

WINNETT TIMES

Winnett Montana Community Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1, Jan/Feb 2024

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Thank you to all who contributed to the production of this edition!

Pathway to a Paper: Part 1

Written by Terry Lewis

A cluster of townfolk gathered at the Musselshell train depot in the late summer of 1914, including several wagons with teams at-the-ready. As passengers disembarked, the doors to a freight car slid open. The men got to work. Once the looked-for machinery was unloaded and secured, the wagons began their journey through Flatwillow and on to the blossoming town of Winnett. There, 24-year-old Homer E. Geis anxiously awaited the freight. Homer was already plenty busy, but he'd decided Winnett needed its first newspaper. The press and equipment were on their way. Geis was born in 1890 in Nebraska. A former commissioned WWI Navy officer, he'd already established a law practice in Winnett. Homer's first law case was representing Walter Winnett in the famous "Will in the Hat" case (which begs to be researched for another article). At the same time, he filed a homestead in the Ashley Community.

A wooden building was waiting on Lot 4 Block 17, East Main Street. Homer's heart likely sped up a notch when the wagons pulled into Winnett. Once the equipment was inside and assembled, he wasted no time. The first edition of the Winnett Times appeared on September 2, 1914. Mr. Geis needed an editor for his newspaper. He chose E. V. Alexander, brother of the local physician who had arrived in Winnett in 1915. Homer, having initiated the rolling of the presses, was ready to hand the Winnett Times' reins over to someone else. He sold it to Edwin M. Berg in 1917.

Berg, born in 1892, hailed from Stanley, Wisconsin. But the homestead bug nipped him, and he landed in Winnett. There he took up a homestead four miles east of town. Edwin took over the newspaper, which he printed until 1921. At some point during his ownership, the printing office was moved to the central position of the Winnett...

Continued on Page 8 & 9



The first edition of the Winnett Times ran in September of 1914. The Petroleum County Library has a paper or digital copy of almost every edition of the Winnett Times through 1986 (when production stopped).

Photo Credit: Petroleum County Library

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

Twila Ann Coffey

From Dovetail to the South Pacific

Twila Ann Coffey was born August 3, 1921, in a log cabin on her parent's homestead at Dovetail. She was the fourth of eight children born to Albert (AG) and Lois (Garrison) Coffey, who came from Oklahoma to homestead around 1916. The Dovetail post office was moved to the Coffey's in 1921, and Lois was appointed postmistress. The post office remained on the Coffey place until it was closed in 1945.

Twila joined older sisters Marguerite (Deat), Alberta (Corky), and brother Joseph. Brother Billy Dale (Dale), sister Madeline, brother Robert, and sister Mary Lou followed. Madeline died in her first year and is buried at the homestead. Lois passed away in November 1929 a few weeks after the birth of Mary Lou, when Twila was just 8 years old. Mom told us that her Dad resisted pressure to have the children taken in by other families rather than be raised by a single father, much to their great relief. He did an admirable job of raising his children to all become good, productive adults. Billy Dale passed away in 1940 and was buried in Winnett, alongside his mother. The family remained close and gathered often at the ranch after they had married and started families of their own. They continued throughout their lives to enjoy holidays together and annual trips to reunite with their siblings.

Twila, nicknamed "Fiesty," was small and because of the 3 mile trek wasn't allowed to start school until the age of 7. She completed her first 8 years at Dovetail, and always loved school. Life was true depression style. She said they often had

to do "a day's work" before going to school, weeding the garden, feeding the livestock, etc. Twila loved to ride but would choose to walk to school because if you rode you had to use your noon play time to water and feed your horse!

Twila loved growing up at Dovetail and said they were poor and had to work hard but always had enough to eat and were well cared for. AG was a strict, moral man, but there were fun times too and they knew they were loved. She shared stories of having to hold the team while her Dad harnessed them, and being scared to death because the big horses would bite at her. With a little age she was tasked with driving the team to nearby Davis Springs to fill barrels for the house. Mom used to laugh about a particularly mean horse that would run them from the barn when they went in to catch him. Twila was an accomplished rider and loved to ride the hills around Dovetail and meet up with her friends. Jack Hanson told me she was the best jockey for the horse races they often held around Dovetail and Winnett and would race bareback.

Twila started high school in Winnett in 1937, where she worked for a family for room and board. She later lived in the school dormitory. She was the "fastest kid in school" as a freshman and had many track medals to show for it. She credited her speed to the years of running the hills around Dovetail country. Twila was terribly shy but was elected to be a cheerleader. Sadly, there was no money for a uniform so she had to decline. AG was a man who



Twila Coffey - WAC South Pacific

always paid his bills, and the depression era left little for luxuries. She once hoped for a new dress to attend prom but had to settle for a dress her sister Deat remade for her. There was never any resentment for those struggles. Twila was always proud of her Dad's character, which was reinforced when she worked for Mr. Eager in high school, at the Mercantile. He told her that her Dad could charge anything he wanted with him, because he always paid his bills. We saw this carry through Mom's life, as bills were always paid before any other spending.

In 1941 Twila graduated from Winnett High School, the first in her family to accomplish this. She worked in Melstone at a café that year, before traveling to Bremerton, WA with a friend for work and a little adventure.

In 1943, at the height of World War II, Twila enlisted in the Women's Army Corp (WAC's). When she arrived at basic training she said she was so homesick she thought she'd die. She was stationed stateside and then overseas, serving in...



Coffey family on their Dovetail Homestead in the 1940s



Twila in New Guinea



Twila & Jim's Engagement Photo



Twila with her friends in Papua, New Guinea

the Philippines and New Guinea. I always loved to listen to her description of the trip across the ocean on the "Lurline," when the ship had to be blacked out because of the threat of German U-boats. They also had to circle in the ocean as the Battle of the Coral Sea raged near them, and she was awarded a medal for that. Twila thought the Philippines were beautiful, even after being devastated by the war. She was thrilled when she was able to return there in later years to visit. New Guinea was uncivilized and a little dangerous, with threats from both natives, some of whom were cannibals, and Japanese soldiers that had evaded capture after their defeat. But even in war there were fun times on the beaches, and camaraderie with her fellow soldiers, several whom she kept in touch with throughout their lives. Twila first heard Bing Crosby sing "White Christmas" on the beaches of Papua, New Guinea. Twila was a secretary for the Criminal Investigative Division, or CID. As children we were fascinated with her stories of a co-worker called "the hangman of the Pacific," whose job was to hang people for treason and war crimes. She said he was a character and traveled in a jeep with a noose hanging from it.

Joe Whisonant credited Twila with the opportunity to attend college. Twila was home on leave when she found young Joe sitting in the café. Cousins of some degree, she sat down to visit. Joe had a pile of money sitting in front of him. His dad was playing cards next door and had given Joe a handful of his winnings to get something to eat and entertain himself with. Twila helped him count the bills out, and suggested they take some over to the post office and buy a savings bond. They did, and Joe never forgot that the earnings from that savings bond paid for his first quarter at college.

It was in New Guinea where Twila met James McCue, an army sergeant from New York City. They became engaged in New Guinea and made a very handsome couple. Twila was transferred back to the Philippines before Jim, but he was sent there soon after. Mom told us that the day Dad arrived in the Philippines she also had a surprise visit from a soldier from home. She was standing on the step with Elmer Grosser, whom she'd grown up with, when Dad walked up. He was just sure she had dumped him for another soldier until Mom explained. Dad and Elmer became the best of friends and continued that friendship when they all settled in Winnett.

Twila was discharged from the Army in 1945. She returned home in December, and then took a train to New York City to meet her fiancé's family and wait for Jim to return. The first leg to Chicago she traveled with childhood friend George Phillips, who was also recently discharged and headed to Maine to marry Winnie. From there she was on her own and arrived at Grand Central Station in Manhattan a little intimidated. The McCue's lived in Astoria, Queens, but she managed to find the elevated train to take her there. So far so good. The McCue's lived in an apartment building and Mom found her way to the front door. It was locked. After traveling all the way from Montana she had no idea how to get in the door or contact anyone. She had been standing there in the dark for quite some time when a man walked up and touched a button on a panel by the door. It was an intercom, and he was buzzed in by the resident he was visiting. Mom quickly followed suit, and went up to meet her soon to be in-laws. Twila and Jim were married at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Catholic Church, which stood just across the street from the McCue's apartment, on February 3, 1946.

Twila and Jim moved to Winnett later that year, and Jim fell in love with Montana and the Coffey family. They bought a little house and settled down. In 1951 Jim once again answered the call and joined the Air Force, where he served four years during the Korean Conflict. This time Twila was a just a military wife. They were stationed in Great Falls until Jim was sent to Iceland for a year. During that assignment Twila lived with the McCue's in New York. After returning from Iceland Jim finished his enlistment in Texas. Twila and Jim returned to Winnett, where they both spent the rest of their lives.



Twila & Jim McCue on their Wedding Day

In 1956, after ten years of heartbreaking childlessness, Twila and Jim were blessed with daughter Teresa Ann. Teri was followed by James David in 1957, Deanna Marie in 1960, and Lisa Colleen in 1962. The McCue family was a happy, well-loved bunch. Twila was a stay-at-home Mom, and Jim was back at his appointed position of postmaster. The house they purchased across the street from the school had a big yard where kids gathered and played. When AG Coffey sold the ranch in the 60's, he lived down the street from Twila and Jim, and sister Corky was across the street with her four children. It was small town living at its best. As the children got older Twila worked as the town clerk and part-time at Clark's grocery store. Twila was the American Legion Junior Auxiliary leader for years, and her children all participated. Patriotism was no small thing in the McCue home. She and Jim loved following the Winnett Rams, even before their children were old enough to participate. In the 50's and 60's they often helped bus kids to the games in their car, and Vernon Rowton always said they were the favorite ones to catch a ride with!

In 1971 Jim unexpectedly passed away. Teri was just finishing her freshman year, Jim was a seventh grader, Deanna in fifth grade, and Lisa in third. Twila had been a very traditional wife, where Jim managed the finances and all of the family business. Like a true member of the Greatest Generation, Twila steadied herself and took on the full responsibility of her family. She became the driver, the finance manager, the plumber and the electrician when necessary, and continued to raise her family. Her sister Corky was her constant companion, and they complimented each other. Corky didn't drive and Mom loved to, Mom didn't like to sew and Corky generously sewed cheerleading outfits and dresses for us. Mom had many fun years of driving cheerleaders to games and riding the girls' basketball bus as chaperone.

As her children grew up and married, Twila thrived on becoming a grandmother. She also never lost her spirit as a Winnett Ram supporter. There were not many games that didn't find Twila and Corky in their seats as fans, and she never missed a district tournament. With Teri and Deanna and their families nearby, life was full. Twila also never lost her love of travel, and visited Jim and Lisa and their families in California as often as she could. She continued to make trips to New York to see the McCue families. Once she had grandchildren in sports, life revolved around those seasons. A 2002 dedication in the Winnett School Annual memorialized her loyalty to the Winnett Rams.



The McCue Family: Twila, Jim, Teri, James, Deanna & Lisa

Mom was a humble person, a devout Catholic, and the best mother and grandmother a family could hope for. She loved Winnett and Petroleum County. It wasn't easy for us to think of our Mom as a veteran of a foreign war, and she rarely talked about it unless asked. The drawer full of defunct Philippine paper money we had to play with sometimes sparked questions, but mostly we just thought of her as Mom. However, we were always very proud of her and understood her passion for the injustice of WWII. Not a woman to openly cry, any discussion of

the Holocaust or the suffering of her brother Joe's unit in Northern Italy during the cold winter could make her tear up.

The Women's War Memorial at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, DC is a one-of-a-kind tribute to America's service women. As one of Petroleum County's first women to serve in a foreign war (if not the first), Twila would be honored to know that her service to our country is on display at the Memorial. But in her humble way she most likely would wonder why it was worthy of mention.

By Deanna Robbins



Twila with her Montana grandkids. Top L-R: Nick Harris, Kris Harris; Bottom L-R: Lance Robbins, Twila Coffey, Sean Harris, Liam Robbins

WINNETT SCHOOL NEWS

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

- Teri Harris

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year. The semester ended on December 21. Report cards will be sent out during the Christmas break. We've had quite a bit of illness in December and hope to curtail the spread by more handwashing, increased disinfection, cleaning, using our decontamination fogger and UV light, and asking parents to keep children home if they have a fever, chronic coughing or stomach issues. Students continue to excel in academics and activities. Our Early Kindergarten and FFA are off to a great start as are our basketball teams. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!



Santa & Mrs. Clause visiting the kids after their Christmas Concert

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Jan 2 - 3:** Smiles Across Montana
- Jan 5: HSBB @ Centerville
- Jan 6: HSBB @ Winnett vs GFCC
- Jan 12: HSBB @ Highwood
- Jan 13: HSBB @ GR vs Belt
- **Jan 16:** School Board Meeting
- Jan 19: HSBB @ Winnett vs DGSG
- Jan 20: HSBB @ Winnett vs TCT
- Jan 25: HSBB @ Jordan
- **Jan 26:** Ski Club
- Jan 27: HSBB @ Winifred
- Jan 29: MAST testing thru 2/15
- Feb 2: HSBB @ GR vs Centerville
- Feb 9: HSBB @ Winnett vs Highwood & Simms
- Feb 10: HSBB @ Belt
- Feb 14-17: District BB @ Great Falls High
- **Feb 20:** School Board Meeting
- Feb 21-24: Divisional BB @ Four Seasons in GF
- **Feb 23:** Ski Club
- **Mar 1:** Ski Day
- Mar 6-9: State BB @ Four Seasons in GF

JANUARY LUNCH MENU

- 2nd: Chicken Nuggets, Fries, Fruit, Roll
- 3rd: Cheeseburger Mac, Veggies, Fruit, Roll
- 4th: Taco Salad, Corn, Fruit, Roll
- 5th: Pizza, Salad, Fruit
- 8th: Sweet & Sour Chicken, Rice, Fruit, Roll
- 9th: Sloppy Joes, Fries, Fruit
- 10th: Chicken Pot Pie, Veggies, Fruit
- 11th: Lasagna, Salad, Fruit, Roll
- 15th: Chicken Sandwich, Veggies, Fruit
- 16th: Walking Taco, Corn, Fruit, Roll
- 17th: Chicken Dijon, Broccoli, Fruit, Roll
- 18th: Cheeseburgers, Fries, Fruit
- 22nd: Philly Sandwich, Veggies, Fruit
- 23rd: Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Fruit, Roll
- 24th: Spaghetti, Salad, Fruit, Roll
- 25th: Ham & Cheese Sliders, Fries, Fruit
- 29th: Fish Filet, Mac & Cheese, Fruit, Roll
- 30th: Chili, Salad, Fruit, Cinnamon Roll
- 31st: Pulled Pork, Fries, Baked Beans, Fruit



Menu Subject to Change
Salad Bar, Milk &
Breakfast Served Daily

Winnett School Christmas Concert





ELEMENTARY NEWS



MRS. KIEHL'S ROOM - 5TH & 6TH

The fifth and sixth graders just finished an across curriculum unit on Greek Mythology.

They read the novel "Percy Jaxson and the Lightning Thief" while also learning about Ancient Greek Philosophers in World History.

They were each allowed to choose a God or Goddess that interested them for Language and structured a five paragraph essay based on their choice.

It ended up being a very entertaining unit. Mrs. Kiehl and class would like to thank everyone that donated and bought pizza to support their Yellowstone Trip. It was much appreciated and the trip was AWESOME!

MRS. JOHNSON'S ROOM - 1ST & 2ND

Our first half of the year has flown by! We're enjoying all the new projects that we have made.

In the shop we made Montana nail projects with wood, nails and string and in art we finished up our mosaics. We are working toward mastery of our addition and subtraction facts and have been working with 2 dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes and data. We are looking forward to our next reading incentive.

The Christmas concert was very festive and we enjoyed singing for everyone, and of course, we loved Santa's visit!

MRS. MURNION'S ROOM - PRE-K

The Early Kindergarten students started the new year learning about "Polar Animals". In science they learned "All About Habitats".

In social skills we worked on "Feelings & Emotions" and "Problem Solving". Writing journals were introduced and the boys have been busy practicing their writing skills.

In February our math and reading centers had a Valentine's theme, which involved many fun activities. In science we explored the "Space, Sun & Moon". It is very rewarding to see how excited the students are to learn, and to see how much they have learned.



MRS. THOLT'S ROOM - 3RD & 4TH

We hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Years! We are excited to get the second half of school underway. We are going to finish off reading James & the Giant Peach.

Once done, we will get to watch the movie! Then we will write a comparison essay. We are excited for the essay, but even more excited that we will be holding our Mock Caldecott again this year.

We have 21 picture books to read, dissect and vote on! We wonder if our winner will win the actual Caldecott??

MRS. GRANT'S ROOM - KINDERGARTENERS

We have had a Merry Christmas! Mr. and Mrs. Gingerbread took us on a "trip" around the world.

We visited England, Germany, Australia, Israel, Italy, Mexico, and finally made it back to the USA. Our class made a souvenir for each country that symbolizes something new or different about that country's holiday traditions.

It was fun to visit different places, learn about their culture, animals, find it on the map, and expand our knowledge of the world.

In the new year, we will hopefully get to travel to the pole regions in January to learn more about Penguins.



Levi Nowlin and Joel Odermann teaching Fire Safety to the Winnett students.

WGR SPORTS



WGR LADY RAMS

COACHED BY
VIC WESTPHAL & JENNI HEDMAN



WGR RAMS

COACHED BY BRANDON BANTZ & MITCH THOMPSON

Team Photos Credit: Jackie Jensen Photography



Jasper won his age group at the Elks Hoop Shoot in Lewistown. He is moving on to the next level in Great Falls in January!



Santa Slam Champs! This is their third 1st place in a row. Coached by Cody Martinez & Charlie Ahlgren

Photo Credits: Nicole Tholt, Savannah Moore, & Mike Mangold, Lewistown Sports Editor - News Argus



This photo was missed in the last WT newsletter, and also his name in the Oct/Nov edition. Wyndan Kimmel was a running back, linebacker, and on the kickoff team for the Fergus Eagles. Just an over site -- our apologies!

Block (current Courthouse). In the Petroleum County Library, a crumbling copy of the Winnett Times was unearthed, dated March 30, 1917 (Vol. 3, no. 43). Excerpts from an article that might interest today's readers follows:

Some Facts of Vital Importance about the Winnett Country.

The construction of the roadbed of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway to Winnett as its present terminal has already been accomplished. The Winnett Country was a prosperous county in livestock days. The lack of railroad facilities meant little to the stockman under range conditions. The range and the stockman's business on the old big scale is practically a thing of the past. In common with the rest of Montana, the Winnett country has undergone agricultural development. A farming country without a railroad is in the winter of its existence, however.

The article continues by comparing conditions in the Winnett area to that of Judith Basin's country. It boasts that spring arrives two to three weeks earlier in Winnett and our winters are milder. In addition, the fertility of the land near Winnett is about the same as that of Judith Basin, yielding melons, tomatoes, fruits and corn which flourish. Judith Basin, however, had the benefit of the earlier building of a railroad. Farming followed with remarkable success.

Smaller towns will spring up along on both the Milwaukee and Great Northern systems that will get their share of the immense business originating in the territory . . . Winnett and the Winnett country have the community spirit. There can be no better asset than good citizenship . . . They lend a helping hand whenever it is thought desirable to do anything for the common weal. Optimism is in the air. Like all new communities, the Winnett country is preeminently a country of young people.

The extensive article then turns to the all-important question of how to water those crops.

The Fergus County Land and Irrigation Company's project, commonly known as the Flatwillow Project, will soon be completed . . . There are perhaps fifty thousand acres that in the not distant future will

be irrigated in the Winnett region. Preliminary steps have already been taken to secure a sugar factory.

It seems the early area farmers anticipated growing bumper sugar beet crops along fertile McDonald Creek. A photo of workers at the Walter Winnett ranch kneeling among his hefty sugar beets accompanies the article. But it seems sugar beets as a local crop didn't stick. At the date of that article, "non-irrigated land was selling at from \$15 to \$20 an acre, depending on proximity to Winnett and other stations along the railroads. By the end of 1917, it was predicted that these same lands would sell for 50% more as the productive soil had been found to be second to none in the state."

Then, in 1921, Edwin Berg sold the Winnett Times and moved to Billings to work for the Billings Gazette. Charles Doherty and C.E. Palmer became the publisher and editor. Following Doherty's service in post-war France and Germany, he gathered up fellow newspaperman Palmer. The team came from Killdeer, North Dakota. There, Palmer owned the equipment from the hometown newspaper the two men operated. They crated the machinery to be shipped to their new enterprise in Winnett. Doherty served as the owner and manager. They apparently had a knack for writing editorials which were enjoyed by their readers every week.

Scanning the January 11, 1924 issue of The Winnett Times, one finds several "timely" tidbits. For instance, if you were to get your Ford's motor and transmission overhauled, it would cost you \$20 (as opposed to the thousands it would cost today!). And it was possible to buy 50 genuine Bull Durham cigarettes for a dime. Headlines informed citizens of the cold-weather resulting in a stalemate in the exploration for new sources of petroleum production.

Apparently, that same cold snap froze the pipes in the school assembly hall/gymnasium over the holiday break. It seems the students were left to do their studying in the hallway, much to the joy of the underclassmen who especially enjoyed the "kidding 'em" opportunity. Meanwhile, the basketball boys were allowed to practice in the damp gymnasium. Current high school students might be

interested to know the Freshmen were reading The Merchant of Venice; the Sophomores no doubt enjoyed Julius Caesar; and the Seniors were tearing through the page-turner Old Testament Narratives. It gives a whole new appreciation of today's school/county library and our English teacher's more upbeat reading requirements.

In November of 1925, Doherty again moved the press, this time to its forever home. The 25x75-foot building was located on Lot 12, Block 11 on Main Street. The Winnett Times' relocation was no small feat. Rather than dismantle and then reassemble the equipment, the large plate-glass window of the Winnett Block's building was taken out. The monumental task required two trucks, nine men, and three days. Only then was the modern press settled into its new location.

The Winnett Times building was erected sometime before 1918, so that made it a relatively new structure. Beginning in 1918, early owners of the structure were: Walter Sevals, Theodore E. Hegna, Lotta H. Wilson, Ora L. and John E. Wilson. In 1922, on the Sanborn map, the building is shown as vacant, but in March of 1923, Henry Stenson bought it from John Wilson and used it as a salesroom for the Chevrolet Company. Stenson beefed up business by also adding a service station. In November of 1925, it became the home of the Winnett Times newspaper.

In 1931, ownership of the Winnett Times transferred to Doherty's assistant, Delmar Cole, who became the new publisher. Charles Doherty moved to Missoula but continued to act as editor. Cole ran the paper until 1936. He was followed by William Radar. Radar was born in Oklahoma, but his family had moved to Malta, Montana. William graduated there and moved on to attend linotype school at Mergenthaler. He then worked for the Malta Enterprise while he managed the Saco Weekly. Somewhere around 1936, The Winnett Times went bankrupt. It then came under the ownership of O. S. Worden who also owned The Great Falls Tribune. William Radar purchased the paper from Worden and turned it into a success. But by 1940, Williams was wanting to retire.

Xmas Edition

Winnett Times

Xmas Edition

Volume Three

Winnett, Montana, December 13, 1916.

34001

Number Seventeen



Sales of Deeded Land From Oct. 1, 1916 to Dec. 1, 1916

Geo. H. Bruns, 160 acres, to W. J. Winnett	\$25.00 per acre
Jens Jorgensen, 200 acres, to J. H. Von Linden, Strang, Neb.	21.00 per acre
Fred O. Hansen, 200 acres, to R. M. Wood, Liberal, Mo.	22.50 per acre
Mohar Droblich, 160 acres, to R. M. Wood, Liberal, Mo.	22.50 per acre
Flatwillow Land Co., 120 acres, to W. I. Henton, Winnett, Mont.	15.50 per acre

WINNETT LAND CO., Winnett, Mont.
A. W. OGG, Manager

The Arrival of the Railroad

Winnett's period of watchful waiting for the arrival of the railroad is almost over. The coming of the merry springtime will bring the fulfillment of our fondest hopes. "Pick" Burke has completed his part of the job, the grade is ready for the rails between Grass Range and this point, and once the weather will permit, the tracklayers will very quickly have the steel into our town.

Winnett was started in expectation of an earlier consummation of her hopes for rail connection with the outside world. But, though disappointed last year, our hustling community wasted no time in repining but hustled right along about its business, confident in the belief that no sensible railroad corporation was going to stop permanently at Grass Range when Winnett lay but twenty-three miles farther along.

Wednesday, December 13, 1916.

Our First Public School

A Delightful Historical Reminiscence Reviewing the Origin and Progress of the Winnett Schools; of Their Upbuilding and Present Day Efficiency and Usefulness—Intermingling Early History of Eastern Fergus County.
(By Amanda Swift.)

During the early eighties a young man, who had become dissatisfied with his home environment in the east, and who looked upon the great and well-nigh limitless west as the land of opportunity for himself, wife and small son, crossed the prairies and finally found his way to the territory of Montana, whose people were even then beginning to dream of statehood. Circumstances combined to bring him to the Judith Basin and to Lewistown, where he remained for several days at the Day House, the only hotel which the small settlement boasted. Down where the "mill" now stands was the Janeaux log store and not far distant the newer building of the Power Mercantile Co., in which Geo. Wiedeman, a dapper, rosy-cheeked lad, was the sole clerk, and sold a motley variety of articles.

There were possibly two hundred souls in this little burg called Lewistown, but our traveler believed it would become a flourishing city and sought a good agricultural location, first along Cottonwood creek, some eight miles distant, where he found the Lehman store proprietors debating the prospect of moving their goods to Lewistown and venturing a second store in that future city, and the owner of the hotel had decided upon the same course.

Although the soil was fertile, the seasons did not permit a corn crop, and there was no school established, and our traveler procured a trapper guide and journeyed east to Malden. Rumors of "gold finds" had attracted both men and women from Fort Benton and many tents and rude log shacks were scattered about. Just as the two came through the wonderfully beautiful Malden canyon, they were overtaken by soldiers from the nearby Fort Maginnis, who came to warn the prospectors that they must leave the reservation. The visiting strangers were regarded with suspicion, directed east and south and roughly ordered to "make tracks" in a hurry. So on they went, past McDonald creek and the Eitnay rim rocks, to Pike Landusky's trading point, thence to the

C. K. cattle ranch, 14 miles below Flatwillow, of which Allison Clark was the acting manager. Game of all kinds was plentiful and even bison were seen; and on they wandered over sage brush and prairie-dog mounds to the mouth of the Musselshell, where they were hospitably entertained at the P. N. ranch, also at the Lang and Ryan ranch, where Melstone is now located, and later at the Handel Brod. home, the present site of Musselshell. They returned to Flatwillow soon after Fred Lawrence had brought his bride, a teacher from the east, to the home he had purchased from Landusky.

Mrs. Lawrence (now Mrs. Sherman, who had much to do with molding the early school system of Billings), was most optimistic in regard to the future of this part of Montana, and urged the traveler to bring his family at once, since the agricultural advantage could not be surpassed; even the corn would grow finely here, as well as vegetables and fruits, while the educational advantages would be forthcoming in the shape of good schools just as soon as children of school age were in the locality.

His credulity was further taxed by Walter Winnett, who had just returned from Calgary to locate in this milder climate; and who prophesied that inside of 30 years trains would be running along this very creek, elevators crowded with grain, sugar-beet factories, coal mines and oil wells running at full blast, while irrigation projects would make the farming country a paradise. The stranger gazed at the nearby, curious antelope, the more distant deer, and further down the creek at the grazing bison, and sighed, saying sadly that while these things might be, he feared his small son would have no educational advantages until too late, and with many regrets the stranger left the land of purple hills and shining mountains for a nearby state and a settlement which already had a school.

Meanwhile Mr. Winnett had married, B. F. Leper had a ranch eight miles away. The Moulton brothers

OIL AND GAS AGRICULTURE

Winnett Times

VOL. 16, NO. 40. WINNETT, MONTANA FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1922 \$2.00 THE YEAR

RUSHING THE TICKET—The above Saturday and Sunday editions are published at the same price as the regular issue.

Basketball Tournament To Be Held On Winnett Floor

Tussle Will Be Held Next Friday and Saturday, February 19 and 20—Five Teams Competing; Grass Range, Roy, Buffalo, Moore and Winnett—District Meet

On Friday and Saturday of next week, the annual basket ball tangle known as the Sub-District Tournament will be held in the Winnett high school gymnasium. The purpose of this contest is to select a team to compete in the district tournament to be held in Lewistown February 26 and 27. Fergus high, having been conceded the right to be one of the teams in the district tournament will not be present in our affair. It will be a tussle between the following five teams: Grass Range, Buffalo, Moore, Roy, and Winnett. The winner of first place will contest in the Lewistown contest. In the district tournament, eight teams will come together to compete for the privilege of going to the state tournament at Bozeman. As there are three sub-districts in this district, the method is to select two teams from each of the sub-district tournaments, and two others at large from the whole district. The winner of second place in the Winnett tournament will be a strong contender for an invitation to the Lewistown tournament.

The games will start Friday afternoon, February 19th, and will run thru to Saturday night. Following is the schedule of games:

- Friday, 2:0 P. M.
1. Team A vs. Team B.
2. Team C vs. Team D.
Team E vs. Bye.

- Friday 8:00 P. M.
4. Loser 1 vs. Loser 2
5. Winner 2 vs. Winner 3
6. Winner 1 vs. Bye.

- Saturday 2:00 P. M.
7. Loser 5 vs. Winner 4
8. Winner 5 vs. Winner 6
9. Winner 7 vs. Loser 8

2nd place. Saturday 8:00 P. M.
The matching of teams for the first round of games will be determined by lot just before the first game.

From all appearances these five teams are pretty nearly on the par. No single one has been a consistent winner thruout the season. Each team has its wins and losses. Grass Range, having defeated Moore, Roy and Winnett, on this basis they appear to have the best chance. Buffalo, situated in the other end of the district, is an unknown quantity here, but in all probability will be a factor to be considered. Moore can always be depended on to show up mighty strong in a tournament, while in the case of Roy, judging from the tussle they put up in the game here, they will give any of these teams a good run for their money.

Winnett's Chances
Winnett started the season with a new bunch of players, only one having had first team experience. They

FIRST GAME OF SEASON TONIGHT

A volleyball game has been scheduled with Flatwillow to be played in the Methodist church basement here tonight. Sometime ago the Flatwillow boys challenged Winnett to a volleyball game and the challenge has been taken up. Altho the Winnett players have had but little practice on the volleyball court they promise a fast game to the contenders.

LEGION AUXILIARY MEETS

The American Legion Auxiliary held their February meeting at Flatwillow Tuesday evening, February 9. A good crowd attended and transacted the regular monthly business and other matters were brought up and disposed of. Poppies were ordered for the Memorial Poppy sale and Mrs. Lambert, Gold Star Mother, ordered 100 in addition to the order placed by the Auxiliary. These flowers are bought from the disabled veterans in the hospital in Helena and are made by them. The sale of poppies is the only source of income the veterans have and they feel that every time they sell a few poppies they are earning again.

The Auxiliary has presented schools in the county with American flags, Joyce, Lower Weede, Petrolia, Beedle and Keller.

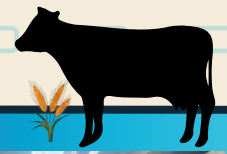
VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS IN GREAT DEMAND NOW

The first volley ball turnout was held in the basement of the Methodist church last Monday evening. Only a few players were present and more are requested to be at the church basement Monday night so that teams may be picked and practice started in earnest. If Winnett is to win any games this winter it will be necessary that a good many support the town team.

Pathway to a Paper: Part 2, "Enter Rudy Glatz" will be featured in the next Mar/Apr Edition.



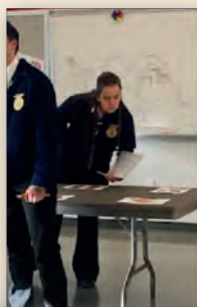
Future Farmers of America Winnett Chapter



The Winnett FFA Chapter took on their first competitive contest at the Big Timber Showdown December 4th, participating in Floriculture. The team consisted of Shaylie Ahlgren(President), Kenzie Smith(Reporter), Tinley Browning(Treasure), and Charlie Johnson(Secretary). For this event students identify plants, judge flower arrangements and solve problems. During the hands-on portion of the Floriculture contest the students completed a corsage, propagation and prepared a floral/foilage product for sale. The team took 12th place overall, with Tinley Browning receiving the high individual score of the team, placing 18th in the contest.

The chapter also competed in Meats Judging at the Winter Districts in Winifred on December 12th. ~Lindsay Flint

NOTE - Stay TUNED for a FFA RIFLE RAFFLE FUNDRAISER!



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Twenty-four local seniors received a Christmas poinsettias sponsored by Winnett Lions Club!



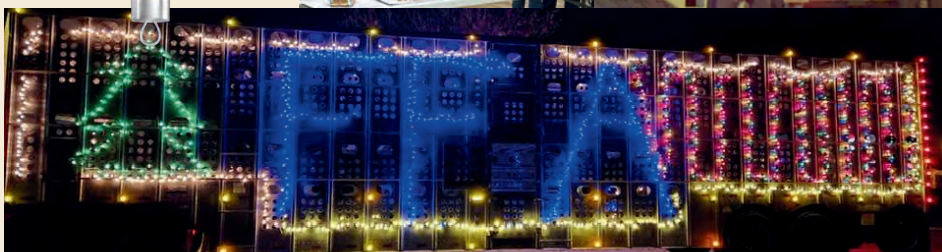
We would like to thank everyone that came, donated and helped at Gary Flint's Benefit. We appreciate the calls of support that we have received in this difficult time. There are no words to express our deepest appreciation. We are truly humbled by the generosity shown by our small communities. God bless you all. ~ The Flint family



**CHRISTMAS
STROLL
2023**



Aurora captured by Kelly Beavers



Christmas Lights Contest Winners

(Put on by the Lions Club):

- Out of Town** 1. Colt and Rachael Gorrell 2. Kahle Descheemaeker-Teigen Ranch 3. Grant Family
- Business** 1. Northern Motel 2. PCCC 3. 55 Main
- Town** 1. Alex Krug 2. Gary Gershmel 3. Tina Rabern and Mary Meserve
- Honorable Mention** Donna Rowton & Jack Jensens

JANUARY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NEW YEARS DAY	2	3	4 SENIORS Kids Club 3:40-5:30pm	5 BBall in Centerville 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30pm	6 Catholic (Mass) 5:30pm BBall in Winnett vs GFCC 2:00/3:30/5:00/6:30pm
7 Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am Lutheran 4pm (Mosby)	8 Pet. Co. Commissr's 9am Youth Program 3:40-5:30	9 PCCC Meeting 8am Legacy Workshop 1-3pm Youth Program 3:40-5:30 P.I.E. 4:30pm Booster Club 5:30pm Ambulance Sheriff's Reserve	10 Youth Program 3:40-5:30 Town Council 5pm Youth Group 7-9	11 SENIORS Library for Littles 10:30am Kids Club 3:40-5:30pm Rimrock Readers 7pm Vol. Fire Meeting 7pm	12 BBall in Highwood 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30pm	13 PCCC Quilting Class 10am - 4pm BBall in GR vs Belt 2:00/3:30/5:00/6:30pm
14 Catholic (Word) 10am Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am	15 Youth Program 3:40-5:30 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	16 Youth Program 3:40-5:30 School Board Meeting	17 Crafting with Neighbors Youth Program 3:40-5:30 ACES Annual Meeting @6 Youth Group 7-9 Pet.Co. Search & Resc.	18 SENIORS Kids Club 3:40-5:30pm	19 BBall in Winnett vs DGSG 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30pm	20 Catholic (Mass) 5:30pm BBall in Winnett vs TCT 2:00/3:30/5:00/6:30pm
21 Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am	22 Pet. Co. Commissr's 9am Youth Program 3:40-5:30	23 Youth Program 3:40-5:30	24 Youth Program 3:40-5:30 Youth Group 7-9	25 SENIORS Library for Littles 10:30am Kids Club 3:40-5:30pm	26 Ski Club BBall in Jordan 2:30/4:00/5:30/7:00pm	27 BBall in Winifred 2:00/3:30/5:00/6:30pm
28 Catholic (Word) 10am Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am	29 Youth Program 3:40-5:30	30 Youth Program 3:40-5:30 Lions Club	31 Youth Program 3:40-5:30 Youth Group 7-9 PCCD Meeting 5pm			

Please contact Patti at 429-5601 BEFORE WEDNESDAY to reserve a SENIOR MEAL CONFIRM day/time of meeting or event before attending. Dates/times are subject to change

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 SENIORS	2 BBall in GR vs Centerville 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30pm	3 Catholic (Mass) 5:30pm
4 Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am Lutheran 4pm (Mosby)	5 Youth Program 3:40-5:30	6 PCCC Meeting 8am Youth Program 3:40-5:30 P.I.E. 4:30pm	7 Youth Program 3:40-5:30 ACES Meeting 6pm Youth Group 7-9	8 SENIORS Library for Littles 10:30am Rimrock Readers 7pm Kids Club 3:40-5:30pm Vol. Fire Meeting 7pm	9 BBall in Winnett vs Highwood & Simms 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30pm	10 BBall in Belt 2:00/3:30/5:00/6:30pm
11 Catholic (Word) 10am Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am	12 Pet. Co. Commissr's 9am Youth Program 3:40-5:30	13 Youth Program 3:40-5:30 Ambulance Sheriff's Reserve	14 Youth Program 3:40-5:30 Town Council 5pm Youth Group 7-9 VALENTINE'S DAY District BBall in GFs	15 SENIORS Kids Club 3:40-5:30pm District BBall in GFs	16 District BBall in GFs	17 Catholic (Mass) 5:30pm District BBall in GFs
18 Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am	19 Pet. Co. Commissr's 9am PRESIDENTS DAY Youth Program 3:40-5:30	20 Youth Program 3:40-5:30 School Board Meeting	21 Crafting with Neighbors Youth Program 3:40-5:30 Youth Group 7-9 Pet.Co. Search & Resc. Divisional BBall in GFs	22 SENIORS Library for Littles 10:30am Kids Club 3:40-5:30pm Divisional BBall in GFs	23 Ski Club Divisional BBall in GFs	24 Divisional BBall in GFs
25 Catholic (Word) 10am Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am	26 Pet. Co. Commissr's 9am Youth Program 3:40-5:30	27 Youth Program 3:40-5:30 Lions Club	28 Youth Program 3:40-5:30 Youth Group 7-9 PCCD Meeting 5pm	29 SENIORS Kids Club 3:40-5:30pm		

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We greatly appreciate your support!*

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Skip & Diane Ahlgren

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Our sincerest THANK YOU to the Carrell Grant Fund and all the generous donations from the community, alumni and other folks. The Carrell Grant Fund and outside donations have made this newsletter possible and we appreciate all the continued support!

GOLD Level (\$250-\$499)

Delores Hill
Anthony & Betty Kuhry
Trudy Zaborski
In Memory of Lois Johnke

If you have a classified listing (for sale or wanted), job posting or general announcement/Ad please contact Trish Smith @ www.winnettimes@gmail.com to have it posted on the Winnett website: www.VisitWinnett.com

Check out the website for all up to date information/announcements, community calendar, links to businesses/organizations, meeting agendas/minutes (that have been submitted) & and recreational ideas. It also has the current newsletter and all past editions of the Winnett Times in both PDF printable format & e-version FlippingBook.

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www.visitwinnett.com
PO Box 11, Winnett, MT 59087

NOTE NEW ADDRESS →

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