

Bonny Colorado
A High Plains Ghost Town

by

Velma Bonny Jacobs

Alice Mae Barnhart Jacober

and

Dr. Andy Gibbons.



Smallest Room Press

Bonny, Colorado

A High Plains Ghost Town

*The Families of Ike and Laura Bonny
&
and Charlie and Jennie Barnhart*

VELMA BONNY JACOBS, BONNY EDITOR
&
ALICE MAE BARNHART JACOBER, BARNHART EDITOR

DR. ANDY GIBBONS, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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Smallest Room Press
2500 15th Avenue Court
Greeley, CO 80631
Phone (790) 356-6527

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COLOPHON

DEDICATION

Bonny Dam, Sapphire jewel of the plains, we salute you -- we welcome all you represent!

To the future belongs the fulfillment of the dreams of the many who have worked long and faithfully for the betterment of our prairie home.

* * *

We dedicate this day, this souvenir program, our aims and hopes TO THE PIONEER HOMESTEADERS, their wives and children, who valiantly withstood privations, floods, droughts -- hazards innumerable, to get and keep this country settled.

TO THE DWELLERS WHO CAME AFTERWARD, stayed and paid the taxes that, after all, make possible every project like beautiful Bonny Dam.

TO THE STATESMEN, who include engineers, wise men of government, business, and farm and profession -- far-sighted and imaginative whose efforts were fruitful, perhaps even beyond their aspirations.

TO THE UNFORTUNATE ONES of the flood years, who lost their lives not in vain -- to point up the drastic necessity for life saving Bonny Dam and similar conservation undertakings.

TO THE ARMED FORCES, who kept America the land where fishing and boating go hand-in-hand with freedom and voting.

TO THE EVER-PRESENT ONE, whose help we seek in preserving this grassy land of beauty and opportunity to keep it safe for generations yet to come. Of Him we ask a blessing on these unborn who will need dauntless courage no less than the brave souls of yesteryear, whose problems, though different, may have been easier to resolve than those yet to come.

* * *

So as we dedicate and celebrate, the prayer is offered that the coming generations who bask on the banks of Bonny Dam, reap the wealth of its waters and feel the comfort of its protection may live better, richer, happier, lives, fulfilling the dreams and accomplishments of all of us here today¹.

Bonny Gould

Bonny Gould's "Dedication" fits the Barnhart and Bonny families, who were among these pioneers, very well indeed.

¹ *Bonny Dam Dedication...* p.1

The Country Post Office

The post office stood in the back of the store,
Behind the old stove and the crude cuspidor.
The old stove was burnt to a dull dingy brown
And the cuspidor welcomed the men of the town.
When the mail arrived, the whole town was there-
The matron, the merchant, the maiden so fair,

Back in the office, distinctly we'd hear
Them sorting the mail, full of trouble and cheer,
And when the window went up with a wham,
We crowded around in a sociable jam.

All eager to hear from the folks that we knew,
Or hoping perhaps for a check, overdue.
A place for a smile, but no place for a frown.
The post office stood in the dear old hometown.

Author Unknown¹

¹ From Alice Jacober. 1/31/95

INTRODUCTION

The principal characters in this little history are Isaac Bonny [1865], his wife Laura Van Dyke, Charlie Barnhart, and his wife Jennie Teel. Velma Bonny Jacobs is the reason this publication was undertaken. Her Bonny relatives are usually described by their relationship to her. She has guided the presentation of the Bonnys. The Barnharts are described through their relationship to Charlie and Jennie. Alice Barnhart Jacober has guided their organization here.

This little volume attempts to present facts still available about the Bonny families, the Barnhart families, the store/post office both families operated, the little community of Bonny, Colorado and its namesake, Bonny Dam.

The stories presented here may be understood a little more clearly if one remembers that the Bonny family stories are seen through the eyes of Velma Bonny Jacobs, but are written up by Andy. Without her no work would have been done; Alice has brought us the Barnharts; and Andy Gibbons, wanted to present the community of Bonny, Colorado, to Velma's, and to Charlie's descendants.

In the years between 1910 and 1915 Isaac William Bonny [1865] and his wife Laura moved their family west from Ash Rock, Kansas, to Colorado. According to the census records of 1910 for Bonny, Colorado, their son Isaac [1886] and his wife Floa Elizabeth were already living there. Lela Bonny assures us her mother-in-law's name was actually Floa¹. Floy was a nick name, however the 1910 census has Floy. One genealogical source had Flora, an error.

Later, in 1918, Charlie F. Barnhart and Sarah Jane (Jennie) Teel Barnhart moved to Colorado. Charlie replaced Ike as postmaster at Bonny, Colorado.

Since Isaac is a common name in these families, birth years will be added if needed when Isaac is mentioned. Velma's Uncle, Isaac William [1865]²; her grandpa William Isaac [1822]; and her cousin "Ike", William Isaac [1866] are these "Isaacs". Often Isaac William [1865] becomes Sr., and William Isaac [1886] is then Jr., but not consistently. He had a son, Lyle Isaac. Lela Broadsword Bonny has verified these names.

Isaac William [1865] was Velma's uncle, temporary guardian, and the Bonny, Colorado, postmaster. His wife was Laura nee Van Dyke. Maud³ Bonny, Velma's mother, was Laura's sister. Isaac and Laura's son William Isaac [1886] was Velma's cousin. Velma's father, Jacob, named his oldest son William Jacob Bonny after himself and William Christopher Van Dyke, who was born May 2,

¹ Bonny. Lela 9/22/94

² Bonny, Lela [Letter]

³ Seen as Maude, Maudie. Maud is correct.

1843, in Illinois. He was Velma's maternal grandfather. We have then:

Isaac William Bonny [1822]¹, Velma's grandfather
William Christopher Van Dyke [1843], Velma's grandfather
William Isaac Bonny [1865], Velma's uncle and guardian
Isaac William Bonny [1886], Velma's cousin
Isaac [1886] named a son Lyle Isaac
William Jacob Bonny [1907], Velma's brother

We also have:

Mildred Bonny, daughter of Isaac [1886] Bonny, Velma's cousin's child

Mildred "Mid" Bonny, daughter of Jacob Bonny, Velma's sister

Pearl Bonny, daughter of Isaac [1886] Bonny, Velma's niece

Pearl Bonny, Daughter of the Pearl just above

Pearl Barnhart, Daughter of Charlie Barnhart

Charlie, as he was called, was also referred to as Chas. Charley, and Charles. Ira used "Charley" in his handwritten list of Bonny patrons. These forms sometimes appear with a middle initial F. and once as Charley Franklin. The grave has "Charlie". His father was James Franklin Barnhart. Charlie's wife was known as Jennie, but her name is seen as Jenny, and Sarah Jane Teel. Her grave has "Jennie" but her legal name was Sarah Jane Teel. Her mother was Sarah.

Esther Barnhart Rhoades, Charlie's daughter, and also his grave marker, give his spelling as Charlie F. Barnhart. She explained that the "F" was an initial only². His name was listed in Ira's obituary as, Charley Franklin Barnhart³. Charlie's father had Franklin as a middle name. On some U. S. Post Office documents the name Chas. F. appears. While he may have legally been named Charles Franklin Barnhart, his children gave only "Charlie and Jennie" as their parent's names. Esther assured us that Charlie was the correct spelling for her Dad's name. They all prefer that Charlie be used.

The "Proposed Plot Map" by Isaac [1865] and his application to establish a post office were dated February 10th, 1915. He and Laura must have had possession of the property for the post office and store by that time. The actual appointment as postmaster was dated June the 3rd, 1915. These dates are exact, as is the Bonny census date, 19 April, 1910, which did not include Isaac [1865] and his family but listed Isaac [1886] and "Floy". Dates are not as certain for the store. The book, Ash

¹ L.D.S. Family History Files list "William" Isaac. The handwritten recipe for "linament" (sic) is signed "William I. Bonny, Sherwood, Neb."

² Rhoades, Esther [Letter]

³ "Ira Glen Barnhart" [Obituary]

*Rock and the Stone Church*¹ reveals only that Isaac [1865] "resided in Ash Rock Township until after 1910." He appeared as Isaac Jr. on the 1910 Ash Rock Census². Velma's brother, Bill Bonny, stated that Uncle Isaac moved to Bonny in 1912³.

The "family" of Isaac and Laura later included his brother Jake's four youngest children, Mildred, the twins Velda and Velma, and the baby Vernon. The couple was raising these children because Maud, Jacob Bonny's wife, had died suddenly in 1918 when the twins were two years old. Isaac and Jacob had married sisters, Laura and Maud Van Dyke.

After a few years, the post office and store were sold to Charlie Barnhart, who lived 1½ miles west of Bonny. Charlie and family moved into the Bonny Post Office in 1920. Isaac, [1865] Laura, and their children with their wards from Jacob's family moved on west to Idaho, as did some of the Barnharts and Broadwords at about the same time, Nora Barnhart Frazer and husband for example.

The Bonny community, never an incorporated town, quickly became another ghost town of the prairie. The largest population for the community was given as 110 people. Unlike the mining ghost towns, too little has been written to portray these small high plains towns. As far as is known, Velma Bonny Jacobs and her twin sister Velda Bonny Oglesby are the only living members of the Bonny family in 1994 who actually resided in the Bonny store and post office, their home with Ike and Laura. Several Barnhart residents are still with us in 1995.

A permanent memorial to the little community of Bonny can be seen today, the magnificent Bonny Dam and Recreation Area; however even its connection to the Bonny family is fading. Other claims to the name have appeared. Records still extant need to be assembled and cited to remind us today of the Bonny and Barnhart families who lived in the Bonny home from 1912 to 1964, of their community, and of Bonnie Bonny Dam and Recreation Area. Invaluable help came from the family histories of the Bonnys, the Barnharts and other local pioneers. Bonny Gould's prolific writing has been wonderful. The aims for this work, then, are two: To record this part of the Bonny family history, and to tie clearly the Bonny and Barnhart families to Bonny, Colorado, and to Bonny Dam and Reservoir.

The reader will not find a seamless tapestry artistically presenting a picture of this era and area, but rather a selection of snapshots summarizing the wealth of materials which have found their way to the editors. It is also a diary of the writing experience. Many more little anecdotes from the lives of our

¹ Oliva. p. 172

² Oliva. p. 301

³ *Action on the Prairie*. p. 123. See also Morris P.O. below.

heroes and heroines in these two families would be welcome. Many letters with enthusiastic memories are quoted in full to keep the flavor of discovery and contribution.

Every effort has been made to keep facts and dates accurate. Sources have been cited. Information provided by readers will be welcomed, attributed to the source, and added to the historical records. Write Velma Bonny Jacobs, or the Smallest Room Press¹ with your comments, corrections, suggestions and additions. Perhaps we can slow the rapid loss of Colorado plains history that helped make us what we are today.

Velma and Alice provided their colorful family sketches. Alice chose all the stories submitted. Velma's came from conversations and documents, some of which she might rather have omitted. Andy included and excluded from both sources as he saw fit. He used, and perhaps sometimes abused, these creations; then placed them in the framework of a Bonny, Colorado, history. The printed words are as he prepared them. Citations and credits, errors and omissions, are entirely his. If any of our aims have been achieved, he is content. He did the book. The progenitors of Alice and Velma lived the stories.

**

This book is dedicated to the "Good Fortunes" without whom the six year labor of love might never have been completed.

Thank you Barbara and Jon.

¹ See address on title page

Chapter One
ASH ROCK, KANSAS ROOTS

The information about Ash Rock, Kansas came largely from Leo E. Oliva's wonderful history, *Ash Rock and the Stone Church*, dated 1983. He died as this book was being prepared, in 1995.

Isaac Bonny [1865] was the second generation of his family to live in Ash Rock. Most of the land in the township was settled by pioneer farmers in the latter half of the 1870's and the decade of the 1880's, a part of the sod-house frontier that embraced much of the Great Plains during that era. The township was organized in 1877 and named Ash Rock because a settler, Henry F. Olds, who settled in section NW 1/4 11-6-16, found a portion of a petrified Ash tree when cutting firewood along the South Solomon River and brought it home.

As with Bonny, Colorado, the name Ash Rock was first used to identify the post office. It was established at Henry Old's residence on September 19, 1876, with Mr. Olds as postmaster¹. When Olds moved from the area, other members of the community served as postmaster. The only other settler known to have held that office was Henry Hugh McCall, dates unknown. In time, the post office name was adopted by the community.

This was the only post office in the township. It was discontinued on June 24, 1881. The Ash Rock post office was re-established on June 10, 1884, postmaster unknown, and closed for the last time on June 29, 1885. A portion of the petrified "rock" survived to 1983 and was located at the County Clerk's Office, Rooks County Court House in Stockton awaiting transfer to the Rooks County Historical Society in Stockton when that organization had a place for it.

The Stone Church of Ash Rock is its most prominent remaining landmark. "The *Woodston Argus* of September 6, 1902 reported: 'On August 28, 1902, the Sunday School convention held at Ash Rock church was well attended. Mr. Hockett, county president, and Mrs. Bartholomew, corresponding secretary, were there and gave some very good talks on Sunday school work. The program was carried out to the satisfaction of all. New officers were elected, U.E. Van Dyke, president, Fanny Bonebrake, vice-president, Della Macy, secretary and treasurer. The convention was dismissed by singing²."

"Ash Rock, like the Bonny area, has a continental-type climate, typical of an interior region of a large land mass located in the middle latitudes. Major characteristics included large daily and annual variations in temperature, fairly widespread variations in annual precipitation which averaged just enough for successful dry land agriculture, precipitation

¹ Oliva. p. 2

² Oliva. pp. 109 & 117

accumulations during showers and thunderstorms that could be extremely heavy at times, severe windstorms and occasional tornadoes accompanying thunderstorms, hail as a periodic severe weather hazard, relatively long and hot summers of about six months' duration, short and fairly cold winters of about three months' duration, generally short spring and autumn seasons, an average growing season of just less than six months' duration, and periodic eras of drought extending from one to several years. Probably the most outstanding climatic feature has been the great variations from year to year of temperatures, precipitation, wind, cloudy days, and length of growing season. The unpredictability created the most problems for farm managers. The famous flood of 30 May 1935 helped prove the need for such protection as the Bonny Reservoir."

In his preface, Mr. Oliva says of this community: "The Story of Ash Rock is also the story of pioneers who came seeking land, land to own and to farm, in order that they might thereby improve their economic welfare and better contribute to the needs of their children and grandchildren. Land, virtually free for the taking, drew settlers to Ash Rock in the late 1870's. By 1880 the township had the largest population it would record, 483, and the task of making good on that land occupied their lives and the lives of their descendants to the present.

"In a very short period of time the pioneers had to provide themselves with dwellings, first of sod and later of wood and stone, and break the prairie sod and plant crops. But, important as economic well-being was, they also carried to the community a strong religious faith, an item of great importance to those who left everything to start life anew in this rather harsh environment, and an equally strong desire that their children receive a good education. Education was seen as essential for their children to have a better chance than the parents had and, although less was said about this, they understood that freedom and democratic institutions, whether church or state, required informed citizens if they were to govern themselves successfully and preserve that precious heritage of human rights. As a result, within a short period of time, Ash Rock Township had five school districts and three churches, but there was never a town or village. There was also an active township government.

"Even so, since 1880, there has been an almost constant reduction of population, and that reduction eventually took its toll on community institutions. Schools were consolidated until there was only one, and it closed in the 1960's. Likewise, churches "went to town" except for the Ash Rock Congregational, but it also became inactive in the 1960's.

"The story of Ash Rock deserves to be known because these people enjoyed a degree of human freedom unparalleled in modern history, except perhaps by American Indians prior to European invasion. It was a time when restraints of church and state had been overthrown, and it was a time before the technological enslavement of the American people arrived. If we can better

understand this history, we will benefit from the knowledge, and we may better understand ourselves as well as our heritage¹."

Velma's maternal progenitors were among the very first to homestead in Ash Rock. There were six claims filed in 1875, and four of those or their heirs remained to obtain title: Frank Matejka, Sr., George Nedrow, Charles M. Northup, and William C. Van Dyke. Van Dyke had filed for a homestead in 1874 and a Timber Culture claim in 1875. He had the largest family in the township when the 1880 census was taken; he and his wife, Rebecca, had eleven children. It has been commonly accepted that the funeral of Rebecca (Mrs. William) Van Dyke, on Saturday, March 24, 1883, was the first service held in the new church. She was Velma's maternal grandmother.

Ash Rock Cemetery Internments are listed by Oliva from Ash Rock Cemetery Records provided by Evelyn McCall².

"Van Dyke, Rebecca 1844-1883³

Bonny, Isaac [1822] No dates

Bonny, Jacob Oct. 5, 1870 - April 13, 1947

Bonny, Johnny No Dates

Bonny, Joseph No Dates

Bonny, Louis W. (Wilbur) 1911-1957

Maggie 1832-1919" (PAF says 1830?-1919⁴)

Bonny, Maud Sept. 25, 1880 - Aug. 26, 1918"

¹ Oliva. pp. iv-v

² Oliva. p. 385

³ Oliva. p. 35

⁴ Personal Ancestry File, L.D.S. Church

Isaac Bonny [1822] was Velma's paternal grandfather. Velma has this recipe in his handwriting dated September 9, 1889.

"Sweeney Linement (sic)"

Oil of Sassafras 1/2 oz., Oil of Spike 1/2 oz., oil Organum 1/2 oz., Camphar ? 1/2 oz., Turpentine 1/2 oz., alcohol 1/2 pint

(Signed) Wm I, Bonny

Sherwood, Neb

Sweeney Linement
9-9-89

<i>Oil of Sassafras</i>	<i>1/2 oz.</i>
<i>Oil of Spike</i>	<i>1/2 oz.</i>
<i>oil Organum</i>	<i>1/2 oz.</i>
<i>Camphar</i>	<i>1/2 oz.</i>
<i>Turpentine</i>	<i>1/2 oz.</i>
<i>alcohol</i>	<i>1/2 Pint</i>

Wm I Bonny
Sherwood Neb

Selected Ash Rock Census Information

The first census records found for Ash Rock Township were these in the Federal Census of 1880. That information has been arranged alphabetically by last name of the head of the household, showing names, sex, age, relationship to the head of household, occupation, and birth data for each person and his or her parents. This information has been summarized in Record III, which charts census records for the township every five years from 1880 to 1980 including:

Bonny, Isaac [1822] Male, Age 56, Farmer, Birth Holland, Father born Holland, Mother born Holland, Wife. (Velma's paternal grandfather)

Stimple, Margaret "Maggie", Female, Age 43, Wife, Homemaker, birth Holland, Father born Holland, Birth mother Holland. (Velma's grandmother)

Bonny, Isaac William [1865] Male, Age 15, Son, Born Iowa, Father Holland, Mother born Holland. (Velma's uncle. His son Isaac [1886], is not mentioned in the Ash Rock book.)

Bonny, Joseph, Male, Age 12, Son, Birth Iowa, same as above

Bonny, Jacob, Male, Age 10, Son, Birth Iowa, same (Velma's father)

Bonny, Maggie, Female, Age 8, Daughter, Birth Iowa, same

Bonny, Anna, Female, Age 6, Daughter, Birth Iowa, same

Bonny, John, Male, Age 8/12, Son, Birth Kansas, same

Van Dyke, William C., Male, Age 37, Farmer, Born Illinois, Birth parents unknown (Velma's maternal grandfather)

Van Dyke, Rebecca McLane¹, Female, Age 36, Wife, Homemaker, Born Ohio, Parents born Ohio

Van Dyke, Ida, Female, Age 17, Daughter, Born Illinois, Birth Father Illinois, Birth Mother Ohio

Van Dyke, Anna, Female, Age 15, Daughter, Born Illinois, Same

Van Dyke, Laura, Female, Age 14, Daughter, Born Illinois, same

Van Dyke, Alma, Female, Age 13, Daughter, Born Illinois, same

Van Dyke, William, Male, Age 12, Son, Born Wisconsin, same

Van Dyke, Edwin, Male, Age 9, Son, Born Iowa, same

Van Dyke, Lenora, Female, Age 8, Born Iowa, same

Van Dyke, Stephen, Male, Age 6, Born Iowa, same

Van Dyke, Mary, Female, Age 4, Born Iowa, same

Van Dyke, Ellen, Female, Age 3, Born Kansas, same

Van Dyke, Eliza, Female, Age 1, Born Kansas²

(Velma's mother was born to this family after this census, in September of 1880)

The family members recorded in each census are also summarized in the Ash Rock Township Census Reports for 1880-1980. The following chart includes the names of heads of families and

¹ According to McManama genealogy she was a McLane.

² Oliva. pp.282-291

the number in each household for five-year intervals, 1880 to 1980, with the exception of 1890. The Federal census for 1890 was destroyed in a fire, thus there is a gap in the early years from 1885 to 1895. Since there was considerable turnover during that decade, it seems probable that many names which were on the lost 1890 census were not on either the 1885 or 1895 reports. Unfortunately, there were no local census reports from that era located. The records summarized in this chart were gleaned from the Federal census reports of 1880, 1900, and 1910; the Kansas Agricultural Census taken in 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915; and the enumerations by the Rooks County Assessor's Office from 1915 to 1980.

There was only one family name found on every report, and that was Orr. Two other names missed only one time: Bonebrake in 1880 and Higgins in 1980. There were thirty-one family names present in Ash Rock for fifty years or more. The Bonnys, Van Dykes, Lalas, and the Ash Rock historians family, the Olivas, were in this fifty year group. The Ash Rock Township Census Reports for 1880-1980 with the names of heads of families and number reported in each household are reported. They include:

"Heads of families" "year" and "number in family"

Isaac Bonny Sr. [1822] 1880-8, 1885-7
Isaac Bonny Jr. [1865] 1895-3, 1900-8, 1905-7, 1910-3
Jacob Bonny 1910-3, 1915-10, 1920-3, 1925-9, 1930-6, 1935-2
William Van Dyke 1880-13, 1885-13

The total "head counts" for Ash Rock through these years shows the gradual loss of families and farms. 1880-483, people 1885-405, 1895-372, 1900-448, 1905-409, 1910-357, 1915-315, 1920-298, 1925-262, 1930-270, 1935-161, 1940-154, 1945-141, 1950-147, 1955-131, 1960-109, 1965-92, 1970-82, 1975-71, and in 1980-74.

The total "households" were in 1880-119, 1885-95, 1895-74, 1900-79, 1905-86, 1910-77, 1915-75, 1920-75, 1925-64, 1930-64, 1935-59, 1940-53, 1945-50, 1950-51, 1955-44, 1960-35, 1965-34, 1970-28, 1975-27, and in 1980-26¹.

The Kansas Agricultural Census, Ash Rock Township for 1885 in parts one, two and three, presents interesting information on the farm life of the Bonnys and the Van Dykes.

Part One describes the families.

Bonny, Isaac [Born 1822], age 59, 7 in home, farmer, came from Iowa to Kansas, owner, acres fenced 40, total acres 160.

Van Dyke, William, age 42, 13 in home, farmer, came from Iowa to Kansas, owner, 40 acres were fenced, total acres 320.

Part Two lists their crops and acres.

¹ Oliva. pp. 299-312

Bonny, winter wheat 40 acres, spring wheat 12 acres, corn 40 acres, barley 6 acres, oats 5 acres, irish potatoes 1 acre, millet or Hungarian 12 acres, bushels on hand 3/1/1885 40 corn, fruit trees planted 122.

Van Dyke, William, winter wheat 125 acres, spring wheat 40 acres, corn 50 acres, barley 20 acres, oats 10 acres, millet or Hungarian 10 acres, 400 bushels corn on hand 3/1/1885, 400 bushels wheat on hand then.

Part Three describes farm production.

Bonny, Pounds butter made last 1 year, 300, 4 horses, 2 milk cows, other cattle 9, swine 3, dogs 2, present value land, improvements, implements, machinery \$1300.00

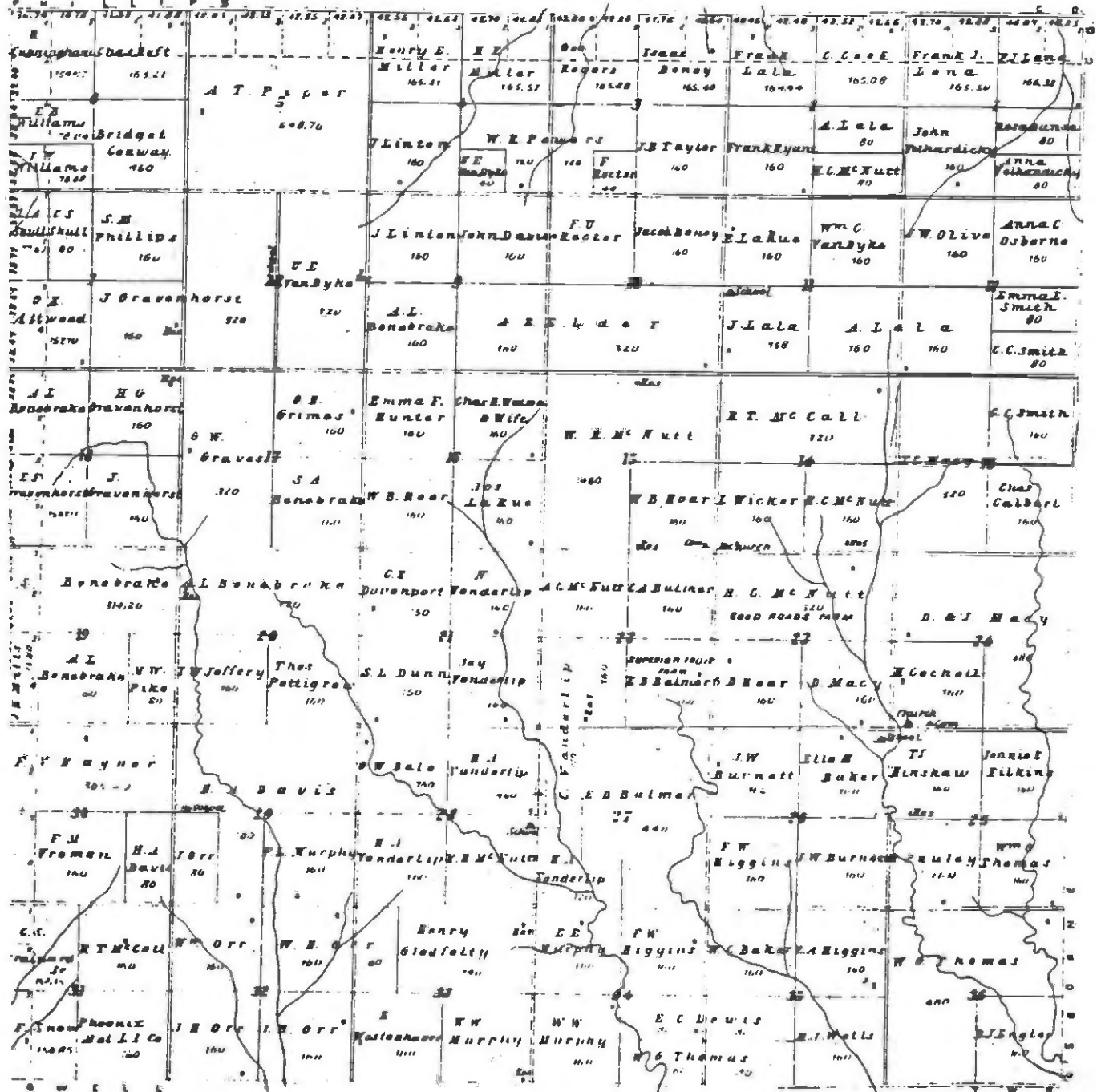
Van Dyke, William, Pounds butter 200, 3 horses, 6 mules and asses, 10 milk cows, other cattle 18, swine 85, 2 dogs, Value (same) \$2625¹.

The Ash Rock Township Map, below, shows the landowners and the location of residences, schools, and churches in Velma's day.² The Jacob Bonny Home was in section 10. Isaac [1865] had property in section 3.

¹ Oliva. pp. 292-298

² In *Standard Atlas of Rooks County 1904-1905*. See also newer map in Appendix 1 which has clearer section markings. From *Ash Rock and...* p. 313, see also p.7


ASH ROCK
 TOWNSHIP
 Township 6 South Range XVI West 4th 5th 6th P.M.



Isaac [1822] and Maggie were charter members of Ash Rock Congregational Church. Little was found about their lives in Ash Rock Township. His death occurred in 1898. His wife, Maggie, died in 1919. They were both buried in Ash Rock Cemetery. Isaac [1865] resided in Ash Rock Township until he moved to Bonny, Colorado before 1915, probably in 1912¹.

Oliva reports, "The invitation to all interested parties to meet on March 25, 1878, for the purpose of founding a new church, was signed by thirteen area residents, some of whom lived outside Ash Rock Township. Twelve of these thirteen were Robert H. Imler, George W. Rogers, Mahalah (Mrs. G.W.) Rogers, George Nedrow, Isaac Bonny [1822], Maggie (Mrs. Isaac) Bonny, J. McLain, John Carmichael, Anna (Mrs. John) Carmichael, J.J. McDowell, Mrs. J.J. McDowell, and Sarah E. Edwards².

Isaac [1822] and his wife, Margaret (Maggie) Stimple, were born in Holland, he in 1822 and she in 1830. They moved to Kansas from Iowa between 1875 and 1878 and filed for a homestead on section SE 1/4 3-6-16 in 1880. They had six children, Isaac, [1865], Joseph [1868], Jacob (Jake) [1870], Margaret (Maggie³) Camp Earley [1872], Anna Camp [1874], and John [1879].

The two of the six children of Isaac [1822] and Maggie who are most important to this history are, Jacob and Isaac [1865]. They also acquired land in Ash Rock, Rooks County, Kansas, and Jacob stayed there until he retired from farm life and moved to Fresno, California with his second wife Clara nee Mc Lain Thomison Lane Bonny. Descendants of Maggie Camp Earley and Anna Camp provided much encouragement and information. Maggie's first husband was Art Camp, Anna married Will Camp. They were brothers. Maggie and Anna were sisters.

Jacob Bonny was born in Waterloo, Iowa, 1870, and came to Ash Rock, Kansas with his parents. He filed a Timber Culture claim for NE 1/4 10-6-16 on April 25, 1892, and resided there most of his adult life. On September 16, 1905, he married Maud Van Dyke, daughter of William Christopher and Rebecca Van Dyke. Maud was born September 25, 1880.

They had six children: (1) William "Bill" Jacob, born April 13, 1907, married Althea Jacobs, and died in 1982; (2) Louis Wilbur⁴, born October 15, 1911, married Meda Swank, and died in 1957; (3) Mildred "Mid" Maud, born October 4, 1913, married first to James Gardner and secondly to James Wahlke, and died in 1969; (4) Velda, born December 6, 1915, married J.C.

¹ Action on the Prairie. p. 123

² Oliva. p. 26

³ Lorrain Vair's grandmother, see bibliography

⁴ Louis is correct spelling, but often written Lewis by Ike and others.

Oglesby and resides in Ft. Collins, CO; (5) Velma, Velda's twin, who was born second on December 6, 1915, married Don Jacobs and now resides in Greeley, CO; and (6) Vernon Lawrence, born October 22, 1917, married Marian Rose, and died shortly after his second marriage. Velma and Velda are the sole survivors in Jacob's family in 1994.

When Velma was Small

Jake often told his girls, after their return from Idaho, that "Your mom, Maud, was so tiny she could walk right under my arm without touching it." Velma remembers that "her mother had made curtains for the windows that were still there when we came back to Ash Rock. Later Clara, our step-mother, took them down when she made the house more "hers." Maud had been loved by all the neighbors.

Maud Bonny prepared dinner for her family on August 26, 1918. When the family began to eat, she went to her bedroom to lie down saying she felt ill. Later, Jacob went to check on her and discovered she had died. Oliva reported her death, "Another young mother, Maud (Van Dyke) Bonny, wife of Jacob Bonny, died in 1918 (cause of death unknown) at age thirty-seven. She left six children, ages ten months to ten years¹."

After the funeral, the four youngest children, ages ten months to five years, went to Bonny, Colorado to live with their father's brother Mr. Isaac Bonny [1865] and his wife Laura, their mother's sister. The Bonny post office was located a few miles from the farm of his son Isaac [1886] and his wife Floa Elizabeth, who were in Colorado in 1910.

Jacob and his sons Bill and Louis continued to live on and farm section NE1/4 10-6-16 in Ash Rock. Velma and Velda remember the court session where Laura and Isaac [1865] tried to keep Jacob from taking his children back to Ash Rock. As they sat in the front row, Velma feared leaving Laura so much she became sick and began to cry while Jake, papa, was testifying how he could properly care for them. Velma did not want to go with him. Velda teased her for crying. Velma recalls that, "Papa was such a gentle man. He must have been as afraid as we were."

The 1921 hearing gave his younger children back to Jacob. Mildred, Velda and Velma left with him. The twins remember stopping at Saltair, a resort near Salt Lake City, where Jake bought them little beaded purses which Velma treasured until hers was lost in a flooded room while she was living at Clearmont, Wyoming. She kept a little carefully carved walnut shell in the purse.

One of Velda's clearest memories of this trip was being in a clothing store with large mirrors. She saw Mid clearly, but knew that was not where Mid was. Such mirrors were a new experience and for a moment, Mid seemed to have a twin also.

¹ Oliva. p. 47

The twins remember vividly sitting in the back seat of the old Model T, filled with uncertainty about their fate. Vernon, an infant when his mother died, remained with Isaac and Laura in Idaho as he had no memory of his parents. Bill states that, "Later Ike and Laura adopted Vernon¹." Laura never stopped feeling badly over losing her three children," even to their own father. She had been a wonderful mother to them.

Maud's sister Annie, who lived across the road from the Ash Rock farm took care of the girls clothing needs. Also the Lalas and other neighbors made us clothes, bathed us, and in general fussed over us to fill the mother role until Papa married Clara. The Lalas, their family's close friends, helped daily. Another of Jake's friends, the doctor who signed Velma's birth certificate, came to the farm to check the twins very often. Papa's attorney, Brigham Young's son from Stockton, and his banker from Woodston, were also often at the farm. "They'd bring a little jug of whiskey to papa and "go look at the farm." Kansas was dry so they'd drink a little as they rode around. We kids all knew, but didn't say anything, of course", Velma stated.

All of Jacob's children except Vernon attended Ash Rock School through the eighth grade. Four years of high school took place in Woodston, Kansas, eight miles distant.

The three young children returned in to Ash Rock 1921. Jacob met Clara and on May 7, 1924 they were married. She was Clara nee Mc Lain Thomison Lane, now Bonny. Clara Lane had two children of her own. This is reflected in the 1925 census. After papa married Clara, her parents, "Uncle" Aaron and "Aunt" Annie Lane, moved into a small house on the Bonny farm and worked for Jacob. Clara Thomison had separated from her husband and her children's father. Billie Lane, her second husband, was ill and had died only a month or so after their marriage. Clara kept the name Lane in Ash Rock until her marriage to Jacob. Velma remembers "Uncle Aaron", as the children called him, plowing on the farm. Now Jake became step-father to two of Clara's children, Evylena, and Floyd Thomison. A granddaughter named Freda, Floyd's child, lived with Jake and Clara much later when they moved to California to retire. Clara's children were not adopted legally, but all made their home with Clara and Jacob Bonny and Jake's own children. Clara was much younger than Jacob but became his second wife and he her third husband. She raised the younger Bonny children and was a kind, loving mother to them.

Velma has expressed often her admiration and love for all three of her "mothers", Maud, Laura, and Clara. Laura gave the girls more real mothering although Clara had them the longest. Jake had brought Velma, Velda and Mildred back to Ash Rock in 1921 just after they had started first grade in Samuels, Idaho and almost two years before this second marriage.

¹ *Action on the Prairie.* p. 123

In 1937, Jacob and Clara Bonny moved to Fresno, California, his home until his death on April 13, 1947. She was buried in Fresno. He was buried beside his first wife, Maud, in Ash Rock Cemetery. Jacob, or Jake as he was known, was long remembered in the Ash Rock community as a fiddle player who had performed at many local dances and socials¹.

Velda's name was recorded at their birth, but Velma was baby two, "No name listed". To get Social Security benefits at age 62, she was required to get a birth certificate. The hospital records showed only that twins had been born and recorded as "Velda" and "child two - No name listed". Based upon brother Bill's letter and Velma's school records attesting to her name, an "amended" certificate was issued.

VELMA'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE

STATE OF KANSAS

821135

County of "Rooks" State Board of Health, Div. of Vital Statistics

Standard certificate of birth

Township of "Ash Rock"

Registration number "81"

Full name of child "No name listed"²

Sex of child "Female" Twins, triplets or other "Twins" Number in

order of birth "two," Legitimate "yes" Date of birth "12/6/1915"

FATHER

MOTHER

Jacob Bonny

"Maud" Van Dyke

Residence

"Woodston Ks"

"Woodston Ks"

Color

"White"

"White"

Age at last birthday

"47"

"35"

Birthplace

"Iowa"

"Kansas"

Occupation

"Farmer"

"Housekeeper"

Number of children born to this mother including youngest birth "5"

Number of children of this mother now living "5"

Certificate of attending physician or midwife

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child who was alive at 3 A.M. Signature "Emery E. Colby" Physician or midwife "Physician"

Address "Woodston Kansas"

Filed 12-6-1915 Registrar "B.S. Williams"

AMENDED CERTIFICATE JULY 19, 1973 ITEM #1 115-82' 1135

CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

(SAME AS ABOVE WITH THESE ADDITIONS:) Name Velma Bonny

This Birth "Twin" If not single birth "Second"

Emery E. Colby M.D. Velda's certificate had her name correctly recorded and was not amended.

¹ Oliva. p. 173

² Italic indicates handwritten on form.

Memories of Ash Rock and childhood are varied and numerous for Velma. Velda says to her, "You can't remember all that!" But she can. She does. We needed more of these jewels of memory.

Telephones

The Woodston Mutual Telephone Co.¹ began service in the summer of 1904, and the party lines (and patrons on each) were printed in the September 8, 1904 issue of the *Weekly Echo* with a key to the signals for each number. Calls to those not on the party line had to go through the central operator. L = a long ring, S = a short ring. The parties on lines serving Ash Rock were as follows (the number of the party indicates the signal on the list): The operator was one long ring.

Line No. 67:

Operator	-L.
Thomas Donall	-L-S
C.R. Davenport	-2S-L
U.E. Van Dyke	-4S-L
W.H. Orr	-3S
Julius Gravenhorst	-4L

Velma's family was not listed, either because they were outside of town, or the date of these numbers was different. The Jacob Bonny phone was "3 Short" rings. Velma refused to eavesdrop but she recalls, as all we who grew up with party lines do, the excitement of listening in!

Mother's Grave

One of Velma's very earliest memories upon their return from Idaho to Ash Rock, probably in 1922, was going to Sunday School in their pretty dresses. Afterwards they would often cross the road to the cemetery and visit their mother's grave. Of course they had almost no memory of her but the big black stone with "Maud" etched in large letters was a wonder. On Mothers Day she, Mid, and Velda were very aware of the red ribbons everyone wore. They had white because their mother had died. Velma liked the color red better. They knew they were different in some mysterious way.

Mama

Velma thinks she called Laura "Mama" during the Idaho days, and also later her step-mother Clara. But the word Mother always referred, and still refers in her own mind to her birth Mom. As both aged, Laura became Aunt Laura again.

The Shaving Mug

In 1904 Papa Jake, then age 35, attended the Louisiana Purchase Exposition and the 1904 Olympics, both in St. Louis, Missouri. The children remember his tales of the trip. He found

¹ Oliva. p. 112

among his souvenirs a little "shot type" glass for Velma. It had a picture and the words, St Louis Worlds Fair in gold. It was lost in Clearmont, Wyoming when the house was flooded. Memory of it is still present and clear.

Early cars and new foods inventions such as iced tea were shown for the first time in St. Louis. Jake must have tried the new exciting treat, the ice cream cone which was introduced at the Fair. The souvenir glass is gone but Jacob ordered a shaving mug while at the fair. Its widest diameter is 3 3/4 inches and is 4 inches tall. It has three gold rings painted on it which are badly worn, as is the gold on the ear. A horse's head is seen through a large horse shoe, apparently hand painted. "Jacob Bonny" is printed by hand in block letters above the picture in half inch letters extending around the cup. On the very bottom of the mug in small script letters is "g g-n", probably the artist. Velma has clear memories of this mug being in "our big long kitchen". On the wall was a wonderful wind-up clock with a shelf. Here papa kept the mug with the brush inside and his straight edge razor. Velma has the shaving mug still.

The Meadow

During the time when Jake was talking with Ike and Laura about bringing his children back to Kansas from Idaho, Laura was careful. When she walked to town, she'd take Jake's children out to the meadow and tell them to stay there till she came for them, so their dad couldn't come and "steal" them away. Rather like too much of today's news.

Velma remembers clearly sitting with Velda and her stepmother as Clara read them a letter from "Uncle Ike" about Laura's death from grief at losing "her Children," the twins and Mid. She wishes she had thanked them, or at least her uncle, for their loving years together in Ike's family.

The Cougars

There was a bridge near their Idaho home. Laura would tell them to walk quietly across. She told them to never run, just go quietly where they were going, so the cougars wouldn't get them.

A vivid recollection is of Aunt Laura rocking the twins in her lap, and of lots of hugs and affection from her. Velma does not remember Papa or Uncle Ike hugging them much, "But we knew they loved us!"

Under the Stairs in Samuels

While Velda and Velma were examining the "Bonny" photo collection, Velda described the sort of fancy "ladder" up stairs to where they slept. Velma was sure there were real stairs, and that they hid and played under them. Each is sure the other has amnesia. Velma remembers the porch around the house, and Velda remembers the inside furniture. She said she was sleep-walking once, and somehow was standing on the dining room table. Aunt Laura heard her and "rescued" her.

Trees

An early Idaho picture showed Ike Jr. and Ike Sr. families with Jacob's four children all standing in a hollowed out tree. The timber industry was a big attraction there.

The Wasp

One experience Velda does remember is the wasp-sting caper. They were playing in the meadow. Velma picked up a half-rotted apple. A wasp was "using" the underside and it rewarded Velma by stinging her. To Velda's delight, she screamed, jumped, and ran to Aunt Laura for comfort and succor.

School in Ash Rock

The Ash Rock School, its teachers, and number enrolled were also recorded by Oliva. (Velma and Velda entered the Ash Rock school in the 1st grade in 1922. Both had already started school in Idaho.)

From Oliva's chapter on schools, some items on the Bonnys and friends help tell Velma's story. The "Pupils attended District 18, the Elder, or the Ash Rock School, in Rooks County, Kansas. In 1915-1916 some of the pupils were: Helen Elder, (later Velma's teacher), Julie Lala (one of the Lala family who were favorite neighbors), John Lala, Willie Bonny (Big brother Bill who is often found in this volume). Harold Elder (a good neighbor), James Lala, Lucile Elder, Albert Lala, Lester Elder, Charley Lana. The teacher was Durward W. Moore. Albert Lala was Treasurer and Jennie Walsh County Superintendent.

In 1919 Elton Murphy was the teacher, The names and ages of all pupils who began the year 1918-1919 were as follows: Louis Bonny (7), Willie Bonny (11), Harold Elder (13), Helen Elder (9), Kenneth Elder (9), Lucile Elder (15), Mary Elder (11), James Lala (15), John Lala (12), Julia Lala (10), Charles Macy (8), Charlotte Macy (6).

On April 14, 1921 the Pupils were Willie Bonny, John Lala, Kenneth Elder, Mary Elder, Julia Lala, Cecil Power, Charles Macy, Elba Smith, Viola Hoar, Helen Elder, Charlotte Macy, Louis Bonny, Loretta Macy. Dorothy M. Huff was teacher.

A few items from the teachers' records for District 18, of which most were located for the years after 1903, may be of interest. In the 1904-1905 school year, when there were twenty-eight pupils taught by Aura Bice, the three young people with the highest grades in school were Anna Bonny (Velma's aunt), Charles Elder, and Henry McCall. The best attendance record was held by Curtis McCall.

The daily schedule for the twenty-eight students of Nettie Leverton in 1910-1911 was as follows (each recitation period was from ten to fifteen minutes long):

9:00 a.m.	Opening Exercises
	Primer Class
	First Reader

	Second Reader
	Third Arithmetic
	Fourth and Fifth Arithmetic
	Sixth and Seventh Arithmetic
	Eighth Arithmetic
10:30 a.m.	Recess
	Third and Fourth Spelling
	Fifth and Sixth Spelling
	Seventh and Eighth Spelling
	Third Reading
	Fourth and Fifth Reading
	Sixth and Seventh Reading
	Eighth Kansas History
12:00-1:00	Lunch Hour
	Primer Class
	First Reader
	Second Reader
	Third Reader
	Fifth Geography
	Sixth and Seventh Physiology
	Eighth Geography
2:30 p.m.	Recess
	Third and Fourth History
	Fifth and Sixth History
	Seventh and Eighth Conversational Lesson
	First and Second Language
	Third Grammar
	Fourth and Fifth Grammar
	Writing (Penmanship)
4:00 p.m.	Dismissal

Clearly, as one would expect, the emphasis was on the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic. There were variations, depending on who was teaching. In 1913-1914, Azel Van Dyke had a class on agriculture and another on classic literature. Dorothy Huff, 1920-1921, also included these two classes in the curriculum. Four pupils had perfect attendance that year: Dora Hoar, Julia Lala, Moyne Vanderlip, and Laurence Vanderlip. Among extra-curricular activities, 1920-1921, were attendance at the Harvest Home Festival at Ash Rock Church on October 8, 1920, participation in Woodston Rural High School Fair, October 15, where District 18 won second prize on Field and Garden Product Display and Helen Elder won second prize for home-canned products. The school held a box supper on November 24. There was a last-day-of-school program and dinner on April 14, 1921. The potluck dinner on the last day of school was traditional for all the schools throughout the years they were active. Some additional activities noted the following year were a Halloween program and box supper (proceeds \$15.55), Christmas program, Valentine Party, and Rooks County School Day in April.

Esther Elder's pupils performed well at the Woodston Community Fair in 1922. Four won second prize for story writing in their respective grades: Mabel McNutt, Kenneth Elder, Louis Bonny, and Libbie Velharticky who also won first prize in sewing for those over twelve years of age, and Charlotte Macy won first in sewing for those under twelve. Evelyn Vanderlip won first prize in bread making. Zona Casteel won first prize on white cake, Thelma Johnson won first on dark cake, and Evelyn Vanderlip won first on angel food cake. Helen Elder won first and Evelyn Vanderlip second in the canning division. Charles Macy won first prize for drawing a Rooks County map. Lumir Velharticky won first and Cecil Power won second in corn growing, and Kenneth Elder won first in wheat growing. Frank McNutt won first in poultry. In the fudge contest, Evelyn Vanderlip won first and Mary Elder second.

The Spring Branch district treasurer's books for the late 1920's and 1930's show the effects of the Great Depression on salaries:

1928-1929, Marian Baker\$87.50/month
1929-1930, Edna Leshner 75.00/month
1930-1931, Harlan Miller 70.00/month
1931-1932, Helen Miller 50.00/month
1932-1933, Helen Miller 35.00/month
1933-1934, Helen Miller 40.00/month
1934-1935, Helen Miller 40.00/month
1935-1936, Velda Murphy 40.00/month
1936-1937, Velda Murphy 40.00/month ¹

Esther Elder taught 1922-1923. Twenty two students were enrolled. (She must have been Velma's teacher but is not remembered.)

Myrtle Balmer, 1923-1924, Students enrolled 21, (Taught Velma. They were the Bonny's neighbors. Velma and Velda played with her children.)

Joe Pauley, 1924-1925, Students enrolled 25, and in 1925-1926, 26 students, District 18. Velma remembers him well as a tall and slender young man who married during the second year he taught her, 1925-1926.

Mary Elder, 1926-1927, Students enrolled 21, and in 1927-1928 23 students. (Another neighbor, young, 18 or so years old. Velma met her at the centennial celebration in Woodston.)

1928-1929 No student number available, No teacher listed.

John P. Colburn, 1929-1930, No student number available, (He taught Velma during her last year at Ash Rock, 8th grade, and also taught her during 7th grade. Velda was ill in 2nd grade so she was foolishly moved back to the 1st grade, hence Velma finished a year earlier. John was still living in Russell, Kansas in 1993, according to Velma. He was strict and loved

¹ Oliva. 67-76

Velda as a student but Velma was not as well acquainted with him. He was about 22-23 years of age).

Velma remembers Ash Rock school as the most wonderful place she ever was. When they had recess, the whole school went across the road and played baseball in the grass field in the summer, and fox and geese in the winter. Velma says she was in love with Joe Elder, Mary's little brother.

The school was a one room frame building with the pot bellied stove right in the middle. The desks were in rows fastened together. The flag was raised with the Pledge of Allegiance by the whole school. The older boys did the actual raising. The group lowered the flag each evening.

Everyone was in a Christmas play each year for the parents, and community. Box suppers were common with bidding for the boxes, which were decorated. Thanksgiving, Kansas Day, indeed all holidays were celebrated. Spell-downs were fun when it was too cold to go out. The bell in the little tower was rung for the start of school, for recess to end, and other occasions. This bell was moved to the Ash Rock church later. Grades one to eight were taught, usually by one teacher, at Ash Rock¹.

Woodston Rural High School

Velma's brother Louis was a Woodston High School football, basketball, and track star and was Senior Class President. He was very caring and strict with his little sister and had her roll her socks up, or down, stop chewing gum, and many other "shape-up" exercises. He had a heart leakage but was active in all sports and good at them. Doctors wanted him to be more careful, but he competed. He died at around 40. Today he probably could have been helped.

The school colors were Purple and Gold! For Freshman initiation they had a "spank line" reminiscent of the gauntlet where the frosh ran between two lines of upperclassmen and were swatted rather gently, she implied. Also, they were led in individually, stood on a board and blindfolded. The board was raised and jiggled while their inquisitors spoke of how high it was being raised. Each initiate was then ordered to jump, and did so with fear. Of course they were only a few inches off the floor and landed on a soft pad. "It was a wonderful time."

Big brother Bill gave the twins their high school nicknames, another of many happy memories of this wonderful time. Velma's was "Johnny", and she loved it. "Topsy" was Velda. Maybe Velma should be "Topsy" now! "A loaf of bread, a jug of wine..." She is a world class optimist!

Donna, Velma's baby, loved to hear of her Bonny uncles and how devoted her mother was to them. "I loved to hear her talk about Bill. I really didn't know him that well but I felt as though I did. I loved him because of her stories. I wish she would open up. She has so much to say for us."

¹ Oliva. p, 392

Family Pictures

The family portraits of the Van Dyke and the Bonny grandparents are one of Velma's earliest memories. "The faces are so clear." They hung from picture molding in the living room. The baseboards below matched and were a foot wide with a beautiful natural wood finish. After Jacob remarried, the pictures were moved upstairs to the attic by mommy, "not my "mother", where Velma would go sometimes, pull them out and look at them. "They had heavy massive gold frames, and grandpa Van Dyke's beard reached clear to his waist". This particular picture is in the Ash Rock town history. She was told, or remembers, that grandpa Isaac [1822] helped build the Ash Rock stone church according to brother Bill. Her new mommy painted all the house moldings and baseboards a soft grey color. Velma liked the natural wood finish better. "Oh I wish I had kept some control of those portraits," she says.

Sketches of the farm layout and the floor plan of the home and its rooms are needed from Velma so grandkids can see where and how "Gama Re" lived.

Climbing and Clothing

When she was six or seven, Velma loved to climb up into the Hackberry Tree, eat the berries and sit and think. "Just cause I was a kid and kids climb trees. The grove was just a little way from the house. Papa had planted a grove on each corner of the farm. One was Walnut. This one was Hackberry. We had to pick up the walnuts and clean off the husks. I hated them, hard work.

"I would wear little dresses and climb the tree in them. We wore anklets and shoes and sateen bloomers for every day but never pants or slacks. We were pretty, with our slips and panties. Mamma made our house dresses, lovely little clothes, in which we worked and played. They were made of yards of material. I made all my own girls' square dancing dresses.

"I loved playing alone, but I played with my sisters and brothers too, Hide and Seek, Fox and Geese, and Tag. They must have climbed the trees with me too, but I remember me, all alone up there, thinking. We got a bounty for blackbirds, and rabbit ears. We shot them with a 22. Those were happy contented days."

The Mirror Mystery

"I loved the corn patch too. I'd hide from everyone, but it was pretty close to the house. I broke mamma's mirror by throwing it, so I hid in the corn patch all day. They searched for me but I remained hidden till evening. Papa didn't spank me. He never spanked us, ever. The "north 40" had corn. Our windmills pumped water into a tank which overflowed into ponds. We played and swam there. When it was hot the animals loved them too."

The Doctor Book

"Sometimes when the folks were gone to town Velda, Mid and I would practice our research skills. We knew where Papa kept the key to his desk, and we'd get out his little account book of farm expenses. Every penny was listed, "3 cents for nails to fix door," etc. His medical reference book was there too. Like Tom Sawyer,

we had questions answered we hadn't even asked yet, but my most vivid memory is of a sketch of a woman with twins in the womb ready to be born. So, Velda and I knew about ourselves very young indeed."

Thou Shalt Not Steal

When the twins were about six years old, they were at Aunt Annie's house and found some chewing gum. They could not resist trying it and threw the wrappers under Francis's bed. "Annie's daughter Francis switched our legs with a limber willow. We did not forget or forgive her!"

Donna almost remembers hearing of her mother at age nine or ten being in School, Kansas at her cousin Bertha Camp's house. The usual Saturday Night Dance was going on. Papa "Jake" and Uncle Bill Early played the fiddles and either brother Bill or Bertha would play the organ. Bertha was 19, very beautiful, and she wore makeup. "Kids my age didn't." Velma filled Bertha's rouge puff as full as she could with the rouge and tied it into her handkerchief. "We always carried a nice hanky when we went out," she said. Her life was ruined for the next week, no sleep, constant worry, guilt up to her ears. She couldn't wait for the next dance to put the puff back into the little gold case where it belonged. I have never wanted to take anything again, ever," she says. This Bertha has a daughter named Patricia who gave us pictures and memorabilia about the Bonnys and Van Dykes.

"I never told any one, then." Years later while she was dating her husband-to-be, Don Jacobs, he "picked up" a set of salt and pepper shakers in a restaurant. I made it clear to him that if he didn't return them it would be all over, so Don told the restaurant owner, "The party's over," and left the cellars on the counter. Don was the more religious, but on stealing, Velma was never unsure again."

Among Don and Velma's daughters the name Jacobs has been preserved by Tim and Gina Hand, son of Pat Hand and Karen Jacobs, who named a son Jacob Daniel Hand after his two paternal great grandfathers. Bonny was used by Velma's sister Mildred Maud, who named her daughter Bonnie Gail Gardner.

Christmas at Last

"Velma and her sisters always got a doll for Christmas, and a new dress. The dolls were given us at the church social on Christmas Eve. The Vanderlip girl always had the biggest doll on the town tree there. We sewed for these dolls. The last one I received was lost in the flood I've mentioned. It died.

"We continued this tradition with our own kids, but when the twins were 13 we decided they were too old. They felt differently, and to this day I feel guilty about them crying because there was no doll for them under our tree," said Velma.

New Years Eve

"As children we were told that at midnight on December 31, all the cows would moo. If one listened carefully, you could also hear

the horses whinny. Each new year we'd try stay awake to hear this, but couldn't. We believed!"

Easter Eggs

"We would look out the window and see smoke arising behind the outhouse. We were told the Easter Bunnies were out there coloring our eggs. Of course Jake had sneaked out to build the fire."

Playing in the Silo

"I seemed to spend a lot of time playing alone. One of my favorite things was to sit in the granary day dreaming and pour wheat through my fingers and onto my legs."

The New Blue Model "T"

Sometime after Velma and Velda returned to Ash Rock with their dad, he went to Downs, Kansas and brought their first brand new automobile. It was the first year the Model A was sold. "Ours was a blue four door Model T Ford. Later on Louis purchased a new Model A with a rumble seat in which we loved to ride. Lois and his dad picked up their new Model A's on the same day."

Polishing and Washing

After Jacob married Velma and Velda's stepmother, Clara would have the kids polish all the silver and shine all the windows in the house till they gleamed. This activity was their every Saturday chore.

Brothers Bill, Louis and Vernon; and Sister Mid

*

Mid seemed to the twins to be more than an older sister. Even in 1995, Velma cannot talk long about her without a tear appearing in her eye. The death of Mildred's daughter, Bonnie Gail, and her own, too early, death amplify the angelic memories of them which persist today. She was very popular and was Junior Class President. Velma, as a new Sophomore, "rode in on her, and her brothers' coattails" to become class secretary/treasurer her first year in high school."

When Maud died, Jake felt so badly that he deeded portions of property to each child. "Papa and Clara visited each year, and we shared payments on property that was being farmed on shares. Louis farmed much of the property. Don did not learn about Velma's "other" income until after her marriage. She told him, "At least I know you didn't marry me for my money."

Mid, Velma and Velda, indeed most Kansas kids who didn't go to college, were expected to be on their own. The twins got an apartment, and Velma worked part time while they finished high school. They were on their own, and succeeded. They rented with

a lady named Mrs. Allen, a tiny bed room which was always cold in the winter. The twins had friend, Mae Saun, who would come over and sleep with them to help keep warm.

When the twins graduated from Woodston High, they bought pretty grey suits. Mildred, who was always a model of love and caring, and really looked out for her little sisters, bought them matching print blouses to go with their new suits. She worked at the court house and often brought them gifts. Indeed, after their parents moved, Mid became another mother in some very special, very equal, way. Louis shared this love and concern for his sisters.

Mid lived with the principal of the high school and his wife, and worked for them. She was wonderful in his eyes. They had a small son for whom she was responsible when she was not in school. Their trips and entertainment included Mid. Later she worked as a typist at the Norton, Kansas Court House. Her high school book is evidence of her achievements and her popularity. Her typing award is there also.

When Mid is mentioned Velma's eyes glow with admiration. She and Velda were and are as close as twins can be! They graduated in 1935! Mid graduated on May 13, 1932. All from Woodston Rural High School

**

After Jacob homesteaded in Ash Rock, he seemed content to stay there and remained an active participant in community affairs. He remodeled the family home making it bigger and more comfortable. He did not move away until he retired with Clara in California.

But Bill, more like Uncle Ike, Left home when his dad remarried and tried a number of occupations and locations. William Jacob Bonny was born April 13, 1907. His death occurred on June 10, 1982 at his cabin near Granby, Colorado. The funeral was held at the First United Methodist Church and he is buried at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Clayton, N. M.

Bill finished high school early, and went to barber school in Kansas City. In his early 20's he attended art school there also. All who knew him commented upon his skill as an artist. He met an early love there and was planning marriage. Luckily he waited for Althea, and had a happy marriage and family.

He became an apprentice baker in Norton, Kansas, and met and married Althea Jacobs of New Mexico. He went into the bakery business in Woodston, Kansas. He and his brother Louis later ran an auto agency, selling General Motors cars in Tampa, Texas.

Bill lived in Greeley twice, once in the immediate area of both the editors' homes. He was managing parts for Clinton Aviation in Denver when he lost his leg in an accident while going to Jacob's funeral. Louis was with him in the car.

After florist school he opened a shop in Clayton, New Mexico. With a new real estate license, he sold lots in the mountains and built a wonderful cabin near Granby, Colorado called Bonny Brae. It is now owned by his daughter, Ruth Marie.

He also bought and sold real estate near Phoenix and also Tucson, where he owned a lovely home.

Meda Swank Bonny wrote to Velma in the winter of 1992 asking for memories of her husband Louis for a booklet being compiled for their children, Eugene Bonny, Keith Bonny, and Lynda Jackson. He was buried in the Ash Rock cemetery.

Louis was born October 15, 1911 on the Bonny farm in Ash Rock, Kansas. He married Meda Mae on May 14, 1931.

Velma's answer, on November 11, Armistice Day, 1992, gives another delightful perspective to the Bonny family life in Ash Rock

Dear Meda,

Thanks for reminding me to remember our brother and your husband with more than a passing thought. You have warmed my heart and my hopes. How long you two were so close. Your wedding on Woodston High graduation day brought joy to all of us who love you both. The memories flooded in, here are a favorite few.

Papa, Bill and Louis came to visit us at Uncle Ike and Aunt Laura's house in Samuels, Idaho. I see still Louis and Bill coming down the hill on skis they made by shaping boards into skis and cutting grooves in them. The boards were soaked in boiling water to bend the tips.

Soon after this Velda and I were back living in Kansas. When the family drove to town, Louis and we girls rode in the back seat of the car. Louis would stretch his arm across us to make sure we sat up straight and properly. He must have liked his little sisters a lot. He built a wooden wagon for us. We'd hitch it up to our beautiful dog named "U No" who would pull us around the yard.

Papa, Bill, and Louis were all keen marksmen. They taught us to target shoot, which eventually led to shooting black birds and rabbits.

Papa married mamma, Clara McClain Thomison, when Velda and I were about eight years old. Louis was twelve. He accepted the marriage, but Bill left home. At this age Louis would rise early, maybe three or four a.m., and go set his traps. He'd go back to bed as we were getting up. He'd milk the cows and then be off to school.

At home about this same age, he built a car. It was mostly engine, steering wheel, crank, wheels and running boards. A picture of it exists somewhere. It is a clear memory to me because I had to hand him engine parts as he put it together.

Louis farmed the north forty acres. I think he was 14 or 15. By then he had his own tractor. In our eyes he was so big, so powerful, and so important.

He entered his senior year when I became a freshman. He was a big wheel in football, basketball, track, and other sports and I think he was president of the Senior Class. Mid was president of the Junior Class. They paved the way for their little sister,

me. I loved the attention and all the boys. Louis kept his eye on me when I got carried away. He was so proper and he expected me to follow his example. He scolded me many times.

But school was GREAT! Louis drove his Model A Ford with a rumble seat. The Dunlap boys drove a Chevy. They were always trying to prove which make of car was number "1". We'd race side by side as fast as the cars would go.

Meda, You and Louis made an impact on so many of us. The "perfect couple" loving cup would have been yours. You, the cheerleader, the singer, the fastest little basketball player on the girls team. Louis too was a basketball player. I shall always remember him shooting a basket from center court. I was so proud of him. My Big Brother!

Remember when Louis was in bed all summer shortly after you were married? He tore up his leg by skidding into a base playing baseball. He was in traction for weeks. To me he was a jack-of-all-trades, taking his equipment through Kansas and Nebraska to shuck corn. I don't remember exactly the time he had a dairy and delivered milk in town, but you were just a young family going through Nebraska and the Dakotas to harvest. Then you settled in Woodston. He had a filling station and garage. I think you rented the cabins and Louis was the town mechanic. In Loveland, next, you bought a sporting goods store. We also visited you in Borger, Texas. He had a car agency there.

Then that terrible automobile accident occurred when Louis and Bill were rushing to Papa's bedside in California. I wasn't there but hearing how he cared for and suffered with Bill when he lost his leg still affects me.

Louis played an important part in shaping my life. I loved him with such pride. Louis was "God" to me!

After Laura died, "of a broken heart over losing her three children," as Ike reported; and the girls were back home in Kansas with their father; Vernon, who remained with Ike and Laura and was adopted by them. He corresponded with Velma and Velda about their plans. He was to save money to bring them back to Idaho so they could all be together again.

Vernon, after Laura's death, did not fare as well as before with his Uncle Ike. He soon left the home to be on his own. On one visit to Kansas he ran out of money and worked in the beet fields for a time in Colorado. His employer, because he was only 15 or so perhaps, refused to pay him. He discussed "getting even" plans with his sympathetic sisters.

He was a good boxer as a young man. In WWII he joined the Marines believing he could, with their help, win the war quickly. As an adult he was very successful and was happily married. His wife's sudden death was devastating. A second marriage followed, and his own death soon afterwards.

His business in Port Angelus, Washington, was profitable. He had town, mountain, and beach homes. His business often took him to Singapore. Velma remembers his Chinese associates weeping over their lost friend. All the town flags were flown

at half-mast in his memory. He knew and liked everyone in town. Vernon is seen in many of Laura and Ike's photos. Although He grew up apart from his own family, their love and feeling of closeness and interdependence continued strong.

Velma's conversations about each of her brothers reflect the same great love and pride that is so obvious in the written tribute to Louis above. Anyone who knows Velma knows how grand her siblings and offspring were - are!

Bonny Family Friends

During our first interview with Goldie Fringer about Bonny, Colorado many memories of these early Ash Rock days came out. Most of that discussion will be found with the Bonny Post office material below. Recollections of Ash Rock from Goldie have been preserved here, in her exact words as much as possible.

Goldie: "Well, Lula Rogers, and Andrew Rogers was neighbors of theirs. Maud was Aunt Laura's Sister. I saw them one time. I remember how they looked. They were both large people and he had a big mustache. I used to go over there a lot. We only lived about 1 mile from Uncle Isaac [1865]. They had their farm and we lived on a farm so I saw them a lot. I wasn't very old cause when we left that country I was twelve. Uncle Isaac was still there I believe.

"Uncle Jake is the one that took mom and us kids to Woodston to catch the train to go out to Wallace. Dad had come out there with a couple of others. Way out west was what we said, to Rooks County, Kansas."

Velma: "Aunt Annie and Uncle Will, (Ike's [1865] sister and her husband), were just our favorite aunt and uncle. They used to come to our farm a lot."

Goldie: "Jake had, like a spring wagon and it had a top and he fastened the curtains on. You know, buttoned them on. We got in there and he took us to meet the train. My dad took a load of stuff in covered wagons, they took two of them. Uncle Carl Camp drove the other one. We stayed with Uncle Jake and Aunt Maud a few days so we could get there after dad would be there with our furniture."

Velma: "We must have been tiny babies when you were there."

Goldie: "Oh yes. I can't think now. Bill was old enough to drive.

The oldest went to school to Woodston, no that was later. Four of us slept out on that screened in porch."

Velma: "Yes, I remember that porch."

Goldie: "They put some quilts down and we laid on them. After I married, I married when I was eighteen, and I had Rachel, so it was about three years later. We stopped and stayed all night with Uncle Jake and we slept in the living room. When we got there it was kind of late in the evening."

Velma: "Was mother still alive?"

Goldie: "No, it was his second wife. They were canning in the boiler. You know how you can in boiling water and screw the

lids on. They were busy doing that when we drove in. They didn't know we was coming."

Velma: "On Sundays there would be 25 or 30 people there for ice cream or watermelon. I can remember us kids playing outside and the men sat in the house a playing his record machine with the horn, those old thick Victor disks, those Uncle Josh records. Do You Remember papa playing the fiddle?"

Goldie: "Oh certainly, how many times I've danced. When I wasn't big enough to dance with a partner why Lida Camp, that's Art Camp's daughter, and I were the same age. We'd get together on the round dances and we'd go clear around the edge and not bother anybody, but how we would dance! Uncle Isaac [1865] and Uncle Jacob played."

Velma: "and brother Bill played the old pump organ."

Goldie: "Yah, with the back on and the mirror in it."

Papa's Death and Velda

When Velma's "Papa" Jacob died, Velda was having a difficult pregnancy. She felt she could not go to the funeral, so she tended baby Donna while I, Don, and probably their other children, attended. Later Velda lost her baby. She and J. C. adopted children and are great parents.

Chapter Two
BONNY, COLORADO POST OFFICE

Post Offices and General Stores

An article entitled "Post Offices and General Stores" in the *History of Kit Carson County* sets the theme of this work and fits our findings on Bonny very nicely.

"Many of us can remember the little "Pa and Ma" grocery stores in our towns when we were children. Many of us made our first purchases at these stores. Most items were staples such as coffee, flour, sugar, bread, lard, and other sundry items. Most of us will never forget the glass candy jars and the containers holding crackers, one of which is now my bread box. It has the words "National Biscuit Co" on the front above the glass insert. These same stores were found on the prairie and provided the "necessities" for the growing rural population in a community. We must remember that transportation was by walking, riding a horse or taking the buggy to get the mail and make a purchase or two. I can feel the excitement of going and possibly meeting a neighbor, of hearing "the news", and of filling the social needs of people who were rather isolated on their farms.

"Today finds us deep in the search for these small stores and post offices tucked away in the corner of someone's home or maybe in it's own building with a hitching post out front. From several maps and written sources we have been able to gather bits and pieces of this puzzle and hope that you will find a new name to add to our amazing history of Kit Carson County.

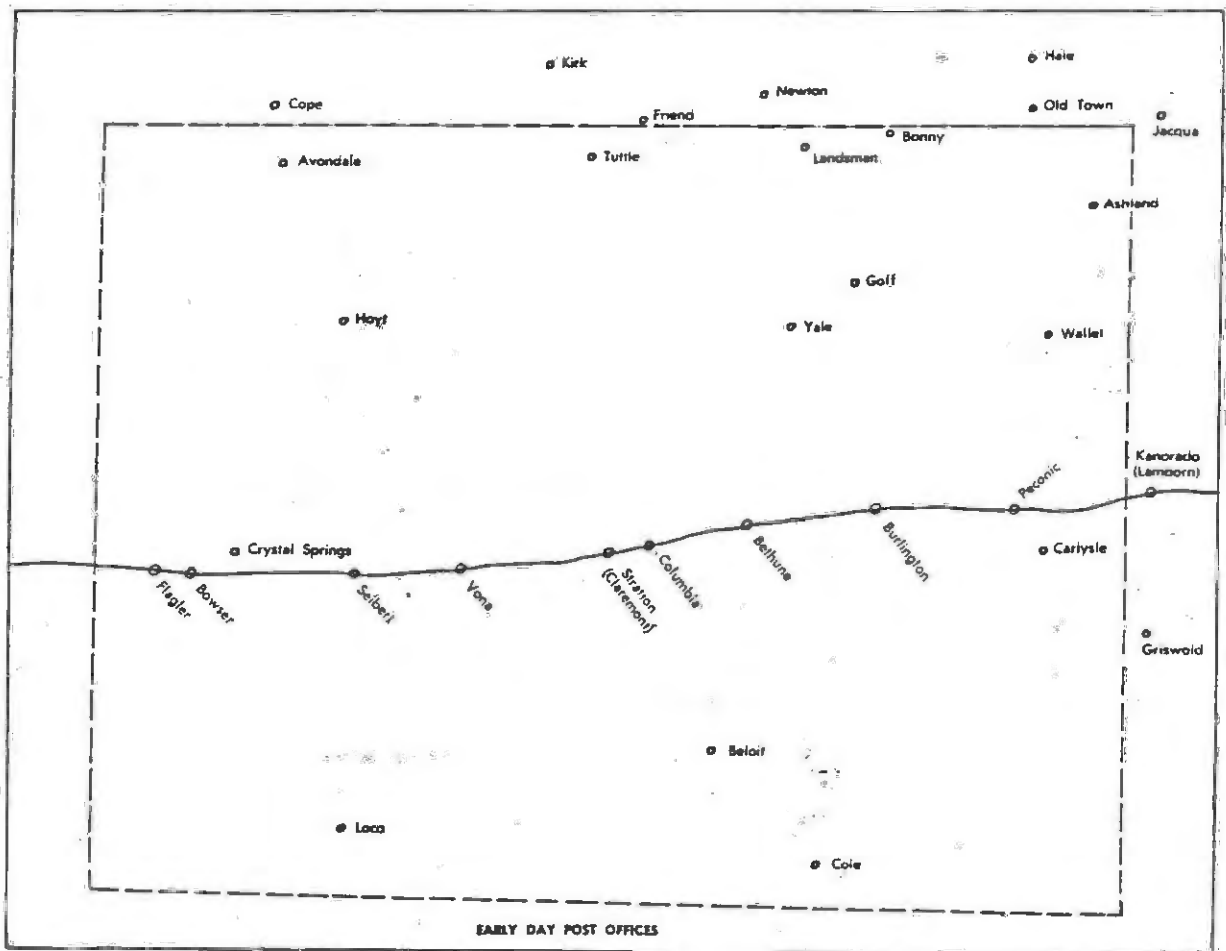
"We know that some of these post offices and general stores are missing from the material that we have including "Valley" and "Eastonville" southwest of Seibert which was a post office and store.

"The list is incomplete but it is included so that you may have an idea where these places were located to help serve the people living in Kit Carson County at the time.

"Name, County, Established, Discontinued. Ashland, Kit Carson, Jan. 14, 1890, May 15, 1909. Baltzer, Kit Carson, June 4, 1907, Dec. 14, 1907. Beaverton, Kit Carson, Oct. 17, 1910, Nov. 28, 1915. Berry, Kit Carson, Apr. 13, 1911, Apr. 15, 1912. Bethune, Kit Carson, Jan. 19, 1889, May 15, 1905. Bonny, Kit Carson, June 3, 1915, Feb. 29, 1924. Burlington, Kit Carson (Elbert), Apr. 29, 1887. Cary, Kit Carson, Dec. 12, 1910, Dec. 30, 1916. Carlisle, Kit Carson (Elbert), July 21, 1887, June 9, 1890¹."

¹ *History of Kit...* p. 75

This map from *The History of Kit Carson County* shows the location of many of these "Early Day Post Offices" in the Burlington area. Notice the location of Bonny and Hale. Morris is not seen however.



The Burlington [Colorado] Record gives an overview of postal service in the Bonny region and the flavor of these small postal units. This item seems to be the material erroneously quoted as "Mr. Pralle's book."¹ Bonny was mentioned first.

"Burlington Post Office Has Colorful Past"

"The picture of the C. A. Lamb store had this caption. '65 Years Ago Burlington's Post Office looked like this. Combined with an old fashioned general merchandise store, the post office served the needs of the community. In the early days, the Burlington Post Office also supplied mail to nine surrounding offices, mostly rural centers of distribution which were centrally located.' The article follows.

"Burlington's first postmaster was Eugene T. Lemieux, commissioned April 29, 1887. He served until May 15, 1889. Mail to Burlington was brought by stage or wagon from St. Francis, Kansas, and Haigler, Nebraska. The Rock Island Railroad was surveyed and laid out in September, 1887, and the first regular train service began in September, 1888. Joseph M. Leal was postmaster from May 16, 1889, to Nov. 12, 1889. Other postmasters and the dates of their appointments are as follows:

"Robert L. Hubbard, Nov. 13, 1889; David Carnahan, Sept. 6, 1890; Charles A. Lamb, Jan. 18, 1894; Fred W. King, Dec. 8, 1897; Annie Newell, Aug. 21, 1901; Charles Creglow, April 3, 1903; Rhoda Yersin, Jan. 11, 1916; Robert L. Wilkinson, Feb. 16, 1922; Michael A. Vogt, May 1, 1934; Mary E. Vogt, Jan. 1, 1938.

"In August 1888 the post office was moved from the original location in Old Burlington to the new town site, and was situated about where the Morrow Appliance is now. During the tenure of Dave Carnahan the post office was on the east side of 14th Street near the present Carper's Cafe. The post office during the service of Charles Lamb is shown in the cut, sometime between the year of 1894 and 1897, and was located where Drs. Ross and Girard are now, in the old frame hotel that stood on that spot for many years.

"The office moved across the street when Fred King was appointed to the building now occupied by the Wilson Gift Shop. Annie Newell was postmaster in the building formerly used by the Dunn Creamery, and Charles Creglow moved to a drug store which occupied the lot north of the present Odd Fellows hall. Rhoda Yersin moved into the first building built expressly for a post office, now occupied by the Red Front Grocery.

"In 1922 Louis Vogt erected the building which housed the post office for 26 years, now the Burlington Bakery building. In 1948 the post office moved to the west side of 14th St. remaining there for 10 years and moving to the new building erected by C.D. Sholes when it was finished in December 1958. This is the first time the post office has moved from Burlington's main street

¹ See the bibliography under Pralle.

since the new town site was established about 1888. The post office was made second class under Bob Wilkinson and has so remained to date. Receipts in 1958 were over \$27,000.

"During the early days Burlington supplied mail to nine post offices in the region. Bonny, Newton, Morford, Walleth, Yale, Hale, Hermes, Beloit and Cole. Mail to these offices was delivered by buggy or horseback, and some of the early carriers were Frank P. Little, Berton Little, Earl Jones, John McCracken, Bud Yarnell, Roscoe Yarnell, H. O. Brown, V.O. Coakley and Robert T. Boyles. One of the early carriers (at Hale, eds.) is remembered as having an enclosed buggy painted white with the wording "U.S. MALE" painted on the sides in red letters.

"The early offices were usually a ranch or small store, where the mail was left for distribution to surrounding areas. Joe Boyles remembers sorting mail at the Tuttle Post Office where it was put in pigeonholes open on both sides so the patrons could help themselves. The next method of distribution was Rural Free Delivery, instituted in the area about 1917. The first rural carriers out of Burlington were Hugh B. Morgan, Ed O. Smith and A.E. Calvin^{1,2}."

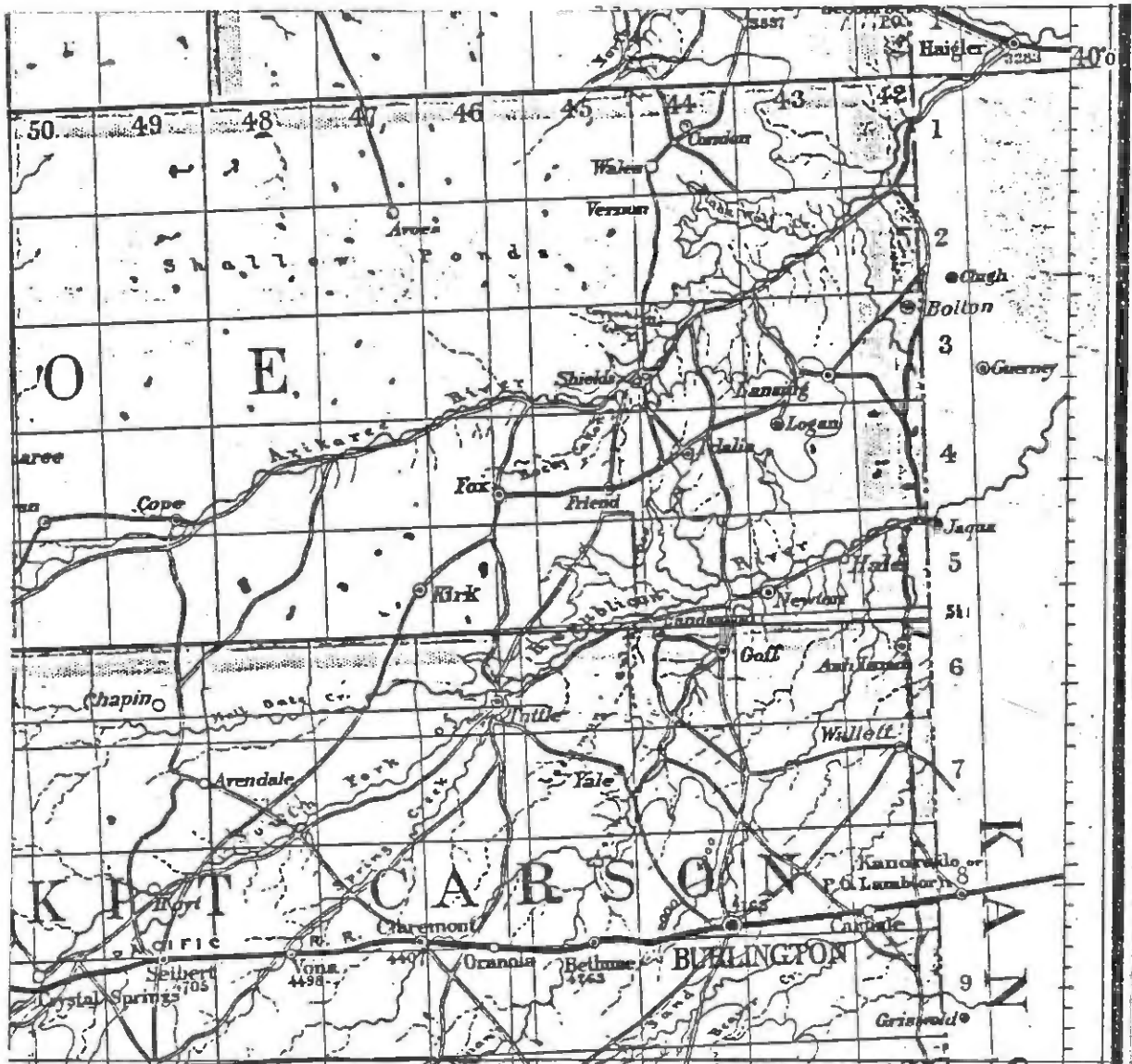
Mr. Engert gave us a copy of "Nell's" 1902 map showing the Bonny area long before it had the name Bonny. Hale, Colorado was in Arapahoe County then, since before Yuma County was created Arapahoe County reached the Kansas State line. Jacqua³, which was mentioned in the Hale Post Office application, is seen on this map as is Kanorado which was shown by Isaac on his location drawing for Bonny.

¹ "Burlington Post Office Has Colorful Past"

² See also *History of Kit...* pp. 187-188

³ Spelling for Jacqua, Kansas varies map to map.

Nell's Topographical Map of the State of Colorado
published in 1902, 10 years before Isaac came to Bonny



Homestead Patent from President Wilson

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Hugo [Colo.] 012954 and 013554

To all to Whom these Presents shall come, GREETING:

WHEREAS, A Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Hugo, Colorado, has been deposited in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress of May 20, 1862. "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Isaac Bonny¹ has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the northeast quarter of section eleven, and the east half of the southeast quarter of section two, and the north half of the southwest quarter of section one in Township six south of Range forty-three west of the sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado, containing three (or these) hundred twenty acres. according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor-General:

Now Know Ye, That there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said claimant the tract of land above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and assigns of the said claimant forever: subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of Courts:

and there is reserved from the lands hereby granted, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

In Testimony Whereof, I, Woodrow Wilson President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given Under my hand, at the City of Washington, the sixth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and forty-second.

By The President: Woodrow Wilson
By: M.P. LeROY, Secretary
L.I.C. Lamar
Recorder of the General Land Office
General Land Office

United States
SEAL

Recorded: Patent No. 610798.

Filed for record at 3:15 o'clock PM March (Mch) 7th, A.D. 1918.

67931

By O P Beidelman, Recorder
Deputy²

¹ Isaac [1865] See also appendix 3

² Original document in Book 119, p. 77. at Burlington, Colorado Court House. *Italic type* indicates handwritten or signed.

When Ike decided he wanted to open a post office, he may have already had his little country store. He seemed to be the kind of person who took chances and tried new things. The Morris Post office had closed and he saw an opportunity. He undertook the very formal, detailed process of being appointed postmaster, planned his location and pick up points, assessed his clientele, and was appointed based upon the following "Diagram, Explanation, and Instructions" and the "Location of Proposed Post Office." Each is photocopied exactly as Ike prepared them in his own handwriting.

Section numbers, road numbers, distances, railroads, and nearby post offices are mapped and listed. We also see a good example of his signature.

It was exciting to receive these pages from the Postmaster General in Washington, D. C.

DIAGRAM, EXPLANATION, AND INSTRUCTIONS.

Indicate upon the diagram the proposed site of the post office by placing a dot in the proper quarter section.

The surrounding offices should be accurately located and the names plainly written.

Draw distinctly the railways, roads, rivers, and creeks.

The post office would be situated in the NE quarter of section No. 11 in Township 6 S., Range 43 W., of the 6th principal meridian.

In localities not surveyed by the U. S. Land Office, a sketch is requested.

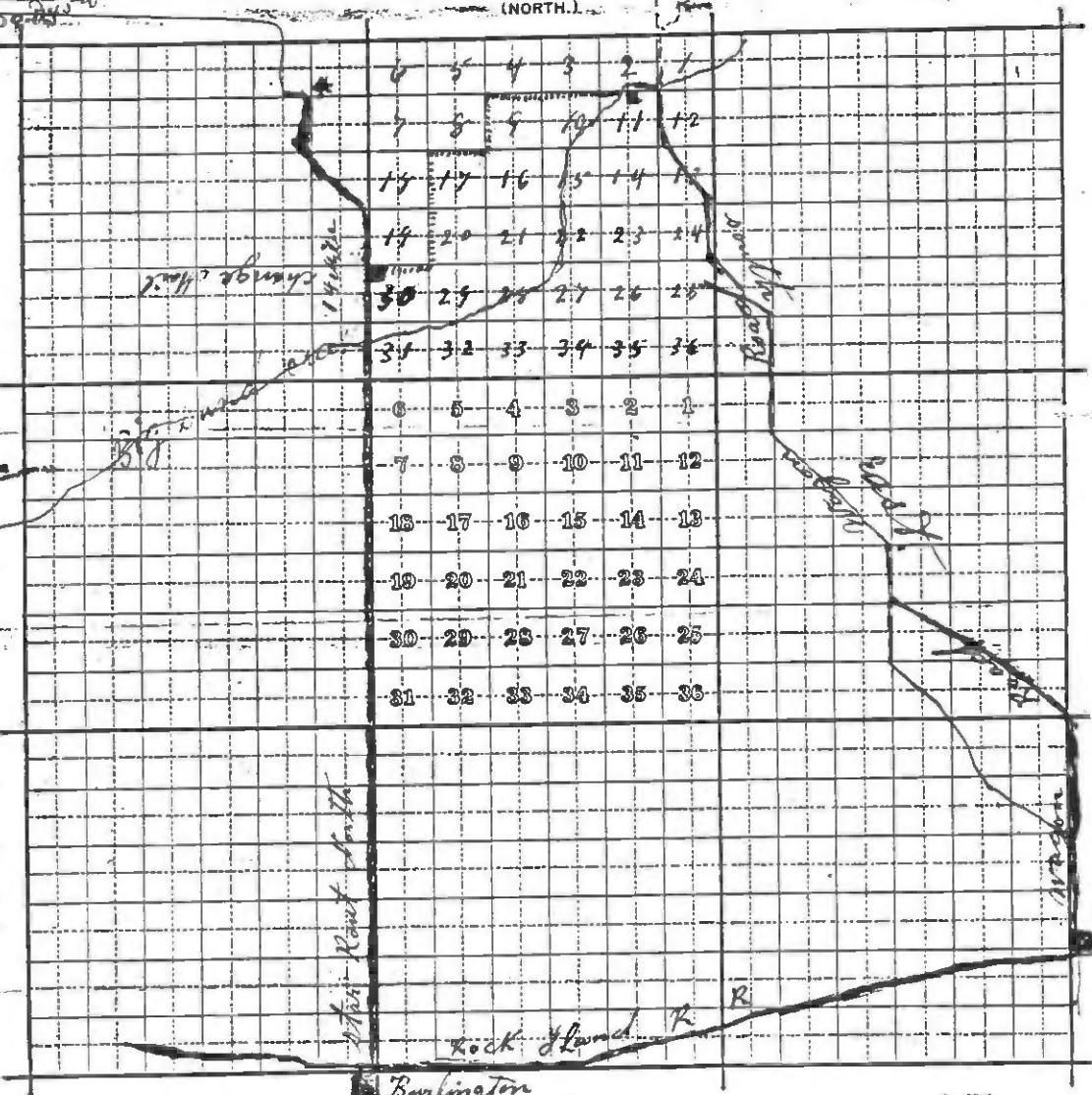
PLOT SHOWING THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE POST OFFICE, WITH THE ADJACENT POST OFFICES, VILLAGES, ROADS, RAILROADS, MAIL ROUTES, RIVERS, AND CREEKS.

only 14 mi. to proposed office

Hermes
Sec 35, 18, 19, 20

RANGE 44 W (No.) (E. or W.) RANGE 43 W (No.) (E. or W.) RANGE 42 W (No.) (E. or W.)

TOWNSHIP 6 S. (N. or S.)
TOWNSHIP 7 S. (N. or S.)
TOWNSHIP 8 S. (N. or S.)



Scale, one-third inch to the mile.

Burlington (SOUTH.)

6-6001

Burlington

Kanawado Falls

LOCATION OF PROPOSED POST OFFICE

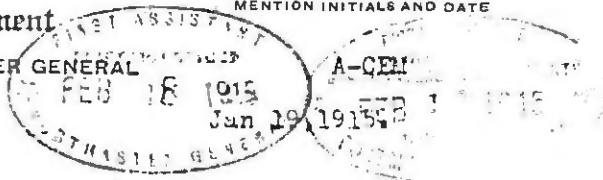
DIVISION OF POSTMASTERS' APPOINTMENTS

IN REPLYING MENTION INITIALS AND DATE

Post Office Department
FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL

Washington

Mr Isaac Bonny,
Burlington, Colo.



SIR: With reference to the proposed establishment of a post office at the point named below, and in order that the office, if established, may be accurately represented upon the post-route maps, it is requested that you furnish accurately the information called for below and prepare a sketch according to instructions on opposite side of paper, which should be returned to this Division as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

3569

FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Proposed post office, Bonny Kit Carson Colorado
(Name) (County) (State)

If the town, village, or site of the post office be known by another name than that of the post office, state that other name here: _____

The post office would be situated in the NE quarter of section No. 11, in Township 650,
(N. or S.)

Range 43 N. of the 6th principal meridian, County of Kit Carson
(E. or W.)

State of Colorado

The name of the nearest river is Republican, and the post-office building would be at a distance of six miles on the south side of it.
(N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest creek is Sand creek, and the post-office building would be at a distance of about 100 yards on the South side of it.
(N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office on the same route as this proposed post office is Hale Colorado and its distance is 7 1/2 miles, by the traveled road, in a NE direction from the site of this proposed office.
(N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is Hermes Colorado and its distance is 14 miles, in a W direction from the site of this proposed office.
(N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office not on the same route as this proposed post office is Hale, Colo. and its distance is 7 1/2 miles, by the traveled road, in a W direction from the site of this proposed office.
(N., S., E., or W.)

The post-office building would be on the N side of the C.R. & P. Railroad, and at a distance of 17 miles from the track. The railroad station name is Burlington Colo.

The post office would be about 2 air-line distance, N from the nearest point of my county boundary.
(N., S., E., or W.)

Signature of Applicant for Postmaster Isaac Bonny

Date: February 10, 1915

Isaac's Application and Location

On August 8, 1991, Velma Jacobs, Andy Gibbons, and Verl Manwarren used Isaac's [1865] "Location of Proposed Post Office¹" plot map to locate the post office site where Velma had lived when she was two years of age. The site is located in Township 6, north east quarter, Section 11, South Range, 43 West of the 6th principal meridian.

We were able to drive directly there. The following is your editor's suggested route to the Bonny Post Office from Burlington, Colorado: Proceed North on Highway 385². Cross Sand Creek and go ¼ mile. Then turn RIGHT on road KK. Turn LEFT on road 50 and then RIGHT again on road MM. Go LEFT on road 51. RIGHT on road NN for 2½ miles. We found the road to be very bad from here on. Cross Sand Creek, (it's probably dry) once more and then it is approximately 100 yards to Bonny Post Office site. Hale, Colorado is north of Bonny and was the nearest of the area's early post offices.

Isaac's, post office and area land holdings can be seen on the [Bonny Area Plats Map], *Standard Atlas of Kit Carson County*, "Section 11, Township 6, South Range, 43 West..." See it in Appendix One.

Description

We located an abandoned house which appeared to be newer than the adobe³ house Isaac had built at the site. We now know that Jennie Barnhart and her second husband, Alexander Dile Henderson, added two rooms to the old adobe house so we were at the original post office. The water pump was located nearby. Louise Smith Barnhart explained to us that a windmill stood over the well while they lived there. When there was no breeze for pumping, the windmill rod would be disconnected and a handle attached to pump water for the house. There was never any plumbing inside. The building is described as a soddy and as an adobe. According to Louise Smith, who lived there longer than any other resident except her husband Ira, it was always an adobe building.

The chimney we saw was brick. In all the pictures from Ike, it was a tin pipe projecting from the roof. The picture in *Action on the Plains*, however, shows brick. Louise Barnhart doesn't know when it was bricked up but Charlie must have done it before her move there.⁴ He did major improvements to the building.

In July of 1993 Louise gave us the following description, remembered from her husband, Ira Barnhart. He was the son of Charlie who was the second postmaster at Bonny. It is our best

¹ "Location of Proposed Post Office" in bibliography

² Road 51 in Isaac's day.

³ Louise Barnhart assured us the building was adobe, not sod.

⁴ Carter. 1/5/1995

description of the post office building. Her neighbor and sister-in-law, Esther Barnhart Rhoades drew a floor plan of the post office as Ike had it laid out¹. Their cooperation and their memories have been invaluable to your editors in picturing this landmark.

Louise wrote, "The Bonny store and living quarters had walls one foot thick made of adobe. The building was approximately 30 x 30 feet square with four rooms. The room used for the store was 12 ½ x 16 feet with a heating stove and the mail boxes. Barrels of salted fish, beans, dill pickles, and sacks of potatoes were sold. Everything was salted, cured or dried. There was the usual counter."

Esther Barnhart was the second child of Charlie and Jennie. Her sketch gave us the following additional description. Her sketch shows that the store faced west, with road NN passing east west on the north side. The kitchen was in the northwest corner and not quite as big as the store room. The west wall had an outside door into the kitchen and west windows in each west room. Louise and Ira added a porch at this west door for their freezer in 1947. We estimate the entrance porch built by Ira and Louise in to be 6 x 8 feet.

The north wall had windows in the kitchen and in the master bed room with a door from the kitchen into the bed room. The east wall had windows in each of the two bedrooms with an outside exit from the north east room. After the two rooms were added in 1937, this door led to the bigger, north, new room. The new rooms had no outside doors but did have windows.

The southeast room of the original building, Velma's and the other children's bedroom, was the smallest of the four rooms. The south wall had two windows, one in each room, and an outside door into the store.

According to Esther, "the road (NN) to the store came from the west and east. After you turned south from it into the yard you went up a little hill to the store. When the Bonnys lived there they had patrons come in through the west door into the kitchen and then to the right into the post office and store. Since there was an outside door in the south room, we changed this and had them go around to the south door which was better for us²."

The counter ran north and south on the east wall in the biggest room in the house. The stove was in the big doorway between the store and the kitchen so it could heat both rooms. Mail slots were on the east wall. The house was small, with barrels of different things. There were dill pickles, beans, and other "cured" things. There was, of course, no refrigeration.

Supplies came from Burlington, including coal and oil. Esther remembers her dad coming home so cold. It took a long day

¹ Locate this floor plan in the index under "sketch".

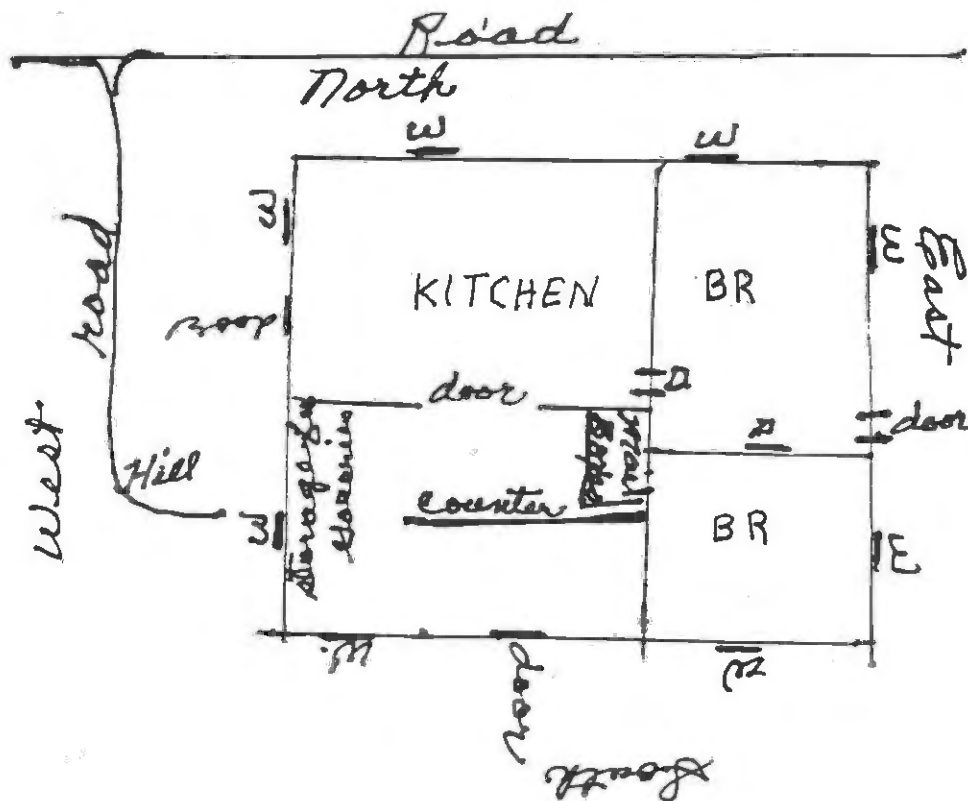
² Rhoades, Esther. [Letter]

to make the trip. Meanwhile Jennie was busy cooking for the family and doing the family laundry by hand on an old wash board. I'm sure with the husband and four boys Esther helped her because Jennie was pregnant with Pearl, who died at thirteen years¹.

The added bedrooms are three steps down from the original rooms.

Esther added, "In the picture the road I drew wasn't nearly that close to the house."²

The north road is NN, the west road is the family driveway. W = window, D= Door. The northwest room was the kitchen, and entered east into the big bedroom. South was the children's bed room. Esther's sketch is shown here.



¹ Barnhart, Louise 1/15/1995

² See Rhoades, Esther. [Letter]

Adobe is visible where the plaster has been broken off in the old "store room," but none showed outside that we could see. In June 1994 we saw a garage on the southwest corner of the house and just east abutting it, a storage shed with what appeared to us to be a storm cellar under it. Esther told us a home electric generator was added here by Louise and Ira in 1951.

Official U.S. Post Office Department Description

The definitive book on Bonny as a post office is *Colorado Post Offices, 1859-1989 A Comprehensive Listing of Post Offices, Stations and Branches*, by William H. Bauer et al. His "Personal Notes" on the Bonny Post Office list:

"BONNY - COUNTY -KIT CARSON

** ESTABLISHED ** ** DISCONTINUED **

JUN 03, 1915 FEB 29, 1924

MAIL TO BURLINGTON

** POSTMASTER (OR CLERK) **

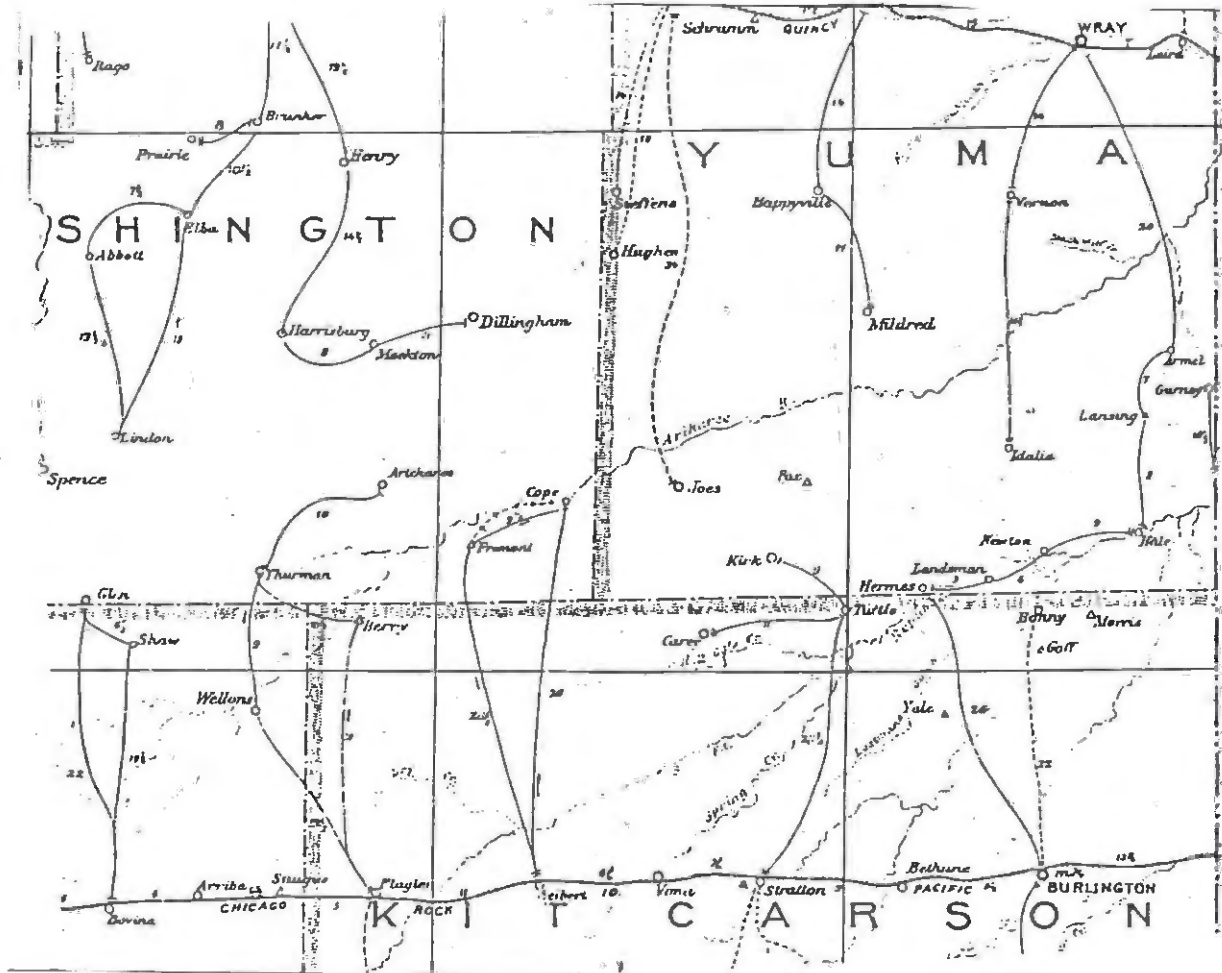
** DATE APPOINTED **

JUN 03, 1915 BONNY, ISAAC [1865]

JAN 06, 1920 BARNHART, CHARLIE F. CLOS FEB 9, 1924"

This "Post Route Map" from 1916 recognizes Bonny as a community already. Note the position of the Morris Post Office, its predecessor, as east of Bonny. The "Winfrey Homesteads Map" in chapter six shows it west of Bonny. A railroad "Whistle Stop" map on page 75 of *The History of Kit Carson...* shows it south east from Bonny.

Post Route Map of the State of Colorado
Showing Post Offices in Operation in 1916



According to Mr. Bauer, "The order to close was issued on February 9, 1924, to be effective February 29, 1924, with the mail (then to go) to Burlington. I would consider the 29th to be the final day of operation although it could have been shut down prior to that. The closing dates given by the Post Office Department must be considered to be approximate."

His appointment as postmaster at Bonny gives his name as Charlie F. Barnhart. Everyone, including his family, usually referred to him in their writing as Charlie Barnhart. Mr. Bauer used official post office records so Charlie F. was used by him then as his name. James Franklin was his father's name.

This source says of Charlie: "Charlie and Jennie Barnhart moved to a farm near Burlington in a covered wagon in 1918 and lived 1½ miles west of Bonny. After living there a year they bought the Bonny store and Post Office from Ike Bonny, Sr., and moved there in 1920.

When the post office closed on February 29, 1924, people put up mail boxes and the mail was carried from Burlington¹."

"The dates of establishment, discontinuance, and re-establishment listed are dates recorded by the post office department. They should not be considered as absolute. It took time to provide supplies to a new post office and most probably operation did not begin until days, weeks, or even months after the official date. An individual, having applied for a post office, and believing its granting to be a mere formality, could have made arrangements for stamps and the dispatch of mail.

Dates of discontinuance may be even more uncertain. A post office could cease operating with the death or departure of the postmaster and it may have been much later..."²

On October 22, 1994, Mr. Bauer responded to a question by the editors about the pay Ike and Charlie might have received. His answer reveals his expertise again.

Dear Andy:

"Postmaster compensation is not easy to find, particularly in the 20th Century. In the latter part of the 19th Century, compensation was published in the *Register of Officers and Agents, Civil, Military, and Naval in the Service of the United States on the Thirtieth of September*. This was a bi-annual publication of the Federal Government, but I am not sure how long this continued, nor where you might find the "Registers" for the appropriate years.

As I was typing the above, I suddenly remembered that for a time, for the classified offices (first, second, and third), postmaster salaries were also published in the Post Office

¹ Bauer 1990. p. 121 & Bauer. Personal notes. p. 1

² Bauer 1990. p. 3 & [Letter] 7/3/1994

Department's annual listings. Bonny does not appear in any of the salary lists, which means it was a fourth class office.

Compensation for the postmasters at 4th class offices was largely, if not exclusively, dependent upon their sales - what they took in they kept. That procedure changed, I believe, in the thirties or forties.

My suspicion is that The Bonny postmaster probably earned less than \$100 per year."

Best regards, William H. Bauer

There is also a 1971 title by this author, *Colorado Postal History*, which includes the Bonny data. Velma donated a postcard canceled from Bonny on Christmas Day in 1918 to him.

The Bonnys at Bonny, Colorado

Little is known about the day to day life of the Bonnys while they ran the post office and store, but the Barnharts did record interesting details about their residence there. Probably the procedures changed very little with the new postmaster, Charlie Barnhart. We do know from census data that Ike [1866] was in the Bonny area before His uncle and Laura moved there. Extractions from the 1910 Census¹ for Bonny, Colorado follow.

The census form used for the census in 1910 had the following headings:

LOCATION: Street, avenue, road, etc.; House number (in cities or towns); Item 1, Number of dwelling house in order of visitation; Item 2, Number of family in order of visitation.

NAME: Item 3, of each person whose place of abode on April 15, 1910, was in this family; (Include every person living on April 15, 1910. Omit children born since April 15, 1910).

RELATION: Item 4, Relationship of this person to the head of the family.

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Included Sex, Color or race, Age at last birthday, Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced, Number of years of present marriage, Mother of how many children - born and living.

NATIVITY: Place of birth of each person enumerated, Include Place of birth of this Person, Place of birth of Father... and Mother of this person.

CITIZENSHIP: Year of immigration to the United States, Whether naturalized or alien, Whether able to speak English: or, if not, give language spoken.

OCCUPATION: Trade or profession of, or particular kind of work done by this person, as spinner, salesman, laborer, etc., General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which this person works, as cotton mill, dry goods, store, farm, etc.,

¹ Bonny Census 1910..Page 156, Colo. Census. The form explanation is from: *Twenty Censuses, Population and Housing...* pp. 40-49

Whether an employer, employee, or working on own account. If an employee, Whether out of work on April 15, 1910, Number of weeks out of work during year 1909.

EDUCATION: Whether able to read, to write, Attended school any time since September 1, 1909.

OWNERSHIP OF HOME: Owned or rented, Owned free or mortgaged, Farm or house, Number of farm schedule, Whether a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy, Whether blind (both eyes), Whether deaf and dumb.

The 13th CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910¹ Tells us that:... the "26th house visited, (which was also the 26th family was) - Bonny, Isaac [1886], Head of household, Male, White, 24 years old, Married, for 2 years. Born in Kansas, Father born in Iowa, Mother, Iowa. Not immigrant. Speaks English. Trade, farmer. Industry, General farm, (on own account). Able to read and write, Did not attend school last year. Owned home, Free, farm schedule 24. Not a survivor or handicapped."

His wife, Floa² was "Floy, Wife, Female, White, 17 years, & One child, (born) Kansas, Dad Iowa as was Mom, Speaks English, None (for trade), Industry blank, Reads and writes English."

Their only child then was "Pearl, Daughter, Female, White, 2 years old, Single, (from) Kansas, Read and Write yes." (At two years old? She must have been very bright.)

Also from this same enumerator was William Broadsword and his son George. The Broadsword school is where the mail was transferred to the Bonny Postmaster each trip from Burlington. The Postmaster was the 29th family visited. Perhaps it was Mr. Morris from the Morris Post Office.

The 1920 census³ data for this family was seen at the family history library of the LDS Church. They were then in Sandpoint, Idaho. The source was "Bonner County, Idaho - Volume 5 - ed 218 - sheet 12 - Line 27.

Isaac [1886] was then age 33, Floa (Her correct name was used this time) was 26, Pearl was 10, Casey was born in Kansas as were his parents and Pearl. He was 8 years of age. Mildred was 6, and Lyle 2½. He and Mildred were born in Colorado. Isaac [1865] was missing in this census as in 1910.

The L.D.S. soundex cod for the phonetics of Bonny is B500. Other spellings noticed with this code (sound) were: Boney, Bonney, Bohney, Bohne, and Bunney.

¹ 13th "CENSUS... 1910... Colorado...DISTRICT NO. 90 COUNTY Kit Carson... DIST....2A, PRECINCT 3... ENUMERATED 19DAY OF April, 1910. Geo. R. Machod (sp?) ENUMERATOR".

² Her correct name

³ 1920 Census, Soundex microfilm, B500, Bonner County, Idaho, Vol. 5, ED# 218, sheet 12, line 27

Mail from Bonny

Velma is in possession of several postcards which were mailed from the Bonny Post Office and have that cancellation. Except for Mr. Engert's donation, Isaac [1865] is apparently the author of all of them. Each card and its cancellation are described. Spelling, penmanship styles and punctuation are left as nearly as possible as they were done.

Card 1 - Dated in ink, upper left, "1/31/16", then rubber stamped in red JAN 31 1916 with a one 1 cent stamp, green, Washington in oval. Formally canceled BONNY/ JAN/ 31/ A.M./ 1916/ COLO. in the usual circle:

Addressed to "Lewis Bonny/ Woodston Po/ Rooks Co./ Kansas (the / means end of that line as written on the card)

Dear Lewis let you know I and Aunt Laura is well also grandma. How is your sisters and is Willie (William Van Dyke, Maud and Laura's brother) going to school Walter (Byfield, eds) is going every Day

Well what is your Pa doing. These nice days

I made 588 miles this month already and got to go to Burlington again tomorrow. this is Sunday night. Write soon Uncle Ike & aunt Laura" Done by Ike in black ink.

On picture card with Holly, a lady in white fur, and "Merry Christmas" in gold lettering. Made by "Whitney Mode,
Worchester Mass"

One tall M and one tall W used for each pair of words.

Card 2 - undated by Ike, canceled BONNY/ OCT 6/ A.M./ 1917/ COLO./ with a one 1 cent stamp, green, George Washington

Addressed to "Lewis Bonny/ Woodston/ Rooks Co./ Kansas/
"Hello Lewis

all ar(sic) well and Busy We buried Jake Broadsword* yesterday and we hat a Big Fair this year and we will go today But I will Shock Fodder this Fore noon Uncle Ike" Done by Ike in brown ink which matched the printing on the card.

On postcard with picture in which woman labeled FRIEND WIFE says AM I NOT RIGHT GEORGE'? woman labeled MOTHER IN LAW says AM I NOT RIGHT GEORGE'? Man in middle has flag stating I'M NEUTRAL He is running away. Card labeled No. 2178 10 designs "Neutral" Comic.

A letter from Lela Bonny, dated 9/22/1994, states, "Jacob Broadsword was my grandfather, Born May 22, 1849 in Ohio, and died October 4, 1917 in Burlington before I was born."

Card 3 - The editors learned of this card from Steve Chaplin, who saw it because of Lorraine Vair, who gave a copy to Estaleene "Estie" Carter of Old Town Museum, Burlington. Ike [1822] was Lorraine's great uncle. Lorraine, Estie and Patricia Schnider, Bertha Camp's daughter have copies. - undated by sender, canceled, BONNY/ JUN 10/ A.M./ 1918/ COLO./ in the circle. One pre-printed 1 cent stamp, and partially covering it, a licked 1 cent stamp. It is addressed to "Bertha Camp/ School/

Phillips Co./ Kansas/ Weather is fine and everything Looks nice
The cut worms is getting lots of corn How ar all of and How is
your garden and Will say grandma is well and Uncle Billie is with
us your Uncle Ike B." On the verso is a photo of the store and
post office from some distance viewed from the west side. The
photo is pasted on the message side of an official post office
pre-stamped penny post card.

Billie Van Dyke was Edward, Laura and Maud's brother. He
also lived in the Bonny area until he moved to the mountains near
Pikes Peak.

Card 4 - undated by sender, canceled BONNY/ DEC 25/ A.M./
1918/ COLO./ in the usual circle. One 2 cent stamp, red,
Washington in oval.

Addressed to "Anna Camp/ Wallace/ Wallace Co./ Kansas/

Dear sister
and all mother
is very low
& weak.

Roads Bad

Isaac Bonny" Done in faint pencil by Ike [1865].

On a nice commercial postcard with a tinted photo of a
stream with overhanging branches which is titled, "A quiet view
near Bonny." The word Bonny is on an orange pennant shape.
Obviously a very nice card commissioned in number by Isaac for
his family use. It was probably sold also in their store. Note
the Christmas cancellation date. Velma has several of these.

*(Anna "Annie" Bonny Camp was Velma's aunt and Isaac's
[1865] sister. Goldie Camp Fringer is Anna's daughter and
Velma's cousin)

Card 5 - undated by sender, canceled BONNY/ FEB 7/ A M
(No periods this time)/ 1919/ COLO./ in the circle with Two 1
cent stamps, green, Washington.

Addressed to "Lewis Bonny/ Woodston/ Rooks Co./ Kansas/

Helo (sic) Lewis I got the letter all ar well out here. Velda
was ailing the last Few days. but ar better today we give her
warm medicene(sic) I was to town yesterday Ike [1886, cousin]
went along he will have a sale 28 and go to Idaho¹. Weather
nice and Vernon has only 1 Prune left and a worm in it"

(unsigned) Is apparently in light pencil and handwritten by Isaac
[1865].

Lela* wrote that they left Burlington by train on March 13,
1919 and arrived the 14th, "...rented a two room apartment and
each took a turn having the bad flu after they got there. Casey
was about eight when they left there."

On a picture postcard with a photo of three white dogs on
black background. Caption "Would dearly love to see you."
COPYRIGHT 1911 BY J. G. Steele also in white.

¹ See Bonny, Lela. [Letter] 9/22/1994

Card 6 was copied for us from the collection of Erwin H. Engert, who is a friend of Mr. Bauer. Mr. Engert is a Lakewood collector of Colorado post office cancellations. He sent us a photocopy of this postal card canceled at Bonny, Colorado.

It is undated by sender, canceled BONNY/ AUG 1/ A.M./ 1919/ COLO./ Addressed to "Mrs. Roy Jenkins/ 1113 H St./ Lincoln, Nebr./

Dear Lady - Arrived here OK. The nights are fine. So nice & cool. Was down town yesterday am rather lonesome here today. Rode around the yard on a horse the other day. My regards to you & all - Eva"

On a picture card which showed the Burlington High School, as it appeared in 1919. There is a newer school in 1994 near the interstate highway. It is card number RS-9908. No company name. Charlie may have sold the card to Eva, or perhaps she bought it in Burlington and mailed it at Bonny.

Goldie Camp Fringer Visits Bonny

The first interview with Goldie Camp, Velma's cousin, was done in the Long Meadows Apartments at 16th Street and 23rd Avenue in Greeley, Colorado. The date was January the 15th, 1990. Velma Bonny Jacobs and Andy Gibbons asked for her memories of visiting the Bonny Post Office and Store. Goldie and her second husband Merle met with us in their condo. Velma lived in the same building. Ike Bonny [1865] was uncle to both Goldie and Velma.

Goldie said she hated to talk with "that thing", (our tape recorder). Velma asked her to just pretend it was not even there. Where possible she will be quoted exactly to preserve her delightful flavor and her exact answers. Apparently she is the only living Bonny who has any dependable memory of Isaac's [1865] family at the post office. The Barnharts who remember are more numerous.

Goldie: "Ike started that post office. He got one started."

Andy: "Do you know what year that was?"

Goldie: "Oh let's see. When mom and I went up there to see grandma it was the first year I was married, in 1915."

Velma asked if Grandma Bonny was up there at the post office at that time?

Goldie: "Yes, She was living with Uncle Isaac and they run the post office in their sod house and it was about 15 miles out of Burlington. He came and got us with his car and we stayed two or three days. Grandma Maggie was so bad, but she didn't pass away for several years after that. (She died in 1919 ed) We stayed three or four days."

Andy asked who was living there at that time because the census of 1910 showed Floa and Cousin Isaac [1886] were there then.

Goldie: "Floy, yes we used to run around town when we was kids."

Velma: "Who is Floy?"

Goldie: "She was a Snow. She married cousin Isaac [1886], Uncle Isaac's [1865] son. He was born in Kansas. Cousin Isaac [1886] lived with us and worked for us for quite awhile. We knew him all the time we was growing up cause we only lived a mile apart. His father was Isaac [1865] too, father Isaac and cousin Isaac. Floa's been dead for years."

"I don't know what became of any of her family only that they all did sorta one then the other, they kinda got up into Idaho. They was working in the timber, the men was."

Velma: "Did you say Uncle Ike lived in a dugout?"

Goldie: "A sod house, and it had four rooms, two bedrooms and a big kitchen and this hutch was to be the extra room, their store, post office and store. He just kept the one wall shelf full of canned stuff and emergencies and that's where he took the mail in. It had a counter where he put up the mail and got what came into the his post office to send out."

Velma: "Was that right by the Bonny Dam?"

Goldie: "I just don't know. The dam was east of there. I never did see the dam. I don't know how far it was from the dam, but it couldn't be too far."

Andy explained that the dam wasn't dedicated until around 1946.

Goldie: "Maybe it (the dam) wasn't there yet. I never was out there but that one time. They sent word that they didn't think Grandma (Maggie) could live. Mom wanted to go. They wasn't no one to go with her. It was the first year I was married."

Velma: "Aunt Annie was older than Papa?"

Goldie: "Yes. There was Isaac [1865] and Jacob and then Aunt Maggie, and then the little one that was killed."

Velma: "It was a Joseph and a John, two young boys."

Goldie: "I didn't know but one young boy. Maybe you're right, maybe that was John. Their youngest one got killed, kicked with a horse. He was riding on the cultivator. He was cultivating corn. They had the seat up there and he was settin' on the seat and the horse got scared of a rabbit and kicked him and he passed away. I remember Mom telling us those things as little kids. Course I took in every word of it."

Velma: "After our mother died Uncle Ike [1865] and Aunt Laura took four of us."

Goldie: "You went about three different places."

Velma: "My older sister Mid, we twins, and the little baby was Vernon. When they left Bonny they went to Idaho working in Timber. Tell us all about Bonny that you remember and the people around there."

Goldie and Velma reminisced about Velma's childhood days at this point. These stories are found above as memories of the Ash Rock days.

Velma: "We're doing a little thing on Bonny and we wanted to know everything you could remember. How big of a building was the post office?"

Goldie: "Very Small, a sod house."

Andy: "What kind of a roof did they have? Was it a sloping roof with sod?"

Goldie: "Yah, I think that's the way they built, I think they had tar paper, and sod piled on it. I don't know for sure about the roof. They just had the front door to go in and there was the kitchen. They ate there and they cooked there, and this next room was the post office and they had a counter there and he had some kind of shelves built where he stuck their mail. I stood there and watched him. I'd never been inside anything like that. Of course I was 18 years old. I was interested in all of that."

Velma: "There weren't too many of those things around in those days then?"

Goldie: "And then you know that night. Ernie Byfield, Annie and Ernie was separated, and Annie and I was sleeping on the floor because of the lack of room, and somebody kept hollering and pounded on the door. It was Ernie Byfield and his two brothers. Aunt Laura got to that door, and she held them off from comin' in. I never was so scared. She wouldn't let 'em in so finally they left. You went down a hill and there was a draw there, and they was shooting guns, whatever they had. Oh, we was just scared to death. Poor Annie, she just cried so, and she was expecting a baby, and her and I was layin' on a shuck tick for a bed in what would be their living room. See the store was over in this corner, here's the kitchen, and here would be the living room and then the bedroom. It was just square."

Velma: "Did they have a lot of customers?"

Goldie: "Well, nobody while we was there. I can't recall that anybody came after their mail, but there was quite a few that would have mail. I imagine someone did but probably Annie and I was in the living room if it was business."

Velma: "You know Uncle Ike and his son, cousin Ike, and Floa were there."

Andy: "We saw the 1910 census. That would be five years before this. But it listed Isaac [1886] and Floy and a child."

Goldie: "That would be cousin Isaac. He married Floa Snow."

Andy: "They had a daughter there in Bonny in 1910."

Goldie: "I just know that they was expecting a baby, and I think they had one running around and we went over to see them and just stayed a little while cause Uncle Isaac [1865] was going to take us back to Burlington to catch the train."

Andy: "Then the post office hadn't started yet. It started in 1915."

Goldie: "I got a book."

Velma: "You have, about that part of the country?"

Goldie: "It's in there (she meant Bonny)."

Velma: "Is it that Centennial book a few years back? Who told you about it."

Goldie: "I got it for I think five dollars. Where that book is I do not remember. It seemed to me like I might have

left that with Mama or somebody. Near everyone in the family borrowed it. But now today I have some unpacked boxes but I never saw that. I never saw it for years so someone else got it. I don't know who would have it."

Velma: "How may years ago did you get that book? Was it an old one, or quite recent?"

Goldie: "It was after Uncle Isaac left there. They moved away from there and the Dam went in. They had to sell their place cause the dam covered it. Yeah, I know that cause we kept in contact with them. They was forced to sell because the government was putting this big dam, Bonny Dam. He had to sell because he'd be under the water so that's when they had to sell out, and they went to Washington."

Velma: "They went to Idaho."

Goldie: "One or two of them worked out in the woods in Idaho, Chopped down trees."

Andy: "Do you remember the title of this book?"

Goldie: "It was heavy backed, just like a dictionary. It was about that (she indicated approximately two inches) thick."

Andy: "What was in it, besides Bonny? Was it the whole country or just Colorado?"

Goldie: "Oh it the starting you know how the country was up there, then the post office came in. Isaac's name was in it. That why I was so interested in it. I don't remember who sent it to me, I wrote my name in, I don't remember how I got it, either three or five dollars. I don't know where it drifted to. It might have been those folks over there."

Velma: "Goldie: if you ever think who has that book we'd like to just look at it."

Goldie: "Bill Bonny and his wife borrowed it when they lived by us on Osage."

Velma: "My brother Bill?"

Goldie: "They lived close to us in Denver then."

Velma: "Bill lived on Washington Street, and then later in North Glen. When they moved to Greeley they had college students living with them in their big house. Next he went to the mountains and built his cabin. Bill died a few years back."

Goldie: "When you get to be 93 like I am, you forget."

Velma: "Brother Bill had a heart attack at his cabin, and died before they could get medics up there. When he and Louis went to see Papa they had a car accident and had to cut off his leg. It was mangled. Dad was in California."

Goldie: "You have eyebrows just like Papa. Rachel does too."

Goldie: "I'd give anything to have that book back. It was a thick book like a dictionary, about Kansas. Althea borrowed that book. I'm pretty sure now."

Velma: "I'm gonna call her on the phone."

Goldie: "I was 93 last week. I had both eyes operated for cataracts. All I have is my teeth and my finger nails."

Velma: "Bonnys have good teeth."

Goldie: "I broke one tooth on petrified candy. How many years have we been married?" (She looked at her husband.) He told her it had been 53 years, on January 2nd, 1937."

Goldie: "I had four children when I married him. My first husband passed away. Rachel is the youngest one. I remember the Bonny reunion."

Velma: "You wore a pink pretty outfit, I remember. Velda and I were hostesses that year."

A Second Interview With Goldie

In April of 1993 the authors visited with Goldie Camp Fringer, for a second interview, at the Bonnell, Good Samaritan Center, a senior health care center at 708 22 Street in Greeley. She was 96 at the time. As in the first interview above, she described a visit by herself and her parents to the Bonny family at Bonny, Colorado. In spite of her age, and a short attention span, she had good recall of many early experiences. We showed her a picture of another old post office in Colorado at Buffalo Creek to see she if felt it was similar in layout and appearance.

The second account of the shooting is very different from the 1990 version and probably less accurate. This time she gives two accounts of how she got to the post office.

Goldie: "We heard men arrive on horseback, and some shooting. Isaac went out and talked to them and they rode off. I was there for a few days. Things was pretty bad at that time. I don't know if the shots was over the mail or the post office or what. I was scared to pieces."

We asked her if she was very young then.

Goldie: "Oh yes, and I wanted to get out of there. It was wild."

We asked if she remembered what the building looked like at all.

Goldie: "Well, I remember what it looked like on the inside. Well, we had a room to sleep in and I can't say. If I had to say, it only looked like two. Might have been two bedrooms. There was the store, and a place to cook and eat and a little place off the kitchen where they'd go and wait on people that came in. Well, I don't know how they slept. I'm sure they had rooms to put their clothes in. When company came it seems like they bunked us out where the store was in some kind of bed they made up extra."

We asked what the building was like, and whether it was sod or built of wood.

"It wasn't much of building. It wasn't very big. It was small. It had the store in there and they lived in there. I was about 18 I guess or 17 maybe. It was before I got married.

I drove my folks there in the car. They had mail out there, way out north, and I don't know how come I was with them. They took us in and we stayed all night and then went back home to Kansas."

It seems clear that she, Goldie, rode to Bonny with the mail buggy from Burlington, but also she described driving her parents in a car.

"That was Bonny, Colorado, that's where they lived. But you see, I wasn't very old. But I went out when they had the post office, out from Burlington with the mail. I can't think who it was carrying the mail. But I went out with them to see the family. I don't have a thing, pictures, not a thing. But there was some trouble. Whoever we were with that run that post office got us out but nobody got hurt. I left in a car. They was shooting guns and I was scared to death. It was too wild for us.

I remember that much. I know that we was scared. Couldn't wait for morning to come and get out of there. I went with who ever delivered the mail. I wasn't as interested then as I was when I got older. We was scared."

We told her how the mail came out from Burlington, and Isaac [1865] rode his horse down to the Broadsword School to get the things for Bonny.

Goldie: "It sounds kind of logical. It was a little store in the house. I drove one of the teams, I had driven all my life, I guess I was 17. There was trouble. It was a country road. I was to take Mom and Dad. Dad wouldn't drive on a trip like that. And I was a full time bus driver and they got me to go with them. I don't think they had the top put on the car yet. But they drove it open so much. I think it was an old two seated Ford. I remember we had to let down a fence gate. Dad had to stop and drive over. It was a trail road, not a graded road. I was sure glad when we got to leave. It was kind of shaky."

The first interview is clearly the most accurate, but both give the flavor of travel and visiting in Colorado rural areas in the very early 1900's. Accounts by a living adult who remembers being there are limited. We feel fortunate that some Barnharts remain and that they kept good family histories.

Bill Bonny and Goldie Fringer

Louise Smith Barnhart loaned us her copy of *Action on the Plains*, from the Yuma Museum. It was a major discovery for us and opened many new sources. Velma's brother Bill, and Goldie wrote about Bonny, Colorado for this 1971 publication. The account is found on pages 123 to 125. It has information on the Barnharts also. Steve Chaplin of the museum gave permission for its use.

"The following information was gained from Mrs. C.M. "Goldie" Fringer and William "Bill" Bonny, both living in Denver. Isaac Bonny [1865] was a brother of Mrs. Fringer's mother, Aunt Annie Camp.

"Mr. Isaac Bonny [1865] (Bill's Uncle Ike) homesteaded in Rooks County, Kansas, when his family moved from Sioux City, Iowa. Laura Van Dyke, who later married Mr. Bonny, moved to Kansas about the same time.

**FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY
35 NORTH WEST TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150**

"Mr. Bonny owned a blacksmith shop near School, Kansas. He did all of the neighborhood blacksmith work. Mr. Fringer told of times when Mr. Bonny was gone, his younger daughter, Minnie, and Mrs. Fringer would light up the forge, pump the bellows, cook eggs and those sort of things children will do.

"Mrs. Fringer's family moved to old Fort Wallace, Kansas, and she didn't see the Ike Bonnys for some time. Years later, Mrs. Fringer's mother and Goldie herself visited them at Bonny, Colorado, when her grandmother Bonny was very ill and living at the Bonny home. Her grandmother passed away at their home, later, when she was past ninety-eight years of age and was buried in the Ash Rock Cemetery, Rooks County, Kansas.

"Mr. and Mrs. Ike [1865] Bonny, Sr., had moved about twenty-two miles north of Burlington in Kit Carson County, near the Yuma County line, where they had their Bonny post office and general store in about 1912¹. They constructed the small four-room house of adobe blocks and had the post office in what was the living room. It had the well-known early 1900 inconveniences, with kerosene lamps, coal burning stoves and no indoor plumbing. The roads were rough, narrow and rather crooked. The area was quite lonely and isolated. Mrs. Fringer remembered sleeping on a feather tick on the floor with Annie and her two children when she visited the Ike Bonny's when she was eighteen years of age.

"The store room had shelves along the walls for clothing and gloves, a home-made case for candies and tobacco, shelves for canned goods, barrels for beans, sugar and crackers, and potatoes in burlap bags. Bill Bonny told that he knew where his Uncle Ike kept the cigarettes, as he swiped some and smoked once in awhile. There wasn't any liquor sold. Mr. Bonny hauled the groceries to the store from Burlington in his Model T Ford.

"The Bonnys had three children, Annie, Ike Jr., and Minnie. Ike [1886], Jr., homesteaded a few miles from Bonny, Colorado. He married Floa Snow. Annie married Ernie Byfield. Minnie married Elmer Inman.

"Bill Bonny's mother passed away in 1918 and the Ike Bonnys, Sr., took Bill's three young sisters, Velda and Velma who were twins, Mildred, and brother, Vernon, to care for. Later, they adopted Vernon. Bill and his older brother, Lewis (sic Louis), stayed with their father, Jacob (Jake) Bonny, on the farm in Kansas.

"Bill Bonny's Aunt Luella, who was his mother's sister, married Leander Rogers, and they lived near Bonny. Their daughter, Elsie, married Hurley Winfrey. It is thought that Elsie taught school near Bonny. Charles Rogers, their son, lives in Missouri.

"Bill Bonny remembered that his Aunt Laura Bonny always milked the cows. One day when his Uncle Ike was "minding store" while Aunt Laura was away, rather than milk the cows, he opened canned milk and fed the calves.

¹ Our best clue as to when Isaac [1865] left Ash Rock.

"Isaac, [1865] and Laura Bonny sold the store to Charlie F. Barnhart in 1920 and moved to Samuels, Idaho, north of Sandpoint, where their son, Ike, Jr., was living.

"When Bonny Dam was dedicated on June 1, 1952, Bill Bonny was unable to attend because he was recovering from an amputation of his leg¹. At this time (about 1970, eds) Bill Bonny is parts manager at Clinton Aviation, Arapahoe County Airport. Mrs. Bill Bonny is Supervisor of Preparation Department at Moores Mortuary in Denver. Mrs. Fringer lives in Denver and is seventy-three years of age.

"The Dile Henderson's and daughters, Lela and Bessie, close neighbors at Bonny, and Loren Dickson from the Vernon area are old friends of Bill Bonny's."

Four items were cited:

The State Historical Society of Colorado, Denver, Colorado

Bonny - 1924 Post office in Kit Carson County, 21 1/2 miles north of Burlington, the county seat, railroad and banking point. Farming and stock raising are the principal industries. Population of neighborhood, 110. Altitude, 4,160 feet. Barnhart Chas. F., Postmaster.

National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Bonny - Kit Carson County, Colorado, Established on June 3, 1915, Discontinued on February 29, 1924 (mail to Burlington), Isaac Bonny, Postmaster appointed June 3, 1915. Charles F. Barnhart, Postmaster appointed January 6, 1920.

The Public Library, City and County of Denver, Denver, Colorado

"Isaac Bonny, general merchandise, postmaster" is listed as the only business in the town. Bonny is listed for the first time in 1914 and for the last time in 1924.

St. Francis Herald (fifty years ago)

St. Francis, Kansas, June 12, 1919. Marriage license issued to C.E. Palmer, Bonny, Colorado, and Mary L. Nye, Attalia, Washington²."

Bill Bonny Visits Bonny Dam

In September the editors visited the Department of the Interior Office in McCook, Nebraska. Dennis Allacher gave us access to the many scrapbooks and histories of the dam. We were surprised to find this letter from Velma's brother, Bill, about Bonny Dam. His typed copy is duplicated as nearly as possible.

¹ A letter by Bill about visiting the dam after the dedication follows.

² *Action on the Prairie*. pp. 123-125

FLOWERS

By

"Clair Louise"

Phone 906

907 Sixteenth Street

Greeley, Colorado

6/16/1958

Colorado Fish and Game Dept.
Burlington, Colorado.

Dear Sir:

Enjoyed making the acquaintance with you the other day while we were taking our first look at Bonny Reservoir.

I am enclosing some old cards and a photo. You will notice the postmark on the cards are from Bonny, Colo.

As near as I can remember, Uncle Isaac Bonny came to Rooks County, Kansas with his parents from Sioux City, Iowa, where they homesteaded and lived until he and his family moved to their new home North of Burlington where he started the general store and Post Office known as BONNY COLORADO in approximately 1914 or 1915. In selling the business in 1919 or 1920 to some people by the name of Barnhart (operating under the same name for some time) he moved to Samuels, Idaho about 25 miles from the Canada line and in the panhandle of Idaho, where he lived and made his home until his death in about 1939 or 1940, (this is a guess) as I never learned the facts until later. I was then living in Clayton, N.M. where we owned and operated Bonny's Flowers and Greenhouse.

My brother (Louis, eds.) owned and operated Bonny's Sporting Goods in Longmont, Colorado, selling same in 1948 and is still operating at same location as Longmont Sporting Goods.

Uncle Ike back in Kansas was known as the community grain thrasher. Hed (sic) a steam operated thrashing machine vivid in my memory but remember riding from one location to another with thrashing crew. He at one time was with some police service in the Washington and Oregon Trail country. (I know very little about this.)

We enjoyed every minute of our trip to Bonny Reservoir and I did catch a fish, although I fished very little.

We are managing a florist business here in Greeley, really looking for a location that we can afford, as you remember I am handicapped with a artificial limb and jobs don't come easy, so I have to make my own the best I can.

Come see us or write; to 2432 15th Avenue Court, Greeley¹
William J. Bonny

¹ Bonny, William Jacob. [Letter]

Lela, Lyle and Casey Bonny

Velma made contact with Lyle and Lela Bonny of Prineville, Oregon by phone on September the 15th, 1991. They were the first contributors to this project and have remained strong helpers.

Both of Lyle's sisters, Pearl and Mildred, and his older brother Casey, have died. Lyle's dad was "Cousin Isaac" [1886] and his Mom was Floa who is also dead in 1994. They lived near the Bonny store until they moved to Idaho. Ike and Floa left Colorado just before Lyle's grandpa Ike [1865] and grandma Laura did.

Lela's letters reflect both of these "Ikes", their moves to homestead, and their last move west, the Idaho venture. They exemplify the quotation below used to introduce Lela and Lyle's part of this volume. It vividly illustrates the homesteading movement.

Alexis de Tocqueville's, *Democracy in America* has a paragraph quoted by Oliva that fits Isaac [1865], his son, and all our Bonny homesteaders.

"In the United States a man builds a house in which to spend his old age and he sells it before the roof is on; he plants a garden and lets it just as the trees are coming into bearing; he brings a field into tillage and leaves other men to gather the crops; he embraces a profession and gives it up; he settles in a place, which he soon afterwards leaves to carry his changeable longings elsewhere ... Death at length overtakes him, but it is before he is weary of his bootless chase of that complete felicity which forever escapes him¹."

Mobility, one of the obvious traits in the American national character, was one of the reasons why many came to Ash Rock, and it was also why some moved on to pursue their dreams in other places. Oliva makes a strong point about this plains life, quoting the Tin Man from Oz: "Tell me something about yourself and the country you came from," said the Scarecrow when she (Dorothy) had finished her dinner. So she told him all about Kansas, and how gray everything was there, and how the cyclone had carried her to this queer land of Oz.

The Scarecrow listened carefully, and said, "I cannot understand why you should wish to leave this beautiful country and go back to the dry, gray place you call Kansas."

"That is because you have no brains," answered the girl. "No matter how dreary and gray our homes are, we people of flesh and blood would rather live there than in any other country, be it ever so beautiful. There is no place like home."

The Scarecrow sighed. "Of course I cannot understand it," he said. "If your heads were stuffed with straw, like mine, you would probably all live in the beautiful places, and then Kansas

¹ Tocqueville. in *Ash Rock and...* p.10

would have no people at all. It is fortunate for Kansas that you have brains¹."

Oliva further explained the motivation and the process of homesteading as it would have applied to Isaac's [1865] move to Kansas, then to Bonny, and finally, on to Idaho. Indeed, it describes the people and the settlement of this whole plains area.

"The settlers came primarily to obtain land and to farm, and they obtained title under one or more of the federal land laws. The Preemption Act of 1841 permitted an actual settler to purchase up to 160 acres at a minimum price of \$1.25 after residing on the claim for at least six months. The Homestead Act of 1862 permitted an actual settler, who was a citizen of the United States or had made application for citizenship, to obtain up to 160 acres by paying a filing fee (\$10.00 for those who settled a quarter-section in Ash Rock), building a residence, and living on the land for at least five years (time served by the applicant in United States military service could be counted toward the residency requirement). It was necessary to pay another fee, \$4.00 for 160 acres in Ash Rock, when the Final Receipt was issued to indicate that all terms had been met and the applicant had obtained title to the land (a patent was issued to that effect by the president of the United States). The Timber Culture Act of 1873 permitted a claimant, who was not required to live on the Timber Claim, to acquire up to 160 acres of land by paying a filing fee of \$10.00 and planting and maintaining at least forty acres of trees, reduced to ten acres in 1878, within a period of four years. It was possible for one person to obtain both a homestead and Timber Claim. Both were considered "free land" since there was no other payment except the filing fee and fee for Final Receipt, but the settlers paid with their time and labor to meet the requirements. It was often said of the Homestead Act that the federal government bet you 160 acres of land that you could not live on it for five years and, if you did, you got to keep the land.

"The most important natural resource in Ash Rock has always been the soil. It was the soil that attracted settlers, and it was the soil that sustained the residents²."

Lela's letter told us: "I have a card Floa wrote to her sister. They (Isaac [1886] and Floa) left Burlington by train on March 13, 1919 and arrived in Sandpoint, Idaho on March 14, 1919, rented a two room apartment and each took a turn having the flu after they got there.

"Grandad Ike [1865] came to Idaho after Ike Jr. and Floa. I'm not sure if they came later in 1919 or early 1920. I bet

¹ Oliva. p. 18

² Oliva. p. 3

Isaac Sr. and Laura came in summer or fall of 1919 since the article shows Barnhart was appointed postmaster Jan. 6, 1920. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac [1865] Bonny died in Idaho."¹

Cousin Ike [1886] in Idaho

Mrs. Robert McManama of Salt Lake City sent your editors a wealth of pictures and genealogy including an interesting picture of Ike (called Jr. here) taken May 28, in 1928. Seen with him are Laura, his mother, Floa, his wife, Lyle, his brother, and Mildred his sister. Vernon, Velma's brother, adopted by Isaac [1865] and Laura is also seen. Isaac and Laura sent the photo to William and Lenora McManama with this note on the back: "Isaac Bonny Jr. [1866] who killed the two bears with his Newton Rifle. Took one shot each. Killed the next day ar (sic, or) morning after his birthday. Largest bear, 400 # (pounds) Small 100#."

Lela's husband Lyle is a "mostly retired" pilot, who still flew his own plane occasionally as his health permitted. He was very young while at Bonny.

"Casey used to mention going to the Bonny, Colorado post office and store with his folks, Isaac [1886] and Floa. Great Grandma Maggie Van Dyke who lived at the store with them, would go to the bedroom since she didn't like the noise but Grandpa Isaac [1865] would always have candy for his grandchildren. Lyle remembers Grandpa magically "picking" candy and gum off the bushes for him and his sibilings, and then they would try to find some to pick themselves. One of his favorite memories of grandpa Ike.

"Cousin Ike and Floa lived on a farm 16 miles north of Burlington on the east side of highway 51, now 385. Casey and Lyle were small children.

"Lyle must have visited his grandpa's post office but does not remember it much. Casey remembers but Lyle doesn't, since he was only two, as were Velma and Velda."

Lela had Broadsword cousins who lived north of the Bonny post office and would go visit them. Their names were on the list of names of area owners of property which the Barnharts furnished. Jake Broadsword, who was mentioned by Ike on one of the post cards quoted here was her grandfather.

"Casey and his sister Pearl went to the Broadsword School for three years. He told the story of eating his first peanut butter by trading his sandwich for peanut butter on a cracker from Lela's Broadsword cousins. Ha²."

¹ Bonny, Lela. 9/22/ 1994

² Bonny, Lela. Letter 1991

On September 22, 1994 Lela wrote twelve more pages of detailed responses to myriad questions.

"Dear Velma and Andy

On January fifth Lyle had a bad stroke on his right side, was in the hospital five days, then to rehabilitation in Bend, Oregon for help and recovery. After 26 days he came home still unable to walk without help.

"February 19, he had a heart attack, went to the hospital again until March 9. We moved him to a Nursing Home in Sunnyside, Washington to be closer to his children. Its been a rough year for me. Lyle was not competent when he left, but turned better after three months. He has been wanting to come back to Prineville but his children won't let him come. I have been going to see Lyle every two weeks and he is much better.

"Sounds like you are working hard on your book, If I include material you don't want, just throw it away.

"On the Isaac's, Isaac William Bonny, Sr. [1865] was Casey and Lyle's Grandad Bonny. William Isaac Bonny Jr. [1886] was their Dad. Both were called Ike as nicknames. Grandma Bonny was Floa Elizabeth Snow. Isaac Sr, Grandma Laura his wife, and our Mother Floa, were all buried in the Pack River Cemetery about eight miles Northeast of Sandpoint, Idaho in a rural cemetery. The boys Dad, Ike Jr., is buried in the Sunnyside, Washington cemetery.

"I'm thinking the 1910 abstract you are talking of, is probably Ike Jr. and Floa's place. I know Floa went back to Kansas to her Mom's when Casey was born Nov. 12, 1911. Isaac and Floa were living north of Burlington then. I believe the cement foundation you saw 16 miles North of Burlington was their place. Casey and I stopped there in 1979 and took pictures. He was about eight years old when they left and he could remember how the terrain was. We also found the post office building and Bonny Dam.

"Lyle doesn't seem to remember much about these things and was never back there till the year we had the Bonny reunion in Fort Collins. He never liked to travel like Casey and I did. We would go every four or five years after we found your brother Bill. Casey felt so bad that Lewis (sic-Louis) had just died, and he never got to visit with him. They were close in age.

"Jacob Broadsword was my grandfather born May 22, 1849 in Ohio. He died October 4, 1917 in Burlington, before I was born. Sarah Ann Edwards, his wife, was born October 17, 1871 in Doniphan City, Kansas. She died October 26, 1956 in Eugene, Oregon. My Dad, Alvin Jacob Broadsword was born January 25, 1898. Mom, Lillie Ruth Falk, was born November 20, 1896. Alvin died June 30, 1978 of heart failure and Lillie died August 8, 1974 with an aneurism.

"My Grandparents Jake and Sarah lived across the road from Ike Sr [1865] and Laura south of School Kansas. I can remember my Grandmother Broadsword telling about the Bonny's. I did not know them till we moved to Sandpoint, Idaho in August 1934. I

met Casey in November and started going with him. We married September 12, 1935. Casey cut logs and built our first house in 1937. He had helped his dad build their houses.

"I never was around Grandad Isaac Sr. very much. Grandma Laura was gone and he lived up in the hills. Vernon was out of school then also. I don't believe Grandad Isaac Sr. [1865] ever had the post office at Samuels, Idaho. He never had a store in Idaho either. At least I never heard of it. Grandad Ike Jr. and Floa lived close by the Samuels post office.

"Grandma Floa was such a neat lady. She and Ike Jr separated in 1938 and she lived with us two years, then Casey built her a house close by. We took her to Kansas and Colorado in 1939 to see her brother and sisters whom she hadn't seen since she moved to Idaho. We didn't have much money in those days but she was so pleased we took her. She died at age 53 in 1944, we all miss her so much, a lovely lady.

"Since I don't know much to write about Grandad Ike, Sr., I'll tell you about Ike Jr. He had a log truck for many years in Idaho. He built four houses. Casey helped him, and probably learned how to build, as Casey built about 30 homes over the years. I did some of the painting for him. We built each of our three kids a house.

"After Lyle started flying and moved to Sunnyside, Washington, Ike [1886] retired and moved down there also. He had married again, and spent his retirement in Washington. He loved to hunt and fish, so he and Lyle did lots of that.

"I don't know if you want to hear about all these Broadswords. There were three brothers, Pete, my grandpa Jacob, and Israel. My grandad Jake¹ died before I was born so I never knew him. They all lived in Kansas before they came to Colorado and homesteaded. My Dad Alvin was the only boy in Jake's family. He had three sisters, Mary, Ruth, and Lucy. One sister is 84 and lives in Eugene, Oregon. She remembers the Bonnys. I'll call and see if she has a Broadsword School picture. Jake homesteaded six miles north of Burlington on Highway 385, east side of road. Its gone now and someone else has built there.

"Pete had the place where the Broadsword School was, about 14 miles north of Burlington on the east side. The old barn was partially standing last year (1993). His wife, Lucy, was a school teacher and their three girls Casey's age were the ones he traded sandwiches for peanut butter and crackers. Their names were Mildred, Margaret & Dorothy & a boy, Loyd (Bud). Pete was John, George and Bill's Dad, and also Mary's.

"Then Israel lived on farther northeast, probably about north of the Bonny Post Office. His boys were Jasper, Ted, Earl, Bill, and Frank.

"I'll bet you are getting tired of all this. I have a picture or two I will have made for you and send.

¹ This is the "Jake" mentioned in Ike's post card above.

"Did you contact Carl Kroeger in Burlington. He is Pete Broadsword's grandson, Mary's boy. Mary married a Kroeger. He probably has a picture of the old Broadsword School cause they lived out in that area before he retired and moved to town. He may even answer other questions for you.

"If you need more information let me know. Lyle is the only Bonny left, but doesn't remember a lot of things. Floa used to tell me a lot, then since I was 15 when I came to Idaho from Colorado, I remember how it was there. I'll ask Lyle if he can remember any thing more about Grandad Ike Sr. and send it on, also his Dad.

"Casey told me his folks held his sister Pearl back when he was five and she seven. They walked two miles south to the Broadsword School. They saw this wagon coming and they got down in the ditch and when it got by them, they jumped out and it scared the horses. Well it was their Dad, so Casey got a spanking. Ha! They were on their way to school¹.

"Lela also reminded us that Grandpa Ike would play the fiddle for dances at the school house on Grouse Creek. Israel Broadsword's daughter-in-law who was married to Earl would chord on the piano for these dances we all went to. This fiddle went on to Velma's brother, Bill, at Ike's death.

"I don't have a good picture of Ike and Floa, or of Ike and Laura. I'll see what I can come up with and send them.

"My birthday is July 4, 1919. We were living at my Grandma Sarah Broadsword's place six miles north of Burlington when I was born.

"My Aunt Ruth is the only one of the Broadsword Family left besides Carl Kroeger so what we need to find out, need to find soon. It is 9 P.M. I just talked to my Aunt Ruth. She will look through her pictures for any old ones. She remembers going to Bonny and Grandad Ike Sr. giving her a stick of candy. Also Casey remembered that they Jake and Sarah my grandparents lived across the road in Kansas from Laura and Ike Jr. She said Laura was a midwife for my Dad and two older sisters, Lucy and Mary. Ruth was the only one who had a Dr. Also Laura made her Ruth a long dress at one time.

"I reread some notes. In 1990 when you had the Bonny reunion in fort Collins was the first time Lyle came back to the old Homestead in Colorado. Casey and Midge's first time was 1964, when we found the house where the post office was. Also Casey and I must have made trips about every five years to see cousins on his Mothers side, Bill and his wife Althea, J.C. and Velda, and you Velma, weren't always living there.

"I do not have pictures of graves from Pack River cemetery for Isaac Sr, Laura and Floa but I could get them for you if you like. Virginia Hoffine, Woods, Casey's niece and Pearl's daughter lives real close to the cemetery.

¹ Bonny, Lela. 9/22/1994

"The dots you have on the post office map and Broadsword school look to be about where I remember them. The folks place was about two miles north on the main highway. I think you found it. I remember when Casey and I first went there, they moved when he was a little boy. He said, "I always thought that was such a big hill to go up and down in the gully's." He laughed about that. I'm wondering if that gully, or draw as used to call them, wasn't Sand Creek, right below their house and buildings.

"I read in one of your articles that Mrs. Dile Henderson, his first wife, picked up the mail and took it to Bonny to be sorted. I remember them. Their daughter Neva, boarded with My Grandmother Sarah and went to Burlington to High school.

"We have a Guardianship meeting to go to September 27th for Lyle. The kids want to keep him there and he wants to come here. That will be held in Yakima, Washington, about 20 miles from Sunnyside. Its been a hard thing for me to deal with. He has to be in a wheel chair most of the time, but I will surely help him if he can come here, since he wants to come. He is not incompetent like they say.

"I'm afraid my pages and writing are mixed up, if Lyle can help tell more about the two Ike's, I'll pass it on, or if I can help any other way I will. I think you are doing a great job.

"I can't remember what pictures we sent you. I'll bet Carl (Kroeger) could help on the school picture. I hope I have answered some of your questions and sorry I've been so long.

"Take care, Our Love - Lyle and Lela¹"

Lela Broadsword had married Casey Bonny and they had a family. After his death she married his brother Lyle whose wife had died. These Bonny boys were sons of Isaac Bonny [born 1886] whose father, also was Isaac-[born 1865].

Obituaries for Isaac [1865] Laura

Lela Bonny asked her sister-in-law, Virginia Wood, to send us the obituaries for Ike and Laura. Virginia is a granddaughter of Isaac [1886] and Floy. She still lives in Sandpoint, Idaho in 1995. Laura died 14 years before Ike. Her obituary appeared in the *Pend Oreille Review* on December 24, 1928.

"Grouse Creek Matron Dies."

"Mrs. Laura Bonny, 63, was ill three weeks. Mrs. Laura Bonny, age 63, a resident of Grouse Creek district for the past seven years, died at her home last Wednesday after an illness of about three weeks with heart trouble. She is survived by her husband, Isaac Bonny [1865], and one son Isaac Jr. [1886]. Funeral arrangements have not been made. The body is at the Moon Mortuary. Burial will be in the Pack River Cemetery." (She died Dec. 19, 1928.) Her husband Isaac died October 19, 1944.

¹ Bonny, Lela. 9/22/94

"Pioneer of Grouse Creek Community Dies Friday."

"Isaac Bonny Sr. 78, resident of Grouse Creek since 1918¹, passed away at Community Hospital last Friday following an illness of several months, three weeks of which was at the hospital.

He was a native of Waterloo, Iowa, born March 28, 1865, and had been a farmer all of his life. Mr. Bonny is survived by one son, Isaac Bonny Jr. of Sandpoint and three grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held at the Grouse Creek school house by Reverend Merrill Skaug of the Sandpoint Baptist church Wednesday afternoon and burial was in the Pack River Cemetery²."

"Grouse Creek is a community six miles north and two miles east of Sandpoint where you and Velda started first grade in school. Samuels was only a store and a post office located two miles past the Grouse Creek Road on this main highway north. Both businesses are now closed. Mail and shopping are done in Sandpoint now. I don't know if there was ever a census in Samuels. It was too small. The census would have been in Sandpoint³."

Local Schools

Broadsword School

This school was the mail pick up point for both the Bonny and the Barnhart families and was indicated on Isaac's "application map." It was also a community center, and named after Bonny relatives, the Broadswords. *The History of Kit Carson County* tells us this neighborhood of farms was tied closely to the Bonny story. Area residents were neighbors, and their children attended this school. Isaac's "site location map" showed this school at roads 51 (now 385) and KK as his "mail change" point, 14 miles north from Burlington. (The mail from Burlington was met at Broadsword School by the person who picked up the mail for Bonny. The Burlington driver then went on to Hale Post Office. Hale is the closest town to Bonny Dam and was also the nearest post office to Bonny.)

"The Broadsword School, District 31, was named for one of the early families⁴ who lived in the community. It was in the northwest corner of section 30 on highway 51, now numbered 385. Broadsword was a typical one-room country school located fourteen miles north of Burlington on Highway 51 in the northwest corner

¹ 1919 or early 1920 may be more accurate.

² Velma remembers the Bonny home as in Samuels, Idaho. Grouse Creek must be very near, or perhaps her uncle and aunt moved after she and Velda rejoined their father in Kansas.

³ Bonny, Lela [Letter] 3/24/1995. The census form had Bonner County. (editors)

⁴ Lela Bonny Broadsword's progenitors

of Louis Kroeger's field. Presently, the site is across the highway from the William Kroeger farm where his daughter, Katherine Lundien, and family lived when this was penned¹.

"Originally it was built as a "soddy" in the latter 1800's. A wooden structure replaced it in the early 1900's before 1915. All labor was volunteer for the building as well as the horse barn and the out-house. The out-house had a divider between the boys' and the girls' sides. Controversy arose during the building of the school when one of the volunteers who was working on it thought the rafters were not quite high enough. This controversy came after the rafters were already put up. The volunteer redid them and this resulted in a very pitched roof and high ceilings. According to the School Board records of June 1923, the Board decided that a horse barn was needed for safety of the children. Transportation to school in the early days was by riding horses, walking, or using a buggy or cart. Horses were usually tied to fence posts or turned loose in the schoolyard. Finally a barn was built. In later years, the auto was used for transportation.

"As in other communities, this school was also the social center of the community. This was where community meetings and gatherings were held, box and pie socials, and the literary programs, consisting of debates, skits, etc. At one time this is where Coop meetings were held with Frank and Ida Rankins, and in the days of the early telephones, telephone meetings were held here.

"Clothing for the boys was bib overalls or knickers. Girls always wore dresses and most of them wore high top shoes and leg warmers. Later the boys continued to wear bib overalls or blue jeans and the girls, dresses.

"During the history of this country school, indoor and outdoor games played were unchanged. Outdoor games consisted of Ante Over, Pump Pump Pull Away, Drop the Handkerchief, Baseball, Fox and Geese, and Red Rover. The wooden poles of the swing set broke in 1946-47 and were replaced with very tall steel pipe set in concrete. The person swinging was challenged to see if he could go as high as the "bars" (top of the swing set). Believe me this was "fun"! Indoor games consisted of Hide the Thimble, Hangman, Spell Downs, and Geography Matches

"This school had no well for water, ever. Consequently, the water needed to be carried in every day. Either it was up to the teacher to bring it in or up to the students to carry it in a bucket on a stick between them. (Three places were used to obtain water: the Frank Moose place, which was across the road west; Pete Broadsword farm which was 3/4 of a mile north; and the Louis Kroeger farm, which was 1/2 mile southeast of the school. Many times the water from the well at the Moose place was no good, so the students had to choose somewhere else to go. After

¹ *Standard Atlas of Kit...* p. 48

1950, the water was always carried from the William Kroeger farm (the former Moose Place). This was after they had drilled a new well and had good water.) Water was put in a crock from which to dip or use a spigot for drinking. Each student was required to bring his or her own drinking cup and hand towel. If warm water was needed, it was heated on the pot belly stove that stood in the center of the room. Lots of cold air came into the room due to the fact that there were large windows directly opposite each other, and there were no storm windows.

"Discipline was done in a variety of ways, such as standing on one foot on the stage, use of a razor strap or belt on the posterior region, or staying in at recess. One teacher was known for throwing an eraser in front of a student who was daydreaming and not studying. It was reported that one student was sent to get a switch warned that and if he didn't come back with it he would not need to return to school. The student didn't come back, but the school board eventually let him return to the house of learning.

"Christmas programs were always a traditional part of the school, where parts were learned, recited, and three act plays were presented. Names were drawn and gifts exchanged. Treats were given to all the students and their families. Of course, Santa made an appearance.

"The area where the school was located was called "Bottle Ridge." Indians fought on the 'Ridge' and school board members had disagreements here also. It was here that one member was arrested for disturbing the peace. One member wanted to have dances in the school and the other two didn't. Basically, he wanted to stir up trouble. After the arrest when they went to court, the judge ended the dispute by throwing out the case. If adult neighbors had battles or disputes they would usually end up at the school airing their problems.

"Academically things were somewhat different from what they are today. In the early days, the parents were responsible for their children's books. When the year's workbooks were finished for the grade we were in, the students were advanced to the next grade level. Usually this occurred about March. Children usually started school at age six and were given a primer to learn to read. In 1942, the famous reading series was *Dick and Jane*. Penmanship was a part of the daily routine.

"During the last four years of the school's existence, the most famous place to go to learn anything from memory was behind the piano, which was set at an angle in the back of the room. This was also the place where one child was sent to go to the rest room, using a tin can, which normally caught the drip from the water crock, on the rainy day the drought broke, 1956. The rest of the students were asked by the teacher to take their seats. This same student was asked to go behind the piano to learn the words to "America the Beautiful." This was quite an undertaking since the student was only a first grader.

"It was noted in the minutes of the School Board Secretary dating in the early 1920's, that whenever a vote was taken the

names of the men and how they voted was always listed first and then the names of the ladies were listed.

"Teachers of the Broadsword school were Mrs. Nellie Grabb, Clara Shannon, Miss Bogart, Mrs. Bill Sperry, Maud Crist, Mr. E.A. Schwenker, Mrs. Antonie Schutte, Miss Annette Smith, Edith Miser, Eva Shumate, Miss Hewitt, Maxine Beal, Neva Henderson, Mrs. Harlin Romberg, Mary Winfrey, Florence Raines, Josie Youtsey, Barbara Kieber, Helen Young, Helen Kreoger, Alvin Johnson, Doris (Keeler) Kreoger, Hazel Fromong, Larry Megel, Mrs. Pearl Johnson, and Mrs. B. Leo Devlin.

"School Board members, not listed in order: Louis Kreoger, Carl Kreoger, William (Bill) Kreoger, Don Scheierman, Bob Parmer, Lucy Broadsword, Clarence Crist, Charles Miser, Claude Hall, Clara Fender, Orin Miller, Everett Winfrey, Ellis Clark, Harrison Clark, Newel Guffy, and the last three members before the school consolidated in 1959 were, Grace McNeil, Doris Kreoger, and Helen Kreoger¹."

Katherine Lundien and Carl Kreoger

Kathy is the daughter of Bill Kreoger. She says the building was torn down in 1961 or 1962.

"During the school term when Daisy Hewitt was the teacher on a wintery day during morning recess, two energetic boys livened up the recess by throwing a handful of 22 calibre rifle shells into the old potbelly stove. All shells responded in short order, creating lots of excitement."

"Three and one half miles to the east... lived Mr. and Mrs. Grant Stephenson. She used to conduct religious services at the school every Sunday morning. After her sermon, the congregation would break up into classes according to age²."

Inez Hall Emsbach

Happy Hollow School

Happy Hollow School District 38 was very near Bonny. When Sand Creek was running high, the Barnharts and Bonnys had to leave the store by going one mile west and two miles south along the creek to the road near this school. Many of these families got their mail at Bonny. Their children attended Happy Hollow School.

One of the scholars attending here was Alice Barnhart. She completed grades one and two in her first year there. Then she entered grade three in Denver, graduating from high school at age 16³. She won the Bonny Dam Essay Contest the year of her graduation at Burlington High School.

¹ *History of Kit Carson...* p.104

² "Broadsword School District 31", p. 103, (in) *History of Kit Carson...*

³ Jacober, Alice Barnhart. 8/29/95

Frank and May Parmer were the owners of the two acres which were used for the Happy Hollow School. According to Ben F. Parmer, their son, they were Charlie Barnhart's nearest neighbors. Two of Ben's daughters attended there in the mid forties. After the school was closed, Ben bought the property back. His son, Paul owns the property in 1995. Ben recalled that there was an earlier school, also on Parmer property. It was two road miles away, or kitty-corner through the section.

"*History of Kit Carson...* lists teachers from 1916 to 1941. Some teacher names seen in this history are Edith Miser Wells and Hallie Miser Winfrey.

"Some student names were Straughn, Rhoades, Barnhart, Smith, Tieman, Bartman, Hanrahan, Timmans, Parmer, Rogers, Eagleburger, Benge, Trotter, Murphy, Proehle, Winfrey, Cody, Lundwall, Jackson, Clark, and Henderson."

"Sunday School was also held here for many years. Some years there were also literary programs^{1,2}."

Edna Bartman Stahlecker

The Happy Hollow neighborhood was a social center for the Bonny and Barnhart families. The school and its story are still of interest to early friends who attended there.

Hook School

"This little school was near the Broadsword and Happy Hollow schools. Some teachers and some students were common to it also. Its delightful history by Bonny Gould says much about all these community schools. These selected notes are from "Little High Plains School -- Temple of Learning," by a major writer the editors admire, Bonny Gould. It appeared in about 1972.

"In 1906 Hook School was a soddy - two years later a good sturdy adobe. It was a country school useful for almost half a hundred years known as District 2. District 1, Bethune, is thought to have preceded the Hook School by a short time.

"For homesteaders' youngsters and next generations it was a happy, worthy place. Eight grades went on in a room 20 by 28 feet, and a short time after its opening, three high school students were taught there. It stood ten miles north, one east, then a half north again from Burlington. It is typical of a hundred little schools which dotted the countryside. A fire in 1908 destroyed all the records, including those of many schools, but it is remembered that W.B. Hook built the first building on his land when the century was young. When the sod collapsed, neighbors to the west, the Weisshaar and Dobler families, knew how to lay the adobe blocks, the last of which only last spring's winds blew down.

¹ *History of Kit Carson...* p.112

² In 1995 this building had been moved to Idalia, Colorado, and became a welding shop. No dates were found for this school.

"Many early-day settlers caused schoolhouses to be erected on their pastures. There were no deeds so the land on which the buildings stood reverted to the owners eventually.

"The Hook home was still in use in 1972. It is a remarkably well preserved adobe built in 1910. Hook staked out his homestead in 1905. He and his wife were anxious about the education of their own children.

"Gladys Ivy Hook, now of Sandpoint, Idaho, taught the school during the 1921-22 term. Mrs. Mabel Hunter-Hines of Kanarado attended District 2 for eight years but after high school and two weeks of "Normal Institute," she headed up her own school in 1919 and 1920. Her education was more than that required then, as a certificate could be issued for teaching if there was an eighth grade diploma and a little orientation in August at Normal.

"An early version of split sessions took place with school being held in another building during part of the term - in order to alternate the distances children had to travel. This experiment of having one school open in fall and one in spring continued until there was a population change.

"The kids who were further away rode horses to school and then turned them loose to go home by themselves. That meant walking home in the evening, but there was no rush then.

"One of the better "Marms" was Nellie Keen-Grabb who taught in the very early days, coming there from a school further north known as the Broadsword School. No former student interviewed ever recalls any disaster such as flood, fire, confining blizzard, cyclone, snake bite, or bad injury ever occurring to mar the tranquil days. The earnest perusal of *McGuffey's Reader*, spelling, and ciphering matches went on under the long stove pipe that stretched across the room from the heating stove. One time during the dust bowl years everyone had to stay until eight o'clock in the evening before the dirt cleared away enough to permit going outside.

"Each pupil carried water along with lunch. Likely as not there would be a piece of tender fried jack rabbit. No tularemia disease had then spoiled that fine meat.

"Cow chips were gathered to kindle the fire and the small glistening black mountain that was the coal pile had in later times a basket of corn cobs nearby for a quicker fire.

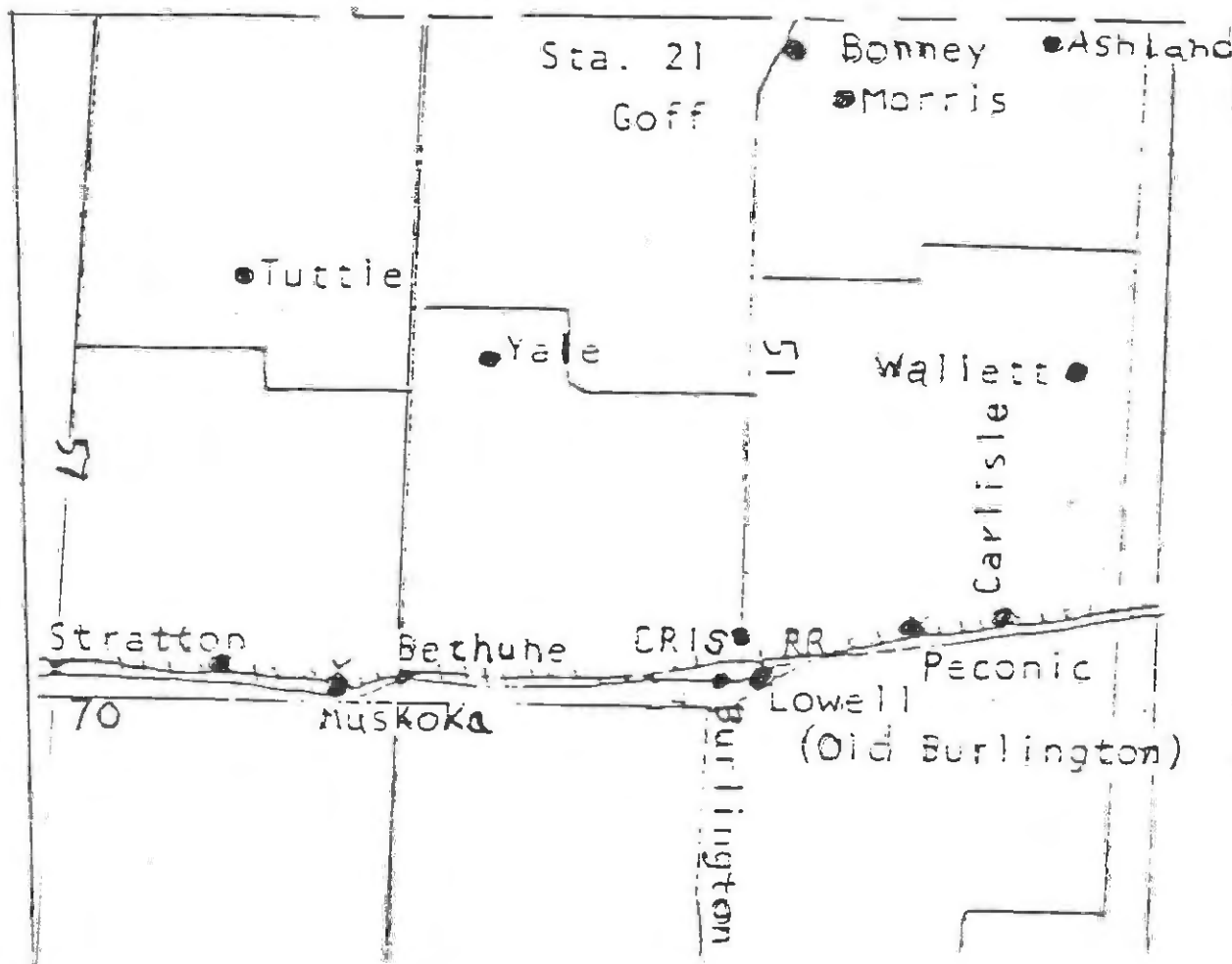
"In the "open school" first graders learned from eighth graders if they could not be kept busy, so that there was no time to listen to other lesson recitals. Discipline was minimal, as the big difference between then and now seems to have been the feeling of being one big happy family. Many former rural learners believed they had lived in the "good old days."

"The Hook School had only 560 square feet compared to Burlington's new middle school with 46,820 square feet, 84 times larger. Will it serve 84 times as well? The new building cost \$989,000 dollars. In 1906 roofing lumber cost only a few dollars for a thousand board feet, and adobe was dirt cheap. Today a fair one by ten runs \$200 per thousand board feet. Taxes on a quarter of grassland in the area in 1905 was \$1.65. In 1972 the

assessment was \$60.00, across the road on irrigated land, over \$500 for a half section. Base pay for teachers (before extras, tenure, raises and the like) is now a yearly \$6,700. In 1912 Mrs. Russman's salary was \$35.00 a month but a year or two later she promised to hold school on all holidays, even Thanksgiving, 20 days each month and her raise came up to \$50.00, or \$450.00 per year¹."

¹ "Little High Plains School..."

"Whistle Stops,"¹ a railroad map, is another presentation of these early communities. Note the incorrect spelling of Bonny, and the position shown for Morris as south of Bonny.



¹ History of Kit Carson... p. 75



Chapter Three
PICTURE SECTION

Since Isaac [1865] had the original homestead patent¹, he must have built the Bonny building. His family and later Jacob's four youngest children would have been the first inhabitants. Pictures² of the Bonnys at Bonny appear first. Most of them were donated by Lela Broadsword Bonny, daughter-in-law of Isaac [1886], who was Velma's cousin.

Charlie and Jennie bought the property from Isaac. They remodeled the home by putting concrete on the outside and erecting in a brick chimney to replace Ike's metal stove pipe. Later, Jennie and Dile added two rooms. Ira and Louis enlarged the windows, added a porch, and plastered the inside for wall paper while they lived there. They also installed an electric generator and then brought in public electricity and telephones when they became available. There was never any plumbing or a bathroom inside.

The Barnhart pictures follow the Bonnys. Louise Smith Barnhart, Esther Barnhart Rhoades, and Alice Mae Barnhart Jacober all have pictures here.

The Bonny home, which was also a store, a post office, and finally the Barnhart residence will be shown with the people who lived and loved there. The building displayed at various times:

Adobe walls inside and out

Isaac's metal stove pipe

Charlie's brick chimney

A Two-room addition

Adobe covered with concrete outside

Stucco was later put over the cement

Ira's enlarged windows with an added porch for a freezer

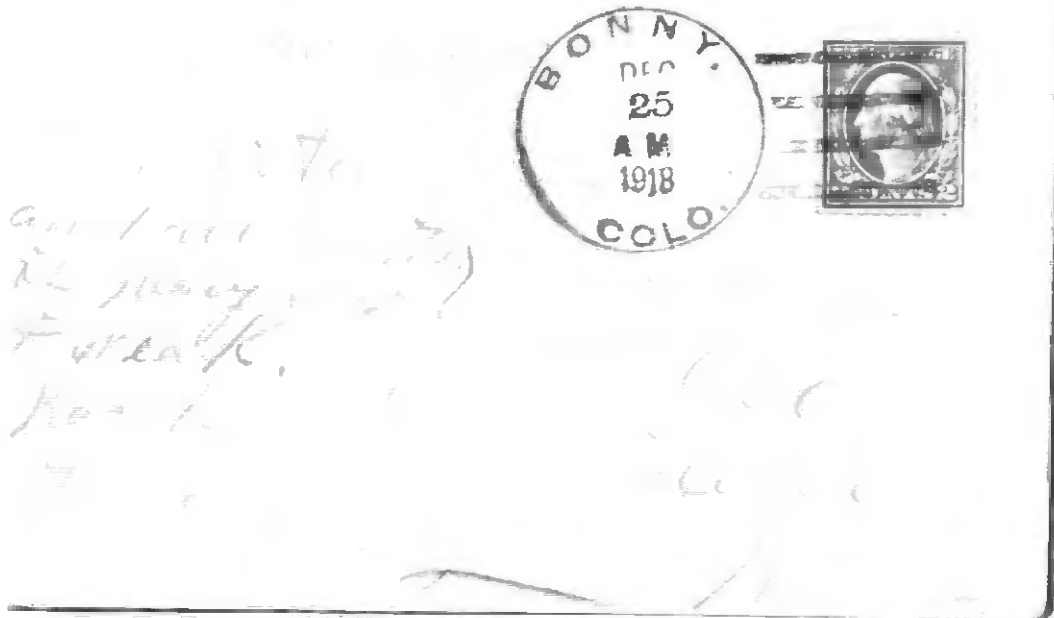
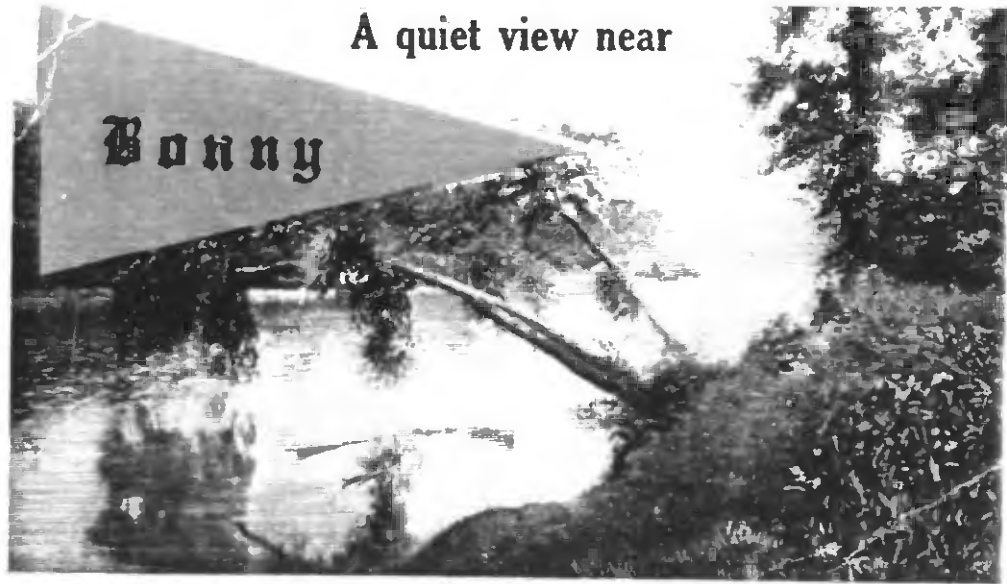
Abandoned, as the editors saw it, on Jerry Brenner's property in 1991 and 1994.

A few photographs of Bonny Dam and two of the local schools are included. Other, and better pictures would be welcomed by the three editors, whose photos conclude this chapter.

¹ *History of Kit...* pp. 370-371

² A VHS video of the post office, and the Bonny and Barnhart family pictures; many more than could possibly be included here, is available from the publishers. The Barnharts and Bonnys may find the video tape of interest.

Isaac's tinted postcard, the message, and the cancellation



Velma at Bonny, 1994



Isaac William Bonny [1865] and family plus Jacob's four youngest children at Bonny, 1919

Casey, Mildred, Pearl (front to back) on horse

(Front) Isaac [1865] holding reins, Mildred*, Velda* (blonde), Velma*

(Middle row) Laura, holding Vernon*, William Isaac [1886], and his wife Floa (right)
 Bonny Post Office, note stove pipe chimney, * = Children of Jacob Bonny (From Lela)

Isaac [1865] and Laura in Saguels, Idaho





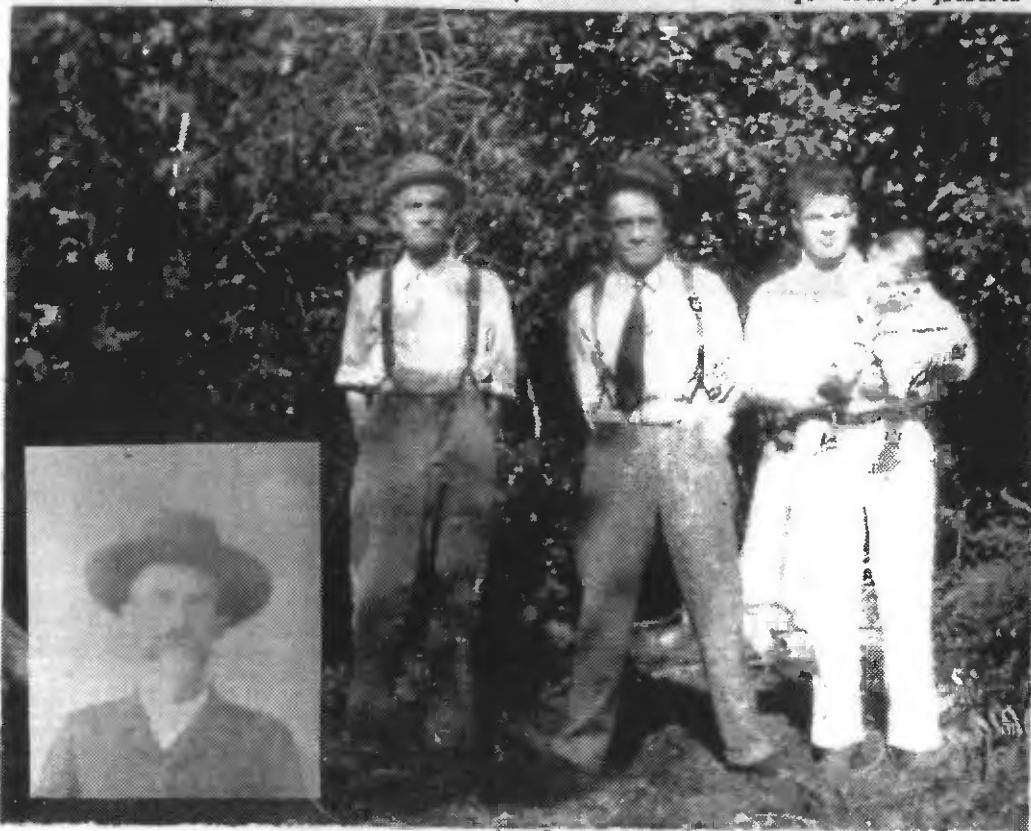
Bashful Twins



Barnum *del Co.*

Bashful Twins Velda (blonde) & Velma & Bonny Post Office, 1919

Four Ikes, inset Grandpa, 1822-Uncle, 1865-Cousin, 1886-Cousin Ike's son Lyle Isaac & grandson Roland





Isaac [1865], a studio picture May 3, 1915 * Jacob Honny, Velma's Papa

Flea * Front row, Isaac [1886]-Isaac [1865]-Ann & doll-Laura (front)
Standing, Luella-Maud at age 12, Velma's Non





*Charlie P. Barnhart Family, (back) Ira-Everett-Leonard
 (middle) Dean-Esther, (front) Charlie (inset)-Marveline-Jennie-Pearl

*Ira and Barnhart Family (standing) Delvin-Shirley-Denzell
 (seated) Eva-Louise-Rodney-Ira-Charlotte*





*Wedding photo, 1905-Charlie Barnhart-Jennie Teel * Jennie-Dile-Marveline*

*Wile Henderson (hat)-Charlie Barnhart * Wedding, Esther-Harley Rhoades, Dec. 1927*





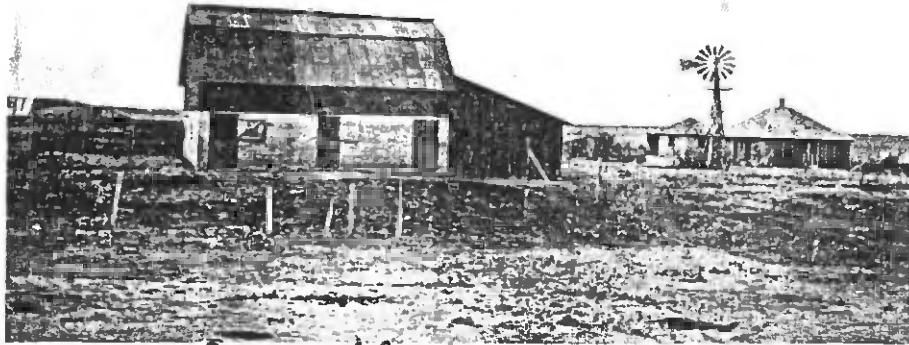
Ray Rhoades-Charlotte, Ira's 3rd, note two new rooms * Hill at Honey (back) Louise-baby Rodney & Ira-Charlotte-Shirley-Eva (front) Delvin-Denzel

Left photo, Shirley-Eva- with Charlotte in front at west side, note new porch

Center photo, Ira-Louise-baby Eva, 1933

Right photo, Jennie-Alice (Jennie's right)-her cousin Wilma (middle)-sister Leona (at Jennie's left) 1947





My old home

Aunt Nora took this picture of the John R. Winfrey home shortly after she got her first camera in 1920. She was standing on the rise southeast of the buildings and facing northwest. The house was built in 1915 from adobe blocks.



This is a picture of the John R. Winfrey house taken in 1970. The adobe blocks were coated with concrete many years ago. The house still appears to be in fair condition but nobody lives in it.



Nelona



Andy



Alice

Chapter Four
THE BARNHARTS AT BONNY

Kansas Nebraska Roots

Action on the Plains has a section on Bonny, pages 124-125. The account of the Barnharts at Bonny is by Alice Mae Barnhart Jacober. She also wrote the Barnhart, Teel, and Winfrey sections in *History of Kit Carson...*¹ with her Uncle Ira. Both sources are adapted, combined and edited liberally.

Charlie F. Barnhart, Alice's grandfather, and the second Bonny postmaster, was born in Humboldt, Nebraska, on Nov. 26, 1882², the oldest of seven boys and five girls. His parents, James Franklin Barnhart, Sr. and Martha Frances (McKee) Barnhart, moved to Reynolds, Nebraska in 1883 and then in 1891 moved to a farm eleven miles west of Hoxie, Kansas, where they were neighbors to Jennie's family. Jennie, (Her granddaughter Alice tells us her real name was Sarah Jane, but she always went by Jennie), was born in McFall, Missouri, on May 6, 1885. In 1889 her parents, John Jasper Teel and Sarah Hannah (Rogers) Teel and nine children, made a 21-day trip by covered wagon to a farm near Lenora, Kansas, and five years later moved to Rexford, Kansas. Jennie was the seventh of 13 children, nine boys and four girls."

"Charlie F. Barnhart and Sarah Jane "Jennie" Teel were married May 31, 1905 (*Action on the Plains* says the 21st, an error), in Menlo, Kansas and remained in the area for several years. (Marveline Barnhart Fetters is sure this wedding took place in Hoxie, KS) Charlie owned a steam engine threshing machine with which he did custom work. Charlie had an old cook shack with iron wheels which was once a circus wagon. They pulled it to the fields with them. Jennie did the cooking for 15 to 16 men. The family ate and slept in the cook shack. Five of their children were born at Menlo; Everett Lee, Feb. 23, 1906; Florence "Esther", Mar. 27, 1908; Ira Glen, Feb. 11, 1910; Leonard Nelson, May 6, 1913; and Wilbur "Dean", Oct. 3, 1918. Charlie, Jennie and these five children came to Colorado in 1918, shortly after Isaac Bonny [1865], who probably arrived in 1912.

Charlie came in the covered wagon bringing a few head of horses to help in the farming. Jennie and the children came out on the old "Jersey" train. Charlie brought the "show wagon"³, a circus wagon bought for use as a cook shack, to pick them up at Burlington. They moved onto a farm belonging to Charlie's sister Nora Frazier and her family three miles south of the Republican River near the Yuma-Kit Carson County line. This sister and family later moved to Idaho, as did Isaac's [1865] family.

¹ pp. 370 - 371

² His grave stone says 1883 but Louise Barnhart confirms 1882-eds.

³ "Ira Glen Barnhart". [Obituary]

The Barnharts at Bonny

Late in 1919 Charlie and Jennie bought the Bonny Store and Post Office from Ike Bonny, Sr., who was moving his family to Idaho. His son Isaac [1886] and Floa had already moved there. Their neighbors, the Broadswords, also moved to that area where his grandson Casey met Lela Broadsword, and married her. After his death she married Lyle Bonny, Casey's brother, who had lost his wife. Apparently Idaho had some strong appeal to these westward moving pioneers.

Records of this period from the Bonny family have been often difficult to locate. Luckily we get a vivid account of the life at the Bonny Post Office from the Barnharts. Ira Glen Barnhart¹ was Charlie's second son. He and Alice Barnhart Jacober, Ira's niece, are the authors.

On January 6, 1920 Charlie F. Barnhart was appointed Postmaster succeeding Isaac Bonny. The store and post office occupied one room in the four room house where the family lived. The mail came three times a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. As with Isaac, one carrier took mail from Burlington to Hale. The carrier from the Bonny Post Office would meet the Hale carrier at the old Broadsword School, which was 14 miles north of Burlington on old Highway 51, now 385, at road KK. The mail would then be taken back to Bonny. The job of carrying the mail to the Bonny Post Office from the school for Charlie was first done by Mr. John Baughman² and later by Mrs. Dile Henderson. At the time the post office was closed in 1924 Mr. John Winfrey, Alice Mae's great-grandfather, was the carrier. It is not known who carried the mail for Isaac Bonny.

When the mail arrived at Bonny, Charlie's family would sort it and put it in a cupboard with several little cubbyholes. Wilbur Dean wasn't too big when they lived at Bonny, and he liked to have the mail carrier, John Winfrey, dump him into the mailbag and pretend he was taking him along.

The neighbors, who came for their mail by horse and buggy, wagon, or horseback, sometimes brought eggs to sell to Jennie, and usually picked up a few groceries which Charlie hauled from Burlington in a lumber wagon. A lot of the supplies were bought by the barrel. Dried fruit came in 100 pound boxes.

Jennie also baked bread and cookies to sell. This was always a good chance for a visit since there weren't too many opportunities to do so in this rural area³.

¹ Barnhart, Louise. 8/12/1994

² *ibid*

³ *History of Kit...* pp. 370-371

Mail Recipients at Bonny

Ira Barnhart prepared this handwritten list of people he remembered who had picked up their mail in this way at Bonny. It was given to Lorraine Vair, and then to Estie Carter of the Old Town Museum. The editors received it in August 1994.

"Gorachy	Armitager
Sheets	Cunningham
Elmer	Inman (Elmer) ¹
Mich	Rice
Benge	Winfrey, (Hurley) or (John)
Rathburn	Frazier
Broadsword	Henderson, Mrs. Dile
Maron Smith	Parmer
Lyle James	Barnhart, Charley F. ²
Johnson	Bonny ³
Tieman	Rogers (Leander)
Bartman	These are names of
Clark (Ellis?)	people who got mail at
Straughn	Bonny post office

(Signed) By Ira Barnhart"

Louise added Hansen and Sperry as mail recipients. Lela Bonny remembers many others: the Fraziers, all the Broadswords of course, The Rathburns, Elmer Inman, Walter Clark, and the Bensons. These last three families all moved on to Idaho⁴. "Other early settlers were the Straughns, Bensons, Rhoades, and the Winfreys, who were Alice Mae Barnhart's relations."

"While Charlie and Jennie lived at Bonny, one child, a daughter, Pearl Marie, was born December 1, 1921, so six of their seven children lived with them while they operated the post office. One daughter, Pearl Marie, passed away March 14, 1935. Marveline was born after they left Bonny.

In the summer some of the children slept in the covered wagon. They had such a problem with mice and rats, as the rats had holes dug through the mop boards. Charlie told them he would give them a penny for each one they could catch, so they had traps set everywhere trying to earn their penny "bounty." They also had to be on the watch for snakes. One day a snake got into the house and curled up around the legs of their heater. Esther jumped on the counter and started screaming. When her father came in, all she could say was, "Look at that thing," over and

¹ Lorrain Vair's uncle

² Ira's spelling of his fathers name here

³ Louise Barnhart says this Bonny is Isaac [1865]. Carter.
1/5/1995

⁴ Bonny, Lela. [Letter] 3/24/1995

over. She didn't think it was so funny at the time, but they all laughed about it later. She was so scared that she had a terrible time trying to tell them where the snake was.

"In 1919 their son, Everett, got his foot caught in the stirrup of his saddle. His horse ran, dragging Everett and breaking his leg. Not having all the medical technology of today, it took several men to hold Everett while the doctor pulled to set his leg. Then he had to have a bucket of sand hanging from his foot for quite some time. There were also a lot of cactus stickers to be pulled out.

"There was ground to farm here so Charlie farmed it as well as that on his sister's farm, doing the work with just his horses. He raised mostly corn and barley, a few hogs and chickens. Corn sold for only eight cents a bushel in 1923. Since it wouldn't even pay to haul it into town to sell, they burned it for fuel instead. When the rabbits got so numerous and were eating up all the crops, they had to hold "rabbit drives." They would drive them from the east side and from the west side. The side getting the least number of rabbits had to furnish an oyster supper for all who had participated. In these days of plenty some consider the "rabbit drives" inhumane, but in those times it was a matter of survival.

"They had to haul the grain to Burlington, about 22 miles, and get their supplies by lumber wagon. Besides farming, Charlie also went with the threshing machine, helping and taking care of the machine.

"Charlie had played on the county baseball team in Kansas, so he and his family attended and played in baseball games whenever there was one in progress. The Happy Hollow schoolhouse was about a mile and a half from them, and they attended the community Sunday School which was held there each Sunday. One Sunday there were 200 people there. They also attended school programs, literary box suppers, and had picnics as part of their social activities. Since everyone usually had to come to these events by team and wagon, they would heat a big rock and put it in the wagon to keep the children from getting too cold when the weather was no longer warm."

Esther Rhoades and Louise Barnhart recalled their entertainment in Happy Hollow in the 1930's. The young people would have parties in peoples homes and play Skip to my Lou etc. Ice cream at a neighbor's house was a Sunday tradition. Both remember a picnic on the Republican River. Quite a long ride from Bonny in a Model "T".

Plays, music and "literary activities" were held at the Happy Hollow School. These "literary events" drew large crowds from a wide area. The school had grades one through ten. During the depression, WPA foods were picked up at the nearby Broadsword School. During WWII, rationed foods were also picked up there as were ration stamps.

The church used by these folks was the Happy Hollow School. Regular Sunday School was held and occasionally a traveling minister would come by and preach for Church.

The official "Record of Appointments, 1832 [to] 9/30/71"...follows for Kit Carson County, Colorado¹. This Excerpt covers 1907-1929.

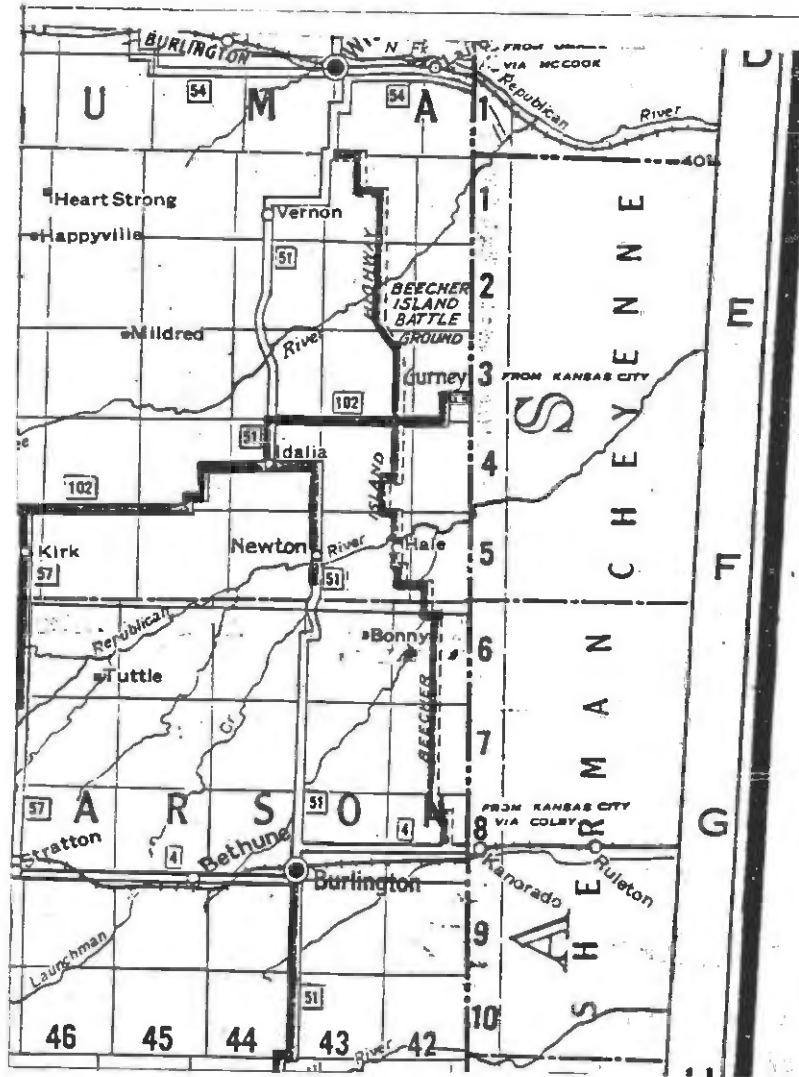
¹ "Record of Appointments, 1832 [to] 9/30/71"

Vansville	Residence Smith & Vanderlip	24 Mar 24 14 Sep 07						
Beanton	Elizabeth M Kagan	Oct 17 90	Dis. Nov. 30 1915	M. to Stratton				
Bony	August Kalisch	Apr. 13 91	Maid to Hagler	Apr. 15 92				
Cary	Alfonso L. Cary	Dec. 12 93	Myron Dulong	10 Sept. 10	Dis. Dec. 30. 1916	M. to Seibert		
Ovaska	Theodore A. Marten	22 Dec 110	Wm. O'Neill	20 Oct. 10	Theodore A. Marten	27 Apr 15	John K. Williams	6 Apr 17
Bony	Isaac Bony	18 June 15	to Charlie F. Barnhart	6 Jan. 20	dis. 1-9-1917	1/14 29 1924	Maid to Burlington	
Elphis	Nicholas Brown	8 Dec 16	dis. ¹¹⁻¹⁹⁻²³ 1/11 2023	Maid to Vona				
Hagler	John L. Straub	1 Mar 28	John C. Straub	29 Jan 29	John C. Straub	PK 11 Dec 29		
Vona	William L. Butler	17 Apr 28						

appointments

At that time Charlie and his family sold Bonny and moved to a farm about three miles east of Hale. At Hale their 7th and youngest child, Marveline Frances, was born Nov. 5, 1924. All of their children married after the Bonny Post Office was closed, and all lived near Hale."

This Colorado State Highway Department map from 1924 was sent from the Denver Public Library to the *Action on the Plains* staff. It shows Bonny, Colorado as an established community the year Charlie was closing the Bonny facility.



Louise Barnhart recalls that between 1924, when Charlie's family moved out of the store, and 1928 when they returned, a family named Pierrard lived there. Louise was not sure of the spelling, but knew that one of the girls was named Mary Ann Edith Evlynia. Her sister was named Francis. Velma remembers them.

Anna, sister to Ike's wife Laura, married Victor Pierrard in Ash Rock. Velma has fond memories of cousins Edith and Francis. Anna and Vic's family had lived just across the road from Velma's family and before Jacob remarried, bathed and helped care for the young girls. After the Pierrards left Ash rock, Louis farmed their land. Velma recalls Vic's long heavy beard, and "chubby" little Anna. "They were wonderful relatives," she remembers. The Pierrards probably did not buy Ike's old house, but lived and farmed there until Charlie and Jennie returned to Bonny.

In the spring of 1928 Charlie started working on the home again, cementing the outside walls. Perhaps that was when the brick chimney replaced the metal stove pipe. It was done before they moved back from Hale in 1929¹.

In 1928 Charlie and Jennie got back² the old Bonny farm and moved in. There was no longer a store in business then. They were living there when Charlie met his death in 1930. He was helping with the harvest at the farm of Oscar Anderson. He and some fellow workers had just finished a job of threshing and the belt had been removed from the thresher but was still on the drive shaft of the tractor, which was running. It was thought that in moving about the machinery Charlie came too near the belt which at that instant became entangled in the moving shaft of the tractor. No one saw the accident and none of the other men were able to say just how it occurred, but Charlie was thrown quite a distance and received a bad cut across the abdomen and an injury to his head. This head injury apparently caused his death a short time later while they were attempting to transport him to the hospital at St. Francis. He passed away on October 26, 1930 at St. Francis, Kansas, and is buried in Fairview Cemetery in Burlington, Colorado.

"Jennie and her children continued to farm. In 1932 she married Mr. Alexander Dile Henderson, a widower whose wife Nellie had carried the mail for Charlie. They moved to the Bonny place in 1940. After Dile's death in 1943, Jennie lived with her youngest daughter, Marveline, and her family until her own death on January 15, 1972. She is buried in Fairview Cemetery next to Charlie and Pearl³.

As for Charlie and Jennie's children, Everett Lee married Vivian Agan, of Atwood, Kansas on May 16, 1928. They had seven

¹ Barnhart, Louise 1/15/1995

² The actual sale and repurchase are uncertain.

³ *History of Kit...* P. 370-371

children, three girls and four boys. Everett died on June 26, 1972 and Vivian on October 29, 1991. Florence Esther married Harley Lemuel Rhoades on December 14, 1927. Harley died January 22, 1988. They had one boy and one girl. Ira Glen, a co-author of this section, married Louise Mildred Smith on January 14, 1933. They had three girls and then three boys. The boys were all born at Bonny. Ira died September 11, 1992. Leonard Nelson married Iva Mae Winfrey on January 27, 1933. They had four girls, the eldest of whom is Alice, also a co-author. He died October 29, 1980. Wilbur Dean married Elizabeth Jane Levine of Salina, Kansas on January 21, 1937. They had two girls and a boy. Wilbur died on August 2, and Jane on October 2, both in 1986. Pearl Marie died on March 14, 1935 at the age of 13. Marveline Frances married Warren Cash Fetters of Burlington, Colorado on September 9, 1945. He died April 13, 1993. They had two girls. Marveline is Charlie and Jennie's baby. Unfortunately we missed her by a few minutes when we visited with Louise and Esther. Marveline and Esther had prepared notes and important dates for us and helped Alice Jacober with Bonny stories.

Jennie and Collie Teel were siblings as were Charlie and Grace Barnhart. The two pairs of brothers and sisters married as did Velma's dad Jake and her Uncle Ike, whose wives were sisters. The Teels had moved to the Bonny area in 1918. They then lived about two miles west of the post office. Mr. Benjamin Cholmore "Collie" Teel and Mrs Grace Barnhart Teel lived in the Bonny home in 1933 and 1934. Alice Jacober and Ira Barnhart

The Fairview Cemetery is just north of the Burlington fairgrounds and carousel area. Harley Rhoades and Charlie, Jennie, and Pearl Marie's graves are quite near the north end of the cemetery toward the middle. A rather large triangle shaped stone is visible. These family graves are just to the east from this stone. The Rhoades and Barnhart graves are all very close together. Louise Barnhart helped us locate them.

The editors visited Louise in June of 1994. She told us she and Ira had moved to Bonny in 1942 after Ira's mother and stepfather, Dile Henderson, moved into town due to Dile's health. Ira and Louise had three girls then. Their three boys were all born at Bonny before they moved to Burlington in 1964. Ira and Louise's family were the last residents of the Bonny building.

Jerry Brenner bought the property that year. Danyel L. Brenner wrote us that, "The amount paid to Ira and Louise in 1964 for the Bonny land was \$40,000 for 800 acres, which came to \$50.00 per acre. The Brenner home place had once been the Dile Henderson home¹.

¹ Brenner, Danyel. [Letter]

The Kit Carson County Abstract Company of Burlington showed us information on the Isaac Bonny [1865] and Charlie Barnhart ownership of the store building and land. The only amount of money indicated was Isaac's [1865] \$1000.00 loan from a Mrs. Emma B. Ketchum, apparently of Burlington.

We also learned from the abstract company and the court house staff that Isaac [1865] Bonny was the recipient of the original homestead patent from President Woodrow Wilson, dated December 6, 1917, two years later than his appointment as postmaster and five years after his arrival in Colorado. This disagrees with the statement in *Kit Carson...Its Cattlemen...* that the site may have been an earlier Ellis Clark store. Louise Smith Barnhart knew Ellis Clark and confirmed that his store and post office were not connected in any way with the Bonny venture, as did Lela Broadsword Bonny.

According to Lela Bonny, this Ellis Clark and his brother Walter moved their family to Sandpoint, Idaho, during the dust bowl days¹.

Neighbors

The Rhoades

Lola Winfrey Rhoades sent us a description of her home as a child, and her neighbors. Her letter is exactly as she wrote it except for some minor deletions of repeated information.

"Dear Velma & Andy:

I received your letter asking for information about the Bonny Post Office and the Broadsword school. I'm afraid I can't help much. About all I know is where the schoolhouse was located.

"My family lived just a half mile from the Yuma County line and we went to school in Yuma, Colorado near where the Bonnie dam is now. We went to Sunday school at Happy Hollow schoolhouse and felt we were more a part of the Happy Hollow community. The Bonnie (sic) Post Office was only about two miles from this schoolhouse...

"Our Kit Carson history book does say that Bonny Post Office closed in 1924, so I was only four years old and therefore don't remember anything except for just hearing my parents talk about it.

"In the book, I also found an article on the Broadsword family, written by Marilyn Kroeger. In reading that I learned that Marilyn's grandma, Mary (Mrs. Lou Kroeger), was a Broadsword. I called Marilyn's dad, Carl Kroeger, and he said they had sent you what information they had, so I didn't score very good there.

"I can remember an Earl Broadsword and his wife Leo (I think her maiden name was Rathburn). They were close neighbors to my

¹ Bonny, Lela. 12/15/1994

folks. Seems to me they had three children at the time and I believe they were Teresa, Keith, and I can't recall the other.

"Wish I could be of more help as I feel all this history is very important. My oldest brother did so much digging into old records and wrote a book on the Winfrey family. Just finished it shortly before he died suddenly of a heart attack. It is really interesting to read about our ancestors and the trials they went through.

"As far as I know the Bonny building is still there. Jerry Brenner owns the property.

"Wish I could be of more help. I have a sister-in-law, Hallie (Miser) Winfrey, who went all through grade school at the Broadsword School. She lives in Washington state, so I'm sending your letter on to her and it's possible she might be of some help. Yes, if you are in our town, we would love to visit with you.

Sincerely, Lola Rhoades, 259 W. Cherry St."

Lola was married to Reuben, A brother to Harley Rhoades, who was Esther Barnhart's husband. Lola and Reuben¹ lived near Happy Hollow, which is 1½ mile west and 1½ miles south of the Bonny store. She grew up north of Happy Hollow and attended Yuma Schools. Lola's sister married Leonard Barnhart, Charlie and Jennie's fourth child².

The Kroegers

Doris Kroeger wrote Velma a nice letter about her husband's acquaintance with the Barnharts and the Bonny store. He is related to Lela Bonny through the Broadswords. Isaac [1886] is her father-in-law.

"Dear Velma:

"Carl, my husband, lived at one time near the Bonny Store and went there with his parents. He probably has little more knowledge than you have but we are trying to find some. There is a fellow - "Ira Barnhart" who lives here in Burlington who might be a good contact. Ira's Dad, Charley Barnhart³, bought the store so Carl feels he might be able to tell some things. Carl did know Charley and would visit. Doris."

Happy Hollow Neighbors

"The Kit Carson County history lists other Happy Hollow residents, some of whom play very prominent roles in the Bonny post office history. Dile and Jennie lived there. Dile's first

¹ Lola and her husband are discussed in *History of Kit Carson...* on pages 679-680.

² Alice Jacober's father

³ Note her spelling.

wife, Nellie, had picked up the Bonny mail at the Broadsword School for a time.

"West of Happy Hollow was Mr. Charles (Dad) Parmer and his wife "Aunt Mary," parents of Frank Parmer and Nellie Henderson. After "Dad" Parmer's death, Aunt Mary's son, Bill Nye, and his two sons, Junior and Stanley, came to live with her. Farther west along the same road, lived Mr. and Mrs. Leander Rogers and Elsie and Charley Jr. (nephew of the Charlie Rogers who lived southwest). Still farther west along that road lived Walter and Helen (Miser) Clark¹ "

The Clarks had a little store and post office called Morris. It was also called the "Cottage House." Had it continued in business, Isaac would probably not have had a Bonny Post Office. The Clarks were neighbors and friends of both the Bonnys and the Barnharts. "Morris" can be seen on the "Post Route" map, the "Whistle Stops" railroad map, and on the "Winfrey Homesteads" map. Its location varies on each. The *Standard Atlas of Kit Carson County, Colorado...* Shows Ellis L. Clark and James A. Morris as property owners in Sections eight and nine in 1922. James Morris started the post office in 1907. Ellis Clark became postmaster in 1910 until the office closed in 1914, about 15 months before Isaac became postmaster at Bonny in section 11, straight east a few miles. The editors believe the Winfrey map is most accurate of these three. It shows the Morris Post Office in the southeast corner of section 9, west of Bonny a mile or two.

The Morris "Cottage House" Post Office

North of Walter and Helen a little distance were Ellis and Amy (Smith) Clark, who ran a store and post office called Morris, Colorado. The Clark children were: Verl, Ada, Lucille, Lola, Bessie, Ethel, and Robert. *Kit Carson County and its Cattlemen* indicated that Isaac Bonny [1865] took over the site of Ellis Clark's store. Abstracts and post office data make it convincing that the Morris establishment closed before Ike became postmaster at Bonny, which is near, but a few miles from, Morris. Bonny was in a separate place and became a post office at a later time. The Morris Post Office is seen on some maps from the era.

According to Mr. Bauer the official post office description of Morris stated:

¹ *History of Kit Carson...* p. 307

AUG. 31, 1973
05063125000
MORRIS

OX000000
COUNTY=KIT CARSON
DISCONTINUED
MAR. 15, 1914¹

ESTABLISHED
MAR. 18, 1907

MAIL TO HERMES

POSTMASTER (OR CLERK)

DATE APPOINTED

MAR 18, 1907 MORRIS, JAMES A
DEC 13, 1910 CLARK, ELLIS L

Mr. Bauer's personal notes² revealed this description and his sources:

"Rural Post Office - was Located about sixteen miles northeast of Burlington. Morris was also called "Cottage House."³

"Cottage House - Rural P.O. about 16 miles northeast of Burlington, 1907-1914."⁴

The source and meaning of this term have not been identified. Perhaps it was just a name chosen for the business.

It seems likely, with this information, that in 1912 Isaac [1865] came to homestead at Bonny near his son Isaac's [1886] place. He then applied for the position of postmaster for Bonny, Colorado when Morris was closing. He received his appointment in 1915 but may have had the Bonny "store" already. Determining the facts now in 1995 may be impossible.

"Further north lived Dile and Nellie Henderson, with their children Bessie (Morrow), Lela (Shumate), and Faye (Milford), and Neva (Miser). Later, after the family was grown and Nellie passed away, Dile married Jennie Barnhart, a near neighbor.

"Northeast of Happy Hollow were Charlie and Jennie Barnhart with their children: Everett, Ira, Esther (Rhoades), Leonard, Wilbur Dean, Pearl, and Marveline Fetters. Charlie was killed in a threshing machine accident, and his funeral was held in the Happy Hollow School. Pearl died at the age of 13 with cancer, the first known cancer victim of this community.

"South of Barnhart's place was the family of Elmer Hoar, whose son George attended the Happy Hollow School for a year or two. When the Hoar family moved away. Earl and Clara Smith moved there with their children: Clarence, Verlin, and Lela. Earl and Nancy Houghton and children, Hallie, Marie, and Ivan also lived there. Farther east and north was the homestead of

¹ One year before Isaac Bonny was appointed postmaster at Bonny.

² Bauer. [Personal Notes] January 28, 1995.

³ A guide to Places on... p. 184

⁴ Bauer. Atlas of Colorado Ghost... p. 1

Estes and Elizabeth Straughn and family: Burrel, Warren, Robert, Estel (Quick), Mae (Morrow), Mildred and Margaret. After the Straughns moved into Burlington, Bert and Josie Smith and children, Louise, (Barnhart) Cora (Albertson), Sylvia (Weaver) and R.B. Lived here¹."

Obituaries of Charlie and Jennie

Charlie's obituary follows the news of his fatal accident on October 25, 1930, as described in the *St. Francis Herald*.

"A deplorable and unexplainable accident occurred at the Rueben (Ira Barnhart was sure it was Oscar) Anderson farm just over the line into Colorado at the southwest corner of Cheyenne County last Saturday, which caused the death of Charles F. Barnhart, a farmer living in that community. Mr. Barnhart was assisting with threshing on the Anderson farm and was caught in the thresher belt. There seemed to be no eye witnesses as to how he became entangled in the big power belt from the engine to the thresher but other laborers state that the first they saw he was in the belt and was being carried around the belt pulley on either the thresher or the engine. He was taken around the pulley and then thrown onto the ground.

"The accident happened about mid afternoon and he lived until after midnight that night. His entire body was bruised but the internal injuries were such that his death was apparent as soon as the examination was made by the physician. The pelvis bone was shattered and there were numerous other internal injuries.

"Mr. Barnhart would have been forty-eight years of age on the 26th of next month...²"

"Charles Barnhart Fatally Injured"

"Charles Barnhart, residing south of Hale was fatally injured by a threshing machine last Saturday afternoon and died Sunday while being taken to the hospital at St. Francis, Kans. Charles F. Barnhart was born at Humbolt, Nebr., on November 26, 1882 and passed away October 26, 1930 at the age of 47 years and 11 months. At the age of one year his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. F. Barnhart moved to Reynolds, Nebr., where they lived until 1891 when they moved to their homestead, eleven miles west of Hoxie, Kansas. Charles was the oldest child in a family of seven boys and five girls, all living except one sister Alice, who died in infancy.

¹ *History of Kit...* p. 307

² "Farmer Killed by Power Belt". *St. Francis [Kansas] Herald*. October 30, 1930

"He was married to Jennie Teel on May 31, 1905. To this union seven children were born, all of whom are now living.
(1930)

"After Charles and Jennie were married they lived on a farm near Menlo, Kansas, where five of their children were born. In the fall of 1918, they moved to a farm near Burlington, Colo., where they lived five years, then moved to a farm near Hale, where they lived until two years ago last February, when they moved to their own farm, where they lived at the time of his death.

"He leaves to mourn his departure, his wife and seven children: Everett, Esther Rhoades, Ira, Leonard, Wilbur Dean, Pearl and Marveline. Also one little grand-daughter Irene; six brothers and four sisters, Myrtle Van Vleet, Danbury, Nebr., James, of Yakima, Wash., Grace Teel¹ of Vona, Colo.; Nora Frazier, of Samuels, Idaho; Iva Turner of Menlo, Kans.; Earnest of Oberlin, Kans.; LeRoy of Wesan, Kans.; Orville and Urbie of Menlo, Kans.; Carl of Oberlin, Kans. He also had two half-sisters and one half-brother, by his father's first marriage, Mrs. Mollie Barnes, and Mrs. Belle Brooks, both of Oberlin, Kans.; and Russell of Norcatur, Kansas, besides a host of sorrowing relatives and friends.

"By the friends and neighbors of Mr. Barnhart:

Mr. Barnhart and family lived in this neighborhood for twelve years. He has lived a straight, upright and honorable life. We cannot express how much he will be missed by his many friends and neighbors.

"While it was a great shock to us to have him pass out from us in this manner, we know that God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform. And it is our honest belief that he has gone to that home which Jesus went to prepare for all who will believe in him. And it is our earnest prayer, that they who are left to mourn his death, may so live that where we believe him to be, they may, each one, some day be also.

"Funeral services were held at Happy Hill (sic-It was Happy Hollow) school house Wednesday afternoon, conducted by Rev. H.C. Alley of the Methodist Church of Burlington²."

"Obituary of Sarah Jane 'Jennie' Teel Barnhart Henderson"

Jennie Henderson was born at McFall, Missouri, to John and Sarah Teel on May 6, 1885. She departed this life Jan. 15 (1972 eds.) at the age of 86 years, eight months and nine days. She had been in failing health for several years and had spent the last two months in the Cherrelyn Nursing Home in Littleton.

"At the age of four years she moved with her parents to western Kansas where she grew to womanhood. She was married to

¹ Some spellings and punctuation are corrected here.

² "Charles Barnhart Fatally Injured".

Charlie Barnhart on May 31, 1905, at Hoxie, Kan. To this union were born seven children.

"The Barnharts started their married life near Menlo, and later moved to a farm northeast of Burlington in 1918. For several years in part of their house they operated a small store and the Bonny Post Office until the rural route postal service eliminated the need for the post office.

"She was preceded in death by her husband, Charlie and one daughter, Pearl. She then was married to Dile Henderson of Burlington who preceded her in death in 1943.

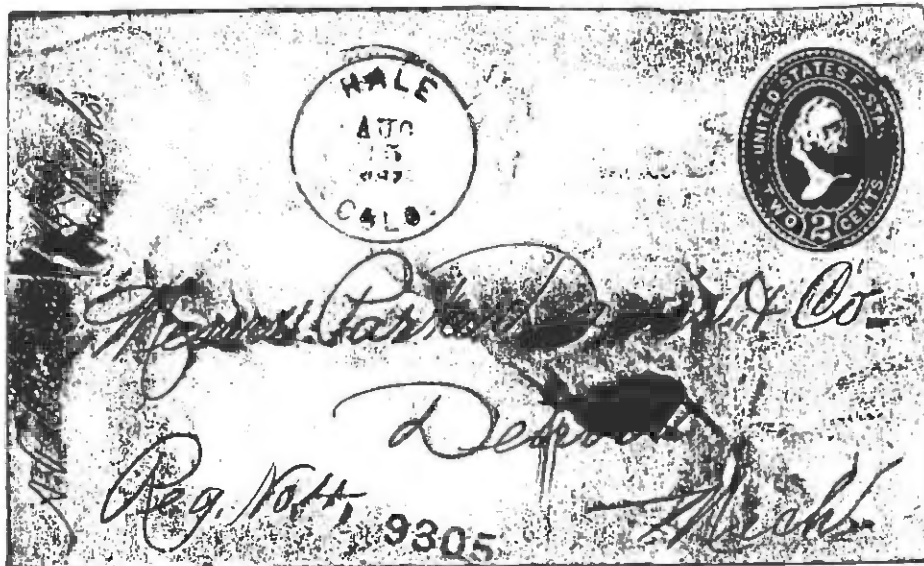
"Since then she has made her home with her daughter, Marveline and family in Littleton.

"Jennie is survived by six of her children, Everett Barnhart of Atwood, Kan., Esther Rhoades and Ira Barnhart of Burlington, Leonard and Dean Barnhart of Denver, Marveline Fetters of Littleton and 24 grandchildren, 52 great grandchildren; one sister, Rose Dragoo of Kingsley, Iowa; two brothers, Collie Teel of Lakewood and Henry Teel of Albuquerque, N.M., and a host of other relatives and friends.

"Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 18, (1972) at 1:30 p.m. at the Hendricks Chapel in Burlington with Evangelist Ben F. Parmer officiating.

"Song selections, "I Won't Have To Cross Jordan Alone" and "Meet Me There," were sung by Nelda and Bob Hendricks, accompanied at the organ by Merna Carlin.

"Casket bearers were her grandsons. Interment was made in Fairview Cemetery, Burlington¹."



¹ "Obituary of Jennie Henderson" (nee Teel Barnhart,) appeared in the *Burlington Record* on January 20, 1972.

Hale, Yuma County, Colorado

Hale¹ was mentioned by Isaac [1865] as the nearest post office in his Bonny application. Charlie and Jennie lived for a time at Hale on a ranch which is now under Bonny Dam. Their youngest child, Marveline, was born there. Ira Barnhart's wife's parents ran this store and post office before 1945. A quote from *Action on the Plains* tells much about these post offices on the eastern plains of Colorado and specifically about Hale.

"In 1906 a state business directory shows Hale with a population of twenty. There was a stage from Burlington. There were nine listings, including H.F. Taylor as postmaster. Another listing was G.C. Godsey, general merchandise and postmaster. The file shows the Rogers place Sec. 14, Tp 5 S, R 43 W, on the South Fork of the Republican River below Bonny Reservoir on a dirt graded road. Hale was thirty-eight miles south of Wray. Kanorado, Kansas, was the nearest railroad and bank.

"An interview between B. B. Guthrie and William H. Yale, January 3, 1934 revealed, "Father got a contract to carry the mail and did this for the first three years for \$300 per year. The route was from Jacqua, Kansas, to Friend, Colorado. In 1889 a post office was established in our home, and the Yale Post Office was on the route from Burlington to Goff, then to Landsman and Yale, a distance of fifty-two miles. Father made three trips a week, using a horse and buggy. He carried the mail for eleven years.

"A 1917 directory shows Hale as a country post office forty-five miles southwest of Wray. There were no business listings. Elizabeth Young was postmaster. Hale was on the south Fork of the Republican River. Landsman Creek was a right-hand tributary of the South Fork. There was also a Landsman Hill.

"The following data was taken from a letter written by Fred Crites in 1969: "Dick Taylor ran the store and post office in 1903. We went to Hale with a horse and buggy and had to ford the river. A bridge was built in 1905 or 1906. We liked to go to Hale store because Mr. Taylor always gave us a sack of candy when we bought groceries. Mr. Taylor sold the store in 1908 to the Westfall brothers and Roe, a brother-in-law. He stayed awhile but went to Wray, Colorado. Floyd Westfall quit the store and moved to Oberlin, Kansas. George stayed until he sold the store to a Mr. Baker about 1911. His son-in-law, Mr. Day, helped him in the store. In the spring of 1913 the store was sold to Glen Wooley and A. Winn from Kanorado, Kansas. Wooley bought Mr. Winn's share and hauled his supplies from Kanorado. He used a mule team and later a Ford truck. He hauled gasoline and oil also. He often used a four-mule team. He also hauled gas and oil to Idalia. I remember that Joe Doling brought a load of shelled corn to Idalia. I met him there and bought the corn for eight cents a bushel. Glen Wooley continued the store until 1938 and then sold it to Thayne Johnson, who ran the store and post office until 1943. Bent (sic, it was "Bert", Philbert Abner

¹ See Hale cancellation of 1897, page 95, from Mr. Engert

Smith), and his wife "Josie" (Martha Josephine Taylor Smith) were the next owners until 1945¹. They moved to Hale in the spring of 1943. After two years Smith sold to Buel Mash. Martha was postmaster from 1942 until 1946.

"The next owner came when Bonny Dam was being built. There were several trailer houses moved into the area. Kreoger owned the store at that time, but one of the men who worked on the construction crew took over. He sold it to Van Meter. He ran the store and post office. Clark Rolo² had put up a little building and ran a store for awhile. He bought out Van Meter. Mr. Taylor lived in a part of the store at the time he was in Hale. H. W. Crites built the building that was used until 1919. Mr. Wooley built a new building, and it is the one now in use.

Estie Carter told us the first postmaster in Hale was Alonzo P. Rockwell³. She added that the last postmaster was Clark Rolow (see Rolo, above) with whom she spoke. He said the post office officially closed in October 1983⁴. According to Clark Rolow's wife, the building burned on September 9, 1989⁵.

The first mail route was from Hale to Newton to Hermes. Dan and Kitty Mansfield drove this route with a team and made the round trip in one day. They had twenty-three gates to open and close. The mail came from Burlington to Hermis. About 1910 a star route was formed from Hale to Armel to Wray. Jasper Taylor and his brother Bennett drove this route for four years. They hauled freight and passengers. Chas. Busby was the next carrier. He used a team and later bought a Ford⁶."

According to Louise's family histories, her parents bought the Hale Post Office, general store and creamery in 1942. Martha made and sold sandwiches and coffee to the men on the rabbit drives who didn't carry lunches. Martha ran the post office as well as the store. They sold their farm and business in 1945 and moved to a farm known as "Old Town" four miles south of Hale. It was a "store and a barber shop." Martha continued at the post office "schooling" the person who was learning to run it. In 1948 they bought the Kit Carson Motel in Burlington. It is of

¹ Louise Smith Barnhart's parents

² Rolo is an error. Estie talked with him about Hale. His name is Rolow. See *Eastern Colo. Regional ... Directory*.

³ Carter, Estie 1/20/1995

⁴ *ibid* In 1995 he lives at 3722 county road LL.5, Hale, CO.

⁵ Carter, Estie. [Letter] 2/7/1995

⁶ *Action on the Prairie* pp. 129-130

interest that the Barnharts had so many relations in Hale. The clan even included one "Ella Bonny".¹

The following U. S. Postal service records for Hale, Colorado, were sent to us by Mr. Bauer.

"Hale Post Office

Jul 27, 1973
05125075000
Hale
County = Yuma

OXOOOXOX

Established
May 17, 1890
Papers to Newton

Discontinued
Feb. 16, 1894

Changes in County Jurisdiction. In Arapahoe County Prior to Apr. 15, 1901. In Adams County Prior to (Boundary or site change).

"Postmaster (or clerk)

Date Appointed

May 17, 1890 Rockwell, Alonzo

Oct 30, 1900 Taylor, Samuel

Apr 21, 1909 Roe (?), Lula

(Successor appointed on November 18, 1909²)

Nov 18, 1909 Westfall, George D.

Mar 29, 1912 Baker, Almond H.

Jul 25, 1913 Worley, Glenn E.

"Est 1887 - The first store - and post office - was operated by a Richard Taylor³, a Civil War veteran. It is believed he named it for one of his heroes, Nathan Hale, early American patriot. Rural Post Office - is located about eleven miles southeast of Idalia. Hale began as a way-stop on the wagon road from Jaqua, Kansas to Tuttle, Colorado⁴. Est. 1887⁵. Named for American Patriot Nathan Hale. Began as a wagon road way stop on route to Tuttle, in Kit Carson County. About 11 miles southeast of Idalia. PO in 1905⁶.

"The route was from Jacqua⁷ (sic Jaqua), Kansas to Friend, Colorado. In 1889 a post office was established in our home, and

¹ *The Taylor Bennett Family*. pp. 29, 65, 78 Richard Taylor Sr. had a daughter by his first wife named Ella Bonny, address and age unknown. She received a "child's share" of his estate.

² National Archives. 2/6/1974

³ A Barnhart/Winfrey relative

⁴ *Colorado Place Names*

⁵ *A Guide to Places...* p.358

⁶ Bauer. "Personal Notes" 7/10/1973

⁷ Jaqua is seen on included maps with each spelling.

the Yale post office was on a route from Burlington to Goff and then to Landsman and Yale.

"A 1917 directory shows Hale as a county post office 45 miles SE of Wray. There were no business listings. Elizabeth Young was postmaster. Dick Taylor ran the store and post office in 1903¹. The above leaves some unanswered questions - WHB²"

A letter from the Nation Archives to James C. Winfrey adds a little information:

"Hale, Yuma County, Colorado
Established in Arapahoe County on May 17, 1890
Discontinued on February 16, 1894
Reestablished on October 30, 1900
Date of location in Yuma County (the boundary change) is not given³

Richard Bennett Taylor Senior had homesteaded in eastern Colorado in 1888, established a store and post office which he named Hale⁴."

The "Location Paper" for the Hale Post Office reveals a form used earlier than the one seen for the Bonny office. Since it involves Barnhart relatives, and rural post office history, part of it will be reproduced here. *Italic* indicates handwritten entries by the applicant.

"NO 1911-New Series- July 1, 1889 LOCATION PAPER
Received DEC. 27 1889 Post Master General

Post Office Department
OFFICE OF THE FIRST ASSISTANT P.M. GENERAL

Washington, D.C., Dec. 7, 1889.

"Sir: Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for the establishment of a post office at 13 - 5 - 43, County of Arapahoe (lined out and Yuma was written in), State of Colorado, it will be necessary for you to carefully answer the subjoined questions, get a neighboring postmaster to certify to the correctness of the answers, and return the location paper to the Department addressed to me. If the site selected for the proposed office should not be on any mail route now under contract, only a "Special Office" can be established there to be supplied with mail from some convenient point on the nearest mail route by a special carrier for which a sum equal to two-thirds of the salary of the postmaster at such office will be paid by the Department.

"You should inform the contractor, or person performing service for him of this application, and require him to execute the inclosed (sic) certificate as to the practicability (sic) of supplying the proposed office with mail, and return the same to the Department.

Very Respectfully,

J. S. Cl (?)
First Asst. Postmaster General

"To Mr. Alanzo P. Rockwell
care of the Postmaster of Jaqua, Kans. dis. Feb-94 (1894)

STATEMENT

The proposed office to be called Merritt (lined out) Hale

Select a short name for the proposed office, which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the State.

It will be situated in the S.W. quarter of Section 13, Township 5, south Range 43 East, in the County of Arapahoe (sic), State of Colo

It will be near route No. 3367 L, being the route from St. Francis, Kan to Jaqua, Kan

- ¹ Action on the Prairie p. 129
- ² Bauer. 7/10/1973
- ³ National Archives. [Letter] 2/6/1974
- ⁴ The Bennett Taylor Family

Will it be directly on this route?--Ans. No. 8 miles from Jaqua, Kans W (west)
If not, how far from it?-- Ans.

The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, on one side is Newton Colo Its distance is 5 miles in a S.W. direction from the proposed office.

The name of the nearest office on the other side is Jaqua; its distance is 8 miles in a N.E. direction from the proposed office.

The name of the other nearest office to the proposed one is Logan, Colo its distance is 10 miles in a N.W. direction from the proposed office.

The name of the most prominent river near it is South Fork Republican

The name of the nearest railroad is Burlington & Missouri Railroad

If on or near a railroad, how far from the station will the proposed office be located?--Ans. 28 miles in N.W. direction

"A target chart with Hale as the bulls-eye and these post offices showing in their respective distances and directions was included under "DIAGRAM, EXPLANATION, AND INSTRUCTIONS".

"During the construction of Bonny Dam, it was expected that 60 pupils would be in attendance at the Hale School in 1949. There were 12 in 1948. The people of Hale, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the contractors cooperated on a plan to remodel this one-room school into a three classroom building²."

Ira and Louise Smith Barnhart at Bonny

The "Hale postmaster" Smith, and his wife mentioned above were the parents of Louise Smith Barnhart. Her husband, Ira, lived in the Bonny store and home longer than anyone else. He and Louise were also the family for whom Bonny was home for the longest period. Indeed, Ira lived there longer than all non-Barnhart residents combined.

This section relies upon our visit³ with Louise on July 12, 1994, and her letter⁴ answering many specific questions dated August 12, 1994 about the daily life at Bonny. The information from these two sources is interdependent so they are footnoted together where distinguishing which source was best was difficult. We tried to preserve Louise's pleasing flavor.

Louise furnished wonderful detail about these days. The two new bedrooms against the east wall of the Bonny home were planned by Dile and Jennie so that newly married Dean, Jennie and Charlie's son, and his bride Jane Levin could have a place to live and could help Dile farm. The north new bedroom was larger than the south one although the north south size of the house was maintained. Both were about 10 feet east to west. There were three steps down from the older rooms into this newer addition. In 1994 it was obvious that the adobe part of the building had lasted much better than the wood addition.

Dean and Jane lived in with Dile and Jennie to help with the cattle and farming and the milking. They moved in when Dile and Jennie moved back to Bonny in 1940. They had Jennie's brother Henry Teel build on the two bedrooms and a chicken house in last

¹ Post Office Department. December 27, 1889 & JUN 1890? (very faint)

² "Hale Enlarges School Facilities"

³ Barnhart, Louise [visit]

⁴ ibid [Letter] 8/12/94

part of 1939 & 1940. The young couple moved in during the last part of 1940. Dile's health was becoming bad. Before this move, Dile and Jennie had lived on a ranch on the Republican River in what is now under Bonny Lake. They ran cattle and did some farming and haying. This was 1936 to 1940. Leonard, the third boy of Charlie and Jennie, Ira, the next to the oldest son, and Dean, the youngest, also helped in haying time.

From 1933 to 1935, while Dile and Jennie were on this ranch near Hale, Collie Teel, Jennie's brother, and his wife lived at Bonny. In 1936 the Charley Tiemans moved there. Their grandson played too close to a high bank in 1937 and it caved off and buried him.

Ira and Louise moved out to Bonny in 1942. Dile and Jennie had moved to Burlington for a few months and then to a small farm 3½ miles northwest of Bonny. Dile passed away in June 1943 in Burlington¹.

After Dile died, Ira and his mother went into partnership on the Bonny farm for two years. But that was lots of book work. So Ira borrowed money from "Federal Land Bank" and bought most of the ground. We did well until the late 1950's was so dry. So 1955 we sold our cows and calves. Ira and a neighbor had to haul loose hay from Atwood, Kansas.

Louise had "Home Demonstrations" on the farm and so was not able to watch the cows one day. They got into some grain Ira had piled on the ground until it could be put into the steel bin. When he came in from the road grader, he found the gate open. The milk cows had eaten so much grain that they foundered. Five of the seven cows died.

All the children worked on the farm. Eva hated to butcher chickens so she'd do the dishes and clean the separator while Shirley did the chickens. Shirley also liked to drive the John Deere. One day she turned too short and pulled the harrow up on the wheel. She left it for Ira to figure out.

Charlotte would tend Rodney, seven and a half years younger than Delvin while Denzel and Louise worked in the field. She'd fix lunch, do housework, etc. with Delvin's help. Denzel was the oldest boy so he was Ira's right hand. At three and a half he'd put on his heavy coat, boots, cap and mittens and help his dad feed the cows. After this Denzel was always ready to go. At six he'd help grind feed for the cattle. When he was eight, Denzel was guiding the tractor pulling the rack to feed the cows in the pasture².

Those days neighbors helped one another. Ira had a "buck" on the front of the tractor. He'd load the racks with the shocked bundles and haul them to the threshing machine. The older ones and myself milked the 15 cows and fed calves and had

¹ ibid

² Barnhart, Louise. [Letter] 7/8/1995

supper ready when he got home. This was after the grain was bound and shocked. Then they would thresh. The combines came so that ended threshing. In the later 1950's Ira went back to work for the county. He was one of their best maintenance men. I hear this every time I'm in a crowd.

Back in the 1920's when the store and post office were open, most of the roads was cross country trails and wagon wheel tracks. Nothing was graded. Sand Creek was often a problem. Of course the horses could go through with wagons.

The roads were raised and graded from the 1930's on. Ira ran the graders from 1937 to 1942. We had cars or pickups in 1942 and before. With cars we had to wait at Sand Creek or go out south around the field staying on the grass to get to the road south of us to get out going west to the Happy Hollow Schoolhouse. They'd haul dirt in so we could cross the creek after the water went down. There never was a bridge. Sand Creek was about 40 ft. wide. But now dams have been made up above so they hold lots of water up there. If we came home and the creek was running too deep, Ira would go get the tractor and rope and pull us or we'd ride on the tractor. Between 1942 and 1964 while we were there, Sand Creek ran a lot and we had to go out by Happy Hollow. We all liked to go to Sand Creek after a big rain to watch it run.

If the wind didn't blow, he had to use the "pump jack" that had a motor that would pump the water for the cattle. We did our own butchering for several years. Ira used a "forge" and did lots of his own "blacksmith work." He heated the iron and pounded it out to be what he needed, like sharpening the machine shovels or welding some parts that was broke. Saved time too. The boys pumped the forge. We bound our feed, some cane and milo, and shocked it for cow feed.

In 1944 we built the porch on the west side of the house for our freezer and things that didn't freeze in the winter and had a man to put screen on the outside of the house and blow stucco on. It was white. I think the year was 1948. Inside the house walls I pasted sheets and old curtains, anything that would stick to the adobe. Then put wallpaper on them. Ira cut the windows bigger and curved the sides. We found a material that had hair in it and it's still there and some of the paper is too. Later we discovered that the adobe could be plastered so that paper stuck well¹ "We loved it out there at Bonny. We lived there four years after Ira fixed the windows. Only Sand Creek, it we didn't love!"

Esther remembers how the walls were done when she was a child. "When Jennie and Charlie lived there we done what they

¹ ibid. The editors pulled off a sample of Louise's paper and there appeared to be a cloth reinforcement on the back.

called "white wash" the walls. Mix lime in water and it looked like paint when you were through¹."

One entered through the kitchen when going into the store from the front (west side) of the building. From the kitchen an immediate right turn took a visitor into the old store and post office room. There was also an outside door on the south entering directly into the "store" room.

Louise recalls that "in 1948 and 1949 while Bonny Lake was being built, lots of people found work at the dam. After it was finished Ira bought a boat, a 25 horsepower Johnson motor, and life jackets. Him and the boys had lots of fun fishing. In 1964 when we moved to Burlington he bought an old pontoon boat and fixed it up. Then we all could go. In 1970 he bought a later model. We looked forward to taking folks with us. Lots of fishing and picnicking went on².

"Ira still ran cattle, raised some hogs, farmed and milked from ten to fifteen cows. He helped neighbors thresh as the barley and the feed for cattle was bound and shocked. Ira sold the cattle in 1955. The next year he rented out the pasture as the grass got better. In 1955 Ira went back working for the county and doing some farming late evening. Louise and the oldest boy and one of the girls ran the tractor some to help get caught up³.

"In 1959 we moved to a furnished apartment through the winter and back to the farm for summer. We rented our pastures out. So had to keep up fences and raise some chickens to put in the freezer and have some garden. Our youngest son wanted to stay there and raise pigs. He is on a hog farm now. He likes pigs and was schooled for them. He was terribly disappointed when the family moved to town. He was eleven, and planned already to have a hog farm at Bonny some day.

"Our school consolidated so the buses came out just so far and we had to meet the kids so we roomed our oldest girls to go to high school in Burlington 1948 to 1951. When they consolidated and the bus route was long we moved to Burlington in the fall and back to the Bonny place in the spring when school ended.

Louise had started working at the hospital so after 1959 we moved in and out. Louise worked part time in summer and full time in Winter. Ira was working for the county. The kids were in school so it worked out better."

In her letter of August 12th, 1994, Louise reflected again on their life at Bonny. It is a loving and warm recollection.

¹ Rhoades. Esther. 7/25/94

² Barnhart, Louise. 1/15/95

³ Barnhart, Louise. 7/12/94

"There was never any plumbing at Bonny. No cistern. Just a pump for years. Then a windmill. When it didn't run by wind, you disconnected the rod and pumped it by hand. We carried all our water in and out.

"Ira put a stock tank on a platform on top of posts so the boys could have clean water. Everyone enjoyed that. After a hard rain it was fun to watch Sand Creek run.

"Our outhouse was 150 feet southeast of the house. It was later moved to another hole, but I don't know who built it. It might have been in 1929 when Charlie F. cemented the outside of the adobe on the house. Delvin remembers a time when he and Rodney, the youngest son were, tossing a pocket knife over the outhouse and Rodney "got him in the leg." Louise was very unhappy with a couple of boys!

"With so many rocks east of the house, we always killed lots of snakes in the spring. Rodney remembers shooting one with his BB Gun and maybe hitting it. He was angry anyway and came to get Louise to kill it with her shovel. Another time he went to the brooder house on his bike to water the little chickens and the pedal of his bike went over a rattlesnake but it was sleeping. He left the bike and ran to get Louise to kill it. Once he found one behind the door of the outhouse¹." (Ah, the joys and thrills of the Good Old Days! eds.)

"After the move to town, Louise sent Rodney, age five to the store for toilet paper. They "charged" from Mr. Zick who did not recognize Rodney. When asked, 'Who is this for?,' he replied, "Why the whole family."

"To the southwest of the house was shop and garage with room under the shop for storage. It was built in 1929. Ira used this basement for a light plant. So we had lights before we got electricity. The basement part was just for storage and the light plant when we lived there. In the early 1950's we got public electricity, 1951 I think.

"The phone was put in on barb wire for awhile. The cross talk was so bad, they put up short poles. Then finally the telephone company put up a few tall poles in 1953.

"The North building was a chicken house built the same year as the bedrooms was built, 1939 and 1940. Henry Teel built the bedrooms and the chicken house. He was a brother of Jennie's. There used to be a chicken house just west of the one that's standing now. It was dug into the bank for the back and sides. The front was old windows and had a screen in front. It was used before the one standing now. Later we used it for little calves in winter. We milked cows and separated the milk to feed the calves and pigs. We sold the cream in 10 gallon cream cans, sold eggs too, to buy our groceries with. All the children except the youngest, Rodney, learned to milk.

"With Jennie's help we canned 100 quarts of beans using the wash boiler on the coal stove. We cooked them three hours in

¹ Barnhart, Louise. [Letter] 7-8-1995

boiling water. Lots of dill and sweet pickles were done too. We used lots of coal oil stoves in those days and gasoline too. Our flat irons were heated on the coal or wood stoves, and we had gas irons to do our ironing if we could afford one.

"We had three girls before we moved to Bonny. Then three boys while we lived there. The oldest girl is now 60 and the baby boy is 41, in 1994¹.

"No one has lived at Bonny since 1964. Jerry Brenner bought the property then. Ira worked for the county until December 1964. He then worked for the city of Burlington for 20 years. After leaving the city employment, he ran the maintenance at Bonny Lake in the summer time. He worked four summers for the state, until May 11th, 1992.

"Ira knew an area broom maker called "Friday" Lundy well. He brought brooms around for sale in town on Fridays. Ira always planned to introduce him to an agent of the Farm Administration who also loved local history. He never got around to it. Ira also really wanted to tell us the story of how his horses ran away with the disk plow. One of the horses was injured and had to be shot.

"We lost our oldest boy with cancer May 16th, 1992. Ira had cancer also and was taken to Denver. There after 49 days, he died on the 11th of September, 1992. It was cancer of spine.

"Velma, This is so mixed up, I write then, have to stop. Got two granddaughters here. But you pick out what you need. I don't expect to put all this in your book. This is just a letter telling you about while we lived there."

Ira's brother Everett died in 1972. Everett's wife Vivian Agan died in 1991, approximately a year before Ira. Her obituary in the *Citizen Patriot* appeared November 7, 1991. A poem about her in this tribute reflects the lives of all these hardy women.

¹ Barnhart, Louise. 8/12/1994

"Mom's Life - in Retrospect"

Once upon a time I planned to be,
an artist of celebrity.
A song I thought I'd write someday,
and all the world
would homage pay.
I longed to write a noted book,
but what I did was learn
to cook.
For life with simple tasks is
filled, and I have done - not
what I willed.
Yet when I see boy's hungry eyes,
I'm glad I make good
apple pies!

Waiting too long to visit with Ira was a major error on the editors part. Our work on this history was irreparably diminished. His quick passing was hard for everyone, and perhaps, the best possible description of Bonny was lost too.

Ira Barnhart, who had so much to do with this history even though the editors only got to know him after his death, represents very well, the Barnhart family. His obituary, given to us by his wife, Louise, shows the character and strength of all of them. It appeared in the *Burlington Record* in September of 1992 while the preparation of this history was just getting underway. He was anxious to help with this story and wrote the note below to the editors a few months before he died so even in death he helped us.

Ira's letter

"December 4, 1991, Velma Bonny Jacobs. Kind ones, just a line to let you know. We remember the Bonny store and post office. Ira Barnhart's folks ran the store and post office when he was a young boy. And Esther his sister remembers a few things too. I don't know what you need. So...we live in Burlington at 1571 Senter if you'd like to get in touch."

(Dictated to Louise and signed for Ira by her.) Ira Barnhart, 1571 Senter, Burlington, Colo 80807¹.

Obituary of Ira Barnhart

"Ira Glen Barnhart departed this life at Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital in Burlington on Friday September 11, 1992 at the age of 82 years and 7 months. Ira was born February 11, 1910

¹ Barnhart, Ira Glen. [Letter] 12/11/1991

east of Menlo, Kansas to Charley Franklin¹ and Sara Jane (Jennie) Teel Barnhart.

"Ira's father Charley came to Colorado in 1918 with a few head of horses to help with the farming. Jennie and five of the children came out on the train, the "Old Jersey", later that same year. Charley came to Burlington in the "Show Wagon" to pick them up. The "Show Wagon" as it was called had been an old circus wagon that the Barnharts had purchased from a circus to use as a cook shack. They pulled this wagon to the fields with them when they did custom threshing with their steam engine threshing machine. That was what Charley had arrived in Colorado in. It was used sometimes as sleeping space for the family, as their homes were very small. Their first homes in Colorado were in the Happy Hollow area. In 1919 they bought the Bonny store and post office from Ike Bonny, Sr. Charley farmed and helped with the store. Jennie was very busy with children, running the store, and baking food that she sold at the store. Another child was born while they had the store. They sold the store in 1924, to re-buy in 1928. It was no longer a store and post office.

"Bonny, Colorado is shown on the old maps, one of which was in the Happy Hollow School at the time Ira attended school there. The Bonny Dam received its name from the store.

"Ira returned to Oberlin, Kansas to complete his high school education, graduating in 1930. He was the Kansas State Wrestling Champion his senior year. Ira accepted the Lord as his personal savior in 1930. He was baptized in the Republican River September 2, 1932.

"On January 14, 1933 Ira married Louise Mildred Smith. Louise and her family lived in the Happy Hollow area, where the families were neighbors. Ira farmed and worked for the WPA for several years in the "dirty thirties," then moved to Burlington and worked for Kit Carson County Road Department. In 1942, Ira, Louise and three daughters moved back to farm the "Old Bonnie Place" when Ira's stepfather Dile Henderson became ill. Three sons were born while they lived there.

"When the drought hit in 1954-55 Ira hauled hay from Kansas to feed the cattle. In 1956 Ira had to sell the cattle due to lack of food. There were no irrigation wells at this time. During the later years on the farm, Ira returned to work for the county and along with farming kept things going.

"Five of the six children attended school at Happy Hollow District 38 where Ira and Louise had both attended school for several years. With the children's high school activities the family would move to town in the winter months and back to the farm in the summer.

"In 1964 Ira and Louise sold the farm to Jerry Brenner and moved to their present home in Burlington. After leaving the county road department, Ira began working for the City of

¹ Name spelled here as written in obituary from Louise Barnhart.

Burlington and was street superintendent, retiring in 1986. Many of the Burlington residents and businesses remember the extra work Ira would do to get them to work when the plains blizzards hit. In the summer a lot of night hours were spent keeping the storm sewers open when the thunder storms hit. Some of the grandchildren remember hurrying with dinner, or grandpa leaving in the middle of a game, so he could get on hip boots to go open up storm sewers. Sometimes if it wasn't too bad they could even ride along.

"In 1980 Ira received the "Outstanding Service Award" from the "Helping Hand CB Club" for his service and dedication during the spring blizzard. After retiring from the city Ira worked during the summer three days a week for the State Park and Recreation Department at Bonny Dam as a blade operator for the park roads. He continued this work as a summer employee until May 13th of 1992, when he became ill.

"Ira served as an officer with the school board, Soil Conservation and Farm Bureau. He received Honorary Chapter Farmer from FFA Burlington Chapter. During his farming years he and his family enjoyed many community activities, including plays, box socials, community sings and softball games. He was an avid bowler, receiving several trophies. Other hobbies included wood working, collecting fishing gear and fishing from his pontoon boat.

"Ira leaves to mourn his passing, his wife Louise, of almost 60 years; his daughters, Eva and husband Oscar Cousins of Laramie, Wyoming; Shirley and husband Bill Thomas of Craig, Colorado; Charlotte Osborn of Brush, Colorado; his sons, Delvin and wife Ethel of Crestview, Florida; Rodney and wife Judy of Ft. Morgan, Colorado; two sisters, Esther Rhoades of Burlington and Marveline and husband Warren Fetters of Littleton, Colorado; sister-in-laws Sylvia and husband Glen Weaver and Cora Albertson all of Burlington; Iva Barnhart of Edgewater, Colorado; brother-in-law R.B. Smith and wife Betty of Burlington.

"Ira leaves 21 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren. He also leaves to mourn many nieces and nephews and their families, and a host of neighbors and friends. Ira was a good friend and acquaintance to many.

"Ira was preceded in death by his parents Charley and Jennie Barnhart; a step-father Dile Henderson; three brothers, Everett, Leonard, and Dean; a sister Pearl; a son Denzel; two infant granddaughters; and Louise's parents Bert and Josie Smith¹".

¹ "Ira Glen Barnhart. [Obituary]

Bonny Gould summarized this same period for the *Burlington Record* in 1970.

"Bonny Post Office"

"The short lived Kit Carson County post office of Bonny ran from June 3, 1915 to February 9, 1924.

"Isaac Bonny was the first postmaster and the only other one was Charles Barnhart. At that time the mail came from Burlington to Hale and then carrier Nellie Henderson (Dile's wife, eds) or John Boseman would go to the Broadsword school for pouches of mail addressed to Bonny. This half-way meeting place is near the present-day William Kroeger farm 14 miles north of Burlington, formerly owned by the late Clara Fender.

"The post office original building was an adobe, but in a few years the walls were cemented. Still later the Barnharts enhanced the building with stucco, adding large windows to make a beautiful and comfortable country home which stands almost intact, though unoccupied, the past six years, when the Barnharts moved to town¹."

Bonny Gould.

¹ Gould. "Bonny Post Office..." 12/70

A Bonny, Colorado Chronology

The details of any event can be read by finding the date in the index and then locating the appropriate pages. Key people and all the known residents of Bonny are included:

- 1865 Isaac Bonny was born
- 1880 Maud Van Dyke Bonny was born
- 1882 Charlie Barnhart was born
- 1885 Jennie Teel Barnhart was born
- 1910 Isaac [1886] and Floa Bonny came to Colorado
- 1912 Isaac [1865] and Laura moved to Colorado
- 1915 Isaac was appointed postmaster at Bonny
- 1918 Isaac's homestead patent approved by President Wilson
- 1918 Charlie and Jennie came to Colorado
- 1918 Maud died, Velma, Velda, Mildred and Vernon to Bonny
- 1918 "A Quiet View Near Bonny" post card, printed
- 1919 Isaac [1886] and Floa moved to Samuels, Idaho
- 1919 Charlie bought Bonny Post Office/Store
- 1920 Isaac [1865] and Laura moved to Samuels, Idaho
- 1920 Charlie appointed postmaster, moved to Bonny
- 1924 The post office closed, Barnharts move to Hale
- 1924 - 1928 The Pierrards¹ at Bonny
- 1928 Barnharts return to Bonny
- 1930 Charlie killed in thresher accident
- 1932 Dile Henderson and Jennie married
- 1933 - 1934 The Collie Teel family at Bonny
- 1933 Ira Barnhart and Louise married
- 1936 - 1937 The Charley Tiemans at Bonny
- 1939 - 1940 New rooms added at Bonny
- 1940 Dile and Jennie moved back to Bonny
- 1940 Dean Barnhart and Jane to Bonny to help Dile farm
- 1942 Ira and Louise moved to Bonny
- 1943 Dile died
- 1944 Bonny used as name for dam by Reclamation Dept.
- 1944 Remodeling at Bonny home, porch added
- 1948 More remodeling, stucco outside, plaster inside
- 1950 Electric plant installed by Ira
- 1951 Public electric lines reached Bonny
- 1952 Bonny Dam dedicated
- 1953 Phone service reaches Bonny, tall poles
- 1964 Ira and Louise moved to Burlington
- 1964 Jerry Brenner bought Bonny property
- 1972 Jennie Teel Barnhart Henderson died
- 1992 Ira Barnhart died
- 1995 *Bonny, Colorado, A High Plains Ghost Town*, published

¹ Velma has an aunt and uncle, Anna and Vic Pierrard

Chapter Five
BONNY DAM AND RESERVOIR

Early History

The editors have left this long quotation as is, with its own outline, capitalization, and heading arrangement. Underlining has been added for emphasis on some key sentences about Bonny, CO.

"CHAPTER I, INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL

1. HISTORY AND AUTHORIZATION Recurring drouths (sic) throughout the Great Plains area in general, and the Republican River watershed in particular, were responsible for exciting considerable interest in irrigation possibilities in this area in the past 70 years. Private individuals, singly and in groups, over this period have devoted much time and money to investigations and actual construction of irrigation projects. Several attempts were made to irrigate directly from the streams and a number of canals have been built as early as 1889. With the exception of only a few small canals, these projects all failed due to destructive floods, sandy soil, lack of water supply, or financial difficulties, or a combination of several of the above reasons. The construction of canals, however, did furnish much needed employment for many of the homesteaders during the critical years between 1889 and 1904. At one critical period in the economy of the area, wooden flumes and other irrigation structures were chopped up and used for firewood.

"A number of influential people in this area, however, have been very active proponents of irrigation developments in the upper Republican River watershed, and worked unceasingly to interest various state and federal agencies in investigating and financing proposed projects. Foremost and most active as regards irrigation development along South Fork Republican River is A. A. Gillespie, formerly editor of the St. Francis paper and currently Probate Judge of Cheyenne County. In 1928 Judge Gillespie was one of the impelling forces of a tri-state organization which hired an engineer to investigate and report on possibilities and means of developing lands along the Upper Republican in Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. The depression of the early thirties necessitated disbanding of this organization because of lack of funds with which to carry on operations. The Republican Valley Conservation Association was formed in 1940 to carry on where the earlier organization left off. This association was composed of two representatives of each town in the basin from Oxford, Nebraska, west to Wray, Colorado, Imperial, Nebraska and St. Francis, Kansas. The representatives from the St. Francis area were A. A. Gillespie and D. H. Pestlethwaite. This organization was primarily responsible for promoting and securing necessary authorization for construction of a number of dams and reservoirs on the Upper Republican River and major tributaries rather than a single large dam downstream in order to effectively control, conserve and utilize flood waters in the Republican River Basin.

"The very destructive Republican River flood of 1935, occurring as it did in the midst of one of the most critical periods (with respect to agriculture) in the history of this region, focused national attention upon the needs of this area with respect to both flood control and irrigation. A direct consequence of this flood, which took 110 lives and did over \$9,000,000 worth of damage in the basin, were the surveys of Republican River Basin made by the Corps of Engineers, Department of Agriculture, and Bureau of Reclamation, resulting in an inventory of the basin's irrigation, power, and flood control potentialities.

"The authority for the preliminary examination of the Republican River was granted in Public Document No. 493, 74th Congress, 2nd Session approved April 10, 1936; and authority for a preliminary examination and survey of the Republican River, Nebraska and Kansas, is contained in the Flood Control Act of 1936, Public Document No. 738, 74th Congress, 2nd Session, approved June 22, 1936.

"As a result of the reports on the preliminary surveys by the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation a comprehensive coordinated plan of development for the Missouri River Basin was published as Senate Document 191, 78th Congress, 2nd Session. The St. Francis Unit was authorized as an approved unit of this development plan by the Flood Control Act (Public Law 534), of December 22, 1944, 78th Congress, 2nd Session.

"Supplemental funds of \$800,000 were authorized by Public Law No. 299, 80th Congress, 1st Session, on July 31, 1947 to begin construction of Bonny Dam, the major feature of the St. Francis Unit. Public Law 841, 80th Congress, 2nd Session authorized an additional \$54,786,650 to continue development of the Missouri River Basin; of this amount \$1,7000,000 was made available for the St. Francis Unit.

"2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT The plan of development of the St. Francis Unit, as authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944, calls for the construction of Bonny Dam and reservoir by the Bureau of Reclamation. Project features of the original authorized plan consist of the Bonny Dam and Reservoir with a maximum capacity of 118,000 acre-feet and a distribution system to provide for the irrigation of 6,000 acres of land on the north side of the South Fork in Colorado and Kansas. In addition, water was to be furnished to 520 acres of irrigated lands south of the river immediately below the dam.

"Later studies indicated the need for a reservoir with a total capacity of 175,000 acre-feet to be allocated as follows: silt retention 18,000 acre-feet; irrigation 25,000 acre-feet; flood control 132,000 acre-feet. In order to provide the necessary storage, a dam 130 feet high with a crest length of about 9,300 feet is being constructed.

"The irrigation features of the St. Francis Unit have been temporarily deferred. The irrigation project as contemplated in Senate Document No. 191 was determined to be in conflict with provisions of the Republican River Compact, an agreement between

the states of Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska on the distribution and utilization of the waters of the Republican River and its tributaries. Additional investigations are being conducted to determine feasibility of serving lands in Colorado by pumping from the reservoir in order to comply strictly with the terms of the compact.

"3. SYNOPSIS OF EARLY INVESTIGATIONS AND PRECONSTRUCTION WORK

The first investigations by the Bureau of Reclamation were made in the form of a reconnaissance of the entire Republican River Basin by Engineer C. T. Judah and party from the office that was established at McCook, Nebraska in 1939. Detailed investigations of the St. Francis Unit as a unit were started in 1941, discontinued during the war years, and resumed in 1945.

"Two additional dam sites on the South Fork Republican River and four dam sites on tributary streams were investigated by the Bureau of Reclamation in addition to the Hale dam site previously reported on by the Corps of Engineers. To distinguish them from the Army's Hale site, the two Bureau of Reclamation sites on the South Fork were designated as the Bonny No. 1 and Bonny No. 2 sites¹, named after a little town of Bonny, once located about five miles south of the sites. The tributary sites were designated the Sand Creek, Nameless Creek No. 1, Nameless Creek No. 2, and Landsman Creek sites.

"Consideration was given to additional upstream and downstream sites other than those named above, however the rapid decrease in stream flow for upstream sites and decrease in amount of irrigable lands which could be served from the downstream sites precluded further investigation.

"Semi-detailed land classification of the valley lands in Kansas and reconnaissance classification of table lands in Kansas indicated that there were two areas of irrigable lands in Kansas worthy of consideration for gravity irrigation development. One of the two areas included a tract of about 11,000 acres of land lying south of Wheeler, Kansas in a low table area known as Cheyenne Valley. The other area comprised high table lands on the north side of the river between the Colorado-Kansas state line and St. Francis, Kansas. With the two Bonny sites considered, a supplemental water supply would be required for 520 acres of land lying immediately below Bonny site No. 1 on the south side of the river.

"All of the seven sites are physically located so as to serve the Cheyenne Valley area, however none would provide an adequate water supply for the entire area and the four off-channel sites, none of which would economically provide half the water supply that a reservoir of the South Fork would, were not considered feasible since such a large percentage of their storage would be lost in transportation.

"A preliminary land classification of the Cheyenne Valley area determined that a large part of this area would require a

¹ But for this, Hale Dam might have been the name chosen.

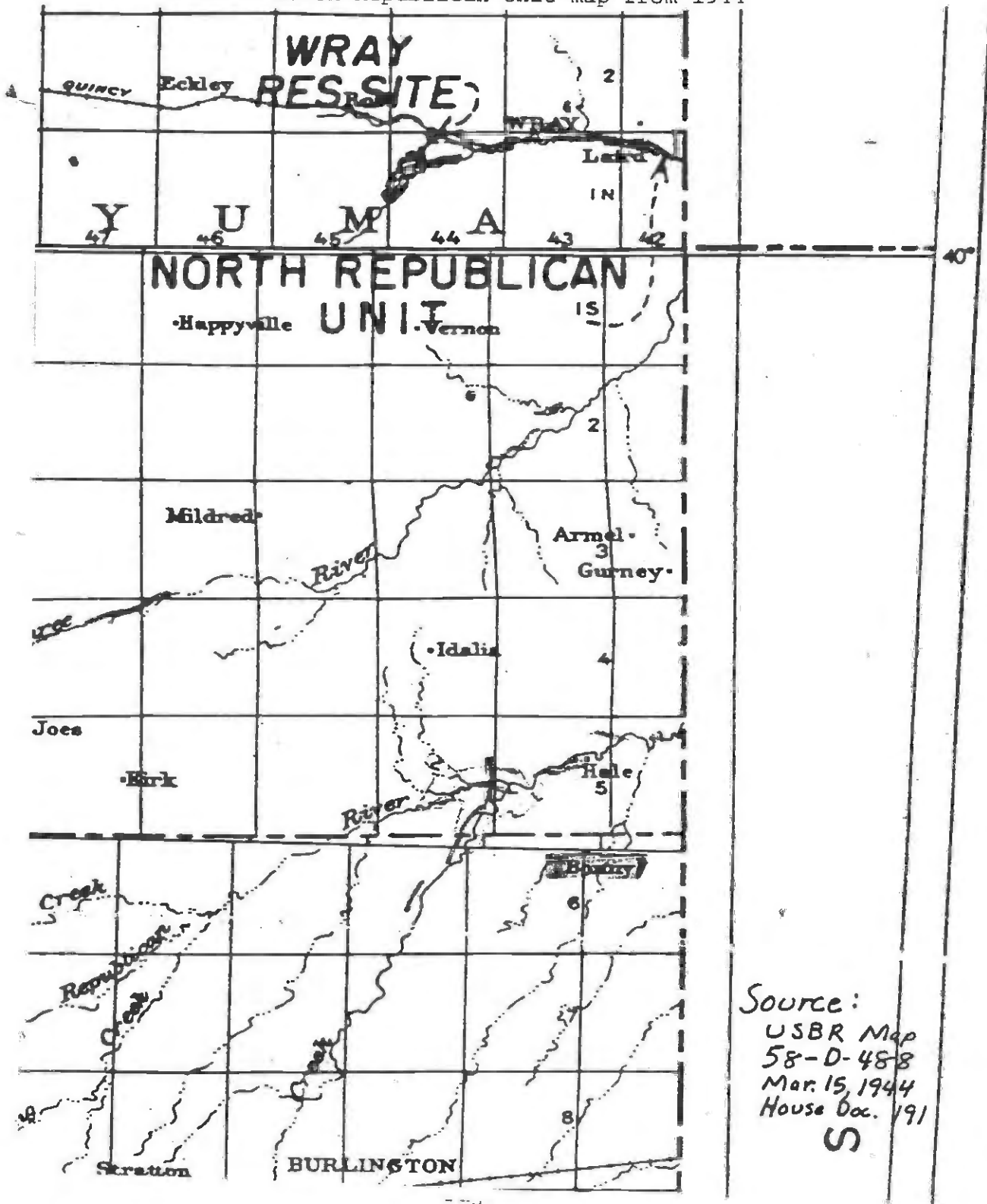
major drainage system. Preliminary classification of the lands above St. Francis indicated that the greater portion of the irrigable area was comprised of class 1 lands and that none of the lands would be subject to drainage problems, making this the more desirable area for development since it would also require a considerably shorter distribution system.

"The elimination of the Cheyenne Valley area from consideration for irrigation development narrowed the selection of a reservoir site to the two Bonny sites since only these two sites would provide adequate water supply and were physically situated to serve the selected project area by gravity. Of the two, the Bonny No. 1 site was estimated to be the more economical and was recommended as the logical site for construction of a dam to provide maximum benefits for irrigation and flood control in South Fork Republican River Basin. This site was thenceforth referred to simply as the "Bonny Site."

"In October of 1944 representatives of the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation convened to reconcile differences in the plans of the two agencies for development of the Missouri River Basin. One of the results of this meeting was the agreement on the Bonny site for construction of a reservoir on South Fork Republican River since the Hale and the Bonny sites are located within four miles of each other and for all practical purposes would provide a comparable degree of flood control¹.

¹ This North Republican Unit map may have influenced the choice of the name "Bonny" for the new dam survey since the army had already used Hale for their survey.

North Republican Unit map from 1944



Source:
USBR Map
58-D-488
Mar. 15, 1944
House Doc. 191
S

"Geology studies of the Bonny Reservoir area were started in July, 1946 and the Reconnaissance Geological Report was prepared and submitted in September, 1946. A preliminary drilling program was begun in December 1946, and completed early in 1947. A total of nine holes were drilled along the proposed axis (apex?) of the dam. A preliminary report enumerating the results of the drilling program was submitted in March, 1947.

"The District Agricultural Economists made a field investigation of the St. Francis Unit and prepared "Appendix E" from the results of their study. A crew of land classifiers began the recheck of the land in May, 1947. Meanwhile, office work was being continued on Appendixes A, B, E, G, and H and draft copies were available by September of 1947.

"Soon after the start of fiscal year 1948 supplemental funds for flood control were received for Bonny Dam and work was continued under an accelerated program, in an effort to get construction under way prior to July 1948. In August 1947, Wayne S. Byrne was assigned as construction engineer for Bonny Dam and a final stage drilling program and preconstruction surveys were started.

"A field office was established in Cheyenne County Court House in St. Francis, Kansas in October 1947 and work was begun on location of an access road to the north abutment of the dam site.

A program of materials exploration was vigorously pursued and a Construction Materials Report was completed and submitted to the Chief Engineer in February.

"Construction of the Government camp was begun just south of the city limits of St. Francis, Kansas in November. By March 1948 construction of the office building at the Government camp was sufficiently advanced so that the office was moved from Cheyenne County Court House to the camp site. On July 13, 1948 employees began moving into the houses at the Government camp and by September all units but one were essentially complete and occupied.

"4.SUMMARY OF REPORTS, Report on Republican and Kansas Rivers Flood of May and June, 1935. U. S. Geological Survey (water Supply Paper 796-5). As a result of heavy rains throughout the month of May and a rainfall of cloudburst intensity in eastern Colorado and western Nebraska during the nights of May 30-31, 1935, the great flood in the Republican-Kansas River Basin for a period of 70 years occurred. The South fork of the Republican River and the Arikaree River were the principal sources, having the highest crest discharges in second-feet per square mile of any rivers in the basin.

"From Newton, Colorado, through St. Francis, Kansas to Benkelman, Nebraska, the crest discharge increased from 103,000 to 150,000 second-feet within 5 hours. The maximum discharge of about 280,000 second-feet, occurred between Cambridge and Arapahoe, Nebraska.

"A detailed account of this flood is contained in Water-Supply Paper 796-B of the Geological Survey, U. S.

Department of the Interior - *Flood on Republican and Kansas Rivers, May and June 1935*, by Robert Follansbee and J. B. Spiegel¹. From this report: "The loss of life was greatest in the upper parts of the valley in Colorado and Nebraska, where the flood occurred at night. A total of 110 lives were lost. The loss of livestock was 20,593. More than 275,000 acres of farm land²."

How the Name "Bonny" Was Chosen

A crossword dictionary lists as synonyms for "bonny, bonnie: gay, fine, merry, plump, blithe, pretty, strong, healthy, handsome, beautiful, good-looking³."

One of the primary reasons for this research was to clarify the source of the name, Bonny Dam. Velma has heard tales of people whose similar names seemed important enough to merit having their name given to the dam.

The dedication of Bonny Dam included Alice Mae Barnhart's winning essay. Some of the Barnharts thought that her topic, "What Bonny Dam Means to Us," became the "winning" name source. A young man from University of Northern Colorado phoned Velma in 1992 saying folks in Burlington asked him to call her about a lady in a wheel chair named Williams from Burlington who knew the Bonnys. He too had heard of "Bonney" family members who had moved into Burlington at the time of the dam's dedication who claimed responsibility for the name.

Bonny Gould's own name has been suggested as a source. Some residents of the area were not entirely sure whether the dam shared this name with her.

"The June 1952 Bonny Dam dedication souvenir booklet has a story of the 1935 flood and the role this catastrophic event had in providing the catalyst that brought about the construction of Bonny Dam after many years of dreaming, wishing, and trying ineffectual modes of water control. But the booklet makes no reference to the origin of the name.

"When a new Burlington Post Office was dedicated in 1959, a history of this post office⁴ accredited to Dale E. Pralle⁵ stated that "Bonny was listed first among the names of nine offices once supplied their mail by Burlington. Other offices

¹ See abstract below

² Synopsis of Early...

³ Swanfeldt, Andrew. *Crossword Puzzle Dictionary*. 3rd ed. Thomas Y. Crowell Co. N.Y. 1967

⁴ *History of Kit...* p. 58. In a letter dated September 4, 1994 Mr. Pralle stated that he was not the author of any such book and knew of no such title. Estie Carter located what the editors believe to be the real source of this quote, "Burlington Post Office Has Colorful Past", by Gould, from the *Burlington Record* of April 16, 1953. See also "Bits of History...", by Bonny Gould.

⁵ See "Burlington Post Office..." and Pralle [Letter] 8/4/1994

listed in this mysterious source were Beloit, Cole, Hale, Hermes, Morford, Newton, Wallett, and Yale. How long Bonny remained a post office is debatable¹ but his family knows that Charles Barnhart bought the store there and handled the postoffice duties also for about two years.

"So regardless of how the name was chosen and logical as this choice for the site seems to be, all who frequent the now well-loved recreational setting would say that the name was well chosen. "Bonny" means attractive, cheerful, pleasant, healthful, pleasing to the eye. All of these and more are the background of feelings a day at "Bonny" brings forth. So most visitors would acclaim the choice of that name, and rejoice in the wisdom of those who chose the name for the delightful recreational area which is not in Kit Carson County but certainly contributes very much to life in the area.

Dorothy Smith"

The people who planned and built the dam have the history of the name "Bonny" clearly stated in their project publications². Bonny Gould herself wrote an article clarifying how the name was chosen entitled, " Bits of History Involved In Naming of Bonny Dam, by Bonny Gould³." It includes the following description of the naming of the dam.

"In answer to a recent query in "Action Line," a *Rocky Mountain News* feature, quite a few facts now come to light concerning the naming of Bonny Dam. In connection with the name search, there are also bits of history not previously told and **very** possibly nothing has been written on the subject for the past 18 years.

"Old Timers know that there was a town called Bonny. An inquiry to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation elicits the fact that this once contained 110 persons. The settlement was located about five miles southeast of the present site, which is about 25 miles north of Burlington. Reclamation Regional Director James Ingels helpfully sends the above information.

"Back in June of 1952, when the dedication and the story of the great flood of 1935 were written, evidently nobody thought to ask the origin of the name. In 1959, when the new Burlington post office was dedicated, a history was written, and Postmaster Dale Pralle points out that Bonny was listed first of nine post offices to which Burlington supplied mail. The others were Newton, Morford, Wallett, Yale, Hale, Hermes, Beloit and Cole. One of the early carriers to these outlying hamlets had an

¹ The actual dates are, June 3, 1915 to February 29, 1924.

² See "History and Authorization", above

³ By Bonny Gould, appeared in *The Burlington Record* Sept. 24, 1970.

enclosed buggy painted white, with the words, "U.S. Male," painted on the sides in red letters.

"Bonny's our old farmstead," says Ira Barnhart, who works now for the city of Burlington. His father, the late Charles Barnhart¹, bought the store and took over the postal obligation, running it for about two years. A request to the postmaster general is resulting in a search for dates which are to be forwarded eventually from the social and economic branch of the national archives. If this comes, the duration of Bonny's post office will be known. Mr. Barnhart remembers that the name was still Bonny all the time they distributed the mail. Among other supplies, their store also distributed gasoline and kerosene in cans, brought in a tank truck from Burlington since the scarcity of automobiles did not yet warrant the installation of pumps...

"Many sites were considered. Only a very few people ever knew that when the Bureau of Reclamation began trying to find out where to put a flood control and irrigation reservoir, they considered seven different sites. They were searching for a place where water would collect with a total capacity of 175,000 acre feet, agreeable to Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. For one reason and another, all sites were discarded excepting the Bonny location. Such designated surveys as Landsman Creek, Sand Creek, Nameless Creek No. 1 and No. 2, Hale Site and Cheyenne Valley having been found not to have the capacity to irrigate over 11,000 acres at least that the crops of engineers planned for Bonny...

"Now 35 years later...Bonny's happiness resources have remained solace and far-removed from wars, riots and pollution all these years. Generations yet to come are sure to have the foresight to preserve this grassy land of beauty and opportunity. In fact, their increased knowledge can be ever-improving. I surmise that their courage will be no less than that of the brave souls of yesteryear, whose problems, though different, may have been easier to resolve than some yet to come Isaac Bonny's old namesake² - long may she wave!³"

The Flood of 1935

The author's name is sometimes seen as Bonnie, as is the post office name occasionally. Bonny Gaunt Gould also wrote the account of the flood seen in the *History of Kit Carson...* pp.43-46. The Department of the Interior also has printed accounts of the flood⁴. An abstract of their most important one follows Bonny Gould's account.

¹ Note spelling here

² Bonny Gould knew the source of the name, "Bonny Dam".

³ "Bits of History Involved in Naming of Bonny Dam. By Gould"

⁴ Follansbee.

"The Great Flood of 1935

As we of this area participate in the dedication of this modern wonder, Bonny Dam, and share with each other the feeling of a great work well done, the minds of many hark back to a less propitious time - to the dread Memorial Day flood of 1935. On that night occurred a disaster that did more than anything to focus attention on the need of such structures as Bonny Dam, and that marked the real beginning of large-scale flood control in the western United States. We honor, and rightly, the men and women who lost their lives in our wars, but we should honor no less the men and women who were taken in the terrible waters of the night of May 30, 1935. There were more than 100 of them, and by their deaths and by the property destruction wrought that night, the leaders of our nation were spurred to action, leading to the building of such flood-control structures as Bonny Dam.

"Fourteen Million Damage The facts of the unprecedented downpour and floods of that Memorial Day are contained in a Government report issued later. But cold facts cannot begin to describe the terror of that time for those living along the water-courses of the stricken area, nor do the figures of \$14,000,000.00 given for property damage begin to express the real losses that stretched over all the years since, as represented by sand-covered fields and rich topsoil carried away to the sea.

"Dust Clouds - Rain Clouds A series of dry years, beginning in the late 1920's, culminated in the driest-of-all years, 1934, when less than a five-inch total was recorded in much of the Great Plains area. The "Black Blizzards" of the Dust Bowl days darkened the skies at midday. The year 1935 began no less ominously. Up to the first of May little moisture had fallen. Then began three weeks of almost unceasing rains. The ground was soaked and county roads were like bogs. About May 25 the rains stopped. Up to the afternoon of May 30, mild and sunny days prevailed. Memorial services were held under auspicious weather conditions, although in a few places light afternoon showers occurred.

"Towards evening, dwellers in the tri-corner of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska described heavy cloud banks in the northeast. Similarly in the locality where Colorado and its three southern neighbors meet, thunder heads were observed at dusk, away to the southwest.

"Two Giants Meeting How little those who idly noticed the cloud banks realized just what was taking place! For three days a tremendous low pressure area had been developing along the Canadian border and moving eastward towards the Great Lakes. In like manner, a storm center had been generated in lower California and Arizona and was moving eastward into New Mexico. During the forenoon of May 29, the storm-center nearing the Great Lakes suddenly halted, changed course and began moving at accelerated speed to the southeast. It was as if the two storm foci, like two huge angry giants, had suddenly sighted each other

and halting, moved forward to do battle. By evening of May 30, the one storm center was over Central Nebraska while the other was at the Southern Colorado border. The stage was set for the most terrifying clash of opposing aerial forces ever seen in this country! The center of that stage was a spot just within the Colorado border, an area in northeast Colorado, between the Republican River and the Arickaree, where those streams cross the state line. There, was the focus of the low-pressure area and there, the two opposing storms met. From that whirling vortex the tempest spread in all directions for perhaps 150 miles.

"Cataclysm and Earth Tremors At the focal point of the cloudburst, twenty-four inches of water fell, and most of it in the forty minutes of the storm's greatest fury. Fifty miles away in the same period of less than an hour saw as much as twelve inches of rainfall. It staggers the imagination to picture two feet of water being laid down over hill and valley in less than an hour. The downpour was accompanied by the most incessant and vivid lightning, while the earth shook with the continual roll of thunder. Over most of the area the height of the storm came between 7:30 and 9:00 p.m., although it was a few hours later that the sweeping waters reached the area around what is now Bonny Dam. People huddled terrified in such groups as could get together. At the height of the cataclysm in the western part of Kit Carson County, Colorado, several earth tremors were distinctly felt. None tried to reason this out nor to account for it at the time, but the explanation, or at least the result, was shown later.

"Searchers Picture the Deaths At last the rain settled to a mild drizzle. By midnight most of the fury of the elements was spent. The day dawned clear, with fleecy clouds overhead and low valleys wrapped in feathery fog. By 10:00 a.m. the wind came up and from the rapidly drying surface of the ground, dust was whipped up in a few places to form miniature but growing "black blizzards."

"But what a scene of havoc and death greeted the eyes of the thousands of searchers who were out at daybreak along the valleys of the river and creeks. Word had spread that many who had retired early had been caught by the rushing walls of the water that swept down the usually dry creeks and river beds, and carried away to die, in a hopeless battle against the icy waters, in darkness and alone. Scores of houses in the lower valleys had been quickly toppled from their foundations. Survivors who had escaped and fought their way to shore told tales of unimaginable horror. Many, who had clung to debris, to buildings or to trees through the long night, had, when daylight came, found themselves surrounded by animals dead and dying. Often human beings were hard put to hold their places of safety against the approach of desperately swimming animals and snakes. For, struggling in the frigid flood, trying to avoid the debris of houses, fences, trees, hay and floating animals, the victims faced the added danger of venomous rattlesnakes, coral snakes and other vipers.

"The Prehistoric Fossils Exposed Hay meadows that had been warm and green in the May sunshine were now only desolate patches of hot and glistening sand. The channels of streams had been altered; huge bowls torn in the rivers' beds revealed the bones of beasts that dwelt on this earth ages before the coming of man. A single leg bone measured nine feet, while a tooth from some prehistoric monster was found to weigh twenty-seven pounds.

"The deluge that drowned thousands of jack rabbits and birds on the plains also washed away millions of cubic yards of the rich topsoil requiring countless thousands of years to build up. Hundreds upon hundreds of old Indian camps were brought to light, and it was revealed that at one time this country had been covered by dense and huge timber.

"The Earth Yawned Those who had believed they felt the earth tremble at the height of the storm had ample proof of their belief. All over the northwestern part of Kit Carson County and that part of southern Washington County huge cracks had been opened, leading into the bowels of the earth. Some of these cracks, extending for miles, were as much as six feet across, and in them, hundreds of feet below the surface, the roar of rushing water could be heard for days. Wind and farming operations have filled the upper parts or obliterated these crevices since, but there are plenty of creditable witnesses to testify to their reality. An earthquake? Well, with nature in such a convulsion, is it to be doubted?

"No More Floods Like This The storm was one of the major disasters in America's western history. More than 100 lives lost, and the loss in farm and town property, highway, and railroad bridges and roadbeds was estimated conservatively at the fourteen million dollar figure. No one could guess nor calculate the loss caused by depleted soil; people had been made homeless and all the other products of this tragic clash of the elements. Rivers more in name than in fact, that usually were dry water-courses, ran a mile wide and twenty feet deep, carrying a wealth of property and topsoil into the sea.

"To most of us, Bonny Dam, and the many similar dams all over this plains country, are places of beauty, of rest and recreation. But back of all this lies the comforting thought that should there come such another flood, or even any of the many that occur each year in lesser violence, this dam stands as a bulwark of safety.

"Augmented by the practices of soil erosion prevention of the community and individual level, such structures guarantee us against another like disaster as that of the memorable night of May 30, 1935. For Bonny Dam indeed makes possible the slogan: Preservation of the soil saves death and loss and toil¹."

Bonny Gould

¹ *Bonny Dam Dedication...p. 20*

"Flood on the Republican and Kansas Rivers
May and June 1935
Robert Follansbee and J.B. Spiegel

Abstract

"An unusually heavy storm of cloudburst intensity in eastern Colorado and western Nebraska during the night of May 30-31, 1935, which followed two periods of general rainfall over the Republican-Kansas River Basin earlier in the month, produced the greatest flood of record in the upper part of this basin and a flood nearly as great as any previously recorded on the lower part of the basin below Junction City, Kans.

"The area of heaviest rainfall contained no precipitation stations of the United States Weather Bureau, but records obtained by local residents who measured the rainfall in miscellaneous receptacles indicate that the precipitation was 18 to 24 inches at some places in the upper part of the Republican-Kansas River Basin during the night of May 30-31. During the period May 26 to June 2 the storm extended over the greater part of the basin, causing local floods on many rivers in Nebraska and Kansas.

"The South Fork of the Republican River and the Arickaree River were the principal sources of the flood and had the highest crest discharges in second-feet per square mile of any rivers in the basin, the crest discharge of the South Fork of the Republican River at Newton, Colo., being about 103,000 second-feet or 81.2 second-feet per square mile of drainage area. The crest discharge in second-feet continued to increase as the flood passed down the river until a maximum discharge of about 280,000 second-feet occurred between Cambridge and Arapahoe, Nebr. Below this point the effects of channel and flood-plain capacity in reducing the crest discharge were sufficient to offset the inflow from tributary streams, so that there was a flattening of the flood crest and a gradual reduction in the magnitude of the crest discharge to 170,000 second-feet at Ogden, Kans., and 120,000 second-feet at the mouth of the Kansas River at Kansas City, Kans.

"The loss of life was greatest in the upper parts of the valley in Colorado and Nebraska, where the flood occurred at night. A total of 110 lives were lost. The loss of livestock was 20,593. More than 275,000 acres of farm land were damaged, most of which contained growing crops or hay. Several hundred miles of highways and railroads were destroyed or damaged, also 515 highway bridges and many railroad bridges. The number of homes destroyed or damaged was very large, especially in the upper part of the valley, where the water rose to unprecedented heights. In Kansas 1,485 homes and 1,552 buildings other than homes were flooded.

"The river measurement stations maintained by the Geological Survey and cooperating parties in Nebraska and Kansas were in operation throughout the period of the flood with the exception of five stations that were destroyed or rendered inoperative.

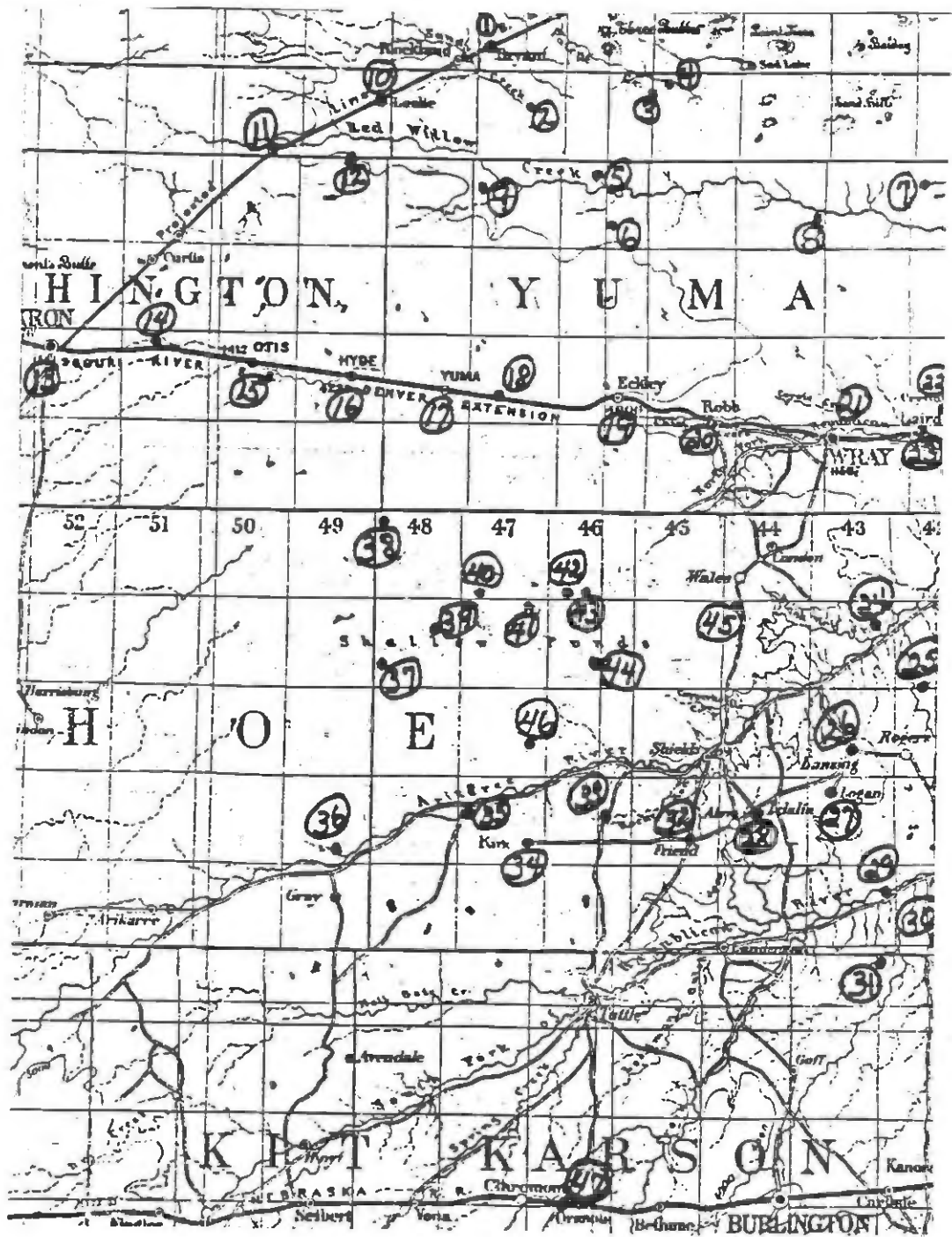
Determinations of discharge at these 5 stations were made from flood marks and data obtained by observers. In addition to information regarding maximum discharges at stations on the Republican and Kansas Rivers during the flood of May and June 1935, contained elsewhere in this report, the mean daily discharge for this period for 32 stations in the Republican-Kansas River Basin is given in the tables.

"It appears that other floods, especially that of May and June 1903, have been greater than that of May and June 1935 for the Kansas River below Junction City, although the flood of 1935 was the greatest flood that had occurred in the upper part of the Republican-Kansas River Basin during the period of historical record. The flood that occurred in the spring of 1844 apparently exceeded the flood of 1903 in the lower part of the basin and is believed to be the maximum flood of record on the Kansas River, although no definite information is available as to its height or magnitude¹."

This undated map from *Action on the Plains*², shows this Yuma, Kit Carson area when Arapahoe County still extended to the Kansas border between Yuma and Kit Carson Counties. Bonny is #31. Hale is #29. Morris is not shown here.

¹ Follansbee. p. 21

² Page 199



Abarr-----	39	Fox-----	33	Ludlum-----	9
Akron-----	13	Friend-----	32	Mildred-----	44
Alvin-----	7	Gurney-----	30	Otis-----	15
Armel-----	25	Hale-----	29	Flatner-----	14
Avoca-----	41	Happyville-----	43	Robb-----	20
Beecher Island--	24	Heartstrong-----	42	Robbers Roost--	46
Bethal Church--	40	Hughes-----	37	Schramm-----	18
Bonny-----	31	Hyde-----	16	Steffins-----	38
Brownsville-----	39	Idalia-----	28	Vernoo-----	45
Bryant-----	1	Joss-----	35	Wages-----	4
Burdett-----	11	Kingston-----	26	Wauweta-----	8
Clarksville-----	2	Kirk-----	34	Waverly-----	6
Columbia-----	47	Laird-----	23	Weld City-----	5
Cope-----	36	Lansing-----	26	Wray-----	21
Crystal Springs--	22	Leslie-----	10	Yuma-----	17
Eckley-----	19	Logan-----	27		
Ford-----	3	Lons Star-----	12		

Dedication Program

The "Dedication Cover" had a large 8 X 10 inch picture of Bonny Dam upon which was printed, "Bonny Dam," then underneath in large letters, "Dedication." The bottom of the page showed the "Price \$1.00, Hale, Colorado - at Bonny Reservoir, June 1, 1952."

Again, the general format of the original is maintained as much as possible. The first page was the "Table of Contents" which is reproduced below completely. A few articles will be included here and or mentioned. The Bank of Burlington had some copies, and donated one for use with this Bonny book.

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¹ See also "Horned Rabbit Killed at Dam"

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"The horned rabbit and Bonny Dam became united in the Bonny research. Indeed several such serendipitous events surprised the editors. Estie Carter furnished mountains of Bonny materials, and also "horned rabbit items. A letter from William (Bill) Bonny, Velma's brother, appeared at McCook, Nebraska. This letter revealed his Greeley home was three doors from your editor's home.

"The post card from Ike [1865] to his niece, Bertha Camp was found at the Old Town Museum. A historian from the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, Illinois, Ken Grabowski, has been researching early toilets and Thomas Crapper with one of the editors. These horned rabbit materials were useful to Mr. Grabowski in another study, on the Jackalope origins."

"Bonny Dam - A Bargain

By N. Beth Woodin

"This is the story of a bargain - the story of how four million dollars and a year and a half of time were saved in building a dam for the people of the United States.

"Bonny Dam, located on the South Fork of the Republican River near the little town of Hale, Colo., was completed and accepted by the Bureau of Reclamation on May 4, 1951, 521 days ahead of schedule, at a cost of \$13,000,000. The estimated cost prior to the opening of bids was \$17,047,000.

"Much of the credit for this phenomenal accomplishment is due the principal contractor, the Utah Construction Company of San Francisco, Calif., with its staff of highly efficient, energetic, and resourceful key personnel. During the first full year (1949) of construction, the Utah Construction Company accomplished 43 percent of the contract work on what was scheduled to be a 4-year job. In so doing, they established

¹ *Bonny Dam Dedication. p. 3*

several new records for earth work on Bureau of Reclamation projects, excavating over 1,000,000 cubic yards of material a month for four consecutive months, with a maximum of 1,334,000 cubic yards in November, and placing over 1,043,000 cubic yards of embankment material the same month.

"There were two principal reasons for the saving accruing to the United States in the construction of Bonny Dam. One was the unique methods developed by the contractor which enabled him to submit an extremely favorable bid for the job. The other was that the completion of the work almost a year and a half ahead of schedule substantially reduced the administrative cost to the Government.

"Bonny Dam, the principal feature of the St. Francis Unit of the Missouri River Basin project, is situated about six miles west of the Colorado-Kansas State line. It was designed by the Bureau as a multiple-purpose structure providing for irrigation, flood control, silt storage, and other benefits. Although the irrigation phase of the project was determined to be in conflict with existing agreements between the States of Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska covering the distribution and utilization of the water of the Republican River and its tributaries, Congress appropriated funds in 1948 for the construction of Bonny Dam primarily for flood control. Studies are now essentially completed to determine the most practicable plan for development of the irrigation potentialities without violating existing agreements between the three States.

"Storage of the runoff of the South Fork of the Republican River in Bonny Reservoir will ultimately provide irrigation for 7,000 acres, of which 5,200 acres will be in Colorado, and 1,800 in Kansas. The major portion of the area to be irrigated in Colorado is located on a high terrace and will require a pump lift of about 150 feet to divert water to these lands. The lands to be irrigated in Kansas, however, will be mainly valley lands than can be reached with a gravity flow canal.

"Bonny Dam is situated in a semi-arid region of the Great Plains normally deficient in precipitation and subject to recurring drought and hot, dry summer winds. The area is also subject to occasional storms of great intensity which transform its normally quiescent streams into raging torrents of destruction. Of the 175,000 acre-feet of storage capacity in the reservoir, 132,000 are allocated to flood control, with the remaining 43,000 reserved for irrigation and silt retention.

"The dam is a rolled earth-fill structure rising 128 feet above the river bed. It is approximately 3,200 feet long and over 8,554,000 cubic yards of embankment material were used in its construction. A roadway 30 feet wide was constructed along the dam crest, with a bridge spanning the concrete spillway opening at the north abutment. Rock riprap was used for the protection of the upstream face of the dam, and the downstream slope was protected by seeding the embankment with a mixture of crested and western wheatgrass, biennial yellow sweet clover, and

barley. A gravel-surfaced road three miles long was constructed to provide access to the dam from the north.

"Bonny Dam was selected by the Bureau as the site of an upstream embankment protection experiment designed to lower costs for this type of work. A test embankment section was constructed on the south shore of the reservoir about two-thirds of a mile upstream from the dam. Because of the high cost of rock suitable for riprap ordinarily used in upstream embankment protection, Bureau engineers had been experimenting for over two years with a number of substitutes for rock. The results of this research indicated that the two most promising materials were standard (compacted) soil-cement and hot-mix asphaltic-concrete. These materials were used in the test section. It is too early at this date to predict the success of the experiment; it will take years of exposure to freezing and thawing, wind and wave action, and other adverse conditions before its success can be determined.

"Reservoir clearing operations were completed in April 1950 and storage of water in the reservoir was begun in July of that year. The reservoir now forms a lake more than three miles long and a mile wide and covers 1,620 acres. It has a shoreline of 10 1/2 miles. When the lake is filled to normal capacity, it will be about 3 1/2 miles long and 1 1/4 miles wide and will cover 2,042 acres. The shoreline will be 14 miles and the lake will be about 55 feet deep at its deepest point.

"Bonny Reservoir is 75 miles from the nearest body of water of comparable size, and it is expected that the area will be used extensively for recreational purposes. Approximately 27,000 people live within the area the reservoir is expected to serve. Already large flocks of ducks and geese have stopped at the reservoir in the fall and spring, and the area gives evidence of becoming a hunter's paradise. Recreational and wildlife development is under way and additional work is planned for the future. A swimming beach and a boat launching ramp have been completed, and access roads to the public recreational area have been graveled. Trees and shrubs have been planted in the recreational area and seedling trees in the sites selected for wildlife habitat development. Construction of facilities for the public recreational area were completed in December 1951. The Colorado State Game and Fish Department has stocked the reservoir with about 100,000 fish, principally bluegills, bass, and drum.

"A memorandum of understanding between the Bureau of Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior and the Colorado State Game and Fish Department is being negotiated, under the terms of which the land and water surface of the reservoir area will be administered, operated, and maintained by the Colorado Game Department. Operation of the reservoir area by the Game Department will start in the spring of 1952. This will be the first area in the Missouri River Basin on which such a coordinated reservoir management plan has been developed and an agreement has been worked out whereby a State game commission has

administrative control over the management of the land and water-surface area of an entire federally owned reservoir.

"Under the terms of the memorandum of understanding and a specific lease, the Colorado Game Department will administer the recreational area, the private cabin site area, the organized club camp area, and all agricultural and grazing lands in the reservoir area. Also under the terms of the agreement, the Game Department is charged with the enforcement of Federal and State game and fish laws in the area. Cleland N. Feast, director, Colorado State Game and Fish Department, 1530 Sherman Street, Denver, Colo., and Robert Poley, Wildlife Technician, Bonny Dam, Burlington, Colo., can be contacted regarding any phase of the management of the reservoir area^{1,2}."

"We Walk at the Side of Our Men

By Nell Hayes

Past President, Burlington Women's Club

"In the beginning God created Man, then Woman to walk at his side. He endowed her with a sense of loyalty, fidelity, and the natural instinct (sometimes referred to as 'woman's intuition'), which warned her of approaching danger so that she might defend and protect her family.' This heritage has been transmitted, unimpaired through the ages, and forms the basis for the determination possessed by our pioneer forbearers, who braved many hardships and privations in order to be at the side of their men in the early developments of our great nation.

"Today, the Modern Woman, having no further territorial frontiers to conquer, but still imbued with the same determination to do her part, has turned to other fields of endeavor - striving now not only on a national basis but on an international level as well in her drive for world progress. In order to exercise this inborn spirit of progress to its fullest measure, she looks to pooling her efforts with other women where within the same flame burns.

"Wherever American women are found - be it on the smallest island in the farthest corner of the earth or be it the world's largest metropolis - they are bound to organize a group through which they may yield influence toward a specific purpose.

"Club women all over the world, regardless of race, color, or creed, differ only in custom and habit - never in purpose. In their hearts they all bear the same code: to preserve all that is near and dear to them; to keep the family unit whole and strong, whatever the price may be. This common bond among all women brings on a great desire to end all Man's attempts to destroy himself through hate that eventually ends in war. THINK of what the outcome would be if 30 million women became

¹ *Bonny Dam Dedication*. pp. 8-9

² See also, "Reclamation Area Publishes"

effectively vocal and came forth with a common plan for world peace and the preservation of mankind!

"Every day we are informed, by those who should know, that our country is in a precarious position. Our advancement in material wealth brought about by the liberal use of our individual rights and freedoms has made many nations envious. This breeds such a hate that they secretly and greedily connive to weaken and destroy us. This we must stop.

"On the other hand, there are those nations who look to us for strong leadership both financially and spiritually. They would band with us to create a strength that could never be weakened or destroyed. We all look to the United Nations with great hope.

With this in mind, women representing the Federation of Women's Clubs show a manifesto for action. It is based on convention resolutions wherein lies the privilege of sending delegates to express their opinions and those who they represent. Through the democratic alternative of accepting or rejecting matters of controversy until all are in agreement, strength in organization is shown.

"As American club women, we are looked upon as leaders in public opinion. We must put forth all our efforts to comprehend all vital topics of the day so that we may think them through clearly and as a result make wise choices for our futures in this fast-moving, atomic world.

"Today, every nation of the world is debating its own future, and America is the center of that discussion. With this fact in mind goes the realization that whichever way the world and its turbulent humanity turns, it is up to us more than any nation in the world to exert the proper influence. We club women of America bear this as our standard of responsibility.

"We must not be discouraged about the world we now live in. It may help to look back over the annals of history and recall that millions of men and women no better, no stronger than ourselves lived through equally seditious periods of time when it seemed as if the world was in a state of chaos and disintegration. We can see now that those periods of seeming disintegration were merely great seed times of new civilization - new periods of which we are today the inheritors.

"Women's Clubs along with our fellow Americans have more personal liberties and more comforts with which to enjoy those blessings than any other generation of persons in all recorded history. We should also have more opportunity and personal responsibility than any previous group of people to preserve and expand this heritage of which we should consider ourselves as the most fortunate recipients.

"We should go forth eagerly then, walking by the side of our men folk to meet this harsh challenge of the times and build anew our citadels of freedoms. The first is within ourselves, the next our homes and families, the third is our community. Here the club women have a first-hand opportunity to serve and inform,

for the chief purpose of Women's Clubs of all types is to further the interest of their own communities.

"Never forgetting, though, that our place is also in a nation of United Nations where war is ever prevalent. We are extremely aware that the road to peace is not an easy one. There will be many barricades lending much fear and violence to our wanted peace - and peace itself will be won at a heavy price of time and strength, of shattered hopes, and even through the loss of life.

"With courage we must sense our great purpose. We must look to the united efforts of the Women's Clubs all over the world for a leverage in bringing about a peace to this world. We must never drop our purpose and influence by the roadside, for it is the needed light and hope as we walk by the side of our men¹."

The winning author in the "essay contest" is a granddaughter of Charlie F. Barnhart, second postmaster at Bonny. She has written histories for the *History of Kit Carson County...* and other publications. Writing by her occurs throughout this volume. Her parents are Iva Mae Winfrey and Leonard Barnhart, son of Charlie. Her letters to your editors about her memories of this day are fascinating. They follow her essay. We were fortunate to have her agree to be the "Barnhart editor."

"Essay Contest First Prize Winner

"Miss Alice Barnhart, Burlington, Colorado, first place winner of the Bonny Dam essay contest, "What Bonny Dam Means to Us." Alice attends the Burlington High School and is a senior.

"What Bonny Dam Means to Us Essay By Miss Alice Barnhart

"The Bonny Dam, which is located approximately 30 miles northeast of Burlington, Colorado, has both a commercial value and a recreational value. Work began on the Dam about four years ago and was finished last year. It consists of a large expanse of water flowing into it from the Launchman and the Republican Rivers, and a long wall of earth covered with large rocks imported from the mountains, which serves to hold the water back. The water has to be fairly high before it will flow through the spillway.

"The Dam was constructed for the purposes of storing up water for irrigation and to help prevent a flood if one should come. As the country here in the Middle west is dry, the water will serve us very well in helping us to produce bigger and better crops.

"The Dam is also a great recreational contribution to the community. During the summer people go there to go boating, swimming, water skiing, fishing, or just to watch the ones who

¹ *Bonny Dam Dedication.* p. 27

happen to be doing these things. The Dam has been stocked with a numerous assortment of fish which have had time to grow into fair-sized catches during the winter. Many hunters travel to the Dam during the duck hunting season.

"The Dam serves as a place that we can be proud of when we show it to others and tell them how the people of this community have helped to make the community and, indirectly, the whole country a better place in which to live and enjoy life as we know it in this land. This project represents millions of dollars and long hours and months of hard work on the part of the many workers who have made it what it is to us.

"The Dam stands as an accomplishment of this generation, not only in the fact that it is to better their own lives and crops, but also to provide a way by which the generations to follow will be able to have better things and can profit from this project. The Dam stands out as a reminder of the freedoms we have in this country. It is an example of how the government and the people have worked together to complete a project which will be a contribution to the country. It will remind us of how fortunate we are to live in this land. It will cause us to think about what it would be like to live in a country where we were told to cooperate with the government on a project such as this. The Dam means more to us because we were not ordered to help the government but we were asked to help. It will help us to remember that without our freedom we would not be able to have the things we have today, do the things we do today, say the things we say today, print and write the things we do today, or to worship as we worship today. If we are reminded of this we will fight and work harder to preserve our rights and to make this country a better land in which to live¹."

"Bonny Dam Is Dedicated-News

Burlington: June 1. (1952) - Thousands of Kansas and Colorado residents yesterday witnessed formal dedication of the huge new Bonny Dam and Reservoir north of here.

National officials, with others from Colorado and Kansas, took part in the day-long dedication ceremonies.

Prominent speakers lauded the reservoir's value both for irrigation and as a game refuge to build the state's waterfowl population.

"GAME CHIEF SPEAKS We expect the lake to become one of the choice fishing waters in the state," Thomas L. Kimball said yesterday.

The director of the Colorado Game and Fish Department gave one of the main addresses at the dedication yesterday.

Definite steps already have been taken to develop, increase and protect wildlife in the area," Mr. Kimball said.

These include hedge rows and shelter tree belts in the area. This, he said, will provide cover and feed for the ring-neck pheasant, one of the state's primary game birds.

¹ Bonny Dam Dedication. p. 37

"MANY FISH PLANTED It will also benefit the quail, grouse and rabbit population.

Mr. Kimball predicted that the reservoir will become one of the best hunting grounds for ducks and wild geese. He said there were about 17,000 wild ducks in the Bonny Dam area last year.

Fish were planted in the reservoir as soon as possible. These included 29,000 large-mouth black bass and included 90,000 bluegills and drums, some white bass, Mr. Kimball said.

Fishing at the reservoir will open July 1 and continue through October 31. Mr. Kimball predicted the fishing will be excellent.

Recreation available includes swimming, boating, picnicking and camping - in addition to fishing and hunting.

He said the National Park Service set aside a quarter-mile area on the south side of the reservoir for a swimming beach, boat dock, boat-landing ramp, fire places, picnic tables and a camping area. Some of the facilities already are in operation.

"POPULATIONS RECORDED The development of the Bonny Dam area for wildlife represents an important step in the Colorado Game and Fish Department's over-all program," Mr. Kimball continued.

He gave estimates on the state's game populations at the end of last year.

These included 298,000 deer, 43,000 elk, 7,000 bear, 9,500 antelope, 5,000 Bighorn Mountain sheep and 12,000 wild turkeys.

The game harvest last year included 74,800 deer, 10,300 elk, 530 bear and 250 wild turkeys.

The trout catch was estimated at 15 million.

"CONCERTS HELD The morning program at the dam site included band concerts at 9 a.m.

A parade of boats across the reservoir heralded the raising of the colors at 10:35 a.m.

H.F. McPhail, U.S. assistant commissioner of reclamation, spoke at 10:50 a.m., followed by an address by Gov. Dan Thornton. C. Petrus Peterson, president of the National Reclamation Association, Lincoln, Neb., spoke after Mr. Kimball.

The afternoon program included boat races, water skiing and arrival of a PBY flying boat.

Governor Thornton told the crowd that it is the responsibility of free enterprise to keep the people well fed and well clothed.

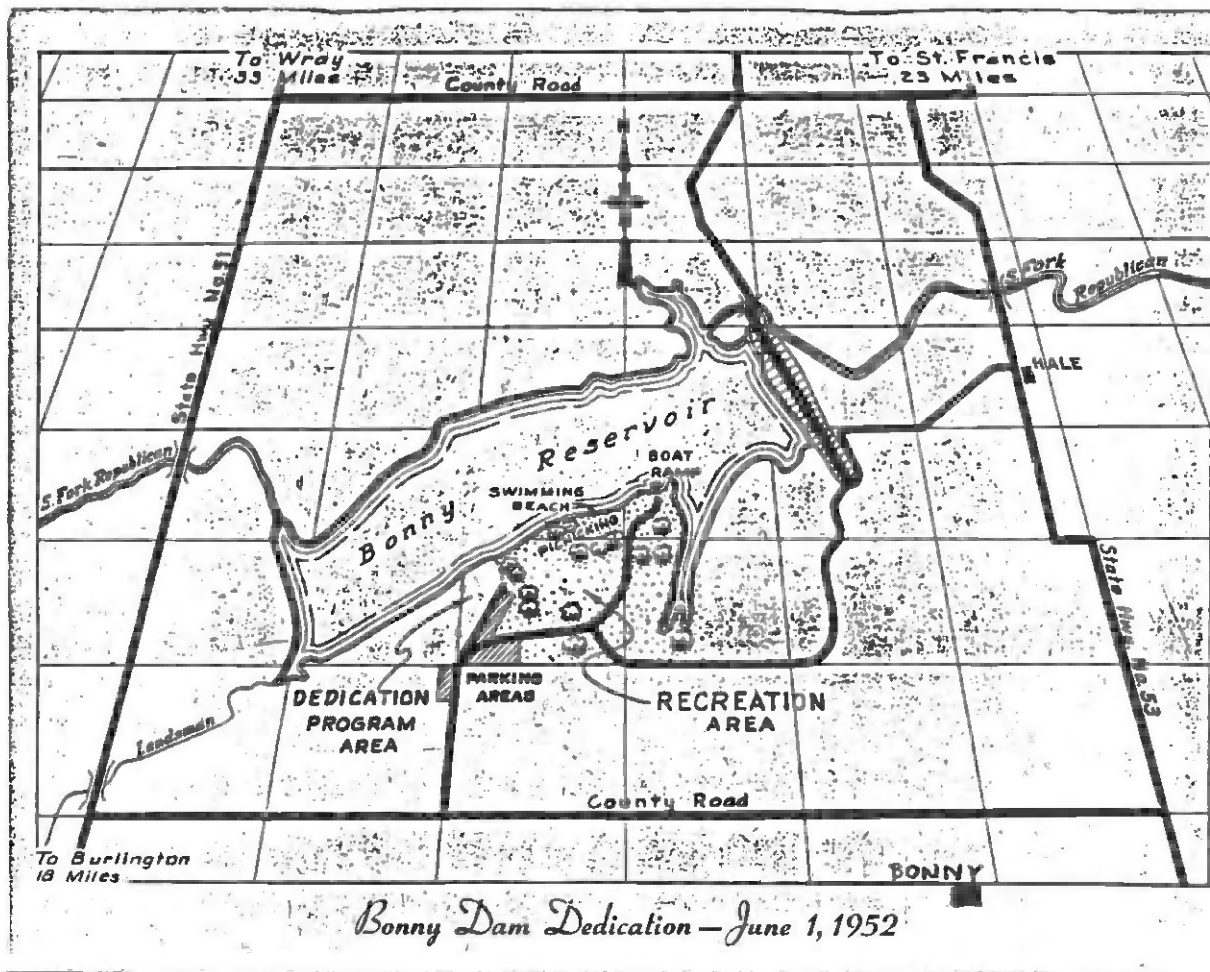
"Government should do only those things which the people and free enterprise cannot do," he said.

The governor presented cups to Lavina Lou Coryell, of Flagler, and Mary Isham of Wray. Miss Coryell was named Miss Bonny Dam. Miss Isham was queen of Saturday night's dedication ball.

C. Petrus Peterson of Lincoln, Neb., reviewed the history of the Missouri Basin program. He said it is just as important to the United States to avoid wasteful floods as it is to create new wealth. He is president of the National Reclamation Assn¹.

¹ "Special to the Rocky Mountain News". 6/2/1952

The back cover of the official program has this "Bonny Dam Dedication" map of the Bonny Reservoir area on the dedication day. The editors have added the approximate site of the Bonny Post Office.



From 1951 to 1968 Earl Max Meyer was the first caretaker at Bonny Dam under the Department of Reclamation. His family has a collection of official memos, records and memorabilia from those early years. His daughter Merle Walter lives in Ft. Collins. His wife, Merle's mom is in the Spring Creek Care home.



Chapter Six
SINCE BONNY, COLORADO

Descendants of Isaac Bonny [1822] and Margaret Stimple are now scattered far and wide. The families of the brothers, Isaac [1865] and Jacob and their wives, who were sisters, Laura and Maud, with Charlie and his wife Jennie, were central to our history. Their offspring still reflect the unity that made their accomplishments of the early 20th century possible.

This present generation of the Barnharts and the Bonnys have tried to help the editors in every way possible. The descendants of Isaac Bonny [1822] and Maggie Van Dyke, then later, Charlie Barnhart, and Jennie Teel; have motivated us with their memories and enthusiasm.

The Bonnys

Isaac [1865], his wife Laura, and Floa, wife of Isaac [1886], are all buried in the rural Pack River Cemetery. It is approximately eight miles northeast of Sandpoint, Idaho. Isaac [1886] is interred at the Sunnyside, Washington Cemetery. Both Isaac's and Laura's obituaries list Grouse Creek as their home. The store and post office that were the Samuels, Idaho, Velma remembers, are no more. Sandpoint is now the nearest town to Grouse Creek.

When Velma Was Wiser

Karen

Velma's oldest reminded us, "Because of my age, it's 1994 and I'm a grandma; and after all those years, it seems like the stories become less specific, more embellished and much harder to relate," Karen told us. "I only know my childhood was grand... My parents the best! These parents had identical twins, Judy TeMaat and Janice Christman. Velma and Velda were fraternal twins. Diane Schatz is the world traveler of Don and Velma's family, having lived in Italy and Russia for extended times.

"Once upon a time my mother made for me, the biggest formal at the prom. She sewed purple net ruffles forever, and Dad finally let me (Karen) borrow his 1954 Pontiac. It was probably 1955 or 1956. I was able to get some friends and buzz the "A & W" a few times. I guess now he planned to follow me in mother's grey Jitney to see how I drove, correct speed, with responsibility. The problem was, he could never catch me to check. I went a little too fast for him, or for the jitney. Needless to say I got the "celotex talk" when I got home. I don't think I got his car very often after that."

Velma added that Kay (Don called Karen "Kay" or "Sis") and her dad got along very well and liked to be together. "They were a lot alike." But she could never win an argument with him. She would get so upset sometimes she'd just go into the bathroom and cry.

A story that amazes Karen still, happened later. "I was very married and had three teenagers. I was visiting the folks in Greeley around 1977 or so. Mother and I wanted to drive into

Denver and shop. Daddy always worried too much and would have put his foot down and said, "Kay, you're not going to Denver - too dangerous."

"We decided that what he did not know wouldn't hurt him so after he left for work, we left for shopping. A few hours and a few malls later we decided to finish out at Tamarac Square in south Denver. We were cruising along on I 25 or I 70 in four lanes of traffic when who in the whole city would pull up along side of us, My Dad! Ugh! Help! Out of options, we honked and waved and panicked and headed straight back to Greeley! Dad came home too, but not one of the four of us ever mentioned it aloud.

"The "no tell" philosophy left me then and there... I always try to tell it like it is, painful as it may ever be." Frankness is the ultimate compliment."

The "Celotex" Talk

Velma traced this saying. "While at Casper, Don made a great sale, all the celotex for the Sunrise Mall. After the family moved to Laramie, the five girls were arguing and fussing so much Velma began to remonstrate. Don took the five into the bedroom and had a long talk with them. When they came out, Butchie summed it all up with, 'It was just another celotex talk.' The label endures."

If You Like It, Buy It

Velma remembers Theresa and Kathleen, Karen's kids, coming to Denver to visit and shop for high school clothes. They had their own money, but took Velma along. Theresa found some bell bottom slacks she had to have but said, "We can't afford those." I replied, "If you like it, buy it," and helped them\$. We all still use this motto when it fits."

Velma's Good Goods

Don's company had a big fancy shindig at the Wohlhurst Club. I wanted a new dress, so Don went to help me shop. We found it for \$65.00 at Klines, but he rubbed the material and said, "not good goods. You could buy \$5.00 worth of material and make a better one". I finally bought the dress and felt I was beautiful and had a cute figure. Don loved me in it and was proud of me.

A Religious Experience

Don was a very devout Christian. But once when Karen and he were driving, they were run off the road by another car. "G. D. S. O. B. made us take to the ditch," he said!

Hot Water Hassle

While Velma and Don with their five young daughters were in Casper, five baths were too much for the water heater. Karen reminded her Mom of how cheap the girls thought she was because they were allowed only a few inches of water in the tub when they bathed. Donna was the youngest and so the last to bathe. She described Velma bringing in a teakettle of hot water to warm her bath because the hot water tank was empty.

Their bathroom had a great long mirror with five towel racks under it, one for each girl, so they could get ready for school, or a date, and each see to apply their makeup for dates.

She Could Really Cook!

"These were the days when that white oleomargarine was packaged with a little pouch of yellow dye so one could make it seem more butter-like during World War II. The dairymen had succeeded in getting this requirement made law to "Protect their industry." The family ate dyed, white oleo. Velma ate from her secret cache of real butter."

On a typical Sunday, Velma would cook fried chicken and bake a pie or cake. The girls remembered her nibbling on a wing while the rest ate breasts and thighs. Their Mom is still not a "big eater." A few bites will find her "full".

Scream and Shout, and Jump About

Her friend Andy has commented to, and about, Velma's screams and shouts when anything unexpected occurs, often causing near fatal injuries and excitement while in traffic. Once while working at the hotel in Casper, she observed a door falling to the floor for some forgotten reason. Probably it was being repaired. Velma says, "my blood-curdling scream gained the undivided attention of everyone in the lobby area, and some passers-by in the street." Velma loved the hotel job, and says, 'I was great at it,' but Don was unhappy at first that I took the job."

Relatives are fun

"One of life's greatest difficulties, living with relatives, came to us when we moved to Pocatello, Idaho to manage a lumber yard. We arrived with almost no money left, four small children, and were living with relatives while we arranged our own affairs there.

"One day I took a cigarette from the hall table, I just could not afford my own. They said, Velma, there is a little store just down the street where they sell cigarettes. If you can't find it, we'll be happy to show you where it is. It hurt so much. I soon told Don that if he didn't call and offer to resume his old job, I was going to. He did, and they were very glad to have him return, and so was I.

"Afterwards these folks often came to our house for dinner. We were as nice as we could be to them and things went well. Well--it's hard to live with relatives."

Immediate Family

"My Aunt Maggie Early was named after her mother Margaret (Maggie) Stimple who we knew as grandma Bonny. Maggie's father was Isaac Bonny [1822]. Her two daughters were Lida May Inman and Bertha Elsie Perry. Patty Schneider, whose pictures helped us so much, was Bertha's daughter. Lorraine Vair, who also had wonderful pictures, is descended from Lida.

Maggie was born in Iowa on June 23, 1872. She moved with her parents to Kirwin, Kansas where she spent most of her life except for a brief stay with Mrs. Patricia Cecil Perry, her daughter. Her first marriage was to Arthur E. Camp.

Maggie told her granddaughter, Lorraine Inman Vair "...that the four Bonny brothers and sisters played at country dances. Isaac and Jake fiddles, Annie and my grandmother Maggie accordion. The Bonnys were a happy bunch. My grandmother would dance around when she heard music. I've often wondered how she would have enjoyed TV. She stayed with me, alternating with my aunt, and learned to walk again by pushing her wheel chair. She insisted on going back to her home in Kirwin, where she finally passed away.

The Inman that was one of the original Bonny Post Office mail recipients was Maggie's father's brother, Elmer Inman. Goldie Fringer was my mother's double cousin. They were about the same age¹."

Her second husband was William Early, who she married on June 20, 1927. He was the son of James and Louisa Earley of Richardson County, Nebraska. His first wife had died, leaving him with three small children. They lived at Woodston, Kansas. He died September 18, 1935 in Hays, Kansas at age 60.

She died January 4, 1953 and is buried in the Stone Church cemetery in Kirwin, Rooks County, Kansas. The grave stone, purchased April 12, 1953 cost \$145.00 plus tax.

Velma's brother Louis, his wife Meda, Velma's sister Mildred, her brother Bill, her twin Velda and husband, J.C. Oglesby were represented at the funeral.

Maggie had penciled an undated will on an small sheet of lined paper which her granddaughter, Patricia Perry, showed to us. The writing reminded the editors of the script Isaac [1865] used on his postcards to relatives. The will is typed with her spelling and punctuation.

¹ Carter, Estie. [letter] 2/7/1995 which included Lorraine Vair's letter to Estie.

"Lida and Bertha after my deth every thing on this
place belongs to my 2 girls i dont owe any body. and
dont want any quarls just do whats right
no one can claim any of my stuff just you 2 girls
mother maggie Early" (sic)

Lida and Bertha after my
deth every thing on this place
belonged to my 2 girls i dont
owe any body and dont want
any quarls just do whats right
no one can claim any
of my stuff just you 2 girls
mother maggie Early

Velma's Last Visit With Uncle Ike

At various times in his life, Ike had a variety of professions. As an adult he was an adventurous homesteader, a farmer, headed a threshing crew, a blacksmith, and he loved photography. He was an accomplished musician. In Bonny and Samuels he was store keeper and in Bonny, also a postmaster and land developer. His homes were built by him, both adobe, and frame houses. Timber work was a skill that fitted his love for the mountains of Idaho. Traveling, seeing the country, and doing new things were a pleasure for him, and he was a true family man.

When Ike and Laura came to our Mama Maude's funeral, Jacob seemed to them to be devastated by his wife's death and in shock. Knowing he needed help right then, they took Mid, Velda, Velma and Vernon to their home, Bonny. As children, living with them the next four years made us very attached to each other.

Papa, Bill and Louis came every year to see us at Bonny, and Papa could see he was losing us. After we moved to Idaho, Jacob had to get us back through the courts, but even then, Vernon, an infant when his mother died was left with his sister-in-law and brother, Ike. We had become his and Laura's family. Their own children were grown and on their own.

"Uncle Ike and Vernon came to visit us in Colorado and Kansas from Idaho almost every year after Laura died. How I wish now I had learned more about his and Laura's lives, and ours with them. He was, even as an older man, a very colorful gentleman. His long mustache with the curled up ends and his adventurous spirit made such an impression on us adults.

"My last visit with him was in 1938. He came to our home in Clearmont, Wyoming with two of his teen-age grandsons, Byfield boys. They stayed in our home for a week. I had my first baby, Karen, and so gave her most of my attention thinking Ike would always be there.

It makes me sad to think that we three girls, raised by him and Laura when Mama died, never really thanked them for their love and dedication to us. They were the first real family we remembered. We knew they loved us. They were our parents then."

Speaking of the present citizens using Bonny Dam, Bonny Gould said about Ike, and the use of his name for the dam, " I surmise that their courage will be no less than that of the brave souls of yesteryear, whose problems, though different, may have been easier to solve than some yet to come. Isaac Bonny's old namesake - Long may she wave!"

Bonny Genealogy

William Christopher Van Dyke was born 2 March 1843 in Illinois. Married Rebecca Lenora Chase McLane born 31 January, 1844 in Ohio. They wed on 17 August, 1861. Her father was Eli Chase. He joined the Mormons and was driven from Nauvoo, Illinois with them.

Their children:

1. Ida May born 16 July 1862 in Illinois.
Married James Specklammire.
2. Orey Annie born 10 November 1864 in Illinois.
Married Victor Pierrard. The Pierrards also are part of the Bonny, Colorado story.
3. Laura born 10 December 1865 in Illinois.
Married Isaac Bonny [1865].
4. Alena born 17 March 1867 in Marshaltown, Iowa.
Married John Hynes.
5. William Christopher born 20 May 1868 in Wisconsin.
6. Charles A. born 7 September 1869 in Wisconsin.
7. Edwin Eloy born 22 December 1870 in Marshaltown, Iowa.
Married Blanche Bryant.
8. Rebecca Lenora born 27 May 1872 in Marshaltown, Iowa.
Married William Johnston McManama¹.
9. Stephen F. born 9 February 1874 in Marshaltown, Iowa.
Married Flora.
10. Marry Lillian born 17 November 1875 in Ash Rock, Kansas.
Married William J. Flaherty.
11. Luella born 24 March 1877 in Ash Rock, Kansas.
Married Leander Rogers. (They lived near Bonny for a time)
12. Eliza Ellen born 1 March 1879 in Ash Rock, Kansas.
13. Maud born 26 September 1880 in Ash Rock, Kansas.
Married Jacob Bonny. Two of Velma's "Mama's" were from this Van Dyke family. Clara, Jacob's second wife was a McLane.

The first three Isaac Bonnys here were; William Isaac [1822], Isaac William [1865], and William Isaac [1866]. A fourth, Lyle Isaac, was born to Isaac and Floa.

William Isaac Bonny born 2 November 1822 in Holland. Married Margaret Stimple born 1830 or 1832.

Their Children:

1. Isaac William born 28 March 1865, married Laura Anna Van Dyke born 10 December, 1865. Isaac and Laura's children:
 - 1a William Isaac born 27 May 1866. Married Floa Elizabeth Snow who died in 1944.

¹ Velma remembers visiting this family in Leadville, CO. LaRae and Bob McManama of Salt Lake City furnished valuable information and photographs of the "Idaho Bonnys" including Jacobs children.

- William Isaac [1866], and Floa's children;
- 1a1 Pearl born 8 Nov 1909, died in 1930.
 - 1a2 Casey born 2 December 1911. Married Lela Broadsword Sept. 12, 1935
 - 1a3 Mildred born 10 Oct 1913. Married James Coble¹
 - 1a4 Lyle Isaac born 6 August, 1919. Married Lois Rathburn, August 6, 1917. After her death Married Lela Bonny date. Casey had died.
- 2a Anna Laura born 2 December 1887. Died 1941. Married Ernest Byfield.
- 3a Minnie Bonny Married Elmer Inman.
2. Joseph born in 1869.
3. Jacob born 25 October 1870. Married Maud Van Dyke born 25 September 1880
Their children:
- 1b William Jacob born 13 April 1907. Married Althea Jacobs
 - 2b Louis born 15 October 1911. Married Meda Swank
 - 3b Mildred Maud "Mid" born Oct. 4, 1913. Married James Gardner, then James Wahlke
 - 4b Velda born 6 December 1915. Married J.C. Oglesby
 - 5b Velma born 6 December 1915. Married March 15, 1936 in Norton, KA to Don Jacobs, born 12 Mar 1912 Their 5 girls were:
 - 1b1. Karen Kay born 20 May 1938. Married John Patrick Hand
 - 1b2. Judith Rae born 23 May 1939. Married Michael Rae TeMaat
 - 1b3. Janice Fae born 23 May 1939. Married Fred Christman
 - 1b4. Velda Diane born 4 Oct 1941. Married Richard O. Stevens. 2nd husband is Joel Schatz
 - 1b5. Donna Lynn born 31 Oct 1946. Married Richard O. O'Quinn
 - 6b Vernon born 22 October 1917. Married Marion Rose. 2nd marriage Neva
4. Margaret (Maggie) born 1872. Married Arthur E. Camp. Their children were
- 4a Lida May Inman Child; Lorraine Inman Vair is Lida's daughter
 - 4b Bertha Elsie Miner, 1st husband; Cecil Perry, 2nd husband Child, Patricia (Patty) Perry Schriener Margaret's 2nd husband was William Earley. Married June 20, 1927
5. Anna born 1874. Married Will Camp, Art's brother
Their Children were:

¹ Bonny, Lela. [letter] 3/24/1995

5a Everett

5b Burtie

5c Goldie (who contributed memories of Bonny,
CO)

5d Dollie (There were other children. Velma
knew these)

6. Johnny born 1879.

Last of Isaac [1822] and Margaret Stimple's Immediate descendants

Some other Bonny relatives associated with Bonny, CO:
Broadswords

Lela Broadsword was a daughter of Alvin Broadsword, sister to
Mary Ann, below. Jake Broadsword was the father of
Alvin, Mary and Ruth. Lela Broadsword Bonny was
married to Casey Bonny, above, until his death. She
later married Lyle Bonny, Casey's brother. Lela is a
niece of Carl Kroeger, below¹.

Kroegers

William Kroeger Born in Germany 1854. Married
Emma Hoft (Huff) in Smith County, Kansas. William died
June 11, 1952 and is buried in Burlington at Fairview
Cemetery. Emma died in complications of childbirth.

William and Emma's children:

1. Charles "Charlie", Charles married Pearl Inman.
2. Louis Kroeger, born November 21, 1881. Married
Mary Ann Broadsword April 20, 1909. He served on the Broadsword
School Board. Louis died April 15, 1968 in Burlington, age 86
years and four months. Mary was daughter of George W. Broadsword
and Angeline Cowger, born February 28, 1885 in Smith County,
Kansas. She died in Burlington July 4, 1977 at 92 years and five
months.

3. A daughter, died of scarlet fever as infant

Louis Kroeger and Mary's children:

- 1b. Carl born March 7, 1912. Married
Doris Keeler born December 8, 1920 to Harry Keeler and Nelly
Browning at Hale, Colorado. Carl attended Broadsword School.
Doris attended Liberty School. She taught three years at
Broadsword School. Carl and Doris married on March 1, 1952.

Carl and Doris's children:

- 1b1. Margaret born September 20, 1954. Married
Tim McCandless.
- 1b2. Marilyn born October 16, 1956 Married
Roy Schicenmayer. (Living on home place)
- 1b3. Julian Born September 2, 1914

¹ See also "Lela, Lyle, and Casey Bonny" in Chapter 2

The Barnharts
Letter From Alice Jacober

"ALICE M. JACOBER
12889 State Highway 96
Westcliffe, CO 81252

August 5, 1994 Phone: (719) 783-2554

Mrs. Velma Bonny Jacobs
2510 10th Ave.
Greeley, CO 80631

"Dear Velma,

Received your letter yesterday so will get it answered before we leave for our son's for a few days. He lives in Arvada and my mother, who is 80, lives in Edgewater, so we try to visit both of them as often as possible.

"A week after the Bonny Dam Dedication ceremony I had left Burlington to attend Central Business College in Denver. Since my folks moved to Edgewater in Oct. 1953 I have not been back except for a few days visit from time to time. Probably haven't been back to the Dam more than three or four times in the last 42 years so really can't give you much of an opinion on it. The last time I was there I was impressed by all the improvements, camping areas, etc. since that day in 1952.

"Truth be told, if there had been any way I could have found a hole to crawl into and hide until the dedication was over, I would have done so; but when you are 16 years old, you do what the adults tell you to do (at least in my time you did!). I had always been able to put my thoughts on paper but in school when it came to oral recitation, I always managed to be sick and stay home whenever I could get away with it. Now, here I was on a platform with Governor Dan Thornton and who knows how many other dignitaries, wishing I were ANYWHERE but where I was. However, with knocking knees and trembling voice I read my essay and somehow got through it; but it certainly has never been one of my favorite memories.

"I never knew my grandpa, Charlie F. Barnhart, as he was killed in a threshing machine accident about five years before I was born. From what I have heard, and if his children were any reflection of him, he was a hard worker, a good neighbor and family man and one who instilled all the good values of life in those who knew him. All of his children followed his example and passed on his legacy to my generation.

"You mentioned the *History of Kit Carson County*, which you had used in your research. Have you researched in *Action on the Plains*? It is a 199 page book printed in 1971 by the Yuma County Historical Society. There is information on the post office at Bonny, CO, including a picture of the Bonny store. Pages 123-125 have information received from Mrs. C.M. (Goldie) Fringer and Bill Bonny as well as information from me which is about the same as what I have in the Kit Carson Co. History. If you haven't

seen this book and want a copy of these few pages, let me know and I will make a copy of them from my book for you.

"At the top of page 124 you see, "daughter, Elsie, married Hurley Winfrey." Hurley Winfrey was my mother's uncle. Aunt Elsie Winfrey is 88 years old and lives in a mobile home on her son's property so they can care for her as she doesn't get around too well anymore. Don't know whether she could help you with any information but she might through her son. Her address is: Son's name: Willard Winfrey same address: Mrs. Elsie Winfrey, 5367 Macleay Rd. S.E., Salem, OR 97301.

"On pages 129 & 130 there is an article on Hale, CO. The Dick Taylor mentioned here was Richard Bennett Taylor, Jr., my great-great-grandfather on my maternal grandmother's side of the family. He was "Kitty" Mansfield's father. Her name was Lillian "Kitty" Eska (Taylor) Mansfield married to Daniel Mansfield so Dan & Kitty were my great-grandfather and grandmother. Kitty was the sister of Richard Bennett Jr. She carried the mail from Newton to Hermes. She is my grand mother. My grandmother, Jessie Mae Biggs Winfrey, was the only child of Lillian and her first husband, Jesse Grant Biggs. Jasper and Bennett Taylor were Kitty's brothers so were my great-grand-uncles. They were also involved in the mail deliveries.

"Have you been in touch with Lela Broadsword Bonny? She married Isaac [1886] Bonny's son, Casey, in Idaho in 1935. I had some correspondence with her in 1986. None since then but think she is probably still at 656 S. Fairview, Prineville, OR 97754. My mother-in-law was related to the Broadswords (her mother was a Broadsword) and I still write to her cousin Ruth Winston in Eugene, Oregon.

"I haven't done much on any histories the last two years. Our daughter-in-law was killed in a traffic accident the day before Uncle Ira passed away and our son has totally lost his hearing twice since then. Thankfully, it gradually returned both times, but we have been spending almost as much time in Denver as at home so just don't get settled down to do much except what has to be done to keep a household running!

"Things seem to be getting back to normal a little more all the time now so am just beginning to do a little more genealogy work. I have missed it. Once you get hooked, it doesn't let you go, but it is fun.

"Don't know if any of this will help you or not, but I enjoyed receiving your letter and sharing this much with you anyway. If you have any other questions you feel I might be able to answer, please don't hesitate to write.

Sincerely, Alice

"P.S.If you get any more information you think might be of interest to me, I would appreciate it if you would send it on. Thank you¹."

¹ Jacober, Alice Mae. [Letter] 8/1/1990

Alice sent us the picture of the John R. Winfrey home built in 1915 of adobe blocks. It is found in chapter three, the pictures. The similarities and the remodeling changes between this building and the Bonny Store are amazing. Perhaps this plan was more common we than imagined. This Winfrey home was also cemented on the outside, which no doubt helped preserve it. A second picture showed it in 1970, remarkably well preserved. Like Bonny, the early pictures now had trees and shrubbery, the newer ones show many trees and foliage features as well as outbuildings. The Winfreys had a large barn which the Bonny buildings never included.

The Barnhart-Winfrey Family

"On January 27, 1933, Leonard Nelson Barnhart and Iva Mae Winfrey were married at St. Francis, Kansas. Leonard had moved to Kit Carson County with his parents, Charlie F. and Sarah Jane "Jennie" (Teel) Barnhart in 1918 from the area around Hoxie, Kansas, where Leonard was born on May 6, 1913. He lived with them during the time they operated the Bonny Post Office and after its closing helped on the farm.

"Iva's parents, James Warren "Jimmie" and Jessie Mae (Biggs) Winfrey lived in the same general area of the country and she was born at their homestead on March 11, 1914.

"After their marriage they lived with Leonard's mother and stepfather, A. Dile Henderson, whom Jennie had married after Charlie was killed in a threshing machine accident. Leonard was helping Dile farm. It was a little crowded as there were Jennie & Dile, Leonard & Iva, and Leonard's younger brother, Dean, and two younger sisters, Pearl and Marveline all living in the small 4-room Bonny house but with a lot of love and patience they managed quite well.

"Leonard and Iva's first child, Alice Mae, (the author) was born September 5, 1935, at the house on the hill just south of Iva's parent's home. After she was born they moved to Dile's farm, which was later owned by George Brenner. It is where Jerry Brenner now lives. Their second child, Leona Marie, was born here on December 24, 1937. They farmed here for a while and then moved to the old Reinholdt (or Cook) Ranch near the Republican River.

"In the spring of 1939 Leonard and his brother Wilbur "Dean" decided to try their hand at something beside farming. They moved to Frederick, Oklahoma, to operate an O.K. tire recapping shop. Leonard & Iva, along with Alice and Leona, went in their Model A Ford. Dean and Jane slept in the recapping shop as they only had a 1-room motel where they did their cooking, washing, etc. They would go to the movies to see the Lone Ranger. Since it was in serial form, Dean and Jane would go one night, and Leonard and Iva the next time so there was someone to stay with the two small girls. Business was not very good and they were far away from everyone they knew so later in 1939 they came back to Kit Carson County.

"Jennie and Dile were still living on the Ranch near the river so Leonard and Iva moved back into the house where Alice was born and started farming again. They were actively involved in the box suppers, baseball games, and Sunday church services at the Happy Hollow Schoolhouse.

"In the summer of 1942 they moved to Denver where Leonard, along with Chester Teel, worked on a construction crew at Camp Hale, near Tennessee Pass, in the Rocky Mountains. This camp was built to train soldiers for winter fighting. When the construction was finished, Leonard started working at the Denver Medical Center. On February 9, 1943, their third child, Dorothy Kay, was born in St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver.

"When Leonard was drafted into the Army they purchased a small house in Burlington at 246 18th Street. This allowed Iva and their three children to be nearer their relatives while Leonard was in service. On March 28, 1944, he was inducted at Ft. Logan, Colo. and assigned to Camp Swift, Bastrop, Texas for his basic training. Following his training he served in the Philippines with the 4169th Quartermaster Depot Co.

"After returning from the Army safely and receiving his Honorable Discharge on January 9, 1946, he worked for Hommond's Creamery driving into the country picking up eggs, cream & milk from the farmers on his route. Later he worked in the County Assessor's Office under Parke Guthrie and also in the county Treasurer's Office under Sam Travis.

"On December 4, 1947, their fourth and youngest child, Patsy Lee, was born at the Kit Carson Memorial Hospital in Burlington. The family continued to live at 246 18th Street until 1953. Their oldest daughter, Alice, had graduated from Burlington High School in 1952 and was working in Denver by then, and Leonard's cousin, Emmett Teel, wanted him to go to work in a company he was forming. Leonard started working for him the summer of 1953, and in October of that same year they bought a house in Edgewater and moved.

"Leonard continued to work for the R.A. Haines Refrigeration Co. until his retirement in 1977. He was thoroughly enjoying his free time and was always busy helping someone until he suffered a heart attack on October 4, 1980. On October 29, 1980 he passed away following complications brought on by the heart attack.

"Iva still (1988) lives at 2215 Ingalls St., Edgewater, CO. Three of their eight grandchildren also live in Edgewater. There are now four great grandchildren. (In 1995 none of the eight live in Edgewater, but all are still in the Denver area.)

"Alice and her husband, Edwin Jacober, live in the Wet Mountains near Westcliffe, CO.; Leona and husband, John Strasheim, now live in Sun City, AZ; Dorothy and husband, Bob Medina live in Arvada, CO; and Patsy and husband, Scott Williams in Boulder, CO when they are not exploring the islands off the Florida coast in their sailboat.

Alice Mae nee Barnhart Jacober"

Grandpa Dile and Jennie

Alice Jacober gave us the few anecdotes we have about Jennie's second husband. "Dile and Jennie did not have any children. When I was very young and his grandchildren would come to visit, we had some "spirited discussions" about just whose Grandpa he was. Since Charlie was killed before I was born, Dile was MY Grandpa and I didn't want to share him. Whenever he went to town he always brought me and my sister Leona, some candy - so we thought him very special¹."

Alice Mae Jacober

"Our family always spent a lot of time with Ira's family. We had many picnics. Mom and Louise would fix up a bunch of fried chicken and all the trimmings and we would head for the river to go swimming. Actually the water wasn't deep enough for swimming but all of us kids had fun playing in the water. Then we would spread blankets on the grass under the trees and enjoy the good food.

"Another memory about Jennie is that she always liked to go for a drive on Sunday afternoons. Other times too, but Sunday seemed to be a particular favorite. Even after I started to Business College in Denver and would go to see Marveline and Warren, they would always take Jennie for a Sunday drive.

"When my Dad, Leonard, was in the Army in WWII, Mom went to Texas where he was in boot camp. My sister Leona and I stayed with Jennie and Marveline. Esther (Rhoades) kept my sister Dorothy as she wasn't very old and was close to the ages of Esther and Harley's daughter, Helen.

Ferds for Wun

"We were always going for a drive, didn't have to be far, just to get out and go. One of the games we played while riding was switching the first letters of words, for example, 'go for a ride' became 'ro for a gide'! Sometimes we came up with some "doozies" and blurted them out before we thought what we were saying. We sometimes embarrassed ourselves! But, we always had FUN."

Marveline's Memories of Bonny

"Marveline, the baby of the family, wasn't very old while they lived at Bonny. While the adults were working in the garden one day, she decided to go to the house. The old mean rooster who loved to catch her alone to chase and peck her did it once too often this time, and was invited to dinner, as dumplings.

Marveline and the pigs

"Even as a small child she loved to play with the cute little "runt Piglets." Charlie told her she should take one to bed with her! When she tried it that very night, Jennie said

¹ Jacober. [Letter] 11/13/1994

"No!" Charlie sided with Jennie and Marveline was disappointed not seeing the tease.

"While gathering scarce fuel for the stove, this time corncobs, Marveline hung her coat on the fence post. The bigger pigs got it and tore it to shreds. It was probably her only coat.

"After Jennie married Dile and they were living at the "Broadsword place" northwest of Bonny, she and Marveline wanted a garden for flowers and food. Dile liked the pigs to run loose so a garden was difficult. Discovering the pigs were out one day, and nearly to the corner where they could turn west to Brenners, or east to Bonny. She jumped into the pickup, but since you can't drive a pig, she'd talk to them and lead them a little way, then move the pickup, and talk them along, and move the truck again till she got them home. Afterwards she wondered why she didn't just let them go."

Iva Mae

Iva Mae Winfrey Barnhart, Alice's mother, told her, "Dile always liked to eat the fat on his meat. One day when Dean and his wife Jane were living with Dile and Jennie, Jane fixed lunch for them. She gave Dile nothing but fat in his sandwich. Iva Mae didn't say if he liked that."

Jennie

Alice remembers that, "Jennie was always happy, full of fun with always a story to tell. I loved for her to rock me when I was little, and tell me stories about when she was young. The only thing is, I can't remember the stories, just that I loved to listen to them while we rocked.

Rooked!

"While Grandma Jennie and grandpa Dile were at the Reinholt or Cook ranch, which is now under Bonny Reservoir, friends used to all get together for supper of oyster soup and then play this card game, Rook, by the old kerosene lamps. Oyster soup and crackers was all they had to eat and I hated the oysters. My Mom would tell me just to eat the milk so they quit giving me any oysters but the milk tasted just like them. At least I liked crackers and butter! I loved to sit at the table with them and watch while they played cards. The other day (it's December, 1994) at Target I found the same old card game of Rook so I bought a deck¹.

"During the time they lived there, my Dad, Leonard, Dile, and possibly Dean, would go to the river and shoot frogs so we could have fried frog legs. Boy!, were they delicious. But you should see the faces of the kids today when that story is told. They don't know what they missed."

¹ Jacober. [Letter] 12/6/94

Alice Jacober has enriched this history of the Bonny, Colorado neighbors in so many ways. We are all fortunate that the Barnharts love to tell their stories, and do it this well!¹

Obituary

"Services For Leonard Barnhart"

Leonard Nelson Barnhart was born near Hoxie, Kansas, on May 6, 1913 to Charlie and Jennie Teel Barnhart. He departed this life on Oct. 29, 1980 at the age of 67 years, five months, 23 days after a short illness. Services were held on Nov. 1, at the Olinger Mortuary Chapel in Wheatridge, Colo., and burial was in Crown Hill Cemetery in Wheatridge. Pallbearers were his four sons-in-law and two grandsons.

"When Leonard was five years old he moved with his family by covered wagon to a farm northeast of Burlington. He grew to manhood in this area and on Jan. 27, 1933 at St. Francis, Kansas, was married to Iva Mae Winfrey. To this union was born four daughters. He and Iva started their married life farming north of Burlington. In 1943 they moved to Denver where he worked for the Denver Medical Depot.

"During World War II he served in the Army with the 4169th Quartermaster Depot in the Southwest Pacific Theater from March 28, 1944, to Jan. 9, 1946. He has been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, William Hogate Post No. 6491 in Burlington, since his discharge. After his discharge he returned to Burlington until October 1953. During this time Leonard worked in the county assessor's office and in the county treasurer's office.

"In 1953 he and his family moved to Denver where he spent the next 23 years servicing large refrigeration and air conditioning units with the R.A. Haines Co. He was a member of the Pipe fitters Union, Local No. 208. He retired in 1977 and had been enjoying a full life and good health until Oct. 4 when he suffered a heart attack which led to complications and took his life.

"Leonard had accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior at an early age and was a member of the Truett Memorial Baptist Church of Edgewater where he served as chairman of the building and grounds committee.

"Leonard was preceded in death by both his parents; one sister, Pearl, and one brother, Everett. He leaves to mourn his passing his loving wife, Iva of Edgewater; their four daughters and sons-in-law, Alice and Ed Jacober of Edgewater; Leona and John Strasheim of Arvada; Dorothy and Bill Hoppers of Golden; Patsy and Scott Williams of Boulder; eight grandchildren, Mark and Marilyn Jacober; JoLea and Julie Strasheim; Jim and Jamie Hoppers; Tammy and Angie Williams; two sisters, Esther Rhoades of Burlington and Marveline Fetters of Littleton; two brothers, Ira

¹ History of Kit. . . p. 371

Barnhart of Burlington, Dean Barnhart of Wheatridge, and many other relatives and friends.

"Leonard was a kind and loving husband, father and friend who was always ready with a helping hand when anyone needed him. He will be fondly remembered but greatly missed by all who knew him.

"Funeral services were held at the Olinger Chapel at 29th and Wadsworth, Denver, Saturday, Nov. 1 at 11 a.m. Pastor James Latimer of Truett Memorial Baptist Church officiated. Interment was at Crown Hill Cemetery¹.

The following was sent to many of Leonard's friends: "

"Card of Thanks

We would like to express our appreciation for the flowers, cards and memorials sent in memory of Leonard Barnhart.

We will always be grateful for your thoughtfulness in the expressions of sympathy extended to us in our loss.

Friends mean so much at a time like this. Thank you. The Leonard Barnhart family.²"

Everett and Vivian Barnhart

Irene Mavis Barnhart was born in a sod house just south of the present Bonny Dam on the "Lundy Place." Her parents were Everett Lee Barnhart and Vivian Irene Agan. She recalled for us Jennie's and Everett's stories about life near Bonny.

"My parents were married in 1927 at Oberlin, Kansas in Decatur county. They moved to Colorado where they lived until 1932. It was during the stock market crash and the dust bowl years so it was a difficult time for them. Mother evidently had asthma as she was ill most of the time, perhaps it was just homesickness. The fields dried up or just blew away so my father had to go shuck corn for their livelihood leaving my mother alone with only the dog for company and no transportation or neighbors. The only music she had was listening to the rats and mice crawl across the ceiling at night. The dog slept by her bed to warn her of impending dangers.

The Disappearing Cream

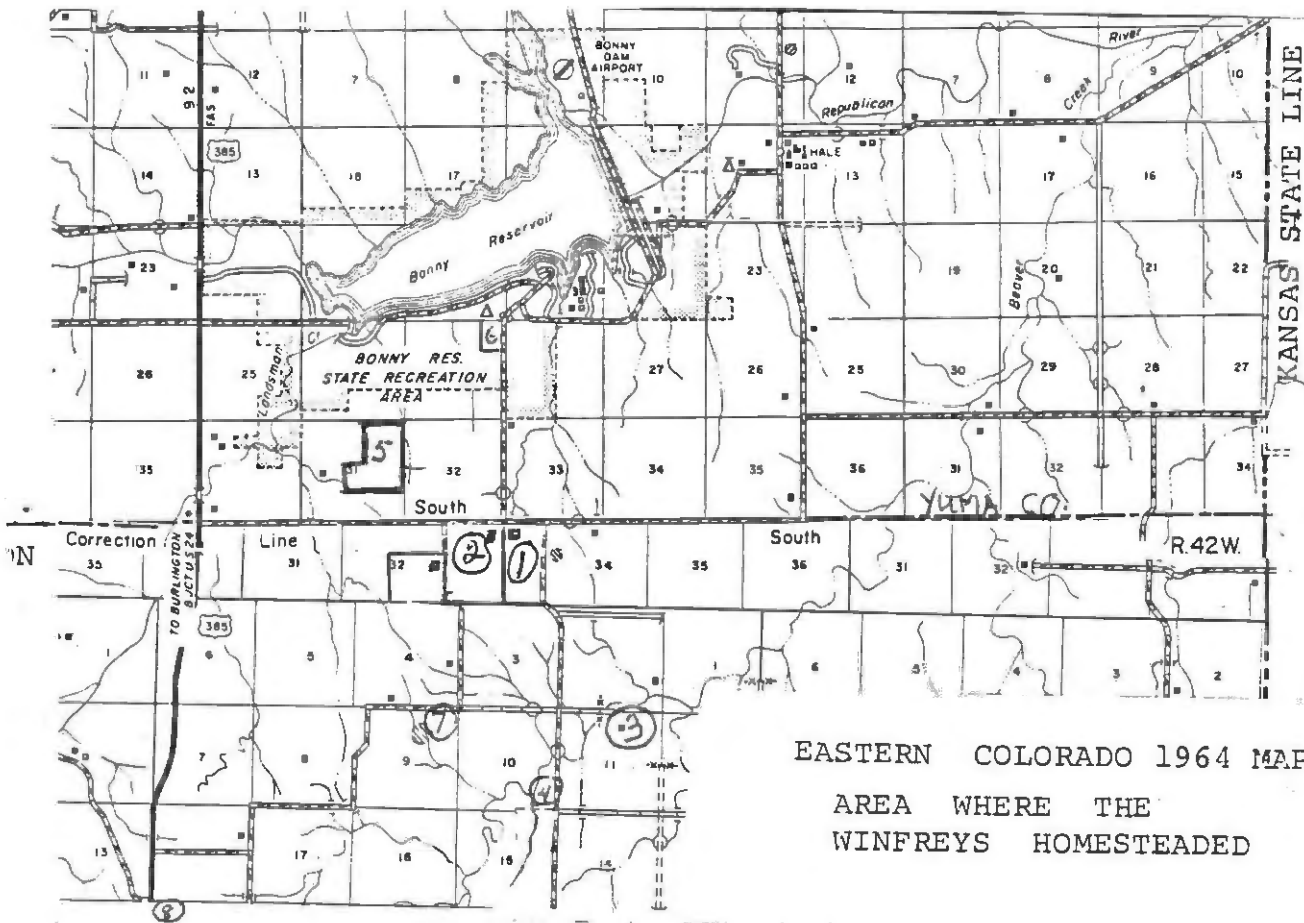
"They had a cow which she milked and made "longhorn" cheese to sell at the Hale store. I didn't ask her how she got the cheese to Hale with my father gone, or how they kept it fresh. Their house had deep windows and that is where she kept the milk in a gallon can to cool. Each morning the cream was all gone from the top of the milk. You can't cover it very tight or it will taste bad so she laid a newspaper over the top of the can. The newspaper never moved, but the cream, was definitely GONE. After

¹ *The Burlington Record*, Burlington, Colorado, Thursday, Nov. 20, 1980

² From Alice Jacober

The Winfrey family has prepared a map, of their homesteads¹ showing their holdings.

1. John R. Winfrey Homestead 18 June, 1906
2. James W. Winfrey Homestead 12 April, 1907
3. Bonny P. O. Est. 3 June 1915 Disc. 29 Feb, 1924
4. Happy Hollow School
5. James C. Winfrey Tax title 8 June, 1932
6. Cook School Built 1915
7. Morris P. O. Est. 18 Mar 1907 Disc. Mar 15, 1914²
8. Broadsword School Built 1800's a soddy, wood @ 1915



EASTERN COLORADO 1964 MAP
 AREA WHERE THE
 WINFREYS HOMESTEADED

¹ See map list near front of book.

² Preceded Bonny Post Office. Note Morris Post Office is west of Bonny in Section 9 on this map. The Winfreys knew the Morris family, and the second postmaster, Ellis Clark. The editors feel this location is correct.

many nights of this repeated mystery, she woke suddenly to hear the paper move. She turned up the wick on the kerosene lamp and was a big bull snake slithering down the can. He just slid his head under the paper and drank the cream. The paper stayed intact.

"Probably her most frightening time was when she woke up and saw a rat setting (sic) on her stomach! That was when she brought the dog inside to sleep by her bed. No wonder she was sick!

"Jennie told about Everett hunting on the Republican River. He was quite a trapper and got Minks, skunks and other varmints. He loved to hunt and trap all his life. His horse stumbled and fell while he was hunting, broke his leg very bad. That didn't quell the hunting fever, but he never trusted a horse again."

Irene Mavis Barnhart (From Alice Jacober)

Barnhart Genealogy

Most of the data on descendants of Charlie and Jennie was received from our Barnhart editor, Alice Mae Barnhart. Louise Barnhart also helped.

Charlie "F." Barnhart, born November 26, 1882. Died October 26, 1930 in St. Francis, KA. Married Sarah Jane "Jennie" Teel, born May 6, 1885 in McFall, MO. Died January 15, 1972 in Littleton, CO. Married Charlie on 31 May, 1905. (Date from Marveline)
Charlie's dad, James Franklin Barnhart died October 24, 1923.

Jennie Then Married

Alexander Dile Henderson, born August 5, 1881 in Turkey, Texas. He lived in Indian Territory, Rooks county, Kansas, and the Burlington area. He died June 16, 1943. His first wife was

Nellie Belle Parmer, born September 7, 1886 at Alton, Kansas. They wed November 27, 1904. She died in January 4, 1931.
Dile Married Jennie on September 3, 1932.

Charlie and Jennie's Children and Grandchildren:

1. Everett Lee Barnhart, born February 23, 1906 in Menlo, Thomas County KS. Died June 26, 1972 in Atwood, KS. Buried Achilles Cemetery, Atwood. Married Vivian Irine Agan, Born February 1, 1908 in Achilles, Rawlins County, KS at home. Died October 29, 1991 in Atwood.

Their children:

- 1a Irene Mavis, 1929, who Married Melvin Vap who died in 1983. She then married Salt Guth, and hyphenated her name as Vap-Guth. Address, 815 South 1st, Atwood, KS 67730
- 2a Merlin Lee, 1934
- 3a Neal Bruce, 1939
- 4a Dile Francis, 1941-1985
- 5a Nema Alta, 1943
- 6a Margaret Mae, 1946
- 7a Rell Leon, 1952

2. Florence "Esther" Barnhart, March 27, 1908 in Menlo, KS. Married Harley Lemuel Rhoades, Born April 23, 1903 in McCracken, KS. Died January 22, 1988 in Burlington, CO. Buried Fairview Cemetery in Burlington.

Their children:

- 1b Ray Dean, 1937
- 2b Helen Marie, 1941

3. Ira Glen Barnhart, Born February 11, 1910 in Menlo, KS. Died September 11, 1992 in Burlington, CO. Buried Fairview Cemetery in Burlington. Married Louise Mildred Smith, Born October 20, 1916 in Burlington, Colorado.

Born October 20, 1916 in Burlington, Colorado.
Louise's parents were Philbert Abner Smith and Martha Taylor. P.A. was born in Tarkio, Missouri September 24, 1888 to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Smith. He married Martha Josephine, "Josie" Taylor, in October, 1915. She was the daughter of Richard Bennett Taylor Jr¹ and Clara Belle, or Bell Bailey Taylor. He and his brother Jasper had carried the mail from Hale to Wray. Martha died May 25, 1989 in Burlington.

Their children:

- 1c Eva Loletta Cousins, 1933
- 2c Shirley Margaret Thomas, 1935
- 3c Charlotte Louise Osborn, 1939
- 4c Denzel Ira, 1943-1992
- 5c Delvin Eugene, 1946
- 6c Rodney Lee, 1953

4. Leonard Nelson Barnhart, Born May 6, 1913 in Hoxie, Sheridan County KS. Died October 29, 1980 almost exactly 50 years after his Dad, Charlie Barnhart, who died on October 24, 1923. Charlie died almost exactly seven years after his Dad, James Franklin Barnhart, who died October 24, 1923. Leonard died in Wheat Ridge, CO. Buried Crown Hill Cemetery. Married Iva Mae Winfrey, born March 11, 1914 in Burlington, CO. 2215 Ingalls Street, Edgewater, CO 80214. (Sister of Lola Winfrey Rhoades of Burlington).
Their children:
1d Alice Mae Barnhart, 1935 Married Edwin Chris Jacober.
2d Leona Marie, 1937
3d Dorothy Kay, 1943
4d Patsy Lee, 1947
5. Wilbur "Dean" Barnhart, Born October 3, 1918 in Rexford, KS. Died August 3, 1986 in Lakewood, CO. Buried Crown Hill Cemetery. Married Elizabeth "Jane" Levin, born February 22, 1919 in Salina, KS. Died October 2, 1986 in Westminster, CO. Buried Crown Hill Cemetery.
Their children:
1e Wilma Jean, 1939
2e Mary Jane, 1943
3e Gary Dean, 1951
6. Pearl Marie Barnhart, Born December 1, 1921 in Burlington, CO. Died at age 13 on March 14, 1935 in Burlington. Buried at Fairview Cemetery. (Cancer)

¹ Richard's father, Richard Bennett Taylor Sr. had a daughter by his first wife. She was Ella Bonny, address and age unknown, but she received a "child's share" of the estate.

7. Marveline Frances Barnhart, born November 5, 1924 in Hale, CO.
Married Warren Cash Fetters, born June 16, 1924 in
Kansas City, MO. Died April 13, 1993 in Littleton, CO.
Buried Fairview Cemetery.
Their children:
1f Leora Frances, 1946
2f Valeria Michelle, 1957

Last of Charlie and Jennie's immediate descendants.

Some Other Relatives

Everett Winfrey is Alice's uncle

James C. Winfrey is another of Alice's uncles. He told the story of Ike [1865] and the kerosene - gasoline mix-up, and also prepared the Winfrey Homesteads map. Mrs. Al Conkling, nee Mary Miser, was the first wife of James C. She lives at 1516 6th Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50311. She is the daughter of Charles E. Miser.

Virgil Winfrey 400 South State, Yates Center, KS 66783 is James' brother.



APPENDICES

Appendix 1

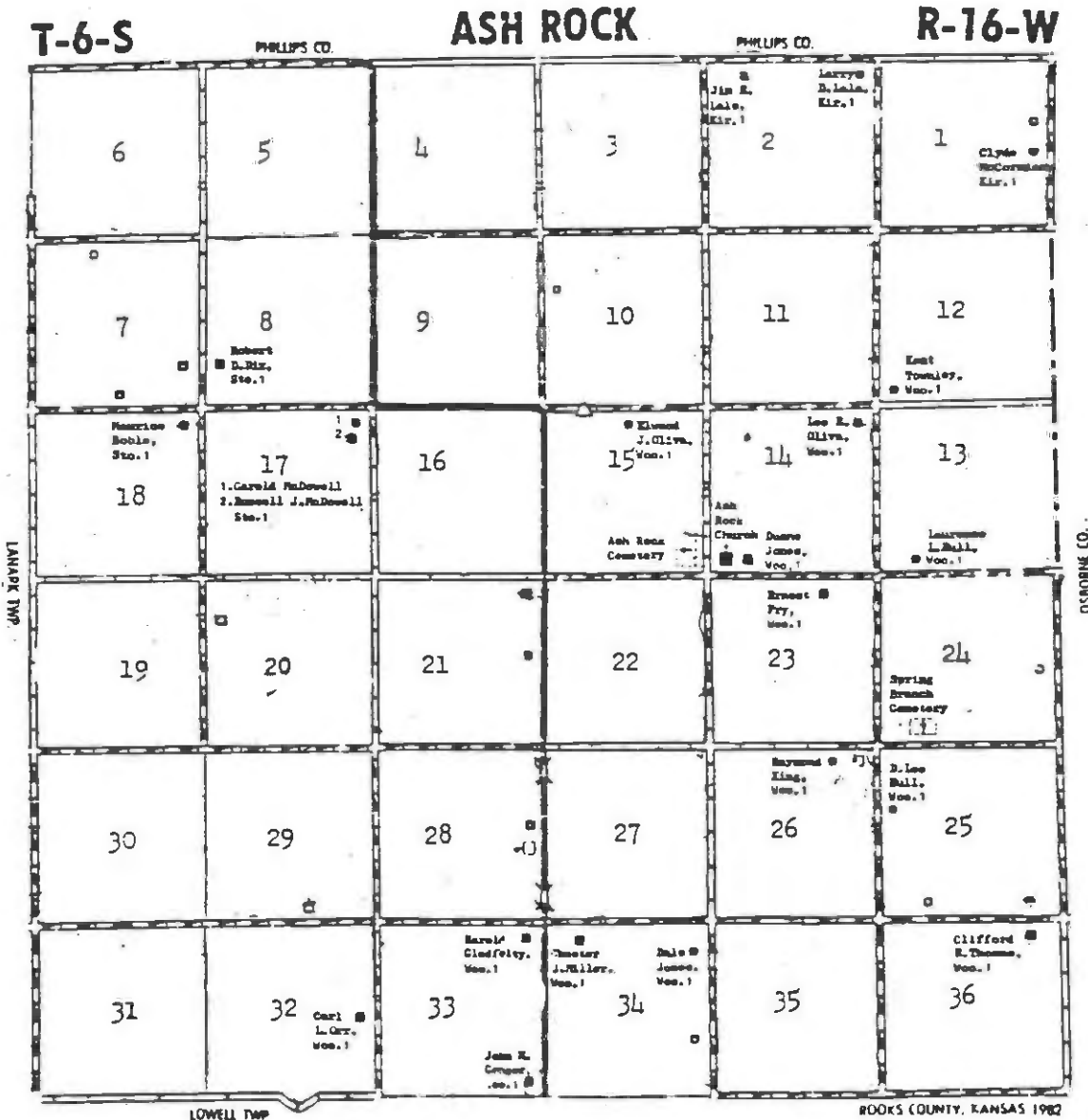
Ash Rock and Bonny Land Holdings

Oliva presents a detailed description of the types of property acquisition used in Ash Rock, and of the soils found in each section, residences found in 1983. A detailed list of codes for property acquisition, and soil types precedes the list. Bonny relatives are presented here.

W. C. Van Dyke who had one of the very first years claims in 1874 had land in sections 6, 11, 12;

Isaac [1822] in sections 3,4; Isaac [1865] in 3; Vernon in 3; Jacob in 10; The District 18 Ash Rock School where his children attended was in section 12. The Ash Rock Stone Church was in section 14 with the cemetery across the road in 15. The church was two miles south of their home according to Velma. See the earlier Ash Rock map in chapter one.

Ash Rock, Kansas Plat Map¹



Ash Rock Households, 1982

¹ From Ash Rock and the Stone church, p.313. See also p. 7

Soils, Settlers, and Land Owners, Ash Rock

The arrangement is by quarter-sections within each of the thirty-six sections, arranged in order from 1 to 36. Whenever a portion of a quarter-section was owned separate from the rest (such as one-half or one-quarter of the quarter-section) that has been indicated. Where there are no such indications, the information is for the entire quarter-section.

Information on settlers and land owners was compiled from the Tract Books of the United States General Land Office and the records in the Register of Deeds Office, Rooks County Court House. Not all entries recorded by the Register of Deeds have been presented here. No mortgage records nor land prices were copied because of lack of space and the fact that such information was not always recorded. Since the primary objective was to show the land owners, many short-term changes in ownership were omitted, especially when the land ended back under the name of the original owner after several transfers. Also, some of the transfers among credit institutions following foreclosures were omitted because the purpose was to show individual land holders except for the instances where credit institutions initially took the land. Anyone interested in pursuing the information summarized here may do so at the Register of Deeds Office.

The following list of abbreviations explains what each means in connection with settlers and land owners (soil abbreviations are given separately):

Add - Administrator's Deed
Cash - Cash payment for a homestead or timber-culture entry, in lieu of fulfilling other requirements
CWD - Corporate Warranty Deed
et al. - and others (Latin)
ExD - Executor's Deed
F.R. - Final Receipt at time of "proof" that all requirements had been met on homestead or timber-culture entry, accompanied by date
HS - Homestead entry, with date of filing
QCD - Quitclaim Deed, by which one person gave all rights, title, and interest in the land to another without providing a guarantee or warranty of title.
PAT - Patent or title of ownership issued by the President of the United States, with date
Pre41 - Pre-emption (1841 law) filing; required a cash payment of \$1.25 per acre
TC - Timber-culture entry, with date of filing
RecD - Receiver's Deed
ShD - Sheriff's Deed
TxD - Tax Deed
WD - Warranty Deed, by which one person guaranteed another that he or she had clear title and would defend the grantee against all claims

The key to the soil classifications requires more explanation, and the following abbreviations of soils types are followed by the name and a brief summary of the classifications:

HA: Harney silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes. This soil is found in Ash Rock along upland ridge tops and comprises approximately 14% of the total area. It is nearly level, and it is easily cultivated. It is rated as "prime farmland" and well suited to wheat, grain sorghum, and alfalfa.

HM: Heizer-Brownell gravelly loams, 5 to 30 percent slopes. These are steep slopes along some draws in Ash Rock and are not suited to cultivation. This classification includes about 1% of the land. Rock outcroppings are often found. There are some native grasses which provide grazing for livestock.

HO: Holdredge silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes. This rich soil is "prime farmland" and comprises only about 1% of Ash Rock. It is well suited to wheat, grain sorghum, and alfalfa.

HR: Holdredge silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes. This excellent soil, also "prime farmland," is found mainly along upland ridges and comprises about 34% of Ash Rock land. It is well suited to cultivated crops. It is subject to water erosion, and it serves best when terraced and farmed on the contour.

HS: Holdrege silt loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes. This is similar in productivity to HR, but it has steeper slopes and is more subject to water erosion. Only about 1% of Ash Rock soil is in this "prime-farmland" classification.

RS: Roxbury silt loam, occasionally flooded. This deep soil is on the flood plains in drainage ways. It produces well, and it is suited to cultivation. Much of it is left in pastures because steep slopes on the sides of the drainage ways make it inconvenient to farm the narrow strips. About 8% of the land in Ash Rock fits this "prime-farmland" type.

UR: Uly silt loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes. This moderately sloping soil comprises about 28% of Ash Rock, and it is "prime farmland," well suited to the same cultivated crops. Water erosion is a problem, and terracing and contour farming help considerably. Portions of Uly silt loams are left in grasslands as a means of controlling erosion.

US: Uly silt loam, 6 to 10 percent slopes. Similar to UR but with steeper slopes, this soil type comprises about 3% of Ash Rock land. Most is used for range, but some is cultivated. Water erosion is a severe hazard.

WK: Wakeen silt loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes. This is found mainly on side hills, and it makes up about 3% of Ash Rock. Most areas are used for range, but some are cultivated. It is only moderately well suited to cultivation, and water erosion is a severe hazard. It usually serves best when left in grass.

WX: Wakeen silt loam, 7 to 20 percent slopes. These are steeper side hills, and this classification includes about 7% of Ash Rock soils. This soil is best suited to range. The topsoil tends to be thin, and a hazard is overgrazing. Rock outcroppings often accompany this soil class, and the limestone used to surface roads often comes from these areas.

[See the map for the location of these farms]

Section 3,6-16; Soils HA, HR, RS, UR, WK, Residences, 1983: none.

NORTHEAST QUARTER 3-6-16 Isaac Bonny WD=Warranty Deed-Isaac Bonny [born 1865?], Feb. 2, 1892: WD-Jacob Bonny Dec. 14, 1898, NORTH 1/2 Isaac Bonny Jr. [born 1865] Dec. 16, 1919: SOUTH 1/2 WD-Vernon Bonny Dec. 19, 1919: QCD-Clara Bonny Jan 27, 1941: WD-Evylena Lehman, Oct. 3, 1956 (Velma's step sister).

SOUTHEAST QUARTER, 3-6-16 HS=Homestead entry- Isaac Bonny [1822] May 19, 1880, FR- Nov. 16 1883: PAT=Patent from the President-Isaac Bonny, Dec. 20, 1884:

Section 4, 6-16; Soils HA, HR, RS, UR, WK, Residences, 1983 None.

NORTHWEST QUARTER 4-6-16 TC-[born 1822] Isaac Bonny, Oct. 11, 1878: NORTHEAST QUARTER 10-6-16 TC=Timber Culture-Jacob Bonny Apr. 25, 1892 Cash Sept. 19, 1896: PAT- Jacob Bonny, Dec. 1, 1897. WD- William J. (Jacob) Bonny Sept 29, 1919: QCD=Quit Claim Deed-Jacob Bonny, March 10, 1934. WD- Clara Bonny May, 19, 1934? (Velma's guess):

Section 11, 6-16 SOILS HA, HR, UR, Residences, 1983 none. NORTHEAST QUARTER, 11-6-16 TC-William C. Van Dyke Aug. 19, 1875; F.R.=Final Receipt Sep. 22, 1883: PAT- William C. Van Dyke, Mar. 10, 1884:

Section 12,6-16 SOILS HA, HR, UR, Residences, 1983 Kent Townley.

NORTHWEST QUARTER 12-6-16 HS-W.C. Van Dyke, Jun. 26, 1874; F.R.: PAT- W.C. Van Dyke Apr. 29, 1881:

Section 14,6-16 SOILS HR, RS, UR, WX, Residences 1983 Wayne Jones. Leo E. Oliva [author of book]. The ASH ROCK CHURCH is at the SOUTHWEST corner of section 14-6-16. The CEMETERY is just west across the road in Section 15-6-16¹. District 18, the Elder or Ash Rock SCHOOL is at the NORTHWEST corner of the SOUTHWEST QUARTER of Section 11-6-16.

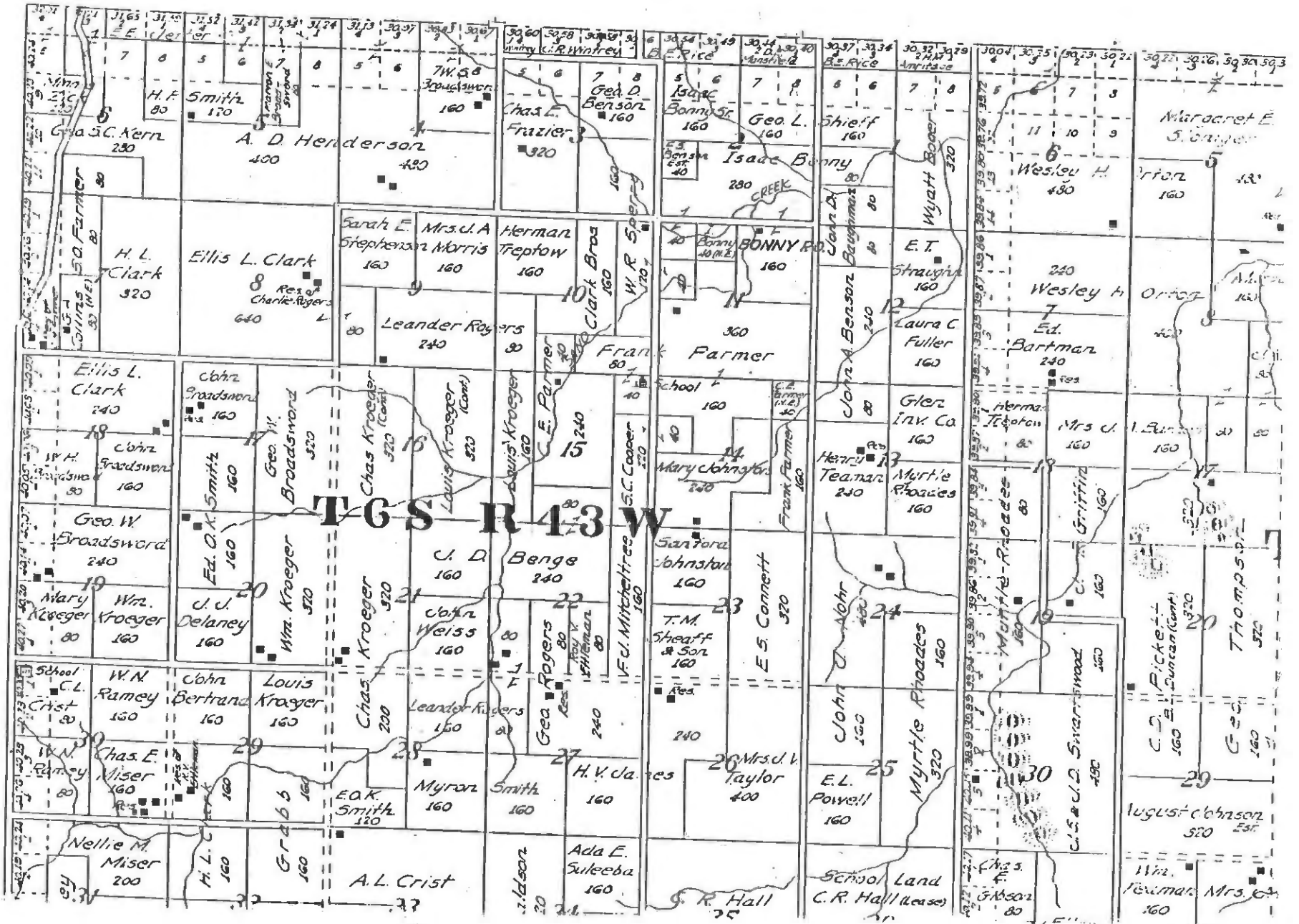
Section 15, 6-16 SOILS HA, HR, UR, Residences, 1983 E.I. Oliva.

Land Holdings in Bonny

This [Bonny Area Plats Map] "Section 11, Township 6, South Range, 43 West..." dated 1922 is from the Old Town Museum and shows the Bonny Post Office, schools, and property owners nearby. Broadsword School is in Section 30, and Happy Hollow School is in section 15. Note Isaac's holdings. Leander and Louella Rogers, near Bonny, were Velma's uncle and aunt.

Below is a map of the Bonny Area Plats From 1922. Note Happy Valley School in section 15, and Broadsword school in section 30

¹ Oliva. pp. 314-388



Land Holdings, Bonny

Bonny Land Holdings, continued
(All Isaac's [1865])

During our June 1994 trip to Bonny, we visited the court house and the Kit Carson County Abstract Company investigating property ownership by the Bonnys and the Barnharts.

The abstract company gave us the following quotes from their records. Ike's original patent from President Wilson can be seen with his post office history above, in Chapter Two.

Recording Date 2a	Description 2b
United States to Isaac Bonny Book 119 Page 77 March 7, 1916	Patent (original owner) Dated Dec. 6, 1917, NE1/4 Sec. 11 & E1/2 of SE1/4 2 N1/2 SW1/4 Sec. 1 Twp 6 Rng. 43 320 A(=acres) Signed by the President Woodrow Wilson, By M.P. LeRoy, Secretary L.Q.C. Lamar, Recorder Seal affixed.
County Treasurer to Frank W. Roberts Book 25 Page 2	Tax sale Certificate of Purchase #10856 Dated Nov. 19 1920, NE1/4 Sec. 11 Twp. 6 Rng. 43, Sold for taxes of 1919 (10856=tax sale number)
County Treasurer to Isaac Bonny, Book 25 Page 2	Certificate of Redemption Dated Dec. 22, 1920 Redeems Tax Sale No. 10656 shown at entry No. 3 of this Abstract.
Isaac Bonny to The Public Trustee, Kit Carson County, use of (loan from) Emma B. Ketchum Book 184 Page 124 Sept. 5, 1922 Recorded at Courthouse Sept. 5, 1922 ("Even date"= what? ed.)	Deed of Trust Dated Aug. 30, (Probably 3rd) 1922 NE1/4 Sec. 11 Twp 6 Rng. 43 One note of even date for \$1000 Aug. 30, 1927, with interest according to tenor of certain interest notes. After default sell at the Front door of the Court house, Kit Carson County, Colorado, or on said premises, after four weeks notice in some newspaper published in said County. Acknowledged Aug. 30, 1922 before Hobart M. Harrison, Notary Public, Kit Carson County, Colo. Commission expires Dec. 26, 1924 Notarial seal affixed.
County Treasurer to A.D. Henderson Book 226 Page 2	Redemption Certificate Dated Sept. 29, 1925, NE1/4 S 11 T 6 R 43, Redeems Tax Sale Certificate No. 15734
Isaac Bonny and Laura Bonny His wife to Alexander D. Henderson, Book 215 Page 266 Dated Sept. 29, 1925	Warranty Deed Dated Sept. 29, 1925, NE1/4 Sec. 11 Tsp 6 Rng 43, \$1.00 Revenue stamp affixed. Subject to trust deed for \$1000 Ack. Sept. 29, 1925 before Henry G. Hoskin, Notary Public, Kit Carson County, Colo. Commission expires Feb. 3, 1929 Notarial Seal affixed.
Emma B. Ketchum and A.D. Henderson Book 247 Page 2 March 29, 1930 Item 5 lists 1922 & 1927. (1921 is impossible?)	Agreement for Extension of Trust Deed Dated Aug. 30, 1928, NE1/4 S 11 T 6 R 43, Extends Trust Deed recorded in Book 184 at Page 124 from August 30, 1928 to August 30, 1921. Ack. August 30, 1928 before Ella A. O'Brien Notary public, Kit Carson County, Colo. Commission expires Jan. 24, 1931 Notarial Seal affixed.

11a
John S. Boggs, Public Trustee, Kit Carson County, Colo. to Isaac Bonny, Book (none given) Feb. 18, 1931

12a
Alexander D. Henderson to Jennie Barnhart, Book (none given) February 18, 1931

13a
On July 21, 1938 the Colorado Sec. of State announced the boundaries of the Plainview Soil Conservation District. which includes the Bonny area.

14a
264765 Jennie Henderson Formerly Jennie Barnhart to A.D. Henderson and Jennie Henderson, husband and wife, Book 291 Page 239, Mar. 29, 1943
(Compare dates in 14, 15 & 16)

15a
269764 In the Matter of the Death of Alexander Dile Henderson, Book 288 Page 535 Apr. 17, 1944

16a
269765 Concerning Joint Tenancy, Book 288 Page 546 Apr. 17, 1944

11b
Release of Trust Deed Dated Feb. 18, 1931, NE1/4 Sec 11 Twp 6 Rng 43, Releases Trust Deed recorded in Book 184 at Page 124, Ack. Feb. 18, 1931 before Henry G. Hoskin February 18, 1931, Notary Public, Kit Carson County, Colo. Commission expires May 16, 1933 Notarial Seal affixed.

12b
Warranty Deed Dated Jan. 19, 1931, NE1/4 Sec 11 Twp 6 Rng 43, Ack. Jan. 19, 1931 before Henry G. Hoskin Notary Public, Kit Carson County, Colo. Commission expires May 16, 1933 Notarial Seal affixed.

13b
Plainview Soil Erosion District

14b
Special Warranty Deed to Joint Tenants Dated Mar. 27, 1943. \$1.00 and other valuable consideration, NE1/4 Sec. 11 Twp. 6 Rng. 43, Conveys unto parties of the second part, not in tenancy in common but in joint tenancy, the survivor of them, their assigns and the heirs and assigns of such survivor forever. Acknowledged Mar. 27, (See 3/27/43 above) Before Betty Harrison, Notary Public, Kit Carson County, Colorado Commission expires Dec. 7, 1944. SEAL.

15b
State of Colorado Bureau of Vital Statistics Standard Death Certificate Certifies that decedent died June 16, 1943, Signed: Charles Smith, M.D. Certified Feb. 1, 1944 by R.L. Cleere, M.D. Register of Vital Statistics by N.C. Nachezel, Deputy Register

16b
Supporting Affidavit, Thornton H. Thomas, Jr., on oath states that Alexander Dile Henderson referred to in Certificate of Death by State Register of Vital Statistics on Feb. 1, 1943, was at the time of his death on June 16, 1943, the owner in joint tenancy with Jennie Henderson of NE1/4 Sec. 11 Twp. 6 Rng. 43 and other lands in Kit Carson County, Colorado, and that he has no record interest in said property and that Alexander Dile Henderson was also known as Alexander D. Henderson and A.D. Henderson. Signed: Thornton H. Thomas, Jr. Subscribed and sworn to Mar. 27, 1944 before Luetta L. Watkins, Notary Public, Kit Carson County, Colorado. Commission expires Dec. 17, 1947 SEAL.

Township 6. Section. Range 43 West.

Ellis Clark had a store and post office at Morris, Colorado which closed before Isaac Bonny [1865] opened his. Ellis had been postmaster after James Morris. The Broadswords were related to the Bonnys through Lela Broadsword Bonny who was married to Casey, and after his death Lyle, sons of Isaac [1886].

A patent is an original homestead grant, not a purchase. These names were familiar in the Bonny area.

Description	Section 6 Name	Final Proof Date
Lots 9,10,11, SE NW, lots 4,5,	Wm Zick	July 7, 1913
Lot 1	Dietrick Lange	Oct. 21, 1901
Lot 8, SE NE Final proof July 3, 1917	Wm S Broadsword	Jan. 6, 1914
SE SW, SW SE Final proof May 11, 1914	Isaac Bonney (sic)	Apr. 20, 1910

This was likely Isaac [1886] as he was in Colorado for the 1910 census. Several other lots were inked in but were unreadable.

Description	Section 7 Name	Final Proof Date
NE1/4, SE1/4	Elva C. Smith	July 25, 1913
Lots 1,2,3,4, E1/2 NW Final proof 5/11/14	Isaac Bonney (sic)	Apr. 20, 1910

This section also had an ink entry for Alfred G. Collins patented Sept. 1923.

Description	Section 8 Name	Final Proof Date
E1/2 SW, S1/2 SE, N1/2 SE	Ellis L. Clark ¹	Dec. 12, 1912

Ellis N. Bolling, Maye E. Smith, Amy Belle Smith (with a final proof by Walter S. Clark) were in this section.

Description	Section 9 Name	Final Proof Date
NE1/4	James A. Morris ²	Feb. 25, 1911
W1/2 SW	Ellis L. Clark ³	Dec. 12, 1912

Allan Rogers and Edw. G. Pattee had final proofs listed in this section.

Description	Section 11 Name	Final Proof Date
NE1/4 Final proof	Isaac Bonny	July 17, 1917

¹ He was second postmaster at Morris.

² First postmaster at Morris

³ See Morris Post Office description above. These dates match the post office dates. Section nine matches the Winfrey map.

Appendix 2
A Few Early References to the Name Bonny

Many published sources have used the word Bonny in regard to this area. A few of the most important ones located follow.

The title from which we gathered the most data was *History of Kit Carson County...* The Bonny family information included was used. The Barnhart family also described themselves very well in this volume. The school information, maps and etc. were excellent. The publisher, Curtis Media, authorized our use of relevant information. We are thankful.

The Burlington Public Library sent the following from, *Henry's Scrapbook*. By Henry Hoskin. Burlington, CO: c1981. "There were several post offices, which usually were in conjunction with a store, mostly short lived... Bonny was located in Section 4(sic)-6-43 and was founded by Isaac Bonny. This is the post office from which the Bonny Dam takes its name¹." (The correct section is 11, not 4)

An interesting little book of questionable authenticity located in the Burlington Library stated, "1910. The Bonny Post Office was located where the old Ellis Clark Store stood, about twenty miles north of Burlington and about two east²." This is an error. Mr. Clark had his establishment in Morris, Colorado, near Bonny. Both Louise Barnhart and Esther Rhoades attest to this fact, as does all other research done by the editors.

One of the documents sent to the editors by Mr Kutz revealed the name source. "To distinguish them ... (the Bureau of Reclamation sites)... from the Army's Hale site, ... the two Bureau of Reclamation sites on the South Fork (of the Republican River) were designated as the Bonny No. 1 and the Bonny No 2. sites, named after a little town of Bonny, once located about five miles south of the sites³."

The *Colorado Gazetteer*, (1983), lists Bonny Creek, Bonny Reservoir, and Bonny Dam Landing Strip, all bearing Isaac's name. (n.p.)

The *Eastern Colorado Regional Telephone Directory* for 1993 lists a "Bonny Gathering Co.", "Bonny Lake," "Bonny Marina," and the "Bonny State Recreation Area," on page 28.

¹ Hoskins. p. 152

² *Kit Carson and its Cattlemen*. p.55. J.C. Winfrey's parents knew the Morris family and likely got mail there. His map agrees in date and location with the plat map of Bonny.

³ "Synopsis..." p. 4

The *Colorado Fishing Season...*¹ lists, "Bonny Reservoir - Yuma County

a. All smallmouth bass and largemouth bass must be at least 15 inches in length or longer (sic).

b. Fishing is prohibited from the dam, March 15- April 15 between the hours of 1/2 hour before sunset to 1/2 hour after sunrise.

The *Bonny Dam Dedication* [Booklet] lists "Bonny Angus" under the Chester E. James name. He advertised Angus breeding bulls². (No other "Bonny" entries were seen in the names found in the advertisements)

Verl Manwarren, librarian at Stratton High School, sent the following data. "Bonny, Colorado was a post office which was in operation in Kit Carson County from 1915 to 1924. It was operated by Isaac Bonny [1865] who presumably moved to Idaho after he left the post office..."³

The *49th Annual Volume Colorado Business Directory With a Complete Classified Directory of the Entire State, including Mines, Reduction Works, etc.* 1921. Price \$15.00. Denver, Colorado. The Gazetteer Publishing & Printing Co. Established 1891., said under the index heading of towns, "Bonny, Post Office in Kit Carson county (sic). 21 1/2 miles north of Burlington (sic). the county seat, railroad and banking point. Farming and stock raising are the principal industries. Population of neighborhood 110. Altitude 4,160 feet. Bonny Isaac, [1865] (sic) genl mmdse, postmaster"

A photocopied page from, *A Guide to Places on the Colorado Prairie 1540-1974*, furnished by the Denver Public Library stated under "Places in the Past ... Bonny (rural post office) was located about eighteen miles north of Burlington, and the Bonny Post Office was in operation from 1915 to 1924." This publication also contained a map titled "Some Railroad Tracks, Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway" which showed the town spelled "Bonney." It appeared right on highway 51 and was @10 miles west of Ashland and three miles north of Morris. The town was also indexed as "Bonney." Included is a map of post offices in Kit Carson County including Bonney (sic)⁴.

¹ Page 23

² Page 57

³ Manwarren

⁴ Page 182

Atlas of Colorado Ghost Towns states, "Rural PO about 18 miles north of Burlington, 1915-1924¹."

Action on the Plains, from the Yuma County Historical Society has rich pages on Bonny, Colorado by Bill Bonny, Velma's brother and Goldie Fringer, quoted below. A picture of the store is shown on page 122. Note the brick chimney which replaced Ike's metal pipe.

"Mr. and Mrs. Ike Bonny Sr. had moved about 22 miles North of Burlington in Kit Carson County where they had their Bonny Post Office and store in about 1912. They constructed the small four-room house of adobe blocks and had the post office in what was the living room." (The date 1912 here is our only indication of when Ike Senior [1865] arrived at Bonny. The 1910 census indicates Ike Jr. [1886] was already here with his wife Floy and their child Pearl. Isaac [1865] was not listed in Bonny that year².)

Estie Carter sees a street near her home in Burlington named Bonny Drive. Homes were built there for construction workers at Bonny Dam³.

¹ Page 1

² Page 123

³ Carter, Estie. 1/20/1995

Appendix 3
Some Recent Bonny References

Bonny Dam has remained a source of news items in Burlington. Almost every item in this sampling is from clippings furnished by Estie Carter, our most helpful researcher. These clippings will be placed in a scrapbook to accompany this book for a local library. Items more directly related to the research will be found in the Annotated Bibliography, below. All citations here are from *The Burlington [Colorado] Record*, unless otherwise identified.

"The Battle of Beecher Island"

In a sandy area of the stream, Roman Nose was struck by a bullet. Some young indians crawled on all fours to pull him away from the creek. His body was taken to a spot near the present day Bonny Reservoir and placed on a scaffold^{1,2}.

"Big Fish are Coming Out at Bonny State Park." *Stratton Spotlight*, August 4, 1992 p.1

"Bonny Dam Popular Recreation Spot." January 1, 1954. (Boat dock to be built, wildlife described)

"Bonny Bullfrogs Featured in Mag." April 1, 1954.

"Bonny Reservoir Is True Multi-Purpose Use Area." April 21, 1966. A list includes eight benefits of the recreation area.

"Buffalo Graze at Bonny." On March 23, 1968 a herd of 13 buffalo were brought to graze in a fenced area according to Estie Carter. Roman Nose might have appreciated this.

"Buffalo Herd at Bonny Dam." July 25, 1968.

"Classified" *Stratton Spotlight*. July 14, 1992. (The editors requested information concerning Bonny Post Office)

Colorado Fishing Season information...1993-1995. Colo. Div. of Wildlife, Dept of Natural Resources: 6060 Broadway, 6060 Broadway, Denver 80216, 1993. 303 297-1192.

Describes Bonny Reservoir and fishing restrictions.

"Dance, Saturday Night." Advertisement for entertainment during dam construction. Music by "The Noisy Aces" at the BONNY BARN, Hale Colorado.

¹ *Rocky Mountain News*. 10/24/1994 p. 6A

² *Bonny Dam Dedication*. pp. 28-29

"Expect big Season at Bonny Dam." February 14, 1952.

"Geese At Bonny Dam." Captive geese were used to start a flock which would return to the dam. 500 stay year-round and 5000 were seen in 1966.

"List Rules for Bonny Dam." April 20, 1960. A very nice map of the dam area with a list of rules for its use.

"Makes Horned Rabbits." *The Burlington [Colorado] Record*. n.d. Dickenson store selling hand painted model horned rabbits and largemouth bass.

"November 3 Meeting to be Held on Improvements at Bonny Dam." November 10, 1994. Excellent map of the Bonny Reservoir which illustrates the "Master Capital Improvement Plan." A list of improvements is included.

"Outline Development Plan For Bonny Dam Area." February 14, 1952. (Boating, Boy Scouts, new public areas and plantings of various animals).

"Popular Recreation Spot." February 23, 1967. Photo of dam and a sign which reads, "Picnicking, Swimming, and Boating."

"Trapping Controls Beavers Near Bonny Reservoir." March 17, 1966. Article and photo of beaver trapped near Bonny.

Appendix 4
Personal Information Sources and Assistants¹

Bank of Burlington [Colorado] donated a copy of the *Dedication of Bonny Dam* booklet. Estie Carter had asked for one on swap shop, and the bank immediately phoned with a free copy for your editors. A box of them was in the bank basement.

William D. Bassman, National Personnel Records Center, 111 Winnebago Street, St Louis, MO. 63318

Jerry Brenner, 51249 County Road NN, Burlington, CO 80807 Ph 719 346-8226, Present owner of Bonny Post Office property, friendly and very helpful. He warned us about snakes.

Burlington Post Office. Cindy gave us names of Mr. Robin Hyatt, current postmaster and Pete Thompson, old time rural carrier who is still there. We wanted a postal history attributed to postmaster Dale Pralle mentioned in the *History of Kit Carson County*... who informed us he did not ever write such a book and knew nothing of it. See "Burlington Post Office has Colorful Past" in the bibliography.

Burlington Record. 14th Street, Burlington, CO, 202 South 14th Street, Ph 346-5381, for permission to quote the items gathered for us by Estie Carter.

Curtis Media's Paula Oakes, publishers of *History of Kit Carson*..., for permission to quote from this standard source on the county in which Bonny was located.

Denver Public Library, Elanor M. Gehes for *Colorado State Business Directory, 1921*

Marveline Barnhart Fetters, 1379 Ridge Road, Littleton, CO. 80120, Phone 303 794-4554. Helped Esther prepare notes and dates for the editors and helped Alice with "memories."

Rachel Camp, Goldie Camp Fringer's daughter. She furnished much genealogy and some pictures.

Fortunes, Jon and Barbara, 5115 Penny Lane, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009. In addition to being our printers, these stalwart friends proof read and typed and did endless computer maintenance. No Fortunes - no book!

Bonny Gould, Bonny is deceased at the time of this publication. Her writings enriched this work and inspired the editors. The

¹ People cited in the bibliography are not repeated here.

dedication she did for the Bonny Dam souvenir program caught exactly the spirit we wished this story to manifest. Because of her importance to this history, her obituary follows this list.

Marie Hoskin (Mrs. Henry), Box 487 Burlington, CO 80807, for his *Henry's Scrapbook*. She wrote us that Henry, her husband, had died. He has created much area history, and she offered to help us.

Marilyn Johnson, Secretary, Burlington Public Schools, Box 369, 1457 Martin Avenue, Burlington, CO 80807. Phone 346-8737. Her husband is Gary. She sent names of likely residents and also wrote them to help us, an invaluable aid as we began this project.

Kit Carson Abstract Co. Gary Koop and Henry Hoskin, and staff, Burlington CO. 1451 Senter Ave. 80807 719 346-8944. Tracy Lambert helped us.

Kit Carson County Clerk's Office. Help with school information, copy of Isaac's patent on Section 11, Township 6, South Range, 43 West, Error in dates Sept 5, not Aug. 5th. 251 16 Street, 346-8638

Poe, Richard *How to Profit from the Coming Russian Boom*. N.Y.; McGraw Hill, 1993. (Chap. 4 describes one of the current Velma Bonny Jacobs descendants, all of whom are successful. Nice portrayal of this families abilities.

Rita Maroney, Research Administration, Historian, Washington D.C. 20260. Sent Record of Appointment for Isaac and Charley, and the Site Report Information.

Leo McCoy, 404 Emerson Street, Wray, CO 80758, wrote us to state that he knew nothing about the Burlington Post Office history attributed to Mr. Pralle, and wondered why his address was given to us. See "History of Burlington Post Office...", in the bibliography.

National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408. Sent Samuels, Idaho Post Office history, and Isaac's relationship.

Postmaster General's Office, 475 L'enfant Plazas SW, Washington D.C. 20260-0010. Helped in tracing records of early postmasters and clerks.

Charles Rhine, Michener Library UNC Greeley, CO 80639. He located census data, government maps and gave invaluable advice.

Rhoades, Ray, 444 17 Street, Burlington, CO 80807 346-8332. Helped on Broadsword School and got us a visit with his mother, Esther Barnhart Rhoades. She's the oldest Barnhart who lived at Bonny.

Norm Travis, Kit Carson County Assessors Office, Court House,
Burlington, CO.

Uphoff, Dave. Bonny State Recreation Area, 3000 State Highway
385, Idalia 80735, Phone: 303 354-7306 Work, 7368 If no answer.

Barbara L. Wagers, Colorado State Publications Library, 201 East
Colfax, Room 314, Denver 80203, 303 866-6728 Valuable help with
state records.

Merle Walter, phone 556-9660, of Fort Collins called us
about her father's term as care-taker of Bonny. She read of this
book in the St. Francis newspaper.

Bonny Gould

If Andy with Velma and Alice wrote most of this book, almost
certainly, Bonny Gould would be next. Probably her skills are
best. The history would be much weaker without her words.

"Funeral services held for Bonny Irene Gould"

Funeral services for Bonny Irene Gould were Tuesday, July
10, at 1:30 p.m. in the Burlington United Methodist Church.
Officiating were Rev. Neil Warner and Rev. Eric Talla.

"The pianist was Byron Monasmith and the singers were the
United Methodist church choir. Song selections included "We're
Just the Singers of His Song" and "I Am Thine, Oh Lord."

"Casket bearers were Fim (sic) Thompson, Don Duerst, Oby
Barnes, Rol Hudler, Keith Barnett, Pete Whalen. Honorary casket
bearers were Bill Pangborn, C.L. Ross, M.D., Orville Chapin, Nick
Lawlor, Val Fitzpatrick, Ortis Andres and Earl Yamauchi.

"Bonny Irene (Gaunt) Gould was born Feb. 20, 1911 in a sod
house on a homestead a mile and a half northeast of Seibert. Her
parents were George and Ina Gaunt, who passed away in 1946.
Bonny passed away after a long illness on July 7, 1984 at the Kit
Carson County Memorial Hospital in Burlington.

"She graduated from Seibert High School with the class of
1929, valedictorian, and attended Denver University for three
years on a scholarship, working part time on the Rocky Mountain
News as a reporter and in the editorial department. She also
continued her musical studies, began on the violin at age 10.
For several summers she traveled with Chautauqua, also giving
one-woman concerts. One winter she was a member of a troupe, the
Idlewilde Concert company, playing Orpheum circuit, rendering
violin concertos, doubling in clarinet and dramatic productions.
She was an entertainer in musical and variety shows both in high
school and in college.

"Lacking only a few hours of a degree, she chose to return
to assist in the care of her mother during the latter's
protracted illness of several years in Seibert. She soon took on
a position on a local newspaper, "The Seibert Settler," and
shortly thereafter was co-editor of the tri-weekly, "The Prairie
Settler." The publication of county directories in various areas
of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska was another activity in addition

to her teaching of violin, playing in various trios, orchestras and bands in Kit Carson County and Denver.

"On Aug. 14, 1938, in a pretty home wedding, she was married to Clarence (Clay) Garvin Gould. She assisted him in the operation of chick hatcheries in Burlington and Bethune and worked at times for both the *Burlington Record* and the *Burlington Call*, the former for three years during World War II, having learned linotype operating while publishing her class high school paper, and acting as reporter. The Goulds lived in Bethune the first year of their marriage, and in 1939 bought the home on 11th Street in Burlington which remained her residence until her death on July 7, 1984.

"To the marriage three children were born, a boy premature, passing away in 1944; in 1946 Candace Sue, and in 1948 a son, Garvin Harold Gould.

"In 1947 Mr. and Mrs. Gould built Skate Bowl in Burlington, which the family operated until 1970 and in 1958 they also founded the bowling business in Goodland. They built the Bowladium, which they sold in 1964. Mr. Gould operated Gold Bond Hatcheries in Burlington for 32 years.

"She was preceded in death by her husband, who suffered a fatal heart attack on April 26, 1967, a half-sister, Mrs. Theodora Smith of San Angelo, Tex., and a half-brother, Clyde W. Wooten of Everett, Wash.

"She was a member of the Burlington United Methodist Church. Her world travels and writing were among her hobbies and for all the years since being Noble Grand at the age of 18 of the Seibert Rebekah Lodge, she filled all of the offices of various clubs in Burlington, being active in community affairs. Her years were brightly enhanced by the success of her two children and their mates, and by the development of her grandchildren, Dax Cameron and Tiffany Leigh, son and daughter of Gergens; and Spencer Garvin and Ashley Rose, son and daughter of the Goulds.

"Funeral services were held at the Burlington United Methodist Church, interment in Fairview cemetery in Burlington.

"In Lieu of flowers, contributions to the Bonny Gould Memorial, which will fund journalism scholarships to outstanding seniors at Burlington High School¹."

¹ Appeared in *The Burlington Record* in July of 1984.

Appendix 5
A Few Letters

A-Department of the Interior

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
GREAT PLAINS REGION
NEBRASKA-KANSAS PROJECTS OFFICE
P. O. BOX 1607
GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA 68802-1607
FEB 6 1992
G-100

Mrs. Velma Bonny Jacobs
Apartment 408 "C"
2311 16th Street
Greeley CO 80631-663

Subject: Information on Bonny Reservoir (Reservoir)

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

In response to your inquiry, I have enclosed a copy about the history and authorization of Bonny Dam and Reservoir. In paragraph 3, on page 4, it states that the dam and reservoir was named after the town of Bonny, Colorado.

Also enclosed are copies of most of the written material in the dedication booklet. This material should be useful in preparation on any historical documents. We also have lots of pictures of the construction of the dam in our files in McCook, Nebraska.

We would be very interested in receiving or purchasing a copy of your completed book.

Sincerely, (Signature)
Robert D. Kutz Project Manager
Enclosures

B-Yuma Museum
August 7, 1994

Dr. Andy Gibbons, M.L.S.
2510 10th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631
(303)356-6527

Dear Andy:

This letter is a follow up on our phone conversation of the last few days.

As I told you on the phone, Sylvia Seedorf is in the nursing home in Yuma now. Her son Allen brought me your letter to her. In 1985, because of declining membership and the age of the directors, the Yuma Historical Society disbanded. A group made

up of members of other clubs in Yuma was picked to run the museum, and I was one of them.

I see no reason you can not use information from the book *Action on the Plains*. Sylvia always said that things in the museum were for the enjoyment of the people and were to be used and not hid away. I think the same applies to the book she worked on. Loretta Mekelburg, one of the compilers passed away recently and I think Fern Stallings is living out of state.

The original photo of the Bonny Post Office I have no knowledge of, unless it is the same building in a post card photo sent to the Yuma Museum by Estie Carter of Burlington. She is one of the volunteers with "Old Town" in Burlington. Her address is Box 297 Burlington, CO 80807. It is Post marked Bonny Colo. June 10, 1910 A.M. The back of the card was addressed Bertha Camp, Kirwin, Phillips Co. Kansas. Also on the back of the photo copy was written (by the museum) Isaac Bonny [1865] Home. This picture was on the back of this post card. original in Burlington Museum. I have included a xerox copy of the photos Estie sent and copies of other information also, except for information from *Action on the Plains* which you have already.

I think I will make copies with my camera and send at a later date.

Some time ago I had looked up the Bonny Post Office on micro film from the National Archives RECORD OF APPOINTMENT OF POSTMASTERS, Roll 14, 1832-Sep 30, 1971 Colorado Adams-Kit Carson Counties. In Vol. 95, ca 1900-30 I found Isaac Bonny appointed 3 June 1915, Charlie F. Barnhart, 6 June 1920, discontinued Feb. 9, 1924 eff. Feb. 29, 1924 and mail was sent to Burlington.

I have enclosed the copy of *Action on the Plains* you ordered.

Thanks (Signed)
Stephen Chaplin
P.O. Box 24
Yuma, Colo. 80759

Appendix 6
Permission to Copy
A-Curtis Media *History of Kit Carson County...*

Curtis Media
July 5, 1994
Mrs. Velma Bonny Jacobs & Dr. Andy Gibbons M.L.S.,
2500 15th Avenue Court
Greeley, CO 80631

Dear Mrs. Jacobs and Dr. Gibbons,
I enjoyed speaking with you last week, Dr. Gibbons, and am happy to send along written **permission** to use segments from the Curtis Media publication, *History of Kit Carson County, Colorado*. We wish you good luck with your project.

Sincerely,
Paul Oates
Curtis Media
734 E. Pipeline Rd.
Hurst, Texas 76053
1-800-743-4388
(817)285-7091
Fax (817)285-0176

B-Government Materials
United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
GREAT PLAINS REGION
NEBRASKA-KANSAS PROJECTS OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1607
GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA 68802-1607
MAY 22 1992
G-100
PRJ-13.00 ARM

Mrs. Velma Bonny Jacobs
Andy Gibbons M.L.S.
2311 16th Street, Apt. 408 "C"
Greeley CO 80631-6633
Subject: Bonny Dam Information (Dam)

Dear Mrs. Jacobs and Dr. Gibbons:
Sorry for my delay in responding but I have been very busy and out of the office a great deal. Here are the answers to your questions:

1. **All of our material is public information and can be reprinted** if you desire.
2. We only have one copy of the dedication booklet available, and it could only be copied.
3. We have no information on Bonny Gould.
4. Attached is a copy of a map showing the location of Bonny in relation to other towns.

5. The only descriptions of Bonny dam sites 1 and 2 were from the material that was previously transmitted to you. Attached is the entire paragraph about early investigations. This information is from our first "Annual Project History" book about the project¹.

6. The only information that we have about the construction and early project activities are in the first three or four project histories. These also have lots of photographs (7 x 10 in.) covering construction activities. We only have one copy of these histories and do not allow them out of the office. We could make these books available for your observation at our McCook Office if you would like to see them. I have enclosed copies of two construction photographs out of these project histories. Please let me know if you would like to see these histories so I can have them available at McCook. Sincerely,
(Signature), Robert D. Kutz Project Manager,
Enclosures

C-Yuma Museum

Appendix 5, above, includes a letter from the Yuma Museum giving **permission** to use items from *Action on the Plains*.

D-Ash Rock and the Stone Church

On page ii, the Dedication of *Ash Rock and the Stone Church* states, " This volume is dedicated to the pioneers who settled in Ash Rock and to all their sons and daughters, past, present, and future." The page concludes with the following statement: "Any portion of this book may be used or **reproduced** in any manner whatsoever without written permission from the author or publisher²."

E-The Burlington Record

Mr. Rol Hudler wrote us on April 29, 1995 saying, "Dr. Gibbons. You most certainly have our **permission** to quote the articles which Estie Carter found for you in *The Record*."
(Signed) Mr. Rol Hudler, Editor, *Burlington Record*, 202 South 14 Street, Burlington, CO 80807

¹ See "Synopsis of Early... pp.4-5

² Mr. Oliva, the author and friend to Velma, died in 1995.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 13th Census of the U. S.: 1910 Population. Colorado, Kit Carson, Precinct 3, 4/19/1910 V I, Population... & V II, ...counties, cities...
- 20 Censuses, Population and Housing Questions, 1790-1980. October 1979. U.S. Dept. of commerce, Bureau of the Census, pp. 40-49. (SuDoc number 3.2:C33/33/979)
- The 49th Annual Volume Colorado Business Directory with a Complete Classified Directory of the Entire State, including Mines, Reduction Works, etc. 1921. Price \$15.00. Denver, Colorado. The Gazetteer Publishing & Printing Co. Established 1891...
Vol. 49, 1921 Has an Isaac [1865] Bonny entry. The 1924 issue lists Chas. F. Barnhart.
- "10,000 Attend Bonny Dam Dedication Ceremonies." *The Burlington [Colorado] Record*. June 5, 1952. Alice Mae Barnhart, one of the editors is mentioned regarding her winning essay.
- Allacher, Dennis E. P.E. [Pictures] [Letters]
We were allowed to copy pictures and memorabilia from the "Project History Library" for Bonny Dam. The letter from Bill Bonny, below, was among these items. Address, Chief, Water Control Field Branch, McCook Field Office R.R.1, Nebraska, 69001, 308 345-4400.
- Barnhart, Ira. [Letter] December 4, 1991.
Dictated to Louise, our only contact with Ira.
- Ibid. [Some Mail recipients at Bonny post office]
Handwritten for Lorraine Vair by Ira Barnhart. Received from Estie Carter.
- Barnhart, Louise Smith. [Letters] July 18, 1993,
July 18, 1993; specific questions,
August 8, 1994; Proofing suggestions and additions,
January 15, 1995; Details on life at Bonny.
July 8, 1995; Family stories at Bonny
Description of Bonny building, rooms, store items, and history: Address 1571 Senter, Burlington, CO 80807. Phone 719 346-8417.
- Ibid. [Visit] 7-12-94
We copied many Barnhart photos and recorded Louise's anecdotes.
- Bauer, William H., James L. Ozment, John H. Willard. *Colorado Post Offices, 1859-1989; A Comprehensive Listing of Post Offices, Stations and Branches*. Post Office Box 10, Golden, CO 80402. The Colorado Railroad Museum, c1990.
- ibid. *Colorado Postal History: The Post Offices*. n.p.: J.B Publishing Co., c1971. (Printed by Crete News, Inc., (L.C. Card number, 70-182741).
- ibid. [Letters]
July 3, 1994, and
October 22, 1994; Postmaster Remuneration.
March 3, 1995 Explanation of dates in post office announcements. New address, Box 519 Unadilla, NY 13849-0519.
- ibid. [Personal Notes on Bonny & Hale Post Offices] July 10, 1973.
- ibid. [Personal Notes on Morris, CO - "Cottage House"] January 28, 1995.
- Bonny Dam Dedication; Hale, Colorado at Bonny Reservoir, June 1, 1952. Souvenir Book Committee, H. M. Hayes, M.D., Chairman.
Estie Carter acquired our copy from the Bank of Burlington.
- "Bonny Dam is Dedicated." *Rocky Mountain News*. 6/2/1952.
- Bonny, Lela Broadsword, and Lyle. [Letters] [Pictures] September 15, 1991
March 7, 1995
September 22, 1994
December 15, 1994; Genealogy and Ellis Clark information.
Lyle is the son of Isaac [1886] and had pictures of the Bonny Post Office with Velma and Velda age two, Mildred, and Vernon. His wife Lela has been a major correspondent. Address 656 South Fairview Street, Prineville, OR 97754 - Ph. 503 447-7857.
- Bonny Reservoir Quadrangle, Colorado-Kansas, 15 minute series (Topographic). 1950. [Map]
Shows Bonny Creek and Hale.
- Bonny, William Jacob, "Bill." [letter] June 16, 1958.
To the Colorado Fish and Game Dept., Burlington, CO regarding his visit to the dam, some post cards with the Bonny cancellation. Letter copy from Dennis E. Allacher, Dept. of Interior, McCook, NE.
- Boyd, Leanne C. *Atlas of Colorado Ghost Towns, V. II*. Carson Enterprises, Deming, NM. 1984.
p. 1 has Bonny listing, p. 2 has a Kit Carson County map.

Brenner, Danyel, L., [Isaac Bonny Properties and map, 1923] [Letter] August 1, 1994.
Curator at Old Town Museum. Jerry Brenner's daughter. She helped with Bonny property information and 1922 Plat Maps from the Old Town law office, and Isaac's [1886] property holdings. Address, 420 South 14th Street, Burlington, CO 80807 Phone 719 346-7382 or 800 288-1334.

"Buffalo Creek Radiates That Good Feeling." *Rocky Mountain News*. 12/30/1991 p.10.
Pictures a post office similar to Bonny.

"Burlington Man Appointed to Game and Fish Commission." *The Burlington [Colorado] Record*. May 3, 1951.

About Esther Barnhart Rhoades's husband Harley. He represented District three which includes Bonny Dam.

"Burlington Post Office Has Colorful Past, 65 Years Ago." *The Burlington [Colorado] Record*, April 16, 1959.

Estie Carter sent your editors this clipping. A Picture of the "C.A. Lamb, General Merchandise" store and post office was shown. The story matches the description of the book attributed to, but disclaimed by Mr. Dale E. Pralle of Burlington.

Carter, Estaleene "Estie." [Bonny photo's and data], [Letters]

August 1, 1994
August 30, 1994
September 9 & 19, 1994 *
October 5, 1994
December 13, 1994
January 20, 1995
February 7, 1995
May 12, 1995

Estie is a tour guide at Old Town who has sent an abundance of information on Bonny Dam, the Bonnys, pictures of Ike [1865] and the post office. She found invaluable information on Bonny and its people. Her letters led us to Steve Chaplin and Lorraine Vair, below. Estie is a primary researcher in the Burlington area. Her address is 164 11 Street, Burlington, CO 80807, phone is 719 346-8884. At her request we are calling her Estie here.

Census 1920, Samuels, Idaho. Borrowed from the L.D.S. Family History Library in Greeley, CO.

Chaplin, Steve. [Letters] August 7, 1994.

[Photos] November 17, 1994.
Yuma Museum materials on Isaac Bonny and the post office including the Vair photos. Address Box 24, Yuma, CO. Phone 303 848 5128 home, 2543 work.

"Charles Barnhart Fatally Injured." [Obituary] *The Burlington [Colorado] Record*. October 30, 1930.

He was born November 26, 1882; died October 26, 1930, age 47.

Colorado Gazetteer. Robert P. Markham, ed. Greeley, CO: Microforms Unlimited, 1983.
Lists several Bonny "name" locations.

[Dedication of Bonny Dam Planned] These five articles appeared in *The Burlington [Colorado] Record* regarding planning for the dedication.

"Outline Plans to Dedicate Bonny," January 10, 1952;
"Study Plans for Bonny Dedication," February 21, 1952;
"Dedication Speaker", and "Work on Plans for Bonny Dedication," March 20, 1952;
"Plan Boat Races at Bonny Dam," April 23, 1953.
Source, Estie Carter.

"Early Day Post Offices." In *Kit Carson County and its Cattlemen*.
Page 41 includes Bonny.

East Central Council of Local Governments. *Our Heritage: A Collection of Tales of East Central Colorado, Volume 1*. Burlington, CO.: Burlington Record, Sept. 1983. (Produced by Terry W. Blevins, Hugo, CO. Write the E.C.C.L.G. at Box 28, Stratton, CO. 80836
Bonny not mentioned, but gives flavor of area and times.

Eastern Colorado Regional Telephone Directory. Consolidated Communications Directories Inc.: Effingham, IL 62401, January 1994.
Lists several "Bonny" items.

Eichler, George R. *Colorado Place Names*. Boulder, CO: Johnson Publishing Co., 1977.
Lists Hale, Colorado, has no Bonny entry. Received from Bauer.

Engert, Erwin H., of Lakewood, Colorado "Bonny, Colorado" [postal card] canceled at Bonny, Colorado August 1, 1919.

He contributed maps, much information and help. address, 660 South Estes, Street, Lakewood, CO 80226, Ph 303 986-8516.

"Farmer Killed by Power Belt." *St. Francis [Kansas] Herald*. October 30, 1930.
Describes vividly Charlie Barnhart's fatal accident.

Follansbee, Robert, and J. B. Spiegel. *Flood on Republican and Kansas Rivers, May and June 1935*. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Water-Supply Paper 796-B. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1937.

Sent to us by Robert Klutz, June 1993.

Fringer, Goldie Camp. [Interviews] January 15, 1990 at Long Meadows apartments, and April 1993 at Bonnell good Samaritan Center. Both in Greeley.
Goldie is Velma's cousin. She visited Bonny.

"Funeral Services Held for Bonny Irene Gould." [Obituary] Burlington Record, [n.d.] Died July 7, 1984.

Bonny Gould was a major source for our research.

Gerhardt, Gary. "The Battle of Beecher Island." Rocky Mountain News, October 24, 1994, p. 6a.
Mentions nearness of island to Bonny Dam.

Gould, Bonny. "Bits of History Involved in Naming of Bonny Dam." The Burlington [Colorado] Record. September 24, 1970.

See also "Letter Adds to History..." and "Burlington Post Office..."

ibid. "Bonny Post Office." The Burlington [Colorado] Record. December, 1970.
Describes the history, building, postmasters and carriers.

ibid. "Little High Plains School House -- Temple of Learning." The Burlington [Colorado] Record. n.p., n.d. [1972?]

"Grouse Creek Matron Dies." [Obituary Laura Van Dyke] Pend Orelle Review, December 24, 1928.
Laura died December 19th. From Virginia Wood via Lela Bonny.

A Guide to Places on the Colorado Prairie, 1540-1975. Pruett Publishing Co.: 1978.
Has Bonny description p. 180 and 183 - Bonny was also spelled Bonney on map and in the index.

"Hale Enlarges School Facilities." The Burlington [Colorado] Record. August 11, 1949.

"Horned Rabbit Killed At Dam." The Burlington [Colorado] Record, November 12, 1953.

"Horned Rabbit Found Near Stratton." The Burlington [Colorado] Record. February 4, 1954.

Hoskins, Henry Y. Henry's Scrapbook. Privately issued c1981. p. 152.
Quotes furnished by the Burlington Public Library, 415 15th Street, 80807.

History of Kit Carson County, Colorado. By Kit Carson County History Book Committee. Hurst, TX; Curtis Media Corporation, 1988. ISBN 0-88107-118-8-0.

Permission to use received from Paula Oakes as of June 8th, 1994 by phone with follow up letter, July 5, 1994. Phone, 214 651- 1025 or 800 743-4388.

"History Traces Building of Bonny Dam in Record Time." The Burlington [Colorado] Record. May 29, 1952.

A brief review of the actual construction and housing for workers.

"Ira Glen Barnhart." [Obituary] Burlington [Colorado] Record, [n.d.] [Published Sept. 1992].

Jacober, Alice Mae nee Barnhart. [Letters]

August 1, 1990. Introduction to herself and Barnharts.

November 13, 1994, Barnhart family tree, and stories.

December 6, 1994, Genealogy, Dile and Jennie.

January 19, 1995, A book on the Bennett Taylor family and Hale, Colorado by her

Uncle, J. Winfrey. It is cited below.

January 31, 1995 Proofing suggestions and post office poem.

July 23, 1995, Clarification on Morris Post Office location.

July 10, 1995, Everett and Vivian Barnhart's stories.

August 29, 1995, Happy Hollow School days.

She is Leonard Barnhart's daughter and has written extensively for History of Kit Carson County...

Alice sent us several items cited here plus personal Barnhart information. Her work with Ira Glen Barnhart on the family and Bonny Post Office is fundamental to our history. Address, 12889 State Highway 96, Westcliffe, CO.

81252. Phone 719 783-2554.

Kit Carson County and it's Cattlemen. [n.p.]: [n.d.], c1953. Purchased by the Burlington, CO Public Library on 2/17/94.

In error on some "facts" about the Bonny and the Morris Post Office histories.

"Kit Carson County" [Map] 1988 (in) History of Kit Carson County... p. 62.

"Kit Carson County" [Ghost Towns] (in) Atlas of Colorado Ghost Towns, Vol. II, p. 2.

Kroeger, Carl and Doris. [Letter]

Carl visited with Charley in the Bonny store. Address, 451 12th Street, Burlington, CO 80807 719 456-7471.

Kutz, Robert D. [Letter] February 6, 1992.

Name source for Bonny Dam cited, Dedication Booklet pages sent, with a request for a copy of our publication. Address, Kansas Projects Office, box 1607, Grand Island, NE 68802.

Ibid. [Letter] May 22, 1992.

Gives permission to reprint Dept. of Interior items.

- "Location of Proposed Post Office." [Map] Page 2 is a section map showing the proposed location of the site titled, "Diagram, Explanation, and Instructions." Mailed 2/10/1915 and received 2/13/1915, from the National Archives.
- Manwarren, Verl. [Letter] "Analysis of information on Isaac Bonny [1865]." 1990. Box 173 Stratton, CO 80836 Ph 719 348-5924.
This project was begun through a discussion of Bonny Dam between Verl and Velma. He led all our visits to the post office, through the country of Bonny, Colorado, and to the people in the story.
- "Martha Josephine Taylor Smith and Bert Smith, known as P. A. (Philbert Abner) Smith." A typed document with no publishing information. Louise Barnhart gave it to Estie Carter, for our use.
- McManama, LaRae and Bob. [letter] May 5, 1995.
Van Dyke family is covered nicely in chapter 8, p. 126, of their book next below. 2648 Kenwood St. S.L.C., UT 84106. She also sent much genealogy of the Van Dykes and the Boneyes, her spelling, and many original photos of these families.
- ibid William Johnston McManama, Rebecca Lenora Van Dyke McManama, Their Descendants and Ancestors. McManama, Robert and LaRae. Salt Lake City, Utah: Know Your Heritage Organization, 801 483-1015, 1993.
- "Mount Sunflower Stands Tall." Rocky Mountain News. July 22, 1990.
Highest point in Kansas, near Bonny, Colorado.
- National Archives, General Reference Branch. [Letter] January 16, 1992.
Concerns Samuels, Idaho Post Office and Isaac Bonny [1865].
- ibid, Industrial and Social Branch. [letter] to James C. Winfrey, February 6, 1974.
Concerns Hale Post Office and Winfrey relatives.
- ibid. Microfilm #841 Roll #14. "Record of Appointment of Postmasters, Sept. 30 1832 - 1971, Colorado, Adams-Kit Carson Counties.
Lists offices, postmasters, and dates.
- New International Atlas of the World; The Self Revising Atlas. [t.p. missing, approximately 1945?
The 1940 census figures are included, as are the town of Bonny and some WWII data.
- Noel, Tom. "Colorado Post Offices earns Stamp of Approval." Denver: Rocky Mountain News, n.d. [1994?]
Reviews Mr. Bauer's book. Mr. Noel is Professor of History, University Colorado, Denver.
- [North Republican Unit] [Map] USBR Map 58-D-488, March 15, 1944. House Document 191.
Shows towns of Bonny, Hale and Dam site area. May be source of the name "Bonny Dam". See Chapter five.
- "Obituary of Jennie [Teel Barnhart] Henderson." The Burlington [Colorado] Record. January 20, 1972. She died January 15, 1972, at age 86.
- Farmer, Ben F. [phone call] "Information on ownership of Happy Hollow School land", September 5, 1995. Box 6, Burlington, CO 80807
- Oliva, Leo E. Ash Rock and the Stone Church; The History of a Kansas Rural Community. Ellsworth, KA: Ellsworth Printing, 1983.
Includes Bonny family members and wonderful descriptions of life on a homestead. Meda Bonny noted that he died in 1995. The primary source on the Bonnys at Ash Rock.
- "Pioneer of Grouse Creek Community Dies Friday." [Obituary] Sandpoint News Bulletin, October 26, 1944.
Death of Isaac Bonny Sr. [1865], from Virginia Wood via Lela Bonny.
- Post Office Department. "Location Paper" [Hale, Colorado Post Office] December 7, 1889.
- Ibid. Topographer, "Diagram, Explanation, and Instructions. JUN (sic), 1890?
A location chart for the Hale Post Office. From Alice Jacober.
- Pralle, Dale E. [Letter] August 4, 1994.
The History of Kit Carson County, and "Bits of History Involved in Naming Bonny Dam" both refer to a post office history by Mr. Pralle. He did not write it. The actual source, your editors believe, is cited above as "Burlington Post Office..." Estie Carter assured us in her letter of 12/13/94 that Mr. Pralle was not postmaster, but was an employee when the article was written. Mary Vogt was postmistress at the time. She is deceased in 1994. Mr. Pralle also told Estie that there were errors in the article.
- "Quiet View Near Bonny." [Color postcard] showing Bonny, Colorado, and a stream.
Postmarked 12/25/1918 at Bonny
- "Reclamation Era Publishes..." The Burlington [Colorado] Record, March, 1952

"Record of Appointments, 1832 [to] 9/30/71" Microfilm publication M841 roll 14, Target 34 - Colorado, Colorado Territory, Adams-Kit Carson County. Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1973.

Report on Republican and Kansas Rivers Flood of May and June, 1935. U. S. Geological Survey (water Supply Paper 796-5)
Planning for the dam which became Bonny Reservoir.

Rhoades, Esther Barnhart. [Letter], [Drawing of Bonny post office and store], Postmarked July 25, 1994.

Esther is age 86 in 1994 and is the oldest living child of Charlie Barnhart in 1995. She shared valuable memories, descriptions and pictures of Bonny. Address, 1676 Senter Avenue, Burlington, CO 80807, Phone 719 346-8615.

Rhoades, Lola Winfrey. [Interview] Address, 259 Cherry Street, Burlington, CO 80807 Ph. 719 346-8417

"School Districts" (Before 1950 reorganization), [Map] 1950. (in) *History of Kit Carson County...* p. 99.

Schriner, Patricia Perry, and Dave. [Pictures] August 31, 1994.
Patty loaned us photographs of Ike, Laura, Vernon, Bill, Louis; and Velma's aunts, Maggie Bonny Camp Earley and Anna Bonny Camp. Address is 7650 East 160th Avenue, Brighton, CO 80601 Phone, 303 659-6696.

Schulze, Suzanne. *A Century of the Colorado Census*. Compiled 1977, Michener Library, Greeley, Co.

"Services For Leonard Barnhart" [Obituary] *The Burlington Record*, Thursday, Nov. 6, 1980.
From Alice Jacober.

Smith, Dorothy. "How the Name Bonny Was Chosen." [n.p., n.d.]

St. Francis [Kansas] Herald. June 12, 1919.
Has an entry on the issue of a marriage license at Bonny. In *Action on the Plains*.

Standard Atlas of Kit Carson County, Colorado, Including a Plat Book of the Villages... Chicago: George A Ogle and Co., 1922.
Bonny Post Office plat is on page 48.

"State Commission Takes Over at Bonny Reservoir." *Burlington [Colorado] Record*, February 7, 1952.
Colorado Fish and Game to take over the entire reservoir and surrounding land from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Swanfeldt, Andrew. *Crossword Puzzle Dictionary*. 3rd ed. Thomas Y. Crowell Co. N.Y. 1967.
Suggested "bonny, bonnie words."

"Synopsis of Early Investigations." (in) *Annual Project History of St. Francis Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, Calendar Years 1947-1948*. United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Great Plains Region, Nebraska-Kansas Project Office, Box 1607, Grand Island, Nebraska, 68802-1607, [n.d.]

Received from Robert D. Klutz, Project Manager, on 2/6/1992, 5/22/1992 and on 6/20/1994. According to Robert Kutz, these are "The First Project History" publications. Velma and Andy examined the 1947-48 volume and several later ones in McCook, Nebraska on September 16, 1994. These are large, loose leaf type accumulations rather than published works. The only copies of which we are aware are at the McCook, Nebraska building.

Tocqueville, Alexis de. *Democracy in America*. [n.p., n.d.] Cited in *Ash Rock and the Stone church*.

Uncommon Men and the Colorado Prairie. Propst, Nell Brown. Caldwell, ID. 312 Main Street, 83605.

Vair, Lorraine. [Letter] September 3, 1994.
Lorraine is a great niece of Isaac Bonny [1865]. She wrote about naming Bonny Dam. We contacted her through the Yuma Museum first, and later Estie Carter at Burlington's Old Town. Lorraine's Address, 1161 Milky Way, Denver, CO 80221, phone 303 429-8897.

Wood, Virginia. [Letter] March 9, 1995.
The obituaries of Isaac [1865] and wife Laura. Address, 9400 Highway 95 North, Sandpoint, ID 83862. Phone, 208 263-3466. Virginia is Pearl Bonny's daughter. Pearl is a daughter of Isaac [1886].

Yuma [Colorado] Museum. (The new name of the Yuma County Historical Society.) *Action on the Plains; Histories of the Towns of Yuma County and Surrounding area*. Compiled by: Sylvia Seedorf, Loretta Mekelburg, and Fern Stallings. Seal designed by Mrs. Lyle Scott. Yuma Colorado: Pioneer Printing, 1971.

See pages 129-130 for Hale, Colorado and pages 122-125 about Bonny. This title includes, on page 122, these four incomplete citations including two correctly cited above:

1. The State Historical Society of Colorado, Denver, Colorado.
Bonny, - 1924 Post Office in Kit Carson County, 21½ miles north of Burlington, the

county seat, railroading and banking point. Farming and stock raising are the principal industries. Population of neighborhood, 110. Altitude, 4,160 feet. Barnhart, Chas. F., Postmaster. (This citation is probably from 49th Annual Colorado Business Directory...1924).

2. National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. (Cited under "Yuma [Colorado] * Museum," above)

3. The Public Library, City and County of Denver, Denver, Colorado.
Isaac Bonny, General merchandise, postmaster, postmaster," is listed as the only business in town. Bonny is listed for the first time in 1914 and for the last time in 1924. (Probably an issue of *The Colorado Business Directory*...

4. St. Francis Herald, June 12, 1919.
Marriage license issued to C. E. Palmer, Bonny, Colorado, and Mary I. Nye, Attalia, Washington.

Yuma [Colorado] Museum. [Phone conversation], September 1994 with Chaplain, Steve. Yuma, CO: Yuma Museum, Box 454, 80759, phone 303 848-5128

Winfrey, Elsie L. [Letter] August 29, 1994. 5367 Macleay Road South East, Salem, OR 97301. Elsie is related to the Barnharts and Alice Jacober. She tells of their move to Colorado, and family items.

Winfrey, James C., Compiler. *The Bennett Taylor Family*. Littleton, CO, 1979.
A copy was a gift of Alice Mae Jacober.

ibid "Letter Adds to History of Bonny Dam Community." *The Burlington [Colorado] Record*. [n.d.] (Published the 1st week in October 1970, a week after "Bits of History..." above, appeared).
Mentions Isaac's adventures as a store keeper.

Woodin, N. Beth. "Bonny Dam Dedication." June 1, 1952.
An apparently photocopied draft of her part of the *Bonny Dam Dedication*... with an added p.s. about Mr. Poley, Wildlife Technician. From Estie Carter.

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