

WHO'S WHO — FIRST CENTURY

The Harlan McCurdy Sr's

In the southwestern corner of this county from 1893 to 1897 there was a Davidson Postoffice. It was established by Civil War veteran Gamaliel Davidson and his wife Izabella who homesteaded there and began raising their family beside the A.P. Lovgren family which has many descendants in the county. The Davidson children included a son Louis who married Ella Lovgren and who moved into lone so that their children could attend school there. Their children were Mabel (Mrs. Arthur Reese) both of whom are dead; Elvina (Mrs. Ray Beesley) of Dobbins, Ca. Della (Mrs. Harlan McCurdy, Sr.) and Tom of Los Angeles.

Della married Harlan McCurdy Sr. who came from the Mayville section of Gilliam County and who was operating a confectionery store in lone at the time of their marriage. Della says she expected candy and ice cream from then on—but Harlan's store burned down shortly after they were married.

MORE RECENT McCURDYS

After the fire Harlan and Della returned to the Davidson Ranch and farmed there until 1942 (Jan Cox has that property now.) After that they moved to Heppner and then later gave Arizona a try before buying a place at Dulzura, Ca. They love to summer in Morrow and are up at the Blake Ranch Resort this summer.

Their children are Maxine (Mrs. Leonard Gilman) of Long Beach, Ca. who has sons Lance and Brent, and Harlan McCurdy, Jr. of Portland, who was with the M.C.G.G. for many years, resigning as manager in 1969. The Harlan McCurdy, Jr.'s have three daughters. Dianne (Mrs. Bruce Moyer) of Missoula, Mont., Janet who works as a secretary in Portland, and Karen (Mrs. Douglas Dubuque) who teaches the 2nd grade in Heppner.

Mrs. Andrew Thomas Harris

This is a look backward at the present Fred Hoskins Jr. ranch north of Heppner, which joins the south fence of the Willow Creek Golf Club. The Hoskins came there after the Frank Parkers, who came after the Benzes, who came after the Oscar Minors, who bought the place from the homesteaders Mr. and Mrs. James Ferguson. A granddaughter of the Fergusons lives across the highway in the first house toward Heppner, a very pretty yellow bungalow, and her name is Mrs. Tom Harris. Her mother, Julia Ferguson was born on that ranch in the house her grandfather, James Ferguson built. Julia Ferguson married Dave Presley the son of a Butter Creek homesteader.



Orval Matheny brought in this handsome memorial folder beautifully printed in gold, 1972 is the Heppner Lodge's 75th birthday. The Lodge celebrated Heppner's anniversary Aug. 5th with a barbecue.

THE PRESLEYS

Nancy Presley Harris is a descendent of two pioneer families and is very closely identified with a third family, the George Vinsons. Her paternal grandparents, the Ransom Presleys homesteaded on little Butter Creek where the Bill Healy family is now. Her grandmother Caroline Presley came from England. Her first husband Ransom Presley died, and she then married George Vinson, a very early homesteader up the creek away. Nancy's father Dave who had inherited his parent's ranch sold it and bought further up the creek where the Randall Martins own now. Nancy's mother Julia died and Nancy and her brother Elmer went to live with their grandmother and step-grandfather on the George Vinson homestead which is still the Vinson place. Elmer Presley U.S.N.

was one of three Morrow boys killed in World War I. THE HARRIS FAMILY

Tom Harris's parents came from Minnesota to live in Pendleton after his father had retired. The antiques in the present Harris's home are from his parents -- the old things from the Presley family were lost in the floods.

The Tom Harris's have two living children, a daughter Julia, now Mrs. Harold Hill of Coos Bay, and their son Darrell who lives on the Harris Ranch on upper Rhea Creek; his wife the former Creth Craber helps the Wrights at the Ruggs Store. They have two sons, Bob and John. The Harrises lost a daughter June as a child and a son Ren in a logging accident much later--his son Renne Harris is in Portland being ordained as an Episcopal minister; and daughter Sheryl (Mrs. Donald Hevener) lives in McMinnville.

The R.P. Doherty family

This account was written by Mary Agnes Daly Doherty about her husband's family.

"B.P. Doherty (Little Barney) born in 1865; left Glein-keen, Co. Donegal, Ireland and came to New York City about 1885 and on to Oregon to work for Cunningham Sheep at Pilot Rock. Charles Cunningham was married to a Sarah Doherty who would be a cousin and who was the sister of James G. Doherty who settled early in Black Horse Canyon. B.P. was good at carpenter work and built lots of panels and pens to hold sheep and cattle and worked his way into the sheep business with Antone Cunha of Echo, and they moved north and west to the Columbia River. They spent a winter where Hermiston is today."

SETTLES IN SAND HOLLOW

"B.P. homesteaded east of Sand Hollow next to the Van Winkle land (Hwy 207 goes by the old homestead). About 1890 he bought the Van Winkle place and started adding to the two places. Today the Navy Bombing range has quite a bit of his land, as has D.O. Nelson, Gary Grieb, Larry Lindsay, and his sons Bernard P. and William J. Doherty."

MORE DOHERTYS

"In 1895 he married Catheryn Doherty (Little Katie) in Pendleton and they moved to Sand Hollow and she cooked for big crews--lambing, haying and later harvesting. They had nine children--Mary (deceased); Frank Curran, Pendleton; Bernard (Barney), Pendleton; Kathryn Monagle, who recently left Heppner for Pendleton; William J. (Bill) on the home place; John E., Hermiston (deceased); Rosella Lindsay, Lexington (mother of Larry); Lawrence, retired, of Echo; Dorothy Ann, a nurse of Portland and Pendleton.

"B.P. was well known for his kind acts to young Irish who came looking for work and the Doherty home was headquarters for many. When his children were in school he moved them to Pendleton and they all went to St. Joseph's Academy. The Doherty home west of town was called

The Grove and all the Irish people gathered there on Sundays in the cool trees and it was again home for them.

"Barney passed away at Sand Hollow in August 1935. His sons William J. and grandson William James still farm the old home place, and there are three great-grandchildren living there now. The Dohertys look forward to being a century ranch in 1988."

Mrs. Frank Ayers (Elsie Furlong)

Patrick Henry Furlong and his wife the former Mary Anne Noone, both second-generation Irish, rushed out to California in 1849, but came back north to Oregon later. They first homesteaded on Rhea Creek near Ruggs, but sold to E.O. Farnsworth and moved to McKinny Creek out of Hardman where their eight children were born.

The Furlong "kids" were: Charlie, father of Kay (Mrs. Frank Anderson); Teresa (Mrs. Fred Knighten) whose daughter is Viola Knighten Pruitt; Jimmy (father of James & Howard Furlong); John; Bert Albert; Ernest; William; Elsie; and Scott, the father of Mrs. Verlin Mathews.

These eight did a lot to keep the teachers busy at the Burton Valley and McDaniels schools.

Elsie Furlong Ayers has been a professional cook around Heppner. She cooked for awhile at O'Donnell's cafe (now the Wagon Wheel); for awhile at the new Pioneer Memorial Hospital, and for awhile ran her own restaurant called "Elsie's" beside the Masonic Bldg. on Main St. where Turner, Van Marter and Bryant have their new office now.

Elsie Furlong Ayers says that she is the last of the Furlongs in Eastern Oregon. She admits to being 83 years old last June. As we visited I mentioned that Phebe Thomson Bartholomew who was just 98 was the oldest person I have written about. Elsie recalls that she was present at Phebe's 60th birthday party at the Butter Creek ranch and that Phebe said she felt like climbing a tree and riding a horse--and went quickly to do these two things--she climbed a tree and picked some apples, and saddled up and rode around the place.

Elsie attends St. Patrick's Church.



EXTERIOR, SHOWING TEAMS WITH WOOL IN FRONT OF STORE.