushels of wheat stored in temporary bins at Flaxville in 1923.

His territory included Madoc, Whitetail, Redstone, Navajo and Orville, and sometimes Scobey. In the winter of 1916, when the snow in Flaxville was banked up so high in the streets that it reached the tops of the buildings, the doctor often had to drive down the railroad track to Redstone because the roads were impassable. When the roads were impossible he would hire the section foreman to take him on the G.N. speeder.

He retired in 1957, and died later in Massachusetts.

Flaxville organizations include a Commercial Club, a Home Demonstration Club, the "750 Club," which is a Saddle Club, and the Womens Club. For several years the "750 Club" held big horse race meets each year, but these were discontinued about two years ago.

### ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

The St. Louis Catholic Church of Flaxville was contracted in 1914 by a building committee made up of Joe Murr, A. J. Wod, Jean LaRoche, Pete Kurtz and Art Goulet. The church was blessed on May 11, 1916, by Bishop Lenihan.

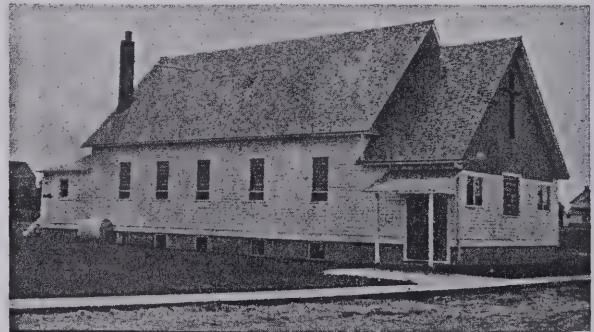
Previous to this, in 1915, Flaxville held an elaborate ceremony in which the new church bell was blessed.

Before the building of the church mass was offered in the barn and home of Joe Goulet, and in the hall above the store in Flaxville. As Flaxville is part of the Scobey parish it has been, and is, served by the priest from Scobey.

On May 23, in 1954, St. Louis church was the scene of the first High Mass and first Solemn Mass of Reverend Raymond Lapke. Father Lapke, who attended St. Edward's seminary near Seattle, is the first son of this parish to be ordained to the Catholic priesthood. He now serves at Saco, Montana. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Lapke of Madoc.

In 1931 the St. Louis church was enlarged and a parish hall built in the basement. During Father Sorger's service, from 1947 to 1961, the St. Louis church was completely renovated.

The organization of the Flaxville Altar Society took place at the home of Mrs. Joe Goulet. This consisted of about 12 ladies, and one of their first projects was a dance to raise funds for the purchase of mass vestments and the altar missal.



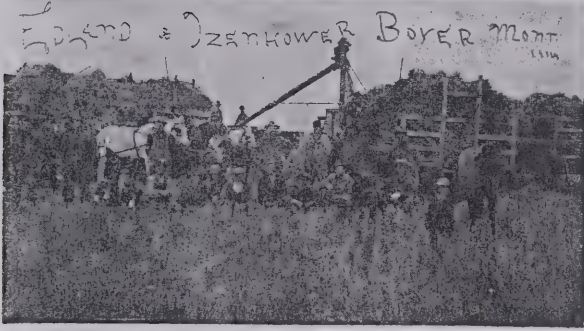
Flaxville Lutheran Church.



St. Louis Catholic Church in Flaxville in the early days.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



The Edland and Izenhower outfit in 1914, when Flaxville's proposed name was Boyer.



This was one way of digging a well in the old days, and in this case the gentlemen (Frank Hewett, George Barron, Harry Barnhart and Jim Dorwin, dug a hole 80 feet deep on the Art Dorwin homestead without finding water. The year was 1914.



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kurtz after their wedding in Plentywood on July 30, 1917. They raised 15 children, and also had the first hotel in Flaxville.



Lydia French (Mrs. Lydia Lemieux), Rose Rheault (Mrs. Ralph Gibbs), Alice French (Mrs. Sam Sprague), in 1922.



In 1913 Smoke Creek had a baseball team. In the back row are Dave Martin, Paul Milford. Second row, Billy Lapke, Elmer Gile, Harry Barnhart, Floyd Milford, Frank Hewett, Harry Vandenberg. Front row, Walt Seiler, Stan Milford, Layton Galloway and Art Nelson.



Flaxville School, 1918. In front, left to right, are Ovilia Goulet, Omer French, Harold Weber, Alfred French, Eugene Goulet. The last two in that row are Leo Parent and David Parent. First in the second row is Alma Parent (Mrs. Aime Carrier), Mrs. George Safty is fourth from right in second row. Amanda Johnson may be seen in the middle of the back row.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



A gathering of the Ladies Aid at Anna Goodwin's homestead shack south of Flaxville in July, 1915. The shack was built for her by her brother, Harry Haroldson, and she moved into it in March, 1911.

Construction of the Flaxville Catholic Church, 1914. George Weldele worked on it as a carpenter.

George recalls his trip to this area in 1913, with a friend who had a wagon pulled by a pair of broomtails, which played out a few miles from a stopping place south of Flaxville. The horses were taken to the stopping place, and he returned to protect the groceries in the wagon from the swifts. When he finally made it to Old Scobey, he almost froze in a hotel with cracks "you could stick your finger in."



The L. H. Tousley family, who homesteaded south of Flaxville in 1911. Front row, left to right, Mrs. L. H. Tousley, Vaughn (who is Scobey chief of police), and L. H. Tousley. Second row, Zada (the late Mrs. Harry Gunn), Ruth (Mrs. Frank Hewitt), Ruby (Mrs. Harry Barnhardt), and Martha (Mrs. Zimmerman).



Standing in front of the Flaxville Democrat newspaper office in 1915 are P. A. Paulson (publisher), Peter Kurtz, and Lillian Hansen (Mrs. Elmer Rowe). Burley Bowler cut his teeth as a printer here, a hobby in his spare time from watchmaking.



At the Smoke Creek School, 9 miles south of Flaxville, in July, 1914, are—standing, Amy Martin (Mrs. Ray O'Brien), Mrs. H. Cole, Mrs. Fred Chitty, Mrs. Fay Baker, Mrs. Baker's mother, Mrs. George Lawrence, Mrs. Lee Griffin, Mrs. Walt Marty, Mrs. Wm. Tryan, Mrs. Dave Martin (holding son Gordon), unidentified, Mrs. Fred Krassin, Mrs. Jay Baker (holding son, Wayne), Mrs. Lee French, holding child, teacher, Adele Mehls and Chloe Galloway sitting in school window. Children include: Worthington children, Chitty children, Griffin children, Vera and Winnifred Krassin, Earl Marty, Carl, Ernest and Sammy Izenhower, Dorothy and Bernice Lawrence, Prosper and Arlene Martin, Romayne Melville and Arthur Cole.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



George Lawrence and his daughter, Bernice (Mrs. M. J. Sorte), south of Flaxville on the R-Y in August, 1916.



Louis, David and Leo Parent in 1920. Knickers—they called those short pants.



One of the earliest homesteads south of Flaxville, that of Harry Haroldson in 1910. Haroldson was a brother of Mrs. Ann Goodwin.



Art Dorwin, Jim Dorwin and Elmer Giles on the George Barron homestead in 1913. You can see these fellows didn't work ALL of the time.



For the "pause that refreshes" in 1912, after hauling grain to Plentywood, are Arthur Gourde, William Parent, M. LaPierre, and Joseph Parent. Joe Parent came in 1910, and is still an area resident



The first Flaxville school, all in one room, in 1914. E. Helen Hansen, who still lives in Scobey, was the teacher. No identification of the kids.

## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

### PLEASANT PRAIRIE

In 1916 Walter Johnson, Clarence Madsen and Chris Lindorf settled as squatters twenty miles southeast of Flaxville. The country was so peaceful and quiet they named it Pleasant Prairie.

When the land was opened for homesteading in 1917 the original settlers were joined by J. O. Jacobson, W. Lien, Ed Westagard, O. E. Lien, Ole and Anton Rudd, Ole Resaw, Joe Lacowish, Ed Westagard, Esther Weisek, Nels Nordgren, Joe and John Cavanaugh, John Jarstad, Ole Berg, Ben and Martin Gustda, Herman Nakken, Everett Rosenbaum, John Albers, Nels Oxendall, Anton Peterson, Harry Bummer, Louie Sorenson, Clarence Gilbertson, Ed Peterson, Mike Hansen and August Billehus.

Fern Anderson was the first teacher.

Most of the settlers were Lutheran, and Rev. Kjer would come from Plentywood to conduct church services.

In 1921 the Ladies Aid was organized, and with their help a church was obtained.

### SMOKE CREEK

In 1909 Dave Martin, Fred Krassin, William Tryan and John Krassin settled in the Smoke Creek Valley. They named the new Community Smoke Creek as there was always a heavy mist hanging over the valley.

Soon after the land was opened for homesteading they were joined by the following settlers: William Galloway, Art Nelson, Harry Barnhart, Frank Hewitt, Elmer Gile, Fred Schitty, George Lawrence, George Block, Lee Griffin, A. B. Olson, Fred Worthington, Alvin and Charley Hauger, John Wilkerson, C. F. Cromwell, John Block, Frank Foster, Mart Eisenhower, John Barnhart, Joe Melville, Bert Reno, Hans Hansen, Ole Berg, Albert Miller, Garvey Higgins, Gus Wesbty, Tom Fjone, Roy Day, Casey Jones, Reno Crumrin, John Lowers, Ben Gustad, Harry Haroldson, Lee French, Charley Marsh, Wes Fredrick, William Guy, Ervin Galloway, Asa Jones, Hiram Cole, Hugh French, Jay Baker, Zeber and Ora Jay, Aunt Fidge, Ray McCarthy, E. R. Frederick, Albert Schammel, John Cavanaugh, Martin Gustad and Harry Brummer.

### ORVILLE

The town of Orville, about nine miles southwest of Flaxville, is no longer on the map. Like many other little settlements it began to fade away when it was bypassed by the Great Northern branch line.

The town was named after the postmaster's only son, Orville E. Lockrem.

Businesses from the town moved to Flaxville and Madoc when those towns were established in 1913.

### ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

In August, 1911, the Rev. Fretheim of Plentywood stopped for the night after having ministered to a dying young man in the area. He was invited to come back and have church services at Orville. The first one, on August 6, 1911, was attended by large crowds. The church was a large tent, which was unable to accommodate the entire crowd even though it was larger than any buildings in the town.

In 1918 dedication services for the Orville Zion Lutheran Church building were held. A cemetery was started nearby.

Services were held at Orville until 1942, when the Orville and Flaxville congregations merged into one and became part of the Scobey parish.

In 1962 a social gathering at the Flaxville Church honored seven pioneer members of the former Orville Ladies Aid. They were Mrs. Anna Godwin, Mrs. Lina Brenden, Mrs. T. Fjone, Mrs. Amel Christensen, Mrs. Louise Cray, Mrs. Anna Halverson and Mrs. Earl Randal.



The new Flaxville school.



The Barnhart family in 1909. Lettie (Mrs. Elmer Gile), Harry, Jessie (Mrs. Len Backler), Mr. and Mrs. John Barnhart.



The Hexum Store in Flaxville, originally the Kirkiby and Rafshol store, and now the Co-op store. This store building was moved from Old Orville.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

ORGANIZATIONS



Scobey Saddle Club House, built in 1947, ever since a community center.



Robert M. Ferguson, Worthy Patron, Prairie Chapter No. 75, Order of Eastern Star.



Mrs. Adeline H. Michel, Worthy Matron Prairie Chapter No. 75, Order of Eastern Star.



The Modern Day and Homestead queens for the Golden Jubilee were chosen at the annual Saddle Club breakfast in June. Mrs. Oscar Shipstead was elected Homestead Queen, and Kay Girard was chosen to be Modern Day Queen. Queen candidates, pictured at the breakfast, are back row: Judy Lekvold, Lona Rae Tande, Libby Schaefer, Mrs. Aimee Carrier, Mrs. Louise Davis, Mrs. Keith Whipple, Mrs. Frances Richardson, Lottie Parshall, Kay Pomarleau, Joyce Bjarko, Kay Girard, Neysa Battleson, Mrs. John Poyner, Dora Carrier. Front row: Mrs. Donald Audet, Mrs. Mac Drummond, Mrs. John Lapke, Mrs. Clarence Gunderson, Mrs. Carrie Fossen, Mrs. Oscar Shipstead, Mrs. Lucy Buer, Mrs. Clara Humbert.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

MIDDLEFORK AND SCOBHEY AREA



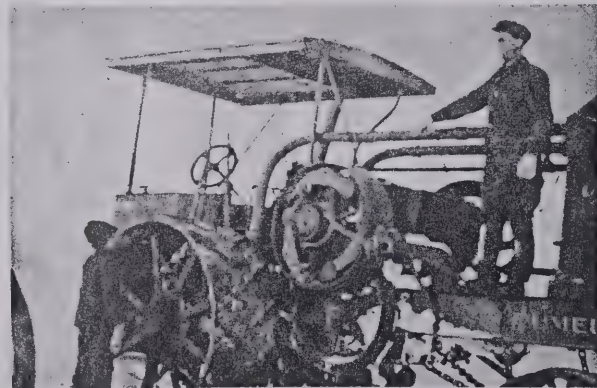
Clarence Handy, Leo Von Kuster and Roger Von Kuster on the Carl Grotte homestead in 1915.



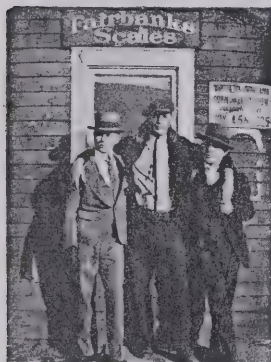
Tim Herreid and Nels Brenna perched aboard a four-horse load of flax they delivered to Poplar in 1913.



A 1913 picture of Roger Von Kuster and Ralph Von Kuster, standing behind David Von Kuster, Margaret Von Kuster and Bluffer.



Ludvig Graff's son, Belmer, posed beside an old-time Rumley tractor. Ingman Jackson is on the tractor.



Al Fowler, Wilbur "Pete" Hardenburgh and Morris Pugh, all once young bucks around Scobey in the 1920's, and now all living in California, are shown down by the long-gone county scales in 1925. The poster above them advertises the Northern Exposition and Seed Show at Glasgow. All three of these young fellows grew up in Scobey and were Scobey high school graduates.



Miss Lottie Parshall, one of Old Scobey's first residents.



Orr Burgett shipped west to Poplar from Indiana by emigrant car and then overland 70 miles to his homestead site seven miles north of Scobey in 1909. He took his squatters rights in August, 1909, intending to prove up his claim and then return to Indiana to attend Purdue University. He chose the Scobey area because one of his Indiana neighbors, Frank Hughes, Sr., was here.

He marked the boundaries of his land by a plow furrow and placed his name at the corners to establish his rights. The land was not surveyed until 1912. He went to North Dakota to teach northwest of Minot, at \$45 a month, to finance the building of his homestead shack. He hired a fellow homesteader, Mr. Arthur Cluchy, to haul lumber from Poplar for him.

The land on which his homestead was located came to be known as Hoosier Hill, because of the many Indiana people who settled there. Among his Hoosier neighbors were the Ira Pittengers, L. O. Pittenger, W. K. Ferguson, Bert Watts, Hugh Burgett, Frank Hughes, Sr., Marcus Burgett, Roy Herd, Steve Watts, William Heltons, Sr., Amos Pence, Frank Grant, Charles Fenimore, William G. Wolff, Burr Wolff, Noah England, Monroe Eikenberry, Herbert Montgomery and Biard and Ursi Pittenger.

In 1915, he married a Hoosier school marm, Miss Nora Louise Watts, who had also taken a homestead. The flu epidemic of 1918 took the life of their first-born child, a son.



## HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR

Mr. Burgett states, "The experiences of the 'depression', coupled with the drouth from 1929 through 1937, and the destruction of the big crop of 1938 by black rust, really tested the temper of the souls of us all, for it was not easy to stand helpless watching our pastures and crops perish from hot winds and lack of moisture, and our precious soil scattered by the four winds, and being forced to sacrifice 70 of our 80 head of registered Red Polled cattle at prices from \$6.00 to \$17.00 per head, purchased by the government.

"Added to the dilemma was the closing of the First National Bank, freezing and confiscating our deposits and credits, and requiring payment in full for any and all notes and mortgages, leaving almost everyone without resources. Many were forced to swallow their pride and accept government handouts and W.P.A. labor.

"By the year 1940 there were left in the county only a small percentage of the original homesteaders. Some left because they wanted to and others because they had to. Those of us who were too poor to leave, and those other few, not quite as unfortunate, have been truly blessed most years since 1940 with good crops and good prices for our crops and livestock.

"Our greatest rewards have been the raising and educating of our children, and being blessed with grandchildren, lifelong friends, and good neighbors, and the communion and fellowship and guidance of the Holy Spirit."

Mrs. Burgett, the former Nora Watts, came with her parents in 1910, and took out a homestead of her own.

She recalls that in April, 1910, several emigrant cars from Logansport, Ind., arrived. Among the men shipping out west were Frank Grant, Lloyd and Ira Pittinger, and her father, Steve Watts. The men waited at a camp at the north edge of Poplar, living in a large tent, until the women and children arrived.

Then they loaded up their equipment and started northward. Mrs. Burgett was given a heavily loaded one-horse wagon to drive. The horse, a fine bay mare, was accustomed to the good roads of Indiana and refused to travel in the middle of the prairie trails used normally by teams. Finally, Mrs. Burgett gave up and allowed the horse to take the smooth path while she endured the bumps for 50 miles.

She drove an empty wagon on the return trip, a tiresome journey as she had no back rest. She arrived at the camp, hungry and exhausted. When the dinner call came the table was quickly filled with hungry men and children.

Standing by the coal range in the shadows, she noticed a large kettle on the back of the stove containing what looked like broth and a chunk of boiled beef. She took a plate and a thick slice of bread and dipped out some broth to satisfy her hunger. One sample, and then the second, but the peculiar flavor persisted. So she said to Mrs. Grant, "What's the matter with this beef broth? It tastes like dishwater."

"Oh, Nora, that's just what it is!" Mrs. Grant replied. "The dish pan was in use so I took the kettle with some water in it to wash the sand and dirt off the table before it was set. That's the dish rag in the kettle."

Mrs. Burgett ate her supper at the table, but found that the keen edge of her appetite had been dulled.



Arne Larson (marked with x) and friends fishing on the Middle Fork in 1912. Fishermen found the "sucker", which was the fish usually caught here, not too unpalatable if caught in early spring while the water was still cold.



The sod shack, a yoke of oxen to a hay rack, and a Buick of pre-World War I vintage portray the admixture of modes of living and transportation on the homesteading prairies of the early days. This picture, owned by Mrs. Sam Olson, whose husband was in the old Orville community in its early years, unfortunately contains no further information as to people in it. Numerous pictures for this historical book had to be omitted due to lack of this kind of pertinent information.



Orr Burgett, early-day homesteader and teacher, in 1911. He also is a lay preacher.



Mrs. Claude (Clara Nelson) Tande, one of the first school teachers in Daniels County.



The Orr Burgett homestead in 1913, with Orr in the foreground. Orr's brother, Hugh, stands near the shack. Hugh, and a cousin, Marcus Burgett, came out in March, 1910, and lived in Orr's shack while they cut sod in 24" sections to build homes for their families.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Graff and Hanson binding grain on their farm in about 1915. Graff and his two sons are on the tractor. Pete Berget is on the first binder. Sam Hanson is on the third binder.



A view of the Frank Hughes farm in 1916.



Jack Baldry, Hank Siggelkow and Earl Olson, with Siggelkow heading the crew in 1918.



The Robert Humbert ranch on the Middle Fork. Men who freighted from Poplar to Canada stopped here to obtain food and lodging.



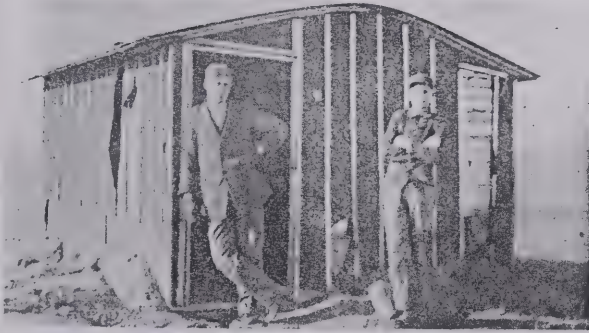
A group gathered for Sunday dinner at the A. T. Larson farm in 1918. From left to right (back row), are Willmar Knudson, Mr. Greenmunde, Oliver Arveson, Christ Brasen, Frank Crone, Pete Brasen, John Knudson, holding grandson, Norman Larson, A. T. Larson holding son, Sylvester, Al Larson holding son, Lawrence, Mrs. A. T. Larson, Lulu Lundby.

Middle row, Frances Brasen, Harlan Knudson, Fred Hansen, Mrs. Fred Hansen, Mrs. Frank Crone, Mrs. Greenmunde, holding her child, Mrs. Pete Brasen, Mrs. John Knudson (Thomas), Kathleen Brasen (Sorsdahl) Clarice Knudson (Wang), Esther Knudson (Baldwin).

Front row: Irvin Brasen, Violet Hanson, Izetta Crone (Nelson), Florence Crone, three Greenmunde children, Elmer Larson, Janice Knudson, Burton Knudson, Lenora Larson (Humbert), Agnes Knudson Conboy.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Clarence Engberg (uncle of Floyd and Lyle) in doorway of his homestead shack north of Scobey in 1912.



Young folks out for a Sunday drive north of Scobey in 1912. In the front seat are Al Larson and Lillian Fadness (Krouse), and in back are Ben Lien and Luella Knudson (Larson).



A typical cook car, in 1915, on the Al Larson farm. The cook car was pulled from field to field to save time. The cook is Miss Wealthy Brooks. Identity of the men unknown.



Martin Froslan in front of his sod house in 1912.

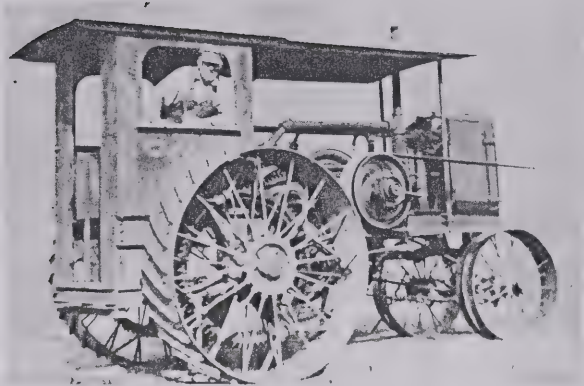


The L. O. Pittenger outfit in 1914.

Front row, left to right, Glen Chenoweth, unknown, George Davis, Ursi Pittenger, Jack Hein, Hank Rhymer, Art Nicholas, Elmer Nicholas, Milo Smith, Red Huffman, Charley Fenemore, unknown. On the drive wheel are Perry Pittenger (front), unknown, and Biard Pittenger (back).



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



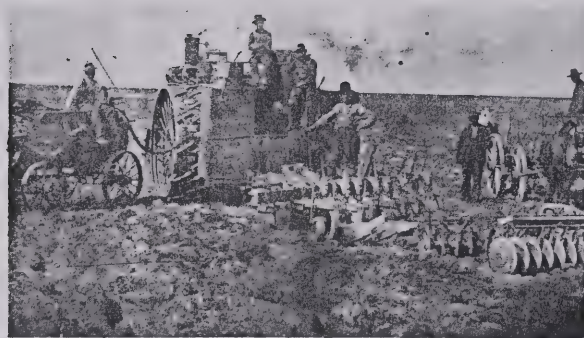
W. K. Ferguson and his gasoline engine, in 1926.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ferguson in 1912, with children Robert, William and Ruth.



Esther Wilson, Marjorie Parkhurst (now Mrs. Keith Miller of Lansing, Mich.), Mrs. Sherman Wilson (deceased), Hazel Parkhurst Shaw in 1912. Mrs. Shaw's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Parkhurst, broke thirty acres of the new homestead the first year they were here with the above-pictured oxen, and put it into flax. In a following year they had the late George Grosse break up some land with his big steam engine.



Farming on the Al Larson farm in 1912. No rubber on these vehicles.



Al Larson at a 1915 Case Convention in Minneapolis. This is what the "homesteader" wore when he went to the "city" on business.



Floyd Sunderhauf, one of the colorful fellows around here in the '19s and '20s, drayman, movie projectionist at the Rex Theatre for years, electrician, he was a well-met fellow. Now lives in Bremerton, Wash. This shows his car, stuck in the snow on the old Scobey-Madoc road, on a return trip from California in the late '20s.

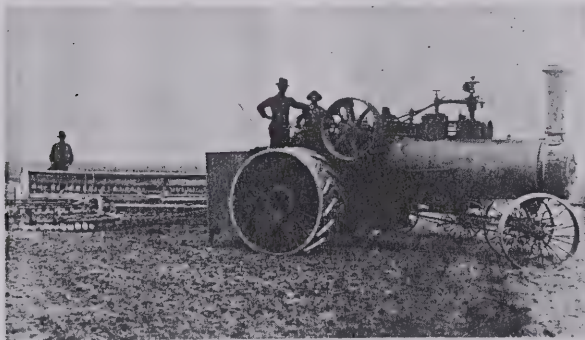




HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Strip and tunnel mining at a lignite mine north of Scobey in 1911. Coal mining and hauling was a busy occupation for many until the early '40s.



Drilling and discing with a steam engine on the Al Larson farm north of Scobey in 1911. Al's son, Elmer, today has a resort at the east entrance to Yellowstone Park, known as Larson's Motel.



Pictured here is the late Mrs Anna Horvick Fadness (mother of Mrs. O. W. Paus), her son, Ben Horvick, and daughter Mrs. M. J. Clayburgh. The children are Donna and Mark, Jr., children of the Clayburghs. Mrs. Clayburgh was first teacher at the Fadness school which was built near the ranch in 1913. Before that time the children attended school for a few months each year at Poplar. Stepfather Gulick Fadness was an early day horse rancher on a major scale.



Albert Tande and John Apstel, two early-day ranchers.



The Bonnes School, taught by Mrs. Alvah Shaw in 1918. Back row, left to right: Anna (Mrs. J. P. Jensen) and Alma Lien, Grace (Mrs. Babe Griffith of Billings) Jevnager, Louella Bonnes (who ran away with a circus), Myrtle Jevnager, Mrs. Leo Zuck of Billings, Carrol Hanson (of Malta), Roger Von Kuster. Front row, Carrol Bonnes, Ralph (Pat) Von Kuster of New Mexico, David Von Kuster, Alpha Hanson, a Jones girl, Eleanor (Mrs. Palmer Teigen) Hanson, Gladys Hanson, and Selma Jevnager Fonk of Wolf Point.



Roy Humbert operating a push binder on his farm north of Scobey in 1918.



Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Paus in 1920. At that time Mrs. Paus, a daughter of Mrs. Anna Horvick Fadness, was teaching in Scobey schools. Mr. Paus is still active in the Paus-Strom Hardware and Furniture Co., in Scobey and is rounding out his 47th year in the hardware and furniture business.



Jake Timmons on his saddle horse.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR



Roy (Bill) Humbert fording the Middle Fork of the Poplar in the spring of 1915. This river was often flooded in the spring, and was crossed by raft, wagon, or horseback. In 1943, while dumping refuse, Roy Humbert accidentally backed his pickup into the swollen river, and saved his life by crawling out the window and making his way to shore while dodging the ice cakes. He lost his dentures in the river, but the pickup was recovered a week later and was still in running order.



F. M. Grant and his son, Aaron E. Grant, in an oatfield on the Grant ranch in 1911 or 12. Frank Grant came from Indiana in 1910 at the suggestion of Lloyd Pittenger, Steve Watts and Ray Hurd, Indiana neighbors who came in 1909. Mr. Grant was the father of Mrs. G. J. (Edna) Waller.



Mrs. Andrew Tande by her home, in which the outlaw Frank Jones, was fatally shot.



Roger Von Kuster and threshing outfit in 1927.



The Carl K. Hanson family homesteaded six miles southeast of Scobee in the spring of 1912. Left to right in this photo on their homestead in 1915 are C. K. Hanson (holding Victor), Mrs. Hanson, Carrol, Marion (Mrs. Ozro Brown) Herman, two neighbors—Clarence Wilbur and his hired man—and Alpha, Edna (Mrs. Chet Murphy), Gladys (Mrs. Connie Lund), and Eleanor (Mrs. P. E. Teigen). One daughter, Kathryn, had not yet been born.

C. K., who had had a blacksmith shop in Clear Lake, Wisc., had a blacksmith shop at Old Scobee as a sideline. He discontinued the shop when the town moved to its present site, but continued to shoe horses and repair equipment on his farm. He and his wife helped organize the Scobee Lutheran Church and the Aid. He bought the Frank (Fatty) Merrill place and later the Bonnes ranch. The latter was the scene of the annual Lutheran Sunday school picnic for many years. Mrs. Hanson died in 1934, and C. K. Hanson in 1955.



Roger Von Kuster and his wife, the former Ragnhild Veis. Roger, who was born here on July 6, 1904, was the first white child born here who has spent all his life in this area. He can recall seeing the long Indian trains from Poplar on their seasonal trek up the Poplar flats to the Woody Mountains for their annual Indian celebration. They would stop near the present Sherman Johnson place, and also near French Lane. He attended the Bonnes school in 1910.

Mrs. Von Kuster is a daughter of Mrs. Soren Veis, Silver Star area pioneer.



Theodore Colby homesteaded in 1909. Pictured on his place in 1912 are Andrew Flatney, Theodore Colby, Bertha Colby, Dot Hughes, Carrie Colby. Standing: Estella Hughes, Mabel Colby, Helen Colby, Mrs. Theodore Colby. Seated in front are Frank Hughes, Ed Colby, Charley Wolford, Theodore Colby, Jr.



## PRAIRIE NEWSPAPERING

### FLAXVILLE NEWSPAPERS

There were two weekly newspapers in Flaxville; the Hustler started by George Cooke, deputy sheriff, of Plentywood, in 1913; and the Flaxville Democrat, started by Joe Dolan of Medicine Lake in 1913. The Hustler went out of business in January, 1915. P. A. Paulsen bought the Democrat from Joe Dolan in 1917, later changed it to the American and it went out of business during the first World War. Burley Bowler worked on both of these papers, in 1916 working on the Madoc Recorder.

### MADOC NEWSPAPER

Madoc also had two newspapers. The first one was the Madoc Messenger in 1915, started by P. A. Paulsen, it lasted only a few months. Then in 1916 Sig Forbregd, brother Herman, a pioneer rancher still living in Madoc community, hired Burley Bowler to start the Madoc Recorder. It lasted until five months later when Burley Bowler quit to work for the Sheridan County News in Plentywood. He later in 1916 took over the Independent at Antelope, selling it in 1919 to Joe Dolan.

### SCOBEY NEWSPAPERS

Scobey's first newspaper, the Scobey Sentinel, was started in 1912 by Joe Hocking, now a retired veteran newspaperman, living in Glasgow who in 1913 became more interested in his property the Glasgow Courier and sold the Sentinel to Pat Burke in the summer of 1913.

Burke, now 75, and living in Las Vegas, that summer of 1913 moved the Sentinel plant to the new townsite, locating it where the Scobey Lockers now are.

Mr. Burke was active in political affairs, serving in 1916 and in 1920 as delegate to national Democratic conventions in St. Louis and San Francisco, respectively.

In 1914 was started the Scobey Citizen by George Cooke of Plentywood in the building now housing the Kut 'n Kurl. This lasted until 1919. Shortly after this Pat Burke sold the Sentinel in what began a series of hands changing—it was bought by Dan Conway, then by the Scobey Publishing Company (a group of local business men), then W. E. Johnson, then by Scott & Burke (no relation to Pat), then by a group of farmers who formed the Farmers Publishing Company.

Meanwhile after Pat Burke had sold out the Sentinel, he then started up the Scobey Citizen again. It lasted only a year or so. The Daniels County Leader was started again in 1922 by Carl Spurrier, who had made an attempt earlier with the Courier at Whitetail, which was shortlived. In 1923 the Leader was bought by Joe Dolan.

Meanwhile, the Scobey Sentinel's editor, Miller had been directed by one of the board of directors to publish an editorial involving the school which boomeranged and the editor left town. Burley Bowler, who was helping in the Sentinel composing department was put in as editor. In 1924, in a disagree-

ment over policy, Burley Bowler left the Sentinel, borrowed a thousand dollars from the Citizens State Bank and bought the Leader.

Those were warm newspapering days. In 1926 the Leader was set fire to by thugs from Plentywood and for six weeks the Leader was printed in Wolf Point, until the local plant could be put back in shape. The Sentinel meanwhile had been sold to Juls J. Anderson who in 1927 sold it to Burley Bowler who consolidated it with the Leader. The Sentinel already had taken over the Scobey Citizen.

In 1934 the late Governor Frank Cooney financed the start of another newspaper in Scobey, called the Daniels County Free Press. It later was purchased by a Mr. Cromwell of Glasgow who in turn sold it to Halleck Brothers who had come to north-eastern Montana to harvest under the New Deal. The Free Press was located in a building just north of Rasmus Nelson implement until its demise in 1941. The building was bought by Dick Coughlin who moved it to Smith Avenue and remodeled. It is now the residence of Chet Madsen. The lot downtown on which the building stood was bought by Rasmus Nelson to enlarge his implement yard.

The Leader building, in its first and only location until 1955, was struck by lightning in 1947 and suffered severe damage. This was one of the three times since 1946 the Leader has been late in the mail. After thirty-three years in the one building, still owned by Burley Bowler, the Leader moved to its present site in the fall of 1955 when Larry Bowler, owner and editor since 1957, bought the old First National Bank building from the late Otto King and Dr. T. W. Collinson. Burley Bowler continues as publisher.

On May 9, 1963, after two years of planning and arrangements for equipment and plant re-arrangement, the Leader changed over to offset printing and now does all of the photography, picture processing and plate-making in its new plant. The May 9 issue was the third time the Leader has been late in the mails since 1946.

The Leader publisher, Burley Bowler, who will be 73 in August, originally was a journeyman watchmaker who served his apprenticeship as a youth in Ontario, coming west in 1911. He got into newspapering by accident in Flaxville, where he had his watchmaking bench in the old Pooler drugstore, when he began helping during his spare time on the old Flaxville Democrat. One night the editor-printer went on a binge and never came back. Thus and there began Burley Bowler's colorful newspapering career. His oldest son, Larry, was born there. Through fires, libel and damage suits, rough and tumble political battles, and hard times, he always was at his best when things were the toughest; he still is. Today in Montana he is outranked by only two others in seniority as a weekly newspaper publisher.

His youngest son, Duane, now is managing editor of the Billings Gazette, and it was with deep gratification this spring that he was able to note that his grandson, Printer L. C. Bowler, received his journalism degree at Montana State University and was voted the outstanding male graduate on the campus. The name Bowler in Montana means newspapering.

# HOMESTEAD LIFE — 1917

## In Northeastern Montana

In 1917 my family came to Scobey to see Ben Battleson about a homestead location. He took us out in a model T Ford to Butte Creek and charged us \$50. We located on Rumpus Ridge and Shirt Tail Bend, and we had a lot of homestead neighbors.

We were 35 miles from town (Scobey) and we hauled lumber from J. R. McCurdy's lumber yard to build a 10x12 shack, covering it with tar paper, later we were able to build on an additional room and use rubberoid roofing. We dug out a hill and covered it with lumber for a barn. Fortunately we had good water and the springs fed a dam that we dug out so our cattle would have plenty to drink. We had to fence all our land, and the posts were hauled from Scobey.

We had cattle, 8 good work horses, 2 saddle horses, a plow, drill, disk, hay mower, hay rake and two wagons, a hay rack.

We couldn't drive to town three or four times a day for supplies. We had to raise nearly everything we needed. We had chickens, turkeys, pigs, cows, raised a big garden, made our own butter and bread. Cured meats were a necessity. We had no refrigerator, used the spring, or the apple box on the side of the house to keep food like milk, cream, butter and fresh meats, when we had them, from spoiling.

Our cattle were grazed on the Horseshoe basin, along with many hundreds of cattle that belonged to our neighbors. The cattle had to be herded, so many hours were spent on the back of the cattle pony in heat and rain. One rancher didn't want any neighbors as he wanted all the land and the grass for himself. He would castrate the other farmers' bulls, and cut down their barbed wire fences. One fall he set poison out in the Horseshoe basin, planning to get the neighbors' cattle. He came to our ranch at 4 A. M. "Hurry up, Kid, some one has poisoned the cattle in the Basin." I rode over to see about our cattle, and they were alright, so I drove them home. But the rancher who set out the poison lost 17 head of his cattle.

There was very little time for rest. When it rained we had to repair fences, and I disliked haying season the worst of all. In 1921 there was scarcity of grass and we had to scout around the country for feed. Russian thistles and tumbling weeds, were plentiful, but other ranchers also wanted them, and usually there was an argument over who would get them. Homesteaders without cattle had to solve the problem, if the feed was on their land.

We all looked forward to the Fourth of July at old Peerless. We would prepare a lunch, hitch the horses to the buggy, put the kids in the back and off to the celebration we would go. There was always a parade, led by Jim Meade on his white horse, followed by a baseball game, of which Jim was the umpire. There was a horseshoe pitching contest, foot races for the kids, a horse quadrille, due to the interest of Clay Gilchrist, Sr., and some bronc riding. In the evening there was a dance and everyone stayed. The kids would be put to sleep in the buggies or wagons and the older people danced until daylight, when they would go home, do their chores and then get some sleep.

Neighbors helped each other with harvest. The big event of the year, was the threshing season. Each farmer had to furnish men and bundle teams on the threshing rigs, and the farmers' wives had to cook for the crew when the threshers came to their place. The food was good at some places, but many fed us on salt pork and beans and prunes. We were always glad to get the rig home where we would get fried

chicken. When we were threshing at Frank Fouhys, Leo Kleeman and I saw some watermelons in her garden. Leo stole one and we ate it. Mrs. Fouhy blamed me for the theft.

One day the threshing machine broke down. Pete Kleeman was the separator man, and he wore a handle bar mustache. When I got home with my bundle team, my aunt asked what was the matter with the machine, and I told her Pete's mustache got caught in the feeder of the separator and stopped the threshing.

After threshing we had to haul our grain by horses, 35 miles to Scobey. We would load our wagons the day before, leave the farm at daylight, taking our lunch along, we stopped at noon at the Kerstein farm, where there was good water. Our sandwiches were made from canned veal loaf, cheese or Vienna sausages. We would get to Scobey about 4 P. M. and usually couldn't get the grain unloaded, so we would have to stay over night. We slept in the large office of Harris and Scharfs barn. We would roll out our bed roll, and as many as 20 slept there at one time.

When we would get our grain wagons unloaded, we would purchase our supplies and start home. We would get as far as Beebe's farm, where there was lots of water, so we would put the tarps around our wagons and make our beds under the wagons. We always carried canned tomatoes along to drink as the water was poor, except at Kersteins. It was a common occurrence to wake up in the morning, roll out of our bedrolls and find snow on the ground. We would get back to the farm at noon the next day, and let the horses rest a couple of days, then load up the wagons and leave with another supply of grain.

We had to gather buffalo and cow chips for fuel, and dig lignite coal from the hills.

There was no school at first, and Clark had a blacksmith shop at his farm and Hammerberg and Roseberry had a store and post office at Battlesons. We could purchase staple groceries and hardware there, and we got our mail twice a week. Bert Howe hauled the mail from Scobey.

My brother Joe and I were on the farm for 8 weeks in 1921, looking after the cattle as our folks were away due to a death in the family. When they returned, they took us to the Battleson post office to see if we could ride to town with Bert Howe. He had a cutter covered with canvas, and straw in the bottom to keep out the cold. It was 20 below zero and the snow as deep, he didn't want to take us due to the weather and snow packed roads, but our uncle, Percy Lewarton told him we had to get back to school, so he took us to town. We left Battleson at 7 P. M. and got into Scobey at 5 P. M.

In the winter time, all the cattle had to be fed and the barn had to be cleaned, water had to be hauled from the dam for the cattle. Neighbors would visit back and forth and card parties would be held, with a turkey feed after the party. There were no dances as it was too far to drive in the winter to the nearest dance hall in old Peerless. Rabbit hunts would be held. Scobey businessmen would team up and have a contest with the farmers and ranchers. Who ever got the least number of rabbits had to furnish the eats, which usually consisted of oyster stew or weiners and sauerkraut.

We would stay on the ranch in the summer while our uncle, Percy Lewarton would work in stores to get the extra money we needed to live on. Times were hard, but looking back, we spent the best days of our lives on the MEX Ranch.

—Compiled by R. V. Walker.



HOMESTEADERS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DANIELS COUNTY FAIR  
**SETTLERS THROUGH THE YEARS**

1901

Mrs. Gertrude M. Hanson  
 J. Dallas Matkin

1902

Mrs. Nora (Tande) Drummond  
 Mrs. Augusta Jevnager  
 Leonard Marlenee  
 Lottie Parshall  
 Claude Tande  
 Anna (Tande) Tingley  
 Clara (Tande) Torkelson

1903

Julian Erickson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Shipstead

1904

Leo H. Butler  
 Estelle (Hughes) Colby  
 Mrs. Ellen Hamann  
 Mrs. Frank Hughes, Sr.  
 Frank D. Hughes  
 Daisy (Hughes) Marquart  
 Albert Shipstead  
 Roger VonKuster

1905

Mrs. Louise Davois  
 Mrs. Chloe Galloway

1906

H. O. Batterton  
 Mrs. Clarence Gunderson

1907

Herman Forbregd  
 Mrs. Christene Goodale  
 Gunder B. Gunderson  
 Avery Knight  
 Mrs. J. F. Morrison  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Wagar

1908

Charles Marlenee  
 Mrs. Otto (Ida) Olson  
 Mrs. Claude Tande

1909

Alice Ambelang  
 Mr. and Mrs. Orr Burgett  
 Chas. Chicoine  
 Ed Colby  
 Mike Darchuk  
 Mac Drummond  
 Carrie (Colby) Fossen  
 Mrs. Lottie Gile  
 Lynn Hanrahan  
 Mrs. Dan Henderson  
 James Johnson  
 Oscar Johnson  
 Louis Kanning  
 Mrs. M. L. Morey  
 Melvin Schow  
 Helen (Colby) Sickles  
 Ruth M. Slack  
 George Robinson  
 Daniel VonKuster  
 Harold (Jack) Wiley

1910

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Berger  
 Mrs. Pete Borris  
 Mrs. Aurora Bourassa

Joseph Bourassa  
 Oliver Bystrom  
 Mrs. Aimee Carrier  
 Amedee Chabot  
 Mrs. Dorothy Chapman  
 Reid Chapman  
 Art Chicoine  
 Mr. H. A. Christensen  
 Henry Danelson  
 Emma Delagrave  
 Emery Doyon  
 Mrs. Anna Drapak  
 Fred E. Engberg  
 Alfred Evenskaas  
 Melvin T. Evenson  
 Mrs. C. P. Fisher  
 Mrs. Emma Fjeld  
 Mrs. Fern Flick  
 Bessie Aldrich Fox  
 George Fox  
 L. E. Gibbs  
 Silvio Goulet  
 Clarence H. Gunderson  
 John L. Gunderson  
 Art Hagan Sr.  
 Mrs. Anna Halvorson  
 Mrs. A. R. (Mabel) Hanson  
 E. Helen Hanson  
 Mrs. E. W. Heathman  
 Ernest Henderson  
 Roy Herd  
 Fred W. Jensen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kilgore  
 Mrs. LeRoy Kirn  
 Peter R. Kurtz  
 Mrs. Bill (Alice) Lapke  
 Elias LaRoche  
 Mrs. Owen Logan  
 Mrs. Frank P. Miller  
 P. J. Martin  
 Mrs. Chas. Marlenee  
 Ollie Olson  
 Otto W. Olson  
 Clarence Penn  
 Joseph Parent  
 Wilfred Parent  
 Carl M. Pittenger  
 Edwin F. Potter  
 Ingval K. Simonson  
 Edwin Simonson  
 Mannick Skogan  
 George E. Severson  
 Mrs. Merle (Fern Wiley) Sandon  
 Mrs. Leu Stag  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Tonjun  
 Mrs. Al Tande  
 C. V. Tyler  
 Nick Tymofichuk  
 Mrs. Albert (Krassin) Tryan  
 Mrs. Edna Waller  
 Martin Wang  
 Mrs. Selmer Wang  
 Mrs. Victor E. Wilberg

1911

Mrs. L. R. Akers  
 Oliver Arveson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Anderson  
 Mabel Burgett  
 Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Barenz  
 Mrs. Jeanette Cavanaugh  
 Mrs. H. A. Christensen  
 Rose Mendenhall Faust  
 Doris Krassin Fales

Fred J. DeSonia  
 Nels Gaustad  
 Mrs. Anna Goodwin  
 Bert Goodwin  
 Clara A. Humbert  
 Mrs. Alice Bureau Johnson  
 Clifton E. Jones  
 Frank Linder  
 J. F. Morrison  
 Ed Mendenhall  
 Ben O. Mollerstuen  
 O. K. McDowell  
 Mrs. Henrietta New  
 Mrs. Sam (Lucy) Olson  
 Hans Offett  
 Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Ostby  
 Vernon Potter  
 Sylvia C. Pugh  
 Earl Randall  
 Mrs. L. H. Tousley  
 Margaret Von Kuster  
 Mrs. John Walter  
 Sam Montgomery

1912

Emil Audet  
 Mrs. Donald Audet  
 Micheal and Leona Brandon  
 Frances Brasen  
 Marion (Hanson) Brown  
 Edgar H. Baethke  
 Mrs. Winnie McDonald Burgett  
 Carmon Bush  
 Mentor Christensen  
 Chas. Carrell  
 George F. Crandall  
 Frank Crone  
 John R. Cavanaugh  
 Mrs. Knudt Christensen  
 Gaspard Duval  
 John Edwards  
 Chas. Edwards  
 Mrs. Julian Erickson  
 Mrs. H. O. (Carol Spenser) Edlund  
 Adler Fjone  
 Mrs. T. J. Fjone  
 Clarence Ole Fjeld  
 Mrs. Volga Garberg  
 T. J. Grotte  
 E. F. Guy  
 Claude Hanrahan  
 Frank Hewett  
 Herman Hanson  
 Alpha Hanson  
 Carrol Hanson  
 Sophia White Hunt  
 Mrs. Edna A. Jacobson  
 Mrs. Lawrence Jargensen  
 Mrs. Esther Johnson  
 Mrs. Meldon Jones  
 Sid Kerstein  
 Clifford D. Knapp  
 John, Emil, Frank, Phil, Carl and  
 Tony Kamarniski  
 George LaCombe  
 John LaCombe  
 Tony Linder  
 Gladys Hanson Lund  
 Mrs. Jim (Louise) Morrison  
 Edna (Hanson) Murphy  
 L. K. McCann  
 Wilfred Nelson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Fredolf Nelson

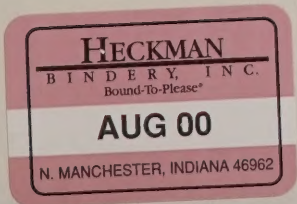












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