

EDITH COLSON SHARES HISTORY

By Lola Snider,
Reprint from an unknown newspaper article

Another one of our valley pioneers, Mrs. Edith Colson, who celebrated her 87th birthday on Sept. 28, shares a little history of her family with us.

Mrs. Colson was born and raised in Midvale on her father, William Shaw's homestead which was on the site of the Art Fairchild sawmill. Her folks, William and Helen Kinning Shaw, moved to the Middle Valley in the early 1870s from Iowa by covered wagon. At the time they had two children, Walter and Arthur. Mrs. Colson reports she remembers her mother speaking of helping milk the cows and put tiny Arthur in a box while helping. Mrs. Colson had four older brothers. Along with Walter and Arthur there were Lewis and Victor. Then her sister, Ethel and then Edith Colson and two younger brothers followed, William and Herb Shaw, being the youngest in the family.

In memories Mrs. Colson reports the one awful recollection was when her sister Ethel, who was in an early grade of school, was standing by the stove combing her hair for school when her dress caught on fire. Her father put the fire out with his hands, causing quite severe burns to his hands, also, and little Ethel was very badly burned and she thought it was over a month she was in bed being cared for at home by the family, with the help of a neighbor, Mrs. Cindy Edson, who lived on the former Doggett place. She came each day to help out as they had to set up with her at night for some time. She said one of the memories of this was the canned black berries brought to Ethel to tempt her appetite and how good she, as a little pre-schooler, thought they looked. Ethel was taken care of by Dr. Green, called from Indian Valley and he told the family to cover her with linseed oil. She recovered with only a small scar on her cheek that didn't show much.

Mrs. Colson grew up to marry Homer Colson in 1911. They lived in Midvale til their oldest boys, Elton and Jack, were born then moved to Council when Jack was a tiny baby to live 10 years in Council on a hill ranch, where Mr. Colson ranched and trapped. Here their two girls, Helen and Clara and son, Homer Jr. were born. It was

not real good farm ground and in the winters it was hard for the children to get to school by horse back and cold too. So, the Colsons moved back to Midvale to make their home ranch and trapping. Several years passed, then the Colsons enjoyed three more children added to their home with the arrival of Earl, Ted, and Lois, who grew up on the inheritance of the ranch east of Midvale. Her father's place had been divided and the younger children were given 40 acres each. Her sister, Ethel, who married Jim Denney, and whose place joins that of Mrs. Colson, left her place to young Jim Denney, who still lives there.

Mrs. Colson is the last of her large family and still spends her summers on the home place, spending winter near some of her children.

Mr. Colson died 29 years ago, April 25, 1950, with cancer. Then a year ago, the last of her brothers and sisters. Mrs. Colson's own family still near, Jack and Clara and Lois living in Boise and Helen in Council where Mrs. Colson has spent much of the past two winters. Home is in New Meadows and Earl makes his home in Fruitland but being a truck driver is gone most of the time. Ted lives in Midvale.

Mrs. Colson reports, "we had very little while growing up in the valley and most young folks couldn't do with it now. But there was more contentment then than now with everything folks have. They just enjoyed what they did have and their families and neighbors.

Thanks to another oldtimer for a look into memories.