

Winnett Times

~Winnett Montana Community Newsletter~

Volume 2, Issue 4

August 2022



Teigen Ranch. Photo Credit: Terry Lewis

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"Teigen - End of a Legacy"

It was the birthchild of a trio of young men: Mons Teigen and his cousins, Knute and Ole Opheim. One day in 1884, the men sat their horses and surveyed the sagebrush-studded grassland. A lively creek provided background music. They were Norwegian immigrants, bachelors scouting for good sheep country. They'd trailed their ewes from Gallatin County, wintering them south of Bozeman. Once the snow was off, they moved them down the Musselshell valley along the east side of the Snowy Mountains. Their original settling spot was southeast of where they now stood; however, that turned out to be federal land. This parcel, though, which they'd discovered as they drove their sheep along McDonald Creek, was up for grabs.

Mons Teigen was 33 when he weighed and measured this spot. Born in Voss, Norway on June 12, 1851, he grew up knowing and loving the land. As a young man, he sought his fortune in America. His first job was near the Norwegian-rich Wisconsin settlement of Lacrosse where he found work at a sawmill. But, like other immigrants, his mind was on homesteading. Mons reached Helena, Montana in 1882 and worked on ranches. When his two cousins joined him, they began to make plans. Their sights were fixed on land near the center of Montana Territory. And here they were.

Knute and Ole climbed down to stand beside Mons, visualizing sheep grazing the slopes and smoke drifting from a chimney. They liked the look of this broad valley with its gentle hills. Farther east, a suggestion of rimrocks smudged the horizon. Each took up a 160-acre pre-emption claim. Mons' parcel was one drainage over, on Elk

Creek. All of their claims were in Meagher County which encompassed what would become Fergus, Judith Basin, Petroleum and part of Musselshell counties – so it was big. The county seat was in White Sulphur Springs. That meant that any filing or legal business meant a 160-mile trek. They were about to establish the first sheep ranch east of the Judith Mountains. This core of three homesteads would become a local legacy.

"Let's bring 'em home, then," Ole grinned. They remounted and gathered the band of sheep that had hoofed it, quite literally, from Gallatin County. This was open range; there were already cattle scattered along McDonald Creek's bottoms. As it turned out, the woolies preferred cropping the hillsides. Thus, a workable arrangement between sheep and cattlemen prevented any range wars in this area. Their sheep settled, Ole, Knute, and Mons pulled out axes and began building a one-room log cabin that would house them for the next four years. The men kept an eye on their flock, ate plenty of beans and bacon, and somehow survived drinking alkali-tainted creek water. Even the water from the eventual well suffered that affliction.

Once they had a dwelling, the partners went to work building a brush-sheltered horse pasture. What the winter hold was anybody's guess, but the boys knew they'd better cut some hay. This was accomplished by walking along, swinging scythes. They found wild hay on a bench about three miles southwest of the ranch. In 1885, the trio cut hay on the dry fork of Elk Creek, a bit farther away. But the next year was very dry. They were forced to venture into the Becket country to find anything

worth cutting. By then, 1886, they had upgraded to a used horse-drawn mowing machine. The winter of '86-'87 was a severe one. The fact that this miserable stretch followed an unusually dry summer made things even rougher on livestock owners. Sheep seemed to suffer less than did cattle. Mons recounted a grizzly tale of traveling through a cow-littered landscape and actually walking for several hundred yards over carcass-filled coulees. The sheep survived fairly well.

Their closest neighbors were the first settlers in the area, the Bowens, living four miles west. Other "nearby" residents were Ben and Charles Moulton. They arrived the same year as our heroes. Walter Winnett was in the area, too, trapping and running a freight line. The nearest supply post, Broadwater & McNamara Co., was at Fort Maginnis, which was 25 miles west of the ranch. According to that store's account book, Teigan purchased 750 pounds of tobacco in 1888. Yikes! It turns out tobacco was used in making sheep dip. It was boiled and poured into vats. The sheep went in and emerged free of the dreaded "scab". During the first few years, the store purchased Teigan's wool and held the proceeds on credit, from which supplies were deducted. The wool was freighted to Billings or Fort Benton by way of a road meandering from Custer Junction past the town of Musselshell, and on to the Flatwillow crossing. and then on to Ft. Maginnis.

By 1889, Knute had had enough. He sold his third of the land to his brother and Mons and moved back to Helena. For the...

Community Spotlight:

B & D Service Station, Becky & Dave Grantier



Becky and Dave Grantier standing in front of one of their Bulk trucks at the station.

In 1931, Kenny Cole rented, then bought the Hoyle Service Station located at 119 E. Main from Al Hoyle. Kenny, a state legislator from Petroleum County for 26 years, operated the station, along with acquiring the Weiloff Oil Co, which was a wholesale oil business. In 1966, Mr. Cole sold his business to Bob Coffey who operated it until 1980, at which time Becky and Dave Grantier purchased the business and renamed it B & D Service. They also purchased the original Al Hoyle home on N. Ashley Ave, located just north of the station. (Pages of Time)

Dave was born in North Dakota and moved with his family to the Winnett area, graduating from the Winnett High School in 1973. He attended Helena Vo-Tech studying over-the-road and agricultural mechanics, knowledge that would serve him well

in later years! Becky grew up and attended school in Iowa, becoming a laboratory technician and working at McKenzie County Hospital in Watford city, North Dakota.

Dave had migrated back to that area to work for a cousin and "hermit" Dave was encouraged to ask a girl named Becky out on a date. This was in December and by February, Dave, who does not let any grass grow under his feet, had proposed, a wedding took place, and in 1980 they were back in Winnett owning and

operating a service station and bulk gas delivery business! Their daughter, Sami, was born in 1982. She graduated from Winnett High School and became a registered nurse before marrying Zach Routzahn in 2008. They have 2 children, Nolan and MacKenzie.

In 2000, B & D Service moved to a new building at 305 N. Broadway where it continues today. Over the years, besides bulk fuel, gas pumps, tires, and small repairs, Dave and Becky have provided NutraLix liquid feed to area ranches and still carry some mineral and lick tubs. In 2016, feeling the need to put even more thousands of miles on his delivery trucks, Dave began selling and servicing propane for customers for miles around the area. Dave figures he has put 2,750,000 miles on 6 delivery trucks over the years and it's not a bit unusual to meet Dave on the road delivering products at any time of the night or day!

I asked Dave and Becky what some of their best and/or funniest memories are; a guy ran out of fuel on the highway and a good Samaritan put 5 gals of gas in his vehicle...but it required diesel.... Becky had to fix it! Dave was closing



Present day B & D station (Left); Original station in 1990 (above)

A day in the life of the station, be it serving customers or getting ready to swath hay.

Community Spotlight Continued...



Pete the B & D mascot dog with the grandkids, Nolan and MacKenzie



Sami & Zach Rutzahn, Nolan and MacKenzie.

up one evening when 3 motorcycles pulled up to the pumps and the women in the group started changing their cloths....at the pumps! Local customer, Dwane Keihl was at the station one day and when he went out the door a naked man asked him for \$10. Dave and Becky were both laughing when remembering the look on Dwane's face. The Grantiers have made a lot of friends during hunting season and folks that travel through on a regular basis – too many unique stories to tell.

Besides the many hours, days, and years of serving people at the station, Dave and Becky have been a pillar for community service. Dave was on the Volunteer Fire Dept for 40 years, 21 of those years as county Fire Worden. Dave never had a fire "burn over him" but very close at times when working fires in the "breaky" country. He also

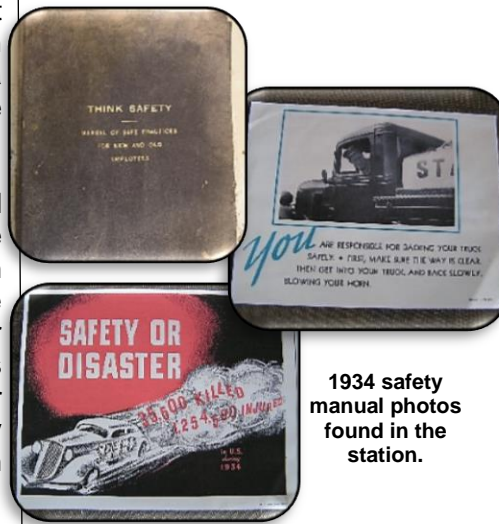
volunteered on the Ambulance Service for 20 years and, at times, was known to be able to drive the ambulance right to the wreck, be it through the sagebrush or over a bank! He remembers driving the ambulance to Lewistown on slick roads once and coming up on a black bear in the middle of the road – they missed him! Dave also helped

with Search and Rescue when needed; one memory was, looking for a lost person in the Missouri breaks who only had one leg, Dave found the crutch tracks and they finally located the guy at 3 a.m.!

Becky was a volunteer EMT on the ambulance for many years and figures she has crawled in and out of about every hole and coulee in the county! She remembers trying to get a patient out of Gorman Coulee in the rain and having a fellow volunteer grab her coat collar to help pull them up a slippery slope. Both Dave and Becky were members of the Rimrock Community Jaycees helping do community events.

When asked what the best part of operating B & D Service has been, both mentioned "helping and taking care of the people, both local and travelers". Some of the hardships and changes that they have seen are; operating in the tough winters; business is dependent on the weather and ranching economy; recreation and small landowners have added significantly to their business in these later years.

Dave, who has had type 1 diabetes for over 50 years, and Becky are looking to slow down and take some time for themselves. They stated that "it has been a good run" and they hope to find someone to continue the business and keep their many enterprises going in the community. Thank you, Dave and Becky, for your many years of service, both in your business and in the community!



1934 safety manual photos found in the station.



Ron Kastner has been a good friend and helper to the Grantiers

Winnett School News

Superintendent's Message:

Welcome to the 22-23 school year!

It must be that time of year again, because all the stores have moved the school supply displays to the unavoidable front and center. So in case you were trying to put off thinking about it for a little bit longer - you can't. It always looks a little funny when all the new pencils, notebooks, crayons and calculators end up sitting right next to piles of brightly colored beach towels and inflatable pool toys. It's almost like a competition. And while we all need and appreciate a chance to relax and play during the summer, it's exciting to get back to the business of learning.

Our staff has been working hard this summer to get the building ready for a new school year - carpet cleaning, painting, a fresh coat of wax on the gym floor, ordering supplies, bus cleaning and maintenance, and working on various security upgrades. By the time you read this, the playground will have a new fence that will hopefully keep it cleaner and more secure. We appreciate our staff members who work so hard to make this a clean, safe, and organized place to work, learn, and play.

Teachers and staff will report back on Monday, Aug. 15th for training and school begins for all students on Wednesday, Aug. 17th. This school year will also be a learning experience for us all as we try out a different calendar format. The four-day school week will bring a slightly longer school day, but also allow for most Fridays off starting in mid-September. School instruction will start at 8:05 and finish at 3:40 every day, with breakfast open for elementary students starting at 7:45 am. This will include any Friday that we have instruction. Buses will run slightly earlier in the morning. A mailing will go out to families at the beginning of August with the specific details for routes, as well as a copy of the new calendar and bell schedule.

Another change for the school year is a sign of things continuing to return to normal from the pandemic. Last school year, lunches were free for all students due to a federal government program responding to the challenges of Covid-19. However, this year, school lunches will return to the previous pricing structure: full payment, reduced payment, or free. This paperwork will be sent home at the beginning of the year. It's simple to complete and determines if families qualify for free or reduced lunches. Melissa in the office is available for anyone needing assistance in completing the paperwork - parents are welcome to call or stop by.

We're so looking forward to welcoming our students, parents, and staff back and are excited to see what this school year has in store. Please call or stop by any time with comments, questions, or concerns. ~*Lindsey Wilkerson*



- Aug. 2: GR/W and W/GR Co-op Meeting, 7 pm
- Aug. 9: Winnett Booster Club meeting, 6:30 pm
- Aug. 12: First Day of Practice for Football, Volleyball
- Aug. 15/16: Teacher/PIR training
- Aug. 16: Regular board meeting, 7 pm
- Aug. 17: First day for all students, 8:05 am - 3:40 pm



August School Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
15	16	17 Pulled Pork Baked Beans Fries Fruit	18 Walking Taco Corn Fruit	19 Chicken Dijon Veggies Fruit
22 Chicken Strips Fries Salad Fruit Roll	23 Super Nachos Corn Fruit	24 Pigs in a Blanket Veggies Fruit Roll	25 Lasagna Salad Fruit Garlic Bread	26 Chicken Sandwich Chips Veggies Fruit
29 S&S Chicken Vegetable Rice Fruit Roll	30 Taco Salad Corn Fruit Roll	31 Chicken Alfredo Salad Fruit Roll	PROUDLY SERVING LOCAL BEEF **Breakfast & Milk/Salad Bar Served Daily**	

Winnett School Calendar 2022 - 2023

August

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January

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	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

February

				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						

March

						1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31			

April

									1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May

									1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- NO SCHOOL
- 1st day of school for students
- PIR (required) and/or early out
- End of Quarter
- Tournaments

Football & Volleyball season schedule will be in the September issue

Bruno & Evelyne Betti Youth Summer Program



"We had a small, but enthusiastic group yesterday at Giant Springs State Park and fish hatchery! The kids enjoyed exploring the trails along the Missouri River and feeding the rainbow trout. We also got to meet Juniper, the park's very own pet bull snake. Thank you to the Montana State Parks once again for a great program!"

1st Annual Winnett/Grass Range T-ball and Little League



"The kids (and parents) braved the heat, wind, and rain all for the love of baseball. Katie Delaney and Tiffany Knerr, who helped organize this league, did an awesome job with t-ball. The kids (and parents) had a blast and learned the basics of the game. Lance (attempted) to teach the older kids to fine tune their passing, hitting, and field positions. But none of that would have been possible without the parents that stepped in to help coach every day - THANK YOU! A big Thank You to the Wrangler Bar and Winnett Bar for donating money for T-shirts; The Ole' Mercantile and The Breaks for donating snacks; and again the parents that donated their time to support and cheer on their kids!"

Chief Plenty Coups State Park

"The visitor center provided a lot of information with interactive games and maps. We learned about the history of Native Americans in the region, their lifestyle, and how they survived; the Lewis & Clark Expedition when they came through; and why the park was made – Chief Plenty Coups himself. We got to tour the log cabin he lived in. He was prominent in the orchard business growing different kinds of fruit. Then an easy hike around the park following Pryor Creek. Before we headed home, we treated ourselves to some ice cream to beat the heat! Thanks again to Nicole Tholt for coming!"



1st Annual Bike Extravaganza

"The first annual Bike Extravaganza was a success on a hot June day. We started out with bike maintenance conducted by Will Hollender. They picked out helmets, donated by Winnett School and the Spoke Shop (in Billings) and had them properly fitted. Then learned hand signals and how to ride in town. Next up was the racing! Slowest race, "pole bending," barrel race, ribbon race, obstacle course (bridge donated by Kylie Thompson), and a distance race around the track. Prizes, donated by Spoke Shop and Leslie Iverson, were given for each race. Today would not have been successful without the help of Will and Leslie, THANK YOU!!"



Teigen Continued...



Teigen Ranch in 1905. The left section of the low log building served as living quarters before the two-story house was built. Photo Credit: Petroleum Co. Pages of Time

next eight years, Ole and Mons ran the ranch and prospered. Mons married Elsa Bordson, a Norwegian seamstress from Helena, in 1890. He brought her back to an improved two-story log cabin. That same year, while trying to rescue a lamb from a swollen beaver dam, Ole drowned. His grieving father traveled from Chicago to settle his son's estate. Mons was able to purchase Ole's half. He was the sole owner of the ranch now.

When Elsa became pregnant, Mons sent for his niece, Martha Teigen. She set out for Montana from Norway to help Elsa with ranch work and with the baby, Bard Mons. Martha went back to Norway, married Nels Ostwick, and brought him back to the Teigen ranch. The couple took up homesteads north of the ranch buildings. Knute Berg also homesteaded north of the Teigen land and worked for Mons. Other relatives of the original partners, such as Marvin Gavel, gravitated to adjacent parcels. One day in 1908, Mons and Elsa returned home to find their cabin had burned to the ground. They moved to the bunkhouse until the new house could be built. That big white house still stands on the ranch.

In 1911, surveying for the Milwaukee and Great Northern Railroad began. The Milwaukee Land Co. laid out a townsite near

the ranch; building commenced. The new town, of course, would be called "Teigen". The first structure, built by Tom Peterson, was a store and post office. It was designated on November 24, 1914. Then the walls of John Ferguson's hotel and restaurant went up. It, unfortunately, burned within a year. Across the street, Bill Beedle raised his livery stable and blacksmith shop. Of course, every town must have a bar; Peckham's Saloon filled that need. By 1916, Western Lumber and Grain Co. had added a lumber yard and grain elevator, just in time for the bumper wheat crop produced in 1915-16. Wheat poured in to the new elevator. Lumber was in high demand.

In 1914, Mons saw the need for a school to serve the little community. He had a school built on a hill near the ranch. He hired Miss Louise Smith as the teacher that fall. Students walked or rode their horses to school. As many as 18 students filled the desks. Louis would eventually marry her student, Bill Beedle. The Community Hall was built in 1917 on land donated by Mons and the Milwaukee Railroad. Its dimensions were 30x60 feet. A spirited community leader, Mrs. Boles whipped up enthusiasm for its construction and then, to make use of the new hall, organized a debate society.

Newcomers flooded into what would become Petroleum County, the peak years being 1913 to 1916. Vehicles rolled eastward along a dirt road which led right past the Teigen's new house and the town. With the Ferguson Hotel burned, it became common for travelers to stop at the Teigen Ranch for the night. Ella and Mons often fed and bedded as many as 14 unexpected guests. It's not surprising that Mons's next building project was a new hotel. It was ready in the fall of 1917. The Boyds managed it until 1924. The following year, the Campbell Drilling crew took their meals and slept there while they drilled the Teigen No. 1 well.

It wasn't until 1917 that the rails for the railroad were finally laid. Three times weekly the trains pulled to a stop at Teigen enroute to Winnett. Occasionally, snow drifts swallowed the tracks, and the snow delayed the train for

hours. Now homesteaders arrived by train. Sadly, Mother Nature was about to shut them down just when relocation got easier. Added to dropping wheat and cattle prices, a series of dry years yielded meager crops. There were few jobs to be had, and the settlers found they couldn't make a living on their barren 160-acre allotments. The train now became their means of escape. WWI was being waged in Europe. Many young men of the area rode that train to serve their country. Back at home, women formed a Red Cross chapter. They knitted socks, rolled bandages and hosted fund-raisers for the cause. When the war was over, new excitement erupted.



Teigen Hotel in 1918. Photo Credit: Pet. Co. Pages of Time

It was spurred by the big oil strike at Cat Creek. Once the oil boom took hold, tanker-laden trains came through twice a day. In addition to oil, it hauled freight, mail and passengers. Geologist Campbell, who'd surveyed the Cat Creek sands, also surveyed the Teigen geological structure in 1920 and again in 1924. According the May 22, 1925 *Winnett Times*: "Determined the structure was perfect with an excellent enclosure . . ." The test well was punched near the railroad station with great anticipation. An excerpt from the school's newspaper, *The Teigen Truth Teller*, reflects the optimism: "The Teigen boom has begun. Someone should take pictures of the townsite now and again in six months. Buy a lot and beat the boom, that's our slogan." Alas, the well was P/A – plugged and abandoned.

In 1920, Mons' oldest son Bard helped his father on the ranch. Second son Peter struck out for Lewistown where he worked at the Bank of Fergus County. One year later, he married Edna Potter. They produced two sons of their own, Mons and Peter Jr. In 1924, the family moved back home. After living upstairs in the big house, they took up residence on the second floor of the hotel. By that time, few guests were making use of it. Edna pitched in and helped with the cooking and cleaning at the big house while Peter assisted his father with the sheep. Their boys attended school up on the hill. Peter and Edna's family were the last residents of the hotel. A new home was built for them on the ranch in 1928.



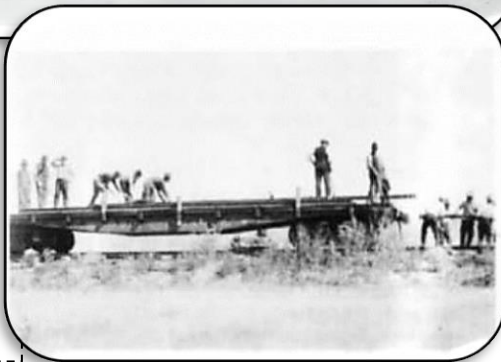
Mrs. Mons Teigen visiting at the Campbell well drill site. Photo Credit: Petroleum Co. Pages of Time

Teigen Continued...

Then came the 1930's, the Great Depression. Cattle prices dropped so low that shipping cows wasn't worth it. These were the driest years seen in Montana. Most of the homesteaders who hadn't left did so then. It must have seemed like the ten biblical plagues of Egypt. Farmers and ranchers suffered through crippling prices, drought, army worms and grasshoppers. And in 1931, Mons Sr., the founder of the Teigen Ranch, died. Life goes on. Peter and Edna had their first daughter, Elsa Mae, in 1930. Their second daughter, Lois, was born in 1932 on the day the Grass Range Bank failed. The one hopeful event was Bard Teigen's marriage to Ann Clark in 1934. Though that joyful event was eclipsed by Elsa's passing in January of 1936. With sparse winter snowfall, the drought continued.



Work train laying rails between Teigen and Winnett. "The building of the railroad took several years, from the first surveys made in 1911, until it was finally completed. Three different surveys were made before building of the grade was started in 1916; the rails were laid in the summer of 1917. The train came three times a week at first, then every day except Sunday. During the Cat Creek oil boom in 1920, two trains a day steamed by!" Credit: Petroleum Co. Pages of Time



Teigen Red Cross Chapter.

Photo Credit: Petroleum Co. Pages of Time

There was such sparse grazing in the spring of 1936 that the Teigen sons were forced to take the bulk of their sheep to an ACM forest reserve along the Blackfoot River near Ovando. Peter and his two sons went in advance to make arrangements while Bard and his crew loaded the sheep on the ever-useful train. Bard and Ann, the newly-weds, would spend the summer in Ovando to look after the camp and troubleshoot. That fall, Peter came to help move the sheep to Helmsville where they would winter. Bard and Ann were undoubtedly anxious to return to the ranch, so John Lindstrand and Carl Johnson took their places. Because fading enrollment caused the little school to close, Edna moved the family to Lewistown that fall. Only in the spring of 1937 did the sheep come home for lambing.

By 1938 things were better. Slowly but surely the drought's chokehold relaxed. It was actually a good year, topped off by the birth of Bard Jr. to Bard and Ann as well as young Mons' graduation from Fergus County High School. He was off to MSU in Bozeman in the fall of 1940. Peter finished high school in 1941 while WWII loomed on the horizon. December 7, 1941 changed the lives of Americans. Mons married Eleanor Assen in May of 1942. Along with her brother, she had come to cook on the Teigen ranch. The couple lived and worked in Billings where Eleanor got her business degree at Eastern Montana College. With America at war, Mons enlisted in the Marines. On August 15, 1942, Peter joined the Navy. It was ironic that, unbeknownst to Mons, his younger brother was on a ship as part of "The Little Beaver Squadron". While the Marines were securing Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, Peter's Navy team was off shore providing their cover.

Once Mons was discharged, he and Eleanor headed to California. There, their son Lloyd was born. The family then returned to

Montana where Mons returned to MSU, graduating in 1949. The couple's second boy, Mons Jr., was born while his father was finishing up his degree. Mons's first job was in Miles City working for the Grass Commission. It was there that daughter Carla was born. Eleanor took up quilting and sewing. She was short and often had to trim inches from her garments. Being thrifty, these scraps went into her quilts. The Grass Commission was relocated to Lewistown. Mons moved closer to home and continued as its secretary. By 1961, he would become Land Commissioner for the State of Montana under Governor Nutter. This required the family to live in Helena. In 1969 Mons became the Executive Secretary of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, serving until his retirement in 1986.

As for Peter Jr., he worked on the ranch until he enrolled at MSU in 1946. By 1951, he had graduated. But his father wasn't well, so he stayed on the ranch to help out. In 1954 he married Gladys Housel. The couple lived on the ranch until they bought the Leonard Eld place in 1959 where they continued to live. Peter Sr. was a well-respected citizen and Montanan. He was chosen as the farm representative on the Draft Board in 1942. He also served as the Petroleum County State Representative for two terms, 1944 and 1946, in the Montana House of Representatives. Peter Sr. died of a stroke in 1962.

Bard became president of the Teigen Land and Livestock until he began to have lung issues, though he kept working. By then, they were running three bands of sheep, necessitating moving sheep and wagons from place to place. After the resignation of Bard Teigen in 1972 from Board of Directors



The train taking on water at the Teigen Station. Photo Credit: Petroleum Co. Pages of Time



McDonald Creek and barn on the present day Teigen Ranch. Photo Credit: Phillips Realty

In 1920, after its brief, but useful, existence, the Community Hall went up in flames. Peterson's store followed the Hall's fate in 1924. The elevator was dismantled in the '30's. The schoolhouse on the hill, unused since 1935, was moved to its new home at the Lewistown Museum in 1976 through the efforts of the D.A.R. and Retired Teachers. A bell tower was added. It resided there as a memorial to country schools until its foundation gave out. The store changed owners several times. Then Bill and Katherine Tait bought it in 1946 and kept the store and the post office going until 1970. Huffs then ran it until it closed in 1986. As might be expected, it burned the next year. The Teigen post office was moved to the ranch.

During this past year, the Teigen ranch, much like the elevator, was dismantled. Broken into several parcels, those original claims plus land later acquired, is now split between half a dozen owners. The original white house is being renovated. The legacy that stood unchallenged, though not unchanged, for 138 years may look different now. But change can be a good thing. Only the hotel (below), stark and dark, remains where the lively town of Teigen once stood. Changes are in the wind, but the Teigen ranch, even divided, will not be erased from landscape or memory.

By Terry Lewis

of the Winnett State Grazing District, Peter Jr. was elected to the board. He served for 25 years, ensuring good land stewardship. He was also the Executive Secretary of the Montana Stockgrowers Association and on the Commission of State Lands.

On August 1, 1982, Edna Teigen celebrated her 80th birthday at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown. Over 200 guests attended the reception. Edna was active in the Lutheran Church, the Order of the Eastern

Peter Jr. managed the ranch operations until, in 1998, he was tragically killed in a car accident. That was the year Ann, Bard's widow, and her visiting daughter Patricia McNamee got the scare of their lives. On a hot, dry September day, they were forced to evacuate the white frame house. A wild fire roared toward them, eating up grass, sagebrush, and timber. Luckily, 16 fire engines, an air tanker, and a helicopter descended on the inferno. With a little help from some rain, they were able to save the buildings. It ate up 550 acres but no structures.

Ann continued living in the original house along with its antiques and memories. An accomplished writer, she published a novel in 1992, *The Purple Lamp*, a fictitious parallel of her own roots. Her stage play "Frontier Hotel" was performed by the Judith Mountain Players. She provided church music, was active in the Order of the Eastern Star, and enjoyed the company of her parrot, Monie. We lost Ann, a much beloved friend, in 2005. Gladys, Peter Jr.'s widow, was active in the community, particularly Winnett's Senior Citizens. She enjoyed traveling and entertaining. She passed away in 2009. Following Peter's death, the running of Teigen Land and Livestock Company fell on the shoulders of Bard and Ann's grandson, David Wickhorst. He made many improvements to the barns and corrals. Change happens. There's no stopping it. But the town of Teigen didn't just change, it disappeared.

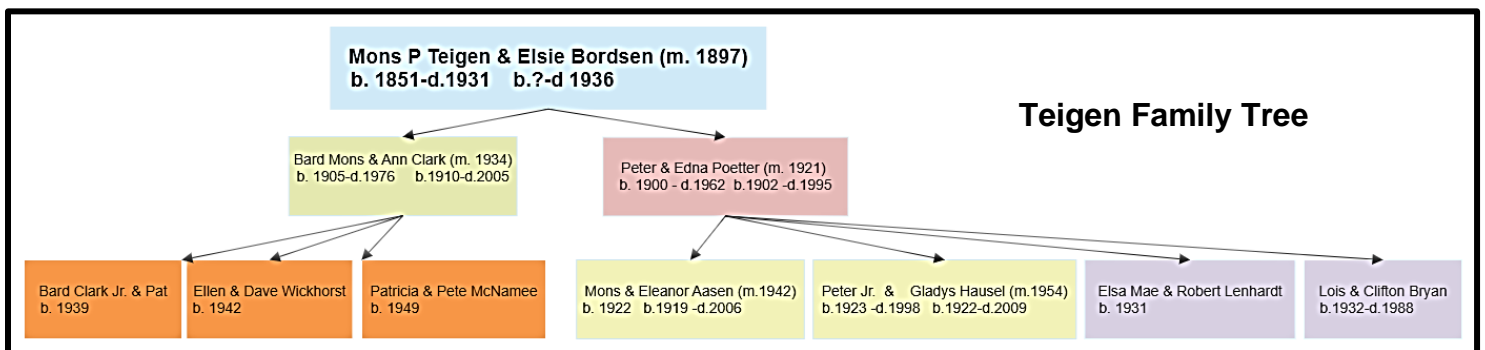


Shipping Day on the Teigen Ranch. Photo Credit: Phillips Realty

Star, and the Daughters of the Nile. She was known for the lovely afghans she made for her friends and family. In 1984, the Teigen family celebrated the ranch's 100th birthday with a Centennial celebration at the ranch. The Teigens enjoyed the reunion of former employees, family, and friends from the surrounding communities.



The old Teigen Hotel. Photo Credit: Phillips Realty



Community Events

Tasha Keith Memorial Softball Tourney



1st place-FSU



Charlie, Anna & Kaden Keith



2nd place-Where's My Pitches

Photos Credit: Tara Murnion

Summer Culture Event – Cajun Cookout



Jim Brady putting the first brand on the fund raiser brand board.



Brenda Brady & Trish Smith enjoying some Cajun food.



The community gathering around the Odd Fellows Hall, enjoying great food, music and each other's company.



Rodney Rowton adding their brand to the board.

The first of three events in Summer of Culture series hosted by Winnett ACES, the Cajun Cookout brought the community together to celebrate culinary arts and raise money for the renovation of Odd Fellows Hall by buying spots on the brand board. Laredo Oil & Cat Creek Holdings sponsored dinner which featured jambalaya from Lewistown and both gumbo and items for a seafood bake brought in from Louisiana. People from Jordan, Lewistown, Roundup, Grass Range and throughout Petroleum County enjoyed fresh crawfish, crab, and shrimp right here in Winnett, Montana! ~*Kelly Beevers*



Cajun Cookout helpers with Laredo Oil & Cat Creek Holdings Sponsors. L-R: Laura Kiehl, Krista Rowton, Kelly Beevers, Jess Hoge, Mark See (back) and Curt Thurman (front).

Fort Peck Theatre Production: "The Country Mouse & the City Mouse"



The AM Theatrical production of "The Country Mouse & the City Mouse" was full of fast paced laughs, songs, and impeccable acting. Thank you to Fort Peck Theatre for providing an outstanding touring play for our community and offering FREE admittance, books and T-shirts for the kids. The 95 audience members had nothing but positive reviews. Also, a BIG thank you to the Youth Program's committee members for donating lunch and refreshments for the cast and public. ~*Lance Olson*



Fort Peck Theatre cast members:
Shy Iverson (Winnett Alumni), Taylor Noll, Ben Wambeke & Chayten Pippin

Winnett Community Calendar

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Methodist 10:30am Baptist 11am Lutheran 4pm (Mosby)	1 Pet. Co Commissioner's gam	2 PCCC Meeting 6pm GR/W & W/GR Co-op Meeting, 7pm	3 10 Town Council 5pm	4 SENIORS Winnett ACES 5-7pm	5 Catholic mass 5:30pm	6 Catholic mass 5:30pm
7 Methodist 10:30am Baptist 11am Lutheran 4pm (Mosby)	8 Pet. Co Commissioner's gam	9 Ambulance Sheriff's Reserve Booster Club 6:30pm	10 Town Council 5pm	11 SENIORS Rimrock Readers Vol. Fire Meeting 7pm	12 H5 FBall 1st practice H5 VBall 1st Practice	13 Booster Club Poker Run
14 Methodist 10:30am Baptist 11am Catholic Word 10am	15 Teacher/PIR training	16 Teacher/PIR training	17 1st Day of School 8:05am-3:40pm	18 SENIORS	19 Catholic mass 5:30pm	20 Catholic mass 5:30pm Fine Arts Event 12pm-6pm Odd Fellows
21 Methodist 10:30am Baptist 11am Fun Day: Registration gam Events start 10am	22 JH VBall 1st Practice JH FBall 1st Practice	23 PCCC Meeting 6pm School Board 7pm Winnett Lions	24 25 SENIORS Vball against Roy/W/in @GR 3:30-6:30	26 V Fball - Glendive @Ltown 7pm	27 H5 Vball - B/L Tourney Location TBA	28 Methodist 10:30am Baptist 11am Catholic Word 10am Pasture Golf Tourney Sign up 1, Start 2pm
29 JV Fball - Malta @ Malta 4pm	30 Winnett Lions	31 PCCD Meeting 5pm				

CONFIRM day/time of meeting or event before attending. Dates/times are subject to change.

Please contact Patti at 429-5601 BEFORE WEDNESDAY to reserve a SENIOR MEAL.

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~Staff time volunteer based ~

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Thank you to Winnett ACES for being our Non-Profit Sponsor. Winnett ACES has agreed to handle funds on our behalf. Without their support & the support of the community this project could not happen. Thank you!

Winnett Times Contact Info:
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A huge THANK YOU to David Ponte, Publisher of "The Roundup Record Tribune & Winnett Times" for giving us copyright permission to use the old "Winnett Times" name on our newsletter. It has nostalgic value to our community and we appreciate your generosity!

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