

HILDA DOGGETT, 80, SHARES HER MEMORIES

Written by Lola Snider, Weiser American, Monday, August 10, 1981

Mrs. Hilda Doggett, another old-timer of the Valley has celebrated her 80th birthday, and with it came requests for some of her memories and family history. We are happy to bring, in her own words, a glimpse of her years before and in Midvale.

Mrs. Doggett writes: "I was born July 4, 1901 in a log cabin in near the pretty resort town of Glennwood Springs, Colorado. My parents were James West and Elisa Martinson West, and I was their second daughter. My father came from Ireland and my mother from Norway. They were married in Denver."

"As a small child one thing stands out in my mind about Glennwood Springs. That was Strawberry Festival Days when they gave you free ice cream and fresh strawberries. My mother even made my sister and me special dresses with strawberry designs."

"My father worked in the mines so I spent my first year of school in a one-room school at Sunlight, Colorado. When I was six years old we moved to Portland, Oregon. There were now four children in the family and the train ride was quite an adventure for us. We lived in Portland just a little over one year as the damp weather caused my father to be badly crippled with rheumatism."

"We had friends in Idaho who wrote and told my parents about the homesteads to be filed on. Each family was allowed 160 acres and later they could get more land. My father came to Idaho and stayed with

"May 20, 1925, Ruell Doggett and I were married. He was working for the Forest Service so we spent our honeymoon at Paddy Flat, a ranger station above McCall. We rode horseback from Crane Creek to Paddy Flat. The next summer was spent on the South Fork of the Salmon where my husband was Forest Ranger. Our first daughter, Doloris, was born at McCall. We later moved to Baker, Oregon, where our daughter, Vivian and son, Robert, were born. We moved back to Midvale in 1929, where we farmed 44 years. Our youngest son, Richard was born here. We retired in 1974 and moved to our present home. Besides our four children we have ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren."

"I spent my 80th birthday attending the Fourth of July community barbecue and visiting with relatives and old-time friends. Vivian baked a lovely birthday cake that I enjoyed with my family that evening. I received a number of long distance telephone calls and scads of cards. Several old-time friends stopped by to wish me a happy birthday"

"My parents stayed on the original homestead as long as they lived. Here they raised six children and built up a sizable cattle ranch with the help of their son, Leslie. My youngest sister, Virgie, was the only one born on the homestead. All six children are still living.

his friends, the John Brady family. He wasn't here long when the dry climate and warm sunshine cured his rheumatism. He decided to stay and filed on a homestead near Crane Creek, just above where the reservoir was later built."

"In May 1909 we moved to our new home in Idaho. My sister, Agnes, who was born in Portland, was about one month old. That same year, the Sweet Home School house was built. Here we received our grade school education, walking the two and a half miles through all kinds of weather. After I finished the eighth grade I moved to town to go to high school. There weren't any school buses in those days so I would find a place to work for my board and room. The people I stayed with became just like family to me."

"At that time our little high school consisted of two classrooms and a Home Ec room. We had three teachers, Mr. John Lindsay, principal; Ida Mae Schaffer and MaryBelle Kellogg. They were all excellent teachers. This was my senior year. I graduated from high school in 1920. Those graduating with me were Beatrice Snyder (Wilson) Georgia Lydson (Rambo) Mabelle Smith, Zora Hood and Dubbs Linder. Next summer I attended six weeks of Normal School and was able to teach school that fall. I taught five terms in the one-room school. I taught all grades and usually had over 20 pupils."

They are Alice Johnson of Weiser, Hilda Doggett, Leslie West and Ellen Branch, all of Midvale, Agnes Long of Pendleton, Oregon, and Virgie Beaton of Boise. My father lived to be 87 years old and my mother 89 years old. Our main enjoyment has always been our children, grandchildren and now the great grandchildren."

Mrs. Doggett loved changing schools and in the years she taught she taught at Thousands Springs Valley, at Sage Creek, South Crane, and a one term at Central Point out of Notus. Her last and smallest school was the one she herself went to, the Sweet Home School, at which she taught her youngest sister Virgie.

Neighbors spoke of the times of rain when the streams ran over the road and they would see Mrs. Doggett on her spirited horse with Virgie on behind her plunging into the water and going to school.

We say thanks again for a bit of a look into another old-timers' years and hope she and Mr. Doggett and the rest of her family are around for many more birthdays.