

Trails & Tales

Of The Early-Day Settlers Of
North-Eastern Okanogan County.

SEP 15 1985

**Compiled By: Wauconda and
surrounding areas Historical
Committee, Wauconda, WA**

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AREAS INCLUDED

Anglin — Siwash

Wauconda

Aeneas

Toroda — Bodie

Bonaparte

Pontiac Ridge

Mt. Anne

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Wauconda Hall Association

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Hansen

Mrs. Hansen took up a homestead near Old Wauconda about 1914 and lived there with her two children, John and Alice, for several years. John married Olive Smith, who had been living with Mrs. Lynch on the Kettle River. She was the daughter of Okanogan Smith, first settler of Oroville and she inherited money from his estate. She and John bought the Chamberlain ranch in Aeneas Valley, now owned by Montanyes. They lived there for a few years and Mrs. Hansen and Alice moved there to be near John. Later they sold out and moved to a place near Spokane. John died several years ago and Olive still lives in their home there.

Hirsch

The Jack Hirsch family lived on Mrs. Hirsch's allotment along the Toroda Creek road about four miles north of Wauconda. They built a frame house and a big barn, which are still being used and is owned by Sonny Rounds. They were here in 1900 and stayed until about 1914. Jack had one son, Billy, who took over the ranch when his father and step-mother went away. Billy married Nanya Metcalfe and they lived on the place for several years. Their four children were all born at Wauconda. Their story is in with the Ed Davis history in this book.

Jordan

The Amos Jordan family came to Old Wauconda about 1897 from the Blewett mining area in the Cascades of central Washington. Amos was a miner there and taught his sons to pan for gold. There were twelve children in his family but not all of them came to Old Wauconda. Those remembered being here were Clarence, Albert, Ollie, Lydia, Anna, Eva and Babe (Alice). Nothing is known of the mother. Eva married Pete Barker of Republic, one girl married Adrian Berkely, and one married Ralph McClure who had a homestead west of Bonaparte Creek near the Blevens School.

Babe married Lou Runnels whose family had lived on Siwash Creek in the early days and later married Albert Cunningham. The Barkers and children, Armenta, Robert, and Letha, the McClures and children, and the Berkleys and children lived in Republic around 1918 to 1923 or longer. The Barkers later moved to Okanogan where Pete owned and operated the "Club Billard" for years. Buster Berkley and

Ralph McClure, sons of the Berkleys and McClures were killed in a slide at Sitka, Alaska, in 1941.

After the Old Wauconda mine shut down the Jordans moved to a place on Bonaparte Creek near Leese and owned and operated a flour mill there for a few years. The flour mill building was later used as a school. Clarence and Ollie went back to Blewett and filed on a good mining claim. Ollie lived in Spokane and only came to the mine when he needed money, but Clarence and his family lived near the mine and took out only enough gold to live on. It is believed Clarence's oldest son now owns this mine.

Al Jordan was born in 1876 in Ellensburg, Wa. and lived in Okanogan the last fifteen years of his life. He died in 1965, age 89, (from his Obituary). Ollie is the only one still living of the twelve brothers and sisters and he is 96 years old. A granddaughter of Amos lives in Okanogan, Armenta Esteb, daughter of Eva and Pete Barker.

Jordan's Gold Held Safe, In Mountain Bank, Liberty, Wa.

Clarence Jordan banks his gold in Flag Mountain, near Liberty, on Blewett Pass, and that is where he is going to keep it. Now and then he will draw out a few hundred dollars with pick and shovel for his family expenses. The rest of his treasure can wait.

Gold is an old story with Jordan. His father taught him how to pan it; taught him in the rich Swauk creek area of central Washington where the elder Jordan was one of the seven original discoverers—one of the leaders in the gold-mad race of the mauve decade when miners took \$4,000,000 out of the area before stampeding for the Klondike.

Clarence was 10 then. Ever since he has been playing with gold in the Cascade mountains, first in the Swauk and later on Flag mountain.

He postholed almost an entire side of Flag mountain, acquired several claims and tried to buy an adjoining one on which he found a rich pocket. But Jack McMillan knew Clarence too well—suspected he knew where the gold lay and refused to sell. Then Clarence's older brother, 47-year-old Ollie, came from Spokane with 1,000 dollars. McMillan sold unhesitatingly to the stranger.

Clarence pointed out the spot, Ollie dug for half an hour. Then he left with three water buckets filled with gold—10,000 dollars. He hasn't come back. A guard watches over that rich pocket, waiting for Ollie to return—broke.

"That's no way to do," mused the younger brother as he worked his neighboring claim.

"What do I want to take it all out at once for? I'd only have to pay a lot of it out in taxes and have a bunch of fellers in here trying to sell me things and a lot of other troubles. No, sir! She's in that mountain until I need it. There she stays."

These men and their father and sisters were at Old Wauconda in its early days.

Johnson

The Bill Johnson family lived on the lower end of School Section above Bushnell Lake. They had three sons, Vaughn, Vernon and Virgil. These boys attended the first school at Wauconda near where the hall is now. All attended the local Sunday School in 1902 at the Woodhouse school. They probably left the area about 1907. The Rounds family, A.J. and Emma and family, moved to the place in 1908. The Johnsons built the house that is there now. Bushnells leased to A.J. Rounds. Others that have lived there are the Lochwoods, George Jones, and Bill and Leona French. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wallace from Havilla own it now and run cattle there in the summers.

Johnson

Johnnie Johnson came from Norway and took up a homestead north of the Quill Gerking place (where Esther Fisher lives). He built a nice



Johnny Johnson.

small house and barn. He was a carpenter and paper hanger. Many of the local houses were remodeled, added to, or papered by him. He would go to work at a place and live with the family until the work was completed. He was a jolly fellow and a fine singer, though most of his songs were Norwegian. He made skis for all the children for miles around and also some sleds. In the winter he traveled cross country on skis jumping over fences, logs and roads. He went to Norway for a visit before World War II. When war broke out he couldn't get back. He died there in his seventies.

Johnstead

Bob Johnstead was at Old Wauconda before 1900 and homesteaded just southwest of there in 1900. He worked in the woods nearly all his life, using a team of oxen. He skidded the logs to make the lumber for the building of Old Wauconda. Mrs. Johnstead died shortly after they came or before, leaving five children, Maude, Josie, Tracy, Irving and Theora. Josie kept house and took care of the younger children and sent them to school at the first Wauconda school near the store. Josie never got to finish school because her father had to be away working much of the time. Later she married Joe Doyle and had four children, and lived on Joe's homestead near Old Wauconda for several years then the family moved to the coast. Maude married in Republic and Tracy married Fred Doyle. Both of these couples died with the flu in 1918 in Republic. Tracy and Fred left one son, Louis. Irving and Theora both worked so they could go to high school, Theora at the theater in Republic and Irving at any job he could find. They graduated in 1920 and Irving went to work for the Forest Service and years later was killed when a truck overturned on the way to a forest fire in California. Theora taught school for a few years then married in Bellingham where she lives now (1980).

The Frank Jones Family

Frank Jones and Lolita Watkins were married in 1927 and lived at Coulee City for two years. They moved to Wauconda in the fall of 1929 and lived for a few months where Frank and Sue Rounds now live on the Wauconda summit. Then they farmed several years on the Campbell place and two years on the Diamond Bell ranch. About 1937 they bought the Jack Hirsch place about two miles north of Wauconda hall on the Toroda Creek road. They enlarged

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