

# Winnett Times

## ~Winnett Montana Community Newsletter~

Volume 2, Issue 2

June 2022



Crossing the Musselshell River, 1924. Photo Credit: Petroleum County Library

### “A River Runs Through It”

#### ~Mosby, Montana: Then & Now~

Mosby, Montana is a now uninhabited town approximately twenty miles east of Winnett, just past the Musselshell River bridge. Although there is not much to see for a town anymore, Mosby used to be a bustling area 100+ years ago and a host to many homesteading families, events and where goods were transported up and down the river.

#### -----Early Days-----

Mosby (or then called Baldwin) opened its first post office in 1897. Edward Baldwin was the first postmaster. Although, shortly after opening it moved into the home of William and Mary Mosby, not far from what was to become the town of Melstone. When Mosbys moved down the river, the post office moved with them. In 1904 the family moved to the present Mosby location on the east side of the Musselshell River at what was known as Half-Breed Crossing. The Post office was then officially named Mosby and Mary Mosby was the postmaster. After Mary's husband died, she gave up the post office to her son Herb's wife, Susie, in 1915.

In 1919, George and Delora Gates took over the Mosby Post Office and built a store. Other Mosby businesses during that time included a hotel (that burned down in two years), a garage, and blacksmith shop.

Francis Boulden took over the store and post office in 1923. The Bouldens added a filling station to their business, and Francis served as postmaster until 1929, when his wife, Pearl, took over as postmaster. Her son, Kenneth, took over as postmaster in 1953 after her death.

The Mosbys operated a ferry at Half-Breed Crossing until 1918 when a wooden bridge was built. The western approach to the bridge was washed out in 1922.

In November 1924 the *Winnett Times* reiterated some of the problems. “Many Garfield County farmers are marketing their products in Winnett. To do this they have to ford the Musselshell River near Mosby. The Fergus County approach on the bridge has been out for nearly three years and will very likely remain out until Petroleum County commences functioning and replaces the approach.” In May 1925 the county commissioners from Garfield County and the newly formed Petroleum County held a planning session with a joint picnic at the Mosby bridge to consider plans for repairing the bridge. It was advertised as a gala affair. The *Winnett Times* reported “...the picnic is more of an old-time get-together meeting. You are to bring your own eats. There will be nothing for sale and nothing to buy. The fishing, swimming, and all other pleasures are free. A rare opportunity for the old to grow young, and the young to grow foolish!”

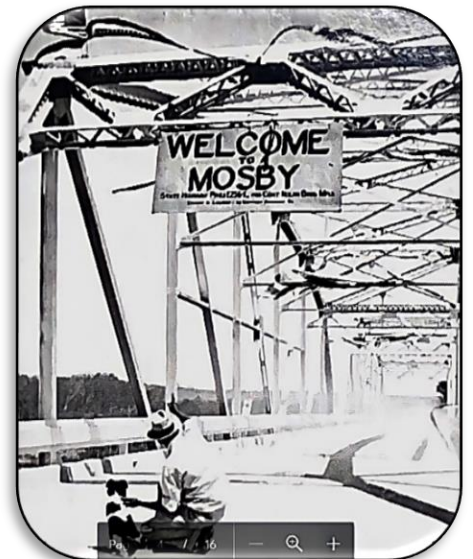
The bridge was made serviceable again and served until July 1933. On October 17, 1932, a contract for \$47,481 was let for the construction of a steel bridge to replace the old wooden structure. The bridge was completed and a grand opening held on July 15, 1933. There were speakers, a baseball game, a rodeo, a boxing match and a free dance using the entire length of the bridge as a dance floor. Over 3000 people attended and 500 couples were said to have danced on the bridge. This bridge served for forty

years until a new concrete-steel bridge was constructed a short way upriver in 1973.

In 1946 the *Winnett Times* reported an oil strike on the East Dome. The East dome which is only a few miles east of Mosby is not to be confused with the Mosby dome which is closer to Cat Creek. A Jet Fuel Refinery was built in 1952 by William M. Hanlon and York Oil Company. It was organized as a facility for marketing high gravity crude oil from the Cat Creek East dome Field. The products refined were gasoline, jet fuel, JP-4, stove fuel, diesel and heavy fuel oil. The refinery operated until 1973.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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Mosby bridge finished in 1933. Photo Credit: Petroleum County Library

# Community Spotlight: *David Iverson*



David Iverson with a prize ewe.

Dictionaries list at least two definitions of the word *PASTOR*. One meaning is: “leader of a church or religious group.” The second is: “herdsman; one who cares for livestock—usually cattle or sheep.” For most of his life, David Iverson has fulfilled both definitions of the word.

Born in 1932 and raised in the Dovetail area north of Winnett, David was the eldest son and second child of Andrew and Helen Iverson. His parents met when Helen Wager arrived in Petroleum County from Bonner, Montana to teach at the Dovetail school. They spent the first few years of their married life living near Andrew’s parents and raising sheep with them. During the worst of the Great Depression in 1936, the young family moved west to be near Helen’s parents where drought conditions were not quite so severe. They shipped a rail

car full of their sheep by train to a spot near Hamilton and continued raising them there.

However, in the spring of 1941, knowing that the drought had eased, Andrew came back to Petroleum County in search of some grassland that he could lease for his growing flock. He eventually took over a lease on the Clement place located on Flatwillow Creek in the southern part of the county. In December, Helen and three children, Louise, David, and Thomas moved into a log structure built in the 1880s that had formerly been used as a cookhouse.

At first, there was no country school near the Iverson home, so Helen homeschooled David and Louise for a year. The next year a school building was moved to a spot about two miles up Flatwillow Road and Lone Prairie school began instructing students.

David remembers walking to school with Louise, and occasionally riding a horse. He was especially fond of one of his teachers, Miss Cartwright. He attended school at Lone Prairie through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade along with an average of 5 or 6 other students in addition to his siblings.

He still remembers the isolation of their home. The family rarely traveled anywhere and didn’t see anyone but members of their household for days at a time. When he started high school in Roundup, he had never seen a basketball game or been to many large gatherings.

One group the family did join was a Sunday School for all ages held at the Flatwillow school. Mr. Jantz came down from Lewistown to hold classes and David and his family all looked forward to the lessons. An especially exciting event took place in 1942 when Mr. Jantz came to pick up the Iverson children for a week away

at Camp Lewtana south of Lewistown. David remembers him driving his car pulling an open trailer. Mr. Jantz had already picked up some kids in Roundup, he gathered several more at Flatwillow, and even more in Winnett. They all piled in the trailer and hit the road. David’s mother sent along a sack of potatoes to help with camp expenses. This began a multi-generation tradition of attending Camp Lewtana that continues to this day with David’s great-grandchildren looking forward to their week at camp.

Shearing the sheep was an annual event that marked a very important day on the Iverson’s calendar each year.

They would have Cliff Emery come from Roy with his shearing crew. He had 8 shearing stations in his trailer and the men used electric clippers powered by Cliff’s generator to remove the wool. David remembers working very hard as a wrangler when he was quite young. He was required to keep five ewes in a small pen in

front of each shearer at all times so the work never had to stop for lack of sheep. On a good day, the crew could shear 1,000-1,200 sheep.

When reflecting back, David thinks the innovation that made the most difference to everyday life was the installation of electric power. His family home was wired for electricity in 1948 and it made life easier in many ways.



Andrew Iverson with Louise & David 1932



Building a model lake surrounded by cabins



David and a young Daniel in the hayfield



David, Ella, Daniel & Janelle in 1969

He remembers thinking how nice it was to be able to read in the evenings without using a flickering kerosene light. He also appreciated the many small appliances that made cooking and grooming easier. Electric power was equally valuable to the work of the ranch. Over time, the Iversons acquired electric pumps, welders, and other tools that helped them be more efficient and effective with their ranch work.

David attended high school in Roundup and went to college at Westmont in Santa Barbara, California. A few years later, he

received a Master of Biblical Literature Degree from Wheaton College near Chicago.

In 1954 he leased the William Arganbright place about five miles from his parents' home and started a band of sheep of his own. That leased property became the base of his present-day ranch. In 1956, David married Ella Dover of Buffalo, Montana, a friend he had made at Camp Lewtana. They both became teachers in area schools. David taught math and science in Grass Range and Winnett, and Ella taught in Windham and used her salary to furnish their home and expand their flock of sheep.

1958 David and Ella had their first child, Daniel, and David became an ordained minister. That same year, David began ministering in Winnett to a group that met in the old school building. In 1960, the congregation helped him build the Baptist Church he had designed, and the first service was held there for Christmas that year.

David didn't believe in "all work and no play." He was one of the first Petroleum County residents to learn to water ski. In 1961, he bought a boat and asked Bob Raundle to teach him the sport. He learned at Valentine Dam and developed enough skill to teach many others over the years. He often pulled his boat to church on summer Sundays and spent the afternoons at Petrolia with friends and family.

With the Winnett church well-established, David and Ella wanted to add to their ministry and their family. They started a church in Sand Springs in 1962. Their daughter Janelle was born in 1965, and they began holding regular services at the historic Forest Grove church in 1968. David officiated at many weddings, funerals and baptisms over the years. Some area families have continued to request his services for two or even three generations.



Picking up bales with a stack feeder

When asked how he managed to balance the demands of church work and ranch work through the years, David had a couple of answers. First, he credited his family for the assistance they provided. Ella was a great help around the ranch and always got up early on Sundays to do chores before they headed out for church. Daniel and Janelle pitched in as soon as they were able. Second, he was blessed with the ability to multi-task. He remembers frequently writing his sermon for the week in his head while he baled hay or fed cows. He does admit that doing the two jobs at once was difficult at times, but all the effort was worth it.

These days, even though the sheep



A recent visit with siblings.  
Back: Edwin, Thomas, John  
Front: Louise, David

have been replaced by cattle, David is still pastoring in many ways. He stays on top of the business aspect of ranching and checks water lines and fences. He enjoys telling stories of his life to his 4 grandchildren and 7 great grands. He still preaches in Forest Grove and Sand Springs and is always available to visit with anyone about the Lord, cattle prices, the Bible or any topic at all.



Most of the family was able to celebrate 65 years of marriage with David and Ella in 2021

# Winnett School News



“Easton getting her pin, Certificate & check for being picked as the State winner for the Daughters Of The American Revolution Essay Award.” Photo Credit: Heidi Hanson



“After a few days in the shop, the 5th and 6th grade finished their catapults. The class had fun building them and there is no doubt that they will also have fun launching them. Thanks Mr. Tholt!” Photo Credit: Nicole Tholt

## Kindergarten News - by Charlie Allen & Bradley Rowton

Hi, this is Charlie Allen and Bradley Rowton bringing you the kindergarten news. Right now, we are working on a weaving project. First you stretch some bands one way on a holder. Then you weave in and out with more bands! It's good exercise for our fingers. The incubator did its job again! Eleven eggs hatched into chicks in our class. We had to wait 20 days for the first chick. That one made a lot of noise. We could hear some chicks making chirping noises back to it inside their shells! On day 21 the rest hatched. They all went to KoBurn's house. We performed in the Missoula Children's Theater production of "Rumpelstiltskin." Our costumes were really cool. We were bees! It was amazing that we learned the whole play including all the songs in just 4 days! Last Friday, we got to ride the Charlie Russell Chew Choo. We'd never been on a train before. We went over some trestles and even through a tunnel. Play Day was really fun. We threw frisbees, ran races, and even went through an obstacle course. After that you may have seen us cleaning up around Winnett. We are proud of our pretty town!



## Elementary Field Trip Charlie Russell Chew Choo



Do you remember back in February when the elementary students blew the tops off of their goal during I Love to Read month? They had a goal of 650 AR points to get to go on a field trip and ended up earning 786.5 points! So, on May 6th we took the day to go to the Charlie Russell Chew Choo. We drove to the Hannover Boarding Station just north of Lewistown and got to ride the train east to Denton and back. We went over 3 different trestle bridges and through the Hoosac Tunnel. The first time through the tunnel, they left the interior lights on in the train, but not the second time. It was so dark, we couldn't even see the person sitting next to us. While on the train, we played some card games, did some search and finds and a crossword. We had fun seeing kids from other schools and singing songs. Since we exceeded our goal by so many points, we were also able to get ice cream from the Dash Inn. We had swirl cones with a blast of Blue Goo, Coffee, Huckleberry or one of other flavors. Dash the turtle came out to say, "Hi," too. After that we got to walk across to the park and play for a bit. The day was jam packed with traveling and seeing lots of new sights. If you see an elementary student, you should ask us what our favorite part of the trip was. ~Nicole Tholt

# Winnett Prom in Lewistown



Winnett Highschool Grand March line up.



L-R: Cy Nunn, Regan Skinner, Walker Doman, Easton Hanson, Zurry Moore, Kenzie Smith & Tinley Browning

Winnett Prom Queen & King Erika Benes & Cy Nunn

Photo Credit: Sheryll Morales Cuartero

## Kids Club



End of the year Kids Club party!  
Photo Credit: Jayci Odermann



Virgil Tholt and Jack Nowlin graduated from Kids Club and have graduated to Youth Group with a great knowledge of the Bible!  
Photo Credit: Jayci Odermann

## Bruce & Evelyne Petti Youth Program



Jen Solf of the Musselshell County Extension Office helped the kids make "insect aspirators." They then filled other jars with sand and ants they caught for a homemade ant farm!



Future farmers/gardeners of America right here, folks! They planted all sorts of seeds to take home and watch them grow.



Sheriff Bill taught self-defense skills! This is something he's interested in doing at least once a month in the summer so keep your eyes and ears peeled!

Photos Credit: Lance Olson

\*\*Youth Program Summer Schedule on Page 10\*\*

# Missoula Children's Theater - Rumpelstiltskin

The phrase "Rumpelstiltskin," may be stuck in our minds for a while after watching another great Missoula Children's Theater production put on by PIE. All of the Winnett Elementary students were able to participate as well as High School students Kambri Sandman, Hayley Stahl, and Gracie Gill. The actors retold the old Germanic Folk Story with a few twists and turns.

Some of the main characters were the Queen (Kambri Sandman) and King What's That (Virgil Tholt). King What's That had trouble hearing and did a great job missing the real story only to come up with funny questions or answers. The Jester, Hayley Stahl, tried to keep it all organized and going with her jokes. We also met Rumpelstiltskin, Jasper Tholt, who was a tricky fellow. The Knights, Jack Nowlin and Wil Murnion, provided some laughs as they tried to learn how to treat the Queen like a lady. Their horns were "loud" but a fun part of the story too. Other parts included the Bees, Gnomes, Wizards, and Villagers.

The bees buzzed and even stung people! The Gnomes were a grumpy, honest sort and did their best to not smile. The Wizards wowed us with their magic! Did you know that they made the sun go down approximately 6 hours after the play? Amazing!

The Villagers started off the celebration. They were in a competition to see who could brag the best by telling the biggest story. According to them,



Top L-R: Bees; King & Queen, Jester, Clara(s), Knights, Rumpelstiltskin; Gnomes  
Bottom L-R: Villagers, Wizards

they could lift a whole horse! In the middle of a bragging story, Rumpelstiltskin tricked young Clara, Gracie Lang, into saying she could spin straw into gold. The story continued to grow from there. Rumpelstiltskin did spin a lot of straw into gold for Clara and all seemed well until the King wanted more. Of course, now Old Clara, Gracie Gill, could not spin the straw into gold. Rumpelstiltskin came to the rescue but wanted Clara's farm in exchange. She did not want to agree but did in hopes that she could guess his name. The whole kingdom was going to try to help figure out his name.

It was time for the celebration again and this time the Gnomes were closer at being

on time. (They were always late.) Time was closing fast until Rumpelstiltskin would take the farm from Clara. The twist at the end was the Gnomes could not tell a lie and they knew Rumpelstiltskin. They gave away the secret and all was well. The Gnomes also realized that they didn't have to be grumpy!

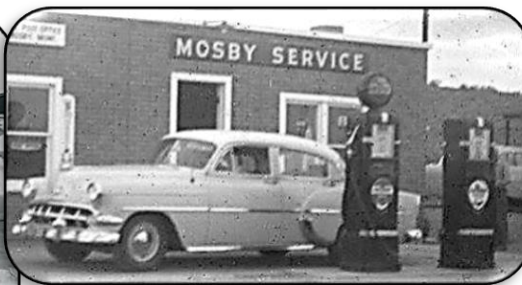
The students enjoyed being a part of a production and did an amazing job. They started practicing on Tuesday and performed their play on Friday evening, April 22. The Directors definitely had a key role in the success. The Missoula Children's Theater is a great program and we were fortunate to have them in Winnett. We will look forward to the next one in a few years! ~Shana Grant



## Mosby Continued...



Left: Kenny and Allen Boulden at the old Mosby Station. Right: Old 1954 Chevy  
Photos Credit: Sandi (Hill) Ericson



**Joseph Bagwell** homesteaded near the old Mecaaha Post Office, and in 1916/1917 was the mail carrier from Mosby to Mecaaha. Joe generally made two trips a week from Mosby to Mecaaha, the round trip totaling 76 miles and the job paid \$1400 a year. One day Joe started out from Mosby with the mail; the temperature was in the 40s and Joe was in his shirt sleeves. After a bit, he saw a small cloud developing in the northwest sky, and in a matter of minutes the temperature dropped to below zero, and he nearly froze to death.

**William and Martha Griebel** filed at the land office for their half section of homesteads in August 1913 near the Musselshell. They stayed on the homestead for five years, working for Herb Mosby at the Mosby Post Office and miscellaneous other jobs. They had a good supply of groceries but not meat, so Mr. Mosby let them have a quarter of beef, which we kept in Mr. Mosby's ice house. They remembered winters that were so hard and snow so deep that they couldn't get out to get feed for the horses. The horses got so weak they would walk off a cut bank and get stuck in the snow. The snow would drift over them, where they would smother and not be found until spring.

**David and Nora Petersen** married and homesteaded in the Mosby area in 1917, settling in the Calf Creek area. They had seven children – Carl Vernon, Daniel Ernest, William David, Florence Leona, Fern Elizabeth, Elmer George and Elsie Marie. The children were all educated in Mosby and Winnett. Carl Vernon married Alice Barker of Sand Springs in 1940. Alice was a correspondent for the *Winnett Times* for many years. They had four children – Larry, Donald, Vernon and Diane. Larry married Carol Aspholm, lived at the East Mosby Dome working part-time there, along with running cattle. They had one child, Staci. Donald moved to Grass Range and Vernon moved away. Diane married Larry "Skip" Ahlgren and currently live at and run cattle at the old Moss place.

**John and Effie (Rowton) Hill** came to Montana in a covered wagon in the summer of 1902 with their two small children. They filed a claim on the old Mosby place. John built their log cabin with an axe. And then sold the place to Bill Mosby and moved to the old Easton Rowton place. They had three other children during this time. After Effie passed away, John married Ruth Briggs, and they had two children. The *Winnett Times* excerpts "Soon thereafter John Hill and Lem Rowton

built the refinery back of the old store at Mosby. A section of big casing was used as the still, with pipes running out of it. Gasoline was simply run off into barrels. The fuel was used in many of the cars and trucks in operation in those days." "In 1921 John sold his interest in the refinery to Lemuel Rowton, who expanded the business into also producing kerosene. He operated the business for a number of years." "One morning in the late fall Lem Rowton began firing up the refining process, and after things got going good, he detected a leak in a pipe. He fled the scene: seconds later the refinery exploded. The Hill boys found bits of tin from the refinery building on top of bluff estimated to be 200 feet high."



John & Effie (Rowton) Hill

**John and Hellan Hill** bought the old White place, and leased Herb Mosby's place. He cut alfalfa hay in meadows. It rained. John turned the hay and it rained again. Once more, John turned the hay. Again, the rains came, bringing a raging flood to the Musselshell. In no time at all, John's hay was gone, washed away by the flood. The water was so high John had to tie his boat to the railing on his house. John and Hellan lived at Mosby before moving up the river to what is Lou Hill's river ranch. In 1928 they bought Clint Woodford's place and ranched there until they sold to Clint in 1966. John and Hellan had four children.

**Lou and Margaret (Youderian) "Mugs" Hill** married and homesteaded in the winter of 1929 on the Musselshell River. Lou got his first 32 head of sheep by working for Vern and Stanley Kesterson for 30 days. His herd slowly grew from there. During his years on the ranch, he kept a band of about 1200 sheep. The sheep were tended by sheep herders. Lou remained in the sheep business about 60 years. As he acquired more land, he added cattle to operation, as well as growing alfalfa hay and enough grain to use for feed for the animals. Lou and Margaret had three children – Lynn, Louanne and Phil.

**Phil and Delores Hill** married in 1953. Phil grew up on the Musselshell, went to a country school and then graduated from Winnett High in 1952. Delores taught at the Mosby School. They had five children; Scott, Gary, Sandra, Lynda and Kevin.



Kenny, Faye and Allen Boulden in front of their home at Mosby, and next to their Mosby Station/Post Office/Convenience Store

## Mosby Continued...

**Herbert Field Keith** moved to the Lower Musselshell River in the early 1900s, married Dagmar Nordahl and they had twins Jack and Judy. Judy passed away when she was six years old. Jack received his primary education on the river and high school at Winnett. Jack went on to marry Parley & Alma Rowton's daughter, Verda. Verda spent 39 years of her life on the Musselshell River and wrote about her days: "When I was a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader... we lived in a log house with the kitchen and living room together and one bedroom. Later we had a frame house moved in that had been owned by Elmer Eager. One winter while I was in high school, this house burned down. Dad and Vernon were warming up oil on the heater to put in a tractor, and it got too hot and blew up. Vernon was in the house at the time, but didn't get hurt." Jack and Verda Keith had four children; Claude, Clyde, Judy and Kevin.

**William Henry Mosby** settled on the Musselshell River in 1891. (See additional history about Mr. Mosby on Page 1 of this article).

**Robert Moss** resided in the Mosby area most of his life. He acquired his own ranch in 1927, and married Velma Smith in 1936 but they had no children. In March of 1959 the *Winnett Times* mentioned the difficulties of ranching on the river. "Only very few of the old timers say they ever saw the high water come as quickly and quietly down the Musselshell River as it did this year. An ice came on the Musselshell River... endangered approximately 125 head of cattle, owned by Lyle Kimble and R.L. Moss, before the gorge was broken up with dynamite and the high water was relieved. (They) used their tricks to haul the R.L. Moss cattle that were trapped by the high water... the cattle were then trailed the rest of the way to the Moss Ranch."

**Lemuel Rowton** and his wife Mary moved to the Musselshell River in 1907 and spent the rest of their lives in that area. They had ten children – Easton, Russel, Lawton, Parley, Mildred, Lucile, Shirley, Dawson, Neva and Warren. Lemuel and Mary were instrumental in getting a school established at Mosby in 1907 and Lem served on the first school board. All of their children attended this school and many of their grandchildren and great grandchildren received their early education there. The Rowtons ran sheep and cattle and the boys worked out as part-time help to add to the income. Lemuel and John Hill (his brother-in-law) built a refinery. Lemuel bought John out in 1921. This was the first refinery in the area and processed Cat Creek crude. After Mary's death in



**Lem and Mary Rowton Homestead photos (1927) near Mosby, courtesy of The River & Plains Society in Fort Benton, MT. Photographers were Willard & Rozella Barrows of Fort Benton. They traveled throughout Central MT, doing photos for money so they could keep their farm going.**



1946, Lem lived with their son, Parley, and his family until he passed in 1958.

**Russel and Easton Rowton** homesteaded places near their parents. On Valentine's Day in 1925, Russel and Easton had a couples wedding. Russel married Anna Dale Peters of Mosby and Easton married Mary Pribble of Weede. Russel and Anna Dale had two children, Kent and Lucy. Lucy writes in a letter (July 2020) of the original log cabin of Lem and Mary Rowton, that was built in 1908, "Mary told me that she didn't leave the place for 17 years. (My Dad) built a nice log cabin down near the cottonwood trees and the willows where Sage Hen Creek joins the Musselshell River...this house washed away in the big flood of 1932...Grampa Lem's place was slowly swallowed up by the Musselshell River over many years."

**Parley Rowton** was two years old when he came to Montana with his parents in 1907 (Lem and Mary) and in 1934 Parley married Alma Ellis from Bridger. She was teaching at the Weede School. Parley worked on a government project for two dollars a day. Alma sold vegetables in Cat Creek and Winnett. One year she

planted a thousand tomato plants, but an early frost got all of them. Parley and Alma had seven children – Verda, Vernon, Lloyd, Janice, Phyllis, Rhoda and Gerald. Gerald passed away at 5 years old from an incurable disease and was in the hospital much of his life. Vernon married Donna Baucke and they continued to farm the home ranch, along with land purchased from Easton and Russel Rowton. They had three children – Tammie, Rodney and Tricia. Lloyd married Marion Hinthor of Jordan and began a partnership with his brother, Vernon, after their father Parley sold them the ranch in 1967. They had three children – Brad, Lorna and Darwin. Parley passed away in 1985 and Alma taught for twelve years before she retired when the Mosby School closed.

**Henry "Clem" and Mary Shaw** had a homestead east of the Musselshell River in a place referred to as Breed Springs. After a time, Clem decided he did not care for life in what was termed the "sand hills," so he moved the family west to the Musselshell River and went into the hog-raising business. Their ten children attended the Mosby School. In 1930 Clem and Mary separated. Mary stayed with the children, including Bud and Jess Shaw. Times were very hard and during the Great Depression. One winter the family had little more than coffee and potatoes. Bud married Anna Noll and they lived at the old homestead, having two children – Orval and Brett. Mary, Craig and Jess continued to live at the Gates place until about 1954 before moving to a new house on the Johnson Flats, closer to Mosby. Jess never married and lived west of the river about three miles south of Mosby.



**Parley & Alma Rowton's children. Back L to R: Janice, Verda, Vernon, Lloyd, Front L to R: Phyllis, Gerald, Rhoda**





**Shaws moving from Weede in 1921: Pansie, Clem, Mary Emma, Craig, Glen, Bud, and Ray**

**Lee Shaw** (son of Clem & Mary) married Gunda Sikveland in 1949 and they made their home on a small place which had been occupied by Parley Rowton. Gunda taught at the Mosby, Cat Creek and Weede School. They had three children – Gail, Lafe and Sarah.

Clint Woodford worked for the Jet Fuel Refinery starting in 1955 and married Louanne Hill Sinclair in 1957. Louanne had four children from a previous marriage –James, Paula, Margaret and Donald. Clint had a son William from his previous marriage. Clint and Louanne made their home at the Jet Fuel Refinery, near Mosby and had two children together, Jay and Jana. They purchased the Ted hill Ranch, raising sheep, cattle and hay.

-----**Present Day Mosby**-----

Currently there are significantly less families in the Mosby area than a century ago, but there are still many of the original homesteads with third and fourth generation families still keeping the ranching tradition alive. Presently there are around ten different family names in the Mosby area, many who are descendance of the original homesteaders, and a few new ones that have moved in the last 10-20 years, including: Skip and Diane Ahlgren, Steve and Debbie Hale, Daron and Tracy Kamerman, Larry and Chris Petersen, Delores Hill, Kevin and Gala Hill, Donna Rowton (Currently in Winnett, Rowton Bros Partner), Lloyd and Marion Rowton, Rodney and Krista Rowton, Orval and Jolene Shaw, Jeff and Tammie Starkjohann, Brent and Trish Smith (Montana Riverview), Jay and Wyna Woodford, Cedar and Rebecca Woodford.

**The Mosby Post office** was taken over in 1993 by Jolene Shaw after Kenny Boulden retired. Jolene turned a shed

smallest Post Office buildings in the state of Montana, and most likely the United States. It was moved on the west side of the Musselshell River, which put it in Petroleum County and no longer Garfield County.



**Jolene Shaw standing in front of the Mosby Post Office July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. This was the last day the little Mosby Post Office was open for business before the rural route mail boxes were put in. Photo Credit: Jolene Shaw**



**Mosby Rest Stop (one mile east of Mosby)**

**Mosby Rest Stop:**

The Montana Department of Transportation determined there was a need for a rest stop on Highway 200 between Winnett and Jordan. In 2005 the Mosby rest area was completed. Bids were let out for janitorial services and Jolene Shaw was awarded the bid. For the next 10 years she cleaned and checked on it every day. In 2015 she resigned and the Tammie Starkjohann was awarded the next bid. Along with her husband, Jeff; brother, Rodney Rowton; and sister-in-law, Kris Rowton, they have continued to keep and maintain the rest stop since October, 2015.

(Write-up by Tammie Starkjohann)

**Mosby Chapel:**

In the summer of 2013, the "Builders For Christ" came to Mosby to build a small country chapel on the hill (Christ our King Lutheran Church - WELS), just north of the original town of Mosby, about 100 yards off of highway 200 on the Rowton Ranch. Approximately 30 congregation

members attend a service there once a month, with a traveling pastor coming from Livingston, MT.



**Christ our King Lutheran Church - WELS**

It goes without saying that Mosby has nearly 150 years of fascinating history, with many family names going back multiple generations. With so much antiquity it was hard to squeeze even the cliff notes into four pages!

Mosby is definitely where my heart is and will always be home. I'm sure many feel the same. It may not be the busy rough country like it used to be, but it still has that great old western feel as the times gone by. Many of the old buildings have fallen in, and some have completely washed away by the relentless everchanging Musselshell, but the air is still fresh with the smell of sweet peas and the sound of meadowlarks singing in the spring. The land mostly remains unchanged. It is still God's country where the elk run, turkeys prance their mating dances, and the catfish swim. Such a beautiful landscape, rugged and free, with a river that runs through it.

*- By Trish (Rowton) Smith\**

*\*Majority of content taken from the Petroleum Co. Pages of Time, either quoted or paraphrased.*



**Old Easton homestead cabin**

**Current Lodging in Mosby:**

**Hill Ranch Oasis B & B** 406.429.6801

**Montana Riverview Getaway**  
[www.MontanaRiverview.com](http://www.MontanaRiverview.com)

*If anyone would like to dig deeper into more Mosby history, please check out the Petroleum County Pages of Time online, the Petroleum County Library, or contact Ballyhoo of Lewistown who will be having additional copies of this priceless book. Please check out page 10 for information on how to get your copy of this outstanding publication.*

# Community Events & Gatherings



The 2nd Annual Winnett Booster Bash was held on May 7th, 2022 at Flatwillow Hall. There were 125 tickets sold, and the evening included dinner, prizes, 50/50, games, and auctions. Shy Iverson was our master of ceremonies and did an outstanding job! All the money raised goes directly to the Winnett Grass Range Ram students. Here are some of the lucky winners: Cassie Lewis-Fire Pit, Brandon Bantz-A Day of Fishing, Stuart Skinner-Yeti Cooler, Zack Lewis-\$250 Arrowhead Genetics, Sam Murnion-Chico Package, Nicole Tholt-Rifle, Jim Jonke-50/50, Scott Houston-Gun, Kaden Keith-55" TV, Jesse Hoge-55" TV, and Tina Rabern-Pellet Grill. This night would not have been possible without the generous support and donations of items and cash. Hope to see everyone next year! (Write-up and Photos Credit: Tara Murnion)



Dash for Tash Women's Run  
Photo Credit: Tara Murnion



Winnett Lions Club Hwy Clean-up Crew  
Photo Credit: Jess Hoge

## Announcements/Notices

### The Bruno & Evelyne Hill Betti Youth Program Summer Schedule!

More information: Lance Olson at pcccdirector1@gmail.com.

**PLEASE GIVE AT LEAST A 1 WEEK NOTICE IF YOU PLAN TO HAVE YOUR CHILD ATTEND**

*\*\*All field trips, please bring a sack lunch.*

<b>June 2nd:</b>	MT FWP Fish Education workshop and family appreciation BBQ at Petrolia Reservoir. 10:00-2:00
<b>June 3rd:</b>	Nerf Gun Battle, Odd Fellows building. 10:00 am, pizza party.
<b>June 8th:</b>	Makoshika State Park: Departure from Winnett School @ 7:45AM
<b>June 15TH:</b>	Gymnastics/tumbling @ Winnett School. 2:00-4:00.
<b>June 22nd:</b>	Bike Rodeo @ Winnett School Track. 10:00-1:00
<b>June 29th:</b>	Plenty Coup State Park. Depart School 9:00AM
<b>July 6th:</b>	Giant Springs State Park/ Lewis & Clark Cntr. Depart School 8:00AM
<b>July 7th:</b>	Games and free play at Winnett School Track. 11:00-2:00.
<b>July 11th-15th:</b>	Swimming Lessons 8-Noon. Youth Program: Yard games/refreshments
<b>July 18th-22nd:</b>	Swimming Lessons 8-Noon. Youth Program: Yard games/refreshments
<b>July 18th:</b>	<b>FORT PECK THEATER PLAY AT WINNETT SCHOOL.</b> FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! 2:00PM
<b>August 2nd:</b>	Swim Day at Winnett Pool. 10:00-2:00
<b>August 3rd:</b>	Bear Gulch Pictographs (Forest Grove): Depart School 10:00AM
<b>August 9th:</b>	Zoo Montana: Depart School 9:00AM
<b>August 13th:</b>	Hays/Lodgepole Powwow. Departure from Winnett School 10:30AM

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the Pages of Time (Petroleum County History) Book can purchase a copy through Ballyhoo in Lewistown for the price of \$60.00. Contact Jen at 406-538-7988.



You can now donate to the *Winnett Times* Newsletter online with a credit/debit card by going to [www.WinnettACES.org/Donate](http://www.WinnettACES.org/Donate) or use this QR Code.





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